

**VICROADS ASSOCIATION INC.**  
Reg. No. A0022250S

41st Annual Report  
March 2020

I have pleasure in presenting the 41st Annual Report of our Association.

### **The Demise of VicRoads**

One of the most momentous outcomes for our association this year was the folding up of VicRoads on 1 July 2019. It also happened to be the 30<sup>th</sup> birthday of VicRoads. All the functions of the organization have been subsumed within the Department of Transport. On a personal level, I was thoroughly disappointed that all the efforts, ingenuity, innovation, dedication and expertise of the last 106 years of building and maintaining Victoria's declared road network were snuffed out in an instant.

However, I realize that change is necessary. Melbourne is growing by about 100,000 people each year. That equates to the population of Bendigo or Ballarat every year and it is not possible to achieve our infrastructure needs using old institutions and delivery systems. I hope that VicRoads' expertise can be reinvigorated in the new structure. It is essential that the government has expert people within its ranks to ensure that government objectives are met.

Happily, from the association's perspective, we continue to receive the support we enjoyed from VicRoads. The Department provides us with all the services we need to keep our organization afloat and for that we are most grateful.

### **Membership**

We have over 300 members. We are starting to see recent retirees joining the fold. The newsletter is well received by members and encourages others to join. Another incentive is the opportunity to participate in our yearly program of visits to the large infrastructure projects underway in Victoria.

In the last year we had 14 new members - Peter McDonald, Lance Midgeley, Geoff Rainer, Doug Howes, Robert Parr, Richard Bortko, Peter Ryan, Wayne Harvey, Julie Cooper, Joe Black, Ray Brindle, Bruce van Every, Ross Gordon and Rob Ekers.

It is also my sad duty to report the death of the following members during the year - Marje Addis, John Bethune, Rod Proposch, Leslie Gardiner and Gordon Mills. Marje was a founding member of the association and the second president.

## Our website

We are most grateful to Nick Szwed for all the work he has put in to creating our website. If you haven't seen it, visit [vicroadsassociation.org](http://vicroadsassociation.org) to see what I mean. Nick has loaded a vast amount of information on it as well as all the past newsletters. We will continue to develop it and will keep you posted on details.

## Events in 2019

As in previous years, our calendar of events included excursions to various transport authorities, VicRoads' projects, our occasional lunches at Doncaster, a couple of dinners at Waverley RSL, the annual Christmas lunch and our Golf Day.

An analysis of the attendees at our events during the year shows that over 140 attended at least one function.

The excursions included:

- A visit to the ARRB and the Office of Projects Victoria in April,
- A visit to the Airport Rail Link Project in June,
- A two-day visit to Ballarat Regional Office in September,
- A visit to Melbourne Suburban Rail Loop in October,
- A visit to the North East Link Project in October.
- A visit to the West Gate Tunnel Project in November,

All of these were well attended and received by our members and we propose to continue a similar program for this year - with a few variations. Keep watch in our newsletters for details of this year's program.

We had the best response ever to one of our regional trips when we visited Ballarat in September. We had a total party of 26 people and eight locals joined us for dinner. Geoff Lawrence was our local liaison officer and he put in a power of work to make sure that everything worked like clockwork. There is no doubt that there are many attractions in rural Victoria and everyone who attended was very impressed with Ballarat's offerings - including the Central Victoria Livestock Exchange, the magnificent Her Majesty's Theatre restoration and the Ballarat Mechanics Institute.

The occasional lunches at the Shoppingtown Hotel in Doncaster continue to be popular. They attract some members who aren't regulars at other functions so it is good to catch up with them in this friendly and laid-back setting. We had six lunches in the last year with 28 individuals participating over the year. Our average attendance is about 16 people and our maximum attendance at any one lunch was 23. I wish to thank Kelvin York for convening these lunches and making all the necessary arrangements.

We also had good attendances at the two dinners at Waverley RSL in March and October. We have already conducted the first dinner this year - on

March 12. I want to thank Ken Vickery for making all the necessary arrangements for these dinners.

The lunches at Doncaster and the dinners at Mt Waverley are very enjoyable social occasions and they tend to attract different groups of people due, no doubt to their locality. For any of you who have not attended, I urge you to do so - because they are great fun and an opportunity to catch up with colleagues and friends.

About 55 people attended our Christmas lunch at the beginning of December. As always, it was a very festive day and everyone enjoyed themselves. It was also pleasing to see some of our regional members in attendance.

I can't report on the result of our Golf Day because we deferred it until 3 April 2020, mainly to avoid the hot weather and to give the course a bit of a rest. This event will be held in April from now on.

### **General Committee 2019**

The Committee Members for 2019 were:

President: David Jellie

Secretary: Jim Webber

Treasurer: Ken Vickery

Members: Annette Willis, Ted Barton, Graham Gilpin, John Wright, Alan Mackinlay, Lyn Briggs, Jeff Briggs, John Rebbechi and Nick Szwed.

Five meetings were held during 2019 - in April, June, August, October and November - and one in February 2020.

I would like to thank all the committee members for their support. Jim Webber especially does a brilliant job as our secretary and Ken Vickery keeps our income and expenditure under close scrutiny as Treasurer.

I also extend thanks to Ted Barton who looked after our membership data and kept all the details up to date - not a simple task. Ted is not standing for re-election this year and I would like to extend our appreciation to him for his service to the Association. Ted has been a loyal member of the committee for many years and his quiet wisdom has been respected by all of us. He has also acted as president during my absences. Thank you, Ted, for your outstanding service.

### **Newsletters**

Six newsletters were published last year. As ever, I am very grateful to VicRoads Design Studio for designing and formatting the newsletters - and of course for printing them. Their skills and assistance are greatly appreciated.

## **Acknowledgements**

Again, I wish to thank Doug Thompson for auditing our accounts.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the generous support that VicRoads (and now the Department of Transport) provides to our association. We appreciate this very much. We have always had ready access - and generous hospitality - to their projects and operational areas and senior managers have always accepted our invitations to functions to brief us on the latest news and issues. The printing and distribution of our newsletters are fully funded by them. This generosity and cooperation ensures the survival of our organization into the future.

Thank you to all our members for being so loyal and appreciative of what we do. After all that is our mission - to support each other with our friendship.

David Jellie  
President  
March 2020