

The Times

March 2022

A journal of transport timetable history and analysis







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Inside: The story of one bus stop Blue Mountains Bus Services RRP \$4.95 Incl. GST

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RICHARD PECKTHE STORY OF ONE BUS STOPHILAIRE FRASERBLUE MOUNTAINS BUS SERVICES

This month's cover clock is that of Paddington Town Hall

Letter to the Editor from James T Wells; response from Richard Peck

My thanks to Richard Peck for his article on Sydney Loop Bus Services. ... A question and a comment: The question - in the endnotes reference is made to pumpkin bus routes. What are these please? I believe there is a pumpkin service in Manly, NSW. The timetable shown for the 373 Coogee – Museum service is obviously a holiday special. The timetable effective January 28th, 2022 has uniform M-F services each day except for some late Friday night services. In no sense is this a loop service from the passenger perspective. It appears to be such from the absence of any layover time at the city terminus and the way the pdf timetable is presented. This would be greatly enhanced if the City terminus could be highlighted by emboldening, horizontal lining etc. One way would be by spacing, e.g.:

Monday to Friday	6	6.
Arden St opp Coogee Bay Rd, Coogee	07:36	07:45
Royal Randwick Shopping Centre, Belmore Rd, Randwick	07:48	07:57
Belmore Rd before Alison Rd, Randwick	07:50	07:59
Cowper St opp Mulwarree Ave, Randwick	07:54	08:03
Moore Park Busway at Lang Rd, Moore Park	08:02	08:12
Taylor Square, Darlinghurst	08:09	08:19
Museum Station, Downing Centre, Sydney	08:16	08:26
Flinders St after Oxford St, Darlinghurst	08:23	08:33
Moore Park Busway after Lang Rd, Moore Park	08:32	08:42
Belmore Rd after Alison Rd, Randwick	08:41	08:51
Belmore Rd at Avoca St, Randwick	08:44	08:54
Arden St near Dolphin St, Coogee	08:54	09:04

Richard has responded as follows: Randwick supplied a dedicated bus for the Coogee area and this also applied at Manly (130). Pumpkin buses were late night Fri-Sat to take patrons from hotels to home. Most had dedicated routes. Some were operated by State Transit, some by private enterprise.

The story of one bus stop (202192) RICHARD PECK, with help from HILAIRE FRASER and DUNCAN MACAUSLAN

IMETABLE CHANGES ACROSS Sydney Buses from 26.11.17 revealed that a route 388 bus now performs one journey daily (9.20am) from Lawson St, Paddington to Bondi Junction, basically through route 389. Signage in the area suggests that this is, however, not a new service but a renumbering from 389.

Top: Directional arrow "389 to Lawson St" [see inset, left].

Bottom left: The present terminus. Note the section number. [see inset, left].

Bottom right: 687 school special sign (Sydney Grammar Prep School-Bondi Jct, pm) close by. This was one of the few SS routes to retain its number in the reshuffle of 2016. [see inset]

So when did this spur of 389 start? And why? The J-curve sign dates it to the 1980s.

The suburb of Paddington was settled by 1860 as Sydney spread along Oxford Street, one of the natural boundaries of the suburb. Think of Paddington and Cedric Emmanuel's drawings of steep and hilly narrow streets with rows of terraces come to mind, hardly conducive to bus traffic. Indeed, Paddington as a horse bus destination seems to disappear by about 1860 — though there were pick up points in the suburb. The Bondi and Waverley steam trams were also "thru" ventures as was the Bellevue Hill tramway opened in 1914. This however traversed the middle of the suburb as it snaked its way through suburban streets for another 40 years. It was replaced by bus routes 389 and 390, the former of which still operates as a frequent service from Bondi





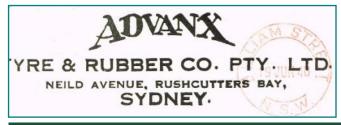
03

Route 389 From Sunday 26 November The 9.20am Route 389 service to Bondi Junction Is renumbered to Route 388, and departs at the same

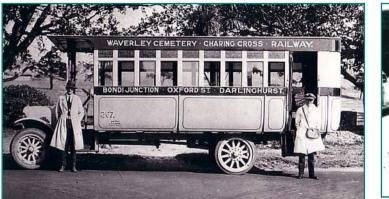
Junction to the National Maritime Museum, Pyrmont.

The lower boundary of Paddington is New South Head Rd where it adjoins Rushcutters Bay. The old Stadium and the White City Tennis Centre were located there but were well served by New South Head Rd transport. To the west, Paddington abuts Darlinghurst at Boundary Rd, and to the east Edgecliff at Ocean St. There were also some











factories in the lower area.

What previous bus routes operated in this area?

A route 5 was a short lived service from Hampden Park, Rushcutters Bay to Central, listed in the Government Gazette (GG) only of 13.11.25. Paddington Council gave approval for this service but do not mention the operator. John Birchmeier's research in Dunn's Gazette confirms that the operator was Johnson Bros of Drummoyne who commenced on 6.7.25. (Route 5 is next listed by GG of 22.2.29 as East Bellevue Hill-Central).



Henry Connell commenced an unnumbered service (later 140 then 166) between June 1919 and July 1921 from the "5 Ways", Paddington to Central. It ceased on 31.10.31 "as competitive with trams". Upper left: Mrs Gails Bus; Lower A route 326 bus at Darlinghurst

The source of the photos on this page is unclear

Private route 229 (Waverley Cemetery-Central Railway) commenced in 1922 as an unnumbered route, then numbered 199 and then, in 1925 as 229. It ceased on 31.10.31 but was relicensed as a feeder (Rushcutters Bay-Darlinghurst) from 1932 and operated by Mrs E



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Monaghan.

229 had several owners. Mrs Gail's bus is shown at upper left, page 4.

229 was taken over by the DRT&T on 27.8.35. Meanwhile the Elizabeth Bay-Taylor Square service (introduced 1.10.33) was extended from 26.8.35 to Rushcutters Bay and Five Ways Paddington but reverted to its original route from 15.12.35.

229 was extended to Ocean St from 1.3.37, to Central Railway from 3.5.37 and to Bondi Junction from 13.12.37 but cut back to Paddington from 9.1.39. It was renumbered 326 from 12.5.40. It was extended from Lawson St & Glenmore Rd to Lawson & Goodhope Sts from 28.1.45. Night services ceased from 20.7.59.

Later, '31 seaters' covered most journeys, as seen above at Central Railway.

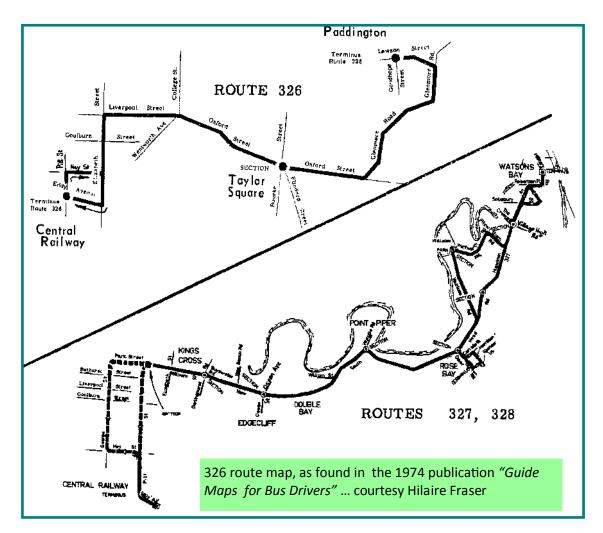
Certain 229 industrial journeys were extended to Hardie Rubber (Advanx Tyre). An industrial 382 commenced from 15.11.54 from Hampden St, Paddington to Central and by 1956 was running from North Bondi as 308. This had ceased by 1957.

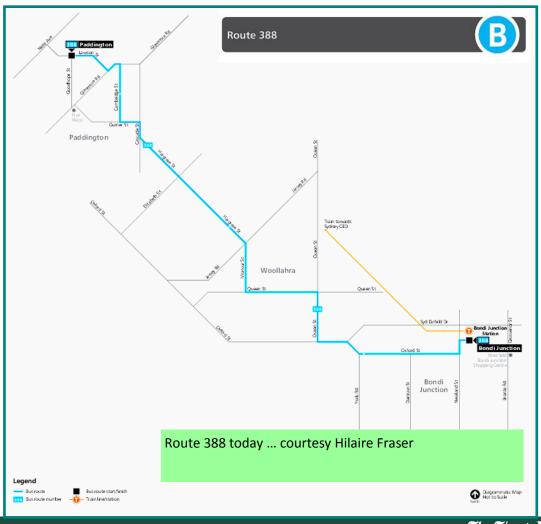
When did 326 cease?

A 326 timetable of July 1962 reveals trips from Paddington (and Central) from 6.54am-6.44pm, Sat 7.30am-1.26pm. The Saturday service had gone by August 1974 and weekdays was reduced to peak am & pm in both directions by March 1976. Some journeys operated to/from Hardie Rubber. The last published timetable was October 1987. From 19.Feb.89, the 326 was included with 389 and had 6 am and 4 pm peak trips. It was not included in the 389 timetable of Feb.,1990.

However the 389 timetable of 4.8.91 included a trip at 9.20am daily from Paddington-Bondi Junction as 389. This was possibly introduced to replace the cancelled 326. This continued until altered to 388 on 17 November 2017 (the reason being that 389 was then run by Transit Systems but this little branch needed to stand alone and is still operated by Waverley Depot of State Transit).







Blue Mountains Bus Services HILAIRE FRASER updates Jim O'Neil's perspectives

The City of the Blue

Mountains comprises a ribbon of close or contiguous towns situated along a ridge which crosses the Great Dividing Range from Lapstone to Mt Victoria, 60km and 120km from Sydney respectively. This ridge, crossed by Blaxland, Lawson, and Wentworth in 1813, allowed the European settlement of western New South Wales. This ridge carries both the Main Western Railway Line and the Great Western Highway. The population is approximately 80,000 and many residents commute into Sydney by rail and road. Many folks have found a spot for their retirement home in the Blue Mountains. Springwood, the major business centre in the mid mountains, is at an altitude of 370 metres. Katoomba, the major business centre in the upper mountains has an altitude of 1000m. Katoomba is a popular tourist destination with views over the Megalong Valley from

Echo Point and a Scenic Skyway, Railway and Cableway found at adjacent Scenic World.

In the Blue Mountains, bus services are provided by Blue Mountains Transit. Blue Mountains Transit is a division of ComfortDelGro Australia. ComfortDelGro operate other bus services in New South Wales (Sydney, Hunter Valley, Queanbeyan, Ballina, and Broken Hill), Victoria (Melbourne, Geelong, Ballarat and Mildura), Queensland (Sunshine Coast, Gladstone and Rockhampton) and Northern Territory (Darwin and Alice Springs).

On the Blue Mountains Transit

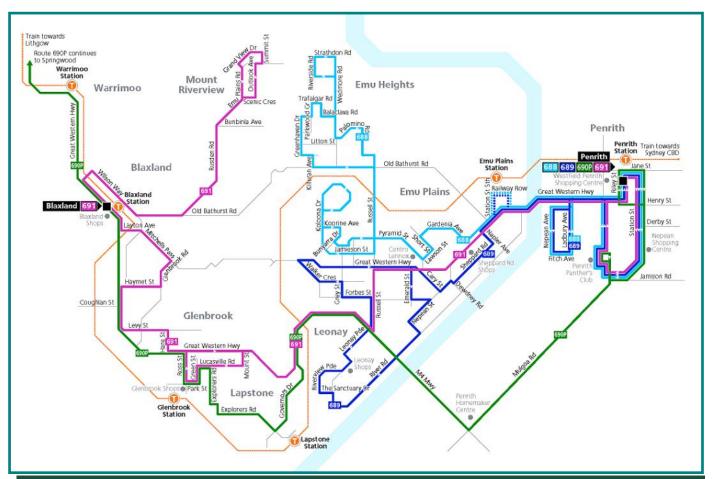
website, blue-mts-transit network maps are provided for Lower Mountains, Mid Mountains and Upper Mountains services. These maps are provided with this article.

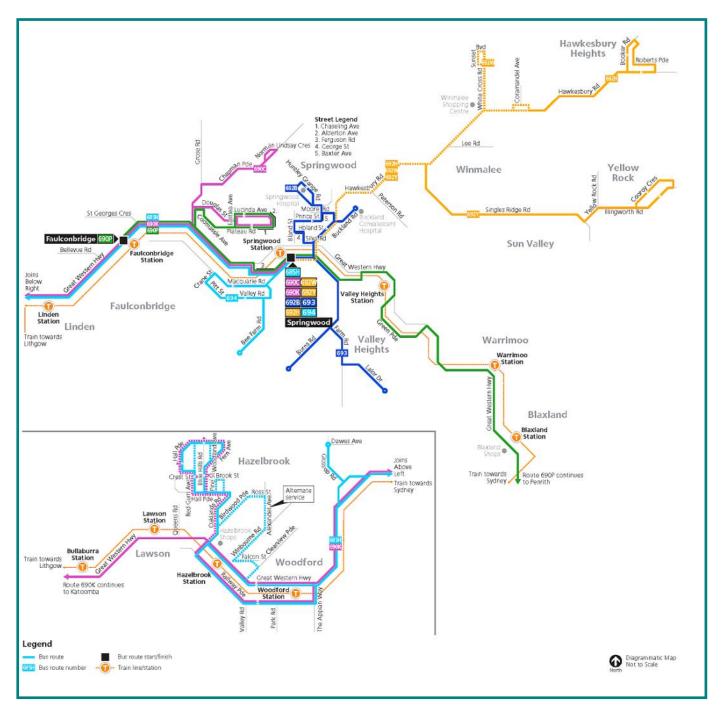
Lower Mountains Services

(map, below)

688 Penrith-Emu Heights & 689 Penrith-Leonay: These services feed trains at Emu Plains Station and provide a link to Penrith CBD. Apart from additional peak feeder services between Emu Plains and Emu Heights or Leonay there is a Monday to Saturday hourly service and a twohourly service on Sundays on both routes.

690P Penrith-Springwood: A trunk service following the Great Western Highway from Penrith Station via Penrith Homemakers Centre, Mulgoa Rd and Explorers Rd, Lapstone to Springwood. Some trips operate between Springwood and Faulconbridge to supplement the 690K Springwood-Katoomba service. Monday to Friday's off-peak day services operate hourly between Penrith and Springwood. Saturdays have four Penrith-Springwood return





services and one Springwood-Faulconbridge service. Sundays have two Penrith-Springwood return services and three Springwood-Faulconbridge services.

691 Penrith-Mt Riverview:

Primarily this is a Monday to Friday off-peak hourly (on average) feeder service from Blaxland Station to Mt Riverview, a community north of Blaxland. Alternate services commence at Penrith or extend to Penrith via Emu Plains. The peak period Blaxland to Mt Riverview feeder operates on a twenty-to-thirtyminute frequency. On Saturdays and Sundays, three trips operate in each direction.

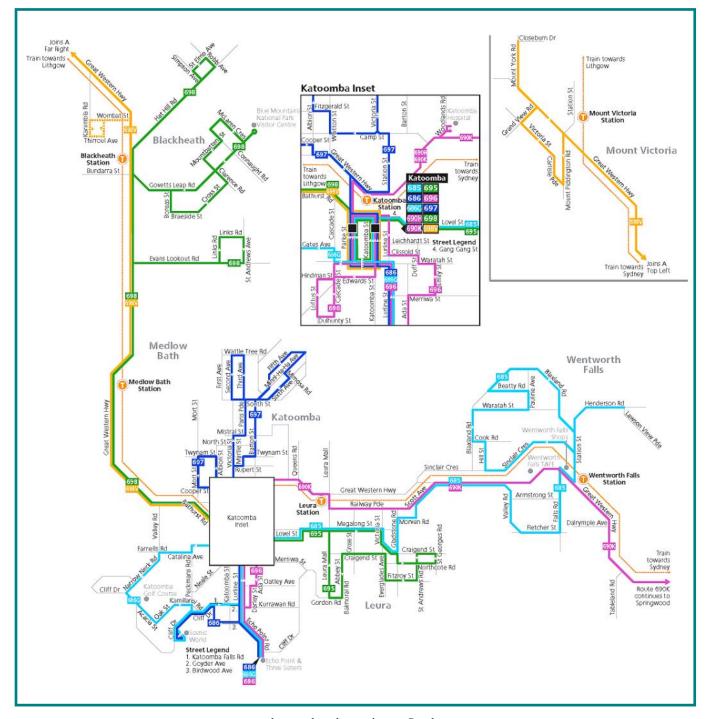
Mid Mountains Services (above)

685H Springwood-North

Hazelbrook: An off-peak Monday to Friday loop service with four trips commencing at Springwood and returning to Springwood. One additional trip operates Faulconbridge to Springwood and two additional trips operate Hazelbrook to Springwood. The Saturday service is provided by a deviation of the 690K Springwood-Katoomba service. The 685H timetable accompanies this article. [page 9].

690C Springwood-Faulconbridge: An off-peak Monday to Friday loop service with three trips commencing at Springwood operating to Chapman Parade and returning to Springwood. Some 690P Springwood to Faulconbridge trips also serve Lucinda Av.

690K Springwood-Katoomba: A trunk service following the Great Western Highway. Six services operate each way Monday to Friday with an additional 8.05am service from Woodford to Katoomba. Three



services operate each way on Saturdays. The 690K timetable accompanies this article [pp 10-11].

690P Penrith-Springwood: See details under Lower Mountains Services.

692B Springwood-Buckland Hospital, 692H Springwood-Hawkesbury Heights, 692W Springwood-Winmalee & 692Y Springwood-Yellow Rock: These services operate along Hawkesbury Rd north of Springwood. The main service is provided by 692W with an hourly service Mondays to Saturdays and a two-hourly service on Sundays. 692B has five Monday to Friday services. 692H has six Monday to Friday services and five Saturday services. 692Y has three Monday to Friday services and five Saturday services.

693 Springwood-Burns Rd: Services a residential area south of Springwood with eleven Monday to Friday services and two Saturday services.

694 Springwood-Bee Farm Rd: One morning and afternoon service.

Upper Mountains Services (above)

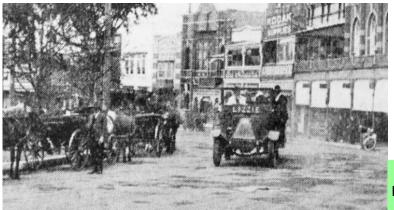
685 Katoomba-North Wentworth Falls: A local continuous loop service also serving Leura Village. Eleven Monday to Friday trips, four Saturday trips and two Sunday trips are provided.

686 Katoomba-Scenic World via Echo Pt: This is the popular tourist service with a fifteen minute Monday to Friday and ten minute weekend service.

686G Katoomba-Katoomba Golf Club: This is the service for residents operating hourly Mondays to

	KATOOMBA — MEDLOW — BLACK'HEATH	
KATOOMBA Mediow P.O W.ACKHEATH	MF_MF_NS I<	.10 9d. 4d.
	BLACKHEATH MEDLOW KAT OOMBA	UNENST SO T SECTION FARE
BLACKHEATH Medlew P.O KATOOMBA	M2: WF NS NS Image: MF SUNSC 735 6.00 8.30 ⁶ 9.00 9.30 10.001(0.30 (1.00 11.30 (12.00 (1.00 11.30 (12.00 (1.00 11.30 (12.00 (1.00	25 6.40 7.25 Ad. Ch. 5 6.50 7.35 6d. 3d.
	KATOOMBAWENTWORTH FALLS (via Valley of Waters & Falls Reserve)	CTION FARES TIME OF
CATOOMBA Sapier Crit Salley of Waters W.F. RESERVE V.F. Town W. Falls Lunks tenderson Rd	1 8.5 9 251 9 251 0 251 0.251 0.251 0.251 1.551 1.22 12.551 1.251 1.551 2.25 2.57 3.25 3.551 4.251 4.55 5.25 5.55 10 4514 3.00 5.00 5.00 5.00 5.00 5.00 5.00 5.00	A.J. Ch. JOURNEY td. 2d. 5 Mm 9d. 4d. 10 4d. 2d. 5 4d. 2d. 5 4d. 2d. 5 4d. 2d. 5 4d. 5
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W. FAILS TOWN Vaper Certer CATOOMBA	WENTWORTH FALLS KATOOMBA (Via Western Highway) ME SO ME ¹ NS SUN NS SO	GOLF LINKS Adult, 1/- Child, 6d.
ME d SO NS	enotes will run Monday to Friday only. SE denotes will not run on Saturday P denotes will await termination a 	f Savoy Theatre

Blue Mountains Timetables 22 December 1949



Blue Mountains early buses



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Fridays. This loop service also serves Scenic World and Echo Pt. On the weekends 686G operates one or two early morning trips and evening trips when the 686 does not operate.

690K Springwood-Katoomba & 690H Katoomba-Katoomba Hospital: 690K details are under Mid Mountains services. 690H provides three Monday to Friday services.

695 Katoomba-South Leura, 696 Katoomba-South Katoomba & 697 Katoomba-North Katoomba: are local loop services; 695 has seven services weekdays and two on Saturdays. 696 has three weekday services. 697 has an hourly service weekdays with four services on Saturdays and two on Sundays.

698 Katoomba-Blackheath & 698V Katoomba-Mt Victoria: provide trunk services further west along the

Great Western Highway. 698 deviates from the highway to service residential areas along Evans Lookout Rd, Govetts Leap Rd and Hat Hill Rd. 698 provides eight services weekdays, four on Saturdays and two on Sundays. 698V provides two return services and a one-way service from Mt Victoria to Katoomba at 8.26am on weekdays.

On 22 December 1949, The Blue Mountains Transport Pty Ltd. Springwood & Penrith Bus Co produced a timetable booklet, approximately A5 in size, with twelve pages. The routes covered by this timetable were:-

- Katoomba-Echo Pt
- Katoomba-Leura-Gordon Falls via Bathurst Rd (Great Western Hwy)
- Katoomba-Leura-Leura Golf Links via Megalong St
- Katoomba-Blackheath-Mt Victoria-Lithgow
- Katoomba-Blackheath-Govetts

Leap

- Katoomba-Shipley Tea Rooms (Change at Blackheath)
- Katoomba-Blackheath Aerodrome (Hat Hill Rd, Change at Blackheath)
- Katoomba-Wentworth Falls via Valley of the Waters and Falls Reserve
- Katoomba-Wentworth Falls via Western Highway
- Katoomba-Hazelbrook-Woodford-Linden
- · Penrith-Springwood-Faulconbridge-Linden
- Springwood-North Springwood
- Springwood-West Springwood

The centre double page of this timetable accompanies this article [page 10]. It shows the common Katoomba to Blackheath timetable, including Mt Victoria, Lithgow and Govetts Leap trips, and the two Katoomba to Wentworth Falls timetables.

Springwood to North 685H Hazelbrook (Loop Service)



Valid	from:	20	Dec	2021
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Creation date: 30 Dec 2021 NOTE: Information is correct on date of download. Monday to Friday å a Macquarie Rd opp Springwood Station, 10:05 11:05 12:55 13:55 Springwood Faulconbridge Station 10:10 11:10 13:00 14:00 Great Western Hwy opp Linden Station, Linden 10:15 11:15 13:05 14:05 Glossop Rd at Dawes Ave, Linden 11:20 14:10 Woodford Station 10:20 14:15 11:25 13:10 Hazelbrook Station 10:25 11:30 13:15 14:20 14:35 Oaklands Rd opp Glendarrah St, Hazelbrook 10:26 11:31 13:16 14:21 14:36 Red Gum Ave at Hall Pde, Hazelbrook 09:20 14:39 10:29 14:24 11:34 13:19 Blue Hills Rd at Hall Pde, Hazelbrook 09:24 10:33 11:38 13:23 14:28 14:43 Oaklands Rd at Glendarrah St, Hazelbrook 09:27 10:36 11:41 13:26 14:29 14:46 Hazelbrook Shops, Great Western Hwy, 09:30 10:37 11:42 13:27 14:30 14:47 Hazelbrook 09:38 Great Western Hwy before Glen St, Woodford 10:45 11:50 13:35 14:52 Glossop Rd at Dawes Ave, Linden 09:43 11:55 12:00 Linden Station, Great Western Hwy, Linden 09:50 14:57 10:50 13:40 Great Western Hwy opp Faulconbridge Station, 09:55 10:55 12:05 13:45 15:02 Faulconbridge Douglas St opp Coomassie Ave, Faulconbridge 08:40 08:45 Lucinda Ave before Fripp Lane, Springwood _ Springwood Swim Centre, Plateau Rd, 08:47 Springwood Springwood Station 08:55 10:00 11:00 12:10 13:50 15:07

690K Katoomba to Springwood



Valid from: 20 Dec 2021			Creation date: 30 Dec 2021 NOTE: Information is correct on date of download.			
Monday to Friday	6.	8	ę.	ė.	é.	é.
Carrington Hotel, Katoomba St, Katoomba	09:00	10:25	12:35	13:15	14:15	16:25
Blue Mountains Hospital, Great Western Hwy,	09:05	10:30	12:40		14:20	16:30
Katoomba		40.00				
Leura Station	09:08	10:33	12:43	13:23	14:23	16:33
Scott Ave opp 77, Leura			12:45		14:25	16:35
Great Western Hwy opp West St, Wentworth Falls Great Western Hwy opp Wentworth Falls Cemetery, Wentworth Falls		10:38 10:39		13:28 13:29	14:28	16:38 16:39
Falls Rd opp Wentworth Falls Public School, Wentworth Falls	_	-	-	100	14:34	-
Great Western Hwy at Station St, Wentworth Falls	09:17	10:42	12:52	13:32	14:38	16:42
Bullaburra Station, Great Western Hwy, Bullaburra	09:26	10:51	13:01	13:41	14:47	16:51
	00.20	10.E4	12.04	12.44	14.50	16.54
awson Station	09:29 09:30	10:54	13:04 13:05	13:44 13:45	14:50	16:54 16:55
Great Western Hwy at Queens Rd, Lawson	09:30	10:55	15:05	13:45	14:51	16:55
Daklands Rd opp Glendarrah St, Hazelbrook Red Gum Ave at Hall Pde, Hazelbrook		-	100	12	_	16:59
Blue Hills Rd at Hall Pde, Hazelbrook						17:03
Daklands Rd at Glendarrah St, Hazelbrook			100	100	12	17:05
Hazelbrook Shops, Great Western Hwy, Hazelbrook	09:32	10:57	13:07	13:47	14:53	17:06
Great Western Hwy before Glen St, Woodford	09:35	11:00	13:10	13:50	14:56	17:09
inden Station, Great Western Hwy, Linden	09:38	11:03		13:53	14:59	17:12
Great Western Hwy opp Faulconbridge Station,	and a local distance of the second second		13:18		15:04	
aulconbridge pringwood Station	09:49	11:14	13:24	14:04	15:10	17:23
Saturday	6.	<u>6</u> .	6.			
Carrington Hotel, Katoomba St, Katoomba	09:50	11:35	14:56			
Blue Mountains Hospital, Great Western Hwy, Katoomba	09:55	11:40	15:01			
eura Station	09:58	11:43	15:04			
Scott Ave opp 77, Leura	10:00	11:45	15:06			
Great Western Hwy opp West St, Wentworth Falls	10:03	11:48	15:09			
Great Western Hwy opp Wentworth Falls Gemetery, Wentworth Falls	10:04	11:49	15:10			
Great Western Hwy at Station St, Wentworth Falls	10:07	11:52	15:13			
Bullaburra Station, Great Western Hwy, Bullaburra	10:16	12:01	15:22			
awson Station	10:19	12:04	15:25			
Great Western Hwy at Queens Rd, Lawson		12:05				
Daklands Rd opp Glendarrah St, Hazelbrook	10:22	12:07				
Red Gum Ave at Hall Pde, Hazelbrook	10:25	12:10				
Blue Hills Rd at Hall Pde, Hazelbrook	10:29	12:14	15:35			
Daklands Rd at Glendarrah St, Hazelbrook	10:31		15:37			
Hazelbrook Shops, Great Western Hwy, Hazelbrook	10:31		15:37			
Great Western Hwy before Glen St, Woodford	10:34	12:19	15:40			
Glossop Rd at Dawes Ave, Linden	10:39	-	2 <u></u>			
Linden Station, Great Western Hwy, Linden	10:44	12:22	15:43			
Great Western Hwy opp Faulconbridge Station,	10:49		15:48			
Faulconbridge Springwood Station						

690K Springwood to Katoomba



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TANYA'S QUIZ #9

- 1. The station of C. F. P. Works in Hobart was more commonly known as ... what?
- 2. Which Queensland branch line ended in an apostrophe?
- a/ How many lines were there in the Port Adelaide electric tram system?
 b/ After a short interregnum, what mode of street transport replaced most of these routes?
- 4. What were the junction stations of Australia's two Mt. Hope branches?
- 5. Which resident of the VR Eastern Line would give a station on the NSWGR Tocumwal Branch as his address?
- 6. 31st December 1926 was a bad day in NSW's tramway history. Which 4 systems or isolated lines closed after the last car of that day's service?

ANSWERS TO TANYA'S QUIZ #8

- 1. Wolla Wolla and Wagga Wagga were on WAGR's former Mullewa Meekatharra Wiluna line either side of the town of Yalgoo. Walla Walla and Wagga Wagga are in the Riverina in NSW with Walla Walla being on the erstwhile Corowa line and Wagga Wagga's location is well known.
- 2. True: the inauguration of the EMUs in Adelaide occurred on Sunday 23rd February 2014, concurrently with the opening of the extension from Noarlunga Centre to Seaford. However, on Friday 21st February, the 1545 and 1748 Noarlunga Centre diesel rail car trips were replaced by an EMU so normal passengers travelled in one of them 2 days early.
- 3. Orange to Broken Hill the Silver City Comet connected with the Central West XPT from/to Sydney at Orange.
- 4. The usual destination shown was Abattoir (i.e. singular) although the more likely Abattoirs was occasionally seen. Well, it **is** Queensland!
- 5. a/ and b/ Bendigo
- 6. Toodyay in Western Australia opened as Newcastle. The original branch line ran from Clackline east of Perth in the Darling Ranges north to Miling and the present station is on the dual gauge line through the Avon Valley. The correct pronunciation is 'Two-jay'.