

TAXI TALK

VOICE OF THE TAXI INDUSTRY

April 2015

ISSUE NO 563



Official journal of the
Victorian Taxi Association

Print Post Approved number 100004912



ANZAC DAY

This Anzac Day marks an important milestone: the centenary of the Gallipoli ANZAC landing on April 25, 1915. On this day, we honour and reflect on the impact of war, conflict and peacekeeping operations in Australia's history. Many will attend the 6am Dawn Service at the Shrine of Remembrance and they will join millions across the world to honour the Australian service and sacrifice. One minute of silence will be observed.

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DIGITAL EDITION

READ TAXI TALK MAGAZINE EXACTLY AS IT'S
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Taxi Talk magazine, a monthly publication for the Victorian taxi industry, is published by Trade Promotions Pty Ltd in collaboration with the Victorian Taxi Association Inc (VTA). The VTA is the peak industry body in Victoria, fostering the interests and wellbeing of taxi-cab drivers, taxi-cab permit holders and Taxi Booking Services across the state.

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OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE VICTORIAN TAXI ASSOCIATION

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ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES

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Email: info@taxitalk.com.au

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good drivers

deserve leniency



David Samuel
VTA CEO

The last four weeks have proven to be as busy and difficult for many in the industry as the previous four.

The issues concerning most still, understandably, relate to the lack of serious action being taken against those who operate commercial passenger services illegally and the Knowledge test(s). In country and urban areas the 45/55 split is still causing heartache amongst operators and appears to be the predominate issue.



In relation to the Knowledge test some important amendments to the test and the processes have now been put in place. Drivers will be given 2 chances every 3 months rather than 2 every 12 months, a long overdue study/training manual has been produced and changes to the actual content have also now been made. These are positive changes, but more needs to be done.

The VTA continues to see no reason to limit the number of times a person can seek to become qualified - they either pass or they don't. This restriction seems draconian and unnecessary. The content also needs more work. According to drivers who have both failed and passed, many questions are still tricky and confusing.

The VTA is also of the view that more needs to be done to account for the record of existing drivers. For example, if a driver has been accredited for 4 years, has no complaints on their record and scores 78% should they really have their accreditation cancelled and, in many truly upsetting cases, lose their ability to earn an income? We think not. We intend to develop a strong case for some sort of probationary system for existing drivers who score highly in the test(s) and have good taxi driving records. Surely it cannot be the aim of the process to knock good drivers out of the industry?

At the time of writing we are awaiting yet another court date to convene for the 11 prosecuted Uber X drivers. What a waste of taxpayers' money. Common sense prevailing, these individuals should be prosecuted and then hopefully we will see decisive action from the Taxi Services Commission (TSC) in regard to prosecuting

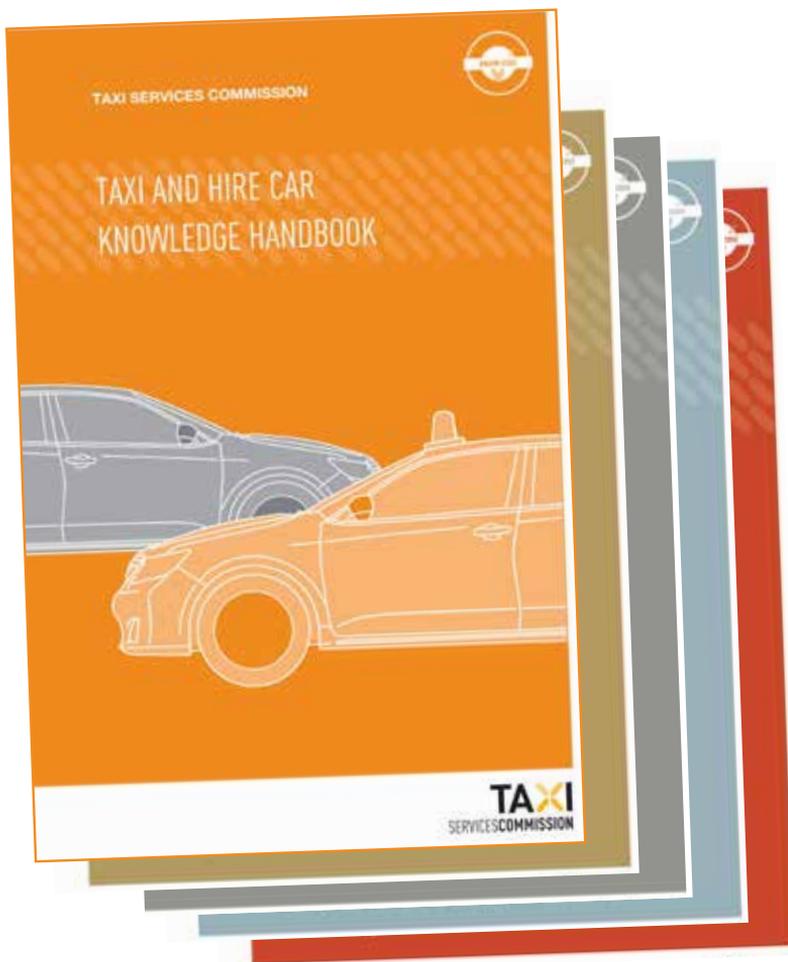
people who so clearly think they are entitled to operate outside the law. In this regard VTA staff have also been spending time at Melbourne Airport talking to drivers about this issue and asking them to sign letters to their local MPs outlining their concerns with Uber X. We have had a great response but if you would like to know more or contribute, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

I have also just returned from a series of regional VTA meetings. All were well attended and as usual I found the meetings informative and enjoyed the robust discussion. I would like to thank the regional members for their attendance and also their patience. At the moment, with the Knowledge and Uber X, there is a lot of attention on metropolitan issues. The biggest concern in the regions is still the 45/55 split and the fact that it drives the price of the service up unnecessarily. The TSC are currently undertaking a broader review of the implied conditions, including the 45/55 split, to which we have contributed. We look forward to, and hope for, some sensible amendments.

In closing I would like to thank and acknowledge the work of outgoing TSC CEO Marnie Williams. Marnie has always been willing to discuss any issue and has been honest and upfront about what, in her view, was possible and what was not. I think most who to know Marnie would agree she was always willing to sit down with people and engage with them regardless of their concern. On that note I will sign off for another month, I know it's tough out there for many. If you need anything, please do not hesitate to contact us and see what we can do to assist. ❀

Knowledge Test RESULTS

During February the TSC released Knowledge test handbooks as a study aid for drivers and aspiring drivers.



We have since seen a significant improvement in performance of those sitting the Knowledge with the overall pass rate more than doubling in the past few weeks.

We continue to encourage all existing drivers who need to pass the Knowledge to attempt the necessary modules as soon as possible so you have time to undertake training or gather additional information and attempt them again before your Driver Accreditation (DA) expires.

Make use of the fact you can now attempt each module twice every three months.

If you are more than three months away from your current DA expiry, sit the test as soon as possible to give yourself the most chances to succeed.

Remember, attempting and failing the Knowledge modules will NOT cause you to lose your accreditation until your DA expiry date.

Again, while the release of the Knowledge handbooks has helped both drivers and training providers better prepare for the Knowledge, we encourage all existing drivers to consider refresher training – speak to your network. ❖



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Taxi stickers

CHECK FOR BIKES

Car dooring - the opening of a car door into the path of an oncoming cyclist - is a growing issue in the community, particularly given the increased number of cyclists using the roads.

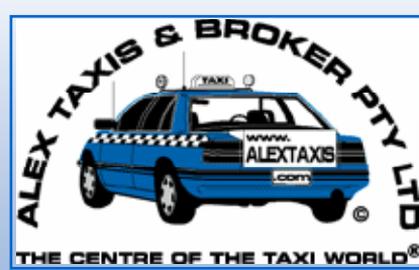
The data reveals that very few taxis are involved in car dooring and the VTA is pleased about this.

The VTA recently released Check for bikes sticker to members. We encourage drivers to continue being vigilant and alert passengers to their surroundings and any hazards when exiting the taxi.

By utilising the taxi fleet to educate the general public, it is hoped that the number of these incidents can be reduced.

The stickers are to be placed on the right hand passenger side, on the inside of the cab, just below the window, to remind exiting passengers to check for bikes and not open the door if cyclists are riding past the vehicle. ❖





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Region news

GIPPSLAND DRUM



We have seen in a new Government and a new year - let's hope both add up to a positive for our industry.

I wish that I could deliver some positive news to you in this article but the facts are we don't have any and we must continue the fight until we achieve something positive for our industry.

We, the taxi industry, want what the Government wants, but we want it more because our livelihoods are at stake.

We want a vibrant and sustainable taxi fleet servicing the public day and night, long after all other modes of transport have gone home, but it has to be financially sustainable to be able to service the public around the clock.

Victorians deserve a vibrant and financially sustainable taxi industry across the state but this message has been lost because of the unreasonable pressures and uncertainty our industry has been put under.

We want a taxi industry that boasts diversity, creates jobs and prosperity for all participants. In my 36 years in the taxi industry, I feel morale is at an all-time low ebb.

We need to keep pushing for changes to the 45/55 driver operator split

which is threatening the viability of taxi operators across the state, see a fair outcome on the process and content of the Knowledge test and a strong relationship between the taxi industry and the Transport Minister.

Worrying factors that have occurred since the 1st of July 2014 regarding the 45/55 split is that there is now no cash flow.

Basic economics tell us that to run a healthy and sustainable business you must have a healthy and constant cash flow.

Victoria's taxi fares are still well below our counterparts in all other states and have always been. I don't suggest for a moment that we should go for huge rate hikes, it's not the sensible approach.

The sensible approach is small increments the 1st of July each year that way we don't shock the public with huge rate hikes but we do maintain small steady increases. Every year public transport goes up and taxi fares stay the same.

Out of all the changes that were implemented by the Taxi Inquiry most of them we have been doing for decades.

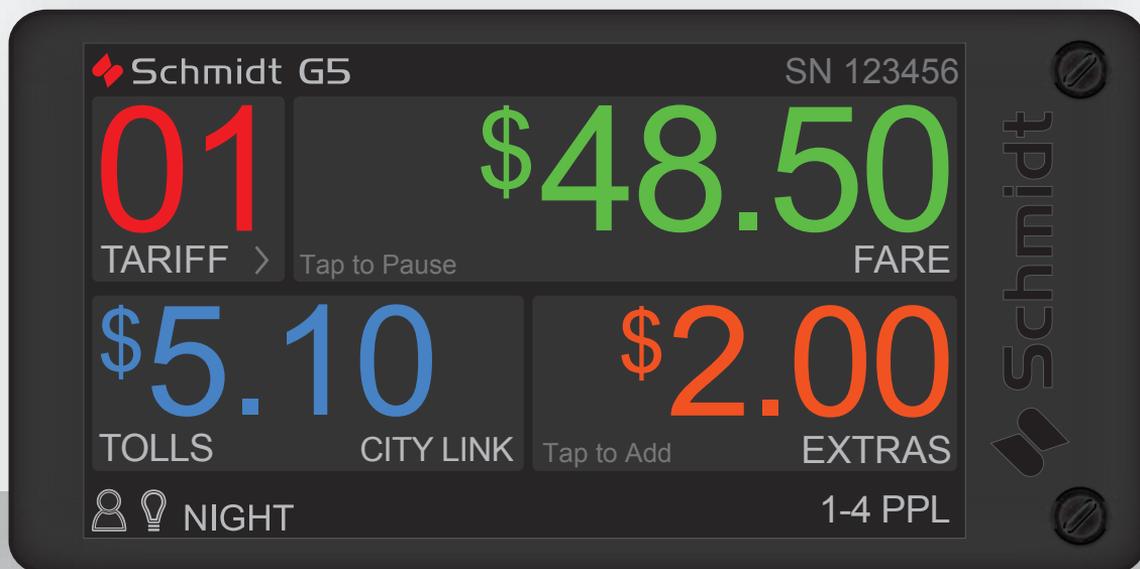
Nothing new there but there are just half a dozen or so that need rethinking and adjusting for the sake of the public.

Surely all Victorians are entitled to a vibrant and sustainable taxi fleet into the future. After all, we are here to serve the public.

Carmen Giddens

VTA Gippsland Regional Councillor ❀

Schmidt G5 Taximeter



Coming in 2015

The revolutionary G5 taximeter will be available when the Taxi Services Commission completes its major redraft of taximeter requirements. This significant overhaul and rewrite of Victorian taximeter requirements is expected to be finalised in early 2015. Shortly after these requirements are complete, the G5 will be released to the market.

Infused with intuitive touch-screen navigation, the G5 is the most user friendly taximeter ever developed. Advanced features range from automated road tolling, to capture and storage of complete taxi activity. This includes the details of every fare taken and the entire location, speed, acceleration and braking history of the taxi.

Direct communication with the internet, takes this taximeter to the next level. This allows over

the air rate changes and software upgrades plus the upload of all shift report data via 3G or WIFI. Via secure internet log-in, taxi operators have access to all shift report details in addition to current taximeter status. Drivers also have the significant convenience of secure log-in access to their individual shift reports.

Incorporated into this powerful taximeter, is an optional Passenger Detection System which starts the taximeter automatically when a passenger enters the taxi, thereby ensuring that every taxi fare is metered.

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VTA lunch FOR DRIVERS

Thursday 30 April
12noon - 2pm

All drivers are welcome to drop by the VTA office at Suite 2, 85 Salmon Street, Port Melbourne to enjoy a curry and roti bread, catered by 'Curry Truck'.



Drivers can catch up with one another over lunch and chat to VTA staff about any issues they are facing and upcoming events.

The VTA holds driver events throughout the year as a way to thank drivers for their hard work in an often challenging job.

Like the 'Vic Taxi Drivers' Facebook page to be updated about important issues and driver events. ❀



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Private John Simpson Kirkpatrick assisting an unidentified soldier, Gallipoli



Unidentified men from the 1st Divisional Signal Company being towed towards Anzac Cove



Alexander Burton VC Photo Library

Anzac Day is one of Australia's most important national commemorative occasions. It marks the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War.

On the morning of 25 April 1915, Australian and New Zealand soldiers formed part of the allied expedition that set out to capture the Gallipoli peninsula in order to open the Dardanelles to the allied navies.

The objective was to capture Constantinople (now Istanbul in Turkey), the capital of the Ottoman Empire, and an ally of Germany.

These soldiers became known as Anzacs (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) and the pride they took in that name continues to this day.

The Anzacs landed on Gallipoli and met fierce resistance from the Ottoman Turkish defenders. Their plan to knock Turkey out of the war quickly became a stalemate, and the campaign dragged on for eight months.

At the end of 1915, the allied forces were evacuated. Both sides suffered heavy casualties and endured great hardships. Over 8,000 Australian soldiers were killed. News of the landing on Gallipoli and the events that followed had a profound impact on Australians at home.

The 25th of April soon became the day on which Australians remember the sacrifice of those who had died in the war.

The Anzacs were courageous and although the Gallipoli campaign failed in its military objectives, the Australian and New Zealand actions during the campaign left us all a powerful legacy.

With the coming of the Second World War, Anzac Day also served to commemorate the lives of Australians who died in that war. The meaning of Anzac Day today includes the remembrance of all Australians killed in military operations. ❀



ANZAC BISCUITS

During World War One, the friends and families of soldiers and community groups sent food to the fighting men. Due to the time delays in getting food items to the front lines, they had to send food that would remain edible, without refrigeration, for long periods of time and retained high nutritional value; the Anzac biscuit met this need. ❀

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To commemorate 100 years since the Gallipoli landings

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Ten percent of all sales go to the charity Soldier On.

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Competition Terms & Conditions

Competition starts on 1 April 2015. The first entry received by Taxi Talk on or after 1 April 2015 wins the Gallipoli Centenary bronze figurine, second entry wins the Private Harvey Gallipoli Bear and third entry wins the Sands of Gallipoli Centenary medallion. This competition is part of the Australia in the Great War Gallipoli Centenary commemoration helping people connect with the service and sacrifice of Australians 100 years ago and supports the work of Soldier On in helping today's wounded servicemen and women.

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Monash Freeway Planned Roadworks

19 March - 8 May

Closure of entry ramp from Warrigal Road priority access lane, speed reduced to 80 km/h

18 - 20 April

Closure between Warrigal Road and Burke Road from 10.00pm 18 April to 7:00am 19 April

Closure between Warrigal Road and Burke Road from 1.00am to 7.00am 19 April

Speed reduced to 40km/h through site in lead up to closure

29 April to 1 May

Warrigal ramp closed from 9.00pm on 29 April to 5.30am 30 April, and 9.00pm on 30 April to 5.30am 1 May

2 - 3 May

Closure between Warrigal Road and Burke Road from 10.00pm 2 May to 7.00am 3 May

Closure between Warrigal Road and Burke Road from 1.00am to 7:00am 3 May.

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Driver of the Month



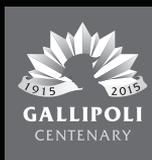
Tadeusz Wiatr has been a taxi driver for 16 years, driving for Black Cabs. He enjoys meeting people and likes the job because every day is different. He has transported army generals, some famous theatre performers and singers. He believes that one of the biggest problems in the industry is the fare evaders. ♣



Share the spirit of Gallipoli with this superbly detailed Limited Edition cold cast bronze figurine. Standing 240mm with a glass vial of sands collected from the landing beaches at Gallipoli set into the timber base.

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Taxi and Hire Car statistics

for February 2015



The metro taxi licence average price of \$298,333 is based on the 3 genuine market based transactions that occurred in the metropolitan zone during January 2015.

The Taxi Services Commission's standard practice is to only count those licence transfers where a genuine market based transaction has occurred. They do this by applying a number of standard business rules. The aim of these business rules is to identify genuine market based transfers of taxi licences and to base average price calculations on these transactions only.

Therefore, where it appears a non-market based licence transfer has occurred, these transactions are excluded in the calculation of licence values. An example is where a licence holder transfers the licence to a new business name but still retains ownership of the licence. ❖

The table below shows taxi licence statistics at the end of June 2014 and for the most recent reporting period. The figures are updated and published on the Taxi Services Commission website each week. Figures shown consist of both active licences and those that have been approved but have not yet been operationalised at the time of reporting.

Taxi zone	Licence type	No. of licences at 29/6/14	No. of licences at 22/3/15	Change in no. of licences
Metro	Conventional	3,826	4,377	551
	WAT	504	501	-3
	Total	4,330	4,878	548
Urban	Conventional	357	392	35
	WAT	75	78	3
	Total	432	470	38
Regional	Conventional	253	261	8
	WAT	75	77	2
	Total	328	338	10
Country	Conventional	126	126	0
	WAT	36	36	0
	Total	162	162	0
Totals	Conventional	4,562	5,156	594
	WAT	690	692	2
	Total	5,252	5,848	596

Number of drivers

Active drivers 16,075
 Accredited drivers (taxi, hire car & bus).... 41,253

Compliance outcomes

Vehicle Inspections 1,278
 Rectification Notices 265
 Notices of Unroadworthiness 0
 Infringement Notices 45
 Official Warning notices 18
 Regulation 19 notice 62



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POWER NAPPING

a nap may help you focus and make healthy decisions

Your customers are annoying you.

You can't remember where you went yesterday.

And now you can't find your mobile phone.

No, you're not having a brain lapse.

You're probably just tired -- and that's making you forget things and feel grumpy.

Whether you're nodding off during the afternoon slump at the office, working a double or a night shift, or fighting drowsiness while driving, a power-nap can make you more alert and productive but only if you do it correctly. Scientists have been studying the power-nap -- when to take it, how to take it, what to take before you take it, and so on. Their findings suggest that the following steps will help you get the most power out of a power-nap.

Don't grab a bag of chips or an energy drink to perk up. Energy drinks have way too much unhealthy sugar, and some have dangerous amounts of caffeine and other supplements. Chips have empty calories that don't give your body what it needs to stay healthy.

Instead, take a power nap! Yes, naps aren't just for babies. A mid afternoon snooze can refresh you. When you're tired it can really make making healthy choices hard. A nap may help you focus and make healthy decisions (like saying no to those chips).

A power-nap captures the benefits of the first two of the five stages in the sleep cycle. These first two stages take place in the first twenty minutes. In addition to making you feel more rested and alert, the electrical signals in your nervous system strengthen the connection between neurons involved in muscle memory, making your brain work faster and more accurately.

Find a good place to nap

Napping at work - A survey by the National Sleep Foundation found that about 30% of people are allowed to sleep at work, and some employers even provide a place for employees to nap.

Napping on the road - If you're driving find a rest area to park in. Don't park on the shoulder. If it's night-time, park in a well-lit area with plenty of people around and lock all your doors.

Turn off your mobile phone and any other potential distractions. If background noise is unavoidable and distracting, or if you suffer from tinnitus, putting on headphones with relaxing music may help.

If you're sleeping during the day and find that bright light inhibits your ability to sleep, wear sunglasses or use an eye mask to simulate darkness.

Have caffeine before you nap

This may sound counter intuitive since caffeine is a drug and a stimulant, but it won't kick in immediately.

Caffeine has to travel through your gastrointestinal

tract, such that it can take up to 45 minutes to be absorbed. Taking a "caffeine nap" in which 200mg of caffeine are consumed right before a 20-minute nap will not only improve your performance, but it'll also lessen how sleepy you feel once you wake up.

Set your alarm to wake up

When you're close to finishing your coffee (or your green tea, or your caffeine jello shot, etc.), set an alarm to go off in 15 minutes.

This is only true if you are one of those people who can fall asleep immediately. To know how much time it takes for you to fall asleep, take a look at the clock when you are very tired and notice how long it was since you got into bed. Generally, you should set your alarm for twenty-five minutes.

Can't sleep - meditate instead

Even if you can't sleep, close your eyes and meditate. You might not be used to napping, but if you incorporate short bouts of sleep into a daily routine (taking a nap every day after lunch, for example) you can "train" your body to expect a nap during that time and you'll have an easier time falling asleep.

Get up when the alarm sounds

Sleeping for any longer than 20 minutes will be counterproductive. Sleeping more than 30 minutes can lead to sleep inertia, making you feel sluggish and more tired than ever.

Follow up with physical activity. You can increase your pulse rate with a few jumping jacks or push-ups, or a little bit of jogging in place.

Washing your face and exposing yourself to bright light (e.g. sunlight) can help you feel more awake as well.

A power nap can't replace a lot of missed sleep. It's only a temporary solution until you can hit the hay for real. So nap and then get to bed earlier tonight. That'll help keep your mind sharp and body happy. Too little sleep can wreck your concentration and mess with your weight. ❀



JAMES Holyman ac Taxi Services Commissi

INDU U

There have been exciting changes at the Taxi Services Commission (TSC) and I am delighted to announce that I have accepted the role of Acting Chief Executive Officer.

Marnie Williams finished up in her role as CEO last month and I would like to thank Marnie for her leadership during her tenure. I look forward to guiding and supporting the TSC.

ting CEO

on

INDUSTRY UPDATE

We will soon be conducting our annual stakeholder survey and you will receive an invitation to participate after Easter. This will allow us to gain an accurate snapshot of your perception on communicating and engaging with us. This enables us to improve the service that we provide. I encourage you to participate; it only takes ten minutes and is a great opportunity to provide feedback. Results from last year's survey are on our website. <<http://www.taxi.vic.gov.au/about-us/taxi-services-commission/annual-stakeholder-survey>>

As you all know, we are working with the Government to deliver on a range of commitments including the establishment of a Ministerial Forum, hardship fund and removal of the sunset clause.

It's important to point out here that there is some misinformation circulating among the industry that the removal of the sunset clause will stop the TSC from

issuing licences. This is not the case. Removing the sunset clause simply means that the TSC retains the power to suspend the release of new licences beyond June 2017.

You will have an opportunity in June to provide feedback on draft taximeter specifications.

ANZAC Day is 25 April. There will be several events on to recognise this important day including the following to be held in the city; the dawn service, wreath laying and the commemoration march and ceremony. Please be mindful of increased foot traffic and possible traffic disruptions.

Please sign up for our taxi eNews and text messages. (www.taxi.vic.gov.au/about-us/subscribe-for-news) ❀

Licencing updates

All Peak Service and Greater Melbourne Taxi Licence Release (GMTLR) licence holders should have received a letter explaining the option to convert their licence to an annual taxi licence by now. If you own a Peak Service or GMTLR licence and have not received a letter please contact the Licensing team at the TSC on 1800 638 802 or email licensing@taxi.vic.gov.au

A reminder that annual licence fees must be paid by the due date, payment plans and extension will not be provided. If you do not pay your annual licence fee by the due date your licence may be suspended or cancelled. ❀



Number plate labels

HYBRID

Permit holders are reminded that labels indicating the power source of the taxi must be displayed on front and rear number plates.

These labels alert emergency services (for example, fire and police) that necessary precautions need to be taken.

The requirement applies to electric (hybrid) and liquid petroleum gas (LPG) powered vehicles.

The labels can be obtained from VicRoads Customer Service Centres. ❀

Annual vehicle inspections

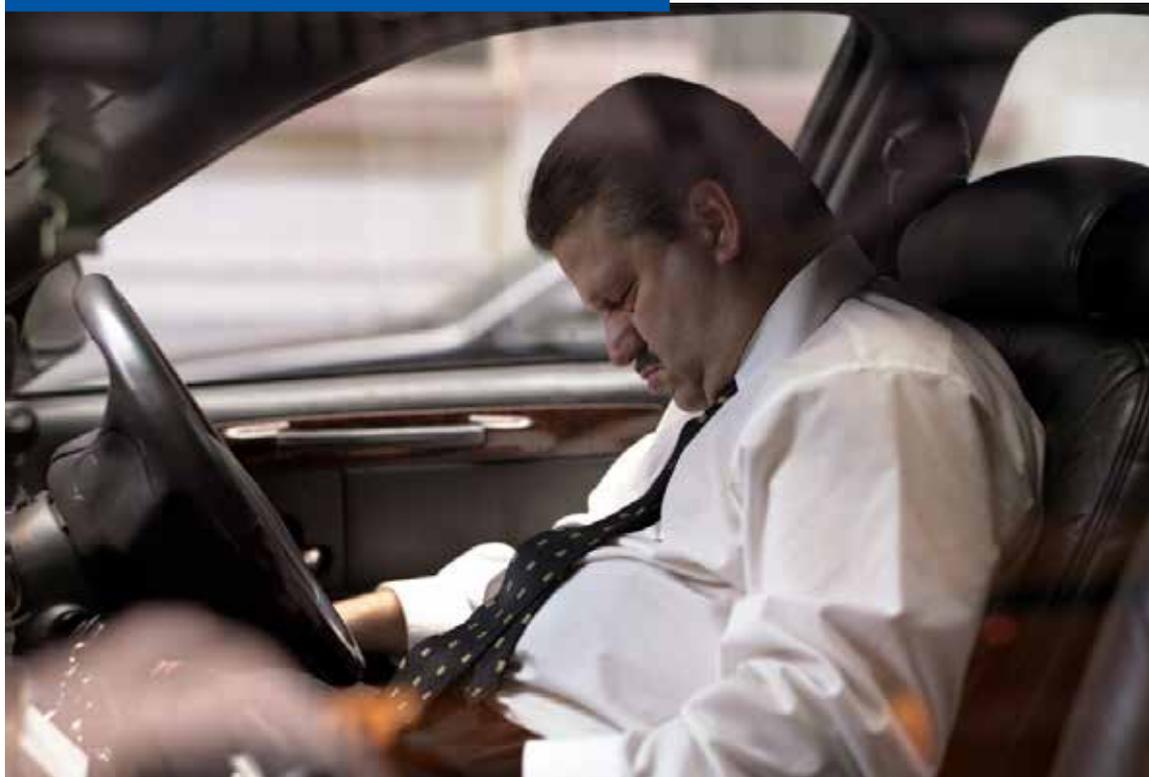
The Taxi Services Commission (TSC) wants to remind all industry participants that it no longer sends reminder notices for annual vehicle inspections.

While the practice of issuing reminder notices ceased on 31 January 2013, the requirement to have the vehicle inspected by a licensed taxi tester annually and to display a current inspection label remains in place.

If a taxi is found to not have a valid inspection sticker, action will be taken. ❀



Fatigue management



Due to the nature and hours of their work, taxi drivers are at risk of suffering fatigue, which can have long-term effects on their health and well-being.

Driver fatigue is not only a risk to the health and safety of taxi drivers – it is also a risk to the safety of passengers and other members of the public. Strategies to manage fatigue are the responsibility of all industry participants.

Recognising and managing fatigue is addressed in the driver behaviour module of the Knowledge test.

Further details on managing fatigue is included in the TSC Fatigue Management Guidelines (<http://www.taxi.vic.gov.au/drivers/taxi-drivers/driver-safety>) and also in the Knowledge Handbook – Driver Behaviour (<http://www.taxi.vic.gov.au/drivers/taxi-drivers/driver-accreditation-training>) ❀

Keep valuables secure



The TSC is seeing an increasing trend of mobile phones and wallets being stolen by passengers or other parties from the centre console of taxis - which can easily be avoided.

Drivers are reminded to keep their valuables secure at all times and not readily accessible or visible to other persons.

Apart from the loss and replacement of such items - which can be expensive and time consuming, you may be further impacted and off the road while the matter is reported to and investigated by authorities, and you seek to obtain duplicates of any necessary driver licences or accreditation (if required).

Another concerning crime emerging in taxi cabs is the use of counterfeit or fake \$50 and \$100 notes.

A number of drivers have been unsuspectingly caught out in recent times by passengers.

These people often travel at night and use these fake notes when taking a short trip (so that the maximum real currency can be given back to them in change).

Drivers not only run the risk of losing the metered fare for the trip, but also being out of pocket for the amount of change given (sometimes up to \$90 dollars).

You should familiarise yourself with the security features of legitimate bank notes and be wary of the circumstances and any passengers using these (\$50/\$100) denominations, when paying for their trip.

It is important to note that in any instance where a crime has been committed against you, that you report the matter as soon as possible to Victoria Police. Victoria Police are the only authority able to investigate these matters and to also request the TSC to download any footage from the taxi in-cab security cameras for investigative purposes. ❖

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New Taximeter Specs



As part of extensive reforms, the TSC intends to mandate enhanced functionality for future taximeters. Specifications to support this reform are currently being developed by Transport Certification Australia (TCA) on behalf of the TSC.

As part of this process, the TSC has commissioned a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS). The RIS will be available for public consultation in May 2015 – a little later than originally communicated - but still allowing enough time for ample consultation to take place and for the process to be concluded by July 2015.

While the TSC has already done a significant amount of preliminary consultation with industry in the preparation of the RIS – in particular with taximeter manufacturers – the public consultation on the RIS is an important process that will allow the entire industry the opportunity to have their say on the new specifications.

The TSC is committed to taking all feedback received into careful consideration as part of finalising the new taximeter specifications. The availability of the RIS will be announced via eNews and published on the TSC's consultation page. ❀

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Matters in Court



As the regulator of the taxi and hire car industry, the Taxi Services Commissions (TSC) places great importance on ensuring that all drivers are complying with the relevant laws.

While the majority of the industry does the right thing, there is a small percentage that bring the standards down.

Recently the TSC has had a number of successful prosecutions in the courts. These drivers, and others, are regularly held to account for what is simply a disregard for the law.

In court recently...

Company fined \$3000

At the Heidelberg Magistrates' Court on 5 February 2015, the TSC successfully prosecuted a company for operating a motor vehicle as a commercial passenger vehicle without authorisation.

As part of a covert operation focusing on non-compliance in the hire car industry, the TSC identified through a 'tip-off' that the company was using the Gumtree website to obtain vehicle bookings.

The company argued that it was authorised to operate the service as a 'bus service.'

The company was convicted and fined \$3000.

Obtaining Property by Deception

A driver pleaded guilty to fraudulently using Cab-Charge etickets to the sum of \$300. The driver received a 12 month Good Behaviour Undertaking and was ordered to pay \$300 to the court fund.

Driving without accreditation

An unaccredited driver was convicted of driving without accreditation and fined \$1800. This matter was brought to the attention of the TSC by a Taxi Booking Service who had detected the driver was unaccredited but still driving. ❖

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world news



The Australian Taxi Industry Association (ATIA) has decided to join the International Road Transport Union (IRU) and, at the same time, the fastest growing taxi service quality network in the world, the Global Taxi Network (GTN), thus strengthening the global taxi industry's leadership in service quality.

With ATIA on board, GTN is proud to announce that it has set foot on four continents. Before, the largest North American taxi association, Taxi Limousine and Paratransit Association (TLPA) joined IRU's Global Taxi Network

With over 500 taxi company members, the TLPA, also an IRU Member, is the leading taxi trade association in North America. As a new member of the Global Taxi Network, the TLPA will join the International Evaluation Committee and review North American taxi apps that wish to join the network.

The GTN is a network of taxi industry federations and taxi app providers, whose objective is to promote legal, reliable, high quality and safe services to taxi customers, by making use of the latest smartphone technology in full respect of the regulatory framework in force. The network currently operates on four continents encompassing 160,000 taxis worldwide and is growing rapidly with new countries and cities being added regularly.

Before the two associations, German app-provider Taxi Deutschland had joined GTN adding 50,000 taxis in Germany.

Dieter Schlenker, Chairman of the Taxi Deutschland cooperative, said, "Our decision to join the Global Taxi Network shows our commitment to quality and safety for our passengers. Driving with network partners ensures an internationally valid and unique service with qualified drivers and licensed taxis. These are standards that Taxi Deutschland customers have been used to for many years."

Katie Challans ❖



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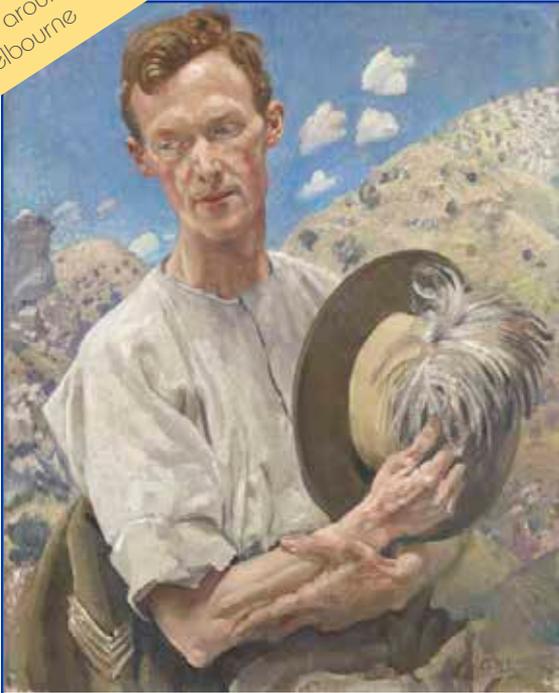
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Follow the Flag Australian Artists at War 1914 - 45

Over 150 works of art, created by Australian artists in response to the First and Second World Wars have been brought together to mark the centenary of Gallipoli in this exhibition.

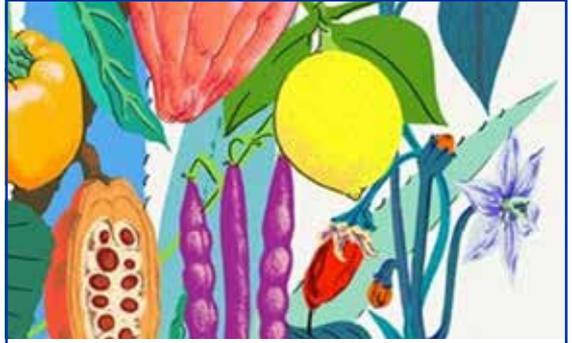
The works by many of Australia's most well-known artists such as Sidney Nolan, Arthur Streeton and Albert Tucker responded to the human story behind war and includes images and objects of the recruitment drives, departures, battlefields, prisoners and interns, as well as detailed imagery of the daily lives of the servicemen and telling images of those who remained at home.

'The bravery, resourcefulness, loyalty and larrikin spirit that are so fundamental to the typical Australian identity might have had their origins in stories of bush life, but they were cemented by the First and Second World Wars,' said Tony Ellwood, Director, NGV. 'One hundred years on, in the centenary year of the Gallipoli beach landing, art is still reflecting on these significant moments in Australian history.'

Ranging from recruitment posters, to portraiture, to medical sketches, the exhibition will comprise a diverse range of works, including paintings, works on paper, photographs, sculpture, and vernacular art. ❀

24 April – 16 August

The Ian Potter Centre
NGV Australia at Federation Square



NORTH SOUTH FEAST WEST

Delight your senses with pop up bars, music and authentic street food stalls from around the globe this summer and autumn, and experience The Immigration Museum like you never have before.

Courtyard Cantina is part of North South Feast West, a new series of festivals and tasting workshops featuring delicious food, drinks and music at the Immigration Museum.

Located in the Old Customs House Courtyard in the heart of the city, visitors to the museum can enjoy one-off Sunday festivals centred around chilli (19 April) and coffee (14 June) as well as tasting workshops on beer, whisky, tequila and sake.

North South Feast West is an exciting new addition to Melbourne's burgeoning food festival scene and forms part of a growing range of adult programs presented at The Immigration Museum. ❀





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25 March -19 April

It's that time of year when Melburnians stay in the city after work more than usual, where our interstate and international friends join us and the streets seem to have some magic power underfoot because the people you pass all have a mischievous grin plastered across their face.

The Melbourne International Comedy Festival will celebrate its 29th year in 2015 and is one of the three largest comedy festivals in the world, alongside Edinburgh Festival Fringe and Montreal's Just for Laughs Festival.

The Festival was launched in 1987 by Barry Humphries and Peter Cook. Now, 28 festivals later, with attendances of over 630,000, it has grown to be Australia's largest cultural event.

With over 550 shows in various venues in and around Melbourne, ticket prices averaging at \$27 and free family entertainment at Federation Square and City Square, there's definitely something for everyone. You're sure to leave with a belly full of laughs.

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2020 VISION

10 industries that may not exist in 2020

Members of Young Entrepreneur Council, an invite-only organization comprised of the world's most promising young entrepreneurs, were asked "What is one industry you believe will be obsolete by 2020?" These are their answers.

Metropolitan Taxi Systems

The dual driving force of decentralized apps (Uber, Lyft) and self-driving technologies will cause the centralized taxi industry to disintegrate. In just a few short years, Uber has already made a sizable dent in their business and will continue to do so. On the other hand, automated taxis will spread like wildfire once viable. As a New York City resident, all I have to say is good riddance, yellow cabs!

Brian Honigman, BrianHonigman.com

The Paper Industry

The paper industry won't ever disappear completely, but it will be almost obsolete by 2020 as everything is digitized.

Elliot Bohm, Cardcash.com

Home Phones

I believe home telephones will be obsolete by 2020, if not sooner. Smartphones have outpaced landlines as a far more convenient and necessary form of communication. It's already very rare to meet someone without a cell phone. We even contemplated this year switching all our office phones to cell phones.

Simon Casuto, eLearning Mind

Mobile Phones

Years ago, mobile phones became portable computers, we just insisted on thinking of them as mobile phones. The industry dedicated to making and supporting phones is already in rapid decline in the U.S. Over the next 5 years, that will spread globally. All data will just be data, and no distinction will

be made between phone data and Internet data. Companies caught on the wrong side will be gone.

Brennan White, Cortex

Credit Cards

Just like music CDs and VCRs, the plastic card that we walk around with in our wallets could very well disappear. Sooner or later, they will be replaced with mobile payments. It's awkward each time we have to type 16 numbers into a web page, swipe an overused card repeatedly, or have to wait for the machine to spit out that receipt. Even worse, having to sign it. Smartphones will disrupt this.

Vishal Shah, NoPaperForms

Movie Theatres

Sales have been declining steadily and with good reason: for the price, seeing a movie in theatres just doesn't deliver good value. The only benefit used to be the huge screen and great sound system, but with HDTV and a small investment at home, you can create an experience that's much superior. As more movies become available for streaming and download, movie theatres will slowly fade away.

Jared Brown, Hubstaff

Storage Media

CDs, DVDs, Blu-Ray Discs, External Hard Drives, Memory Cards, etc. With the increasing presence of cloud storage, the desire to remain connected to the digital world and the increasing presence of streaming media services, many forms of physical storage will become obsolete.

Stanley Meytin, True Film Production

Cable TV

The Internet is changing the way we consume video. Millions have already ditched their cable subscriptions in favor of Netflix accounts. As high-speed Internet reaches more places, there will be less of a need to keep paying for your old cable service. You can already get almost everything you want on demand except live sports. When that fully switches to live streaming, it's game over.

Anthony Scherba, Yeti

Wallets

Mobile payment apps like LevelUp, Venmo, Google Wallet and Apple Pay make it fast, easy and convenient to pay for anything. As more retailers adopt alternative payment methods and new technologies, there will soon be no need to fish out the old leather wallet from the back pocket or pay a visit to the ATM for cash.

Firas Kittaneh, Amerisleep

Fast Food Workers

In a restaurant atmosphere that's all about low price and fast service, the workers themselves will quickly become expendable. This is because customers don't care so much about service, but rather that they can get the right order in the same amount of time or less. With the push for higher wages, this could become reality sooner rather than later.

Andy Karuza, SpotSurvey ❀



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Main Road CLOSURES

Street	Dates	Details	Purpose
Market Street Melbourne	Closed until further notice	Full time closure of the northbound carriageway between Flinders Lane and Collins Street.	Road closure due to unsafe building
Blackwood Street and Flemington Road North Melbourne	7 to 17 April 2015; 7.30am to 5.30pm weekdays; 8am to 5pm Saturday; 10am to 5pm Sunday	Full closure of the Blackwood Street northbound carriageway between Courtney Street and Flemington Road. Partial closure on the Flemington Road westbound service road between Blackwood and Wreckyn streets.	Water Main Upgrade Works
Cardigan Street Carlton	Saturdays 18 March, 18 April and 2 May; 8am to 3pm	Full closure of northbound carriageway between Victoria and Queensberry streets, including full closure of the western footpath.	Crane lift of wall panels
Birdwood Avenue	Friday 24 April 7pm to Saturday 25 April 2pm	Full closure between Anzac Avenue and Domain Rd	Anzac Day Parade
Dallas Brooks Drive		Full closure between Birdwood Avenue & Domain Rd	
Anzac Avenue and Government House Drive		Full closure between Birdwood Avenue and St Kilda Road	
Coventry Street		Closed at Wells Street Intersection	
Grant Street		Closed at St Kilda Road and Wells Street	
Wadey Street		Closed at Wells Street Intersection	
St Kilda Road	Friday 24 April midnight to Saturday 25 April 2pm	Centre thoroughfare and Service Lanes – no parking between Domain Road and Princes Bridge.	
Linlithgow Avenue	Saturday 25 April 5am - 2pm	Between Alexandra Avenue & St Kilda Road	
Government House Drive & ANZAC Avenue		Between gates of Government House & St Kilda Rd	
Southbank Boulevard		Between Sturt Street and St Kilda Road,	
Collins Street		At Elizabeth and Exhibition Streets (Russell Street will remain open)	
Lt Collins Street		At Russell and Elizabeth Streets	
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Flinders Street		At Elizabeth, Queen and Russell Streets	
Swanston Street		At Collins, Lt Collins, Flinders Streets & Flinders Lane	

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- Lower annual contribution.
- Additional Policies available Public Liability and Personal Accident.



Always refer to the product disclosure statement for product information before making any financial decisions

For more information contact

Jaspreet - 0433 171 422 or Manvinder - 0433 413 628

3/177-181 Northbourne Road, Campbellfield

Phone 9303 9069 Fax 9303 7084 Email unitedtaxiclub@hotmail.com

TRINITY BODY WORKS

- Taxi resprays from \$1180 (conditions apply)
- Quality smash repairs
- Quality equipment and premium paints
- Quick repair time

Contact Maninder Pal

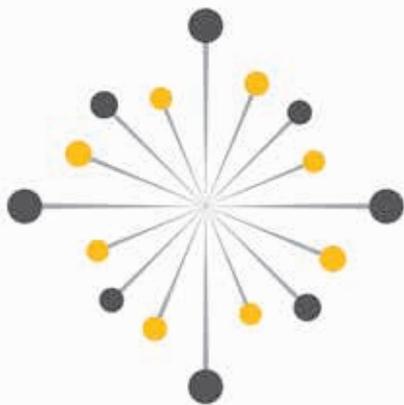
0498 259 986 or 9303 9069

OZWAY TRANS

- Taxi Shifts Available (Day and Night)
- Close changeovers
- Clean and good taxis
- 24/7 roadside assistance

Contact Gaurav

0424 079 000 or 9303 9069



2015 ATIA CONFERENCE

A FOCUSED MESSAGE
**COMMUNICATING
AND CONNECTING**
SUNDAY 19 - THURSDAY 23 APRIL 2015

The 2015 ATIA Conference is almost here !

3-day conference at the Grand Hyatt Melbourne will deliver a business program addressing current industry issues and a social program for attending partners.

Social Day is Thursday 23 April - a winery tour and lunch in the Yarra Valley.

Sessions have been planned to tease out the implications of reform and perspectives from around both Australia and internationally.

The Speakers are of high calibre and will take a fresh approach to discussing various issues facing the taxi industry.

A Social Program for partners in attendance has been built to showcase Melbourne's finest in food, wine and shopping.



The ATIA is proud to have the support of a variety of sponsors and exhibitors. Their involvement and commitment to the industry is of great value and contributes to the continued viability of the Australian taxi industry.

There is still time to sign up!!

visit www.atia.com.au/conferences/national-conference or call (03) 9676 2635