

Tram No. 880



Tram No. 880 being placed on the tracks for the first time in Bendigo, 2005.

This SW6 class tram was built in 1942 by the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board (MMTB) Preston Workshops, where it operated in Melbourne as Tram No. 880.

During the late 1990s Tram No. 880 was placed into storage as part of the MMTB's reserve fleet.

In March 2005, Tram No. 880 was transferred to Bendigo to share the workload of Bendigo's ageing fleet, operating as a Vintage Talking Tram.

In 2014 Tram No. 880 was transformed into a moving art piece to mark the opening of Bendigo's newest hotel, The Schaller Studio.

Artist Mark Schaller covered the tram's ceiling with swirls of pink and cardamom yellow acrylic in a postmodern nod to Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel, dubbing Tram No. 880 "the Sistine tram." As well as the hand painted ceiling, Tram No. 880 boasts a day bed, sofas, suitcases to sit on, a workbench to create your own masterpiece and coat hangers instead of hand rails.



Artist, Mark Schaller, painting the ceiling of Tram No. 880.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION:

Weight: 17.5 tonnes

Trucks: MMTB No. 15

Braking: Air operated self-lapping valves and hand brakes

Length: 14.17 metres

Motors: 4 X 40 hp GE 247AX2

Controllers: MMTB RC2