

THE FRIENDS OF THE BELAIR LINE
38 Malcolm Street Millswood, S.A. 5034
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EXCLUSIVE MEDIA RELEASE

RAIL CUSTOMERS DENIED ACCESS

A recent neighbourhood survey by the Friends of the Belair Line has shown that as many as **3667 passenger trips per month are being missed** due to the closure of Millswood Station.

The Passenger Transport Board is desperately trying to attract more customers. Well, here they are eagerly waiting for the chance to use the rail service that runs right through their neighbourhood, but has ignored them for five and a half years.

"We knew there was strong community support for re-opening Millswood, but we did not expect the figures to be as high. We were astonished by the enthusiasm for rail travel, and the gratitude shown by the respondents for our efforts" said Jane Brooks, spokesperson for the Friends of the Belair Line.

Millswood Station's potential passengers indicated they would make a total of:

1860 trips per month during peak period (7:00-9:00am and 3:00-7:00pm)
1016 trips per month during interpeak period (9:00am-3:00pm weekdays)
297 trips per month at night (after 7:00pm till the last train)
494 trips per month on weekends and public holidays

Survey respondents suggested that they would use the train for commuting, shopping, going to the theatre, visiting Belair National Park, visiting friends and relatives, and attending special events such as the Festival, the Fringe, SkyShow, Womad, the Christmas Pageant and the Le Mans car race.

These results will form the basis of a formal request to TransAdelaide, the Minister for Transport, and the Passenger Transport Board to consider re-opening the station, which was closed in 1995 due to alleged "low patronage".

Included with factors such as high petrol prices, traffic congestion in Mitcham and Unley, improved marketing of public transport, and the presence of security guards on trains at night, the results of this survey suggest it is time to look at re-opening not only Millswood but Hawthorn and Clapham Stations as well.

TransAdelaide could gain up to 10000 extra passenger trips per month by opening all three of the closed stations.

It takes an average of only 20 seconds per station to allow passengers to board or alight. The major alteration of timetables being considered for the entire rail system in 2001 will provide an opportunity to resume servicing the three stations.

It would cost little to re-open the three stations because the infrastructure is still there; the platforms, shelters, and lighting have all been kept intact.

CONTACT: Jane Brooks phone/fax 8271 4168 Mobile 0417 805 719

FRIENDS OF THE BELAIR LINE
38 Malcolm Street, Millswood S.A. 5034
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During November 2000 a survey of all the households within approximately a 500 metre radius of Millswood Railway Station was conducted by the Friends of the Belair Line. A copy of a survey form is attached. Forms were placed in every household letterbox within the above radius, in the Kings Park Nursing Home, and in Tabor College. 1000 forms were distributed.

Everyone who returned a form had to make an effort to do so. They had to post, or hand deliver, or fax them. 138 forms were returned. Names, where supplied, and numbers of trips given indicate there would be at least 177 new customers for TransAdelaide if Millswood Station was opened again.

The Friends of the Belair Line knew there was public support for re-opening the stations, but we were delighted by such a large response! The figures below show that the re-opening of Millswood Station would provide a very substantial boost to the patronage of the Belair Line Rail Service. The Friends of Belair Line expect that a similar response would result from a survey of potential passengers for the other two closed Belair Line stations, Hawthorn and Clapham.

Millswood Station's potential passengers estimated that they would make:

1860 trips per month during peak period (7:00-9:00am and 3:00-7:00pm)
1016 trips per month during interpeak period (9:00am to 3:00pm weekdays)
297 trips per month at night (after 7:00pm till the last train)
494 trips per month on weekends and public holidays.

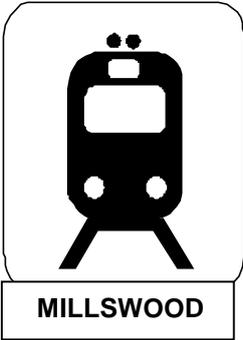
This is a total of 3667 trips per month at Millswood. TransAdelaide is missing out on up to 10000 trips per month by keeping three stations on the Belair Line closed!

In addition to regular trips, people indicated that they would use the train for special events like the Pageant, Le Mans car race, Royal Show, the Skyshow fireworks, Womad, attending the Festival Theatre, and events during the Festival and the Fringe.

Written comments supporting the re-opening of Millswood Station are reproduced, with names and addresses omitted (except for Administrator of Tabor College), out of respect for privacy.

The results of this survey, the high price of petrol, major traffic problems in Mitcham and Unley, better marketing of public transport, and presence of

security guards on trains at night, are good reasons for seriously considering re-opening Millswood, Hawthorn and Clapham stations. The Friends of the Belair Line wishes to thank the City of Unley for its on-going support for the re-opening of Millswood Station.



**FRIENDS OF THE BELAIR LINE
SURVEY OF POTENTIAL PASSENGERS FOR**

MILLSWOOD RAILWAY STATION

Would you consider using the train service if Millswood station was re-opened?

The more people who participate in this survey, the greater the chance of having Millswood Station open again!

Please write your estimated number of train trips (count a return trip as two trips) on dotted line provided.

If trains stopped at Millswood Station I would consider using the train for:

.....trips per month during peak period.(7:00-9:00am) and (3:00-7:00pm)

.....trips per month during interpeak period (9:00am to 3:00pm weekdays)

.....trips per month at night (after 7:00pm till the last train)

.....trips per month on weekends and public holidays

special events.....

For additional comments, please use other side of this sheet of paper.

Suggested reasons for using a train service at Millswood:

- Commuting to work, school or tertiary education or going shopping
- Attending Tabor College and functions on "The Orphanage" land
- Visiting the Festival Centre, or other facilities near Adelaide Railway Station
- Visiting Belair National Park or Wittunga Botanic Gardens
- Going to Wayville Showgrounds or the Unley Swimming Centre
- Visiting friends and relatives who live near other Belair Line stations

OPTIONAL

Name:.....

Address:.....

Please return completed forms to Friends of the Belair Line at 38 Malcolm Street, Millswood, S.A. 5034, or fax to 8277 0300 by the end of November.

Jane Brooks Mobile phone service: 0417 805 719

COMMENTS

"I would be delighted to have Millswood station re-opened. I would find it difficult to estimate how often I would use it. - just prior to its closure, I used it frequently especially to go to the Casino and the Festival Theatre. I think it is a marvellous idea. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my feelings on this matter."

"Being reliant a scooter for mobility, the train would need that access."

"The station should be re-opened. It's all too late for me now!! But the time will come, and some one younger will live here. When we bought our home over 40 years ago it was because it was handy to the railway station, so our family used the train twice a day and more at times for work, tertiary education and visiting Festival Centre and in later years grandchildren were taken for rides by Grandpa. They loved it going by train. It's beyond my understanding why it was ever closed it should be opened again. To cross the Goodwood Road just each end of the subway is very dangerous, and lives have been lost by folk doing so. The cars can't be seen, and come up so quickly. I wouldn't have been happy with my young folk catching the buses there. And for the elderly, it's far too risky and a lot further to go. Always a seat to rest one's legs while waiting for trains at stations.

I have never visited the city since the station was closed, and if it had been opened I could have gone at times."

"I could use the Goodwood Station but its location is unattractive."

"Yes. I love a trip to the Hills at weekends."

"We miss the service & would certainly use the service for trips to town, Unley Swimming Centre, Wayville & Belair National Park. We have many memorable occasions when the service was provided. There is also emphasis placed on using public transport to save family costs and to preserve our environment. We whole-heartedly support the organisation to re-open the Millswood Railway Station."

"I am not young any more. Millswood station is the closest passenger station for me. The street bus service would make it possible for me to visit the city

"Special events, as transport for bikes, & links with other trains for bike riding in other areas."

"Good Luck!"

"Millswood Railway Station is easily the closest station to our house - 6-7 minutes walk away compared to 12-13 minutes to Unley Park. And 13-14 to Clarence Park. As long as I have been living at Clarence Park I have wanted Millswood Station re-opened. I would like to join the Friends of the Belair Line."

"I'm retired now, but if I worked in the City, I would use the Millswood train every day. When the time comes, and I am unable to drive, the Millswood station would be very convenient for me, thank you Jane."

"There have been many occasions when we would have liked to use the train service, for various reasons. Work, special events, shopping etc. In the not too distant future, my son will be attending Uni, and the train would be excellent for commuting to classes. It would be great if they opened Millswood Station again. Good Luck!"

"Merry Christmas!"

"Thank you for all your good work. Please keep on keeping on!!!"

"The closure of the Millswood Station was a major blow to our travel arrangements. I have been transporting my children to Scotch ever since the closure, as the other alternative (catching two buses) was not a satisfactory option. Re-opening the station would take my car off the road at peak times (surely a bonus; if only a small one.)"

"I would use it on occasions. It was a sad day when it was closed. I would like to see Millswood Station re-opened. My friends and I often took trips to the Hills at weekends, but as I am now over 80, I probably wouldn't use it as much."

"This household, formerly of parents and two students, all used the train daily. But children are now married and left home, however, we often have business in the city, and would use the train frequently if the convenience of Millswood Station were available."

"The closure of Millswood Station greatly grieved us, as we often used it for trips to Belair and into the city, or for shopping at the Mitcham centre. To be quite frank, the bus service along Goodwood Road is a very poor substitute for the rail service, as the 210, 216, 218 and 214 buses mainly cater for Flagstaff Hill or Happy Valley residents, so by the time in peak periods when the buses reach the vicinity of Millswood they are crowded and one has to suffer strap

hanging. We are afraid that ----- would not have the sense to have occasional inner bus services that would help those folk living between Grange Road to Goodwood.

As our eldest son and family now live at Sheoak Road Belair, a resumption of the train service for us from Millswood would also be very handy, and of course vice versa for his family. In conclusion, having travelled to all the capital cities in Australia, our rail and bus services stand alone as the worst in Australia, with Perth, Melbourne and Sydney being the best."

"I would not use any public transport at night. As it is, since the train station was closed I drive into the city at least 6 times a month. The buses are awful and I will not use them. I would certainly use the train at least 6 times a month if it was stopping at Millswood."

"With the last Bank on Goodwood Road now closing, it would mean more trips to town for banking etc. - hopefully by train."

"School holidays we have two boys with us therefore 16 interpeak trips would be doubled at least."

"I live near the Millswood Station. When I was working I usually caught the train because it got me "near" Rundle Mall. I'm also a subscriber to theatre, opera, orchestral concert groups, and used the train often to get to the city and occasionally to come home. (It saved a lot of parking problems, and the closeness of the Festival Theatre to the station was an advantage.) Congratulations to you on trying to get a train stop at Millswood again. An earlier supporter of your idea was a (now deceased) lady who lived quite near the stop, and in earlier protests hung ribbons on posts above the platform. I can't think of her surname, but we were very friendly with Betty. Why not call your campaign "Operation Betty"? All the suggestions on the front of this paper for people to use the train are excellent. e.g. A visit to Wittunga could be a pleasant trip; I never thought of using the train!"

"Depending on my University contact hours - I would use the train more or less what I have stated overleaf. However if no train is available I tend not to use the bus as I feel it takes too long. e.g. at times during peak hour, from Mitchell Street to King William Street (North Terrace) 30-35 minutes! Not very satisfactory in my opinion compared to train. Millswood to Adelaide Railway Station - 13 minutes (almost guaranteed). Sorry if this is a little long winded Jane, but I thought you may like some sort of feed back."

"To go to town and Belair I drive to Mitcham Station to use the train."

"Strongly support any action to re-open station."

"I was present at the staff meeting in Flinders Street on this problem. Some one from Mitcham developed a time table allowing trains to stop at the closed stations " [rest of message not legible]

"Best of Luck"

"I cannot advise you of the number of train trips I would undertake in the various categories mentioned. However, my car driving is now limited, never at night and only locally by day. If the Millswood station were re-opened, I would use the train by day at least to go to the city if Adelaide instead of using hire cars. At present, I go to the city approximately four times per month. May be more if the station were to re-open. Best wishes in your endeavours.

"DEFINITELY!! We have missed this service greatly."

"The train would stop almost at our front door." [comment by Tabor College staff]

"Good Luck!!"

"I have no motor car and rely on public transport and would be very pleased if the train stopped at Millswood. I am aged pensioner and the City or Mitcham would be great to go by train. Mitcham is out for shopping for me, also to see friends in that area."

"Grown up children are reliant on public transport for work and uni. In the City."

"We think it should never have closed."

"----- would like to join the committee if possible."

"Personally, I would not use the train service, however we hold a number of events at the College every year. These events attract thousands of people throughout the course of the year. I believe that many of these people would use a local station if available. Currently we do not advertise train services to the site as there is no local station. Should the station be re-opened I believe that we would generate further business for the owners of the existing train system."

28/11/00 Richard Hosking College Administrator, Tabor College.
181 Goodwood Road Millswood