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Membership of the Association is available to all who have been members of VicRoads or forerunner organisations or the spouse of deceased members and bestows on them all the rights of the Rules of Association. Cost of membership is a once only fee of \$50. Enquiries about membership or receipt of the Newsletter by e-mail should be directed to the Secretary, VicRoads Association, by phone or e-mail as shown above. Visit our website at <https://vicroadsassociation.org>



Dear Members

I would like to think that this view of the Eastern Freeway captures the last sunset of Melbourne's 2025 winter as we move into the first month of a hopefully warmer Spring.

Earlier in August, Rosslyn and I flew to Darwin to soak up some of the surplus warmth (around 32 degrees) in that city and explore Kakadu and Katherine. We discovered some interesting facts about the city's origins.

While the area's original inhabitants called it *Garamilla*<sup>1</sup>, Captain Lt John Stokes of *HMS Beagle*, who landed there in 1839, decided to honour his former distinguished passenger, Charles Darwin<sup>2</sup> by naming the place after him.

Thirty years later, South Australians arriving to man the Overland Telegraph Line terminal called the settlement *Palmerston* after the then British Prime Minister Lord Palmerston<sup>3</sup>. Then, in 1911, the recently created Commonwealth Government halved the enormous state of South Australia by creating the Northern Territory<sup>4</sup> and applied Captain Stokes' original name, *Darwin* to its new capital city. Nevertheless, Palmerston remains the name of the city's large southern suburb, which is also the northern terminus for the *Ghan*.

Darwin is a modern city with excellent museums and art galleries. It was pleasing to see the Country Roads Board's important contribution to the Pacific War effort acknowledged in the

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<sup>1</sup> After the white rock in the coastal cliffs

<sup>2</sup> Darwin was not aboard the *Beagle* at the time. He had previously chartered the *Beagle* for his epic, five-year voyage around the globe, searching for evidence supporting his Theory of Evolution, which was subsequently presented in his major work *Origin of the Species*, published 20 years later in 1859.

<sup>3</sup> Our forebears obviously had warm feelings about British Prime Ministers, with Victoria's capital being named after another British PM, Lord Melbourne.

<sup>4</sup> At the time, some Anglophile politicians were agitating to have it called "Kingsland" to match adjacent Queensland.

Military Museum’s exhibit for the construction of the Stuart Highway between the railheads at Alice Springs and Larrimah in the early 1940’s. Interesting too was mention of the parallel involvement of road authorities from South Australia, New South Wales and Queensland in what was then one of Australia’s few major civil engineering projects.

In this episode we present three articles about the challenges facing retirees who are contemplating downsizing, or at the very least, reducing their accumulated possessions to facilitate a future move. Jim Webber, with help from other former team members, has also summarised a wonderful, 24-year chapter of our interstate cricket contests with the Tasmanian Public Works Department/ Department of Main Roads

## WHAT’S COMING UP?

### Our 2025 event calendar

Date	Event	Contact Person
<b>Monday 15 September</b>	French Impressionism Exhibition at NGV, 180 St Kilda Road, Melbourne, followed by lunch at Young and Jacksons Hotel.	Jim Webber. <a href="mailto:jameswebber1717@gmail.com">jameswebber1717@gmail.com</a>
<b>Monday 6 October</b>	12 noon. Occasional Lunch, Doncaster Shoppingtown Hotel	Just turn up
<b>Thursday 9 October - Friday 10 October</b>	Regional Visit to Ballarat with a roads presentation on Thursday afternoon followed by dinner at the Ballarat Leagues Club. Friday presentation and tour of Alstom Train factory in Ballarat followed by a possible winery visit and dinner at the Ballarat Golf Club.	Jill Earnshaw <a href="mailto:jillmearnshaw@gmail.com">jillmearnshaw@gmail.com</a>
<b>Friday 31 October</b>	Annual Golf Day Green Acres Golf Club, East Kew	Jim Webber <a href="mailto:jameswebber1717@gmail.com">jameswebber1717@gmail.com</a>
<b>Monday 3 November</b>	From 12 noon. Occasional Lunch, Doncaster Shoppingtown Hotel	Just turn up
<b>Thursday 11 December</b>	From 12 noon. Christmas lunch at Waverley RSL	Ken Vickery <a href="mailto:kenvickery@tpg.com.au">kenvickery@tpg.com.au</a>

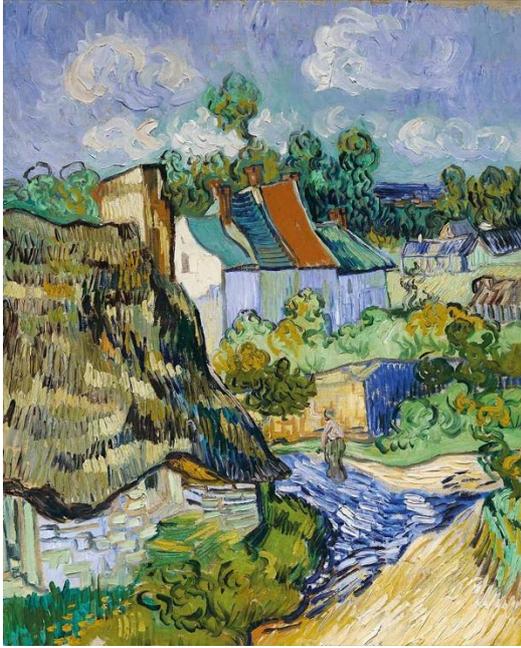
## French Impressionism Exhibition, NGV Monday 15 September 2025

Given the considerable interest in the recently opened French Impressionism Exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV), the Association has arranged for a private introductory talk on the exhibition ahead of our visiting it on the same day. The big advantage of coming along to this VicRoads Association event is that the introductory talk will both enhance everyone's knowledge and enjoyment of the exhibition.

Time: Expected to be a 9.45 am arrival in the NGV foyer (inside the building) before a 10.00 am start. Please come a little earlier if you wish to leave any outerwear or bags in the cloakroom.

Venue: NGV International, ground floor, 180 St Kilda Road, Melbourne.

The exhibition presents more than 100 paintings by key figures including Monet, Renoir, Degas, Pissaro, Manet, Cassatt, Morisot, Signac and Sisley.



Whilst entry to the NGV is free, this exhibition is fully ticketed - \$38.70 per adult (which represents a group discount from the usual \$43 per adult for this exhibition) plus \$25 (per person) for the introductory talk. The talk will be presented by an NGV Educator and will explore the exhibition's themes and key artists. As the talk needs to be pre-paid, we require those wishing to attend to pay for the event in advance (\$63.70). Payment should be made by electronic transfer into the Association's NAB bank account: VICROADS ASSOCIATION BSB 083-323 ACC 170934017

Reference - Please ensure that you include your name and NGV in the "online" transaction details so that the payment can be attributed to you. Refunds can be arranged as long as there is someone able to take your place(s) once the money has been forwarded to the NGV closer to the time of the event.

The talk and visit to the exhibition will be followed by lunch at the nearby Young and Jacksons hotel, upstairs from the 1 Swanston Street entrance. The hotel is immediately opposite the Flinders Street Railway Station.

Please register with: Jim Webber, [jameswebber1717@gmail.com](mailto:jameswebber1717@gmail.com) and also advise whether you will be joining us for lunch.

### **Regional Visit to Ballarat. Thursday 9 & Friday 10 October 2025**

Our regional visit this year is to Ballarat. It is a relatively short drive or train trip from Melbourne, Geelong or elsewhere and Members can choose to come to a particular presentation or stay a night or two for both presentations and some very enjoyable dinners.



On the afternoon of Thursday 9 October, we will receive a presentation from the Department of Transport and Planning. This will reference both completed and planned works in the region as well as an update on activities in the Department. That night we are off to the Ballarat Leagues Club for an informal dinner.

On Friday 10 October we will be visiting the Alstom train building facility. There we will receive an introductory talk about the role of Alstom in

Victoria's transport system, this facility, and its location in Ballarat, before we are led on a tour of the facility and the world class trains that are being built there. This will be followed by dinner at the Ballarat Golf Club which always puts on great meals.

If you are considering joining us in Ballarat in October or hearing a bit more about what is on offer, email Jill Earnshaw at [jillmearnshaw@gmail.com](mailto:jillmearnshaw@gmail.com) and she will send you some additional information we have compiled to assist your considerations. This includes information on travelling to Ballarat, accommodation options and other events happening in Ballarat at the time.

We are keen for local former colleagues to join us at one or all of these events so if you are, or have been, in contact with former regional staff or others who may not be Association Members but may be interested in joining us, please forward this information on to them.

These events, as well as all our others later in the year, are open to members, friends and family. All you need to do is register.

## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

### Guided tour of the Hellenic Museum 25 August

Held at the former Royal Mint Building in the City, which is just across William Street from Flagstaff Station, this tour must qualify as one of our most public transport-friendly tours yet.

The Hellenic Museum Melbourne is a leading cultural institution celebrating over 8,000 years of Greek history, art, and heritage and is the largest museum of its kind outside Greece and Cyprus. Located in the iconic Former Royal Mint building where it has been resident since 2007, the museum bridges ancient traditions with modern creativity and highlights the Greek community's profound influence on Melbourne's multicultural landscape.

A group of 21 VRA Members and friends were greeted by the Museum's expert guide, Jo, who walked us through the Museum's stunning exhibits while providing an in-depth background of ancient Greek culture and its ongoing influence in today's world. The current exhibition which runs until November 25, includes 119 rare artifacts from Greek museums—including the Acropolis Museum and Delphi Archaeological Museum. It also includes interactive digital reconstructions and an AI-powered Oracle of Delphi, which gave a correct but unhelpful answer<sup>5</sup> to Patsy Kennedy's query about the forthcoming AFL finals winner.



Two Irises. The goddess Iris, and a fully clothed Iris Whittaker on the right

One of the more striking exhibits was *'The Messenger'* by Australian sculptor Sam Jinks, which draws inspiration from the statue of the goddess Iris that once formed part of the west pediment of the Parthenon.

Iris was the swift messenger goddess with the ability to communicate between the gods and humankind, moving beyond the realm of the living and the underworld, the personification of a rainbow.

Being able to also tour the Royal Mint building was a treat all by itself. It is an architectural gem that has been beautifully maintained and restored since its creation in 1872. Designed by J.J. Clark, this Renaissance Revival structure was once a key minting facility for the British Empire. Its grand façade and

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<sup>5</sup> The answer was - *'The team with the most points, obviously'*

ornate interiors, reminiscent of classical Greek architecture, provided a fitting and symbolic setting for the museum's collections.

Following our tour, the group rejoined for lunch at the adjacent Mint Bar and Restaurant.



From L to R. John Scully, Greg Kemp, Janet Parr, Noel Osborne, Ian Thiele, Jutta Szwed, Carol Ellis, Patsy Kennedy, Heather Watson and our expert guide, Jo.



The main hall of the Royal Mint. Many of us would remember attending weddings here in years past.



At the Mint Bar and Restaurant. From L to R. Nick Szwed, Jutta Szwed, Jim Webber, Patsy Kennedy, Heather Watson, Joan Gilmer, Carol Ellis, Ian Thiele, John Wright, Rosslyn Wright.

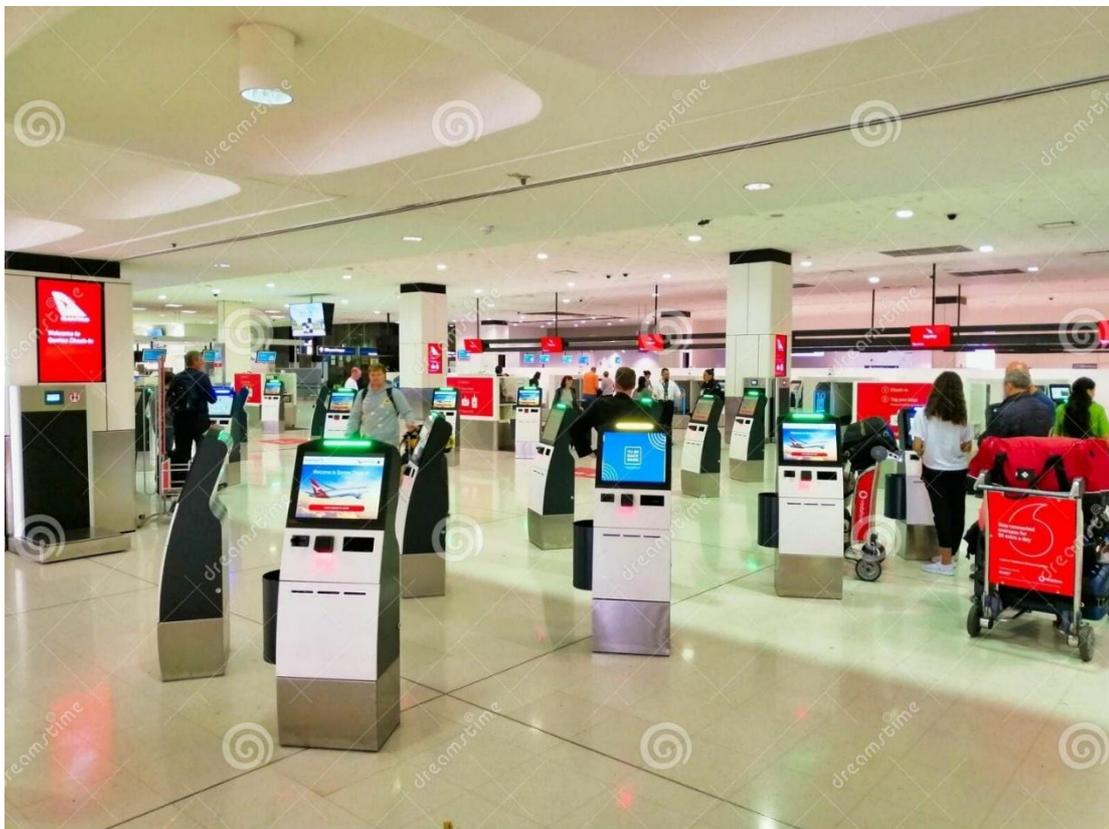


At the Mint Bar and Restaurant. From L to R. Vanessa Kemp, John Scully, Janet Parr, Martin Habgood, Jill Earnshaw, David Jellie, Iris Whittaker, Greg Kemp, Allison Pinto.

## MEMBER COMMENT AND NEWS

### A cautionary tale about online flight bookings - from the editor

In the past we trusted travel agents to make our airline and hotel bookings and take care of any scheduling changes. Today, we have become accustomed to using Internet booking sites for flights, tours and accommodation and self-managing any changes enroute using smartphone apps.



I started using online bookings in 2017 after a travel agent nearly ruined an overseas tour<sup>6</sup>. Online booking worked extremely well for us until we fell victim (I believe) to a Qantas online booking scheme<sup>7</sup> that sold seats on non-existent flights. In September 2024, when we booked full-service Qantas flights in advance for a March 2025 tour of New Zealand, the Qantas web site showed all our flights as available. We paid upfront and Qantas emailed us that our flights were confirmed.

However, just before leaving New Zealand we were shocked by a Qantas email asking us to prepare for the Sydney to Melbourne leg of our return journey, which showed a Jetstar flight departing an hour later than the full-service Qantas flight we had booked. Our frantic efforts to change this flight fell on deaf ears, and the transfer to Jetstar<sup>8</sup> caused us considerable inconvenience. Responding to our subsequent complaint, a Qantas executive explained that our booked flight had been cancelled and replaced by a Jetstar flight<sup>9</sup> and that this change was shown in their 2024 ‘confirmation’ email<sup>10</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup> The agent neglected to tell us we needed a Canadian entry visa, nearly causing us to miss a flight in Honolulu, and then lost track of money we’d pre-paid for a US tour of the West Coast, which created unnecessary stress.

<sup>7</sup> [Qantas fined \\$100m for selling imaginary tickets on flights that didn’t exist - News | InDaily, Inside Queensland](#)

<sup>8</sup> The Qantas website has since been modified to advise customers of the alternate use, at times, of Jetstar flights due to cancellations, and hence the change in service quality.

<sup>10</sup> Because we had thought the email was confirming our booked flights and did not specifically mention a change from the flight we had booked, we did not conduct a line-by-line check of the attached terms and conditions. Big mistake.

What the Qantas executive didn't explain was why this flight had been cancelled nearly 6 months before it was due and on the same day we had booked it, or why Qantas had not clearly advised us of this fact in their 'confirmation' email so that we could do something about it – or at least receive a refund for the fare difference<sup>11</sup>.

We had heard about the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's case in late 2024, in which Qantas had been fined \$100 million for misleading and deceiving customers by continuing to sell tickets for flights it had already cancelled, and had delayed notifying booked customers that their flights were no longer going ahead. However, in July 2025, believing that Qantas had changed its ways, we once again used the Qantas website to book flights to Darwin with one of the return legs being Melbourne via Brisbane.

We had selected a 12.55 pm afternoon flight from Darwin to Brisbane, which the online service indicated was available. Once again, Qantas sent us a 'confirming' email, and while I checked for sneaky Jetstar substitutions, I missed the change in our afternoon Brisbane flight to an early morning flight (1.10 am) because the times looked to be the same (shame on me). Discovering this on our last day in Darwin, it was too late to change our flight. As was the case with our New Zealand episode, Qantas made no mention in its 'confirming' email of the change from the flight we had booked online, nor were we given any opportunity to correct the situation.

The problem is that by the time you discover you have been allocated a different flight to the one you booked online, you have already paid your money, and you will find that Qantas has little interest in rebooking you on the flight you'd intended to take. Also, once the Qantas booking screen disappears from your monitor, you have no record of what you have just booked, which, if you end up with a different flight, leaves Qantas free to suggest that you have either misremembered<sup>12</sup> or made a mistake.

I am sure that everything Qantas does is perfectly legal and is fully covered in its comprehensive terms and conditions. Nevertheless, what Qantas appears to be doing with its online booking system is pursuing a business strategy aimed at maximizing aircraft occupancy on unpopular flight times at the expense of their customer's preferences.

If you are using the Qantas online booking system, I strongly recommend printing a screen image of the flights you are booking with them on their website before you press the 'Pay' button. That way you will have a reliable record of the flights you are booking and paying for. You should then carefully examine the subsequent Qantas email confirmation to ensure that your flights have not been changed.

If Qantas *has* quietly changed one of your flight legs, you then, at least, have the basis of a consumer claim for a refund or a more suitable flight without being subject to cancellation or flight change fees.

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<sup>11</sup> Qantas did not offer us a refund when they made the change but later accepted that we had paid for a level of service we hadn't received and provided monetary and frequent flyer point compensation for our inconvenience.

<sup>12</sup> In our case, there was no mistake or misremembering. I had written down the flight numbers and times from the Qantas website payment screen. Things might have been different if I had made a print-screen of the website page.

## From Robert Morgan

[Rob Morgan may have had the shortest employment time with any VicRoads-related entity. Between December 1971 and January 1972, during his civil engineering studies, he had a vacation job on the Mornington Peninsula Freeway project at Dromana, where Lance Midgley was the Project Manager.

Rob has spent his professional career as a traffic engineer and road safety engineer, for the past 30+ years running his own one-person consultancy. It has been during this time, as well as during his time as Traffic Engineer with the City of St Kilda through the 1980s, that he has met and worked with many members of the Association]. Editor.

Dear John,

Thank you again for another great read with your Newsletter no. 269. Two articles were of great interest to me – the Association’s visit to North East Link in Bulleen/North Balwyn, by Jim Webber and Jill Earnshaw, and the sad news of the death of Merv Williams, with your most enjoyable article about Merv’s life.

But on a brighter note, I first met Merv Williams when I was a civil engineering student at RMIT in 1971 and we had a site visit to the Mulgrave Freeway project, Stage 1 around Dandenong from GMH to Stud Road. It was on that visit I took the following black and white image, looking west from the new Stud Road bridge towards Brady Road, where preliminary earthworks were also taking place. I took the right-hand image exactly 50 years later, on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 (during COVID restrictions with light traffic). Sound initial design and construction, with space to accommodate unforeseen changes, has served us well.



I recall that after that initial visit, I would call in to the Mulgrave Freeway project office from time to time and be made very welcome. Though I was only a student, project staff would be

happy to show me plans and discuss aspects of the project relevant to my studies or my general interest in the project. If you would like to see a plan of the proposed (and now never to be built) freeway to freeway interchange over the top of the Ferntree Gully Road interchange. I still have a copy.

I was unable to attend the North East Link visit due to an important prior commitment. It may have been just as well; being a recent arrival in Bulleen (a decade ago), I have been somewhat vocal about the effect of the North East Link on Bulleen, which is detailed in my website at <https://sites.google.com/view/robmorgan/north-east-link>.

## From Jim Webber

### CRB Public Works Dept. (PWD)/Department of Main Roads (DMR) cricket matches - 1962 to 1985

For F. F. Ford Memorial Shield

I prepared this summary because I think the matches were a great addition to the social life of the CRB over a 24-year period.

The summary was compiled from articles in Roadlines and, to a lesser extent, Interchange, plus recollections from several players - Gary Edwards, Bill Saggars, Max Palmer, Alastair Robinson and Graeme Johnson. As can be seen there are a few gaps in the records. Unfortunately, I haven't been able to locate scorebooks from either team. Searches of the newspaper website Trove hasn't yielded any information on the matches. I'm also hoping to get a contact from the 1980s from MRD Tasmania.

I'd greatly appreciate any additional information, particularly scores or team photos.

Jim Webber 21 July 2025. Ph. 0412 064 527 [jameswebber1717@gmail.com](mailto:jameswebber1717@gmail.com)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b> (Note 1)	<b>Scores</b>	<b>Reports</b>	<b>Vic Team Photos</b>
<b>6 &amp; 7 Feb 1962</b>	Ulverstone	CRB 6/251 (Bill Saggars 93, Peter Hosking 65, Jim Webber 33, Max Palmer 29) defeated PWD Tasmania 165 (Geoff Brown 2/11, Noel Allanson 2/11, Graeme Deany 2/13, Peter Hosking 2/21).	<i>The Advocate</i> article after first day. The PWD's 1982 21 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary booklet.	12 x 8 (with JW) B&W in the 1982 PWD booklet.
<b>1963</b>	Victoria Park, Kew	Won by CRB.		20 x 15 (with JW)
<b>1964</b>	Hobart	Won by PWD.		
<b>10 - 11 Feb 1965</b>	Deepdene Park	CRB 255 (Graeme Deany 93 not out, Max Palmer 71) & 9/193 (Peter Hosking 79 not out, Jim Webber 40) defeated PWD 223 (Graeme Deany 5/48, Peter Hosking 4/46) & 8/104	<i>Roadlines</i> V1 No.1 March 1965- 2-page report (with David Jellie and Gary Edwards)	Photo in <i>Roadlines</i> .

<b>1966</b>	Launceston	CRB 6/142 (Keith Elliot 45, Peter McCulloch 40 not out, Max Palmer 28) lost to PWD 6/165 (George Wittingslow 3/60, Max Palmer 1/40)	<i>Roadlines</i> V3 No.2 June 1966	No photo
<b>1967</b>	Victoria Park, Kew	PWD 132 (Graeme Deany 3/36, George Wittingslow 2/41, Alan Ratnarajah 2/29, Ian Adderley 2/30 and 227 lost to CRB 289 (Graeme Deany 152 retired,	<i>Roadlines</i> December 1967. (from Nick Szwed)	Photo in <i>Roadlines</i> .
<b>1968</b>	Ulverstone	CRB 63 (Max Palmer 20) & 127 (Max Palmer 40) lost to PWD 123 (Phil Robertson 6/57) and 5/50 (Ian Adderley 3/36)	<i>Roadlines</i> V4 No.2 June 1968 (w. Gary Edwards)	Photo in <i>Roadlines</i> .
<b>1969</b>	Xavier College, Kew	PWD 87 (Graeme Deany 4/27, Bob Keleher 4/14) & 165 lost outright to CRB 133 & 6/126 (Note 1)	<i>Roadlines</i> V5 No.1 Autumn 1969 (w. Gary Edwards)	No Photo
<b>1970</b>	New Town, Hobart	PWD 7/401 dec Mick Hyland 144, Noel Richardson 127) defeated CRB 129 (Bob Keleher 62 not out.) & 7/170.	<i>Roadlines</i> V5 No.5 Autumn 1970 (w. Gary Edwards)	No Photo
<b>1971</b>	Xavier College, Kew	PWD 89 & 154 defeated outright by CRB 272 (Graeme Deany 71, Alastair Robinson 61) (Note 2)	<i>Roadlines</i> V6 No.1 Autumn 1971 (w. Gary Edwards)	No Photo
<b>1972</b>	Launceston	CRB 135 (Alastair Robinson 62) & 104 (Alastair Robinson 27) defeated PWD 104 (Peter Hassett 4/36) & 7/115	<i>Roadlines</i> V7 No.1 Autumn 1972 (with Gary Edwards)	No Photo MOTM* Alastair Robinson
<b>4 - 10 Feb, 1973</b>	Macleay Park, Balwyn	No scores - CRB won, Alastair Robinson made a century.	<i>Roadlines</i> Autumn 1973 (with Gary Edwards)	No Photo MOTM Alastair Robinson
<b>5-6 Feb, 1974</b>	Ulverstone Showgrounds	CRB 61 (Ross Trompf 29) & 157 (Max Palmer 29) defeated PWD 57 (G. King 3/30) & 9/121 (Geoff Christianson 3/19)	<i>Roadlines</i> Autumn 1974 (with Gary Edwards)	Photo from Graeme Johnson MOTM Mick Rodwell DMR
<b>1975</b>	Melbourne	Won by CRB		MOTM Graeme Deany
<b>1976</b>	Glenorchy, Hobart	PWD 149 (Brewer 4/57) & 5/125 lost to CRB 6/333 dec (Ross Trompf 105, Renny Duckett 100 not out)	<i>Roadlines</i> Autumn 1976 (with Gary Edwards)	MOTM Rene Duckett
<b>1977</b>	Balwyn Park	CRB 5/305 dec (Renny Duckett 116no, Brian Fitts 96) defeated PWD 142 (Renny Duckett 3 wickets)	<i>Roadlines</i> Winter 1977 (with Gary Edwards)	MOTM Rene Duckett

<b>1978</b>	Launceston	Scores were to be in next issue- but weren't. Won by DMR.	<i>Interchange</i> V2 No.1 February 1978 (w Gary Edwards)	MOTM Bob Peters DMR
<b>1979</b>	Kew	CRB defeated PWD. Howard Ellis a century, Brian Fitts 40+, Bob Monkhouse 68.		Photo from Graeme Johnson. MOTM Alan Bull
<b>1980</b>	Ulverstone	Won by DMR		MOTM Ross Trompf
<b>1981</b>	Victoria Park, Kew	DMR 163 (Neville Schmidt 5/66, Graham Deany 3/24, Ross Trompf 2/16) & 264 (David Watt 4/50, Graham Deany 3/77) lost to CRB 319 (Howard Ellis 102) & enough runs for an outright win.	<i>Interchange</i> V5 No.2 April 1981	No photo MOTM Kim Hibberd DMR
<b>15- 19 Feb, 1982</b>	Hobart	CRB 257 & 7/244 defeated DMR 233 & 4/144	<i>Interchange</i> V6 No.2 April 1982 (with Gary Edwards)	No photo
<b>1983</b>	Melbourne	No cricket played, due to drought and Ash Wednesday bushfires. no cricket- DMR no team.	<i>Interchange</i> V7 No.2 April 1983 (with Gary Edwards)	
<b>1984</b>	Launceston	RCA 267 defeated DMR 196	<i>Interchange</i> April 1984 (with Gary Edwards)	No photo
<b>1985</b>	Kew	on matting (one day game due to rain)		Photo in <i>Interchange</i>
<b>1986</b>	Tasmania	No cricket - RCA no team.	<i>Interchange</i> V10 No.2 April 1986	
<b>1987</b>		Cricket not played		
<b>1988</b>	Hobart	Cricket not played	<i>Interchange</i> V15 No.1 Winter 1988	
<b>1989</b>	Melbourne	Cricket not played	<i>Interchange</i> V16 No.1 February/ March 1989	

\* MOTM is Man Of The Match

Note 1 - Location checked against 1982 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary booklet

The first issue of *Roadlines* was in March 1965.

1983 - 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday glass tankards

Note 1 & Note 2 - very limited batting & bowling information in *Roadlines*

The Tasmania PWD was abolished on 1 March 1977; staff were reassigned to Dept. of Construction & Department of Main Roads.



**1962 CRB team at Ulverstone.** Back Row: Les Holt (CRB Umpire), Les Beecher (scorer), Keith Elliot, Ian Le Page, Gary Edwards, Jim Webber, Jock Langlands, Max Palmer, Jack Mackie. Front Row: Maurie Johnson, Peter Hosking, Noel Allanson (Captain), Gerry Marston (Manager), Graeme Deany, Geoff Brown, Bill Saggars



**CRB 1963 at Victoria Park, Kew.** Back Row: Les Holt (CRB Umpire), Geoff Brown, Jim Webber, Gary Edwards, Jock Langlands, Maurie Johnson, Jack Singleton (PWD Umpire) Front Row: Jack Morris, Max Palmer, Peter Hosking (Captain), Graeme Deany (VC), Keith Elliot, Bill Saggars.



**CRB 1974 Ulverstone.** Back Row: Graeme Johnson, Geoff King, Ross Trompf, David Brewer, Max Palmer, Peter Hassett, Mick Rithwell (PWD), Paul Morgan (PWD), Alastair Robinson (Captain). Front Row: Ian Miers, Graeme Deany, Lance Midgley

## **Retirement Living – by Jim Webber**

Retirement Living sometimes gets an undeserved poor media image, in part due to the financial arrangements when the property is sold. However there are many advantages that offset these financial arrangements. Hopefully those members considering downsizing might find this article of interest.

Kay and I were living in an apartment in Balwyn when our son's family (with our two grandsons) in North Carlton suggested we might consider moving closer to them. We spent several months attending auctions in North Carlton before realizing that houses with renovated kitchens and bathrooms were rather expensive. Today's median house prices (almost all terrace houses) in North Carlton are \$1.68M and in nearby Princes Hill are \$1.75M.

A cousin suggested we might consider Redmond Park Retirement Living in Princes Hill - then run by Freemasons, now by Aveo. Kay and I arranged an inspection and were so impressed we put down a deposit on a 2 bed apartment lease the next day. We wanted a north facing apartment, if possible on the west side as I was passionate about Melbourne's sunsets when I worked in the Rialto Tower as a consultant with Melbourne Docklands. Our lease, for which there was no stamp duty, was about 70% of local housing prices. Redmond Park has about 65 residents over its 6 floors.

This was the best possible move for us - in fact, we wished we had moved here when we sold our house in East Doncaster, instead of moving into our Balwyn apartment, where we spent 9 years. The annual maintenance fees are approximately the same as the combined total of Body Corporate fees and Council rates for our Balwyn apartment.

My comments about Retirement Living obviously relate to our experience at Redmond Park, but I have close friends at St Joseph's in Hawthorn and Aveo's Streeton Park in Heidelberg who are also delighted with their buildings. We moved into Redmond Park in February 2024. Kay had been treated for lung cancer since mid - 2022; sadly she passed away in December 2024.

The main benefit of Retirement Living is the friendship and support that comes from the other residents and the staff, far different from the situation in an apartment building. The closeness to my son's family has meant that I can readily watch my grandsons (11 and 9) at their tennis, swimming and basketball and catch up with them over brunch - a huge plus.

Like other Retirement Living options, Redmond Park has a library, a gymnasium with fitness sessions, a billiard table, a restaurant (with dinners twice a week), in house medical services (GP, podiatrist), a visiting hairdresser, a maintenance man (no more climbing ladders!) and regular groups (morning coffee discussion, arts and crafts, a book group and monthly Shakespeare movies). Perhaps unique to Redmond Park are monthly music recitals in the lounge by leading Australian pianists and singers.

Staff are on the premises at all times, but there isn't a nurse on site. Residents also have a security system that can be alerted 24/7 in the event of a fall or other emergency - great reassurance for your children.

Redmond Park is fortunate to be located close to Princes Park and the old Royal Park to Fitzroy steam train route which is now a much used bicycle and walking trail; not to mention the Barkly Square shopping centre (serviced from Redmond Park by a shuttle bus), the Rathdowne Village and the frequent trams to Lygon Street restaurants and the City.

It's forecast that my children will get about the same \$ return that we paid for the lease - hence a drop in real terms. Exactly the same occurred at the sale of our Balwyn apartment. However my children are comfortable with this, given the benefits that both Kay and I have experienced.

I'd be happy to discuss.

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## **Antique, Vintage, Second Hand and Everything In-between**

- **by Jill Earnshaw**

I don't know about you but a number of friends are in the process of downsizing or clearing out their homes.

In retirement, I'm sure many of us volunteer for all sorts of organisations. It is extremely rewarding and enables us to put our skills to good use in the community. Given the nature of a couple of the articles in this month's Newsletter I thought I would let you in on an activity that I find very fulfilling. Several years ago I got involved in helping several neighbours and friends clear out their houses, rehome and sell some their belongings (only when family members didn't want things, of course). I have moved away from selling on-line myself these days but, as I love all things antique, vintage and collectable, I found another avenue for this love and my desire to find appropriate homes for things.

In addition to being the Secretary of the VicRoads Association for the last few years, I also volunteer for the National Trust Vintage Clothing and Collectables Sale. The sale is held once a year and all proceeds from it assist the National Trust Victoria conserve and protect Victoria's natural, cultural, and built heritage.

March 2025 marked 15 years since the first National Trust of Victoria's Vintage Clothing Sale, and what a journey it has been! With modest origins as a micro-sized event held in a garage, the sale has now been transformed into a substantial and highly successful affair, raising significant funds for the National Trust, and drawing large crowds of vintage enthusiasts. A comparison between the first and most recent sales reveals the immense growth in scale, financial success, and community involvement, and highlights its enduring spirit. Next year's sale takes place at the Abbotsford Convent on 21 – 22 March 2026.

I work on the Collectables side of the Sale but alongside the volunteers on the Clothing side. I work one day a week with a few other volunteers sorting through clothing and collectable donations,

cleaning things, researching and pricing and packing them away for the sale. All clothes are sorted, hung on hangers so creases drop out or folded and loaded into containers for storage ahead of the sale. At home I work on measuring, washing, ironing and pricing donated fabric and linen, etc. When required, I also collect donations from people and have donations dropped to my house.

The current marketing campaign for the Sale is encouraging people to ‘Clean out for a cause’. Over the last few years I have certainly done just that in my home but there is always more to go. I wish I had known about this important fund raising activity for the Trust and the breadth of what is collected and resold for this charity when I was helping people clear out their homes. It is very satisfying to know that you are not throwing things out, giving them away for nothing or not valuing something you have kept for a long period of time.

One afternoon I untangled an old bundle of strops (the leather or other material strap used to straighten and sharpen the blade of a straight edge razor). Why you might ask – because they all sold at the last sale! Very little is not sold. What is left over goes to another charity. People who donate to us often reference how well we value their ‘treasures’ or ‘junk’ and then present them for sale. It gives people a good feeling to know their clothing and collectables are going to a great cause. Things that you think may not have much or any value nowadays are often highly prized by others e.g. beautiful old table cloths, linen tea towels, haberdashery, and all matter of kitchen and household paraphernalia. There is not much we do not accept - often the older the better. We love collecting donations, sorting, laundering, pricing and presenting everything for sale.

The Sale’s rapid expansion eventually led to a change in venue from its humble beginnings to the Abbotsford Convent becoming the home of the Vintage Clothing and Collectables Sale in 2022. The larger space allowed for even more stock, volunteers, and visitors, cementing its reputation as the go-to event for vintage fashion lovers, collectors and others who appreciate pieces of history. The 2025 event was the largest yet - over 4,000 attendees over the two days and impressive revenue (hundreds of thousands of dollars). Over the course of the two-day event, thousands of items were sold, each one a piece of history finding new life in the hands of appreciative buyers. More than 70 volunteers contribute their time across the Sale weekend. The Sale has even made the local tv news on the Friday night leading up to its opening. The latter certainly helped build the queues to get in on the Saturday morning; the queues are now reminiscent of the Boxing Day sales.

Downsizing and/or clearing out houses can be a daunting task. Whilst friends suggested I could start a new business, I am much happier helping out in a different way. The National Trust of Victoria is always seeking donations such as men’s and women’s clothes, shoes, hats, scarves, knitwear, belts, gloves, kid’s clothes, soft furnishings, jewellery (costume or otherwise), art, vintage luggage, household linen, haberdashery, dress and furnishing fabrics and collectables i.e., all sorts of household items, - china, pottery, crystal, silverware, frames, knick knacks, etc. No records, CDs or books though – sorry, these are still hard to locate good homes for.

If you have any questions about the sale, how to donate or get involved please call Jack Fordham on 0431 864 524 or message me on 0438777352 or email me at [jillmearnshaw@gmail.com](mailto:jillmearnshaw@gmail.com) or email [vintagesale@nattrust.com.au](mailto:vintagesale@nattrust.com.au) . I love this activity so am always happy to hear from anyone who may be keen to donate goods or time.

## **Moving House by John Wright**

I must confess that I envy our friends who found their ‘forever’ home at an early age and are content to remain there until the end of their days. However, some retirees come to realise that the house their kids grew up in, or the better one they moved into *after* their kids had moved out, no longer suits their needs as they head into their 70s and 80s.

In this cautionary tale I am sharing our recent experience as a couple in their early ‘80s selling an older (100 years+) 4-bedroom house in the Dandenong Ranges to buy a more modern house on a smaller property closer to friends, good restaurants, theatres, and quality medical care.

My first wife Sylvia and I purchased our existing house in the mid-1970's and we renovated it over the years. Our 4 children grew up there. In 2012, three years after Sylvia died, I married Rosslyn, and we further improved the house and the garden with a view to eventually selling and moving into something more modern and manageable. After much investigation, including visits to retirement complexes, we decided to buy another house.

Reducing a lifetime's accumulation of surplus possessions involved eBay, Facebook Marketplace, garage sales, trips to the tip and recyclers, and donations to family, friends and op-shops. By late 2023 we were ready to sell. Desirably, we would purchase our new home first and sell our old one later. However, we couldn't comfortably realise the cash required to fund an outright purchase.

Bridging finance was out of the question. No bank would provide it – because we didn't have a mortgage (and good luck getting one when you are over 80). A non-bank company offered to lend us \$1M for a fee of \$28,000 on the proviso they could lodge caveats on both properties, amongst other worrying conditions. The fee would apply regardless of whether the finance was required for 1 day or one month. After a month, more fees applied. We declined.

Doubtful that our Lotto numbers would miraculously come up, we reluctantly decided to sell first, which meant we would need to quickly find and move into a new home. Engaging a trusted local lady estate agent we'd known for years, we prepared the obligatory Section 32 Statement setting out every detail of the property, including its high bushfire risk zoning.

We decided to have the house 'staged'<sup>13</sup> so it would look its best to potential buyers. A smartly dressed young lady assessed our home and identified many 'unsuitable' items that we would need to remove before her company brought in and arranged more 'buyer appropriate' furniture, cushions, lamps, artwork and floor rugs. We had to hire a removalist to take away and store these items – along with other non-essential items we had already packed<sup>14</sup> in anticipation of our move.

Living in a staged home can be awkward, and our agent suggested we move out until the house was sold. Not wishing to spend up to a month in a motel, we opted to stay. Thankfully, our bed had passed the staging lady's scrutiny, meaning we'd be able to sleep in it. However, we had to 'dress it up' with her company's quilt and fancy cushions and hide our own items every time there was an inspection – and then 'undress it' afterwards. There were other, similar accommodations we had to make. It was a pain, but we eventually got quite good at it.

On the evening before our agent's photographer was due, we foolishly decided to dismantle our grimy oven door to clean its glass - and were mortified at being unable to re-install it. Not a good look to have the door sitting beside the oven. After some abject grovelling, a serviceman came at very short notice and quickly fixed it with a neat, special tool – for \$175. The photographer's wide-angle lens made our house and garden look unbelievably good on the Internet listing.

We were required to be out of the house during scheduled inspections - as well as non-scheduled ones, which happened at short notice. These inspections continued for three weeks, during which time we had to be continuously available. There were lots of lookers but no bidders, and we were starting to worry that the agent's price range was too high. Although our house had two bathrooms, some prospective buyers were put off because there was no ensuite. One person turned up with a specialised detector and told us gas was leaking into the building. We had to quickly fetch a plumber to tighten up the unions on our gas hot water service.

And then, suddenly, we had a buyer – a single, older lady who had fallen in love with our place and was prepared to pay near the top of our price range. We were pinching ourselves, but before the sale could go through, we had to pay our estate agent. To facilitate the now customary electronic sale and purchase transactions, we had earlier visited our bank to greatly increase our online daily transaction limits, which was a bit of a worry because it increased our financial risk of being

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<sup>13</sup> The styling cost us about \$3,500, but by allowing prospective buyers to better visualise themselves living in it, it probably added \$20,000 or more to the eventual sale price.

<sup>14</sup> We spent a surprising amount of money purchasing specialised cardboard moving boxes.

scammed. Our solicitors also required us to instal a specialised conveyancing application on my iPhone to securely facilitate the property exchange process.



We experienced a moment of high anxiety after electronically paying our agent's \$22,000 commission and marketing fees. Shortly afterwards, our hearts almost stopped when our bank called to say they thought the transfer was suspicious and were trying to reverse it. After initially wondering if it really *was* the bank calling, we were wondering if we'd lost our money to a scammer. However, the transfer *had* been legitimate. Our agent's unusual account name had spooked the bank, which blocked the transfer. We eventually paid via a different account.

The staging people removed their items, and our previously removed items remained in storage, where the monthly charges were quietly mounting up. With the full deposit in hand, we could now start looking for our new home. The 60-day settlement period for our house sale made us very conscious that a delay in finding a new home would render us homeless. None of our kids could put us up - and finding a furnished unit to rent for 3 months or less would be almost impossible.

Our new home 'wish list' included things our current home lacked, like an ensuite, a decent-sized laundry, no stairs or steps, and most importantly a secure garage that connected directly to the house. We also wanted a smaller block with a garden that wouldn't consume all our spare time dealing with weeds on steroids. Above all, we wanted a modern home with solar panels, decent insulation, and efficient heating and cooling. After much research we concluded that Melbourne's northern suburbs might best provide us with a nice house that was within our price range, closer to our friends, shops, hospitals, the city, the airport, and accessible public transport for a future where driving might no longer be feasible.

After initially planning to 'downsize' to a three-bedroom house, we quickly realised that most modern three-bedroom houses were townhouses – with stairs and body corporate fees. If we wanted a single-level modern house it would need to have at least four bedrooms. We warmed to this idea because two of the bedrooms could become our respective studies and we could have a guest bedroom and bathroom for visiting family and friends. Also, given the number of treasured items we wanted to keep, we wouldn't have fitted into a three-bedroom house anyway.

We made countless 80 km round trips looking at potential homes. Goldilocks had it easy. There were several homes we really loved, but they had steep external steps. We saw many neglected and empty ex-rentals whose landlords were selling up, but we didn't wish to become involved in further renovations. Two places we liked were sold at auction, where competing bidders' pockets were way deeper than ours and the outcome ended up over \$100,000 above the listed prices.

Long story short. We were very lucky to quickly find our forever home and it ticked all the important boxes in our wish list. Thankfully, we were able to negotiate privately because the vendor's auction plans had fallen through due to a paperwork glitch. Best of all, the vendors were

not buying another house and were keen to settle quickly. They agreed to the same settlement date as the one for our own house sale – by then, less than a month away.

Our move involved costs totalling \$90,000. However, because our new home cost \$45,000 less than what our old one had sold for, the net cost of our move was \$45,000.

The costs (November '23 to January '24) were:

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| • Stamp duty on purchase <sup>15</sup>                  | \$53,625 |
| • Selling agent's commission, marketing and styling     | \$24,800 |
| • Legal, conveyancing, title insurance and transfer fee | \$6,375  |
| • Packaging, storage and removalist costs               | \$5,200  |

The last time I had moved house was nearly fifty years ago, and I suspect that some retirees who might be contemplating moving have been continuously resident for at least that long or even longer. If this is you, be prepared for the future shock we experienced.

In 1976 we couldn't have imagined:

- Having minimal contact with our solicitors and instead, conducting major financial transactions and electronically signing contracts using a mobile phone (the few mobiles that existed in 1976 were like house bricks and about as useful)
- The terrifying risk of having our transaction money stolen by online scammers
- The concept of having our home 'dressed' by a specialist agency to enhance its sale value
- Having no access to bridging finance despite having a good financial position
- Searching for another home on Internet real estate sites (neither existed in 1976)
- Paying nearly a million dollars for a new home (when the last one cost us \$31,500)
- Removalists using a truck-mounted container to pick up, store and deliver our belongings
- The staggering amount of stamp duty buyers are now charged on house purchase.

## **Vale Doug Howes**

We have been advised of the recent death of one of our members, Douglas Howes who passed away at Leopold on the Bellarine Peninsula on 14 July, just 12 days short of his 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

Doug grew up in Bendigo, where he qualified as a civil engineer before joining the Country Roads Board and moving to Bairnsdale Division in the early 1970's with his wife Lynette. Jim Gascoigne, David McGuinness and Bruce McClure remembered him working there between 1971 and 1977 and being close friends with the late Joe Gwizdek – both of whom were keen golfers. Doug then transferred to the Wimmera - Mallee Regional office in Horsham where he worked as a Senior Construction Engineer until the early 1990's, when he took early retirement. He later worked as a contractor to VicRoads on the construction of the Dimboola Bypass.

Graeme Newman, who told me he enjoyed working with Doug on the Dimboola Bypass, remembered him as a studious and articulate person. Doug later retired to the Bellarine Peninsula.

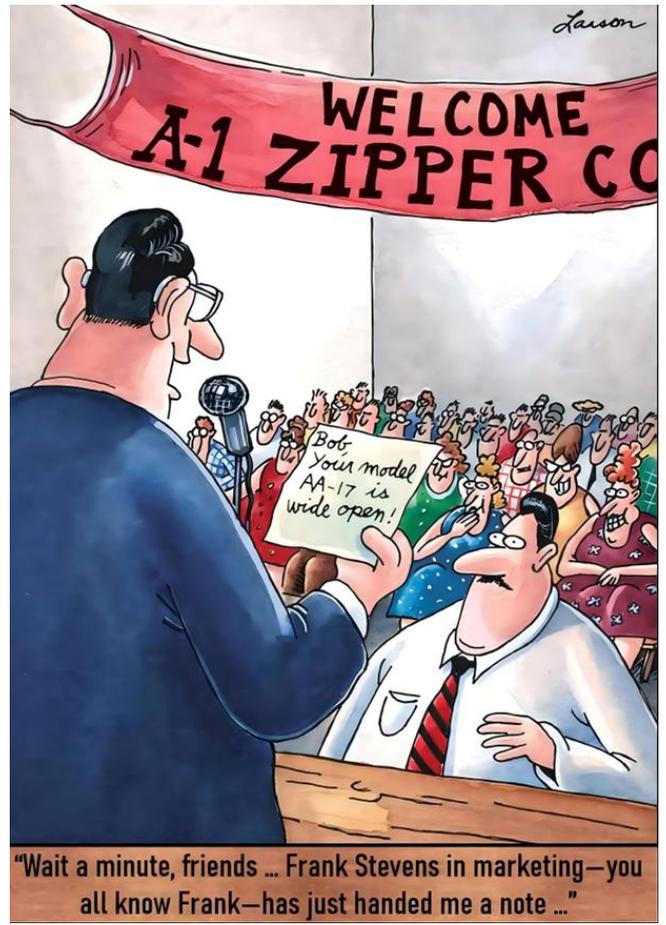
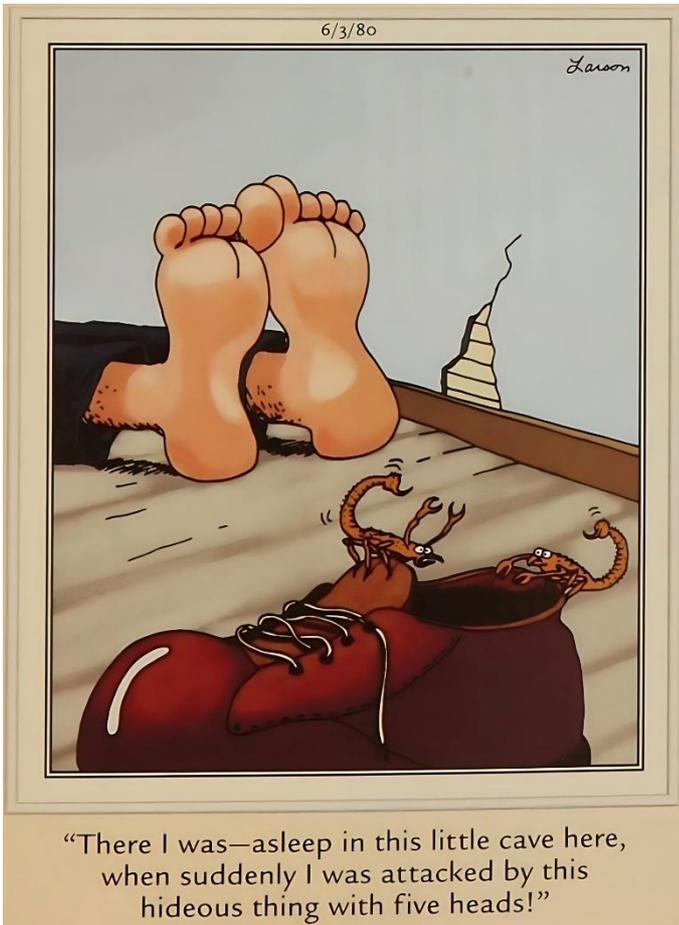
Doug is survived by his wife Lynette and his children Mark, Andrew and David, and eight grandchildren.

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<sup>15</sup> In July 2023 the State Government stopped allowing pensioners to split the costs of purchase as a means of reducing stamp duty. As a result, we had to pay an additional \$27,000.



*'I shouldn't eat that, sir – it's just possible that it's part of the ceiling'*



# VicRoads Association Inc

Registration No A0022250S

## Membership Application Form

Email completed form to:

**Membership Secretary, VicRoads Association Inc**

**Email Address:** [irisw25@bigpond.com](mailto:irisw25@bigpond.com)

<b>First Name</b>	<input type="text"/>	<b>Surname</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Address</b>	<input type="text"/>		
<input type="text"/>	<b>Postcode</b>	<input type="text"/>	
<b>Telephone Number</b>	<input type="text"/>	<b>Mobile Number</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>E-mail address</b>	<input type="text"/>		<i>Nominate an email address if you don't personally have your own</i>
<b>Emergency Contact Name</b>	<input type="text"/>		
<b>Emergency Contact Number</b>	<input type="text"/>		

### Employment in VicRoads and antecedent/previous organisations:

<b>Date From</b>	<input type="text"/>	<b>Until To</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Organisation/s</b>	<input type="text"/>		
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>		
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>		

**Paid Direct Transfer.**

Your payment of **\$50.00** by electronic transfer should be made into the Association's NAB bank account, details as follow:

**VICROADS ASSOCIATION  
BSB 083-323  
ACC 170934017**

**Reference** - Please ensure that you **include your name in the "online" transaction details** so that the subscription can be attributed to you.

The information collected from members will be used solely for the purposes of managing the Association and its activities.

I agree to support the purposes of the Association and comply with its rules of the association.

**Signed**

**Date**

For more information on VicRoads Association see our website [vicroadsassociation.org](http://vicroadsassociation.org)