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## A gold medal performance

The flying tram from the Opening Ceremony is now a museum piece but Yarra Trams is still winning praise for its gold medal performance during the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games. Yarra Trams recorded close to five million passenger trips during the Games on our regular services and special shuttle trams.

(More details inside)



### Three reasons to be proud

The people of Melbourne have always had good reason to be proud of their iconic tram system and I have three new reasons to be proud of Yarra Trams.

#### Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games

During the Commonwealth Games, the efforts of our team attracted many compliments from Games patrons and regular passengers. We heard many positive examples of Yarra Trams staff going above and beyond the call of their role to demonstrate a commitment to providing first class customer service.

I am proud of our role in helping to ensure the success of the Games.

#### Supporting the Good Friday Appeal

Our continuing association with the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal is another source of immense pride. Our sponsorship of the inaugural Run for the Kids encouraged a team of participants from Yarra Trams to take to the streets along with 20,000 other Victorians.

The enthusiastic fundraising by staff at all of our tram depots and workplaces culminated with the presentation of a cheque for \$50,000 to the Good Friday Appeal.

#### Melbourne all over

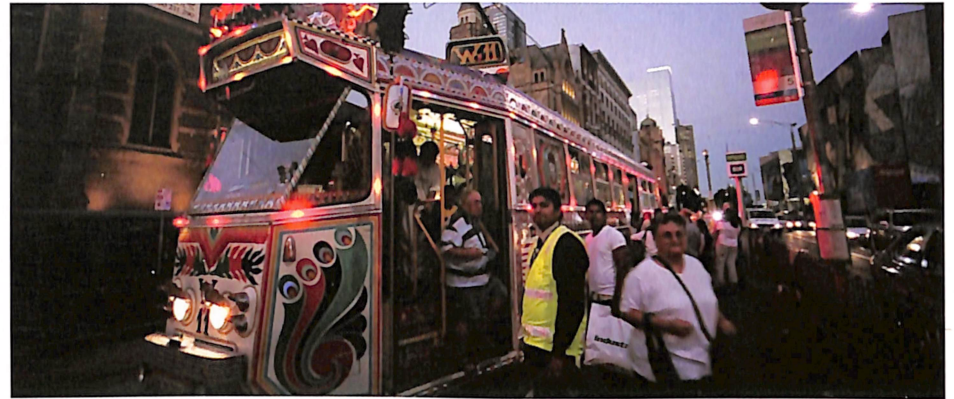
Finally, we have just marked the second anniversary of Yarra Trams taking responsibility for the operation of Melbourne's entire tram network.

We are proud of our achievements as custodian of one of Melbourne's most treasured assets. As we celebrate a century of continuous operation of electric trams, I want to assure you that Yarra Trams remains committed to delivering even more improvements to our world class tram system.

Thank you for your support,

Dennis Cliche  
Chief Executive Officer

## Festival on a tram



The Karachi W-11 tram complete with music and flashing lights

### One of the hits of Festival Melbourne 2006 during the Commonwealth Games was the Karachi W-11 tram.

This brightly decorated Z class tram operated on the City Circle and it proved so popular that Yarra Trams extended its season to include Grand Prix weekend.

One of the drivers, Andrew said: "People were waiting along the route to get on this tram and letting others go by. This tram really generated a festive mood."

And driver, Luis said: "I loved it, I'm Argentinian and I was driving a tram from Pakistan, what's more cosmopolitan than that?"

## A gold medal performance

### During the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games, Yarra Trams ran more than 16,000 extra tram services during the 11 days of competition as well as for the Opening Ceremony.

Surveys of Games patrons found that 90% of people taking public transport to and from Games venues rated the service as good or excellent.

The planning of tram services for the event took nearly two years with a unique timetable and management plan for each day of the Games.

Yarra Trams CEO Dennis Cliche has praised the outstanding contribution of Yarra Trams staff and our regular passengers for their patience and goodwill during the Games.

## Lest we forget

### The Melbourne Tramways Band performed in front of W1 class tram number 431 on St Kilda Road near the Shrine of Remembrance on Anzac Day.

Yarra Trams received the following email from Roger of Brighton: "On Anzac Day, I met up with your vintage tram and crew decked out in their 1940's finery adjacent to the Shrine, all part of the Anzac Day celebrations. This was a remarkable idea and a very fitting gesture. For me at 61 years of age, it brought back many memories. More importantly it gave my 13 year old grand daughter a delightful taste of a tram of yesteryear right down to the old



tickets and loose 1940's change so happily displayed and distributed by your very friendly staff. This was a highly appropriate way to help salute those who served this country in WWII, by offering them a reminder of public transport in those dark days. Thanks to everyone involved in the idea. I hope it can be repeated."



Tram driver Phil has a difficult choice to make

## Grand Prix fans love their trams

Melbourne's busy special events calendar continued immediately after the Commonwealth Games with the 2006 Fosters Formula 1™ Grand Prix at Albert Park from 30 March to 2 April.

Once again Yarra Trams provided free shuttle trams between the City and the race circuit for Grand Prix ticket holders.

Shuttle trams to and from the Grand Prix carried a total of 285,832 passengers.

Our trams made more than 8300 trips over the four days.

## Improving your tram network

Further improvements in customer comfort and information include:

- Refurbishment of an additional 100 trams in the past 12 months.
- New seats on all Citadis low floor trams.
- Installation of 143 new tram stop shelters in the past year.
- Electronic Passenger Information Displays (PIDS) have been installed at 108 tram stops with real time tram information.

The accessibility of the tram network has been further enhanced with:

- 24 platform stops constructed and opened since April 2005.
- Platform stops now at 47 locations on the tram network.

A total of 6.5 kilometres of double track has been replaced so far this financial year (05/06). This included the renewal of the track along the full length of Bourke Street in the city.

An upgraded automated announcement system has been installed in the City Circle trams to ensure the accuracy and clarity of tourist information about Melbourne landmarks.

Yarra Trams is continually upgrading the tram network.

**The Think Tram program, in partnership with VicRoads and the Department of Infrastructure, is continuing to improve the safety and reliability of tram services on our busiest routes with treatments including:**

- A new platform tram stop at 101 Collins Street, between Russell and Exhibition Streets.
- Right turn bans for motor vehicles at the intersection of Spencer Street and Flinders Lane to reduce tram delays caused by motor vehicles on the tracks.
- Upgrading and widening tram stop number 26 in High Street, Northcote (near Walker Street).
- Red pavement at tram stops along Sydney Road between Weston Street, Brunswick and Bell Street, Coburg and in South Melbourne at tram stops along Clarendon Street between Albert Road and Market Street. The red pavement will assist motorists by enhancing the visibility of tram stop locations. The aim is to improve safety for passengers getting on and off trams.



Spencer Street at Flinders Lane

- Adjustment of traffic signal phasing and timing at key locations to optimise operational efficiency for all road users.

# One Melbourne icon supporting another

**Yarra Trams and staff presented a \$50,000 cheque to the Good Friday Appeal for the Royal Children's Hospital as part of the Channel Seven telethon.**



Yarra Trams CEO Dennis Cliche on Good Friday with staff member Sara and Appeal Director Christine Unsworth

"It's a case of one Melbourne icon supporting another," said Yarra Trams CEO, Mr Dennis Cliche.

"We are proud of our ongoing partnership with the Royal Children's Hospital and I'm proud of the fundraising efforts of our staff."

Yarra Trams staff at all 11 locations enthusiastically raised funds for the Good Friday Appeal through activities such as raffles, dinner dances, chocolate sales and a comedy night.

A specially painted tram promoting the Good Friday Appeal operates on the Yarra Trams network all year round.

The money donated last year by Yarra Trams and staff was invested in the Yarra Trams Family Retreat room in the neuro-science ward at the Royal Children's Hospital.

As part of this year's Good Friday Appeal family fun day at Telstra Dome, Yarra Trams staff sold their tasty tram burgers while the Yarra Trams mascot "Harry the Wombat" entertained the crowd.



Taking time out from cooking tram burgers are (L-R) Leona, Gerarda, Mario and Nick.

## A century of electric trams



Yarra Trams is set to mark an important milestone in the history of the Melbourne tram network.

This year marks 100 years of continuous operation of electric trams.

The Victorian Railways operated an electric tram service from St Kilda to Brighton from May 1906 until February 1959.

The private North Melbourne Electric Tramway and Lighting Company opened its electric tram services in October 1906. Part of this system remains as the backbone of Yarra Trams Route 59 Airport West-City.

Yarra Trams is planning to involve the community to help celebrate this wonderful milestone.

**For details visit our special website: [100yearstrams.com.au](http://100yearstrams.com.au)**



## Running for the Kids

A team from Yarra Trams was among the 20,000 Victorians involved in the inaugural Run for the Kids fundraiser for the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal.

Yarra Trams supported the event by keeping the route clear of trams and providing free transport for participants and volunteers.

*Photography in this edition of tramlines by Georgia Metaxas, Glen Campbell and Yarra Trams staff including Peter, Marissa, Leona, Katrina, Kristina, Mario, Sara, Gerarda, Jennifer, Melissa and Naomi.*

## COMPETITION

For your chance to win a Yarra Trams merchandise pack, a monthly Metcard and a \$50 shopping voucher, please answer the following question:

**Which organisation operated the electric tram service from St Kilda to Brighton from 1906 to 1959?**

Write your answer, along with your name, phone number and address on the back of an envelope and mail to:

Tram Lines May Competition, GPO Box 5231, Melbourne 3001 or send your entry to [competition@yarratrams.com.au](mailto:competition@yarratrams.com.au)

Entries close Friday 30 June 2006.



Yarra Trams united by the moment



