

*July 2006*

**Richard,**

This project has seen two months evaporated from my life, getting all those tickets in order for the catalogue. I hope that I have completed my part to your satisfaction. Unfortunately I did not really collect tickets until the 1980's and hence am totally ignorant on what were in use before then, but I suppose that is just about normal for most people. There seems to me, in the material now before you, some overlaps in the ticketing system and working with the tickets and various Met information sheets, etc. I have done the best I can. I commend you in this monumental undertaking. A catalogue, such as this, can never be complete, especially in earlier material.

I should like to be named as a significant contributor to your catalogue and, when, printed, to receive two copies ( one for each daughter for when I have expired).

The following represents pieces of various information, which may be of use.

You can get info on the current ticketing system at [www.metlinkmelbourne.com.au](http://www.metlinkmelbourne.com.au) , [www.meltrip.com](http://www.meltrip.com) , [www.railpage.org.au/tram/melbhist](http://www.railpage.org.au/tram/melbhist) , [www.100yearstrams.com.au/tram\\_history](http://www.100yearstrams.com.au/tram_history) , [www.yarratrams.com.au](http://www.yarratrams.com.au) and possibly other sites. [www.portlandcabletrams.com.au](http://www.portlandcabletrams.com.au)

Few notes;

**1.7.1983, M&MTB and Victorian Railways, were replaced by the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) ( to be known as "The Met" covering trams, buses and suburban trains) and State Transit Authority (STA) ( to be known as "V/Line" responsible for country trains and country buses etc.).**

**1.7.1989 MTA and STA replaced by the Public Transport Corporation (PTC), continuing the respective trading names, "The Met" and "V/Line", and continuing their respective divisions.**

**1.10.1997. "The Met tram division of PTC was split into two units, Swanston Trams and Yarra Trams and both fully privatised., each running a separate network in metropolitan Melbourne.**

**29.8.1999, Yarra Trams commenced operation on completion of privatisation agreements. Swanston trams commenced around this time also, and later was known as "M>Tram". On 19.2.2004 Yarra Trams acquired "M>Tram".**

**18.4.2004 Yarra Trams assumed responsibility for operating Melbourne's entire tram network in partnership with the State of Victoria.**

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**More notes on earlier trams.**

**5.5.1906, Victorian Railways opened the St Kilda – Brighton "electric street railway". This line was closed 28.2.1959.**

**11.10.1906 North Melbourne Electric Tramway and Lighting Company opened 2 tram lines.**

**30.5.1910 Prahran and Malvern Tramways Trust opened 2 lines.**

**17.2.1914 Brunswick and Coburg Tramways Trust established.**

**14.6.1914 Hawthorn Tramways Trust established.**

**1.11.1914, Kew horse tram closed.**

**3.8.1915 Fitzroy, Northcote and Preston Tramways Trust established.**

**5.12.1915 Coburg horse tramway closed.**

**30.1'2.1915 Footscray Tramway trust established.**

**10.3.1919, Victorian Railways opened a tram line between Sandringham and Black Rock and extended it to Beaumaris on 1.9.1926 but subsequently closed that extension a few years later as it was unprofitable. The Sandringham to Black Rock line closed in 1956.**

**1.11.1919 the M&MTB formed to take over, operate and unify the various other tramway trust lines, and assumed control of those lines on 2.2.1920. This did not include the two VR lines. M&MTB inherited a cable tramway and five electric tramways and decided to convert all cable tramways to electric traction.**

**6.11.1923. The Zoo horse tram depot was destroyed by fire and the line abandoned. This was the last horse tram in Melbourne.**

**26.10.1940, the last cable tram to run, Bourke Street to Nicholson St, Fitzroy and Northcote.**

**The former engine houses for the cable trams remained as depots for the M&MTB- they were always on prominent intersections.**

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**Misc notes,**

**I worked as an assistant to a Judge at our County Court for some years. I once saw his gold medallion fob chain enabling free first class travel on trains, trams and buses. This also applied to all Judges of both the County and Supreme Court. I once saw the Attorney General, Haddon Storey flash his fob chain medallion on a tram as well. This was replaced around late 1980's with a gold credit card sized plastic card with the same free travel benefits.**

**I remember conductors on single decker buses ( all we had) in Melbourne during my RAAF days here in the 1950's.**

**From 22.4.2006, passengers travelling on V/Line country rail services to Melbourne via Day Return, Weekly, Monthly or Date to Date tickets have free travel day travel for trams and buses in the Melbourne Metropolitan Zone printed on the V/Line ticket.**

**Your page 25. M&MTB prepaid fare stamps. THESE WERE ONLY FOR THE CARRIAGE OF NEWSPAPERS. EG, When a newsagent had run out of supplies, he would phone in and extra copies forwarded by the next and nearest tram. I once had the complete set which you will find written up in Cinderellas Australasia. I have checked the only copies I now retain, viz issues 1 -12, but not reported in these. Bill Hornadge also wrote about these. The pre-decimal values were 2d, 3d, 4d, perforated and gummed. The decimal values were 5c, 7c, 10c, and 15c. First issues were on gummed paper, and rouletted, later issues on self adhesive paper rouletted.**

**There were also State Electricity Commission (of Victoria) long joined vertical pairs of parcels stamps, reported somewhere in Cinderellas Australasia ( after issue 12).**

**Commenced in August 1983 the Colonial Tramcar Restaurant started to traverse the c.b.d. and inner metropolitan area as the world's first tram travelling restaurant.. Started with one historic tram, W class, painted in burgundy livery. Now operates three such trams, seven days weekly, and each tram can accommodate 38 diners.**

**The fares ( hardly a ticket, per se but maybe the receipt constitutes a ticket) are fully inclusive of Alcohol, etc.**

**The schedule is as follows;**

**Lunch, 4 course \$71.50, early dinner \$66, dinner 5 course Sunday to Thursday \$99, and Fri; Saturday \$110.**

**Melbourne tram tracks now cover about 245km.**

**Tickets I have read about but not seen.**

**Christmas City shopper ticket allowing 2 adults and up to six children one day weekend travel in Zone 1 for \$8.20 and in Zones 1+2+3 for \$14.00 during December until 1.1.1995.**

**For school terms**

**Free travel, apart from the seniors free travel tickets I have mentioned and illustrated, free travel without any ticket is available during seniors week in Victoria, usually in March from one Sunday till the following Sunday. To evidence travel one merely shows a Victorian Government Seniors plastic card.**

**However, this year on account of the Commonwealth Games, Seniors week travel will be deferred until October. In a good will gesture, the Victorian Government during the Games period, allowed Seniors free travel between 5 - 12.3.2006. The Seniors card, therefore, is a ticket on trams, buses and trains, per se.**

**Free travel for veterans, war/widows is allowed on Anzac Day, for those in uniform, wearing medals or RSL badges, and for those carrying Dept Veterans' Affairs plastic cards.**