



TABLE TALK

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V/Line's new website...



V/Line has recently updated their website... to access a 'timetable' you need to search for your stop or town. Let's assume we wish to travel to Morwell...



This is what is retrieved when one enters "Morwell" in the search box. Four different timetables for each stop in Morwell! User friendly? Would it not be best to include all information in the one timetable? See page 12 for further details... Where is Jacob Nielsen, a web-usability expert, when you need him!

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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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General News

National

International airlines to review flights to Australia

Qantas, British Airways and Virgin Atlantic are all expected to review their networks after the government scrapped the cap on flights between the UK and Australia. The liberalisation will also free up Qantas to operate to numerous European ports beyond the UK. It is currently limited to only three. A ban on operating to the UK via Japan has also been lifted although rules prohibiting the carrier flying via the US and China remains. Qantas welcomed the move, but said it was disappointed it was still barred from operating via China and the US. British Airways and Virgin also welcomed developments although Virgin said there were already available frequencies for UK carriers with only 21 of 28 slots utilised. (*Travel Trade*, Tony Bailey)

State vs Federal funding for public transport

The federal government has categorically ruled out funding state based public transport networks. NSW Transport Minister John Watkins called for federal funding to help deliver "clean, safe and attractive public transport" in Sydney. Mr Watkins' suggestion was based on similar programs running in the US where Washington provides 52 per cent of the public transport cost. (*The Age* 18 July 2006, Steven Haby)

Australian Capital Territory

ACTION services under threat

Bus services will be slashed and interchanges left unstaffed if proposals for drastic cuts to ACTION are followed through, unions have warned.

Of most concern were suggestions to have 60 percent part-time and 40 percent full-time staff - a reversing of existing ratios - end rostered days off, limit full-timers to 38 hours a week with most overtime gone, remove supervisors from the four interchanges, increase split shifts and reduce at weekend and midday bus services.

The admission came after Hargreaves told the committee his department was to spend \$1.4 million fitting CCTV to the 80 per cent of the fleet without the cameras.

The ACT budget showed ACTION's employee expenses are expected to drop by about 8 percent, or \$4million to \$47.3million in 2006-07 from \$51.5million in the previous financial year. Over this same period, staff numbers are set to fall from 810 to 796 while the target for passenger boardings is to increase by 197,000 to 17.1 million for the year. (*Australasian Bus & Coach* website, Steven Haby)

New South Wales

Government criticised over bus and rail cuts

NSW State Transit has defended its off-peak service cuts amid public fury, saying there were better uses of taxpayers' money than ferrying air

around the eastern suburbs. John Lee from State Transit says resources would be directed to the places they were most needed rather than to runs that no longer had passengers to support them. He used one route as an example, which carried 17 people in 17 trips. The route loses \$203,000 a year, and proposed cuts would save \$30,000.

Disgruntled bus users and the union criticized cuts to midday and evening runs across Sydney, saying services should not be dumped while demand for public transport was going up. (*Australasian Bus & Coach website, Steven Haby*)

Trams for CBD – yet another plan

Traffic congestion in Sydney's CBD will worsen if the NSW State Government continues to rely on buses. An independent study found that extending light rail from Central to Circular Quay would be a more efficient and reliable way of relieving pressure on the city's public transport than adding buses or depending on trains.

According to the report an extra 36 buses would have to travel along George Street in the morning peak period to cater for the increase in passengers expected by 2021.

An increase in the number of standard buses or the use of high capacity articulated buses is likely to add to traffic congestion and reduce bus running times. Transport Minister, John Watkins, remains unconvinced that light rail would be the best option. Potential problems may include an additional journey time if passengers had to change modes of transport at Central or Circular Quay. There was also concern over the east-west traffic congestion that would be caused if a light rail route was given signal priority in the CBD streets. (*Australasian Bus & Coach website, Steven Haby*)

Hunter transport forum

Hunter transport experts, local state politicians and business representatives will meet to discuss a new plan for the future of public transport in the region. The independent Lake Macquarie Transport Task Force launched the proposal last month, which includes a mix of transport hubs throughout the region and the use of heavy rail lines for light rail. State Transport Minister John Watkins has refused to comment on the plan. Lake Macquarie Mayor Greg Piper says it does have merit and needs to be seriously considered. (*Australasian Bus & Coach website, Steven Haby*)

Queensland

Regional coach service subsidies

The Queensland Government is to review subsidies on long-distance coach and air service contracts to better meet community needs. The

Government currently gives subsidies of \$7.7 million for air services and \$2.3 million for long-distance bus services per year. Transport and Main Roads Minister, Paul Lucas, says the contracts are reviewed every five years, and are vital for people in the bush. (*Australasian Bus & Coach website, Steven Haby*)

Translink patronage figures

Bus patronage across Queensland's south-east corner is booming according to State Government figures.

Compared with the same period in 2004, some operators have seen amazing growth:

- Caboolture Buslines – 230 percent
- Surfside Busline – 18 percent
- Logan City Bus Service – 70 percent
- Westside Bus Company – 95 percent
- Sunshine Coast Sunbus – 55 percent. (*Australasian Bus & Coach website, Steven Haby*)

South Australia

Barossa wine train to return?

The Mayor of the Barossa Council has expressed delight that the region's historic wine train will be back up and running in November.

The service stopped in 2003 because of reduced passenger numbers and rising insurance premiums.

A winery owner, John Geber, has bought half of the service and says the train will be restored and back on track this spring.

Council Mayor Brian Hurn says he hopes the service will attract enough passengers.

It is likely to run on Sundays and if successful will run on other days.

The other half of the service is owned by tourism operator Proud Australia Group. (Tony Bailey)

Western Australia

Future of Australind services

There are fears a Western Australian Government proposal to replace half of Bunbury's train services to Perth with buses could mean the end of the south-west's passenger train, the Australind.

Planning Minister, Alannah MacTiernan, has announced a plan to replace the Australind's morning run to Perth with a bus service to Mandurah. Passengers would then board the rail

link to the city, but rail workers fear the proposal is the first step toward scrapping the Australind.

Rail union official Bob Christison says if the proposal is pushed through the train's days are



The Overlander train... sadly soon but a memory (image from the Tranzscenic website at www.tranzscenic.co.nz)

International

New Zealand

The Overlander to cease

Due to continuing loss of patronage the Auckland – Wellington *Overlander* service is to cease at the end of September. Despite Toll and the New Zealand Government assessing a number of options it was agreed that there was insufficient patronage to keep the service operating. The final run will be on Saturday 30 September 2006. A bitter irony is that Auckland's suburban rail network which has suffered from poor investment over many years is in the process of being upgraded and patronage increases. (Tony Bailey, Steven Haby)

Tibet

Lhasa timetable now online

Following on from last month's item of the opening of the highest railway line in the world from China to Tibet the timetables are now available online at <http://www.chinatt.org/Lhasa.htm>. Interestingly articles in the press following the opening has contained reports of criticism from various groups in Tibet regarding the line stating that it will lead to a gradual erosion of Tibetan culture and independence and that it is another example of the imperialism policy of China. (Tony Bailey, Steven Haby)

numbered. (*Australasian Bus & Coach* website, Steven Haby).

National

ARTC

On July 7, ARTC National withdrew its 28 May 2006 which was the first ever to show train numbers, and replaced it with a version effective 9 July 2006, in which the train numbers had been deleted. ARTC considers train numbers to be "commercial in confidence". The new timetable incorporated also some amendments to train times. (Geoff Lambert)

Great Southern Railway

The Ghan timetable changes

The following is an extract of the amended *Ghan* TT dated 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008. The significant change is that there is a morning departure from Adelaide rather than the current afternoon departure. (Tony Bailey)

| Adelaide – Alice Springs – Darwin | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|--|
| | Sun | Wed | |
| Depart Adelaide | 9.35am | 9.35pm | |
| | Mon | Thurs | |
| Arrive Alice Springs | 10.00am | 10.00am | Off-train tour provided for Gold Kangaroo Service through guests Mon |
| Depart Alice Springs | 3.00pm | 3.00pm | |
| | Tues | Fri | |
| Arrive Katherine | 9.00am | 9.00am | Optional off-train tour available |

| | | | |
|------------------|--------|--------|--|
| Depart Katherine | 1.00pm | 2.30pm | |
| Arrive Darwin | 5.30pm | 6.30pm | |

| Darwin – Alice Springs – Adelaide | | | |
|--|--------------|------------|--|
| | Wed | Sat | |
| Depart Darwin | 10.00am | 9.00am | |
| Arrive Katherine | 1.40pm | 12.40pm | Optional off-train tour available |
| Depart Katherine | 6.20pm | 4.45pm | |
| | Thurs | Sun | |
| Arrive Alice Springs | 9.30am | 11.15am | Off-train tour provided for Gold Kangaroo Service through guests Thurs |
| Depart Alice Springs | 2.30pm | 3.15pm | |
| | Fri | Wed | |
| Arrive Adelaide | 3.40pm | 3.40pm | |

Victoria

Connex

Extra peak Dandenong trip

From 17 July 2006 an additional train at 0719 commenced from Dandenong stopping all stations direct to Flinders Street. (Steven Haby)

New services from September and October

A number of additional and amended services are to be introduced across the network in two 'drops' as follows:

From 3 September 2006

Additional services

- 7.36 up Broadmeadows (express Moonee Ponds - North Melbourne, via Loop)
- 8.01 up Essendon (stopping all stations, direct)
- 7.35 up Sydenham (via loop)
- 8.09 up Werribee (express Hoppers Crossing - Laverton - Newport - Footscray - North Melbourne, direct)
- 17.23 down Sydneham (express Footscray - Sunshine, via loop)

Amended services

- 7.26 up Werribee altered to run direct to FSS
- 8.17 up Sydenham non-PSR sweeper is withdrawn
- 17.44 Werribee-Newport altered to 17.43 Werribee-Flinders Street (express Laverton - Newport - Footscray - North Melbourne)
- Lots of 1-5 min alterations to existing services.

From 15 October 2006

Additional services

- 7.01 up Dandenong
- 7.19 up Dandenong
- 8.40 up Westall (express Caulfield - South Yarra, via loop)
- 17.10 down Dandenong (via loop, express South Yarra - Caulfield)
- 17.45 down Dandenong (via loop, express South Yarra - Caulfield - Oakleigh)
- 00.30ish and 01.00ish extra services on Friday and Saturday nights for Epping, Hurstbridge (first is only an Eltham), Belgrave/Lilydale, Glen Waverley, Pakenham/Cranbourne, Frankston, Sandringham, Upfield, Broadmeadows, Sydenham and Werribee

Amended services

- 7.06 up Dandenong non PSR withdrawn
- 17.16 down Dandenong non PSR withdrawn
- 8.27 up Moorabbin becomes 8.22 up Cheltenham with stop at Highett
- 16.56 down Frankston altered to 16.55 and will not stop at Mentone or Parkdale
- 17.24 down Mordialloc altered to 17.25 down Frankston (stopping all stations)
- Lots of 1-5 min alterations to existing services.

Many of the changes are also in relation to the new Regional Fast Rail timetables to be introduced. (Steven Haby)

V/Line Passenger

Updated and amended timetables

- Craigieburn/Seymour timetable dated January 24 2006. Errors on the weekday trips have been corrected from the edition dated 23 January 2006, and these include showing the North Melbourne stop on the 0815 trip from Seymour and 1815 trip to Seymour and the 1440 from Seymour is shown arriving Southern

Cross 18 mins later at 1609. The additional Wandong stop on the 2100 from Seymour that began on 5 June 2006 isn't shown. (Craig Halsall)

- Melbourne - Mildura via Ballarat and Melbourne - Adelaide via Ballarat and Daylink", dated 1st September 2004. (Craig Halsall)



Bus

National operators

OZ Experience

Updated winter timetable

From OZ Experience's website (www.ozexperience.com.au) is their current TT in PDF format dated "February 2006 – 31 August 2006" for their network of services. It appears that some of their services may now be operated under contract by other operators but this assumption needs confirmation. (Steven Haby)

New South Wales—Sydney

Caringbah Bus Service

Amended route 977/978 timetables

An insert has been made into their current TT dated 3 July 2006 where most trips up to 0830 run a few minutes earlier to enable better connections with CityRail services. (Lourie Smit)

Sydney Buses

Updated timetables

- Route 200, version 5, effective 16 July 2006 (Adrian Dessanti)
- Route 225, version 4, June 2006 (Adrian Dessanti)
- Route 255, version 8, dated July 2006 in PDF format (Adrian Dessanti)
- Route 286-289, version 6, effective June 2006 in PDF format (Adrian Dessanti)
- Route 301-3, version 6, dated July 2006 in PDF format (Adrian Dessanti)
- Route 311, version 8, effective July 2006 (Adrian Dessanti)
- Route 323-5, version 8, effective 11 June 2006 (Adrian Dessanti)
- Route 326-7, version 6, effective 11 June 2006 (Adrian Dessanti)

- Route 341/2 Local Kingsford services effective June 2006 (Norbert Genci)
- Route 343-345, version 6, June 2006 (Adrian Dessanti)
- Route 353, version 8, June 2006 (Adrian Dessanti)
- Route 370, version 5, dated July 2006 in PDF format (Adrian Dessanti)
- Route 389, version 5, dated July 2006 in PDF format (Adrian Dessanti)
- Route 409, version 5, dated July 2006 in PDF format (Adrian Dessanti)
- Route 411, version 9, effective June 2006 in PDF format (Adrian Dessanti)
- Route 412, version 10, effective June 2006 (Adrian Dessanti)
- Route 413, version 11, effective June 2006 in PDF format (Adrian Dessanti)
- Route 425, version 7, effective June 2006 in PDF format (Adrian Dessanti)
- Route 445, version 6, dated July 2006 in PDF format (Adrian Dessanti)
- Route 471-2, version 8, dated June 2006 in PDF format (Adrian Dessanti)
- Route 546, version 4, effective May 2006 (Adrian Dessanti)

Star City Casino

Four routes as follows are operated:

- Central/Chinatown Route valid from 1 October 2005 (red).
- Town Hall Route valid from 1 October 2005 (burgundy).
- Chatswood Route valid from 26 June 2006 (yellow).
- Maroubra Route valid from 1 October 2005 (green).

The Chatswood route is operated by Royale Limousines with the others operated by Don Pty Ltd. Each TT is in DL format. (John Clifton)

New South Wales—Country

Brunswick Valley Coaches

Updated timetable

Brunswick Valley have updated their TT for their route 645 Ballina – Mullumbimby – Ocean Shores – Tweed Heads and route 646 Mullumbimby town services. The TT has been published by Transit Graphics and is dated "Version 1, 3 June 2006". (Steven Haby)

Casino Bus Service

Updated timetable

Casino Bus Service operates routes 671-674 which are the Casino town services. The current TT is undated and published as a DL size and folds out to A4 complete with map. (Steven Haby)

Cavanagh's Bus & Coach Service

Updated timetable

Cavanagh's from Kempsey have issued an updated TT dated 1 July 2005 for their routes 341/346/349 Kempsey – West Kempsey; 343 Kempsey – South Kempsey and 342 Kempsey – West Kempsey services. The TT is published in DL size which folds out to A3. (Steven Haby)

Deane's Buslines

Updated timetables

- A new TT for their Airliner service between Canberra and the airport was introduced from 29 May 2006. (Steven Haby)
- Deane's Sapphire Coast division has updated timetables for their routes 790/791 Bega – Eden; 792 Merimbula – Pambula; 785 Merimbula – Short Point and 793 Merimbula town services. The TT is dated 3 July 2006. (Steven Haby)

Eggin's Comfort Coaches

Updated timetables

- Route 311/312/313 dated August 2005 in standard Brochure Publishing format. (Steven Haby)
- Route 309/310/314/315/317/319/320 dated August 2005 in standard Brochure Publishing format (Steven Haby)

Lowder & Son

Updated timetable

Lowder have updated their route 457 Narrabri town service and Narrabri – Gunnedah TT which is now dated 6 February 2006. It is published as a single sided A4 sheet. Interestingly this operator has a prefix for each route, e.g. 457C refers to the Narrabri town loop and 457A is for Narrabri West – Narrabri inbound service. (Steven Haby)

Morisset Bus Service

Updated timetable

Current TT for their route 278 Morisset – Bonnell's Bay – Yarrowonga Park – Silverwater; 279 Morisset – Morisset Park – Brightwaters – Mirrabooka – Sunshine; r80 Morisset – Cooranbong – Avondale is dated 3 July 2006. Minor changes to timings due to CityRail TT update. (Steven Haby)

Murwillumbah Bus Co.

This operator's current TT is an undated 12 page booklet in DL format for their routes:

- 621A Murwillumbah – Bray Park – Mountain View – Golden Links
- 621B Murwillumbah – Countryside Estate – Hall Drive – Barnby Estate
- 622 Murwillumbah – Condong – Pacific Hwy – Greenhills via East Murwillumbah
- 623 Murwillumbah – Condong – Pacific Hwy – Greenhills via South Murwillumbah

The TT also includes details on the following services, but not times:

- Singhs. Murwillumbah – Tyalgum – Chillingham (Thursday only)
- JF & SM Parsons. Murwillumbah – Pottsville – Burringbar (Thursday only); Murwillumbah – Cabarito (Friday only)
- Brims. Murwillumbah – Uki operating Thursdays only. (Steven Haby)

Murton's Staff

Updated route 590-593 timetable

Murton's Staff trading as Murton's Citybus have updated their Broken Hill city services TT dated 1 August 2005. The TT is published as a double-sided glossy A4 size. (Steven Haby)

Nowra Coaches

Updated timetables

- Route 724 Nowra/Bomaderry local services dated June 2006 in Brochure Publishing format.

- Routes 732/733 Nowra/Bomaderry – Bay – Basin services dated effective June 2006 in standard Brochure Publishing format. The 1645 service from Nowra – Bay and Basin on Saturdays has been cut. (Steven Haby)

Odgen's Coaches

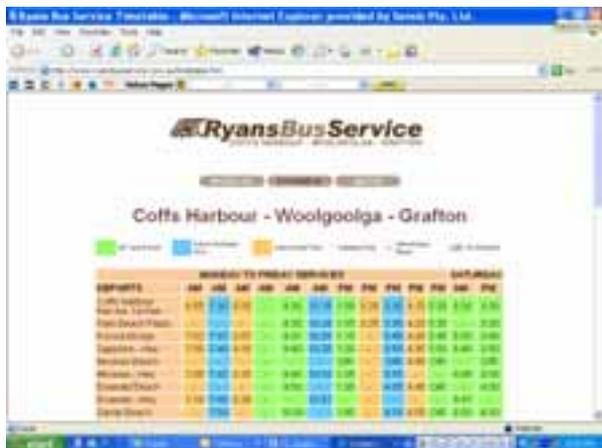
Updated timetable

Odgen have updated their TT for routes 560-563 which comprise the Mudgee town services. The TT is published by Transit Graphics and is dated "Effective June 2006" but also includes "Version 1, 23 June 2006" on the spine. (Steven Haby)

Orange Buslines

Expanded services in November 2006

To cater for population growth in the north of the city Orange Buslines will be introducing a new timetable at the end of November 2006. The July 2001 TT is still current until that time. (Steven Haby)



Ryan's current TT on their partially completed website.

Ryan's Bus Service

Ryan's have recently introduced a website and their current TT, dated November 2003, is available, as shown in the above screen grab. Ryan's operate routes 370 and 372 from Coffs Harbour to Grafton via Woolgoolga. (Steven Haby)

Sawtell Coaches

Updated timetable

Sawtell's TT booklet has been updated April 2006 for their routes 362/363 Boambee to Coffs Harbour and 364 Sawtell – Coffs Harbour services. (Steven Haby)

Waller's Bus Company

Updated route 630/650 timetable

This operator's current TT is dated 1 July 2006 and is published as a single sided A4 sheet.

Routes operated are the former Marsh of Nimbin's Lismore – Nimbin – Murwillumbah as follows:

- Services ex Lismore at 0800 (Murwillumbah); 1435 (Murwillumbah); 1520 (Nimbin) on school days. School holidays only the 0800 and 1435 runs operate.
- Services to Lismore at 0750 (ex Nimbin); 0710 (ex Murwillumbah) and 1350 (ex Murwillumbah). School holidays only departures ex Murwillumbah at 0730 and 1415. (Steven Haby)

Queensland—Brisbane including Gold Coast

Brisbane Transport

Updated timetables

The following updated timetables came into effect from 24 July 2006. All timetables are available in PDF format from the Translink website www.translink.com.au (Steven Haby)

| Route | Extra services | New timetable |
|--------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| 100 (Forest Lake - City) | 2 extra inbound trips (one from Forest Lake terminus and one from Inala Plaza) in the AM peak. 3 extra outbound trips between 4pm and 6.50pm. | 100, 110, 115. |
| 162 (Eight Mile Plains - City) | 2 extra AM inbound trips. | 111, 133, 160, 162 |
| 150 (Browns Plains - City) | 3 extra outbound PM trips from the Cultural Centre busway station. 1 extra outbound PM peak trip from the Queen Street bus station. | 150, 151, 152, 156 |
| 200 (Carindale - City) | 3 extra inbound AM trips and 7 extra outbound PM peak trips. | 200, 201, 206, 207 |
| 305 (Ascot - City) | New service with 9 am peak and 11 pm peak trips. | 300, 305 |
| 412 (St Lucia - City) | 4 extra inbound trips between 2.05pm and 5.10pm. 4 extra outbound trips between 1.20pm and 5.45pm. | 402, 407, 412 |

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| 300 (Toombul - City) | <p>During commuter peaks, additional trips between Ascot and the City - see Route 305 above. Slight adjustments to Route 300 timetable to accommodate new services.</p> <p>On weekday evenings, services every hour instead of every 80 minutes (1 extra trip in each direction).</p> <p>On Saturday evenings, services every hour instead of every 80 minutes (1 extra trip in each direction).</p> <p>On Sundays, daytime services every 30 minutes & evening services every hour, replacing the current service every 80 minutes (10 extra inbound trips & 11 extra outbound trips).</p> | 300, 305 |
| 301 (Toombul - Cultural Centre) | <p>On weekday evenings, services every hour instead of every 80 minutes (1 extra trip in each direction)</p> <p>On Saturday evenings, services every hour instead of every 80 minutes (1 extra trip in each direction)</p> <p>On Sundays, 2 extra inbound trips & 1 extra outbound trip.</p> | 301 |
| 306 (Nudgee - City) | <p>Departure times adjusted to reflect Caboolture train connections. 4 additional trips to service ACU.</p> | 306, 322 |
| 331 (Bracken Ridge - City) | 2 extra AM peak trips. | 330, 331 |
| 341 (Carseldine - City) | Minor adjustments to Am peak timetable. | 340, 341, 344 |
| 350 (Aspley Hypermarket - City) | 1 extra AM peak trip. | 350, 351, 352, 355 |
| 359 (City - | 2 extra PM peak trips. | 350, 351, |

| | | |
|----------------------------|--|---------------|
| Eatonvale) | | 355, 357, 359 |
| 470 (City - Bulimba Ferry) | <p>1 extra trip from Bulimba Ferry to City at 8am.</p> <p>3 extra weekday evening trips to match Saturday evening frequency.</p> | 416, 470 |

Logan City Bus Service

Updated timetables

- 550/551/561 effective 14 November 2005
- 557 Garden City – Springwood via Underwood effective 14 November 2005 – a new service.
- 572/573/574/575 effective 14 November 2005 (David Hutton)

Surfside Bus Lines

Updated timetables

- Route 3 effective 15 May 2006
- Route 9 effective 15 May 2006
- Route 10 effective 15 May 2006
- TX1/TX2/TX5 effective 15 May 2006 (David Hutton)

Veolia Transport (Connex)

Updated timetables

- 240/241 effective 17 July 2006
- 253/254 effective 17 July 2006
- 256/258 effective 17 July 2006
- 266/267 effective 17 July 2006
- 270/271/277 effective 17 July 2006
- 272/273/274/275 effective 17 July 2006
- 280/281/282/283 effective 17 July 2006 (David Hutton)

Queensland--County

Mightybus

This new operator has commenced services and has details on their website at www.mightybus.com. Currently services are operated to:

- Brisbane – Byron Bay (1 return trip)
- Brisbane – Toowoomba (2 return trips).

Future services will operate to the Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast. Interestingly the TT on their website states that all timetables are reviewed and updated every 2 months with the current TT valid until 30 September 2006. All services are express and travel times are provided in a separate table. (see page 12 for an screen grab of their current TT, Steven Haby)

Toowoomba Transit Coaches

The new operator reported in last month's issue of *Table Talk* has published an A5 TT dated 22 May 2006. (Steven Haby)

Whitsunday Transit

Updated timetable

Whitsunday Transit have updated their timetables for the Proserpine town, Proserpine – Shute Harbour and Airlie Beach evening services with a new TT dated March 2006.

Whitsunday Transit operate an intensive service between Shute Harbour and Proserpine to cater for tourists visiting the various islands by boat and have a modern fleet of low floor and air-conditioned buses in a very attractive blue livery. During the peaks services operate around every 15 minutes. The updated TT can be accessed in PDF format from their website at www.whitsundaytransit.com.au (Steven Haby)

Victoria--Melbourne

Cranbourne Transit

Updated timetables

- Route 789/790/791 Cranbourne West – Frankston dated 1 July 2006 in standard Metlink orange DL format.
- Route 893 Cranbourne – Dandenong dated 10 July 2006 in standard Metlink orange DL format. (Craig Halsall)

Ivanhoe Bus Company

Updated TT and website

- Route 526 Coburg to West Preston has been reprinted dated 19 June 2006 in standard orange Metlink format. (Jason Blackman)
- Route 527 TT has been updated 19 June 2006 and of particular note is that Saturday service has been amended to a even 20 minute frequency. (Craig Halsall)
- Ivanhoe have also updated their website to indicate which trips are operated by low floor buses including, ironically, their 548 TT which does not show this on their updated print TT. (Matthew Gibbons)

Sita Bus Lines

Revised Melton services

From 3 July 2006 new TT for routes 456 to 459 which service the Melton area commenced.

- 456 Sunshine - Melton (Woodgrove S/C) via Caroline Springs. The 456 no longer goes to Melton Station via Melton South and is replaced by route 458.
- 457 West Melton - Melton Station via Woodgrove S/C. No route changes however the last bus now departs Melton Station to West Melton at 2005.
- 458 East Melton - Melton Station via Melton South. The 458 no longer runs via Woodgrove S/C and instead replaces old route 456 via Melton South then to and from Melton Station. Extension from Melton Station to Melton East to Gisbourne-Melton Road via Dalray Cr, Sirius Way, Rubiton St, Archer Dr then Gisbourne-Melton Rd back to East Melton to Melton Station. Last bus from Melton Station to Melton East is 2005.
- 459 Westlake/Brookefield - Melton Station via Woodgrove S/C. Operates every 40 minutes Monday to Friday. Last bus now leaves Melton Station to Brookfield/Westlake at 1915. (Monday to Friday). There have also been some major route changes in Westlake & Brookfield areas.

The TT is issued in standard orange Metlink format. (Bradley Matthews)

U.S. Bus Lines

Updated route 694 and 698 TT

Obtained is a copy of the timetable for US Routes 694 & 698 with the changes that commenced on April 24 2006. The current timetable in circulation on first glance just looks to be simply a black & white folded DL photocopy of the 1 October 2002 timetable (still with the effective date on the cover). No references are made to the extension of the route to Mt Dandenong Lookout that commenced in mid-2005. However, the rear side shows the new timetable that started on April 24 2006. (Craig Halsall)

Westrans Werribee

Amended TT booklet

Westrans Werribee's current TT booklet dated 27 February 2006 has been sighted with an errata slip that refers to some minor amendments including changes to route 438 and corrections. (Jason Blackman)

International

Air New Zealand

Air New Zealand has announced that Vanuatu will become the ninth Pacific Island destination for Air New Zealand effective from 5 August 2006 depending on Government approval, when the airline enters into a bi-lateral code share agreement with Air Vanuatu.

The airline under the agreement will begin operating its code on the three services per week, currently operated by Air Vanuatu between Auckland and Port Vila. From late October, Air New Zealand will operate an A320 service one day a week and Air Vanuatu will operate two B737 services per week. Air New Zealand will reportedly keep its code on the two Air Vanuatu services. (Tony Bailey)

South African Airways

Improved flights to Australia

From 29 October 2006 a new TT will come into effect which sees a daily flight to Johannesburg from Australia.

SAA flights will depart Perth on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday while Sydney flights will leave on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday.

National

QantasLink

Capacity expands

QantasLink will add more than 280 weekly seats on its Western Queensland routes between July and November by introducing larger aircraft.

The carrier will use 50-seat Dash-8 Q300 on routes from Brisbane to Longreach, Barcaldine, Blackall, Roma and Charleville, leading to a 23 percent capacity increase. (Tony Bailey)

Timetables on the web...

A new feature of *Table Talk* is to review the various ways timetables are presented on the web. Here we continue our very quick analysis of V/Line's new timetables.



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the V/Line website. The URL is <http://www.vline.com.au/apps/vline/tripplanner/GetRouteTable.aspx?id=0&RouteId=12329&Town=>. The page title is "Timetables" and the breadcrumb trail is "Home > Timetables > 1. Timetables > 2. Woodhead Bus Terminal > 3. Traralgon > Horwood > Woodhead > Longgatta St > Woodhead > Woodhead > Table Talk". The main content area shows a table for "Mon and Fri" with the following data:

| | Arr | Dep |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|
| Traralgon Coach | 05:15 | |
| Woodhead Shopping Centre | 05:30 | 05:45 |
| Horwood Bus Terminal | 05:45 | 06:00 |
| Woodhead North | 06:00 | |
| Longgatta | 06:15 | |
| Woodhead | 06:30 | |
| Woodhead | 17:15 | 17:30 |

Below the table, there is a section for "Facilities where indicated the following options are available" with icons for: "Where Available", "Where Required", "Cash", "Catering", "Disabled Access", "First Class", "Sleeping", and "Other".

This is the result if one selected the 'Morwell Bus Terminal' option from page 1. Not very user-friendly as there is no context with other services that may connect with this particular service to Wonthaggi. If you were to undertake a trip from say Geelong to Melbourne then Morwell to Wonthaggi you would need to refer to at least 4 separate tables rather than 2 or at least three.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <http://mightybus.com/timetables.asp>. The page title is "Mighty Bus | Timetables - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Sensis Pty. Ltd.". The website has a green header with the "Mighty Bus" logo and navigation links: Home, Destinations, Doubtless, FAQ, Agents, About, Contact. Below the header is a "Timetables" section with a list of bullet points. The main content is a table with the following data:

| Depart | Arrives | Byron Bay | Gold Coast | Sunshine Coast | Tonnemulla |
|----------------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Bellambi to... | -- | 12:40 PM | Coming soon | Coming soon | 8:00 AM 8:40 PM |
| Byron Bay to... | 8:10 PM | -- | Coming soon | -- | -- |
| Gold Coast to... | Coming soon | Coming soon | -- | Coming soon | -- |
| Sunshine Coast to... | Coming soon | -- | Coming soon | -- | -- |
| Tonnemulla to... | 8:40 AM 10:30 AM | -- | -- | -- | -- |

An extract from the website of new bus operator Mightybus showing their current TT. Interestingly only departure and not arrival times are shown. You need to refer to another table for the times.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL http://www.tranzscenic.co.nz/services/overlander_1816.asp. The page title is "Tranzscenic". The website has a blue header with navigation links: Home, CONTACT US, ABOUT US, TICKETS, COACH SERVICES, TRIPS. The main content is a "Daily Timetable" for the "Overlander" service. The timetable is as follows:

| Destination | Departure Time |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Auckland depart | 7.25am |
| Hillmorton depart | 8.00am |
| Papakura depart | 8.15am |
| Pukakahu depart | 8.30am |
| Wendell depart | 9.50am |
| Oterobank depart | 10.25am |
| Ta Kaiti depart | 10.40am |
| Taumarunui depart | 12.00pm |

Tranzscenic's website showing the timetable for the soon to be cancelled *Overlander* service between Auckland and Wellington. You need to use the side scroll bar to move up and down the timetable. It appears that much 'real estate' space is wasted on the site which could be put to better use with showing the complete TT on one page, or downloadable as a PDF.