

News

Newsletter of the
Public Transport Users Association

ISSN 0817 - 0347

Volume19 No.3 July 1995

Printed on recycled paper

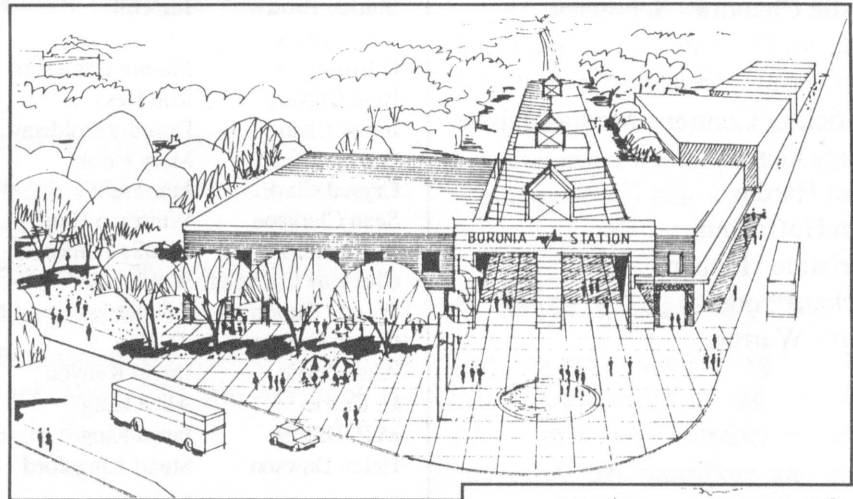
A new heart for Boronia

Boronia shopping and community centre is under threat from a State Government/VicRoads proposal to drop Dorset Rd. into a cutting and tunnel through the middle of Boronia's shops, and build an additional ring-road.

An underpass 'freeway' suits the government's car-oriented thinking, but would destroy shops and houses, while residential streets would be forced to carry more local traffic.

Interestingly, Boronia's shopping centre and railway station are at the meeting point of the boundaries of three marginal State electorates, Monbulk, Knox and Bayswater. But public transport services are poor even by Melbourne standards – for example, only one bus service operates on Sundays (once an hour) east of Springvale Road, an unheard of situation even in other Australian capital cities.

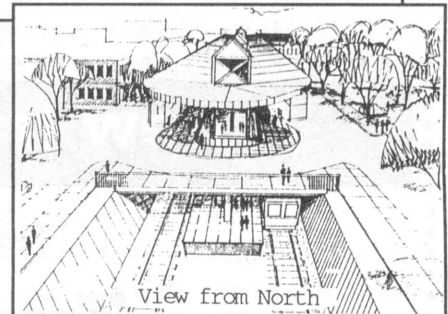
It seemed to us that a worthwhile demonstration project for the ideas in *Wrong Way Go Back* was there for the building. A number of bus services already feed Boronia station in an uncoordinated way.



PTUA's Boronia Interchange proposal. Drawings by Craig Perry, Peter Dann Architects.

Drawing on our principles regarding the importance of easy and fast coordinated transfer between bus and rail, we asked Peter Dann of Craig Perry, Peter Dann architects to design a new community "heart" and public transport interchange based on Boronia station, which would also deal with the notorious level crossing at Boronia.

Peter has produced a workable interchange that boosts retail space close to the station and



links the western and eastern parts of the shopping area. The station acquires a face to a plaza at the Dorset Road/ Boronia Road intersection. In this proposal, the rail line is dropped into a cutting allowing escalator access from the bus bays straight above the platforms. Boronia gains a new heart, the notorious level crossing vanishes and a prime example of the sort of convenient and efficient bus/rail interchange needed all over outer-eastern Melbourne is created. *Peter Dann will be speaking at the Transport Information Night at Boronia on 8th August (see Page 2)*

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Keeping in touch

PTUA office, Ground Floor,
247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne.
Telephone: (03) 9650 7898

Committee meetings

The Committee meets monthly at
6.15 pm. at 247 Flinders Lane. For
details please call the office.

Membership

Graeme Gibson: (03) 9650 7898

Committee members

Paul Mees - President
Neva Finch - Vice-President
Leslie Chandra - Secretary
John McPherson - Ass't. Secretary
Tim Grant - Treasurer
Patrick O'Connor - Media Liaison
Gracy Geradi
Alan Hardie
Tim Hoffmann
Christine Hooper
Richard Todd
Gerry Warren

New Members

Claire Abery	Anna Demant	H. Kneebone	Sarah Russell
Chris Adams	Edward Denton	Rob Lake	Brian Walters &
Gael Reid	Emma J. Derham-	L. Lewis	Sally Polmear
Alain Trembleau	Watson	Pam Lloyd	Leon Samuels
Nathan Alexander	Deborah Dowling	Finnian MacCana	Gary Schurr
Joan Bailey	Jenny Drysdale	Alexander MacLeod	Ross Scott
John Barns	E. Durre	Judy Maddigan	Tom Serra
Geraldine Bate	P Egan	J. Marshall	Depika Sherchan
Peter Behan	Peter C. Fagg	Tim Mattingsbrooke	Peter Shute
Sarah Bick	Anita Favretto	Simon Mc Innes	Christopher Sims
Kirsten Blair	Keith Fuller	Kerry McLinden	Rodney Snibson
Lisa Bonner	D. McLean	Ruth Meyer	Christine Spiller
Phillip Branch	G. McMahon	L. J. Murdoch	Peter Tesdorf
Miranda Brash	Walter Giardini	Helen Nailon	Amalie Tibbits
R. J. Bridger	Gracy Gerardi	Mark O'Brien	Paul F. Tobias
Andrea Brown	G. Gilbert	Mietta O'Donnell	Mark Wakeham
Shirley Brown	Jon Gill	Judy O'Leary	Noel Wenlock
Tanya Burdett	J.W. Godfrey	Kieran O'Loughlin	Librarian,
G. Buzati	Marnie Hannagan	Brett W. O'Meara	Parliament of
Brad Calvert	Rob Hess	Evan Patterson	Victoria
Iming Chan	Dorothy Holdway	Barry Patton	Wodonga
Benny Chen	Mary Hook	John Pitt	Save The Trains
Crystal Clark	Jane Hunt	Sophie Plumridge	Committee
Sean Clarkson	Winsome Hunt	Paul D. Prentice	
R. Clemens	Natalie Jamieson	N. Price	
Christine Corrigan	Wal Jenkyn	Stuart Reeh	
Wendy Cotton	E. Jones	Graeme Reid	
Ciaran Crehan	D. Kay	Jane Reid	
Alan Currie	David Kenyon	Bill Renehan	
G. Currie	Alice King	Charles Richardson	
M.P. Dafilis	Jason King	Peter Rodgers	
Helen Dawson	Stuart Kingsford	Lynn Rooney	

A new transport vision for Knox

Transport Information Night

Tues 8 Aug 7:45 pm

Meeting Room,
Boronia Progress Hall

134 Boronia Rd, Boronia

(Opposite fire station, 200 m from train station, Melway 64 K9)

Free admission. All welcome. Enquiries 9650 7898.

Paul Mees, President, Public Transport Users Association will explain why Knox can
and must have frequent, safe economical train and bus services – all day, every day.

Peter Dann, Craig Perry Peter Dann Architects will outline plans for a new heart for
Boronia: a world-class public transport interchange and elimination of *that* level crossing.

Freeway revolt grows

Community resistance to the State Government's freeway-building frenzy is mounting across Melbourne.

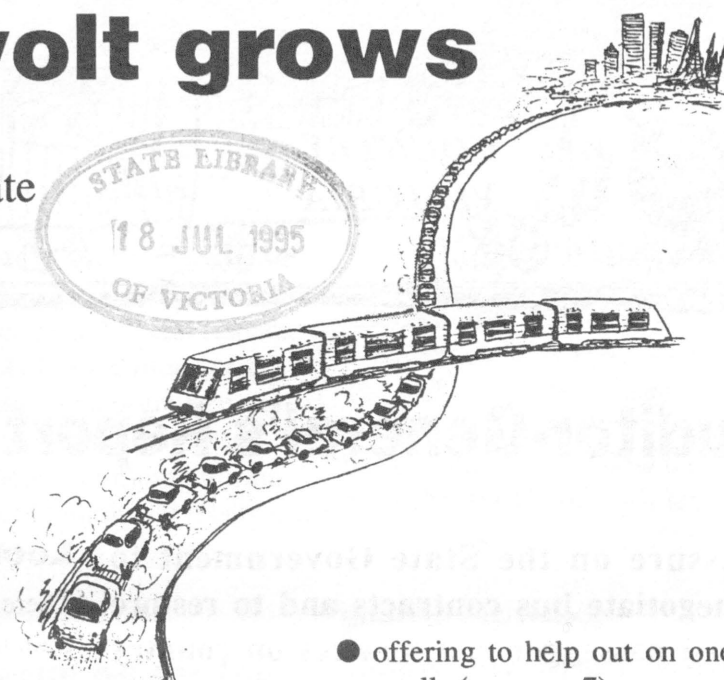
Community groups in Eltham and Warrandyte are now organising against plans for a ring-freeway through sensitive bushland, while citizens in Heidelberg are banding together in opposition to Vic-Roads' alternative ring-freeway route, which would see an elevated freeway bulldozed through the very section of the Yarra valley that inspired the Heidelberg School of painters.

Growing numbers of people have become aware that an alternative, more balanced, transport policy direction exists, as a result of the successful launch of the PTUA's *Wrong Way Go Back*

report and campaign.

Please help us continue this good work, by:

- writing letters to newspapers
- ringing Access Age
- donating to our *Wrong Way Go Back* Appeal (if you have not already done so)



● offering to help out on one of our stalls (see page 7).

● by lending support in attending two important meetings in August. (see Page 2 and below)

A big thankyou

The success of the *Wrong Way Go Back* campaign is due to the efforts of a large number of committed PTUA members and supporters. Tony Fuery laboured tirelessly to produce a striking layout and cover design for the publication itself, which many people helped with by making comments on the original draft.

Our tireless team of office volunteers has arranged press conferences, written and distributed press releases, staffed information stalls and much more: particular thanks to Alan Hardie, Chris Hooper, John McPherson, Tim Hoffman, Phil Morey and Dimitri Pimenides.

We have also been gratified by the large number of generous donations to the *Wrong Way Go Back* Appeal.

Thanks to all who have contributed. We've included the Appeal leaflet again in this issue in case anyone missed it last time.

PUBLIC MEETING Warrandyte: Green Wedge or Ring Road Freeway?

Speakers include:

Nick Low, Senior Lecturer in Urban Planning,
University of Melbourne

Paul Mees, Public Transport Users Association

Robert Marshall, former Eltham Shire Counciller

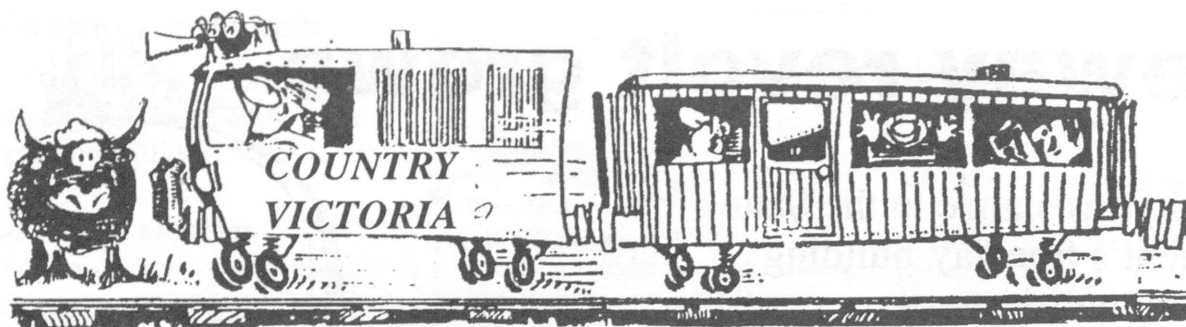
Campbell Walker, Coalition Against Freeway Extensions

Tuesday August 1st at 7.30pm

Mechanics Institute Hall

Yarra St. Warrandyte.

Enquires please ring 9844 3849 or 9844 3454



Auditor-General's Report critical of Minister

Pressure on the State Government to re-negotiate bus contracts and to restore closed passenger rail services on country lines has built up following a number of significant developments.

A report on Ministerial portfolios tabled in Parliament by the Auditor-General was highly critical of the Minister for Public Transport, Alan Brown. The report stated that "an objective of the department which is to meet the needs of the community in the provision of efficient and effective transport facilities has not been achieved".

It further highlighted the fact that over a three year period levels of patronage decreased for all services operated by private coach operators by up to 67%.

The report noted the considerable success of rail services run by companies other than the Public Transport Corporation, in particular the Warrnambool line (which Mr Brown once said would never have a rail service in exactly the same phrasing as he used about the Bairnsdale line recently). Hopes have been raised for the return of passenger services on the Bairnsdale line now that freight services have been restored.

Mildura

Mildura celebrated recently when a full passenger train pulled into the railway station. The train trip was organised by the **Steam Preservation Society**, and on board were two representatives of West Coast Railways who have expressed interest in running passenger services to Mildura and Bairnsdale.

Leongatha

There is also news of successful running of vintage train trips on the Leongatha line. Although these trips may not be significant in themselves, they all help to keep the lines open and community support high.

Wodonga

A report from the **Wodonga Save the Trains Committee** covers the recent promotional visit of the Tilt train to Albury, which attracted several thousand people to the Albury station just to look at the train. The Wodonga Save the Trains Committee was impressed with the vitality and enthusiasm of State Rail Authority of NSW staff and their "let's show the motorists they're the ones missing out" attitude. "Getting people on trains is only a matter of good marketing and good rolling stock" said a senior executive of SRA, and putting words into action the NSW interstate trains have telephone, FAX, lap-top and conference facilities.

The XPT Inter-Capital service is running its Victorian section at a profit – a profit which goes into the pockets of the NSW government.

The Wodonga Save the Trains Committee issues the Premier, Mr Jeff Kennett and the Minister for Transport, Alan Brown, with an invitation to get Victoria back on the rails by good promotion which includes good marketing of an upgraded service.

All of this makes good news for the train groups in the Victorian Regional Rail Committees network as they continue their pressure on politicians both federal and state as elections approach.

News in Brief...

"Wrong Way Go Back" campaign gathers momentum

Since the publication of WWGB we have received a number of invitations to speak from Church, School and Community groups. Two of these occasions are advertised on pages 2 & 3.

If you know of any groups who would like a Speaker on this subject please ring the office on 9650 7898. Leave a message on the answering machine if the office is unattended.

Monash Transport Competition Lectures

The Monash Transport Group together with the Department of Transport is holding a series of 5 public lectures on transport policy. These seminars will be held during Aug/Sept at the Shell

Theatrette in Spring St and will cover topics such as Rail Reform, Competition Policy and even the Environmental and Social Impacts of Transport Competition (Aug 24th). These lectures are free and normally questions are invited from the floor. For more information contact Monash University on 9905 4973.

New services for the National Bus Company

The National Bus Company has just announced a number of service improvements to its bus network in the Eastern suburbs. These improvements include the introduction of new routes as well as new off peak and Sunday services. As a result there will be new buses travelling to the city as well as to Doncaster

shoppingtown during the week. Several of their freeway routes now run in off-peak times and National Bus assures us that buses should now synchronise. The PTUA welcomes the increase in frequency and hopes that other bus operators will follow the National Bus Company's lead.

Perth Update

There is a new express bus service between Perth centre and Murdoch University from 7am through to 6pm at intervals of 10-15 minutes in peak hours and half-hourly at other times.

Travel times are under 20 minutes (previously 45 minutes) and fares cost 70cents each way. Our correspondent estimates that patronage of the service has increased sevenfold since the introduction of the express service.

COUNTRY VICTORIA cont'd

PTC builds dual gauge track in Western Victoria after all

For the last two years the PTC has denied that dual gauge track was possible in Western Victoria to save the flexible grain haulage system and to allow Dimboola passenger services to continue.

Now they have conveniently changed their mind and Minister Brown has announced that the Maryborough/Dunolly section of the Mildura main line will be dual gauged so more grain can be di-

rected to Portland on standard gauge. A former South Australian Railways Chief Engineer assured the Wimmera-Mallee Rail Service Association that no technical safety issues prevent use of dual gauge for freight or passenger lines.

The restored 'Overland' train will actually use dual gauge track from North Geelong to Gheringhap.

Letters

I joined the PTUA because I passionately believe that a high quality public transport system is an economic and social necessity for our community. Like most Melburnians however, I also rely upon a motor car for the majority of my personal transport needs.

I am concerned that the PTUA apparently believes that in order to support public transport it is necessary to oppose any improvements to the road network, and in particular any extension of freeways. Of course, there is an obvious inter-relationship between public transport issues and road issues. Environmental issues, funding priorities and mode switching are all relevant. This does not mean, however, that new or upgraded roads should always be opposed (or that existing roads should be torn up).

In my view, the PTUA does a disservice to itself and its members by opposing every significant road project which is proposed. Road transport is a fact of life, and to suggest that Melbourne's current road network is optimal for its road transport needs is plainly absurd. Equally, it is absurd to suggest that better public transport, no matter how much money may be spent on it, will ever be a complete answer to the stresses on our ailing road network. Of course it would be unwise to concentrate solely on improvements to the road network and allow public transport to wither away. However, the converse would be equally bad policy.

I believe Melbourne should have a high quality system of public transport. I also believe that it should have a high quality road network, including freeways which link up with each other and ring roads which keep non-arterial traffic away from arterial routes. I suggest that a large portion of the community holds similar views. By its current strategies, the PTUA is destined to marginalise itself from people like me, notwithstanding our support of what ought to be its central objective, namely securing better public transport for the people of Victoria.

No doubt the views which I have expressed above will be unpopular with many members of the PTUA. If this letter provokes a passionate response, then I shall be pleased to have initiated a debate on an issue in respect of which, it must be conceded, there are legitimate competing views. However, so that there may be no confusion, may I point out that I am not arguing for a "freeway at any cost" policy, nor am I asserting that there may not be legitimate grounds for opposing any particular road project. My point is simply that better roads and better public transport are not necessarily mutually exclusive, and that the PTUA risks losing a good deal of support if it continues to pretend that they are.

Daryl Williams

This letter was received in March, but was held over due to lack of space. We feel that we have answered the writer's concerns in *Wrong Way Go Back* but are happy to publish it in the hope that it will indeed generate debate on the subject. Contributions from members are welcome as always. Ed.

The Koonung Mulum Forestway Association

now has a hot-line to keep supporters up to date on
anti-freeway actions, meetings, fundraising and everything!

Ring 0055 39925 for the latest information

Updated at least once a week. The cost is 35 cents per minute.

**Future dates to remember: Train Rally – 3 September
KMFA Festival – 21-22 October**

Spreading the Word

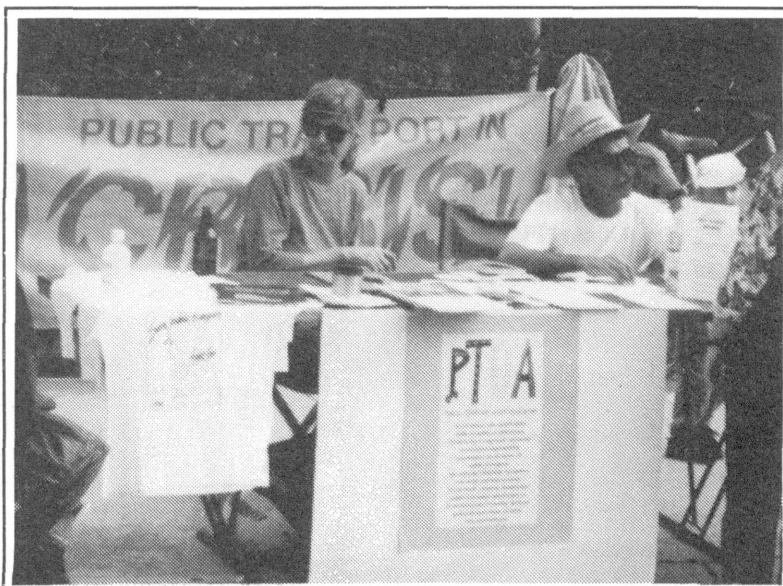
On Saturday the 10th of June a very successful stall was held outside Safeway in Chapel Street, Prahran.

With our newly constructed display board and enthusiastic volunteers we were able to let people know about our alternative vision for Melbourne's transport future.

Wrong Way Go Back reports were sold, donations received and many petitions signed. Passersby were attracted by our colourful presentation and were keen to talk about their concerns and frustrations with our public transport service.

Many Prahran residents were outraged by the cost of the freeways proposals particularly when the Government has reduced dramatically public expenditure on facilities such as schools and hospitals.

We hope that our stalls in the future, particularly in the Outer Eastern suburbs, will receive the same



positive response. We will be holding a number of stalls in the Knox region in the near future and again if you are able to help out at all please contact Chris Hooper on 9380 8582.

Our next stalls are :

Friday 21 July, Boronia Shopping Centre.

Friday 4 August, Britannia Mall, Mitcham.

Saturday 5 August, Boronia Shopping Ctr.

Six ways you can campaign for Public Transport

- 1** Write a letter to your local paper expressing your support for better public transport in your area.
- 2** (a) Make an appointment with your local State MP to discuss the issue. (make sure you take along your copy of "Wrong Way Go Back").
(b) Write to your State MPs (you have three) outlining your views on public transport and ask if they are familiar with "Wrong Way Go Back".
- 3** Write to Alan Brown, Minister for Public Transport, arguing the case for improved public transport. "Wrong Way Go Back" will give you ideas.
- 4** Invite a PTUA speaker to your local Community Group.
- 5** Write to your Federal Member or Senators asking how the "Better Cities" program will help public transport in your area and reduce our dependence on cars and trucks.
- 6** Encourage your friends to join the PTUA.

PTUA News

Newsletter of the Public Transport Users' Associations

Print Post :Publication No: PP 331088/00009

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PTUA Office, Ground Floor, 247 Flinders Lane,
Melbourne

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Expiry Date 9999

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**Copy deadline for the
September 1995 edition is
Monday 14 August**

Newsletter production: Neva Finch, Tim Hoffman & Tony Fuery

Thank you again to our loyal band of Newsletter mailout volunteers.
If you would like to join this select few please phone the office.