



TABLE TALK

February 2006, Number 163

RRP \$2.95

ISSN 1038-3697

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Max Express operated a non-stop service between Toowoomba and Brisbane from May 2005 until, sadly, Sunday 29 January 2006, when due to rising costs and competition the service ceased. Max Express was a joint venture between the McCafferty and Nesbitt families.

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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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Membership of the AATTC includes monthly copies of *The Times*, *Table Talk*, the distribution list of TTs and the twice-yearly auction catalogue. The membership fee is \$50.00 pa. Membership enquiries should be directed to the Membership Officer: Dennis McLean, PO Box 24 NUNDAH, Qld 4012, - (07) 3266 8515.

You Wrote...

The January and February Distribution Lists include several interesting items from South East Queensland. Barry Blair obtained them during a trip to the Gold Coast around Christmas time. Barry has a keen interest in timetables as an effective information and marketing medium for public transport Barry tells this story about what he was able to obtain during his holiday.

Before leaving on the trip, I phoned Gold Coast City Council to find out where I would be able to obtain timetable information. I asked all the relevant/appropriate questions I normally ask, but I got the absolute run-around - shunted into a disused siding as it were. Both Town Planning and Major Projects said I'd be better off 'looking up the web'. I'd already done that! All I was trying to do was save boot leather, time, fuel, tyre rubber, and so on. On the overall trip I managed to scrounge public transport information brochures at Toowoomba, Gold Coast and Lismore.

At Toowoomba the female counter attendant at **Greyhound** 'didn't want to know me' - couldn't understand what I wanted. She offered to photocopy what I'd already 'pinched' and hidden in a brochure.

Disappointing that **Sunbus** in Toowoomba doesn't have a physical presence at the bus interchange [although such a facility is available for operators – Editor]. You need to write/email them for

details of the Kan-go bus service - they were out of timetables.

Most buses operated by **Sunbus** in Toowoomba are very old and decrepit [formerly from **Hagan's Citybus**] - but at least they look reasonable with a fairly new coat of paint. The bus operating the Kan-go service was a relatively new Mercedes as depicted in the standard timetable

At Tweed City Shopping Centre I was taken aback when asked for 20c a copy for **Surfside** timetables that I'd just helped myself to (three only). "They charge 20c a copy", I was abruptly informed by the 'customer service' female wearing a blouse marked 'SECURITY!' I politely declined, saying there was no price marked on them and that nowhere else had I been asked to pay. According to her, some of **Surfside** timetables apparently do attract a 20c charge, a green series. But I didn't see any.

Arriving at Lismore at about 1600 on Saturday I managed to obtain some **Kirklands'** timetables from their service 611 about to depart for Ballina.

To sum up matters, I was able to scrounge 10 or more of some goodies, while lucky enough to locate only one or a few of others. (Barry Blair)

Geoff Lambert noted the following item in the *Sydney Morning Herald's* "Stay In Touch" column on 19 January 2006 and poses the question: Who is our man in timetable land?

"GOING NOWHERE

Sydney, it appears, is awash with phantom buses (*SIT*, Tuesday). You see them on the printed timetable, you see them on the timetable at the bus stop, but, alas, you never see *them*. At other times, it looks like a bus, it smells like a bus, but you check the list and there's not supposed to be a bus.

Take the 243 from Wynyard to Cremorne at 9.07am on Saturdays. Ha. You can't, right? Because it doesn't run. It exists in the printed

timetable only. At the end of Saturday, the last listed bus to Cremorne is at 5.07pm. But if you miss it, hang about. There's a phantom at 6.07pm that is norm the printed timetable, but is listed at the bus stop

Then, on Sundays, the 245 bus from Wynyard to Cremorne leaves at 5.58pm, but you'd never know- it's not in the printed timetable. It has to run, though, says Our Man in Timetable Land, because phantom bus and phantom driver must get to Cremorne in time to do a service to the wharf there.

As one reader noted, perhaps they're all off to that phantom suburb called "Not In Service".

General News

Australia

Qantas may dump the loss-making international leisure carrier **Australia Airlines** later this year, according to an article in *The Australian Financial Review* (Friday 27 January 2006). The plan also involves flying its low-cost subsidiary Jetstar on International routes in early 2007. **Qantas** is expected to announce the plan when it reveals the first routes to be flown by **Jetstar** in May. (Tony Bailey)

Sydney & New South Wales

The Liverpool – Parramatta **Transitway** carried a record 39,000 people in the first week of August however it would continue to run at a loss for a further two years due to buses using diesel rather than LPG. Since 2003 the **Transitway** had incurred losses of \$8m and it is likely to be cuts to some services. (*Transit Australia*, December 2005)

Sydney Ferries issued a new fares brochure dated 3 January 2006 as a one sided DL sized flyer. (Adrian Dessanti)

Westbus on 3 October 2005 came out of voluntary liquidation and was handed over to new owners Cabcharge and ComfortDelGro after eight months being managed by administrators. (*Transit Australia*, December 2005)

Parramatta Mayor David Borger has proposed a light rail line along the Parramatta River specifically the Duck River corridor from Parramatta to Bankstown. The Minister for Transport John Watkins responded by stating that the plan would only be considered once the current transport problems in Sydney had been solved. (*Transit Australia*, December 2005)

Various NSW country railway lines have a unsettled future including the Kandos – Mudgee – Gulgong line due to track condition and the Binnaway – Gwabegar line has been recently closed despite \$2m being spent on track improvements. The NSW Farmers' Association and the Grain Growers Association have joined forces to secure the future for many branch lines in NSW. (*Railway Digest*, January 2006)

Melbourne

There is a **new City Circle Tram** brochure with the date 12/05 on the rear cover. The map has been updated to reflect the recent renaming of Spencer St Station to Southern Cross, and also shows changes that were made to tram routes in the City & Docklands during 2005 (Michael Marshall)

The Victorian Department of Infrastructure has called expressions of interest for engineering services for the Dandenong rail corridor. Work includes the construction of a third track between Caulfield and Dandenong and other associated works. (*Transit Australia*, December 2005)

Metlink have issued a 2006 Fares & Travel Guide, dated January 2006. It is now produced in a 20-page DL booklet format, no longer a fold-up DL brochure. The tram & train network maps have been updated and are included in a fold-out page at the rear. Both have been zoomed-in slightly, and the Information panel at the bottom removed. The latest train map shows the Craigieburn Electrification in 2007 with "Future Roxburgh Park Station" now marked, as well as the Diamond Creek bus connection. Both maps naturally have also been updated to show "Southern Cross (Spencer St)". (Craig Halsall)

Now available at the Met Shop for purchase at \$10 is the 2006 Victorian Fares & Ticketing

Manual, effective January 2006. This 96-page publication is aimed at staff and ticketing agents, and details the various conditions for both metropolitan and V/line tickets as well as concessions. It can also be downloaded for free on the Metlink website. (Craig Halsall)

Adelaide

TransAdelaide will retain 5 "H" class trams for Sunday and public holiday use once the introduction of the new "Flexicity" articulated trams are introduced. Since the upgrade of the track for the new trams there have been a number of derailments and various factors have been attributed to them. (*Transit Australia*, December 2005)

Brisbane & Queensland

Brisbane City Council released a pocket-sized 10 page foldout brochure for the "Nightlink" bus and rail services dated 2 December 2005. The brochure includes a summary of the rail and bus services that are run on Friday and Saturday evenings. (David Hutton)

Public transport patronage in Brisbane jumped 14% due to increasing petrol prices in July and August 2005 compared to the same period in 2004. (*Transit Australia*, December 2005)

To address the increased demand on public transport Brisbane Lord Mayor Campbell Newman announced the following measures:

- Purchase of additional CityCat ferry and 10 additional articulated buses to expand existing services.
- Expand the maxi-taxi services into the Karana Downs, Anstead and Wynnum areas. (*Transit Australia*, December 2005)

The Samford area, on the north western outskirts of Brisbane, bus trial was extended to 23 December 2005. (*Transit Australia*, December 2005)



National

Daylight Overland returns

GSR will commence from 27 February 2006 a daylight "Overland" service in both directions. Indicative times at this stage is Adelaide – Melbourne on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays departing Keswick Terminal at 0725 and arriving Southern Cross at 1840. Melbourne – Adelaide

Significant improvements were introduced to Gladstone bus services from 8 August 2005. (*Transit Australia*, December 2005)

RailCo announced that due to a lack of funds and volunteers the Atherton-Herberton service in the Atherton Tablelands would not continue. Some of the rollingstock and a station building has been recently sold to a new group **Rail Enthusiasts** which has plans to get the service running again. **Railco** is hopeful to operate the Ravenshoe – Tumoulin Service following upgrade of the line. (*Sunshine Express*, December 2005)

Duplication work on the Gold Coast railway between Ormeau and Coomera has commenced and work has also commenced on a third track between Salisbury and Kuraby. Later plans will involve duplication between Helensvale and Nerang that will leave the Coomera – Helensvale and Nerang – Robina as single track. The extension to Reedy Creek is also at this stage single track. (*Railway Digest*, January 2006)

International

New Zealand

- **Metlink** is the new trading name for Greater Wellington public transport and was adopted from 3 October 2005. A green and blue arrow logo has been implemented and incorporates the individual operator names, e.g. Stagecoach. It should be noted that "Metlink" is also the brand name applied to Melbourne's public transport system.
- Proposals have been floated for a commuter rail network in the Christchurch and Lyttelton areas. The plan includes duplication of existing lines and purchase of new rollingstock. The government has been supportive of the proposal from Environment Canterbury and would provide 60% of funding. Agreements need to be reached with **Toll NZ** and **Ontrack**. (*Transit Australia*, December 2005)

services operate Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays departing Southern Cross at 0735 arriving 1810 at Keswick Terminal with an arrival at 1915 on Thursdays. This new TT will require one set of cars and should eliminate late running due to tight turnaround of the cars at Melbourne. It is likely that extra services will run during holiday periods, etc. (Tony Bailey)

Sydney

Over the Christmas period **CityRail** issued a number of holiday TT including Christmas and New Year TT 2005/2006 for the Hunter and South Coast lines.

Special TT were issued for the North Shore line upgrade from 26 December 2005 to 31 December 2005; and Bankstown and Inner West trackwork from 3 January 2006 to 25 January 2006. (Adrian Dessanti)

Interestingly the Bankstown and Inner West TT covered only weekday services when first published but at the time of press no further information was available as to whether an updated TT covering weekend bus replacement services had been released. The TT mentioned that information closer to the date would be released regarding weekend services. (Geoffrey Clifton)

Melbourne

Alterations to Christmas holiday TT

On 17 January 2006 Connex announced amendments to its reduced holiday TT: the 0703 up Broadmeadows and 0758 up Dandenong recommenced. The 0729 up Pakenham and 0740 up Frankston reverted to their normal stopping patterns. Normal weekday peak service TT resumed on 23 January 2006. (Craig Halsall)

Trackwork alterations

Due to ongoing platform works at Southern Cross (Spencer Street) trains on certain lines have been altered. Peak hour Williamstown services (with the exception of the 0710 up) and the 1551, 1649 and 1723 up Broadmeadows will run express North Melbourne – Flinders Street until Friday 24 February 2006. (Steven Haby, Metlink site)

Werribee line services on Sunday 15 January 2006 and Sunday 22 January 2006 were replaced by buses from the first up service to around 0930 due to Regional Fast Rail works at Werribee. Buses ran between Werribee and Laverton and connected with trains to the city. The normal practice of stabling suburban trains overnight at Werribee on Saturday was cancelled and empty cars ran to/from Newport Workshops sidings to Laverton on Sunday morning. (Steven Haby)

Victoria

V/Line Commonwealth Games timetables

V/Line has announced additional services during the Commonwealth Games that are to be held from Wednesday 15 March to Sunday 26 March 2006. Whilst most events are to take place in Melbourne venues, some are to be held in

regional centres (details are available on the official web site).

The extra trains are generally tabled to run express through the suburban area (Traralgon trains stop at Flinders Street and Richmond) then stop at all stations (late night trains set down only).

Proposed additional train services are as follows: (early morning departures are dated the day prior)

Northern:

Melbourne (Southern Cross) to Bendigo:

Mon – Fri ex Wed 15/3: 2300 & 0038 (arriving Bendigo 0054 & 0232)

Wed 15/3: 2340 & 0115 (arriving 0134 & 0311)

Sat 18/3: 1500, 2300 & 0038 (arriving 1634, 0054 & 0232)

Sun 19/3: same as Sat 18/3

Sat 25/3: 2300 & 0038 (arriving 0054 & 0232)

Sun 26/3: 2340 & 0140 (arriving 0137 & 0337)

Melbourne (Southern Cross) to Sunbury:

Sun 19/3: 1540 (arriving 1618)

Mon 20/3, Thu 23/3, Fri 24/3 & Sat 25/3: 2315 (arriving 2352)

Bendigo to Melbourne:

Thu 16/3, Fri 17/3, Mon 20/3 and Sat 18/3: 2300 (arriving S. Cross 0058)

Sun 19/3: 0610 & 2300 (arriving 0806 & 0058)

Sat 25/3: 1530 (arriving S. Cross 1726)

Sun 26/3: 1530 (arriving 1726)

Sunbury to Melbourne:

Sun 19/3: 0712 (arriving 0748)

Sat 25/3: 1607 (arriving 1643)

West

Melbourne (Southern Cross) to Ballarat:

Mon – Fri ex Wed 15/3: 2308 & 0033 (arr 0034 & 0156)

Wed 15/3: 2333 & 0120 (arr 0056 & 0244)

Sat 18/3: 1429, 2308 & 0033 (arr 1554, 0034 & 0158)

Sun 19/3: 1608, 2308 & 0033 (arr 1743, 0034 & 0156)

Sat 25/3: 2308 & 0033 (arr 0034 & 0158)

Sun 26/3: 2335 & 0135 (arr 0102 & 0302)

Melbourne to Bacchus Marsh:

Sun 19/3: 1429 & 1536 (arr 1521 & 1633)

Sat 25/3: 2327 (arr 0020)

Ballarat to Melbourne:

Sat 18/3 and Mon 20/3: 2300 (arr 0027)

Sun 19/3: 0620 (arr 0743)

Sat 25/3: 1618 (arr 1746)

Sun 26/3: 1457 (arr 1623)

Bacchus Marsh to Melbourne:

Sun 19/3: 0640 & 0730 (arr 0732 & 0823)

Sat 25/3: 1540 (arr 1630)

South West

Melbourne (Southern Cross) to Geelong:

Mon – Fri ex Wed 15/3: 0040 (arr 0139)

Wed 15/3: 2357 & 0117 (arr 0105 & 0218)

Mon 20/3 & Thu 23/3: 2300 & 0000 (arr 0005 & 0102)

Fri 24/3: 2300 (arr 0005)

Sat 18/3: 2300 & 0040 (arr 0006 & 0139)

Sun 19/3: 1540, 1640 & 0040 (arr 1646, 1742 & 0138)

Sat 25/3: 2300, 0000 & 0040 (arr 0006, 0102 & 0139)

Sun 26/3: 2338 & 0130 (arr 0046 & 0233)

Geelong to Melbourne:

Sun 19/3: 0625, 0645, 1625 & 2300 (arr 0733, 0753, 1733 & 0003)

Mon 20/3 & Thu 23/3: 1555 & 1624 (arr 1700 & 1735)

Tue 21/3: 2300 (arr 0003)

Fri 24/3: 1555 (arr 1700)

Sat 25/3: 1545 & 1605 (arr 1653 & 1713)

Sun 26/3: 1505 (arr 1613)

North East

Melbourne (Southern Cross) to Seymour:

Mon – Fri ex Wed 15/3: 2310 & 0030 (arriving 0037 & 0148)

Wed 15/3: 2330 & 0113 (arr 0057 & 0231)

Sat 18/3: 2310 & 0030 (arr 0037 & 0148)

Sun 19/3: 1510, 1610, 2310 & 0030 (arr 1637, 1737, 0037 & 0148)

Sat 25/3: 2250, 2330 & 0030 (arr 0017, 0057 & 0148)

Sun 26/3: 2330 & 0130 (arr 0057 & 0248)

Seymour to Melbourne:

Sun 19/3: 0600 & 0642 (arr 0728 & 0808)

Mon 20/3 – Fri 24/3: 1530 (arr 1712)

Sat 25/3: 1520 & 1612 (arr 1648 & 1747)

Sun 26/3: 1520 (arr 1648)

East

Melbourne (Southern Cross) to Traralgon:

Mon – Fri ex Wed 15/3: 2300 & 0040 (arr 0117 & 0252)

Wed 15/3: 2335 & 0115 (arr 0203 & 0334)

Sat 18/3: same as Mon – Fri

Sun 19/3: 1455, 1615, 2300 & 0040 (arr 1716, 1837, 0117 & 0252)

Sat 25/3: 2300, 2335 & 0040 (arr 0117, 0203 & 0252)

Sun 26/3: 2330 & 0130 (arr 0154 & 0342)

Traralgon to Melbourne

Thu 16/3 & Fri 17/3: 2330 (arr S. Cross 0138)

Sun 19/3: 0520 & 0550 (arr 0744 & 0809)

Sat 25/3: 1505 & 1557 (arr 1724 & 1824)

Sun 26/3: 1515 (arr 1728)

Timetables are available from the V/Line Passenger website (Geoff Mann)

Trackwork alterations

Geelong line services were replaced by bus for two weeks from Saturday 14 January 2006 due to Regional Fast Rail works. Warrnambool line services continued as normal and connected with buses at Geelong. ndigo services have been replaced from Monday 30 January 2006 until at least the end of February for signal testing and driver training associated with Regional Fast Rail works. (Steven Haby)

Ballarat line extra train

A new TT has been published dated 23 January 2006 incorporating an additional early morning service to Ballarat. The train departs Southern Cross (Spencer Street) at 0625 and arriving at Ballarat at 0816 after stopping at Sunshine, Melton, Bacchus Marsh and Ballan. Currently the first morning down service arrives in Ballarat at 0940. The additional service is to cater for students and commuters who work or study in Ballarat. Other changes include retimetabling the 1740 up Ballarat coach that now departs 1755 and timing changes to the 0652 and 0712 up Bacchus Marsh services. (Craig Halsall)

Seymour service improvements

From Monday 23 January 2006 extra Seymour services have commenced: ex Southern Cross at 1930 arriving Seymour at 2050 and ex Seymour at 2100 (replacing the Fridays only 2055 up Seymour) arriving Southern Cross at 2219.

New South Wales

On or about 19 January 2006, **ARTC NSW** released its Version 5 of its NSW SWTT. Like Version 4, it is over 600 pages in length. Version 5 is to commence on 29 January, coincident with the commencement of Version 2.1 of the **RailCorp** SWTT. (Geoff Lambert)

International

Europe

More information has come to hand regarding significant service changes that occurred from 11 December 2005 and which have been reflected in the *Thomas Cook* ETT.

International

- Sleeper service between Moskva and Wroclaw (Table 94) has been withdrawn.
- New CNL472/473 Aurora Basel – Kobenhavn – Basel – Zurich via Frankfurt (Table 50 / 73) will now terminate at Basel rather than Zurich.
- The Szczecin – St Petersburg / Moskva (Table 56) sleeper service has been withdrawn and now operates with sitting cars only.

France

- Changes have been made to tables 303, 307, 324, 361 and 362 relating to timings.
- The **Chemin de Fer de la Provence** has changed its narrow gauge TT Nice – Digne service from 12 December 2005. Although these changes are minor it is perhaps significant to note that the TT has remained completely unchanged for many years.

Italy

- Most services have been retimed and several IC trains have been replaced by higher capacity ICp trains which include compulsory reservations. Many IR trains have been replaced with the lower Regional services. A number of overnight services have had their first class accommodation withdrawn.
- Despite the expected opening of the new Roma – Napoli high speed line, timings between the two cities have not changed. The Torino – Novara section of the Torino – Milano high speed line is provisionally due to open on 1 February 2006 in time for the Winter Olympics which will be held in the Torino area.

Spain

- Changes to Spanish tables are chiefly concerned with services to, from and via Barcelona where there has been significant trackwork to accommodate new high speed

lines. Services have been retimed to accommodate this work for trains using the main Sants station.

- A more substantial change has been the reduction in the number of overnight trains between Madrid and Barcelona from two to one each way. Trenhotel 874/875 has been withdrawn and Estrella 370/373 Costa Brava now runs to a revised schedule with additional carriages (Tables 653, 654, 659). The Friday and Sunday night through sleepers have been withdrawn between Zamora and Barcelona.
- In regional services faster “TRD” class trains which are faster and more comfortable have taken over services between Salamanca and Valladolid. (Table 689)

Portugal

- A major TT change that was expected from 11 December 2005 has been postponed until further notice, partly due to concerns of residents from Douro Valley. The change involved the proposed withdrawal of the IC and IR trains on the Regua – Pocinho line. (Table 696)

Norway

- From 8 January the overnight Trondheim – Bodo train departs Trondheim 75 minutes later at 2335. The change enables a new connection with the later 1607 departure from Oslo. The Bodo arrival time is unchanged as station dwell times are reduced en route. No change has been made for the southbound schedule.
- The Trondheim – Mosjoen / Moi Rana sleeping cars have been withdrawn.

Finland

- The usual additional overnight services to the far north for the skiing season have been included.

Greece

- Significant changes have occurred across the entire network with the biggest on the Peloponnisis network where reconstruction work on the narrow gauge lines continue. All Patra, Pirgo and Kalamata (Table 1450) trains now commence from the new station at Korinthos with connections to Athimai provided by the recently opened standard gauge Proastiakos suburban line.
- Buses in addition to those to Nafplio have replaced trains between Korinthos and Kalamata, via the direct route (Argos and Tripoli). These services are now shown in table 1452.

- The overnight train from Athinai to Pirgos as well as the two trains to Lutraki (Table 1455) continue to start from the Agioi Anargiroi station located approximately 5 km north of the main Larissa station. (Tony Bailey)

- A new suburban rail TT was introduced for Auckland on 25 October 2005 with a 25% increase in services including late night Friday and Saturday services and for the first time in 40 years regular Sunday services. (*Transit Australia*, December 2005)

New Zealand



Tram/ Light Rail

Melbourne

Updated timetables

Updated TT for routes 86, 96 and 112 dated November 2005 are on the **Yarra Trams** website in PDF format. Published booklets have been sighted for routes 86 and 112 and route 96 booklet shows "effective January 2006". (Michael Marshall)

Trackwork and other alterations

January has been another busy time for **Yarra Trams**

Route 109

Due to track renewal works at the entrance of the Kew Tram Depot in Barkers Road trams on Route 109 will be replaced by buses between Stop 16 (intersection of Powlett Street and Victoria Parade, East Melbourne) and Stop 58 (Box Hill Terminus). This temporary service alteration will take place from 8pm, Friday 6 January until the last tram service on Sunday, 8 January 2006. (Steven Haby, Metlink site)

Yarra Trams advises passengers that trams on Routes 19, 48, 70, 75 and 109 will run to a new timetable from the first tram service on Sunday, 15 January 2006.

Due to track renewal works on Whitehorse Road, Mont Albert, trams on Route 109 will be replaced by buses between Stop 28 (Kew Tram Depot) and Stop 58 (Box Hill Terminus) from 8pm on Saturday 21 January until the last tram service on Sunday, 22 January 2006.

The replacement bus services will detour around the worksite travelling via Union Road, Mont Albert Road and Elgar Road. (Steven Haby, Metlink site)

Due to the Lunar New Year Festival in Victoria Street, Abbotsford, trams on Route 109 will be replaced with buses between Stop 16 (at the intersection of Powlett Street and Victoria Parade, East Melbourne) and Stop 58 (Box Hill Terminus) from first to last tram on Sunday, 15 January 2006. The bus replacement service will divert from

the tram route by travelling via Hoddle Street, Elizabeth Street and Church Street. (Steven Haby, Metlink site)

Route 86, 96 and City Circle

The Metlink website advised that track works (along Spring and Nicholson Streets, between Bourke Street and Victoria Parade) will require trams on Routes 86, 96 and the City Circle to divert via La Trobe Street. This will take place from first tram Saturday 11 February until the last tram service on Sunday, 12 February 2006.

Part of these works involve replacing the curve at Bourke and Spring Streets, which will be replaced with rubber boot technology which is designed to help reduce the noise generated by trams as they round the curve. This curve is in a deplorable state and has been in need of replacement for some time. (Steven Haby, Metlink)

The Metlink website advised that the City Circle running in the anti-clockwise direction will begin operating at 1100 (later than usual) from Monday 16 January until Sunday, 29 January 2006. This change is due to increased traffic during the Australian Open. (Steven Haby, Metlink site)

Adelaide

Problems have been encountered with the airconditioning on the new "Flexcity" trams particularly in temperatures over 40C [a problem also encountered with Melbourne's new "C" and "D1" and "D2" class trams – Editor]. As a result the trams have needed to be withdrawn for modifications. TT change notices have been distributed advising passengers which services have been substituted by standard "H" class cars. By way of example **Adelaide Metro** advised on Friday 27 January 2006 that services ex Glenelg at 0920, 1035, 1150, 1305, 1420, 1535 and 1650 and ex Victoria Square at 1100, 1115, 1230, 1345, 1501 and 1615 would all be run by "H" class cars. (Roger Wheaton)

National express operators

Firefly Express. Undated but issued late 2005. TT has been published in a new A4 folded format rather than the traditional booklet in previous issues. Times remain unchanged. (Steven Haby)

Sydney

Two revised **Busabout** timetables, effective 5 September 2005, but only advertised as updated on their website in recent weeks:

* 853-854-855 Austral, Bringelly etc

* 867 Casula, Prestons (Adrian Dessanti)

Sydney Buses have issued the following updated and new TT:

- Route 136 (Version 5) PDF format dated January 2006 (Adrian Dessanti)
- Route 139, E65 (Version 4) PDF format dated January 2006 (Adrian Dessanti)
- Route 141, 168, E68 (Version 4) PDF format dated January 2006 (Adrian Dessanti)
- Route 143/144 (Version 5) PDF format dated January 2006 (Adrian Dessanti)
- Route 146, 152, E79 (Version 2) PDF format dated January 2006 (Adrian Dessanti)
- Route 185, L85 (Version 3) PDF format dated January 2006 (Adrian Dessanti)
- Route 233/236/238 Balmoral district (Version 2) dated December 2005. (Adrian Dessanti)
- Route 247 has altered trips commencing from Monday 17 October 2005: one current route 227 AM peak trip from North Sydney to Taronga Zoo is now renumbered as a 247, and the existing route 247 PM peak trip at 1658 ex Wynyard will continue to Taronga Zoo in lieu of terminating at Mosman Jn. (Adrian Dessanti)
- Route 400-410 (Version 7) dated December 2005 (Adrian Dessanti)
- Route 407/408 Burwood – Strathfield/Flemington (Version 2) dated 4 December 2005. (Norbert Genci)
- Route 422 (Version 9) dated December 2005 (Adrian Dessanti)
- Route 423, L23 (Version 10) dated January 2006 in PDF format (Adrian Dessanti)

- Route 428, L28 (Version 10) dated January 2006 in PDF format (Adrian Dessanti)
- Route 441/442 (Version 3) effective January 2006. The wheelchair symbol has been used to denote wheelchair accessible trips rather than the “a” symbol. (Len Regan)
- Route 462-464/466 Ashfield – Cabarita/Mortlake (Version 2) dated 4 December 2005. (Norbert Genci)
- Route 480/483 Strathfield – City via Ashfield (Version 9) dated 4 December 2005. (Norbert Genci)
- Route 513 (Version 6) in PDF format dated January 2006 (Adrian Dessanti)
- Route 515 (Version 6) in PDF format dated January 2006 (Adrian Dessanti)

New South Wales country

Newcastle Buses have updated the following website TT in PDF format:

- Route 201 (Version 4) dated December 2005 (Adrian Dessanti)
- Route 222/230/231/235 (Version 6) dated November 2005 (Steven Haby)
- Route 224/225 (Version 9) dated December 2005 (Steven Haby)
- Route 310/311 (Version 7) dated December 2005 (Adrian Dessanti)
- Route 317 (Version 7) dated December 2005 (Adrian Dessanti)

Green’s route 2 now operates Wollongong – Clifton – Stanwell Park via Seacliff Bridge and a new timetable commenced 11 December 2005. Quite a few changes mostly just extending the services that used to go to Stanwell Park back through. This has been made possible by the opening of the Seacliff bridge about that date and will also replace the temporary route 14 Helensburgh-Coalcliffe which operated the northern part of the route while the Lawrence Hargraves Drive was closed. (Dean Jones, Lourie Smit)

Holiday Coast Connections. A new operator with a A4 TT dated 1.11.2005 for their Kempsey - Newcastle service which operates on a day return basis Mon-Sat. Kempsey is ex 0700 arriving Newcastle railway station at 1200 with request stops at Uni and John Hunter Hospital. Departure is 1315 from Newcastle station arriving back in Kempsey at 1755. (Steven Haby)

Port Stephens Coaches have introduced a new TT dated 5 December 2005. (Len Regan)

Brisbane & Gold Coast

Brisbane City Council released new TT for the following routes all in TransLink format

- 100 Forest Lake to City cityxpress; 110 Inala to City cityxpress; 115 Calamvale to City cityxpress. Most Monday to Friday 110 and 115 services departure time and/or intermediate passing time adjustments, both inbound and outbound.
- 112 (Mt Gravatt Campus – City); 113 Mt Gravatt Central – City; 114 Holland Park West – City dated 26 July 2004
- 117 Acacia Ridge to City all stops; 121 Salisbury to City cityxpress (Note that they still have this as a cityxpress when it should be a rocket); 124 Sunnybank to City all stops; 125 Garden City via Salisbury to City all stops. Timetables have been completely revamped - very few services have the same times as previously: the Nathan terminus for the 124 service has been discontinued; buses to and from Garden City will always be Route 125 services; Monday to Friday early morning and evening services all days are now Route 125 services not 124; an hourly 125 service has been added on Sundays so that Ipswich Road has a half-hourly Sunday service (hourly 124 + hourly 125)
- 119 Garden City to City rocket; 120 Garden City to City cityxpress. Three extra morning short-run 120 services to the Queen Street Bus Station leaving Salisbury East at 0744 and Tarragindi at 0814 and 0828.
- 129 Algester to City rocket; 130 Algester to City buz; 131 Algester to City rocket; 132 Algester to Garden City local; 133 Sunnybank shuttle; 136 Algester city precincts. Extra 130 service (M-F) leaving Parkinson at 0555 to Queen Street Bus Station arriving at 0638
- 140 Browns Plains to City cityxpress; 141 Browns Plains to City rocket; 142 Browns Plains to City rocket. Inbound 142 services from Greenbank RSL no longer travel via Browns Plains Plaza "A"
- 210/211 Cannon Hill – City; 212 Carindale – City dated 26 July 2004
- 214 Cannon Hill to City cityxpress; 215 Carindale to City cityxpress; 216 Tingalpa to City rocket; 220 Wynnum to City cityxpress; 221 Wynnum to City rocket. Inbound 220 services (M-F) leaving Wynnum at 0904 and 1510 adjusted to leave at 0911 and 1513 respectively. Outbound 220 services (M-F) leaving City at 0800 and 1410 have travelling time adjusted to arrive at Wynnum 8 minutes later and 3 minutes later respectively
- 307 Toombul – Northgate East loop dated 26 July 2005
- 310/315 dated 1 August 2005 (David Hutton)
- 320 Wavell Heights – City dated 1 February 2005
- 321 Kalinga – City dated 1 February 2005
- 323/923 Spring Hill – City dated 4 October 2005
- 328 College – Green dated 4 October 2004
- 334 Kedron – City dated 26 July 2004
- 336/337 Chermside loop dated 27 July 2004
- 346 Aspley – City; 353/356 McDowall – City dated 1 August 2005
- 350 Albany Creek to City cityxpress; 351 Albany Creek to City rocket; 355 Albany Creek to City cityxpress; 357 Brendale and Eatonvale to City cityxpress; 359 Albany Creek to City cityxpress dated 27 July 2004. Additional outbound (M-F) 357 service from Elizabeth Street at 1455. Outbound (M-F) 359 service from Elizabeth Street no longer travels to Eatonvale during school terms and travelling times have been adjusted for this service to arrive 8 minutes later at Albany Village.
- 372/373 Ashgrove – City; 365-366 Ashgrove loop dated 26 July 2004
- 374 Paddington – City; 375 Bardon – City; Stafford – City dated 26 July 2004
- 390 Mitchelton – City dated 26 July 2004 (David Hutton)
- 380 between Centro Toombul and the Direct Factory Outlet (DFO) at Airport Drive was introduced from 10 October 2005. Running as a loop service it incorporates the aviation precinct and runs daily from 0900 to 1430 every 30 minutes. A DFO staff service departs DFO at 1817. Route 304 was also extended to service the DFO. Since opening in September the DFO has caused significant traffic jams (a similar experience occurred in Melbourne) and even caused light flights due to delayed passengers. (*Transit Australia*, December 2005)

Hornibrook Bus Lines have updated their 680 Redcliffe to Brisbane City link. There are: only 6 morning and 3 afternoon inbound (M-F) services go to the City, all others terminate at Chermside; only 4 morning and 3 afternoon outbound (M-F) services commence from the City, all others

commence at Chermside; (M-F) inbound services increase from 15 to 27 per day with half hourly service between 0748 and 1548 and then 1622 to 1922; (Sat) inbound services increase from 7 to 11 (hourly service between 0640 and 1640) but all terminate at Chermside; (Sun) inbound services increase from 4 to 10 (hourly service between 0740 and 1640) but all terminate at Chermside; (M-F) outbound services increase from 15 to 24 per day with half hourly service between 0940 and 1535 and then hourly; (Sat) outbound services increase from 7 to 11 (hourly service between 0839 and 1839) but all commence at Chermside; (Sun) outbound services increase from 4 to 10 (hourly service between 0939 and 1839) but all commence at Chermside. (David Hutton)

Connex

New TT have been issued in TransLink format for the following routes and are all dated 12 December 2005:

- 240 (Capalaba to Wynnum all stops) & 241 (Wakerley to Chandler all stops)
- 253 (Capalaba to Thorneside all stops) & 254 (Capalaba to Wellington Point link all stops)
- 256, (Cleveland Point to Redland Hospitals all stops) & 258 (Ormiston to Toondah Harbour via Cleveland link, all stops)
- 263 (Capalaba to Sheldon all stops); 264 (Capalaba to Alexandra Hills via Maridale Park all stops) & 265 (Maridale Park to Brisbane limited stops)
- 266, (Capalaba to Alexandra Hills all stops) & 267 (Alexandra Hills to Brisbane limited stops). (Lourie Smit)

Surfside Bus Lines have updated the following TT in TransLink format:

- 18 Southport – Pacific Fair; 18A Southport – Molendinar dated 13 December 2004. (David Hutton)
- 738 Pacific Fair – Harbour Town dated 13 December 2004 (formerly route 18B). (David Hutton)

Queensland country & regional

Max Express which operated three return Brisbane – Toowoomba services on weekdays and two on weekends ceased operation on Sunday 29 January 2006 after operating for little over 6 months. Rising competition and costs were attributed to the sudden closure that was announced on Friday 27 January 2006. **Max Express** was a joint operation between the McCafferty family and the Nesbitt family from Adelaide. (Steven Haby, Len Regan)

Greatway Coaches, based in the Toowoomba suburb of Wilsonton, now operates the “cross country” Gympie to Toowoomba service previously operated by **Polley’s Coaches**. A folded A4 size TT been issued dated 4 July 2005 and has a photograph of one of their coaches (originally from **Hussey** of Deniliquin, NSW) on the cover. A daily weekday return service is operated between the two cities with a 0600 departure ex Gympie which arrives in Toowoomba (at the Neil Street bus interchange) at 1020. The return service departs Toowoomba at 1600 arriving back at Gympie at 1815. On Sundays an unbalanced service operates one way from Gympie to Toowoomba with an afternoon departure ex Gympie at 1400 arriving at Toowoomba at 1840. The Editor assumes that this service may be to swap coaches over each week. Travel restrictions are in effect between Crows Nest and Toowoomba that is also served by **Kynoch Coaches**. (Steven Haby)

Kynoch Coaches has issued an updated TT, dated 1 January 2006, for their Toowoomba to Cunnamulla and Ridge Services. The TT is a folded A4 size printed on glossy paper. Services to Cunnamulla operate from Toowoomba on Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays departing at 1030 and arriving at Cunnamulla at 1945. The return service departs Cunnamulla the next morning at 0645 arriving back in Toowoomba at 1600. The Lightning Ridge service operates twice weekly on Mondays and Thursdays departing Toowoomba at 1030 and arrives in Lightning Ridge at 1900. The return service departs Lightning Ridge the next morning at 0700 and arrives back in Toowoomba at 1530. A connection to Thallon is provided via **Greyhound’s** 495/496 services. Both services travel via St George. (Steven Haby)

A weekday commuter service between Toowoomba and Crows Nest, 44 km north on the New England Highway, is operated by **Kynoch Coaches** and they have published an updated TT dated 3 January 2006. In addition to this service they have introduced a hail and ride town service within Highfields, about 20km from Toowoomba on the Crows Nest service which is shown on the TT. There are two routes – North and South with 5 services operated on the hour from 0900 to 1500 with a break for lunch. One bus is needed for the service. (Steven Haby)

Melbourne

Further Christmas and New Year holiday TT have come to light including:

- **Melbourne Bus Link** which were operating summer holiday TT from 28 December 2005 to 21 January 2006 on all routes. Coloured A4 sized TT were available. (Bradley Matthews)

- **Reservoir Bus Company** also ran special holiday TT for all their routes from 26 December 2005 to 21 January 2006. Photocopied A4 TT were issued. (Bradley Matthews)
- **Kastoria Bus Lines** ran holiday TT for all routes from 26 December 2005 to 22 January 2006. (Bradley Matthews)
- **Dyson's** ran holiday TT on their route 513 Eltham – Glenroy from 28 December 2005 to 29 January 2006. (Bradley Matthews)
- **Tullamarine Bus Lines** ran holiday TT on all routes from 25 December 2005 to 21 January 2006. (Bradley Matthews)

Cardinia Transit have undertaken a significant revamp of services in the Berwick and Pakenham area including the introduction of new services:

- Routes 837 & 839 Berwick Nth - Berwick Sth: Route 839 trips on weekdays now depart from Berwick station between route 837 trips (i.e.: 20 mins earlier/later) rather than at the same time. This provides a more frequent service in the common section of route. Trips start earlier & finish later. New timetable dated 30th January, 2006. in Grenda Orange & white DL format.
- Route 840 Berwick - Narre Warren Circle Route: Minor changes, with new timetable dated 30th January, 2006. in Grenda orange & white DL format.
- Route 926 Pakenham to Fountain Gate & Routes 927/928/929 Pakenham Town Centre: New routes. 926 replaces 826 east of Pakenham, and also runs via Lakeside Estate. 926 runs via Station Street, Main Street, Henty Street, McGregor Road, Duncan Drive, Princes Highway, Lakeside Boulevard, Oaklands Way, La Trobe Avenue, Barwon Drive, Shearwater Drive, Blackwood Drive, Arbour Rise, The Circuit, Waterford Rise, Lakeside Boulevard, Princes Highway, Overland Drive to Fountain Gate Shopping Centre. The route runs a longer span of hours than the former 826 service, with services until 2000. An hourly Saturday service is also now provided, with hourly services 0800 - 2130. Routes 927, 928 & 929 are designed to serve different parts of Pakenham from the station (927 North, 928 South & 929 East). Hourly services are provided from 0630 – 1930 weekdays and 0800 - 1300 on Saturdays. Combined Timetable dated January 30 2006 in orange Metlink DL format. (Craig Halsall)

Driver have reprinted their 627 TT in the Metlink standard format dated December 2005. From 6 November 2005 to 5 February 2006 **Driver** is

operating a trial bus service on Sundays around the City of Booroondara titled "B-Link". A DL sized brochure with map has been published which is also available from the Foundation Booroondara website. A separate fare structure operates and the service runs on the hail and ride principle. Chadstone, Camberwell shops and Holmesglen station are included on the route. (Craig Halsall)

Dyson's have reprinted their 563 (Greensborough - Northland) timetable in the new Dyson TT format, still dated 28 April 2004. (Craig Halsall)

Invicta made some minor timing adjustments for their route 670 with the 0555 ex Kent Avenue departing now at 0550 and arriving at Ringwood station at 0600 effective from 19 December 2005. Route 665 was changed sometime in November 2005 with services departing Dandenong at 3 and 33 minutes past the hour to coincide with train connections. The TT was updated on the Metlink site. (Craig Halsall)

Ventura's Smart Bus TT for route 700 Box Hill - Mordialloc (timetable no. 35) has been reprinted in Metlink pocket sized format but is still dated 14 June 2005. Trips to and from Chelsea are now shown on the weekday TT and train connections are shown for Chelsea, Mentone, Oakleigh and Box Hill stations. (Bradley Matthews)

Moorabbin Transit as an interim measure have inserted addendum slips into their TT for route 708 Mordialloc – Chelsea Heights dated 12 July 2004. The slips show the additional 1835 and 1902 trips ex Mordialloc and connecting trains. However further additional school day services at 0758 Chelsea Heights - Southland, 1515 Mentone - Chelsea Heights. Later evening trips to Chelsea Heights are now rostered as extensions of existing trips. 1700 Hampton - Carrum now leaves Mordialloc 7 mins later, to connect with 1757 train arrival from City. New timetable dated 30th January, 2006, orange Metlink DL format. There is an error in 708 timetable shows no info regrading day(s) of operation or direction of travel above the timetables. (Craig Halsall)

Skybus have released an updated DL size leaflet for their Melbourne – Tullamarine airport service dated 14 November 2005. On the cover services are referred to as running every 10-15 minutes daily (instead of every 15) although the timetable on the rear shows trips departing every 15 minutes from 0600 to 2200. Increased fare prices are also shown. (Craig Halsall)

Rather than releasing a new TT booklet for their improved route 685 Chirnside Park – Lilydale – Healesville services **McKenzie's** are adding stickers over the weekend TT in the current July 2005 TT. The new TT is shown in the Metlink style format. Timetables on the Metlink website were also updated. The improved Saturday service

commenced from 3 December 2005. (Craig Halsall)

As in recent years **Grenda's** are operating additional trips to/from Cheslea on their route 888/889 from 3 December 2005 to end April 2006. The slightly longer operating times is the result of the Term 1 school holidays ending 26 March 2006 due to the Commonwealth Games. Trips are shown in the printed TT. (Craig Halsall)

Two bus routes in the City of Greater Dandenong initially funded by the Council are under threat following refusal of the State Government to fund them. Routes 801 and 803 operated by **Grenda's** operate on Saturday evenings and all day Sundays and service various community facilities in the city including libraries, recreational centres as well as shopping centres and railway stations. The State Government's response to the Council's claim is that they need to address transport priorities in fast growing areas – ironically which include the City of Greater Dandenong. (*The Age* 10 January 2006, Steven Haby, Geoff Lambert)

Other new **Grenda's** TT are as follows:

- Routes 827/828 Hampton - Berwick/Berwick Station: Route 826 withdrawn and replaced by additional 828 trips (to Berwick Station) & new Cardinia Transit Route 926. New late trips on Friday & Saturday evenings between Dandenong & Berwick Station via Fountain Gate Shops to around 2130. As of the new timetable, Cardinia Transit runs no services. Timetable dated January 30 2006 in orange Metlink DL format.
- Routes 830/831 Frankston - Dandenong: The last two route 831 trips from Frankston on weekdays will no longer run via McCormicks Rd. This area is now serviced by the upgraded route 832. New timetable not yet sighted. (Craig Halsall)

Additional trips to/from Worri Yallock and Warburton on **Martyr's** route 683 Chirnside Park – Lilydale – Warburton commenced from 5 December 2005. On weekdays additional trips are scheduled from Worri Yallock to Chirnside at 1144, 1304 and from Warburton at 1940. Trips from Chirnside Park are scheduled at 1105 and 1225 to Woori Yallock and 2040 to Warburton. On Saturdays an extra round trip runs 1940 ex Warburton and 2040 from Chirnside Park. (Craig Halsall)

Peninsula Bus Lines have made a number of TT changes including:

- Route 773 dated 30 January 2006 with minor changes. (Craig Halsall)
- Routes 768/769/770/771/777 Frankston - Karingal Hub SC - Langwarrin: 768 is a new

service to/from Karingal Hub to Langwarrin that Connects with Route 770 at Karingal Hub. It operates approx. hourly on Weekdays 0615 - 1900 and Saturday mornings 0830 - 1300. Additional Friday night trip on route 770 at 2110. Two trips operate on weekdays at showing route 777 from Karingal Hub to the McClelland Gallery/Log Hall. Timetable dated January 30 2006 in orange Metlink DL format has been withdrawn due to mistakes. One error is the 770/771 Saturday timetable is headed "Monday to Friday". (Bradley Matthews, Craig Halsall)

- Route 775 Frankston - Lakewood: Minor Changes. New timetable dated 30th January, 2006. in Grenda Orange & white DL format.
- Routes 781 Frankston - Mt Martha, 784 Frankston - Osborne & 785 Frankston to Mornington East: These new routes result in a 20 minute service between Mornington & Frankston on Weekdays, up for 30 min intervals. New route is 785, while significant changes have occurred to 784. 784 now travels to/from Frankston via Young St, Playne St, Nepean Hwy, Shadon St, Beleura Hill Rd, Barkly St, Willisons Rd, Nunns Rd, Strachans Rd, Nepean Hwy, Mornington/Tyabb Rd, Racecourse Rd & Dunns Rd to Craigie Rd. New route 785 runs via Young Street, Playne Street, Nepean Highway, Tanti Avenue, then runs via Tanti Avenue, Barkly Street, Main Street, Nepean Highway, Craigie Road, Racecourse Road, Bentons Road, and Dunns Road to the terminus in Dunns Road at Mornington - Tyabb Road. Mistakes have been found on these TT at the last minute and stocks have been sent back to the printers. (Craig Halsall)
- Route 782/783 Frankston – Flinders/Hastings has been reissued dated 30 January 2006 with minor changes. (Craig Halsall)
- Route 832 Frankston - Skye: Significant changes. Extension of current terminus to Wedge Rd, via McCormicks Rd along to Wedge Rd, Cadles Dr, Brunnings Rd then via McCormicks Rd then normal to Frankston. Services are every 45 minutes on weekdays instead of 60 minutes. Trips start earlier and finish later on weekdays, including a return Friday night shopper trip. Significant improvement on Saturdays with span of hours extended to after 1800. Saturday services still diverted via Botany Park but until 1330 only. Timetable dated January 30 2006 in orange Metlink DL format. (Craig Halsall)

Sita have updated their 454 Sunshine - Sunshine West: Route extended to The Avenue in Sunshine West. Frequency now every 20 minutes services Monday to Friday throughout the day and every

40 minutes Saturday, with new 40 min Sunday & Public Holidays service. Timetable date is January, 2006. Orange Metlink DL format. (Craig Halsall)

Westrans Altona from 30 January 2006 have made a number of amendments to their Laverton area services:

- Changes have been made to route 413 Laverton – Hoppers Crossing and services now run every 40 minutes from 0552 to 1912 weekdays and every 40 minutes Saturdays from 0731 to 1811. Prior to the change services ran hourly. Most trips on 413 start from Footscray as 411/412.
- Route 414 Footscray – Laverton deletes the Laverton South loop. Unfortunately a mistake was discovered in the TT: the 1509 ex Footscray is shown as taking 59 minutes to Roberts St – a distance of 4 km!
- A new route 416 Aircraft – Hoppers Crossing with services running every 40 minutes from 0550 to 1907 weekdays and 0710 to 1747 Saturdays. Most 416 trips operate over deleted portions of the amended route 413. (Michael Marshall)

Victorian country

A new town service for Horsham has been unveiled with Saturday services operated for the first time. **Wimmera Roadways** released a new TT dated 30 January 2006 and two buses are required to operate the six routes. (Steven Haby)

D & J Heard have introduced a new route from Ballarat to Burrumbeet from Monday 30 January 2006. A TT on the Metlink site has to date only been sighted. Services operate Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays with trips ex Ballarat at 0950 and 1400 and ex Burrumbeet at 1012 and



Domestic

Rex has acquired the Dubbo based **Air Link** and its fleet of 9 aircraft. **Air Link** will continue to operate as a separate company however combined services with **Rex** means that Dubbo will now receive up to seven daily return flights. **Air Link** retained the DR flight designation until 27 December 2005 and the following day changed to the ZL designation. **Air Link** in addition to servicing Dubbo also provides flights to Mudgee, Bourke, Cobar, Coonamble, Walgett and Lightning Ridge from Sydney. (Tony Bailey)

1437. Country bus route number 985 has been allocated. (Steven Haby)

Adelaide

Southlink have introduced a new TT for routes in the 205/205F/206/206F/550/565 group dated 29 January 2006. Of interest is that no connections are shown at the Elizabeth and Salisbury stations for rail services (Roger Wheaton, Michael Marshall).

On Friday 13 and Saturday 14 January 2006 **Adelaide Metro** provided a 15 minute shuttle service between Victoria Square and Bonython Park from 1600 –0100 Friday and 1200 to 0100 Saturday.

Perth

TransPerth issued a number of TT improvements including:

- From 28 November 2005 the Yellow CAT service in the Perth CBD was extended to service the western end of Wellington Street. (Len Regan)
- Joondalup Central Area Transit (CAT) service. Operating every 15 minutes between 0800 and 1800, Monday to Friday, Locations along the new Joondalup CAT route include: Joondalup station; Edith Cowan Uni; libraries and various other offices. (Len Regan)

Tasmania

Metro Tasmania have amended West Hobart routes 3 and 4 to travel via Hamilton, Lochner, Newdegate and Mellifont streets to the terminus rather than Hill Street to take effect from 3 October 2005. (*Transit Australia*, December 2005)

Jetstar has confirmed a sizeable growth in flight services at Melbourne Avalon Airport commencing from 26 March. These include:

- An increase from single daily to twice daily return flights between Avalon and Adelaide
- Further growth in Sydney-Avalon frequencies by 4 return or 8 flights per week
- A new daily return Perth service with first flight from 28 March. (Tony Bailey)

International

To meet the increasing demand for international travel to Australia and beyond on the busiest travel day of the week, Qantas Airways has announced that it will add extra non-stop flights between Los Angeles and Sydney, Australia, on Fridays beginning March 31, 2006.

QF Flight 150, departing Los Angeles at 1155., arrives in Sydney at 0930., plus two. Effective with Daylight Savings Time, the flight arrives in Sydney at 0730., plus two (Tony Bailey)

Air Tahiti Nui will introduce a third weekly flight ex Sydney to Papeete from 26 March 2006 and will also operate a weekly flight from New York to Paris. Flight TH will depart Sydney on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays at 0915 and will arrive in Tahiti the previous evening at 2005. These flights will connect later with Air Tahiti Nui's non-stop service from Papeete to New York. (Tony Bailey)

Thai Airways plans to cancel its direct services from Australia to Phuket from 1 February 2006 due to poor passenger traffic. The carrier expects to suspend its three flights a week from Melbourne and Sydney to Phuket dealing a blow

to the setback of the island's post-tsunami tourism revival. The direct Australia-Phuket services were launched last April to support the tsunami affected area, but passengers now must connect through Bangkok to reach the holiday island. Meanwhile, **Austrian Airlines** has been rumoured to suspend its direct Vienna-Phuket services, but has been denied by the airline. (Tony Bailey)

Japan Airlines (JAL) has agreed not to reduce flights between Australia and Japan following a meeting with Tourism Minister Fran Bailey in Tokyo. The airline said it would not reduce in flights in 2006. Media reports recently claimed that **JAL** was preparing to suspend flights from Osaka to Australia's east coast. **JAL** said it had suspended some international flights to other countries due to the lack of profitability on the routes, however, the Australian routes would continue. (Tony Bailey)

Air Canada has announced it plans to commence a daily Toronto-Los Angeles-Sydney service by mid 2007, as a result of "new market opportunities" presented by the expanded Open Skies Agreement for Canada and the United States. (Tony Bailey)



Ferry and Shipping

Sydney & New South Wales

Palm Beach Ferries have commenced a peak hours only run from Bayview Park and Abbotsford to Darling Harbour, commencing Monday 16th January 2006. Morning service ex Bayview Park at 0725 and 0820 arriving Kings Wharf 3 at 0755 and 0850. Afternoon sailings depart 1720, 1810 and 1900. One way trip takes 30 minutes. (Tony Bailey)

Newcastle Buses and Ferries have introduced a new Stockton ferry TT dated 8 January 2006 which interestingly shows a lunchbreak for crews on Sunday. (Tony Bailey)

Melbourne

An article in *Star* (24 January 2006) an inner-western suburbs newspaper outlined forthcoming changes (from November 2006) to licensing arrangements for ferry services to Williamstown. These changes are designed to improve the current level of service offered by a number of operators from Williamstown to St Kilda and the CBD that was described in the article as being extremely poor. The article reports that ferries have cancelled services at the last minute or run up to an hour late. (Steven Haby)

A Short Note...

The Commonwealth Games are less than two months away and already plans are underway to provide additional V/Line services as outlined in Geoff Mann's excellent summary. At the time of press this was the only transport information at hand in regards to the Commonwealth Games. I would be interested to receive contributions from readers in regards to train, tram and bus alterations to regular services in Melbourne and

Victoria in addition to any additional services planned during the duration of the event.

Finally Barry Blair's interesting report on collecting timetables in Queensland and New South Wales is perhaps typical of our own experiences. Please feel free to write and share your own experiences and thoughts on collecting timetables.

Steven Haby, Editor