



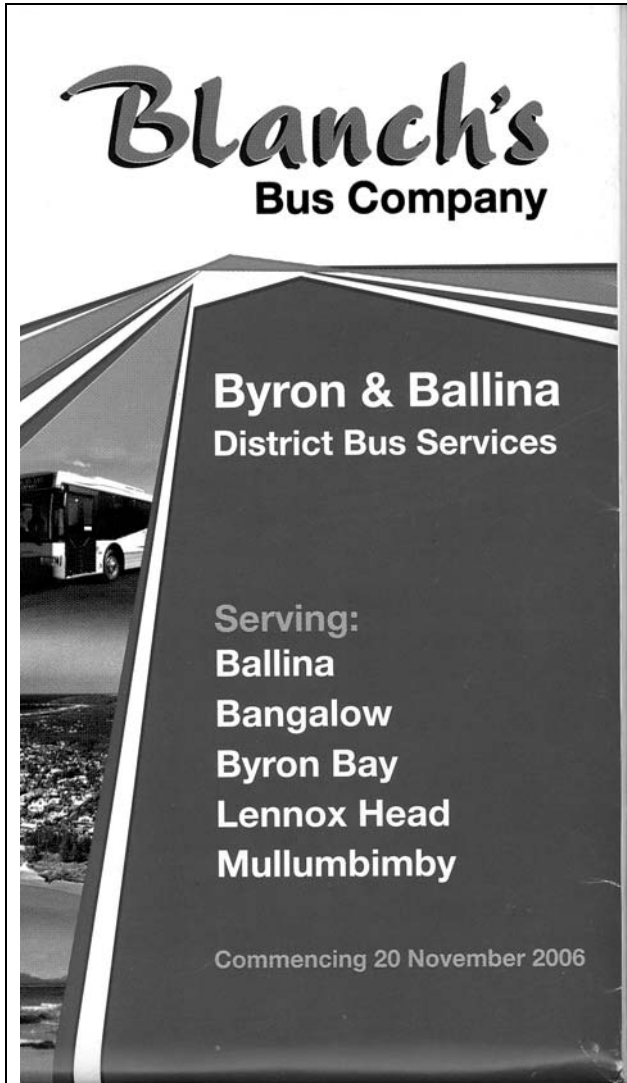
# TABLE TALK

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**Blanch's Bus Company** operate a number of town and inter-urban routes in the Byron Bay and Ballina district of New South Wales.

Shown is their current timetable which came into effect 20 November 2006 and carries the tradition of the company for some years in publishing lavishly illustrated and informative timeables.

A feature of these timetables is the inclusion of timetables for the other major operator in the area – Kirkland's, thereby providing a comprehensive timetable resource for intending passengers new to the area.

Croydon Bus Service in Melbourne publish a large booklet for all of their services and includes timetables for other local operators including Ventura, U.S. Bus Lines, McKenzie's and Martyr's.

Surely this philosophy should be taken up as standard procedure with timetable planners in publishing booklets not just for one operator but say a region, on the same basis as the Yellow™ (formerly Yellow Pages®) local directories. (Steven Haby)

# In February 2007

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Horror month for Connex in Melbourne... page 2

## About Table Talk

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*Table Talk* is published monthly by the Australian Association of Timetable Collectors Inc. (Registration No: A0043673H) as a journal of record covering recent news items. The AATTC also publishes *The Times* covering historic and general items. Items for publication in *Table Talk* can be submitted to the Editor, Steven Haby.

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## Rail Services

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### New South Wales

#### CityRail

##### Timetable updates

There have been some recent CityRail timetable reprints. One such sighted is the Combined Inner West/South Line/Cumberland now shows "Updated 28 May 2006, Reprinted September 2006." (Geoffrey Clifton)

### Victoria

#### Connex

##### Delays and cancellations in January

January was a horror month for Connex with an average of 87 cancelled services each weekday. This was due to ongoing faults with the Siemens train braking systems which saw up to a third of the fleet withdrawn by late January for repairs and bans placed on three car workings. Representatives from Siemens and Knopp were flown in from Europe to participate in exhaustive testing on the Werribee line after the last

train using 'soaped up track' and on the weekend of 13-14 and 20-21 January.

There was extensive media coverage on this issue particularly around the week ending Friday 19 January when Melbourne sweltered in 40+C temperatures and experienced blackouts which disrupted the system even more. Cancellations particularly on lines such as Werribee and Sydenham were particularly bad resulting in more or less a 40 minute peak service rather than the usual 15-20 minute.

Six Hitachi sets were rushed back into service after being withdrawn over union concerns about cab conditions prior to Christmas.

Connex indicated that these and another six that were in long term storage would be refurbished and returned to service for at least another few years.

Six trains on the 'isolated' Ringwood lines were transferred on temporary track during the Middleborough Road level crossing elimination works using 6 diesels hired from Pacific National and Steamrail.

At the time of press it was reported unofficially that significant progress had been made on identifying the braking problem and that repairs would commence shortly. (Steven Haby)

##### Middleborough Road Project

In happier news, Connex was at the time of press to resume full services on the Belgrave and Lilydale line

on 29 January 2007 following completion of the Middleborough Road level crossing elimination project 2 weeks early. The project proceeded at such a fast pace that it was possible to transfer 6 trains on temporary track on Wednesday 17 January 2007 to the main system to reduce pressure on the fleet due to Siemens trains being withdrawn due to brake problems. (Steven Haby)

### Pocket timetables

Following timetable updates across the Melbourne system in late 2006 the usual plethora of pocket timetables have appeared and there are many that including grouping of stations. Some examples include:

- Armadale, Hawksburn and Toorak

- Balaclava, Windsor and Prahran
- Cranbourne and Merinda Park
- South Kensington
- Spotswood, Yarraville and Seddon
- St Albans, Ginifer and Albion
- Sunshine and Tottenham
- Thomastown, Keon Park and Ruthven (replaces separate Keon Park and Ruthven timetables)
- Williamstown, Williamstown Beach and North Williamstown (Craig Halsall)



## Bus and Coach Services

### New South Wales – Sydney

#### Veolia (Connex)

##### transitFirst acquired

Veolia Transport has taken over transitFirst from 1 February 2007 which currently operates more than 80 buses on 16 routes in southwest Sydney. transitFirst is currently the lead operator in Region 13 of the Sydney metropolitan bus network where Veolia Transport is a subcontractor. This purchase means that Veolia Transport will be the sole operator in regions 10 and 13. The deal includes the acquisition of Transit First assets including its contract with the NSW Ministry of Transport, its employees, buses and the lease of the Bankstown depot. (*Australasian Bus and Coach* website 10 January 2007)

#### Sydney Buses

##### Timetable updates

The following timetables and guides have been updated recently:

- Routes 376, 377, X77 effective October 2006 version 8 (Adrian Dessanti)
- Routes 462-464, 466 effective July 2006 version 3 (Adrian Dessanti)
- Eastern Region Guide effective October 2006 which now includes route 333 (Adrian Dessanti)
- Sydney Buses price list effective 2 January 2007 (Adrian Dessanti)

### New South Wales—Regional

#### Newcastle Buses

##### Timetable updates

The following timetables have been updated all effective 28 January 2007.

- 100 101 103 108, Glendale/Wallsend to Newcastle via Mayfield, version 9
- 104 107, Jesmond/Warabrook to Newcastle, version 6
- 111, Charlestown to Newcastle, version 9
- 201, Hamilton to Marketown, version 5
- 222 230 231 235, Wallsend to Newcastle, version 7
- 224 225, Wallsend/Jesmond to Newcastle via Adamstown, version 10
- 226, Charlestown to Newcastle via Waratah, version 11
- 310 311, Belmont to Newcastle via Valentine, version 8
- 312 314, Warners Bay to Charlestown, version 5
- 317, Belmont to Newcastle via Tingira Heights, version 8
- 322, Belmont to Newcastle via Redhead, version 9

- 334, Glendale to Newcastle via Kotara South, version 6
- 339, Glendale to Charlestown, version 5
- 349 350 351 352 353, Swansea to Newcastle, version 13
- 363, Belmont to Newcastle via Warners Bay, version 10 (Norbert Genci)

- 061 AFL Ground park'n'ride – Noosa bus interchange – Cooyar Street park'n'ride – AFL Ground park'n'ride
- 062 as above but reversed
- 063 Cooran to Noosa Heads
- 064 Peregrin Beach to Noosa Heads (David Hutton)

## Queensland – Regional

### Sunbus Sunshine Coast

#### Timetable update

The following timetables have been updated:

- Routes 600, 601 effective 11 December 2005 (David Hutton)
- Route 602 effective 11 December 2005. Previously this timetable was published with the 622 but has since been split into two separate timetables. (David Hutton)
- Routes 605, 615 effective 18 September 2006 (David Hutton)
- Route 609 effective 11 December 2005 (David Hutton)
- Routes 616, 617 effective 11 December 2005 (David Hutton)
- Routes 620, 621 effective 11 December 2005 (David Hutton)
- Route 622 (now a stand alone timetable from the 602) effective 11 December 2005 (David Hutton)
- Routes 626, 627 effective 27 November 2006 (David Hutton)
- Routes 628, 629 effective 27 November 2006 (David Hutton)
- Routes 630, 631 effective 11 December 2005 (David Hutton)
- Routes 636, 607 effective 11 December 2006 which supersedes the old 606, 607 timetable (David Hutton)
- Route 639 effective 11 December 2005 (David Hutton)

#### Free Noosa bus service

From 26 December 2006 to 7 January 2007 a free bus service was provided in conjunction with the Noosa Council and included services on routes 626 to 629 in addition to the following special routes:

## Victoria – Melbourne

### McKenzie's

#### Extensions to Chirnside Park

From 13 November 2006 McKenzie's extended several of their route 684 trips to Chirnside Park SC from Lilydale. The 1017 and 1142 trips from Healesville extend from Lilydale and return trips depart Chirnside Park SC at 1100 and 1400 weekdays only. No updated timetable has as yet been sighted. (Craig Halsall)

### Melbourne City Tourist Shuttle

#### Updated timetable

A new Melbourne City Tourist Shuttle brochure and timetable has been released but is not dated. It is the same format as the original March 2006 brochure but now states that services operate every 15-20 minutes from 1000 to 1600. The attractions summary has been updated and the route map now shows 53 major attractions and the City Circle tram route is more prominent. The map still incorrectly shows tram tracks on Victoria Street between Swanston and La Trobe Streets. (Craig Halsall)

### Sita Bus Lines

#### Timetable update

- Route 400 (jointly operated by Westrans) dated 18 December 2006 (Michael Marshall)
- Route 451 dated 4 September 2006 in standard Metlink DL orange with updated train connections to and from Sunshine (Craig Halsall)

### Sunbus Avalon

#### Timetable update

The latest timetable is effective 29 October 2006 to 24 March 2007 published in the usual DL sized format. (Craig Halsall)

## Skybus

### Timetable update

The current timetable is dated effective 1 September 2006 and still shows the 10 minute frequencies as only during peak periods and lists the 15 minute timetable frequency during off peaks. (Craig Halsall)

- Routes 411/412 dated 3 December 2006 (Michael Marshall)
- Route 606 dated 3 December 2006 (Michael Marshall)

## Westtrans

### Timetable update

- Route 409 dated 3 December 2006 (Michael Marshall)



## Tram Services

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### Melbourne

#### Yarra Trams

##### Church Street bridge works

From 3 to 27 January 2007 work was undertaken on the Church Street bridge in Richmond on which routes 78/79 operate (North Richmond – Prahran / St Kilda Beach). This work necessitated the replacement of trams for the entire length of the route for the duration of the work by buses. (Steven Haby)

#### Trackwork

Over the Australia Day long weekend buses replaced trams on route 82 Moonee Ponds to Footscray due to track works in Droop Street, Footscray. (Steven Haby)

#### Frequency leaflets

Updated frequency leaflets dated September 2006 have been issued in the same format as the Connex frequency leaflets. The first and last departure times from each terminus are shown and there is a note stating that depot trips are not indicated. Frequency leaflets have been sighted for most routes. (Craig Halsall)



## Ferry and Shipping Services

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### New South Wales

#### Sydney Ferries

##### Updated timetables

A series of undated and updated timetables for Parramatta River, Darling Harbour, Manly, Watsons Bay, Neutral Bay and Mosman have been sighted. These have most likely been produced sometime in December as the Parramatta timetable shows the altered trips since the new October 2006 timetable was introduced and all show the new Sydney Ferries Corporation produced network map. (Adrian Dessanti)