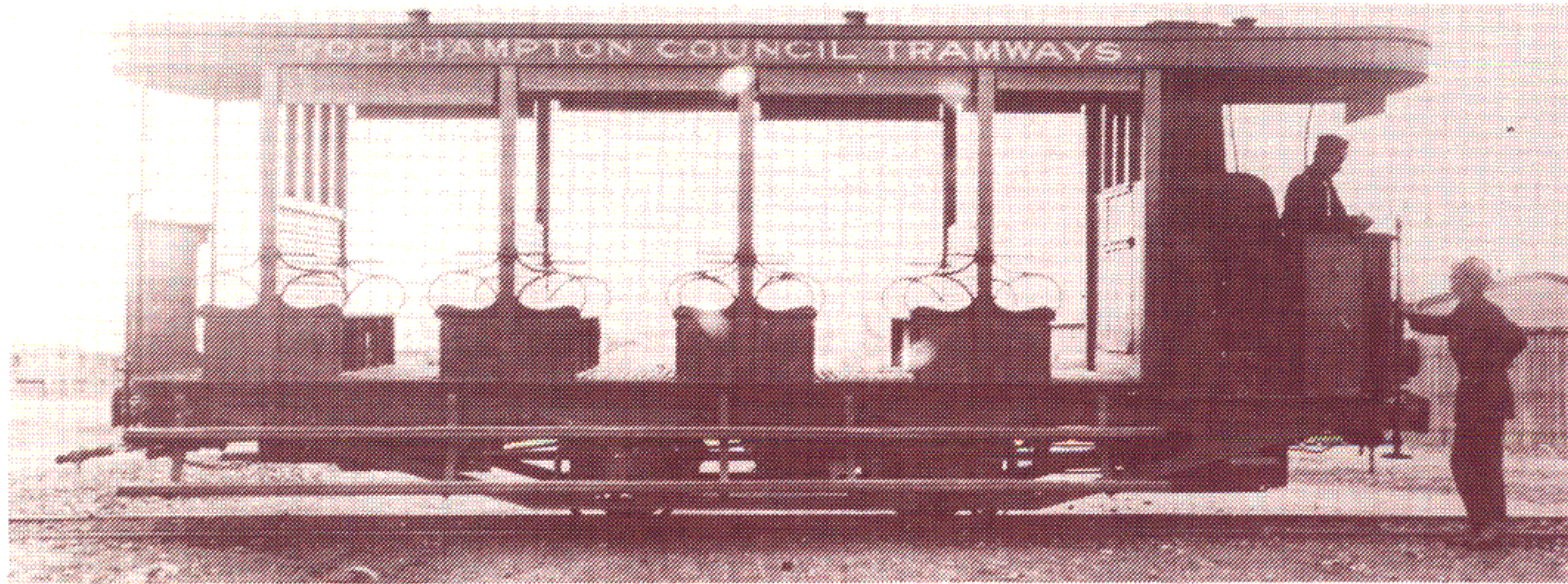


# BACK TO THE AGE OF STEAM

## CEB helps with Purrey tram project



The CEB in conjunction with the Rockhampton City Council has assisted with a project that has received Federal Bicentennial Funding.

Following a request from the City Council, the Board offered its services to assist with the restoration of the Purrey Steam Tram.

For the past few months, (on a part time basis), Troy Knox, a 3rd year apprentice Fitter and Turner at the CEB Mechanical Workshop, has been involved with manufacturing the main steam regulator valve used on the steam tram.

The task which was assigned to Troy to coincide with his apprentice training involved the production of the valve which regulates the flow of steam, thus controlling the speed of the tram. A steel rod connects the regulator valve to the throttle in the driver's cab.

From plans supplied by the Rockhampton City Council, Troy was able to recreate the steam valve to original appearance and method of operation. The base of the valve was manufactured from a section of round hi-tensile steel measuring eight inches in length and six inches in diameter whilst the other components were made from mild steel.

The restoration of the French designed Purrey Steam Tram, is a project of some magnitude and requires many man hours of work and at this stage the Council estimates the total cost of the completed project will be in the vicinity of \$120,000.

For this reason the Council has requested assistance from various organizations, including the CEB Rockhampton, and has been very happy with the response so far. The obtaining of Bicentennial Funding has apparently been of great benefit, as it has focused greater outside attention on the project. The Council recently received a letter from the French Government who have actually expressed interest in becoming involved with the project.

At this stage restoration work has progressed to the stage where the main chassis and bogie work have been completed along with the shell of the actual carriage section. Work on the boiler section is due to commence shortly.

In charge of co-ordinating the project is Mr Doug Prest who is the City Council's Transport Manager, and Boilermaker assigned to the reconstruction is Mr Russell Walsh who is incidentally an ex CREB Power Station employee. Both men are aiming to have steam in the tram by June, 1987. Then after a testing period and solving any problems that arise, it is anticipated to have the tram operating in service.

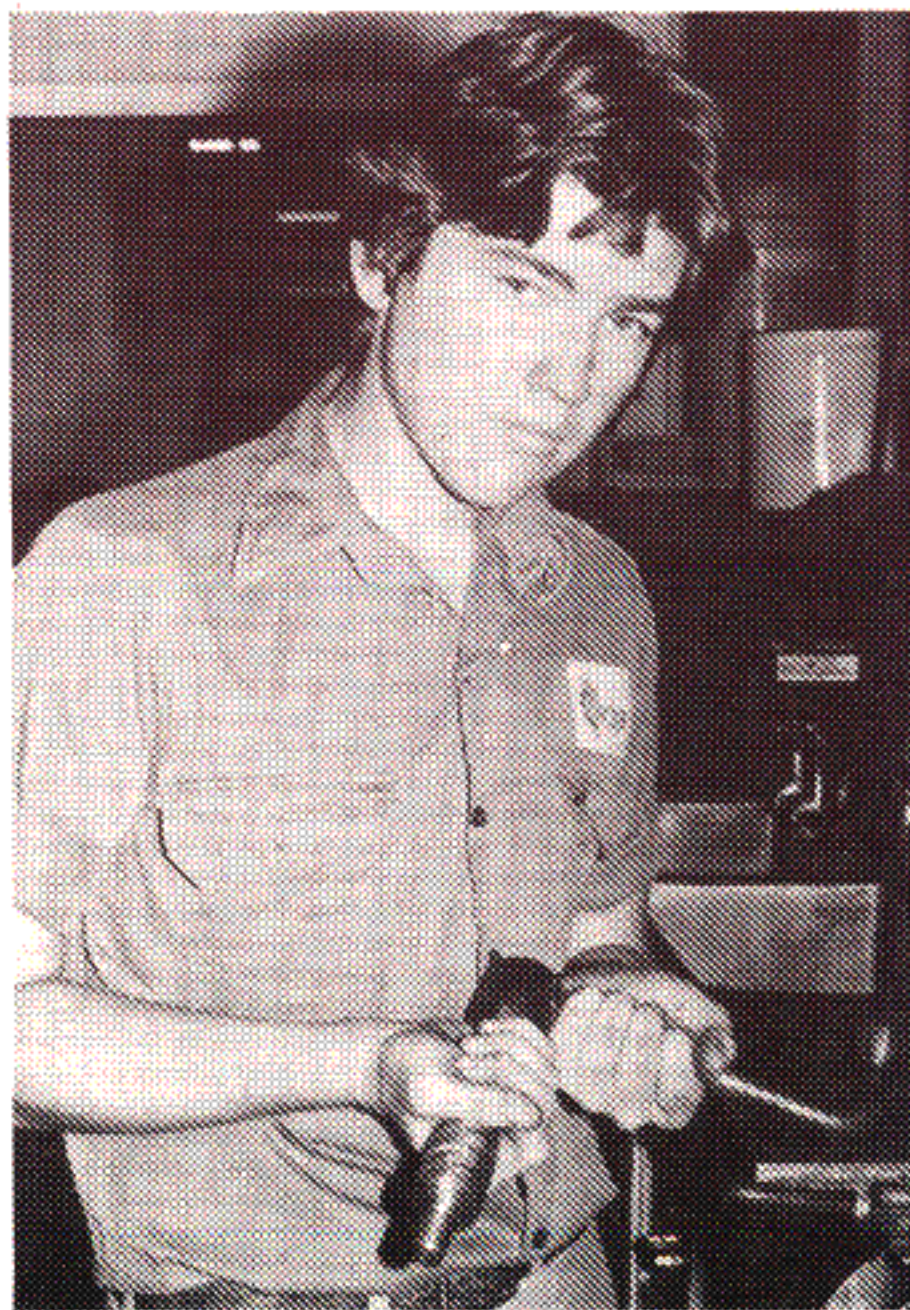
Steam trams were first put into service in Rockhampton on the 5th June, 1909, when the then Premier of the day, the

Hon. W. Kidston, officially opened the steam tram system.

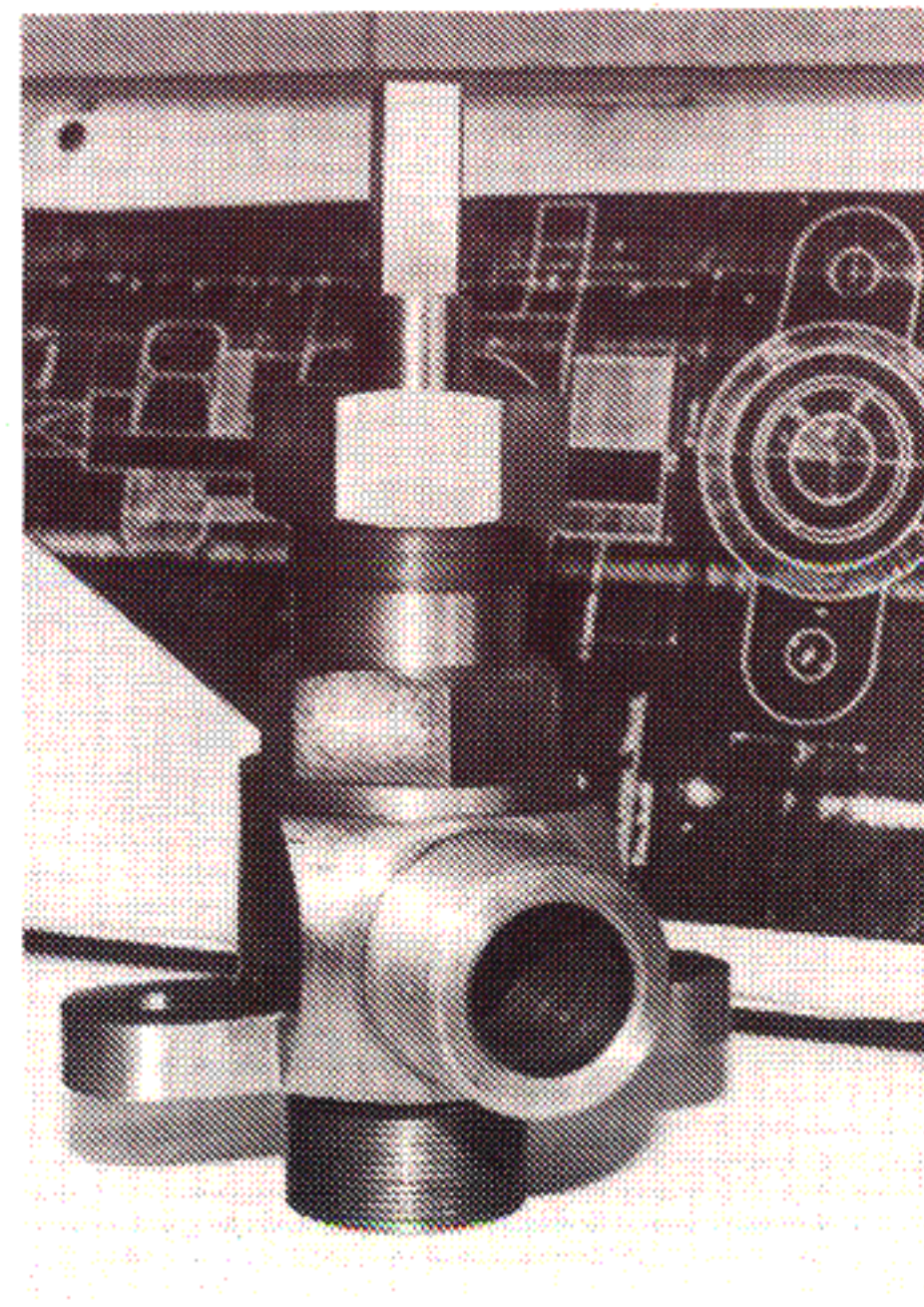
The street tramway service used the Purrey Steam Cars, (purchased from V. Purrey of Bordeaux, France), operating on three feet six inch gauge tracks along six and a half miles of Rockhampton's streets. This was the only provincial street tramway in Queensland.

The steam trams remained in service for 30 years and in that time carried 40,614,924 passengers, travelled 4,526,932 car miles and collected £355,475 (\$710,952), in revenue.

The trams were eventually replaced by diesel buses and on the 24th June, 1939 (carnival week), tram services were completely terminated, when the last tram left the Post Office at 10.40 pm that night for the depot in Canning Street.



● Troy Knox, 3rd Year Apprentice Fitter and Turner displays a section of the Steam Valve he produced.



● The Purrey Steam Tram Valve produced at the CEB's Mechanical Workshops by Troy Knox.

# Bicentennial Authority Thanks Board

**The CEB recently received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Australian Bicentennial Authority.**

The Certificate was presented to the Board in recognition and appreciation of its participation in the Rockhampton City Council's restoration of the Purrey Steam Tram.

The Board's contribution to this Bicentennial Project was to supply the tram's main steam regulating valve which was manufactured in the CEB's Mechanical Workshop, by 3rd Year Apprentice Fitter and Turner Troy Knox, under the supervision of Tradesman Wes March.



**From left: Ron Rendell, G.M. Rol Oxenham, Troy Knox and Wes March examine the technical drawing of the steam regulating valve.**