

express

News from the Met

Summer 1996/97

loop loosens up FOR SUNDAY TRAVEL

It's a Christmas gift from the Met, and a new year's present too.

To enable easy access to Christmas shopping at Melbourne Central, Museum Station will open every Sunday this month until Christmas.

Trains will run to Flinders Street first and then run via the Loop from the first train until 6.30pm.

In more good news for Met customers, Museum Station and the loop will open each Sunday from 16 February.

As a result of a growing demand from tourists and shoppers, city services on all lines will run via the Loop, beginning with the first train and ending at 6.30pm.

All services from Burnley, Clifton Hill and northern lines will run directly to Flinders Street and return via the Loop. Services on the Caulfield and Sandringham lines will run via the Loop to Flinders Street.

With the exception of the Glen Waverley line, where services will be improved from a 40-minute to a 30-minute service, the frequency of Sunday services will not change.



GOODBYE museum HELLO melbourne CENTRAL

When the Museum of Victoria moves to its new site in Carlton Gardens in 2000, it will take with it more than some of Australia's finest historical displays.

It will also remove the reason behind the name of its neighbouring station.

As a result, from February 1997, Museum Station will become Melbourne Central Station. The task of updating timetables, maps and signs is expected to be completed during the same month.

**Two special offers!
See back page for
all the details...**



RICHMOND SPORTS A NEW LOOK

Melburnians who catch the train to events at the MCG, Melbourne Park and the Sports and Entertainment Centre will notice major improvements to customer facilities at Richmond Station this summer.

One million dollars has been spent on improving the lighting, seating, windbreaks and closed circuit monitoring of all areas of the station - one of Melbourne's busiest.

"Richmond has played a vital role in bringing people to and from sporting and social events in this area for decades," says Richmond Senior Stationmaster, Richard Kolasa.

"The station also plays a key role as a passenger interchange for people travelling to and from the city loop and for people changing from eastern suburban to south-east and bayside trains.

"More than 5000 trains stop at Richmond every week with more than 8000 customers using the station each day."

All platforms, subways, ramps and station approaches at Richmond are monitored by 64 CCTV cameras that are linked to the control room, being watched here by Station Officer John Everend, with Senior Stationmaster, Richard Kolasa (left) and Assistant Stationmaster Robert Watts (right) looking on.



final message FROM TRANSPORT MINISTER alan brown

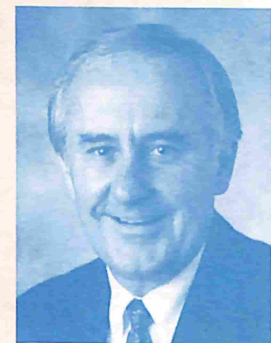
As this is the last issue of Express before I stand down as Minister for Transport, I would like to thank you, the travelling public, for your increasing support of public transport in Melbourne.

This support is evidenced by the increases in patronage that have occurred over the past two years - underlying the fact that the quality of services being provided has greatly improved.

Improvements which you may have noticed, include the introduction of 51 Premium Stations across metropolitan Melbourne, the provision of new services, better security at stations, and of course, a more reliable service that is customer focussed.

The opportunity that I have had to work in the transport portfolio has indeed been a most challenging one, and one that I have enjoyed immensely.

To all who use our public transport service, I wish you a very safe and happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



fellow traveller

News from the Victorian Public Transport Forum

Details of community transport throughout Victoria have now been collected in an easy-to-use guide, thanks to a recommendation from the Victorian Public Transport Forum.

The Community Transport Catalogue draws together information on transportation offered by councils, community groups and service organisations, and includes workers, vehicle types and contact names and numbers.

Community transport services vary from informal, neighbourhood organisations to long-term programs. Those running them range from unpaid volunteers working from home, to businesses run by full-time professionals.

Following the catalogue's successful launch, the Forum has recommended that a second edition be published soon, and has proposed that the Accessible Transport Consultative Council be involved in planning.

In other Forum news, members are working with the Department of Infrastructure on Upfield line issues, and looking at heritage transport affairs including the government's proposal for the development of a world-class transport museum in the Docklands.

The Forum also recently received a presentation on *Transporting Melbourne* and now proposes to lodge a written submission. Submissions from members of the public are being accepted during December and can be sent to:

Transporting Melbourne
Department of Infrastructure
17th Floor
589 Collins Street
Melbourne 3000

Expressly yours

Now it's your turn to let the Forum know what you think about the Met's services. Simply write to:

The Forum
GPO Box 4910
Melbourne 3001
or fax your letter
to (03) 9619 6824



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

REVEALING The Met Files

Just in case you haven't caught up with the news, the Met now has its own column in the *Herald Sun*.

Called the Met Files, the weekly section contains news on special events taking place around Melbourne and the latest details of changes to Met services. It also runs competitions, with lucky readers already winning a yearly Met Pass worth \$1500, and a trip for four to Echuca.

The column appears on the Bob Hart page of the *Herald Sun* each Thursday.

CONDUCTING A GROWING BUSINESS

The reputation of the South Melbourne Tram Depot is spreading slowly around the world.

A visiting American couple, obviously intent on seeing Melbourne from a local's point of view, recently hired one of the depot's trams, complete with conductor, for their own guided tour of the city.

Back in the US the grateful travellers sent presents to the crew.

And through its City Circle trams, one of Melbourne's most popular tourist attractions, the depot also has friendship arrangements with Prague and Vienna.

South Melbourne is one of Melbourne's busiest depots, recording 1.3 million passenger boardings in August. The popular 96 route to St Kilda Beach and the City Circle Tram both operate from South Melbourne Depot, and the Tramcar Restaurants also call the depot home and depot manager Victor Foudoulis says South Melbourne is the hub of a growing tram charter business.

"It has become big business for us. Since depots took over charters, we have had three times the amount of business," Victor said.

"We take conference groups, private tours, weddings and social groups that want to put on a tram party. We've been flat out since July.

"Most people want the traditional W-Class tram. We're quite flexible – people can call this,



Victor Foudoulis, Manager South Melbourne Depot (centre), discusses ways of improving the service with Conductor Raoul Varella (left) and Operations Officer Garry Reddy.

or any other tram depot to make a booking, they pick a route and we take them."

Looking after this huge operation are 254 staff – administrators, drivers, conductors, operation officers and customer service employees – all of whom report directly to Victor.

"During the day I deal with rosters, administration and operations, I speak to unions on industrial issues and look after the occupational health and safety of the depot, which includes site meetings. It's all a matter of seeing where we can improve things."

It is an exciting time, Victor says. And it's about to become even busier. Currently based in Dorcas Street, the depot is moving early next year to premises on the corner of Normanby Road and Doran Street.

CAUGHT ON VIDEO

Met Bus has been getting a driver's-eye view of its entire network.

To give planners a better idea of potential problems, a video camera set up on the front of each bus has been filming approaching stops and traffic conditions.

The Met Bus Marketing and Sales Manager, Paul Matthews, says the recording will benefit both the Met and customers.

"We have been able to identify trees that need trimming and bus flags that have been damaged, and we are seeing first-hand where passengers are boarding," Paul said.

The videos will also be used as training aids for new drivers and to help investigate customer requests for new shelters.

HOSTS PROVE just the ticket

If someone in a bright red jacket appears at your station or on your tram or bus one morning, chances are you are about to be introduced to automated ticketing.

The people in red, better known as hosts, are your guides to the Met's new technology.

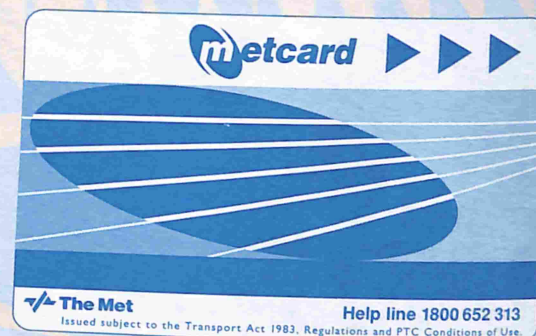
Their role is to answer your questions, explain the long term benefits of automated ticketing and show you how to obtain Metcards from the vending machines and validate them.

"Hosts begin their work on the station, tramline or bus route the day before automated ticketing is introduced, and then remain on the job for approximately three to four days afterwards," says the host training coordinator for OneLink, Victoria King.

The hosts made their inaugural appearance during public field trials on Ventura buslines and at stations on the Alamein line.

Now more than 60 buses on all routes at Ventura Knox have switched to automated ticketing. The technology is also operating on the East Burwood tram route number 75.

As more lines open to automated ticketing, hosts will appear all over Melbourne teaching the three simple steps: buy, validate and travel.



The new Metcard: buy, validate, travel.

"Hosts also explain the benefits of pre-purchasing tickets at one of the Metcard retail outlets," Victoria said.

"With automated ticketing, you will be able to carry around a pre-encoded Metcard. When you need to travel, simply validate your ticket and it will print the expiry date."

Victoria says customers are learning to adjust to the change, especially in their ticket-buying habits.

"It is good to see people beginning to change their buying behaviour and recognising the positive benefits of Metcard."

You never know

who

you might

MEET

ON THE MET...

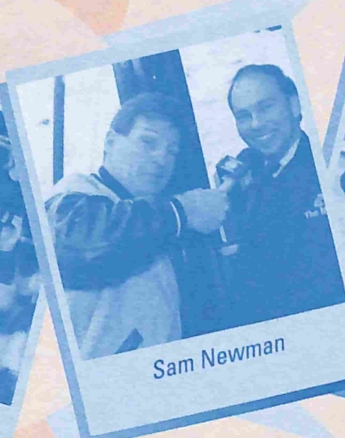
Gary Lyon has tried it. Nikki Lauda tested it last year. And now everyone knows Sam Newman does it.

Trying to remain private on public transport in Melbourne is almost impossible, especially when someone preserves the moment forever on film.

Here is a celebration of some of the celebrities who have been recently captured on Metcam.



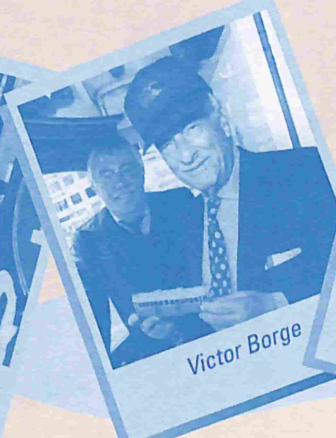
Santa Clauses



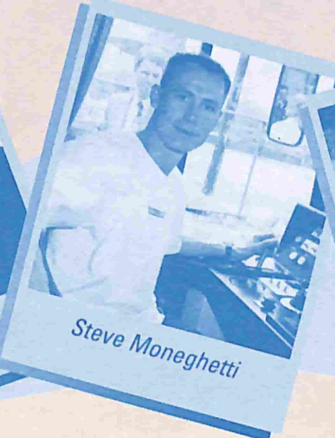
Sam Newman



Gary Lyon



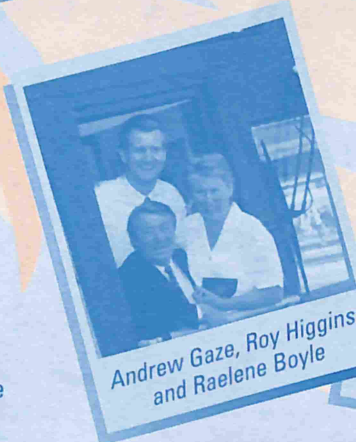
Victor Borge



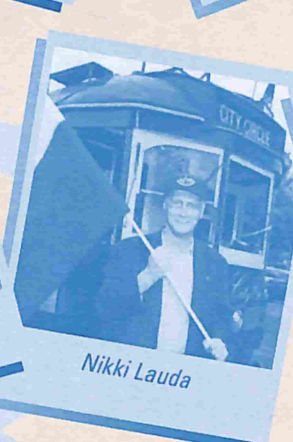
Steve Moneghetti



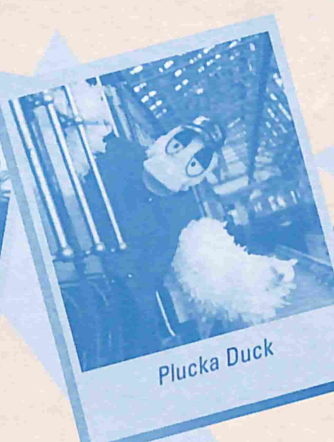
Alan Border



Andrew Gaze, Roy Higgins and Raelene Boyle



Nikki Lauda



Plucka Duck



Zag and Met Bus employees

summertime AND THE travelling is easier

The after work fun of beach and barbecues will come around a little more quickly for Met Trains customers this summer.

Trains in Melbourne throughout the season will run to a normal timetable, both during the week and on the weekends.

In the past, services have been reduced during quiet periods, but changing work practices in the city have created a demand for the continuation of normal services through the holiday period.

However, the Christmas to New Year period will have some variations to normal services:

- Wednesday 25 December – Sunday timetable.
- Thursday 26 December – Saturday timetable.
- Friday 27 December - Sunday 29 December – Normal timetables.
- Wednesday 1 January – Saturday timetable.

NOW & THEN



Met Tram uniform, 1996, driver Norman Small



Melbourne Metropolitan Tramways Board uniform, circa 1920

SPRINTERS OPEN UP a new frontier

Reaching the Victorian/NSW border by rail has never been easier, or quicker.

In the most comprehensive improvements to Victorian country rail services in 15 years, the popular Sprinter services have been extended to Albury and Wodonga, and Echuca will have weekend trains.

The Sprinters, which replaced coach services, significantly reduce journey times between Melbourne and major north-eastern centres such as Euroa, Benalla and Wangaratta.

The trains leave Melbourne at 7.50am on weekdays and arrive in Albury at 11.10am. The return service leaves Albury at 3.55pm and arrives in Melbourne at 7.15pm.

In other changes, residents in Ballarat, Bendigo and Seymour now have more weekend rail services,

and additional weekday services have been added from Ballarat and Kyneton.

Visitors to the popular port of Echuca, on the Murray River, have also benefitted from the changes. Sprinters to the riverport town leave Melbourne each Friday evening via Bendigo and return late on Sunday afternoon.

On holiday weekends the trains also return on Mondays.



making IN merry melbourne

December in Melbourne ushers in a range of Christmas activities, from Santas in trams to carol singing under the Cone or beneath the stars.

While the Met cannot provide a sleigh, it can offer the best way to get you to your chosen attraction.

Here are just some of the highlights taking place in the city over the coming weeks.

Until Christmas at Melbourne Central you can: pose for a photo with Santa (each day from 10am until 5pm); catch a Christmas pantomime, including the unlikely sight of Santa abseiling down the shot tower (12.30pm daily).

And on Tuesday 24 December you can see and hear the magic of 'Carols by Candlelight' at the Myer Music Bowl.

Make sure you get the Met to the famous Myer Christmas windows and, if you're going that way, to your Christmas barbecue by the Yarra.

In the week after Christmas, the Big M Urban Groove will bid the old year a spectacular farewell in the City Square. On New Year's Eve, NightRider buses will leave Flinders Street Station every half hour from 12.30am, last trains will leave the city just before 1am and trams will run from the city until 1.30am.

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

Event	Date	Location	How to get there
Soccer: South Melbourne v Perth Glory	21 December	Bob Jane Stadium, Albert Park Lake	Catch tram route 96 from Bourke or Spencer streets or tram route 12 from Collins St.
Christmas Sunday Trading	22 December	City Shops	All trains travel via the loop.
Carols By Candlelight	24 December	Myer Music Bowl	Catch any train to Flinders Street Station, then board any tram along St Kilda Road and alight at the corner of Southbank Blvd and St Kilda Rd.
Christmas Day	25 December	Metropolitan area	Services will operate to Sunday timetables.
Boxing Day	26 December	Metropolitan area	Services will operate to Saturday timetables.
Caulfield Christmas Handicap	26 December	Caulfield Racecourse	Catch Frankston, Pakenham or Cranbourne line trains to Caulfield Station. Racecourse opposite the station.
Test Cricket Australia v West Indies	26 - 30 December	MCG	Hurstbridge/Epping line trains to Jolimont Station, or Belgrave, Lilydale, Glen Waverley, Alamein, Pakenham, Cranbourne, Frankston or Sandringham line trains to Richmond Station. Or catch any tram in Flinders Street.
NASCAR Round 3	28 December	Calder Park Raceway	Catch any St Albans line train to St Albans Station then board the Met Bus shuttle services to Calder Park between 4pm and 7pm. Return services operate after the event.
Soccer: Collingwood Warriors v Wollongong City	29 December	Victoria Park	Catch any Epping or Hurstbridge line train to Victoria Park.
New Years Eve Celebrations - Big M Urban Groove	31 December/ 1 January	City Square	Two extra trains will depart Flinders Street Station on all lines (except Upfield line) at approximately 12.25am and 12.50am. Last trams will leave the city at 1.30am. NightRider buses will depart Flinders Street Station every half hour from 12.30am.
New Years Day	1 January 1997	Metropolitan Area	Services will operate to Saturday timetables.
Standish Handicap	1 January	Flemington Racecourse	Catch special express trains from Flinders St, Spencer St and North Melbourne stations to Flemington Racecourse.
Picnic Cup	1 January	Pakenham Racecourse	Catch the Pakenham line train to Pakenham Station. Racecourse opposite station.
Soccer: South Melbourne v Collingwood Warriors	5 January	Bob Jane Stadium, Albert Park Lake	Service details as above for 21 December.
Pier to Pub Swim Classic	6 January	Lorne	Catch Geelong train to Geelong station, then board connecting coach to Lorne. Enquiries 13 22 32.
Yarra Glen Cup	8 January	Yarra Glen Racecourse	Catch any Lilydale line train to Lilydale Station. Then board the 685 bus right to the course. The Club provides a free bus service for the Yarra Glen Cup Day.
Kooyong Colonial Tennis Classic	8-11 January	Kooyong Tennis Club	Catch any Glen Waverley line train to Kooyong station. Tennis courts opposite the station. Or board tram route 69.
Drag Racing - Top Fuel Dragsters	11 January	Calder Park Raceway	Service details as above for 28 December.
Soccer: Collingwood Warriors v South Melbourne	12 January	Victoria Park	Service details as above for Victoria Park on 29 December.
Ford Australian Tennis Open	13-26 January	Melbourne Park	Any train to Flinders St Station, then board tram route 70 from the corner of St Kilda Rd and Batman Ave.
World Series Cricket Australia v Pakistan D/N	16 January	MCG	Service details as above for 26-30 December.
Uncle Tobys Iron Man Competition	19 January	Portsea	Catch any Frankston line train to Frankston Station and then board the 788 bus, from Bay 5, to Portsea.
World Series Cricket 2nd Final D/N	20 January	MCG	Service details as above for 26-30 December.
World Series Cricket 3rd Final D/N (if required)	22 January	MCG	Service details as above for 26-30 December.
Drag Racing - USA v Australia Nitro Funny Cars	25 January	Calder Park Raceway	Service details as above for 28 December.
The Big Day Out	25 January	Showgrounds	Special express trains from Flinders St, Spencer St and North Melbourne stations to Showgrounds Station or tram route 57 from Elizabeth Street, City.
Australia Day Celebrations	26 January	City Venues	Catch a train or tram to the city.
Australian Stakes	26 January	Moonee Valley Racecourse	Catch Broadmeadows line train to Moonee Ponds Station or board tram route 59 from Elizabeth St, City.
Soccer: South Melbourne v Gippsland Falcons	2 February	Bob Jane Stadium, Albert Park Lake	Service details as above for 21 December.
Kidz Day Out	2 February	Showgrounds	Service details as above for Showgrounds on 25 January.
Pakenham Cup	5 February	Pakenham Racecourse	Service details as above for Pakenham Racecourse on 1 January.
NASCAR Round 5	8 February	Calder Park Raceway	Service details as above for 28 December.
Soccer: Collingwood Warriors v Marconi Fairfield	9 February	Victoria Park	Service details as above for Victoria Park on 29 December.
Drag Racing - USA v Jet Cars	15 February	Calder Park Raceway	Service details as above for 28 December.
Cadbury Guineas	15 February	Flemington Racecourse	Service details as above for Flemington Racecourse on 1 January.
Lightning Stakes	16 February	Flemington Racecourse	Service details as above for Flemington Racecourse on 1 January.
Soccer: South Melbourne v Adelaide City	16 February	Bob Jane Stadium, Albert Park Lake	Service details as above for 21 December.
Avalon Airshow	18-23 February	Avalon Airfield	Special V/Line trains to Lara and then board a connecting bus.
Blue Diamond Stakes	22 February	Caulfield Racecourse	Service details as above for Caulfield Racecourse on 26 December.
Soccer: Collingwood Warriors v West Adelaide	23 February	Victoria Park	Service details as above for Victoria Park on 29 December.
Soccer: South Melbourne v Wollongong City	28 February	Bob Jane Stadium, Albert Park Lake	Service details as above for 21 December.

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).

Discover Melbourne in the fifties

The Museum of Modern Art at Heide is proud to present the **1956: Melbourne, Modernity and XVI Olympiad** exhibition.

So take a step back in time or a trip down memory lane to life as it was in Melbourne in the 1950s. The exhibition also offers 50's TV culture plus an amazing collection of Olympic memorabilia.

See the exhibition and receive a free entry of equal value for a friend. Offer must be redeemed on date of presentation of this coupon. Valid until 2 March 1997.

MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
Heide

PUFFING BILLY

Present this coupon at the Belgrave Puffing Billy station to enable ONE CHILD (aged 4-16 years inclusive) to travel FREE on a return journey when accompanied by ONE full fare paying adult, on any day except Public Holidays.

Offer valid until 28 February, 1997. Not valid for 'First Class' travel or special events. For 24-hour recorded information phone 1900 937 069 (cost 35c per min).

