

## Keith Hastings

1950-1958	Draftsman at the State Rivers and Water Commission, Melb
1958-1973	Traffic Engineer, Traffic Commission, Kew
1973-1978	Traffic Engineer, Commonwealth Bureau of Roads, Melb
1978-1987	Traffic Engineer, Country Roads Board, Kew



### Obituary

Keith Hastings died on Sunday, November 4, 1990 aged 60 years. Keith survived a cancer operation in late 1989, but the cancer recurred again in June 1990. His wish was to remain at home with his family and look out at the superb views of his beloved vegetable garden. He was able to do this only because of the aid of the portable syringe driver, loaned from Healesville Hospital, which metered out his painkilling medication daily, and the wonderful care and support of family and friends, Dr P. Rogers and District Awa Nurses Eve, Margaret and Vicky.

Keith was born in Fitzroy, the youngest of three brothers. Norman, the eldest, now lived in Queensland, and Ronald lived in East Bentleigh. They lived in Parkdale in the early years, enjoying the seaside, and many camping trips to the countryside. Keith attended Swinburne Tech. and gained his Diploma of Civil Engineering and worked for the Country Roads Board (Vic Roads). Keith met his wife Margaret, in 1959, a nursing sister from England. They married in 1960 and settled in East Doncaster. They have two children, Jane the eldest was a primary school teacher at Coldstream and Richard was a computer support officer at Vic Roads following in his father's tradition.

Keith and Margaret enjoyed visits to England to see her family and had many other enjoyable trips elsewhere after his retirement in 1987 and moving to Healesville to a lovely home on the hill looking out to Mt St Leonard's and around to Mt Riddell, Keith joined the Probus Club and made many new friends. The fellowship was wonderful. Keith relaxed and liked to go for walks, play golf and to continue his hobby of bird observation, photography, and gardening.

A man of great strength and determination, even to the last moments of his life. His dignity gave those around him the willpower to help him through his needs. To know him was to love him and respect him. Keith was and always will be a gentleman, and sadly missed. The family wishes to thank everyone for their caring and support.

***The above was provided by son Richard Hastings.***



Four facing the camera: Colin Horman, Nick Szwed, Bill Collins and Keith Hastings enjoying an end-of-year celebration in the park, early 1980s.

***Nick Szwed who worked with Keith from 1978 to 1981 wrote the following:***

By the beginning of the 1970s, the road toll had reached a horrendous peak of over 1,000 road deaths per year in Victoria. This led to the reorganization of the Traffic Commission into the Road Safety and Traffic Authority (RoSTA) in 1971. At the same time the CRB was looking to increase its efforts in road safety.

In 1978 Keith Hastings who had worked at the Traffic Commission and was then at the Commonwealth Bureau of Roads, was recruited to the CRB and was asked to set up Blackspot Group to analyze the crash data and provide guidance on reducing the road toll.

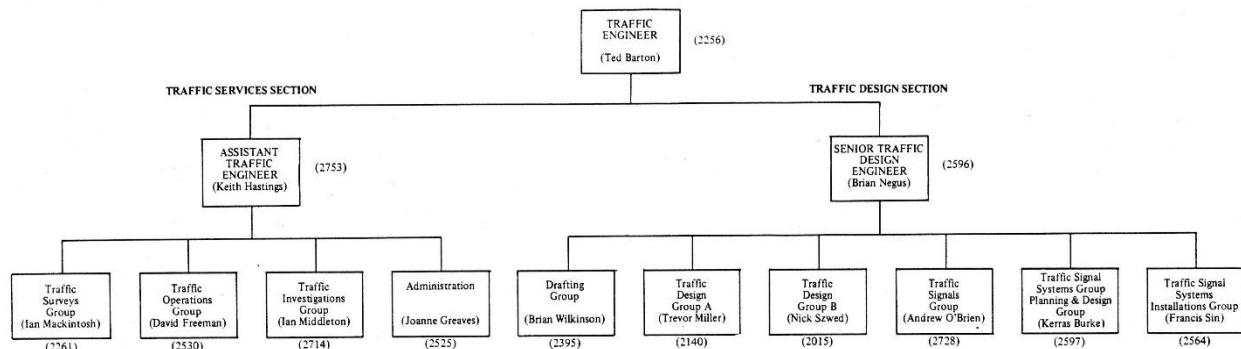
In 1978 I was working on the Hume Freeway Project (Seymour to Euroa Section) and received a phone call Keith who introduced himself and what he was setting out to do. He had been advised that I had the type of analytical skills that he needed to head up a group which would analyze the crash data and set up a Blackspot program. I joined Keith and we developed the State's first Blackspot program. RoSTA was developing a Blackspot program too but it was on a smaller scale.

Keith was wonderful guy to work for, he was so considerate respectful and supportive. Keith and I developed a lifelong friendship and we kept in touch after he retired. I visited him in his last months at his lovely property in Healesville.

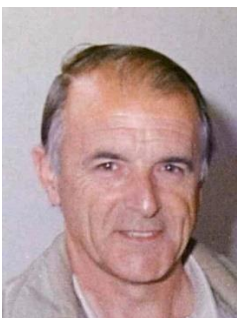
One of the most important things that Keith and his wife Margaret taught me was to be honest and frank about health and dying. A couple of years earlier a close friend was dying but told us nothing about it. She and her family didn't want to burden others with the knowledge. We didn't get a chance to say good bye to her and that left a burden with us. On the other hand Keith and Margaret were very open about what was going and told us everything. That allowed me to be able to talk to Keith about our friendship in more personal terms than usual and to thank him for his friendship and so say goodbye.

I was very sorry to see him go because I counted him as a true friend I could trust and looked forward to spending more time together, but las, our time together was cut short.

## 1980s Organisation Chart for the Traffic Engineering Division



*Ted Barton remembered Keith in the following way:*



Keith was a very competent deputy and had a good steady hand on the management and direction of the group. I think he was acting Principal Traffic Engineer while I was engaged doing the production of the AustRoads Guide to Traffic Engineering Practice and stationed at Head Office for several months in the late 1980's.