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Fleet Operations Centre Opens

The Yarra Trams fleet of 500 trams is now monitored and controlled from a new Fleet Operations Centre.

This complex in South Melbourne brings together all aspects of tram fleet operations and communications combined with the latest technology.

Integrated feeds from the VicRoads traffic control cameras give Yarra Trams fleet operators a "shared vision" of conditions on the tram network to help ensure the best possible service to passengers.



Yarra Trams has recently celebrated the official opening of its brand new Fleet Operations Centre.

This is another important achievement in the Yarra Trams' vision for Melbourne's unique and valuable tram network.

The team at Yarra Trams is proud to be operating one of the biggest tram networks in the world.

We also want it to be one of the best.

This new Fleet Operations Centre is another part of our program to modernise the Melbourne tram network to set a new international standard.

One of our major challenges is that much of Melbourne's tram network operates in mixed traffic.

It shares the road with other users.

This means that interaction with traffic is a major influence on trams and vice-versa.

Upgrading the way we manage the interaction of the two modes will contribute to more efficient movement of people.

The Yarra Trams Fleet Operations Centre is now linked with the VicRoads Traffic Management Centre.

This allows for the best incident management to improve traffic flow for motor vehicles and for the more than half-a-million tram journeys taken by people each day.

Hubert Guyot,
Chief Executive Officer



Balaclava Junction Upgrade

Yarra Trams works to preserve important parts of Melbourne's tramway history while ensuring it meets modern safety and operational requirements.

As part of its Annual Works Plan for 2004/2005, Yarra Trams reconstructed the existing tram track and overhead infrastructure at the intersection of Balaclava and Hawthorn Roads, Caulfield North, known as 'Balaclava Junction'.

When it was first installed in November 1913, this unique 'grand union' featured two tracks crossing at right angles with connecting curves on all four corners.

The same configuration remains to this day.

This tram track and overhead power layout is the only one of its type in the southern hemisphere.

It means trams approaching from all four directions can continue through the intersection in any direction.

The major track renewal works were completed over the Easter 2005 holiday weekend.

Important renewal projects such as this one will be of lasting benefit to everyone who uses and appreciates Melbourne's unique tram system.



The voice of Yarra Trams

Yarra Trams has a new voice, and that voice belongs to Kylie Scott.

Based at the new Fleet Operations Centre, Kylie is the new PA Announcer and an important element of her role involves making announcements to passengers onboard trams. In one day Kylie communicates to hundreds of thousands of passengers.

Kylie enjoys working in the new Fleet Operations Centre. 'It's great!'

enthuses Kylie, 'The technology is just amazing. You can see what is happening around Melbourne while sitting in the office'.

'I really enjoy working here and I think it is great to wake up in the morning and not mind having to go to work. I think I'm pretty lucky, so my job means a lot to me.'

While her role also involves other administrative duties for the Fleet Operations Centre, Kylie feels the most important aspect of her job is communicating with passengers. 'I think that the passengers really appreciate it when they hear someone telling them about any works or parades that may disrupt their service.'

The recent Grand Prix was an exciting time for Kylie. 'Working during the Grand Prix was a memorable experience. While it was very busy, it was also fun to be part of. It gave me something different and challenging to work on.'



Transport Cup cricket victory

The 79th Australian Cricket Transport Cup was finally won back by Victoria after a closely fought contest against NSW. The Victorian team comprised various public transport employees from Yarra Trams and National Bus. Outgoing Team Manager Basil Finnigan was pleased to retire on a winning note.



New Superstop for Carlton

To improve services for passengers and to help reduce tram congestion, Yarra Trams has transformed the existing tram terminus and stop at the University of Melbourne into a modern interchange. Opened to passengers on Tuesday 15 February 2005, the area is a showpiece of Melbourne's tram network.

The reconstruction of the University of Melbourne terminus has included a re-design of the tram terminus area

and construction of a new Superstop on Swanston Street, near the corner of Faraday Street in front of the University of Melbourne's Sidney Myer Asia Centre.

'We are happy to once again bring new levels of comfort and safety to our passengers. The new Superstop features shelters, seating, an information pavilion, a ticket machine, real time tram arrival information, a trip planner, a public telephone and Closed Circuit TV', said Yarra Trams Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Hubert Guyot.

'With pedestrian crossings and ramps at either end, the new stop enhances the Yarra Trams' vision of access for all. It provides a safer boarding and alighting environment for passengers,' Mr. Guyot said.

The central platform allows customers to get on or off trams travelling in either direction, and offers passengers a comfortable waiting environment with improved access to low floor trams.

what's new



Water tanks installed at our East Preston Depot?

This is just the start of something big!

To find out more about the Yarra Trams Green Depot project be sure to check out the next edition of Tram Lines.



Good Friday Appeal

Yarra Trams was proud to take part in the 2005 Good Friday Appeal.

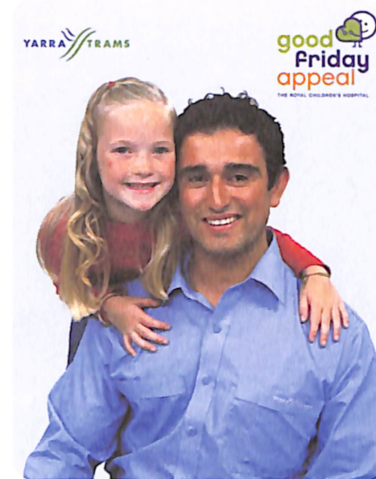
In addition to making a \$100,000 donation, Yarra Trams helped to promote the appeal and assisted in raising money.

Many Melburnians may have noticed the outdoor advertising at various tram stops and locations across Melbourne, and we hope you have all had a chance to see the Good Friday Appeal promotional tram.

This tram features photographs of young patients from the Royal Children's Hospital with members of our staff and the Good Friday Appeal tram will continue to operate throughout the year.

Yarra Trams staff were excited to be involved with the Good Friday Appeal, and through various fundraising activities at each of our tram depots raised over \$26,000.

Yarra Trams CEO Hubert Guyot says 'Yarra Trams is very proud to be

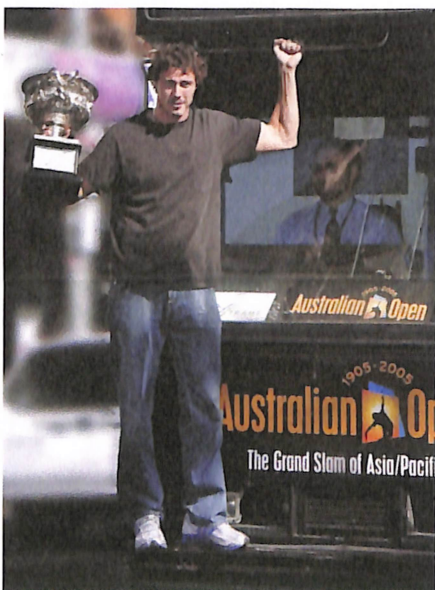


give that they may grow

associated with the Good Friday Appeal'.

'This is by far the largest community partnership that we have entered into, and we do so with enormous enthusiasm and commitment.

'It is fitting that two of Melbourne's community assets, The Royal Children's Hospital and Yarra Trams should come together for the Good Friday Appeal to raise much needed funds for Victoria's children.'



Special event champions

Marat Safin travelled by tram after winning the men's singles title at the 2005 Australian Open but before that 334,976 tennis fans travelled on trams to and from Melbourne Park.

It was the sixth year of the Yarra Trams partnership with the Australian Open to provide a sponsored tram shuttle service to and from the event.

Proud of its reputation as the special events champion, Yarra Trams also proved popular with formula one fans heading to the Australian Formula One Grand Prix.

More than 356,000 passenger trips were made by tram to and from the Albert Park circuit.

In the busiest hour during the Grand Prix, Yarra Trams moved 21,297 passengers. That's 355 passengers per minute with a tram to the track every 15 seconds during peak times.

Yarra Trams is now actively planning for the 2006 Commonwealth Games and is devoting considerable resources to ensure both our regular passengers and visitors to Melbourne reach their intended destinations.

Yarra Trams is looking forward to the 2006 Commonwealth Games. It will be an exciting time for Melbourne!

COMPETITION

For your chance to win a Zoos Victoria family passport which includes entry to the Melbourne Zoo, Werribee Open Range Zoo and Healesville Sanctuary

(valued at \$116) plus a daily Metcard 5 pack, (valued at \$43.70), please answer the following question:

What tram route takes you to the Melbourne Zoo?

Send your answer along with your name, phone number and address to: Tram Lines Zoo Competition, GPO Box 5231BB, Melbourne 3001 or send your entry to competition@yarratrams.com.au

Entries close Friday 1 July, 2005