



「Trains, Trams, Tunnels and Cheap Tickets!」

—George Goonan from Australia—

G'Day! For those who haven't met me before, pleasure to meet you! My name is George Goonan, and I'm a former Australian CIR who worked in Miyakonojo from 2018 to 2023. After returning home for a few years, I've found my way back home to Miyakonojo, where I now work as a Software Engineer for Nihon Joho Create. Having just recently traveled all along the east coast of Australia myself, I thought I'd share with you all something that stood out to me: our public transport system has improved a lot over recent years!

Australia's east coast cities are undertaking a public transport revolution, with deep underground extensions in Melbourne to fare reforms on the sunny Gold Coast. With recent improvements to rail networks, metro expansions and bold fare changes, it's never been easier to see the sights around Australia.

Melbourne: City Loop 2.0

Melbourne has just delivered the largest transformation of its rail network since the original City Loop opened in the 1980s — the long-awaited Metro Tunnel is now operational. Opened to passengers in late 2025, this new underground rail corridor takes trains from the north-west and south-east suburbs (namely, the Sunbury, Cranbourne and Pakenham lines) out of the traditional City Loop and through a dedicated tunnel with brand new stations. By shifting these major lines into the Metro Tunnel, the old City Loop is freed up for other services, enabling more frequent trains across the network and new service combinations. From February 2026, additional changes will see over 1,000 extra weekly services on core lines! The new tunnel connects multiple sections of Melbourne without the traditional loop, reducing congestion and improving reliability, while also placing new stations close to growing precincts, such as Parkville's medical and research hub. Melbourne's Myki still underpins how people pay for travel across trains, trams and buses for now, but upgrades to readers are underway to support "tap-on" credit card and mobile payments through 2026 and beyond, giving more payment options to international and local commuters alike.

Sydney: Metro Expansion and Smarter Ticketing

The Sydney Metro network, which lays claim to being Australia's largest driverless rail project, also continues to expand in both size and service frequency, easing pres-

sure on Sydney's legacy suburban rail and making cross-city journeys more seamless. For Sydney and the surrounding areas, the Opal card is still the principal fare medium for trains, buses, ferries and light rail, with contactless payment built into the system: commuters can even use linked credit or debit cards for tap-on travel in many cases. However, a major system overhaul called *Opal Next Gen* is in the works, promising improved digital features and integration with mobile ticketing, with its rollout forecast for around 2027.

Gold Coast & Southeast Queensland: Unbelievably Cheap Fares

If there's one headline the Gold Coast can proudly wave, it's the cheapest public transport along Australia's East Coast. In August 2024, Queensland introduced a flat 50-cent fare for all Translink services, including all trains, buses, trams and ferries. As the home of Australia's major theme parks, the Gold Coast already had a substantial number of public transport commuters. Now, public transport usage across South East Queensland has jumped again, with bumps to train and bus patronage and particularly large increases on light rail and ferry services. This has resulted in a broader cultural shift, where even weekend trips are taken on public transport due to its low cost. What was initially a temporary initiative was later made permanent by successive state governments, cementing one of the most commuter-friendly environments in the country.

No Better Time to Explore the East Coast

From tunnels beneath Melbourne to wallet-friendly trips on the Gold Coast, major strides have been made in order to make public transport systems more efficient and accessible than ever. With further improvements to regional rail systems, additional bike lockers, micro-mobility options, additional bus lanes for reduced congestion and more on the horizon, it's never been easier (or more affordable!) to holiday around the East Coast!



Movies info C-Plaza Cine-port (Tel: 0986-24-2571)

17-9 Nakamachi, Miyakonojo, Miyazaki Map-Code (GPS): 117 488 540*55



- Mobile Suit Gundam Hathaway's Flash : The Witch of Circe
- Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba – The Movie: Infinity Castle
- Backhome
- Classroom Requiem
- Last Man: First Love
- Doraemon: Nobita and the Castle of the Undersea Devil
- Avatar Fire and Ash
- The Vendetta of Kobikicho
- Zootopia 2
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- Tokyo Taxi
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