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TAXITALK
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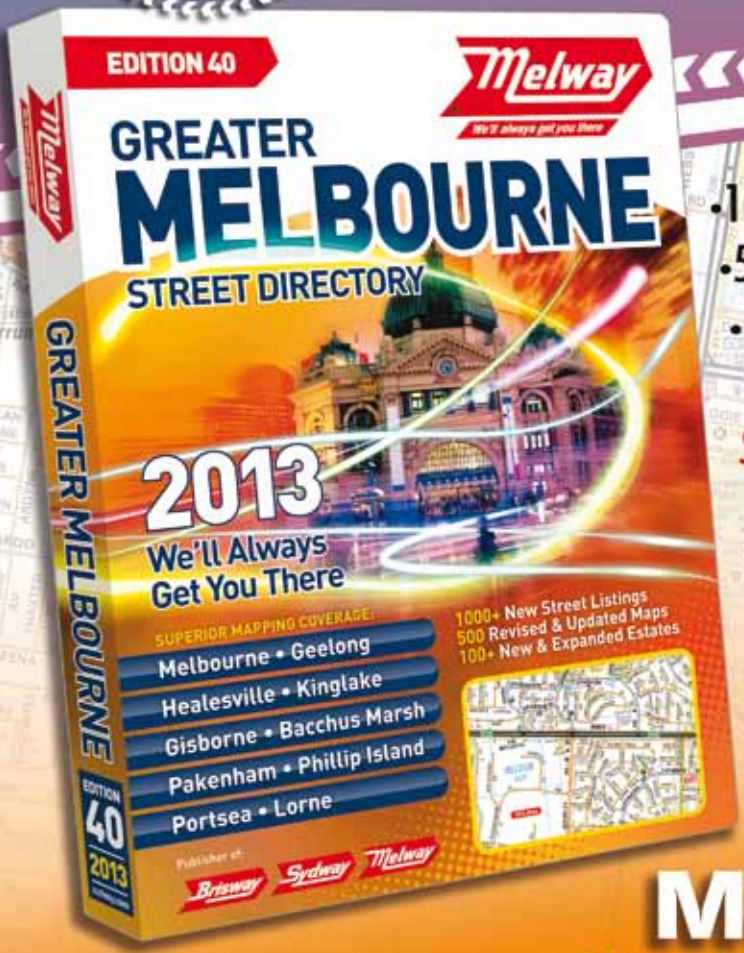

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Taxi inquiry

response required by 13 July 2012

Neil Sach VTA CEO

The recommendations contained in the draft report of the Taxi Industry Inquiry have sent shock waves through all sectors of the taxi industry. Naturally, there is a great deal of concern regarding the future of people's investments and businesses.

The VTA has been busy preparing for the Taxi Industry Inquiry's draft report. The key recommendations contained in this draft come as no surprise. The VTA has an excellent legal team, a strong relationship with Government and experts providing us with relevant economic advice. The VTA supports sensible reform to our industry. These views are set out in the VTA's Pillars of Reform, available at www.victaxi.com.au.

The VTA is currently speaking to politicians about the impact of key recommendations if they are implemented. We are also getting preliminary legal advice and speaking to other experts including economists. On top of this we will be organising events designed to bring the industry together to discuss the report and its implications.

To assist you understand the full extent of the implementations of the draft recommendations, *Taxi Talk* has prepared an extensive article in this edition. Please read it carefully.

The VTA has, and will continue to, consult with its members and other industry stakeholders in preparing its response to the draft report. (See other articles.)

One thing is perfectly clear - the VTA opposes and will continue to oppose open entry to the industry in any guise.

If it can be rigorously established by proper demand analysis that there is a need for more licences going forward, then these should be released in a properly managed way so as not to create sudden and destructive impacts on current licence holders, operators and drivers.

Other draft recommendations such as those regarding fare setting and operator/driver split suggest that the Inquiry has failed to properly measure and understand the real operating costs of the industry. The reality is that the fare box is just too small to give operators and drivers a fair go at making a living.

The VTA urges all depots, licence holders, operators and drivers to make sure they submit their comments to the Inquiry by 13 July, and keep knocking on the doors of their State members of Parliament and make sure they understand what is at risk here.

Now that the draft report has been released we know what we are dealing with, and so does the Government. If many of the recommendations make it to the final report there is high risk for the taxi industry, taxi users and the Government.

It is important to remember that this is a draft report. there is still a very long road in front ✤

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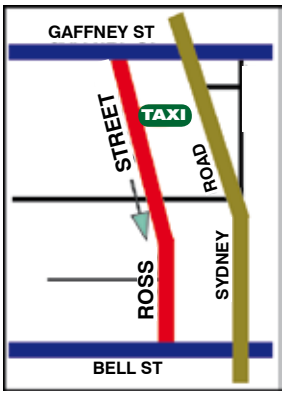

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WINTER MASTERPIECES

Napoleon: Revolution to Empire

This panoramic exhibition features nearly 300 works, examining French art, culture and life from the 1770s to the 1820s and includes objects of breathtaking opulence and luxury – from paintings, drawings, engravings, sculpture, furniture, militaria, textiles, porcelain, gold and silver, fashion and jewellery.

Napoleon: Revolution to Empire explores, amongst other themes, the stormy period of social change forced upon France through the outbreak of the French Revolution, the execution of Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette, and the rise to power of the young Napoleon Bonaparte and his new wife Josephine, as the couple worked to cement their place as France's new political and social leaders.

Personal items will give visitors a glimpse into an extravagant private world of the couple. Jewels owned by Josephine, Napoleon's personal weapons, lavish furniture from private residences and a lock of Napoleon's hair feature alongside spectacular decorative objects, bejewelled gifts given to dignitaries, military uniforms and a beautiful court dress- the only surviving garment worn at Napoleon's coronation ceremony in 1804.

Exclusive to Melbourne, Napoleon: Revolution to Empire will only be shown at the National Gallery of Victoria this winter. Open daily from 10am–5pm from 2 June to 7 October 2012 and until 9pm every Wednesday.

Robert LEFÈVRE French 1756–1830
Empress Josephine with a Herbarium on the table beside her 1805 oil on canvas 216.0 x 175.0 cm
Museo Napoleonico, Rome (Inv. MN 22)

Baron François GÉRARD French 1770–1837
Half-length portrait of Napoleon I c.1805 oil on canvas 68.5 x 55.5 cm Napoleonmuseum Thurgau, Schloss und Park Arenenberg, Salenstein Acquisition, 1971

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AVOID UV EXPOSURE

UV radiation is prevalent in hot and cold weather, at all times of the day and year, and in all locations – it's not like sunburn, which you can feel.

Australia holds the unenviable title of having the highest incidence rate of skin cancer in the world , which is why the recent story about US truck driver Bill McElligott can be seen as a warning to Australian motorists.

A truck driver for 28 years, Bill suffered severe drooping and wrinkling to the left side of his face due to UV rays penetrating the driver side window of his truck.

UV light reaching Earth's surface is divided into two categories – UVA and UVB.

Penetrating deep into the skin, UVA is recognised as the primary cause of photo-aging. UVB has been found to cause sunburn, which is why it was traditionally thought to be the main culprit of skin cancer. However recent studies indicate that both UVA and UVB can lead to skin cancer. In October 2011, the Journal of Investigative Dermatology reported a study which determined that "…UVA1 may be more carcinogenic than has previously been thought ."

Michael Miller, President of the Window Film Association of Australia and New Zealand (WFAANZ), comments, "Plain glass can block most UVB, yet it transmits the majority of harmful UVA, which we now know also causes skin cancer. To prevent UVA rays from penetrating the glass your options are window film or screens."

According to the Cancer Council of Australia, film applied to car windows can substantially reduce the amount of UV radiation transmitted into the vehicle .

There is a broad selection of solar control car window films, or tints, available in Australia that are designed to block as much as 99.9% UV transmittance through car windows.

Michael continues, "It's not only professional drivers who need to be aware of the risks, UV exposure can happen at any time of day, in any season or location so it pays to be cautious, whether you're the driver or passenger. Parents are advised by child safety authorities to install baby and booster seats to the position next to the rear window, so you should also be mindful of the time a child is potentially exposed in the back seat."

There is a perception that only dark film protects against UV. "This is not true," Michael said, "Virtually clear films allow light to enter while blocking UV and heat. The main priority in regards to UV-protection is choosing a solar control window film that comes with a manufacturer warranty, and is applied by a professional within legal limits."

SUNSMART TIPS

Wear Sunscreen - all the time

"Wear sunscreen constantly," says Christine Janus, executive director of the Canadian Skin Patient Alliance (CSPA), an organization that provides support for those with skin conditions.

Janus recommends wearing about three quarters of a shot glass full or as much as you need to cover exposed skin. She also says we should reapply the lotion every four to six hours if you're going in the water or working out.

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Don't take risks with your skin

"If your skin looks or feels different, rough like sandpaper for example, get it checked -- don't wait," Janus says.

Treatments for skin cancers exist, but the the more you expose your skin, the higher your risks are, she says.

Limit exposure

"Limit your time outdoors and during peak hours when the sun is up," Janus says. Make sure when you're outside you wear a hat.

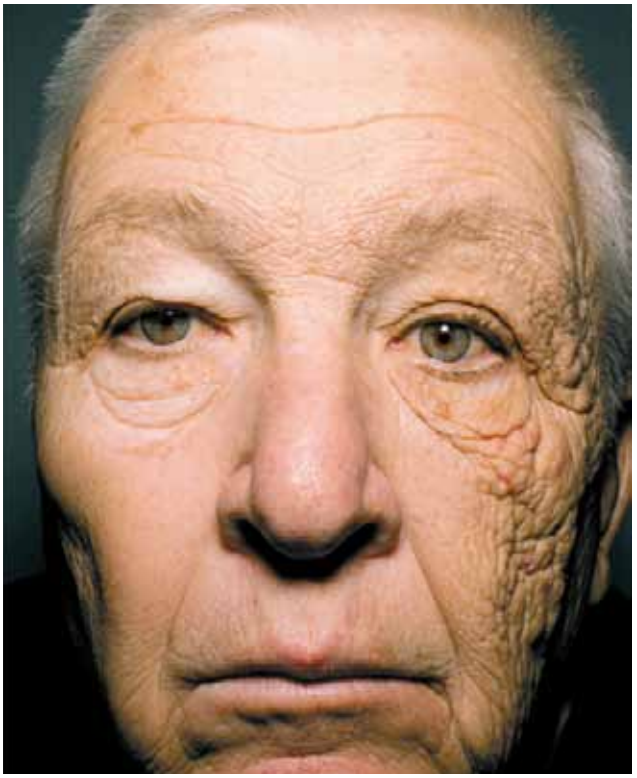
Try UV clothing or umbrellas

Ultraviolet clothing is also another level of protection, Janus says.

There are now companies that manufacture specialized items that have a built-in UV layer. She also recommends an umbrella.

Wear a hat

"Men should be wearing a hat as well. The top spots for skin cancer for men is on their head and back," Janus says. ✤



Two sides of the same story. One side of Bill McElligott's face is 66-years-old, the other side is 86-years-old Picture: New England Journal of Medicine

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men's health

Survey shows many men misinformed about mental health

beyondblue new online campaign to get the message to them

Alarming new data has emerged from beyondblue's biennial Depression Monitor survey showing men's attitudes towards depression and anxiety are negative, discriminating and discourage help seeking.

The national telephone survey showed that in most instances, men's views on people with depression and anxiety were both critical and incorrect.

Results show that 27 per cent of men wrongly thought people with depression could not hold down responsible jobs and 31 per cent of men believed that people with depression should "just pull themselves together".

Other misinformed views:

- Almost 30 per cent of men thought people with severe depression should be able to cope on their own.
- Almost half felt that depressed people should not be considered for a job promotion.
- 10 per cent believed that depressed people should be screened out of the employment selection process.
- In each of these survey questions, men responded in a less sympathetic and more stigmatising manner than women.

In light of these results, beyondblue CEO Kate Carnell AO announced that beyondblue has released its first ever online awareness campaign aimed at encouraging men who may have depression or anxiety to seek help by calling the beyondblue infoline on 1300 22 4636.

The ads are appearing on internet sites and mobile phones including a wide variety of web publications viewed by men. They are being pushed out across Google, Facebook, LinkedIn and Telstra Mobile.

"Although we are only two weeks into the campaign, early data shows that men are keen and willing to access information online. Already we have had many thousands of visits to the campaign site and we are expecting this number to increase significantly as we continue to fine-tune the campaign," said Ms Carnell.

"The tailor-made dynamic, phone tracking system shows which ads are getting traction allowing us to increase circulation of those ads, pull back on others, and otherwise customise the campaign depending on what is resonating with the target audience.

"With a phone number tracking service, every time someone accesses a site, they see a different phone number. When they call the number, we can track where they saw the ad (on their phone or computer), which ad they saw and where in Australia they are located.

"The digital campaign has more than 100 ads placed with google, each relating to the most commonly searched terms around anxiety and depression. With this kind of market penetration, we hope to capture a wide range of men who traditionally search for help regarding their mental health via the internet," Ms Carnell said. ✤

vale Walter John (Wally) Murphy

1.3.1916 - 5.6.2012

Wally Murphy entered into the taxi industry in 1946 at the request of his uncle Sydney Martin (dec) who was head mechanic for Alf Gange Snr (dec), founder of Red Top and Astoria taxis.

WW2 had finished but most of the traditional suppliers had retired from manufacturing taximeters and the only available taximeter was Halda from Sweden, which had a long waiting list.

Alf Gange Snr could not get taximeters for his rapidly expanding Melbourne taxi fleet and he asked Syd Martin, who was a mechanical genius, to build a mechanical taximeter. Syd, together with his nephew, toolmaker Wally Murphy made mechanical taximeters circa 1947 to1976.

Wally Murphy continued to work for the Martin Meter partnership and he remained a key employee right through to his retirement at the age of 67 in 1983.

He was a very important part of the complete transition from mechanical to electronic taximeters which occurred during the 1976 to 1983 period.

Respected as one of the finest precision instrument engineers of his era, he designed and produced some of the mechanical components that made the Martin SSE model taximeter more accurate than all other

other taximeters currently availabale. Wally's inventions must have put thousands of extra dollars into the pockets of operators in Australia, Zambia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Fiji.

The taxi industry salutes Wally Murphy for a job well done during his lifetime of dedication to the industry. ✤

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WORKING WITH CHILDREN

Crack down on applicants with crime history

The Victorian Government has introduced legislation into Parliament to crack down on applicants being authorised to work with children when they have previous convictions for serious crimes.

Attorney-General Robert Clark said the Government had become increasingly concerned about the legal tests for issuing.

"In recent years, a number of decisions by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal have overturned decisions by the Department of Justice refusing working with children clearances to applicants with serious criminal histories," Mr Clark said.

"The Government believes that the top priority for working with children checks should be the interests of children and their families. However, the current tests are too focused instead on the interests of the individuals who apply for checks.

"The amendments we are introducing will require that before VCAT can overturn a refusal of a working with children check by the Department, VCAT will have to be satisfied that a reasonable person would allow his or her child to have direct unsupervised contact with the applicant.

"VCAT will also need to be satisfied that an applicant is suitable to engage in any type of child-related work without posing an unjustifiable risk to the safety of children. At present, VCAT often considers only the particular type of work with children that the applicant says he or she wishes to undertake," Mr Clark said.

The same new tests that will apply to reviews of refusals by VCAT will also apply to assessments of suitability by the Department of Justice.

Other amendments being introduced will prevent a person with a serious prior conviction from engaging in child-related work while his or her application for a check is assessed, and will specify murder as an offence for which the Department must automatically issue a negative notice.

"These amendments will strengthen the operation of the working with children check scheme to better ensure that families can be confident about the people who work with their children," Mr Clark said.

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DISABILITY AWARENESS

Industry trainers receive disability awareness training

On Friday 8 June key taxi industry training personnel came together at the VTA, to participate in SCOPE Victoria's Disability Awareness Program.

Facilitated by Charlie Spendlove and Ron Morey of SCOPE, industry trainers and staff were able to receive specialist advice on how to communicate effectively to people with disabilities, appropriate use of language, general guidelines for assisting people with disabilities, wheelchair etiquette, identifying disability types, and policy and governance, including the Disability Discrimination Act.

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive and most felt the learning achieved demystified a number of mistruths surrounding people with disabilities.

It also empowered trainers with additional knowledge and confidence to introduce a broader knowledge of information into the current driver training.

The VTA would like to thank Charlie and Ron on a great presentation, and also all the participants that took the time out of their busy schedules to attend the program.

Debbie Howden
VTA Training Manager

DRIVERS LOSING CASH

Relaxed restrictions in crowded Des Moines, Iowa, USA boosted competition, but some say move upset balance in local industry

The number of taxi cabs in Des Moines has increased since 2008 when city officials loosened restrictions on the vehicles, yet operators say competition has meant less money for drivers.

In an economy where increased competition can mean increased value, taxis occupy a distinct lane. Companies and their cabs are privately owned, but the city controls their growth. As more taxis hit the streets under a lingering recession, experts and operators say it's exposing the careful balance needed for the service in Des Moines, Iowa's largest city and the hub of its government.

Four companies now operate 123 taxi cabs in Des Moines, employing more than 200 people. Randy Sackett is the president of Trans Iowa, which oversees the city's largest and oldest cab brands: Yellow Cab and Capitol Cab. Sackett said he doesn't know the ideal number of cabs the city can support but believes "we've reached it and passed it some time ago."

His more than 175 drivers tell him they're not making the money they once did. When the city controls "so much of how this business is operated … then they've got a responsibility to not flood the market with too many cars," Sackett said.

City officials, who regulate Des Moines' cab business, have a differing view.

"The number of options I think are available is good, not only for the customer, but it improves everyone's quality, I would hope, in the end," Mayor Frank Cownie said.

Taxi drivers see income decline

Earlier this year, Mohamed Habib received permission from the Des Moines City Council to expand his five-car taxi service, United Cab to 10 cars.

Like many cities, Des Moines officials regulate taxi service within its borders according to "public convenience and necessity."

The council awards operation certificates to companies that meet certain safety and quality standards and approve each cab added to a company's fleet.

Four years ago, Des Moines eased restrictions on taxi cabs, opening the door for more competition. Four companies now operate 123 cabs in the city, a number two transportation specialists say is likely too high for the market. Here, cabs line up at a cab depot at Third Street and Court Avenue on a recent Saturday night. / Bryon Houlgrave/The Register

"A meeting between long-distance business partners once meant at least two cab trips between a hotel and the airport. Now it means an online video chat", Sackett said. "And friends are more likely to host parties in their homes than to need a ride from the bars."

"That makes Court Avenue — downtown Des Moines' entertainment district — and the airport more appealing, despite the city's mandate to provide service everywhere for anyone", Sackett said.

"One of the newer companies, that's all they do is work the airport, which really isn't fair to the other companies that are picking up the $2 or $3 grocery trips," Sackett said.

Habib, the United Cab owner, said his drivers usually head to those spots when they don't have any dispatch calls.

And despite his businesses' expansion, Habib knows cab drivers who are barely scraping by.

"They say 'We used to make a lot of money before, but now it's just enough to get by until we find something different,' " he said. "There's no need for more cabs in (Des Moines)."

"The cause of cab drivers' decreasing pay", Henderson said, "is too many cabs operating in Des Moines".

The three smaller cab companies that have opened since 2008 have increased competition for customers.

The unintended result, experts and company leaders say, means lower earnings for cab drivers and worse service for the metro area.

Councilwoman Chris Hensley said she thinks the added companies are a good thing: "We really didn't have competition. The question is always, 'What can the market absorb?' "

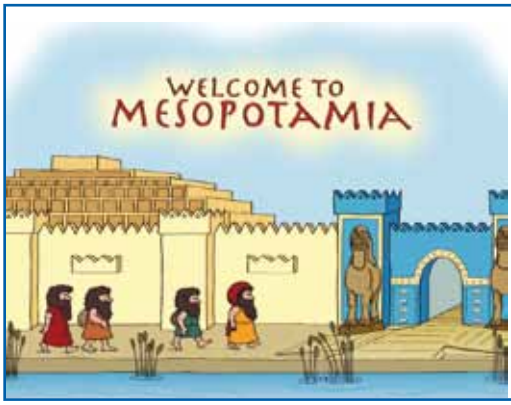
Ray Mundy, director of the University of Missouri's Center for Transportation Studies, said increasing competition among cab companies is rarely the answer.

"This is an industry where more competition doesn't result in better service and more operators," Mundy said.

Sackett, the head of Trans Iowa, draws a clear picture.

"The political reality is that the … number of cabs that are in Des Moines is not likely to go down. I feel like as an industry we are where we're at and until the marketplace catches up with capacity, it's going to be a depressed earning situation for the drivers," he said. "There's never been a case of more capacity increasing demand."

Josh Hafner ✤



Uncover the wonders of an ancient world

Melbourne Museum, Nicholson Street, Carlton

Escape the cold and pop into Melbourne Museum for some Mesopotamia themed family fun. Be entertained by a family presentation, recreate the mighty wall reliefs of Assyria, explore the family trail throughout the exhibition or hire the kids an audio guide for a fun exhibition commentary. ✤

For the best tyre value in town... come to Gaffney Tyres

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225 55R17	$125	195 R15LT	$100
225 50R17	$125		

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● Goform ● Bolex
● Maxtrek ● Rotalla
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gwt_0712

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INDUSTRY INQUIRY REPORT VTD

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS OUT NOW

a new era of co-operation between the regulator and the industry

VTD GM - Marnie Williams

With the Taxi Industry Inquiry's draft report now out, we have a better idea of what's on the cards.

Though they are just draft recommendations at this stage, they are the departure point for the re-making of our industry.

It's been good to hear industry participants making their views heard about the various recommendations: from driver welfare, to licensing structure and fare setting. It's important that industry participants provide as much feedback as possible to the Inquiry.

They need to hear from people on the front line, who provide taxi services on a day to day basis.

Like you, we at the VTD read the draft report with interest.

Some of the take-out messages for us are about making improvements to regulatory practices by increasing transparency, accountability and effectiveness.

This means formulating and publishing an enforcement and compliance policy and other rules and guidelines used to administer and enforce the law, taking a risk based approach to our compliance operations and ensuring enforcement actions are proportionate to the risk posed by non-compliance.

In addition we should consider broadening industry consultation and engagement approaches and increase our presence in both metropolitan and regional Victoria.

I see the recommendations and the VTD's transition to a new statutory authority as an opportunity for a new beginning: a new era of co-operation between the regulator and the industry to improve services for the public.

We'll need to work hard to build public confidence in the new Regulator.

Again, I encourage you to keep making your views known to the Inquiry through the submissions process and I look forward to confronting the challenges of change together. ✤

BLUECHIP BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Proud to offer one of Leongatha's premier business with potential for further expansion. Local taxi business currently servicing the Bass Coast and South Gippsland shires, this business has a steady income stream with an excellent earning capacity for an owner operator.

Currently running:- 6 cars, 1 maxi taxi, 1 hire car.

Figures available for genuine interest. $850,000 sl_0712

Stockdale & Leggo real estate

Stockdale & Leggo Leongatha
15 Bair Street, Leongatha
Ph: 5662 5800 Fax: 5662 5899

ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

from the Victorian Taxi Directorate

Suspended driver licence process

All taxi drivers must have a current Victorian driver licence to hold driver accreditation.

On a weekly basis, VicRoads notifies the Victorian Taxi Directorate (VTD) of all accredited drivers whose licence has been suspended, cancelled, surrendered or has expired in the last week.

When we are informed that a driver's licence is no longer current, the VTD notifies the individual that their driver accreditation has been suspended because their driver licence is no longer current.

The letter also advises the individual that reinstatement of their driver accreditation is not automatic and that they must apply to the VTD to have their driver accreditation reinstated once they have a valid driver licence again.

Once the individual contacts the VTD and provides substantiated evidence that their driver licence is current, the VTD must assess the driver's suitability to hold accreditation before it is reinstated. This is a holistic assessment and is not only based on the reason the individual's diver licence was suspended or cancelled in the first place. It also takes into account important factors such as driving history, complaints, medical data and criminal matters.

On application for reinstatement the individual can be advised as to whether they will be reinstated within 48 hours of submitting their request to the VTD. If the answer is yes, their driver accreditation will be reinstated at that time. If the answer is no, a 'show cause' process will begin which can be lengthy and may result in a driver facing disciplinary action as a result of their behaviour. It should also be noted that on application and renewal each individual signs a section that consents to the VTD sharing the above mentioned information with VicRoads and Victoria Police.

Victoria Police Customer Service Centre closure

Driver accreditation applicants are advised that the Victoria Police Customer Service Centre has closed.

Applicants requiring a name only National Police Certificate will need to mail their application to:

Public Enquiry Service
GPO Box 919, MELBOURNE VIC 3001

New and amended driver conditions

All accredited drivers should have received a letter from the Victorian Taxi Directorate (VTD) informing them of new and amended driver conditions. If you did not receive this letter or you have any questions, please contact the VTD on 1800 638 802 (toll-free).

Industry accreditation

The Taxi Industry Accreditation scheme is five years old, which means the accreditation of most operators, network service providers and licence holders will come up for renewal in the next 6-18 months

As a result, it's important industry participants check when their accreditation is due to expire and begin preparing all the material they will need to apply for renewal.

The VTD will send you an invitation to renew your accreditation approximately 3 months before your accreditation is due to expire.

fines increased

Another reason to be extra careful on the roads as of 1 July 2012, is that the value of a penalty unit in Victoria will be $140.84.

This was part of the State budget in May this year and the Bill went through Parliament in the same month.

Penalty units are used to describe the amount of a fine. The value of a penalty unit pre-July was $122.14.

This increase will be noticeable to your hip pocket, so be aware at all times. ✤

VTA inquiry briefings

To assist urban and country taxi industry stakeholders in understanding the implications of the recommendations contained in the Inquiry's draft report, the VTA held briefing sessions in four non-metropolitan locations across the State. Benalla - Monday 18 June, Ballarat - Tuesday 19 June, Bendigo - Monday 25 June, and Morwell - Thursday 28 June. The VTA's David Samuel conducted the briefing sessions.

Metropolitan taxi operators were invited to an informal briefing at the VTA held on Tuesday 19 June. VTA staff were on hand to listen to comments and give guidance on how to make a submission to the Inquiry.

The VTA is planning a large meeting in Melbourne for NSPs, licence holders, operators and drivers. More information will be made available when details are clarified.✤

twisted

Remounting in Melbourne on Monday 23 July at BMW Edge, Federation Square, Twisted Broadway features Australia's premiere music theatre performers singing songs originally written for the opposite gender. Hosted by the talented Melissa Bergland, who will also debut her musical theatre talents, audiences will be entertained by cast members from Australia's hit musical productions, including Annie, Legally Blonde, Moonshadow, An Officer and a Gentleman, South Pacific, A Chorus Line and more. ✤

New taxi tolls

From 1 July 2012 there will be new taxi tolls for travel on CityLink and EastLink.

Taxi tolls as at 1 July 2012

CityLink

Western Link	$4.80
Southern Link	$4.80
Both Links	$6.60
Batman Avenue Only (Exhibition Street Extension)	No toll

EastLink

Melba tunnel or Mullum Mullum tunnel	$2.55
Any part of EastLink south of Maroondah Hwy	$2.41
One tunnel plus any part of EastLink south of Maroondah Hwy	$4.96
Ringwood Bypass	No toll

The toll is to be paid to the driver in addition to the fare shown on the taxi meter.
Tolls can only be charged to passengers when the e-TAG is displayed in the vehicle.
Prices are GST inclusive and are valid from 1 July 2012 until further notice.

Rural Taxi tolls as at 1 July 2012

A toll applies to all taxis using CityLink® and EastLink®. Taxis not fitted with a CityLink e-TAG® device or a Breeze® tag will need to purchase one of the following passes.

CityLink

Passes: CityLink Rural Taxi Pass (Ph: 1300 360 962)
Roads covered: Unlimited travel on CityLink only for 24 hours from first trip.
Toll: $7.00*

EastLink

Passes: EastLink Trip Pass (Ph: 13 54 65)
Roads covered: Valid for a single trip on EastLink in one direction only.
Toll: $5.57

*CityLink tolls are only valid for Country (C) or Urban (U) plated taxis.
Prices are GST inclusive and are valid from 1 July 2012 until further notice.

3 passenger information stickers need to be attached – one to the dashboard and the inside of each side rear window.

WHAT DO e-TAG 'BEEPS' MEAN?

Each time you pass under a toll point, your e-TAG should beep. Your e-TAG will emit the same beeps on both CityLink and EastLink.

One beep: Your account is in credit above the recommended level.

One beep followed by two short beeps: Your account balance is low and a top up payment is required.

Four beeps: Your account has been suspended or cancelled. You need to contact CityLink immediately. Any travel on CityLink or EastLink may result in the issue of a Late Toll invoice.

No beeps: Check that your e-TAG is positioned correctly. If it is positioned correctly and still not beeping, call CityLink immediately on 1300 360 962.

Please note: For a Late Toll invoice, please select one of the many payment options shown on the invoice, and make a prompt payment to avoid further administration fees.

TOPPING UP YOUR ACCOUNT

Easiest option: call CityLink to set up automatic payment.

- At the CityLink Customer Centre: 67 Lorimer Street, Docklands 3008.
- At the EastLink Customer Centre: 2 Hillcrest Avenue, Ringwood 3134. Top up amount will appear on your account by the end of next business day.
- Pay over the phone: 1300 360 962 (8am – 6pm, Monday to Friday).
- Use BPAY, Touch machines at selected Newsagencies and Melbourne Airport.
- Cash payments at the depot at Melbourne Airport or at any Victorian Australia Post

Please note: Payments made to accounts within the last 24 hours may not be reflected in the number of beeps when travelling on CityLink or EastLink.

Web: citylink.com.au | Email: comcare@citylink.com.au | Phone: 1300 360 962 (8am to 6pm Mon to Fri)

Prices are GST inclusive and are valid from 1 July 2012 until further notice. ®CityLink is a trade mark of Transurban Limited, ABN 96 098 143 410.
®EastLink is a registered trade mark of ConnectEast Pty Ltd. ®e-TAG is a registered trade mark of CityLink Melbourne Limited, ABN 65 070 810 678.

your present

ation matters

Cabbies who provide great customer service are a tribute to the industry and a great example to their fellow colleagues.

The Victorian Taxi Directorate (VTD) constantly receives positive feedback from passengers about their taxi journey.

Passengers embrace drivers who are courteous, know where they are going and have a clean vehicle.

One positive thing that really stands out to passengers is the appearance of drivers.

Drivers who are neat, clean and well dressed make a lasting impression on passengers and that makes a big difference to their enjoyment of the trip.

Some of the compliments that the VTD has received include a passenger praising a driver for being "immaculately dressed", in "shinny new uniform" and "really dressed the part".

Being in neat, clean and tidy in appearance is about representing the industry with pride.

It also shows to your passengers that you are a professional driver, willing and ready to provide a high level of service.

This could result in repeat business from satisfied customers and a higher professional standing among your colleagues.

What can you do to ensure you are well presented?

Make sure you are wearing neat and clean uniform at all times. The uniform must be approved by your depot. The table on page 24 and 25 lists the uniform requirements according to each depot. Get in touch with your depot if you are unsure what your uniform should be. ✤

driver presentation

	SILVER TOP TAXIS		BLACK CABS COMBINED t/as 13 CABS & YELLOW CABS		
	STANDARD UNIFORM	SILVER SERVICE UNIFORM	STANDARD UNIFORM	CAB CARE UNIFORM	SILVER SERVICE UNIFORM
SHIRT	Light blue long or short sleeve with collar. Depot ID badge displayed above either left or right pocket.	White business shirt long or short sleeves with navy Silver Top tie and epaulette slides.	Light blue long or short sleeved shirt with epaulette slides on both shoulders.	Mid blue long or short sleeved shirt with epaulette slides on both shoulders & Cabcare logo.	White long or short sleeved shirt with epaulette slides & Silver Service Logo.
TROUSERS (no jeans)	Navy blue or black dress trousers (no jeans).	Navy blue or black dress trousers (no jeans).	Black or navy blue dress trousers (no jeans).	Black or navy blue dress trousers (no jeans).	Black or navy blue dress trousers (no jeans).
SHORTS	Navy blue or black dress shorts. Must be worn with navy blue or black knee length socks.	Navy blue or black dress shorts. Must be worn with navy blue or black knee length socks.	Black or navy blue dress shorts worn with long socks.	Black or navy blue dress shorts worn with long socks.	Black or navy blue dress shorts worn with long socks.
SKIRTS			Black or navy blue (must reach below knees when seated).	Black or navy blue (must reach below knees when seated).	Black or navy blue (must reach below knees when seated).
JUMPER / PULLOVER	Navy blue or black with depot ID badge on left side.	Navy blue or black with depot ID badge on left side.	Black or navy blue. Logo or epaulettes to be worn.	Black with Cabcare logo.	Grey with Silver Service logo.
JACKET	Navy or black coat/jacket.	Navy or black coat/jacket.	Black or navy blue. Logo or epaulettes to be worn.	Jacket with Cabcare logo.	Grey blazer with Silver Service logo.
SHOES (no runners, thongs or sandals)	Black or navy blue dress shoes.	Black or navy blue dress shoes.	Black dress shoes.	Black dress shoes.	Black dress shoes.
TIE	Tie optional: Silver Top navy tie with logo.	Silver Top navy tie with logo.	Tie optional: Navy blue or company supplied black tie with embroidered logo.	Tie optional: Navy blue or company supplied black tie with embroidered logo.	Tie optional: Navy blue or company supplied black tie with embroidered logo.
Taxi Depot Identification/ comments and other uniform items	Silver Care epaulettes; Navy with yellow star. - Navy badge (cloth) with depot ID worn on shirt, jumper or jacket. The outer garment must display the taxi depot name/logo at all times.	Navy cloth badge with depot ID worn on front of shirt. Navy epaulettes with "Silver Service" logo.	Epaulettes embossed with 13CABS. Wheelchair taxi drivers may wear epaulettes slides displaying "MAXI TAXIS". Other versions include: Black Cabs Combined, Black Cabs Combined First Choice Fleet, Yellow Cabs and a 20 years service set. The outer garment must display the taxi depot name/logo at all times. - Cap: Depot supplied peak cap with logo. - Beanie: Depot supplied with logo.		

	ARROW TAXIS & EMBASSY TAXIS	NTH SUBURBAN TAXIS	PLATINUM TAXIS	WEST SUBURBAN TAXIS	DANDENONG TAXIS	FRANKSTON TAXIS
SHIRT	Blue/white.	Light blue/white business shirt with epaulette covers and/ or company badge sewn into shirt above left breast.	White business shirt – Long or short sleeve.	Ice blue with slip on monogrammed epaulettes.	Light blue with collar and provision for epaulettes. No velcro or sewing on epaulettes.	Light blue. Business type with epaulettes short or long sleeve.
TROUSERS (no jeans or track suit type)	Blue/grey dress trousers (no jeans).	Navy blue or black dress trousers (no jeans or track suit type trousers).	Black or navy blue dress trousers (no jeans).	Navy blue or black dress trousers (no jeans).	Navy blue dress style (no jeans or tracksuit style).	Navy blue or black. Ladies culottes acceptable.
SHORTS	Blue/grey dress shorts.	Navy blue or black dress shorts.	Black or navy blue dress shorts.	Navy blue or black dress shorts.	Navy blue dress style walk shorts – No sports or stubby shorts.	Navy blue or black dress shorts.
JUMPER / PULLOVER	Blue.	Navy blue with the words North Suburban Taxis embroidered in white cotton approx 12mm in height over left breast or a company badge sewn over left breast (no leather jackets).	Black or navy blue jumper to have Platinum badge/logo displayed on left breast.	Navy blue or black with embroidered company badge on left breast or monogrammed epaulettes.	Navy blue V-neck jumper with badge sewn on (cardigan acceptable).	Navy blue (or black) with epaulettes on shoulders.
SHOES (no runners, thongs or sandals)	Black dress shoes.	Black leather or like material.	Black dress shoes.	Black leather type shoes or boots – Dress type.	Black dress shoes.	Black dress shoes.
TIE	Nil.	Tie & cap optional: Navy blue. Cap to have company badge or North Suburban Taxis sewn onto the front.	Maroon or silver tie with Platinum logo.	Nil.	Tie and cap optional: Navy blue tie. Navy blue cap with company logo – No beanie.	Tie optional: Navy blue.
TAXI DEPOT IDENTIFICATION / comments and other uniform items	Epaulettes or screen print company badge to be displayed on outer most garment at all times.	Epaulette covers and badges required to be worn as part of uniform must be official items supplied by the depot. The outer garment must display the taxi depot name/ logo at all times.	Platinum badge/logo on left breast of shirt and jumper. The outer garment must display the taxi depot name/logo at all times.	The outer garment must display the taxi depot name/logo at all times.	Walk socks – Navy, light blue or white (pulled up). Epaulettes and badges to be supplied by depot. – Epaulettes to be displayed on outer most garment of uniform. Badge – jacket or jumper if no provision for epaulettes, sewn on. Jacket – Navy blue.	Embroidered badge sewn on – "Frankston Taxis" epaulettes. "Frankston Taxis" 9786 3322 in red on black and white bar above and below writing. Worn on each shoulder – Must be visible at all times. Left chest pocket Other items Socks – Long white or light blue with shorts. Stockings – Short navy/black with normal dress. Jacket – Navy blue (with epaulettes) Safety vest – Fluoro yellow with epaulettes. Wet weather water proof jacket and trousers, dark blue with embroidered badge.

TAXI OF THE FUTURE?

The Toyota Prius v seven-seater wagon is here - a hybrid engine vehicle with capacity for more people and more luggage.

Toyota are hoping the vehicle might fill the void left in the market with the withdrawal of the Ford Falcon Station Wagon from the taxi market.

Prius v could easily be mistaken for a passenger sedan with its sleek, smooth lines. The low roof-line and roof spoiler along with aerodynamic corners, sporty alloy wheels and v-shaped headlamps all combine to give Prius v an elegant, lean profile.

Prius v has a spacious interior with plenty of room for 7 people, with three rows of seating and six different seating configurations - depending on how many people or luggage you have on board.

"Taxi drivers will have the flexibility of using all seven seats for passengers or folding down the third-row seats to convert the car into a five-seater with extra luggage space," Toyota Australia's Matthew Callchor said.

"Drivers can also fold down the second-row seats to accommodate more cargo than many SUVs and wagons on the market today."

Powered by Toyota's Hybrid Synergy Drive® technology, which seamlessly integrates a powerful petrol engine with an advanced electric motor, Prius v offers dynamic acceleration from a standing start and powerful mid-range acceleration.

Although it offers passenger sedan-like performance, Prius v produces very low CO2 emissions [G1] and significantly better fuel economy than other petrol engine 7-seaters.

Being a hybrid, Prius v offers excellent fuel economy for a 7-seater, achieving 4.4L/100km (combined)[G1] so running costs can be surprisingly low. ✤

TOYOTA

Hybrid Mini Modal

The Robo Taxi - driverless

Harold's 20 questions

Can you answer them all?

1. Who "invented" strip tease with the dance of the Seven Veils ?
2. What does the expression "albatross"mean in golf?
3. What is proscuitto?
4. What, in culinary terms, is a julienne?
5. From which musical does the song 'cool' come?
6. From which musical does the 'The Impossible Dream' come?
7. What was the code name for the German invansion of Russia?
8. In which country is the city of Salamanca?
9. Where in the human body would you find the pyloric sphincter?
10. What part of the body is affected by Blephoritis?
11. What is the 15th Wedding anniversary known as?
12. What common word both begins and ends with'UND'?
13. Who invented plywood?
14. Who is the first Miss Universe from India?
15. Study of beauty is called?
16. In what year was *Taxi Talk* magazine first published?
17. Which Summer Olympic Games were boycotted by the majority of African countries?
18. The Swede Oscar Swahn is the oldest medal winner at the Olympic games. Plus or minus four years, how old was he ?
19. Velokas, the very first man disqualified at the olympics was a Greek marathon runner. Why was he put out?
20. The bush whacker and outlaw, Ned Kelly was born in which country? ✤

ANSWERS

1. Salome **2**. 3 strokes under par for the hole **3**. Italian ham **4**. clear soup **5**. West Side Story **6**. Man of La Mancha **7**. Barbarossa **8**. Spain **9**. Between the stomach and the duodenum **10**. The eye **11**. Crystal **12**. Underground **13**. Emmanuel Noble (Father of the famous scientist Alfred Noble) **14**. Sushmitha Sen (1994) **15**. Kaliology **16**. 1966 **17**, Montreal 1976 **18**. 72 **19**. He was caught taking a taxi ride. **20**. Australia

TAXI $465,000 transfers

Number of Taxi Licences May 8, 2012

METROPOLITAN	**4,334**
(including 506 WAT vehicles)	
COUNTRY	**521**
(including 113 WAT vehicles)	
OUTER SUBURBAN	**161**
(including 33 WAT vehicles)	
URBAN	**243**
(Ballarat - Bendigo - Geelong) (including 35 WAT vehicles)	
TOTAL	**5,259**
(including 687 WAT vehicles)	

NUMBER OF DRIVERS

Active drivers	16,000 APPROX
Accredited drivers	24,000 APPROX

ASSIGNMENTS

metro taxis	85

LICENCE TRANSFERS

metro taxis	18
urban	0
country taxis	3
hire car licences	13
special licences	0

LICENCES ISSUED

taxi licences	0
hire car licences	0
special vehicles	0
RH vehicles	1

LICENCES TRADED BY ASSIGNMENT = 942

(May 2011 - May 2012)

Compliance outcomes (1-31 May 2012)

Taxi Inspections	3863
Rectification Notices	595
Infringement Notices	101
Notices of Unroadworthiness	25
Official Warnings	29

Number of Victorian Hire Vehicle Licences April 2012

Metropolitan Hire Cars	900
Country Hire Cars	74
Special Purpose Vehicles	850
Restricted Hire Cars	633
TOTAL	**2,457**

$54,015

avg metro licence transfer value

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS MAN?

Intentionally caused injury and affray

Police are seeking information regarding the identities of several men alleged to have been involved in an affray that occurred on Acland Street, St Kilda.

Between 2:50am and 3:30am on 15 April 2012, the victim and his friend were walking along Acland Street when they became involved in a verbal altercation with a group of seven men.

It is alleged that one of the men hit the victim over the head with a rock, causing the victim to fall to the ground. Another man then struck the victim to the head with a bottle.

Police have released an image of a man whom they believe may be able to assist them in their enquiries.

CRIME STOPPERS
1800 333 000
CRIMESTOPPERS.COM.AU

Call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a report confidentially online at www.crimestoppers.com.au. (Please quote reference no CA6219) ✤

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mobile - 0401 402 766
Trading hours - 10am - 7pm

The Inquiry's Con

The taxi inquiry is trying to con the public and the industry into believing that its recommendations for the reform of the industry will lead to a cheaper and better service to the public.

Professor Fels claims that more taxis on the road will achieve this.

In reality, open entry into the industry, has been shown the world-over, to lead to taxi fare increases and a decline in service to the public. It is hard to understand that Professor Fels thinks that the outcome in Melbourne would be different.

Professor Fels continues to attack licence holders for taking lease fees and blames them for the present mess the industry finds itself in. Yet he completely ignores the fact that the government has taken, and still takes, millions of dollars out of the industry without putting anything back.

Let's look at the proposal that the Government should lease licences for $20,000 per year on a five-year contract.

This equates to $100,000 over the term of a five-year contract and $500,000 that a lessee pays to the Government, over a 25-year period, without owning anything at the end of 25 years of service to the public.

The only winner in this scenario is the Government.

Now let's look at the effect this would have on the travelling public.

A lease fee paid to the Government would certainly be included into the taxi-fare structure as a cost and therefore would lead to an increase in the price of taxi-fares. Any further increases in Government lease fees would repeat the cycle.

In contrast to this, lease fees paid to private licence holders were not part of the fare structure till 2008 and they should never be a part of the fare structure.

Leasing licences should be abolished and licence holders should be responsible for the running of the taxi.

Many people in the industry predicted the outcome of this inquiry when Professor Fels was appointed as head of the inquiry.

Professor Fels has been an advocate of deregulating the taxi industry for a long time and it seems that his ideology takes precedence over facts and figures in his possession.

The Inquiry totally ignores the Public Interest Test of the Competition Policy, in fact Professor Fels does not want it applied to his recommendations.

One does not have to wonder why.

The inquiry claims that this is not a deregulation of the taxi industry. Ask any licence holder that is to lose his asset that took him a lifetime's work in the industry to acquire, and he will tell you otherwise.

Professor Fels says that the industry should spend a thought on the long-suffering public. He fails to find the real reason for the decline in the industry.

In fact his solutions will make the situation even worse.

We are in the present situation because the previous Government used the taxi industry as a cash cow. An oversupply of licences caused the decline of driver and operator income.

Operators used shortcuts in order to survive and driver quality declined. The government should never be an active participant in the industry because it has a huge conflict of interest.

Professor Fels hopes that his solutions will lead to a greater patronage of taxis. Hope is not good enough.

Professor Fels' solutions will inevitably lead to less people using taxis because the service to the public will decline further and fares will go up.

Professor Fels makes a lot of motherhood statements but fails to produce any facts and figures that back up his proposals.

Yes, there will be a lot of opposition to his proposals because they have a negative impact on drivers, the taxi-users, operators, and owners.

Let's hope that the final report from the inquiry contains proposals that are based on reality and real data and not on hope and ideology.

Hans Altoff - owner operator ✤

2010 Ford Falcon FG XT Sedan

BRAND NEW Ford Falcon FG Sedans

$28,700

or only $155* per week

- Built 09/10, **No kms**
- **Never Registered, Brand New**
- Taxi Yellow, Dedicated Gas
- ABS, Cruise Control
- Side Airbags, Tech Pack
- Fully Fitted, Taxi RWC
- New Car Warranty
- **Detailed and in Immaculate Condition**

GREAT DEALS!

2010 Ford Falcon FG XT Sedan

$28,700

or only $155* per week

- Built 08/10, JGSWAP49005
- **No kms, Never Registered**
- **Brand New**
- Taxi Yellow, Dedicated Gas
- ABS, Cruise Control
- Side Airbags, Tech Pack
- Fully Fitted, Taxi RWC
- New Car Warranty
- **Detailed and in Immaculate Condition**

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Finance & Insurance: Shahzad Iqbal **9277 3761** or **0409 506 182**

LMCT 10473 Black Cabs Combined Car Sales Pty Ltd

N.B. "New Car Warranty" is equal to the balance up to 100,000 kms

* T.A.P Finance figures are based on a rate of 11.5% fixed. Figures may vary depending on customer's credit rating as well as the age and condition of the vehicle

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13CABS Black Cabs Cabcharge

TAXI TECH

35 Downing Street Oakleigh VIC 3166

WINTER exercise GUIDE

One of the easiest ways to avoid that stiff sore feeling taxi drivers experience when they get out of the car, is by doing simple stretching exercises such as the ones that are described here.

Careful stretching improves blood circulation, which is reduced during inactivity and by being in a restricted position for too long.

CALF MUSCLES

* *Lean on the car with your hands at chest height.*
* *Move one foot forward and bend this knee so that you feel the stretch in the calf of the straight leg.*

Another method is to:-

* *Put the front of one foot on the edge of the kerb and let your weight push the heel down.*

THE PAIN OUT OF DRIVING A TAXI

Reduced circuation causes stiffness in the muscles and joints. This causes unnatural body alignment and in the long term, back problems.

According to a physiotherapist from the Transport Accident Commission, lower back problems are common among professional drivers. Taxi drivers experience two of the most common causes of lower back injury:-

1. Sitting for long periods with-out proper back support.
2. Lack of adequate exerercise.

One suggestion that was made to help keep the spine aligned along its natural curves, is to use a lumbar (lower back) support. These can be bought from chemists or made fairly easily. They also suggested you adjust the driver's seat so that it is fairly upright.

Prevention of back injuries is easier, less painful and cheaper than curing them. If you don't think it's worth the trouble, talk to someone who has had back problems.

Drivers have chosen these exercises because they find them useful and they are easy to do during a shift. There are other exercises that are more specifically for the back, but these are a bit hard to do unless you are lying down on the tarmac or concrete.

One upper back exercise that is suitable is to support your weight by putting your hands behind you on the bonnet, bend your knees slightly and bend backwards without straining.

If you are already active in sport, you would already know lots of helpful stretches. If you were involved in a sport some years ago you may have learnt stretches where you bounce the muscles. This is not advised now as it can be damaging. The examples here are not meant to be exhaustive and they certainly don't constitute a fitness program but they may be useful as a start.

If you already have back problems it is important to get individual specialist advice about which exercises will relieve or prevent problems.

As well as these stretches, some other ways to improve circulation are walking around, jogging on the spot and getting out of the cab as often as possible.

Remember to moisturise. Put a moisturiser on your lips, face, hands or any other area that may be susceptible to the drying effects of the colder air.

Drink plenty of water. It's as easy to become dehydrated during the cold months, as it is in the scorching summer heat, so carry a water bottle with you and drink plenty of fluids after your workout. Most people forget the importance of water during the colder months.

TIPS FOR STRETCHING

- make sure you are relaxed;
- do not hold your breath
- do each exercise on both sides;
- use enough strength so that you can feel the stretch;
- do not bounce - the idea is to prevent injury, not to cause it;
- hold stretch for 10-20 seconds.

EXERCISES

QUADRICEPS

- pick up right foot with your right hand
- hold onto a support with your free hand
- pull the foot towards your body keeping your knee pointing down.
- You should feel the stretch along the front of the thigh.

SHOULDERS

- Lift both elbows upwards.
- Hold the right elbow with the left hand and pull it towards the left shoulder.
- To avoid straining your neck it may help to turn your head to the left (do not tip it).

ARM AND NECK

- Stand with both arms by your sides.
- Hold your right wrist with your left hand.
- Tip your head to the left.
- Pull the right hand towards the ground.

UPPER ARM

- Hold your right arm in front of you with the forearm upright.
- Hold the elbow with left hand and pull the elbow across and towards your chest.

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How to advertise in Taxi Talk classifieds:

- **SEND your classified advertisement** ($25 for 1-30 words - $50 for 31-60 words)
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IKONA GREEK PORTRAITS

A series of portraits by Melbourne photographer, Georgia Metaxas

IKONA Portraits, is now on show at Immigration Museum, Flinders Street, Melbourne.

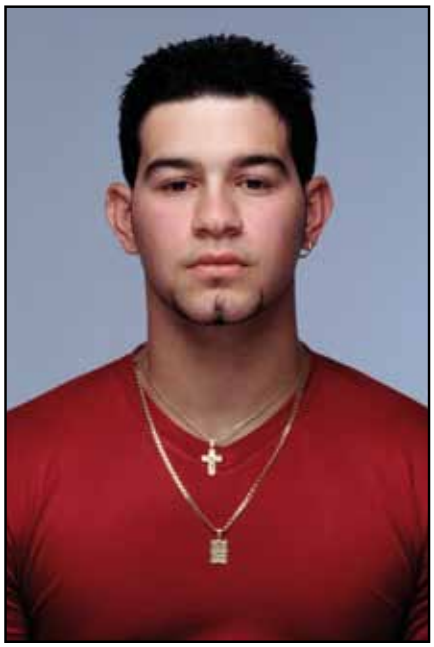
This exhibition reflects on the contribution of the more than 54,000 Greek-born people who call Australia home.

It captures the faces of contemporary young Greek migrants in passport-like stares – some assured, others questioning – raising issues of identity and belonging.

"This year marks the 60th anniversary of assisted Greek migration to Australia, although the first Greeks actually arrived during the 19th century," said Emily Kocaj, Manager of Community Exhibitions at Immigration Museum.

"There were 12,000 Greeks in Australia in 1947. After World War II and during the civil war in Greece that followed, more than 160,000 migrated – mostly to Victoria – to establish a new life. The population of Melbourne is now one of the largest Greek settlements in the world outside of Greece."

"Taken between 1996 and 2004, the IKONA portraits are of young students all recently arrived in Australia," said Metaxas. "They posed as they were, without additional makeup or a change of clothing. Tightly cropped and in straightforward poses, like statues with fixed expressions, they are reminiscent of passport photographs – reflecting on the medium itself and on photography's ongoing connection to identity." ✤



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APAC ON RAMP TO OPEN

reducing congestion throughout airport's road network

Traffic flows around Melbourne Airport are expected to reduce next month when an additional entry to the Tullamarine Freeway is opened.

After 12 months of construction, Melbourne Airport is set to open its new $26 million APAC Drive on-ramp in July to taxis, cars and buses.

An extension of the current APAC Drive, the on-ramp will improve access to the Tullamarine Freeway from Melbourne Airport and reduce congestion throughout the airport's road network.

At 1.5 kilometres long, the dual lane elevated road passes over the long term car park and Tullamarine Freeway lanes. It then merges into city bound lanes of the freeway, just before Mickleham Road.

Traffic from the southern end of the terminal will no longer need to use Melrose Drive to get back into the city, reducing congestion on roads such as Centre Road, Terminal Drive, Melbourne Drive and Melrose Drive.

Traffic studies indicate that around 15 per cent of traffic will use the APAC Drive on-ramp, equating to around 7,000 less cars around the terminal precinct or on Melrose Drive.

The completion of APAC Drive On-ramp is just one infrastructure project that Melbourne Airport is investing in.

Over the next five years, $1 billion will be invested in infrastructure developments to improve the road networks around the airport, and terminal facilities to accommodate the growing number of passengers who use Melbourne Airport.

All these developments, including the APAC Drive on-ramp, are aligned with our long-term vision as outlined in the Master Plan and Ground Transportation Plan.

Additional road improvement programs include the development of Airport Drive which will improve access to the Western Ring Road and improving the efficiency of the roads in front of and to the south of the terminal.

Melbourne Airport thank the taxi drivers for their patience during the construction of APAC Drive, particularly at times when freeway closures impacted traffic flows.

For up-to-date information on APAC Drive, including its opening date visit www.melbourneairport.com.au/apac-drive.

Taxis wait in line for passengers outside Seoul Station in Seoul on June 19, 2012. South Korean taxi drivers are going on their first nationwide strike today, protesting rising fuel costs and demanding higher fares. Source: Yonhap News via Bloomberg

South Korean taxi drivers on strike

More than 200,000 South Korean taxi drivers have staged a rare day-long nationwide strike, calling for higher fares and cheaper fuel.

Authorities were forced to run extra bus and subway services as around 220,000 of the country's 255,500 licensed cabbies joined the stoppage, the transport ministry said.

Tens of thousands of drivers rallied in central Seoul, demanding a rise in the flagfall rate of $2.08 (2,400 won) and cuts in the price of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) used to fuel most taxis.

"Sorry about the inconvenience to the public... but everything from utilities to food prices are rising, except for taxi fares!" a rally organiser shouted through a loudspeaker, drawing cheers from the crowd.

Taxi drivers from across the nation, wearing headbands reading "Safeguard our livelihood!", chanted slogans including demands for government financial aid.

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Hamer Hall Opening Concerts

26 & 27 July at 7.30pm

The celebratory concert will celebrate some of the great performances of the past and has been created specifically to mark this major moment in Australia's cultural development. Featuring an Australian exclusive appearance by k.d. lang, Rachelle Durkin, Caroline O'Connor, Eddie Perfect, Archie Roach, Lior and more. The concerts will provide a balance of the range of performance styles that can be experienced in Hamer Hall, from classical and contemporary to instrumental and vocal, in both intimate and large-scale settings.

Following the concerts, the stalls and riverside foyers of Hamer Hall will become the stage for a selection of Melbourne musicians who will keep the music playing into the night.

eMotion will feature over 200 young dancers from the Melbourne's Western corridor and Ballarat as they come together in the ultimate dance-off at the new Hamer Hall Opening Celebrations.

Occuring in and around the new Hamer Hall, visitors to the refurbished hall and riverside promenade on Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 July will be amazed by the impressive rhythm, style and awe-inspiring tricks of Melbourne's young hip hop, jazz and contemporary dance troupes in this free public dance performance.

VOICE OF THE TAXI INDUSTRY
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