

VRA Occasional Lunches

The origin of the VicRoads Association Occasional Lunches can be traced back to 1983. In 2000 Noel McFadyen recorded his recollection of how they started:

During 1983 the Country Roads Board organization was remodelled, titles of positions changed and the positions advertised in a long exercise of staff review, commencing with the junior positions in the staff structure.

I became aware that many of my friends were badly stressed by having to apply for the equivalent position to that which they held, in some cases, for years, and decided to try a luncheon at one of the Kew dining rooms to generate mutual support.

The first Occasional Luncheon was held on Friday 18 November, 1983 at the Clifton Hotel, Kew Junction, attended by Neil Guerin, Bill Thomas, Norm Haylock, Peter Jeffreys, Andrew McGalliard, Bruce Addis, Geoff Hunt, David Nicholson, Roger Gamble and myself.

Luncheons were then held, each with a different organizer at approximately two month intervals until I retired in January, 1987, then Richard Howland arranged the luncheons, again each having different organizer, the venue changing to the Village Tavern Denmark Street and later to the Malaysia Village Restaurant, High Street.

When Richard retired late in 1988, the lunches lapsed for a short time, and then resumed in September 1989, at the Sentimental Bloke, Bulleen, as an activity for members of the CRB Retired Persons Association.

The venue changed to the Shopping Town Hotel Bistro, Williamsons Road, Doncaster, on 20 July, 1990, and lunches have continued there since then.

The dates of the luncheons, concluding each decade of luncheons are as follows

Initial	Friday	18 November	1983
10 th	Friday	5 July	1985
20 th	Friday	27 February	1987
30 th	Friday	16 December	1988
40 th	Friday	15 February	1991
50 th	Friday	16 October	1992
60 th	Tuesday	19 April	1994
70 th	Tuesday	28 November	1995
80 th	Tuesday	19 August	1997
90 th	Tuesday	20 April	1999
The 100 th will be	Tuesday	21 November	2000

There have now been more than sixty luncheons over nearly ten years held at the Shopping Town Hotel Bistro.

N D McFadyen

13 June, 2000

Thanks to Alan Mackinlay for interpreting Noel's beautiful script handwriting and then typing this for all of us to read. If you'd like to try reading Noel's original script, it's on the next page.

County Roads Board Occasional Lunches

During 1983 the County Roads Board's organisation was remodelled. Titles of positions changed and the positions advertised in a long exercise of staff review, commencing with the senior positions in the staff structure.

I became aware that many of my friends were having difficulty by having to apply for the equivalent position to that which they had held, in some cases, for years, and decided to try a luncheon at one of the new dining rooms to generate mutual support.

The first Occasional Luncheon was held on Friday 18 November, 1983, at the Clifton Hotel, New Junction, attended by Neil Guerin, Bill Thomas, Norman Haylock, Peter Jeffrey, Andrew McGilliard, Bruce Andrie, Geoff Auld, David Nicholson, Roger Gamble, and myself.

Luncheons were then held, each with a different organiser at approximately two month intervals until I retired in January, 1987, when Richard Howland arranged the luncheons, again each having a different organiser, the venue changing to the Village Tavern, Denmark Street, and later to the Malaysia Village Restaurant, High Street.

When Richard retired, late in 1988, the lunches lapsed for a short time, and then resumed in September 1989, at the Sea & Mental Block,

followed, as an activity for members of the
C.R.B. Retired Persons Association.

The venue changed to the Shopping Town Hotel
Bistro, Williamson Road, Doncaster, on
20 July, 1990, and lunches have continued
there since then.

The dates of the ten luncheons, concluding each
decade of luncheons are as follows

Initial	Friday, 18 November, 1983
10th	Friday, 5 July, 1985
20th	Friday, 27 February, 1987
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Town Hotel Bistro.

M D M Fadyen

31 Wrixon Street,
Roo, 3101

13 June, 2000