

CHAIRMAN URGES SAFER DRIVING THIS EASTER

Mr. I. J. O'Donnell, Chairman of the Country Roads Board, appeals to all motorists to exercise care and to drive with consideration for other road users during the Easter holidays. Holiday traffic is likely to be heavy and there will be times when delays can become frustrating. This is when restraint will help to avoid accidents.

The Country Roads Board has made steady progress during the year on the planned programme of road works and expects to have a further 34 miles of divided roadway available to traffic before the end of the financial year. Other important safety features include the provision of climbing lanes on steep grades where continuous duplication is not yet warranted and realignment and regrading of roads which are being reconstructed.

The following report indicates progress to Easter on some of the major roadworks undertaken during the financial year.

STATE HIGHWAYS

PRINCES HIGHWAY WEST

Geelong City

- Widening the bridge over the Barwon River will not be quite completed. Arrangements will be made for the bridge to carry four lanes of traffic over the holiday period.

Colac City

- Widening work is in progress at the western end of Murray Street.

PRINCES HIGHWAY EAST

Morwell

- The intersection with the Jeeralang West Road is being reconstructed. The highway carriageways will be clear, but traffic travelling to and from the Jeeralang West Road will use a gravel surface.

Nowa Nowa

- The Roads (Special Projects) Fund project at Hospital Creek is nearing completion, but will not be sealed over the whole length.

Genoa

- The section from three to six miles east of Genoa is being reconstructed adjacent to the present road. A number of crossings will be in operation.

WESTERN HIGHWAY

Deer Park to Rockbank

- Work on the new dual carriageways is nearing completion and traffic is using the new carriageways between Deer Park and Exford Road. It is expected that the section to Rockbank will be open to traffic by Easter.

Wimmera Shire

- Approximately 1.4-mile will be unsealed in a section where a culvert is being widened near the 173-mile post.

HUME HIGHWAY

Craigieburn to Kalkallo

- The new dual carriageways are expected to be open to traffic.

Kalkallo to Beveridge

- Duplication work is in progress, but traffic will be using the existing single pavement and will not be affected by road-work.

Seymour

- The approaches to the new bridges over the Goulburn River are under construction, but will not affect traffic.

- A short section in Seymour township will be unsealed.

MAROONDAH HIGHWAY

Ringwood

- Work is in progress east of Ringwood between Mt. Dandenong Road and Stirling Road. Through traffic will be provided with a sealed pavement throughout and access is being maintained for all local traffic.

Narbethong-Buxton

- Realignment and reconstruction will be in progress on two sections of 3 miles and 1½ miles. Care should be exercised and warning signs observed.

BURWOOD HIGHWAY

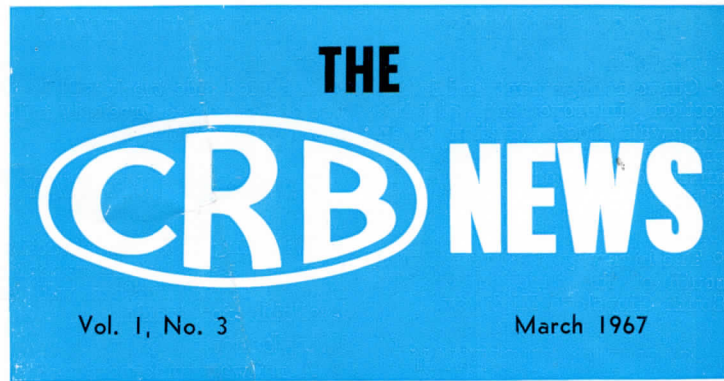
Blackburn Road-Morack Road

- Work is in progress on the new dual carriageways from east of Blackburn Road to Morack Road. All traffic will use the northern carriageway over most of the section. Care is needed at the Springvale Road intersection.

NEPEAN HIGHWAY

Mount Eliza

- Work on the new dual carriageways between Humphries Road and Mt. Eliza is in progress. Warning and direction signs should be observed.



Country Roads Board conducts annual traffic census

On Wednesday, March 15th, 1967, some of 800 census takers manning approximately 1600 stations on State highways and other C.R.B. declared roads will count traffic between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. The information gained from this one-day annual census supplements that produced throughout the year by automatic traffic counters installed at various locations in the State.

Census takers will be required to count the traffic under the classifications of —

- (a) two-axle trucks estimated at more than two tons gross weight;
- (b) trucks with three or more axles, including semi-trailers;
- (c) buses;
- (d) all other traffic.

Where heavy traffic volumes are expected, a team of four census takers may be employed at a particular location.

When the census is completed the figures are checked and collated and results recorded on punched cards for analysis by the Board's electronic computer.

Although the census is only carried out for 12 hours on one

day each year, the detailed information it provides in conjunction with automatic counts is sufficient to determine the average daily traffic, peak hour variations and seasonal changes in traffic pattern.

The information is used by the Board to —

- * Assist in determining the need to increase the road capacities;
- * Assist in assessing priorities for general road improvements such as pavement and bridge widths, road signs and pavement markings, intersection improvements and major traffic control devices;
- * Estimate accident exposure rates;
- * Estimate traffic growth for forward planning.



Nepean Highway south of Frankston. Duplication of pavement.

BASS HIGHWAY

Inverloch

• Curve realignment and intersection improvement at the Kongwak Road junction is in progress. The road surface is unsealed and care should be taken.

Cranbourne Shire

• The highway is being widened south of the junction on the South Gippsland Highway.

GLENELG HIGHWAY

Dunkeld

• Three and a half miles of highway is being reconstructed east of Dunkeld.

Hamilton

• The bridge over Grange Burn is being widened to provide a duplicated structure.

MIDLAND HIGHWAY

Meredith

• Reconstruction is in progress south of Meredith.

Benalla

• Approaches to a new bridge over Broken Creek, 7 miles from Benalla, will be gravelled, but may not be sealed.

MURRAY VALLEY HIGHWAY

Echuca

• Five miles of the highway east of Echuca will be unsealed.

OMEO HIGHWAY

Bark Shed Creek

• A new culvert is being constructed at Bark Shed Creek and a gravel side track will be in use. Care should be taken.

Omeo

• Major reconstruction is in progress 4 to 8 miles south of Omeo where the early stages of road construction in mountainous country may be observed. Cuts and fills up to 70 feet deep are being constructed at a cost of \$250,000, but the work is clear of the existing road and will not affect travellers.



Western Highway. Sealing duplicated pavement near Deer Park.

OVENS HIGHWAY

Wangaratta

• A sealed side track will be in use at Burgoigee Creek, 17 miles from Wangaratta.

PYRENEES HIGHWAY

Moolort

• Widening and reconstruction is in progress, but an unsealed smooth gravel surface will be available for traffic.

Maryborough City

• A railway underpass and its approaches in Maryborough are under construction. A sealed side track will be available for traffic.

SOUTH GIPPSLAND HIGHWAY

Cranbourne

• Work is in progress on duplication work through Cranbourne from the rail crossing north of the township. Warning and direction signs should be observed.

Caldermeade

• Preliminary work is in progress for the widening of the highway from Caldermeade to Lang Lang River.

Yarram

• One and a half miles of highway north of Yarram are under reconstruction. A gravel surface will be provided.

WARBURTON HIGHWAY

Seville

• The highway has been realigned at Seville Hill. Care should be exercised.

Hoddles Creek

• Work has commenced on a deviation west of Hoddles Creek.

METROPOLITAN ROADS AND BRIDGES

Burke Road

• The new bridge over the Yarra River between the Cities of Kew and Camberwell and the City of Heidelberg has been completed and is now open to traffic.



Bogong High Plains Road — West of Glen Valley.

Raleigh Road

• Bridge work is in progress on the new bridge over the Maribyrnong River. Care should be exercised.

Dynon Road

• Work on a new bridge at North Melbourne is in progress. A side track is in use.

Warrigal Road

• Roadworks are in progress between Toorak Road and

Thomas Street, Camberwell. Care should be exercised.

Doncaster-Mordialloc Road (Clayton Road)

• Roadworks are in progress between the Princes Highway East and Ferntree Gully Road.

Whittlesea Road

• Roadworks are in progress between Darebin Creek and Dunne Street, Preston.

Tourists' Roads and Roads of Tourist Interest

Alpine Road

• Reconstruction is in progress 21 miles north of Omeo, but work should not inconvenience motorists. Care should be exercised.

Mt. Buffalo Road

• Work will be in progress between the 13 and 15 mile posts.

Mt. Buller Road

• Between the 18 and 28 mile posts the pavement will have loose stones on the surface. Construction work between the 21 and 24 mile posts may cause minor delays, and care should be taken.

Ocean Road, Anglesea

• Reconstruction works are in progress between Tom Kings and Sunnymead.

Yuulong

• One and a half miles of reconstruction work west of Yuulong will be almost completed, but the surface will not be sealed.

MT. DONNA BUANG ROAD

Healesville

• Work has commenced on realignment and widening from near Badger Creek bridge to the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works aqueduct.

Warburton

• The road will be sealed from Cement Creek to the 10-mile turntable. The turntable is being enlarged to improve facilities for winter traffic.

Acheron Way

• It is expected that the approaches to the new bridges over the Yarra River at Warburton (Signs Bridge) will be completed.

PHILLIP ISLAND TOURISTS' ROAD

• Work is continuing on the new Phillip Island bridge. This may be seen adjacent to the existing suspension bridge which is still in use.

YARRA GLEN - YEA MAIN ROAD

• Work is in progress 21 miles north of Yarra Glen and approximately 3 miles of gravel surface should be negotiated with care.

WARBURTON - WOODS POINT FOREST ROAD

• The road is being widened at Jordan Cutting, Matlock. Slight delays may be experienced on days when work is in progress.

GREENDALE - TRENTAM FOREST ROAD

• A new bridge is being built over the Lerderberg River at Blackwood. Works will be clear of the existing bridge.

Buchan - Gelantipy-Bonang Road, via McKillop's Bridge and Snowy River Road

• Both these roads generally wind through mountainous country and in very wet conditions may be slippery. Care should be exercised.

OVERHEAD CROSSING SCHEME FOR VICTORIAN SCHOOLS



Latest photograph of crossing over the Western Highway near the Braybrook State School.

Under a scheme sponsored by the Government, construction has commenced on a series of overhead crossings over State highways in the metropolitan area to enable school children to cross in safety.

The first of the crossings to be constructed under this scheme was over the Western Highway near the Braybrook State School in Sunshine City. The necessary planning, land resumption and design work is also proceeding for the construction of other crossings at —

Western Highway — Sunshine City, near the Braybrook High School.

Nepean Highway — Moorabbin City, near the Moorabbin State School.

Maroondah Highway — Blackburn, near the Blackburn State School.

Maroondah Highway — Mitcham, near the St. John's R.C. School.

Princes Highway — Kingsville, near the Kingsville State School and the Footscray Corpus Christi Denominational School.

The overpasses are being designed and constructed by the Country Roads Board, but the cost will be shared equally by the Government, the Board and the municipal council concerned. Priority for construction is determined by the Board in conjunction with the Traffic Commission after consideration of numerous factors, including traffic density, and the number and age of children using the crossing on the way to and from school.

In addition to providing safe conditions for school children and other pedestrians to cross busy highways, the crossings also enable peak hour traffic to move much more smoothly.

THE CRB ROAD SYSTEM

- There are about 105,000 miles of public roads in Victoria of which some 14,500 miles comprise the State's principal system of Country Roads Board declared roads.

- Under the Country Roads Act, any road in Victoria may be declared or proclaimed by the Country Roads Board to be a State highway, a by-pass road, a tourists' road, a forest road or a main road.

- State highways, by-pass roads, tourists' roads and forest roads are wholly financed from funds available to the Board. State highways and by-pass roads, while serving the immediate district through which they pass as arterial routes, also carry much long distance traffic. Tourists' roads and

forest roads generally pass through areas where little or no rate revenue is available to the local municipality. Main roads, the construction and maintenance costs of which are partly borne by local municipal councils, form what may be described as the secondary system of important roads in the State. In addition, there is a network of unclassified roads, many of which carry considerable traffic and which, within the limits of available finance, are subsidised by the Board as needs and priorities warrant.

- The Board's present system of classified or declared roads comprises 4,465 miles of State highways, 37 miles of by-pass roads, 445 miles of tourists' roads, 461 miles of forest roads and 9,094 miles of main roads.

Completion of Sealing of the Princes Highway is an Important Step Forward for Tourism states Deputy Premier

January, 1967, saw the completion of the sealing of the Princes Highway East between Melbourne and Sydney. The last section to be sealed was in the vicinity of Mt. Drummer through the Alfred National Park in the Shire of Orbost.

The ceremony was sponsored by the Orbost Shire Council whose President, Cr. E. W. Johnstone, warmly welcomed the visitors. Before the ceremony, Cr. Johnstone entertained special guests at dinner at the Genoa Hotel.

The speakers at the ceremony who followed Cr. Johnstone were Cr. Gordon, representing the President of the Shire of Imlay (this is the Shire in N.S.W. that adjoins Orbost), Mr. Bruce Evans, M.L.A. for Gippsland East, the Hon. R. W. May, M.L.C. for Gippsland Province, Mr. S. G. Mauger, M.L.A. for Monaro, Mr I. J. O'Donnell, Country Roads Board, and Mr. J. A. L. Shaw, Department of Main Roads. The "Address to mark the occasion of the joining of Sydney and Melbourne by a sealed coastal highway" was then delivered by the Hon. A. G. Rylah.



The Deputy Premier, Hon. A. G. Rylah, M.L.A., addressing the guests at the function held to celebrate the completion of the sealing of the Princes Highway. Mr. Rylah paid tribute to the work of the road authorities responsible for the work accomplished, which in his opinion, opened up a new potential for tourists in Eastern Victoria.

CLIMBING LANES MAKE FOR SAFETY

At times steep grades slow down large commercial vehicles and smaller vehicles towing caravans to such an extent that all traffic is slowed down. At certain locations the Board is overcoming this problem by providing an additional traffic lane called a climbing lane to allow faster traffic to proceed safely without being retarded by slower vehicles. The application of double white lines

restricts downhill traffic to a single lane.

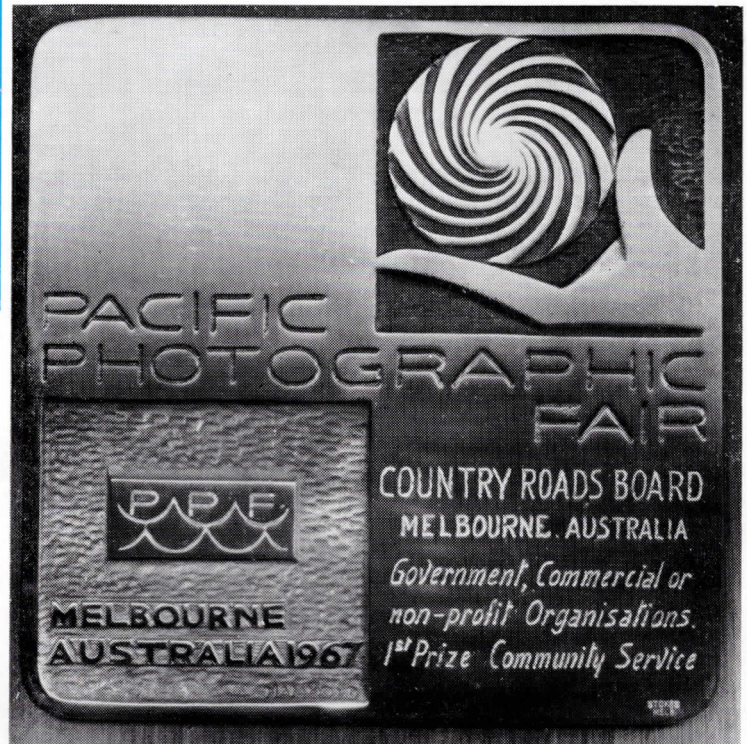
Where conditions warrant it, the Board is providing two additional lanes to provide a four-lane pavement on both approaches and over the crest of a steep grade. Recent works of this nature have been completed on the Calder Highway at Big Hill near Bendigo, and at Mt. Ararat on the Princes Highway East near Pakenham East.

MOOMBA PACIFIC PHOTOGRAPHIC FAIR CRB WINS A FIRST PRIZE

A portfolio of twelve colour prints submitted by the Country Roads Board in the photographic contest held as part of the 1967 Moomba Pacific Fair won first prize in the Community Service Category open to Government, Commercial and Non-profit Organizations.

The photographs which were of Board's work on roads and bridges throughout the State will be on display at the Herald Art Show in Treasury Gardens and at the Victorian Government Tourist Bureau in Collins Street.

All the photographs were taken and processed by the Board's senior photographer, Mr. E. T. Scott.



The Trophy Presented to Mr. F. West (Member), representing the Board