

TABLE TALK

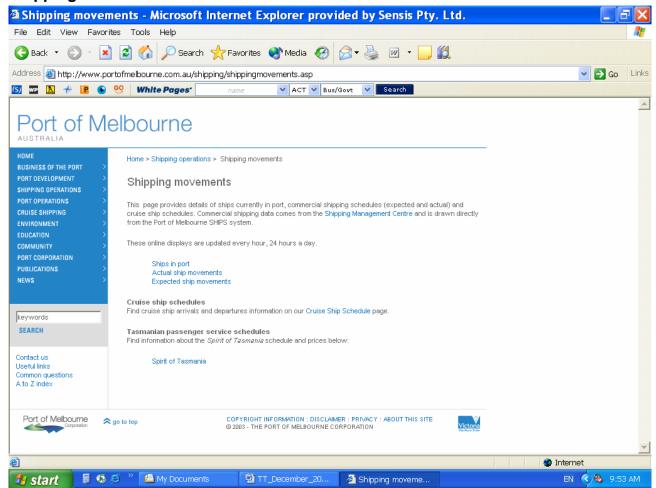
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Shipping schedules at the Port of Melbourne



For those of us interested in shipping movements one traditionally would refer to the daily newspapers under 'Shipping Movements' but there are other options for a more detailed run down of berthings, departures and anchoring. The Port of Melbourne website's Shipping Movements page has information on arrivals, departures and what ships are in port or at anchor in the bay. Information is updated hourly and provides a useful run down on shipping movements for the enthusiast. There is also a separate page for cruise shipping and there are links to websites of famous shipping lines including NYK Line, P & O, ANL and many others.

The URL for the page is http://www.portofmelbourne.com.au/shipping/shippingmovements.asp (Steven Haby)

Table Talk - 1 - No. 173 December 2006

In this issue...

- Auckland goes electric... page 3
- Countrylink's summer timetables... page 4
- Malaysian Airlines opts out of paper timetables... page 12

About Table Talk

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 in *Table Talk* can be submitted to the Editor, Steven Haby.

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GENERAL NEWS

Queensland

Translink opens in Brisbane mall

A Translink kiosk has been established in Brisbane's Queens Street Mall in a move welcomed by public transport users and advocates. (Steven Haby, *Railway Digest* November 2006)

Victoria

New ticketing system 'myki'

Melbourne's much hated Metcard ticketing system is to be replaced from 2007 with 'myki' (pronounced 'my key'). Operating on smartcard principles the credit card style ticket will be deployed not only across Melbourne but state-wide. Essentially the card will deduct an amount based on the time of day and distance travelled. Passengers will need to swipe their cards on entering and leaving the vehicle. Already the new initiative has been roundly criticised in certain quarters with reports stating that fare evasion will be even easier than present. Interestingly fare evasion is most common on certain bus routes across Melbourne with people using concession tickets when not entitled to. (Steven Haby, Transit Australia November 2006)

State election roundup

The ALP was returned to power on Saturday 25 November 2006 and in the Cabinet reshuffle in the last week of November, Lynne Kosky was appointed Minister for Public Transport formerly held by Peter Batchelor as Minister for Transport. The portfolio was split into Public Transport and

Table Talk - 2 - No. 173 December 2006

Roads and Ports. Lynne Kosky was the former Minister for Education. It is believed that this is the first female Transport minister in Victoria.

Other interesting developments came to light in the last week of October including:

- The ALP announced that VicTrack would assume full control of the entire intrastate Victorian rail network from Pacific National and a new regime of 'open access' would be considered. This announcement followed talks with PN that are keen to hand over control of the track and focus on running trains. It has been well documented that the current arrangement, formulated under the previous Kennett Liberal Government has stifled much need improvements to Victoria's rail network such as standardisation. This has led to debacles such as the Regional Fast Rail project and the delay in returning passenger services to places such as Mildura as well as placing the future of many lines, indeed the long term future of rail-freight in Victoria, in doubt.
- The Liberals announced that they would extend the Epping line to South Morang at an unheard of \$12m price tag. This has lead to derision in several circles stating that the Epping line cannot handle any additional capacity due to single-track sections beyond Keon Park and that the \$12m package would be the barest of bare extensions.
- The Liberals announced an extension of the Cranbourne line to Lyndhurst East (probably the old Clyde station) to serve this fast growing area.
- The Liberals announced that they would extend the route 48 tram from North Balwyn to Doncaster Shoppingtown (Steven Haby)

RAIL

International

New Zealand

Auckland opts for electrification

The Auckland Regional Transport Authority's Rail Development Plan for Auckland was released on 12 September 2006 with recommendations including electrification of the network in the medium term and further development in 2012-2015 and decisions made around investment in new rollingstock. The cost of electrification is estimated at NZD \$3.6 billion over 25 years. Proposals on the Swanson to Papakura line would see trains every 10 minutes and would allow patronage to treble to 15.2 million trips per annum. Included in the plan was a rail loop within the CBD of Auckland. (Steven Haby, *Transit Australia* November 2006)

Wellington to get new trains

Tenders appeared in the Melbourne Age newspaper around September 2006 for the design, construction and delivery of new electric trains for Wellington. (Steven Haby)

Overlander gets a reprieve

Following successful lobbying by various interest groups in New Zealand and a significant increase in patronage the Overlander passenger service will remain between Wellington and Auckland albeit on a reduced schedule. (Steven Haby)

National

Great Southern Railway

Timetable update

Timetable for The Ghan and Indian Pacific services has been updated as 'Issue 3 August 2006' which will come into effect 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 (Michael Marshall)

Table Talk - 3 - No. 173 December 2006

New South Wales

CityRail patronage increases

The first 12 months in from the new CityRail timetables has seen patronage increases across the network. Interestingly patronage increases were strong particularly for areas away from the CBD indicating that petrol prices have played a significant factor in the increased numbers. (Steven Haby, *Transit Australia* November 2006)

Countrylink summer timetable

Over summer Countrylink will introduce slower schedules between Melbourne and Sydney on its daylight XPT services. The revised schedule applies from 26 November 2006 to 31 March 2006 and adjustments have been made to Canberra and Griffith services to accommodate the slower XPT running times of the Melbourne to Sydney services to and from Goulburn. The reason for the temporary speed restrictions (or WOLO and that apply only in NSW) are due to reduce the incidence of problems with track buckling in the summer heat and will lead to 'more reliable running'. These restrictions are imposed by the ARTC.

- To compensate for the extended journey time, the Melbourne XPT's departure time from Sydney will be brought forward from 745 to 658. The Melbourne arrival will be 1905 instead of 1855. The northbound service will depart Melbourne at the same time of 830 but arrive Sydney at 2055 instead of 1953.
- The southbound Daylight XPT will depart Sydney in the timetable path usually occupied by the morning train to Canberra. Therefore the Canberra train will depart at 745 and run correspondingly later throughout. This will also affect the Saturday train to Griffith which is combined with the Canberra train as far as Goulburn.
- Because of its later running of the morning Canberra, the return journey the lunchtime Canberra-Sydney train - will also operate later. Interestingly, within the Sydney suburban area, this train will not take the usual route, but the original, longer line via Fairfield and Granville. Presumably, this is a consequence of it arriving during the evening peak period. This deviation will add a few minutes to its journey time (and will add some interest to the journey).
- The Queanbeyan-Canberra-Cootamundra bus connecting to the Melbourne XPT will run earlier (Queanbeyan depart 835 instead of 915), and its return journey operate later (1550 Cootamundra departure instead of 1450). (Steven Haby, Victor Isaacs, *Railway Digest* November 2006)

Queensland

Tilt trains to resume 160km/h running?

Following the submission of a 'safety case' to Queensland Transport, QR's tilt trains could in 2007 resume 160km/h running which would result in Rockhampton services operating on a 7 hour schedule rather than the current 8 hour and 45 minute timetable at present. (Steven Haby, *Railway Digest* November 2006)

Victoria

Daily trains to Echuca in February 2007

On 20 September 2006 the Victorian Government announced that from February 2007 Echuca will be served by a daily service rather than the current Friday evening and Sunday return service. The new timetable will see services as follows:

- Ex Echuca at 0735 (MF), 0715 (Sat), 0910 (Sun), 1615 (Sat), 1715 (Sun)
- Ex Melbourne at 1653 (MF), 0915 (Sat), 1715 (Sat), 0910 (Sun) and 1615 (Sun)

V/Line coaches operated by Dyson's provide up to 5 return trips to and from Echuca. (Steven Haby, *Railway Digest* November 2006)

Table Talk - 4 - No. 173 December 2006

New station for Ballarat – update

As reported in earlier editions of Table Talk Ballarat is to receive a new station around 50m west of the Gillies Street level crossing and is designed to serve the areas of Wendouree, Alfredton and Lake Wendouree as well as outlying townships of Miners Rest and Learmouth. A public naming competition will be held. Construction will commence at the end of 2007 following extensive consultation. (Steven Haby, *Transit Australia* November 2006)

Western Australia

PTA Annual Report 2005-2006

At 30 June 2006 the Public Transport Authority (WA) through Transperth operated 101.7km of track with 59 stations on 5 lines with 186 EMUs in 2, 3, 4 or 6 car sets. Over 5,000 services are operated weekly. Train km running increased from 7.167m to 8.138m with an 4.8% increase in fare paying passengers and overall an 4.6% increase in patronage. (David Whitford)

Spring TransWA Avon Valley specials

During September and October 2006 TransWA operated return trips from East Perth to Toodyay and Northam using the AvonLink railcars which are used on weekday Northam – Midland commuter services and thrice weekly Perth – Merredin return services. The objective of the services was for passengers to experience Avon Valley's wildflowers, history and heritage. (Steven Haby, *Railway Digest* November 2006)

TRAMS

South Australia

Adelaide's tram extension to proceed

The South Australian Government has announced that the Glenelg tram line will be extended 1.6km from Victoria Square, the current terminus, to terminate at the University of SA. The route will continue 800m north along King William Street before proceeding west for 200m to Adelaide station then run further along North Terrace for 600m terminating at the Morphett Street Bridge and adjacent to the University of SA.

The Government's justification for the extension is to improve the northern part of the city, which apart from the new university campus, consists of many run down buildings. A number of initiatives are being considered to redevelop the area including relocating some government offices.

In early August an open day was held for the public showing plans and mock ups of the new stops and terminus at Morphett Street. Reports indicated that the public have been overwhelmingly supportive of the plan despite some opposition in certain media outlets to the plan. The plan includes a free city shuttle service between Victoria Square and the new terminus, new peak hour timetables of around 7-8 minutes and new accessible stops at each of the new stops.

To support the plan, two new Flexcity trams will need to be ordered. The existing Bee Line bus route will be replaced as the tram route would cover most of the Bee Line's currently operating territory. Construction is due to commence from May or June 2007 to enable more community consultation. (Steven Haby, *Transit Australia* November 2006)

Table Talk - 5 - No. 173 December 2006

BUS & COACH

NEW SOUTH WALES—SYDNEY

More buses needed

Reports indicate that 1,000 extra buses will be needed to cater for patronage growth and fleet replacement in Sydney and regional areas. There will be 500 new buses alone for Sydney, the Hunter, Illawarra, Central Coast and Blue Mountains. These are in addition to the 505 vehicles announced for State Transit. (Steven Haby, *Transit Australia* November 2006)

Busways

Macarthur Region timetable update

On Saturday 18th November Busways commenced updated timetables for all Macarthur services with better connection to train services for the Macarthur region. Other benefits include a 7 day a week service between Currans Hill and Narellan Town Centre and Sunday services for Blair Athol.

Harrington Park will be serviced by route 894 beginning Saturday 18th November. The current route 896 and 898 have selected trips to Camden.

A new bus route will also be in operation with the introduction of the new 894 service. Buses will no longer enter Harrington Park via Northern Road but will now operate from Camden Valley Way into Sir Warwick Fairfax Drive and then into Harrison Ave and Mason Drive. The new service will take in the newer sections of the Estate along Fairwater Drive and Harrington Parkway.

The new Region 15 timetables are grouped as follows:

- Camden and Warragamba 31, 32 (dark blue)
- Camden and Oakdake 38, 39, 40 (green)
- Menangle and Razorback 47, 49, 892 (brown)
- Claymore, Eagle Vale, Kearns and Minto 878, 880 (yellow)
- Leumeah and Ruse 881, 882, 882B, 883, 883K (dark green)
- Airds, Bradbury and St Helens Park North 884, 884W, 885, 886 (maroon)
- Ambarvale, Rosemeadow, St Helens Park South, Glen Alpine and Blair Athol 887, 889, 890, 891, 893 (sky blue)
- Narellan Harrington Vale with selected trips to Camden 894, 895, 896, 897, 899 (purple)

Route 893 is no longer a standalone leaflet, and is now included in the Ambarvale etc TT. Route 898 peak trips from Harrington Park to Campbelltown direct are now numbered 894. Route 896 now operates full time from Narellan Vale (Gundungurra Reserve) to Campbelltown (selected trips continue to Camden South, Narellan Town Centre or Catherine Field). An updated Macarthur Region Guide has also been issued. (Adrian Dessanti)

Sydney Buses

Timetable updates

The following timetables have been updated:

- 135 Manly Wharf to Manly Hospital via North Head, version 7 effective October 2006 (Norbert Genci)
- 136 137, Manly to Chatswood via Frenchs Forest, effective October 2006, version 7 (Norbert Genci)
- 191, 192, 193 Avalon District, version 5 effective October 2006 (Norbert Genci)
- 201, 263 Crows Nest and Cammeray to City, version 11 effective October 2006 (Norbert Genci)

Table Talk - 6 - No. 173 December 2006

- 243 Spit Junction and North Cremorne to City, version 6 effective October 2006 (Norbert Genci)
- 339, X39 Clovelly to Millers Point, version 8 effective October 2006 (Norbert Genci)
- 370 Leichhardt Dto Coogee, version 6 effective October 2006 (Norbert Genci)
- 415 Burwood to Campsie, version 12 effective October 2006 (Norbert Genci)
- 423, L23 Kingsgrove to City, version 11 effective October 2006 (Norbert Genci)
- 480, 483 Strathfield to City via Ashfield, version 11 effective October 2006 (Norbert Genci)
- 265, 269 McMahons Point Lane Cove/Kirribilli, effective 22 October 2006, version 2 (Norbert Genci)
- 311 Railway Square to City via Elizabeth Bay, effective October 2006, version 9 (Norbert Genci)
- 471, 472 Rockdale to Five Dock, effective 22 October 2006, version 9 (Norbert Genci)
- 505, 538 Woolwich District, effective 22 October 2006, version 8 (Norbert Genci)
- 513 Carlingford to Meadowbank, effective 22 October 2006, version 8 (Norbert Genci)

State Transit review on Victoria Road services

From 10 September 2006 a major service review was undertaken on routes servicing Victoria Road including routes 441, 442, 500 series, L03 to Mortlake, 443 and the Abbotsford-Five Dock and Leichhardt routes using Parramatta Road. Frequencies and routes were changed to adjust for patronage requirements. Some of the changes included:

- L38 Abbotsford Circular Quay now operates during the peaks and no longer on Saturdays
- Route 438 services increased to counter the L38 cuts
- Reductions of route 443 evening trips
- Route 461 which operated during the evenings and Sundays as City Burwood Strathfield Ryde will operate all times to the weekday pattern of City Burwood
- Route 458 now operates 7 days a week
- Route 272 City; V Chatswood limited stop service cancelled
- Timetables adjusted to cater for 20 new articulated buses transferred to Ryde depot
- Morning peak X00 and X06 will now operate as route 500, 506 and 510 all stops (Steven Haby, *Transit Australia* November 2006)

QUEENSLAND—BRISBANE

Brisbane City Council

Funding increase

The BCC announced that an additional \$10-\$12m boost in public transport funding including the purchase of 19 new buses and the retention of 30 of their older buses in the fleet. According to reports the Council had been attempting to source second hand vehicles interstate for some weeks to cater for service improvements. (Steven Haby, *Transit Australia* November 2006)

Timetable updates

The following timetables have been updated:

- Routes 112, 113, 114 effective 23 October 2006
- Routes 117, 121, 124, 125 effective 23 October 2006
- Routes 119, 120 effective 23 October 2006
- Routes 150, 151, 152, 153 (new service Drewvale City rocket), 156 effective 23 October 2006
- Routes 174, 175 effective 23 October 2006
- Routes 184, N184, 185 effective 23 October 2006

Table Talk - 7 - No. 173 December 2006

- Routes 200, N200, 201, 206, 207 effective 23 October 2006
- Routes 222, 232 effective 23 October 2006
- Route 320 effective 23 October 2006
- Route 367 effective 25 September 2006
- Route 397, 398, 390 effective 25 September 2006
- Route 444 effective 23 October 2006 (new Moggill City buz replaces 440/441)
- Route 451 (Sinnamon Park Darra local), 103 (Mt Ommaney to Darra/Inala local) effective 25 September 2006 now in Translink format.
- Route 452 effective 25 September 2006 (David Hutton)

Queensland—Country and Regional

Sunshine Coast service improvements

Two new bus services will soon begin in a \$947,000-a-year boost to Sunshine Coast public transport. Transport and Main Roads Minister Paul Lucas says the major upgrade would keep pace with booming demand for public transport services in the region. From November 27 new Sunbus routes 619 and 629 will boost existing services for commuters, tourists and shoppers.

In October TransLink implemented upgrades to bus routes between Caloundra, Nambour, Maroochydore and Bli Bli; and Parklands, Noosa National Park and Noosa Civic. The two new routes, combined with the previous improvements introduced in October will make it even easier to catch local buses feeding into the main bus corridors, especially in Maroochydore and Noosa.

Patronage figures from July 1, 2005, to September this year show that passenger journeys have increased by 9.7 percent or 125,328 extra trips over the previous period. In the past 12 months alone, 10 additional 55-seat buses have been added to the Sunbus fleet, to increase capacity and improve passenger comfort.

Further improvements to public transport services and infrastructure are also being delivered under the TransLink Network Plan. The Plan includes \$48.7 million over the next decade for public transport services on the Sunshine Coast, adding to an existing commitment of almost \$159 million for new infrastructure. (Tony Bailey, Australasian Bus & Coach website)

South Australia

Adelaide Jet Bus upgrade

In a further upgrade of the Jet Bus services introduced in 2005, through routing of these services to West Beach and Glenelg has been introduced replacing routes 276-278. The following routes will now operate from 15 October 2006:

- C1X Golden Grove Village City Airport Glenelg express from Tea Tree Plaza to City
- C2X Golden Grove City Airport Glenelg express from Tea Tree Plaza to City
- J1 North Elizabeth City Airport Glenelg via Golden Grove and busway
- J1 West City Airport Glenelg via West Beach
- J1A West City Airport
- J1G West Glenelg/City Airport via West Beach
- J1T West Airport City Tea Tree Plaza
- J2 North Greenwich City Airport
- J2 West City Airport
- J3 West City Airport (Steven Haby, Australian Bus Panorama September-October 2006)

Table Talk - 8 - No. 173 December 2006

Further update on AdelaideMetro changes

Further to the article in last month's Table Talk the following is a summary of some other changes that occurred as a result of the 15 October 2006 review:

- Many short workings, e.g. route 201 City Annesley College deleted as covered by the main route
- All Marion Access routes cancelled
- Long established cross suburban routes 650 and 652 which date back to when operated by Worthley; s deleted
- Route 124 in Aulduna replaced by route 140
- Route 138 City Glenelg replaced by routes 130, 132, J1 and 278
- Routes 171/171C City; V Mitcham replaced by routes 172 and 174

A number of new routes were introduced:

- F40 Golden Grove Flinders University via busway, City and Goodwood Road
- M44 Golden Grove Marion
- J7 Flinders University West Lakes
- RZ5/6 Roam Zones in the Holden Hill area from Tea Tree Plaza and Paradise Interchange
- 208 Greenacres Northgate
- 528 Oakden Northgate
- 270 City Mile End Loop (Steven Haby, *Australian Bus Panorama* September-October 2006)

Victoria—Melbourne

Patronage increases

Statistics released by Metlink reported a 6.2% increase in patronage in the year to 30 June 2006. Of particular interest was Werribee where the Bus Association of Victoria reported 10% increases in patronage across some routes. National (Ventura) bus routes along the Eastern Freeway had increases up to 14%. (Steven Haby, *Transit Australia* November 2006)

Melbourne Bus Link

Timetable update

All Melbourne Bus Line routes have been reprinted in standard Metlink orange dated 1 October 2006 except for the route 600, 922, 923 timetable which is dated 19 June 2006. There is some minor changes in the 600,922,923 timetable, mostly during school times and there is also an error - it shows all the times after 6.07pm to last bus from St. Kilda twice. There is also some changes in the route 232 timetable with the pick up/setdown places which now covers the whole route. In all timetables it has the wrong phone number for Melbourne Bus Link! (Craig Halsall)

Peninsula Bus Lines

Timetable update

Route 782 Frankston - Flinders / 783 Frankston - Hastings dated 9 October 2006 in standard Metlink orange. The former two-part map is now combined into one. (Craig Halsall)

Reservoir Bus Co

Timetable update

• Route 562 NE Reservoir – Northcote Plaza effective 1 September 2006 (Michael Marshall)

Table Talk - 9 - No. 173 December 2006

VICTORIA—COUNTRY AND REGIONAL

Ballarat service review continues

Stage 1 of the bus review in Ballarat has seen new services on Sunday and later evening services across most routes on Fridays in addition to selected routes (2, 10. 12 and 15) connecting with the 0620 and 0702 Ballarat to Melbourne trains. For later times a shuttle bus runs from the city to the station. A more detailed review of Ballarat bus services is to be undertaken later in 2006 in conjunction with the City of Ballarat. (Steven Haby, *Transit Australia* November 2006)

Benders Busways / McHarrys

Timetable update

Viclink has released the combined 'Greater Geelong & Lara' booklet for Geelong Transit System services in standard orange Viclink format - similiar to timetables issued for Transit Southwest in Warrnambool and Davis in Ballarat. The timetable is effective 30 October 2006 but does not have individual route maps like the Davis timetable booklet. (Craig Halsall)

Bellarine Transit service improvements

As part of a review of Geelong and Bellarine Peninsula bus routes, new services were introduced for Bellarine Transit routes from 3 September 2006.

Included are:

- 11 additional trips Geelong ¡V Torquay weekdays and 4 additional trips weekends
- New trips from Torquay to Wombah Park (5 weekdays and 4 weekends)
- 10 additional trips Geelong Leopold weekays
- New route 77 loop service (Steven Haby, *Transit Australia* November 2006)

BendiGO bus review

Following on from Ballarat, Bendigo also has a shuttle service connecting with new rail services to Melbourne from Bendigo station to the CBD. All bus services connect with the shuttle from the CBD with 55 round trips on weekdays and 10 round trips Saturdays and 7 on Sundays. The shuttle service is a temporary measure pending a full review of all routes within the BendiGO Transit network. No timetable has been sighted yet for this shuttle service. It is expected that all routes will connect with trains in some way later in 2006. (Steven Haby, *Transit Australia* November 2006)

Western Australia

Bus services for new Southern Suburbs railway

From July 2007 trains will commence operating on Perth_i's new Southern Suburbs railway and as a result TransPerth is conducting a comprehensive review of existing bus services in the Mandurah area. Plans are underway to develop a series of feeder buses to service the stations on the line. Principles successfully oped from the Northern Suburbs line will be used in setting timetables and operating service levels. (Steven Haby, *Transit Australia* November 2006)

Fremantle Nightrider

A six-month trial of Fremantle's NightRider bus service began in October 2006. Services would operate from 0030 Sunday morning until 0430. (Steven Haby, *Transit Australia* November 2006)

Rail replacement bus route renumbering

From Sunday 22 October 2006 Transperth changed the route numbers of train replacement buses as follows: 904 Joondalup; 905 Midland; 906 Fremantle; 907 Armadale and 908 Thornlie (David Whitford)

Table Talk - 10 - No. 173 December 2006

FERRIES AND SHIPPING

New South Wales

"You know the drought's bad..."

The Wymah Ferry East of Lake Hume on the Murray River has been withdrawn until further notice due to low water levels from 23 November 2006 according to the RTA (Tony Bailey)

Queensland

Ferry news

With the introduction of daylight savings and hence new airline tt's new tt's have been issued for ferry services to and from Great Barrier Reef Airport (Hamilton Island). The following changes have been noted.

Cruise Whitsundays issued a new timetable dated "Valid from 29th October 2006 to 24th March 2007". There are numerous minor changes to times but the most significant change is the 2.00pm ferry does not serve Hamilton Island, instead only operating to Daydream Island and South Molle Island.

Fantasea issued a new tt dated Effective 29th October 2006. Again there are numerous minor changes but significantly this timetable has introduced a new early morning service to Long Island (Shute Harbour 6.10, Long Island 6.20-6.35, Shute Harbour 6.55). The midday (off peak?) services have been substantially retimed to suit the new airline timetable and have seen services reduced from 4 to 3. There is now only one ferry a day that operates directly between Long Island and Daydream Island. (Simon Aalbers)

AIR TRAVEL

International

Air New Zealand

Capacity cut to Australia

Air New Zealand is cutting its capacity on New Zealand-Australia routes in reaction to the no-deal with Qantas in the Tasman market. The 11% cut from April 2007 will mean that the abandonment of its codeshare plans with Qantas will leave Wellington Airport worst affected.

April 2007, Air New Zealand will cut its seat capacity in the Tasman by 11 per cent, as a result of falling demand.

Compared with the same period the previous year, the number of seats available between Wellington and Australia will fall by 15%, Dunedin 28%, Palmerston North 15% and Christchurch 7% from April 2007.

The schedule changes will be as follows:

- Wellington Air New Zealand services to Sydney reduce from 12 to 10 per week, to Melbourne from 7 to 5 per week and to Brisbane from 7 to 6 per week
- Dunedin Freedom services to Sydney reduce from 3 to 2 per week and the 1 service per week to Gold Coast is withdrawn
- Palmerston North Freedom services to Brisbane reduce from 4 to 3 per week
- Christchurch Air New Zealand services to Sydney reduce from 14 to 13 per week and Freedom services to Gold Coast reduce from 4 to 3 per week

Table Talk - 11 - No. 173 December 2006

- Auckland - No change in frequency but seat capacity falls by 11% due to use of smaller aircraft to Sydney (Tony Bailey)

Changes in the Pacific

Starting from 2 April 2007, Air New Zealand will suspend its Rarotonga-Papeete-Los Angeles services, as part of larger changes to its Pacific network.

In replacing the Rarotonga-Papeete-Los Angeles route, Air New Zealand has signed a code share agreement with Air Tahiti Nui on four of its daily Papeete-Los Angeles services, which will connect to or from London.

Under the agreement, a weekly non-stop service between Rarotonga and Los Angeles will also be offered. This will be extended to a twice weekly service during the peak April and July 07 periods and potentially during the December 07 to February 08 travel months.

The code share agreement will also provide a non-stop Auckland and Papeete service, operating four times a week. Regular services between Auckland and Rarotonga will proceed as scheduled with no significant change to capacity.

In addition, Air New Zealand will adjust its services between Nadi and Los Angeles. While Air New Zealand will fly three times a week, the other four days will be operated as a code share with Air Pacific (subject to government approval). A daily schedule will also be in place between Fiji and Los Angeles, providing connections to Air New Zealand's services to/from London, enhancing the northern hemisphere's tourism flows into the Pacific.

Norm Thompson, Group General Manager Short Haul Airlines noted that the decision to suspend services was a difficult one given the historical links between Air New Zealand and the Pacific.

"However, we cannot justify retaining our current level of service through Papeete and Rarotonga from Los Angeles. The high costs and low yields make this route unsustainable so we will suspend these flights as from the end of March next year," said Mr Thompson.

Despite the suspension, Mr. Thompson assured that the airline would continue to work with Governments from both countries in monitoring the demand for the route. The airline would also consider increasing capacity or reinstating services if it were a sustainable option.

Air Tahiti Nui Chief Executive, Eric Pommier said, "We look forward to working with Air New Zealand in this new code-share arrangement that will benefit both companies as well as our respective countries. This new cooperation will provide a better distribution of services between New Zealand and French Polynesia and afford convenient and improved frequencies to all of our customers."

A detailed rundown of the Pacific schedule changes (effectively from 2 April 2007) are as follows: *Rarotonga-Papeete-Los Angeles*: three times weekly return service suspended

Auckland-Papeete: four return services per week - Air NZ (two) and Air Tahiti Nui (two) with reciprocal code-share on all services

Papeete-Los Angeles: four times weekly return service – operated by Air Tahiti Nui with Air NZ code on these services

Rarotonga-Los Angeles: weekly return service - Air NZ. Services operated twice weekly during peak travel months, as outlined.

Nadi-Los Angeles: new days of operation for Air New Zealand (Tony Bailey)

Cathay Pacific

Extra flights to Cairns

Tourism Tropical North Queensland has welcomed the expansion of Cathay Pacific flights from Cairns to HK. The carrier said it will add two weekly flights from January 2, bringing the number of Cathay services from Cairns to Hong Kong to six - three direct and three via Brisbane. TTNQ chief executive Rob Giason said: "Hong Kong is an important aviation hub and the direct services offered

Table Talk - 12 - No. 173 December 2006

by Cathay provide our destination with excellent opportunities to grow key European markets." (Tony Bailey)

Malaysian Airlines

E-timetable replaces printed timetable booklets

Malaysia Airlines has introduced its e-timetable to replace the print version effective Northern Winter operations, end-October 2006. The e-timetable is offered to customers through a number of options and is designed to help ease their travel planning needs. It is available in both the downloadable PDF format and online display through the national carrier's corporate website www.malaysiaairlines.com. It can also be viewed through alternative platforms like mobile phones, mini browsers and other wireless devices. Apart from the PDF timetable, which is updated every two months, all other e-timetables are updated weekly.

Malaysia Airlines' Senior General Manager Network & Revenue Management, Mr Bernard Francis said, "The e-Timetable, an important tool that is aligned to the various initiatives implemented under the Business Turnaround Plan (BTP), enhances our customer value proposition. It allows us flexibility and agility in terms of meeting specific customer needs while allowing us to reach more customers as the flight schedules are distributed on a wider scale".

Malaysia Airlines is among the first to allow access to its latest schedules across a variety of different platforms, both direct and connecting options, as follows:

- Downloadable/portable/printable timetable in PDF format
- Online Interactive Timetable integrated with Malaysia Airlines' website
- Downloadable customized applications with automatic data updates for the following platforms:
 - MS Windows OS Desktop PCs and Laptops
 - o MS Pocket PC/Windows Mobile OS PDAs
 - o Palm OS PDAs
- Wireless pull down schedule information for mini-browser-based mobile phones and BlackBerry
- Interactive route map integrated with Malaysia Airlines' website

The complete Malaysia Airlines e-Timetable suite is accessible and downloadable from its corporate website www.malaysiaairlines.com. With the exception of the PDF version, all other applications are interactive, simple and easy to use. The data is updated automatically every week, giving customers the latest information to help them plan their travel itinerary.

"The e-Timetable will also allow Malaysia Airlines to be much more responsive to its customers as it will be able to implement changes faster based on its customers' online trend. The clicks and hits on the e-Timetable will also provide us with greater mobility to launch promotional campaigns particularly during the high seasons and lean periods," added Mr Francis. With the launch of the MH e-Timetable Malaysia Airlines has ceased production of the hardcopy timetable. (Tony Bailey)

Jetstar

Expansion to Japan

Qantas will save around \$40 million after announcing Jetstar will replace services between Cairns and Nagoya and Osaka from next August. Chief executive Geoff Dixon said Australia faced tough competition for Japanese tourists, which he said was being exacerbated by the falling yen against the dollar. Qantas will concentrate on Tokyo which has more business travellers, he said. "Replacing daily Qantas B767 services with Jetstar A330 services between Cairns and Nagoya and Osaka will improve the economics of the route by around \$40 million," Dixon said. "We intend to grow both Qantas and Jetstar in international markets but we must match the appropriate cost structure and style of services in individual markets."

He said while Qantas continues to be a major leisure provider, "it requires a significant business base to sustain profitable operations on some key international routes". Jetstar will operate six times

Table Talk - 13 - No. 173 December 2006

weekly direct between Cairns and Nagoya and twice weekly via Sydney. From September 8, the carrier will also operate four weekly services between Cairns and Osaka. The services will see Qantas group capacity from Australia to western Japan increase by 30 per cent. (Tony Bailey)

Expansion to Singapore

Jetstar has commenced daily flights between Australia and Singapore, replacing the existing Qantas service. It marks the first time Jetstar will operate international services into Darwin and Cairns. The move boosts Qantas Group's seat capacity on the Singapore – Darwin – Cairns route by 10 per cent, while also meeting key Qantas international flight connections in and out of Singapore. The new service will be operated by Jetstar Asia on behalf of the Jetstar brand. (Tony Bailey)

Domestic

Alliance Airlines

This Queensland-based airline commenced 18 return flights per week from Perth and Mt Keith and Leinster taking over from Nickel West from 1 November 2006 (David Whitford)

Skippers

A second return flight on Wednesdays between Perth and Lenora was introduced recently. Services operate on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and twice on Thursdays as part of the State Government's regulated Northern Goldfields network. The additional Wednesday flight is linked with Skipper's Leinster service and allows one Perth - Leonara flight, one direct Leonara - Perth and one to Perth via Leinster. (David Whitford)

OzJet commences WA operation

Newcomer OZjet, whose charter services began in March, has just announced its new service within Western Australia, with flights between Perth and Derby scheduled to commence in February 2007. (Tony Bailey)

QantasLink update

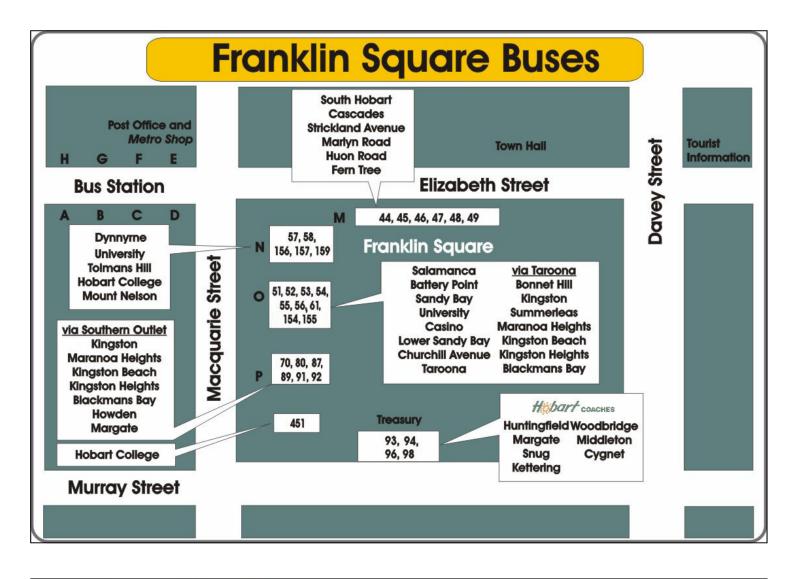
QantasLink has introduced a second daily flight from Cairns to Great Barrier Reef arriving at GBR at 7.45am and departing at 8.05am. There previous service still arrives at 8.40am and departs at 9.00am. (Simon Aalbers)

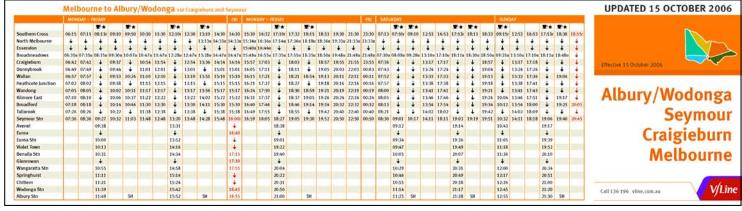
Below: Toll ship, shown departing Webb Dock for Burnie on 28 November 2006

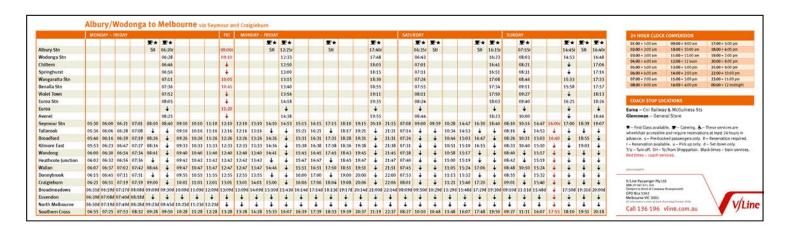


Pages 15 and 16 show some recent timetable imagery

Table Talk - 14 - No. 173 December 2006







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Transperth now has three hydrogen fuel cell EcoBuses in its fleet as part of a world wide trial. Hydrogen buses produce no emissions and by running on a a cleaner, ξ

The hydrogen fuel cell buses are operated and maintained by Path Transit and operate on a variety of routes including the Perth CAT and CircleRoute services.

The EcoBus project is part of the Western Australian Government's internationally recognised work in ensuring sustainable transport energy for Western Australia. Th was recently recognised when it received the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport Outstanding Achievement Award for 2004.

When available for service the H2 Fuel Cell EcoBuses will travel on the following regular timetabled service on weekdays, except Public Holidays, effective Tuesday 25

Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus Timetable

Commencing Monday 11 September 2006 until further notice

Hydrogen Fuel Cell Weekday Timetable (NOT INCLUDING PUBLIC HOLIDAYS)

Route	Time	From	То	Notes
16	1530	Perth - Esplanade Busport	Dianella (Waverley Street)	
19	1050	Perth - Wellington Street Bus Station	Yokine	Deviates via Carinya Village
19	1320	Perth - Wellington Street Bus Station	Yokine	Deviates via Carinya Village
21	1317	Morley Bus Station (Centro Galleria	Perth - Esplanade Busport	
21	1402	Perth - Esplanade Busport	Morley Bus Station (Centro Galleria)	
21	1445	Morley Bus Station (Centro Galleria)	Perth - Esplanade Busport	
55	0804	Bassendean	Perth - Esplanade Busport	
58	1512	Noranda (Widgee nr Dawson)	Morley Bus Station (Centro Galleria)	
60	1650	Perth - Esplanade Busport	Morley Bus Station (Centro Galleria)	
60	1530	Morley Bus Station (Centro Galleria)	Perth - Esplanade Busport	
60	1640	Morley Bus Station (Centro Galleria)	Perth - Esplanade Busport	
66	1614	Perth - Esplanade Busport	Morley Bus Station (Centro Galleria)	Express Service
67	1719	Perth - Esplanade Busport	Mirrabooka Bus Station	
98	0605	Morley Bus Station (Centro Galleria)	Fremantle Interchange	
98	0800	Fremantle Interchange	Morley Bus Station (Centro Galleria)	
344	1735	Morley Bus Station (Centro Galleria)	Alexander Heights (Cromwell nr Avila	
777	0820	Perth - Wellington Street Bus Station	Mount Lawley- Edith Cowan Uni	
886	0724	Alexander Heights (Mirrabooka Ave)	Perth - Wellington Street Bus Station	Citylink - Limited Stop
886	0652	Alexander Heights (Mirrabooka Ave)	Perth - Wellington Street Bus Station	Citylink - Limited Stop
886	1150	Perth - Wellington Street Bus Station	Alexander Heights - Mirrabooka Ave	Citylink - Limited Stop
886	1237	Alexander Heights (Mirrabooka Ave)	Perth - Wellington Street Bus Station	Citylink - Limited Stop