



# The Times

February 2020

A journal of transport timetable history and analysis



## TRAIN TIMES

AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND  
TRAIN TIMETABLES



**Train Maps**  
Australia Map  
NSW Map  
Queensland Map  
Victoria Map  
New Zealand Map

- Timetables
- Links
- Feedback


### Timetables

**NSW/ACT**




- North
- North West
- NSW Intercity
- West
- South
- Nowra
- Goulburn
- Sydney Suburban
- Bus North
- Bus West
- Bus South

**VIC**



- East
- Albury
- Seymour / Shepparton
- Bendigo/ Swan Hill/
- Echuca
- Ballarat/ Ararat/
- Maryborough
- Geelong/ Warrnambool
- Melbourne Suburban
- Stony Point
- Melbourne Trams
- Bus East
- Bus North East
- Bus Goulburn Valley
- Bus North West
- Bus West

**QLD**



- Traveltrain Coastal
- Inlander
- Spirit Outback
- Westlander
- Nambour
- Brisbane Suburban

**WA**



- Kalgoorlie Bunbury
- Perth Suburban
- Bus TransWA

**New Zealand**



- Tranz Scenic NorthIsl
- Tranz Scenic SouthIsl
- Auckland Suburban
- Wellington Suburban

**Others**



- Main Interstate Train Services Summary
- GSR Indian Pacific
- GSR Ghan
- GSR Overland
- Adelaide Suburban
- Guide to NSW TrainLink Services

**Inside: Australia-wide rail PTTs  
Buses in Sydney's East  
Victor Isaacs**

RRP \$4.95  
Incl. GST

# The Times

A journal of the Australian Timetable Association Inc. (A0043673H)

Print Publication No: 349069/00070, ISSN 0813-6327

**February 2020**

**Vol 37 No. 02, Issue No. 433**

**The Times** welcomes all contributions. Our Authors' Guide is available on our web-site at <https://www.timetable.org.au/>  
**Reproduction** Provided a Creative Commons acknowledgement is made, material appearing in The Times may be reproduced anywhere.

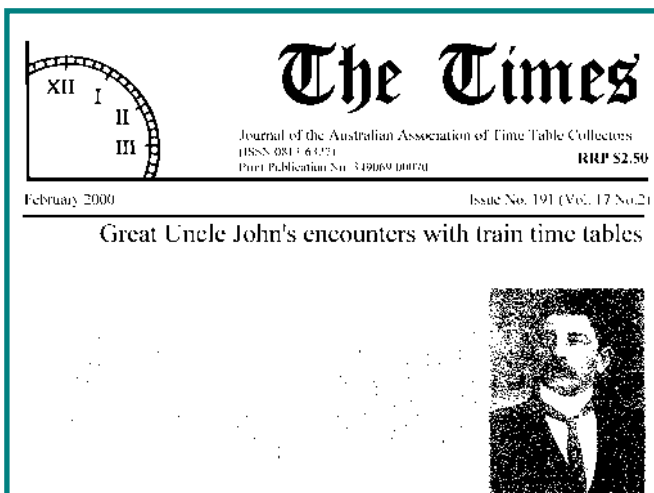
**Disclaimer** Opinions expressed in our magazines are not necessarily those of the Association or its members.  
**Editor** Geoff Lambert 179 Sydney Rd FAIRLIGHT 2094 NSW email: [thetimes@timetable.org.au](mailto:thetimes@timetable.org.au)

*The Times* is posted in full colour to our website <https://www.timetable.org.au/times.html>, two months after publication in paper and to the National Library [website](https://www.nla.gov.au/) 6 months after publication.

## —Contents—

<b>VICTOR ISAACS</b>	<b><u>AUSTRALIA-WIDE PUBLIC RAIL TIMETABLES</u></b>	<b>3</b>
<b>HILAIRE FRASER</b>	<b><u>SYDNEY'S EAST BEFORE THE LIGHT RAIL</u></b>	<b>7</b>
<b>ANHG</b>	<b><u>VICTOR ISAACS</u></b>	<b>13</b>

Between 1983 and 2020, Victor Isaacs made some 231 contributions to The Times, making him our most prolific contributor. There are still a few articles to come. Reproduced below are a couple of extracts from Victor's first contribution during my editorship of The Times. Rather typically, as emphasised by the tribute on page 13, it illustrates Victor's eclectic interest in so many things. His next cover article was—guess what?—on NSW Paper Trains.

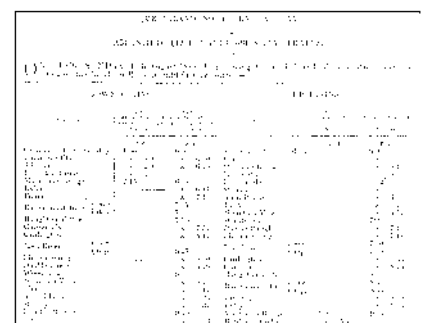


### My Great-Uncle's Train Travels

by VICTOR ISAACS, who says: "Warning: the following is a self-indulgent article!"

For the past year I have been pre-occupied researching the life of my great-uncle, John. This interest, which is commemorated by a plaque at the main entrance to Melbourne's Trades Hall building, became a very generous tribute. What I did not know, except a vague "he had been active in the union movement". Not apparently, did anyone else in the family. Hence there had to be a story, and I set out to find it. I discovered he had an extremely varied and interesting life in Europe, Australia and in South America. The resulting biography has been submitted to (and friendly journals like) *The Times*.

In an earlier article in *The Times* I quoted Jack McFar who said some of the like "railway timetable collectors tend to be either insurance operators, who are fortunate indeed in working





# Australia-wide Rail & Other PTTs

**VICTOR ISAACS**

*This is the final installment of Victor's series of articles on rail PTTs in Australia. This issue of The Times is dedicated to Victor.*

**I**N 1935, THE AUSTRALIAN and New Zealand Railways jointly published a colourful timetable summarising all main railway routes in Australia and NZ. This has only recently come to light in the collection of an American collector – [The Times, [November 2018](#)]. No-one seems to know if the 1935 edition was a one-off venture, or part of a series [we now know that at least two were produced]. The later 1935 edition was well covered in the January 2019 edition of [The Times](#), pages 7 to 12 and 16.

The Thomas Cook Overseas Timetable lasted from 1980 until 2010. This was truly an amazing timetable. It attempted – and succeeded – in providing timetables of all surface transport in Australia and NZ, and indeed all the World outside Europe. After its amalgamation with the European Rail Timetable in 2010 it has continued to cover the rest of the World, including Australia and NZ. But it is now presented in a more summary fashion, and in particular, only covers long-distance passenger trains. It is, however, still a most



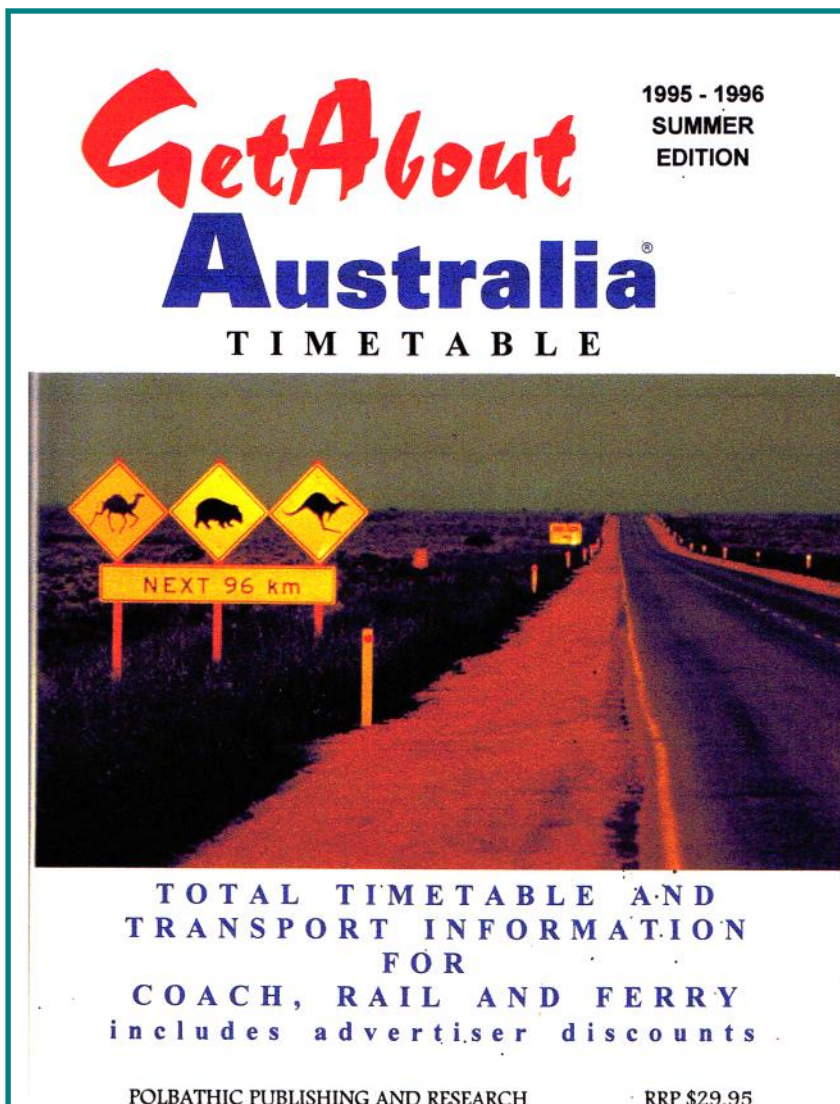
valuable resource!

There have also been various national timetables produced by private individuals.

[Australian Rail Maps](#) is an internet only site. As the name tells us, it primarily provides a collection of high-quality and useful rail maps of Australia. However, it also includes the timetables for long-distance services. It is produced by a former ATA member, but he prefers not to publicise his name.

GetAbout Australia was a very ambitious venture, produced by David Lewis. It seemed to be mainly aimed at the travel industry. It cost a hefty \$30. It was a huge paperback book of 1158 pages. It attempted to cover in great detail the timetable of every public land transport in Australia, however small and to however small a town. It was published in February 1996 (but dated Summer 1995-1996) and only lasted in hard copy for one edition. It is still on the internet, but only as a point to point search function - <http://www.getaboutaustralia.com/index.php>

Travel Times Australia came out at about the same time. It was published by former ATA member Malcolm Simister. It was initially in magazine format, 20 x 27 cm, 96 pages, price \$4.95. It was distributed through the magazine distribution network and was aimed at independent travellers. It covered all surface transport in Australia, rail, bus and ferry, in a very clear layout. The first edition was November 1994, then Winter 1995. The next edition was dated November 1995. It was now in a small size layout, 16 x 23 cm, 112 pages, price \$7.95. The fourth edition was dated



**GetAbout**  
**Australia**  
T I M E T A B L E

1995 - 1996  
SUMMER  
EDITION

TOTAL TIMETABLE AND  
TRANSPORT INFORMATION  
FOR  
COACH, RAIL AND FERRY  
includes advertiser discounts

POLBATHIC PUBLISHING AND RESEARCH RRP \$29.95

April 1996. Sadly, this was the final edition.

Finally there is another attempt at a privately produced national railway timetable. This continues to be published. This is Train Times: Passenger Trains of Australia and New Zealand. It is produced by myself, ATA member Victor Isaacs. It is aimed at use by railfans. It covers all passenger trains in both countries. It includes content that might be of use to railfans travelling, such as distances, heights, opening dates of lines, as well as brief descriptions of lines. It covers the times of long-distance trains in detail. This extends to Working Timetable times, where these are obtainable. Suburban passenger trains and tramways are merely summarised. Since V/Line services have expanded to the extent that much of the network is now like a giant suburban system, these too are just summarised. It also includes, slightly summarised, railway-operated and railway-franchised buses, but not other buses. Originally hard copies were produced, distributed through railfan shops and via private sales. The first edition was published in July 2003. The last hard copy edition was in August 2012. Since then it is kept updated on the internet – see [www.traintimes.net.au](http://www.traintimes.net.au) or use [this link](#) from the ATA website.

Melbourne - Albury - Cootamundra - Canberra - Goulburn - Sydney Table N70

Station	Description	Country		MCC			G&F		Murray		G&F		Transborder		G&F
		XP	XP	MCC	MCC	MCC	G&F	G&F	Murray	Murray	G&F	G&F	G&F		
Starts from															
CLAYTON	Railway Station d														
MELBOURNE	House of Holidays s Spencer Street Terminal s 58 Frieze Street s														
TULCARRINE	International Terminal d														
BROADMEADOWS	Opposite Railway Station d														
CAMPBELLFIELD	Hungry Jacks d														
SEYMOUR	Bus Stop, Highland Caravan Park d														
ELURDA	Shell Roadhouse d														
NAGAMBIE	Valley Hotel d														
SHEPPARTON	North Wynham d														
BENALLA	Nurt Street d														
WANGARATTA	Gateway Motel d														
ALBURY	Warracootie d Railway Station s														
CULCAIRN	Telephone Exchange d														
HENTY	Dales Highway Store d														
THE ROCK	Kings Den Hotel d														
KURANGQUINTY	General Store d														
WOOMARGAMA	BP Garage d														
HOLBROOK	Wesley Bldg d														
TARCUITA	Mobil Roadhouse d														
WAGGA WAGGA	Railway Station s														
FOREST HILL	RAAF Base Main Gate d														
JUNE E	Railway Station d														
TUMBARUMBA	Baiory The Parade d														
BATLOW	Tourist Information Centre d														
ADELONG	Gold Reef Hotel d														
TUMBUIT	National Australia Bank d														
COOTAMUNDRA	Shell Roadhouse s														
YASS	Dpc Tourist Information Centre d Bus Shelter d														
MURRUMBATEMAN	Winery, Macintosh Centre d Street Garage d														
HALL	Cockington Green, O'Haraon Rd d Chandler Street d														
GUNHALIN	Johnson Centre s														
CANBERRA	Railway Station (Kingston) d Railway Station d														
QUEANBEYAN	Railway Station d														
BUNBENDORE	Collector d														
TARAGO	Tarago d														
GURRING	ANZ Bank d														
COON BURN	Ampol Garage s														
NORTH GOULBURN	Wleigh Station d														
MARULAN	Court House d														
BUNDANOON	Carter Garage Quibble s														
MOSS VALE	Fishers Ghosi Terminal, Leaning s BP Garage, Home Hwy d														
BOHRAL	Mcree Street d														
WETLANDS	Railway Station d														
CAMPBELL TOWN	Terminal (Smith Henry) d														
CASULA	General Railway Station s														
INERFOOL	Murray, Circular Quay West s Terminal (Esley, Chubb) s														
YAGOONA	Two Wings Travel s														
PARRAMATTA	Canberra Travel s														
STRATHFIELD															
SYDNEY															
ROCKDALE															
CARINGBAH															
continues to															

ADDITIONAL SYMBOLS: See end of table. For general information about operators, see beginning of table





# SYDNEY - ORANGE - DUBBO

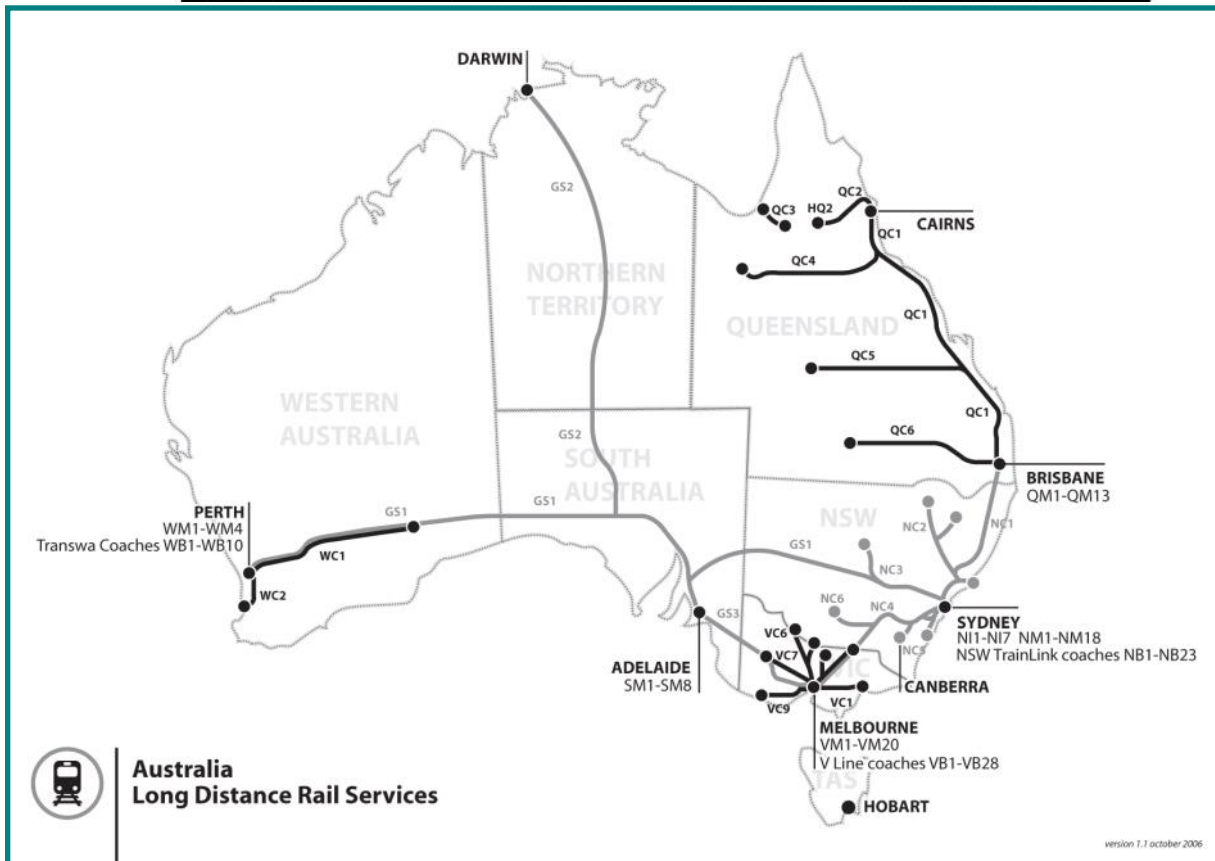
255

Days of operation connecting coach operator	COUNTRYLINK		CITYRAIL TRAIN & ROAD COACH										GREYHOUND		RENDELLS		SELWOOD'S		
	Daily	Fares \$	M-F Selwood	M-F Selwood	Daily Frasers	M-F Selwood	SuPO Selwood	M-F Thomas	SuPO Thomas	M-F Selwood	SaPO Selwood	Fares \$	Daily GX243	Fares \$	61	Fares \$	SO	SX	Fares \$
SYDNEY Central.....	0710	0	0402	0822	1202	1432	1402	1830	1802	1718	1732	0	1835	0	1500		1100	1700	
Strathfield.....	07u21		0418	0833	1213	1443	1413	1811	1813		1743	2	1855						
Paramatta.....	07u33		0429	0844	1226	1486	1426	1823	1826	17u37	1764	2	1920	13	1540		1130	1730	
Penrith.....	07u54		0458	0907	1249	1819	1449	1847	1849		1817	6	2000	16	1610				
Katoomba.....	08u50		0609	1018	1402	1821	1802	1802	1802	1907	1916	12	2045	21			1300	1900	18
LITHGOW..... a	0931	19	0682	1058	1446	1704	1850	1844	1844	1988	2006	19	2110	21	1730	20	1335	1935	18
Change to road coach d			0740	1118	1500		1715		1905		2015								
Wallerawang.....				1133			1730				2030	21							
Mt Lambie.....				1142			1739				2039	21							
BATHURST.....	1041	27	0830	1218	1600		1815		2005		2115	25	2255	21	1830	20	1425	2025	25
Blayney.....	1134	3d	0900						2037		2145	29							
ORANGE.....	1158	36	0935	1302	1645A		1900		lo		2230	31	2340	27	1950	25	1515	2115	30
Molong.....					1720A				Cowra			36	0010	32	2020	30			
Wellington.....	1284	47			1810A				Table			44	0050	42	2055	40			
DUBBO.....	1340	53			1845A				262			49	0130	42	2130	40			

# DUBBO - ORANGE - SYDNEY

Days of operation connecting coach operator	COUNTRYLINK		CITYRAIL TRAIN & ROAD COACH										GREYHOUND		RENDELLS		SELWOOD'S			
	Daily	Fares \$	M-F Selwood	M-F Thomas	Daily Frasers	M-F Selwood	SuO Selwood	M-F Selwood	SuO Thomas	Fares \$	Daily GX24	Fares \$	31	Fares \$	MWFSO	TThO	SuPO	Fares \$		
DUBBO.....	1410	0		From	0725						0	0230	0	0700						
Wellington.....	1449	6		Cowra	0810						6	0305	21	0735	20					
Molong.....				Table	0900						13	0350	24	0820	22					
ORANGE.....	1656	16	0529	262	0940	1310	1310	1724			14	0420	27	0855	25	0600	0700	1200	0	
Blayney.....	1821	21		0741			1345													
BATHURST.....	1714	25	0614	0819	1030	1355	1420	1813	1748			0500	32	0945	30	0845	0745	1245	5	
Mt Lambie.....			0652			1431	1456	1851	1825											
Wallerawang.....			0702			1440	1505	1901	1834											
LITHGOW..... a	1828	3d	0721	0920	1121	1455	1520	1918	1849			31	0630	37	1110	35	0740	0840	1340	20
Change to train d			0739	0939	1139	1605	1639	1939												
Katoomba.....	19s06	41	0824	1024	1224	1660	1624	2024			36	0700	37			0810	0910	1410	25	
Penrith.....	20s02	47	0932	1132	1332	1664	1732	2132			41	0750	42	1220	40					
Paramatta.....	20s23	49	0957	1156	1356	1717	1766	2166			47	0820	42	1255		0930	1030	1530	30	
Strathfield.....	20s34	53	1009	1209	1409	1729	1809	2209			47	0845	42							
SYDNEY Central.....	2048	53	1023	1223	1423	1742	1823	2223			49	0815	42	1330	40	1015	1115	1615	30	

A - 30 mins later TThFSuO.



Australia Long Distance Rail Services

version 1.1 october 2006

# QC4 TOWNSVILLE - MOUNT ISA "INLANDER"

J117

NG. Double track Townsville-Stuart

TRAIN NAME FACILITIES FREQUENCY	Km	Ht	Year opened	Inlander Res WSaO
TOWNSVILLE arr	0	3		1240
Stuart	10.00	18		1255
Reid River	57.08	76	1880	
Mingela	91.64	290	1881	
Burdekin River bridge	116.00	253		
Selheim	120.02	256		
Charters Towers arr	138.12	307	1882	1530
dep				1540
Southern Cross	156.89	352		
Balfes Creek	180.56	327		
Homestead	211.19	344	1884	
Pentland	244.62	403	1884	1735
Burra	280.06	555		
Torrens Creek	298.33	467	1885	1835
Prairie	343.06	432	1887	
Hughenden arr	385.07	327	1887	2005
dep				2020
Marathon	443.58	237	1903	
Moselle	479.36	227		
Richmond arr	501.48	213	1904	2235
dep				2245
Maxwelton	549.98	170		<b>ThSuO</b>
Nonda	571.34	157		014
Nelia	599.47	141		
Julia Creek arr	648.15	123	1908	155
dep				210
Gilliat	663.26	124		
Oorindi	718.90	131		
Pymurra	742.60	187		
Cloncurry arr	779.55	200	1908	500
dep				520
Malbon	831.05	256	1910	
Duchess	889.43	361	1912	745
Rifle Creek	951.16	400		
Mt Isa Acid Sdg	964.83			928
MOUNT ISA	976.79	351	1929	935

TRAIN NAME FACILITIES FREQUENCY	Inlander Res ThSuO
MOUNT ISA	1330
Mt Isa Acid Sdg	1337
Duchess arr	1505
dep	1515
Cloncurry arr	1735
dep	1745
Julia Creek arr	2055
dep	2100
Nonda	2235
Richmond arr	2358
dep	105
	<b>FMO</b>
Hughenden arr	225
dep	240
Torrens Creek	405
Pentland	500
Charters Towers arr	655
dep	705
Stuart	938
TOWNSVILLE	1010



# Sydney's East Before the Light Rail

HILAIRE FRASER

**W**ITH THE OPENING of Sydney's CSELR (CBD-South East Light Rail) in December 2019 to Randwick and March 2020 to Kingsford it is timely to document current bus services in the Randwick, University of NSW & Kingsford areas. All frequencies are Monday to Friday inter-peak unless otherwise noted.

## Full Time City Services through Randwick

- 372 Railway Sq-Coogee via Carr St (15 minutes)
- 373 Circular Quay-Coogee via Carr St (10 minute average)
- 374 Circular Quay-Coogee via Surry Hills & Bream St (30 minutes)
- 376 Railway Sq-Maroubra Beach via Surry Hills (30 minutes)
- 377 Circular Quay-Maroubra Beach (30 minutes)
- M50 Drummoyne-Coogee via City & Carr St (15 minutes)

Route 373 and 377 are timed to provide a 7 to 8 minute frequency from Circular Quay to Randwick.

## Peak Hour Express Services through Randwick.

Inward services operate express from Randwick Jct via Eastern Distributor & Elizabeth St southbound to Museum. Outward services operate from Spring St via Elizabeth & Oxford Sts express to Randwick Jct

- X73 City-Coogee via Carr St (am 4 minutes, pm 5 minutes approximately)
- X74 City-Coogee via Bream St (am 5 minutes, pm 10 minutes approximately)
- X77 City-Maroubra Beach (am 5 minutes, pm 10 minutes approximately)

## Bondi Junction Services through Randwick

- 314 Bondi Jct-Coogee via Carr St (30 minutes)
- 316 Bondi Jct-Eastgardens via Sth Coogee & Maroubra Jct (30 minutes)
- 317 Bondi Jct-Eastgardens via Sth Coogee & Maroubra Beach (30 minutes)
- 314, 316 & 317 provide a 10 minute frequency from Bondi Jct to Randwick.

## Cross-Country Routes passing University of NSW

- 348 Bondi Jct-Wolli Creek (30 minutes)
- 357 Bondi Jct-Mascot via Gardeners Rd (30 minutes)
- 370 Leichhardt-Coogee (15 minutes)
- 400 Bondi Jct-Eastgardens (7 minutes, every third trip extending to the Airport)

Previously 400 was Bondi Jct-Burwood via Eastgardens, Airport and Rockdale but split into 400 Bondi Jct-Airport and 420 Eastgardens-Burwood on 30/9/18, 400 operated by State Transit, 420 operated by Transit Systems. Previously 418 was Bondi Jct-Burwood via Gardeners Rd & Sydenham but split into 418 Kingsford-Burwood and 357 Bondi Jct-Mascot on 30/9/18, 357 operated by State Transit, 418 operated by Transit Systems. 400N provides a night service between Bondi Jct & Eastgardens. Maps are provided for 348, 357, 370, 400/400N and UNSW Shuttles 891/3/8 described below.

## University of NSW Shuttles

### Outward

891 Central Eddy Av-UNSW High St (Gates 8 and 3) (operates 7am to 3pm, every 2-3 minutes in peak decreasing to 5 minutes in mid-morning and 10 minutes in early afternoon).

### Inward

893 UNSW High St (Gate 3)-Central Eddy Av (operates 11am to 9pm, approximately every 15 minutes and 2-3 minutes in peak).

898 UNSW High St (Gate 8)-Central Eddy Av (operates 11am to 9pm, approximately every 15 minutes and 6 minutes in peak).

## Full Time Services through Kingsford

- 391 Railway Sq-La Perouse via Surry Hills & Bunnerong Rd (30 minutes)
- 392 Circular Quay-Little Bay via Bunnerong Rd (30 minutes)
- 393 Railway Sq-Maroubra Jct (15 minute average, alternate trips extending to Little Bay)
- 394 Circular Quay-La Perouse (evening service)
- L94 Circular Quay-La Perouse Limited Stops (15 minutes)
- 395 Railway Sq-Maroubra Beach (30 minutes)
- 396 Circular Quay-Maroubra Beach (30 minutes)
- 397 Circular Quay-Maroubra Beach (30 minutes)
- 399 Circular Quay-Little Bay via Malabar Heights (30 minutes)
- 393 and 395 provide a 10 minute service from Railway Sq to Maroubra Jct
- 396 397 399 provide an average 10 minute service from Circular Quay to Maroubra Jct
- M10 Leichhardt-Maroubra Jct via City (15 minutes).

## Peak Hour Express Services through Kingsford

X93 Railway Square-Little Bay (10 minutes)

The following inward services operate express from Kingsford via Eastern Distributor & Elizabeth St southbound to Museum. Outward services operate from Circular Quay (396 from Spring St) via Elizabeth & Oxford Sts express to Kingsford.

- X92 City-Little Bay via Bunnerong Rd (am 10 minutes, pm 15 minutes)
- X94 City-La Perouse (10 minutes)
- X96 City-Maroubra Beach (20 minutes)
- X97 City-South Maroubra (20 minutes)

- X99 Little Bay-City via Malabar Heights (2 am trips inward).

**Services passing UNSW to Redfern Station**

- 302 Redfern-Eastgardens via West Kensington (60 minutes)
- 303 Redfern-Sans Souci via West Kensington (60 minutes). Prior to 2/12/18 302/3 ran through Surry Hills to Circular Quay.

**Additional Coogee Services from Bondi Jct**

- 313 Bondi Jct-Coogee via Carrington Rd (30 minutes)
- 353 Bondi Jct-Eastgardens via Coogee & Maroubra Beach (30 minutes).

**North Randwick Services**

- 338 Railway Sq-Clovelly (peak hour)
- 339 City Gresham St-Clovelly (20 minutes, replaced by 338, X39 and X40 in the peak)
- X39 Clovelly-Martin Place (am 20 minutes) City Gresham St-Clovelly (pm 10 minutes)
- X40 Clovelly-Museum via Eastern Distributer (am inward 5 minutes).

Preliminary reports suggest that

services to Randwick and Kingsford will feed the light rail with some operating northwards to St Vincents Hospital or westward providing new connections. The Maroubra Jct section of M10 and the Coogee section of M50 will be replaced by the light rail service, whilst the western sections of these routes will be folded into higher frequency Parramatta Rd and Victoria Rd services.

**Some Historic Routes**

From the Department of Government Transport Guide Maps for Bus Drivers which I obtained in 1974. I have provided the maps for now discontinued routes 358/359/367 and 398/399 [below].

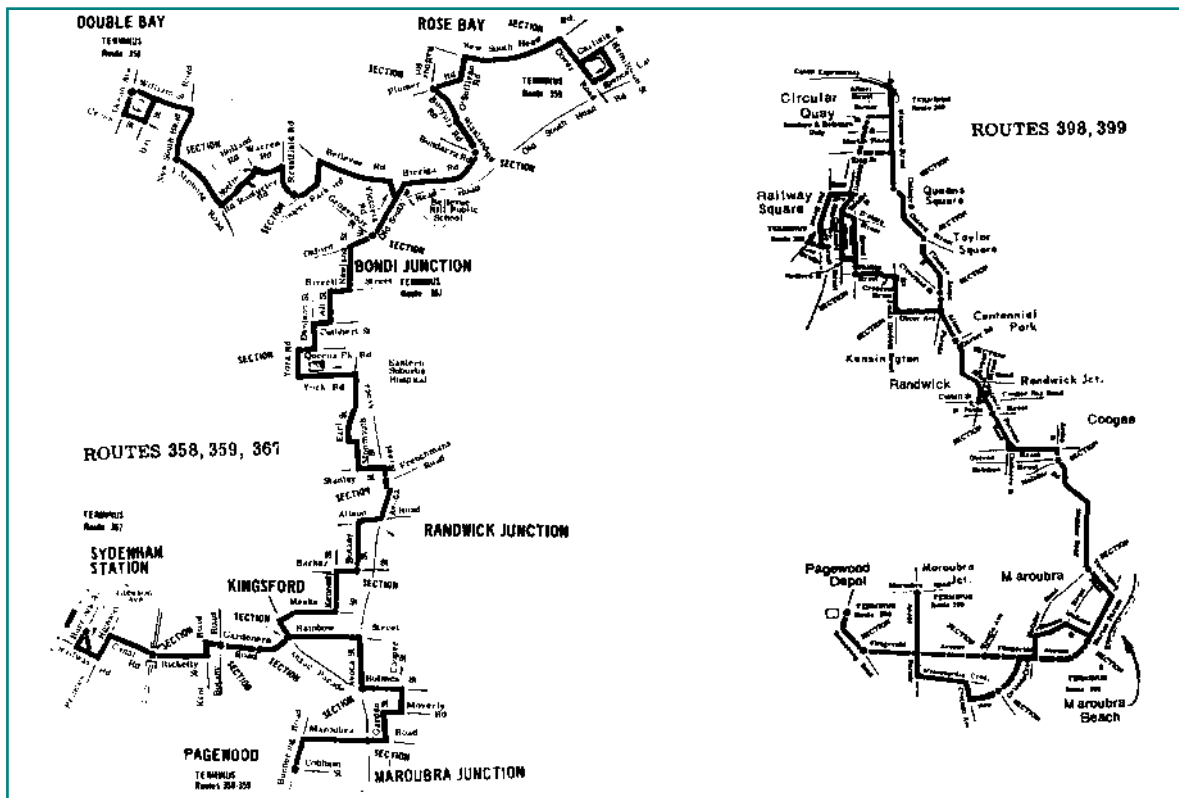
**358 Pagewood-Double Bay and 359 Pagewood-Rose Bay** operated every sixty minutes providing a thirty minute service on the common section between Pagewood and Bondi Junction. These were the routes our family used to get from our home at Maroubra Jct to Bondi Jct for shopping or down to the Village cinema at Double Bay. These routes were always operated by Mark II Leyland Leopards equipped with power steering to provide easier management of the bus along narrow streets particularly downhill from

Bondi Jct to Double Bay. The streets covered by the old 358 and 359 are now parts of modern 316, 317, 357 and 400. 367 later renumbered 357 was a peak hour service between Bondi Junction and Sydenham.

**399 Macquarie St City-Maroubra Jct via Randwick** operated every 15 to 20 minutes. It was one of a few routes that had Macquarie St as its city terminus. The other routes were peak hour services 336 to Botany Cemetery, 337 to Little Bay and 338 to Botany Shops. On Sundays and holidays 399 terminated at Martin Place, closer to the city centre. 398 was a peak hour service from Railway Sq to Maroubra Beach extending to Pagewood Depot. It was later renumbered 098 when the number 398 was used for the government route from Circular Quay to Little Bay via Malabar Heights replacing a private shuttle from Malabar Shops to Malabar Heights. Old 398 and 399 are now parts of 317, 376, 377 and 397 now a full-time service.

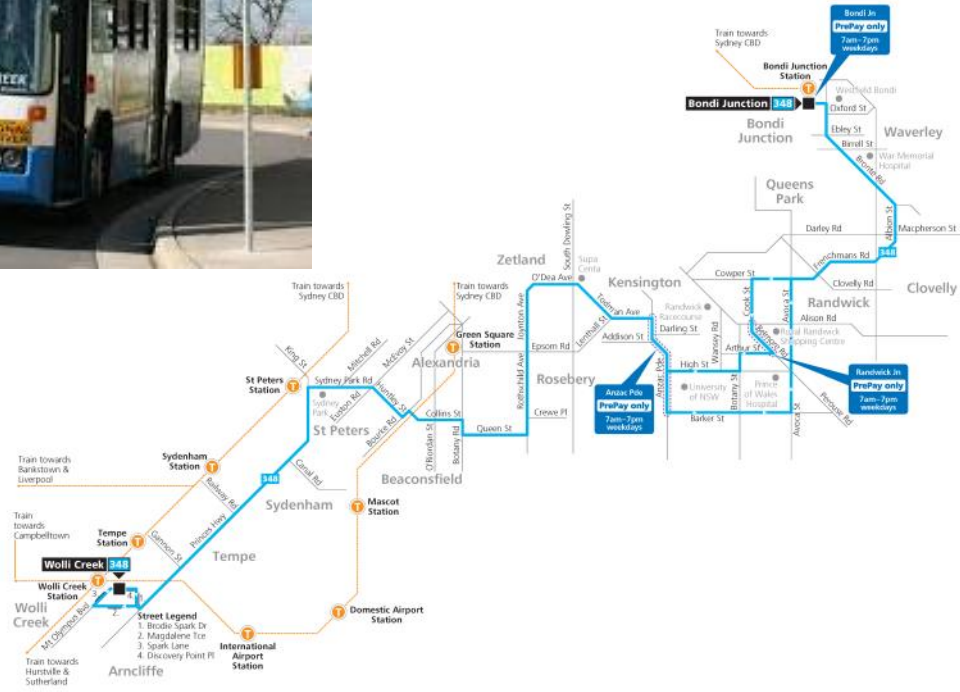
**Reference:-**

Spence, P. *Sydney by Public Transport* (1st edition), Gregory's, Ultimo, NSW. 1981.





# Route 348



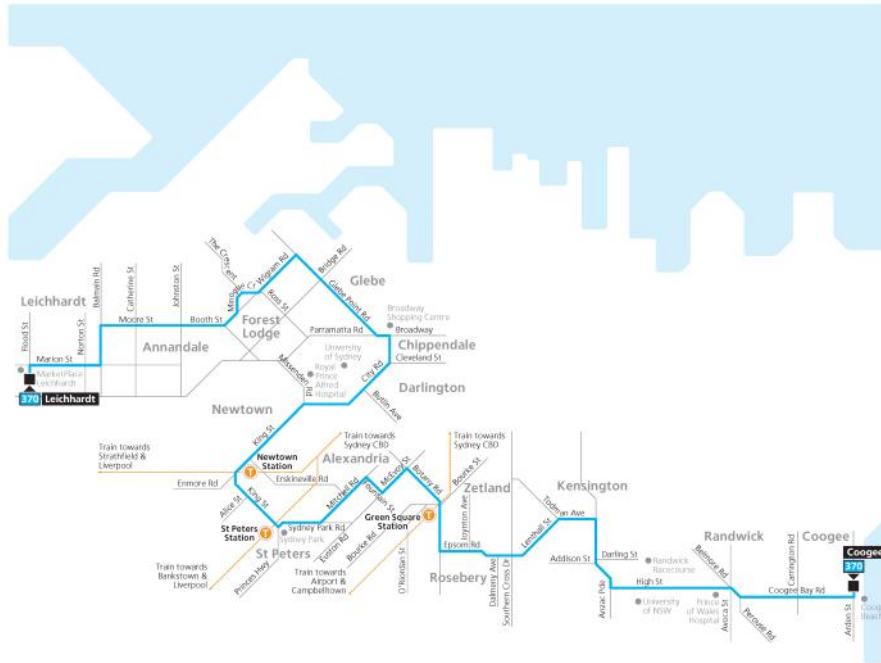
# Route 357



© businterchange.com



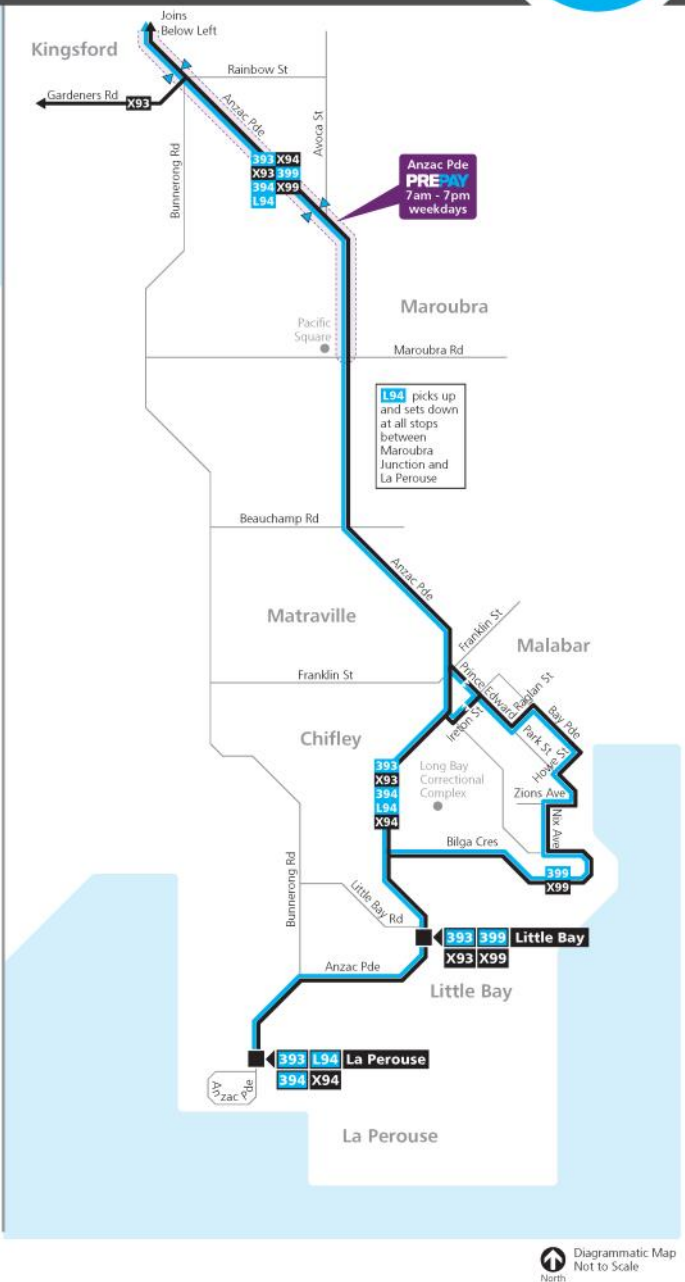
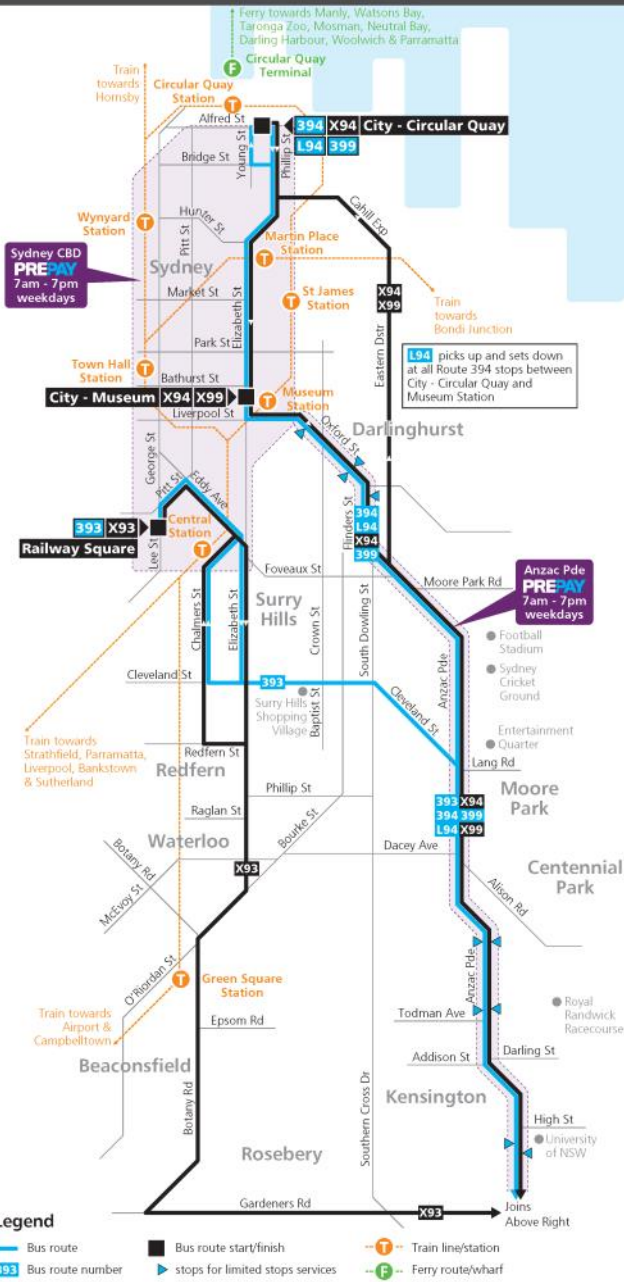
Route 370



Routes 891, 893, 898



# Routes 393, X93, 394, L94, X94, 399, X99

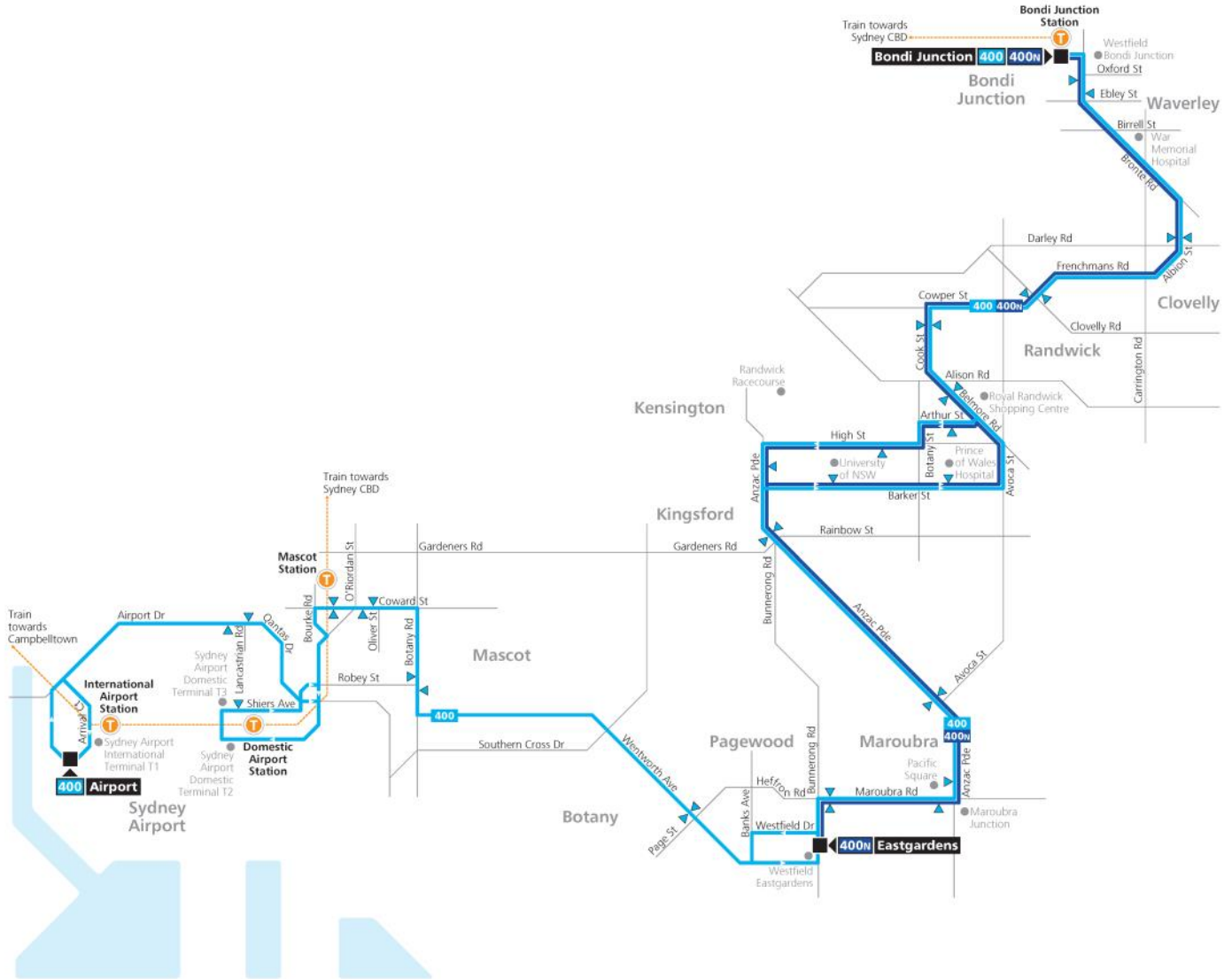


- Legend**
- Bus route
  - Bus route start/finish
  - T Train line/station
  - 393 Bus route number
  - ▶ stops for limited stops services
  - F Ferry route/wharf





# Routes 400, 400N



**Sydney Buses 3453: Scania L113TRB (ZF/Ansair Orana)**  
 Route 400 Outbound: Bondi Junction to Burwood via Randwick Junction, Kingsford, Maroubra Junction, Eastgardens, Mascot, Domestic & International Airport Terminals, Rockdale, Bexley North and Campsie

# Victor Isaacs

From the **AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER HISTORY GROUP**

**V**ICTOR MARK ISAACS, the founder of the Australian Newspaper History Group, was an extraordinary man of multiple interests and a gentle and wry sense of humour. He died in Canberra on 8 October, aged 69.

Victor, the youngest of three sons of Fred Isaacs, who taught singing, piano and elocution, and his wife, Berta, née Hart, was born and grew up in Melbourne. His family said he was a “good student” at Auburn South Primary, Camberwell Central and Camberwell High schools. He joined the Commonwealth Public Service in Melbourne in 1970 “in the days when Commonwealth and Victorian Public Service offices were higgledy-piggledy behind State Parliament House”, says brother Albert. Victor moved to Canberra in 1973 when his whole department was relocated. He became a career public servant,

working until 2001 in a permanent position and then until 2007 on contract. He generally filled ministerial advisory or policy formulation roles at the centre of Australian politics, both in the international division of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and at Parliament House in the offices of various Ministers and the Prime Minister. He was skilled in correspondence handling, committee secretariats, and archival actioning of documents. He had particular strengths in security policies, international issues, transport, and parliamentary practice. His widow Agnes says, “Through all Victor’s demanding work, he also looked after me through various illnesses. When I was almost housebound in the early nineties, he often left his busy work to come home for a brief visit. It meant everything to me.” Agnes said his job was often very stressful, but he could handle it

all very calmly. On his retirement in 2007, he became a multi-faceted and multi-skilled volunteer in various Canberra organisations.

Agnes Boskovitz (left below) met Victor Isaacs (right below) when she went on a blind date with someone else. “It was not love at first sight,” she said, “but I immediately knew that this chap was worth getting to know a bit more.” She recalled the evening that he invited her for the first time for dinner to his home (with Jim and Robyn Stokes) was the evening before the Combe-Ivanov spy affair broke, in 1983. “Victor and his colleagues were so frantic at work that he didn’t make it home for dinner. The Stokeses and I enjoyed dinner at his home without him. We received regular phone calls from Victor throughout the evening, although all he could tell us was to read tomorrow’s National Times. This was a very stressful evening for him,





as the source of the leak was not known, and therefore his office was implicated, but he spoke with us calmly and with humour.”

Following are some of Victor’s activities and contributions to different organisations:

- Australian Railway Historical Society: a member in Melbourne since his teenage days, a foundation member of the ACT Division, and a regular hard worker at the Queanbeyan ticket office until it closed a few years ago.
- Australian Newspaper History Group: founder, 1999.
- ACT Transit Group: co-convener.
- Australian Timetable Association: always on the committee including stints as President.
- Editor of Table Talk, the monthly news journal of the Australian Timetable Association. There were already six news items in the November 2019 issue. His last was added to it on 4 October, four days before he died.
- Producer of Train Times: a coordinated timetable of all trains and railway-operated buses in Australia and New Zealand – freely available on the web.
- Australian Jewish Historical Society, ACT Branch: committee member including president, and

presenter of talks.

- Australian Association for the Study of Labour History, Canberra Branch: committee member, including president, and presenter of talks.
- Canberra and District Historical Society, committee member including president. Gave presentations, including a very funny but thoughtful after-dinner speech at last year’s Christmas dinner.
- Friend of the Noel Butlin Archives Centre, Canberra, 1999- 2019: committee member since 2010 and Public Officer in recent years.
- University of the 3rd Age (U3A): Victor had run 28 courses since 2008. Courses that he repeated regularly were on unusual borders of the world, newspapers, railways, and American politics. Victor was a stalwart of the Northside Australian History Group, including serving in the last year as the regular meeting chair, joke presenter and one-minute history presenter. He also was a strong contributor to the Contemporary Issues Book Group and the International Issues Group. [In November, posthumously, the U3A awarded Victor an Outstanding Service Award in recognition of the many courses he had run over the years.]

Victor regularly presented to many groups on his areas of expertise, including other U3A groups, Melba Men’s Shed, Probus and Rotary.

From 2011 to early 2019, Victor joined the oldies gym class at the CIT gym. He attended at least once a week, and sometimes thrice, and often enjoyed coffee and a chat after the class. From February 2019 he had to cease the gym because of his health.

Victor wrote or co-wrote five newspaper-history monographs, including one on 200 years of Sydney newspapers, another on the changing appearance of Australian newspapers and another on newspaper distribution in Australia.

Victor published the first issue of the Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter in October 1999 (see ANHG 50.4.8 for background), edited it for four issues, inspired a new editor and gave him support for more than 19 years. He was a cheerful, generous friend and helper. He was a very useful proof-reader because he had a busy mind and could see connections that others might miss.

Despite his multiplicity of interests, he was a humble, gentle man who did much to help members of Agnes’s family and his own. —**Rod Kirkpatrick**





Here are some remembrances of Victor Isaacs from ANHG subscribers: Australian Newspaper History Group Newsletter, No 105, December 2019—12

**Prue Neidorf:** I well remember Victor Isaacs. I was working in the National Library of Australia as Music Librarian, and all of us special librarians who didn't have our own reading rooms to manage, spent time managing the Petherick Reading Room, a room for postgraduates and independent scholars like Victor (Vic) Isaacs. He used to huddle over his books, his nose about five inches from the page he was reading. He was such a quiet, gentle gentleman.

**Janette Pelosi:** I am sorry to hear that Victor died. I remember speaking to him at the newspaper history symposium held at the State Library of NSW back in 2003. He was absolutely thrilled to be there and to meet so many people who shared his interest in newspaper history.

**Phil Lee:** Victor was a lovely person with a wide range of interests. The U3A course that he ran on the history of newspapers in NSW was always booked out. In typical Victor fashion he also ran courses on the US Presidential elections, unusual world borders and the history of steam engines. Victor was also an active member and former President of the ACT Branch of the Labour History Society. A remarkable person.

**Margaret Rees-Jones:** I had various conversations with Victor some years ago and I always enjoyed his contributions.

**Patricia Clarke:** The ANHG was always near to his heart and what a great gift to us all that he began it from nothing.

**Elizabeth Morrison:** He was a quiet stalwart of the newspaper history community.

**John Myrtle:** ... at the funeral [of Victor] I found a seat at the end of a row, sitting next to a gentleman who I had not previously met. After few minutes, I asked him what association

he had with Victor. He told me that they had both been members of the Melba Men's Shed. Maybe he noticed an unconscious expression of surprise on my face, because he then laughed and told me that the Melba Men's Shed is different from most men's sheds in that rather than making

things, they usually just talk. He hastened to say that Victor's "talking" was very much appreciated – no doubt talking about political history, railway history, newspaper history and other interests.



**The Station Master at his "own" station—Queanbeyan**



# Travel Times

AUSTRALIA

\$4.95

THE AUSTRALIAN INDEPENDENT TRAVEL BIBLE

Times

Fares

Maps

Coach, Train &  
Ferry services

The comprehensive  
guide to budget  
travel throughout  
Australia

ISSN 1322-7416

02



9 771322 741001

2nd Edition  
WINTER 1995