

November spotlight

Malvern... the largest depot

Malvern - an all W Class depot... built in 1909, and officially opened on May 31, 1910. Malvern is the largest of the PTC's depots - running 80 trams in the morning peak and 81 in the evening peak. Malvern, along with Essendon and South Melbourne Depots, is one of the depots introducing vintage trams into service. Malvern will operate two vintage Y Class trams along route 69 - St Kilda Beach, Kew - Cotham Road, on Sundays.

Facts:

- 110 W Class trams operate from Malvern
- there are over 400 staff at the depot
- routes: 5 - Malvern, Burke Road; 6 - Glen Iris; 8 - Toorak; 69 - St Kilda Beach-Kew, Cotham Road; and, 72 - Camberwell.

East Preston ... not to be confused with Preston Workshops

East Preston Tram Depot was opened in June 1955 by the Transport Minister, at the time, Mr A G Warner. The depot is currently introducing B Class or articulated trams into service.

The growing population in some of the outer areas serviced by the depot meant that in 1988 the East Preston line was extended to Bundoora. Staff at the depot include traffic staff, administration and maintenance.

Facts:

- 73 trams run out of East Preston during the peaks
- East Preston runs a mixture of W, Z and B Class trams
- about 379 staff work at the depot
- routes: 86 - Bundoora; and, 12 - West Preston - South Melbourne and St Kilda Beach.

Glenhuntly... all W

Glenhuntly depot was opened on August 23, 1923. On March 1, 1925, when the electric line was extended in Hawthorn Road from Glenhuntly Road to North Road, the depot operated 24 trams. In 1935 the Carnegie route was established and in 1938 the East Brighton.

The depot now operates 76 W Class trams. Glenhuntly Depot was renovated in 1983/84.

Facts:

- 76 W Class trams operate from Glenhuntly
- around 295 staff work at the depot
- routes: 67 - Carnegie; 64 - East Brighton; 3 - East Malvern; and, 78 - North Richmond, Prahran.

Kew... 75 years of history

Kew Depot is the second of two depots built by the Prahran and Malvern Tramways Trust in 1915/16. The depot became operational in 1916 - now in its 75th year. Over the years Kew depot has gained much community support and has participated in many local events.

Recently the depot received a major interior facelift - painting and repairs. The depot boasts 'Cameron Hall', named after the first Chairman of the PMTT and the Melbourne Metropolitan Tramways Board. The hall was once used for community functions, now it hosts the depot's annual presentation night, this year to be held on November 24.

Facts:

- 64 trams run from Kew
- Kew operates A and W Class trams
- about 279 staff work at the depot
- routes: 42 - Mont Albert; 48 - North Balwyn; and, Kew shares the North Richmond - Prahran/St Kilda Beach route with Glenhuntly Depot.

South Melbourne... boasts new vintage tram route

South Melbourne Depot was opened in 1925, and is currently stepping back in time for all Melbourne's enjoyment. Together with Malvern and Essendon Depots, South Melbourne is introducing a new vintage tram route. South Melbourne Depot will operate five vintage trams along route 16 - Fitzroy Street, St Kilda Road and into the city, every Sunday. The vintage tram routes will

enable Melburnians and visitors to the city to get around to all the tourist attractions and provide just a bit more fun - as the trips will be made on a vintage tram. South Melbourne Depot is also home to the Civil Branch, which is responsible for track maintenance and construction and cleaning of public amenities throughout the system.

Facts:

- 73 trams operate out of South Melbourne
- the depot runs a mixture of W, A and B Class trams
- approximately 150 people work in the Civil Branch and around 315 as part of the depot

- routes: 1 - South Melbourne Beach; 111 - Port Melbourne light rail and 96 - St Kilda light rail; 15 - St Kilda Beach; 10 & 12 - South Melbourne/St Kilda Beach; and, supplementary service on routes 55 - West Coburg and 8 - Toorak.

Camberwell... all Zs

Camberwell Tram Depot is an all Z Class tram depot. The depot was opened in 1929 initially operating W Class trams on the Camberwell route 72, Burwood - 74 and Elgar Road - 70. Z Class trams were introduced at the end of 1977, operating initially on routes 70 and 74 only, route 72 began operating out of Malvern Depot. In 1978 the Burwood line was extended to East Burwood.

Facts:

- Camberwell operates 42 trams in the morning peak and 36 in the evening peak
- trams operating from Camberwell are all Z Class
- the depot has about 200 staff
- routes: 75 - East Burwood; and, 70 - Elgar Road/Wattle Park.

North Fitzroy... a Met mix

North Fitzroy was originally a cable tram depot and repairs workshop. In 1938/39 the depot became a sole bus depot. Trams were introduced to the depot in 1956. The depot is the only combined bus and tram depot and is currently being rebuilt. Staff at the depot look forward to modern new amenities.

Facts:

- North Fitzroy operates 12 trams and 97 buses
- trams at the depot are A and B Class and buses MAN and Volvo
- the depot has approximately 361 staff
- routes: tram - 96 - St Kilda/East Brunswick buses operate around Latrobe, Northland, West Heidelberg, Bulleen, Garden City, Donvale, East Doncaster, Templestowe, Clifton Hill to Elsternwick, Fishermens Bend, and Upfield.

Essendon ... the festive depot

Essendon Depot is another all Z Class depot. It was opened in 1906. Essendon can easily be termed the 'festive depot' - the depot operates services for Royal Melbourne Show goers, Oktoberfest parties, and more recently Melbourne Cup and Spring Racing Carnival champagne sippers. It also operates a vintage tram to the Zoo on Sundays and public holidays.

Facts:

- Essendon operates 85 trams - 70 during the peaks
- the depot operates all Z Class trams
- 400 staff work at the depot
- routes: 57 - West Maribynong; 59 - Airport West; 55 - West Coburg/Domain Road (route 69 on Sundays); and, 82 - Moonee Ponds/Footscray.

Brunswick ... in the beginning there were horses

Brunswick Depot was originally located in Coburg, around 1915, and operated horse-drawn trams. The depot moved to a new location round by the Zoo, however, in 1923 it was burnt down. In 1936 the Brunswick Depot, as we know it today, was opened, with 72 traffic staff. The depot is currently introducing B Class or articulated trams.

Facts:

- Brunswick operates about 62 trams
- trams are a mixture of Z, W and B Class
- 230 staff work at the depot
- routes: 19 - North Coburg; 1 - East Coburg; and, 15 - Moreland.

Around the depots



Kew 'Frontliners'



North Fitzroy's (left to right) Mavis Cogan, Tony Holding and Chay Chuc



Some of the East Preston gang



Some of the Essendon team with the depot's pride and joy - a vintage tram



The crew at Camberwell - an all Z operation



Malvern ... a depot surrounded in history



Glenhuntly's Peter Weerakoon and Andy Rice get ready for action



Mehmet Yanik and 'Mick' Sharat, Brunswick, check running times



South Melbourne - playing up for the camera