



**LEVEL
CROSSING
REMOVAL**
PROJECT

Major works continue in 2020 in Cheltenham and Mentone

LEVEL CROSSING REMOVAL UPDATE

BALCOMBE ROAD, MENTONE
PARK AND CHARMAN ROADS,
CHELTENHAM
ISSUE #8 – MARCH 2020

Major works continue in 2020

The Level Crossing Removal Project is removing 18 level crossings and building 12 new stations as part of a \$3 billion upgrade of the Frankston line that will improve safety, reduce congestion and allow more trains to run more often.

Major works continue in Cheltenham and Mentone, with all three level crossings gone and two new stations built by the end of 2020.

Both stations will close on **Friday 20 March** with shuttle buses operating until mid year. Buses will also replace trains on sections of the Frankston line from **Friday 20 March until Friday 27 March**. This is so we can prepare for the two-month rail closure **from Saturday 23 May**, where we will dig the rail trench, build the new stations and rebuild roads over the rail line.

Your brand new Cheltenham Station will be up and running in August and the new Mentone Station will open in July.



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levelcrossings.vic.gov.au

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Above/left: The five heritage listed trees will be centrepieces of the new gardens. Artist impressions only - subject to change

Unveiling your new gardens

The latest designs for the much-loved Mentone Station gardens will include more open space for the community and a garden bridge highlighting the heritage-listed station buildings.

At our January pop-up in the gardens, locals chatted to our experts about upcoming works, kids enjoyed the face painting, and a ukulele band entertained the crowds. The Friends of Mentone Station and Gardens and the City of Kingston supplied a free sausage sizzle for the community, alongside a lucky dip and drinks from local shops.

The heritage-listed gardens will be replanted and landscaped with more green spaces, and wider paths and ramps to improve access for all.

Key features of the garden will include a performance stage and seamless connections with the new deck over the rail trench, preserving Mentone's rich rail history.

We have worked closely with the Friends of Mentone Station and Gardens to create these designs for the new gardens and have partnered with the City of Kingston to fund the works.

We've put up temporary fencing to protect the five heritage-listed trees – two Norfolk Island pines and three Canary Island date palms – and are preserving many smaller trees and bushes.

The Garryowen horse trough has been safely relocated, along with the bluestone. It will return as a highlight of the new gardens, celebrating Mentone's rich equestrian history.

Works are underway, with the station gardens closed since late January.

During the two-week rail closure in February, we relocated the five iconic palm trees near Cheltenham Station. They have been safely packed up and sent on holiday, and will return to form part of the new station precinct.



KEEPING YOU MOVING

While we work to remove the three level crossings, there will be changes to how you travel around Cheltenham and Mentone. You'll still be able to make your usual local trips to schools and the shops.



Major works continue in 2020 in Cheltenham and Mentone



Pedestrian

Cheltenham

A pedestrian detour between Park and Charman roads in Cheltenham is in place **between Friday 20 March and Friday 24 April**.

The new temporary path between the rail line and Cheltenham Park will get you around Cheltenham when Park or Charman roads are closed (see map on right). Access to Cheltenham Station platform 2 is also available via this path until the station closes on Friday 20 March.

During this time, a pedestrian shuttle bus will also operate daily between 6am and 7pm to get you around while Cheltenham's level crossings are closed, with staff on-site to assist.

Mentone

While we upgrade sewerage services at Balcombe Road, the pedestrian level crossing on the north side (next to the gym) is open to pedestrians and cyclists.

For those on the south side of Mentone, you can safely cross the rail line at the Rogers Street pedestrian crossing.

Looking for the station? Access to Mentone Station platform 2 is available through the underpass on Como Parade West until the station closes on Friday 20 March.



Parking

Alternative all-day parking for rail passengers will remain available for rail passengers until mid 2021, with 284 car spaces at two locations at Westfield Southland and 136 car spaces near Parkdale Station.



Rail

Buses replace trains between Moorabbin and Mordialloc:

- **8.15pm Friday 20 March until Friday 27 March** while we complete signalling, overhead and station relocation works. There will be buses on other sections of the Frankston line during this time.
- **8pm to last train nightly from Monday 6 April until Thursday 9 April** for freight delivery of rail track
- **Thursday 30 April to Sunday 3 May** for maintenance and train stabling works
- **Sunday 24 May until mid July** while we dig the rail trench, build the new stations and rebuild roads over the rail line.

For the latest information visit ptv.vic.gov.au or call 1800 800 007.

Cheltenham and Mentone stations close on **Friday 20 March**. From Saturday 28 March, trains will run express through Cheltenham and Mentone. Shuttle buses will operate between Southland and Parkdale stations to connect passengers to train services.

Your brand-new Mentone Station will be up and running in mid July and Cheltenham Station in August.

Express services

The existing Caulfield to Cheltenham express rail services will run from Caulfield to Highett while Cheltenham and Mentone stations are closed.

If you need further assistance to travel, alternative transport can be arranged by contacting PTV on 1800 800 007.

Charman and Park roads, Cheltenham

- Buses replace trains:**
- Friday 20 March to Friday 27 March
 - Monday 6 April to Thursday 9 April (night only)
 - Thursday 30 April to Sunday 3 May
 - Sunday 24 May to mid July.

Park Road closed between Hall Street and the Cheltenham Park gate:

- Five weeks between Friday 20 March and Friday 24 April
- Three weeks between late May and mid June.

Detours in place. Changed pedestrian access at times.

Station car park closed until mid 2021. Accessible parking closes Friday 20 March until mid 2021.

Edward Street closed for:

- Two weeks in late April
- Four weeks from mid May.

Local access maintained.

Commuter car park construction until mid 2020.

*Dates subject to change

- Utility relocation
- Drainage works
- Piling
- Pedestrian detour
- Road and footpath closure
- Car park construction
- Station car park closure
- 3P car park closure

Shared use path closed until mid 2021.

Churchill Avenue closed for two weeks in mid May. Local access via Tulip Grove.

Pedestrian detour and pedestrian shuttle bus available during Park and Charman road closures.

Utility relocation Ongoing until mid 2020. Temporary loss of on-street parking and lane closures.

Cheltenham Station closed Friday 20 March to August. Trains run express through.

Utility relocation Ongoing until mid 2020. Temporary loss of on-street parking. Access to school maintained.

Charman Road closed between Station Road and Blagdon Street for:

- One weekend from Saturday 21 March to Sunday 22 March
- Three weeks between late May and mid July.

Detours in place. Changed pedestrian access at times.

Balcombe Road, Mentone

- Buses replace trains:**
- Friday 20 March to Friday 27 March
 - Monday 6 April to Thursday 9 April (night only)
 - Thursday 30 April to Sunday 3 May
 - Sunday 24 May to mid July.

Balcombe Road closed between for:

- Two weeks at night in March
- One week in May
- Four weeks mid year.

Detours in place. Changed pedestrian access at times. Access to businesses maintained.

Accessible car spaces closed until late 2020.

Piling April to May.

Piling March to April.

New Mentone Station open mid July.

Commuter car parking construction until mid 2020.

New supervised school crossings.

*Dates subject to change

- Car park construction
- Piling
- Road and footpath closure
- Station car park closure
- Station gardens closure

Shared use path closed until mid 2021.

Piling April to May.

Mentone Station and underpass closed Friday 20 March. Trains run express through.

Bus stop interchange closed from mid March.

Piling March to April.

Mentone Station Gardens closed in late January. Heritage-listed trees will be retained and gardens reopened in early 2021.

Rogers Street pedestrian level crossing open as usual.

For more information on any of the above changes, visit levelcrossings.vic.gov.au

WHAT WE'RE UP TO

We had a busy 2019, upgrading 3.5km of rail services and relocating drainage, telecommunications cables, power, sewer and gas services.

Piling activities, for the walls for the new rail trench, are now more than halfway complete. We installed 200 piles across Cheltenham and Mentone during the February rail closure, bringing our total to 1000 piles so far with another 1000 to go.

Thanks for your patience during our February works. Over two weeks, we worked 24 hours a day to prepare for trench construction to start in May. As well as piling, we continued with service relocations and rail signalling upgrades.

With major works happening between now and mid year, visit our website for the latest changes in your area.

Cheltenham

During the five-week closure of Charman Road, we continued piling activities and strengthened the road ahead of trench construction. We also began removing parts of Cheltenham Station to prepare for the station closure on **Friday 20 March**.

Park Road will close between Hall Street and the Cheltenham Park gate **from Friday 20 March until Friday 24 April** so we can continue piling works and strengthen the road.

Charman Road will close between Blagdon Street and Station Road **from Saturday 21 March until Sunday 22 March** so we can remove the station platforms.

Mentone

During the two-week rail closure in February, we continued sewerage upgrades on Balcombe Road, piling along Collins Street and prepared to close Mentone Station on **Friday 20 March**. Piling near Patty Street and Teague Avenue continues.

We will temporarily relocate the station buildings on the Frankston-bound platform once the station closes. The city-bound platform buildings will remain protected on-site throughout works.

We have put up temporary fencing to protect the five heritage listed trees in the Mentone Station gardens, which closed in late January. The Garryowen horse trough and bluestone have been safely relocated. Plants that were salvaged from the gardens are currently thriving at Dingley Nursery and will be replanted in the station gardens later this year.



Did you find the golden ticket?

For five weeks from February to March, hundreds of lucky customers participated in our 'Golden Ticket' competition - and won big!

With almost 70 local stores participating across Cheltenham and Mentone, the odds were in your favour. You simply had to spend \$15 (or \$10 for students) to receive an entry automatically.

Leah McKenzie from McKenzie Smith Butchers says the competition was a hit with her customers.

"We've had lots of excited people through the door claiming their prizes," Leah said.

"I think it's a great initiative to support us small Cheltenham businesses, Cheltenham will look great when the project is complete."

Your favourite shops are still open during major works and your local traders appreciate your ongoing support.

Project timeline

- Late March**
 - Short-term road and rail closures
 - Cheltenham and Mentone stations close
 - Mentone Station construction begins
- Mid 2020**
 - Two-month rail closure to dig the rail trenches
 - Cheltenham Station construction begins
 - Reconstruct roads over the rail line
 - Cheltenham and Mentone stations open
- Early 2021**
 - Mentone project complete
 - Mentone Station gardens open
- Mid 2021**
 - Cheltenham project complete

* Please note that the timeline above is subject to change.

TRADER PROFILES



Geoff and Theresa are always ready to help out with a smile

Mentone's best newsagent

Need school supplies? Luckily Geoff and Theresa Deas at Mentone Newsagency have you covered. With a huge array of stationery, magazines, gifts and greeting cards, they'll have what you need.

With 30 years as a newsagent under his belt (three in Mentone), Geoff knows what a community needs from a local newsagent. Mentone Newsagency's huge magazine collection draws customers from all over Melbourne's south-east. They also offer a Tattslotto counter, printing services and a coffee machine.

With great service, it's no wonder Mentone Newsagency was awarded Victoria's Best Newsagent at the Victorian Association of Newsagents Awards in 2019. Pop into Mentone Newsagency for your stationery needs.

Follow Mentone Newsagency on Facebook or visit them at **24 Como Parade West, Mentone** for their latest deals.

You can find their trading hours at mentoneneewsagency.com.au



Carolina and Elena love their Cheltenham locals

The perfect fit

Little did Carolina know her love of art and design would one day become her career. Now the Cheltenham community can appreciate her artistic talents at Cream Empire.

In 2013, Carolina started designing and selling children's bed linen online to businesses and at trade shows. In 2017 Cream Empire was born.

Cream Empire offers much more than children's bed linen, with clothing for children up to seven years old, décor, crystals and essential oils.

Products are sourced from Australian-owned businesses, are sustainable and use natural, eco-friendly materials.

Local seamstress Elena's business, Zig Zag Alterations and Dressmaking, is also based in the store. Working in Cheltenham for the past 11 years, she's had many memorable clients, including one who has brought in hundreds of 1940s and '50s vintage garments over the years.

Cream Empire is located at **257 Charman Road, Cheltenham** and open Tuesdays to Thursdays from 10am to 3pm and on Saturdays from 9.30am to 2pm.



Have you been paying attention?

Know what a spiral auger is used for? How many metres long will the rail trenches be?

Time to brush up on your project knowledge, Cheltenham and Mentone locals. For three weeks in March, we will be firing fast questions about the Cheltenham and Mentone level crossing removals on Facebook.

Answer correctly, and you'll go into the lucky draw to win a voucher to spend in the local area and support your favourite shops.

One winner will be picked at random from the comments each week and notified via direct message on Facebook.

For more information, visit our website at levelcrossings.vic.gov.au

CONTACT US

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