

museum at Docklands focusing on trade. While the GMH premises in Fishermans Bend is a perfect site for a car museum (as Faine suggests), Docklands is the perfect location for Melbourne's new maritime museum.

We have a great opportunity to establish a 21st century maritime museum as a city hub which networks with the dispersed collections throughout the state, represented by the Maritime Museums of Victoria. It is time to build a creative, new maritime museum for Melbourne. With new technologies, we could create something truly stunning for tourists, schools and all who are interested in our maritime heritage.

Liz Rushen, East Melbourne

Majesty of the steam age of rail transport

Jon Faine (1/3) advocates a transport museum for Melbourne without a single mention of rail transport. Readers might imagine Australia went from horse and buggy to Holden cars with nothing in between. We need a comprehensive transport museum which fully celebrates the majesty of the steam age of rail transport and its successors. Steam prevailed for a century and was an essential element of the struggle for federation.

There is already a small rail museum at Newport but it badly needs funding and redevelopment. Support from Jon Faine would help.

Bob Muntz, Ascot Vale

Using the past to "innovate" the future

I enjoyed Jon Faine's article about establishing a transport museum at Fishermans Bend. What better time to do this than when we sit at the cusp of the demise of the internal combustion engine? Perhaps we can use the past to "innovate" the future.

Melbourne is one of the great tram cities of the world. We could forget about trains for an airport to city connection. Trams could run from the airport on elevated rails down the middle of the Tullamarine Freeway and connect with existing routes at Mount Alexander Road. This would give travellers access to the all points of Melbourne. It would differentiate Melbourne from other cities using current assets.

Add to this the historic trams in Bendigo and Ballarat and you have a unique package to offer. It would be a quicker, cheaper alternative than building rail. We have been talking about rail since before Tullamarine Freeway was even started. Add a short line from Southbank tram depot to Fishermans Bend and even Jon Faine will be happy.

**Peter Ramadge,
Newport**