



# TABLE TALK

May 2006, Number 166

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*Floating Functions Pty Ltd*

**M.V. Firefly**

**Docklands Weekend Ferry Service**

**Waterfront City Docklands • Gem Pier Williamstown**

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March to Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2006 Incl. public holidays  
 Resumes Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May & weekends thereafter & pub/hols  
 \*\* NB ALL SERVICES ARE SUBJECT TO WEATHER CONDITIONS

Arr/Dep Williamstown	Arr/Dep Docklands
12Midday	11am
2pm	1pm
4pm	3pm
6pm	5pm
8pm	7pm
(subject to demand) 10pm	9pm
(subject to demand) 12Midnight	11pm
	1am

**Please Note** \*\* Friday Evenings Commence from 5pm at Docklands  
 \*\* Saturdays and Sundays Commence from 11am at Docklands

**Attractions:** \* Docklands Festival  
 \* Modern Art/ Sculptures  
 \* Fox Classic Car Collection  
 \* Concerts/ Sporting Events at Telstra Dome  
 \* Fine Dining, Cafe's or Picnic in Docklands Park

The cost will be: **Same day only**

Adults	One way \$10	Return \$20
Children (up to 15yrs)	One way \$5	Return \$10

*A Discount is given for prepaid Return Fare*

Please Book your seat to avoid disappointment.  
 Numbers are strictly limited to 22 passengers per trip.

Charters available on request, however, bookings are essential.

Office 1300 365 178 Mobile Tim 0411 038 426  
 Web Site [www.floatingfunctions.com.au](http://www.floatingfunctions.com.au)

**New Docklands – Williamstown ferry service.** Services operate in the evenings and fill a gap in the current suite of ferry services plying their trade between Williamstown, the city, Docklands and St Kilda. It will be interesting to see how this service progresses over time. *Table Talk's* editor collected this timetable from a local bottleshop in Williamstown this week en route to his favourite Japanese restaurant. See page 12 for further details about this new ferry.

**Swan Hill now has two return trains daily** from 2 April 2006. This new TT is summarised by Albert Isaacs and Geoff Mann in this issue of *Table Talk* on page 5. Albert also speculates on what new services V/Line customers might see in the coming months on page 2 as part of the Regional Fast Rail project.

Days of Operation	From Melbourne										SATURDAY	SUNDAY			
	M-F	M-F	M&F	TUE	WED	THU	M-F	FRI	FRI						
Southern Cross	*0810	1015	1313	1313	1313	1313	*1733	1836	1836		*0840	1217	*1757	1233	*1733
Bendigo	1012	*1215	1530	1530	1530	1530	*1530	1933	*2044	*2045	1045	*1415	1948	1143	*1445
Eaglehawk	1021			1540			1540	1942	2056		1054		1957	1152	1643
Raywood							1556								
Dingee	1047						1609	2008	2125		1120		2024	1218	2009
Serpentine		1255		1609			1624		2125		1454			1554	
Mitiamo							1624		2140						
Durham Ox		1317		1630					2150				1615		1545
Pyramid	1111			1649			1649	2033	2205		1144		2048	1242	2034
Cohuna				1722			1722		2238						
Kerang	1137	1350		1747			1747	2059	2303		1210	1550	2114	1308	1620
Lake Charm		1405		1802			1802		2318			1605		1805	
Lake Boga		1420		1818			1818		2333			1620		1650	
Malden Gully			1840		1540										
Mārong			1545		1545										
Bridgewater			1600		1600										
Inglewood			1610		1610										
Wedderburn			1635		1635										
Korong Vale			1845		1845										
Bonung			1655		1655										
Mysia			1700		1700										
Boort			1715		1715					2210					
Barnaport			1725		1725					2220					
Gridgwin			1730		1730					2225					
Quambatook			1745		1745					2240					
Cannie			#		#					#					
Lalbert			#		1810					2305					
Meslian			#		#					#					
Ultina			#		1845					#					
Swan Hill	1220	1435	1830	1830	1910	1830	2141	2345	2325		1252	1635	2156	1350	1705

Important: Some weekday services run on specific days only. See Days of Operation above.

effective  
2 April 2006

**Swan Hill Melbourne**

vline.com.au  
ph 136 196

**GO V/Line**

## In this issue...

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  - Australian Airlines to cease operation... page 11
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**Table Talk** is published monthly by the Australian Association of Timetable Collectors Inc. [Registration No: A0043673H] as a journal of record covering recent news items. The AATTC also publishes *The Times* covering historic and general items. Items for publication can be submitted to the Editor, Steven Haby.

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**Acknowledgment** is made of material sourced from *Transit Australia*, *Catch Point*, *Australasian Bus & Coach* website and *TramsDownUnder* newsgroup,

## General News

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### ***Speculation, rumours, odd happenings...***

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Like any business, the transport industry is subject to the inevitable speculation, unsubstantiated rumours and odd happenings. A number of items received recently have prompted the Editor to reintroduce such a feature.

#### **Improved V/Line services**

There has been considerable speculation concerning the rollout of new V/Line timetables. When V/Line introduces the new TT concurrent with the introduction of Regional Fast Rail services it is expected that the improvements will be as dramatic as those introduced as part of the landmark "New Deal for Country Passengers" back in 1981. Some things to ponder might be three daily trains to Ararat and Bairnsdale (by extending the Sale service) and additional weekend runs to Albury and Warrnambool. Interurban services would also be expected to be improved particularly as V/Line has extra capacity with the VLocity DMU sets and no immediate plans to withdraw the H set cars. Furthermore of more interest is the introduction of daily services to Echuca which seems a reality now that extensive track upgrades have commenced on the Echuca line. A question is when will these changes take place? Some sources state that these will be rolled out once the Craigieburn electrification project is completed. Others say sooner – particularly as there is a State Election

later this year. It will be interesting to see whether such services such as the Donnybrook Sprinter (run for additional capacity for Craigieburn passengers but terminates at Donnybrook to shunt) will continue in the new TT. (Albert Isaacs)

#### **JAL cancels flight due to traffic jams**

Japan Airlines (JAL) was forced to cancel a flight from Kobe to Kagoshima as well as the return flight, due to the captain being stuck in a traffic jam while in taxi from his home in Osaka Prefecture. The JAL captain arrived over 90 minutes late, which led to the 70 passengers who were due to board an 8am flight to change carriers and board an All Nippon Airways plane. JAL has apologised for the incident and has said that there are normally substitute captains at major airports, not at Kobe airport. (Tony Bailey)

## ***International***

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### **New Zealand**

#### **Auckland**

Figures released by the Auckland Regional Transport indicate record levels of patronage on all modes of transport in the year ending 31 December 2005. Of interest is that rail patronage is up 30% on previous year's figures. Meanwhile calls have been increasing for the reopening of the Onehunga line to suburban trains – the last passenger train ran in April 1973. (*Transit Australia*, April 2006)

## Wellington

The Green Party have called on the Government to divert \$NZD730m from the coastal highway to improve rail services to Paraparaumu. (*Transit Australia*, April 2006)

## New South Wales

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### Sydney Rail Clearways Project

In early February 2006 work commenced on the \$98m Rail Clearways project at Hornsby station which includes a new fifth platform and extending the existing station concourse. Other work includes rearrangement of the bus interchange and new track to shift freight traffic away from suburban lines. New sidings for the Epping to Chatswood line will also be constructed. It is claimed that Hornsby station is one of the worst bottlenecks on the CityRail network. (*Transit Australia*, April 2006)

### Timetables on your mobile

Following on from Connex in Melbourne which provides SMS timetable and information on delayed or cancelled services, a similar service has been introduced within NSW by the State Government. Users with web compatible mobile phones can access bus, ferry or train TT and updates to delayed services. The service can be accessed at mobile.131500.info. (*Australasian Bus & Coach* website, Steven Haby)

### Free CBD bus services across NSW

The Greens in NSW have called on the State Government to introduce free shuttle buses within the CBDs of Sydney, Wollongong, Newcastle, Chatswood, Marrickville, Leichhardt, Manly, Campbelltown, Bondi and Cronulla would be environmentally sustainable and help ease congestion. This call comes after the Parramatta Council introduced a free local shuttle bus. (*Australasian Bus & Coach* website, Steven Haby)

### Blacktown bus interchange

On Monday 10 April 2006 the new Blacktown bus interchange was opened. Costing \$30 million to construct the interchange is located underground within the extended Westpoint Centre shopping centre in Patrick Street and features:

- 10 bus bays
- Automatic safety doors similar to those in operation at Brisbane's Queen Street bus interchange
- PIDs
- Air-conditioned waiting rooms with seating

- Stairs, escalators and tactile tiles for the vision impaired. (Lourie Smit)

## Queensland

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### Upgraded Gold Coast bus services

The Gold Coast will receive additional funding to improve bus services in the region including expanding the current services running along the Gold Coast highway. Twenty-five new low floor air-conditioned buses have been ordered for the new service. Route 700 will operate 24 hours a day replacing the current 24 hour a day service. As a minimum services will operate on a 30 minute frequency 24 hours a day (currently the existing route operates hourly in the wee small hours). This new route will enable buses to operate every 5 minutes on weekdays between 0700 and 1900 from Southport and Burleigh Heads. Other changes are also proposed to other existing services. These changes are to come into effect from 15 May 2006. (*Australasian Bus & Coach* website, Steven Haby)

### Burnett – Coast link

The State Government is believed to have approved funding for a public transport link between Biloela in central Queensland and Hervey Bay. The new service will connect with the tilt train at Maryborough and flights at the new Hervey Bay airport. The Government also recently approved a new service between Eidsvold and Bundaberg to be provided by a community group. Both services are to receive Government subsidies. (*Australasian Bus & Coach* website, Steven Haby)

### Brisbane all night train services under review

The future of the all-night suburban rail services operating on weekends is in doubt following a recent report presented to State Parliament. As an alternative all-night bus services would be introduced. Reasons for the possibility of withdrawing the all-night services included less than expected patronage levels and expensive labour costs. (*Australasian Bus & Coach* website, Steven Haby)

## Victoria

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### Expanded late night suburban rail services proposal

There have been reports in the press about proposals currently under consideration by Connex and the Victorian Government to expand Friday and Saturday evening services to at least 0200 on all lines except Williamstown and at least one other to cater for Melbourne's nightlife.

Naturally the omission of the additional Williamstown services (which run direct to Flinders Street during peaks and as a shuttle from Newport off-peaks, nights and weekends) has drawn criticism in the local Newport and Williamstown newspapers.

Currently the last services depart around 5-10 minutes either side of midnight from Flinders Street.

This proposal comes after calls, at the end of the Commonwealth Games, to retain the very successful 20 minute evening frequencies on all lines that were in operation during the Games period, rather than the usual 30 minute frequencies. (Steven Haby)

### **Melbourne suburban bus upgrade proposals**

The Bus Association of Victoria and Ventura Bus Lines have submitted a proposal whereby buses from the eastern suburbs will operate every 3 to 5 minutes during peaks and less so off-peaks to midnight via the Eastern Freeway to Spencer Street. The proposal calls for the construction of additional bus only lanes along the Eastern Freeway, preference for buses at traffic lights and the permanent conversion of the current T2

“transit” lanes along Hoddle Street to bus only lanes. This proposal is one of several being considered by the State Government following Games and a new transport policy is due to be released shortly. (*Australasian Bus & Coach* website, Steven Haby)

### **Lancefield and Romsey transport improvements**

Bus services in Lancefield and Romsey could be expanded as the Macedon Ranges Shire Council prepares to evaluate the towns’ public transport needs. A survey has begun distributing surveys to determine future requirements. (*Transit Australia*, April 2006)

### **Craigieburn electrification project**

Following awarding of contracts to Theiss and Westinghouse Rail Systems Australia work has commenced on the extension of electric suburban services from Broadmeadows to Craigieburn. The project includes the construction of a new Roxburgh Park station and a new station at Craigieburn. Unfortunately plans for a station at Coolaroo have been dropped. The project is due for completion in mid-2007. (*Transit Australia*, April 2006)



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## **South Australia**

### **Branch line closures**

ARG have announced the closure of the following branches: Monarto South – Apamurra; Roseworthy – Balaklava; Roseworthy – Farrell Flat; Yaninee – Kapinnie; Kimba – Buckleboo; Wudinna – Thevenard (to remain only open for locomotive and rollingstock transfer). However as ARG WA’s operation has been sold to a consortium involving QR and other partners these lines may perhaps reopen to capture some of ARG’s market share. Branches to Pinnaroo and Loxton are still questionable as to their future. (*Catch Point*, March 2006, Steven Haby)

### **Great Southern Railway**

#### **Ghan services**

GSR now operate two return *Ghan* services to Darwin each week which commenced in March 2006. (*Catch Point*, January 2006)

#### **Overland services**

As previously reported the *Overland* now operates thrice weekly as a day train. Services ex Keswick depart 0725 (Mondays) and 0735 (Wednesdays and Fridays) arriving Southern Cross at 1840 the

same day. The return service departs the next day from Southern Cross at 0735 on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Only one set of cars are required for the service. Respective State Governments and GSR will spend \$2.4m over the next 12 months to upgrade existing coaching stock (probably AJ class cars) to “Gold” standard. GSR have received some additional train paths from ARTC to run extra services on designated holiday weekends and to meet demand for sporting events such as the AFL Grand Final (depending on whether certain Adelaide-based teams feature) and other events. (*Catch Point*, March 2006)

### **TransAdelaide**

#### **Mawson Interchange**

- To coincide with the new Mawson Interchange which opened on the 26 February 2006 minor timing changes were made to Gawler line services. Down services from Mawson Interchange to Gawler will run one minute later and up services will run one minute later on Adelaide bound services from Gawler Central to Green Fields then arriving Adelaide two minutes later. (Roger Wheaton)

## Clipsall 500 Adelaide

On Sunday 20 March 2006 extra trains were run to cater for passengers attending the car race in the city. Extra services included 0658 up Outer Harbour; 0724 up Grange and 0735 up Belair. Interestingly a note was included in the Clipsall 500 Adelaide transport brochure from Adelaide Metro that additional trains would run after the event if required from Adelaide. (Roger Wheaton)

## Miscellaneous news

- On 28 March 2006 services on the Belair line were disrupted temporarily due to millipedes in the Adelaide Hills and on the Tonsley branch due to a backhoe cutting through cables. (Roger Wheaton)
- Over the weekend of 1-2 April Gawler line services were replaced with a temporary TT due to upgrading of the Belford Avenue level crossing. Services ran at 45 minute headways between 0655 and 1855 rather than the usual 30 minute service. The normal hourly service ran from 1950 to 2250. TT leaflets were available at relevant stations but no information oddly enough appeared on the TransAdelaide or Adelaidemetro websites. (Roger Wheaton)

## New timetables

- Grange line dated January 2006. (Michael Marshall)

## Queensland

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### Queensland Rail

Comprehensive brochure / TT for all their Traveltrain services dated April 2006 except for Tilt train service. (Bradley Matthews)

## Victoria

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### Connex

#### Updated timetables

Reprinted Werribee, Williamstown & Sydenham line timetable dated October 2004. It now has the correct bus connection listing, instead of the Sandringham line list(!). The 0817 up Sydenham, introduced in October 2005, isn't shown. (Craig Halsall)

#### Updated line guides

The Met Shop have stock of some updated train frequency flyers, dated March 2006, for Belgrave, Epping, Frankston/Stony Point & Lilydale. The Belgrave & Lilydale lines now have separate leaflets.

The line maps have been updated to show Southern Cross, instead of Spencer Street.

There have been significant improvements to the information presented on the rear-hand side. Instead of one small table at the top showing the frequencies for at various times for each day, they have now have 3 separate tables, one for Monday to Friday, one for Saturday & one for Sunday. The format of the tables is much easier to read, not only because of a larger font size, but with the time of day and direction shown in one column (peak services are only shown for the peak direction) and the following column showing the average frequency. Another improvement is that they now clearly show the times of the first & last service from both the outer-terminus and Flinders St.

The Stony Point line only gets a brief mention on the new Frankston line flyer "Trains operate in each direction approximately every 2 hours between 6am - 6pm daily". To accommodate these changes, the fare & contact details have been reduced from taking 2 thirds of the page, to just a small paragraph at the bottom. Naturally, the leaflets aren't error free - the Frankston line one doesn't let people know about the service levels between 7pm & 7:30pm weekdays or 6am & 10am Saturdays, due to incorrect time periods shown. (Craig Halsall)

## Trackwork and other alterations

- Due to level crossing works at Fairfield all Hurstbridge trains were replaced by buses between Clifton Hill and Heidelberg and interestingly Eltham and Hurstbridge over the weekend of 22-23 April 2006. (Steven Haby)
- Over the weekend of 29-30 April 2006 buses replaced trains between Sandringham and South Yarra due to level crossing works at Middle Brighton. Buses ran a mix of all station and express services (to/from Elsternwick) with trip times being extended by up to 30 minutes. (Steven Haby)

## V/Line Passenger

### New Swan Hill & Mildura services

On Sunday 2 April 2006 V/Line introduced a second daily Swan Hill train by extending a Bendigo service in each direction. All services connect with coaches to/from Mildura (and cynics might suggest that the Government might use this service as an excuse for **not** reintroducing passenger services Mildura). The new times are 0810 ex Southern Cross weekdays and 0840 ex Southern Cross Saturdays and 0935 ex Southern Cross Sundays all former Bendigo trains. Return additional services depart Swan Hill at 1320 weekdays, 1415 Saturday and 0720 Sundays. Minor timing changes of connecting coach services have occurred including the cancellation of the weekly deviation via Balranald.

The Albury – Mildura “Murraylink” coach now runs daily and some trips involve a change to rail at Kerang and others to another coach at Swan Hill.

Interestingly the Sunday TT virtually sees the reintroduction of the 1980s TT to Swan Hill but with the addition of the morning up service. (Albert Isaacs, Geoff Mann)

### **Anzac Day services**

A Saturday TT operated across the network on Anzac Day and the following services were altered:

- 0650 up Kyneton commenced from Bendigo at 0605.
- 0835 up Shepparton altered to depart at 0715 and operate as normal weekday schedule.
- 0450 Griffith – Shepparton coach altered to depart at 0330 operating to normal weekday schedule.
- 0715 Moama – Murchison East coach altered to depart Moama at 0555 operating to normal weekday schedules. (Viclink website, Steven Haby)

### **Updated card timetables**

- Sunbury - Melbourne (large yellow pocketsize TT) dated 2 April 2006. (Bradley Matthews)

- Eaglehawk/Bendigo/Kyneton - Melbourne (large yellow pocketsize TT) dated 2 April 2006. (Bradley Matthews)
- Swan Hill - Melbourne (large yellow pocketsize TT) dated 2 April 2006. (Bradley Matthews)
- Mildura - Melbourne (large yellow pocketsize TT) dated 2 April 2006. (Bradley Matthews)
- Deniliquin/Echuca - Melbourne (large yellow pocketsize TT) dated 2 April 2006. (Bradley Matthews)
- Melbourne – Mt Gambier via Geelong or Ballarat (large blue pocketsize TT) dated 19 February 2006. (Bradley Matthews)

### **Trackwork and other alterations**

From Saturday 29 April 2006 for about four months passenger trains will be replaced on the Pakenham – Bairnsdale line by coaches due to Regional Fast Rail works. Freight trains will continue to run. It will be interesting to see whether local pressure comes to bear to operate a train Traralgon – Bairnsdale as this section of line is not included in the RFR plan. (Geoff Mann, Steven Haby)

### **Mornington Tourist Railway**

A new TT brochure valid from February 2006 to January 2007 has been introduced. (Michael Marshall).



## **Tram/ Light Rail**

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### **Adelaide**

#### **TransAdelaide**

##### **Clipsall 500 Adelaide**

On Sunday 20 March 2006 an extra inbound tram at 0720 ex Glenelg was scheduled for passengers attending the car race in the city. (Roger Wheaton)

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### **Melbourne**

#### **Yarra Trams**

##### **New timetables**

- Route 70 Wattle Park – Bourke St, Docklands dated March 2006. (Michael Marshall)
- Route 109 Box Hill – Port Melbourne dated March 2006. (Michael Marshall)
- Route 24/30 Latrobe Street services in PDF format dated March 2006 on the Yarra Trams website. (Michael Marshall)

- Route 48 North Balwyn – New Quay, Docklands in PDF format dated March 2006 on the Yarra Trams website. (Michael Marshall)

##### **Grand Prix services**

Once again Yarra Trams turned out everything with wheels to provide high frequency shuttles to the Grand Prix in the weekend of 1-2 April 2006.

To keep Spencer Street clear for GP shuttle trams route 96 was run only in the northern half. Bourke St services were all run by Preston trams running: as route 86/96 yo-yo services: Bundoora - City Spencer St - East Brunswick - City Spencer St - Bundoora.

City Circle services ran in a horseshoe - Docklands Loop (route 70 terminus) - Flinders St, Spring St, La Trobe St to the route 24 terminus - La Trobe St at Spencer St. This kept the La Trobe St bridge clear for GP shuttle trams.

Once again an amazing frequency of services on the St Kilda light rail after the GP was over - fully loaded B's (mostly Southbank ones), C's (some

stolen from Kew) and D2's. There was a good variety of destinations set on the D2's running shuttles including SPECIAL; SPECIAL EVENT; Grand Prix / City; V.I.P. TRAM; 65 / Zoo / Royal Park (Editor – "!!!!")

William St services were boosted by trams showing route 53 - but running from the Dudley St sidings to Domain interchange. A least one Swanston St tram was heading to "St Kilda - Fitzroy St" - this would have been the Melbourne University to St Kilda Junction shuttle service. (Gareth Lumsden from *TramsDownUnder* Yahooogroups newsgroup)

### **Anzac Day services**

As is customary in previous years trams ran a special Sunday TT with additional cars rostered for people wishing to attend the Dawn Service. The following additional services operated:

- Route 1 – 0503 ex East Coburg connecting with 0504 ex Moreland on the route 8
- Route 3 – 0500 ex East Malvern
- Route 5 – 0508 ex Burke Road
- Route 6 – 0502 ex Glen Iris
- Route 8 – 0508 ex Toorak and 0504 ex Moreland
- Route 16 – 0520 ex Luna Park
- Route 19 – 0459 ex North Coburg with the tram travelling via Victoria Street to Swanston Street
- Route 55 – 0503 ex West Coburg
- Route 57 – 0455 ex West Maribyrnong with the tram travelling via Victoria St to Swanston Street
- Route 59 – 0452 ex Airport West
- Route 64 – 0500 ex East Brighton
- Route 67 – 0452 ex Carnegie
- Route 72 – 0500 ex Camberwell

Due to the parade along St Kilda Road the following service alterations took place:

- Route 1 and 8 southbound cars terminated at La Trobe Street.
- Route 1 northbound cars terminated at St Kilda Road.
- Route 5, 6, 8, 16, 72 northbound cars divert at Domain Interchange and Park Streets to terminate at Southbank Boulevard and St Kilda Road
- Route 3, 64 and 67 northbound cars divert at Domain Interchange and terminate at Dudley Street

- Route 35 City Circle operated from Flinders and King Streets to Victoria Parade and Nicholson Streets.
- Route 48, 70 and 75 cars terminated at Russell Street
- Route 112 and 109 cars ran via La Trobe Street.
- Shuttle services ran along Collins Street from Collins Street West End and Elizabeth Street and Exhibition Street and St Vincent's Plaza and along Flinders Street from King Street to New Quay Docklands. (Metlink website, Steven Haby)

### **Trackwork and other alterations**

- Route 48 cars were replaced by buses from Stop 26 (Kew Depot) and North Balwyn terminus from 2000 on Friday 28 April 2006 to last car on Saturday 29 April 2006. This was due to overhead "trolley wire" (according to the Metlink website!) work along High Street and Doncaster Road. (Metlink website, Steven Haby)
- Over the weekend of 6-7 May 2006 St Kilda Road trams will be diverted or short shunted due to track works at the junction of St Kilda Road and Southbank Boulevard. As a result a number of interesting workings will be undertaken. Route 1 cars will divert at Clarendon and Park Streets and travel via Clarendon, Spencer, Latrobe then back to Swanston Streets. Cars on routes 3, 64 and 67 will divert at Domain Interchange and terminate at Dudley Street. Route 5 cars will terminate at St Kilda Junction connecting with route 3, 16, 64 and 67 cars. Route 6, 8 and 16 cars will divert at Domain Interchange then via William Street, Latrobe Street and back into Swanston Street. Route 72 cars will terminate at St Kilda Road and Commercial Road connecting with other routes. A shuttle tram service operating approximately every 10 minutes will operate from the Arts Centre to Melbourne University. In previous years when trackwork has taken place in St Kilda Road buses have been used. (Metlink website, Steven Haby)
- Route 16 cars will be affected in Glenferrie Road from first car to around 1900 on Sunday 7 May 2006 due to the Glenferrie Road Festival. Outbound cars will terminate at the corner of Hawthorn and Dandenong Roads and a bus replacement will be used for the remaining journey to the terminus in Kew. (Metlink website, Steven Haby)

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## ***New South Wales—Sydney***

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### **Busways**

#### **New website timetables**

- 31 Camden – Cobbitty dated 11 January 2005
- 32 Camben – Warrangamba dated 11 September 2005
- 38 Camden-Spring Creek dated 11 January 2005
- 39 Camden-Mowbray Park/Rockbarton dated 11 September 2005
- 40 Camden-Belimbla Park/Oakdale/Nattai dated 11 September 2005
- 47 Camden-Menangle dated 11 September 2005
- 49 Camden-Razorback dated 11 September 2005
- 892 Campbelltown-Menangle dated 11 September 2005

Paper copies of the above TT have been obtained and still show their previous issue dates. This will be followed up with Busways. (Lourie Smit)

### **Forest Coach Lines**

#### **Additional route 270 services**

As a result of Forest's applications to the Ministry of Transport for funding and approval of extra 270 City services and high capacity vehicles a new timetable is now ready for operation.

The timetable will operate on a trial basis for one month commencing from April 3rd 2006.

Changes to the timetable include:

- the introduction of Limited Stop services (L270) with existing trips ex Terrey Hills 0654, 0725 and 0810.
- an additional L270 will depart Terrey Hills at 7.12am.
- the existing outbound Terrey Hills service departing QVB at 1705 will become an L270 service with an additional L270 service for Terrey Hills departing QVB at 1755. (Lourie Smit)

### **Sydney Buses**

#### **New timetables**

- Route 135 - version 5, effective April 2006. (Adrian Dessanti)

- Routes 288-291, 294, 296 - version 7, March 2006. (Adrian Dessanti)
- Routes 355 - version 9, March 2006 (Adrian Dessanti)
- Routes 371-3 - version 7, March 2006 (Adrian Dessanti)
- Routes 376-7 - version 6, March 2006 (Adrian Dessanti)
- Routes 378 - version 5, March 2006 (Adrian Dessanti)
- Routes 380-2 - version 7, March 2006 (Adrian Dessanti)
- Routes 391-2 - version 6, March 2006 (Adrian Dessanti)
- Routes 393-4, 399 - version 6, March 2006 (Adrian Dessanti)
- 395, 396, 397 - version 7, effective March 2006 (Adrian Dessanti)
- Route 470 – version 5, February 2006. (Adrian Dessanti)
- Routes 520/L20 - version 10, March 2006 (Adrian Dessanti)
- Routes 545, 550 - version 11, effective March 2006 (Adrian Dessanti)

#### **Timetable reductions on route 408**

From 1 May 2006 weekday peak and late Saturday afternoon trips between Burwood and Flemington station will be withdrawn on route 408 (Burwood – Rookwood Cemetary). The existing service to the Cemetary will be unchanged. Flyer and TT dated 1 May 2006 is available. (Adrian Dessanti)

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## ***New South Wales—Regional***

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### **Newcastle Buses**

Route 317 Belmont – Newcastle via Tingira Heights (Version 7) effective December 2005. (Len Regan)

### **Pearce/Mountainlink**

School and route services across the Blue Mountains previously marketed as Pearce or Moutainlink have been gradually combined under the trading name of Blue Mountain Bus Co during 2005. (*Transit Australia*, April 2006)

## ***Queensland—Brisbane & SE***

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### **Surfside Bus Lines**

#### **New route 567**

Funded partly by the Gold Coast City Council this new route which commenced on 18 April 2006 operates from Beenleigh station to Ormeau station via Yatala. Operating weekdays only frequencies are approximately hourly during the off-peaks with extra services during AM and PM peaks. Services run from 0500 to 2000. TT is available in PDF from the Translink website. (Steven Haby)

#### **Updated timetables**

Route 4 Broadbeach – West Burleigh dated 10 April 2006 which now includes trips to and from St Andrews Lutheran Retirement Village. TT is available in PDF format from the Translink website. (Steven Haby)

## ***South Australia—Adelaide***

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### **Adelaide Metro**

#### **New timetables**

- 173 Group dated March 2006. (Michael Marshall)
- 260 Group operated by Torrens Transit dated March 2006. (Michael Marshall)

#### **New Mawson Interchange**

From 26 February 2006 the new Mawson interchange in Adelaide's northern suburbs was opened and a number of Adelaide Metro services were adjusted to coincide with this event including:

- Routes 411/412 to Salisbury now service Mawson Interchange rather than Green Fields.
- Routes T501 and 565 will extend from University Parade to Mawson Interchange.
- Routes 225/226 will have minor adjustments.
- A new route 420 Mawson Lakes loop service running from 0700 to 1400 clockwise as 420C and from 1400 to 2130 the service will operate anti-clockwise as 420A. The route will service Mawson Central, University of SA, Technology Park and Mawson Lakes residents. (Roger Wheaton)

#### **Footy Express**

Adelaide Metro have released their traditional guide and TT for special football services that service AAMI stadium for the duration of the 2006 AFL football season. The booklet published in

February 2006 shows TT for special bus services across Adelaide and from regional centres such as Wallaroo and Tailem Bend. (Michael Marshall, Roger Wheaton)

#### **Clipsall 500 Adelaide**

Special services ran for the duration of the car race from 17 to 20 March 2006. Special shuttle buses ran every 25 minutes from 0730 to 2215 running from Victoria Square to the event. A number of bus services were altered including 122-125, 125P, 140-141, 141N, 142-143, 145-146, 161, 163, 163F, 164, 164F, 165, 165M, 166, 166M, 171, 172, 500 series, 820, 821F, 830, 840-841, 842F, 843F and T163 on account of traffic restrictions. (Roger Wheaton)

## ***South Australia—Regional***

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### **Bus SA State Guide**

The latest guide published dated March 2006 however there are a number of inconsistencies. The Adelaide – Broken Hill service operated by Buses-R-Us is omitted and the index to towns shows two towns on the Broken Hill Road – Mannahill and Olary with the former operator Greyhound Australia shown operating services.

A major change since the last issue (April 2005) has been the cancellation of the Adelaide – Perth service operated by Greyhound. There is now no express coach service from the eastern states to Perth via the Nullarbor.

On a more positive note are a number of new operators. Gulf Getaways operates a number of services from Port Augusta to Leigh Creek as a day return service on Wednesdays. The other service runs Port Augusta - Wilpena Pound as a day return service Fridays and Sundays.

Southern Yorke Peninsula Passenger Bus Service is operated by YP Community Transport & Services in conjunction with Yorke Peninsula Coaches and operate the following routes:

- Route 1 Yorketown - Kadina Mondays only one return trip (runs pre-booked basis only)
- Route 2 Marion Bay - Miniaton Wednesdays only one return trip (runs pre-booked basis only)
- Route 3 Yorketown loop via Miniaton and Pt Vincent two trips on Thursdays
- Route 4 Yorketown - Kadina one return trip Fridays

Tatiara Passenger Service operate the following day return services: Bordertown - Naracoorte (Tuesdays); Bordertown - Keith (Thursdays); Bordertown - Serviceton and Bordertown - Mundella on Fridays. (Steven Haby, Roger Wheaton).

## **Victoria—Melbourne**

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### **Cardina Transit**

#### **Updated timetables**

- Routes 926-929 dated 26 February 2006 in Metlink DL format and now includes the omitted Saturday PM trips on route 927 and 929. (Craig Halsall)
- Notices onboard buses advise of an additional route 839 trip ex Berwick at 0651 from 23 February 2006. This trip is also shown on the Metlink website. A new printed TT is yet to be shown. (Craig Halsall)

### **Cranbourne Transit**

#### **New Pearcedale services**

The City of Casey will fund a ten-month trial bus service for residents in Pearcedale and additional services to the coastal villages from Monday, 3 April 2006. The trial includes a weekend bus service between Cranbourne and the coastal villages to be operated by route 795 which currently connects Cranbourne to Devon Meadows, Warneet, Blind Bight, Cannons Creek and Tooradin on weekdays. At the conclusion of the ten-month trial, Council will review the operational aspects of the services, and will determine at that time whether or not the trial services are to continue.

As a result route 794 Cranbourne – Pearcedale and route 795 Cranbourne – Tooradin – Warneet and Cannons Creek have been introduced. The 794 operates 4 return shopper services between Cranbourne – Pearcedale from 0900 to 1500 weekdays and 3 trips on weekends between 0845 and 1620. The new 795 weekend timetables has 3 trips departing Cranbourne at 0920, 1235 and 1640.

The route 794 TT is dated 3 April 2006 and is in standard Metlink orange DL format. (Mic

Further information about this trial is available from the City of Casey website at [www.casey.vic.gov.au/publictransport/article.asp?Item=6526](http://www.casey.vic.gov.au/publictransport/article.asp?Item=6526). (Craig Halsall, Bradley Matthews)

#### **Other timetable changes**

- Route 892 Narre Warren Sth (Casey Central) - Dandenong dated 3 April 2006 in A4 format. A Metlink format TT is due shortly. The changes mainly incorporate reduced running times (up to 10 minutes!) and other minor changes. (Craig Halsall)
- 789 Frankston - Cranbourne West web TT from the Cranbourne Transit website shows most weekdays trips having an extra 3 mins to travel between the Quarry Rd & Leonard Dr timepoints. No printed TT is available. (Craig Halsall)

- 790/791 Frankston - Cranbourne West TT from the Cranbourne Transit website shows weekdays 1802 trip ex Frankston now runs 3 minutes later. The Sundays 1002 ex Frankston also runs 3 minutes later. No printed TT is available. (Craig Halsall)
- 797 Cranbourne Town Service TT from the Cranbourne Transit website has timing changes to several trips and a new route map is available online. No printed TT is available. (Craig Halsall)
- Route 892 Narre Warren – Dandenong reprinted 3 April 2006 in orange Metlink DL format. (Bradley Matthews)
- 895 Narre Warren Sth - Fountain Gate TT from the Cranbourne Transit website has minor changes to times compared to the print TT. (Craig Halsall)
- A new 794 A4 TT printed by Cranbourne Transit dated 3 April 2006 also shows a “proposed” route 795 Saturday and Sunday TT that is currently in operation. This TT appears to be an interim measure until Metlink TT are published. (Craig Halsall)

### **Dyson**

#### **Updated timetables**

- Updated TT effective 5 March 2006 has been released for route 569 Sunday and PH services as an undated A4 sheet in 24 hour time. The TT booklets for routes 564 and 566 that contain the 569 have not been reprinted. (Michael Marshall)
- Route 513 Eltham – Glenroy in standard Metlink format dated March 2004. The only TT change appears to be the cancellation of the 1522 short working from Cumberland and Gaffney Streets to Bell and High Streets during school days. The TT erroneously states on the rear cover that East West operates the 513. (Craig Halsall)

### **Invicta**

#### **New and revised Lilydale services**

From 8 May 2006 the following new services will commence:

- 676 Lilydale East Loop via Queens, Mangans and Nelson Roads. Weekday services run from 0625 to 1930 with 30 minutes for peaks and hourly off-peak. An hourly Saturday operates from 0940 to 1600.
- 677 Lilydale – The Gateway – Chirnside Park SC. Weekday services operate from 0637 to 1910 with 25-40 minute peak services and hourly off-peak. Some trips do a loop direct to The Gateway and do not travel via Chirnside

Park SC. On Saturdays there is an hourly service from 1003 to 1534.

- Lilydale - Lilydale Lake service via Lilydale Hospital (no route number). This service operates weekdays only and runs hourly from 0955 to 1455 and would appear to use the free bus made available due to the replacement of the 680A telebus with the 676 and as such the departures from Lilydale are the same.

Changes will be made to the existing 680/680A services from the same date. The 680A service will cease to exist and the 680 service will no longer be travelling through Lilydale East as these services are being replaced by route 676. Route 680 will also run extra trips via Swinburne University. It is not known whether separate TT will be published or a new booklet (containing all Invicta routes) will be released, although Invicta's website does show the new TT. (Craig Halsall)



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## ***National***

### **Jetstar**

#### **New Ballina flights**

From 28 March 2006 Jetstar commenced a direct flight between Melbourne and Ballina/Byron Bay. The services will operate Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. (Tony Bailey)

#### **New Sunshine Coast flights**

From 28 March 2006 a direct Adelaide – Sunshine Coast service was introduced operating Monday and Fridays departing Adelaide at 0805 and Sunshine Coast at 1125. (Tony Bailey)

### **Qantas**

From 2 April 2006 capacity on the Sydney – Perth services was increased with the introduction of flights using 747-300 aircraft 13 times a week. (Tony Bailey)

### **Rex**

The airline has announced that by the end of April it will abandon Adelaide's new \$260m terminal and move to the old International terminal by the end of April for inbound flights. Within days of moving into the new passenger terminal following its delayed opening passengers on Rex flights after checking in had to walk up to 400m to the departure gate and then another 300m to planes. Rex will charter a special bus from Sydney to transfer passengers from planes to the new terminal. However outbound passengers will still need to walk about 800m. Airport management

## **Skybus**

Updated TT dated 1 April 2006 has been sighted and timings are shown for Terminal T3 (Virgin/Rex/International) rather than asking passengers to subtract 5 minutes from the times shown at Terminal T1. There is stop press stating that services run every 10 minutes rather than 15 minutes during peak periods and that staff should be consulted. (Craig Halsall)

## **Sunbus Avalon**

New TT dated 26 March - 17 June 2006 in A5 format has been published. (Steven Haby)

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have promised to make improvements to the existing facilities including the walkway. (*The Australian*, 10 April 2006, Roger Wheaton)

## **Skippers Aviation**

At the end of April 2006 Skippers will cease all 18 services between Perth and Geraldton as the route is no longer viable. Three years ago in an attempt to increase competition on one of Western Australia's key regional services licences were granted to Skipper and Skywest. (ABC News Online, Steven Haby)

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## ***International***

### **Australian Airlines**

Australian Airlines will be wound up by the end of June 2006 following an long-awaited announcement of the Qantas subsidiary's future by Qantas CEO Geoff Dixon on 11 April 2006. Currently, Australian Airlines flies to Bali, Singapore, Hong Kong, Nagoya and Sapporo. Jetstar will commence international flights from November 2006 – initially the Asia-Pacific region but later to the US and Europe.

The end of Australian Airlines was foreshadowed back in February 2006 when Qantas would be known under two brands – Qantas and Jetstar.

Australian Airlines has suffered a downturn in traffic due to the Bali bombings in October 2005 and poor sales in Japan. As a result a half-year \$6.9 million loss has been posted. (Tony Bailey, *Herald Sun* 11 April 2006).

## Cathy Pacific

From 1 June 2006 Cathay Pacific will add two additional flights between Adelaide and Hong Kong. The new flights will operate Monday and Friday supplementing existing Sunday and Wednesday departures. (Tony Bailey)

## Garuda Indonesia

From 26 March 2006 the capacity on **Garuda's** Perth – Bali – Jakarta service was increased following the introduction of the new Boeing 737 NG aircraft. Operating daily the extra flight will depart Perth at 0800 arriving Bali at 1140 then Jakarta at 1300 local time. The return flight departs Jakarta at 1830 then Bali at 2150 arriving Perth at 0125 local time. Initially only economy seats will be available. (Tony Bailey)



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## New South Wales

### Sydney Ferries

#### Stuck in the mud...

On 2 February 2006 Sydney Ferries issued an apology to about 85 passengers who were stranded for several hours when a HarbourCat on the Parramatta River became stuck in mud. The cause was an extremely low tide of around 20 cm. (*Transit Australia*, April 2006)

#### Fleet availability

Reports in the Sydney media on 14 February 2006 stated that half of Sydney Ferries' most modern craft were out of service. The reports claimed that 5 RiverCats, 2 JetCats and 1 HarbourCat were at Balmain awaiting repair. Furthermore 2 First Fleet class ferries and 1 Freshwater class ferry were also laid up. By 20 February 2006 the CEO of Sydney Ferries was transferred and former RAN Rear Admiral Chris Oxenbould the CEO of NSW Maritime was acting as temporary replacement. (*Transit Australia*, April 2006)

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## Queensland

### Brisbane City Council

#### Updated CityCat timetable

A TT booklet dated "Version 10.4.06" has been issued by BCC for their CityCat services between

## Hawaiian Airlines

This airline has formed a partnership with Canada's **Harmony Airways** to offer a range of special fares from Sydney to Vancouver via Honolulu. Currently **Hawaiian Airlines** run an evening service on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday from Sydney. From 1 April the flights depart Sydney at 2100 and arrive in Hawaii at 1040. (Tony Bailey)

## Qantas

From 29 March 2006 **Qantas** resumed services to San Francisco with 3 weekly flights. (Tony Bailey)

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Bretts Wharf and the University of Queensland. Interestingly the TT indicates that services are provided by Metrolink Queensland presumably under contract to the BCC. The TT is available in PDF format from the Translink website. (Steven Haby)

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## Victoria

### New Williamstown ferry service

Floating Functions Pty Ltd which operate MV *Firefly* have commenced a new ferry service running between Docklands (Waterfront City) and Williamstown (Gem Pier) from late March 2006. Services operate on Friday afternoons and Saturday and Sunday afternoons until around midnight depending on demand. The current TT effective from 31 March to 30 April 2006 includes a note that services will recommence from 19 May 2006 onwards. The DL card TT has departures ex Docklands from 1100 then every 2 hours until 0100 and from Williamstown from 1200 to midnight. The 2200 and midnight service ex Williamstown run only if there are passengers offering. Friday services commence at 1700. It will be interesting to see how this service fares considering there was agitations from Hobsons Bay City Council earlier in the year regarding improving ferry services to and from Williamstown. (Steven Haby)