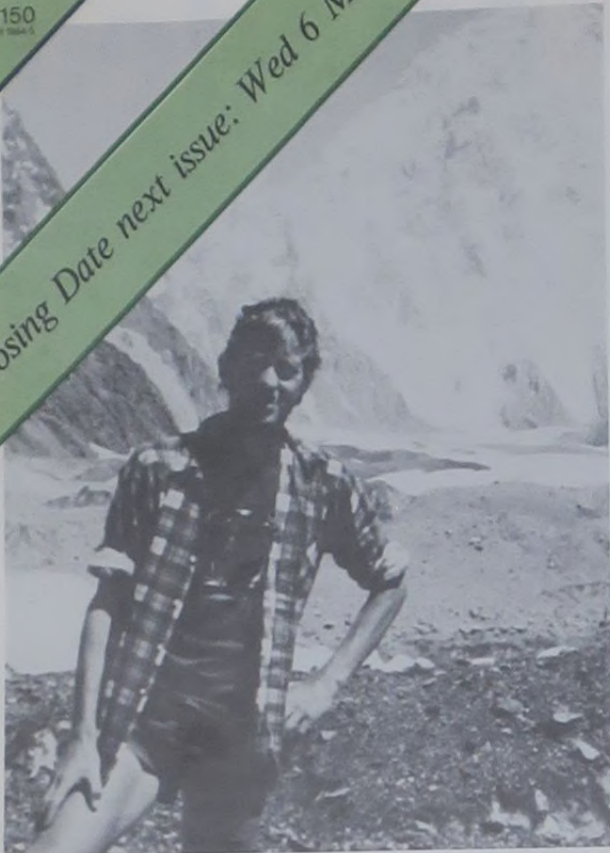


Closing Date next issue: Wed 6 March



INTERCHANGE

A STAFF MAGAZINE

February, 1985---Vol 9, No. 1

Hiking to K2 in Nepal... "It makes walking to Everest Base Camp look like a picnic".

It's Lonely at the Top

When Chris Carson (Benalla Project) gets away from it all...he REALLY gets away.

In June and July of last year Chris, who works in the Laboratory at the project, trekked through the Karakoram mountains in Northern Pakistan. The 26 day trip was through isolated glaciers considered more remote than those in Nepal.

"The mountains are part of the Himalayas and are among the most rugged and spectacular in the world," explains Chris.

Chris says he was 'lured' into the trip after reading about it in a travel brochure. He signed up with a holiday agency which specializes in adventure travel, and from then on it was down hill all the way, (well, not literally... the actual route went through some of the steepest terrain in the world. "The aim of our trek was the base camp of the K2, a mountain only 237 metres lower than Everest.



• There's a path there somewhere!

"This involved trekking over glaciers and steep trails for ten days", explains Chris. "Part of the route, through Baltoro Glacier, cuts through the greatest concentration of high peaks on earth".

World's steepest

Not only are the mountains high, but they are also the most jagged and steepest. The travel agency actually warns that the grade of the trail to K2 'makes walking to Everest Base Camp look like a picnic'. Chris says the isolation was complete as communication with outside civilization was non-existent.

"We came across two climbers who were bunked up at one of the camp sites. One was suffering from severe frostbite and they had been waiting eight days for a rescue helicopter.

"The chap was in severe pain and couldn't walk, so all they could do was sit and wait".

Chris says the scenery was 'fantastic' all along the trek to the base camp.

"At the base the sight of K2 was breathtaking", he says, adding that six of the mountains which surrounded them towered to a height over 7925 metres.

The scenery was unforgettable, but according to Chris, the least said about the food the better. The daily bill of fare usually consisted of such delicacies as boiled white rice, canned cheese and dry biscuits.

The trekkers spent three days resting at the camp and absorbing the surroundings, before tackling the return trip.

So, what are the pre-requisites for such a hike?

Chris says it is imperative that you are fit. After all, the trek distance is approximately 200 km and involves several river crossings.



• Photograph above left: Chris Carson, with 'K2' in background. The temperature during the day reached 40°C, in sharp contrast to the night where it would plunge to minus 10°C. Photo above: the camp at Concordia. The ice ridges in the middle of the photograph reached a height of 21.3 metres (approx. 70 feet).

"There is no technical rock climbing however", he points out. Chris says that the company prefers people who have had previous 'outdoor experience' (and doesn't just mean a quick jog around the local footy oval).

Finally, you have to have the right mental approach to accept three weeks of complete isolation. That is three weeks of no radio, no newspapers, no television...but isn't that half the fun of getting away from it all?

HIGH TIMES



Above: All in an evening's work. Santa, alias Allen Heriot, the Maintenance Manager at West Gate Bridge, climbs up a tower to deliver a Christmas present to Tom Delaney, an electrician who was working on the Bridge on December 14. Santa was obviously getting the bigger jobs out of the way before making his demanding annual Christmas Eve run. Photo: Footscray Mail.

• Interchange ODD SPOT

Head Office surveyors, returning to Melbourne in their 1978 Falcon (standard Survey issue), were tailed and stopped by a police car on the Drouin Bypass. The somewhat bewildered driver queried why they were the subject of investigation. The reply? "We thought the car must have been stolen," said the officer, "we didn't think any government car could be this old!"

Back Page: winner of our

'Victoria's 150th' competition.

The Inspectors!

story - see centre!

• Page 11 : Special Bicycle Feature •



GEM of an idea

Victorian Government offices are gobbling up energy to the tune of \$150 million a year.

The Premier, Mr Cain, is switched on to this exorbitant waste and is now asking government departments to 'switch off'.

Through the Government Energy Management Program, Mr Cain hopes to make significant cuts in energy consumption and expenditure. All government organizations have appointed an Energy Liaison Officer and Energy Managers (from existing staff) to implement energy management programs.

"The GEM Program is an important initiative which will have considerable benefits for the organizations involved and for the State as a whole", Mr Cain said. "I strongly encourage everyone in the Victorian Government to lend their support to the GEM Program. The potential benefits - economic and social - are very worthwhile".

Mr Cain has emphasized that the Program applies only to 'internal government energy consumption' and not to the energy consumed in providing services to the general public. In other words, GEM won't involve reducing tram services by half or anything of that nature.

The GEM Program in the RCA is being co-ordinated by Bill Gill, Officer Services Manager, who has been appointed Energy Liaison Officer (a part-time involvement).

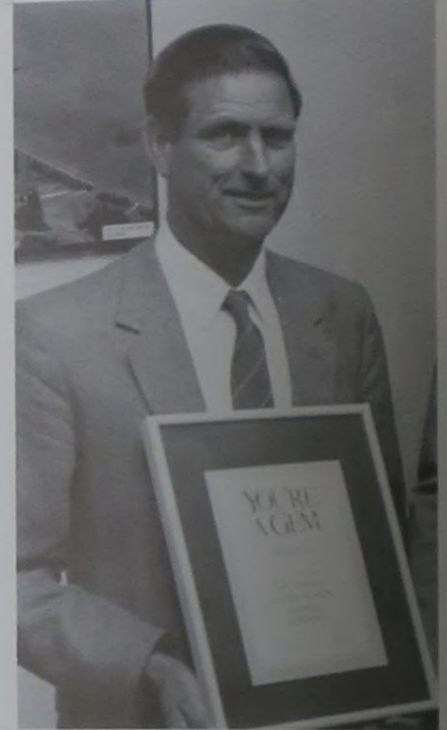
"An Energy Manager has been appointed within Head Office, Glen Waverley and each of the divisions to help implement savings techniques," says Bill.

"The objectives of the campaign is to reduce the total annual consumption of electricity, gas and liquid fuels, and achieve the desired target.

"Already we have made significant progress. Two divisions, Bairnsdale and Ballarat, have achieved excellent savings through their respective Energy Managers, Rex Nash and Don Holmes".

For their efforts, Rex, Divisional Accountant, and Don, Engineer, received special GEM Awards, a framed certificate signed by the Premier, Mr Cain, (see story, this page).

Other initiatives in the RCA have been the installation of solar water heating in the Head Office building, alteration to time clocks for heating and security lighting to reduce waste, and the use of new, energy efficient fluorescent tubes.



• "The certificate I received should really be inscribed with: 'Awarded to staff of Bairnsdale Division'..." says Rex Nash (above). "It was through their co-operation that we achieved the high savings in the past year."



• "Ahh - someone laced my Scotch with WATER!!" Alex Lawson (ex-Pavement Section) with engineer Peter McDonald at the Materials Christmas revelry. More pix and captions - page 5.

STOP THE DROUGHT! -

a message from HOSA

"The HOSA Committee would like to invite people to attend a HOSA Committee meeting in order to meet the other members and learn about how it operates.

The purpose of this invitation (there's always a catch) is to try and generate some interest in the existing Committee. The number of committee members has dwindled drastically recently, and in a constitution that states the Committee should consist of 20 members—we now only have twelve. The majority of people have served on the Committee for nearly four years, and consequently, a temporary "drought of ideas" has affected the enthusiasm of HOSA.

If you want your social club to continue we ask you to seriously consider devoting just a small amount of your time and joining the Committee. There does not seem to be a bright future for the association if this present situation continues.

New staff members are also encouraged to come along. Please phone Carolyn Aitken (2060) or any HOSA Rep. if you are interested in joining the committee. Anyone may turn up to a meeting and watch the proceedings and you're under no obligation. Hope to see you all there."

- from HOSA Committee

• Meetings are held on the Tuesday of a pay week—second floor conference room, Head Office. Come along and stop the drought!

Interchange is the staff magazine of the Road Construction Authority, 60 Denmark Street, Kew, 3101. Contributions can be sent to us c/o Public Relations, Ground Floor, Head Office. Photographs should be black and white and well captioned.

Interchange Hotline:
(03) 860 2584

Remember
the light



- and save!

Bill retires

Bill Lindstedt summed up the pros and cons of his impending retirement.

"I'll be relieved to get away from the routine of coming to work every day," he explained, "but I'll certainly miss the internal and external working relationships I've built up over the years".

Bill, the Industrial Relations Officer, retired on 1 February, after 21 years in the RCA and CRB.

He joined Head Office in August 1964, as Industrial Relations Assistant, became the Assistant Industrial Officer in August 1969, and the Assistant Administration Officer (Personnel) in early 1971. He moved to Administrative Officer (Personnel) in November 1974, a position which was retitled Personnel Services Officer in May 1976. In August 1981, he was appointed Industrial Relations Officer.

"It has been an interesting career to have seen and been involved in many of the changes that have occurred in industrial relations," said Bill, whose role in this field can be traced back to 1940 when he began working for the SEC.

"Government policies with trade unions have changed...there is more consultation in vogue now, a lot more dialogue with unions as a means of resolving disputes.

"We've had our share of serious problems and our good times too. But I don't think there will ever be a period when things will be constantly peaceful—it seems to be part of human nature to be dissatisfied".

Bill's first job was, incidentally, not in personnel but accounting. That was in 1939 with the Vacuum Oil Company (now trading under the Mobil name).

He stuck it out for a year, then moved to the SEC where he stayed—in industrial affairs—for two decades. During that time he served four years in Australia and overseas with the Air Force.

Wedged between the SEC and CRB was a four year term with a Nunawading company called Turner Industries Ltd. Once again, it was in industrial relations.

With all that behind him, Bill now has plans to travel with his wife, Win, to England where his daughter, Robyn, is currently living with Air Force husband and their two children. Then it will be onto Sweden to chase up some long lost relatives, and a tour of the continent.

"As well as travelling overseas this year, I hope to visit some of my own family scattered around Australia," says Bill. That sounds like a full-time objective in itself: Bill's clan here include two daughters and two sons: Jenny, a graphic artist living in Ringwood, Dianne, who works with handicapped children at Corryong, Peter, a medical practitioner at Painesville, and Graeme, a science graduate based at Perth.

Other retirement activities, Bill says will include trying to 'knock a stroke or two off my golf handicap'. He and Win will also be maintaining their interest in a sales and marketing business they pursue in association with Dr Maura McGill and her husband (Yes—the same Dr McGill who worked in the RCA between 1974 and 1980 as an occupational physician).



• Bill Lindstedt (left) with Mike Ryan at Head Office. Mike takes over the role as Manager - Industrial Relations.

Mike Ryan takes on the role of Manager - Industrial Relations, a position which was vacated by Bill Lindstedt on February 1 (see story, this page).

Mike has been in industrial relations for 'about 15 years', with the Commonwealth Department of Employment and Industrial Relations. "Although it's had about seven different name changes in that period", adds Mike.

Most of that term has been spent in Melbourne, with six years in Canberra.

"Industrial relations is interesting," says Mike, "it's diverse, there is always something going on. It's a fascinating area of human endeavour where you meet interesting people".

Mike and wife Joanne have one child and are expecting their second in early March, and live in North Balwyn.

The GEM Program has only been operating within the RCA since mid 1983, but already Energy managers, Rex Nash and Don Holmes, have achieved impressive results.

"The GEM Program has a three year target to reduce total consumption by 10%," says Don, "we've both managed to achieve that in one year—through sensible economising".

"It is surprising how saving energy can be habit forming," adds Rex.

"To a large degree, the success of the GEM Program will depend on the co-operation of everybody".

Rex and Don explain how YOU can help meet the aims of the Program in the office.

• Lighting

Lighting accounts for 20% to 50% of the total energy consumption in the office. More importantly, however, it is the area where a person has the most individual control.

"The idea is to get people to switch off lights if they are leaving an area VACANT for any longer than five minutes," says Don. "This applies to fluorescent lights as well as incandescent lights.

There is an old clerk's tale that it is cheaper to leave fluorescent lights burning all day, rather than switching them off several times. This was true many years ago, says Rex, when tubes were expensive and power was cheap.

"The reverse applies at present," says Rex. "Tubes are now relatively cheap but power is far more costly."

"We also urge people to take advantage of natural light if it is possible" says Don. "Also, officers who consider that their area has excessive lighting should contact their building supervisor to have the light levels checked.

"And, need we say...the last person leaving the office at night should turn off the lights".

Next issue: The Hot and Cold Facts About Air Conditioning.

Barwon bridge will be **BIG!**



Work will begin this year on the State's biggest bridge outside Metropolitan Melbourne.

The 0.5km bridge will be built over the Barwon River at Geelong.

Together with the necessary road work, it is expected to cost about \$23 million and will provide work for over 100 people.

On 24 January the State Transport Minister, Mr Steve Crabb, invited tenderers to pre-register with the RCA for the project.

"Pre-registration of tenderers will

enable contractors to obtain preliminary information about the project", Mr Crabb said. "It will also help the RCA to gauge the ability of the contractors to carry out the work".

The new bridge will provide a north-south crossing of the Barwon River between La Trobe Terrace and Settlement Road. The construction of the bridge and approach roads is the last stage in the development of a dual carriageway bypass of Geelong's busy commercial centre.

"For residents of Geelong the by-pass

•RCA's Chairman and Managing Director, Mr Tom Russell, above, shows where the multi million dollar bridge project will be built in Geelong

will provide relief from the traffic congestion caused by 30,000 vehicles per day." Mr Crabb said.

The project is being funded by the Federal Government under the Australian Bicentennial Road Development Program, and is expected to be completed by 1988.



Caller to Head Office: "I have seen a film on the 1956 Olympic Games highlights and believe it was made by the Road Construction Authority." He sounded genuine too.

Barry Wilson, Supervisor - General Duties, rang officer on Ground Floor through intercom.

Barry: "Excuse me...do you subscribe to Business Review Weekly down there?"

Officer: "Business Review Weekly? Oh, that's a monthly magazine, isn't it?"

January was not a good time to be going for a Sunday afternoon drive on Britain's expressways. Not only were fog and snow storms sweeping the country, but police also imposed 35kmh speed limit on the M1 to "slow down motorists".

West Gate Bridge's By-Law Officers are trained to handle any emergency—even young damsels in distress!

On December 11, Officers Jim Heywood and John Allwood noticed car stopped on top of bridge and went to investigate. Lady driver, somewhat agitated, claimed a large spider was on the prowl inside the vehicle and, consequently, she refused to drive it. Jim drove vehicle back to Toll area where he spent thirty minutes spraying interior with Mortein. Spider could still not be located but motorist was quite content then to risk driving. Still...it was a change from the routine mechanical breakdown or flat tyre...

Barry Fielding, a Scientific Officer in Materials, was reading his son's sixth grade workbook when he came across the following: 'Put the word CLERK in a sentence'. Son wrote: "A clerk is a person who files things and does other stuffing around."

Historical Diversions

• The first motorist to be convicted in Australia came from New South Wales (where else?), and was fined ten shillings for driving at 8 miles per hour. A policeman on bicycle gave chase and overtook him. On another occasion a motorist "passed a tram travelling at 12 miles per hour". A policeman on the tram hailed the driver of a horse and buggy, chased the speeding motorist and booked him! Times were hard!—Courtesy CRB Car Club Newsletter.



Koalas are normally shy little animals, but every now and then you meet one whose curiosity almost gets the better of him. This little fellow wasn't going to budge when a Geelong Division sealing unit came across him recently.

"We eventually had to pick him up and put him in a paddock," says Wally Holtrop, Asphalt Engineer who was travelling with the sealing gang. "The spray machine came within ten feet of him and he still didn't move. He just sat there."

Wally and Overseer Barry Mulholland were working on the Bannockburn-Inverleigh road, northwest of Geelong.

PROOF - MONDAY'S THE WORST DAY...

We all knew it already, but finally, after years of research the National Association for Insurance Companies has proved it.

Monday really is the lousiest day of the week. It's the day when most accidents occur.

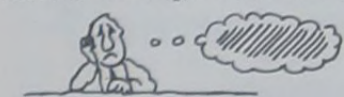
Monday morning, between the hours of 9am and 10am, is when the majority of accidents occur in the factory.

"Getting back to work after the weekend seems to hit the workers about an hour after they have started work", said a researcher.

Every Monday in the second hour of work some 104.3 people in every thousand are injured, as opposed to 22.4 in the last hours of the day and the rest of the working week.

So, how do RCA workers cope with facing up to Monday morning? Interchange did a survey to find out if anybody had a secret remedy to solve the proverbial Monday-itis syndrome. Here's the results.

...how we cope with the blues!



Vin Elliott, DE's clerk at Geelong, adopts a philosophical attitude to Mondays: "The best way to get around the blues is to think: 'well, at least I'm able to work'. A lot of people have not even got a job to go to or can't work. I'm just glad I can do it. Mondays never bother me at all."

Says Dave Manley, Admin Officer 3 in Materials Division: "I treat it like every other day of the week and just ignore it... anyway, I don't normally start to come good until about Thursday evenings..."

"The thought of not getting paid keeps me going," says Ray Batty, Experimental Officer from Materials.

West Gate Bridge's Maintenance Foreman, Kevin Sorraghan, uses different tactics. "I get out of bed and sing every day, including Mondays."



Fellow Bridge worker, Ron Whitley, an Electronic Technician, says he actually likes Mondays. "It's the weekends I don't like...there's always too much work to do at home."

"I just think of the following weekend," says Senior Typist, Monique Coolen from Head Office. Robyn Martin, Admin Officer, Survey, accepts Mondays for what they are. "I just think: oh well, only five days to go, and put up with it." Linda Zamprogno, Senior Typist, Survey, doesn't always suffer from Monday-itis. "It all depends on what I did the night before."

A lot of people Interchange questioned had little to offer in the way of remedies.

"When you have a 2 year old daughter who wakes up EVERY morning at 6.00 am, you get out of bed anyway," says a bleary-eyed Russell Bittner, Engineer Class 2 at Wodonga.

"The kids wake me up everyday too," says Joe Klopfer, Admin Officer, Office Services. "Mondays...Wednesdays...Saturdays...it's all the same!"

Readers with any other tips on Coping with the Blues are invited to contact Interchange anytime (after midday Mondays).

Beat those blues...

The monthly magazine 'GO' recently published a list of suggestions designed to take the 'blues' out of Monday. They're published below:

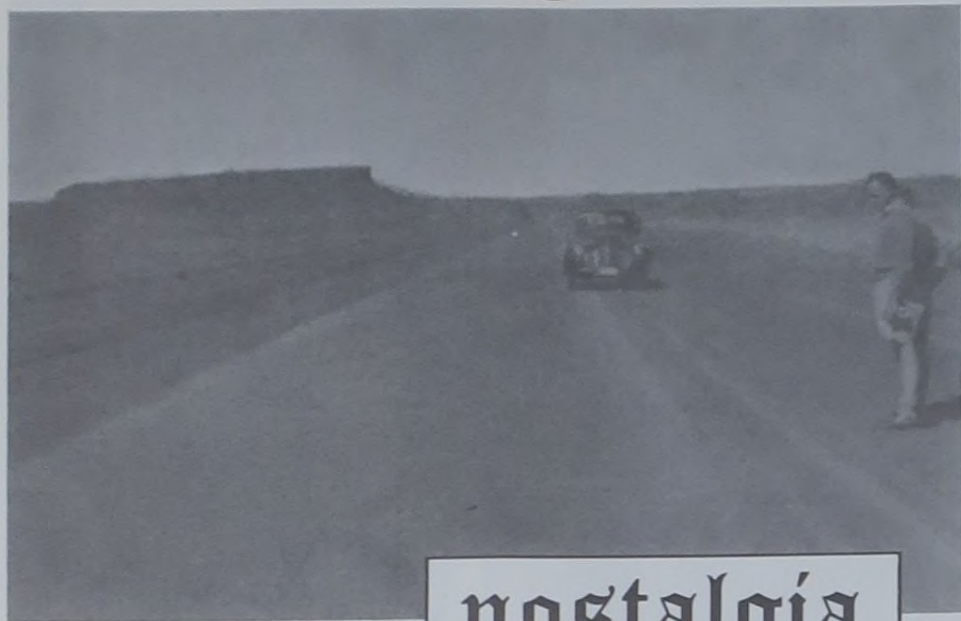
- Wrap up as many jobs as possible on Friday. It will boost your morale to know these matters have been completed;
- Set a new goal for Monday. Write it down. Do not make it too difficult. Note: it's fine to devote some of your weekend time to this. Thinking about Monday won't interfere with pruning the roses;
- Relax on Sunday night. Schedule your weekend activities for Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon;
- Avoid big jobs on Monday morning;
- Keep troublemakers off the Monday agenda at all costs. Once the week is underway, problems have a way of becoming more manageable;
- Plan to break up the week. Schedule something enjoyable on Wednesday. On Monday morning, a midweek reprieve won't seem as far away at Saturday;
- If you have staff, set an example. When the boss suffers the Monday-morning blues, the rest of the staff will decide it's okay to do the same, and performance will be off.

HAVE A HAPPY (MON)DAY!

Toads roads

LONDON: - British roads are to get a new sign—the silhouette of a toad—to warn drivers when the reptiles cross to spawning ponds.

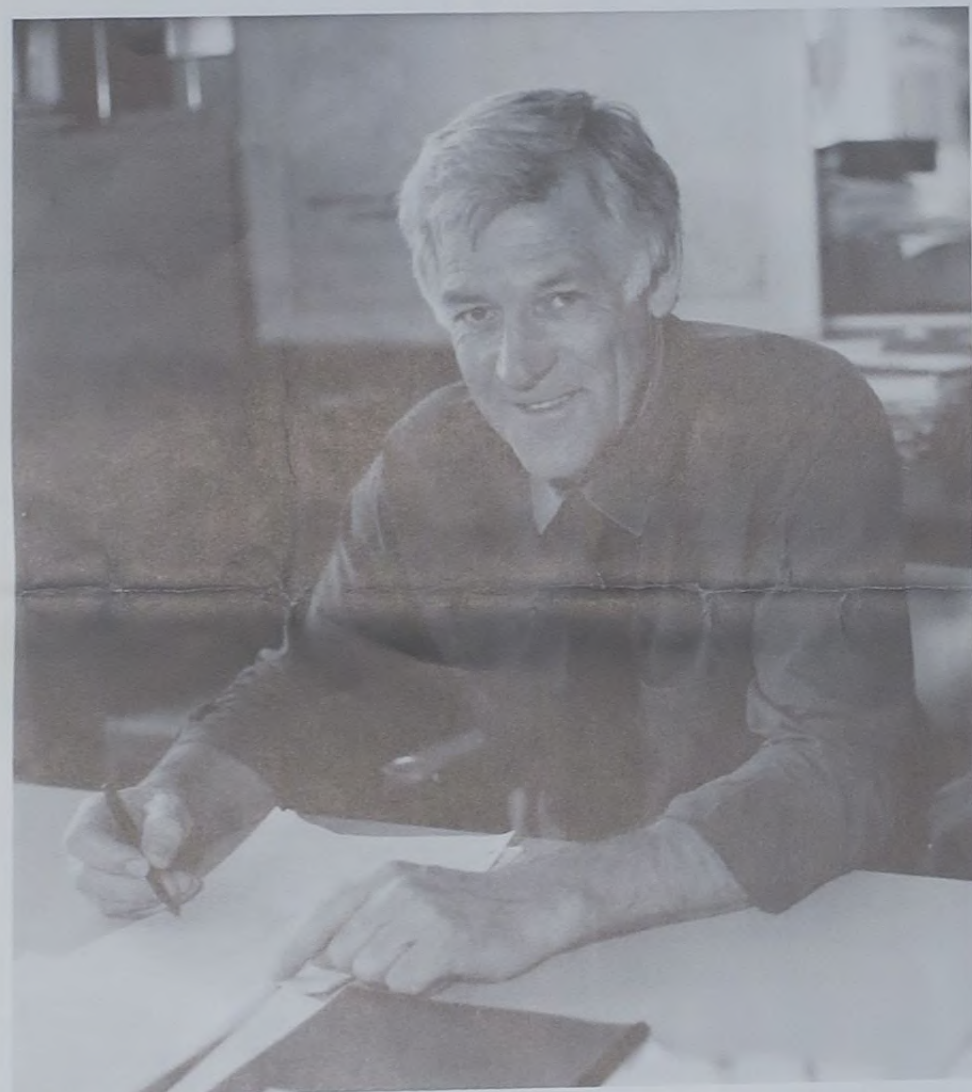
Sealing the Stuart



• Stuart Highway

nostalgia

Frank remembers



Frank Mau, the Assistant Principal Surveyor, had only been in with the CRB for eight months when he was approached by the Plans and Surveys Engineer, George Dempster.

"Do you want to go to the Northern Territory?" George said.

Frank didn't need to be asked twice.

"Yes Mr Dempster," he replied enthusiastically.

And a short time later Frank was on a train heading towards Alice Springs; his travelling companions included party leader, Ian Mather, and engineers, Tom Russell and Keith Moody.

It was January 1943.

The team, which also included two chainmen, three truckies and a cook, established a base at Connors Well, north of Alice Springs. Their first objective was to survey the stretch of highway between Alice Springs and Tennant Creek, a distance of approximately 500 km.

"We were later to shift camp north to Barrow Creek", recalls Frank. (Barrow Creek is only about 70km from the official geographical centre of Australia). "Keith Moody and I then went to Gorrie and worked on an aerodrome with Frank Docking and Alan Jacka (both who were to become Divisional Engineers)".

Did the 12 months in Northern Territory, with its isolation, beer rations and heat, concern Frank?

"The isolation didn't worry me", he says, adding that the mateship aspect was rewarding. "We'd occasionally play cricket, and I remember one time we all saved our rations and the cook spent hours in the kitchen so we could celebrate Labour's Federal election victory.

"As for beer...I was only 17 years old, so I didn't drink". And the heat? It seems that wasn't always a problem. "I remember getting up at Connors Well and breaking the ice to have a wash. The winter nights there were freezing..."

The working hours were long—a ten hour day on the job was normal; six days a week.

But it wasn't all toil, Frank explains. "On our days off we'd go bush exploring in one of the trucks. We'd visit the local stations, and the owners were always pleased to see somebody".

After he returned to Melbourne, Frank went on to serve in the Army until the end of 1945.

An all weather road between Adelaide and Darwin?

That's going to be a reality by 1987, according to the Federal Minister for Transport, Mr Peter Morris.

Funds will be allocated to road authorities in South Australia and Northern Territory to upgrade the Stuart Highway to a high standard, all weather road.

When completed, it will be a vast difference to the road conditions that existed in the Australian outback forty years ago.

In 1942, the then Country Roads Board was called in to assist the Commonwealth Government in reconstructing and sealing the Stuart Highway, as part of defence works in the area.

Some sections of the highway then were little more than a crude dirt track full of corrugations, bulldust, and discarded tyres. It was totally unsuitable for the heavy convoy traffic which was using the route.

Tennant Creek 'Divisional Office'

The work involved transferring Board technical staff, road crews and plant to the centre of Australia, and a new 'divisional office' was virtually established at Tennant Creek, north of Alice Springs.

Work began in November 1942 on gravel strengthening and bituminous surfacing of the highway, between Alice



• No bulldust—it's hot work! Men spreading a bitumen wearing course on Stuart Highway near Tennant Creek

Springs and Larrimah, a distance of about 1,000 km.

The first stage of the job—improving the gravel surface along the route—was carried out with the CRB and crews from the South Australian Road Authority, the Army and the Allied Works Council.

But the major part of the job, resurfacing the entire stretch, was the responsibility of the CRB. It was a mammoth task completed in just under 18 months. A further 265 km of the highway north of Larrimah was sealed by CRB crews in 1945, thus bringing the total length of the resurfacing job to 1,265 km. It was an achievement that reflected the tenacity and dedication of a closely-knit crew of men working in extreme conditions.

For the following years, the Stuart Highway, and the Barkly Highway linking Tennant Creek to Mt Isa, became the background of post-war development in the Northern Territory.



• Portable plant mixing gravel and bitumen at Banka for the Stuart Highway

Kids Show Their Colours



• Bob Solly, Horsham's D/E, with prize winners, from left, Simon Young, Shaun Baker, Shillette Baker and Brock Baker

The kids at Horsham Division are getting into the safety swing.

More than fifty youngsters from Horsham and surrounding areas entered the Division's "Flaggie Safety Colouring Competition", held in November.

And according to Kevin Hadingham and the Horsham Division Safety Committee, the competition, open to RCA families, was an outstanding success.

"More than fifty entries were received from contestants ranging from 3 years to 12 years", said Kevin. "Entries came from as far afield as Red Cliffs, St Arnaud and Donald, as well as a strong lobby from Horsham.

"We're very pleased with the results of the competition in taking the safety message into the family home."

Winning entries announced in each age group were selected by Superintendent B Barritt, Head Of Wimmera Police District, Horsham.

"We wanted an impartial judge beyond suspicion", said Kevin.

Is Yours Current?

Thousands of Victorian motorists could be driving around while unlicensed.

According to RACV, it is a problem in Victoria because many motorists who change address do not bother or remember to notify the Road Traffic Authority of the change. When the licence is due for renewal, the driver can not be located at the given address and in the long term the licence, as it hasn't been renewed by the due date, simply lapses.

RACV stresses the need for motorists to forward their licence, as well as car registration certificate, to the RTA for alteration on changing address.

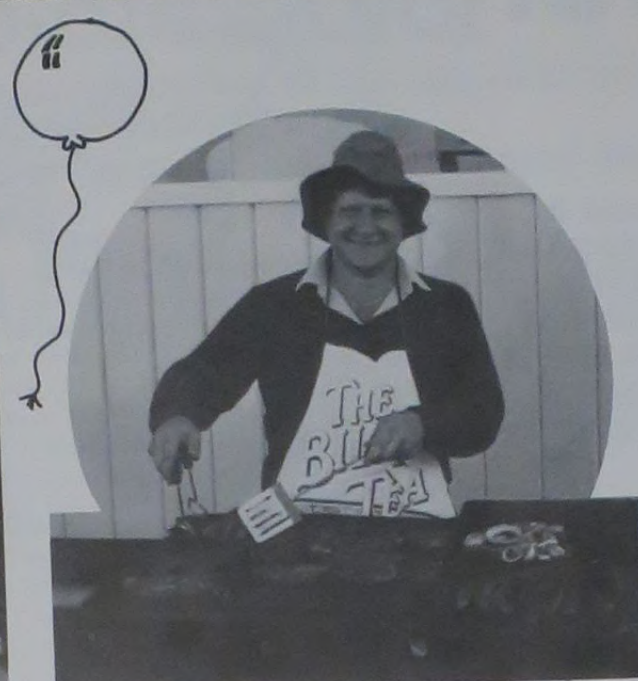
It pays to keep the RTA informed of your movements—motorists who have previously held a licence, and who are convicted of driving while unlicensed, can face a fine of up to \$500 or one month imprisonment.



• Vicki Mizzi, Registry, was given an early Christmas present at the Head Office luncheon... a Maltese Terrier pup called 'Mimi'.

We should do this more often

How the RCA spent the Christmas/New Year/Holiday Season...



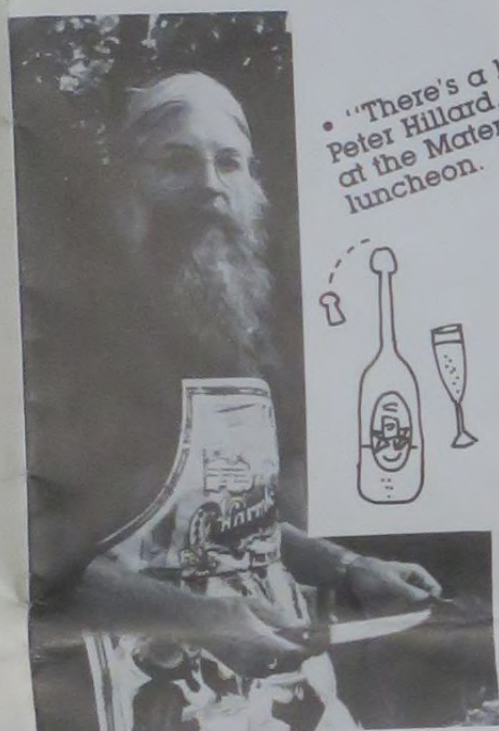
• "How do you like your chops... burnt, smouldered or singed?" Eddy Wisniewski, Draftsman, at the Eastern Projects Christmas Party.



• HO Caf duo, Paul Hoffman, Superintendent, and Grace Liciardo, Supervisor, relax at the HO luncheon.



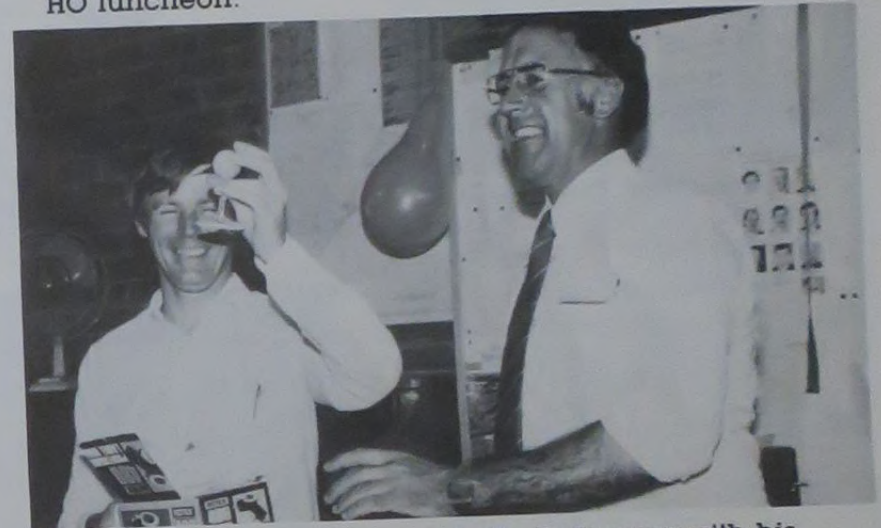
• An epicure of impeccable taste, Benalla Division connoisseur Bob Gardner samples the cuisine at his division's Christmas celebrations.



• "There's a hair in my soup!!!" Peter Hillard, experimental officer, at the Materials Division luncheon.



• About 112 retired people returned to Head Office for the RCA Retired Persons' Association get together. Above left, John Mackie, ex-Photographic Services, at the bar, and above right, Marj Addis, RPA President, Bruce Addis, Group Manager - Bridge Design, and Mac Wilkinson, ex-Road Design.



• Brian Bagley, right, presents Garth Stevens with his award, an 'E-Grade Runner Up' trophy for the most natural ability in table tennis. It could only happen at Bairnsdale.

Barry: bound for Bourbon Street

Barry Sawyer, Officer in Charge, Photographic Services, knew right on 12.00 midnight, December 31, that 1985 was going to be a great year.

Sitting with his wife, Barbara, at the Australian Jazz Convention in Wollongong, Barry suddenly heard his name mentioned over the loudspeaker.

It was then that he and Barbara realised they had won first prize in the raffle that had been drawn: it was an all-expenses paid Pan Am trip for two to the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival in April.

"I nearly fainted", says Barry. "We had to return home to Melbourne after the show and we just floated back".

The Festival, from 26 April until 5 May, will attract more than 3000 musicians who will play in 300 different performances. Last year the festival presented such big names as Ray Charles, Fats Domino and Bo Diddley—which is enough to send any jazz freak into a tizzy.

The gala event offers the best in jazz, rhythm 'n' blues, gospel, caribbean, folk and salsa, and Barry has been guaranteed 'the best seats in town'.

But there is more to it than the stirring potpourri of musical styles. An array of food stalls set up during the event will give Barry and Barbara a chance to sample such native culinary delights as crawfish etoufee, alligator picante, cajun turtle fricasse and barbecued goat.

A Caribbean Island tour has also been thrown in as an added bonus for the Sawyers.



• Barry with his wife Barbara

To some non-musically inclined people, who probably think BB King is a large packet of washing powder, spending all that time listening to jazz would be an arduous task. But for Barry, it will be all too fleeting.

Barry is a devoted jazz listener and has been for 30 years. For a number of years he played the trombone with a group, the appallingly named but musically talented 'Seasiders'.

"It was a 14-piece dance band in the style of Glen Miller," says Barry. "Before that I was playing in a smaller brass band."


The free Pan Am trip will also take Barry and Barbara to Honolulu and San Francisco, but they also plan to take advantage of the offer and spend some time in Japan. To catch up on the latest ragtime sounds in Tokyo, perhaps?

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Flaggie on Tour

What exactly does a Stock Inspector do?

Benalla's Stock Inspector, Graeme Oxley, sums it up in a few words: "The work involves keeping the roads safe from unattended stock. We patrol the roads regularly and communicate with engineers and patrols so they're aware of any problem areas. We also liaise with farmers to obtain the utmost co-operation in keeping fencing in good condition to prevent straying stock".

Here are some of the Stock Inspectors Flaggie met on the road recently...



Taking stock

REX BLENNERHASSETT

Rex Blennerhassett has come across a lot of 'strays' on the highways around Gippsland, but his most unusual confrontation happened on the South Gippsland Highway near Sale.

Rex remembers that morning vividly.

"I was driving along when I came across a two year old girl, standing right in the middle of the highway", recalls Rex. "When I approached her, she was still completely unperturbed by her position".

Rex remembers having a bit of difficulty communicating to the girl. "I was unable to find out who she was or where she came from." Fortunately, just when he was running out of ideas, a nearby neighbour came to the rescue and took her home.

"Other than that", says Rex, "most intruders on the roadway have been of the farm yard variety."

Averaging about 1,800 km a week, Rex patrols the RCA roads in Traralgon and Bairnsdale Divisions with Daisy, a Border Collie/Cattle dog cross, and Skipper, a Kelpie. It's a job Rex has been doing for two years, and like his colleagues, he claims his biggest hazard is the thoughtless motorist.

"There are always fast moving motorists who seem to have little regard for safety", says Rex.

And, of course, during summer one can't help but be aware of the snake population that frequents roadsides.

What does Rex regard as necessary qualities for the job?

"A sound knowledge of stock husbandry, stock movement and behaviour—particularly when they are under stress or panic," says Rex. "An understanding of stock owners and their habits and problems helps too."

When he is not on the road, Rex likes gardening, dining out and entertaining friends at the family beach house at Loch Sport, on the Gippsland Lakes. Rex and his wife, Jeanette, have five children.



Rex Blennerhassett

GRAEME OXLEY

Graeme Oxley, 'Trixy' and 'Rowdy' patrol the highways and tourists' roads in Benalla Division.

Graeme is relatively new to the job—he and his two Kelpies have been on the road for only six months. And like all the RCA Stock Inspectors, the dogs are an integral part of the work.

"Good working dogs are important to handle the stock in a manner that is safe with traffic", explains Graeme. "It is also important that they are obedient to command."

Graeme's patrol area is bounded by the Murray River, Strathmerton in the north to Broadford in the south, and the Dividing Ranges to Corryong.

"It helps if you're an experienced driver of sober habits", says Graeme, who estimates he drives his Falcon utility an average of 1,600 km a week.

Unfortunately, not everyone Graeme and his trusty canine partners meet are up to the same standards.

"One of the hazards on the road are maniac drivers, who have little consideration for their own or other people's safety", says Graeme, "especially when stock, with their unpredictable behaviour, are on the road".

Another type of person Graeme has to contend with are the ignorant fisherman and shooter, who stroll through paddocks leaving gates open. It is a clear invitation for a bored cow or sheep to go for a wander on the road.

What other attributes does Graeme think are necessary for the job?

"You need a sound knowledge of all types of stock and their expected behaviour patterns. And it is important that you can liaise with people, be they Shire Rangers, the public, stock-agents or farmers".

Mixing with such a diversified range of people is just one of the many reasons why Graeme enjoys his job. Chances are, rarely a day goes by without him meeting somebody interesting.

Like the time he had to convince a farmer that his large bull had escaped through a gate. It was rather difficult for Graeme to remain too serious, however, when he was talking to the chap...his name was Mr STRAY!

Communicating with the farming community, however, usually comes easy for Graeme. He and his wife, Beverley, and two children, run their own farm 'with mainly Stud Poll Dorset sheep, and some wheat, oats and lupins'.

It goes without saying that the farm has the best kept fences in the neighbourhood.

COLIN DOUGLAS

Colin Douglas patrols the roads in Bendigo and Ballarat Divisions.

He's only been in the job for 14 months, but knows that a key requirement for the work is 'resourcefulness'.

"There is always a danger when handling stock on a busy road," explains Colin. And working with animals, particularly when they are frightened, is never predictable. A lot of times you have to make do with what you have got.

"There was the time I was impounding some sheep who were on the Hume Freeway," recalls Colin. "Having grabbed one to put in the truck I found I had no string to tie its legs...I had no option but to use my belt."

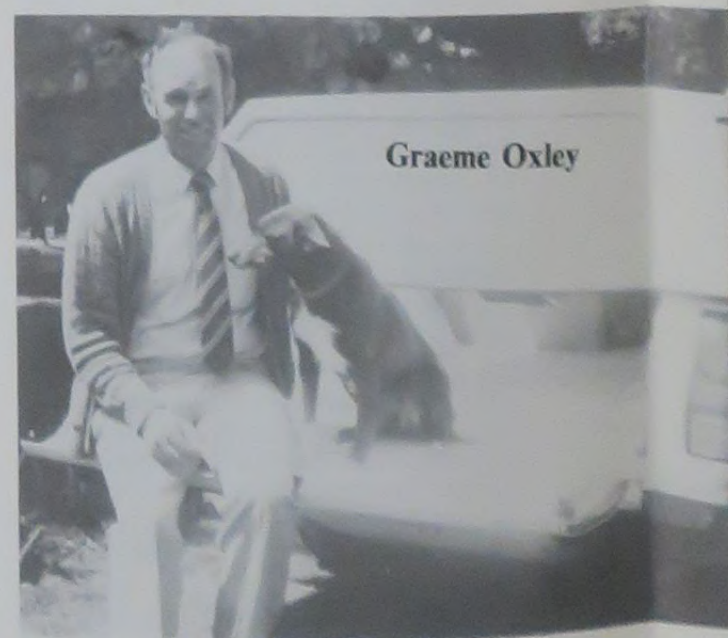
"It worked quite well, though."

Having the ability to handle unruly cows and sheep is only part of the day to day routine, Colin explains.

"You need to have skill and tact at approaching and discussing offences with stock owners," says Colin, "whilst maintaining good public relations."

Colin and his canine team, Dusty and Blue, certainly clock up the miles in their Falcon XE ute. With two Divisions to regulate, their travels extend from the Western Freeway, south of Ballarat, to the Murray Valley Highway near the NSW border.

Colin and his wife, Leonie, have four children, and he lists his recreational pursuits as tennis, bushwalking and aviation.



Graeme Oxley

Flaggie meets our Bicycle Facilities Co-ordinator

Bob Stamp, Engineer, has been appointed to the role of Bicycle Facilities Co-ordinator with the Traffic Engineering Group.

What does the Bicycle Facilities Co-ordinator do? Well may you ask. Flaggie did. And here is his story:

Flaggie: Hi, Flaggie here, on tour yet again. When I heard Interchange was going to have a whole page devoted to bikes (see page 11), I thought: what could be more timely than to interview our Bicycle Facilities Co-ordinator, Bob Stamp...Hello Bob. That's a nifty title, but what does it all mean?

Bob: Well Flaggie, basically I'm here to monitor, co-ordinate and review the activities of the RCA in relation to the planning, design and provision of bicycle facilities.

Flaggie: Facilities? Like if I need a new pump for my 12-speed Malvern Star Racer, I ring you?

Bob: No. Flaggie, you're on the wrong bike-track. When I talk about facilities.

I'm referring to on and off road aspects, such as bike paths, kerbside lanes and signing of bike routes.

Flaggie: Oh, so that's why they got an engineer to do this job?

Bob: Yes, but you must realize the engineering aspects are only one part of the overall planning for cyclists. There's also Education—through the Bike Education programs in schools, Encouragement—through increased publicity and community awareness, and Enforcement—by the co-operation of the Victoria Police to achieve a safer integration of motor vehicles and bicycles. They form the four E's of bicycle planning.

Flaggie: And let's not forget Entertainment. Riding a bike can really be Entertaining—especially with some of Melbourne's motorists...What else are you involved in?

Bob: I'm the RCA representative on the State Bicycle Committee which also has representatives from the Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Planning and Environment, RTA, Victoria Police, RACV, Medical Profession and community organizations.

The RCA is directly involved in the engineering area, and through my involvement with the State Bicycle Committee, is aware of the programs in the other areas.

Flaggie: What else does your job entail Bob, besides bikes?

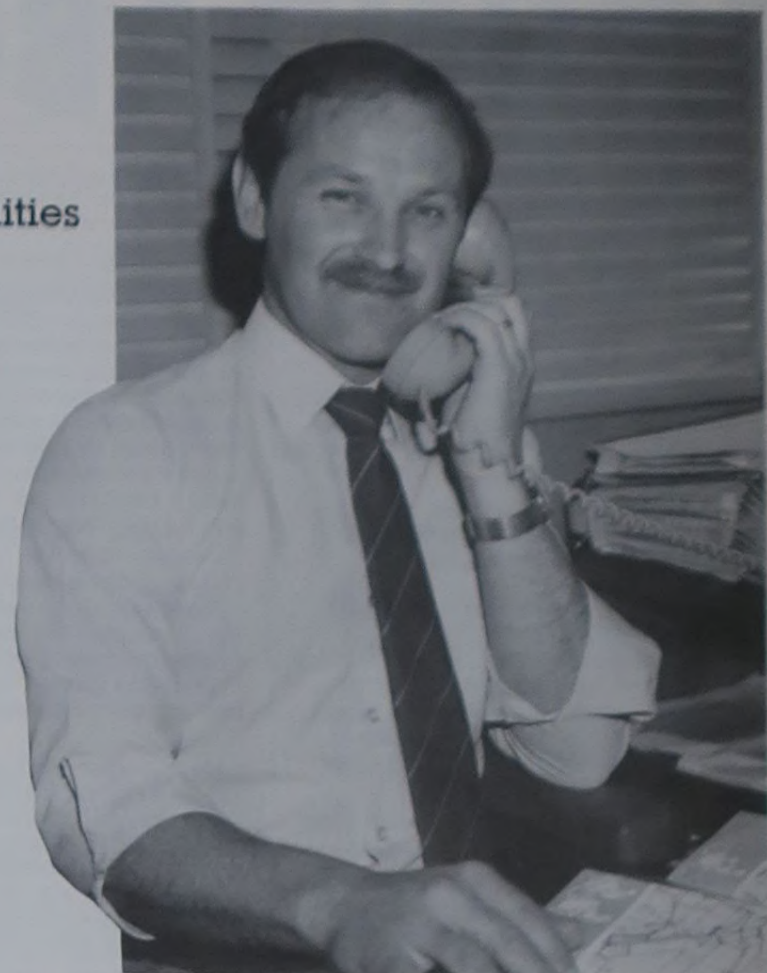
Bob: Well...we're also concerned about pedestrians and disabled persons. The facilities provided for both these groups will be reviewed to see if improvements to the RCA practise are required.

Flaggie: Will we see more bikes in Melbourne? I hate to namedrop, but I've been to Amsterdam and it's full of bikes.

Bob: Well, we will be seeing more bicycle facilities. A Melbourne Bike Plan is now complete and has been prepared on the expertise developed through the Geelong Bike Plan. The



Bob Stamp



plan, prepared in three parts, recommends a bicycle route system using both on-road and off-road facilities in Melbourne. Naturally we will be directly involved in relation to the declared road system.

Flaggie: I see. Now if I happened to want to ride my bike from Head Office to Flat 6, 116 Beach Road, Clayton... I'd get some tips off you would I?

Bob: It would be better to obtain a copy of the relevant Bike Map produced as part of the Melbourne Bike Plan and select a route appropriate to your cycling ability. These maps

provide advice to cyclists on the route most appropriate to their ability, by taking into account factors such as traffic conditions, bicycle facilities provided and terrain.

Flaggie: Oh, yeah. And locations of unfriendly dogs too, I guess. Well Bob, I've only one more heavy question: do you ride yourself?

Bob: My main hobby is sailing...but I do ride occasionally for recreation.

Flaggie: Well thanks for talking to us and this is Flaggie saying: Happy Riding! See you next issue...



Buchan Caves - Sculpture In Limestone

Year after year the Buchan Caves, with their unusual stalagmites and stalactites, continue to attract more tourists. The caves are part of Victoria's "Riviera" and located 55 km from Lake Entrance—or about 375 km from Melbourne.

The Caves' fascinating limestone formations were discovered more than 140 years ago but no survey was made until 1889. Initially little thought was spared for tourists, but with the opening of the 366 m long Fairy Cave in 1910 after insistent demands, followed five years later by the Royal Cave, the tourism future of the Buchan Caves was assured.

The age of the caves is anybody's guess: expert opinions range from a million to 70,000 years.

The beautiful limestone formations have been built, drip by drip, over thousands of years and they open up a fascinating—almost fantasy—world for the tourist. A world of special, if eerie, beauty.

The caves are set in an extraordinarily lovely scenic area of Victoria that features crashing waterfalls, precipices and stands of mighty forest trees.

Any attraction which goes on enticing visitors in increasing numbers must have something really going for it. Come and see for yourself—the caves are open daily with tours from 10am, 11am, 1.15pm, 2.30pm and 3.45pm.

And while you're in the area...

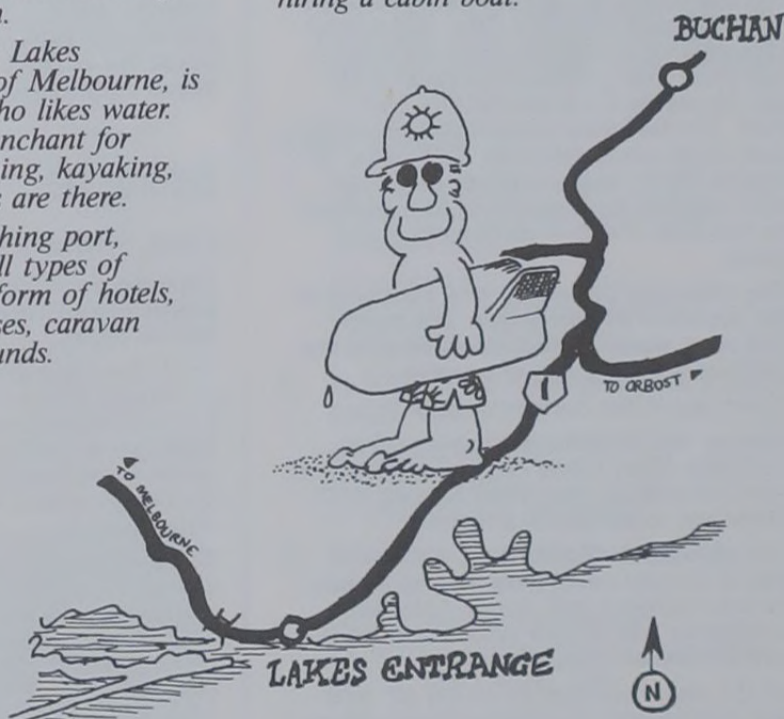
The population of Lakes Entrance almost doubles every summer as thousands of visitors flock to converge on the picturesque town.

It isn't hard to see why: Lakes Entrance, 320 km east of Melbourne, is a haven for anybody who likes water. Whether you have a penchant for boating, fishing, swimming, kayaking, surfing...all the facilities are there.

A major commercial fishing port, Lakes Entrance offers all types of accommodation in the form of hotels, motels, flats, guest houses, caravan parks and camping grounds.

Excellent views of the Entrance are gained from the Princes Highway lookout at Jemmy's Point, 3 km west of the town. In clear weather, several offshore oil and gas platforms may be visible.

You can enjoy the nearby natural lakes and 90 Mile Beach by either contacting the local tourist ferry service or hiring a cabin boat.



• Stalagmites and stalactites have been forming, drip by drip, over millions of years to the delight of visitors to Buchan Caves. In case you're confused, stalactites hang from the cave roof and stalagmites are the other ones... Vic Tourism Commission

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Roundabout

Materials

From Lee Scott

The Christmas celebrations all went off exceptionally well as usual, and were held at Alan Muir's Residence in Hawthorn. The rain managed to stay away for everyone to enjoy the sumptuous food available. Two huge butts of beef, shoals of baked fish, baked potatoes, numerous salads, trifles, fruit salad, pavlovas, cheesecake and the ever popular Christmas pud and brandy sauce. Thanks to Alan and Colleen Muir for offering their premises and help, and also to all the people who organized the setting up, cooking, and last, but not least, the cleaning up the day after. And not forgetting Eileen, who managed to keep the whole evening running smoothly.

The HOSA party was its usual great success and when the barrels ran dry, the party continued at the Skinny Dog. I hear some people didn't leave that premises until 10.30 pm.

Well its back to work (?) for another year and hopefull you'll all be full of stories (that I can put in print) for interchange.

Farewell to Jeff Hannington who resigned in January and is getting married and moving to Bairnsdale. Good luck and congratulations Jeff.

Horsham

From Betty Sleep

A warm welcome to Typist/Clerical Assistant Leona Cameron who commenced duties on 7 January. We wish Leona a long, happy stay.

Norm Ladlow (Storeman) and his wife leave for 5 weeks tour of New Zealand on 11 January 1985. Whilst Norm and his wife are in New Zealand they plan to spend a few weeks with their daughter.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Wayne Taylor-B.S. Tanker Driver at Christmas. Wayne was killed in a motorcycle accident whilst on holidays. We extend our sympathy to his wife and young family.

Stan Preuss-Traffic Controller passed away in December 1984. We extend our sympathy to his family.

Warrnambool Engineer was recently heard to say over C.B. Radio 'Workshop, could you find sometime one of these days-tomorrow, to have a look at the slasher??'

Lisa Matthews, Typist-Accounts, left the Authority's service on 22 February 1985 after 7 years to take up the role of a farmer's wife.

Lisa was farewelled with an afternoon tea and presented with a gift from her fellow workmates.

We wish Lisa all the best for the future.

A Dinner Dance was held on 18 December at the Sunnyside Bowling Club. The evening took the form of dancing and presentations were made to several staff members of Awards achieved throughout the year. We had the company of several members from Head Office staff. Thanks to our Social Committee for their organisation.

The Social Club held a Childrens Christmas Party on the banks of the Wimmera River at Sawyer Park.

Santa arrived by a speed boat, kindly lent by Dave Donald. The portly Santa held a striking resemblance to B.S. Cook Leo Moloney. Gifts were then distributed by Santa to all the children attending.

Greg Carter, Bill Voigt, Barry Lane, Steve Garwood and helpers had a full time job distributing icy poles, cordial and bags of lollies to all in attendance.

A bar-be-cue dinner was enjoyed by all those present.

Approximately 100 members attended the Christmas Break-up at Workshop on Friday 14 December.

President Greg Carter welcomed our new Divisional Engineer Bob Solly and Engineer Kevin Hadingham.

Mr Solly spoke to all present on behalf of the Division and made special welcome to members present who had retired from RCA and were invited to the break-up.

Retired Painter Staminko Stojanovic presented Claude Bush with a gift for his retirement from the RCA as ex Depot Truck Driver and Painter before his retirement.

Warrnambool

From Alan McDowell

Usual correspondent Phil Cheslett is on annual leave at the moment so I'm the lucky guy who gets to fill in for him. Actually Phil is sporting a cricket batting average of approx. zero at the moment in the local competition. He may be anxiously waiting for a call from the chairman of selectors Chappell to join the Australian team in the one day fixtures. (don't wait too long) Stick at it Phil, I honestly believe you can make a run soon.

Well another year of Christmas parties has been survived by the majority of Warrnambool Division. Your correspondent has stopped shaking enough to write some news about these gatherings. The workshop celebrated Christmas Eve at their place of work with a couple of brown bottles to keep them sociable. The afternoon (which did extend till late that night) was enjoyed by all and there is no truth in the rumour that there was a near re-enactment of TV ringside by a few members, most office staff attended a local restaurant for a formal evening. Early in December whilst for a break-up a BBQ was held in the loading bay of the Office. This turned out to be not so formal but I'm led to believe a good time was had by all.

Engineer Cottrill competed in his first triathlon recently at Port Fairy. He was last seen loping across the finish line claiming the Coolangatta Gold would be within his grasp within the near future. Seriously though it was a good effort from Roy so congratulations. Patrol Assistant John Medley also deserves a pat on the back for finishing fifth overall and linemarkers in charge Murray Rautall who won the Veteran Category. If only I could swim, run and bike ride I'd probably enter as well.

Still a few staff on sick leave at the moment so I'd better give them a get well message. Patrolman Colin Lynch, Patrol Assistant Ken Natrass, Gordon Couzens and John Cassie. Ken Batten from the Workshop has recovered from a long illness so it's good to see him back slaving away. Draftsman Des Roche decided that some staff members could have had a longer nose than he, so he took the obvious step and had his nose lengthened. The operation was a success. Good on you Des you are still the king of noses.

Till next chance I get to test my literary skills bye for now.

Wodonga

From Paul Tucker

Farewells were given to the following staff members: Bill Farrell, roadworks engineer promoted to Westgate Freeway, Mike Villani, bridgeworks engineer returning to Bridge, and Joe Poletti, sandwich course student returning for final studies at Swinburne.

A warm welcome is extended to the following new arrivals: Duncan Moncrieff - roadworks engineer, graduate from Melbourne Uni, Glen Bouchier - sandwich course student from Swinburne, David Chapman - Technical Assistant in Lab, Russell Bittner - Temporary attachment from Benalla Project, Hans Raun - Transfer from Traralgon - Experimental Officer.

An enjoyable day was had by the younger Project children at their Christmas Party held on 16 December. Thirty-one children attended for lollies, icy-poles, drinks and gifts and all enjoyed the visit by Santa (Lions Club) and Captain Koala (C.F.A.).

Forty-five people celebrated at Cooper's Winery, Tabletop on the 7 December. A tasty smorgasbord was consumed and the night was enjoyed by all.

The second annual Project breakfast was held at the Project compound on 30 November. Copious amounts of bacon, eggs and toast were available and consumed by about 30 people.

John Thorpe must be starved at home as he fronted up at 6.30 am with knife, fork and cup—one week early.

Young student engineer, Glen, must have been really feeling the pressure during his second day on the Project. Instead of asking for the "tie-line" he exclaimed "Give me life-line please!" We hope Glen soon gets over his suicidal tendencies.

Newly married, Engineer John Thorpe and wife Ann spent an enjoyable second honeymoon taking in the sights of tropical Samoa. The second honeymoon was necessary because the first, spent in the NSW Blue Mountains, was a washout.

Dandenong

From John Bronsgeest

After an absence on maternity leave, Claire Berry has joined Accounts originally coming from Estates. She replaces Vicky Galea, who, transferred to Estates. We welcome Jody Brabazon from Registry, who started in the D/E's Clerk's area on 7 January replacing Elizabeth Field who is expecting her first baby.

On Monday 17 December, Alan Armstrong, presently holidaying in Europe with wife Persis, was given a farewell presentation by D/E Stan Hodgson. Alan has been appointed Class 2 Engineer in Road Design where he will start work on 4 February and carries with him best wishes from all his friends at Dandenong Division. Apart from Alan Armstrong, four other staff members left during the week leading up to Christmas, which is an all time Divisional record, and this kept the D/E exceptionally busy making presentations to Vera Belegris (retired), Gary Veith, Elizabeth Field and Cathy Harding.

An enjoyable time was had at the children's party and the Christmas luncheon and the Social Club is to be again complimented on its excellent arrangements. The Christmas outing was held on Wednesday 12 December at Bunratty Castle South Melbourne.

Last but certainly not least, the "baby boom" is gradually spreading through the Division—Lyn Currie and Sue Dawe are both very excited about becoming mums in 1985.

So you are a true-blue Victorian?

You have been exploring the Grampians, boating in the Gippsland Lakes and skiing at Buller? But how much do you really know about this state?

Why not try our Vic Trivial Quiz? It will really test your wisdom over the Summer days ahead. There are no prizes for getting all the answers right—just the satisfaction of knowing you are a bit of a whiz kid on Victoria.

Information has been gathered from the latest edition of 'Blair's Travel Guide to Victoria and Melbourne' (see story, back page). It is the ideal travelling companion when seeing Victoria during her 150th year...

Trivial Quiz

EASY ONES:

- The Victorian coastline at the start of the 19th century was mainly occupied with:
 - convicts;
 - Chinese cocoa prospectors;
 - whalers and sealers.
- In 1835 John Batman signed a land treaty with:
 - Major Mitchell;
 - Mrs Batman;
 - Port Phillip aborigines.
- Victoria's vineyards in the 1890s were devastated by:
 - the disease Phylloxera;
 - hordes of the Milawa cane toad;
 - the 1890 Wine Tax.

- The Man from Snowy River was buried at:
 - Corryong;
 - Springvale;
 - Beverly Hills.
- The biggest inland port in Australia was located at:
 - Echuca;
 - French Island;
 - Swan Hill.

- Dimboola was named after:
 - A local grazier, Bruce Winston Dimboola;
 - The Ceylon word 'dimbula' meaning 'land of figs';
 - The aboriginal word 'dreamtime'.

HARD ONES:

- Healesville, east of Melbourne, was named after Sir Richard Heales, who was:
 - A local vet;
 - Premier of Victoria;
 - An early explorer.
- The fishing village of San Remo was once:
 - An export centre for wattle bark;
 - Victoria's largest area of red ironbark;
 - Site of Victoria's first Italian take-away pizza shop.

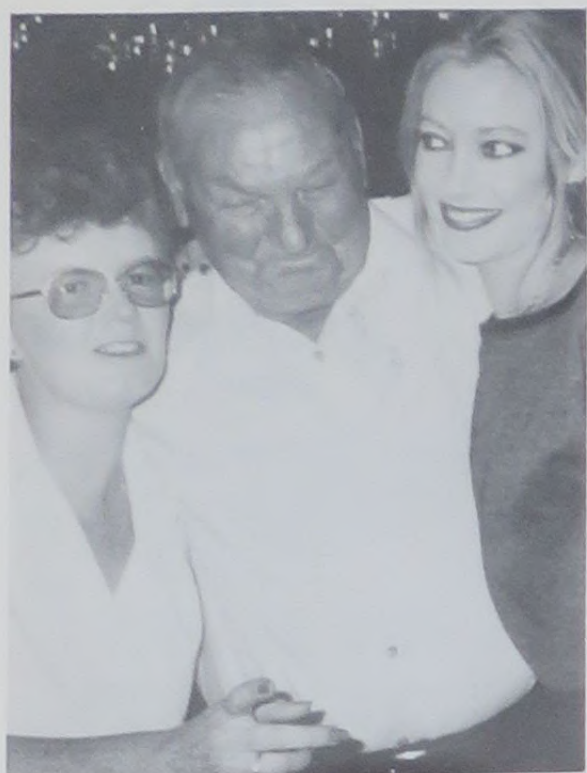
REALLY HARD ONES:

- The Anchorage Peninsula is located at:
 - Lakes Entrance;
 - Yarrowonga;
 - Williamstown.
- Victoria's largest specialty cheese factory was located at:
 - Grovedale;
 - Girgarre;
 - Gehrig Brothers Winery.

ANSWERS: Easy: 1c; 2c; 3a; 4a; 5a; 6b
Hard: 7b; 8a; Really Hard: 9c; 10b



Here is a 'behind the scenes' shot of Frank Thomson operating the Autograde on the Hume Freeway bypass at Wodonga. The \$19 million project will be open open to traffic in March this year. Photo: Albury Border Mail.



Above: What a way to go! John Smoczyk is farewelled by Helen Whiley (Admin Officer) left, and Lynne Coshell (typist). All work at West Gate Bridge.

Calling It A Day

WEST GATE BRIDGE

A presentation was made to Bill White, carpenter, who retired from the West Gate Bridge in November. Bill received an orbital sander and electrical plane from his fellow workers for the many 'odd jobs' his wife, Nora, no doubt has planned for his leisure hours. Above: (back row, from left) Kevin Sorraghan, General Foreman and Allen Heriot, Maintenance Manager (front row) Pat Heriot, Valda Sorraghan, Nora and Bill White.

A gala party was held for John Smoczyk, gardener, who retired from the Bridge on December 20. John chose to hold his farewell in the 'upstairs function room at the Railway Club Hotel, Port Melbourne', and the highlight of the evening was a female stripper. John received a colour TV set from his colleagues.

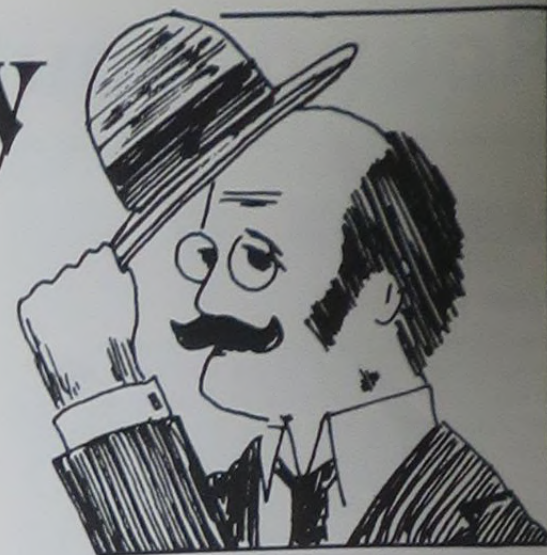
HORSHAM

Depot Truck Driver Mr Harry Kerruish has retired from service after 22 years. Harry commenced with the then Country Roads Board on 9th April 1963.

A Farewell Evening in his honour was held at the Horsham RSL Hall on 25th January 1985.

A presentation from his workmates was made.

• Harry Kerruish.



Classies

BIRTHS

FORD (M.D.) David and Liz, a son, Andrew David, born 6 December 1984, a brother for Fiona.

GOULITIDIS Bill (ex Claims) and Grace, a daughter, Lara, in January. Congratulations.

KAPANA Jenny (Maternity Leave, ex 5th Floor) and Frank, a baby girl, Katie, on 12 December 1984.

RASZKIEWICZ Marcella (ex Tynong Project, Dandenong Division) and Steve, a son, Michael, 13 December 1984, a brother for Deona. Congratulations.

ENGAGEMENTS

BLACKMAN Rod (Bridge) to Yvonne Boardman on 22 December 1984.

KARAKALISES Helen (Accounts) to Jim on 15 December 1984. Best wishes.

SCARLETT Trish (Benalla) to James Pilcher on 12 January 1985.

MARRIAGES

BURNS Terry (Horsham-Workshop) will wed Miss Shelley Bird in Horsham on 16 February. We wish both Terry and Shelley every happiness for the future.

ELIAS Koula (Claims) tied the knot with David Hilton-Bright in November 1984.

GRIFFIN Jon (Benalla) and Andrea Nicolson married on 26 January. Congratulations.

HANNINGTON Jeff (Materials) to Debbie Smith on 26 January.

PUBLIC NOTICES

HOUSE: Holiday house for rent at Mt Beauty. Accommodates 10 people in 3 bedrooms. Close to Bright, Mt Buffalo and Falls Creek. Centrally heated. Contact John Finlay on Ext. 2550 Head Office.

FOR SALE

Avery Electronic Scales. Suitable for weighing gold/dope/rock samples, Weighing range from one 1 grain to 4oz. Needs Weights and tray. \$40 ONO. Contact Ruth Phillips on Ext. 2212.

Classies are free for RCA staff. Non-RCA staff can advertise in any category: rates are \$1.50 per line.

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RetireInvest has recently completed an extensive report on Insurance Bonds detailing how Bonds operate, their benefits, their differences and which funds currently offer the best returns. RetireInvest is an impartial adviser and not an Insurance Company sales organisation.

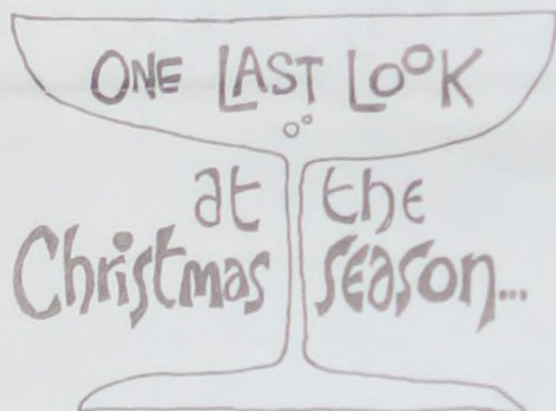
If you would like to have the answers to your investment questions attend RetireInvest's Insurance Bonds Workshop any Wednesday in February or March at 5.30 pm. This is one workshop you can't afford to miss.

Call NOW to reserve your seat.

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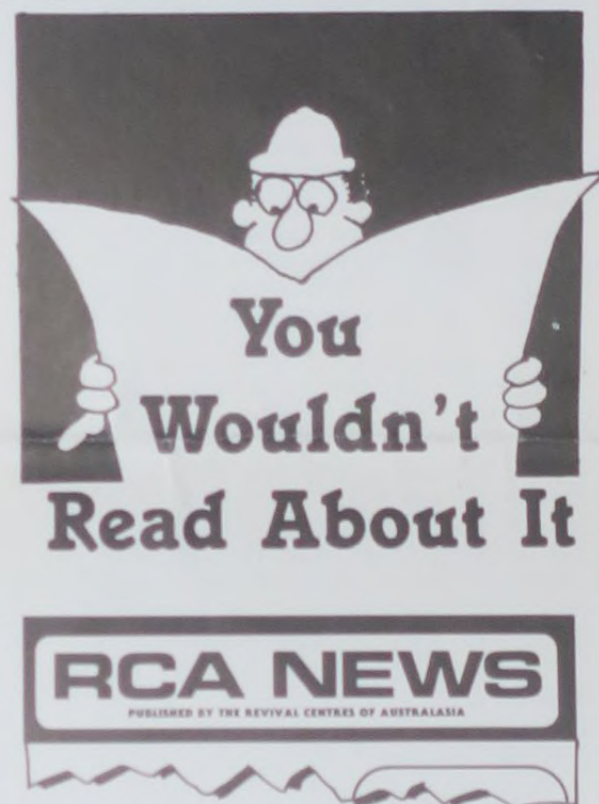
• A gleeful Gino Bortolotto from Wodonga Project, getting into the Christmas spirit.



• Santa, alias Horsham's BS Cook Leo Moloney, swapped his Rudolph for a high powered speedboat to make a grand appearance at Horsham's kid's Christmas party.



• You'd think Joanna Judd, typist at Ballarat, would learn to pick on her own size. The lofty chap in question is from the 'Ragamuffin' band, and the duo were snapped dancing at the Division's Christmas party.



Head Office worker was strolling down Glenferrie Road, Malvern, recently when a smiling passer-by thrust a copy of 'RCA NEWS' into his hand. Worker naturally accepted the journal, although somewhat confused as to why a road authority would be distributing such material in the suburbs. It wasn't until later that he discovered the true source of the magazine—it was published by the Revival Centres of Australia... definitely no relation to the Road Construction Authority!

To: Public Relations
Ground Floor
HEAD OFFICE, KEW



CLASSIES COUPON

Please include the following in the next edition of Interchange:

Categories available (please circle):

- Births
- Deaths
- Marriages
- Engagements
- To Rent
- For Sale
- Wanted to Buy
- Swap Shop
- Public Notices

Advertisement...

Name of contributor.....

Location.....

Signature.....

Ext.....

Sportsdesk: The Great Victorian Bike Ride

Between December 1 and December 9 about 2200 keen cyclists rode in the Great Victorian Bike Ride. Peter McIntosh (Workers Comp., Personnel) was one of them...

From the Murray to Melbourne

...on two wheels

What was the worst part of the Great Bike Ride? The hills? Irrate motorists? Belligerent farm dogs???

"The flat sections of the road," replies Peter. "That's when it got boring, especially around the wheatlands."

Peter says the undulating areas and towns provided a variety of scenery and made the ride more interesting.

The 600km cycle jaunt began at Wodonga and took pedal-pushing participants through Beechworth, Benalla, Shepparton, Rushworth, Bendigo, Maryborough, Ballarat and back to Melbourne via Sunbury. A full back-up service was provided by police and ambulance, with 'lunch stops' located at various towns.

"Often we'd come into a small town to find the Lions Club or a similar organisation had arranged catering for lunch," says Peter. "It was a great effort considering there were over 2000 riders."

Peter estimates he averaged 70km a day, although on some days it was noticeably less.

"Uphill"

"We only did about 40km on the first day between Wodonga and Beechworth... it was virtually all uphill."

The gala biking event attracted a wide range of people, varying in ages from early teens to 70, and riding anything

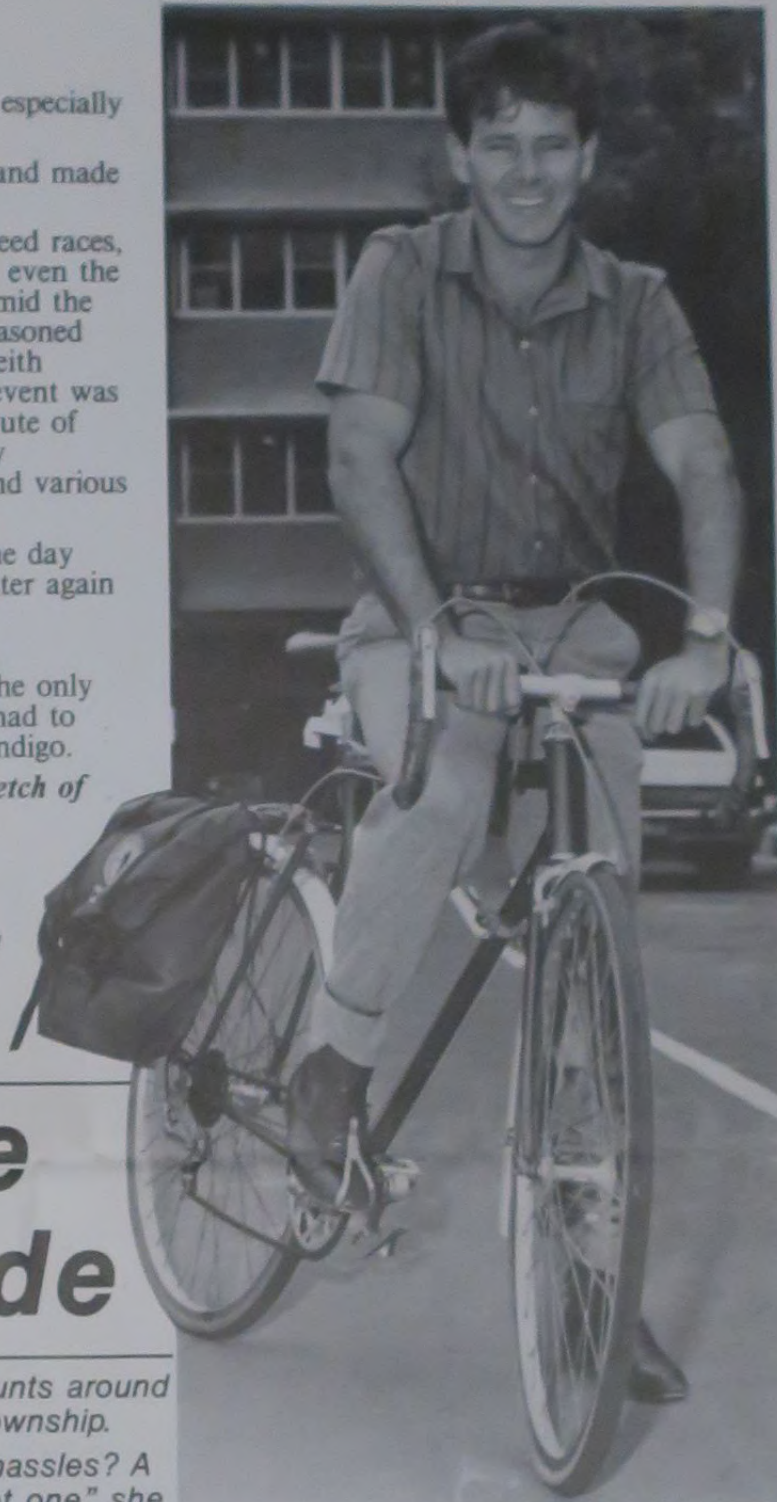
on two wheels including 12-speed races, road-weary Malvern Stars and even the odd penny farthing or two. Amid the bike brigade were also the seasoned cycling duo, Jeff Hook and Keith Dunstan from The Sun. The event was organised by the Bicycle Institute of Victoria and was supported by Victoria's 150th Committee and various sponsors.

Peter says he regarded the nine day ride as 'a holiday', and will enter again if it is on again.

"It was so well organised and enjoyable," he adds. In fact, the only time he and his fellow riders had to dismount and walk was at Bendigo.

"The RCA were sealing a stretch of road there," he explains.

• Peter McIntosh: rides daily to Head Office...from his house in Kew East. Nonetheless he proved fit enough to compete and finish the 600km Great Victorian Bike Ride



Grab a brochure

•Melbourne and Geelong have a growing network of cycle paths designed for commuting and recreational riding. Scattered through the suburbs of Melbourne now are more than 50 km of cycle paths.

So it looks like the bike is at last finally making an impact in Victoria.

Recently the Minister of Transport, Mr Steve Crabb, launched six new brochures from the State Bicycle Committee. They make invaluable reading for the rider, and present comprehensive information on bike paths, bike clubs, commuting by bike, bike maintenance and kids on bikes. They can be obtained from the State Bicycle Committee (03) 617 4666, Bicycle Institute of Victoria (03) 663 3509 and the Pedal Clubs in Victoria - ah (03) 49 2743, plus bicycle shops and libraries.

sport in brief

•The Wodonga Project basketball side shocked the world's sporting public when they made the "B" Grade Grand Final. With 25 seconds to go Daryl Easton (ex-Captain Coach and person responsible for the team's name "Rustics") gave the side a one-point lead with an incredible bomb from 25 yards. Daryl quite elated by this bit of sporting brilliance ran down the court, both arms aloft waving to the crowd, while his opponent dribbled down the court and sunk the winning points. Daryl's moment of triumph had ended.

•The "Road Hogs" (Geelong Office staff) won an indoor cricket challenge from "Men at work" (Depot Personnel) in a game of blunders, errors, misunderstandings and a few moments of good cricket. D.E. Col Roy presented a trophy to the winners which was accepted by the "Road Hogs" secret weapon, Dennis Daly. The "Road Hogs" have now been challenged by the "Tar Babies" (Sprayer gang) Looks like you guys won't be holding the trophy very long.

•The fitness craze has hit Warrnambool Division with no less than three Fun Runs in recent times. Several members of staff competed in the major run which covered a distance of 10 km. Best effort came from Kevin Fulton, Tech. Asst., who ran 17th overall in a Run with more than 600 entrants; he finished in 35.00 minutes. All RCA staff who entered managed to finish the Gruelling Fun Run which deserves a lot of praise as it was held in thirty degrees heat.

Seen or heard something funny?

We're always after humorous material for our Odd Spot, Diversions and You Wouldn't Read About It segments. Got a contribution? Write to us or phone on 860 2584...we'd love to hear from you!

Di joins the Friendly Ride

Dianne Meadows started in the Great Victorian Bike Ride by herself. Within a few hours she made lots of friends.

"It was a really good atmosphere," says Dianne, a word processor operator from Benalla Division.

"I was rarely by myself. I met people riding and camping...they were all friendly."

Dianne says she only rides for pleasure, but didn't have any problems lasting the distance—all 600 km of it.

The week before the big ride she

kept in form by daily jaunts around the Benalla Lake and township.

And did she have any hassles? A puncture, perhaps? "Not one," she replies. "The only slight problem were the showers...or rather, the lack of them. And there were some long queues for meals, but with 2000 people you have to expect that sort of thing."

Other than that, Dianne found it easy to adapt to the outdoors and the camping routine. Then again, it comes natural for somebody who is a keen cyclist, swimmer and horserider.

Freewheeling LA

A \$US32 million freeway is being planned in Los Angeles—for cyclists.

The 13 kilometre cycleway will link areas in Los Angeles with the University College of Los Angeles.

A \$70,000 feasibility study estimated that the freeway would be used by 6000 cyclists a day.

- New Scientist

Foul News

As a rule, animals are not allowed onto freeways. The problem is—nobody has bothered to tell the animals.

In November last year surprised motorists on the Mulgrave Freeway were confronted by a herd of cows which had escaped from an overturned cattle truck. Police and volunteers took hours to round up the elusive bovines which sought refuge in the median strip.

But if you think cows are a handful, spare a thought for the South Australian authorities. On December 21st about 3,500 chickens escaped from a truck on the Mount Barker Freeway in Adelaide.

Police and firemen who attempted to catch the absconded chooks were somewhat hampered by 'slippery' road conditions caused by the birds.

The Metropolitan Fire Service said that the chickens were so frightened they fouled the road, en masse.

It took two hours to capture the birds and another two hours to clean the road using high powered fire hoses. Melbourne police should be thankful that cows aren't as excitable as chickens...

On The Road



Working on the road between Ravenswood and Marong are, from left, Robert Clarkson, Don Croft and Russell Else, all with the Bendigo Patrol. Photo: Bendigo Advertiser.

If you enjoy being active, meeting new people and doing stimulating work, then the Army Reserve is definitely for you. It offers all the above and, at the same time, you will be doing something very worthwhile.

Major Noel Osborne, Engineer at the Benalla Project, is looking for new members and says: "We always welcome new faces. The work the units do is completely different from usual day to day tasks and is most rewarding."



It certainly must be. There are members in the Authority's units who have been going to the annual training sessions for more than 20 years. Friendship is also a strong element in the Reserve which gives members the chance to meet people from other Divisions.

The following will explain more about the Road Construction Authority's Army Reserve Units and what is involved with serving part-time in them:

The Army Reserve wants YOU! ←

(but only if you like making friends, travelling and learning new skills)

The 1985 campaign to enlist new members for the units of the Royal Australian Engineers (Supplementary Reserve) is now underway.

The RCA sponsors two units. They are: Headquarters 22 Construction Regiment RAE (SR) and 107 Plant Squadron (Heavy) RAE (SR).

SPIRIT

The units depend on volunteers from within the RCA for their success. The spirit within the units is high and this spirit is borne out in the achievements of the units.

At the 1982 Annual Camp at Glenmaggie, 107 Plant Squadron constructed 10km of forestry access road in two weeks.

Other achievements by the Regiment have been the construction of an all weather test track for the Defence Department at Monegeeta, construction of roads at Shoalwater Bay, Queensland and erection and dismantling of Bailey bridges for the RCA and Shires where the specialist training of our Army Reserve soldiers is put to practical use.

"Camps and courses are conducted throughout Australia, and units have worked in New Guinea. Other overseas exercises are also being planned," says Noel.

"Areas which training has covered are demolitions, field machines, radio operation, camouflage and concealment, navigation and patrolling, driving, forest mill and chainsaw operations, field engineering and plant operation".



SKILLS

Whether you are male or female, and whatever your civilian employment may be, there is a place for you as an officer or soldier in the units.

Your civilian skills will be supplemented by specialist training to develop your independence, management and military engineering skills.

"The RCA gives full support to its sponsored units including the encouragement of enlistment of new members and fulfillment of obligations by existing members," Noel explains.

The training received is invaluable in developing qualities of character and leadership which assist members in their careers with the RCA.

LEAVE

The RCA grants Military Leave to meet normal Army service requirements.

The basic training commitment is one fortnight camp each year; the rest is up to you.

If you wish to join, fill out the application form below and return it to Major Noel Osborne.

• If you have any enquiries please phone Noel at Benalla Project Office (ext 2340) or Major Howard Ellis at Road Design (ext 2348)



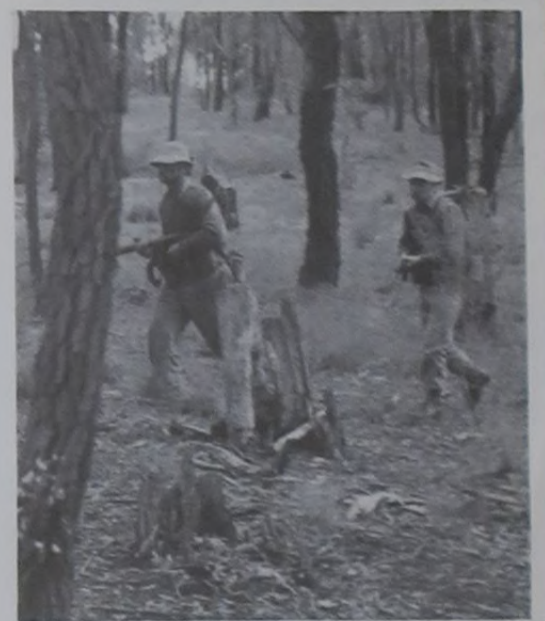
TO: Maj. Noel Osborne, BENALLA PROJECT

I am interested in joining the Board's Army Reserve Units and request more information. I am between 17 and 35 years of age.

Name Division/Section

Address Postcode

Age Phone (work) (ah)



Fred Wins Guide

Fred Cason will be in good company when he goes for a Sunday drive from now on.

Fred, a Storeman at Benalla Division, won the 'Victoria's 150th Competition' in the last edition of Interchange and scored for himself a free copy of the Blair's Travel Guide to Victoria and Melbourne.

Fred correctly answered the question: name the town where the first Europeans settled in Victoria 150 years ago. The answer, of course, was Portland, west of Warrnambool.

Interchange is getting into the birthday spirit—Victoria's birthday, that is! And this year there will be more competitions with great prizes!!



VICTORIA 150
GROWING TOGETHER 1845-1985
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• Fred, left, with his Travel Guide, presented by Interchange rep, Ewan Pritchard



ROAD CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY



The Roadmakers