

Travel options

“Touch on and touch off do sound rather euphemistic”

Student life in Melbourne would just not be complete without the requisite griping about the delayed and late train service. ‘Connex’ has for years been synonymous with words such as ‘hellish’ and ‘useless’, and it’s now the turn of Metro Trains to bear the brunt.

That said, trains are often an easier way to get from A to B, with students on the outskirts of Melbourne and within the more far-flung suburbs getting easier access to the city-based universities.

A Zone 1 and 2 Metcard gives one a relatively cheap travel option across many lines, and the trains are fairly reliable. A proposed train-line to Melbourne University and the extension of the Epping line through South Morang would also provide much-needed accessibility.

It does, however, remain to be seen how that holds up with the introduction of the ‘Myki’ service that will eventually supersede the humble Metcard. It will undoubtedly catch on within the student community, even if ‘touch on’ and ‘touch off’ do sound rather euphemistic.

Trams are a handy way to travel, with tram lines passing through several institutions across Melbourne. Peak-hour



overcrowding and traffic are rarely a problem when you’re traveling by tram.

Mind you there is no guarantee that the person you sit next to will have your high standards of personal hygiene.

Sometimes overlooked by city-dwelling students gadding about

in trains and trams, buses are still a steady travel option. While they might have to be coordinated with train and tram travel, they are often a quick ride across routes.

Traffic is also sometimes a consideration, and buses can be late for that reason. It is, however, imperative that you arrange your

own travel timetable and ensure that you always have a valid Metcard or your Myki card topped up. Student concession can halve the price of travel.

Driving a car is not always the

most economical option – cost of buying and maintaining a car, as well as exorbitant prices for petrol and car-parking – but it has its merits. There is no need for scrambling about with train timetables or worrying about carrying your Healthcare Card.


If you’re worried about your carbon footprint or just a little more health-conscious, riding a bike might be the option for you. It’s often a healthy way to start your day, and bike sheds and lockers aren’t usually that expensive to rent on a yearly basis.

And of course, if you are able to walk to university, then you are the most fortunate of all.

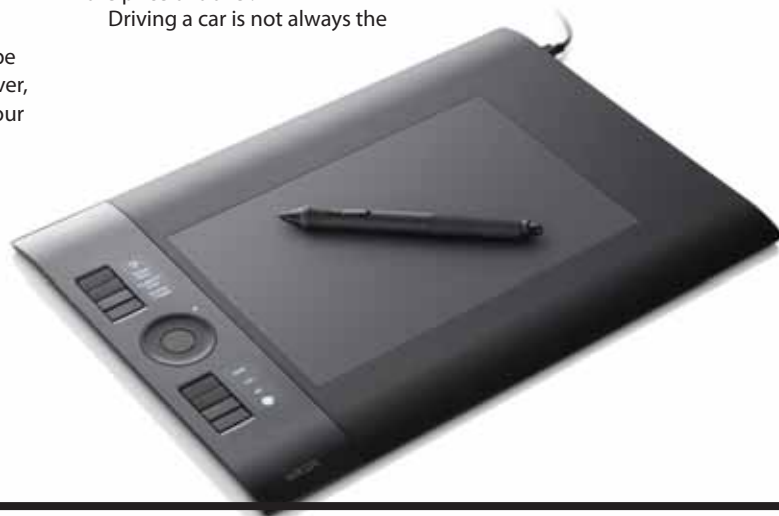
To check out public transport routes and information visit metlinkmelbourne.com.au

Aicha Marhfour

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