# G

## Gratin au?

The beagle sick of sappy sentiment, jaundiced against jingoism is taking matters into its own paws.

Expect – no, fear – ‘classics’ reworked into earworms. The first: I am, you are, we is potato.[[1]](#endnote-1)

## G for George

There is some envy of toytown having Lancaster G for George – especially now it is getting light rail.

So much the brains trust of Big Town came up with ‘G for George St’. Light rail related too.[[2]](#endnote-2)

More accurately: G-class for George St.

How?

A recent high-profile report of construction works etc. and damage of a Mercedes car. Owned by a millionaire. Loss circa $10,000. Lawsuit to join the queue.

Wouldn’t have happened to a G-class Merc. Ergo, the construction works standard might be called G-class.[[3]](#endnote-3)

A joke?

Hardly. Renowned transport analyst Dr Neil Douglas recently wrote about some light rail projects. Entertaining not quite the word. Not even the beagle expected such revelations. Among which is that the ‘light rail’ line in George St is fit for a coal train.[[4]](#endnote-4)

Train buffs no doubt recall National Rail Corporation’s ambition to run coal trains. And its nomination of jurisdiction locomotive assets, prior to acquisition of the NR Class fleet. Nomination including some G-class in Victoria, similar to the 81s in NSW that had been used on the front of coal trains. The class now apparently able to run down George St.[[5]](#endnote-5)

## Grattan, Gittins etc

Gee, Grattan and Gittins (Mr Ross, AM) have been busy on transport.

There is much to commend in their works. And a few things that leave something to be desired.

A recent line: congestion solves itself via people adapting. Supposedly based on theory – Marcetti.[[6]](#endnote-6)

Leading to conclusions that inner city road construction may be futile. Supported by learned people whose surnames do not start with G – one in fact starts with Z.[[7]](#endnote-7)

Theory that posits long term constant average commuting times; 35 minutes each way.

To which the beagle says: *show me the average person and I will show you the standard deviate.*

It suggests more research before such scepticism of transport is taken too seriously.

Seriously enough that Governments incorporate it into real policy rather than ex-post attempted excuses for stupidity such as put out by the Greater Sydney Commission – remember the three (actually at least nine) 30-minute cities for Sydney?[[8]](#endnote-8)

Real policy such as NSW design criteria for fast rail.[[9]](#endnote-9)

Research to synthesise social and economic matters, recognising transport is more about locations than movement. Four points for our Gs to answer:

1. Marginality rather than averages matter for decision making. The Gs should look at distribution of commuter journeys to CBDs by journey duration and on-board time;
2. Access to opportunity rather than mobility matters. The Gs should look at remuneration and education relativities CBDs and elsewhere;
3. People pass through a life cycle. Not all the disadvantaged are likely to stay disadvantaged. The Gs should look at locations of disadvantage rather than just ‘average’ people;
4. Decision making includes search costs. Policy makers never look at all options, but do they use appropriate rules of thumb?

Don’t let me hold the Gs up.

## Gee

That’s it.

**23 December 2018**

1. I live in Robertson paddocks  
   In Riverina and Tasmanian climes  
   I have some eyes  
   A lovely jacket

   Started in the Americas  
   Convicted, transported off I go  
   Landing in Port Jackson  
   A parent of all potato

   I accompany fish with chip  
   Squeak, bubble, wedges, fries  
   Join peas and make brown the hash  
   Can sit atop meaty pies  
   I'm Pontiac, King Edward, Yukon gold  
   You’re Melody, Ratte or Sebago  
   Grown from seed at yon Dorrigo  
   I became potato

   I come in Smiths packets

   Red Rock, Kettle not junk at all

   Better than beans or caulies

   Sprouts, carrots even broccoli  
   The veg which is a legend   
   Starch and carbos a plenty  
   Favourites of the Irish

   Rich, poor, pirates

   Yo ho ho ho ho ho  
   I am potato

   We are veg, and there is plenty  
   And from ground to cooker we go  
   We make mash and chips and praties  
   I am, you are, we is potato… [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. G for George is at the Australian War Memorial. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6435327/Millionaire-sues-Spanish-company-Sydneys-light-rail-pothole-damages-Mercedes.html>

   <https://www.mercedes-benz.com.au/passengercars/mercedes-benz-cars/models/g-class/suv/explore.html?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIsaKwqeWm3wIVRwwrCh0O0AC2EAAYASAAEgKhBvD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds> [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. <http://wellington.scoop.co.nz/?p=114464> [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/V/Line_G_class> [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. <https://www.smh.com.au/business/the-economy/the-one-thing-about-commuting-that-is-strangely-stable-20180406-p4z88d.html> [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. Dr Michelle Ziebots [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. <https://www.thejadebeagle.com/future-transport.html> [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
9. <https://www.nsw.gov.au/improving-nsw/projects-and-initiatives/a-fast-rail-future-for-nsw/> [↑](#endnote-ref-9)