

express

News from the Met

Summer 1995/96

Massive TIMETABLE changes set to ease the rush

Melbourne's train services are about to undergo their biggest upgrade in more than 30 years:

From February, some weekday services on the Dandenong, Frankston, Sandringham, Belgrave, Lilydale, Ringwood and Alamein lines will be increased by up to 16 per cent, and some weekend services by up to 25 per cent.

The Managing Director of Met Trains, Mr Simon Lane, said the changes were designed to meet Melbourne's shifting work and travel patterns.

"Many more people are now travelling home at a time when train services are winding down after the afternoon peak, and several lines have experienced a large increase in patronage on Sundays," Mr Lane said.

"Opportunities now exist to extend the peak on some lines, to improve services for our customers."

Although details have yet to be finalised, Mr Lane outlined the planned changes for each service.

Services on the **Dandenong** line will increase by 13 per cent, and on the **Frankston** line by 10 per cent.

Changes on both lines will also include:

- an additional semi-express train leaving the city each weekday at about 6pm;
- an upgrade in service frequency between peak periods from 20 to 15 minutes (services for **Pakenham** and **Cranbourne** will improve from 40 to 30 minutes);
- additional semi-express 'shopper' trains to the city at about 9.20am and 9.40am on both lines; and
- an improvement in the Sunday service from 40 to 30 minutes (up to 7pm).

Services on the **Sandringham** line will increase by 16 per cent, and service frequency in peak periods will improve from 14 to 10 minutes.

Mr Lane also said all Sandringham services would operate to and from Flinders Street after February, greatly improving the reliability of services.

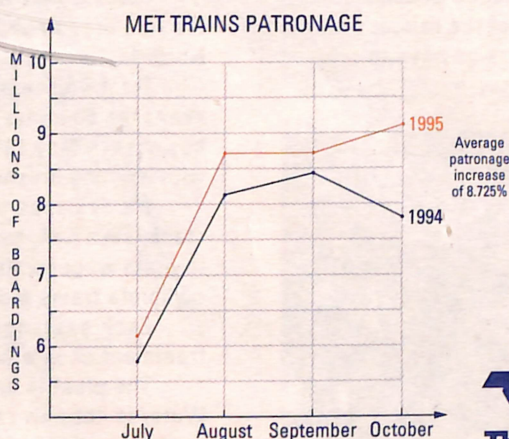
The number of Sunday services on the **Belgrave**, **Lilydale**, **Ringwood** and **Alamein** lines will increase by 25 per cent, and service frequency from 40 to 30 minutes.

Additional semi-express trains on the **Ringwood** line will leave the city each weekday after 6pm.

Service frequency during the evenings on the **Alamein** line from Monday to Saturday will increase from 60 to 30 minutes.

Mr Lane said that the changes were focussed on Melbourne's busiest services in the East and South East, to ensure that the maximum number of people benefit.

The changes are part of Met Trains' ongoing commitment to service improvements across the system.



circling town in three-quarter time

Don't be surprised if some of your fellow commuters soon begin humming a few bars of a Viennese waltz on their way to work.

Following the recent signing of a friendship agreement with another major tram city, Vienna, Met Tram has named one of its City Circle trams 'The City of Vienna'.

Victoria's Public Transport Minister, Mr Alan Brown, said the agreement would help improve tram operations in both Melbourne and Vienna by

promoting the exchange of ideas, technology and personnel.

"Vienna has a well-established tram museum that can serve as a model for the new Melbourne tram museum and vintage tramway, which will operate out of the historic Hawthorn depot," Mr Brown said.



Niki Lauda recently supported the friendship between Melbourne and Vienna's tramways by offering City Circle Tram passengers the chance to win two return tickets to Vienna flying Lauda-air.

Seven Day LOOP SERVICE FOR CHRISTMAS

The underground train loop's Museum Station will be open on Sundays from now until Christmas.

And as a Christmas gift, the Met is running a special Christmas Carriage to Melbourne Central on each of the Sundays.

Santa Claus will be onboard the beautifully decorated carriage with giveaways and prizes for the kids, including the chance to pick up a 'Silly Season Prize Pack' on arrival at Melbourne Central.

The Met Christmas Carriage to Melbourne Central will stop at all stations departing:

Pakenham	10.19am	Sunday 10
Frankston	10.06am	Sunday 17
Broadmeadows	9.27am	Sunday 24
	10.47am	

For further information contact Met Information on 131 638.

Free tokens for great outings. See back page for details...

fellow traveller

News from the Victorian Public Transport Forum

One of the issues raised regularly by members of the Forum relates to the safety of passengers who use public transport in and around Melbourne.

Obviously safety is a concern shared by passengers as well as PTC management and staff.

There is often a perception that public transport is unsafe. According to the latest crime statistics, however, the reality is that you are safer travelling on public transport than you are walking down a suburban street.

Public safety on the system is overseen by the Transit Police, who are all members of Victoria Police and have the same powers. In fact, the Forum would like to see the police profile raised on the system, not only to reassure commuters, but also to deter criminals.

Improved security cameras and lighting on railway stations have improved security, and increased the likelihood of an offender being apprehended when a crime does occur.

Every responsible citizen in Victoria would like to live without the threat of crime. But we must be realistic, and accept that it can only be minimised as much as possible.

You can be assured that the issue of public safety will be a top priority on the Forum's agenda.

In other Forum activities, several members spent a recent Sunday morning many metres under the city, all in the line of duty.

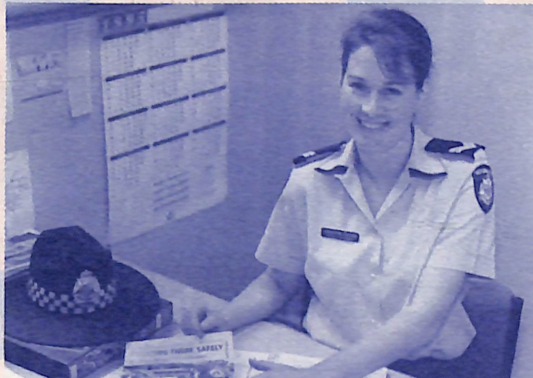
We were in the underground loop to observe a full-scale demonstration of our emergency services in action, part of an exercise to test how they would handle a full-scale disaster (see story next page).

Although we hope it never happens, it is reassuring to know that the police, fire brigade and ambulance service have all practised their responses to an emergency situation in the loop.

The Forum will continue to pursue all aspects of safety in relation to Victoria's public transport system in an effort to ensure that you, the travelling public, can use the services with confidence.

MOVING to the PTC BEAT

Jo Daley's words are emphatic: Transit Police are members of the Victoria Police Force. "There is a misconception that we are a separate group," she says, "but, we are one and the same."



Jo is the Crime Prevention Officer for the Transit Police District. She is a Senior Constable and had been at Transit for three years when the Victoria Police took full control of Transit Policing.

As the Crime Prevention Officer, Jo adopts a pro-active approach to policing. Part of her role is to identify crime problems and develop and implement anti-crime initiatives.

Jo encourages a 'partnership' approach to crime prevention, with the Police and the community sharing the responsibility.

She says that every Transit member aims to not only reduce the incidence, but also the fear of crime. "Whether the problem is actual or perceived it is still something that needs to be addressed," says Jo.

There are in excess of 200 Police members at Transit who, in teams of two or more, patrol Met trains, trams and buses, as well as private buses and V/Line services.

"Our aim is to ensure the safety and security of all those using public transport. We are continuously trying to improve the quality of our service in order to meet this objective."

One of the most satisfying parts of the job, Jo says, is dealing with the young people she meets through her work.

She and 15 other officers and 13 youths, from the 'street' and various backgrounds, have just returned from the Victoria Police High Challenge camp near Bacchus Marsh, where they spent three days working together on achieving a better understanding of each other.

"Working with youths is an interesting and rewarding experience. And in terms of crime prevention it makes sense to work with the youth of today who will soon be the adults of tomorrow," Jo says.

"I have always liked the idea of youth and police being able to establish a better relationship."

At Midnight the buses come out

Melbourne's NightRider buses will be out and about in even greater numbers over the coming weeks.

The late-evening service offers safe transport from the city to a variety of destinations around the suburbs and beyond.

Features include phones on buses (the driver can book you a taxi, or you can call a friend for just \$1). And stops along the route – usually 24 hour convenience stores – are well lit.

For \$5 you can get to Werribee, St Albans, Sunbury (limited service), Craigieburn, Epping, Eltham, Croydon, Bayswater, Dandenong, Frankston and Lilydale (limited service).

NightRider city stops are at the Rialto in Collins Street, Lazars in Lonsdale Street, opposite the Metro in Bourke Street and at the Crown Casino in Flinders Street.



Expressly yours

Now it's your turn to have a say. Simply write to:

**The Forum
GPO Box 4910
Melbourne 3001**

Let the Forum know what you think about the Met's services.

Whatever your point of view, the Forum would like to hear from you.

GRIME FIGHTER

Given that they work bare-headed under the hot sun and seldom come in out of the rain, it's hardly surprising that Melbourne's trains have to surrender to the occasional scrub.



Helping Met Trains maintain a clean fleet is the role of the new, fully automatic train wash at North Melbourne.

Train Presentation Manager, Ken Hawkins, likens the 50-metre plant, which opened for business in May 1995, to a giant car wash, complete with whirling brushes and foaming sprays.

It's designed to wash all kinds of rolling stock, says Ken, from locomotives to carriages to grain wagons, and cleans between 16 and 20 complete trains a day.

Each passenger train undergoes the full treatment once a week, Ken says.

The plant is environmentally friendly too: Water is not only recycled but also treated automatically before being reused.

BY THE WAY...

MORE TRANSPORT TRIVIA FROM THE PTC FILES

Bygone days

Melbourne's first cable tramway opened on 11 November 1885, and ran from the corner of Bourke Street down Spencer Street, along Flinders Street, Wellington Parade and Bridge Road to Hawthorn Bridge.

The trams were hauled by gripping a moving cable that ran in a channel under the road between the tracks. Large steam engines powered a 7.5km cable to the city, and a 4.5km cable to Hawthorn.

By 1891, Melbourne had more than 70km of double-track cable tramway powered by 11 engine houses.

The conductor aboard recorded fares by punching a small hole in the long cardboard 'trips slips' pinned to his uniform. At the end of the day, the confetti collected in his punch was counted to balance the amount of money taken.

BY & LARGE

- Met trains run on more than 330 kilometres of track throughout the city and suburbs.
- 30,000 tonnes of steel reinforcement were used in the construction of the underground loop.
- about 108 million rail passenger trips will be made on Melbourne's trains this year.

BY ANY OTHER NAME

Mentone.

The name came from a health resort near Nice, on the Mediterranean. It was originally called Dover Slopes.

Moorabbin.

From the Aboriginal word 'moorooabin', meaning woman's milk.

Murrumbidgee.

An Aboriginal word meaning 'you'.

Oakleigh.

The name was given for the large number of she-oaks in the area.

Werribee.

An Aboriginal word meaning backbone or spine.

PUTTING THE LOOP THROUGH THE HOOPS

Perhaps the only thing more challenging than taking part in the PTC's recent simulation of a train disaster was trying to make sense of the event's title.

For the members of the public playing a role in Operation Skunk, however, the meaning soon became clear.

The full-scale mock emergency, held in the underground loop near Museum Station, was designed to test both the resources and responses of Melbourne's various emergency services.



Left to right, Police Constable Sullivan, Bryan Clabby, Head Station Assistant and Edgar Tellis, Station Master

More than 240 volunteers acting as passengers, and 14 services – including Victoria Police, Metropolitan Fire Brigade, the Metropolitan Ambulance Service and Red Cross – took part in the joint exercise, which was carried out on a Sunday when the loop was closed.

The simulation's intricate plot was based on a worst-case scenario, says loop Line Manager Phil

Lane, who acted as site controller at Museum Station during the 'emergency'.

"At 9am, police received a call from RMIT saying that there had been a robbery," Phil said.

Police chased three youths running from the scene into the loop. To add yet another touch of realism, the script called for one of the police officers to break a leg while descending one of the underground's ventilation shafts.

Once in the underground, the suspects created havoc, involving the immobilisation of a train, a fire and the underground being plunged into darkness.

The task facing the emergency services was to remove the passengers, many of whom had been supposedly overcome by the smoke and distraught with the situation.

As in a real emergency, the Fire Brigade was the first group to enter the tunnel to give the all-clear. Then the various authorities went quickly into action, helping passengers, setting up communications, and providing counselling.

Each service, Phil says, had set its own objectives for the four-hour exercise. "The SES, for instance, wanted to test their call-out system and practise tasking," he said.

"Overall the operation went exceptionally well. After it was over, all the agencies had a full debriefing and were thoroughly pleased with the results.

"It also proved successful in that it highlighted some opportunities for improvements that are now being looked into."

Met and V/Line Fares FROZEN

Met and V/Line users will reap the benefits of recent savings made on the public transport system with a price freeze on all tickets for the next 12 months.

The move means that many of the popular tickets, including the two-hour Zone 1 ticket, have not increased in price for three years running.

It is expected that the early Christmas present for the growing number of people using public transport in Victoria will lead to even further increases in patronage in 1996.

Road code reminders

The rules that prevent cars, buses and trams from constantly running into one another are based on simple etiquette (although with trams, it might be more a case of deferring to bulk).

It may be timely, however, to remind drivers exactly where the law stands when it comes to sharing the roads with public transport. (Please note the following are only summaries – full details may be obtained from Vic Roads).

TRAMS

Drivers must always keep to the left of tram lines, except where (i) you are turning right from another road and must cross them, (ii) you are making a U-turn, or (iii) you have to cross them to avoid a vehicle parked by the roadside.

Always keep to the left to make sure that

your car is not obstructing a tram's path. And, of course you must only pass a tram on the left side.

When passing a stationary tram at either a tram terminus or along any section of road, make sure (i) there are no pedestrians alighting from the tram, (ii) you are travelling at less than 10kmh. You do not have to stop at a safety zone, but remember to always keep to its left.

BUSES

You must never drive in a bus lane unless (i) you are turning from the same road – in which case you must not enter the bus lane until you are within 50m of the turn – and (ii) there is a sign permitting your type of vehicle.

And always give way to buses pulling out from a parked position at the side of the road.

WHAT'S ON, WHEN, WHERE (and how to get there)

Event	Date	Location	How to get there
Moonee Valley Races	9 December	Moonee Valley Racecourse	Catch the Broadmeadows line to Moonee Ponds Station then take a short walk to the course. Board the No. 59 route from Elizabeth Street, City.
Drag Racing	10 December	Calder Park Raceway	Direct buses to Calder Park meet trains arriving at St Albans Station.
Sandown Races	10 December	Sandown Racecourse	Catch the Pakenham or Cranbourne line trains to Sandown Park Station. The racecourse is opposite the station.
Met Christmas Carriage to Melbourne Central	10 December	Pakenham line	Departs Pakenham at 10.19am. Arrives Museum Station at 11.38am.
Sunday Christmas Trading	10 December	City Stores	Trains will run through the city loop, stopping at Museum Station only.
Sheffield Shield Cricket Victoria v Tasmania	13-16 December	MCG	Catch a train to Jolimont or Richmond Station or take any Flinders Street or Batman Avenue tram.
Melbourne City Christmas Concert	16 December	Procession from City Square to Parliament House	Catch any city-bound tram to the City Square or take a train to Flinders Street Station and walk one block.
Sandown Races	17 December	Sandown Racecourse	Catch the Pakenham or Cranbourne line trains to Sandown Park Station. The racecourse is opposite the station.
Met Christmas Carriage to Melbourne Central	17 December	Frankston line	Departs Frankston at 10.06am. Arrives Museum Station at 11.18am.
Sunday Christmas Trading	17 December	City Stores	Trains will run through the city loop, stopping at Museum Station only.
Cricket Australia v West Indies (D/N)	19 December	MCG	Catch a train to Jolimont or Richmond Station or take any Flinders Street or Batman Avenue tram.
Flemington Races	20 December	Flemington Racecourse	Special express trains will depart Flinders St, Spencer St and North Melbourne stations to Flemington Racecourse.
Moonee Valley Races	23 December	Moonee Valley Racecourse	Catch the Broadmeadows line train to Moonee Ponds Station and take a short walk to the course. Or catch the No. 59 tram from Elizabeth Street, City.
Carols by Candlelight	24 December	Sidney Myer Music Bowl	Get off any St Kilda Road tram outside the Arts Centre and walk across the gardens.
Met Christmas Carriage to Melbourne Central	24 December	Broadmeadows line	Departs Broadmeadows at 9.27am and 10.47am to arrive at Museum Station at 10.06am and 11.26am respectively.
Sunday Christmas Trading	24 December	City Stores	Trains will run through the city loop.
Test Cricket Australia v Sri Lanka	26-30 December	MCG	Catch a train to Jolimont or Richmond Station or take any Flinders Street or Batman Avenue tram.
New Year's Day Race Meeting	1 January	Flemington Racecourse	Special trains will run from Flinders Street, Spencer Street and North Melbourne stations.
Five-Litre Touring Car Championship	6 January	Calder Park Raceway	Direct buses to Calder Park will meet trains arriving at St Albans Station.
World Series Cricket Australia v Sri Lanka (D/N)	9 January	MCG	Catch a train to Jolimont or Richmond Station or take any Flinders Street or Batman Avenue tram.
Drag Racing	13 January	Calder Park Raceway	Direct buses to Calder Park meet trains arriving at St Albans Station.
Ford Australian Open	15-28 January	Flinders Park	Catch any tram down Batman Avenue. Alternatively, catch a train to Richmond Station, then walk or catch a tram to Flinders Park.
World Series Cricket Australia v Sri Lanka (D/N)	16 January	MCG	Catch a train to Jolimont or Richmond Station or take any Flinders Street or Batman Avenue tram.
Lilium Exhibition	17-19 January	Museum Station	Catch any loop train to Museum Station or catch a tram to the corner of Latrobe Street and Swanston Walk.
World Series Cricket First Final (D/N)	18 January	MCG	Catch a train to Jolimont or Richmond Station or take any Flinders Street or Batman Avenue tram.
Australia Day Races	26 January	Flemington Racecourse	Frequent special trains will depart Flinders Street, Spencer Street and North Melbourne stations.
USA Jet Car Event	27 January	Calder Park Raceway	Direct buses to Calder Park meet trains arriving at St Albans Station.
The Big Day Out	28 January	Showgrounds	Frequent special trains will operate to the Showgrounds.
Mercantile Mutual Cup Cricket Victoria v WA (D/N)	2 February	MCG	Catch a train to Jolimont or Richmond Station or take any Flinders Street or Batman Avenue tram.
Pakenham Cup	7 February	Pakenham Racecourse	Catch any train to Pakenham.
Nascar Round 3	10 February	Calder Park Raceway	Direct buses to Calder Park meet trains arriving at St Albans Station.
Sheffield Shield Cricket Victoria v SA (D/N)	13-16 February	MCG	Catch a train to Jolimont or Richmond Station or take any Flinders Street or Batman Avenue tram.
Victoria on Show	15-18 February	Melbourne Exhibition Centre	Catch the number 12, 96 or 109 tram down Spencer Street to the new Exhibition Centre.
Mercantile Mutual Cup Cricket Victoria v SA	18 February	MCG	Catch a train to Jolimont or Richmond Station or take any Flinders Street or Batman Avenue tram.
Drag Races	24 February	Calder Park Raceway	Direct buses to Calder Park meet trains arriving at St Albans Station.

For service details for all Melbourne events, contact the Met Information Centre on 131 638 (TTY facility 9619 2727 for customers with a speech/hearing impairment).

2 for 1 entry to

Polly Woodside and Maritime Museum

The restored 'Polly Woodside' is one of the few square riggers left in the world. Step aboard and go back to when sails ruled the waves.

Ashore, the Maritime Museum will take you on a voyage through the history of seafaring.

Open daily from 10am-4pm (except Christmas Day and Good Friday)

Offer valid to 29/2/96. One free admission with payment of an admission of equal or greater value.

Entry into Como House

The Armytage family lived at Como for 95 years from 1864. Today, visitors can explore the five acres of landscaped gardens and absorb the opulent atmosphere of another era.

Phone 9827 2500, open daily 10am-5pm

Offer valid to 29/2/96.

One free admission with payment of an admission of equal or greater value.

Rialto Towers Observation Deck

The Rialto Towers Observation Deck provides a stunning 360 degree view of Melbourne. Allow an extra 30 minutes to see the latest attraction, RialtoVision.

Located at 525 Collins Street Melbourne.

Phone 9629 8222. Open 7 days a week: Mon-Fri 11am to 11.30pm, Sat-Sun 10am to 11.30pm.

Offer valid until 31 March 1996. This coupon admits one free child when accompanied by a paying adult. Limit one coupon per person.