

18th December 2002

New Trains On Track in Melbourne!

Melbourne's first new suburban train in 21 years was launched today by Transport Minister Peter Batchelor.

The train is the first of 58, 3-carriage air-conditioned trains that will be introduced by Connex to its network over the next two years.

Connex Group Australia Chairman, Patrice Fonlladosa, said the X'TRAPOLIS trains represent a \$332 million investment by the company in the future of Melbourne's suburban rail network.

"Their introduction follows a \$44 million program to upgrade the Connex fleet of 45, 6-car Comeng trains that has been carried out since mid 2000," Mr Fonlladosa said.

"And, in good news for Melbourne commuters, the introduction of the X'TRAPOLIS train means we can start removing the aging non-airconditioned Hitachi trains from service.

"When all X'TRAPOLIS units are in service, this will mean our entire fleet will consist of airconditioned trains.

"Features of the new trains include increased passenger capacity, push-button operated doors and enclosed gangways between carriages, improved wheelchair access and accommodation and priority seating for senior citizens.

"As with the refurbished Comeng trains, the new trains have CCTV cameras, Global Positioning System operated passenger information displays and announcements and emergency help buttons."

The first X'TRAPOLIS train was named in honour of Iramoo Primary School in Werribee. The school won a Connex sponsored competition to produce a banner showing what trains mean to Melbourne. Students from the winning class were the first Melburnians to ride in the new trains.

Images from the X'TRAPOLIS train launch (18/12/02):



The new X'TRAPOLIS rolls into Flinder's Street Station Platform 10.



The Victorian Minister for Transport, Hon. Peter Batchelor shakes hands with Connex Group Australia Chairman, Patrice Fonlladosa after arriving to Flinders Street Station on the new X'TRAPOLIS.



Victorian Minister for Transport, Hon. Peter Batchelor cuts the ribbon to officially launch Melbourne's first new train in 21 years.



Victorian Minister for Transport, Hon. Peter Batchelor and Melbourne Transport Enterprises CEO, Mr Bruce Hughes address guests at the official launch on Platform 10 of Flinder's Street Station.



Richmond Football Club team members hand over cheque for \$2000.00 to Iramoo Primary School (winners of the Connex New Train Competition).



Iramoo Primary School pupils with Connex executives at the official launch ceremony.



The first of the new X'TRAPOLIS trains "Iramoo" departs Flinders Street Station for its first official run via the City Underground Loop.



"Iramoo" meets its fellow train colleagues at Flinders Street Station.