

Dom Meadley's Story

Joined MRD on 12 April 1965 at Kew. Spent three months in the PI labs and sample preparation with John Jobson and Emil Horbelt.

26 April 1965 - April 69: Asphalt Lab with Bill Sherwin testing and designing asphalt mixes and involved in field density of asphalt research. As part of this I was sent to work at asphalt plants and quarries when we were short of Clerks of Works so was able to learn lots about production of quarry and asphalt materials. I was also involved in pavement investigations with Joe Rush and slip testing with Brian Francis. When the Tullamarine roller trials were conducted, I was seconded to ensure all the roller patterns were followed. This was when we trailed the IPCAD and a nuclear gauge.

April 1969 - February 1970: I was involved in the instrumentation of the Bell Street On ramp to the Tullamarine Freeway which involved placing strain gauges onto steel load cells which were attached to the stressing rods and calibration of these. Similarly, concrete strain gauges were made and placed into the structure with multiple thermocouples. These were then read during the construction and on completion as part of Bridge Design Research. I then was involved in instrumenting the reinforcement for the continuously reinforced concrete pavement in Port Melbourne as well as the testing of the concrete for this job.

Feb 70 - Jan 1980: Concrete and Steel testing Laboratories testing concrete, reinforcing and prestressing steel. Design of concrete mixes and establishing QC procedures for the manufacture of concrete which were then used by the Clerks of Works like the work that as being performed at Asphalt plants and Quarries.

When Barry Bromham became Concrete and Steel Section Leader, I was involved in numerous research projects which enhanced my knowledge of concrete, cements admixtures and elastomeric bearings.

Jan 1980 - Jan 1981: In charge of the Warrnambool Division Laboratory

Jan 1981 - April 1984: Returned to MRD Concrete Lab.

April 84 - Feb 2002: Development and managing test methods, Developing and Management of Quality Management in Materials Departments and assisting the quality management of all VicRoads NATA labs. Preparation of Technical Notes Technical Bulletins and Codes of Practice. Involvement on Standards Australia Aggregate and Soils Committees. Development of Laboratory Information Computer Systems.

Deeply involved in the commercialisation of GeoPave which included development of a series of Lotus Notes programs which involved Internal Contracts and Reporting Surveillance and Audits across VicRoads plus numerous other programs to increase our communications and service delivery.

I was also assigned the task of ensuring the East Burwood Laboratory and office facilities were built to our requirements and satisfactory equipment was purchased and installed.

On occasions acted Manager of other departments in GePave.

12 February 2002: Retired from VicRoads - 37 years after I was first employed.

Joined NATA in Mar 2002 (part-time) and still there in 2026.