

express

News from the Met

Autumn 1996

MAKING tracks to the track

To see the best in Grand Prix Formula One action, you need just one formula: public transport.

That's the word from Melbourne's transport experts, who expect more than 400,000 spectators to attend the four-day event and 180,000 to see the race itself.

The Met is planning to carry more than 200,000 racegoers during race week and has been preparing for the event for the past 18 months.

It is expected to be Australia's biggest ever movement of people by public transport for a single sporting event.

All this at the same time as Moomba and the Melbourne Motor Show at the new Melbourne Exhibition Centre!

To cope with the mammoth increase in patronage, the Met has made extensive changes to its service.

A special GP express service will run at one-minute intervals during peak times on main routes to the Grand Prix. On Sunday the number of train trips into Flinders Street Station will increase from 250 to 614 and the underground train loop will be open.

On race day an extra 100 trams and about 1500 Met Tram staff will swing into service, while services throughout the event have been boosted to an all time high.

Thanks to race sponsor Transurban, all tram and light rail services between the city and the track will be FREE.

For late night revellers, the Learn and Live after midnight NightRider bus has announced its first ever Sunday night service, as well as a greatly boosted service level for Friday and Saturday nights.

A special wheelchair accessible bus service will also operate at half-hour intervals from Spencer Street Station to the track (see page three).

✓ Line will also run additional services for country passengers.



new INTERCHANGE comes into play

Bottlenecks which caused delays on the Swanston Street tram service have been eased, thanks to the construction of a new interchange outside the University of Melbourne.

Completed last month, the interchange incorporates a shunting track between the two main lines, allowing trams to bypass a tram being shunted (turned around for its return journey) without delays.

It replaces the old Franklin Street terminus, which was used until April 1991. Emergency crossovers at Latrobe and Queensberry streets were used for shunting after the closure of Franklin Street, but reduced holding capacity led to bottlenecks. The new terminus can hold up to two articulated trams or three standard trams.

Jamming Room Only

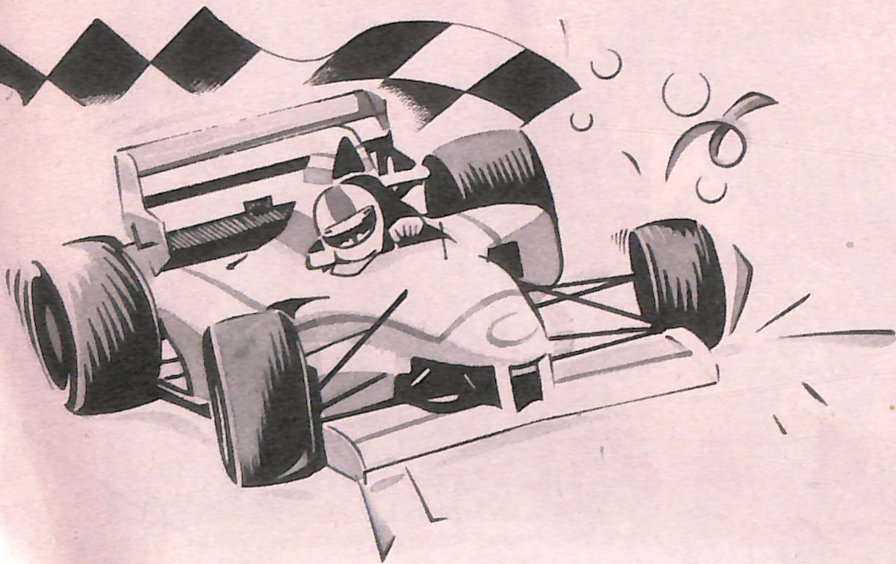
It was enough to give your average sardine an inferiority complex. Before you could say "move down the back, please", 131 Victorians squeezed onto one bus last December and set a new world bus-cramming record.

The record was set at the City of Maribyrnong Saltwater Festival where, just two days earlier, the previous world record of 104 was broken when 118 people all managed to board a bus at the same time.

Event co-sponsor Met Bus has since announced that it does not intend to challenge the record during normal day-to-day operations.



Free tokens for tours. See back page for details...



fellow traveller

News from the Victorian Public Transport Forum

Since its formation nearly three years ago, the Victorian Public Transport Forum has dealt with a wide range of issues that have had a direct impact on the services delivered to you, the travelling public.

The Forum has been consulted on such matters as proposed timetable changes, facilities for bicycles on the public transport network, crime prevention and safety issues.

It constantly makes recommendations to the Minister for Transport, Alan Brown, on your behalf, and gives him and his staff the views of those who use public transport.

During its monthly meetings the Forum handles a large number of issues, hence the need for three subcommittees dealing with facilities, rural transport matters and customer services.

The facilities subcommittee looks at issues such as conditions at stations, including their lighting, surrounds and amenities.

The rural subcommittee examines issues concerning V/Line and private operators Hoy's Roadlines and West Coast Rail, and puts forward the customer's viewpoint on matters unique to the rural commuter.

The entire Forum membership has met in country areas in the past to gain an insight into the rural scene. This year it plans to have further consultations outside the metropolitan area to ensure that it remains in touch with the needs of those who travel throughout Victoria.

The customer services subcommittee focuses on the ways that members of the public receive information about the public transport system.

It was instrumental in the creation of *Express*, and has also contributed to services such as the customer feedback line.

The subcommittee also continues to monitor and call for improved announcements on board both trains and trams.

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.

MAINTAINING POWER FOR THE PEOPLE

Have you ever noticed how the lights sometimes flicker in your train?

Usually it's the result of a momentary loss of power to the overhead wiring that spans the length of the track – maybe there's been a storm, a car accident or a tree has fallen across the power line.

In a metropolitan network as large as Melbourne's, such an episode takes place each day.

While you might see a light go off briefly, in an anonymous-looking building in Burnley an entirely different sequence of events takes place.

Here an alarm sounds and green lights flash on a gigantic board. Within moments a command is punched into a keyboard and a set of reassuring red lights blink back on.

Power has just been restored to your section of track. The entire procedure has taken less than 10 seconds.

All this occurs in the central control room at Electrol, the arm of Met Trains that controls and monitors the power supply to the city's trains, signals and boom gates.

A total staff of 17 specialists work here around the clock to keep the electricity flowing throughout the system: 1500 volts to approximately 1000 kilometres of traction (overhead) wires, 22,000 volt substation supplies and 2200 volts to the signals and gates.

Electrol's auditorium-sized control room contains three operators, their computer monitors and an 'overview panel', a wall board that depicts in map form the entire metropolitan and Geelong network, as well as Morwell's signalling system.

At 25m long and 2.5m high, the board is reported to be the largest of its kind in the southern hemisphere.

During normal operations, hundreds of bright red lights indicate that the power is on and all is

well on each marked five kilometre portion of track.

Flashing green lights accompanied by an alarm mean the supply of electricity to a section has been interrupted, either by a circuit breaker – which switches the power off when an overload occurs – or as the result of an incident such as a storm or accident.

Usually the circuit breaker responds immediately to the command of one of Electrol's officers and power is returned. In more serious incidents, power can be switched through the line from another direction.

In the event of a storm or an emergency such as a fire or traffic accident, an overhead crew is alerted and instructed to find and repair the fault.

Sometimes even trains themselves can be the source of the problem. A faulty motor or defective pantograph (the framework above the train that carries the current to the motor) can black out the section of wiring.

Quick detective work by Electrol staff can trace the cause, and the train is removed for repair.

So the next time you see the light flicker in your train, remember that Electrol controls the power, and has the power to find the fault.



next stop GARDEN CITY

The next time you step off the train at your station, don't be surprised if you are met by a gang of gardeners.

Thanks to the Stationeers program, about 40 Melbourne stations are beginning to look like suburban gardens, complete with flower boxes and landscaped surrounds.

An initiative of the Department of Transport, the Public Transport Corporation and Keep Australia Beautiful, the program encourages community groups and individuals to beautify their railway stations and surrounds.

"The Stationeers program brings together many community organisations and individuals," says the general manager of Keep Australia Beautiful (Vic.), Anne Canterbury.

"They organise working-bees to build and maintain garden beds and generally look after their local stations."

The program is blooming across town: a 'Friends' group is transforming Alphington Station with a major planting of native shrubs and grasses, while brightly coloured flower boxes – crafted by a member of the Association for the Blind – have blossomed in profusion at Kooyong.

Meanwhile, Armadale Station has beautifully landscaped surrounds, courtesy of local identity Sister Monica O'Leary and a group of helpers, a 'Friends of Ripponlea Station' group

has combined with local traders to beautify the grounds, and the local Rotary Club is involved in greening the North Brighton Station.

If you are interested in establishing a Stationeers project in your area, or wish to join a current project at your station, call Keep Australia Beautiful on (03) 9326 6289.



Stationeers Program volunteers work to beautify Melbourne's train stations and surrounds.

Photography: Peter Weaving, courtesy of The Melbourne Times.

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY

Service	Time	Frequency	
MET TRAM	Light Rail to St Kilda	8am-7pm	Av. 1 every 2.5 mins
	Clarendon St (routes 11, 86 & 95 extended to Albert Rd)	9am-8pm	Av. 1 every 2.5 mins
	St Kilda Rd (route 22 extended to Commercial Rd)	9am-7pm	Av. 1 every 1.5 mins
	All other routes	All day	Normal timetables
MET TRAIN	All lines	All day	Normal timetables
MET BUS	All routes	All day	Normal timetables
MET BUS	Wheelchair accessible bus between Spencer Street Station and Grand Prix Gates 1, 2, 4, 5 and 11	7.30am-7pm	30 mins

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

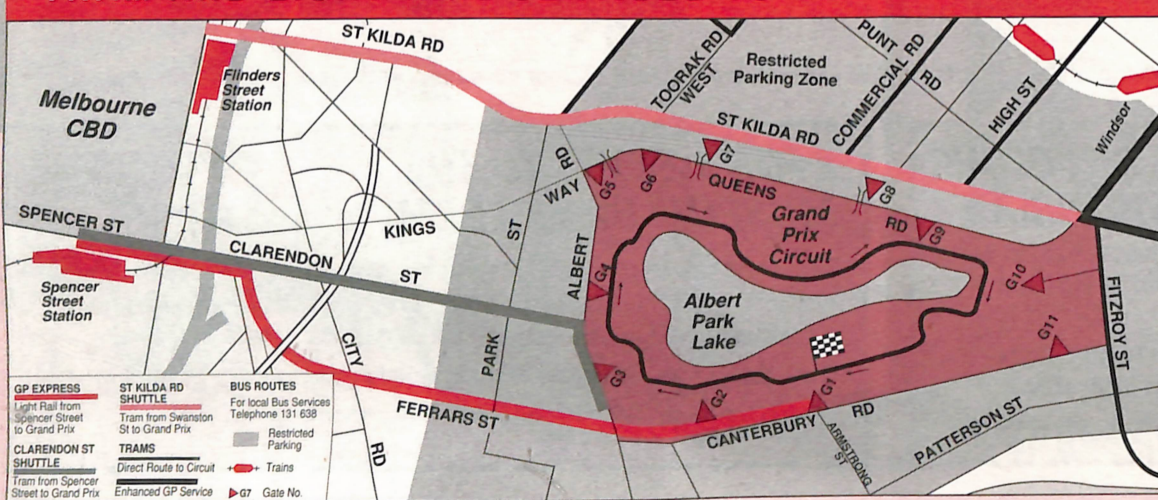
Service	Time	Frequency	
MET TRAM	Light Rail (express shuttle from Spencer Street with stops at Wright Street and Middle Park stations)	6am-2pm 2pm-4pm 4pm-8pm*	1 min 6 mins 1 min
	Clarendon St (express shuttle between Spencer St & Albert Rd)	6am-2pm 2pm-4pm 4pm-8pm*	2 mins 6 mins 2 mins
	St Kilda Rd	6am-8pm*	1 min
	Dandenong Rd	9am-8pm	4 mins
	Brighton Rd	9am-8pm	7.5 mins
	All other routes	All day	Saturday timetable
MET TRAIN	Eltham, Ringwood, Epping, St Albans, Werribee, Williamstown, Glen Waverley, Upfield,** Dandenong, Broadmeadows, Sandringham, Alamein and Frankston lines	All day until 9pm*	20 mins or better
	Beyond Ringwood on Lilydale and Belgrave lines and beyond Dandenong on Pakenham and Cranbourne lines	7am-11am 11am-4pm 4pm-7pm 7pm-9pm*	30 mins 40 mins 30 mins 40 mins
	All routes	All day	Normal timetables
MET BUS	Wheelchair accessible bus between Spencer Street Station and Grand Prix Gates 1, 2, 4, 5 and 11	7.30am-7pm*	30 mins
NIGHTRIDER	All routes	12.30am-4.30am	30 mins
	Shuttle between St Kilda and City Square	12.30am-4.30am	15 mins

MONDAY

Service	Time	Frequency	
NIGHTRIDER	All routes	12.30am-4.30am	30 mins
	Shuttle between St Kilda and City Square	12.30am-4.30am	15 mins

*On Sunday, extra tram, train and wheelchair accessible bus services will be scheduled after the indicated times to move crowds from the GP track after the John Farnham concert, finishing at 8.15pm. **Last Upfield service departs Flinders St Station at 9pm on both days.

TRAM AND LIGHT RAIL SERVICES TO THE GRAND PRIX



With no parking around the Grand Prix track, and limited parking in the city, public transport is the best way to get to this year's big race.

By contrast, there are 25,000 free car spaces at metropolitan train stations and train and tram service levels over the Grand Prix weekend will be more than doubled.

Interchange facilities at Spencer Street and Flinders Street stations will be highly co-ordinated with roaming information staff and extended tram and light rail boarding zones.

On both days of the weekend all train and tram services will operate to a Saturday timetable and buses will replace the regular Clarendon Street tram (No. 12) and St Kilda light rail services (No. 96).

In addition, routes 18 and 75 will terminate at the corners of Flinders and Spencer streets and the City Circle tram will run in both directions between the corner of Flinders and Spencer streets and Latrobe and Swanston streets.

All Met services on Thursday 7 and Friday 8 March will operate to normal timetables with some tram services extended to the GP track.

Grand Prix patrons are advised to check their tickets for their preferred gate entry details before working out their public transport arrangements.

DISABILITY SERVICES

A special wheelchair-accessible bus service will run throughout the four-day event from Spencer Street Station and Olympic Park to the track. The buses will leave every half hour between 7.30am and 7pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday and 7.30am and 9pm on Sunday, and will stop at gates 1, 2, 4, 5 and 11.

THE PEOPLE

- 10,000 Australian Grand Prix Corporation employees – mainly catering, security, track marshals and event staff – will be on hand throughout the event.
- 700 international and 300 local media will be filing stories or providing live coverage of the race.
- The race itself is expected to capture an expected viewing audience of 600 million people.

The Race

- 22 cars are expected to line up on the grid on race day.
- At 5.26km long, the Albert Park circuit is the fourth longest in the world, and is expected to be one of the fastest.
- The cars will average just over 200kmh around the circuit.
- They will be travelling at about 290kmh just after the start, at the end of Pit Straight.

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

Event	Date	Location	How to get there
Melbourne Food and Wine Festival	25 February - 7 April	Various Melbourne venues	Contact the Met Information Centre on 131 638 for details of specific events and locations.
Transurban Australian Formula One Grand Prix	7-10 March	Albert Park Lake	Refer to page three for Grand Prix service details.
Moomba	7-17 March	City and Alexandra Gardens	Catch any train to Flinders Street Station. Any tram on St Kilda Road/Swanston Street will drop you at the gardens for the carnival and river festivities or at the City Square.
Melbourne International Motor Show	1-11 March	Melbourne Exhibition Centre Clarendon Street	Catch tram route 12 or 109 from Collins Street. Alight at the corner of Flinders Street and Clarendon Street. Route 12 will be replaced by buses on Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 March.
Flemington Races	9 March	Flemington Racecourse	Catch the special express trains from Flinders St, Spencer St and North Melbourne stations to Flemington Racecourse station on race days. Racecourse entrance on station platform. Or catch tram route 57 from Elizabeth Street.
Moomba River Pageant	9 March	Yarra River	See general Moomba listing above.
Flemington Races	11 March	Flemington Racecourse	Catch the special express trains from Flinders St, Spencer St and North Melbourne stations to Flemington Racecourse station on race days. Racecourse entrance on station platform. Or catch tram route 57 from Elizabeth Street.
The Met Bath Tub Dash in support of Berry Street	1pm, 11 March	Yarra River (outside Melbourne University Rowing Club in the Alexandra Gardens)	See general Moomba listing above.
Labour Day Holiday	11 March	Metropolitan area	Met services will operate to a Saturday timetable.
Moomba Street Parade	11 March	Swanston Walk	See general Moomba listing above. Tram services along and crossing Swanston Street will be interrupted during the Parade. Normal services will resume at 1pm.
Bjork in concert	12 March	Sports & Entertainment Centre	Any train to Flinders Street Station, then board tram route 70 in Batman Avenue on the corner of St Kilda Road.
Sheffield Shield Cricket Vic v WA	14-17 March	MCG	Hurstbridge/Epping lines to Jolimont Station or the Belgrave, Lilydale, Glen Waverley, Alamein, Pakenham, Cranbourne, Frankston or Sandringham line trains to Richmond Station. All other lines to Flinders Street Station or any tram in Flinders Street or Batman Avenue.
Cranbourne Races	16 March	Cranbourne Racecourse	Cranbourne line trains to Cranbourne Station.
Moonee Valley Races	16 March	Moonee Valley Racecourse	Broadmeadows line train to Moonee Ponds Station or catch tram 59 in Elizabeth Street.
VATC Sandown Races	17 March	Sandown Racecourse	Catch Pakenham or Cranbourne line trains and alight at Sandown Park Station, racecourse opposite the station.
Werribee Races	19 March	Werribee Racecourse	Werribee line trains to Werribee Station.
VCA Centenary Cricket Match	21 March	MCG	Service details as above.
Moscow Circus	21-31 March	Sports & Entertainment Centre	Catch any train to Flinders Street Station then board tram route 70 in Batman Avenue on the corner of St Kilda Road.
Celine Dion	22-23 March	Melbourne Park	Catch trams from Batman Avenue or Hurstbridge/Epping line trains to Jolimont Station. Belgrave, Lilydale, Glen Waverley, Alamein, Pakenham, Cranbourne, Frankston or Sandringham line trains to Richmond Station. All other trains to Flinders Street Station.
Sheffield Shield Cricket Vic v Qld	23-26 March	MCG	Service details as above.
Greek Antipodes Festival	23-24 March	Lonsdale Street	Catch any tram in Swanston Street Walk and alight at Lonsdale Street.
AFL Round 1	29-31 March	MCG and Whitten Oval	Service details as above. Catch St Albans line train to Footscray West Station.
The Melbourne International Comedy Festival	1-24 April	Various Events in Melbourne	Contact the Met Information Centre on 131 638 for details of specific events.
AFL Art Expo	3-14 April	Melbourne Park	Service details as above.
Good Friday	5 April	Metropolitan area	Sunday Timetable. Contact the Met Information Centre on 131 638 for service details.
Easter Monday	8 April	Metropolitan area	Saturday Timetable. Contact the Met Information Centre on 131 638 for service details.
Neil Diamond in concert	9-15 April	Melbourne Park	Service details as above.
Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show	18-21 April	Old Exhibition Buildings & Carlton Gardens	Catch tram routes 96 or 86 from Bourke Street to corner of Nicholson and Gertrude Streets.
James Brown in concert	24 April	Melbourne Park	Service details as above.
Anzac Day March	25 April	City	Train services will operate to a Saturday timetable, with extra trains scheduled for the AFL football match at the MCG.

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).

FAUVES: AN EXPLOSION OF COLOUR NATIONAL GALLERY OF VICTORIA

Fauves unleashes the 'wild beasts': modern masters such as Matisse, Derain and Braque who shook the art world in 1904 with their radical use of bold, vibrant colour.

180 St Kilda Road Melbourne. Open daily 10am-5pm (until 8.30pm Wednesdays from 13 March). Enquiries 9208 0203 or 9208 0220.

Offer valid until 13 May 1996. This coupon admits one free child when accompanied by a paying adult. Limit one coupon per person.

2 FOR 1 ENTRY TO THE MUSEUM OF VICTORIA



The world's best wildlife photography - the BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition, March 14 to April 28. Hands On: Environment exhibition, see how you can make a difference, opens March 23.

Open daily from 10am-5pm (except Good Friday)

Offer valid to 31 May 1996. One free admission with payment of an admission of equal or greater value.