



TURNING point

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FROM A SYSTEM TO A SERVICE

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Travel On launched

A public transport education program to teach primary school students safety and responsibility on trains, trams and buses has been launched.

Called Travel On, the program aims to raise awareness of the ease of using and the availability of public transport in local communities.

Travel On also links classroom learning with practical excursions to PTC sites, including train stations and tram depots.

Chief Executive Ian Dobbs said Travel On had been successfully trialled in 42 primary schools last year.

"All schools found Travel On interesting, easy to understand and educationally sound," Mr Dobbs said.

"During the trial it was found many teachers were unfamiliar with public transport and were not confident about using it for school excursions.

"To encourage travel, the PTC provides free excursions for school groups participating in the program and CSEs have been specially trained to assist teachers on excursions and visits to PTC facilities."

For year 5 and 6 pupils, there are Travel On units where students learn about the importance of public transport in the

community and dealing with the transition from primary to secondary school.

Travel On has been developed by the Community Education Unit of Met Trains in consultation with VicRoads, the Department of Education and Victoria Police.



Travel On is tops. Westgarth Primary School students with our CSEs Liz Heyes and Marios Papadopoulos.

Heathmont celebrations

Local Heathmont residents have celebrated the 70th anniversary of the opening of their local railway station.

Students from the Ringwood Secondary College organised a photographic display showing the growth of Heathmont from a rural district to a suburb.

The PTC supplied photos showing Heathmont Station in the 1920s, 1940s and 1970s.

Customer Service Employee Earle Hughes and Ringwood Secondary College students give commuters a Heathmont historical brochure.



Prahran promotion

The recent Prahran Market Festival proved an excellent vehicle for Met Bus to promote its services in the area.

The promotion showed shoppers the benefits of catching public transport to the market and the Chapel Street shopping area.

Met Bus Managing Director John Wilson said the promotion was a great success with thousands of timetables handed out.

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CSE Natsha Vukelich explains Met Bus services to Prahran Market shoppers.



Kew service reward

More than 125 years service was acknowledged at Kew Depot when five staff received their silver trays.

Those to receive trays were Drivers Jim Feely, Noel Feillafe, Donald Long and Vic Merrigan and Operations Officer Chris Drossos.

Both Jim and Vic have worked at the depot since they started in 1969 while Donald has been at the depot for all of his 26-year career.

Noel started in 1969 and worked at Camberwell and East Preston before transferring to Kew a year ago.

Chris started in 1970, was at North Fitzroy for 12 years, then worked as an Operations Officer at all depots before transferring to Kew 10 years ago.



Kew staff with their silver trays are from left: Donald Long, Chris Drossos, Noel Feillafe, Jim Feely and Vic Merrigan.

Promoting Ballarat

Ballarat's Begonia and Opera festivals were recently promoted on our City Circle.

Former Melbourne tram W4 671, painted in City of Ballarat's colours of blue and silver, operated on the popular city service for two months highlighting both events.

Since 1975 the tram has run on the Lake Wendouree service operated by the Ballarat Tramway Museum.



PTC staff who are also members of the BTM with 'their' tram from left: Camberwell Senior Trainer Greg Rogers, Met Train Driver Richard Gilbert, Co-ordinator Photograph and Video Services John Phillips, Camberwell Tram Driver Carolyn Dean and Operations Officer Peter Winspur.

...four Footscray trays

Four long-serving Met Bus staff have received their silver trays for completing 25-years service.

Those to have this milestone recognised were Footscray Drivers Dominic Malvaso, David Reeve and Emil Winter.

Also receiving his tray was Operations Group Manager Greg Dower who is based at Met Bus headquarters at Footscray Depot.



Met Bus Managing Director John Wilson presents trays to, from left: Dominic Malvaso, Emil Winter, David Reeve and Greg Dower.

...P&C tray presented

In the Infrastructure Division, Way Maintainer Kevin McDermott received his silver for completing 25 years service.

Kevin works in the Point and Crossing Gang No. 1 and received his tray while working on the standard gauge conversion project at Dunolly.



Kevin McDermott (centre) is congratulated by Works Engineer Vance Thuraisingham, Ballarat Road Master Peter Niblett, District Engineer Gordon Djurdjevic and Maryborough Road Foreman Barry Argent.

AT Update

To keep you informed with automated ticketing, AT Update will be a regular feature of Turning Point.

Cont'd from front page

"Market research shows more than 40 per cent of Met Bus passengers travel for shopping purposes," John said.

"We are now building on this market."

Routes 216, 219 and 220 operate from the western suburbs through the City then via St Kilda and Commercial Roads then to Gardenvale and Brighton Beach.