

The Balwyn Peril

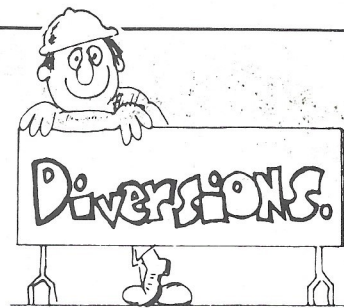


The Balwyn Peril? Two RCA workers, Dominic Plandido (on the ladder) and Ivon Cirjak, had a rather unusual task recently. They cleaned and painted a snail culvert section which has been installed above ground on the reserve adjacent to the Eastern Freeway in North Balwyn (near the pedestrian overpass). The culvert section is the same as those used in the undergrounding of Koonung Creek. It should prove to be of interest to members of the public—and to any children playing hide and seek

SIGN OF THE TIMES



On the evening of 30 June 1983, the Chairman and Managing Director, Mr Tom Russell, with the help of Ernie Travis, Acting Resident Office Building Supervisor, unveiled the new sign for the RCA. This is a temporary measure while a permanent sign is being prepared



HO Caretaker, Peter Cripps, had a sad story to tell one day in May. He'd just spent part of the night stuck in the lifts. Apparently Peter was travelling in the lift in the early hours of the morning—4.00am to be precise—and the lift jammed. Not surprisingly, there was no-one around to open the doors so Peter stayed put until 5.30am when assistance finally arrived. He's definitely a 'stairs' man now.

Seen on the front of an Authority file: "...the proposed NAASRA publication 'Guide to Singing at Road Works'." It's nice to know someone cares about staff morale.

On the afternoon of 30 June, the Chairman and Managing Director, Mr Russell, unveiled the temporary RCA sign in the front of HO. During the course of the night, the sign was removed and was found the following morning at Glen Waverley Depot! Also missing is the Materials Division tombstone. Where will this appear?

Public Relations received a letter as follows: "Many times I have heard the term 'COUNTRY ROADS BOARD' mentioned, but I have never really known what your organisation does in our community. So, as a fourteen year old boy with a bit of curiosity, I thought I would write this letter and finally rid my mind of the question—what is the CRB?" Such a shame the letter came a day after the changeover!



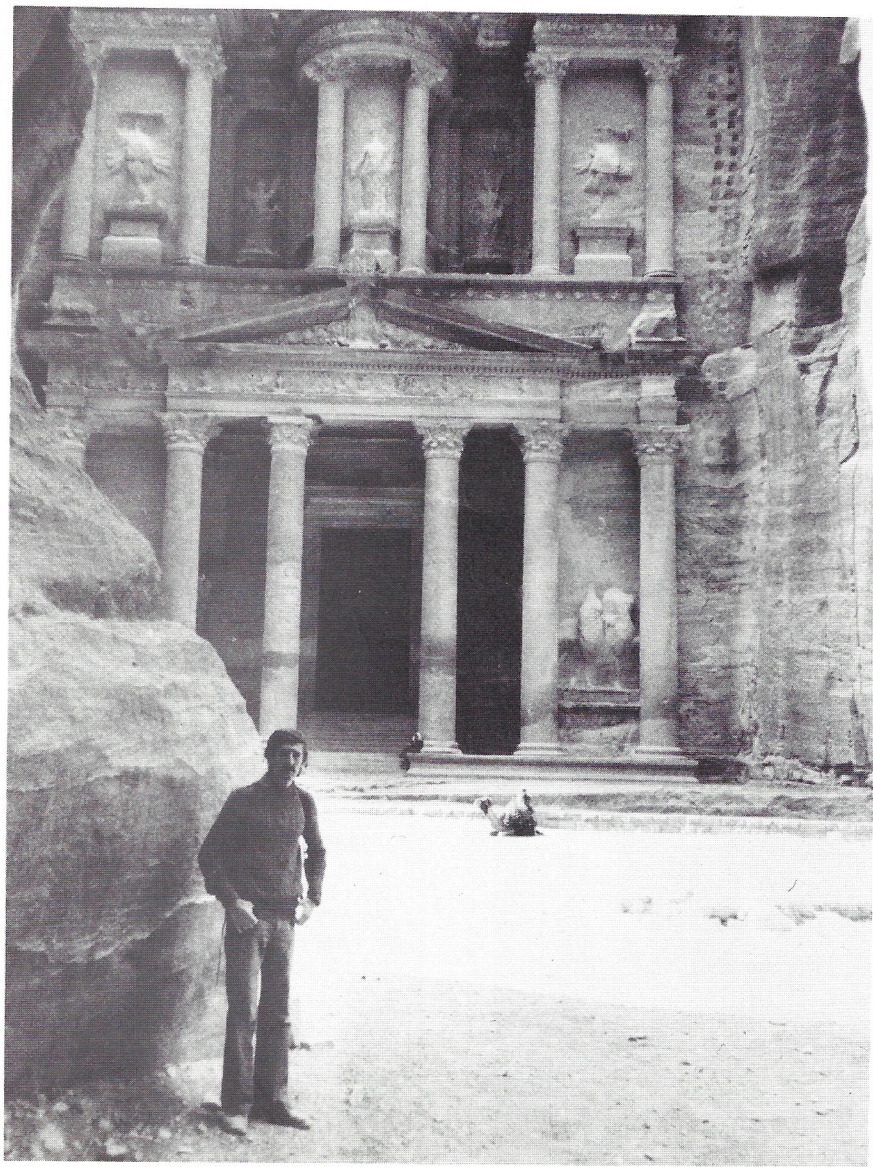
Wodonga Project have discovered a new form of median tree planting—'Homo Erectus Robinsonii'. This plant is of medium height, evergreen, termite proof, frost tender, needs regular summer water and can speak.

They must breed their pigs tough down in Traralgon. Ken Salter (Engineer) and wife were building a pigsty. Ken, using his engineering expertise, made the enclosure too weak and the pig ran right through it. He then decided to sell the pig to Brian Felmingham. On the way to its new home the pig got out of its bag and jumped out of the ute. Where it is now, nobody knows—perhaps 'this little pig went to market'.

Wodonga was shocked to receive a circular recently which referred to a 1981 circular and was headed "Wodonga Project Office—Redundant" Gasp!

Material received recently by Legal Section referred to the "Royal Construction Authority". Someone's jumping the gun.

TRAVELLING IN THE MIDDLE EAST



Paul in front of the carved buildings at Petra

In an earlier edition of IC we read of Paul Coffey's trek around Turkey. During his year overseas Paul also travelled briefly through Syria and Jordan while on the way from Turkey to Israel. He spent 3 days in Damascus, the capital of Syria, and one week in Jordan.

Paul writes: Damascus is a city of contrasts. Its ancient, walled old city is surrounded by noisy car-filled roads and freeways. It sits starkly in the midst of a desert and has been there for centuries. Its boulevards, so obviously designed by the colonising French, are festooned with flags, jingoistic Arabic slogans and huge pictures of President Assad. (I was there on "Corrective Movement Day"—something I could have done with more of, after the vagaries of the local food.) To add to the confusion, everything's in Arabic so you really don't know what's going on.

The people have their contrasts too. I went to the railway station to find out train information. Invited into the office: beaming smiles, handshakes, a cup of tea, and friendly interest in where I came from—but no information! The trains seem to run

fairly irregularly. And if you think there's too much paper in the Board, how about 11 forms and two managers' signatures to change \$40??

Jordan is far more Western-oriented, and its capital Amman is more affluent and expensive. It's a relatively new city for the area, having been established little more than 2,000 years ago.

Apart from endless desert, Jordan specialises in Roman-era ruins. I visited a famous site called Petra where houses, buildings, temples and even a Roman theatre have been carved out of the soft sandstone of cliff-faces. It is able to be approached only through a narrow gorge or "siq", a couple of miles long. The whole effect is quite mysterious.

The Jordanians were, by and large, quite friendly. I was the guest of two families during my stay, one in Amman and one in a village near Petra. The villagers were quite poor; their house was a concrete box with no luxuries except the inevitable television. The boys were sent to school—but the girls were sent out to tend the goats and remain illiterate.



Paul found time to visit a place that interests many people. Here he is taking it easy on the Dead Sea. All he needs is a good book—or should we say scroll

Vic Venture

Everyone has heard of Wilsons Promontory in South Gippsland but not everyone has been there. Vic has just spent a relaxing weekend on the Prom and highly recommends it as a delightful place to visit, particularly if you're a nature lover.

Wilsons Promontory, looked after by the National Parks Service, offers swimming, surfing, fishing, photography, bushwalking and nature study. Travel via the South Gippsland Highway and turn off at Meeniyar or Foster.

Tidal River is the main camping ground (there is also a limited number of lodges and flats available) although there are other campsites in more remote parts. Once you've worked out your accommodation, put on your walking shoes and take one of the many refreshing walks available to visitors.



One of the many delightful scenes on the Prom

There are more than 80km of walking tracks in the park. Advice on whether the walk is easy or hard is available from the Information Centre at Tidal River.

The walks will show you the magnificent and spectacular scenery of the park. For example, one of the most popular is the Lilly Pilly Gully walk. Vegetation includes heath, silver banksia, tea-trees, 'black boys', dwarf she-oaks, coprosmas, paper-barks, eucalypts, tree ferns, and, of course, lily-pillies. Fauna includes koalas and the golden whistler.

Looming high over Tidal River is Mt Oberon, with its granite walls offering shelter to the township below. It also offers a magnificent view if you take the short nature walk from the car park just below the mountain.

Standing 558 metres above sea level, this 380 million years old granite mountain gives you an unsurpassed view of the surrounding area on a clear day.

One of the most popular beaches has to be Squeaky Beach. Why Squeaky? If you shuffle your feet along the sand you'll hear a squeaky sound. This is because white sand contains minute quartz fragments.

Walking around the Prom will take you to over 700 varieties of native plants and 100 introduced plants. There is varied birdlife—crimson rosellas abound at Tidal River. Other species are rainbow Lorikeets, wattle birds, honey eaters and blue wrens.

The walking tracks provide access to the natural habitats of spiny ant eaters, grey kangaroos, wombats, bandicoots, bush rats and several types of possum.

Vic says accept the challenge and travel down to Wilsons Promontory on your next free weekend.

SAFE AT LAST



HO building in Kew had an unusual caller one day in May. After all, how often does a crane appear at the back entrance door? Further investigation revealed that the crane was there to assist in construction of a canopy over the ramp leading to the back door. The primary purpose of the canopy is to prevent people from being hit if any articles fall from the above windows, but it will also provide shelter from rain. How did we ever cope without it?

IN SERVICE

June was a month for lasts. The last CRB News, the last Board meeting, and the list went on. It was also the last time a presentation was made to officers who had served the then Country Roads Board for more than 25 years. In the future, any such officers will have spent part of those 25 years working for the RCA.

This special occasion took place on Friday 24 June in the Head Office Theatre. Presentations of silver cuff links or brooch were made to people who had completed 25 years of service or gold cuff links or a brooch to people who had completed 40 years of service.

The Chairman and Managing Director, Mr Tom Russell, made the presentations to 154 persons eligible for long service awards: 7 golds and 147 silver awards. Since 1975, when the former CRB initiated such service awards, a total of 553 awards have been made, excluding these recent awards.

Mr Russell said "the Board remains very conscious of the loyalty of its personnel" and that the awards were an indication of gratitude for years of work.

Mr Russell then presented the 40 year service awards. These went to Des Chapple, OIC Correspondence Registry; Max Macphersan, Road Design (Administration) Engineer; John Robinson, Superannuation Officer; Allen Wade, retired Materials Procurement Officer; Frank Mau, Assistant Principal Surveyor; and Ian Doggett, Admin Officer at Glen Waverley.

It would be impossible to list the 154 recipients of the silver award but they came from almost all areas of the CRB. The positions they held were even more varied—people from the field, workshops, road construction and maintenance, and administration.

It was interesting to note how wide a span some officers' careers took. For example, David Beattie, Special Assistant and driver of the Managing Director, began with the Board in 1957 as a truck driver, and Norm

Maher from Bendigo Division who began as a powder monkey and finished up as a cook (beware of his Bombe Alaska!).

There were a few 'family' awards. Bob Dumesny, Depot Foreman at Horsham, and Noel Dumesny, Workshop Foreman at Benalla, are brothers and began working for the CRB almost within a year of each other. Gordon Couzens, Tanker Driver at Warrnambool, received his silver award. His brother, Ivan, has already received his silver.

There were, of course, amusing tales to tell:

- Kerras Burke came from the MMBW and was attributed with the statement "They can't fire me. I'm here by Act of Parliament"
- Overseer Allan Hooker, Benalla Project, is so quick at his work that his nickname is 'Road Runner'
- Peter Lagodziewicz, Plant Operator from Dandenong, is known as Peter 'Alphabet'
- Jim Plaszc, Fitter at Mechanical Sub-Branch, married June Sword who also worked for the CRB—the English meaning of palasz is sword (very convenient!).

Three women received silver awards. They were Vivienne Douglas, Experimental Officer in Materials Division; Pat Rowe, Senior Machine Operator, Chief Accountant's Branch; and Erika Stokans, Senior VDU Operator, Ledger Section, Chief Accountant's Branch.

After these presentations had been made, Mr Noel Allanson, Chief General Manager Corporate Administration, presented Mr Tom Russell with gold cufflinks for 40 years of service. Mr Russell joined the CRB in January 1943.

Altogether, it was a very enjoyable afternoon, followed by afternoon tea and a chance to talk and recall old times. Many recipients of the awards brought along members of their families, which added to the informal and friendly nature of the occasion.

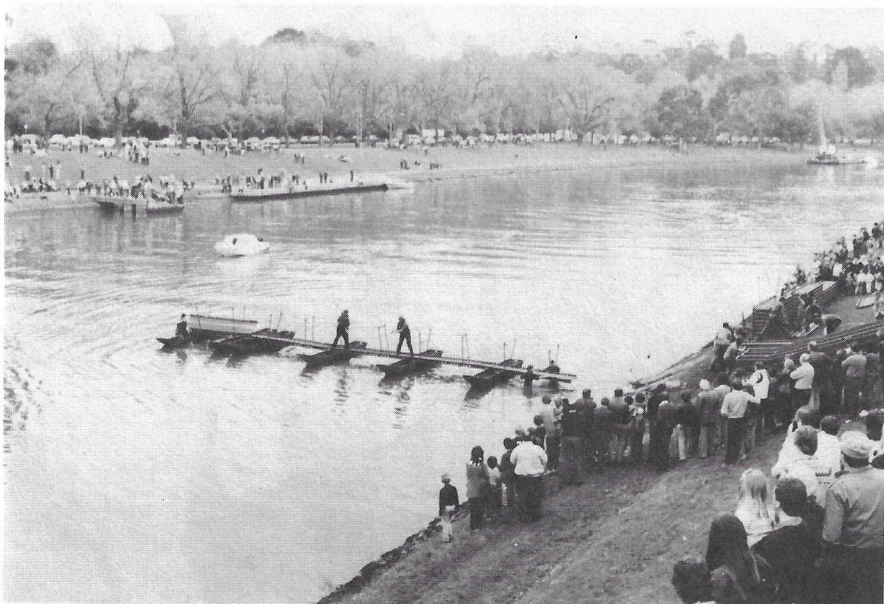


Horsham Division had a good showing at the Awards. Above back row from left, Vern Allender, Donald Warren, Ray Brown, Bert Cullen, Vasil Filip, John Heid, John Pearson, Bob Dumesny, Aidan Murphy and Noel Janetzki. The wives who attended were, from left, Mrs Dumesny, Mrs Brown, Mrs Janetzki and Mrs Warren

Below, Graeme Steel from Glen Waverley receives his 25 years' service award from the Chairman and Managing Director, Mr Tom Russell



ENGINEERS' WEEK



Bridge building across the Yarra

Professional Engineers' Week took place during June from the 19th to the 26th. The week was organized by the five Australian Professional Engineering Societies, including the Institution of Engineers, Australia.

Some of the events of the week were public lectures, displays, video films, a musical barbecue, an excursion through the La Trobe Valley, the presentation of engineering excellence awards and a students' essay and photographic competition.

The first day, Sunday 19 June, was called Sir John Monash Day after the prominent Melbourne engineer. The highlight of the day was an 8km charity fun run along the banks of the Yarra and the Tan track. All proceeds from the entrance fee went to the Doxa Youth Welfare Foundation for underprivileged children. Miss Victoria, Ann Moldrich, an engineering student, presented the lucky winners with their prizes. The Road Construction Authority fielded teams from Dandenong and from Head Office, and several Authority officers were

involved in the organization of the day.

On the same day, right on the dot of midday, sappers from the Army Reserve's Royal Australian Engineers (Supplementary Reserve) set about constructing a bridge across the Yarra River, near Anderson Street. Anyone not in the know may have been puzzled by the frantic pace at which the sappers worked. In fact, they were out to beat the 5 minute barrier. Unfortunately, time ticked over too quickly for the Army and the bridge building took 13 minutes.

However, it was an interesting sight for the many spectators along the banks of the river to witness. Perhaps a special award should have been made to the sappers who had the unenviable task of plunging into the freezing waters of the Yarra to help construct the bridge.

After the strenuous activities of the morning, people settled down to a barbecue lunch. In spite of the cool weather, it was a really enjoyable day and made for a good start to Engineers' Week.

SAYING GOODBYE TO THE



Max Baker, Assistant Controller of Stores at Glen Waverley Depot, finds his CRB cufflinks a bit too large for comfort



Some of the ladies at the Glen Waverley function. From left, Kathy Dorsie, Kath Hennessy, Marj Gostelow and Louise McKenzie



Above, the funeral march at Glen Waverley Depot. Below, from left, David Yeoman, Richard Palmer, Jim Palasz, Dene Allan and Tim Sutherland, all from Glen Waverley, carry out a serious task with great dignity



What can be said about the 'end of the CRB' parties that can adequately describe all that happened during the changeover period. Each celebration/commiseration held by the various areas of the then CRB was a mixture of sadness at the passing of the Board but, in true CRB style, joviality penetrated the sorrow. The feeling seemed to be 'we might as well enjoy ourselves'.

First of the parties was the HOSA End of the CRB party held on the Thursday evening (30 June). HOSA did a wonderful job providing drinks, supper, party hats and a photo display of staff from preceding years (talk about the ravages of time!). The 250 people who attended agreed it was Graeme Steel's (Glen Waverley) jazz band that really contributed to the night. They played until 9.30 and managed to get people dancing and jiving. Thanks must go to the band for doing such a good job.

The attire for the evening was CRB related fancy dress and it gave many people the opportunity to use their imaginations. There must have been about 30 alter ego construction workers—complete with overalls and hat. Other costumes featured witches hats, road signs, logos and helmets. One person came wrapped in computer paper. Another had a toy car track wrapped around her with matchbox cars glued to the roadway. There were a few ladies from Personnel walking around with



Above left, Materials Engineer, Peter Lowe, left, and Asst Materials Engineer, Roy Gilmour, in undertaker outfits. Above right, HO Tea Lady, Norma Woodbridge. Below, a solemn moment for Materials Division as they listen to the speech read by Peter Lowe

personal files attached to them—the titles of these files were most intriguing! There was even a sign-post head piece towering above heads complete with sign pointing upwards to heaven. What a way to go!

Partying continued on past closing time and the general opinion next day seemed to be that it was a wonderful night and a fitting tribute to the Country Roads Board. Thanks to HOSA for organizing it so well.

As usual, Materials Division, wanted to do something different for the "farewell CRB" day so the idea of a burial to be followed by a wake was born.

A funeral procession led by Peter Lowe (Materials Engineer) and Roy Gilmour (Asst Materials Engineer) dressed as undertakers began at the rear of the MD building and ended at the grassed area at the start of the cutting.

A football bearing the CRB logo was laid to rest in a grave. After a speech bidding it farewell, a tombstone was placed at the head of the grave and the CRB was finally buried.

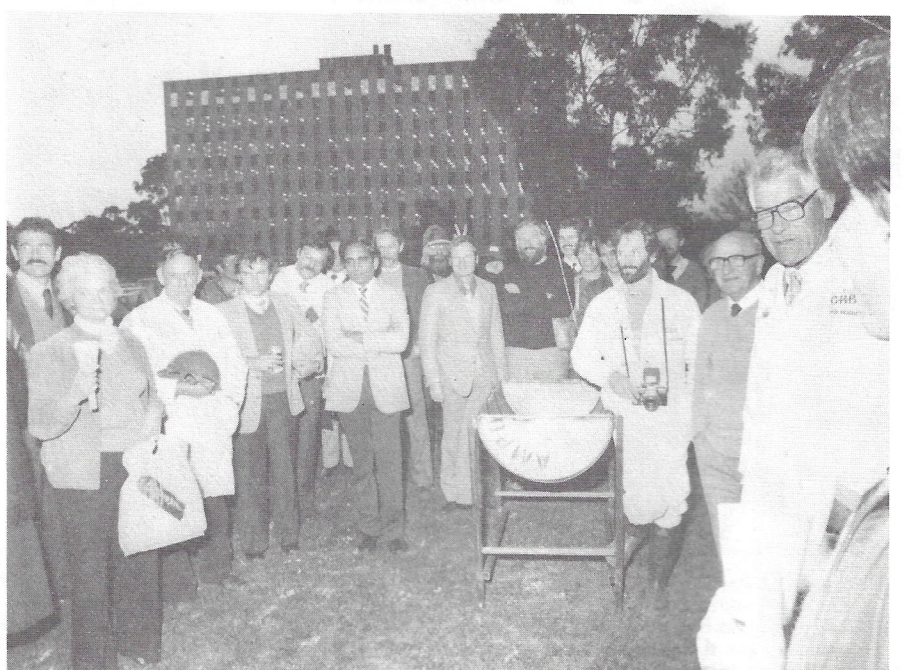
The wake then began and Materials sampled Eileen's (Tea Lady) grand food fare. The culinary highlight of the evening was the cutting of the 2½ foot black forest cake in the shape of a coffin.

Everyone had a great time and many thanks to all the people who were involved in the preparation and to those who helped to tidy up afterwards.

Merry making in the form of another wake took place at the Glen Waverley depot on the Friday evening (1 July). Drinking, eating and talking got everyone in the mood, and a coffin was laid to rest amongst a machinery display.

Max Baker, who missed out on achieving 25 years of exclusive CRB service by 5 days, received a huge set of cufflinks as consolation.

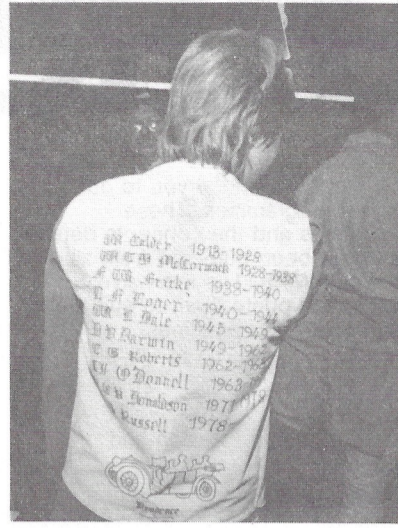
• Partying also took place up in the country divisions. Turn to page 9 for details



COUNTRY ROADS BOARD



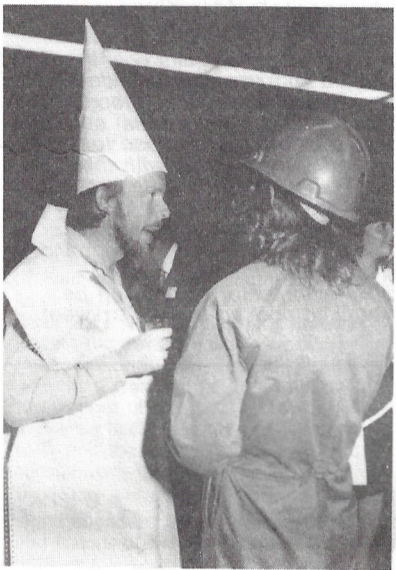
Above, the ladies from the HO Cafeteria were resplendent in road signs



Above, Margaret Best, Personnel, was a walking tribute to the CRB



Above, Ray Nicholas, Right of Way, with the smallest stopgo baton in the world, and Shirley Connor, Chief Accountant's Branch, in a tangle



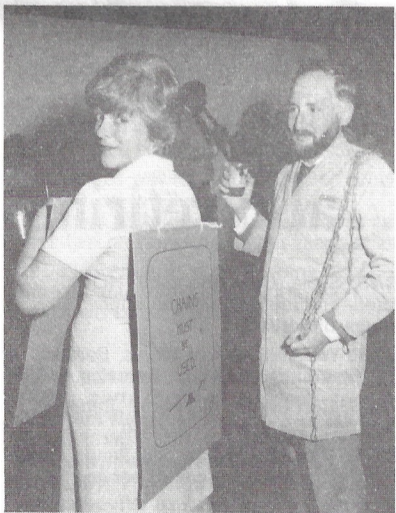
Above, computer wizard, Laurie Carlton, Survey, expounds his latest theory to Eileen Craven from Advance Planning

Right, everyone seemed to enjoy the dancing

Below, Tea Lady, Noreen Meagher, took out the best female costume prize



Right, Jurgen Heselschwerdt (Printing) displays his RCA T-shirt



Above, a husband and wife team. Elaine (Cafeteria) and Bruce (Chief Accountant's Branch) Young get their act together



Marie Thomas, HO Tea Lady out of uniform, with her impersonator, Jenny Capan from 5th floor



The jazz band set the tone for the evening



Jenny Metzke from HO Cafeteria, pictured above with the CRB coffin cake she made

FLAGGIE ON TOUR

When Flaggie, Steve Crabb and Tom Russell visited Road Design Division in April (see June IC), Flaggie was interested to learn that this Division had an EDP Section.

In the tradition of Douglas McArthur, Flaggie returned to investigate. The Road Design Division EDP Section was honoured to meet Flaggie, and the Duty Analyst was able to answer all of his questions.

The following is a faithful record of that conversation:

FLAGGIE: Some people in our organization have never heard of the RDD EDP Section! What do they do all day down the west end of 89 High Street on the second floor.

DUTY ANALYST: This section has been around since the late 1960's. We have been quietly and systematically developing, installing and updating road design and survey programmes.

FLAGGIE: I would like to know how to use the computer to design roads. How do I start? Who should I talk to...?

DA: You've come to the right person. We have a whole range of excellent programmes and easy to read manuals. In the *unlikely* event that you have any problem, we provide a very friendly Duty Analyst service available on ext. 2660.

The Road Design Division EDP Section is committed to excellence with the computer programme we manufacture.

FLAGGIE: Are your programmes used by anyone or are they just a way of passing time?

DA: Currently this section supports over 200 RCA users of the RIDGE, SPUR, COGO and DRIP systems. That means over 40,000 jobs are submitted per year. Many Government authorities around Australia also use these systems.

FLAGGIE: Is it very difficult for seven men to support 200 people standing on a RIDGE?

DA: No Flaggie, by support I mean providing advice and assistance to people like you. Programmes like RIDGE are partly responsible for Victoria having the best designed roads in Australia.

Allow me to introduce you to our family of programmes. These programmes and the concepts behind them have been gathered from all over the world. We had to extensively modify and update them to suit the Australian design practices.

The family consists of:

R.I.D.G.E.

- Road Integrated Design and GEometry
- used to design long stretches of road.

S.P.U.R.

- String Processing User Routines
- used to gather and process survey data depicting the existing surface.

C.O.G.O.

- COordinated GeOmetry
- is a civil engineering package that can be used in the solution of geometric problems. The road designers use COGO for intersection design. Our section added a new vertical dimension to COGO which launches us into the 21st century and beyond.

D.R.I.P.

- DRainage Investigation Programs
- used to design drainage pipes which live in a network under our roads.

There are also many "one-off" computer programmes available on a variety of topics.

FLAGGIE: Where is this computer stuff all heading?

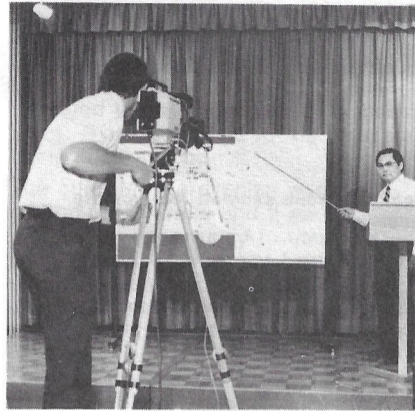
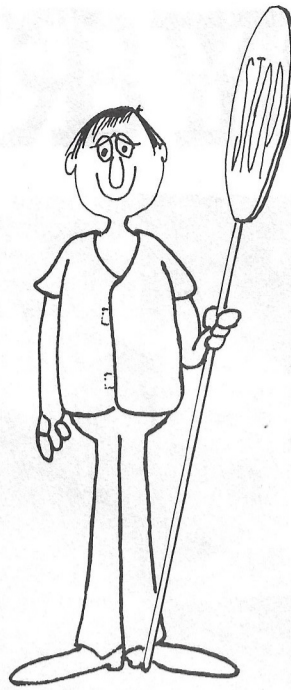
DA: Good question Flaggie! Our research into the rapid changes in technology has exposed the following rather obvious short term trends:

- All computer equipment will become more powerful and much cheaper
- Soon powerful micro computers will be available.

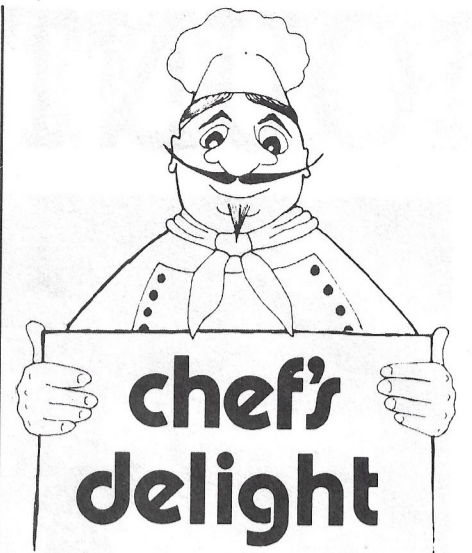
FLAGGIE: Is there an easy way to learn to use your computer programs?

DA: Yes, we are producing a video course about each major system. So you can sit back and watch TV and learn all about how to design roads, assisted by computers.

Flaggie left the RDD EDP Section with a feeling that he had a friend with the "quiet achievers"!



The above photo shows the making of the COGO video course. Gerry Scheltinga (Photographic Services) films Harry Mok



Ginger Prune Crunch

225g ginger biscuits
100g uncooked prunes
25g walnuts
50g butter
2 tablespoons golden syrup
castor sugar to decorate

Crush the ginger biscuits until they are in crumbs and small pieces—do not make too even a texture. Chop the prunes (removing the stones) and chop the walnuts. Add these to biscuits. Melt the butter with the syrup. Pour on to the dry ingredients and stir together to form a firm mixture. Press out in cake tin (18cm square). Leave until slice is cool and firm. Cut into fingers. To serve, sprinkle with castor sugar. Can be served with cooked fruit for a sweet.

Calling it a day...



On 22 July, Jane Owen, a Head Office tea lady, pushed her trolley and made those huge pots of tea for the last time.

Jane, who has been with the CRB/RCA over 11 years, retired on that day.

During her time with the CRB, Jane has served tea on all six floors of HO but says the nine years spent on the 4th Floor were "very enjoyable".

On Friday 8 July, the cafeteria ladies had a dinner in honour of Jane and some of the other tea-ladies retiring at that time. The evening was enjoyed by all who attended.

As to the future, Jane will be enjoying life "living on the interest of her money". Good on her! Best wishes for a happy and well-deserved retirement.

... also retiring

BURNS: Stella (Cafe Attendant, HO Cafeteria) retired on 30 June after 10 years of service.

GRANT: William (Clerk of Works, Ballarat) on 27 May after 25 years of service.

HARRIS: Bert (Motor Mechanic, Traralgon Depot) after 23 years of service.

PARKINSON: Pam (Typist, Sth Typing Pool) on 24 June after 13 years of service.

SHERWIN: Bill (Experimental Officer, Materials) on 7 July after 24 years of service.

SMITH: Henry (Engineering Assistant, Mechanical Sub-branch) on 1 July after 10 years of service.



Members of the Road Design EDP Section are, from left to right, standing: John Adshead, David Commons, Graeme McMenamini; and seated: David Kimpton, David King, David Keam, and Harry Mok (Section Leader)

CLASSIES

ENGAGEMENTS

CECIL: Kristina (Bridge Sub-Branch) to Warwick Anderson in May.

GORMAN: John (Bridge Sub-Branch) to Alison Haig.

LAVITHIS: David (Horsham) to Lindy Wright.

MARRIAGES

MOSSOP: Tamara (Geelong) to Robert Simunek on 7 May. You didn't know she got married! There you are...you know now!

BIRTHS

CAMPBELL: Malcolm (Geelong) and Dianne are happy to welcome a 'real bundle of joy', Chelsea Lee, born on 12 April. Best wishes from staff. (The drawing office is really getting on with it)

KLEHAMMER: Brian (Traralgon) and Lyn, a girl, Letitia, on 29 June, 7lb 11oz.

MICHAELIDES: Andrew (Materials) and Andrea. Congratulations on the birth of your son, Christopher Andrew, on 5 June.

MINNE: To Liz (ex Horsham) and Garry, their first child, a boy Shaun Paul.

MORPHETT: Brian (Metropolitan) and wife. Congratulations on the birth of your son, Nicholas James, on 22 May.

PROSSER: Phil and Caroline (Bairnsdale) proudly announce the arrival of Tamara Julie on 25 June.

VEITH: David (Materials) and Phylis had child no. 5 on 1 June. A son, Peter Eric.

PUBLIC NOTICES

HOUSE: Lake Eildon-Howqua, 14 bed house, available throughout year. Close to Mt Buller. Roy Fisher ext 2142 or AH 818 7122.

DIVISIONAL ROUNDABOUT

BAIRNSDALE

From Ian Ellis

WELCOME

We welcome Vicki Fox, Clerical Assistant, who takes up a position in the Accounts Section. With George Cole on LSL, we welcome Ken Murray who takes up George's position for three months.

DEPOT NEWS

Into the workshop team come Fitters, Ian Moloney and Rod Sedman. Ian comes to us from Mt Newman and Rod from the Northern Territory. Depot Foreman, Bill Hall, has headed off up the Birdsville Track and with the weather the way it is the question arises—will he return?

CRB WAKE

On Friday 1 July, a night was held to mourn the ending of the CRB era. A really enjoyable night was had by all and it was good to see Jack Reidy from Gelantipy, Des Law from Marlo and an old face in Albert Boucher, all there enjoying themselves. Des won the dozen bottles and Dave White won a spray can of yellow paint for urgent maintenance on RCA plant. Neil King won a bottle of port and, much to his disgust, woke up Saturday morning only to find half a bottle (apparently thanks go to Garth Stevens). With food, music and dancing, everyone had a good time.

NO STOCKTAKE

Recently Stock Inspector, Rex "Early Bird" Blennerhasset, was trying to find the owner of some sheep which had got through a fence and were running on the road in a small, local township. Having no luck finding the owner, finally Rex decided to go to the Police Station. The half dressed local policeman came to the door and, much to the surprise of Rex, said "Thanks for putting my sheep back". It only goes to prove you can't pull the wool over the eyes of the constabulary in that town.

PASSED AWAY

Our sympathies are extended to the families and friends of Lloyd Jones and Parker King, both ex CRB personnel, who passed on recently.

OUT AND ABOUT

Bob McPherson (Experimental Officer) has gone to Melbourne after spending 5 months in charge of lab work on the Cann Valley Highway. Good work Bob.

Garth Stevens, our underwater photography expert, is in the news again. Thanks must go to James Xenophontos for supplying him with a dry pair of pants.

Cheryl Burgess heads the footy tipping at the half way mark closely followed by Leo Russell, Rex Nash and George Cole.

Ron Collins was very upset that he couldn't get back up the Bonang Highway to Marriots Creek to see the crown units arrive after two previous tries to get them on site.

Rex Blennerhasset is really going places. Since he started with the Authority, his tally for 15 weeks is 22,500km.

Below, members of Keith Singleton's survey party (Bairnsdale) working at Butchers Ridge on the Bonang Gelantipy Road, 25km north of Buchan, were faced with a white problem when they woke up on 4 July. 75mm of snow covered the ground



REGISTRY

From Jenny Spilar

Welcome to Leanne Marsh who commenced at the Board on 14 June 1983.

Wishing Eva Lucas a long and happy retirement—from all her friends in Registry.

MATERIALS

From Lee Scott

Jean McCarthy's daughter, Michelle, spent one week in HO Canteen on a work experience course from school.

Geoff Jamieson, Simon Eggleston, Nick Munday (Traffic) and Laurie Watson (West Gate) spent two weeks bushwalking through the Arkaroola and Gammon National Park in the Flinders Ranges.

Pauline Kalny, Jeff Gerrish, Mark Hughes, Michael Betts and R J Adderley spent a long weekend skiing at Mt Buller in early July.

Joyce and Max Arthur have been to Europe for 7 weeks for a belated honeymoon. Also overseas was Philip Tranquille visiting friends and relations in his homeland, Mauritius. There is no truth to the rumour that Jean Emily has a big net placed over her caravan door.

Another strong rumour is that Alan Muir has joined the Country Party after his recent property acquisition.

I hear from unreliable geologists that Graeme Newman is giving up smoking and coffee scrolls.

Cliff parfitt won the "best G.M. big van" award at the 1983 van nationals at Easter. The van has since been sold and now Cliff has come down in size to driving a mini-van.

Max Corns has recently been presented with his 5th grandchild, a girl, Penelope.

Bill Sherwin, Experimental Officer retired on 7 July after 24 years' service with the Board. Bill was presented with a pair of field glasses from his co-workers. A presentation dinner was held for him at the Kew Bowling Club. Everyone in MD wishes him a long and very happy retirement.

This ode by 'Codger Bill' was first read at his retirement dinner.

Asphalt Mixing Club (with apologies to "Banjo" Patterson)

On a wintry windy morning, when the spreader's diesel jolts,
It's no accident that the mix has got no faults,

You can see the multi driver grinning from his seat,

Because the back-room boys have got the workability so neat,

And on cold and wintry evenings while the traffic howls around,

You can hear the laugh and chatter as the boffins go to ground,

And remember Codger Bill and how he did the job,

And enjoyed the grogging after at the "Skinny Dog",

Then the satisfied assembly can give thanks to all at grub,

Here in the sanctity of the Great Kew Bowling Club.

VALE

Peter Colgrave sadly passed away in the early hours of Sunday 3 July after a 10 year battle against Hodgkins Disease.

Peter (PC) began work with the CRB in 1970 as a Chainman and for the last 10 years as an Experimental Officer in Materials Division. PC made many close friends amongst the people he worked with and we all admired his courage and silent determination to fight the disease.

The funeral service was held on Tuesday 5 July at St Theresa's in Essendon and the burial was at Keilor Cemetery.

He is survived by his widow Lyn, and three sons Brendan 8, Andrew 6 and Casey 3.

The Peter Colgrave Committee wish to thank all the considerate people who gave so generously to the PC Appeal. If anyone wishes to contribute, could they please contact Ross Bennett on 2635.

The funeral costs will be met by the contributions already received from this fund.

BENALLA

From Mike Farmer

The 30th June was the day Benalla Division and Baddaginnie-Bowser Project Office had a dinner to farewell the old and welcome the new. About 60 employees gathered at the Project Office for a light hearted function. Some wore black ties and armbands.

Congratulations to Helen Allan who has been appointed Senior Typist at the Project Office.

Farewell to Peter Sloan, Experimental Officer who has transferred to the Melton Project. Our loss is others gain.

At the time of writing Sophie Sharkie our telephonist is off on sick leave. Hope you are soon back Sophie and feeling a lot better.



Above, Barry Mulholland and Judy Tucker at the Geelong gathering

GEELONG

From Charles Low

SOCIAL CLUB

A dinner/film night was organized by the Social Club recently at the Long John's Fine Food restaurant. There was a great turn-up, and the food was good though a bit slow in coming, however, there was plenty to drink in the pleasant surroundings. The show Ghandi needs no more reviews as most people would have heard by now how good it is.

SYMPATHY

The death of Linda Hettick on 22 June was a sad loss and deepest sympathy is extended to Jack and family. Those who knew Linda well would agree that she was a cheerful lady to be with.

DEPOT NEWS FROM IAN TEMPLETON

It has been increasingly difficult of late to put pen to paper about the happenings at our Depot as nothing seems to happen.

Our staff have remained the same for some time now. No-one has been engaged, married or divorced. Roscoe still moans, Precko still whistles and George is still sick. Plant breaks down and we fix it. Apart from the normal day to day grumbles we are a pretty content lot here.

Normally this time of year we have a couple of Sprayer personnel attached to us but this year Fred has gone to the Ocean Road on construction work and Tony has decided to go to Italy (via America) rather than spend the winter with us. I mean, who blames him. Perhaps when he gets back he will have some stories to tell.

No, I have no idea why they call Geelong "Sleepy Hollow".

WAKE

A "wake" was held to celebrate the final day of the CRB and see in the RCA. Our DE, Graeme Marshall, gave a short speech to start the evening off. Drinks were provided by the Social Club and a barbecue was available.

It was a cold night but the open fire and liquid amber soon warmed everyone. There was a nostalgic atmosphere, with some "tall" stories of the good old days which sadly cannot be repeated here!

TRARALGON

From Sonia Delost

We welcome Richard Thomas to the Divisional Depot as Plant Cleaner, Denis Hammond back after LSL spent touring Australia and Bob Barnes (Foreman) back following his recent illness. Richard Kasproicz and Bob Vincent are both still off work ill—we hope to see them back soon.

Henry Dunstone (Roadmaster) is back at work after his touring holiday from Cairns down to Sydney. We believe Henry had a few problems with floods, but he finally made it back to Victoria to resume work after his much enjoyed holiday. Sam Campbell has been doing a good job 'holding the fort' in Henry's absence.

Alan Barr (Engineer) also returns to the office after his touring holiday of NSW and Victoria.

These days Depot personnel are seen to be living comfortably—especially furniture wise. Hope Sonia's desk is comfortable Bill? More than she can say for your OLD one.

25 YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS
Silver cuff links were presented to Ray Crisp (Overseer), Phil Thomas (Overseer), George Selzer (Traffic Controller), Paddy Brennocks

Below, Vin Elliott, left, and Hank Dat (both from Geelong) having a good time at the wake



(retired) and Geoff Inger (Fitter) following their 25 years of service. Congratulations to you all.

SAFETY

Special emphasis was made for June to be the Division's accident free month but, alas, it is disappointing to report that after all the extra effort, five accidents were recorded—one of our worst ever efforts.

SOCIAL CLUB

The Social Club enjoyed yet another night at Breeny's Old Time Music Hall and also a film night to see Ghandi. The Club is planning another Chinese dinner at a local restaurant soon. Anyone interested please contact Ian Barry.

SPORTSCENE

The Divisional Office staff have become very sporty lately with Bruce Van Every (Engineer) winning the A grade squash grand final, Gary House and Gerard Brown (Draftsmen) assisting their football team to record its first win for the season and David Anderson (Engineer) beating Bill Dunk in a local golf tournament. Brian Kleehammer (Cost Clerk) was defeated in the West Gippsland Golf Association Grand Final.

The Office has also organised a side for the local indoor cricket competition. The team, called Humpy-back Llamas, is made up of a sprinkling of very fit? energetic? engineers, admin officers and draftsmen. In their first match, they struck only one problem—they kept going out, but battled on well to come a gallant second. Final scores...Humpy-back Llamas -20, Others +81. There is no truth in the rumour that "Basher" Rodgers and Mick "The Slasher" Hayes have been invited to join the Australian Cricket Team.

ROAD DESIGN

From David Hosking

ROAD DESIGN RUMOURS

The last six months has reflected strongly on the lifestyles of many Road Design personnel. It has been dominated with holidays, births and marriages, or pending wedlocks—not necessarily in that order.

Girls outnumbered the boys 3 to 1 in the baby stakes with daughters to Mustafa and Feride Uzunoglu, Peter and Glenda Bartlett and Arthur and Marilyn Simmons. The sole son upholding the male domination was to Ian and Helen Relph. I hear Ian's already training him to be a fireman.

In the EDP section, a frightening side effect to VDU's has been noticed with the announcement that the wives of David Keam, David Commons and David Kimpton

DIVISIONAL ROUNDABOUT

from previous page

are expecting. David King has been keeping a respectful distance from the suspect machines.

There is no truth that, upon hearing of this, John Adshad has lined his solarium with HP's.

The travel bug has bitten many RDD personnel lately. David Lumsden has returned after 3 weeks in Japan looking most inscrutable. Ron Simpson has left for a 2½ month amble around Greece, UK and USA. Trish Phillips and Annette Livingstone (bad combination) have left to terrorise Tassie, and David Hosking is off to New Zealand for 2 weeks chasing snow bunnies.

Congratulations to Alan Baker's wife, Robyn, for turning their new Mazda 626 into a 625.

Matrimony is alive and well in RDD with the recent marriages of Chris and Wendy Graham, and Kerri Middleton to Alan Brody. Alison McNeel announced her engagement with a possible February wedding.

Eddy Wisniewski announces that due to eggflation the sale price of cackleberries has gone up.

Warning note—Sue Cook is now in solitary control of a red Gemini after successfully achieving her driving test. Pedestrians be wary.

Brian Wood returns to the fold after spending penance at Metro. His place is being taken by Cheryl Lewin. Don't leave your horse in Reg's car spot Chez!

RDD had three personnel sponsored this year in the World Vision 40 hr famine—Arnold Blackett, Annette Livingstone and Gary Gibb all adopted the mean, lean and hungry look to raise over \$300 for the appeal.

The personnel of RDD are most grateful to the person who erected the very impressive "exit" signs in the male and female toilets last month. Was this due to somebody getting lost or making an unauthorized departure?

WODONGA

From Paul Tucker

HOLIDAY

Mud Doctor Gerry Turner and family had an enjoyable two weeks at Surfers Paradise. Gerry has just been able to put his eyes back in his head, a result of observing the extensive local scenery.

Survey boys Ross Stewart and Rick Anderson have recently returned from leave. Ross and family travelled to Adelaide, and Rick and family camped in the Bairnsdale area whilst being involved with car rallying.

Roadworks engineer John Thorpe is currently enjoying the British summer. No news has been received since, maybe he can't get away from Wimbledon.

DINE-OUT

A very enjoyable social evening was had by the ten couples who attended the Belle Vue Restaurant recently. Thanks go to the organiser, Clerk of Works Ian Musgrave.

FUNNY PHONE MESSAGES

Engineer Gino Bortolotto found a note on his desk to ring D Geddes on 212211. On ringing and asking for Darryl Geddes, Gino was informed that no Mr Geddes was at that number (he had telephoned Dalgety's).

CAR TROUBLES

Engineer Bill Farrell has been having a little trouble of late in keeping the Stanza from being bogged on the job. In fact he's even having trouble negotiating the potholes in the Project Office carpark. Perhaps he could take lessons from the on-the-job rallyist John Thorpe.

(Gerry Turner has been requested to cease using the office carpark as an IPCAD practice area).

The Survey boys have no trouble with their four-wheel drive vehicle, they get bogged regularly.

SMOKING SCRAPERS

Progress was a little slow but, as Clerks of Works Frank Robinson and Ian Musgrave recount, the earthworks contractor was able to set a scorching pace on at least one occasion. One of the scrapers had picked up an old bottle of sulphur when loading in the borrow area and when unloading, the bottle broke, and the sulphur spontaneously ignited as it was spread along the fill. Hardly had the scraper screamed to a halt and the operator was on the ground, believing that the scrapper was alight.

For once Frank and Ian were speechless, but later they were able to assure us that they had never seen the operator move so quickly before.

RESIGNATION

Ian Lister has left us to take up duties with the MRD (Queensland) at their Cairns office. All the best Ian and we hope you can catch Marlin with fly-casting gear.

CRB TO RCA

To celebrate the change in organisation, a three-tiered party was organised for the Project Team.

Stage one was a smorgasbord afternoon tea in the reception rooms above the office, attended by 52 big kids and 35 little kids. A great time was had by all, especially the youngsters, who shared their time between a plentiful repast and reconnaissance in the office area downstairs (fortunately, Herbie the snake was in hibernation).

Stage two was an optional dinner in the Carvery of the adjacent Hotel. This splendid venue was attended by 19 staff, spouses and friends.

Stage three was in the form of a raucous chat, cards and darts night at Gino Bortolotto's pad, attended by 18 staff (including two from Head Office), some of whom never knew when to go home. After discussing everything under the sun, and some things beyond it, the night owls commenced a card game with mixed results. Gossip has it that some local paperboys reported one person sneaking home along Lawrence Street, shivering without a shirt.

This final function was attended by the Project's special camera, which takes photographs that nobody will claim or sometimes even believe.

All in all, the day was a great success.

DARTS COMPETITION

As was to be expected, the team of Norm Esdale, Phil Eaton and Danny Erikson won the competition. Not an unexpected victory when the daylight hours of practice were tallied, resulting in the urgent need to replace the darts board.

TWO-WAY SNIPPETS

Frank Robinson was very quiet after he had requested the radio fitter to repair his radio and later discovering that he had earlier turned the volume down.

On 1 July, the office had been calling on the radio for various field personnel without response, then discovered that the channel selector had been altered. Some say it was the children at the party the previous day, others think some personnel didn't want to be disturbed.

Wodonga Project version of the 'Dad and Dave' series is the popular and often listened-to "Berrigan Bob on the job".

WODONGA GOLF DAY AND POKER CLUB EVENING

The Wodonga Project are holding a golf day and poker club evening on Saturday and Sunday 1 & 2 October. Staff (including field staff) from Benalla Division, Benalla Freeway Project and Seymour Freeway Project are invited to Wodonga for an evening at the "pokies" and a 4-way golf challenge.

The following programme is envisaged: On Saturday 1 October, at 8.00pm, a meal and evening at the pokies. On Sunday 2 October, a golf tournament will commence at 9.00pm and perhaps a tennis tournament. At 10.30 Sunday morning, a tour of Beechworth or Jindera Museum will be available for wives and families. At 1.30 pm a barbecue picnic lunch will be held.

Participants not desiring to attend the "Pokie" evening would be most welcome to attend for just the Sunday. Please contact your social club if interested.

DANDENONG

From Victor Lawther

Engineers Ted Goddard and Gary Scott have returned to the division and will work from the recently acquired office in Pakenham. Ted was recently appointed Project Engineer for the Princes Freeway—Berwick to Longwarry. Welcome 'home' fellows.

The Road Construction Authority sign was erected in front of the Dandenong Divisional Office on 1 July 1983. (At the time of writing, the sign is still there; better luck than some other office!!!)



Pictured above, Bill Hooker, Supervising Engineer, left, and Gordon Anderson, Project Engineer, alter the sign at the front of the Nepean Highway Widening Project Office

Three people from Dandenong received their 25 year service awards from the Chairman. They were Peter Lagodzievicz, Ron Clinch and Trevor Stanley.

Rita Banhidy has joined the drawing office team, trust your stay with us this time Rita is longer. Engineer John Sibthorpe resigned and a farewell presentation was made to John by Divisional Engineer Stan Hodgson, before a large gathering of staff on Friday 8th July 1983.

To mark the end of the Country Roads Board a special 'farewell drink' was arranged by the Social Club in the conference room on June 30th 1983. Everyone attending thought such a gathering should be held weekly with our new Authority.



Robert Keating is on an extended tour of Europe at present. On the last working day prior to his departure, the 'drawing office boys' placed a sign on the off-side of his car. Robert posed for a photo on the other side and was not aware of the sign until some hours later when, in a shopping complex, a passer-by said "have a good trip".

FROZEN ADE

After being out for three hours in zero temperatures at Ferny Creek on the Mount Dandenong Tourists' Road between 9.00pm and midnight on a bleak Saturday night in June (an hour of which was spent on the end of a Stop/Slow bat), a frozen ADE has decreed that the snow line is at Fern Tree Gully in respect of requests for cold weather clothing.

METROPOLITAN

From Ian Mullett

ARRIVALS

Welcome to typist Julie Patterson who has joined Ken Mathers' staff at the Melton Project Office. Needless to say, malicious rumours of "jobs for the boys (girls)" have been circulating but the DE assures all that the commonality of surname is entirely coincidental.

Welcome also to draftswoman Cheryl Lewin who continues the recent trend of rapid personnel changes in the Design Section. We hope Cheryl has been warned of the ruthless manner in which Greg Jaskewych directs the futures of his underlings.

Kelvin Jones has returned to the Division after 14 weeks on long service leave. Unfortunately, two bouts of illness have reduced Kelvin's work output since his return, the first being a bad dose of the flu and the second and more serious, being a severe case of shock caused by the news that his 14th application for a Class 3 position had finally been rewarded with his first interview.

DEPARTURES

Graham Gilpin recently departed to Sydney for a month's instruction on construction management. Although members of the Planning Section, and no doubt Graham himself, are pondering the implications of the Division's Planning Engineer being nominated for such a course, all are enjoying the temporary freedom from having their reports scrutinized with a microscope in one hand and a dictionary in the other.

Clive Mottram has recently left the wind-swept plains of winter-bound Keilor for the tropical climes of Singapore and Hong Kong. Bill Draper, fresh from a recent visit to the same region, was overheard giving Clive a list of addresses, presumably to facilitate his duty-free shopping.

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to Geoff Rasmussen who has been carrying out drafting duties in the Design Section for quite some time. Geoff's previous classification of 'pipelayer' has been found to be inconsistent with his duties and he has now been promoted to 'Draftsman'.

PERSONNEL

The power of the press is indeed strong! Following my brief recital in the last issue of Interchange of Bill Rae's shattering attempts to fix a malfunctioning fluorescent tube, the Authority's Safety Officer phoned the Divisional Accountant to ensure that all future such attempts are carried out in accordance with the Authority's safety procedures.

The photo below shows all those attending the 'end of the CRB' party at Dandenong Division. It was put together from four separate photos

