

THE WIRE

20 December 2011

yarra trams

Issue #27

RIGHT: Winners are grinners at the Christmas Carnival reindeer races



Carnival time for staff and families

Yarra Trams staff and families have come together to celebrate the end of another successful year for the company.

Over 3000 people flocked to Flemington Racecourse for our annual Christmas Carnival. With rides, animals, entertainers and plenty of fun for people of all ages, staff mingled with their workmates, met some old friends from around the network and watched their kids have a ball.


For once it wasn't racehorses that the crowd had gathered at the track to see but Christmas themed reindeers in specially created digital 'reindeer races' on the big screen.

There were even a few surprise Yarra Trams identities in the races and both adults and children alike cheered their reindeer home as though they were at that other big Flemington event on the first Tuesday in November.

CEO Michel Masson spoke of his pride in working for a company that had been named the most respected public transport operator. He passed on his thanks to everyone who had made the year such a success for Yarra Trams and to the families who support our staff, especially those who do shift work.

Staff who worked on Sunday 11 December (and finished after 5pm) will receive a hamper to say thanks for keeping the service running during the event. Hampers can be collected from your local carnival representative.

INSIDE: Christmas Carnival picture special

 SNAPSHOT	
Punctuality	79.03% (this time last December 80.92%)
Service Delivery	98.90% (this time last December 99.03%)
Tram-vehicle collisions	41 in December 951 this year
Tram-tram collisions	1 in December 16 this year
Passenger falls	8 in December 173 this year
Pedestrian knockdowns	3 in December 44 this year
Derailments	0 this month 51 this year

All figures current on 15 December 2011

CHRISTMAS CARNAVAL





City Circle Sleigh thrills Melbourne

Yarra Trams and the City of Melbourne are bringing a festive flavour to the world famous City Circle Tram.

The 'City Circle Sleigh', also known as W Class tram 925, will light up the city until early January.

Wrapped up just like a present, the tram brings a touch of red, blue and gold to the city, complete with stars and lights for that extra Christmas touch.

The makeover from tram to 'sleigh' took place at Preston Workshops where the design was printed on vinyl and fitted to the tram before our teams hand painted the details. The final touches were left to electricians who adorned the trams with festoon lighting similar to that on the Colonial Tramcar Restaurant along with more than 5600 LED lights.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle said: "What better way to share in the Christmas spirit than on the iconic City Circle Tram."



ABOVE: Final touches for the City Circle sleigh from staff at Preston Workshops.

Happy holidays!

The Wire is on leave until Tuesday January 17 2012.

If you have any news or story suggestions in the new year email thewire@yarratrams.com.au

Animal assistance pass changes

More people will be travelling on the network with an assistance animal after a change in the eligibility criteria for the Animal Assistance Pass.

The passes are issued to people who require the continued assistance of an animal to alleviate the effects of a disability.

Assistance animals will need to be trained to ensure they behave appropriately on public transport. All applications must be endorsed by a general practitioner, specialist, psychiatrist or qualified speech pathologist before they are granted.

Eligibility criteria and application forms are available online at metlinkmelbourne.com.au

Maintenance makes an impression

YARRA HOTTIE: To the cute Yarra Trams maintenance guy in Hungry Jack's the other night, your smile was stunning. The girls told me to get your number but I was too shy.
- Impressed

- mX

Thursday 15 December

Here's looking at you



Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous 2012.



Thinking of our Lenny

Customers on Routes 48 and 109 have been calling Kew Depot for the past couple of weeks asking "Where's Lenny?".

They're missing the familiar face and voice of Lenny Bates who has been a tram driver since 1955.

Lenny is seriously ill and the news of his illness has come as a shock to all of his colleagues at Kew Depot.

From everyone at Yarra Trams, our thoughts and prayers are with Lenny at this time.



Works save time for trams

Travancore might not be one of Melbourne's best known suburbs, but come January it will be home to one of its biggest tram projects.

Route 59 runs through the tiny suburb between North Melbourne and Ascot Vale just before Essendon Depot. Yarra Trams is joining with *Think Tram* to make a series of changes which will save travellers up to five minutes during peak times.

Track renewal works commence on Saturday 7 January 2012 and will continue until Friday 13 January.

Trams will be given their own 'tramway' to separate them from vehicles but the road will be widened to accommodate the same number of traffic lanes as there are now.

An accessible platform stop will be built at Stop 23 Flemington Community Centre.

In case you're wondering, the suburb with a population of just 839, was named after an early 20th century mansion in the area which in turn took its title from the then Indian state of Travancore.

Extras for sunshine

Temperatures are on the rise and we're making it easier for Melburnians to enjoy good weather.

During December and January there will be 3600 extra services across the network, including 100 each weekend on routes which run to the beach.

The extra services as well as information on works and the Australian Open services are outlined in a brochure currently on board trams.



Uniform update

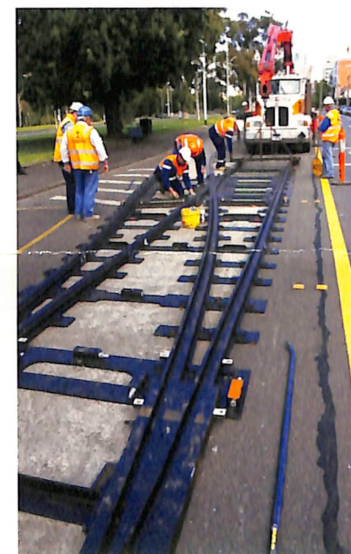
Any staff with faulty items of uniform can order a replacement through their local uniform coordinator.

There have been cases of excessive "pilling" of jumpers or seams splitting.

While replacement items are on order staff may wish to continue wearing the old item as long as the fault doesn't detract from the overall professional appearance of the uniform.

Exchanging items ensures that Yarra Trams can provide feedback to the uniform supplier on garments that might not have met our standards.

Track trucked in for trial



A new method of minimising passenger disruptions during track renewals is being trialled.

A portable crossover imported from the Czech Republic was tested at Simpson Street East Melbourne.

Made up of 22 sections, some of which weigh close to a tonne, various trams have successfully negotiated tests on the crossover.

It is planned to use the technology during VicRoads bridge works on High Street, Armadale early in the New Year.

Trams on Route 6 will be able to shunt at either end of the works, avoiding the need for a tram replacement bus service.

Passengers will have only a short walk to continue their journey by tram.