Tram No. 15

Accident damaged Tram No. 15 at the Bendigo Tramways Depot, 1959.

This Birney tram was built in 1924 by J.G. Brill and Co. of Philadelphia in the USA for the Melbourne Electric Supply Company, who were the operators of Geelong Tramways. The tram was flat-packed and shipped from the USA in crates and then assembled in Geelong where it operated as Tram No. 15.

Tram No. 15 was transferred to Bendigo in 1948 and was painted in the green and cream livery of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria, who operated Bendigo Tramways from 1934-1972.

In 1959 Tram No. 15 was involved in an accident with a car. Because of the extensive damage, it was decided to de-register the tram and use it as spare parts for the other remaining Birney trams.

In 1975, under the ownership of The Bendigo Trust, work commenced on the restoration of Tram No. 15 as a Vintage Talking Tram. The restoration process included painting the tram in its original 1920s Geelong livery of red and white.

Tram No. 15 is now renowned for operating as Santa Tram during the month of December.

Tram No. 15 is unique among Birney Trams as being one of only two known to have longitudinal seating.

Tram No. 15 as the Santa Tram.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION:

Weight: 8.4 tonnes
Trucks: Brill 79E1 (8 foot wheel base)
Braking: Air operated and dead-man equipped hand brakes

Length: 8.53 metres
Motors: 2 X 25 hp GE264
Controllers: GE K63G