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NEWCASTLE PRIVATISATION ANNOUNCEMENT (see news)**



ABOVE: A lucky find to score this pre delivery shot of Ventura Rosebud's new (1271) a Volvo B8RLEA/ Volgren Optimus articulated bus which will be used on the Portsea to Frankston run. (Bradley Matthews). BELOW: Everything old is new again. It was a big weekend for David Rae with his former Ventura Leyland Tiger/ PMC appearing at the HCVC show at Healesville and then his ex Davis Ballarat Volvo B10M/ Volgren winning best commercial vehicle award at the Wangaratta show. (Hayden Ramsdale)



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COVER PHOTO: Cranbourne Transit (90) 7377 AO an ex Sita Volvo B10B/ Volgren is joined by (27) Volvo B10M Mk3/ Volgren at the additional metropolitan bus stop outside the Cranbourne Park Shopping Centre on 14/11/2016 (Craig Halsall)

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*LEFT: Another old is new again vehicle present at the Yarra Glen HCVC rally was former Green Coach Lines, Tasmania (53) Ansair Fxible Clipper which has been restored by the Shadbolt family.
(Hayden Ramsdale)*

CRANBOURNE/ CASEY BUS NETWORK OVERHAUL

By Craig Halsall

A major revision to Cranbourne's bus network was implemented on Sunday 13 November, with four additional routes, changes to a further 13 plus the removal of two confusing circular routes. Associated changes also improved routes in the adjoining suburbs of Dandenong South, Endeavour Hills, Langwarrin and Hampton Park. Benefits include new routes into previously unserved areas, more frequent services, introduction of Sunday and early evening services on four existing routes (789, 790, 796 & 799); more direct routes; removal of several confusing operating patterns and route duplication; improved train and revised runtimes improving reliability and connectivity to and from trains.

Areas receiving additional bus coverage include: Botanic Ridge, Cranbourne South and Cranbourne West (792); Clyde (897); Clyde North (798); Cranbourne North (799, 847 & 899); (792); Dandenong South (890) and Lyndhurst (897). Also Endeavour Hills gains a new connection to Hallam Station & Hampton Park Shopping Centre (863) while Pearcedale residents enjoy a reinstatement of a direct Cranbourne connection (792).

The four new routes in the network are:

792 Cranbourne Station – Botanic Ridge – Pearcedale (Cranbourne Transit)

863 Endeavour Hills – Hampton Park (Ventura Dandenong)

890 Dandenong – Lynbrook via Dandenong South (Cranbourne Transit)

899 Berwick – The Avenue Village Shopping Centre (Ventura Pakenham)

The new network discontinues the inter peak 797 Cranbourne Town Service along with the convoluted 896 Trainlink service to Cranbourne East, both Cranbourne Transit services.

A highlight of the new network is upgrading three connector routes to operate at 20 min daytime headways 7 days a week. These are 798 between Cranbourne and Clyde North, 893 between Dandenong, Hampton Park, Lynbrook & Cranbourne and 897 between Lynbrook, Cranbourne & Clyde.

Frankston, Karingal & Langwarrin

The Cranbourne-Frankston Road/ Sladen Street corridor, linking Frankston, Karingal Hub Shopping Centre, Langwarrin and Cranbourne, is being streamlined with more direct services, higher frequencies and consistent operating patterns 7 days a week. There were previously three different service models operating along Cranbourne-Frankston Road depending on the day of the week.

Under the old arrangement, weekday 789 trips ran between Frankston and Langwarrin North (travelling as a loop through Woodlands estate) with 790 travelling the full corridor between Frankston, Langwarrin South (Southgateway) and Cranbourne before effectively doubling-back to Cranbourne West. 791 provided one direct morning peak trip each way along with evening trips between 2000 & 2200. The last 789 ex Frankston continued to Cranbourne, running the opposite direction through Woodlands Park to all other weekday trips.

Langwarrin North (Woodlands) residents could not easily interchange from 789 to 790 for travel to Cranbourne, as by the time the bus completed the loop, the 790 20 minutes later was already travelling down Southgateway, so the connection would be almost 40 mins, with similar issues in the opposite direction. Instead, they would have been wiser to walk as far as 1.5km to their nearest 790 stop.

On Saturdays however 789 operated through to Cranbourne West (operating bi-directionally through Langwarrin North/Woodlands) along with 790 via Southgateway with each route running an 80 min path through Langwarrin combining to a 40 min headway along the rest of the corridor. Then on Sundays, 791 was the only route of the trio operating, running direct along Frankston-Cranbourne Rd through Langwarrin hourly. The new timetable sees 791 become a fulltime direct service between Frankston and Cranbourne Station, running at 20 min intervals on weekdays right up to 9pm (doubling of the previous 790 every 40 mins) and 40 mins on weekends (a 33% increase on Sundays).

The 789 and 790 now solely act as feeder routes to/from Frankston, branching off to serve either Langwarrin North or Langwarrin South before reaching a common terminus on Centre Rd south of Frankston-Cranbourne Road, where passengers can interchange to 791 to travel onto Cranbourne. Buses return to Frankston via the sister route. The 40 mins weekdays and 80 mins Saturday headways have been maintained, but new Sunday services have been added, also at 80 min intervals. 789 has been streamlined in Langwarrin North, no longer operating up Stevens Rd. A more frequent combined corridor now operates between Frankston, Karingal Hub and Gateway Plaza in Langwarrin, with services every 10 mins all day on weekdays. Weekend departures ex Frankston are every 20 mins but services into Frankston operate a lumpier 10-30-10-30 min headway (still

meeting the 10 min trains at Frankston), This is a significant boost on the previous 20 min weekday, 40 min Saturday & hourly Sunday service levels. The Frankston terminus for these routes has been relocated to Fletcher Road, which appears connected to interchange upgrade works (see news section). As it is, a majority of arriving passengers into Frankston alight the bus here anyway.

Further to the frequency improvements, services should become more reliable – for several years the 789/790/791 timetable has suffered late running due to unrealistic travel times, which failed to reflect the downgrade of the 100km/h speed limits on Cranbourne-Frankston Road to 80km/h ten years ago.

Cranbourne West, Botanic Ridge, Pearcedale & Devon Meadows

The former Cranbourne Station – Cranbourne West section of the 789/790/791 now forms part of the new 792 service. The former arrangement dates back to March 2003 when trips were through-routed with the then 798 feeder route, bringing the Frankston routes to Cranbourne Station (buses had continued to terminate 1km away at Cranbourne Park Shopping Centre after the electrification was completed in 1995).

Route 792 follows a more direct route path in Cranbourne West than the former 789/790/791 but continues to pass the Sandhurst Shopping Centre. The eastern end of Duff St now receives a much more regular service than the old 797 town service. Passengers along Camms Rd can catch the enhanced 897 service. The existing 40 min Monday to Saturday headway is retained, with Sunday services boosted to every 40 mins. From Evans Rd 792 continues via Hall Rd, Atlas Dr and Everlasting Bvd incorporating newer parts of Cranbourne West before continuing onto the Settlers Run estate in Botanic Ridge, an area overdue for a bus service for more than 5 years. Following community requests, selected trips (generally every 2 hours) continue a further 6km through Cranbourne South to the Pearcedale Township, providing residents with an alternative option to the 776 to Frankston. Either option takes roughly 90 mins to reach Melbourne. Casey Council had previously funded a trial of a shopper 794 service between Cranbourne & Pearcedale during 2005-6.

Early residents moving into the Summerhill and Acacia Estates off Craig Road benefit from a basic upgrade to the 796 timetable, buses on the loop via Botanic Ridge, Devon Meadows, Five Ways and Clyde now run every 90 mins during peak times and 2 hourly inter peak as well as weekends for the first time. Devon Meadows briefly enjoyed a trial of limited weekend 795 services in 2005 and early 2006 funded by Casey Council.

All 796 trips now travel via Clyde village, there are no trips returning to Cranbourne direct along the South Gippsland Hwy from Five Ways. It is unknown if school buses are being added to serve Clyde village, as the new timetable no longer appears to cater for school students attending school locally in Cranbourne. One criticism is the weekend 796 timetable has been designed too closely around train connections, resulting in trips dwelling at the older Clyde village for 15 minutes meaning the route fails to operate as a true circular route. Preference could have been made to meet trains in the main direction depending on the time day, at the expense of a clock face timetable.

The timetable for the complex 795 to the coastal villages of Warneet, Tooradin, Blind Bight and Cannons Creek is unchanged but it is unclear if school day only restrictions have been removed from the 0710 & 1620 trips (there may be an error on the PTV website).

Cranbourne East, Clyde & Clyde North

The booming suburbs of Cranbourne East, Clyde and Clyde North continue to be a focus of service upgrades in light of the lack of any proposal to extend the Cranbourne line.

The complicated 896 Cranbourne East Trainlink service has been discontinued after 13 years of operation. Like the former 571 to South Morang, the route was designed as a pseudo way to deliver the 1999 election promise of an extension (which has become expensive to deliver due to the preference to grade separate the major arterials of both South Gippsland Hwy and Cameron St). The route however was somewhat illegible, running a large circular path incorporating Cranbourne Park Shopping Centre and Casey Complex (a site of numerous community facilities, such as a library, aquatic centre, indoor sports centres/skate parks) along with the local TAFE and Casey Grammar School.

Early morning and late evening trips often bypassed Cranbourne Park Shopping Centre or Casey Complex, although the July 2014 timetable introduced early morning trips from Cranbourne Park Shopping Centre to provide a frequent station connection for those in the Livingstone estate south of Berwick-Cranbourne Road. The circular format meant passengers alighting trains had a timetabled connection to Cranbourne Park Shopping Centre 1km away but there was often no equivalent bus back to the station.



TOP: A direct service from Pearce Dale to has been reinstated after nearly 10 years. (82) 0448 AO Volvo B10B/ Volgren of Cranbourne Transit wearing MMBL decals operates the new 792 service on 14/11/16



CENTRE: The area around the Clyde terminus of route 897 to Lynbrook is still only beginning to be developed. (86) 0440 AO Volvo B10B/ Volgren awaits departure on 17/11/16.



BOTTOM: (88) Volvo B10B/ Volgren heads to Frankston with (62) Scania K310UB/ Volgren in hot pursuit on 14/11/2016. (All photos by Craig Halsall)

This also skewed patronage figures, when many passengers alighted before the bus proceeded to Cranbourne East. Furthermore, 896 trips often terminated mid-loop in Brindalee Place before resuming again at Hunt Club Boulevard and running through the various back streets in Cranbourne East a second time, to ensure ideal train connections at either end of the trip. Other than a poor use of resources, it meant anyone boarding the bus at Casey Complex at these times (including most weekend trips) would have to endure a lengthy trip back to the station. Similarly, until the introduction of 898 in December 2010, Camms Road effectively only had a useable service in one direction, towards the station.

Two late night Friday and Saturday evening buses ran a larger 'Nightlife Shuttle' loop incorporating Cranbourne West, but it is doubtful if they regularly carried passengers away from the standard route. This variation dates back to October 2006 when 0030 & 0100 trains were added on most lines, at a time when local youth were campaigning for a NightRider link (delivered in November 2008). Cranbourne West residents can continue to access the 982 Night Bus overnight. Resources saved from abolishing 896 have been reinvested into strengthening the existing 798 & 898 routes and extending 897, providing three direct options accessing to both the station and Cranbourne Park Shopping Centre.

798 continues to operate between Cranbourne Park Shopping Centre and Clyde North via Cranbourne Station, Camms Road and Linsell Boulevard. The route has finally been extended into Selandra Rise, travelling along Selandra Boulevard and Heather Grove. Four extra trips have been added on Saturdays, while Sunday service has been doubled to 20 minutes, matching other days of the week. Services continue to run until 0015 on Saturday nights but on other nights buses finish around two hours earlier, a reduction in span to the old 896 which ran to last train. The average peak headway has been reduced from 15 mins to 20 mins, resulting in some 30 min gaps as the timetable is still customised to meet 15 min trains.

Hunt Club Estate residents continue to be served by local feeder Route 898, which now travels via Cameron St (past the TAFE) and Cranbourne Park Shopping Centre enroute to the station, avoiding duplication with 798 on Camms Road. Weekday peak services now operate every 20 mins (formerly 25 – 30 mins), matching the inter peak upgrade in July 2014. Saturday services have been increased from hourly to 40 mins.

Route 897 has been extended east to Clyde via Berwick-Cranbourne Rd and Patterson's Rd. The route serves new estates beyond the reach of the former 896, passing Casey Complex (896) and Blue Hills Retirement Village (797) en route, along with Casey Fields sporting precinct, the sister Blue Hills Rise Retirement Village and 'Shopping on Clyde', facilities only served by 796 trips before. The Ramligh Springs estate provided indented bus stops and a turning circle on Patterson's Rd encouraging the early extension of the route when few homes have been built to date. As per 798, buses on 897 operate 20 mins 7 days however there is no late evening Saturday service.

Although Cranbourne East and Clyde is largely well served for now, a further route along Lyneham Drive for residents moving into the Parks Edge estate will surely be needed within the next couple of years to cater for the current rate of growth.

Lyndhurst & Central Park

At the other end, 897 has been extended north from Central Parkway to Lynbrook via the Marriot Waters estate and Shopping Centre in Lyndhurst, another area crying out for a bus route for several years. The current loop north of Central Parkway is removed but most residents remain within walking distance to alternative stops. The 20 min 7 day headway is a significant increase for passengers along the existing parts of 897, which previously ran every 25 to 30 mins in peak periods and just once an hour on weekends.

Cranbourne Park Shopping Centre

Passengers on the restructured 897 & 898 should notice buses now operate to/from Cranbourne Park Shopping Centre in both directions. Stretched resources in the December 2010 network had created a bizarre operating pattern, with off peak trips on Route 898 departing Cranbourne Park Shopping Centre for Archers Field Drive but on return terminating at the station, with passengers required to seek a connecting bus. The vehicle would then continue west to Central Park as 897. Upon return to the station, the bus would continue back to the shopping centre – thus 897 buses failed to provide a direct bus home from the shops. On weekdays, a footnote advised 897 customers at Cranbourne Park Shopping Centre to catch an 898 bus 7 minutes earlier to connect with their bus.

This model continued from July 2014 with the upgrade of inter peak services from 30 mins to 20 mins, although a connection from 898 to 897 was no longer timetabled. With the introduction of 798 at the same time, the timetable was thoughtfully designed to provide a consistent rail connection from Cranbourne Park

Shopping Centre, meeting trains in both directions, which also assisted passengers trying to navigate Routes 897 and 898. While this is no longer the case with the new 798 timetable, buses on 791, 897 & 898 have been relocated to a common stop on High Street outside the centre, with all three routes generally timed to meet trains towards Melbourne. The only Cranbourne route not to serve Cranbourne Park Shopping Centre is 792 however there are ample connecting options under the new network.

Dandenong South

The original 2014 state election promise to operate 897 to Dandenong via Dandenong South has been delivered by introducing a separate 890 route between Dandenong & Lynbrook, providing bus services to light and heavy industry businesses along Greens Rd, Kitchen Rd and Abbotts Rd. Buses operate every 40 mins during the day and hourly in the early evening – a 30 min weekday peak & peak-shoulder service would have been more attractive for workers, with hourly clock face services acceptable at other times. A 0425 departure from Lynbrook on weekdays will struggle to find passengers.

Cranbourne North

Cranbourne North has also grown in recent years, now expanding on the eastern side of Narre Warren-Cranbourne Road. The Avenue Village Shopping Centre will become a focal point for three initial routes for local residents. A new 899 service operates directly from Berwick and Eden Rise Shopping Centre via Clyde Rd, Arbourlea Boulevard, Wheelers Park Drive, Alisma Boulevard & Mountainview Boulevard. This was a late addition, not mentioned during the consultation phase, which could explain the lesser 40 min frequency that operates, even at peak times. A southward extension of 847 from Casey Central to The Avenue Village is more direct than planned as a result of the 899, now travelling the length of William Thwaites Boulevard. Duplication with 834/835 on Heritage Drive has been removed. Existing headways are maintained - 30 min peak, 40 min inter peak and hourly weekends.

Initial plans for 799 have also been revised, with the service extended to The Avenue Village Shopping Centre rather than Casey Central Shopping Centre, providing an east-west connection to Merinda Park Station on the Cranbourne line. The 799 has finally received a minimum standards boost, with later services Monday to Saturday along with new Sunday services. Weekend services operate every 40 mins (versus the former hourly Saturday timetable) however peak services have been cutback to 40 mins, reflecting poor patronage. Buses no longer run express in the counter-peak direction, assisting those wanting to transfer to 847 or 899 to reach Berwick.

The inter peak and Saturday extension from Merinda Park to Cranbourne Park Shopping Centre has been deleted, passengers must now interchange to 841 or 893 (arguably many residents will find it acceptable just to walk to either route instead). Buses continue to travel along Waverley Park Drive, maintaining coverage in the Lawless Drive area and allowing same-stop transfers to/from 893 – it was proposed buses continue along Huon Park Drive into Wentworth Avenue. Ventura's 841 Cranbourne – Fountain Gate – Narre Warren North route retains its existing timetable, which considering other upgrades in the region, is now deserving of a more frequent timetable.

Hampton Park

Services in Hampton Park, which have developed haphazardly over several decades with limited budgets, have also been revamped to provide a more logical and direct offering, with reduced route duplication. A number of the existing kinks in the 893 Dandenong – Eumemmering – Hallam – Hampton Park – Lynbrook – Cranbourne service have been removed, strengthening its role as the main north-south link along Hallam Road and avoiding existing duplication with routes 891 and 894 which were added in later years.

Following feedback during the public consultation, services continue to travel via Lynbrook Shopping Centre however no longer enter Lynbrook estate. The opening of the nearby station in April 2012 has reduced the need for 893 to travel through here, as did the introduction of 891 in December 2010.

Weekend services on 893 have been tripled from hourly to 20 mins, matching a previous upgrade of inter peak services in July 2014. This is quite a contrast to the service levels just over 10 years ago, when buses only ran every 40 to 45 mins inter peak and every 90 mins on Saturdays!

Route 891 (Lynbrook – Hallam – Fountain Gate) is now the only option for passengers along McDowall Road and Cairns Road, with passengers travelling to/from Cranbourne now required to change to 893 at Lynbrook Shopping Centre. The 891 has been amended to operate via Oaktree Drive and Willow Drive to cover off a removed section of 893. A planned change for buses to travel along Jeffery Street, Regans Road and Somerville Road did not proceed, nor did a possible extension onto Narre Warren Station.

Weekend services have been boosted from 60 to 40 mins but peak services have decreased from 30 to 40 mins. All morning peak services now travel to/from Fountain Gate, removing the Tinks Road short workings.

Route 892 services between Dandenong & Casey Central now travel along Pound Road rather than Somerville Road in Hampton Park. The existing 30 min weekday frequency and hourly weekend frequency is maintained, when arguably this route is more deserving of a 40 min weekend headway than 890 given it serves a mix of industrial and residential areas. Morning peak runtimes have been reduced by around 5 minutes, but trips from the outer end of Narre Warren South will still take about 40 to 45 mins to reach Dandenong.

Routes 894 (Hallam – Amberly Park) and 895 (Fountain Gate – Narre Warren South) uphold their existing timetables, which include peak services operating express in the counter peak direction to minimise bus requirements. Also 895 still ignores Fountain Gate Shopping Centre during peak times. Both issues require attention in a future revision. Residents in south-west Hampton Park lose out with cuts of around 70% to peak hour headways due to the routing changes for 892 and 893 - McDowall Rd and Cairns Road receive 1.5 buses an hour in peak periods on 891, compared to 5 buses previously. Services per hour on Somerville Road drop from 7 to 2, now only served by 894, with no services operating in the counter-peak direction.

Endeavour Hills

A new route 863 links Hampton Park and Endeavour Hills via Heatherton Road and Hallam Road. This provides residents in eastern Endeavour Hills with a Hallam rail connection for the first time, saving up to 15 mins versus travelling into Dandenong. Extending 894 north to Endeavour Hills Shopping Centre or 861 south would have been a more efficient way to deliver this link, as the route has an unacceptably high 44% layover ratio in its current form (or 35 mins layover for every 45 min round trip). 863 operates every 40 mins 7 days a week, with trips until 9pm.

Three decades after Endeavour Hills & Mossgiel Park were developed neighbourhoods adjoining Kennington Park Drive and Shetland Street finally now have a direct option to reach Endeavour Hills Shopping Centre, with 843 now travelling a spur along Mossgiel Park Drive. This adds 5 minutes to a trip to the terminus though. The combined 843/861 trip late on Sunday afternoons continues to operate, bypassing Endeavour Hills Shopping Centre.

Bus services in Endeavour Hills unfortunately continue to operate below minimum standards level, particularly on Sundays when buses operate every 2 hours, starting as late as 1100 (861) and finishing between 1630 & 1800. This was despite information during consultation that the 843 would be upgraded to operate every 40 mins on Saturdays and every 60 mins on Sundays. An upgrade to 842 between Endeavour Hills and Fountain Gate Shopping Centre is also solely needed – this was promised by the Liberals prior to the 2014 state election.

Vehicles.

Cranbourne ordered 18 new Scania K310UB/ Volgren Optimus buses however only seven were available by implementation date. As a result, seven second hand Volvo B10Bs ex Sita Bus Lines are being used to deliver the Monday to Friday timetable. These buses, which retain the orange & white Sita livery, were purchased via auction to replace the former State Transit Mercedes Benz O405s at the sister Mansfield Mt Buller Bus Lines operation for their ski fields shuttles – two had already spent time up there this winter, and are operating signwritten for MMBL! As these have roller blinds paper signage is required to identify routes. The vehicles are fitted with bus tracking equipment but passengers enjoy a free ride, as myki devices were removed prior to being sold. All four remaining Volvo B10Ms in Cranbourne Transit fleet with traditional black & white Phillips colours are also being used, with sightings of up to ten high floors out on route duties across a single peak. Ventura's Dandenong and Pakenham depots received eight new Volvo B7RLEs in the weeks leading up to the new timetable, and have been able to maintain a fully accessible service.

Conclusion

Overall, despite a few remaining quirks, the new network is a significant boost for residents in Melbourne's outer south-east. Although some areas were well overdue to receive bus services, in other cases buses are being delivered as residents move in, which coupled with semi-frequent and direct 7-day routes should tame the car culture often synonymous with outer suburban living. Captive passengers who've tolerated the existing network will now enjoy fewer long waits and will no longer have to understand complex service patterns. However PTV's new interactive "Melbourne by Bus" map was not promptly updated with the changes, with the new routes only appearing towards the end of the second week of operation of the upgraded network. A new local area PDF for Casey has been uploaded to the PTV website along with incomplete versions for Frankston and Greater Dandenong that fail to show all the changes.



*TOP: Prospective pax at Fountain Gate ask the driver if (81) Volvo B10B/ Volgren is the next 891 trip due to the lack of route no. in the windscreen, as Volvo (88) lurks in the background on 17/11/16.
(Craig Halsall)*



*CENTRE: New (70) BS02LE Scania K310UB/ Volgren Optimus approaches the station on an 898 trip from Cranbourne East on 16/11/16.
(Geoff Foster)*



BOTTOM: With three routes into Frankston the stop can get full. Three Scania's, two bodied by Volgren and one Gemilang on 17/11/16. (G. Foster)

Where it all began (Part 2):

By Steven Haby

The Victorian Motor Omnibus (Urban and Country) Act (1927) and the Motor Omnibus Act (No. 3742, 1928) a brief summary of original regional and rural bus routes in Victoria. Part 2: Routes 81 onwards. This article follows on from Part 1 published in Panorama in 2015 and will be continued in the March issue.

No.	Route	Gazette Ref and Notes
81	Bairnsdale – Paynesville via Eagle Point	4 July 1928 p1823. This is now Bairnsdale route 13 operated by Paynesville Bus Lines (Gillick). 4 July 1928 p 1823. No longer operates.
82	Croydon – Warrandyte via Kent & Healesville Roads to Plymouth Road thence via the Warrandyte – Ringwood Road	
83	Eltham District – to any point within a five mile radius from Eltham Station	11 July 1928 p1915. Now covered by routes 578-582 of Panorama Coaches
84	Kilmore District - to any point within a five mile Radius from Kilmore Post Office	11 July 1928 p 1915 A Kilmore Town Service is now operated by Mitchell Transit introduced from 27/01/14
85	Gisborne District – to any point within a five mile radius from Gisborne Station	11 July 1928 p 1915. GisBus (Sunshine Coaches) now operates metro route 473 – now a demand Response service within Gisborne
86	Wangaratta District – to any point within a five mile radius from Wangaratta Station	11 July 1928 p1915. Covered now by Fallon’s town service (previously Cullens) comprising Route 401 to 404
87	Shepparton District – to any point within a five Mile radius from Shepparton Station	11 July 1928 p 1915. Shepparton Transit operate numerous town services within Shepparton (the Former operators included Monti, Doyle and Ohlin) and Jacobsen (formerly Geraghty) runs out to neighboring Mooroopna.
88	Benalla District - to any point within a five mile radius from Benalla Station	11 July 1928 p 1915. Benalla Bus Lines now operates two routes on the local town service
89	Maryborough District – to any point within a three Mile radius from Maryborough Station (Lean)	11 July 1928 p 1915. A four route town service is currently operated by Maryborough Transit
90	Cheltenham District – to any point within a five and radius from Cheltenham Station	Both 1 August 1928 p 2077. In 1928 Cheltenham Mentone were considered to be out of Melbourne.
91	Mentone District – to any point within a three Mile radius from Mentone Station	Nowadays there are numerous metro routes run by Ventura and Transdev through both suburbs.
92	Sale – Dargo via Princes Highway to Stratford Thence Briagolong then via the Dargo Road.	1 August 1928 p 2077. It is no longer possible to access Dargo via public transport.
93	Clunes District – to any point within a one mile Radius from the railway station	1 August 1928 p 2077. During the annual Clunes Booktown Festival, the local hotel provides a service from the town centre to the station.
94	Werribee District - to any point within five Radius from the railway station	Both 1 August 1928 p 2077. Now covered by many routes operated by CDC Melbourne (previously run by Westrans (Kefford) and Pt Cook-Werribee P.S.)
95	Werribee – No 1 Aircraft Depot (Laverton) via Prince’s Highway and Point Cook Road	
96	Ballarat – Clunes via the Ballarat – Lexton and Maryborough- Ballarat Roads to Clunes	1 August 1928 p 2077. For many years Davis Bus Lines operated a stage service to Clunes. Now it is served by the Ballarat – Avoca and the Ballarat – Maryborough routes run by Little’s.
97	Monbulk – Burleigh via Monbulk Road	1 August 1928 p 2077. No longer operates.

98	Pakenham Station – Gembrook via Pakenham Township then the Woori-Yallock –Pakenham And Gembrook Road to Gembrook.	1 August 1928 p 2077. No longer operates.
99	Geelong – Queenscliff via Geelong –Queenscliff and Geelong Roads	1 August 1928 p 2077. Now operates as route 32 in the Bellarine Transit network by McHarry's.
100	Ballarat – Rokewood via Ballarat – Rokewood Rd	1 August 1928 p 2077. No longer operates.
101	Geelong – Rokewood via Ballarat-Geelong Road, Shelford-Bannockburn and Rokewood – Shelford Roads	1 August 1928 p 2077. No longer operates.
102	Nowa Nowa – Orbost via Prince's Highway	1 August 1928 p 2077. Ceased operation but is now covered by Dyson's Bairnsdale – Orbost corridor V/Line services
103	Birregurra – Deane's Marsh	1 August 1928 p 2077. No longer operates.
105	Leongatha – Mirboo North via Leongatha - Yarragon and Mardan Roads.	8 August 1928, p 2132. Covered in part now by the Traralgon – Wonthaggi route operated by South Coast Bus.
106	Mirboo North – Inverloch via Berry's Creek - Leongatha – Mirboo; Mardan; Leongatha – Yarragon and Inverloch – Leongatha Roads	8 August 1928 p 2132 (see note under 105 above)
107	Inverloch – Lower Tarwin via Inverloch – Lower Tarwin Road	8 August 1928 p 2132. Ceased operation but is now covered by a school bus route.
108	Sale – Yarram via Sale – Longford Road and Sale – Yarram Road.	8 August 1928 p 2132. Ceased operation. Now a school bus and Turnbull's run a passenger service from Yarram to Traralgon.
109	Sale – Seaspray via Sale – Longford and Seaspray Road	8 August 1928 p 2132. Dyson's Bairnsdale depot now runs this service
110	Heyfield – Licola	8 August 1928 p 2132. No longer operates
111	Benalla – Mansfield via Benalla –Mansfield Rd	8 August 1928 p 2132. No longer operates but is Now covered by a Benalla Bus Lines school run.

BELOW: Original country bus route 81 still exists today as Gillick's route 13 between Bairnsdale and Paynesville. Current vehicle is BS00HD Scania K280UB/ Bustech VST new in 2013, seen leaving the main street in October 2016. (Geoff Foster)





TOP: Seen here loading in Geelong for the Queenscliff run in the late 1970s is McHarry's ILY 078 a 1973 ex AAT-Kings Denning S.A. bodied rear engine Albion Viking VK57. (Bruce Tilley)



CENTRE: To operate the Wangaratta Town Service (original route 86), in 1967/8 Cullens bought a pair of Freightner bodied Hino RM100 33 seaters. KBR 749 is seen loading at the old terminus in Reid Street. (Bruce Tilley)



BOTTOM: Originally country route 83, Eltham services are now very much part of suburbia. CSQ 322 Scania K92CRB/ Newnham of 1986 in the Hurstbridge Coaches fleet waits at Eltham Station for a 581 trip in 1986. (Geoff Foster)

Rail replacement : a commuter's perspective

By Steven Haby

One of the key election platforms for the Andrews Government in Victoria is the elimination of around 50 level crossings across greater metropolitan Melbourne. This program of work has seen a number of large scale rail replacement programs as railway lines are temporarily closed to enable level crossings to be removed and new stations built.

In October 2016 level crossings at Ginifer and St Albans were removed and the railway line lowered and new stations constructed at these two locations. This necessitated the replacement of suburban trains between Sunshine and Sunbury with buses and the replacement of V/Line services on the Bendigo line with coaches. The latter was also due to extensive track upgrading between Swan Hill, Echuca, Bendigo and Sunbury. This article is a brief summary of my perspectives as a V/Line commuter between Kyneton and Southern Cross on the rail replacement services offered.

Pre-publicity

V/Line did an excellent job of keeping their customers well informed with notices placed at all stations, information on the PTV and V/Line websites, advertisements in the local papers and on-board announcements made by conductors in the days leading up to the replacement program.

Timetables

Timetables were available well in advance and incorporated a mix of 'all station, limited express and express' type services. In many cases direct express services ran from key stations in the morning and outbound in the evening peaks. For example the 0711 service from Kyneton that originated in Bendigo was replaced by amongst other services a direct 0702 express direct to Southern Cross calling at North Melbourne only. Up to six coaches would cover a service from Southern Cross for example with some running express to Bendigo or Woodend then Kyneton.

Running times

As one would expect rail replacement services were slower than the V/Line trains particularly if they were stopping all stations. On my trips catching the 0702 express from Kyneton arrival at Southern Cross was booked at 0828 however most trips ran at least 15 to 20 minutes late due to traffic on the Calder and Tullamarine Freeways (not helped by Tullamarine Freeway road works also under way at the time). Evening running times were not too bad although I normally caught the 1759 express to Kyneton which was scheduled to arrive at 1845.

Operators

With such a large operation it was expected that a case of 'everything with wheels' would be in operation.

Operators noted included:

Australian Nationwide Tours	Crown Coaches
Dyson Group (including vehicles from their Wodonga operation and Cobb & Co);	
Donric Group (including Bacchus Marsh Coaches; Gold Bus, Organ's and Sunbury Bus Service);	
Firefly Coaches	Holland's Adventure Holidays
Skylight Buslines;	Sunshine Tours.

Vehicle notes

Vehicles ranged from school bus and day charter coaches right up to top range express coaches in the case of Firefly. All I rode in were fitted with seatbelts and were in exceptional condition inside and out. Holland's Adventure Tours had their Denning Landseer out for a run – 1341AO a 48 seater with toilet originally with Australian Kakadu Tours delivered in 1988. This would have been the oldest coach on the V/Line replacement services but she was very well presented.

Summary

Overall the rail replacement (from a V/Line commuter perspective) acquitted itself very well. I did notice Kastoria and Sita vehicles out on the Metro rail replacement program whilst travelling in on the Calder Freeway. (ED: Other operators on the metro section included Dysons, Transdev and CDC)

Coach drivers were friendly and made appropriate announcements en route as were V/Line staff at all stations. All in all despite grumbles from some regular passengers the entire operation was undertaken with utter professionalism and slickness and most importantly in good humour which made the inconvenience so much more pleasant. (See P16 for a few photos)

NATIONAL NEWS ROUNDUP

Future Bus.

Daimler Benz has released a new generation city bus capable of automated operation. The bus was able to drive automatically for a 20km journey along a section of bus rapid transit line in Amsterdam in July 2016. The bus ran at speeds of up to 70kph, stopped to the nearest centimetre at bus stops and traffic lights, drove off again automatically, braked for obstacles and pedestrians and communicated with traffic signals. The technology called City Pilot can also be fitted to current generation city buses to allow partial autonomous operation in bus lanes. The future bus utilises a modified version of the current Daimler Benz "Citaro" body shell.

Bustech in Adelaide

Bustech have partnered with advanced manufacturer Precision Components to develop a bus building plant in Northern Adelaide. The S.A. Government has contributed a \$2 million grant through their Automotive Transformation Taskforce and the Northern Economic Plan. The purpose of the alliance is to establish an Adelaide manufacturing plant for Bustech's full product range, providing significant additional capacity to Bustech's Gold Coast plant.

Bustech are producing four buses for TransAdelaide fleets (see photo on P59), including two trial electric buses. Bustech will also be bidding for the forthcoming 10 year bus supply contract for Adelaide citybuses. If successful the plant will generate up to 100 new local manufacturing jobs.

Bus Driver Abuse.

The increasing instance of bus drivers being verbally and physically abused by passengers has been reported in mainstream media in several States in recent months. Incidents were reported from NSW, Victoria and Queensland. Then came the worst possible confirmation of the trend on 28 October when Brisbane Transport bus driver Manmeet Alisher was set on fire by a man who had boarded his bus (Volvo 1280) in Moorooka. A passing taxi driver helped rescue 11 trapped passengers. The man was charged with murder and 11 counts of attempted murder but his motivation for the attack was unclear.

Manmeet's family, friends and locals held a vigil, Brisbane Council flags flew at half mast and in a wonderful show of unity drivers around the country planned days of respect during the following week by driving with headlights on and/ or wearing armbands. Social media also paid many tributes to both Manmeet and Aquek. Brisbane City Council has also set up a trust fund for his family and will be placing a monument in his honour. Whilst some aspects of bus driving are inherently dangerous and bus drivers have lost their lives in on road accidents, no one, but no one, deserves the type of death inflicted on this young man.

The shocking incident came shortly after a joint survey by the Queensland Bus Industry Council and the Transport Workers Union revealed that more than half of 10,000 bus drivers surveyed had experienced regular abuse by passengers. The holiday areas of Cairns and the Gold Coast reported the worst violence, often associated with heavy drinking. More than 78% of drivers also reported having objects thrown at their bus with 20% having been physically assaulted whilst at the wheel. Drivers also identified scheduling pressures and Translink contract renewal processes as additional sources of stress. Both QBIC Executive Director David Tape and the Transport Workers Union in Queensland have called for increased penalties for offenders who attack either drivers or fellow travellers.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Transport Canberra has announced that seven new routes will be added to the already part established bus rapid transit network. As well as the Gungahlin-Fyshwick and Kippax-Lanyon routes there will be routes to better link Woden, Tuggeranong, Barton and Belconnen. Woden to Civic via Barton will be introduced in 2017 with two routes due in 2018 being Woden – City via Weston Creek and Belconnen – Watson via Dickson. Plans call for the introduction of Tuggeranong to Civic via Erindale in 2019; Lanyon to Airport via Barton in 2020 and Belconnen to Airport via Civic also in 2020.

The additional services will require an additional 80 drivers and cost \$26 million on top of the extsng \$120 million annual budget. The additional kilometres be at least in part funded via offsets in bus kilometres consequential on the opening of the light rail service from 2018. It should also be noted that the ACT Election in October 2016 resulted in a narrow win for the Labor-Greens coalition which means that the light rail route will now definitely go ahead. Spokesperson Megan Fitzharris has also foreshadowed the use of electric buses, reforming the ticketing system, plus building more park and rides and bike and rides.



October's rail Replacement kept the coaches and the Southern Cross bus interchange at full stretch.

TOP: Dysons were running the show and used many of their Irizar bodied Scania Coaches including (903) BS01UK seen on approach to Southern Cross.



CENTRE: Pino Gattellaro of Sunshine Coaches has done a full Refurbishment of his 1985 Volvo B10M/ Volgren twin deck 8442 AO and it looks a treat emerging from Southern Cross in the morning sun.



BOTTOM: Sita provided a lot of buses for the metro service north of Sunshine Station.

Seen there on lay over are two of their many former Brisbane Transport Volvo B10L/ Ansair Orana low floors.

(All photos by Geoff Foster)

TASMANIA

Regional services

The west coast to Burnie trial bus service, operated by Tassielink, which commenced in April 2016 has been further extended. From 25 October the service now starts and ends in Strahan instead of Queenstown, departing Strahan at 7.30am Tuesdays and Fridays arriving Burnie at 11.25 with the return departing at 2.30pm arriving Strahan at 6.10pm.

From Monday 19 September, a new semi-express bus called Hospital Link runs between the Mersey Community Hospital, outside Devonport and the North West Regional Hospital at Burnie. The service operates four trips each way on weekdays and two on weekends with a 70 minute journey time. Departures from MCH are at 7.10am, 9.35am, 1.00pm and 4.00pm. The departure times from Burnie are at 8.17am, 11.45am, 2.42pm and 5.17pm. The service is operated by Metro Tasmania's Burnie depot. With a metro Greencard a family of four can do the return trip for less than \$25. The service also stops at Latrobe, Devonport, Ulverstone, Burnie and the University of Tasmania (Burnie).

Metro News

Metro's introduction of a new Hobart network in January 2012 has facilitated a 3.5% increase in first boardings in the first six months of the new network. Overall, for the last 12 months, Metro posted a 2.2% increase in passenger traffic state wide. These statistics are highly commendable, especially when one is aware of some of rather gloomy statistics being posted by Metro in recent years. Also in the development mode is the Greencard cashless fare payment which also achieved a significant increase in usage, from 64% of passenger boardings in 2014-5 to 82% in 2015-6.

As many readers and observers will be aware, Metro has a large fleet of old buses but the fact is now official. Metro's latest annual report states the current fleet is by far the oldest in Australia with the average age at 16.3 years. It is hoped that the purchase of 100 new buses (see ABP 32.1 and 32.2) will result in a decrease in the average age to 11.6 years – a figure more in line with other state capital city operators. Delivery of the first of seven new Scania articulated buses for Hobart is scheduled for March 2017. Five of these new buses will replace the last of the Volvo B10M artics which date from 1986-87, while the other two will facilitate growth in the number of services operated by articulated buses.

Metro's Annual Report for 2015-16 reported that a 25% increase in boardings on buses operating between the University campus at Newnham and the Launceston CBD on a new "Turn Up and Go" service led to the University of Tasmania continuing to assist Metro to fund the expanded service in 2016.

Launceston Service Review.

Metro Tasmania ran public consultations from 17/10/16 to 11/11/16 on a new and simplified bus route network for Launceston. The review covers both general access and school bus services and is due to be implemented in July 2017. Metro states it has developed a network design that is reflective of contemporary public transport planning principles, and meets its operating contract. The new network will streamline services to require fewer, more direct routes (37 down to 21) with some poorly patronised routes and services through difficult to traverse side streets abolished. This will allow resources to be invested in a simpler, more frequent and easier to understand network. In some cases greater walking distance to bus stops may be required, however, all suburbs currently serviced by Metro will continue to be serviced under the new network.

The proposed structure features a new cross-city route, linking the University with Kings Meadows Shops via Mowbray Shops, Invermay, Inveresk, City, Hospital and Six Ways; replacing the current turn up and go service between Mowbray and the city. Travel times on all routes will be re-calculated to better reflect current traffic conditions and improve reliability. Routes will be scheduled, where possible, to minimise waiting times for people transferring between services in the City and school bus services will be reviewed to maximise the number of general access services available to the whole community.

QUEENSLAND

The Bus is Late.

Figures released in September shows more Queensland buses are running late. Translink's Q4 Tracker numbers showed 93.26% of buses ran on time between April and June 2016 compared to 95% in the same period in 2015. Unsurprisingly Brisbane fared the worst with just 87.9% on time running compared to 97.6% for trains.

A Translink spokesperson said buses were continuing to perform well above the existing benchmarks for on time running. The Translink report also showed passenger dissatisfaction with fare affordability is high, 5-10 points below satisfactory levels and some 20 points below best practice. Fares are due to be reduced from January 2017 including reduced off peak fares and less zones. The number of trips, however was up for the quarter at 46.44 million trips (up 2.3% from the previous year).

From Monday 12 December a number of changes were made to bus routes and stops through the CBD due to the commencement of construction works for the Queens Wharf development. From the same day many timetable changes came into place as did revised stand allocations at Garden City. Tenders closed on 18/11/16 for Railbus Service-Maryborough West Rail Station-Hervey Bay, Railbus Service-Proserpine Rail Station-Whitsundays and Transfer Service Bowen Rail Station-Bowen Town.

BT Bus Service Review.

After its failure to respond effectively to the previous bus service review carried out by Translink, the Brisbane City Council's public transport committee has now launched its first major review of bus services since 2012. Many BT services frequently run up to 25 minutes late because running times do not reflect current operating and traffic conditions which has resulted in State Government payments to the BCC being reduced by \$5.2 million a year. Other issues to be reviewed include routes with repeated cancellations due to late running and services to Queensland Rail stations which are under patronised. The Council has also signalled its intentions to do away with three digit route numbers to be replaced by two digits plus colour coding and branding.

Toowoomba Service Review.

Proposals were put to public consultation during October 2016, for implementation in 2017, and will be administered by Translink rather than Qconnect. The existing routes will also be renumbered and in some cases split as follows:

- 901 Harlaxton – City – Harristown – University of Southern Queensland (USQ) (currently route 1)
- 902 City – Glenvale (currently the western part of route 2)
- 903 City – Mount Lofty (currently the eastern part of route 2)
- 904 City – Centenary Heights – USQ (currently eastern part of route 4)
- 905 City – Ruthven Street south – USQ with some trips extended to Westbrook (currently western part of 4)
- 906 Airport Estate – City - Kelly's Corner – Toowoomba Plaza (currently route 5 which extends beyond the plaza to USQ)
- 907 Wilsonton Heights – City – West Street – USQ (currently route 6)
- 950 City – Highfields – Crows Nest (replacing routes 300/301/314/315)
- The Kan Go City – Rangeville Taxi Bus service (unchanged)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Services

Buses will replace trains on the Outer Harbour and Grange railway lines for three weeks during January 2017 whilst major grade separation works are undertaken between Bowden and Croydon.

Smartphone Ticketing Trial.

The SA Government called tenders, which closed on 4 October for ticketing companies to provide a three month trial of smartphone based ticketing on a selected route for a controlled test group of users. The purpose of the trial is to determine the practicability or otherwise of utilising such a facility more broadly across the system. No timing has yet been indicated for when the trial will commence.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Service Reliability

TransPerth had its best year for punctuality and trips operated for five years in 2015-16 with 99.2% of trips run and an average on time running rate of 85.2%.

Busbee.

A new uber style of operation for buses has been developed by Perth firm Busbee. The app allows bus operators to set up direct express routes not serviced by current contracted public transport providers. The first such service will be from Ellenbrook to the CBD starting on Monday 3 October and will utilise a coach with Busbee signwriting provided by Horizons West. Further routes are planned. The concept is similar to that tried in Melbourne by Suitjet which did not last beyond a trial period. The service is on demand which means that only requested trips will actually operate. A return Ellenbrook – City fare is \$18.

RAC Intellibus Trial

Australia's first trial of a driverless mini bus was carried out in Perth under the aegis of the Automobile Club of Western Australia with support from the State Government. After first being tested in a closed environment, the bus was placed into service on a 25 minute service between Sir James Mitchell Park and the Old Mill in South Perth via South Perth Esplanade. Passengers had to register to book rides and reports suggest that many took the opportunity to sample the unique service.

The bus used is an 11 seat +4 standees minibus built by Navya SAS, a French company. It runs at an average speed of 25kph with top speed capability of 45 kph. No standees are being permitted during the trial which also has a "chaperone" on board mainly to answer questions but who can also press an emergency stop button if required. The chaperone cannot, however, drive the bus as there is no steering wheel or pedals. The bus features a series of internal and external cameras – capable of reading traffic lights, a GPS system, emergency braking and 2D and 3D LIDAR systems which use ultra violet light to sense and avoid obstacles.

Driverless vehicles are not, of course new. There are numerous rail systems, mainly metro style in cities and at airports around the world which use driverless trains. Driverless trucks are also in use at some mines including those run by Rio Tinto in WA's Pilbara region.

Services.

From Sunday 2 October 2016, route 597 no longer deviates via the Mandurah Retirement Village as this section of Third Avenue is no longer a public road. An Alternative stop for intending passengers is available on Collihah Avenue. From Sunday 13 November 2016 minor timetable changes were made to routes 15, 111, 114, 115, 148, 150, 158, 160, 402, 403, 404, 407, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 501, 502, 503, 504, 511, 512, 513, 910 and 990 will undergo time changes. None of these involved changes to routes or to the total number of trips operated.

Regional Services

The tender for Karratha services was won by Go West Tours and comes into place from 1 January 2017.

A revised Bunbury route network and timetables were introduced from 16 October 2016.

825 is a new shuttle to the Dolphin Discovery Centre, replacing the rerouted 827.

Express bus station - train station trips now numbered 826.

827 Bunbury – Eaton no longer serves Koombana Dr (diverted via current 845 route - Hayes/Herbert/Austral).

828 and 829 Bunbury to Health Campus are unchanged.

830 Bunbury – Health Campus rerouted from Spencer/Plaza/Stockley/Jarvis to the coast to compensate for removal of 831, alignment tweaked in Carey Park, selected trips extended to College Grove.

831 Bunbury –Dalyellup has been deleted due to low patronage.

832 Bunbury – Health Campus has been diverted via Stockley/Plaza to compensate for the realignment of the 830, also has had some attempts at route straightening.

841 Bunbury – Kingston and 843 Bunbury – Dalyellup are both unchanged.

842 is a trial service providing direct access twice daily between the growing Dalyellup area and the Hospital, TAFE and The Parks shopping Centre.

844 Bunbury – Eaton has been straightened a little in East Bunbury, extended to the existing 845 terminus.

845 Bunbury – Eaton/ Millbridge takes significantly more direct routes from the bus station to Bunbury Forum (the Hayes/Herbert/Austral run is now served by the 827) and from Bunbury forum to Eaton Fair, now deviates into Millbridge.



In the longer term, this route will extend over the Collie River via Treendale to Kingston. There is little change to frequencies but some routes have additional early or later trips. The 845 has been reduced to two-hourly on Saturdays and the 844 takes over the Sunday service.

LEFT: A publicity image of the Perth driverless intellibus taken from the RAC website.



TOP: Torrens Transit, Adelaide (1359) SB42GT is one of the batch of ex Territory Transit, Darwin 1999 Volvo B10BLE/ Volgrens. It is seen at Tonsley on 10/9/16) (Scott Mitchell)



CENTRE: Buslink, Darwin 190 mo 3455 a 2013 Mercedes 0500LE/ Volgren Optimus heads for the city on route 8. (Adam Jones)



BOTTOM: TP 2360 of Path Transit, Welshpool was one of the first batch of Volvo B7RLE/ Volgren Optimus buses to be delivered to the TransPerth fleets from 2014 onwards. (Matthew Jennings)

VICTORIA

Contributions from Craig Halsall, Peter Parker, Jason Blackman and Bradley Matthews.

A Busy Month for Coaches.

The Bendigo rail line was closed for most of October to enable both maintenance on the Taradale viaduct as well as the relocation of St Albans Station. Other activities during October included a weekend of closure for the Albury and Shepparton Lines and the Moto GP weekend at Phillip Island which required coach services (branded as catch a Coach) from several regional centres and from Southern Cross, making the SCS coach terminal a rather busy place during the month.

Ginifer alteration

As of 31 October, buses on CDC Melbourne's 423 (St Albans – Brimbank Central) were adjusted to omit Clare Street when travelling west, now stopping outside the relocated and grade separated station now adjacent to Furlong Road. Trips to St Albans continue to follow the existing route.

Another depot move for Transdev

For a third consecutive month Transdev has relocated buses following a depot closure, with last shifts at the temporary North Melbourne depot in Laurens Street on Friday 28 October, just shy of 5 months. This interim depot commenced operation in conjunction with timetable changes on Sunday 5 June. The depot was created to allow upgrade works to take place at the Doncaster and North Fitzroy depots, with a moderate number of buses, shifts and drivers moved due to reduced space while works took place. The depot largely operated Monday to Friday only, with only a handful of weekend shifts. Among the associated shift and roster changes with the closure of North Melbourne depot, Sunshine West depot lost its limited shifts on Routes 234, 235, 236 & 237 in the Port Melbourne area.

The new allocation of routes to depots is as follows:

Sunshine Depot: 215, 216, 219, 220, 223, 232, 600, 903, 922, 923

North Fitzroy Depot 200, 207, 232, 234, 235, 236, 237, 246, 250, 251, 270, 271, 273, 279, 281, 284, 285, 293, 295, 302, 303, 304, 305, 309, 318, 350, 903, 905, 906, 907, 908

Doncaster Depot 200, 207, 232, 234, 235, 236, 237, 246, 270, 271, 273, 279, 280, 281, 282, 284, 285, 293, 295, 302, 303, 304, 305, 309, 318, 364, 370, 380, 901, 902, 903, 905, 906, 907, 908

Keysborough and Airport West Depots: 901, 902

Heatherton Depot 219, 220, 600, 922, 923, 901 TAFE shuttles (overtime), 903

Western Suburbs Services

From 31 October CDC Melbourne introduced an enhanced timetable for Route 418 between Caroline Springs & St Albans. Two extra morning peak trips have been added from Caroline Springs boosting frequency from 20 mins to 15 mins, while weekend headways have gone from 60 mins to 40 mins. During October PTV also sought public input regarding proposed changes to bus changes in the Caroline Springs area in outer north-west Melbourne. Following the success of networks in Brimbank, Wyndham and Plenty Valley, PTV will again develop another frequent combined corridor and apply their two-tier model of semi-frequent connector routes supported by local routes operating less often.

The changes would be delivered in two stages, with changes to 461 and 462 scheduled for early next year when the new station opens at Caroline Springs, further expanding Kastoria's footprint within Caroline Springs. Other changes are earmarked for later on. There are two variations on the plan for Routes 456 & 462.

Proposals include:

215 (Caroline Springs Town Centre - Highpoint) Hourly Weekend frequency (currently 60 - 80 mins)

216 (Caroline Springs (Rockbank Middle Rd) - City - Brighton Beach) Split at Sunshine, western end to Caroline Springs forms part of new 426

426 (Caroline Springs Town Centre - Sunshine) New route incorporating Transdev's 216 trips on the Ballarat Rd corridor, finally extended north to Caroline Springs Town Centre. Route will altered to serve Burnside Heights in 2018 once Westwood Drive bridge opens.

456 (Melton - Sunshine) The Sunday route along Neale Dr and Rockbank Middle Rd (past Sri Dunga Manor Temple) would now operate 7 days a week. Option A sees buses operate direct along Rockbank Middle Road, while option B sees the route travel along The Parkway and Bridgewater Terrace should 462 not be extended to Deer Park (see below). Inter peak headway will be reduced from 30 to 40 mins to offset with new 426.

426+456 (Burnside - Sunshine combined corridor) Splitting the 216 at Sunshine will allow headways west of Sunshine to be harmonised with 456, improving train-bus coordination at Albion & Sunshine.

Buses will also be more reliable as they will no longer be travelling 40km from Brighton Beach in unpredictable inner City traffic conditions. Services will be offset to provide flat 10 min headways at peak periods with 20 min inter peak and weekend daytime headways, mirroring new corridors in Plenty Valley. The weekday inter peak headway would drop from 4 to 3 trips per hour in order to harmonise with trains, but the current combined timetable is often lumpy. 215 also travels this corridor, but it will continue to bypass Albion Station.

460 (Watergardens - Caroline Springs Town Centre - Caroline Springs Station) 460 will be further strengthened as a trunk north-south route by being extended south down Caroline Springs Bvd to the new station south of the Western Hwy. Peak service upgraded from 25 mins to 20 mins, inter peak service upgraded from 40 mins to 20 mins. Weekend service possibly a 20-40-20-40 min headway to meet the Ballarat line timetable, this is a bit unclear.

461 (Watergardens - Caroline Springs Town Centre) Revised to operate along City Vista in the new parts of Plumpton. Peak service upgraded from 40 to 30 mins.

462 (Watergardens - Caroline Springs Town Centre - Deer Park Station) & 464 Caroline Springs Town Centre - Deer Park) There are two options for 462, the first sees the route extended to serve The Parkway and Bridgewater Terrace before counting to Deer Park Station via Caroline Springs Boulevard, Ballarat Road, Westwood Drive, Robinsons Road and Foleys Road, serving industrial areas in Ravenhall and poorly served housing in south-west Deer Park. Option B would leave 462 at the current terminus, with 456 taking in The Parkway and Bridgewater Terrace. A separate 464 would cover the above mentioned unserved areas south of Ballarat Road whilst option A would see 462 operate every 45 mins along the entire route at peak times, while option B would see 462 run a 33 - 66 min peak headway and 464 run just hourly. Outside peak times, a token hourly headway remains in either option.

Run Melbourne detours

Morning road closures for Run Melbourne marathons on Sunday 16 October saw various detours and stop closures affecting Routes 216, 219, 220, 246, 600, 605, 606 & 922 across the inner south. CDC Melbourne's 606 services from Port Melbourne were truncated at Park St St Kilda with no service in Elwood or Elsternwick before 1230 – passengers were advised to use Transdev's 246, which in turn was operating in three connecting segments to minimise delays – Elsternwick to Woonsocket Court/ Barkly Street, St Kilda; Woonsocket Court/ Barkly Street to High Street/ Punt Road & High Street/ Punt Road to Clifton Hill.

Elsternwick tram works

The unofficial Melbourne Cup Long Weekend from 29 October to 1 November saw tram track renewal works take place at the intersection of Nepean Highway & Glen Huntly Road in Elsternwick. Bus routes 216, 219, 246 & 606 were affected by stop closures. In particular, passengers travelling to Elwood and St Kilda on 246 were required to walk 500m from Elsternwick Station and shopping precinct to a temporary terminus on Rusden Street near New Street.

New interactive bus network map and website review

In mid October PTV launched a new interactive bus network map on a dedicated website www.melbournebybus.com.au. The map allows passengers to trace individual metropolitan bus routes on a Google Map background as well as preform journey plans but does not include train, tram or regional routes at this time. A quirk is the map shows the full 684 service to the rural hamlet of Eildon, some 140km from the Melbourne CBD. An associated advertising campaign is running alongside the map, which includes promotional hangers on buses and a fold up map showing bus routes in the Maribyrnong municipal area around Footscray and Highpoint.

Meanwhile, PTV have issued new Hume and Bendigo local area map PDF files online illustrating the new 543 Roxburgh Park - Greenvale Gardens service and changes to Bendigo's Route 60 to East Bendigo.

PTV are currently conducting a survey regarding the functionality of the PTV website. One would suspect a refreshed website will be delivered in the new year coinciding with the launch of the new Transport for Victoria (TFV) authority.

SkyBus fare discounts

To attract passengers to Skybus' new St Kilda Express route, they will be discounting the return fare by \$1 to \$18 over summer. Meanwhile, seniors can now enjoy a \$3 fare reduction on the \$19 single fare, a 16% saving. A new 5-trip online ticket has been introduced for \$85, saving \$10, a \$2 discount per ride. A separate 10-trip ticket can be purchased at ticket booths for \$160, with a greater \$30 saving, a \$3 discount per ride. The family fare was heavily discounted earlier in the year - up to 4 children travel free with a paying adult.



On 18/9/11 our Sydney friends ran a tour to Kingsgrove B.S./Casula B.S. Thanks must go to Geoff Newham and his team and also to Michael Psaltis of Southside for the transfer bus.

TOP: There are five Volvo/P&D units in the fleet, two B59s and three B10Bs all of which originated with Hopkinsons. m/o 5264 is one of the B10Bs.



CENTRE: A single ex Harris Park Hino CG277K/ CC is now m/o 4818.

BOTTOM: The unique Leyland Tiger articulated bus bodied by Superior in 1983 was acquired by Casula B.S. from Mt Gravatt B.S in Brisbane. It was posed in the afternoon rain at Liverpool interchange. (All photos by Geoff Foster)





TOP: Stored at the Kingsgrove B.S. depot is this beautifully restored 1960 Syd Wood bodied Bedford SB3. It has had several owners and was first restored by Parsons of Wauchope.



CENTRE: Kingsgrove have acquired six MAN 16.240/ Custom Coaches buses dating from 1989-90 for their school charter work. After some refurbishment and a repaint they are fine for further service. One of these is m/o 6360 which was (177) at Busways and is seen at the rear of the Casula B.S. depot.

Since the tour three ex Busways Mercedes 0405/ Custom Coaches from 1993-4 have now joined the fleet.



BOTTOM: Another semi regular source of second hand buses for the fleet has been Kangaroo Bus Lines of Brisbane. From this source have come four MCAs and two Denning Landseers bought direct and m/o 9727 Volvo B10ML/ Fuji articulated which had a short spell in between at Cumberland Coaches.

(All photos by Geoff Foster)

Proposed new route 343.

During November 2016, Public Transport Victoria (PTV) undertook public consultations in relation to a proposed new direct bus service between Greensborough and Hurstbridge stations to be numbered 343. The new route will increase coverage into residential areas of Diamond Creek and Wattle Glen as well as linking the Hurstbridge, Wattle Glen, Diamond Creek and Greensborough railway stations. The proposed route operates in suburbs served by Transdev, Dysons and Panorama, along with myki school runs operated by both Mees and Diamond Coaches, so it'll be interesting to see who gets the contact.

Two options were offered during the consultation. The first would operate direct along Diamond Creek Road running every 20-30 minutes during peak hour and 40-60 minutes at other times. The second option deviates between Diamond Creek and Greensborough via Ryans, Wallowa and Aqueduct Roads in the northern part of St Helena, including servicing the high school with proposed frequency of 20-30 minutes in peak and 50-60 minutes at other times.

Sunbury peak boost

Residents of the outer-north west fringe suburb of Sunbury will benefit from revised runtimes and additional peak services on town routes (481, 485 to 489) from 4 December. Additional trips operate during school pick up/drop off times, eliminating two 80 min gaps around 0830 & 1515. Sunbury Bus Services' 2010 network had introduced pulse school buses departing the station, eliminating deviations past schools, but this effectively tied up buses from performing route duty. It appears the route network will transport some students into the station, with primary school deviations again operating on 488 (Jacksons Hill) and buses on 485 passing Sunbury Downs College at an appropriate time.

Frequencies on 485 (Wilsons Lane) & 486 (Rolling Meadows) are being boosted for CBD commuters inter-changing with trains, with services 15 to 20 min headways instead of every half hour. Instances of counter-peak trips running direct paths to/from outer termini have largely been eliminated although they still feature on the 487 (Killara Heights) & 489 (Canterbury Hills) timetables early morning. An additional Saturday morning trip has also been added on each town route, meeting the 0757 train to Melbourne. The 483 (Moonee Ponds) service will now operate to a revised timetable but service levels are unchanged.

Frankston Station Precinct redevelopment

As part of a \$13 million package of works to redevelop Young Street and the Frankston Station bus interchange, bus stops were relocated to alternative locations from Sunday 6 November until May 2017. The arrangements are hardly user friendly with many stops as far as a six minute (450m) walk from the station entrance – buses continue to depart at the same time, so tight train connections are no longer reliable – PTV's brochure advises passengers to allow extra time for connections, but this could consequently mean getting a train 30 mins earlier in some cases!

The dispersed locations require passengers doing a bus-bus interchange to walk up 700m between connections, such as travelling from Carrum Downs to Frankston Hospital. Meanwhile, 771 to Langwarrin previously departed opposite the Cranbourne-Frankston Rd services but with the buses now departing in Beach St and Fletcher Rd respectively, passengers must walk eight or nine minutes between stops if they find a long wait for the next bus at the first stop. Signage elected to direct passengers for the changes was poor, although rudimentary notices sticky-taped to bus shelter windows appeared by lunchtime on the first day. Thankfully PTV provided Hoban staff members to direct lost passengers for several days, who handed out a DL brochure on the changes, including a map.

Routes departing Beach Street

771 Langwarrin
773 Frankston South
776 Pearcedale
788 Portsea
832 Carrum Downs
833 Carrum Downs
887 Rosebud – Monash Uni (Peninsula Campus)
901 Melbourne Airport

Routes departing Fletcher Road:

789 (Frankston – Langwarrin)
790 (Frankston – Langwarrin)
791 (Frankston – Cranbourne)

Routes departing Young Street south of Wells Street

774 Delacombe Park
775 Lakewood
779 Belvedere
780 Carrum
781 Mount Martha
782 Balnarring/ Flinders
783 Hastings
784 Osborne
785 Mornington East

Ventura updates

Revised timetables were introduced on a number of routes across the Ventura network from 4 December 2015. Runtimes are being updated, including additional peak hour travel time, better portioning at other times to avoid mid-trip dwells and revised train connections (many timetables were unchanged since the Grenda takeover in January 2012). Arrival and departure times have varied up to 14 mins while journey times are up to 13 mins longer on weekdays and 9 mins longer on weekends.

Route 703 will regain Sunday service between Middle Brighton and Bentleigh for the first time in almost 20 years, but continues to fail to meet the SmartBus frequency standard, running at 45 min intervals. Before the Sunday service became Bentleigh to Blackburn in early 1997, Sunday buses ran from Middle Brighton Beach to Monash University, a legacy of the old Quince's 634 cross-suburban Metlink route of the late 80s. Meanwhile, 823 (Southland – North Brighton) gains a new return trip after school plugging a previous hour-long gap. The 2337 Saturday evening trip on 788 ex Frankston to Mornington (a remnant of the old NightRider timetable) appears to be extended to Rosebud however there is conflicting advice if this is actually the case.

While total trip counts are unchanged, there are consequences with new runtimes resulting in longer gaps in peak times – the 828 has two consecutive 30 min gaps in the AM peak, on a route that otherwise runs an average headway of every 20 mins. This also affects hourly routes such as 811, 812 & 813.

Routes with timetable changes include:

Dandenong Depot

800 (Dandenong – Chadstone)

811 (Dandenong – Brighton)*

812 (Dandenong – Brighton)*

813 (Dandenong – Waverley Gardens)

828 (Berwick – Hampton)

857 (Dandenong – Chelsea)

885 (Glen Waverley – Springvale)

* 811/12 and 828 are shared with Moorabbin depot

Moorabbin Depot

631 (Southland – Waverley Gardens)

705 (Springvale—Mordialloc)

708 (Hampton—Carrum)

821 (Southland—Clayton)

822 (Chadstone—Sandringham)

823 (Southland—North Brighton)

811/812/828—see Dandenong depot

Oakleigh Depot

701 (Oakleigh – Bentleigh)

703 (Blackburn – Middle Brighton)

767 (Southland – Box Hill)

Rosebud Depot

786 (Rye—St Andrew's Beach)

787 (Safety Beach—Rosebud—Rye—Sorrento)

788 (Frankston—Portsea)

Pakenham Depot

835 (Berwick – Narre Warren Circle)

836 (Berwick – Eden Rise Shopping Centre)

841 (Cranbourne – Narre Warren North)

846 (Berwick – Eden Rise Shopping Centre)

926 (Fountain Gate – Pakenham)

At the time of writing the online timetables on the PTV website were littered with numerous issues: with trips and even entire directions missing; time points absent; footnotes omitted; trips shown stopping along incorrect variants; and a failure to show day restrictions (such as Friday nights only).

Further Bendigo changes

A revised Christians Route 54 timetable was introduced on 15 March. The timetable now better indicates the bus travels through the Beckhams Road terminus twice, before and after doing the 8 min loop of Maiden Gully. A new time point has been added at Rathbones Lane & Monsants Road. The departure times back towards Bendigo have been moved 4 mins later to better reflect runtimes around this loop. Additionally, 4 morning peak buses now travel via the loop at Maiden Gully before heading into Bendigo, as does the first bus on a Saturday. Further to the routing changes to Route 60 on 4 October (as reported last month), Christians have adjusted the 0806 Route 52 service to depart Eaglehawk 4 mins earlier, improving service reliability and ensuring the onward connection for students connecting with a school bus to Victory Christian College.

Geelong Show extras

To cater for crowds attending the Geelong Show, McHarrys operated an enhanced Route 31 timetable applied from 14 to 16 October. The usual hourly weekend headway was increased to approx. half hourly, while on Friday over a dozen extra trips ran in either direction, including special late nights back into Geelong between 9pm & 10:15pm.

NEW SOUTH WALES—STATE TRANSIT

Contributions by Richard Peck, Trevor Woolley, Greg Travers, Malcolm Morgan, Alan Travers & John Ward.

Newcastle Privatisation

It was announced on 12/12/16 that Keolis Downer has been awarded a 10-year contract to operate Newcastle's public transport system, including the new light rail. The tender also includes Newcastle buses, ferries and interchanges. State Transit will cease being the operator from 30 June 2017.

Chief executive officer Campbell Mason said all operational staff would be offered work on current terms and conditions. "Newcastle is undergoing a major transformation," Mr Mason said. "The investment in light rail will breathe new life into the CBD and a more reliable and efficient public transport system will create a network that is attractive to new users. "We are very much looking forward to working with the team to deliver a world class service in Newcastle".

Keolis Downer is Australia's largest private provider of multi-modal public transport services, providing over 210 million passenger trips each year. Tram operations include Yarra Trams in Melbourne and G.Link on the Gold Coast whilst bus operations are Path Transit, Perth; Southlink, Adelaide and Hornibrook Bus Lines, Brisbane. Keolis also runs many bus and tram systems in Europe especially in France where integrated bus/tram operations include the cities of Lyon and Dijon.

B-Line

A contract was let to Fulton Hogan Constructions for the major infrastructure work for the B-Line Warringah route. The work includes bus priority measures, bus stops, carparks and other improvements. There will be 900 new parking spaces in Mona Vale, Warriewood, Narrabeen and Manly Vale. The 18 bus stops will feature real time service information. The work will be complete in 2019, even though the new route will commence in late 2017. The government the order placed for 38 MAN A95 double deckers with Gemilang bodywork. The buses will have 86 seats with standing room for 15.

Services (see also item on the next page)

Due to Council roadworks in Macpherson Street Warriewood route 185, L85 and E85 will divert via Pittwater and Warriewood Roads for approximately 12 months. A shuttle bus designated as route 181 will operate from Narrabeen at Waterloo Street via Warriewood Square, Macpherson and Streets.

All route 176 all stop Wynyard-Dee Why (Howard Ave) all stops journeys were replaced by route E76 from 23 October 2016. From the same date, all route 178 City-Dee Why Shops trips were extended to Maybrook Retirement Village.

Previously unreported was the alteration of route 490 Hurstville-Drummoyne via Kingsgrove to operate via Clemton Park Village from 7 June 2015. Also from 7 October 2015, route X24 Prepay Town Hall-Watson Bay was elevated to fine Summer Weekends and Holidays. Route 32, Eddy Avenue-Randwick Racecourse Express operated on 19 December 2009, and possibly on earlier dates. This services replaced routes 30 Central Railway and 31 from Circular Quay.

Private Operators

Industrial

Busways Central Coast services were disrupted by industrial action by drivers on Monday 29 August over enterprise bargaining agreement negotiations. It followed previous industrial action where drivers had disabled some Opal readers on buses. A Saturday service was operated in lieu of the normal weekday service. A second stop work meeting planned for September 29th was cancelled after negotiations resumed.

Transport Minister Andrew Constance has challenged the RTBU to show how public buses could have on time running improved noting the difference in performance between STA run and private operator run services. The Minister also foreshadowed the possibility that private companies might be invited to tender for existing STA contract areas which come up for renewal from 2018, though no definite announcement was made.

Busabout:

From Monday 24 October 2016, route 841 was altered and extended to service Rodeo Road and Central Hills Drive at Gregory Hills between Camden Valley Way and Gregory Hills Drive. A further alteration to the route is to service Jamboree Avenue between Willowdale Drive and Denham Court Road at Willowdale Estate.

More Deckers for Sydney Privates

In a press release on 26 September Transit Systems CEO noted the occupation of the new Hoxton Park depot and announced that from 2017 double decker buses with a capacity of 116 passengers would be introduced on the T80 Parramatta-Liverpool route, enabling a 30% increase in peak hour capacity.

CDC Foundry Road was taking delivery of a second batch of Bustech CDi deckers in November-December.

Transport Flexibility.

Transport for NSW has plans to trial flexible public transport to change the way community bus services are provided in rural and regional parts of NSW. This may include the use of taxis as buses in off peak periods to provide access to transport for seniors and disadvantaged people. The Transport Minister has also floated the proposition of moving to a more on demand transport model thus doing away with timetables.

New and additional bus services from 20/21 November

A number of bus routes in various parts of Sydney, Wollongong, the Central Coast and the Blue Mountains received new and additional bus services as follows:

On Sydney's North Shore and Northern Beaches Forest Coach Lines has 35 additional weekly trips on routes 270, 271 and 274 between Terrey Hills, Davidson, Belrose, Frenchs Forest and the City, improving travel opportunities during shoulder peak times on weekdays. There are also 30 additional weekly trips (mostly on weeknights) on route 197 between Mona Vale and Macquarie Park via Terrey Hills and Gordon and 25 additional weekly trips (again on weeknights) on route 196 between Mona Vale and Terrey Hills, improving travel options on weeknights.

In the Inner West and Northern Suburbs there are 102 additional weekly trips on STA route M41 between Burwood and Macquarie Park via Concord Hospital and Ryde, providing extended hours of operation to mid-night every night, with services running every 30 minutes after 9pm and some daytime timetable adjustments. There are also 7 additional weekly trips on STA route 438 between Abbotsford and the City via Five Dock and Leichhardt, providing services running throughout the night on Fridays and Saturdays.

In Southern Sydney there is a new route 985 between Miranda and Cronulla via Caringbah, Gannons Road, Captain Cook Drive and Elouera Road, operated by Transdev, with 272 trips per week.

In Western Sydney Busways now provide 76 new and additional weekly trips on routes 749, 757 and 778 in the St Marys, Marsden Park and Riverstone areas. The 749 is a new route between Marsden Park and Blacktown with services every 30 minutes in peak hour towards Marsden park in the AM and towards Blacktown in the PM.

Route 751 Blacktown and Colebee was extended to and from Marsden Park providing new weekday peak hour services between Marsden Park and Colebee; route 757 now operates via Elara Estate at Marsden Park on weekdays and Saturdays; route 778 between St Marys and Claremont Meadows was be extended to provide new daily services to Caddens (a new residential area) and selected trips on weekday route 781 between Penrith and St Marys have been diverted via Caddens. There are also minor timetable changes to departure times for other St Marys district routes, including 750, 754, 755, 756, 758, 770 and 771.

Blue Mountains Transit now provides 47 additional weekly trips on route 686 between Katoomba, Echo Point and Scenic World, with new weekday morning and afternoon peak trips and additional weekend trips. During Eastern daylight savings time (October to April), route 686 runs two later evening trips on Saturdays and Sundays. In addition, existing trips that only run during school holidays on Sunday now run on all Sundays throughout the year. This followed timing changes to routes 685 and 695 which were implemented on 7/11/16.

On the Central Coast Red Bus provide four additional weekly trips on route 40 between North Gosford to Gosford to provide earlier and later trips on weekends. Most weekday and all weekend trips have been diverted to run to and from Wyoming Shopping Village.

In Wollongong, Premier Illawarra Route 32 was extended further into Brooks Reach from 21/11/2016. There will also be augmented services to routes 31,33 & 34 from 19/02/2017 plus route 75 Tullimbar & Calderwood will commence on 30/04/2017.



In April 2016, just before the annual bus nuts tour, Matthew Jennings found a nice sunny spot for shooting outbound buses to the eastern shore.

The selection was quite appropriate to the tour theme as two of the “big four” are featured.



TOP: Metro (301) the second of the 2008 batch of Scania K230UB/ Custom Coaches heads for Rokeby on a 625 service.

CENTRE: Metro (167) Scania N113/ Ansair dates back to 1991 and has probably only a year or two to go before retirement as 100 new buses are to be delivered from 2017.



BOTTOM: The runs to Sorell and Dodge's Ferry are done by Tasmanian Redline. Heading for Dodge's is (35) A23QD a 2009 BCI PK6120AT low floor.

(All photos by Matthew Jennings)

Some more from Greg Travers FNQ trip.

TOP: Tropic Wings have been re-equipping with Yutongs, one such being 045 VDZ is a 51 seat 2014 built 6129HCA.

CENTRE: The Sunbus fleet is all Bustech bodies about half of which are on their own XDi or MDi chassis. 669 VEX is a 2014 model XDi and was the newest bus in the fleet at the time.

BOTTOM: Downunder Tours 04 DUT a 2005 Denning Silver Phoenix in AAT livery calls at the Skyrail terminal with a Coaster and their low floor behind. (All photos by Greg Travers)





Scott Mitchell visited Auckland in September and recorded some action from the Skybus operation over there. There are two routes into the city plus CBD Optare shuttle buses similar to those used in Melbourne.

TOP: DZG 355 is a MAN 16.233 bodied by Designline working an airport to City service via Mt Eden Road



CENTRE: On the same service, but still in the livery of the former operator Johnstone's, is ETZ 353 a 2009 Scania K280UB/ Kiwi.

BOTTOM: JMS 878 is a MAN 18.290 tag also on the Mt Eden Road run. (All photos by Scott Mitchell)





Perth operator Horizons West has acquired many former Adelaide city buses for school charter duties.

The Mercedes rigid and artic units were new for the opening of the O-Bahn busway in 1986. Horizons west was visited during a bus tour in April 2016.

*TOP: (2) 1ETT522
Mercedes 0305G/ PMCSA
ex Southlink WJI 685*



*CENTRE: (38) TC 3708
Mercedes 0305/ PMCSA
ex Torrens Transit 1526*

*BOTTOM: (70) TC 4775
MAN SL200/ PMCSA ex
Southlink 2440 WJP 688*

(All photos by Matthew Jennings)

FLEET NEWS – NATIONAL TOUR & EXPRESS

AAT-Kings: (108) TV 7331 Scania/ Irizar rereg onto unknown NT no plates. Reregistered to NT no plates were Scania/ Coach Concepts (153) SB77JB to mo 3650, (155) SB93JF to mo 3651 and (156) SB26JG to mo 3653. Also reregistered were (164) SB12KG Scania N280UB/ Volgren to NT mo 4015 and (146) TV 005 Bonluck President to mo 4032. Sold (100) TV 000 BCI PK6850AT to Compass Tours, Sydney and (104) NT mo 3267 Scania/ Coach Concepts to Royale Coachlines, Tauranga NZ.

Carbridge: Added in Melbourne was (92) 9994 AO Irisbus Agoraline/ Express (216 6/02) B43Dw ex Fallon, Shepparton Transit (34) 3496 AO. Reregistered in Brisbane are (40) 973 WLC Volvo B12BLE/ Volgren ex 660 VCO; (41) 974WLC MAN 18.310/ Bustech ex 638IJI and 975 WLC Fuso Rosa ex 334 VDW. (33) TV 5179 Mercedes 0500LE/ Volgren and (46) TV 6609 Volvo B7RLE/ Volgren both destroyed by fire at Sydney airport 4/12/16. Transferred Melbourne to Sydney were (43) 7328 AO and (44) 7331 AO both Volvo B7RLE/ Volgren. Transferred Sydney to Brisbane were (60) TC 6855 and (61) TC 6854 both Daewoo / Gemilang.

Firefly Express: (32) SB32KY Scania K440EB/ Coach Concepts reregistered BS02OS.

Greyhound Australia: New are ex stock King Long 6130AU C57F units (182) 1EX6TR (LA6A1LAK1EB401965 6/15); 1BJ5WF (LA6A1LAK8EB401591 4/15) and 1EX6TS (LA6R1MSK7FB400943 6/15). Withdrawn was (608) 608 DOG Scania K113TR/ Austral-Denning.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

ACTION: Deliveries: Scania K320UB/ Customs CB80 B48Dw (this order is now complete)
 BUS 616 1899369/ D727-61 9/16 to Tuggeranong BUS 617 1899325/ D727-62 9/16 to Tuggeranong
 BUS 618 1899526/ D727-63 9/16 to Tuggeranong BUS 619 1899565/ D727-64 10/16 to Tuggeranong
 BUS 620 1899901/ D727-65 10/16 to Tuggeranong Further to last issue VIN for BUS 614 is 1899002
 Three Avass plug in electric buses have been purchased as fleet nos 710-712. They will be used on a trial at Tuggeranong. (Further details next issue)

Withdrawal: Renault PR100.2 BUS 916-917 (9/16); BUS 918, 920, (10/16); BUS 919 (11/16)
 Renault PR100.3: 118 (11/18)

Transferred: Renault PR100.3 117 to Belconnen (10/16)

Disposal: BUS 897 Renault/ Ansair to Wisby, Tasmania.

Horizon Coach Charter: ACT mo 4 Scania K113TR/ Austral-Denning reregistered Act mo 2.

TASMANIA

Austrips, Tasmania: A long established travel firm which has now bought its first coach F40JI Bonluck President 9 JXK6960CC5R (LA9C1ARW6GBJXK113 20/1/16) C39F – displayed at the 2016 bus show.

Fun Bus, Hobart: F41EM Volvo B10M/ PMCSA artic ex Metro 717 converted to AB80F and painted black.

Funbus, Launceston: B85JO Mercedes OH1316/ Ansair replaced by CU 2495 Mercedes OH1418/ PMCSA (4847 9/90) C49F ex Wells, Smithton (52).

Metro Tasmania: Withdrawn at Hobart were (14) EN 5879 and (722) MET 722 Volvo B10M/ PMCSA artic plus Scania N113/ Ansair (147) MET 147 and MAN 10.180/ Ansairs (507) MET 507, (509) MET 509, (515) MET 515 and (519) MET 519. Transferred by 11/16 were Scania L94UB/ Northcoast 242, 244 Hobart to Burnie and Scania N113/ Ansair 636 Burnie to Hobart.

Sainty's Coaches, Launceston: Withdrawn were (RS23) B97WL Toyota Hi Ace; (RS31) B94BL Mercedes LO812/ CC; (RS10) EW 1108 Mercedes OH1316/ PMCSA; (RS9) B27UO Toyota Coaster; (SC6) B58ZP Scania K94IB/ Coach Design; B68LT MAN 10.155/ Express; D39XS Hino RK176K/ PMCA; DS 4204 Toyota Coaster; ER 4417 Mercedes OC1617/ PMCSA. Acquired (RS29) B67EF Mercedes LO812/ CC (94) B29F ex National, Melbourne and (RS22) A55CE Toyota Hi Ace. The unreg Mercedes 0303/ Ansair recorded as (MB1356) may in fact be (MB1363) ex Cresswell, Hobart.

Seabourne, Sorell: Sold were FG 6975 Isuzu LT1-11P/ Austral and A42NR Isuzu LT1-11P/ Austral.

Tasmanian Redline: (88) CL6956 Mercedes OC1621/ Austral deregistered.

Tassielink, Hobart: New is (43) F43MT Scania K280UB/ CC (1/7/15) B46Dw ex demo.

Wells, Smithton: In a most generous gesture, (32) D39VE Volvo B58-56/ PMCSA has been donated to the Tasmanian Coach and Bus Society for preservation.

Wisby, Margate: Acquired was unreg Renault PR100.2/ Ansair (R2178 12/90) B43D ex ACTION, Canberra BUS 897.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

ATG Downunder, Alice Springs: Acquired was NT mo 4033 Denning double deck (DBL 0029 3/89) HC58/10DT ex South West C.L. Bunbury WA TC 2024.

Buslink, Darwin: Sold (554) m/o 2010 Mercedes 0405NH/ Volgren to Transdev, Melbourne.

Darwin Airport Shuttle: The final fleet auctioned 28/6 was

mo 3238 Scania K93CR/ PMCA 'Apollo' (2257 2/93) C48FT ex Murrays (535) TV1984.

mo 2258 Nissan LKA211/ BCI (MSTC094 2/00) C37FV ex Oz Experience

mo 2303 Nissan LKA211/ BCI (MSTC095 2/00) C37FV ex Oz Experience WOK789

mo 1622 Toyota Coaster (8/99) C21C ex ? mo 3317 Toyota Coaster (5/98) C21C ex ?

mo 3358 Toyota Coaster (11/06) C20C ex ? mo 3154 Toyota Hi Ace (3/06) B14C ex ?

mo 2346 Mercedes 0404-2/ Coach Design (sold to Warrigal Coaches, Wollongong).

Previously had mo 1076 Denning Landseer (DL1177 3/86) new to Melbriht Coaches as CTG 150 and also operated by Australian Kakadu Tours, Australian Pacific Tours, and Arafura Coaches.

Wayouthack Tours. Additional is TV96F Fusio.

Buslink Vivo: Further details are now available for many of the previously unlisted or incomplete vehicles as follows:: Mercedes OH1830/ Volgren Endura C53F units

(185) mo 3706 (VG3733 2013)	(186) mo 3736 (VG3734 2013)	(187) mo 3725 (VG3735 2013)
(188) mo 3735 (VQ1167 2013)	(189) mo 3734 (VQ1168 2013)	(190) mo 3731 (VG3753 2014)
(191) mo 3709 (VG3754 2014)	(192) mo 3732 (VG3755 2014)	(193) mo 3613 (VG3756 2014)
(194) mo 3614 (VG3847 2014)	(195) mo 3616 (VG3848 2014)	(196) mo 3615 (VG3849 2014)
(197) mo 3618 (VG3850 2014)	(198) mo 3631 (VG3851 2014)	(199) mo 3619 (VG3852 2014)
(200) mo 3620 (VG3853 2014)	(201) mo 3633 (VG3854 2014)	(202) mo 3711 (VG3863 2014)
(203) mo 3710 (VG3864 2014)	(204) mo 3649 (VG3865 2014)	(205) mo 3648 (VG3866 2014)
(206) mo 3774 (VG3867 2014)	(207) mo 3773 (VG3866 2014)	(208) mo 3772 (VG3869 2014)
(209) mo 3771 (VG3870 2014)	(210) mo 3786 (VG3871 2014)	(211) mo 3789 (VG3872 2014)
(212) mo 3787 (VG3873 2014)	(213) mo 3788 (VG3874 2014)	(214) mo 3790 (VG3875 2014)
(215) mo 3793 (VG3876 2014)	(216) mo 3791 (VG3877 2014)	(217) mo 3792 (VG3878 2014)
(218) mo 3794 (VG3879 2014)	(219) mo 3796 (VG3880 2014)	(220) mo 3797 (VG3881 2014)
(221) mo 3798 (VG3882 2014)	(222) mo 3799 (VG3932 2014)	(223) mo 3795 (VQ3933 2015)
(224) mo 3801 (VG3934 2015)	(225) mo 3845 (VG3935 2015)	(226) mo 3864 (VG3936 2015)
(227) mo3846 (VQ1260 2015)	(228) mo 3847 (VQ1261 2015)	(229) mo 3848 (VQ1262 2015)
(230) mo 3865 (VQ1263 2015)	(231) mo 3866 (VQ1264 2015)	(232) mo 3867 (VQ1265 2015)
(233) mo 3868 (VQ1266 2015)	(234) mo 3869 (VQ1267 2015)	(235) mo 3875 (VQ1268 2015)
(236) mo 3876 (VQ1269 2015)	(237) mo 3877 (VQ1270 2015)	(238) mo 3878 (VQ1271 2015)
(239) mo 3879 (VQ1272 2015)	(240) mo 3880 (VQ1273 2015)	(241) mo 3881 (VQ1274 2015)
(242) mo 3882 (VQ1275 2015)	(243) mo 3928 (VQ1276 2015)	(244) mo 3929 (VQ1277 2015)
(245) mo 3930 (VQ1278 2015)	(246) mo 3931 (VG3922 2015)	(247) mo 3932 (VG4014 2015)
(248) mo 3933 (VG4016 2015)		

Reregistered ex Vivo Qld Mercedes OH1830 units are

(300) 213 SIK Volgren to mo 3637	(301) 291 SEW Volgren to mo 3638
(302) 292 SEW Volgren to mo 3639	(303) 266 SIK Irizar to mo 3640
(304) 265 SIK Irizar to mo 3641	(305) 145 SYE Irizar to mo 3642
(306) 212 SIK Volgren to mo 3636	(307) 214 SIK Volgren to mo 3643
(308) 6887 SUP Irizar to mo 3644	(309) 868 SUP Irizar to mo 3645
(310) 707 SYR Irizar to mo 3646	(311) 901 SQZ Irizar to mo 3647
(312) 156 SQS Irizar to mo 3856	(313) 287 SEW Irizar to mo 3857

Other new vehicles are:

- (314) mo 3849 Iveco Eurorider/ Irizar Century (262295 2015) C53F
- (315) mo 3850 Iveco Eurorider/ Irizar Century (262299 2015) C53F
- (316) mo 3851 Iveco Eurorider/ Irizar Century (262297 2015) C53F
- (317) mo 3810 Iveco Eurorider/ Irizar Century (262298 2015) C53F
- (318) mo 3883 Mercedes OH1830/ Irizar i6 (252681 2015) C53F
- (319) mo 3884 Mercedes OH1830/ Irizar i6 (252679 2015) C53F
- (320) mo 3885 Mercedes OH1830/ Irizar i6 (252678 2015) C53F
- (321) mo 3886 Mercedes OH1830/ Irizar i6 (252677 2015) C53F
- (322) mo 3887 Mercedes OH1830/ Irizar i6 (252680 2015) C53F

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Kanga Coachlines, Mawson Lakes: New is SB95LV Volvo B9R/ Marcopolo (9/16) C—F. Sold SB56HI Fuso Rosa to Dyson's, Victoria.

Light City Buses: MAN SL202/ PMCA 444 and 445 transferred Morphettville to St Agnes. Withdrawn was MAN SL202 (CNG/ PMCA (1622) WJP 584. Correcting previous entry, 1824 is a Scania K320UB not a K280UB. Transferred St Agnes to Morphettville were MAN SL202/ PMCA 443, 444 and 445 with similar unit 442 withdrawn. Withdrawn were 118 and 121 both MAN 11.190/ PMCA plus 1346 and 1348 both MAN NL202/ PMCA. New is (1825) SB87LY Scania K320UB/ Customs CB80 (2016) B43Dw.

Torrens Transit: Ex Darwin buses 1351, 1355, 1359 and 1360 transferred Port Adelaide to Mile end. (1353) is SB41GT MAN NL202/ Volgren (VG803 7/96) B36DL ex Territory Transit, Darwin (105); (1354) reg unknown is MAN NL202/ Volgren (VG805 7/96) B36DL ex Territory Transit (106); (1355) SB47GT MAN NL202/ Volgren is (VG807 7/96) B36DL ex Territory Transit (107) and (1356) SB53KB MAN NL202/ Volgren (VG818 8/96) B36DL ex Territory Transit (108)

New Scania K320UB/ Customs B43Dw units are (1940) SB33LM 1897122/D726-34 4/16; (1941) SB85LU 1897699/ G7102-01 7/16; (1942) SB89LU 1897864/ G7102-03 7/16; (1943) SB87LU 1897957/ G7102-04 6/16; (1944) SB88LV 1892836/ G7102-05 8/16; (1945) SB87LU 1898512/ G7102-06 8/16; (1946) SB09LZ 1898822/ G7102-08 9/16.; (1947) unreg (G7102-09 9/16); (1948) SB26MC (G7102-10 9/16) and (1949) SB85MB.

Withdrawn were MAN SL202/ PMCA 412) WJI 637; (423) WJI 639; (424) WJI 670, (427) WJI 673 (440) WJM 979 and (443) WJM 982. Withdrawn were MAN SL202 (CNG)/ PMCA (859) WJP 621, (865) WJP 627, (883) WJP 645, (898) WJP 660.

COUNTRY OPERATORS

D.E.C.S.: (1309) Toyota Coaster sighted at Laverton, Vic reg 1DG7EM.. Listed for auction during November 2016 were the following withdrawn units: Hino BX341E/ PMCSA 1252 in wrecked condition; Hino AK176K/ PMCSA 1424, 1427- 1435; 1438.; Toyota Coasters: 1440, 1452, 1458, 1460, 1466, 1472, 1480; Rosa 1500.

Link SA, Murray Bridge: Sold XMB 042 Autobus/ BCI to crisp, Warwick.

Andre De Gruchy-Bott, t/a Mount & Vine Tourism, Mount Gambier. Another recent small group operator concentrating on day tours for the food and wine market, plus personalised day tours from Mount Gambier. Base is 64 North Terrace. Mount Gambier. Vehicle unknown to date.

True Blue Coaches, Mount Gambier: VV74DU MAN 24.420/ Coach Design reregistered SB27EO.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA – TransPerth Operators

Deliveries: Volvo B7RLE/ Volgren Optimus B41Dw:

To Swan Transit, Midvale

(2525) TP 2525 180552/ VP 1590 10/16	(2526) TP 2526 180596/ VP 1591 10/16
(2527) TP 2527 180597/ VP 1592 10/16	(2528) TP 2528 180598/ VP 1593 10/16
(2529) TP 2529 180670/ VP 1594 10/16	(2530) TP 2530 180671/ VP 1595 10/16
(2531) TP 2531 180720/ VP 1596 10/16	(2532) TP 2532 180721/ VP 1597 10/16

To Transdev, Joondalup

(2638) TP 2638 179670/ VP 1576 9/16	(2639) TP 2639 179671/ VP 1577 9/16
(2640) TP 2640 179674/ VP 1578 9/16	(2641) TP 2641 179977/ VP 1579 9/16
To Transdev, Wangara	(2642) TP 2642 180531/ VP 1587 10/16
(2643) TP 2643 180547/ VP 1588 10/16	(2644) TP 2644 180548/ VP 1589 10/16

To Path Transit, Welshpool

(2718) TP 2718 179978/ VP 1580 9/16	(2719) TP 2719 179979/ VP 1581 9/16
(2720) TP 2720 179980/ VP 1582 9/16	(2721) TP 2721 180198/ VP 1583 9/16
(2722) TP 2722 180331/ VP 1584 9/16	(2723) TP 2723 180366/ VP 1585 9/16
(2724) TP 2724 180367/ VP 1586 10/16	

Volvo B8RLE/ Volgren Optimus (2626) TP 2626 178514/ VP 1558 9/16 to Transdev, Claisebrook

Volvo B8RLEA/ Volgren Optimus AB57T

(3066) TP 3066 179368/ VP 1546 9/16 to Transdev, Palmyra

(3067) TP 3067 180279/ VP 1547 10/16 to Swan Transit, Canning Vale

Reregistered, transferred and renumbered: The following former CAT Mercedes 0500LE/ Volgrens have been transferred from Transdev, Claisebrook to Path Transit: CAT 01 to (107) TP 0107; CAT 03 to (108) TP 0108; CAT 04 to (109) TP 0109; CAT 05 to (110) TP 0110; CAT 06 to (111) TP 0111; CAT 20 to (106) TP 0106; CAT 21 to (102) TP 0102; CAT 23 to (103) TP 0103 and CAT 25 to (105) TP 0105.

Transfers: 1913 Transdev, Claisebrook to Path, Malaga; 1914 Transdev Claisebrook to Path, Welshpool; 1915 Transdev, Claisebrook to Path, Malaga; 1916 Transdev, Claisebrook to Path, Welshpool; 1917 Transdev, Claisebrook to Path, Welshpool. Reinstated: 3000 Scania L94UB/ Volgren to Transdev, Palmyra.

Disposals: Mercedes 0405 1112 to Lansdale Bus Charters. Renault 1010 non psv.

Remaining High Floor Buses As of November 1916 were Mercedes 0405: 1053, 1109, 1110, 1111, 1113, 1114; Mercedes 0405CNG: 1098, 1101, 1102 and Renault PR180.2: 703, 705, 707, 709, 711, 718, 721, 722, 726-728, 730, 732, 734, 735, 737, 745, 746, 747, 749, 751-756

Withdrawals:

Mercedes 0405NH: 1140, 1302, (stored)

Mercedes 0500LE: CAT1, CAT4, CAT 5, CAT6, CAT20 (stored); 1914; 1915; 1916, 1917 (stored)

Mercedes 0405: 689 (stored); 1049 (6/16); 1091 (7/16); 1092 (7/16); 1093 (7/16); 1094 (7/16); 1095 (4/16); 1096 (7/16); 1098 (8/16); 1100 (5/16); 1103; 1104.

Renault PR100.2 1030 (6/16); 1047 (5/16); 1048 (5/16); 1061 (4/16); 1071 (5/16); 1074 (5/16); 1090 (5/16) 1056 (7/16); 1070 (4/16); 1073 (5/16), 1076 (4/16), 1087 (4/16); 1119 (5/16 – sold NPSV Willetton); 1127 (5/16); 1130 (5/16); (1131) (6/16); 1132 (8/16). Renault PR100.3 1133 (preserved)
Renault PR180.2 696 (5/16); 700 (11/16), 706 (6/16); 708, 715, 729, 736, 740, 742, 746.

Private Operators

Adams Coachlines: Sold were (B76) TC 7750 Man 10.155/ Ansair to West Coast Bus Charters and (C31) TC 6288 Daewoo BH117L/ UBC-Chiron. Sold (C33) TC 6302 BCI to Swan Valley Shuttle/ Billabong Coach Charter. TC 5906 BCI PK6120AG ex Rottnest Island Board is fleet no (B85).

Amana Living, Perth: Non-psv Optare Solos are 1ETQ563 (290974 9/15) and 1EVZ509 (290977 11/14) .

Bust A Move, Osborne Park: TC 4210 Mercedes 0305/ Howard Porter reregistered CVL 1523.

Buswest: Reregistered were TC 3018 Hino RG197K/ TOST to CVL1264; TC 6290 Mercedes OH1830/ Express to CVL1341 and TC 6286 Mercedes 0305/ Boltons to 1GCW216. Destroyed was CVL 1345 Mercedes 0400/ Ansair previously TC 7441 and ATG Downunder, Alice Springs NT mo 2407.

General/ Purple: Acquired was Volvo B12R/ Austral- Denning (C100050 9/92) C48FTB ex Condor Coaches, Sydney TV 4800. TC 6124 Mitsubishi Rosa reregistered CVL 1223 and sold was TC 6021 Volvo B58/ PMCSA. TC 4537 Volvo B58/ PMCSA reregistered CVL1243. A further Rosa is CVL1225. Sold 1DIB444 MAN SL200/ PMCSA to Girrawheen Baptist Church.

Go Ona Bus, Forrestfield: TC 5816 Scania K93CR/ Autobus reregistered CVL1444.

Go Party Bus: TC 7005 Mercedes 0305/ Howard Porter reregistered CVL1450.

Horizons West, Perth: The Optare Solos are (20) 1EOR820 (290811 2015) B35F; (81) TC 7581 (290963 2015) B34F; (82) TC 7582 (290965 2016) B34F and (83) TC 7583 (290964 2016) B34F. Sold (7) TC 5447 Leyland Tiger/ PMC sold for motor home.

Lansdale Bus Charters: Acquired was CVL1190 Mercedes 0405/ Volgren-TOST (138 6/92) B45D ex Transperth 1112.

McHugh, High Wickham: 8LG 385 Hino RG197K/ Volgren for auction in Perth

Northside Bus Charter, Duncraig: Withdrawn and dereg was 9IX 725 Mercedes OH1418/ Austral-Denning.

Pats Bus Charters: Withdrawn for sale was TC 6021 Volvo B58H/ PMCSA artic.

Rottnest Express, Rottnest Island: New is 1EXU 249 Optare Solo (290978 10/15) B35Fw.

B&P Spencer, Woorooloo: MDG3221 Hino RG197K/ CC withdrawn for sale. 40502

Swan Valley Shuttle/ Billabong Tours: Acquired was TC 6302 BCI JXK6930AT (006037 5/7/09) C39F ex Adams Coaches (C33).

West Coast Bus Charter: (301) TC 7883 Denning Landseer withdrawn for sale. Acquired were (302) TC 5846 Toyota Hi Ace ex Westwide; (308) TC 7750 MAN 10.155HOC-L/ Ansair Orana (3014 5/97) B26Dw ex Adams (B76) and 1GDR010 Volvo B10ML/ Fuji (334104 12/84) AB70FR ex Cumberland Coaches, Sydney TV 5051.

Wild Knights, Forrestfield: Withdrawn was TC 5225 Mercedes 0305/ Boltons replaced by 1CVL1767 Renault PR100.2/ Howard Porter (87-9084 9/87) B45D ex Swan Transit/ TransPerth (653).



October saw a major rail shut down in Brisbane for the final works prior to the opening of the new Kippa Ring line. Operators from all over South East Qld were involved.

TOP: The last new bus at Sunbus Sunshine Coast was on the job. 097 SVC is a 2014 Bustech XDi (Geoff Foster)



CENTRE: Express Coach Lines, Loganholm 508 TUM is one of three Irizar Mercedes OH1830s acquired from Stonestreeets. (Geoff Foster)

BOTTOM: Brisbane Bus Lines were heavily involved in the organization of services and also provided buses including several of their Bonluck Citystar artics. BBL 78 is seen near Boondall. (Nick Wilson)





TOP: Red and White Coaches provided numerous vehicles including (18) 223 VUM Volvo B10M/ Austral ex Brisbane Transport (509).



CENTRE: Murrays Coaches were also heavily involved, including some of their recently bought ex mining services Higer Road Boss coaches. One was (530) 053 WGE.



BOTTOM: Buses came from northern cities as far up as Rockhampton. 552 VEP was one of many Denning Phoenix to come from Wide Bay Coaches. (All photos by Geoff Foster)

Country Operators

AAA Tours & Charters, Margaret River: Operates TC 7460 Toyota Coaster.

Bus It Right, Golden Bay: Operates TC 7485 a Nissan ex orange school bus.

Coorow: Previously operated here were 1BMX363 and CW 583 Toyota Coasters (WM&AR O'Callaghan). These have been replaced by 1BEX213 Hino BD190/ Express (227 8/02) C43F ex Lucas, Carnamah and 1DOR177 Toyota Coaster – ownership of these is uncertain.

Denmark Tours & Charter: New is 1CDF523 Fuso Rosa C24C orange school bus replacing TC 478 Toyota Coaster.

Go West, Bunbury: Sold 1BXK726 Mercedes OH1725/ Volgren to Christian College, Geelong, Vic.

Hayes, Esperance: Dereg and withdrawn was 9KH 877 Hino RG197K/ Austral-Denning.

Hough, Bunbury: Sold 9BY016 Nissan JP251/ BCI to Love, Cairns.

Kimberley Wild Experience: Operates TC 6623 Isuzu FTS750 4wd.

McInnes, North Albany: New is 1ERX 549 Optare Solo (290962 2016) B34F.

Nicholls, Narrogin: Added was TC 2423 Toyota Coaster.

Rogers, Northam: Withdrawn for sale was 1APU639 Nissan LKA/ TOST.

Shepherdson, Margaret River: AU 2385 Nissan JP251/ BCI-Gemilang was sold to Whitsunday Transit, Qld.

South West C.L. (Transdev), Bunbury: Sold TC 2024 Denning double decker to ATG Downunder, Alice Springs. Also sold was TC 6493 Volvo B12R/ Northcoast.

Transwa: Scania/Volgren units (7), (11) & (19) were auctioned at Manheim at their Perth Airport branch and (2) was sold to Shellharbour City Tours and (18) was sold to Pegasus Tours, Sydney. New 11/16 were TRANSWA 12 and TRANSWA 14 both Volvo B11R/ Irizar i6 and new 12/16 were similar units TRANSWA19, TRANSWA 20 and TRANSWA 21.

VICTORIA – Melbourne Metropolitan

A. Auto Bus Hire & Charter, Rockbank: This Company is now trading as Buses for Hire, Melbourne with the A. Auto Bus Hire & Charter name cancelled. Additional is (B18) 3066 AO Toyota Coaster (5/95) B21C.

Abella Travel P/L, Box Hill: A specialised operator in the public day tour market, but aimed mainly at Koreans, selling single seat tours to most top most of the popular locations. Fleet is BS01YB King Long Midi (LA6R1FSE2GB100217 6/16) C35F; 1604 AC Toyota Hi Ace (10/10) C13C and 1320 AC Toyota Coaster XZB50R (9/10) C20C.

Airport Eastside, Bayswater: Added at unknown date was 0081 AO Toyota Coaster B20C of 4/10.

Aussie Koala Tours: A second vehicle noted in Bright today is AIT 850 Toyota Landcruiser (7/16) 6 seater reg 28/7/16.

Bacchus Marsh Coaches: Withdrawn were (2) 7002 AO Mercedes OH1418/ Austral-Denning; (7) 7007 AO Mercedes OC1621/ CC; (17) 7017 AO MAN 16.240/ Austral-Denning; (29) 7029 AO Mercedes OH1418/ Newnham; (32) 7032 AO Mercedes OH1418/ CC; (35) 7035 AO Mercedes OH1621/ CC; (38) 7038 AO Mercedes OH1621/ Volgren NZ; (39) 7039 AO Mercedes OH1621/ Volgren NZ; (80) 7080 AO Mercedes OH1418/ PMCA; (81) 7081 AO Mercedes OH1418/ Newnham. Acquired was (2) 7002 AO BCI Cruiser 12 (6KT2CC119BX000084 4/12) C57F

Bayside/ Nuline, Moorabbin East: (65) 9948 AO Higer Ryder resealed from C20F to C33F. Sold (42) 8412 AO Volvo B12B/ Coach Concepts to Alpine Spirit, Myrtleford resulting in (42B) BS02DQ Volvo B13R/ Coach Concepts being renumbered (42).

Bluebird Airport Shuttle: Acquired from Skybus were BS01TD Mitsubishi Rosa (00407 3/04) B17CL reg 5/10/15 ex (24) 5354 AO and BS01TE Mitsubishi Rosa (00349 1/04) B17CL reg 12/9/16 ex (20) 5276 AO in 2016.

Cranbourne Transit: New Scania K310UB/ Volgren Optimus B44Dw units are (65) BS02KZ (VG4241 9/16); (66) BS02LA (VG4242 8/16); (67) BS02LB (VG4243 9/16); (68) BS02LC (VG4253 9/16); (69) BS02LD (VG4244 9/16); (70) BS02LE (VG4245 9/16 and (71) BS02LF (VG4254 9/16). Corrections to seating capacities are (40) 3653 AO, (59) 6990 AO Scania K280/ Volgrens; (49) 9253 AO and (50) 9254 AO Scania K230UB/ Volgrens; (61) 7083 AO, (62) 7084 AO, (63) BS01VF and (64) BS01VG all Scania K310UB/ Volgrens are all B44Dw. (60) 8979 AO Scania/ Gemilang is B42Dw. (58) 5009 AO Mercedes OH1418/ CC is C57F. See also under Mansfield-Mt Buller B.L. for details of ex Sita Volvo B10B/ Volgrens currently in use at Cranbourne.

Crown Coaches, Nunawading: Sold to Coop (Nuline B.S) were (10) 4110 AO and (70) 4170 AO both Mercedes OH1630L/ Austral-Dennings.

Dineen Group: Berwick Bus Lines: (20) 5169 AO Scania K360IB/ Irizar has body no (252953 9/15).

Martyr, Warburton: New is (12) 0012 AO Scania K310IB/ Volgren Endura (VG4177 8/16) C57F.

Panorama Coaches: New is (31) 3031 AO MAN 19.320/ Volgren Optimus (VG4127 11/16) B41Dw.

Acquired was (95) 3095 AO Mercedes 0500RFx3/ Mills Tui (PCDOD0158 6/04) C50FT ex Defence A04254.
Withdrawn was (38) 3038 AO MAN SL202/ Ansair-Busworks.

Diamond Coaches: New is BS00QT Higer Road Boss (LKLA1E1JXGA709261/ 16EJK0001 9/16) C41F.

Doncaster Coaches: Barry Mason, former proprietor of Doncaster Coaches passed away on 6/10/16. 5267 AO Scania/ QCC rego was cancelled and business ceased on 25/6/16.

Driver, Notting Hill: New are (66) BS02PE Scania K310IB/ Irizar i6 (253358 2016) C48FTL and (67) BS02PF Scania K310IB/ Irizar i6 (2016) C48FTL.

Dyson's, Bundoora & Country Victoria: (924) is BS01RM a 2011 Kyneton based Toyota Hi Ace C13C. Acquired at Wangaratta was (951) BS02BP Fuso Rosa (10260 6/13) C—CL ex Kanga Coachlines, Adelaide SB65HI. At Moama is new (942) BS02JN Scania K440EB/ Coach Concepts (289 8/16) C59FTL. New BCI Proma low floor B33Fw special school units are (939) BS02OQ (6KT2BB112GX000965 10/16), (940) BS02OU (6KT2BB114GX000966 10/16) and (941) BS02OT (6KT2BB110GX000964 10/16). (839) 5228 AO Fuso Rosa transferred Wangaratta to Kyneton.

Evergreen Coaches: 0998AC Mercedes OH1316/ Newnham reregistered 1EX61K and then deregistered.

GLV Coaches, Campbellfield: Acquired was BS01JC MAN 18.360/ Coach Design (631 4/09) C53FT ex Opal, Sydney (SA) SB17CU.

Go West Tours: New is BS02OO Fuso Rosa (30465 9/16) C24C.

Gourmet Pawprints Doggy Winery Tours, Williamstown: This unique operator offers foodie tours aimed at both dogs and their owners. Started with a Mercedes LO812/ Northcoast but now has BS01JP Kia Cosmos/ Autobus (7/04) C43F ex Hutchinson, Birregurra 5466 AO.

Harlan Tours, Essendon Airport: Seem to have re-invented themselves and have entered the Day Tour market again, this time offering wine and beer tours to the Mornington Peninsula and the Yarra Valley. They are also offering 2 Great Ocean Road Tours, a Phillip Island Tour and 3 wine tours, to the Yarra Valley, Mount Macedon or Mornington Peninsula as well as an option for Peninsula Hot Springs, as well as Sovereign Hill, Grampians, Echuca and Puffing Billy/ Dandenongs Day tours! 5585AO is now a Fuso Rosa signed for the Beer & Wine tours and has replaced a Nissan Civilian.

Joy Study & Tours: Added was ZDF622 Toyota Hi Ace (5/12) B13C.

Master Coaches, Campbellfield: Withdrawn and dereg 10/16 was 3246 AO Scania K112TR/ PMCSA.

Mee's Bus Lines, West Heidelberg: New Hino/ P&D BS02IO is (60) replacing former (60) 2799 AO Hino BD186K/ PMCA. Sold for motor home, Qld was (31) 2770 AO Mercedes OH1418/ Austral-Denning.

Northern Transit Holdings: Acquired (possibly from Northfleet WA) were (201) (WA) TC 6889 BCI Classmaster (6KT2CC110BX000071); (203) (WA) 1DVN708 BCI Classmaster (6KT2CC113BX000081) – Seymour livery; (204) (WA) 1DVN908 BCI Classmaster (6KT2CC112BX000072); (205) (WA) TC 7126 BCI Classmaster (6KT2CC114BX000073) and (209) 9663AO King Long '6130AU' Renumbered were (15) 0715AO Mercedes 0500RFx3/ Coach Design to (210); (31) 4100AO Mercedes 0404/ Coach Design to (212), (46) 9661AO King Long 6102AU to (208); (45) 9660 AO King Long 6102 AU to (207); (34) 5947AO Scania K124EB/ Coach Design to (211); ex Seymour (59) 9659 AO King Long 6130AU to (206). The Volvo B11R/ Ling Longs have transferred and are now in Seymour livery (see under SPS). (20) Sold was (31) 1388 AO Scania K113TR/ Austral-Denning.

Sita, West Footscray: Withdrawn by 9/16 were (30) 2330 AO, (34) 2334 AO, (78) 2378 AO, (84) 2384 AO and (87) 2387 AO all Volvo B10B/ Volgren plus (63) 2363 AO Volvo B10M/ Volgren; (216) 2716 AO Volvo B12R/ Austral-Denning and (267) 2341 AO Toyota Coaster.

Sold to Mansfield-Mt Buller Bus Lines were Volvo B10B/ Volgrens (31) 2331 AO, (32) 2332 AO, (33) 2333 AO, (36) 2336 AO, (37) 2337 AO, (82) 2382 AO, (83) 2389 AO and (89) 2383 AO. Some of these have been in use at Cranbourne Transit. Sold to V. Bus were B10Bs (72) 2372 AO and (73) 2373 AO and similar unit 34) 2334 AO to Sale Bus Lines. Reregistered was (74) 2374 AO Scania L94UB/ Volgren to BS01JB. Further to last issue, the new Volvo B7R/ Volgrens are C61F not C57F. Fleet nos are (300) BS02KK; (301) BS02KL, (302) BS02KM. Additional such units are (303) BS02KN (VM0385 9/16) and (304) BS02KO (VM0389 10/16).

Skybus, Tullamarine: New is (112) BS02KJ Bustech CDI- Cummins/ Bustech (16-028 8/16) H53/10Dw.

After appearing at the Sydney Bus Show in early October it reappeared in a pink livery for a cancer appeal. Renumbered were (66) 0237 AO Scania L94UA/ Volgren to (80) and (88) 7193 AO MAN 18.310/ King Long to (72).



TOP: Seen at Mile End on 10/9/16, Adelaide Coachlines SB29GT Volvo B7R/ Volgren Endura of 2014 and WSS 053 Volvo B12R/ A.B. Denning of 1996. (Scott Mitchell)



CENTRE: Ezyrent is part of the Des's Cabs group. BCI Proma DES 133 is seen at Osborne on 12/5/16. (Scott Mitchell)



BOTTOM: BA 9322 Volvo B58/ PMCSA was new to Smiths of South Riana in 1978 as per this 1983 photo. It later worked for both Medwin and then Wells at Smithton. Kimbra Wells has now kindly donated the coach to the Tasmanian Coach and Bus Society. (Geoff Foster)

Starbus Shuttles: All the Toyota Hi Aces have been reregistered off bus plates

(32) 5195 AO to 1EQ5HW	(33) 5193 AO to 1EQ5HU	(34) 5197 AO to 1EQ5HY
(35) 5194 AO to 1EQ5HV	(36) 5196 AO to 1EQ5HX	(39) 8429 AO to 1GT7PC
(41) 8428 AO to 1GJ6FU	(42) 8427 AO to 1GS4NY	(43) 5188 AO to 1GO1JJ
(44) 5191 AO to 1GF11Y	(45) 5816 AO to 1GJ6FV	(47) BS00UF to 1GJ6FX

The Rosas have also been re-registered (31) 8244AO to 1GS4NW and (38) 9651AO Rosa to 1GS4NX.

Additional Toyota Hi Aces are (48) UPQ 297 (2/07); (46) 1GJ6FW (2/14) and (43) ZIP 304 (9/12)

Sunbury Bus Lines: Withdrawn was (13) 3313 AO Mercedes OH1418/ CC replaced by (13) 3313 AO Mercedes OH1630/ Custom Coaches (06-145A 1/07) C57F ex Organ's, Kyneton (20) 2920 AO.

Sundancer: Noted at Melbourne Airport on 28/11/16 is the first new bus, working the Emirates Crew contract they started with, BS00LM King Long 6102 (LA6R1FSE9EB105928 4/15) C45F reg 29/4/16.

Sunshine Tours: Acquired was 8444 AO Scania K420EB/ Coach Concepts (105 8/09) C50FTL ex Maguire, Chinchilla 257 TIA.

Transdev: New Scania K310UB/ Volgren Optimus B—Dw units are (121) BS02LJ (VG4280 10/16); (122) BS02LK (VG 4181 10/16); (123) BS02LL (VG4282 10/16); (124) BS02LM (VG4283 10/16); (125) BS02LN (VG4284 10/16); (126) BS02LO (VG4285 10/16) and (127) BS02LP (VG4286 10/16). Acquired were (800) BS02OH Mercedes 0405NH/ Volgren (VG921 8/97) B37Dw ex Buslink, Darwin (554) NT mo 2110 and (801) BS01LO Mercedes 0500LE/ BCI (7/15) B41Dw ex demonstrator with CDC Werribee as 9136). Withdrawn were (4310) 2431 AO; (4380) 2438 AO and (4480) 2448 AO all Mercedes LO812/ CC. Withdrawn by 12/16 were MAN SL200/ Ansairs (283) 1181 AO, (291) 1189 AO, (294) 1192 AO, and (297) 1196 AO leaving only (298) 1196 AO in service as of 12/12/16.

Tullamarine Bus Lines, Airport West: New are (35) BS02JH Mercedes 0500LE/ Volgren Optimus (VG4260 8/16) B—Dw and (36) BS02JI Mercedes 0500LE/ Volgren Optimus (VG4261 9/16) B—Dw.

Unidentified: BS02IP Higer 'Road Boss' LKLR1KSJ7DB602867/Higer 8/13 C57F ex 104 THY

BS01YD King Long 6120AU (LA6A1LAK8EB401963 6/15) C53F

BS01YC King Long 6120AU (LA6R1FSE3GB200925 7/16).

9723 AO Fuso Rosa (10594 11/11) C24C

BS00DO Fuso Rosa (00308 6/08) C24C

BS00UV Fuso Rosa (10501 10/11) C24C

BS01RZ Toyota Coaster HZB50R (2/95) C21C

BS01SA Mitsubishi Rosa (00028 2/01) C24C

BS01SD Toyota Coaster XZB50R (1/11) C20C

V. Bus, Altona: Acquired were BS02NZ Volvo B10B/ Volgren (VG653 12/94) B45D ex Sita (73) 2373 AO and BS02OA Volvo B10B/ Volgren (VG655 12/94) B45D ex Sita (72) 2372 AO.

Victorian Touring Coaches: Withdrawn was (48) 6248 AO Scania K113CRB/ Newnham.

Ventura Group: New are (1266) BS01ZD Scania K310UB/ Volgren Optimus (VG4232 9/16) B44Dw at Monbulk and (1279) BS02RV Hino FD240/ P&D (10/16) C33FL at Rosebud. New Volvo B7RLE/ Volgren Optimus B44Dw units are (1267) BS02LY (VG4227 9/16) at Dandenong; (1280) BS02LV (VG4229 8/16) at Dandenong (1281) BS02LW (VG4230 9/16) B44Dw at Dandenong; (1282) BS02LX (VG4231 9/16) B44Dw at Dandenong; (1287) BS02MD (VG4289 10/16) at Rosebud and (1292) BS02LU (VG4226 9/16) at Dandenong. New at Pakenham are Volvo B7RLE/ Volgren Optimus B44Dw are (1286) BS02MD (VG4288 9/16); (1287) BS02MD (VG4289 10/16); (1289) BS02MB (VG4290 9/16); (1290) unreg (VG4291 9/16); (1291) BS02ME (VG4292 10/10). New is (1283) BS02SC MAN 19.290/ Volgren (VG4271 10/16) C57FL

Transfers are: (33) 3633 AO Scania L113CRL/ Volgren Monbulk to Croydon; (1230 7132 AO Fuso Rosa Monbulk to Knox; (1104) 3634 AO Mercedes 412 Monbulk to Croydon. (37) 3637 AO MAN 16.240/ Volgren reregistered and renumbered to (1106) BS00QZ. Similar unit (1107) 3638 AO ex (38) is withdrawn. (1265) BS01ZC Scania/ Volgren has body no (VG4202 8/16) and similar units (1276) BS02IA is (VG4249 8/16) and (1277) BS02IB (VG4250 8/16).

(515) 4515AO Volvo B10M/ Volgren ex Moorabbin sold to the One Voice organisation and converted to mobile shower bus by for use in the CBD 5 days a week. Scrapped for parts was (1162) 2647 AO Scania L113/ Northcoast.

COUNTRY OPERATORS

ABDA, Grovedale: Acquired was BS00DK MAN 14.192/ Austral-Denning (CS00830 12/95) C57F ex Christian College, Highton ZDH305/ 2170 AC.

Alpine Spirit, Myrtleford: Sold 7740 AO Scania K124EB/ Autobus to L&F Mine Transfers, Yeppoon, Qld. Acquired was 7740 AO Volvo B10B/ Coach Concepts (122 4/10) C50DT ex Bayside Coaches (42) 8412 AO.

Damien Newsome & Deborah Lee, t/a Appetite Tours, Bairnsdale. A new day tour operator concentrating on the wine, brewery and food markets. Commenced operation on 26/7/16 using 1HR4ZB an LDV 610 8 seater of 10/15.

Ballarart Coachlines: Sold was (39) 0738 AO Mercedes OH1421/ Austral-Denning to Noosa Valley B.L, Qld Withdrawn by 11/16 was 9284 AO Higer Ryder.

Benalla Bus Lines: Withdrawn by 11/16 was (23) 0522 AO Metrotech 16.210/ CC

L & S.L. Bennett Pty. Ltd, Wandiligong: Generational change in 2011 ex L. Bennett.

Bright Chalet Tours Pty. Ltd: A second bus is TLB 393 Mercedes Sprinter (2/05) C12C reg 8/7/05.

Carrison, Bairnsdale: Withdrawn was 0271 SO Mercedes OH1418/ Newnham.

Christian's Group: Bendigo: New are (127) BS02ID Scania K310UB/ Volgren Optimus (2016) B41Dw and (128) BS02IC Scania K310UB/ Volgren Optimus (VG4192 7/16) B41Dw. Ocean Grove: (208) 2467 AO Isuzu LT1-11P/ PMCA sold to ASF Tours, Sydney. Withdrawn at Warrnambool was (209) 2468 AO Hino/ PMCA.

Clifton Bus Lines Pty. Ltd (P&C Curtis), Bairnsdale: 0123 SO Mercedes OH1418/Volgren replaced on the run by new BS02RI Mercedes O500RF/ Express (1005 2016) C57F as displayed at the 2016 bus show.

Cobden Bus Lines: Withdrawn was 3757 AO Hino RG197K/ PMCA.

Cole's Coaches, Warrnambool: Sold were 6586 AO and 6587 AO BCIs to Grace Lutheran College, Qld; 3117 AO Mercedes/ Volgren NZ and 3123 AO Mercedes OH1418/ Volgren. New is 3120 AO Scania K310IB/ Higer A30 (4/16) C57F.

Dianne's Venture Tours/ Phillip Isld Boutique Tours, Newhaven: Operates 1HL6JF Toyota Hi Ace (10/11) B10C.

Dineen Group: Warragul Bus Lines: 2001 AO Mercedes OH1830/ Volgren reregistered 2033 AO. 2076 AO Scania/ Volgren has body no (VG4176). Sold 1997 AO Golden Dragon to Sainty, Launceston TAS.

Disney, Omeo: 0653 SO Hino RK260/ CC reregistered 9531 AO.

D.V. & L.M. Downey Pty. Ltd, Orbest: Acquired was BS02LT MAN 16.290/ Northcoast (94 6/94) V53F ex McHarry, Geelong (90) 1590 AO.

Fallon Group Withdrawn from Cobram was (12) 2112 AO Hino RG230/ APG. Added at Alexandra was (126) BS02DS Toyota Coaster (10/10) B—CL. (34) 1334 AO Volvo B7R/ P&D transferred from Alexandra to Shepparton. New at Wangaratta is (44) BS02DJ MAN 16.290/ Coach Design (836 3/16) C57F.

Shepparton Transit: (34)3496 AO Irisbus Agoraline/ Express sold to Carbridge. New is (112) 2142 AO Volvo B7RLE/ Volgren Optimus (VG4212 9/16) B42Dw.

Ford, Shepparton: New is BS02HW BCI Cruiser 12 (6KT1CC114FX000768 2016) C—Ft.

Gold Bus, Ballarat: Withdrawn were (12) 5027 AO Mercedes OH1418/ MCA and 5028 AO Mercedes OH1421/ CC. GOLD 13 MAN/ BCI rereg 5028 AO. New is GOLD 13 Volvo B7R/ Coach Design (916 11/16) C57F.

Gray, Mallacoota: 0396 SO Isuzu LT1-11P/ Transit replaced by 8354 AO Hino RB8/ UBC-Chiron (100356AA 12/10) C34F ex XRS 339 and note change of ownership to A.J. Gray.

Greaves, Hamilton: dereg was 0563 SO Metrotech Delta/ PMCA.

Gull, Geelong: New are BS02MJ BCI Proma (6KT1AA110EX000727 4/16) C28F and BS02RT Volvo B9R/ Marcopolo (8/16) C57F.

Hahnel, Ouyen: 0243 AO Mercedes OH1418/ CC was sold to Noosa Valley Buslines, Qld.

Harley, Koorumburra: New is BS02OV Mercedes O500RF/ Irizar i6 (253-277 3/16) C57F. Body nos for Mercedes/ Irizar are 1780 AO (252-670 11/14); BS01LQ (252-849 3/15) and BS02OI (253-313 3/16). Sold 1775 AO Mercedes OH1418/ CC for storage unit at Bruthen.

Katrina Petersen, t/a Hop Scotch Tours, Corio: This is a single vehicle day tour and charter operator who commenced in 2001. Had 1470 AC Toyota Coaster (2/94) B18C purchased 2001 and since sold and 1463 AC Toyota Hi Ace C12C since rereg onto other plates.

Latrobe Valley Bus Lines: Withdrawn for sale were (42) 3841 AO and (45) 3845 AO both Hino RK176K/ CC. (108) BS02AT Volvo B8RLE/ Volgren has body no (VG5157 6/16) and similar unit (109) BS02AU is (VG4158 7/16).

Little's, Sale: Reaccredited from around 1/16 under the ownership of Grant & Ange Ridgeway. (20) BS02CX Mercedes/ Coach Concepts has body no (255 9/15). 5703 AO Toyota Coaster withdrawn for sale.

Maffescioni, Maryborough: (5) 4572 AO Toyota Hi Ace withdrawn as were 1275 AO Austral Tourmaster and 1277 AO Denning Landseer.

Mallacoota Explorer Tours: 1511AC Mazda T3000 replaced by 6699 AO Toyota Coaster B21C.

McDonald, Euroa: Withdrawn was 1095 AC Hino RG230/ CC.

McHarry, Geelong: New are (1) 1501 AO Scania K360IB/ Irizar i6 9/16) C57F and (66) 1566 AO Scania K360IB/ Irizar i6 (8/16) C57F. Withdrawn was (72) 1572 AO Mercedes OH1418/ PMCA.

Mansfield-Mt Buller Bus Lines: Acquired were the following Volvo B10B/ Volgren B43D units ex Sita: (86) 0440 AO (VG756 1/96) ex (31) 2331 AO; (87) 0441 AO (VG757 1/96) ex (32) 2332 AO; (90) 7377 AO (VG686 4/95) ex (89) 2383 AO; (89) 7378 AO (VG865 4/95) ex (83) 2389 AO; unreg (VG864 1/97) ex (33) 2333 AO and (88) 0442 AO (VG685 4/95) ex (83) 2389 AO. Note that some of these have been in use at Cranbourne Transit. Also at Cranbourne were two of the previously recorded acquisitions now renumbered (47) 0447 AO to (81) and (48) 0448 AO to (82) plus former Cranbourne Volvo B10M/ Volgrens (21) 3221 AO, (22) 3222 AO and (23) 3223 AO have returned there. These were all in conjunction with the expanded Cranbourne area route network which began in November. It is expected that most if not all of these buses will return to Mansfield by June for the snow season. Withdrawn are (40) 0440 AO, (41) 0441 AO, (42) 0442 AO, (77) 7377 AO and (78) 7378 AO all Mercedes 0305/ PMCs.

Meredith Transit (D.Mcintyre - Mt.Zero Holdings): In addition to the two runs at Willaura, and his former partnership with Jamie Whitmore in Loddon Transit, Dale has since acquired several Ballarat area runs comprising Meredith – Steiglitz with 0344 SO Hino RG230/ ABM (00-028 6/02) B40F; Delacombe – Smythe's Creek with 4958 AO Mercedes OH1418/ CC (94-177 2/95) B57F ex Heritage, Ballarat; Buninyong – Mt Doran - Elaine with 2025 AC Volvo B7R/ Autobus (2/03) C57F ex Watson, Elaine.

Gary Plumridge, t/a More Than A Tour, Geelong: Operations commenced on 17/2/12 doing a range of day tours, private charters and airport shuttles. Started with YUE 581 Hyundai Imax (1/12) C8C which was dereg on 17/2/16 and sold. Now has 1CU3GT Toyota Hi Ace (8/14) C13C reg 8/14.

Mortimer, Nathalia: New is BS02IE Scania K310IB/ Volgren Endura (VG4175 7/16) C57F.

Organ, Kyneton: (20) 2920 AO Mercedes OH1630/ CC transferred to Sunbury Bus Lines as (13). New is (20) 2920 AO Volvo B7R/ Marcopolo (5/16) C57FL.

S & C Saccho, Myrtleford: Has purchased the Bright P-12 College-Porepunkah-Buckland Valley school contract of J.E.Hall, Eurobin, 11/14 with 1353 SO Mercedes OH1830/ Express (589 5/09) C57F.

Sale Bus Lines: 9837 AO Mitsubishi Rosa was ex Mambourin Enterprises Ltd, Derrimut – a special needs transport provider. Acquired was 9839 AO Volvo B10B/ Volgren (VG554 1/94) B43D ex Sita (34) 2334 AO.

Seymour Passenger Service: Sold have been (23) 0723 AO Mercedes OH1418/ CC; (30) 1387 AO Mercedes 0303-3/ Denning; (33) 2133 AO Mercedes OH1418/ PMCSA; (48) 6348 AO Renault MRC/ APG. Withdrawn for sale are (3) 0703 AO Mercedes OH1418/ PMCSA (34) 2134 AO Metrotech/ Express. The batch of King Long bodied Volvo B11Rs has transferred to Seymour from Northern Transit Holdings as follows: (15) BS02AA (HVAB14-026 2016); (20) BS02AB (HVAB14-023 2016); (56) BS01ZY (HVAB14-024 2016) and (58) BS01ZX (HVAB14-025 2016). Also acquired was (202) (WA) TC 6885 BCI Classmaster (6KT2CC113BX000100) ex ? and (203) WA 1DVN 708 BCI Classmaster (6KT2CC113BX000081) C57F. These two units may be ex Northfleet.

South Coast Bus, Wonthaggi: Transferred from Moreland Bus Lines was (90) 1448 AO Mercedes OH1830/ Mills Tui (PMB0701 10/08) C57F.

Strathfieldsaye Transit: Acquired was 2228 AO Mercedes 0405/ Volgren (VG452 10/982) B45D ex Ryan Bros (28) replacing 8195 AO MAN 110.180/ Ansair which was withdrawn following the BCSV tour on 24/9/16. Depot is relocating to Thistle Street, Golden Square.

Sunraysia Transit, Mildura: New are BS02OF and BS02PA both Mercedes 0500LE/ Volgren Optimus (8/16) B49Fw. Withdrawn was (52) 0614 AO MAN 14.230/ Ansair.

Swan Hill Bus Lines: New are (148) BS01DK Mercedes 0500RF/ BCI (2015) and (156) BS02AV Mercedes 0500RF/ BCI (2016).

Taran, Wedderburn: 0445 SO Mercedes OH1418/ Austral-Denning is now BS00NB. Unclear whether this is just a rereg or a new owner as well.

Team Staffing Solutions, Moe: Operates 1CU8MU Yutong (LZYTC62D1047524 2/14) C39F reg 29/12/15.

Tour of Duty, (A&M Sharpe) Bright: Operates 1BW2FW Land Rover 6x6 ex Australian Army.

Wangaratta Coachlines: New are (36) 0636 AO Scania K320IB/ Coach Concepts (294 10/16) C57FT and (50) 0650 AO Scania K320IB/ Coach Concepts (285 7/16) C57FT. (36) 0636 AO Scania K93CR/ Volgren reregistered 0652 AO and renumbered (52).

Warrnambool Bus Lines: New are BS02NX Mercedes 0500LE/ Express (999 8/16) B49Fw; (42) BS02NY Mercedes 0500LE/ Express (998 8/16) B49Fw and BS02OZ Mercedes OH1830/ Express (6/16) C57F.

Whitmore, Boort: 8412 AO Mercedes OH1830/ Irizar has body no (262156 6/11).

Wimmera Roadways: Sold were 0151 AC Daltone Air Chief/ PMCA and 0154 AC Hino BC144M/ PMCA.

Angle Engineering (R.P. & J.A. Wise), Inverloch: New is BS02HZ Scania K310IB/ Volgren 'Endura' (VG4046 6/16) C57F replacing 5789 AO Mercedes OH1418/ Volgren.

Wynne, Maffra: Sold 5020 AO MCA/ MCA to Hanh, Sydney.



TOP: Simes Bros of Lismore NSW TV 6433 Mercedes 0500RF (swb)/ Coach Design is a 2006 34 seat coach acquired from Top Deck Tours.



CENTRE: Seen on tour in Canberra September 2016 was new Road Runner, Wyong TV 8192 Denning Silver Phoenix.



BOTTOM: Added to the Quince's fleet in Melbourne has been NT mo 3673 Mercedes OH1830/ King Long transferred from the ATG Downunder fleet.

(All photos by Jason Lipszyc)

NEW SOUTH WALES – State Transit

Deliveries: Scania K310UB/ Bustech B45Dw to Port Botany Nos. 2793 (14.10); 2794 (11.10); 2795, 2796, 2797, 2798, 2799 (4.11) and to Leichhardt Nos. 2800, 2802, 2803 and 2804 (24.11).

Transfers: Mercedes 0405NH Nos. 1111, 1113, 1135, 1157, 1159 (9.11) all Port Botany; 1163, 1165 (10.10) Port Botany to Leichhardt; 1325 (10.16) Leichhardt to Waverley. Mercedes O500LE No. 2102 (28.11) & 2190 (8.11) Leichhardt to Ryde. Scania L113CRB 3628 and 3649 (10.16) Waverley to Leichhardt. Scania L113CRL Nos. 3727, 3728, 3729 (14.11) Willoughby to Randwick; 3737 (17.11) Randwick to Kingsgrove. Scania K280UB No. 2551 (17.11) Randwick to Kingsgrove. Volvo B12BLE No. 2116 (30.11) Ryde to Willoughby.

Withdrawals: Mercedes 0405NH Nos. 1100, 1159 Leichhardt (30.11); Scania L113TRB No. (14.5 metre) No. 3411 Willoughby (29.11). Scania L113CRB 3516, 3621, 3629, 3632, 3633, 3635, 3637, 3638, 3646, 3647, 3648, 3652, 3653, 3655 all Leichhardt (29.11).

Repaints and All Over Advertising: Mercedes 0405NH Nos. 1187 Ryde (11.16 Samsung Gear S3); 1200 Ryde (10.16 to corporate livery); 1202 Ryde (11.16 Menu Log); 1217 Port Botany (10.16 external repaint); 1252 Port Botany (11.16 7 Eleven Slurpee); 1278 Waverley (10.16 American Express); 1281 Ryde (10.16 Coles car insurance); 1294 Leichhardt (11.16); 1316 Waverley (Brita Water Bottles); 1317 Waverley (10.16 ANZ Mobile payments); 1318 Waverley (11.16 Star Wars Rogue One); 1338 Leichhardt (10.16 exterior repaint); 1340 Leichhardt (10.16 exterior repaint); 1342 Leichhardt (12.16 Bertocchi Smallgoods); 1347 Ryde (Aladdin Disney Play); 1349 Waverley (10.16 Latitude Financial services); 1364 (10.16 Financial review); 1368 Ryde (11.16 Menu Log); 1369 Ryde (10.16 unknown); 1371 Ryde (10.16 Mafia III). Mercedes O500LE No. 1902 Waverley (11.16 external repaint).

Volvo B12BLEA Nos. 1661 Ryde (10.16 Aussie Bodies Lo Carb); 1713 Ryde (11.16 American Express); 1723 Brookvale (2.16 corporate livery to American Express 10.16). Volvo B12BLE Nos. 1560 Willoughby (11.16 Pharmacy 4 Less); 1566 Brookvale (Kogan On-Line department store); 1964 North Sydney (10.16 ANZ Mobile payments); 2037 North Sydney (10.16 Coles Car Insurance); 4846 Randwick (11.16 Sydney Bash); 4863 Randwick (11.16 Real Estate.Com); 4968 North Sydney (10.16 American Express); Volvo B10BLE Nos. 3935 Burwood (11.16 Watch Dogs 2); 3946 Brookvale (11.16 Brita Water Bottles);

Scania K280B No. 2664 Kingsgrove (11.16 to corporate livery). Scania L113CRL Nos. 3708 Randwick (11.16 Nomad Collection David Jones); 3755 Randwick (11.16 Real Estate.Com); 3762 Kingsgrove (10.16 Motorola); 3808 Kingsgrove (11.16 American Express);

Private Operators

ACTM, Clemon Park: TV 5380 Toyota Hi Ace reregistered TV 8734 by 6/16.

A.L. Tours, Luddenham: Sold TV 5143 Toyota Coaster to an unknown operator. New is TV 8909 Yutong ZK6760DAA (LZYTFCT29G1009105/ 16F219D-0003 2016) C27F as displayed at the 2016 bus show.

ASF Tours, Ingleburn: Acquired was TV 8513 Isuzu LT1-11P/ PMCA (2271 1/93) B57F ex Christian's, Ocean Grove, Vic (208) 2467 AO.

Australia Coach and Tour Service: Former 2706 AC/ TV 5008 Toyota Coaster was rereg TV 8779 7/3/16.

Australian Eco Adventures, Cromer: Added were TV 6904 Mercedes Vito and TV 8252 VW Caravelle.

Australian Luxury Travel: Withdrawn was TV 7685 MAN 16.240/ PMC. Added was TV 8812 Volvo B10B/ P&D (074 12/4/97) B53D ex Transit Systems/ Hopkinsons m/o 4834.

Australia Wide Coaches, Mascot: New is Scania K310IB/ Irizar i6 (253-354 7/16) C55D.

Baxter's, Gurraveen: New is TV 5096 Scania K310IB/ Higer A30 (16ETA0006 9/16) C57F replacing (8) TV 5056 Mercedes OC1617/ CC now withdrawn.

Bestco Australia, Hurstville: Added was TV 7322 Toyota Hi Ace (2014) C13C.

Big Bus Co: Acquired was TV 8454 Mercedes 0500RFx3/ Mills Tui (PCDOD0264 4/05) C50FT ex Defence Forces N05.074. Note depot relocated to off Hill Road Lidcombe. Dereg was m/o 8641 Mercedes 0305/ PMC.

Blue Sky Tours & Overseas Consulting, Lidcombe: Operates CD74MK Toyota Coaster (2000) C21C; BNB71A Toyota Hi Ace (2010) C13C and TV 7890 Fuso Rosa (01350 5/10) B24C ex Condor Tours.

Busways, Region 1: Correct body no for (453) m/o 7719 Scania L94IB/ CC is (98-412 6/99).

Canon's Shuttle, Caringbah: BWT78C Toyota Hi Ace reregistered TV 8820.

Capebase Pty. Ltd. (LC&LD Ross) t/a Pacific Shuttle, Moorebank: Operates general charter as Pacific Shuttle and up to 25 special needs contracts in the Bathurst, Blayney, Katoomba and Wollongong areas. Added were (5) TV 4881 Toyota Coaster (1994) B21C reg 20/11/06; TZQ 795 Toyota Coaster (1996) B21C; and Toyota Hi Aces C13C (8) TV 7150 (2009), TV 4880 (2012) and TV 4789 (2011). TV 5012 Toyota Coaster, TV 4880 Toyota Hi Ace and TV 4789 Toyota Hi Ace are no longer registered as such.

Casale (G), Concord: Operates TV 7087 Mercedes Sprinter (2014) C15C reg 6/15.

Cathay Express Group Pty. Ltd, St Peters: There are now 3 buses comprising a Brisbane operation as from 9/12/15. These are 655 WLS Yutong Goanna (2012) C28C ex TV 8409; 179 WCM Fuso Rosa ex TV 6979 and TV 6893 Fuso Rosa still reg as such. BN13RZ Toyota Hi Ace sold by 8/16 and TV 7113 Toyota Hi Ace sold **CDC Hillsbus:** New at Foundry Road were Volvo B7RLE/ Volgren Optimus (2016) B44Dw units m/o 6660 (VG4246), m/o 6661 (VG4247) and m/o 6662 (VG4248) Missing body nos for buses listed in the last issue are m/o 6656 (VG4179), m/o 6657 (VG4198), m/o 6658 (VG4200) and m/o 6659 (VG4201).

Choice Rentals, Leppington: Reregistered were Mercedes 0305/ PMCs AM89PW to TV 8807, AM88PW to TV 8808, AM91PV to TV 8809 and AM92PW to TV 8810.

Compass Coaches/ Penrith Bus Co, Werrington: Acquired were TV 8728 Volvo B10L/ APG Orana (7427124 3/98) B41Dw ex Brisbane Transport (568) 568 IVB; TV 8642 BCI PK6850AT (LSFC030868C005260 12/08) C29F ex AAT-Kings (100); 7816 MO Hino RG197K/ PMCA (2108 10/91) B57F ex Baldwin, Bowraville 3662 MO; 7817 MO Hino RG197K/ P&D (044 6/95) B57F ex Cardwell B.S., Tully Qld 665 KHQ; 8257 MO Hino RG197K/ PMCA (2371 2/94) B61F ex Fallon, Alexandra 1315 AO; CE36VE Toyota Hi Ace (7/08) C13C ex npsv and 2210 MO Hino RG197K/ MCA (B236 5/93) B57F ex Bilpin **Condor Tours:** TV 7886 Mercedes 0500RFx3/ Mills Tui is (PCAAT0197 9/05) C46DT ex AAT-Kings (38A). New was TV 7890 Fuso Rosa (01350 2010) B24C – now resold to Blue Sky Tours.

Wei Qi Chen, t/a Daily Local Travel, Auburn: All previously listed vehicles have been sold and now operates just TV 8017 Toyota Hi Ace (2008) C13C.

Cumberland Coaches, St Marys: Sold were TV 5050 and TV 5051 both Volvo B10ML/ Fuji to West Coast Charters, Perth.

Dixon, Milperra (formerly Bankstown): Added was (Vic) BS00ZF Yutong ZK6760DAA (LZYTFTC23F1018462 6/15) C27F.

Won Jin Do, Homebush: Operates TV7436 Toyota Hi Ace (2008) C13C.

DOA Pty Ltd, Sydney: Added TV7891 Toyota Coaster (2011) C21C. Sold TV 6106 Hi Ace to G.J. Coach.

Eagle Tours, Alexandria: Added was TV 4755 Fuso Rosa (0448 2014) C24C.

E. Bus, Oakdale: 7807 MO MAN 16.242/ Volgren reregistered TV 8908.

Bounchanh Fu, t/a Fay Education Services Co, Strathfield: The business name Fay Education Services Co. was registered on 11/8/95. Fleet is TV 2515 Volkswagen Caravelle (1998) C7C reg 28/5/98 but since sold; TV 2698 Toyota Coaster (1999) B21C reg 10/12/99; TV 5206 Toyota Hi Ace (2007) C13C reg 6/11/07 and TV 3727 Mercedes 0404/ Austral Denning (C100440 11/93) C50FT., ex Ausko Tours, Mascot/Fairfield TV 3727 by 11/4/09 but sold to Evergreen Coaches Pty. Ltd, West Melbourne, 10/12.

Forest Coach Lines, Terrey Hills: New is m/o 6501 Volvo B7R/ Marcopolo (30085 5/16) C57F.

Jian Fu, Bexley: Operates TV 8630 Toyota Hi Ace (2011) C13C.

Galaxy Dragon Coach P/L, Hurstville: Acquired AG51TM Mitsubishi Rosa (2005) C24C ex Aljac.

G.J. Coach, Zetland: Acquired was TV 6106 Toyota Hi Ace (1009) C13C ex DOA Australia TV 6106.

Glenorie Coaches: Acquired was TV 8703 Scania L94IB/ APG Classic II (A055010 11/98) C53F ex Quicksilver, Cairns (3) 793 ESJ.

Golden Dragon Tours Pty. Ltd, Hurstville: Added have been TV 6118 Toyota Hi Ace (2006) C13C reg 18/1/10; AZ93TW Toyota Hi Ace (2005) C13C purchased 2014 and BN08MX Toyota Hi Ace (2007) C13C reg 28/5/14. Sold in 2016 was 1666 AC Mitsubishi Rosa.

Hopkinsons (Kiama Coaches), Woodpark: Transferred from Nowra Coaches was 2367 MO Mercedes 0303-3/ Volgren (VG594 5/94) C62F.

Hosanna Tours, Kingsgrove: Acquired were TV 4458 MAN 24.410/ Coach Design (482 6/06) C48DT ex Cooma Coaches; AZV93H Toyota Hi Ace (2006) C13C and BA48JY Toyota Coaster (2009) C21C.

JPT Tours, Kogarah: A Juko Tours associate with CH79DK Yutong ZK6930H (LZYTCTD60E1028577 2015) C39F and TV 8658 Yutong ZK6930H (LZYTCTD65G1006989 2016) C39F.

Won Jae Kim, Homebush: Operates TV 8644 Fuso Rosa (2016) C24C.

Kingsford Smith Transport: Sold were TV 8226 MAN 16.290/ Coach Design to Paradise Tours and TV 7766 MAN 22.280/ Denning rebuild for motor home, Melbourne. Acquired was (12) TV 8681 Mitsubishi Rosa (2002) C24C ex Skylink, Adelaide WSM 465.

Kingstar Coaches, Bankstown: Added were TV 7182 Fuso Rosa (2008) C24C; TV 8338 Toyota Hi Ace (2014) C13C reg 17/3/15 and TV 5144 Volvo B10C/ PMCSA (4825 10/89) C46Ft ex Tod's Coach Service. TV 6392 Fuso Rosa reregistered TV 8415. In the article in ABP 32.3 BS01RV Fuso Rosa should actually be BS01VI.



*TOP: Berwick Bus Lines (60) 7178 AO Scania K310UB/Express new in March 2016 is seen on rail replacement at Lilydale in July 2016 during the major closure of the Ringwood line..
(Hayden Ramsdale)*



*CENTRE: Brisbane Transport (2205) Volvo B7RLE/Volgren Optimus is seen working a 330 service to Bracken Ridge through Zillmere on 19/9/16
(Geoff Foster)*



*BOTTOM : State Transit (2599) Scania K280UB/Bustech VST of 2013 turns from Castlereagh Street inbound on a route 426 service from Dulwich Hill on 13/5/16
(Geoff Foster)*

Manly Coaches, Brookvale: TV 7837 Mercedes 0305/ PMC had been reregistered TV 8376 by 6/16. Sold were TV 4676 Mercedes 0305/ PMC to the Parker family, Oakville; TV 6080 Mercedes 0305G/ PMC for preservation and TV 6785 Mercedes 0305G/ PMC to Transit/ Nelsons.

Mimoza, St Leonards: Additional for this operator is TV 7265 Fuso Rosa (0243 -/08) C24C reg 12/10/12. **Nexus Holdings, Mascot:** Reg 8/14 was TV 8022 Mercedes Sprinter (2013) C21C.

North Sydney Bus Charters/ Bankstown Coaches: There is a range of buses for sale, including from the North Sydney fleet including TV 5197 Mercedes OC1617/ Denning; TV 5405 Mercedes OC1617/ PMC; TV 5878 Mercedes OC1617/ CC; TV 6497 Mercedes 0305/ PMC; TV 7564 Toyota Hi Ace; TV 7567 Mercedes 0303-3/ Denning; TV 7639 Mercedes 0305G/ PMC; TV 7805 Yutong and TV 7816 Yutong. Dereg/ withdrawn were TV 1153 Austral Tourmaster; TV 3546 Scania /Northcoast; TV 5116 Austral Tourmaster and TV 5573 Volvo B12R/ Autobus.

Further Yutong ZK6129HCAs C57F observed in October are TV 7935 (LZYTMTF67G1008216 2016) , TV 7936 (LZYTMTF69G1008217 2016), TV 7983 (LZYTMTF67F10013091 2015), TV 8727 (LZYTMTF62G1008222 2016), TV 8735 (LZYTMTF68G1019127 2016) and TV 8921 (LZYTMTF6XG1019128 2016).

On Course Tours: Reregistered was m/o 9280 Volvo B10M/ Newnham to CI64BO. TV 8866 Bonluck President 2 is (LA9C4BRX1GBJXK249 1/7/16) C44FT.

Paramount Tours, Bankstown: Former TV 7284 Volvo B10M/ Austral was sold to A.A. Auto Bus Hire & Charter, Rockbank, Vic.

Pegasus Coach Tours, Riverstone: Added was TV 8569 Scania K124EB/ Volgren (VP0295 6/03) C56FTL ex TransWA, Perth TRANSWA 18.

Pina Australia Pty. Ltd, Alexandria. Sold were TV 1493 Toyota Coaster to BRT Tours, TV 4930, TV 5955 and TV 7267 all Toyota Hi Aces. Now has only TV 5041 Toyota Tarago (2003) C7C and TV 7413 Toyota Hi Ace (2013) C13C

Plan B Transport, Ramsgate: Acquired was TV 4425 Scania K112TR/ Austral (1255 10/86) C57F ex Warrigal Coaches. Sold TV 3530 Toyota Hi Ace.

Polo Travel, Sydney: Added was TV 8612 Fuso Rosa (2012) C24C.

Road Runner Tours, Marrickville: Former TV 5496 Mercedes 0303-3/ PMCSA has been refurbished and reinstated as CJ93JJ.

H.K. Ryu, Prospect: TV 5500 Toyota Hi Ace withdrawn after accident and offered for sale.

Shire Bus Service, Heathcote: Added was (Q) 732 SWZ Isuzu LT1-11P/ P&D (003 9/91) B57F ex Wide Bay Transit, Maryborough, Qld.

Southside Bus & Coach, Blakehurst: Acquired TV 8759 BCI PK6127A (LSFC1308X7C001613 2007) C50FT ex Nowra Coaches. Dereg/ stored was m/o 7937 Leyland Tiger/ PMCA. TV 7590 Leyland Tiger/ CC rereg TV 8813.

Sydney Maxis Pty. Ltd, Lakemba: Another recent entrant in the small group tour, transfer and charter game in Sydney. Operations commenced on 31/10/14. has TV 7861 Toyota Hi Ace (2009) C13C reg 31/10/14 and TV 4001 Toyota Coaster (2001) B21C ex Tan's Tours, Peakhurst by 9/15. Rego cancelled 9/6/16.

Sydney's Wonder Tours (B. Mirzaev), Randwick: Operates CI80CS Higer Road Boss (2010) C57F.

Sydneyficant Tours (H. Loefti), Rydalmere: Operates TV 7931 Toyota Hi Ace (2010) c13C.

Tan's Tours, Penshurst: Additional is BK75XS Mitsubishi Rosa (1313 2006) C24C purchased by 1/15.

Telford Tours, Turella: Withdrawn and stored 10/16 were (5001) TV 5291 Scania K93CR/ P&D; (5017) TV 2090 Volvo B7R/ Coach Design; (8001) TV 6992 Mercedes 0305/ PMC and (8002) TV 5813 Mercedes 0305/ PMC. New in Scots College livery is (3006) TV 9022 Mercedes OH1830L/ Irizar i6 (252960 5/15) C57F.

Tod's Coach Service, McGraths Hill: Sold TV 5144 Volvo B10C/ PMCSA to Kingstar Coaches.

Transdev: Withdrawn were m/o 7774 Volvo B10M/ CC, m/o 9085 MAN 16.240/ PMC and m/o 8850 – all deregistered and stored at Kingsgrove

Transfers: Taren Point to Kingsgrove m/o 015, m/o 7321, m/o 7384, m/o 9118, m/o 9256, m/o 9628 all Mercedes 0405/ CC; m/o 5005, m/o 5007, m/o 5008, m/o 5009, m/o 5092, m/o 5093, m/o 5094, m/o 5095, m/o 5231, m/o 5234, m/o 7424, m/o 8235, m/o 9153, m/o 9483, m/o 9484 all Mercedes 0500LE/ Bustech and m/o 7512 Volvo B10M/ CC. Menai to Kingsgrove were m/o 5060, m/o 5061, m/o 5067, m/o 5068, m/o 5069 all Mercedes 0500LE/ Bustech and m/o 7452 Mercedes 0405/ CC. Sth Granville to Kingsgrove was m/o 8393 Volvo B10M/ CC; Sth Granville to Taren Point m/o 7007 Volvo B10M/ CC; Revesby to Taren Point m/o 8305 Scania K94IB/ CC in exchange for identical unknit m/o 8306; m/o 5561 Volvo B10M/ PMC Sth Granville to Menai.

Transit Systems: (1101) m/o 6101 MAN/ Volgren has body no (VQ1125 8/13). Transferred from Hoxton Park to Smithfield depot were 1288-1294 Volvo B7RLE/ CCs plus 1505,1510-1514 Mercedes 0500LE/ Volgrens.

Omer Tayfun Tulanay, Kingsgrove: Previously traded as O. Tayfun Bus. Operates Sydney Airport-Sydney CBD shuttles. Fleet is TV 6459 Toyota Hi Ace (2000) C13C reg 15/3/12; TV 7862 Toyota Hi Ace (2002) C13C reg 11/9/14 but sold by 8/16 and TV 4366 Toyota Hi Ace (2006) C13C Mountain'N'Beach Safaris, Artarmon by 1/15 and is signwritten as Airport Direct.

UAP Tours P/L Kingsgrove: Sold were TV 3072, TV 3073 Mitsubishi Rosas and BQ06SF Toyota Hi Ace.

V.K. Coach Sydney (E. Gunawan), Hebersham: Reg 10/15 was BY79BH Higer Munro (2014) C28C.

WOLLONGONG

B&S Tours, Unanderra: TV 6735 Toyota Coaster sold. Acquired was TV 7028 Toyota Hi Ace (2005) C13C.

DOSH Limousines Pty. Ltd, Koonawarra: Garry Ferguson registered the company LCM Traders Pty. Ltd on 29/9/15. The business commenced on 8/1/16 offering limousine tours and transfers. Fleet is TV 8650 Hummer H2 Limousine (2008)16 seats reg 27/2/16 ex SB39JW; DOSH Jeep Grand Cherokee (2015) reg 14/1/16. Rego cancelled by 4/8/16 and TV 8768 Hummer H2 Limousine (2009)16 seats reg 24/2/16.

Premier Illawarra: Reregistered were 3896 MO BCI PK6120 to 8254 MO; 4755 MO Volvo B7RLE/ CC to 8253 MO; m/o 9249 MAN 18.280/ CC to 7626 MO; 7616 MO Mercedes LO812/ CC to 7627 MO; 7617 MO Bustech XD1 to 7632 MO. New is 8216 MO MAN 19.320/ Volgren Endura (VG4160 9/16) C57F.

Shellharbour City Tours: Note that the use of fleet numbers has been discontinued. Acquired from Kiama Scenic Tours were TV 7002 MAN 16.290/ Coach Design (037 12/94) C57F, TV 7095 Volvo B10M/ Volgren (VG195 12/87) B43D and TV 7096 Volvo B10M/ Volgren (VG186 10/87) B40D – the latter resold to Party Bus, Central Coast. Acquired were TV 8784 Scania K124EB/ Volgren (VP0280 2/03) C56FTL ex TransWA, Perth TRANSWA 02 (reseated to C65FL) and TV 8788 Iveco Eurorider/ CC (01-110 2001) B57F ex Busways (492) 2713 MO.

Warrigal Coaches: Reaccredited as Warrigal Transport Group Pty Ltd from 9/16. Sold TV 4425 Scania K112TR/ Austral to Plan B Transport, Ramsgate. Sold (26) TV 3857 Scania K93CR/ PMCSA for party bus. Correcting previous issue (69) TV 4606 is Hino RG197K/ MCA (B267 9/93) ex Gerringong Coaches 2369 MO and TV 4445 Hino CM277K/ CC is (68). Acquired was (71) TV 2794 Scania K113TR/ Northcoast (137 8/96) C53FT ex Cowra B.S. (72) the second Goolwa Hino CM277K/ CC was reg (72) TV 3857. TV 2591 MAN/ PMCA rereg TV 4025.

NEWCASTLE

Barrett, Kitchener: TV 6693 Mercedes OC1617/ CC sold for motor home, Mullaley.

CDC: Hunter Valley Buses: New at Thornton are 7401 MO Volvo B7R/ Volgren Endura (VG4251 2016) C61F and 7402 MO Volvo B7R/ Volgren (VG4252 2016) C61F.

McLeod, Braxton: Withdrawn for sale was former 1820 MO Volvo B6FA/ CC rereg CG74EA.

Newcastle's Famous Tram: Ownership change for UES 283 Hino/ Coachworks trambus to C. Kepreotes)

Port Stephens Buses: New is TV 8168 Volvo B11R/ Coach Design (901 8/16) C60FT.

Rover Motors, Cessnock: Withdrawn were (21) 3480 MO Hino CM277K/ PMCA and (37) 3496 MO Leyland Tiger/ PMC.

CENTRAL COAST

Adair, Kariong: Acquired were TV 6830 Mercedes Sprinter/ Mills Tui (PBDCA0128 17/3/04) C25CL ex Anglican Retirement, Castle Hill, ZGE 084 and 2587 MO Toyota Hi Ace (2005) C13C ex K. Browne, Wyong.

Busways: New at Gosford are (1206) 8218 MO (G7108-07 7/18), (1207) 8315 MO (G7108-05 8/16); (1208) 8219 MO (G7108-08 8/16) and (1209) 8316 MO (G7108-06 8/16) all MAN 19.320/ Customs CB80 (2016) B49Dw. Body nos for those listed last issue are 1202 – G7105-01 7/16; 1203- G7108-02 7/16; 1204 – G7108-03 8/16 and 1204 – G7108-04 8/16). Sold (213) 652 MO, (252) 6537MO and (154) 6523 MO all Mercedes 0405/ CC to Kingsgrove/ Casula B&C. (202) 6428 MO Mercedes 0405/ CC sold to M. Stevens. (206) 6431 MO Mercedes 0405/ CC withdrawn and sent to Penrith depot for disposal.

Coastal Liner, Warrnervale: 7638 MO Iveco/ CC does not exist in this fleet. 2636 MO Iveco/ CC has body no (D7101-02 28/11/13). Acquired was 2629 MO BCI Classmaster (6KT2CC112CX000347 2013) C57F ex Love, Cairns 005 SVQ. Former 2629 MO Hino RG197K/ Austral-Denning sold for motor home.

Gary Evans, t/a Get on Board Shuttle, Erina. Has TV 4901 Toyota Hi-Ace (1057 -/11) C13C ex CW10WH.

Terranova Tours: Sold TV 5825 Scania K480EB/ Coach Design to Brian's Bus Charter, Brisbane.



TOP: Transdev, NSW m/o 9116 is a 1993 Volvo B10M/ Volgren which came from Grenda in Melbourne where it was 4653 AO. It was seen at Fairfield in December 2014. (Hayden Ramsdale)



CENTRE: Hillier of Tenterfield 2527 MO is a 1998 Hino RG230/ Austral-Denning which was acquired with the runs of E&L Duck. (Nick Wilson)



BOTTOM: Kiama Scenic Tours TV 7002 MAN 16.290/ Coach Design of 1994 was seen at Thirlmere on 1/3/15. It has since passed along with part of the business to Shellharbour Scenic Tours. (Scott Mitchell)

COUNTRY OPERATORS

Allen, Coolamon: New was 8014 MO Mercedes 0500RF/ Customs (E626-05 11/15) C57F.

Baldwin, Bowraville: Sold 3662 MO Hino RG197K/ PMCA to Compass Coaches, Sydney.

Bega Valley Coaches: Acquired TV 1150 Iveco Delta/ Volgren (VP0644 2/08) C57F ex Mine NT 907-011.

Benny, Cobargo: New in 2014 was 7568 MO Fuso Rosa (0123) C24C.

Berry Bus Service: New is CG58QZ King Long KLX6910 (6217 2016) C35F.

Bilpin Coaches: TV 4088 Scania K941B/ Coach Design converted C48FT to C53F.

Blinman, Yass: Sold run and 1566 MO MAN/ CC to M.S. Wilson.

Bruce, Young: Acquired from Victoria was 7674 MO Fuso Rosa (2009) C24C ex 1CH4YH.

Bulzomi, Bangalow: New is 8239 MO Denning Phoenix midi/ Denning Manufacturing (15269 9/16) C41F.

Busabout, Wagga: Acquired was 8221 MO Mercedes OH1830L/ Mills Tui (PBRI00829 4/10) C53F ex Rio Tinto Mining. Sold Volvo B10Ms 2883 MO, 6646 MO, 7079 MO, 7080 MO, and 7466 MO all to Shoal Bus, Nowra.

Buslines Group, Bathurst: Added were (8) 4729 MO Fuso Rosa (00907 5/09) B24C ex Tamworth (46); (27) 2198 MO Mercedes OH1830L/ CC ex Lithgow. 4897 MO Mercedes/ Express ex Griffith was numbered (18). (14) 3252 MO Scania L94UB/ CC renumbered (12). New is (33) 7857 MO MAN 19.230/ Bustech VST (15-057 3/16) B55Fw. Transferred (21) 1675 MO Mercedes OH1830L/ CC to Orange.

Berrima: Transferred from Northern Rivers was 3172 MO Fuso Rosa (00168 2007) B24C and from Forster 5059 MO MAN 16.240/ CC (90-84 7/90) RB61F.

Forster/ Wingham: 5059 MO MAN/ CC transferred to Berrima.

Lithgow: (1) 2199 MO Mercedes LO814/ CC sent to Berrima for storage and sale. (20) 2198 MO Mercedes OH1830L/ CC to Bathurst and (20) is now 6685 MO Mercedes OH1830LE/ CC ex Northern Rivers (55).

Northern Rivers: (15) 5031 MO Nissan RB31R/ CC transferred to Berrima for sale; (10) 5020 MO MAN 16.240/ CC transferred to Ballina and (55) 6685 MO Mercedes OH1830LE/ CC transferred to Lithgow.

Orange: (6) 3167 MO Mitsubishi Rosa renumbered (20). Transferred (21) 1675 MO Mercedes Oh1830L/ CC ex Bathurst. New was (32) 7866 MO Volvo B7R/ Bustech SBV (15-046 8/15) SC83F.

Picton: 5246 AO MAN 19.320/ Bustech is (41).

Tamworth: (46) 4729 MO Fuso Rosa transferred to Bathurst as (8). (40) 3268 MO Mercedes LO814/ CC transferred to Berrima for sale.

Busways, North Coast: Sold (492) 2713 MO Irisbus Eurorider/ CC to Shellharbour City Tours.

Cavanagh, Kempsey: Added was CD83DT Toyota Coaster (6/94) C21C ex Cavglass, Qld 130 EYP.

CDC: Blue Mountains Transit: New are 3709 MO Volvo B7RLE/ Volgren Optimus (VG4128 2016) B44Dw at Valley Heights and 3711 MO Volvo B7RLE/ Volgren Optimus (VG4148 2016) B44Dw at Valley Heights. Transferred by 9/16 were 1530 MO Scania/ CC Valley Heights to Emu Plains; 1531 MO Scania/ CC Valley Heights to Katoomba; 3701 MO Hino CG277K/ PMCA to Charterplus, St Marys; 3704 MO and 3711 MO Volvo B7RLE/ Volgrens Emu Plains to Valley Heights; 3747 MO Volvo B10M/ CC Katoomba to Emu Plains; 3764 MO Hino/ MBS Valley Heights to Emu Plains; 3765 MO Hino/ CC Katoomba to Emu Plains; 5957 MO Scania K270UB/ CC Valley Heights to Katoomba. Withdrawn and scrapped were 3733 MO Hino CG277K/ PMCA and 3736 MO Hino CG277K/ CC.

Cooma Coaches: TV 4458 MAN/ Coach Design was sold to Hosannah Tours, Sydney.

Cowra Bus Service: Sold was TV 2794 Scania K113TR/ Northcoast to Warrigal Coaches, Wollongong.

Craginvie Pty Ltd M&J Carroll, Warialda: Acquired the Cragin Peak run of Stewart in May 2013 with 1480 MO Hino BD190/ Rogers (B511 3/99) B33FL.

Deane's Transport Service, Cooma: New is (23) TV 8505 Iveco Eurorider/ Irizar i6 (253-042 8/15) C52FTL. Acquired (24) TV 8893 Iveco Eurorider/ Irizar Century (231-400 4/11) C60FTL ex Peters, Toowoomba PCT09

Gerringong Coaches: New is 1623 MO Bonluck President 2 (LA9C4ARX08BBJXK126 5/16) C57F.

Goode, Tumut: Added were TV 6967 Fuso Rosa (10227 2013) C24C; 2707 MO Hino RN8J/ P&D (426 4/09) B61F ex Gundagai Buses with Tumut-Gundagai run; 6245 MO Toyota Hi Ace (2011) C13C; 7916 MO Iveco Delta/ Customs (E609-08 2016) C57F and 5234 MO Fuso Rosa (0010 2014) C24C. Withdrawn was 3800 MO Mitsubishi Rosa and 3801 MO Isuzu Lt1-11P/ CC to Canberra for a party bus

Gundagai Buses: Sold the Reno/ Burra run to J&N Flanagan, Gundagai with 3932 MO Hino RK176K/ PMCA and 3928 MO Hino RG230/ Autobus. Sold 2707 MO Hino RN8J/ P&D with the Tumut run to Goode, Tumut. New is 7800 MO BCI FBC6840BRZI (6KT2AA114EX000671 11/14) C35F.

Inverell Bus Service: New is 8215 MO Man 19.320/ Customs (F7110-01 5/16) B51Fw.

J&B Buses, Murwillumbah: New was 7267 MO Bonluck Senator 12 (LA9C4ARX8DBJXK156 8/13) SC70F

Jervis Bay Airport Express & Tours: Added was TV 7493 Toyota Hi Ace (2007) C13C.

Gavin McClure, t/a Kiama Mini Coach Charters, Gerringong: Sold were TV 4182 Toyota Coaster and TV 4899 Toyota Hi Ace. Acquired were TV 4973 Mitsubishi Rosa (0619 2004) C24C and TV 5064 Toyota Hi Ace (2006) C13Cex AJ22EW.

Kalianna Enterprises, Albury: Did not own 1940 MO Denning Denair (see under Martin below).

Kiama Scenic Tours: Sold to Shellharbour City Tours were TV 7002 MAN 16.290/ Coach Design; TV 7095 Volvo B10M/ Volgren and TV 7096 Volvo B10M/ Volgren.

KMET, Moss Vale: New is TV 8917 MAN 19.360/ Irizar Century (2016) C—F ex SA SB72LP. Sold TV 4264 Scania K113TR/ Autobus to Spence, Dubbo. Back in 2012 acquired the runs of Smith (Roadcoach), Goulburn with 2814 MO Hino RG230/ Autobus (2/03) C57F and 2815 MO Mitsubishi Rosa (2001) B24C.

Langley, Dubbo: New ex stock 9/16 was TV 8892 Scania K320IB/ Higer A30 (15ETA0008 2015) C48FT.

Leeton Bus (Crompton); New is 8051 MO Hino RN8J/ P&D (812 9/16) C57F. Sold was 2910 MO Mercedes OH1418/ PMCSA.

Lodge, Culcairn: New is 1519 MO Fuso Rosa (0492 2016) C24/30C. Fitted with 3 for 2 McConnell seats

Marshall, Moruya: New are 2225 MO Mercedes OH1626L/ Customs SB50 (F6014-01 5/16) C49F and 2238 MO Fuso Rosa (30035 2016) C24C. 2331 MO Rosa is B30C. Sold was 2225 MO Mercedes OF1315/ CC and withdrawn was 2224 MO Hino BC144K/ PMCA.

Martin, Albury: (82)1942 MO Hino RG197K/ Volgren dereg by 13/9/16. The correct disposal of (41)1940 MO Denning denair was to The Challenge Foundation of NSW Limited, Albury, 4/11. (136) 8095 MO Mercedes 0500LE/ BCI was new 11/15 and is B47Fw.

McGrath (G&E)/ Edalla P/L, Yass: Acquired the Narrengullen run from S.G. Curtis with 4452 MO Irisbus Eurorider/ ABM.

H.J. King, t/a Mc Innes Bus Service, Albury: From 8/16 the business was reaccredited as D.L. & H.J. King to reflect current ownership but still trades as Mc Innes Bus Service.

M.I.A. Passenger service, Griffith: Added were 1300 MO and 1304 MO Toyota Hi Aces; 5391 MO Coaster (2015) C20C, 7089 MO Higer Munro (4840 2012) C28C and 7072 MO Higer Munro (4309 2011) C28C.

Miller, The Rock: New were 3923 MO Higer Munro (687670 2015) C28C and 8060 MO Higer Munro (LKLS1CS88FA687621 11/15) C28C. Acquired was TV 7701 Toyota Hi Ace (2003) C13C. Withdrawn were 3923 MO Toyota Coaster, 3924 MO Mitsubishi Rosa

Nowra Coaches/ Premier Motor Service: Sold TV 8760 BCI to Southside Bus & Coach, Sydney. New are 7628 MO Higer Munro H7170 (LKLS1CS83FA687994/ 15LDL0020 1/16) C23DL and TV 9039 Scania K400IB/ Irizar i6 (253-300 4/16) C54FTL. Acquired was TV 8553 BCI PK6127 (LSFC130856C001100 2006) C50FT ex Qld operation 975 SHY. Transferred 2367 MO Mercedes 0303-3/ Volgren to Hopkinson, Sydney.

Ogden, Western NSW: Sold (42) 4789 MO Volvo B7R/ Autobus to Port Stephens Buses by 6/16. New is (273) 7945 MO Iveco Euromidi/ CustomsSB50 (F6009-02 11/15) C57F.

Orange Wine Tours (C. Johnson): Commenced in 2014 using BA25YT Ford Transit (9518 2008) C11C.

Osborne, Muswellbrook: New are (245) 4315 MO Fuso Rosa (0322 2016) B24C; (247) 4276 MO Volvo B7R/ P&D (6/16) C61F and (248) 4278 MO Scania K310IB/ Higer A30 (2016) C49F. Withdrawn/ sold were (151) 4278 MO Volvo B10ML/ Fuji; (181) 4294 MO Mitsubishi Rosa and (189) 4276 MO Toyota Coaster. Missing fleet nos are (221) 4295 MO Volvo B7R/ P&D; (227) 4290 MO Fuso Rosa; (229) 4281 MO Volvo B7R/ P&D; (234) 4307 MO Volvo B7R/ P&D; (235) 7313 MO Volvo B7R/ P&D; (240) 4308 MO Yutong.

Outback Spirit, Albury: deregistered was TV 8037 Mercedes Atego/ Coach Design.

Pacific Coast Coaches, Crescent Head: Acquired was C140BP Mercedes 0404-3/ Austral-Denning (M001030 2/96) C50FT last noted with Bus It, Mackay and previously Nowra Coaches TV 4609.

Pacific Palms, Forster: TV 1587 Scania K112TR/ CC destroyed by fire on the M1 freeway 8/16.

Prior, Bateman's Bay: Sold 5176 MO Hino RG197K/ CC to A.S.F. Tours. 7915 MO and 8127 MO Iveco/ Customs are B51Dw not B51Fw. Stored at Mogo are TV 6257 Hino BG100/ PMC; TV 6529 Hino CM277K/ PMC and TV 8525 Hino BG300/ CC.

Purtil, Deniliquin: New are (28) 7311 MO Higer Munro (LKLS1C86FA681400 2016)) C28C; (87) 6323 MO Fuso Rosa (2013) C24C; (56) 7303 MO Mercedes 0500LE/ Customs (2015) B—Fw; (57) 7304 MO MAN 15.290/ Customs (2015) C—F; (58) 7306 MO Mercedes 0500RF/ Customs (E625-01 6/15) SC70F; (59) 7307 MO Mercedes 0500RF/ Customs (E625-02 6/15) SC70F and (60) 7308 MO Mercedes 0500RF/ Customs (2015) SC70F; 7302 MO Daewoo BH090L/ Customs (2015) and 7309 MO Higer Munro (1398 2016) C28C. (4) 2765 MO Bedford SB3/ Comair and (7) 2766 MO Bedford VAM70/ Comair both withdrawn and stored unreg 6/14. Sold (10) 2777 MO Toyota Coaster in 2015. (22) 2786 MO Mercedes 0303-2/ Austral withdrawn 2015. (23) 2791 MO Toyota Coaster sold by 6/16. Withdrawn was (28) 2783 MO Mitsubishi Rosa. Sold (49) 2774 MO Mitsubishi Rosa.

Ryan, Coffs Harbour: Sold out to Forest Coach Lines effective from 1/11/16 with the retirement of Sam Tooth and Jenny Tooth (nee Ryan). Sold for motor home 9/16 was (9) 5527 MO Hino AK176K/ CC.

Ryan, Emmaville: Sold 1276 MO Toyota Coaster to services club, Glen Innes. Replacement bus unknown.

Shelton, Dungog: Sold were 4117 MO Hino BC144M/ PMCA and 4119 MO Mercedes 814D/ CC. Acquired was 8021 AO BCI JXX6127BRI (LSFC030809C005317 24/8/09) C57F ex a Defence Contractor.

Shiny's Bus Hire & Tours, Batlow: Acquired ex Hughes, Adelong was TV 7215 Toyota Hi Ace (2004) B12C
Shoal Bus, Nowra: New are CG10YV Fuso Rosa (0234 2016) B24CL; 7630 MO MAN 19.320/ Customs (F6103-01 2/16) B57F and 7631 MO MAN 19.320/ Customs (F6103-02 2/16) B57F. Acquired from Busabout group were 2383 MO Volvo B10M/ CC (94-297 3/95) B39D – unused ex Dyson, Melbourne (739); 2395 MO Volvo B10M/ CC (93-16 5/93) B53F ex 7080 MO; 6646 MO Volvo B10M/ CC (91-28 4/91) B53F ex 6646 MO; 7625 MO Volvo B10M/ Newnham (91-149 11/91) B53F ex m/o 748; 8109 MO Volvo B10M/ CC (93-117 9/93) B49F ex 7079 MO and 8252 MO Volvo B10M/ CC (94-94 8/94) B49D ex 7466 MO. Sold were 2390 MO Mercedes OH1418-Cummins/ CC; 2389 MO Hino Bg300/ CC; 2384 MO Mercedes OH1418-Cummins/ Superior and 2383 MO Mercedes OH1418/ CC.

Simes, Lismore: Acquired was TV 6433 Mercedes 0500RF/ Coach Design (461 6/06) C34FT ex Top Deck/ Connections, Brisbane 516 JNU.

Sky Blue Sports and Leisure Tours Pty. Ltd, Kiama: This was a short lived mini bus charter operator from a base at 9 Jerrara Street from 2013 to October 2015. Had AJ20EW Toyota Coaster (2006) B20C ex Kiama Leagues Club Ltd, Kiama.

Spence's Sports Tours, Dubbo: Acquired was TV 4264 Scania K113TR/ Autobus (163 12/98) C58FT ex KMET, Moss Vale.

Stevens, Bungendore: Acquired was 7425 MO Autobus-Cummins/ Autobus (218 4/00) C57F ex Bellbaker, Brisbane 022 HYB.

Stuart, Nowra: New is 2361 MO Denning Silver Phoenix/ Denning Manufacturing (15255 1/16) B57F. Sold was 2361 MO MCA-Cat/ MCA.

Symes, Inverell: Further to ABP 32.1, TV 7544 Bonluck President is C50FT not C48FT.

Symons, Bermagui: New is 6812 MO Scania K320IB/ Higer A30 (2015) C57F. Sold 10/16 was 2267 MO Hino RG197K/ CC.

Symons, Narooma: New is 7907 MO Scania K320IB/ Higer A30 (7/15) C57F. 2300 MO King Long 6102 AU (also plated XMG6102KE) has VIN LA6R1FSEXBI01727 1/16 C41F.

Turton (Edella P/L), Yass: 4451 MO Toyota Coaster replaced by 6163 MO Fuso Rosa (0284 2016) C24C.

Ulladulla Bus Lines: Sold (21) 3856 MO and (22) 3857 MO Volvo B7R/ ABMs to Cumberland Coaches, Sydney.

Western Road Liners, Parkes: New are (16) 1447 MO Hino RK8J/ P&D (597 4/16) C53F, (18) 1441 MO Hino FD240/ P&D (615 9/16) C47F and (21) 1465 MO Hino FD240/ P&D (595 4/16) C47F. (1) 1447 MO Fuso Rosa reregistered TV 8574. The former 1465 MO Hino/ PMCA became a parts donor and was then sold to a driver for use as a pig shed. Sold (18) 1441 MO Hino BC144K/ MBS for motor home, Melbourne.

Wilson (M.S), Yass: Acquired the Good Hope run from Blinman with 1566 MO MAN 18.280/ Customs (10-083 11/10) C57F.

Woodstock Bus Service: Withdrawn was 3501 MO Mercedes LO812/ MBS.

QUEENSLAND - Brisbane Metropolitan – Brisbane Transport

Deliveries: Volvo B7RLE/ Volgren Optimus to Virginia

(2270) 456 WRX 179673 12/10/16 (2271) 297 WRX 179942 12/10/16

(2272) 003 WTK 1799976 10/10/16 (2274) 266 WTK 180201 1/11/16

(2275) 610 WTK 180334 1/11/16 (2276) 803 WDQ 180549 1/11/16

plus (2801) 599 WRX Volvo B8RLE/ Volgren Optimus 174308/ VQ1343 9/16 B43Dw which was displayed at the 2016 bus and coach show.

Transfers: 727, 732, 733, 734, 736 all Virginia to Garden City (10/16); (1980) Sherwood to non-operational with fire damage (10/16), 5009-5014, 5017-5032 all Garden City to Carina; 5123-5127, 5130-5138, 5146, 5152 -5157 all Carina to Garden City (11/16-12/16); 2029, 2031, 2032, 2049-2054, 2058 Eagle Farm to Sherwood (12.16); 2170-2176, 2179-2182 Virginia to Eagle Farm (12/16)

Reregistered: (767) 767 from 767 HEG to 138 WGR; (774) from 774 HEG to 139 WQR and (2268) from 172 WQO to 999 WQO (10/16); (649) 649 GBN to 703 WSK; (1929) 664 RIU to 127 WXX.

Withdrawn: 781 (10/16); 689, 701, 703, 749, 755 (12/16)



Geelong rail replacement took place in mid November

TOP: Mee's (75) BS02OJ is a new Scania K320IB/Coach Concepts and is heading inbound to Southern Cross from Dudley St.



CENTRE: Another new coach in use on rail was Wynne of Maffra BS02MG a Scania K310UB/Express, seen on departure from Southern Cross.

(Both photos Mick Kane)



BOTTOM: Unique operator Gourmet Pawprints Doggy Winery Tours offers foodie tours aimed at both dogs and their owners!

They started with a Mercedes LO812 / Northcoast but now have BS01JP a 2004 Kia Cosmos/ Autobus ex Hutchinson of Birregurra. (Peter Kane)

Private Operators

Aussie Ultimate Tours, Morayfield: BFT 04 Fuso Rosa withdrawn.

Australian Adventure Tours, Springwood: Sold was ADV 49 Austral Denning Highlander to Brisbane 360.

Barnabus, Wishart: Acquired 928 SXJ BCI Proma (LSFC030827C002726 2008) C33F ex Charter Services.

Belbaker Bus Charter, Zillmere: There have been numerous new and acquired buses in this fleet in recent years. New are 020 VJT Bonluck Senator (LA9C6BRYXFBJXK087 2015) C57F; 266 SSJ Bonluck Senator (LA9C4ARX4CBJXK072 2012) C57F; (58) 973 WMS Bonluck Senator (LA9C4ARX0GBJXK141 2016) C71F; 779 SKU Higer Road Boss (LKLRIKSJ1CB587443 2012) C57F; (46) 740 VAH Mercedes OH1830/ Irizar i6 (2015) C57F; (47) 741 VAH Mercedes OH1830/ Irizar i6 (2015) C57F 378 WCN BCI FBC6127BRZI (6KT2CC111EX000651 2015) in UQ livery; 379 WCN BCI FBC6127BRZI (6KT2CC111FX000778 2015) in U.Q. livery and (56) 948 WGS BCI FBC6145 BRZI (6KT2DC11XEX000726 2016) C71F. Acquired were (49) 581 TMZ Mercedes OH1630/ BCI (21/10/13) C57F ex Stonestreet, Toowoomba (5728); (50) 583 TMZ Mercedes OH1830/ BCI (21/10/13) C57F ex Stonestreet (5730); (52) 777 TUM Mercedes OH1630/ BCI (2013) C57F ex Stonestreet and 973 ENI Mercedes LO814/ A.B. Denning (82216 5/98) B35F ex St Aidan's College, Corinda.

Brian's Bus Charters, Nudgee: 298 GIV Toyota Coaster reregistered 073 TNL. Acquired were 908 WBY Toyota Coaster (2009) B21C ex WA operator TC 6221 and 459 WAU Scania K480EB/ Coach Design (633 6/09) C46FT ex Terranova Tours, Gosford NSW TV 5825.

Brisbane Bus Lines, Enoggera: New is 656 WAT Bonluck President 2 (LA9C19RW7FBJXK215 2015) C57F
Busabout Charters, Hillcrest: Acquired was 094MUV BCI JXK6127BRI (LSFC130869C005208 2009) ex Sun Palm Transit, Craiglie, Qld.

Bus Queensland, Ipswich: Withdrawn was (595) 595 KMB Toyota Hi Ace.

Charter Services, Brendale: New is 368 WTK Yutong ZK6930H (LZYTCTD60G1016020 8/16) C39F. ONE 117 BCI reregistered 014 WUE. Sold 928 SXJ BCI Proma to Barnabus, Wishart. Acquired were 118 WBZ Fuso Rosa (10286 2012) C24C ex rental, Gold Coast 748 MFE and 265 WMK Fuso Rosa (10144 2011) C24C ex Bechtel 425 MES

Coach Network Australia, Chandler: A previously unrecorded operator with 156 VTK Mercedes LO814/ A.B. Denning (82143 2/97) C25F ex non psv; 288 WHW Kia Cosmos/ Autobus (285 9/01) C33F ex Y.H. Kim, Sydney TV 3186; 347 ILA Scania K113TR/ Autobus (112 11/97) C48FT ex Maguire, Chinchilla; 514 JEZ Mitsubishi Rosa (01354 2006) B21C ex Lawrie, Oakey and 878 WMC MCA Classic II/ MCA (TMA434 12/96) C53F ex 520 VMQ ex Dorrigo B.S. MO 2000. Previously operated were 435 GLV Leyland FB45.160/ P&D (112 2/00) C33F ex Polley, Gympie now sold and CNA 001 Mercedes 0404/ APG (A052020 1998) C53F ex Concorde Coaches 404 VAZ now dereg.

Connections, Springwood: After being rebranded to Topdeck Tours, 516 JNU Mercedes 0500RF/ Coach Design was sold to Simes, Lismore.

Express Coach Lines, Loganholme: Added was 763 TIE Fuso Rosa (10312 2013) C24C ex Stonestreet, Toowoomba. 456 VYB Mercedes OH1830/ Volgren reseated C57F to SC68F.

Kangaroo Bus Lines, Burpengary: KBL 107 Denning low floor has body no (25039 10/16).

Nationwide Bechtel: This appears to be the entity which owned all of the Qld registered Higers which have been recently appearing with Murrays Coaches and other operators. They may also have been the actual owner of the Higer fleet previously listed under Stonestreet of Toowoomba, though fleet managed by Stonestreet. Unconfirmed reports suggest there were somewhere between 66 and 100 of these units in use on mining and construction contracts. An associated company Nationwide Off Road Truck Sales Pty.Ltd, t/a Nationwide Hire of Brisbane has been advertising these vehicles for sale ex Melbourne, Adelaide, Sydney and W.A.

Original Tours, Brendale: 844 VEN Denning Landseer reregistered CI13PC. Sold 259 JRY Mitsubishi Rosa.

Red & White, Sandgate: Acquired was (26) 607 WUQ APG Classic II (C030010 5/980 c46ft ex Emu Run, Alice Springs NT mo 3254. Sold 844 HAP Austral Tourmaster to Purtill Bros, Deniliquin.

Sisil, Lindum: Acquired was (1) 930 VBG MAN 24.420/ Northcoast (138 6/96) C53F ex Express Coach Lines. Withdrawn/ dereg by 10/16 were 312 TUE Hino BD190/ Rogers and (3) 809 TOS Hino RG197K/ CC.

Southern Cross, Karalee: Acquired was BUS 48 Mercedes LO814/ A.B. Denning (82195 12/97) C26F ex unknown operator ex Lolai, Gold Coast 839 FVL.

The Army Bus, Victoria Point: 903 TBQ Volvo B58/ MCA reregistered 358 VDU.

Transdev, Capalaba Park: Sold 310 VGA Hino RB8 to Fassifern Coaches, Boonah. Withdrawn were (634) 199 FVX Austral Allstar and (637) 981 HUS Austral Starliner.

Ward, Morayfield: Sold 994 FEW Toyota Coaster and acquired 782 TJG Mercedes Sprinter 616CDi/ Mills Tui (PCTPO0410 10/4/06) C21FV ex Concorde Coaches.

GOLD COAST

A Team, Oxenford: Additional is 331WNF, Toyota Coaster (2011) ex ? Sold was 700 JJQ Renault MRC/ Northcoast.

Coolangatta Coachlines: Sold OOL 11 Toyota Coaster.

Currumbin Valley Coaches: Acquired was BCV 06 Fuso Rosa (10480 2013) B24C ex Maguire, Chinchilla 197 SXD.

Imperial Pacific, Molendinar: 317 MVA MCA/ MCA reregistered 673 WIR and is fleet no (466).

Koala Koaches: Sold (57) 181 KSO Hino RG197K/ Austral to Emerald in 2016. Withdrawn/ dereg were (34) 627 TFI Mitsubishi Rosa and Toyota Coasters, (36) 057 DSE, (32) 557 DMI and (30) 717 CZR.

Sainty, Nerang: 140 GLF Mercedes LO814/ A.B. Denning was not sold but was rereg 206 VTO.

Springbrook-Mudgereeba: New is 722 WPG BCI FBC6960CRZ2 (6KT1BB117FX000759 2016) C43F.

Surfers Paradise Coaches: 505 LLY Autobus-Cat was sold to Bennett, Inglewood.

Surfside Bus Lines: New for NSW school runs are Bustech SDI/ Bustech B61F units (270) 8155 MO (16-026 9/16); (271) 8175 MO (16-086 9/16); (272) 8176 MO (16-087 9/16); (273) 8177 MO (16-088 9/16) B61F; (274) 8179 MO (16-089 9/16) B61F and (275) 8178 MO (16-090 9/16).

SUNSHINE COAST

Buslink: New are 150 WON Mercedes OH1830/ Volgren (VG4031 2015) C57F and 759 TCS Mercedes 0500LE/ Express (2013) B44Dw. Missing fleet nos for Mercedes OH1830/ Volgrens are (70) 740 VVF; (71) 741 VVF; (72) 742 VVF and (73) 743 VVF.

Cavglass, Beerwah: (7) 167 MQZ BCI Classroom reregistered 195 WOH. New are (38) 069 WQJ King Long 6130AU (LA6R1MSK4GB400982 2016) C61F and (39) 070 WQJ King Long 6130AU

(LA6R1MSK0GB400476 2016) C61F. 130 EYP Toyota Coaster transferred to Kempsey NSW fleet.

Coolum Coaches: Sold 737 JYM Mercedes 0404/ APG to Craig Wood, Medowie NSW. New is 437 VYI Denning Silver Phoenix B61F. Acquired was 115 GND Toyota Coaster (1997) B21C ex Elite Tours.

Elite Tours, Palmwoods: Sold 115 GND Toyota Coaster to Coolum Coaches.

Heading, Maleny: Sold 908 DSQ Hino AC140K. Acquired was 292 SAB Mitsubishi Rosa (00072 2007 B24C).

Hinter Coast Transport, Eumundi: 762 GXU MCA/ Austral withdrawn and converted to the office. New were 103 TVU Higer Munro (LKLS1CS83DA626707 2013) C28F and 114 TVU Higer Munro (LKLS1CS81EA630580 2013) C28F.

Hinterlink, Pomona: Sold one run to Pursuit Property group with 464 VIM Fuso Rosa.

Noosa Valley Buses, Eumundi: Acquired were 626 TOI Mercedes OH1418/ CC (94-174 11/94) C53F ex Hahnel, Ouyen 0243 AC and 982 VEB Mercedes OH1421/ Austral-Denning (S017010 3/97) C57F ex Ballarat Coachlines (39) 0738 AO. Sold were 839 KGG Leyland Super Viking/ PMC and 730 LJK Volvo B6M/ Newnham.

Pursuit Property Group Pty. Ltd, Cooroy: A new operator that has purchased contract P743-Cooroy State School-Black Mountain from W.F. Pickering, t/a Hinterlink, Cooroy, by 9/16 with 464 VIM Fuso Rosa (10155 2014) B24C.

White Horse Coaches, Pomona: New are 448 TCJ Hyundai AT220/ Quality Bus & Coach (2013) C39F and 449 TCJ Hyundai AT220/ QB&C (2013) C39F. Withdrawn was 264 KWP Isuzu LT1-11P/ Transit.

COUNTRY OPERATORS

Adventure North, Cairns: Added was 124 TBV Isuzu NPS300 4wd (7100027 2013).

Agnes Waters Bus Service: Acquired were 036 TNW Daewoo BH117L/ UB-Chiron (080198AB 8/09) C57F ex McLaren, Perth and 509 WPL BCI FBC6127BRZI (6KT2CC111BX000080 2012) C57F ex Northfleet WA (135). Withdrawn was 147 RBC Mercedes OC1621/ Denning.

Atherton Bus Co: Ceased operation. Sold was 619 LXQ BCI to Emerson, Malanda.

Barr, Chinchilla: Sold a run to G&T Bus Service, Brigalow with 705 MXA BCI JXK6960.

Barton, Gympie: Added were 930 TYN Mitsubishi Rosa (01380 2006) B24C; 035 TGZ Hino RB8/ UBC-Chiron (110366AA 2/11) C34F; 636 WEO Mitsubishi Rosa (10126 2011) B24C ex Stonestreet, Toowoomba 825 RZG and 667 VXX Hino RN8J/ P&D (10/15) B57F.

Bennett, Inglewood: Acquired was 505 LLY Autobus-Cat/ Autobus (027 4/95) C46FT ex Surfers Paradise Coaches (47).

Biloela Coaches: Sold 034 BIL Denning Denflex for motor home by 2015.

Black, Calen: New is 744 VYB Hino RB8/ UBC (2015) C34F. Sold were 913 HSP Mercedes LO812/ CC to Bowen and 249 HKH Mercedes LO812/ CC to Richmond, Qld.

Bourne (SH&KA), Miles: Acquired 132 LTJ Fuso Rosa (00948 2009) B24C ex Jasbo Holdings, Miles.

Bus Fox, Mackay & Sarina: New were (3) 392 VLQ Rappan R1 (LVMH4D8A8CB045024 2013) C57F and 758 THI Rappan R1 (LVMH4D8A4CB045022 2013) C57F. Sold were 840 LDJ Toyota Coaster and 124 LGE Toyota Hi Ace.

Buslink, Gladstone: (329) 421 IFS Irisbus Delta/ CC dereg by 9/16.

Bus Queensland, Lockyer Valley: Withdrawn were (21) 416 LDC Mitsubishi Rosa. Acquired were 052 SVO Toyota Coaster (2007) B21C; 098 KUI Toyota Coaster (2008) B21C ex Mini Bus Service, Walloon; (140) 140 SAO Toyota Coaster (2011) B21C; (141) 141 SAO Toyota Coaster (2011) B21C; (142) 142 SAO Toyota Coaster (2011) B21C; (195) 195 VKC Toyota Coaster (4/97) B21C ex Mansfield-Mt Buller Bus Lines (5) 0405 AO; (227) 227 FGC Toyota Coaster (1999) B21C ex Mini Bus Service; (288) 288 SOT Toyota Coaster (2008) B21C ex Bus It, Nebo; (289) 289 SOT Toyota Coaster (2008) B21C ex Bus It, Nebo; (426) 426 IAB Toyota Coaster (1997) B22C ex Mini Bus Service; (590) 590 HOD Toyota Coaster (1997) B22C ex Mini Bus Service; (594) 594 WGM Toyota Coaster (2015) B21C; (660) 660 SAO Toyota Coaster (2011) B21C; (867) 867 DMD Toyota Coaster (1996) B22C ex Mini B.S.; (910) 910 JSX Toyota Coaster (1999) B21C ex Mini Bus Service and (983) 983 MYP Toyota Coaster (2010) B21C. New is (410) 410 RVD Bonluck JXK6127 (LA9C4ARX5BBJXK001 2011) B57F.

Bus Queensland, Toowoomba: 248 VW Leyland Leopard/ PMCA dereg by 9/16. Withdrawn were 258 GPA Isuzu LT1-11P/ CC and 868 IRB Isuzu LT1-11P/ Nambucca. New are (681) 681 VPR MAN 19.360/ Irizar i6 (2014) C48FL and (304) 304 VZA Volvo B9R/ Marcopolo (2015) C48FL.

Callide Coaches, Biloela: Sold were 72 MOS MAN/ Coach Design to Keppell Coaches, Yeppoon and MOZ 87 Hino AC140K for motor home.

Campbell's Coaches, Townsville: New is 271WLW Bonluck (LA9C5BRY0GBJXK152 2016) C57F.

Acquired were 011 WIF Higer Road Boss (LKLRIKSJ6DB602861 2013) C57F ex Bechtel; unreg BCI FBC6127BRZI (6KT2CC119BX000067 5/11) C57F ex Northfleet WA TC 6592/ 1DWN711; 407 WGN BCI JXK6830 (LSFC030809C005238 2009) B33F ex Townsville Grammar School 914 LUQ and 991 TKG Mitsubishi Rosa (10097 2005) C24C ex 621 JCI.

Cardwell Bus Service, Tully: Sold 665 KHQ Hino RG197K/ P&D to Compass Coaches, Sydney.

Christensen, Kilcoy: New is 388 WOS Volvo B7R/ Volgren Endura (VM0372 2016) C61F ex stock.

Clariss, Wandoan: 06 PKC Yutong sold at auction to Sydney and 03 PKC Yutong sold to Melmax, Melbourne. Also sold was 139 LTV Fuso Rosa.

Coral Coaster, Bundaberg: Sold 772 EYL Mercedes 814D/ A.B. Denning to Shalom College then to Brisbane 360.

Crisp, Stanthorpe: Withdrawn was 610 RMV Mercedes OH1316/ Newnham.

Crisp, Warwick: 490 TQH MAN SL252/ Hi Com is actually a Stanthorpe bus. Added were 559 HSC Scania K113TR/ APG (7371260 5/98) C48FT ex Maguire, Chinchilla and 977 TVV Autobus/ BCI (6/06) C48FT ex Link SA (note this bus was previously listed under Highway Hiker as a BCI PK6125AT but is actually an Autobus chassis bodied in China by BCI).

Dansan Bus Lines, Yeppoon: Took over part of the business of Keppell Coaches with 65 MOS Daewoo BH117L/ Chiron (110340AB 4/11) SB60F; 71 MOS MAN 18.280/ Coach Design (649 9/09) C57F and MOS 31 Hino RG230/ ABM (89083 6/00) C57F. Also took over the run of Morris, Emu Park with 162 LWY BCI JXK6127BRI (LSFC1308299C005240 2009) B59F. Acquired was 541 WLD Daewoo Bh117L/ Chiron (090251AB 7/10) C51F ex Laing O'Rourke Mining, Roma 719 VBS previously with Laing O'Rourke Mining in W.A. reg unknown.

Darling Downs Transit, Wyreemah: New is 490 WKB Hino RN8J/ P&D (601 6/16) B61F.

Downunder Tours, Cairns: 883 JFN Denning Phoenix reregistered 806 SET. New in 2016 was 549 WKV Denning Phoenix low floor (25042 5/16) B39Dw. Sold 516 KPC Mercedes Sprinter/ Denning Manufacturing to Koala Koaches, Gold Coast. Sold were Toyota Coasters (201) 870 IPG, (205) 189 JJU and (212) 543 FGL.

Edenvale Enterprises, Kingaroy: 214 KIV Nissan RB30/ CC sold.

Emerson, Malanda: New is (29) 656 WJT MAN 19.290/ Coach Design (893 5/16) C61F. Acquired the run of Atherton Bus Service with 619 LXQ BCI JXK6127BRI (LSFC130819C005228 2009) B57F.

FNQ Bus Lines, Mossman: Acquired the school runs at Cooktown (six now rationalised down to four) from Cooktown Connections in 2015-16 with 004 FNQ Toyota Coaster (2004) B21C ex 689 HEM and 155 HAC Toyota Coaster (2002) B21C. Acquired was 008 FNQ Toyota Hi Ace (2005) C14C. New are 646 VJD Yutong ZK6930H (LZYTCTD64E1025879 2015) C39F at Cooktown; 252 VUL Yutong ZK6129HCA (LZYTMTF69F1020060 2015) C57F and 253 VUL Yutong ZK6129HCA (LZYTMTF60F1020061 2015) C57F.



TOP: One of the vehicles on display at the launch of the new Bustech plant in Adelaide was a Bustech VST bodied Scania in Adelaide Metro livery. (Bustech Pty Ltd)



CENTRE: Newcombe's of Coffs Harbour (96) 8001 MO a new 65 seat Bonhuck President 3 coach seen at Questacon, Canberra. (Jason Lipszyc)

BOTTOM: Park Ridge Transit in Brisbane, a part of the Bus Queensland group, have undertaken a major rebuild of their depot. Here is a view taken during a visit in 2016 showing the new office and parking layout. (Grant Wise)





ABOVE: AAT-Kings (172) SB12LP, seen in the Bayside Coaches depot, is a 12.5 metre two axle Coach Concepts bodied Scania K400EB coach new in June 2116.

BELOW: ACTION, Canberra has reintroduced a free CBD shuttle route after a gap of some years. The service is run by several of the Wright bodied Dennis Darts which are now in a dedicated livery. (148) is seen working the run in September 2016. (Both photos by Jason Lipszyc)

