CRB STAFF MAGAZINE

INTERCHANGE

Vol. 4, No. 1
February 1980

Closing date for next issue will be 14th March 1980

RIDING THE WIND

STEPHEN RUFFLES would like to see more people up in the sky — hang-gliding.

And he's doing everything he can to achieve that aim.

Stephen, an engineering surveyor from Metropolitan Division, was a major contributor to the success of Australia's first cross-country fly-in, held at Mt Buffalo in January. Not only did he do most of the organising, but he was one of the forty fliers competing.

The fly-in attracted extensive coverage from both press and television — just what Stephen was hoping for .

"I've always believed that hang-gliding has needed more favourable publicity", said Stephen, "and hit upon the idea early last year to organise the competition."

"I wanted to attract the best fliers in Australia with the aim of flying cross-country and setting a few records."

As it turned out, one flier did succeed in setting a new Australian distance record when he flew from the 1400 metre mountain to Benalla, 80 kilometres to the west.

So what made Stephen take to the air?

"Most of us would like to fly — it's just a matter of getting stimulated."

"It's a great exhilaration, and hang-gliders are about as close as man will ever get to flying like a bird."

Stephen, who has been flying for about four years, has now set his sights on a 150 kilometre cross-country flight.

Meanwhile, readers who are interested in getting amongst the thermals will be pleased to know that it can be a relatively inexpensive sport. A secondhand hang-glider sells for between $100 and $200, but with the latest equipment costing up to $1000.

Serious would-be flyers can contact Stephen at his Bayswater home on 729 9778.

Photo: Courtesy Herald & Weekly Times

AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT TRAFFIC SECTION BACK PAGE

LANDSCAPE LOVELIES ON THE JOB

Kevin Mintern-Lane has one of the more enjoyable jobs on the Nepean Highway widening project.

His day is mainly made up of being surrounded by lots of fresh air, and four lovely young ladies.

Kevin is the Landscape Overseer with the widening project and throughout December and January he has been supervising four temporary female employees.

The girls, Victoria Lovejoy, Lucy Connop, Lee DeSarro and Josephine Mok, have been assisting Kevin with various landscaping duties.

Victoria, Lucy and Lee are from the Burnley Horticultural College and Josephine is from Melbourne University.

The girls are keen on landscape gardening and Victoria and Lucy are graduates from the College, both having Diplomas of Horticultural Science.

As well as regular landscaping chores such as pruning, mowing,trimming and watering, the girls have also been engaged in maintenance duties which involves repairing fences and pick and shovel work.

Unfortunately, vandals destroy some of the landscape work carried out by the girls.

Instead of improving the landscape, Kevin's team of greenfingers often are just replacing the damage left by the vandals.

Last year more than $500 worth of plants were either destroyed or stolen.

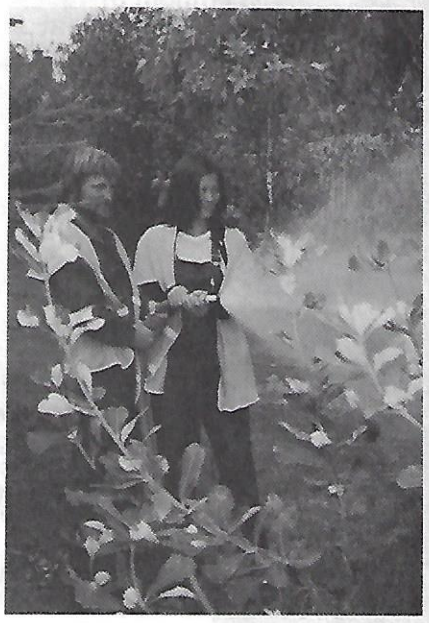
And how do the female recruits fit in with the maintenance and construction crews?

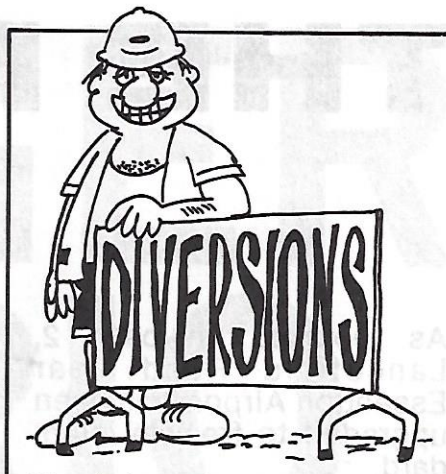
"They blend in well with everybody" says Kevin, who admits that he finds women are generally more reliable at landscape duties than men.

"They seem to take that little bit of extra care," adds Kevin.

Above: Kevin inspects a mower with three of his assistants, (left to right) Victoria, Lee and Lucy.

Below: Mick Bannon and Josephine Mok join forces to refresh some newly planted trees on the project.





It's obvious that CRB and ZPG have nothing in common — just glance at the Classies' Births section. And, judging from the following, we're now affecting the general public. Oh well, birth control is a bitter pill to swallow!

KINGMAN (Nicholl) — To Dianne and Vernon another daughter (Renee), Sister for Madelyne. Arrived at the corner of Wellington and Aura Vale Rds., Menzies Creek at 140 km p.h. on Dec. 13. 1979. We would like to thank the C.R.B. for the bump which assisted with the delivery. Mother well, baby fine, car recovering.

HOBBS (Dorwood) — To Helen and Merv., a sister for Michael, Dani and Kelly, born Sat., Jan 12 (3 lb, 14 oz.), 3.22 p.m., two months premature. Thanks to Dr Humphrey, Mr Mac, and top staff at Q.V. Thanks also to the C.R.B. for the new Hume Hwy, (Erin Heather).

* * * * *

The Board Member and Secretary were extending their Christmas greetings to Registry when they were suddenly confronted by a female Santa Claus, cavorting about. As it turned out, Santa was a file searcher dressed for the occasion — but the senior staff members weren't too sure whether her bright red cheeks were caused by excessive makeup or acute embarrassment. The only question now is 'who will play the Easter bunny?'

* * * * *

Did you hear about the sudden split in the Seymour Project Office? We won't name names — for the sake of the Phillips family — but it seems a certain Assistant Project Engineer ripped the seat of his trousers during the Hume Freeway opening ceremony.

* * * * *

Drouin plant operators Neil Adam and Ian Craig have decided to keep their feet firmly on the ground in future. Neil was working on the roof of his house when he crashed through a skylight and ended up in the toilet. Not to be outdone, Ian was up in the ceiling doing some routine maintenance work when he stepped on a weak section and finished up in the linen cupboard. Fortunately, both closets were unoccupied!

* * * * *

It seems CRB employees are up in the air at Warrnambool, too. At the Patrolman Conference, held on 30 October 1979, the story was related of how an unnamed acting ADE fell feet-first into a flooded culvert and was wet to the waist. Patrolman Turrie, not to be beaten, countered by falling in head-first!

* * * * *

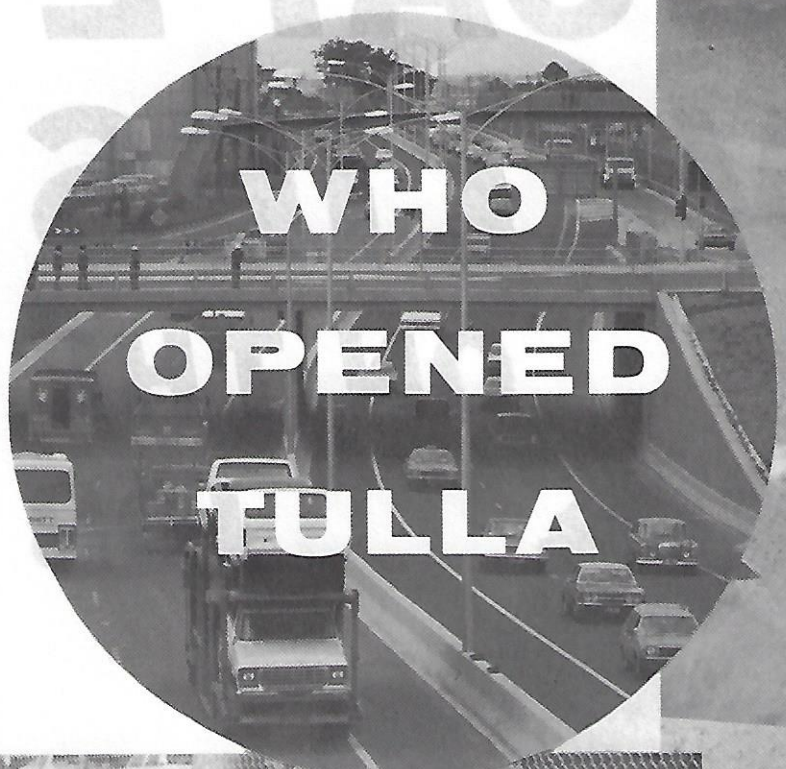
Office Services staff arrived one day to find that some enterprising person had stolen their half-44 gallon drum contaminated with toxic chemicals used for fire fighting demonstrations. They suggest there could be quite a 'snag' in converting it into a barbeque - and they wouldn't be caught dead eating one!

THE MEN . . .

WHO OPENED TULLA

As reported on page 2, Lancefield Road near Essendon Airport has been upgraded to freeway standard.

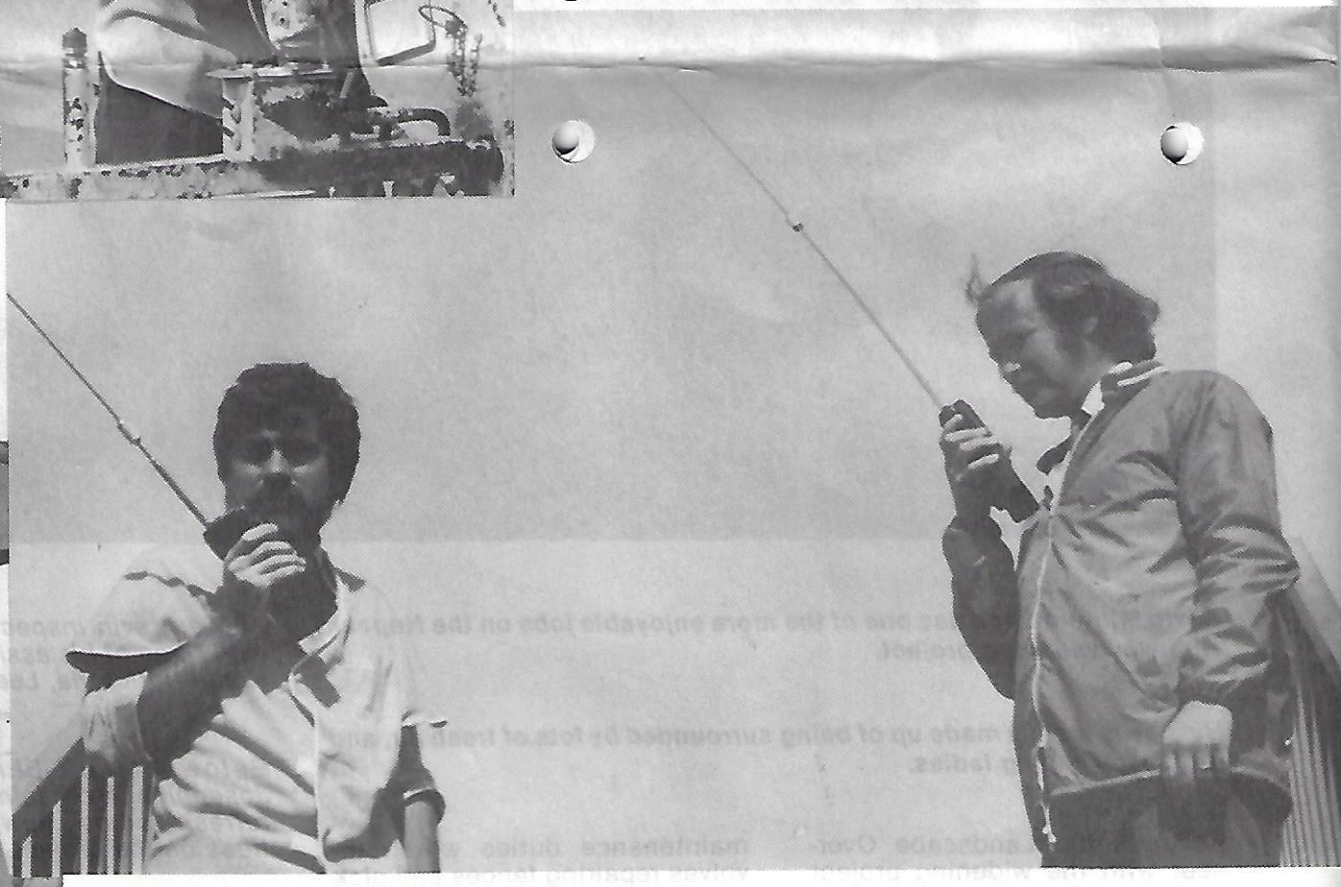
These photographs show some of the men who made possible the opening of the new section of the Tullamarine Freeway.

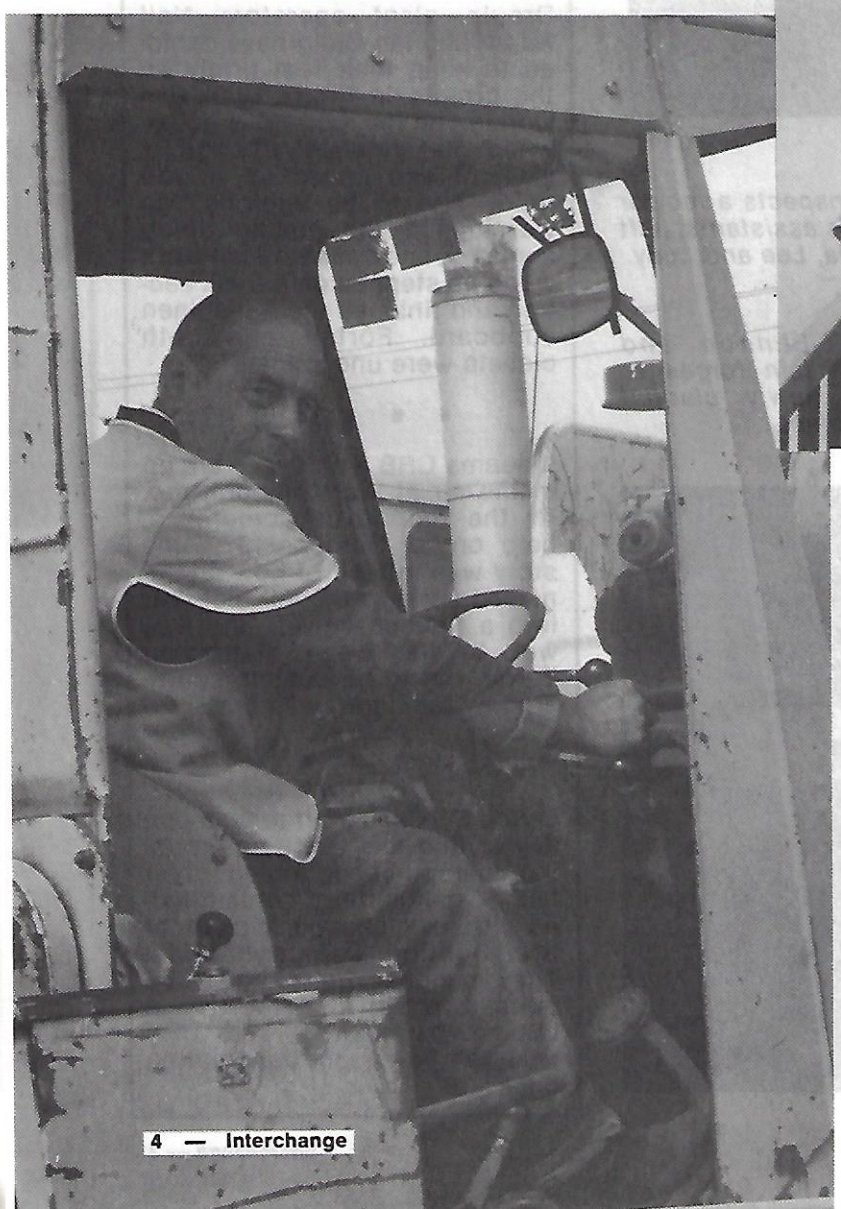


Above: It may be the age of mechanisation but, as this picture of Joe Webster shows, the days of pick and shovel are far from over.

Above right: Putting the final touches. Here we have two of the linemarking crew in action — Peter Hurren and Steve Evans.

Below: About to collect the temporary spike kerbing using the scoop-mobile is Wasil Terestchuck.





Above: Bob Stamp, right, checking out radio equipment with fellow engineer Ed Parker."Speak up, I can't hear you!"

Right: "Now — any questions?" Metro's Divisional Engineer Reg Patterson confers with Engineers Ken Mathers and Ed Parker, and Assistant Divisional Engineer David Jones, just prior to the opening.

FICKLE FINGER AWARD 1979

Benalla Division's annual "Fickle Finger of Fate" award was presented by Engineer Peter Leyden (the 1978 winner and sole judge for the 1979 award) at the Christmas break-up.

The Fickle Finger pointed in many directions in 1979 and there were a record number of nominations. From the list, five finalists were selected :

1. Engineer Bruce Hope really gave the award a nudge with three nominations. His first attempt involved a wild kissing rampage through the typing pool — yes, the hottest lips in the north east were unleashed on an unsuspecting typist. Bruce is really a sparkling conversationalist on the telephone but he surpassed himself when he dialled a wrong number and spoke with the party for half an hour.

   Bruce could blame Di Meadows for his third nomination. An outward call, placed by Bruce, was mistaken for an inward call by a gentleman who is an associate of one of our typists and for various physical attributes is known as Tarzan. Despite repeated protestations to the contrary, Di insisted that she had the real Tarzan on the phone. Bruce rose to the occasion — he yodelled from the top balcony, swung on the vine on the staircase (it is rumoured in leopard skin jockettes) singing Gitarzan, and once again swooped on the typing pool.

2. Cost Clerk Jack Skene made an early bid for the title when, after a particularly bad day with the paperwork, he set fire to his waste paper bin in the Divisional Office. This outburst of pyromania is not indicative of Jack's general behaviour.

3. Engineers Allan Koch and Fred Crook received a joint nomination for reasons thought better not to mention.

4. A $70,000 contract payment was unfortunately debited to Job Number 1550 HN3/205 instead of the correct job number. A triple nomination was made to Engineer John Coles for perpetrating the error, Ledger Clerk Janet Hammond for perpetrating it and to Engineer Bryan Hensley for spending three months trying to sort out why 1550 HN3/205 was so sadly overspent.

5. The fifth finalist and eventual winner of the award was Engineer Bill Peyton, who received two nominations.

   The first arose from his trip to Jumbana. His wife became suspicious when she opened a parcel containing some clothes left by Bill and found a piece of woman's undergarment. (Bill insists it was planted, and of course we believe him?).

   Bill was also quoted as saying "I will bare my a --- (posterior) in Oliver's (local men's emporium) front window if the pavement of Melrose Drive is more than 12 feet wide". Most regrettably, for Bill, it is more than 12 feet wide.

TIGER TRIO

It's really quite incredible how much fuss one sole Tasmanian tiger can create.

Just ask Kooweerup spray gang members Ernie Hade, Ian Garry and 'Slim' Holland, pictured above.

They haven't had a moments peace since they reported seeing a Tasmanian tiger in December, on the Bass Highway near the GMH proving ground, 80km south east of Melbourne.

In fact, the elusive tiger was spotted twice in four days by the trio.

On the second occasion it was only 25 metres from their vechicle.

Their sightings have aroused the interest of not only the local Wonthaggi newspapers, but also Melbourne's television, radio and press.

"We even had someone call us from the Sydney Morning Herald," laughed Garry.

Then again, it's not every day a Tasmanian tiger is seen wandering across a State highway, although there have been numerous reports of the catlike animal in the area since 1968.

About 18 months ago Les Koak, a member of the same spray unit, saw the tiger at The Gurdies, on the Bass Highway.

Les confessed that he had kept quiet about it for fear of being ridiculed.

Photo: Courtesy Herald & Weekly Times

Pawnote: The World Wildlife Fund Australia has made available $55,000 for an investigation in Tasmania for the rare tiger.

The last specimen held in captivity died in Hobart in 1933.

ANYONE FOR TENNIS?

Benalla Divisional staff may be top sportsmen on their home ground, but what are they really like on strange territory?

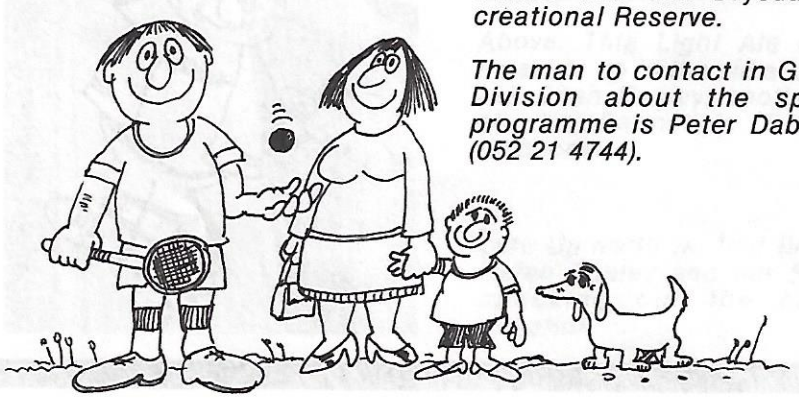
You'll find that out on Sunday, 23rd March, when Geelong Division play host to the 1980 Interdivisional Sports Day.

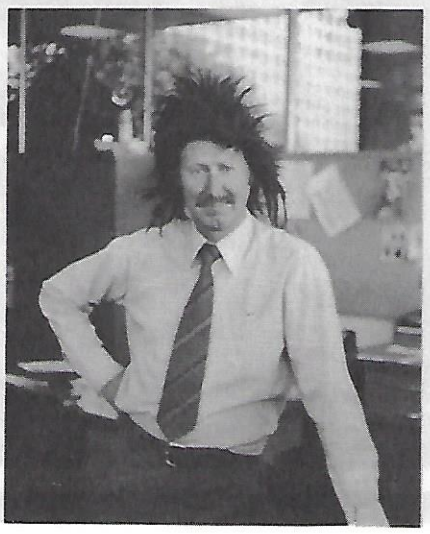
A family fun day is being planned so competitors are asked to bring their wives, husbands, kids, aunties, neighbours, family dentist, pet dog and anyone else who likes enjoying a BBQ luncheon and good company.

On the agenda so far are golf, tennis, lawn bowls, squash, and table tennis, with the possibility of basketball, volleyball or netball being included.

Venues in Geelong will be the Clifton Springs Community Centre and the Drysdale Recreational Reserve.

The man to contact in Geelong Division about the sporting programme is Peter Dabrowski (052 21 4744).

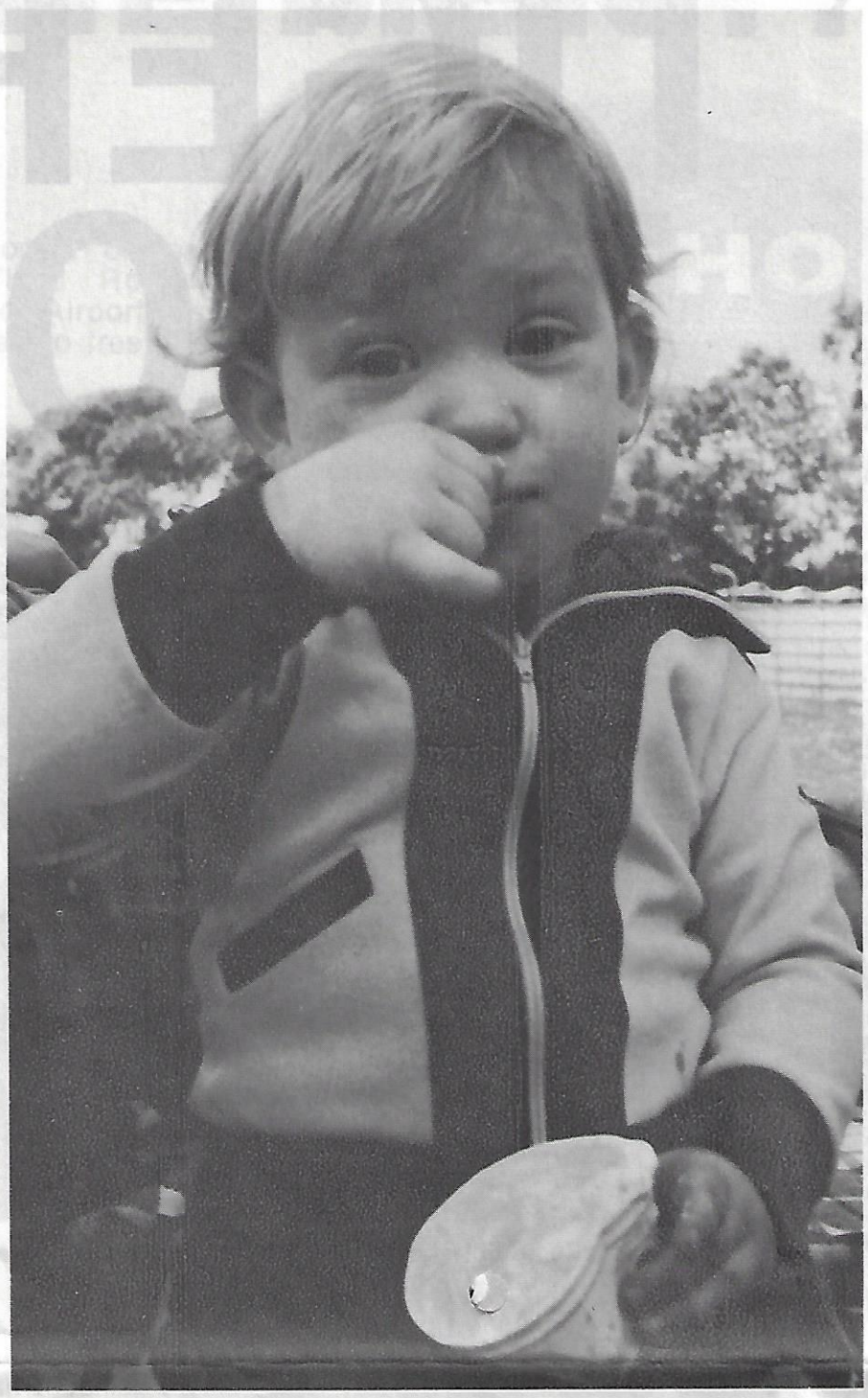




GERRY'S CASUAL COIFFURE

Don't be fooled by that suave, debonair exterior — a Floor Controller's job can be quite hair-raising! Gerry Stavely, caught here in an unguarded moment, shows that such responsibility eventually takes its toll.

how we spent christmas



Above: If only everything tasted as good as icecream. 2½ year old Mark Young savours the delights of vanilla at the HO Childrens party

The Christmas New Year period .... a time for rejoicing.

That's exactly what's been happening all over the state .... champagne breakfasts, staff luncheons, kid's parties .... it's traditional and fun!

These photographs, submitted by various Interchange reps, are testimony that work is the last thing on people's minds during the festive season.

Above: Workshop Foreman Brian Doyle won't take ANY backseat driving from this lot! He was photographed at Traralgon Division's children's christmas party held at the Depot

Above: Dave and Trudi Parker having a 'ball' at the Horsham Golf Club

Below: Christmas spirits flowed at the Retired Persons Association get-together at Head Office. From left to right are Ted Howlett (former Assistant Secretary), Bill Fulton (ex-Property Officer) and Leon O'Brien (ex-Deputy Estates Officer)

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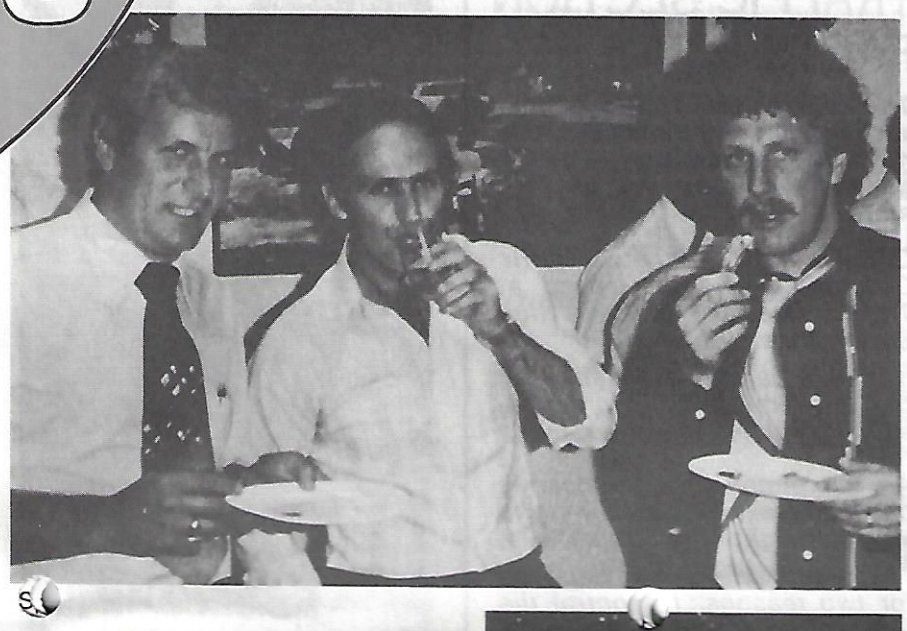
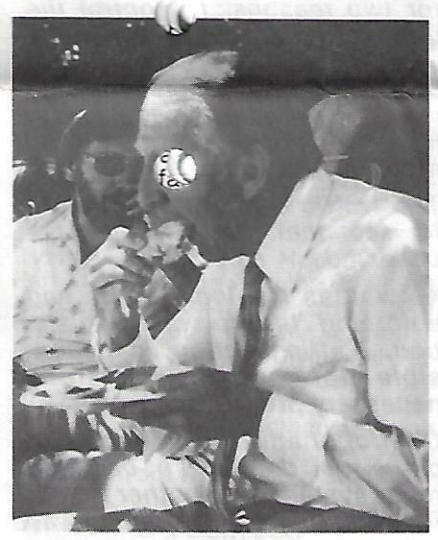
Above: No — the photographer wasn't drunk at the Head Office staff luncheon. He used a fish eye lens on his camera to capture this unusual shot of staff members enjoying themselves in the Theatrette



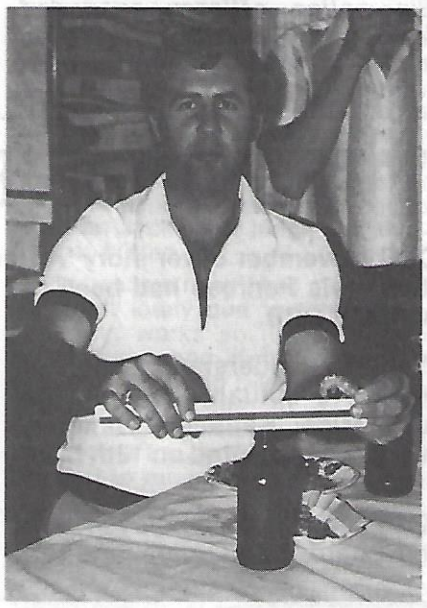
Above: It's a refreshing break from asphalting, anyway! At the Metro Office party are, left to right, John Mocko, Dave Leonard and Ken Mathers

Above: Santa worked up a substantial credit in his flexi-time at Syndal Depot's Christmas Party. He is pictured here with Alison Walsh, and her niece



Right: Division Engineer Tom Glazebrook doesn't seem too concerned about inflation at Bendigo's break up function

Below: Six year old Katie Kloot finds that the HO Children's Party has its ups and downs



Above: This Light Ale doesn't measure up to the old stuff. Just ask Brian Bagley, spotted here at the Bairnsdale Divisional luncheon

Left: Up north we find Benalla's Helen Tooley and Ian Sunders checking out the culinary situation

Nostalgia

Recognise anybody?

Digging deep into our Nostalgia file, we came up with this photo of the entire CRB staff at Head Office taken fifty years ago.

And haven't we grown? Our induction programme groups are almost this size nowadays!

REWARDING LONG SERVICE

In recognition of many years devoted work, gold and silver long service awards were presented to personnel who had completed either forty or twenty-five years with the CRB.

Four gold and sixty silver awards were made by the Chairman, Mr Tom Russell, on 29 November last year.

Mr Reg Jones (Horsham), one of the forty year award recipients, was unfortunately not able to be present; however, Mr Ron Arkley (Bairnsdale), Mr George Keating (Dandenong) and Mr Fred Turner (Syndal) were all in attendance to receive their gold cuff-links.

Two ladies, Miss Rita Powlesland and Mrs Susan Mordaunt, qualified for silver awards. Both have now retired, and we hope that their silver brooches serve as a reminder of happy times spent at the CRB.

A list of the remaining 25 year award recipients appears below :

Geoff Allen (HO), Bob Anton (Warrnambool), Henry Broadwood (Traralgon), John Brunt (Warrnambool), Cyril Bullock (Bendigo), Tony Callow (Benalla), Bill Chamberlin (Bendigo), Bill Cherry (Geelong), Graham Collins (Bairnsdale), Les Commons (Bairnsdale), Ivan Cummins (Ballarat), Bazil Czikato (Geelong), John Densley (Warrnambool), Les De Vere (Geelong), Vic Donne (Bendigo), Kevin Drever (Ballarat), Frank Duffy (Seymour Project), John Evans (Geelong), Bill Fisher (Ballarat), Ernie Goodridge (Westgate), Merv Gregg (Ballarat), Max Hanley (Bridge), Vic Hanson (Geelong), Kevin Hardiman (Geelong), Alan Hicks (Bendigo), Arch Hider (Geelong), Norm Horne (Bairnsdale), George Kennedy (Benalla), Mick Kiraly (Benalla), Peter Koziell (Bridge), Vic Lawther (Dandenong), Frank Limbrick (Benalla), Bill Lockwood (Benalla), Tom Mc Leod (Bairnsdale), Vin Mankin (Asphalt), Dick Matuszek (Asphalt), Arthur O'Donahoo (Bendigo), Fred Pedelty (Bridge), Ken Pengelly (Bendigo), John Pittard (APE), Jack Rayner (Ballarat), Joe Rush (MRD), Leo Russell (Bairnsdale), Kevin Ryan (Warrnambool), Russ Sheldrick (HO), Rupe Sherwell (Ballarat), Bill Stubington (Benalla), Cliff Trethowan (Geelong), Vic Vairogs (Benalla), Bob Vincent (Traralgon), Neil Wagstaff (Ballarat), Brian Waters (Syndal), Ian Watson (Bridge), Doug Watts (Syndal), Lou Webb (Benalla), Ron Willsher (Warrnambool), John Wojtowycz (Geelong), Johnny Zenkis (Metro).

Refreshments and a quiet chat followed the presentations. Pictured here are (from left to right) Rita Powlesland (Retired), Norm Horne (Bairnsdale), Vic Donne (Bendigo), Bill Chamberlin (Bendigo), and Fred Turner (Syndal) with his daughter Janice Friedlander.

TRAFFIC SECTION FACTS & FIGURES

The role of the Traffic Officer with the Country Roads Board is not widely understood — by the general public as well as CRB staff.

Of the Board's twenty-two Traffic Officers, twelve are based at Traffic Section, in the High Street Annex, Kew.

It is here permits are issued for the movement of overdimensional vehicles on the State's roads.

An overdimensional vehicle is one which exceeds legal weight, length, height or width limits.

These limits have been imposed for two reasons : to control the movement of overdimensional vehicles and thus ensure that roads and bridges are not subjected to excessive loads, and to maintain safe conditions for the motorist.

The Traffic Officer's function is to see that these limits are observed.

As well as issuing permits and enforcing the relevant legislation, Traffic Section is responsible for carrying out any necessary prosecutions.

Control of advertising and hoardings on the CRB's declared road system is another major function of Traffic Section.

Six police officers seconded from the State Police force also assist in the law enforcement role.

Look! Up in the tree. Is it a bird? Is it a plane? Is it a photographer?

This candid shot of CRB photographer Bill Jansen, perched in the fork of a tree, was snapped recently at Traralgon.

Oh, by the way, there's no truth in the rumour that Bill's branching out .....

WE WERE WRONG

OUR November cover story 'A Record For Doris' incorrectly reported that Doris Penrose had been the longest standing female employee with the CRB.

We now understand that the record is actually held by the late Miss Kathleen Handley, who was appointed on 12th May, 1913.

Kathleen was an employee with the Board for 50 years, and left in June 1963, at the age of 75.

Miss Handley was involved with three CRB firsts — she was the Board's first typist, and the first secretary of the CRB's first Chairman, Mr W Calder.

DIVISIONAL ROUNDABOUT

• BAIRNSDALE

ARRIVAL

Welcome to Colin Russon who commenced at the depot as an apprentice Motor Mechanic on 7th January.

FISHING DAY

The fishing day held at Metung in November proved very enjoyable — especially for the fish. Due to inclement weather only a few fishermen cast a line, with Russell "Sure Hook" Adams taking off not only the prize for the heaviest fish, but also one for the heaviest bag. After receiving the prizes, he quickly slid away so the embarrassment wouldn't show through.

KID'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

The children's Christmas party held on 9th December went off very well with approximately 90 children lining up for goodies. Hayrides and races went by the board on the arrival of 'Miss Toyworld' bear. Older kids had to refrain from giving bear hugs, however! Jolly "Ho Ho" Santa Scott again did the honours from the back of Allistars Red Japanese Sleigh and then departed by Fire Truck whence he came. Brian Vowles was relieved that no more snakes emerged from the bales on the hay ride trailer.

Special thanks go to Sue and Alan and all the other little elves.

OFFICE BREAK-UP

The inaugural office break-up went off without a hitch with all the girls doing a splendid job with the food. Thanks to 'Prawn Connoisseur' Robbie Morecroft — a good feed of after dinner prawns was really enjoyed.

• BALLARAT

FAREWELLS

To Joy Molan (11th January) and Gail Ryan (4th January) who have left work to prepare for the birth of their children. We wish both girls all happiness in the future.

WELCOME

A warm welcome is extended to the Divisional office new arrivals — Wendy Petch Typist/Machinist (Accounts), Carolyn Byrnes Clerical Assistant (Drafting), and Penny Soufis Typist/Switchboard Operator and Alan Strange Experimental Officer (Laboratory). Also to Billy Martin and Steve Pattinson who were previously employed in the field but were successful in gaining positions in the Laboratory. We wish all concerned success in their new environment.

RETIREMENTS

Farewell to Merv Gregg who retired because of illhealth on 15th January 1980. Merv commenced in Bairnsdale Division in April 1953 where he worked on East Sale aerodrome during its construction. Prior to his transfer to Ballarat as Instructor Driver in May 1961, Merv was Patrolman in Charge of the Glen Wills Patrol. Through the years, he gained BS and construction experience as Overseer and, in 1971, was appointed Roadmaster. On the 22nd November 1978 Merv was awarded a Long Service token in recognition of the 25 years service he had with the CRB. Merv was given a retiring farewell by his workmates and friends at the Divisional Office on 16th January. We wish Merv and his wife a long and happy retirement.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Ballarat Divisional Office Social Club Christmas Party was held at Victoria Bowling Club on Wednesday 19th December. With good food, drink and music, along with excellent company, a great time was had by all.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE

The Social Club Christmas tree was held on Thursday 20th December at the Divisional Depot. The party was once again a great success with the children enjoying lots of goodies and gifts from Santa (Herby Hooper).

• METRO

ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

Congratulations to Engineer John Nation on his promotion and move to Dandenong Division after seven years in Metropolitan Division. Hope he keeps to his promise of arranging a table tennis grudge match between the two Divisions, but he needn't bother with squash.

David Keam has arrived for a stint under the Engineers' Training Scheme.

Tom Ford, Peter Crean and Rudi Parker are welcomed as Cost Clerks in the Accounts Section.

Welcome back to Bob Monkhouse returning after 12 months on the rotational training scheme for draftsmen, and farewell to David Kimpton who has returned to Plans and Surveys.

Best wishes to Ken Hornsby who left after 10 years with the Board for a position with the Department of Works and Housing in the "cyclone" Territory at Darwin. Divisional Accounts Clerk Bruce Young has transferred to the Pay Section after 4 years with Metropolitan Division and is to be replaced by Peter Flavelle from the Costing Section.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Jack Bailey is rarely seen in the Divisional Office these days and we believe he keeps getting lost in his new Eastern Freeway Depot. However, it could be that he is waiting on the return of the nearby Mental Home escapee who, after being caught and placed in Jack's car for safe keeping recently, decided to feast on Jack's cut lunch and thermos of coffee.

David Leonard hasn't had much time for sport lately due to bituminous surfacing works so it was left to Geoff Hose and Ken Mathers to challenge reigning Divisional tennis champ John Clark to a match. Despite waiting for the hottest day of the year the "young chaps" were the first to run out of puff.

Electrician Jim Paul recently completed an 18 mile flight in his 32' wing span hang-glider by undertaking a return trip between Ocean Grove and Point Lonsdale. Wonder whether he has contemplated the complete trip from Melbourne using West Gate as a hopping off point!

Once again our Christmas Break-Up, organised by Michael North-Coombes, proved to be a huge success. Former Metro staff members who attended included Lorna Taber, Geoff Gooch, Phil Marshall and Wally Sproule. Lucky numbers were won by Bob Stamp, David Blore, Bill Draper and Chris Adams but, unfortunately, the prizes were wasted as it is rumoured that none of the lads drink the stuff.

• BENDIGO

Main activity in the Division centred around Christmas celebrations. A large party journeyed to the Brolga Hotel/Motel, Lake Eppalock, on Friday 6th December to a dinner dance. The bus trip out was quiet, but the return trip was most vocal with Christmas Carols being predominant. One or two 'ditties' (football trip type) managed to filter through from the back of the bus, courtesy of Les Jenkins.

The staff enjoyed a buffet luncheon in the office gardens prior to ceasing duty before Christmas. Earlier a number of social club members had gathered at Lake Weeroona for a chicken and champagne breakfast. A great time was had by all present. Festivities closed with drinks in the Beer Garden at the Bullshead Hotel in Mc Ivor Road, Strathdale. Those attending were having a wow of a time — until wives started turning up to collect husbands. That put an end to the ice down the back, and front, of the girls' dresses!

Don and Enid Peckham with Jane and Michael returned to England to spend Christmas and most of January with relatives, and to renew old friendships.

Heather Lowndes spent six weeks during December and January in Germany. Heather's trip was part of a Lions Youth Exchange programme.

• PLANS & SURVEYS

MOVEMENTS

Newly appointed engineers — Ken Chong, Bill Leeuwen, Hok Yew, Ian Pearson, Greg Chambers, Bradley Clarke, Gary Balcam and Neville Schmidt and John Williams (Engineers Training Scheme).

Newly appointed draftsmen — Geoff Rasmussen, Michael Tolhurst, David Sajfar, Brian Wood, Mustafa Uzonoglu (from Road Planning), Victor Ogneni, Robert Palmer, Harry Hastas and Drafting Assistants Kerry Middleton and Patricia Phillips.

John Wallen joined Plans & Surveys for six months and Robert Keating came back with him from Traffic Engineering.

Best wishes to Don Bertram who departs for Bridge after two years in P & S.

Ken Williamson managed to survive his bucks night and was married on December 1st to Betty Brown, with a lot of CRB people in attendance. Ken also announced that he is leaving the CRB after 10 years service to join former CRB workers Ray Moloney and Peter Kennedy in their computer business. All P & S wish Ken a great deal of success with the new venture.

Graham Johnson left to take up a position at Lillydale Shire Council.

Peter Mc Culloch, Ken Turner, David Valentine and Sean Mc Callion all gained promotion to Class 2 Draftsmen.

Don't ask Avairs Bruns about shopping at K Mart, and Barry Guttridge has nothing to report about the latest quarterly Jimmy Watson lunch.

Christmas celebrations continued with members of P & S attending the now-annual CRB chicken and champagne breakfast in the Kew gardens. This was enjoyed by all, but we couldn't convince the P & S girls to attend — maybe next year.

• HEAD OFFICE

Bob Carnegie (ex Personnel, Retired) is now recovering at home after a stay in Mitcham Hospital with pleurisy and pneumonia.

Advance Planning is losing Phil Jones who is going into business. APD wish him good luck.

Terri Gibb (Estates) helped out in PR for a few weeks during our staff shortage (including helping with Interchange). We don't know what we did but she decided to resign on 8th February. Thanks for your help.

The Road Design Sub-Branch found itself without its two top men during January — Mr Hobbs, CRDE, was at home recovering from a heart attack and Mr Noble, ACRDE ended up in hospital for an eye operation after having trouble with his vision. During the week before Mr Noble entered hospital he had been part of a team which had reached the quarter finals of the Metropolitan Fours Bowls Championship. It is interesting to speculate about the likely results had he been able to see straight. He may have been too busy competing in that tournament and others (World Championships at Frankston?) to come to work anyway.

• HORSHAM

ARRIVALS

Welcome to Greg Spicer, Motor Mechanic, who commenced duties on the 26th November 1979.

Also to Greg Arnott, Apprentice Motor Mechanic , who commenced duties on 7th January 1980.

We also welcome Reg Pilmore who has been appointed to the position of Roadmaster A from Benalla Division.

We wish them a long and happy stay with us.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

Staff at Horsham Division enjoyed a merry Christmas last year.

The Office Social Club celebrated the season at the Horsham Golf Club on 18th December, with a very enjoyable night had by all. And on 21st December, the office staff 'broke up' with a counter lunch at the Royal Hotel.

RETIREMENTS

Reg Jones, Roadmaster, Horsham Division.

After 42 years of service, Reg Jones has retired from the Board. Reg commenced with the Board as a patrol assistant on the Nhill Patrol in December 1938. He joined the Army in 1942 and served with the 2/2 Pioneer Battalion in New Guinea and Borneo. After being discharged from the Army, Reg returned to the Board firstly in Horsham Division and in 1948 he was appointed Patrolman in Charge, Sale Patrol. In February 1962 Reg was promoted to Roadmaster in Benalla, operating from Wodonga, he was to be appointed Roadmaster, southern section in Horsham in October 1969 where he remained until his retirement. Unfortunately Reg has not experienced the best of health over the past year and underwent open heart surgery recently. It is pleasing to see Reg well on the way to recovery and all at Horsham wish him a long and enjoyable retirement. Reg's quick wit and banter with the younger members of the staff will be missed in the office, particularly in the footy season.

DIVISIONAL ROUNDABOUT

• WARRNAMBOOL

NEW ARRIVALS

Welcome to new engineer Bill Degnan who returns to Warrnambool Division after 10 years. We also welcome Debbie Windon as our new typist. Debbie replaces Nell Repacholi, who is on 12 months maternity leave. Our lab staff has an addition with the appointment of John Fry. Alister Sedgley has returned to the drawing office once again.

WELCOME BACK

It is good to see workshop foreman Alec Cannane and accounts officer Aileen Noonan back on duty again after both had been away for long periods of sick leave.

Ewen Powell returned to Warrnambool after several months in Ballarat. Ewen also has been on sick leave. We hope he is now in good form again.

ODD SPOTS

John Schmidt and gang are taking their annual pilgrimage to Nelson for bridge maintenance. Hope the fishing is good.

Veteran driver Wayne Stevenson who served on these many years ago was heard to mutter — the only thing changed on these in 20 years is the plant number.

• TRARALGON

MOVEMENTS

The following folk are welcomed to the Division. Messrs Hearn, Pimm, Bertacco, May, Elliot, Cornwall. We also welcome Carlo Buratto as draftsman to the office.

Farewells to Karl Urbanczyk, Owen Jarrett, Damien Roche, Trevor Williams.

SOCIAL CLUB

On 17th November, the Social Club held a very successful squash evening. There were many red faces and sweaty brows by the end of the night, but smiles as well. A supper was held in the Club rooms afterwards where Denise Shanks was presented with a prize for the Most Successful Player for the night.

The 14th December saw 130 people gather at the VRI Hall for the annual social club Christmas Dance — a truly memorable night.

On Sunday 16th December, the annual children's Christmas party was held on the lawns of the Divisional Depot. Santa brought presents for the kids, and everybody had a most enjoyable time.

The final Christmas gathering was a barbeque luncheon on the lawns of the depot, on Friday 21st. The majority of office and depot staff spent a pleasant afternoon socialising, and the 'stayers' stayed well into the afternoon.

FOR FUN

The 1979 Traralgon Division Annual Gum-boot Throwing Contest (held during the kids Christmas Party) was the scene of a family triumph as Ian 'Tiny' Collings and his wife Pat took out the mens and ladies titles respectively. Pat threw a single boot 19.1 m and Ian sent the pair 20.9 m, narrowly defeating Peter White who made 20.8 m.

Office gardener and handyman Len Dove must have had a particularly hard New Year celebration as, on the following Wednesday, he erected the office flag upside down — perhaps his head was in distress. It apparently didn't work as he repeated the performance on the Friday. We are now having "This way up" printed on the flag.

The final tale comes from Experimental Officer Geoff Proudfoot. Geoff, returning home from a beach day hit a jackass with his car. He stopped and went back to where the bird was lying on its back. He picked it up to see if it was dead and, to his dismay, the bird bit him on the thumb, left a mess all down his trousers, and flew away — no doubt laughing all the way, which we were assured Geoff wasn't.

• DANDENONG

OUTS

Steve Graham and Ken Hall (see Resignations).

Jeanette Mc Gowan and Marilyn Cohen were farewelled in December to take up higher duties — motherhood. Jeanette now has a baby girl — see "Classies" — and we're awaiting news of Marilyn. Both girls were presented with suitable gifts by the D.E. on behalf of the staff.

Ian Gay who had been with us for some time returned to the Principal Surveyor; also George Giummarra to Road Planning and Frank Rapattoni to Bridge Sub-Branch after his time on the Training Scheme.

INS

Drafting Assistant Rita Banhidy has joined us as Jeanette Mc Gowan's replacement, and appears to be settling in well.

Ian Mullen returned from a stint in Head Office. We also gained Engineers Bruce Chipperfield from P & S, Ian Price from Bridge Sub-Branch, and John Nation from Metro. By the time this comes to print, Allan Collins and Rob Aitken will be with us from Road Planning Division; also Charles Broadhurst on the Engineers' Training Scheme and Robert Keating on the Draftsmen's Training Scheme.

RESIGNATIONS

Steve Graham and Ken Hall.

With regret we said au revoir to two 'old' members of Dandenong Division — Steve Graham resigned on 23 November 79 and Ken Hall on 11 January 80 to commence a road planning business with a CMI Rotomill machine from USA. A briefcase was presented to Steve and a wristwatch to Ken and with these went our best wishes to these enterprising young lads for a highly successful venture.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS AND LUNCHEON

Friday 21st of December and it was on again, as Dandenong Division staff celebrated the approach of Christmas 1979 and the nominal end to another year of toil. The day commenced in fine fashion with a barbeque breakfast at 7 am in nearby Nunawading Reserve.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

We are indebted once more to Syndal for the use of their ground and their facilities, not forgetting the Syndal Flyer, and for the effort they put into arranging such a beautiful day on the 9th December — our first fine day for several years. A large number of kids attended (including the big KIDS who work here) and once again Father Easton Christmas carried out his duties to the delight of the children — well, most of them.

Five hours later Alan's barby was again sizzling to the John Cunningham overture as the whole Division enjoyed yet another excellent Christmas luncheon organised by the Social Club. Ian Mullen, still in tails, and in charge of the bar, was pouring perfect beers and pretty good wines as well. The afternoon was capped off by an after lunch speech by the Divisional Engineer, Mr Stan Hodgson, during which presentations were made to Raleigh Robinson for being versatile, Bill Kendall for the 'Quote of the Year', Ken Hall as this year's 'Roads' Scholar, Elsa Fraser for a 'Notable Achievement', David Jones and Des White for running the table tennis doubles, Geoff Pullin for having a handicap of minus 15 in next year's Table Tennis Tournament, and the Divisional Engineer because he enjoys a private party and knows how to open a bottle of caramel sauce.

• GEELONG

WELCOMES

We welcome to the office Tamara Mossop, draftswoman, who will be a beauty amongst the beasts of the drawing office.

FAREWELLS

Robert Gardner left the board on 16th January and we wish him well in his new venture.

ALMOST ANYTHING GOES

Geelong Apex Club recently held an Almost Anything Goes competition in Geelong, and the team from the CRB performed with merit being runners up in the events. The team was comprised of those adventurous members of staff with medical insurance fully paid, and congratulations must go to them. The team was Peter Dabrowski, Ian Smith, Steve D'Giacoma, Ian Harris, Tracey Farrow, Maureen Smith, Colleen Wilkin and Margaret Kenneally.

XMAS PARTY

Once again, a very successful Christmas party was held and organisers of both the office and depot functions must be congratulated on a job well done. We are all looking forward to this year's effort.

SPORTS SCOOP

Our basketball teams are at present performing with reasonable success in their competitions and the girls look certain of playing in finals. The men's team, on the other hand, have had some disappointing games — however, they still have a chance of making the four. Unfortunately our lack of skill is proving a big obstacle.

• ROAD PLANNING

Mrs Lea Lengyel, Senior Drafting Assistant, retired from the Board's service on 15th January, 1980, after nearly 21 years service with the Board which commenced in June, 1958.

Mrs Lengyel started her work with the Board in the Bridge Sub-Branch. In 1967 she was "loaned" to Traffic and Location Section. This developed into a transfer to T & L in June, 1968. From that time on, Mrs Lengyel worked continuously in Planning Programme, later Freeway Planning, now Road Planning Division, until her retirement. Mrs Lengyel is a very quiet and unassuming lady; her work was of very high quality, with high output, and she did much to improve and maintain the standards of draftsmanship in Road Planning Division.

ARRIVALS

D Coodeschi, draftsman; D Watt, Engineer on Training Scheme; G Foley returns after being on Training Scheme and B Aleksil new Engineer; R Borzillo Engineer; G Gentle Draftsman; J Warren Engineer on Training Scheme; C Letts Engineer; Chris Smith Engineer; George Giummara has returned from the "streets" after being with UYVDR Authority for 12 months and H Adams joined RPD.

DEPARTURES

Paul Bushman to Benalla Division on the Engineers Training Scheme and Mustafa Uzunoglu to Plans & Surveys; N Schmidt to Training Scheme; J Farthing, W Harvey and M Wood to Draftsmans Training Scheme; A Collins to Dandenong with R Aitken and R Parr to Metro.

• SYNDAL

CHRISTMAS BREAK UP PARTY

The Social Club, in usual good fashion, again organised the Christmas luncheon in the canteen and activities afterwards on the lawns.

There was plenty of reminiscing, with a lot of 'oldies' returning to Syndal to join in the festivities. We must thank "Honest" Bob Frost for his efforts in organising the invitations and transport for retired members. Elbows were kept supple — no doubt the beautiful weather helping proceedings along. Volley-ball was popular after lunch with a number of our ladies joining in the teams.

The Syndal Swingers Band, consisting of Graham Williamson drums, Ian Drew piano, Graham Steele trumpet, Charlie Malley and Ron Low both accordian and Brian James on saxophone, provided entertainment for the gathering. 'Doc' Ruffles sang a couple of songs and was applauded warmly by his workmates for his efforts. The Band practised during the morning in the workshop area, and were rewarded with air-borne donations — including a number of non-redeemable flat washers! The four dollars in cash, mainly 2 and 5 cent pieces, have been taken into Social Club Funds.

CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual Christmas party for children and parents was held at Syndal on 2nd December in perfect weather. Attractions for the children included trampoline, pony rides, fairy floss, the Syndal Flyer, items of plant to inspect and "operate" and last, but not least, Father Christmas George, whose seemingly bottomless sack satisfied all the children present — except the one very small fry who requested the 'Belt' from the trousers worn by Father Christmas. The youngsters kept Father Christmas busy, avoiding the offers of Ice Cream.

DEPARTURES

Allison Walsh, apprentice gardener has been transferred to Dandenong division. We will miss her bright smile.

NEW ARRIVALS

We welcome to the Syndal Depot :

Apprentice Supervisor Maurie Clark who has migrated to Victoria from New Zealand.

Mrs Lyn Hutchinson, our new Telex Operator.

Walter Wiggerink, Senior Gardener (that will make Graham happy).

• MRD

GET WELL

Our tea lady, Eileen Walsh, was seriously injured in a car accident in mid-November. Everyone in the building wishes Eileen a speedy recovery and we hope to see her back at work soon.

ARRIVALS

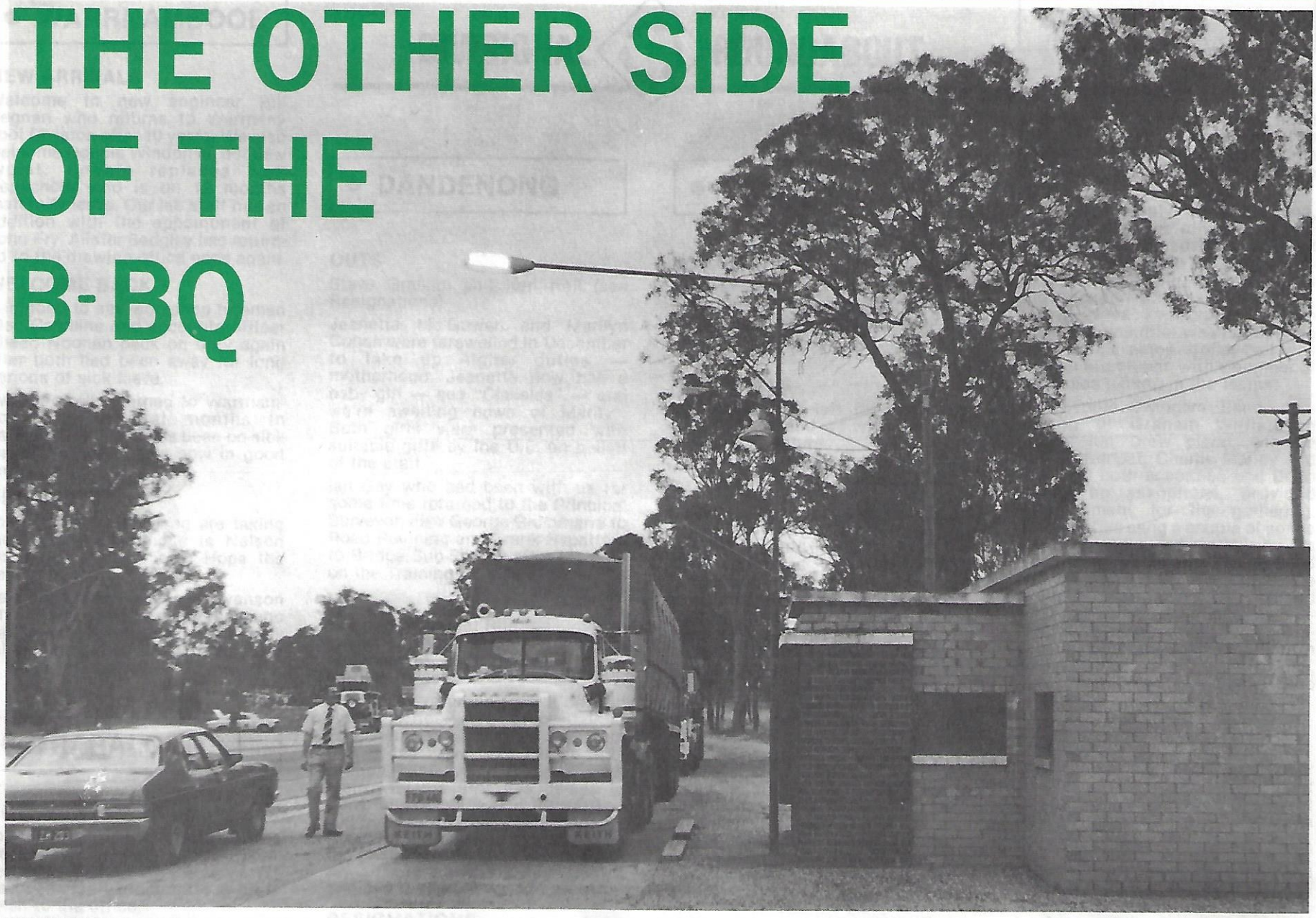
Doug Smith is the new TA with the Pavement Section, and the TA in the Geotechnical Section is Peter Mackintosh. There are two new E.O. 1's in the Soils Lab, Dean Wingfield and Gary Winters. Gloria Stock is the new typist in the Div. Office, and Neil Alexander is the temporary clerk in the Store.

GENERAL

Andy Masterson spent the first weekend in November at the Eildon 'Funfish'. Andy won a prize for the 5th heaviest trout. The prize was a Polaroid Instant Movie outfit worth over $700!

The Ground Floor had a pre-Christmas barbeque in the Kew Gardens and another ex-worker with MRD, Julia Roglich (nee Williams), also made a surprise visit. Thankyou to Jean for reserving a barbeque and setting everything up so nicely.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE B-BQ



"YOU'RE 1.9 tonnes overweight — what are you carrying?" the Traffic Officer queried the driver of a big Mack.

"Glider fuel", the truckie replied flippantly.

Craig Garrett, who's been with Traffic Section for more than nine years, has heard the 'glider fuel' routine on more than one occasion.

Above: A big Mack comes under scrutiny at the CRB weighbridge on the Hume Highway near Seymour

But, like the truckies themselves, Craig possesses a keen sense of humour.

It's an important prerequisite when you're on the road all hours of the day and night, dealing with all sorts of people.

For Craig Garrett, it's been quite a while since he worked a normal nine to five day.

Because of the diverse nature of his work, one day may find him in a magistrates court, the following two days may see him based at a weighbridge on the Hume Highway, and the rest of the week could have him flitting between High Street Annex and the outer suburbs. It's never routine.

In fact, some aspects are unique.

For example, Craig, like all Traffic Officers is not only involved in intercepting offenders, but he also carries out his own prosecutions; he's a sort of Kojak/Petrocelli rolled into one.

But, as Craig is quick to point out, his appearances in the magistrates' courts are usually brief.

The cases mainly involve overweight vehicles, and a proportion are not defended.

When he's not indoors, Craig spends most of his time in his Ford pursuit vehicle, catching up on paperwork, patrolling roads, and sometimes just waiting for a 'suspect'.

Patience is another important prerequisite in this job.

Craig remembers the time he sat for ten hours waiting to check out a possibly overloaded truck.

As it turned out, when he eventually did apprehend the vehicle, it was ten tons overweight.

And how do the truckies react to Craig and his colleagues?

"I've only had a few minor skirmishes over the years," he reflects, "on the whole they're generally co-operative."

It was on that reassuring note that I joined Craig and Assistant Traffic Officer, Paul Knox, for a day on the rounds.

It started at 8.15 am in the High Street building.

By 10 am we were in the modern Heidelberg Court, where we observed Traffic Officers Graham Prosser, Sean Ryan and Noel Mathison carrying out their own prosecutions.

It was all over by 10.30 am and then we were on the road. Cruising through the busy suburb of Greensborough, it wasn't long before Craig decided to check out a possible offender.

A truck returning from a nearby quarry was pulled over in Grimshaw Street and the notepads and docket books appeared.

He was overloaded and the first booking for the day was completed.

By 11.30 am we were cruising down Settlement Road and this time we pulled over a 5-axle articulated vehicle — a big semi to most of us.

Everything proved to be in order.

A few more checks, a few more bookings, and 12 noon saw us on Plenty Road, heading north.

The Traffic Officer's Falcon is identical to police pursuit vehicles with heavy duty high speed suspension and a modified V8 engine.

Inside, one is confronted with a host of paraphernalia: radio equipment, microphones, PA system, dials, switches and lights. I'm told there is a steering wheel, too!

After an uneventful stakeout on the old Hume Highway, we headed along the Hume Freeway to open the Board's weighbridge located just north of Seymour.

On the way, Craig and Paul scrutinised every truck overtaken: you never know when you may spring an overloaded semi. "But the best guides are the names on the side of the door," Craig pointed out.

2 pm, and 'the B-BQ is open! 'B-BQ' is a truckie colloquialism for a weighbridge. In the next three hours the truckie traffic was inconstant.

One moment the weighbridge could have five or six huge Kenworths, Fords, Scanias and Benz's idling patiently in the queue, then all would be quiet for half an hour, until the next onslaught.

About 5.00 pm there was a noticeable lull in the traffic.

Somebody suggested we 'pack up and get out of sight for a while', so we headed north for a spot of quiet observation.

It wasn't long before the CB radio came to life.

"The B-BQ is cold" it drawled in truckie tones.

"Both sides?" came the distant query.

"Yep — I've just been through!"

"Ten four".

And the radio once more lapsed into silence.

The B-BQ wasn't to stay cold for long! We headed back, and arrived just in time to pull over a Mack.

A quick check on the weighbridge indicator revealed him five tonnes overweight.

More paperwork ensued.

The rest of the evening was fairly undramatic. Craig reflected on some of the more memorable incidents that had occurred to traffic officers on duty.

Like the time a convoy of circus trucks was passing through Traralgon Division.

Brian Blowers, who was attending a weighbridge at the time, was puzzled as to why he couldn't record a level weight when one of the trucks was being weighed.

Further inspection revealed the source of the problem: a restless elephant who wasn't going to keep still for anybody!

Needless to say the magistrate was unimpressed with Brian's fluctuating figures at the court hearing.

About 7.15 pm we departed for the weighbridge near Yarck, on the Maroondah Highway.

Although it was dark, the time truckies usually prefer to be mobile, the highway was relatively quiet, and at 7.30 pm we decided to 'call it a day'.

By 9.30 pm we were back in Melbourne, in time for a relaxing cup of coffee.

It'd been a long day, but Craig and Paul still seemed enthusiastic.

I guess that's just another prerequisite of the job!

● *Continued on Page 8*

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