

PRAHRAN

Low turnout for myki debate

Holly McKay

DESPITE a low turnout at a debate on Melbourne's contentious public transport ticketing system, organisers are calling the event a success.

The debate was the opening event of the seven-day G:7 festival of art, music and knowledge at Prahran Town Hall on April 10.

Organiser Sea Ansley said about 30 people attended the event, which was "most constructive".

"I think its success will be judged by the outcome down the road and not necessarily how many people came out on the night," Mr Ansley said.

Concerns raised about myki included its inconvenience, safety, expense and lack of consideration for "human nature".

"There are numerous technical glitches that are costing a lot of consumers a lot of money, with little sympathy from inspectors," Mr

Ansley said. "The lack of a short-term ticketing option is a big faux pas."

Prahran state Liberal MP Clem Newton-Brown, who also attended the meeting, said it was great to see such a dynamic group get together to debate the ticketing system.

"I came away with a lot of excellent feedback, which I will be forwarding to the Transport Minister for consideration," Mr Newton-Brown said.

"Myki is a ticketing system we inherited from the previous government, and the Coalition is working

through the issues to ensure that it becomes a ticketing system that works."

Mr Ansley said information from the session would be collated and passed on to Public Transport Victoria.

 **What are your myki gripes? Click on Have Your Say at stonningtonleader.com.au**

ARMADALE

Fitting together pieces of humanity

AN exhibition exploring what it is to be human in a contemporary world is on display in Armadale.

Thornbury artist Ben Howe's first big solo exhibition in two years is at Metro Gallery until May 4.

Howe, 36, a former secondary school teacher, spent three years creating its more than 30 works.

The exhibition, *The Sum of its Parts*, featured paintings "responding to the evolving relationship of the human body and its environment", he said.

"They depict the ghostly impressions of individuals in transit, crowds of people and the likeness of the bones that form them."

Howe, who recently finished a Master of Fine Arts degree, said the paintings often referenced sculpture, photography and film.

Many were based around handcrafted miniature sculptures of a crowd of people and an entire human skeleton.

Details: metrogallery.com.au



Artist Ben Howe's latest exhibition, *The Sum of its Parts*, is at Armadale's Metro Gallery.

Picture: SUSAN WINDMILLER N43MPNEAR

MELBOURNE

Buses a big deal

Tim Michell

A PUBLIC transport advocacy group representing 22 Melbourne councils says it wants improved bus services to be the focus of this year's State Budget.

The Metropolitan Transport Forum has called on the State Government to develop bus services in Melbourne's outer suburbs, saying they have been "undervalued" and "underdeveloped".

Forum chairman Tom Melican said more frequent bus services and better links to public transport would be vital.

"We're calling for the Government to fund more frequent services, more services that meet trams and trains and a genuine commitment to servicing growth suburbs," Cr Melican said.

The forum also sought continued funding for grade separations and cycling-related infrastructure.