

TABLE TALK

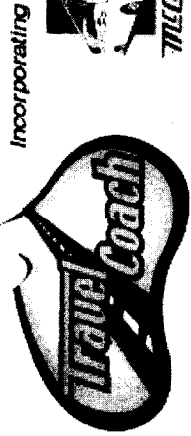
APRIL 2003.

Number 129.

ISSN 1038-3697.

Australian Association of Timetable Collectors.

R.R.P. \$2.95



SYDNEY TO CANBERRA

Town	Town	Code	Dep.	Mc 230 Daily	Gx 273 Daily SUPER EXPRESS	Gx 231 Daily SUPER EXPRESS	Gx 270 Daily SUPER EXPRESS	Mc 250 Daily	Gx 271 Fri & Sun SUPER EXPRESS	Gx 232 Daily	Gx 272 Daily SUPER EXPRESS	Mc 234 Daily	Pick-up and Set-down Point
SYDNEY	SYD			6.45 A	8.00 A	9.30 A	12.30 P	3.00 P	2.45 P	4.00 P	6.00 P	8.00 P	Travel Coach Terminal, Central Station
AIRPORT DOMESTIC	OFT				# 8.15 A	9.55 A							Govt Bus Stop, Opp. Car Park Ent 3 of 4
AIRPORT INTERNAT.	INT				# 8.20 A	10.05 A							International Terminal Arrivals BAY 21
PARRAMATTA	PRT			7.30 A				3.55 P		5.00 P			Bus Stop Cnr Argyle & Wentworth Streets
LIVERPOOL	LIV			8.05 A				4.30 P		5.30 P			Interstate Bus Stop Moore St interchange
CAMPBELLTOWN #	CMB			8.30 A						5.45 P			Fisher's Ghost Terminal
MITTAGONG #	MIG			9.05 A				5.30 P					Tourist Information Centre
GOULBURN	GLB			10.20 A				#6.30 P					Big Merino (24 hr)
CANBERRA	CBR	Arr.		11.35 A	11.20 A	1.15 P	3.45 P	7.45 P	6.00 P	8.45 P	9.15 P	10.45 P#	Jolimont Centre
				Thru to MEL		Thru to MEL		Thru to ADL		Thru to MEL			Thru to MEL

On Request

CANBERRA TO SYDNEY

Town	Town	Code	Dep.	Ex Mel Mc 323 Daily	Ex Adl Mc 521 Daily	Ex Mel Gx 324 Daily	Express Gx 280 Daily	Express Gx 281 Daily	Ex Mel Gx 321 Daily	Ex Mel Mc 320 Daily	Express Gx 282 Daily	Express Gx 288 Fri & Sun	Pick-up and Set-down Point
CANBERRA	CBR			4.00 A	6.30 A	7.00 A	9.00 A	12.30 P	3.30 P	4.45 P	6.00 P	7.00 P	Jolimont Centre
GOULBURN	GLB			5.00 A	7.35 A#					5.55 P			Big Merino (24 hr)
MITTAGONG #	MIG				8.35 A	9.40 A				7.00 P			Tourist Information Centre
Campbelltown #	CMB					10.00 A				7.40 P			Fisher's Ghost Terminal
LIVERPOOL #	LIV				9.35 A#	10.30 A				8.05 P		# 9.45 P	Interstate Bus Stop Moore St Interchange
PARRAMATTA #	PRT				10.05 A#					8.25 P			Bus Stop Cnr Argyle & Wentworth Streets
AIRPORT INTERNAT.	INT			7.20 A			12.00 P		6.40 P				International Terminal Arrivals BAY 21
AIRPORT DOMESTIC	OFT			7.30 A			12.10 P		6.50 P				Govt Bus Stop, Opp. Car Park Ent 3 of 4
SYDNEY	SYD	Arr.		8.00 A	10.50 A#	11.30 A	12.30 P	3.45 P	7.15 P	9.05 P	9.15 P	10.25 P	Travel Coach Terminal, Central Station
				Thru to MEL									Thru to MEL

On Request

Service Mc 521 Connects with Mc 241 and Mc 242 to Brisbane
Service Gx 324 connects with Mc 242, Mc 241 to Brisbane

Service Gx 280 connects to Mc 242 to Brisbane

Service Gx 281 connects with Gx 243 to Brisbane & Gx 251 to Dobo & Adl on Mon, Wed & Fri.

Service Gx 320 and Gx 321 connects with Mc 244 and Gx 245 to Brisbane.

Service Gx 283 Operates Between 7th June and 6th October only

FOR BOOKINGS AND RESERVATIONS CONTACT:
CENTRAL RESERVATIONS PH: 131499
OR BOOK ON-LINE AT:
www.mccaffertys.com.au or www.greyhound.com.au
EMAIL: info@mccaffertys.com.au

SYDNEY-CANBERRA BY TRAVELCOACH

Tony Bailey.

As from 13th February 2003 there have been minor changes to the times of GX270, GX271, GX273, GX281 & GX288 on the McCafferty's Greyhound-Pioneer route from Sydney to Canberra and return. The full current T.T. for this route is found at left. Although issued concurrent with the current changes, the T.T. is not dated!

TABLE TALK is the official monthly CURRENT NEWS organ of the AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF TIMETABLE COLLECTORS INC. [Registration No: A0043673H]. (The A.A.T.T.C. Inc. also publishes THE TIMES a monthly magazine of historic record.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Albert,

Unfortunately, an error concerning Auckland's railway stations crept into Table Talk (No.127, February 2003). The Britomart station currently under construction is not on the site of the original Auckland station but virtually in the same place as the second one, albeit at a lower level.

The original station was located about 800 m north-west of the present station; 300 m east-north-east of the second station; and virtually on the wharves. It had a north/south orientation (the current one is east/west) and was in use from 24th December 1873 until 29th November 1885.

The second station was end-on to Queen St and right in the C.B.D. As a consequence of increasing suburban traffic, it proved to be too small to handle the patronage and so a new site was sought.

That new site - the third and current one - was about 1 km east of the second and was opened on 16th November 1930. Ironically, its location almost killed off the suburban traffic for which it was designed as the passengers had to transfer to either tram, trolley bus or omnibus (depending on the period of time) to reach their place of employment, the shops or other ultimate destinations. Long distance traffic was somewhat less sensitive to station location. (It is interesting to note that South Brisbane Interstate also opened in 1930; that the third Auckland station was 39 years old before Perth Terminal [now East Perth Terminal] was opened and 54 years old before the opening of Adelaide Terminal [now Keswick Terminal].)

Thus, the new Britomart station will be Auckland's fourth. Only the heritage listed former Central Post Office will prevent trains from once again reaching Queen St.

Yours etc.,
David Hennell,
 Surrey Hills, Vic.

Dear Albert,

Regarding Melbourne's City Circle trams: it is rather interesting to note that the last time I checked the City Circle website, the T.T. still referred to a 10 minute headway and there was no mention of the altered route into the Docklands. Yet the Yarra Trams website mentions that the headway is now 12 minutes. This certainly does not do much for images!

Yours etc.,
TRIS TOTTENHAM,
 Bowral, N.S.W.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Despite the conflicting information, the City Circle tram now certainly travels via the Docklands. The services that I've used have not had any recorded commentary over this section and this is an oversight that certainly needs rectifying as soon as possible. Nevertheless, I would urge anyone, Melbournian or visitor to Melbourne, to travel on this service through the Docklands! As well as giving one a good idea of what the Docklands development will eventually look like, it also gives one an excellent view of the extent and scope of the former Melbourne Goods Yard. There are still a number of interesting railway relics to be seen from the tram but, if you've got time, it's good to get on and off and look around in the process.

Fascinatingly, letters continue to come in regarding my review of the Blue Mountains bus T.T. in Table Talk (No.126, January 2003) and the letter, below, is actually the fifth I've received on this topic, although it is the second from this letter writer. THIS LETTER ACTUALLY MAKES COMMENT ON MY EDITOR'S NOTE ON ONE OF THE OTHER LETTERS THAT APPEARED IN TABLE TALK (No.127, February 2003):

.....continued next page/

Dear Albert,

While I agree that the information in a public T.T. should either be explained or left off completely, I wonder how many 'ordinary' people would notice it, or be concerned. Remember, even though pretending to be an intending passenger, you are deliberately searching for anomalies. Most people picking up the T.T. just want to know when the next bus will come.

The thought that you were looking at the T.T. from the view of an intending passenger had never occurred to me. In retrospect, I now realise that I should have known better than to think I catch you on something so simple. Silly bugger, me! (However, don't let your guard down - I'll keep trying, of course.)

Yours etc.,
DEAN OGLE,
 Vancouver, CANADA.

Dear Albert,

Another name can be added to your list of substitutes for the word "timetable" (Table Talk No.127, February 2003) and that is 'Guide' as in "Official Guide", the major compiled T.T. of North American railways.

The standard heading on the cover, for most of its life was cumbersome: The Official Guide of the Railways and Steam Navigation Lines of the United States, Porto Rico, Canada, Mexico and Cuba Also Time-Tables of Railroads in Central America
Air-Line Schedules.

So, its a "Guide" in North America but a "Time-table" in Central America. It's also a "railway" in North America and a "railroad" in Central America. Note also the unusual spelling for the Spanish-origin place name Puerto Rico and also note the hyphen in the word, airline.

Although Americans generically refer to railways as 'railroads', there are nearly as many companies who use the latter as the former. There is an interesting legal device that when an American railroad company goes bankrupt (as often happens) or needs a new legal entity for some other reason, the word "railroad" in their official title is often substituted with "railway", or vice versa.

I hope this is of interest,

Yours etc.,
ANNE ONYMOUS,
 (name & address
 supplied)

CURRENT RAISININGS ON THE GRAPEVINE

GENERAL

AUSTRALPASS. Australpass will be universally withdrawn from sale as from 1st April 2003. This pass was available to non-Australian passport holders only and gave the owner access to all Australian rail services except tourist railways.

(Mercury World Travel)

COAL TRAINS IN N.S.W. AND QUEENSLAND. BHP Billiton has invited Expressions of Interest from Australian and overseas rail operators for the supply of coal haulage services in the Hunter Valley in N.S.W. and in Queensland. The decision to call for competitive bids signals a major change in the way coal transportation is conducted in this country and may have significant consequences for PacNat and Q.R. BHP Billiton is responsible for 40% of Q.R.'s current 135 million tonnes of coal haulage and, as well, the company's Hunter Valley coal movements represent a significant portion of PacNat's coal traffic. Q.R. has lodged an Expression of Interest in both the Queensland and Hunter Valley business.

("Railway Digest")

CURRENT RAISING ON THE GRAPE VINE. Suburban Rail. Continued.

Melbourne

CONNEX WORKING TIMETABLE. On 7th February 2003 Connex issued a new W.T.T., effective from 23rd March 2003. The W.T.T. is a reprint of all sections except the Addenda. New Connex Public T.T.s were issued concurrently. The following is a summary of the changes:

MONDAY-FRIDAY:

- various services were adjusted to provide five minute turnarounds at out-stations, wherever possible, and minimum two minute stand-overs at Flinders Street, where feasible - all such modifications are between one and four minutes, with the exception of the former 0638 Alamein-Flinders Street which now departs at 0628;
- various Down direct Clifton Hill group services were adjusted to provide additional time Flinders Street-Jolimont;
- stops at Surrey Hills were added to eight Up Lilydale, Mooroolbark and Lilydale trains between 0720 and 0844 and at 1820, as well as to nine Down Lilydale and Belgrave trains at 0957 and between 1705 and 1858;
- the following trains no longer stop at Laburnum: the 0648 (formerly 0647) and 0742 Lilydale-Flinders Street and the 1623 (formerly 1622) and 1638 (formerly 1637) Blackburn-Flinders Street trains;

SATURDAY/SUNDAY:

- most City Loop running times were reduced by one minute Spencer Street-Melbourne Central;
- most Up and Down Epping and some Up Glen Waverley trains run one minute later than previously.

No changes were made to M Train times. This is the first time since the Melbourne metropolitan network was split into two parts that both companies have not issued W.T.T.s concurrently. (The Railfan Shop)

UPDATE - SYDENHAM (WATERGARDENS). All M Train T.T.s were reissued in mid-2002 to show the former St. Albans line as the Sydenham line. (Craig Halsall, Lourie Smit)

Brisbane

AIRTRAIN. The privately owned rail service to Brisbane's airport, Airtrain, recorded its best four month operating period since services began in May 2001. Three of the best four months of revenue have been generated since October 2002. ("Railway Digest")

NEW ROUTE. A new service, Rocklea-Yeerongpilly-Bowen Hills commenced on 10th March 2003. This is an unbalanced service, with no return shown. (Steven Haby, Lourie Smit)

Perth

NEW MIDLAND TIMETABLE. The T.T. for the Midland line was reissued dated 9th December 2002. (Alan Gray, Lourie Smit)



L O N G DISTANCE RAIL & RAILWAY BUS

Pacific National/A.R.T.C.

A.R.T.C. TAKES OVER SIDINGS IN S.A. After being under the jurisdiction of the A.R.G. since December 1997, all of the grain sidings adjacent to A.R.T.C.'s main line network in S.A. was transferred to A.R.T.C. management as from 1st March 2003. This does not include sidings on private land at places such as Bowmans, Snowtown and Gladstone. (Sidings at Taillem Bend were transferred from A.R.G. to A.R.T.C. at an earlier date.) ("Catchpoint")

S.R.A.(CountryLink)/Rail Access Corporation

NEW ARMIDALE/MOREE TIMES. As from 30th March 2003 the Armidale/Moree Xplorer has left Sydney earlier but not as early as was once planned. The new daily T.T. is: Sydney 1005, Broadmeadow 1222, Werris Creek 1534, Tamworth 1617, Armidale 1819 / Werris Creek 1534, Narrabri 1741, Moree 1903. Times of connecting buses have also been altered. Moree/Armidale-Sydney times have not been changed. (Mercury W.T.)

CURRENT RAISING ON THE GRAPE VINE. Long Distance Rail etc. Continued.

PRICE RISE FOR PASSES. The costs of East Coast Discovery Passes, Backtracker Rail Passes and Austrail Flexi-Passes will rise on 1st April 2003. (Mercury World Travel)

ALSTONVILLE/LENNOX HEAD MAXI TAXI. As from 23rd February 2002 a maxi taxi service has connected to/from the Murwillumbah XPT at Lismore. Interestingly, the Down maxi taxi only takes passengers as far as Alstonville but the Up service picks up from Lennox Head, with the times suggesting that the same vehicle travels empty Alstonville-Lennox Head, viz: Lismore 1925 Sun,Tue,Thu,Fri, Alstonville 1947 / Lennox Head 2150 Sun,Tue,Thu,Fri, Alstonville 2225, Lismore 2255. The maxi taxi is only for through passengers on or off the XPT and local travel is not available.

(Mercury World Travel)

NO MORE LINE REOPENINGS. Responding to calls by southern N.S.W. Councils to reopen the 103 km Cootamundra-Tumut branch to serve a new building products mill near Tumut, the Transport Minister, The Hon. Carl Scully, has dampened expectations that any more N.S.W. branch lines will be reopened following the failure of the re-commissioned Kandos-Mudgee and Blayney-Cowra lines to attract business. ("Railway Digest")

DURALIE. A new coal siding was brought into service at Duralie, about 4 km north of Stroud Road on the North Coast line, over the period 18th-20th January 2003. The siding, which is approximately 1120 m long, has been provided for Gloucester Coal and is located on the Down side of the line at around 272.8 km. Signalling at Duralie is part of the Stroud Road interlocking.

("A.R.H.S. Bulletin")

Other N.S.W.

RITZ RAIL AND THE MURWILLUMBAH LINE. Ritz Rail stopped its tourist passenger operations on the Murwillumbah line on 7th December 2002 and will not be resuming. This comes at the same time as the loss of all regular freight traffic on the line and has led to speculation that the 130 km line will close after the N.S.W. election.

("Railway Digest")

SKITUBE. The skitube was closed down for much of December 2002, reopening on 26th December. It is uncertain whether the closure was for holidays, maintenance or because of fire danger.

("Rail News Victoria")

Freight Australia/VicTrack

ELECTRIC STAFF CONNECTION BY RADIO. Over the period 8th-9th November 2002 the existing aerial wires between the Electric Staff instruments at Frankston and Somerville were disconnected and replaced by a radio link.

("A.R.H.S. Bulletin")

NEW DANDENONG FREIGHT TERMINAL. VicTrack has called tenders for the construction of a new intermodal freight terminal for Freight Australia at Greens Rd, Dandenong, to replace the existing facility adjacent to Dandenong station. It is being built at no cost to F.A. as part of a deal between the Urban and Regional Land Corporation, VicTrack and F.A. to allow the redevelopment of the Dandenong saleyards to proceed.

("A.R.H.S. Bulletin")

V/Line Passenger

BALLARAT DEVIATION. As part of the ongoing Fast Rail project, the Transport Minister, The Hon. Peter Batchelor, announced in early February 2003 that work on the Ballarat line deviation, Millbrook-Dunnstown, would go ahead so as to keep travel times at the promised 64 minute level.

("Railway Digest")

UPDATE - BALLARAT-ARARAT. When the twice daily Melbourne-Ballarat-Ararat service commences, there will be a morning Down and a second Down at either 1700 or 1740. One Up will leave at 0800 with the second departing sometime between 1200 and 1500.

("Rail News Victoria")

Other Victoria

WALHALLA GOLDFIELDS RAILWAY. From 26th December 2002 until 27th January 2003 W.G.R. operated seven days per week, total fire ban days excepted.

("Rail News Victoria")

Q.R.

UPDATE - NEW TIMETABLES. The Cairns tilt train services are to be coded VCQ5 northbound and VCQ6 southbound. When the Cairns tilt train is introduced, the Saturday Brisbane-Rockhampton Spirit of Capricorn will be cancelled. The 0855 Sunlander and the rescheduled Spirit of the Outback will provide Saturday services Brisbane-Rockhampton and, of course, there is also the Friday evening Rockhampton extension of the Brisbane-Bundaberg tilt train. Apart from school holidays, the Spirit of Capricorn has not been well patronised as most passengers have opted for travel on the tilt train, if seats were available. The Queenslander class on the Sunlander will not include a Roomette car but single occupancy of a Twinette compartment is available on payment of a Single Supplement of 50% of the standard adult fare applicable for the journey. This supplement does not apply to the standard section of the Sunlander where there are still Roomette cars. ("Sunshine Express", Mercury World Travel)

ANOTHER COAL RECORD. There was not the usual lull in Q.R. freight movements at the start of the 2003 New Year because of the continued running of long coal trains. In the week commencing 6th January 2003, 2.98 million tonnes of coal was moved, breaking the previous record of 2.93 million tonnes, set as recently as the week commencing 15th December 2002. Q.R. Acting Chief Executive, Mr David George, pointed out that the large coal haulages would provide part financial compensation for the lower than expected overall freight traffic in the last months of 2002, caused, in part, by the drought. Q.R. is under continuing pressure to lower coal freight rates, to ward off third party operators. ("Sunshine Express")

REROUTING. A track closure on account of works at Campbell St (north of Exhibition) over the Australia Day long-weekend (24th-26th January 2003) resulted in all long distance trains running via Central rather than some being routed via Exhibition. ("Sunshine Express")

GORDONSTONE BECOMES KESTREL MINE. The recently constructed balloon loop at Kestrel Mine, formerly Gordonstone, was constructed over portion of the lease belonging to BHP Billiton's Crinum Mine which is adjacent to Kestrel Mine. The loop was built in a reconstructed area which had already been mined. ("Sunshine Express")

UPDATE - NEW TOWNSVILLE STATION. Townsville's new \$23 million passenger station is now expected to be completed by mid-2003, in time for the commissioning of the Cairns tilt train. ("Railway Digest")

Other South Australia

UPDATE - MOUNT GAMBIER LINE. The fresh call for submissions to reopen the Mount Gambier line resulted in interest from only one company. Gateway Rail has tendered \$10 million for a contract to reopen the line. (ABC Radio News, "Rail News Victoria")

BAROSSA WINE TRAIN. The Proud Australia Group of Companies, operators of the Barossa Wine Train have announced that this Adelaide-Tanunda service, utilising Bluebird railcars, is up for sale. ("Railway Digest")

LAST TRAIN TO PENONG. The last 'working train' on the section Penong-Theverard was a grain train in 1998. However, the Australian Society of Section Car Operators has run two 'trains' of section cars over the line since then - the first in April 2002 and a recent one, over the 2003 Australia Day long-weekend. ("Catchpoint")

W.A. P.T.A./Australian Railroad Group (in W.A.)/WestNet Rail

UPDATE - NO KALGOORLIE REALIGNMENT. A study into the possible railway realignment through the Kalgoorlie area has found that it is not economically feasible at this time. ("Railway Digest")

PASSENGERS ON PLATFORMS. The W.A.G.R. practice of queuing passengers on station platforms and checking tickets prior to their boarding of the Prospector, AvonLink or Australind has been abolished. The move follows criticism of the delays caused, especially at intermediate stations. ("Railway Digest")

HIGH-LEVEL PLATFORMS. Tenders have been called for the construction of high-level platforms at Cunderin, Tammin and Merredin on the Perth-Kalgoorlie line. The new platforms are part of W.A.G.R.'s program of providing access to disabled passengers. When the line was converted to standard gauge from 1966 on, the former narrow gauge high-level platforms were either demolished or bypassed by the new line. A similar program to provide high-level platforms on the Perth-Bunbury line, for Australind passengers, is nearing completion with the calling of tenders for platforms at Mundijong and Serpentine. ("Railway Digest")

North America

UPDATE - BC RAIL. The rail car now being used D'Arcy-Lillooet on the 64 km section that retains passenger services, is a converted maintenance crew-carrying vehicle with narrow seats and no amenities. ("Railfan & Railroad")

MONTREAL, MAINE & ATLANTIC. M.M.&A. have purchased the former Bangor & Aroostook Railroad in northern Maine and commenced operations on 1st January 2003. ("Railfan & Railroad")

VIRGINIA & NORTH CAROLINA. V.&N.C. have received all the necessary approval and are proceeding with a high-speed rail route Washington, D.C.-Charlotte, North Carolina, using existing CSX rights of way and the out of service Seaboard Air Line Petersburg, Virginia-Norlina, North Carolina. Conventional trains should run at 175 km/h. ("Railfan & Railroad")

AMTRAK CHANGES. Among a number of recent changes to Amtrak services are two down-gradings. The Pennsylvannian (formerly Philadelphia-Chicago) now only operates Philadelphia-Pittsburg. As from 3rd July 2003 the Kentucky Cardinal will be withdrawn. (The Kentucky Cardinal operates Indianapolis-Louisville, after cars are taken off the Cardinal [Chicago-Indianapolis-Washington].) ("Thomas Cook Overseas T.T.")

South/Central America

ARGENTINIAN UPDATE. A planned passenger service by Cooperativa J. J. Urquiza, on behalf of the Province of Entre Rios, over the 1182 km Buenos Aires-Posads section, now seems unlikely to eventuate. However, there are now extra services on the Puerto Barranqueras-Puerto Tirol line. One of Argentina's famous long distance trains, El Jardin de la República has returned to the rails, albeit without a sleeping car and on a weekly basis only. ("Thomas Cook Overseas Timetable")

Europe

HOW TO SELL A EURAIL PASS. Eurail, marketers of the Eurail Pass, have produced a glossy, full-colour, 128 page A4 book entitled Eurail Sales Manual 2003, which aims to encourage travel agents to efficiently sell the Eurail Pass. The Sales Manual was issued concurrently with Eurail Timetable 2003 and Eurail Traveller's Guide 2003. Interestingly, a map of where the pass is valid shows the region still nearly correlates to what we used to call "Western Europe" (including Greece, which used to be Western politically, if not geographically). The only differences are that the pass is not valid in Britain which has its own Britrail Pass and the Eurail Pass is valid in one, single, former Iron Curtain country, Hungary. Having given you these clues, can you name the 17 countries where the pass is valid? (NB: for rail purposes Monaco is regarded as being part of France and Liechtenstein as part of Austria; Gibraltar, Andorra, San Marino and Vatican City are not directly served by rail.) The Sales Manual also contains details of Eurailticket, which covers an expanded area that includes all countries that accept the Eurail Pass, along with a number of eastern European countries. (Mercury World Travel, Albert Isaacs)

SPANISH HIGH-SPEED LINE. A 155 km high-speed line is to be built Cordova-Malaga and be completed by 2007 at a cost of EUR1.6 billion. this will bring the journey time between the two cities down to 45 minutes and Madrid-Malago times from the present 4 hours 10 minutes to 2 hours 25 minutes. The first 96 km section from Almodovar (on the Madrid-Seville high-speed line) to Babadilla will have 220 km turnouts at the junction and will open in 2005. The remaining 57 km requires the heaviest works, including seven tunnels and 17 viaducts. The entire line will be built for 350 km/h running. ("Rail News Victoria")

THE END OF ON-TRAIN CATERING IN THE NETHERLANDS. Nederlandse Spoorwegen (Netherlands Railways) announced its plan to remove all on-train catering in 2003, stating that passengers have enough opportunities to buy food and drink at stations and only 2% of passengers currently made use of the on-train service. Most countries, including Australia, have, in recent decades, closed station refreshment rooms and replaced them with on-train facilities. Therefore, it is interesting to see The Netherlands head in the opposite direction. ("Rail News Victoria")

GREECE: NO SLEEPING CARS. All sleeping and couchette cars in Greece were withdrawn as from 10th January 2003, owing to the poor condition of the vehicles. An Athens-Thessalonika train which was formerly sleeping cars only, now has 1st and 2nd class sitting cars. ("Thomas Cook European Timetable")

LINK OF BOSNIA AND HUNGARY. Keeping a promise first made two years ago, an overnight train between Bosnia and Hungary was to be running by 20th December 2002 but the opening has now been postponed until March 2003. The T.T. for the service is: Budapest (Déli) (D259) 1855, Sarajevo 0750- (D258) 1900, Budapest 0803. ("Thomas Cook European Timetable", "Rail News Victoria")

SLOVAK CLOSURES. Several minor passenger services in the Slovak Republic were due to be closed on 2nd February 2003 but this motivated industrial action by railway staff and, at this stage, it is not clear whether or not the lines did close. ("Thomas Cook European Timetable")

Asia

SRI LANKA. Thomas Cook believes that the Sri Lanka Government Railway's Colombo-Pollonnaruwa passenger service has been extended to Valaichchenai but they are still awaiting confirmation of this. ("Thomas Cook Overseas Timetable")

NEW LINES IN SAUDI ARABIA. The Saudi Railways Organisation has invited expressions of interest in the construction of the following railways: Riyadh-Jeddah (950 km); Mecca-Medina-Yanbu (570 km); Damman-Jabail (115 km). Roads paralleling these prospective lines currently see peak bus loads on account of overseas Moslems on haj (pilgrimage), particularly to Mecca. ("Rail News Victoria")

Africa

UPDATE - MOZAMBIQUE. Passenger services on the line Beira-Manica have now ceased altogether. This was the local section of the service which formerly went across the border into Zimbabwe. ("Thomas Cook Overseas Timetable")

=====



TRAM/LIGHT RAIL

Melbourne

PHUNNY DESTINATIONS. As in past years, throughout December 2002 the destinations on most Z1 and Z2 class trams, operated by M Tram, were modified to include the message "Season's Greetings" or "Happy New Year" along with the actual destination. ("R.N.V.")

GRAND PRIX SERVICES. This year as in recent years, a Saturday T.T. operated on all tram routes on all days of the Grand Prix (Labor Day) long-weekend, 8th-10th March 2003. This means that services on this Sunday commenced at around 0500. (Stephen Ward)

ADDITIONAL, TEMPORARY SERVICE. A temporary shuttle service from the Routes 48, 70 terminus in Flinders St Extension to Charles Grimes Bridge ran during most of November 2002 but had stopped by at least 3rd December 2002. ("Rail News Victoria")

Europe

NEW MILANESE ROUTE. In Milan, Italy, Metrotranvia (light rail) Route 7 was opened to serve the Arcimboldi Theatre which is the provisional home of the La Scla Opera

.....continued next page/

CURRENT RAISING ON THE GRAPE VINE. Long Distance Rail etc. Continued.

Company during the restoration of the La Scala Theatre. Route 7 runs from Piazza Lagosta to Piazza Mattei. Just before the terminus, the Metrotranvia passes under the Milan-Monza railway in a 500 m tunnel. This section of track is temporarily single line and delays of up to 15 minutes occur. As at December 2002, old rolling stock was being used on the service rather than new, air-conditioned trams.

("Rail News Victoria")

=====



SUBURBAN BUS

Canberra

NEW BUS MAP. A new Canberra Bus Map was issued dated 23rd August 2002. (Lourie Smit)

Sydney

S.T.A. (SYDNEY BUSES) TIMETABLES. The following Sydney Buses T.T.s have recently been sighted:

- Routes 140, 288, 290, 292, 294-296 (Macquarie Uni.) - February 2003;
- Route 140 (Manly-Epping station - Limited Stops) - a pocket sized T.T. which does not appear to have been issued previously - covers the two morning trips to Epping and the two afternoon trips from Epping (these morning trips also appear in the Uni. Route 140 T.T. but the afternoon trips don't);
- Route 415 (Burwood-Campsie) - January 2003 - TG 6;
- Routes 458, 459 (Burwood-Macquarie Uni.) - January 2003 - TG 4;
- Routes 474, 476, 477 (Miranda/Dolls Point-Rockdale) - January 2002 - TG 2;
- Routes 475, 478, 479 (Brighton-Le-Sands district) - January 2003 - TG 2;
- Routes 890, 891, 895 (Uni. of N.S.W. - Express Services) - March 2003 - TG 1
 - no longer pocket sized - now includes the Uni. crest on the cover (in place of the photo of the driver) - contrary to previous belief, there are still two Route 890 trips to the Uni. in the morning.

(Michael Marshall, Lourie Smit)

UPDATE - TRANSIT WAY. Route T80 T.T.s were available at the official opening of the T-way on 16th February 2003 (Route T80 is the new T-way service). A T-way Ticket Guide (TG1) was also issued dated 16th February 2003, along with a Service Update (S13) for the additional and altered Route L20 trips, the latter being effective from 30th January 2003. (Adrian Dessanti, Lourie Smit)

NEW BAYVIEW PARK-BURWOOD SERVICE. S.T.A. (Sydney Buses) commenced services on new Route 463 (Bayview Park-Burwood) on 10th March 2003. There are eight runs from Bayview Park between 0730 and 1745 but only six services in the opposite direction 1000-1800. (Adrian Dessanti, Lourie Smit)

PRIVATE TO PUBLIC? S.T.A. (Sydney Buses) has been involved in negotiations with Baxters Bus Lines and Hopkinsons Coaches regarding their possible purchase by the government operator. Baxters and Hopkinsons are believed to be in a good position to feed passengers onto the Parramatta-Liverpool T-way. ("Transit Australia")

UPDATE - ROUTE 200 CHANGES. A coloured Service Alteration Notice for the previously mentioned Route 200 changes has been issued. It suggests that the date of the changes was 2nd and not 1st December 2002. (Adrian Dessanti, Lourie Smit)

BAXTERS. The following new Baxters T.T.s have recently been issued:

- Route 910 (Parramatta-Chester Hill) - July 2002;;
- Route 930 (Bankstown-Bankstown Showground) - July 2002;
- Route 932 (Bankstown-Bass Hill) - July 2002;
- Routes 903, 905 - December 2002 - now runs to a Mon-Fri frequency of 30 minutes in the Parramatta area but the 60 minute frequency still applies to Merrylands and in peak hours Blaxcell St now gets a 10 minute service.

All T.T.s are in pocket-size format (the same size as the Connex T.T.s) and are in colour. (Bob Taylor, Adrian Dessanti, Lourie Smit)

CURRENT RAISING ON THE GRAPE VINE. Suburban Bus. Continued.

WESTWAY BUS & COACH. It was announced on 7th March 2003 that Westway will take over the West Bankstown and Bankstown Strathfield operations at a date yet to be advised.
(Lourie Smit)

GREENS. A new T.T. for Greens Route 15 (Helensburgh-Stanwell Park) is dated 17th February 2003. Most services now operate via The Ridge and The Crescent and this is now marked more clearly in the T.T.
(Dean Jones, Lourie Smit)

GREENS NORTHERN COACHES. Greens are expected to issue new T.T.s in the middle of April 2003. More details as we get them.
(Steven Haby, Lourie Smit)

Central Coast

BUSWAYS. The following new Busways T.T. booklets were issued effective 30th January 2003: Route 94 (San Remo-Wyee) and 97, 99 (Lake Haven-Wyee-Mannering Park, etc). There are minor timing changes. The Busways website states that a new T.T. was also issued on this date for Routes 90, 92 (Lake Haven-Toukley-San Remo, etc) but this does not appear to be correct.
(Adrian Dessanti, Robert Henderson, Lourie Smit)

RED BUS. The following new Red Bus T.T.s were recently issued:

- Gosford-The Entrance T.T.: Routes 24-26 (Wyong-Tuggerah); 30 (South Tacoma-Westfield, Tuggerah) - 1st December 2002;
- The Entrance-Wyong T.T.: Route 29 (Wyong Hospital-Bay Village) - 1st December 2002;
- Gosford City T.T.: Routes 23 (Bateau Bay-Bay Village/The Entrance); 40 (Mingara Club-Bateau Bay West) - 1st December 2002;
- Route 48 (Bay Village-Killarney Vale-Mingara-Tumbi Umbi-Forrester's Beach-Bateau Bay East) - 16th December 2002.
(Dean Jones, Lourie Smit)

Newcastle

UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE TRANSPORT GUIDE 2003. The Uni. of Newcastle, Callaghan Campus, has issued its Transport Guide 2003. It is dated November 2002 and is in the same format (TG 2) as last year's Guide. The map insert shows all the revised bus routes and travel details that were introduced in September 2002 as BusPlan 2.
(Len Regan, Lourie Smit)

BELMONT-CHARLESTOWN. A new S.T.A. (Newcastle Buses) Route 353 (Belmont-Charlestown) commenced on 17th February 2003 with little or no media publicity. This is a Mon-Fri only service operating only between 0900 and 1400 with four trips for Charlestown and three for Belmont. Route 353 appears to run along the Pacific Hwy, as does Route 351 and at this stage it appears that Route 353 is a short working of Route 351. The T.T. is a single DL black and white sheet with no route map (it is not in Transit Graphics format).
(Len Regan, Lourie Smit)

KING BROS/GREAT LAKES COACHES. The King Bros/Great Lakes Coaches T.T.s for Buladelah-Newcastle, Buladelah-Taree and Taree-Broadmeadow are no longer on issue but these sections of Routes 150, 152 are covered by the full T.T. for these routes, dated 21st December 2001. It is surprising that the full T.T. for Routes 150, 152 has not been reissued as a large part of the route relates to the S.R.A. (CountryLink) service which is now operated by Cavanagh of Kempsey.
(Lourie Smit)

Nowra region

SUSSEX BUS. Route 735 (Nowra-Sussex Inlet area) was taken over by Sussex Bus (Raymask Pty. Ltd., trading as Sussex Inlet Bus Service) from Roadcoach Ulladulla, some time ago. A T.T. in Brochure Publishing format was issued dated November 2002. This route operates Mon-Fri only. The new T.T. contains considerably more information than its predecessor, including three maps.
(Lourie Smit)

Lismore

KIRKLANDS. Kirklands issued a further T.T. for Lismore City services dated 17th February 2003.
(Lourie Smit)

Melbourne

CLOSE OF BUS ROUTE. Route 769, operated by Peninsula Bus Lines and Cranbourne Transit (see below), ceased running on 23rd March 2003. On 30th March, Peninsula commenced a replacement Route 769 (Frankston-Karingal Hub shopping centre), still running on Sundays only.
(Brian Weedon, Graeme Cleak, Lourie Smit)

CURRENT RAISININGS ON THE GRAPE VINE. Suburban Bus. Continued.

CRANBOURNE TRANSIT. On account of a change of ownership, Phillips is now known as Cranbourne Transit. A number of T.T.s have been reissued with the new name. More details as we get them.
(Craig Halsall, Lourie Smit)

PHILLIPS. A new Phillips T.T. for Route 839 has been sighted dated 25th September 2002. There are no changes to times but the T.T. is now printed on plain paper rather than the GenerationWeb Glossy layout and it contains a new style map in photocopy format.
(Craig Halsall, Lourie Smit)

KINGLAKE COMMUNITY BUS. A community shopper service Kinglake-Whittlesea is operated on Fridays only: Kinglake 0915, Whittlesea ??-1200, Kinglake ??. The T.T. is published in Mountain Monthly, a journal of the Mountain Monthly Coöperative Ltd.
(Steven Haby, Lourie Smit)

MOORABBIN TRANSIT - NORTH BRIGHTON-SOUTHLAND. Moorabbin issued a new North Brighton-Southland T.T. effective 30th September 2002 and like other recent T.T.s, with a red cover. However, it has the older style map which has been modified to better show the loops around North Brighton station and the Brighton Town Hall. The actual times are unchanged.
(Craig Halsall, Lourie Smit)

OOPS DEPARTMENT - MOORABBIN TRANSIT - DANDENONG-BRIGHTON. The recently issued Moorabbin Routes 811, 812 (Dandenong-Brighton) T.T. incorrectly shows the buses connecting at Mentone station with a tram rather than a train! (C. Halsall, L. Smit)

MOORABBIN TRANSIT - WAVERLEY GARDENS. Moorabbin have issued a new T.T. for Route 631 (Southland-Waverley Gardens) as from 17th February 2003. Again, there are no changes to times but the new T.T. has an orange and white format and the new look map.
(Bradley Matthews, Lourie Smit)

UPDATE - GREENDA CORP. 27th JANUARY 2003 TIMETABLE CHANGES. Further T.T.s in the new look Grenda format with new look maps, are:
- Route 844 (Dandenong-Doveton) - 27th January 2003;
- Routes 813, 815 - 3rd February 2003;
- Routes 826-828 - 3rd February 2003;
- Routes 814, 848 - 17th February 2003.

Once again, there are no changes to times. (Craig Halsall, Bradley Matthews, L. Smit)

SKYBUS. The T.T. for the Skybus (Melbourne-Melbourne Airport) was reissued dated 31st January 2003. The cover now shows a new logo and a new bus. The T.T. itself is unaltered.
(Craig Halsall, Lourie Smit)

VENTURA SMARTBUS. A new T.T. for Ventura's Smartbus Route 703 (Middle Brighton-Blackburn) was issued effective 3rd March 2003 (ie. 03-03-03). Mon-Fri buses before 0900 and between 1531 and 1830 will no longer run via Forest Hill Chase shopping centre but travel times will remain unchanged. This is a partial reversion to the situation prior to the introduction of Smartbus. (C. Halsall, Brian Weedon, L. Smit)

VENTURA ROUTE 757. As from 7th February 2003 Ventura's Route 757 has had one alteration - the former 1535 service now departs at 1540. (David Has, Lourie Smit)

MINOR VENTURA CHANGES. Ventura made minor fine-tuning changes to Routes 732, 734, 737, 738, 753, 754, 765, as from 24th March 2003. (Steven Haby, Lourie Smit)

INVICTA. As from 19th February 2003 minor changes to Route 679 occurred. The former 1655 bus now departs from Chirnside Park at 1658 and the former 1705 from Lilydale now leaves at 1708. This provides better connections with trains at Lilydale.
(Craig Halsall, Lourie Smit)

Adelaide

SMITHFIELD AND MUNNO PARA. A change occurred to Routes 441, 443 as from 2nd March 2003. They now operate Craigmere Rd-Smithfield station-Munno Para shopping centre rather than Craigmere Rd-Munno Para shopping centre-Smithfield station.
(Garth Evans, Lourie Smit)

CURRENT RAISING ON THE GRAPE VINE. Suburban Bus. Continued.

NEW TIMETABLES. In addition to the Route 441, 443 T.T. (see above) the following T.T.s were also reissued dated March 2003: 173 group; Routes 296, 297; 505, 506; 550-552. (Michael Marshall, Lourie Smit)

Brisbane

NEW SERVICES AND CLOSED SERVICES. As part of a major review of services by B.C.C. (Brisbane Transport), a number of poorly patronised runs have been cut including some early morning services that have averaged only three passengers. These cuts have been reflected in the new T.T.s noted in previous editions of Table Talk. Western suburbs such as Inala, Indooroopilly, Ashgrove, Paddington, The Gap, Chapel Hill, Kenmore, Moggill, Fig Tree Pocket, Centenary Estates, Forest Lake, St. Lucia, Toowong, Rainworth, Kelvin Grove, Bardon and Herston are particularly affected but there were also about 20 runs cut from north and south suburban routes. On the other hand, in the past 12 months 378 services have also been added to T.T.s. ("Transit Australia")

SURFSIDE. The following Surfside T.T. reprints have recently been sighted:

- Route 3 - November 2002;
- Route 4 - September 2002;
- Route 5 - January 2003;
- Route 7 - December 2002.

Like other recent Surfside reprints, there do not appear to be any changes to times and only minor T.T. format changes, including the replacement of the older Surfside logo with a newer version. (Lourie Smit)

Port Douglas

NEW TIMETABLE. A new T.T. for the Port Douglas town service was issued dated 21st February 2003. There is a basic 15 minute service 0700-0100, seven days per week, with some minor variations at the beginning and the end of the day. There are also four trips daily Mossman-Port Douglas and return, daily. A one way trip takes 45 minutes. (For details of the take-over of these former Coral Coaches services by Sun Palm Express, see below "Long Distance Bus - Queensland".) (Steven Haby, Lourie Smit)

Perth

MANDURAH BUS STATION. On 10th February 2003 the Department of Planning and Infrastructure announced the commencement of construction works on the Mandurah Bus Station at the corner of Allnutt St and Fremantle Rd. Completion is expected by mid-July 2003. (David Whiteford)

UPDATE - YELLOW CAT. The Yellow CAT service for East Perth began, as planned, on 15th December 2002. Evening services are augmented by extending some Route 95 buses into East Perth to terminate at the corner of Waterloo Cres & Wittenoom St. The journey falls within the 'Free Transit Zone'. ("Transit Australia")

NEW PERTH TIMETABLES. The following new T.T.s have recently been sighted:

- Route 1 (Fremantle CAT) - December 2002;
- Route 43 (Western) - 15th December 2002;
- Yellow CAT - 15th December 2002 - see above;
- Route 121 (Southern) - 24th November 2002.

(Alan Gray, Lourie Smit)

INTEGRATION. Since September 2002 work has been progressing on a revision of services to South Perth, Victoria Park, Belmont, Redcliffe, Forrestfield, High Wycombe and Kalamunda. This is the first part of a project to integrate the former Connex services into the Swan Transit network. ("Transit Australia")

Launceston

DIVERSION TO NEW TRANSIT CENTRE. From 9th September 2002 all services to/from Mayfield and Rocherlea, as well the Route 19 Busy Bee service to Invermay, Mowbray and the University, were diverted via the new Transit Centre in Cimitiere St. Some stopping places at the Central Bus Station in St. John St were rearranged so as to place all north suburban services, including the Busy Bee, together near The Quadrant. Concurrently, five Route 19 services were further diverted into the former Inveresk rail yards which now house the Queen Victoria Museum and the University Arts Centre. ("Transit Australia")

Western Australia

INTEGRITY COACHLINES. A new T.T. for the Broome-Exmouth-Carnarvon-Geraldton-Perth service operated by Integrity was issued dated 1st February 2003. The T.T. is a folded, double-sided A4 sheet. It is believed that extra services will be added to this network later in 2003. (Steven Haby, Lourie Smit)

Tasmania

MERSEYLINK. Merseylink issued new T.T.s for all routes, dated 23rd December 2002. There are separate sheets for Mon-Fri and Saturday services. (Steven Haby, L. Smit)

JACK'S BUS SERVICE. An undated (!) A4 sheet for the Cressy-Longford-Perth-Launceston service has been issued by Jack's Bus Service and appears to be current. It shows three Mon-Fri services over the entire route with an additional afternoon trip Longford-Launceston. (Steven Haby, Lourie Smit)

TAMAR VALLEY COACHES. Yet another undated but apparently current T.T. is the one for Tamar Valley Coaches' Beauty Point-Beaconsfield-Gravelly Beach-Exeter-Legana-Launceston service. It is A5 size. There are three return trips Mon-Fri with additional services Tue,Thu,Fri. A separate T.T. (this one being dated) was issued for a new Saturday service to Beauty Point which commenced a three month trial on 25th January 2003. (Steven Haby, Lourie Smit)

GEORGETOWN. Still they come - another undated but current T.T. has been sighted, this one for the Launceston-Georgetown service operated by GNS Transport, trading as Riverline Bus and Freight (Sainty's Coaches). There are three runs Mon-Fri, except during school holidays when there are only two. (Steven Haby, Lourie Smit)

!!



AIRLINE CODES. Two changes recently occurred to airline codes: Australian Airlines has been allocated AO and Skywest Airlines is XR. (Tris Tottenham)

Domestic

SKYWEST. Skywest, W.A.'s regional airline, was formerly allied to Ansett but has now made an agreement with Qantas to share the latter's frequent flyer program and coordinate scheduling, bookings and customer check-ins, as from 15th April 2003. Skywest is still feeling the effects of the Ansett collapse, for example, passenger numbers on the Perth-Albany route are still down 22% on tallies prior to the Ansett collapse. (David Whiteford)

MELBOURNE-BROOME. From March to October 2003 Qantas is operating Fri,Sun services Broome-Melbourne. The 4½ hour direct flight replaces an 8 hour journey involving a change of planes at Alice Springs. (David Whiteford)

SYDNEY-BROOME. Virgin Blue will commence a Saturday only Sydney-Broome service in April 2003. (Tris Tottenham)

KALBARRI. Great Western Aviation commenced a thrice-weekly service Perth-Kalbarri on 26th January 2003. An 18 passenger plane is used for the 65 minute journey. This is the first commercial service to use Kalbarri's new airport which was opened in September 2001. (David Whiteford)

CANBERRA CITY FLYER. As from 3rd February 2003 Qantas have been marketing Sat,Sun Sydney-Canberra services under the City Flyer banner. (Tris Tottenham)

HORIZON AIRLINES. Horizon has taken over the Sydney-Newcastle (Williamtown) service from Aero Pelican, effective 2nd December 2002. (Tris Tottenham)

VIRGIN BLUE TO WHITSUNDAY. Commencing on 12th April 2003 Virgin will operate a Saturday only service Sydney-Proserpine (Whitsunday Coast Airport). (Tris Tottenham)

CURRENT RAISINGS ON THE GRAPE VINE. Air. Continued.

TASAIR PTY. LTD. As from 24th June 2002 new schedules were issued for all Tasair services: Devonport-Currie, King Is.; Burnie-Currie, King Is; Hobart-Burnie.

(Steven Haby, Lourie Smit)

REGIONAL EXPRESS. Schedules for all Regional Express services, Melbourne-Currie, King Is., Melbourne-Devonport and Melbourne-Burnie, were issued effective 11th November 2002.

(Steven Haby, Lourie Smit)

KING ISLAND AIRLINES. Even airlines sometimes issue undated schedules and there is one for King Island Airlines which appears to be current. It shows several daily trips Moorabbin Airport (Melbourne)-King Island.

(Steven Haby, Lourie Smit)

International (to/from Australia)

QANTAS TO CHICAGO. From 31st March 2003 Qantas has served Chicago ex Australia three times per week. Despite this flight being advertised as departing from both Melbourne and Sydney, it actually leaves from Melbourne but connects with the Sydney-Los Angeles service at the latter airport. The new service is: Melbourne Mon,Thu,Sat (QF 93) 1125, Los Angeles 0730-0925, Chicago 1500- (QF 94) 1900 Mon,Thu,Sat, Los Angeles 2140-2340, Melbourne 0900 Wed,Sat,Mon.

(Tris Tottenham)

QANTAS TO SOUTH AFRICA. An additional weekly Qantas flight Sydney-Johannesburg will commence on 13th August 2003, making a total of five flights per week over this sector.

(Tris Tottenham)

SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS. S.A.A. will also increase its service out of Perth to five flights per week, as from 1st September 2003.

(Tris Tottenham)

UPDATE - EMIRATES. Emirates daily non-stop flights Sydney-Dubai are scheduled to commence on 26th October 2003.

(Tris Tottenham)

TIMOR AIR. Timor Air commenced a daily service Darwin-Dili on 1st March 2003. Negotiations are under way to commence services to both Bali (Denpasar) and Singapore.

(Tris Tottenham)

AIR GARUDA - BALI. From 1st April 2003, Garuda flights Melbourne-Bali will drop from five to three per week but all services will now fly direct and not via Sydney. From 1st June 2003, services ex Melbourne will again increase to five per week.

(Tris Tottenham)

AIR PARADISE - BALI. From 10th April 2003 Air Paradise flights Melbourne-Bali will increase to three per week.

(Tris Tottenham)

QANTAS - BALI. Qantas flights to Bali from both Perth and Melbourne will increase from one to two per week from April 2003.

(Tris Tottenham)

QANTAS - DENPASAR. Qantas is to cease flying Sydney-Denpasar and Melbourne-Denpasar as from the last week of July 2003 but their economy subsidiary, Australian Airlines, will take over these sectors with a weekly flight out of Melbourne and twice weekly services from Sydney. (See also next paragraph.)

(Tris Tottenham)

FUTURE AUSTRALIAN AIRLINES ROUTES. Qantas plans to use its low-cost subsidiary Australian Airlines to restore flights on some routes, despite recent comments that forward bookings had dropped markedly on some international routes. A.A. will add two flights per week Sydney-Denpasar in April 2003 but this will be increased to four per week in July 2003, following the purchase of A.A.'s fifth plane. These two extra flights will actually travel Denpasar-Sydney-Melbourne. By mid-2003 a new weekly service Cairns-Kota Kinabalu, East Malaysia, will be introduced and, following the arrival of a sixth plane in November 2003, a thrice weekly Cairns-Shanghai flight. This will be Qantas' first service to China since routes were abandoned two years ago. A.A. seats cost about 25% less than those on conventional Qantas flights.

("Financial Review")

CURRENT RAISININGS ON THE GRAPE VINE. Air. Continued.

AIR NEW ZEALAND. A.N.Z. is to drop its non-stop Sydney-Los Angeles flight as from 27th April 2003. In future, flights from Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane will connect in Auckland with non-stop Auckland-Los Angeles services. (Tris Tottenham)

AIR CANADA. On account of new aircraft, Air Canada plans to operate non-stop Sydney-Vancouver services, dropping Honolulu as a port of call. A date for the change has yet to be announced. (Tris Tottenham)

VIRGIN BLUE INTERNATIONAL. Two of the more popular overseas ports being considered as destinations by Virgin Blue are Fiji and Singapore. (Tris Tottenham)

LAN CHILE. LAN is increasing its services to Australia for the (northern) summer. As from April 2003 it will operate to the following schedule: Sydney (LA800) 1015 Mon, Wed, Fri, Auckland 1530, Santiago 1240 Mon, Wed, Fri- (LA801) 2315 Mon, Wed, Sat, Auckland 0425 Wed, Fri, Mon, Sydney 0725. Qantas has a code share arrangement on this flight. (Mercury World Travel)

MALAYSIA AIRLINES. M.A. announced a large expansion plan which will see new aircraft and extra domestic, Singapore and regional services. The first of the changes applied from 13th February 2003 but modifications will be gradual as new planes arrive. The following additions will be made to M.S.'s Australasian services: three extra weekly services Kuala Lumpur-Melbourne; one extra weekly service Kuala Lumpur-Perth; two direct weekly services Kuala Lumpur-Auckland. The implementation date(s) for these changes has not yet been announced. (Mercury World Travel)

International (excluding Australia)

WAR IN IRAQ. In the build-up to the war in Iraq, most flights in and out of Baghdad were suspended, as were air services to neighbouring places such as Kuwait and Israel. On 19th March 2003, the day before bombing actually commenced, the only service still operating out of Baghdad airport was an Aeroflot flight to Moscow. ("Herald-Sun" 3AW Breakfast Program)

UPDATE - UNITED AIRLINES CUTBACKS. United ceased its Los Angeles-New Zealand flights on 31st March 2003. (Tris Tottenham)

=====



WATER TRANSPORT

Sydney Ferries

CRONULLA-BUNDEENA FERRIES. A new T.T. for the Cronulla-Bundeena service has been noted. Like its predecessor, it is UNDATED! In fact, the only way that it can be identified is by two minor changes: the adult fare for cruises has risen from \$14 to \$15; a website address is now included. (Lourie Smit)

DOUBLE BAY WHARF. Double Bay wharf, which is owned by the Woollahra City Council, is closed for approximately 17 weeks for urgent repairs, as from 24th March 2003. S.T.A. (Sydney Ferries) will suspend services and has implemented a new T.T. providing additional Mon-Fri services to Rose Bay and Watsons Bay wharves. The new T.T. commenced on 10th March 2003. (Adrian Dessanti, Lourie Smit)

Melbourne

YARRA SERVICES. Two 30 seat ferries that were marketed as Water Taxis and were sponsored by the State Government, provided a free service along the Yarra River, Federation Square-Aquarium-Crown Casino-Melbourne Exhibition Centre, from 10th February to 30th March 2003. Trips took 30 minutes and operated 1100-1630 Mon-Thu; 1000-1930 Fri-Sun. The popularity of the service meant that there was often a queue to get aboard. After monitoring the success of the free service, a fare applicable ferry commenced plying the same route. Strangely, there was an overlap period during which there was both a free and fare service - the fare service started on 3rd March 2003. (Albert Isaacs, Graeme Cleak, Craig Halsall, Lourie Smit)

Western Australia

MONKEY MIA DOLPHIN RESORT. The Monkey Mia Dolphin Resort, Shark Bay, is to introduce a daily catamaran service from Carnarvon later this year. A 50 passenger vessel will use floating pontoons for berthing at both termini. The journey will take about 2 hours 15 minutes.
(David Whiteford)

Bass Strait

SPIRIT OF TASMANIA. Additional Spirit of Tasmania crossings (presumably in both directions) were scheduled for 14th, 21st, 28th February and 10th March 2003.
(Tris Tottenham)

LATE ARRIVING NEWS LATE ARRIVING NEWS LATE ARRIVING NEWSTRAM & LIGHT RAIL - Victoria

UPDATE - BOX HILL LINE. 11th April 2003 is currently envisaged as the start-up date for the extension of Route 109 to Box Hill.
(The Railfan Shop)

SUBURBAN BUS - Wollongong

PREMIER ILLAWARRA. A new Premier Illawarra T.T. (in Transit Graphics format) was issued dated 11th November 2002. It includes Routes 30-33, 41-43 as well as selected journeys on Routes 37, 57. A number of typos in the last T.T. have been corrected and a clearer map is now included.
(Dean Jones, Lourie Smit)

LONG DISTANCE BUS - Tasmania

REDLINE COACHES. The following new Redline T.T.s have recently been sighted:

- Launceston-Deloraine-Mole Creek - 21st September 2002;
- Devonport-Burnie-Smithton - 1st September 2002;
- Launceston-Scottsdale-Derby-Winnaleah - 28th October 2002;
- Devonport-Cradle Mountain - undated but current - issued as a single-sided card rather on paper - departs Devonport 1200, departs Cradle Mountain 1700;
- Hobart/Launceston-Bicheno / Hobart/Launceston-St. Helens - 1st October 2002.
(Steven Haby, Lourie Smit)

SECRETARY, AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF TIMETABLE COLLECTORS: STEVEN HABY,

P.O. Box 18049, Collins Street East, Melbourne, Vic., 8003. (03) 9898 9724.

"TABLE TALK" EDITOR: ALBERT ISAACS,

Unit 5 Whitehall, 22 Burwood Rd., Hawthorn, Vic., 3122. (03) 9819 5080.

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT: Graeme Cleak.

A.A.T.T.C. INTERNET HOME PAGE: <http://www.aattc.org.au>

A.A.T.T.C. EMAIL: aattc@ozemail.com.au

Copyright conditions apply to the reproduction of these contents.

Membership of the A.A.T.T.C. includes monthly copies of both The Times and Table Talk as well as copies of the monthly Distribution List of T.T.s. The membership fee is \$45.00 pa. Membership enquiries should be directed to the MEMBERSHIP OFFICER, DENNIS McLEAN, 53 Bargo St., Arana Hills, Qld., 4054. (07) 3351 6496.