

# Travel without a hassle

## What's the best way to get to uni?

One of the most obvious ways is by public transport, which includes travel via bus, tram or train. There are roughly 160 bus routes around the Melbourne Metropolitan area that are operated by various private bus contractors. There are 40 main tram routes covering the Melbourne Central Business District and its surrounding areas. On top of all that, there is the train system owned by Connex which has 16 different lines with a total of 206 different stations. Additionally, Connex has ramped up security on its trains, according to Connex General Manager Customer Service Geoff Young. Working together with the transit police, Connex has identified key 'trouble' zones and as of February 2008, tighter security measures will be in place.

Public transport seems a fairly viable option for travelling to



university. Not only does it branch out to almost every metropolitan suburb, but it's safe and even has access for people with disabilities with measures such as on-ramps, buses with low floors and priority seating. While the operational portion of public transportation comes with several benefits, one must remember that public transport has a reputation for its punctuality – or should I say lack thereof? If you want to reach class on time, you must remember what I call, 'the ten minute' rule. This means you should allow for an average of a ten minute delay between the


time the public transport system says it will reach a destination, and the time it actually does. Last year alone, Connex finished at just 90.5% for punctuality and have acknowledged that "there is still a long way to go".

When taking public transport, students can sit back and relax without the worry of traffic, where to park or the cost of petrol and parking. Also, when you have four different subjects a semester, with textbooks as thick as a slab of concrete and an average of four chapters worth of readings to do each week, public transport allows

you the time to catch up and complete all your readings before class. For those of you that are a little more organised and do your readings at home, public transport means you can catch up with friends and your weekly gossip!

Another means of transportation to university is to walk or go by bicycle. Not only does this provide a great means of exercise but it is cheaper than public transport or driving. However, this option is not available to everyone as it depends on how far you have to go.

The final means of transport is by car. This includes driving to

university yourself, taking a lift with a friend or family member or car pooling. Although this is the most expensive means of transportation, with petrol prices reaching over \$1.40 per litre, it can be the fastest option to reaching class on time. If you do choose to drive to uni, you must keep in mind where you want to park. Some universities offer parking permits each semester, others have pay and park, and if you are lucky, you may find a parking space for free. Car pooling seems to be the cheapest option if you decide to drive to uni because the permit is a lot cheaper—as you split the cost amongst friends—and there will always be an allocated parking space available to you. But don't forget, there are new rules coming in on July 1. P-platers under 21 will only be able to carry one passenger aged between 16-21 in their first year of probationary driving. 

Parizad Kotwal

## PhD Scholarship

### ***Wheat curl mite and wheat streak mosaic virus under current and future climate scenarios.***

***We are seeking a new PhD student with interests in genetics, climate change and pest entomology to undertake a project funded by the grains industry and based within the Centre for Environmental Stress and Adaptation Research (CESAR), at The University of Melbourne.***

***Climate change threatens to alter the distribution and abundance of many pest species and associated diseases. The wheat streak mosaic virus (transmitted by the highly specialized mite, the wheat curl mite) is a worldwide disease, costing millions of dollars in lost revenue each year. This project will investigate the biology, ecology and genetics of the wheat curl mite species complex within different climatic scenarios. The project will involve a combination of field-based and molecular experiments as well as modeling.***

***This scholarship is only open to Australian and New Zealand residents.***

***For further information on how to apply contact Prof. Ary Hoffmann, Ph: 03 8344 2348***

***or***

***Email: [emilyct@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:emilyct@unimelb.edu.au)***

***Web: [www.cesar.org.au](http://www.cesar.org.au)***



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