

Victoria Market and Metro tunnel tours

8th June 2023

(Report courtesy Paul Henshall, Photos courtesy Paul Henshall and Keith Wilshier)

On Thursday 8th June 2023, 22 Probus members participated in the Extended Market Discovery Tour and Metro Tunnel tours. Most of our team travelled by train from Glen Waverley to Flinders St. Station.

Market Discovery Tour



We caught the Elizabeth St. tram to Therry St. - just outside the Market, leaving us a short walk to the meeting point. Three Market Guides met us at 10,30am, and divided us into three groups. We toured clothing, meat, fish, fruit and vegetable aisles and delicatessen shops, with several highlights - in the clothing aisle we met "Bruce Goose" Melbourne manufacturer of socks, where we were given a thorough briefing on how the socks were made, how they should be worn, washed and dried.

In the meat and fish aisles the guides gave us a brief history of some of the stalls and their owners which was fascinating, and I will always remember the gigantic T Bone steaks at one stall. In the delicatessen aisle we had three separate tastings; an assortment of cooked meat - the most talked about being the barbecue Kangaroo, the meat dish was completely consumed.

We had samples of feta, pickled onions, dips, and "something" wrapped in a leaf which was delicious. Then we had a cheese platter consisting of three different wonderful cheeses.

The market tour finished at 12 o'clock and we returned to the original meeting point where we were given the traditional highly regarded Market doughnuts – also delightful.

We walked back to the Elizabeth St. tram stop and travelled back to Flinders St., then walked to "Time Out Café" at Fédération Square for lunch.



Victoria Market entrance.



Gabrielle, Barbara, John W and John P inspecting the quality of the socks.



Gabrielle with the tour guide in the meat section.



Looks good.



Regina and our tour guide in the seafood section.



The Coffin Bay Oysters looked yummy.



The tour guide with John and Gabrielle



The delicatessen area.



Regina tasting the cheese, olives and other dips.



Cheese to die for.



More and more goodies to taste.



Gary & Theresa with Margaret & Barry inspecting the dips and antipasto.

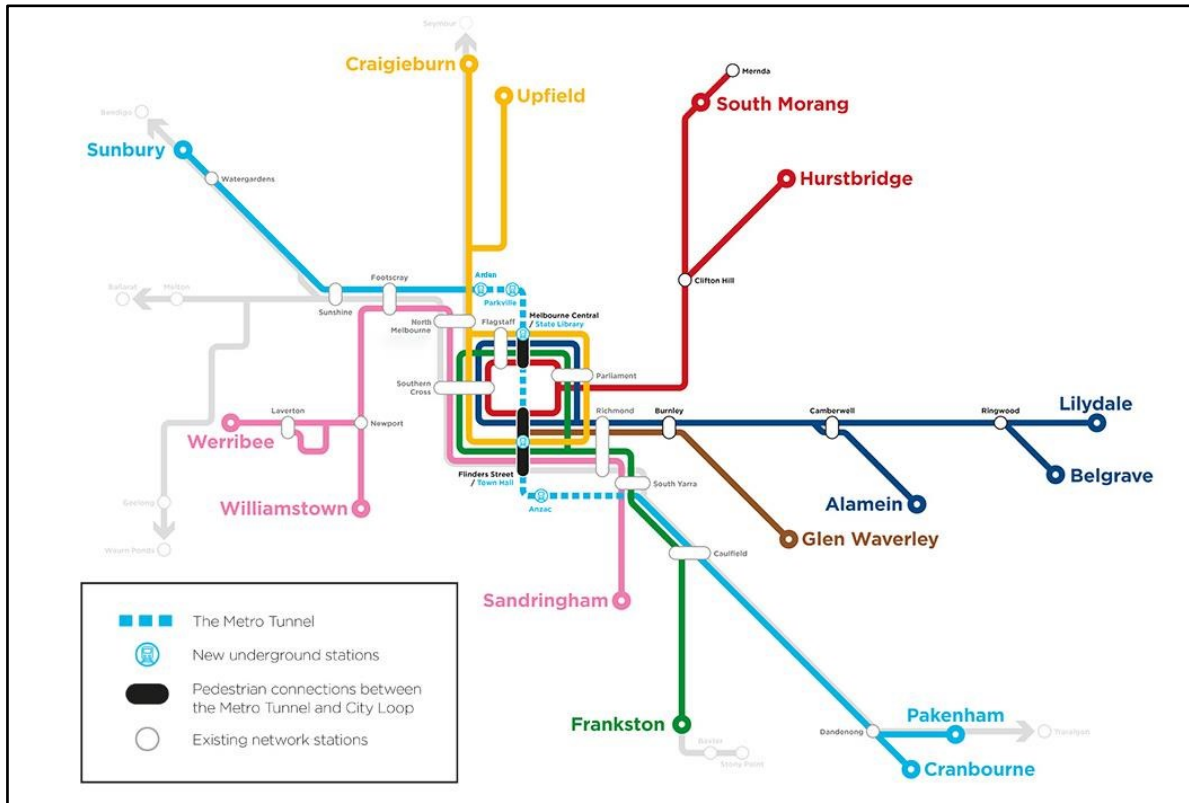


Theresa, Jim, Jackie, Jenny and Barry tasting the wares.



The Doughnuts for dessert.
How did we eat lunch?

Metro Tunnel Information Centre



After lunch we had a short walk in Swanston St., to arrive at the Metro Tunnel Information Centre opposite the Melbourne Town Hall.

The management team at the Information Centre gave us an interesting overview of the entire Metro Tunnel Project which is costing approx. \$12.6 billion. They discussed the metro tunnels new train control / signalling systems, and we had a video of the tunnel's boring machine (140m long) in operation.

After the overview talk, we were taken to a site near St Paul's Cathedral and were given a talk on the 40,000-year-old aboriginal Digs.

After thanking the Manager of the Metro Tunnel HQ, we made our way back to Flinders St station and home.
