



MEDIA INFORMATION

FIRST TRAIN CELEBRATIONS 15 – 17 JANUARY 2004

*****See Telstra Information regarding media facilities, including onboard Telstra Mobile Satellite phones. Bookings for calls to phones must be made by Noon on Wednesday 14 January 2004, after this time your booking cannot be guaranteed. Email messages can be sent via firsttraintodarwin@telstra.com *****

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN EVENTS

Adelaide – Thursday 15 January 2004

All media are required to arrive at the Pacific National Terminal (off Pedder Crescent – Regency Park) by 9.30am (NOTE -REVISED TIME) to catch the Media Bus to the main area.

Official launch and departure of the first FreightLink train at the Pacific National Adelaide Terminal, off Pedder Crescent, Regency Park. Train Departs Adelaide 11.15am	
10.15am	Ceremony commences. Speeches to guests inside Hoecker by: Senator Nick Minchin; Dave Lesar representing Asia Pacific Transport (Chairman, President and CEO of Halliburton); NT Chief Minister Clare Martin and SA Premier Mike Rann. MC Special Envoy to the SA Government ,Tim Fischer.
10.30am	Media Questions to dignitaries
10.45am	Arrival of Two Locomotives
10.50am	Speeches to members of the public outside Hoecker by: Senator Nick Minchin; Dave Lesar representing Asia Pacific Transport (Chairman, President and CEO of Halliburton); NT Chief Minister Clare Martin and SA Premier Mike Rann. MC Special Envoy to the SA Government ,Tim Fischer. Cutting of Ribbon
11.15am	FreightLink train departs
Photo opportunities:	Senator Minchin, Mr Lesar, Mr Rann and Ms Martin on board train pulled by locos painted in indigenous livery.

Port Augusta - Thursday 15 January 2004

All media are required to arrive at the Port Augusta Terminal by 4.15pm

Port Augusta Station, Train arrives 4.40pm, departs 5pm	
From 4.15pm	Community celebration to welcome FreightLink train carrying Premier Rann and Mayor Baluch of Port Augusta, Tim Fischer, Malcolm Kinnaird (FreightLink) and Bruce McGowan (CEO FreightLink).
4.40pm	FreightLink train arrives - Locals dressed in 1929 costumes; crowd waving flags as train cuts Port Augusta banner strung across track; historic Pichi Richi loco on adjacent track. Speeches by Tim Fischer (who will also act as MC); Mayor Baluch; Bruce McGowan and Premier Rann. Premier to open rail exhibition at Port Augusta Station. Premier and Mayor to unveil plaque on station platform.
5.00pm	FreightLink train departs
5.35pm	Premier opens Adelaide to Darwin Photographic and Art Exhibition Competition and to award prizes at Port Augusta's Fountain Gallery.

NORTHERN TERRITORY EVENTS

Alice Springs - Friday 16 January 2004

**Possible photo opportunity as train arrives in Alice Springs – time to be advised.
On-Board Media to be at Alice Springs Passenger Station by 11.45 am to put luggage etc on board.**

All Media to check in at Telstra Media Desk inside the Terminal to receive Media Identification Tags, Media Releases and other information.

Alice Springs Passenger Terminal, Fogarty Street, Train Departs Terminal at 1.55pm	
1pm to 3pm	Two-hour community celebration to farewell the first train north
1.30pm	Formalities Commence Welcome to country by Lhere Artepe representative, speeches by NT Chief Minister Clare Martin, SA Premier Mike Rann, Mr Bruce McGowan (CEO FreightLink) and Senator Nigel Scullion. MC Fiona O'Loughlin, internationally renowned and local Alice Springs based comedian
1.49pm	Bruce McGowan, Tim Fischer and Malcolm Kinnaird on board front loco. Camels to deliver 'Bush Tucker' to Chief Minister to hand to Bruce McGowan on-board loco.
1.50pm	On Board Media to assemble at Media Desk to prepare for departure
1.55pm	Locos to depart Passenger Terminal
2.00pm to 2.10pm	Media interviews with remaining dignitaries
2.10pm	Media to Bus for trip to Lovegrove Drive for Photo Opportunity

Tennant Creek - Friday 16 January 2004

Tennant Creek Freight Terminal, Stuart Highway (approx 4 km south of Tennant Creek). Train arrives 8.00pm, Departs 9.15pm	
7.30pm to 9.30pm	Two-hour community celebrations welcoming and farewelling train.
8.00pm	FreightLink train arrives Formalities Commence including a welcome to country by representatives of Waramungu people, speeches by NT Chief Minister Clare Martin, Mr Bruce McGowan (CEO FreightLink) and Senator Nigel Scullion. MC Fiona O'Loughlin, internationally renowned and local Alice Springs based comedian.
From 8.20pm	Official opening of the "Wakapikari" Freight Terminal. Commissioning of the Central area locomotive – 'Purnu' - by Mr Jones representing artist Ruth Dawson and the Partta Group ; Mr McGowan and the Chief Minister.
9.15pm	FreightLink train departs

Katherine - Saturday 17 January 2004

Katherine Freight Terminal, Just past Victoria Highway Overpass (West of Katherine). Train departs 8.30am	
7am to 9am	Two-hour community celebrations welcoming and farewelling FreightLink train.
From 7.30am	FreightLink train arrives. Formalities Commence including a welcome to country by Robert Lee (Leader of Jaowyn Association), speeches by NT Chief Minister Clare Martin, Bruce McGowan (CEO FreightLink), Senator Nigel Scullion and Mayor of Katherine Jim Forscutt. MC Fiona O'Loughlin, internationally renowned and local Alice Springs based comedian.
7.50am	Official opening of the Katherine Freight Terminal. Commissioning of Northern area locomotive – Kurru Kurraka - by artist; Bruce McGowan and Chief Minister.
8.20am	Excellent Photo opportunity of train passing under overpass with trucks as guard of honour - Media wanting to take this opportunity should proceed to bus at this time.
8.25am	Chief Minister flags off the train.

Port of Darwin - Saturday 17 January 2004

Media to assemble in car park to catch media shuttle bus to terminal at 11am, there will be only one bus dedicated to media and after departure any media will have to catch the general shuttle buses.

Present Photographic ID at Telstra Media Facility to obtain your Identification Tag. Onsite Media Briefing in Telstra Media Facility at 12 pm

There will be two designated areas for media, once formalities have commenced there will be no ability to change locations.

Arrival of first FreightLink Train and official opening of railway at FreightLink Container Terminal, East Arm Wharf, Berrimah Road. Train arrives 1.30pm	
11.00 am to 3pm	Four-hour community celebrations welcoming the FreightLink train.
11.00am	Media to assemble in car park to catch media shuttle bus to terminal. Dedicated Media Car Park in public car park off Berrimah Road (adjacent to Northern Cement)
11.00am to 1pm	Entertainment including Shellie Morris, Chantal the Fairy and Miss Deb with Hector the Cat, AQIS Custom Dogs, Artsprouts, Bob the Builder
12pm	Telstra Media Facility inside entrance gate, working area with ISDN phone lines, fax machine, tea/coffee/water Present ID to receive Media Identification pass to allow access to Media only areas. On site Media Briefing at Telstra Media Facility
1.15pm	Media to be in place either at end of the line or under main marquee in front of stage. After train arrival media escorted to main marquee. No movement will be allowed between locations once formalities have commenced.

From 1.30pm	Train arrives, carrying an Australian Government Representative; Dave Lesar representing Asia Pacific Transport (Chairman, President and CEO of lead sponsor Halliburton); NT Chief Minister Clare Martin and SA Premier Mike Rann. Welcome by Chairman of AustralAsia Railway Corporation Mr Rick Allert, National Anthem sung by Shellie Morris Welcome to Country by Kelvin Costello, Leader of Larrakia Nation, Speeches by Australian Government Representative, Chief Minister, Premier and Mr Lesar. Official opening of the railway.
2.05pm	Photo Opportunity with dignitaries following conclusion of formalities

Additional Information for Port of Darwin Event

- Due to security restrictions, media will be required to stay within the designated media seating and standing areas, which will be in a good position in front of the train for the arrival and in front of the stage for the ceremonies. At no time will media personnel or any other guest be permitted to access the stage area.
- The Australian Government Representative, NT Chief Minister, SA Premier and FreightLink's Representative will be on board the freight train, and will be available for photo opportunities at the conclusion of formalities.
- There will be no vehicle access to the Port on Saturday 17 January 2004, media will be required to meet at the designated Media area of the Public Carpark to catch the Media Shuttle Bus to the Venue at 11am.
- On arrival at the venue all Media must present photographic identification to obtain their Media Identification Tags.
- The airconditioned Telstra Media facilities inside the entrance gate will include working areas, media kits and information, ISDN telephone lines, facsimile machine, cold water and tea/coffee facilities.
- There will be a media briefing at 12pm at the Telstra Media Facility.
- The weather in Darwin is unpredictable at this time of the year, either hot and sunny, or raining. This event will be held in the open and your arrangements should include contingencies to deal with changes in the weather.

ALL MEDIA PERSONNEL INTENDING TO ATTEND INAUGURATION CELEBRATIONS MUST BE REGISTERED

For additional information, please contact

Maureen Albion
Media Manager
Inauguration of the AustralAsia Railway

Phone: +61 (08) 8946 9585
Fax: +61 (08) 8946 9578
Mobile: 0408 247 002
Email: maureen.albion@aac.com.au

Information updated 11 January 2004, please monitor website at <http://www.aarc.com.au> for updated information