

C.R.B. ROAD CONDITIONS OVER CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

The many improvements which have been carried out to Victoria's primary road system by the Country Roads Board in the past year will add to the safety and enjoyment of holiday motoring. The summer months are the most favourable for the construction of further improvements, many of which will still be in progress until after the Christmas and New Year holiday period. A summary of localities where work in progress will be encountered is given below.

Road travellers are invited to take advantage of the many rest areas, wayside stops, scenic viewpoints and parking bays which have been provided clear of the through carriageways, at convenient intervals along the more heavily trafficked routes. Facilities are usually available at these spots for cooking and litter disposal. The Board urges all travellers to note and observe any summer fire restrictions prohibiting the use of open fireplaces.

SUMMARY OF ROADWORKS

MAROONDAH HIGHWAY

Lillydale Shire

Preliminary works between Brushy Creek and Hull Road will be clear of the present pavement, but care should be exercised. For approximately one mile north of the intersection with the Warburton Highway similar clearing works will be in progress.

Healesville Shire

Reconstruction of 2.8 miles between Myers Creek Road and the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works catchment area will be in progress. Extreme care should be taken by motorists.

NEPEAN HIGHWAY

Moorabbin City

Some minor construction work between Station Street and Wickham Road should be negotiated with care.

Mornington Shire

Construction of a new carriageway will be in progress between Volitans Road and Dava Drive, Mornington. The existing highway pavement will be available for traffic, but signs should be observed near construction works.

BASS HIGHWAY

Bass Shire

Roadworks at Grantville will be near completion. A sealed pavement is available for traffic.

SOUTH GIPPSLAND HIGHWAY

Cranbourne Shire

Preliminary work will be in progress for the highway reconstruction across the Yallock Creek floodway. The existing sealed pavement will still be in use, but motorists should exercise care and observe signs.

Korumburra Shire

Reconstruction of the highway at the eastern approach to Loch township is in progress. A regularly maintained gravel surface will be available over the holiday period.

BURWOOD HIGHWAY

Knox City

Reconstruction to provide 1½ miles of dual carriageways is in progress from Morack Road to east of the Wantirna-Sassafras Road. Extreme care is necessary as two-way traffic will be operating on one carriageway.

PRINCES HIGHWAY EAST

Oakleigh City

Additional traffic lanes will be in operation from Warrigal Road to Ferntree Gully Road. Reconstruction is still in progress and care should be exercised, particularly at the Warrigal Road intersection.

Buln Buln Shire

Reconstruction will shortly commence on the western approach to Drouin. There will be little inconvenience to holiday traffic.

CRB NEWS

No. 14, DECEMBER, 1969



A section of the Ocean Road in Otway Shire.

A HOLIDAY MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Many people will take advantage of the holidays over the Christmas and New Year period to visit relatives and friends or to enjoy a few days in some quiet and picturesque resort, often travelling by car.

The Board is constantly improving the State's network of roads to cater for an increasing number of commercial and private vehicles.

Instructions have been issued within the Board's organisation to ensure that all works in progress under the Board's control are maintained for safe and convenient use by the public throughout the holiday period. Special emphasis has been placed on adequate warning signs and systematic inspections.

It is unfortunate that in previous years the enjoyment of holidays for many people has been marred by road accidents which could have been avoided. Please do all you can to make this holiday the most enjoyable and safest yet. Careful driving and courtesy will assist in accident-free travel by car.

The Board extends seasonal greetings and best wishes for a happy and safe holiday.

I. J. O'DONNELL,
Chairman.

Traralgon City

Work is in progress by the Victorian Railways on the construction of a road over rail overpass to eliminate the level crossing on the Traralgon-Maffra railway line. A sealed side track is available to traffic adjacent to the site.

Bairnsdale Shire

From 7 miles west of Bairnsdale a 2 mile section is being reconstructed and motorists are requested to exercise care.

Orbost Shire

Reconstruction to improve the last 4 miles to the border is nearing completion. Half of this section will be sealed, the other half will have a gravel surface.

PRINCES HIGHWAY WEST

In the vicinity of the Western Suburbs Memorial Park traffic has been diverted to a four lane undivided road. Drivers should observe speed limits as machinery engaged on the Lower Yarra Freeway project may be encountered. Traffic to the Memorial Park must use Doherty's Road.

Werribee Shire

An overpass and approaches at the Kororoit Creek Road intersection is being constructed. Motorists are requested to reduce speed through this area.

Corio Shire

At Separation Street, North Geelong, works are in progress on the construction of bridges over the railway. Care should be taken.

Hampden Shire

Four miles of reconstruction is in progress immediately west of Terang. The pavement has been completed, but approximately 1½ miles may not be sealed before the holiday period.

BELLARINE HIGHWAY

Bellarine Shire

The construction of 1 mile of a second carriageway east of Geelong will be completed and open to traffic. Signs should be observed at either end of the new work.

HAMILTON HIGHWAY

Colac Shire

Widening is in progress for 3 miles near Wingeel. Some gravelled surfaces can be expected.

Hampden Shire

Realignment is in progress at Duverney, but the existing sealed pavement will still be available to traffic.

Mt. Rouse Shire

Reconstruction is being carried out over 3 miles between Caranut and Penshurst. Sections of the existing sealed pavement will still be in use. The remaining sections will be gravelled.

GLENELG HIGHWAY

Glenelg Shire

Immediately west of Casterton reconstruction of 1.3 miles is in progress. A gravelled surface will be encountered. East of Strathdownie 4½ miles of highway is being realigned, but work will be clear of the existing sealed pavement.

OMEQ HIGHWAY

Towong Shire

North of Mt. Wills a 4½ mile section is being widened. Dust or a slippery surface, depending on the weather, should be anticipated.

BONANG HIGHWAY

Orbost Shire

Widening of a further 2 miles is in progress 17 miles north of Orbost. Care should be exercised.

CANN VALLEY HIGHWAY

Orbost Shire

Reconstruction of 1½ miles north of Noorinbee will be completed except for sealing. A good gravel surface will be provided.

HUME HIGHWAY

Seymour Shire

At the north end of Tallarook, immediately north of the rail underpass, motorists should proceed with caution on the temporary connections between the existing road and the new bypass of Tallarook.

GOULBURN VALLEY HIGHWAY

Numurkah Shire

North of Katunga some minor repair works may be in progress.

NORTH WESTERN HIGHWAY

Ballarat Shire

Dual carriageways and central median are being built in Howitt Street, Ballarat, between Shelley Street and Gillies Street. Sealing of the through carriageways will be completed before Christmas, but motorists should take care at intersections.

NORTHERN HIGHWAY

Rochester Shire

West of the railway crossing at Rochester a short section of unsealed road will be encountered.

WESTERN HIGHWAY

Sunshine City

Care should be taken between Anderson Street and Duke Street, where roadworks are in progress on the southern carriageway.

Ararat Shire

A new culvert is being installed at Greenhills Creek, east of Ararat. A sealed side track is in use, where care should be exercised by motorists.

Lowan Shire

Several sections west of Nhill are being widened and re-sealed. Some widening work may not be sealed before Christmas.

TOURISTS' ROADS AND ROADS OF TOURIST INTEREST

MT. DANDENONG ROAD

Sherbrooke Shire

For 1 mile between Tremont and Boundary Bend construction work is in progress and may be unsealed. Extreme care should be taken by motorists. Warning signs will be displayed.

DONNA BUANG ROAD

Healesville Shire

Immediately east of Healesville a new sealed pavement has been constructed for 2 miles. Some minor work remains to be done. Motorists are requested to heed all signs. Between the turn-off to the summit of Mount Donna Buang and the 10 mile turntable drivers should take care on the unsealed surface where work is in progress. The road to the summit will probably be closed over the holiday period.

MARYSVILLE - WOODS POINT ROAD

Healesville Shire

Realignment and widening is in progress at Robley's Spur. The pavement is unsealed and restricted widths may be encountered. Extreme care is advised.

WHITTLESEA - KINGLAKE ROAD

At Pheasant Creek 2½ miles of road is being reconstructed, but it is expected that the existing sealed pavement will be available to traffic.

MIDLAND HIGHWAY

Daylesford and Glenlyon Shire

Drivers should exercise care on a narrow section west of Mt. Franklin. Reconstruction will commence in February.

CALDER HIGHWAY

Metcalfe Shire

Bridgeworks are in progress at the north end of Elphinstone. Traffic will use the existing sealed highway pavement.

Marong Shire

South of Bridgewater approximately 2 miles of road could be unsealed where works are in progress.

McIVOR HIGHWAY

McIvor Shire

A short length of new work south of Axedale may not be sealed before Christmas.

OCEAN ROAD

Otway Shire

Widening and resurfacing is being carried out on several sections between Sugarloaf Creek and Whalebone Creek and east of Johanna Road. Immediately west of Lavers Hill traffic will use 3 miles of gravelled surface where reconstruction is in progress. Care should be taken on these sections.

MELBOURNE - LANCEFIELD ROAD

Bulla Shire

At Bulla the construction of climbing lanes over a length of 1 mile is in progress.

WILSONS PROMONTORY ROAD

South Gippsland Shire

South of Darby River some 2 miles of the existing gravel road is being reconstructed on an improved alignment. Part of this length will be sealed prior to the holiday period and the remaining section will be maintained with a good gravelled surface.

ALPINE ROAD

Bright Shire

A narrow section being widened at Mt. Blowhard should be negotiated with care.

MT. BUFFALO ROAD

Bright Shire

Drivers should take care between Lake Catani and Dingo Dell. Reconstruction has commenced but the existing pavement will not be disturbed until after the holidays.

CRB COMPLETES NEW LINK BETWEEN GIPPSLAND AND NORTHERN VICTORIA

The provision of roads in the mountainous area between Jamieson and Licola became an urgent matter towards and after the end of the Second World War, when timber extraction was increased for the war effort and pressing post-war requirements.

From as early as 1945 the Country Roads Board and the Forests Commission have co-operated in the planned development of roads in the area having in mind that a through route should eventually be provided over a length of approximately 50 miles between Licola and Jamieson.

The selection of a suitable location for a through route was not easy. The main obstacle was the Great Dividing Range separating the tributaries of the Goulburn River from the streams flowing to the Macalister River. In addition, on the Jamieson side, there were formidable ranges and spurs rising to well over 4,000 ft. in elevation and running generally in an east-west direction. The problem therefore was to find suitable low gaps in the spurs and a suitable low gap in the Divide in a line between Licola and Jamieson. Over the years many ground investigations and surveys were made and many alternative routes were considered before the present alignment between Licola and Jamieson was adopted. The alignment adopted crossed the Great Dividing Range in the vicinity of Mount Skene at an elevation of 5,100 ft.

By 1960 roads of reasonable standard extended from both Licola and Jamieson towards Mount Skene, but the 10 mile gap in the middle was rough, steep, and suitable only for four-wheel drive vehicles. At that time it was estimated that the cost of constructing the 10 mile link road on reasonable grades would be \$360,000.

DETAILED SURVEY CARRIED OUT

A considerable amount of detailed survey was necessary before tenders could be called. A contract for the construction of the first 3.6 mile section north of Mount Skene was let to Keath Plant Pty. Ltd. on 6th December, 1967, for a contract sum of \$130,590.

A further two sections totalling 7.0 miles in length were advertised for construction late in 1968, the successful tenderer being Jack Legge Contractors Pty. Ltd. for a contract sum of \$192,841.

The total cost of constructing the 10.6 miles of new road was approximately \$385,000 including the supply of materials, construction of scenic viewpoints, guide posts and signs, and erosion control measures.

COMPLETED IN SPRING

When the winter of 1969 forced cessation of construction activities the road had been completed except for the erection of road signs, erosion control and other minor works. In the spring of 1969 the Board was able to complete the outstanding work and open the link road to traffic.



A section of the Jamieson-Licola road.

The Jamieson-Licola Road provides an additional link between Gippsland and Northern Victoria for tourist, logging and commercial traffic. Tourists using the road in summer months will be able to enjoy panoramic views of the Great Dividing Range from constructed scenic viewpoints, picnic facilities at wayside stops, and the wildflowers of the Mount Skene Plateau.

The Board would like to record its appreciation of the co-oper-

ation, help and advice given by officers of the Soil Conservation Authority in measures aimed at reducing the disturbance to natural ground cover and in rehabilitation of areas after road construction.

The road was officially opened by the Hon. M. V. Porter, MLA, Minister of Public Works, at a ceremony held near Mount Skene on Thursday, 11th December, 1969.

METROPOLITAN ROADS AND BRIDGES

Brighton City

North Road. The construction of dual carriageways is being undertaken between Hawthorn Road and Thomas Street. Care should be exercised and signs obeyed. Roadworks are also in progress at the intersection with the Nepean Highway.

Diamond Valley Shire

Whittlesea Road. Between Grimshaw Street and Settlement Road the provision of dual carriageways is proceeding.

Heidelberg - Kinglake Road. Similar works are in progress from Collins Street to Diamond Creek.

Footscray City

Somerville Road. Boom barriers are operating on a temporary road provided for traffic dur-

ing the construction of a railway overpass bridge.

Footscray and Melbourne Cities

Hopetoun Bridge. Traffic will be restricted to single lane operation over the section of the new bridge now completed.

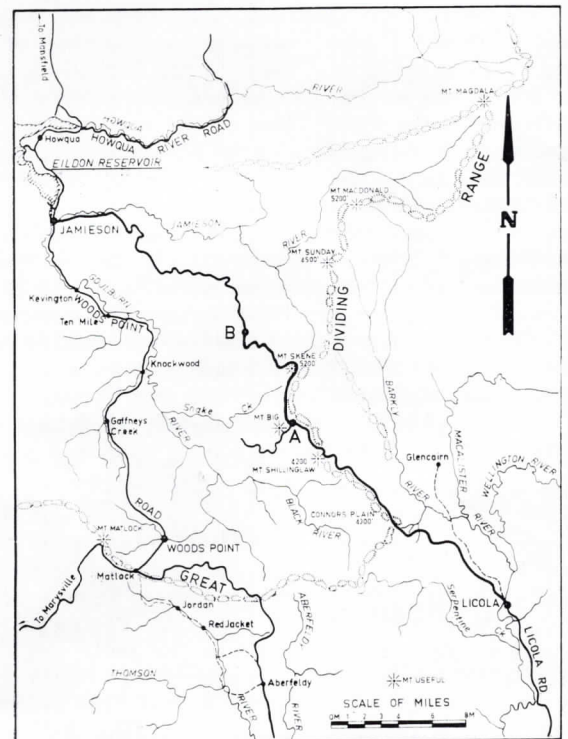
Oakleigh City

Wellington Road Reconstruction for dual carriageways is in progress between the Princes Highway and Blackburn Road. Care should be taken to observe warning signs.

Preston City

Whittlesea Road. The construction of dual carriageways between Curtain Street and Grimshaw Street should be noted.

Map of Jamieson-Licola area.



SPECIAL PROJECT No 15

NEW PHILLIP ISLAND BRIDGE OPENED BY MINISTER



Guests assembled in front of dais.

The new concrete bridge built by the Country Roads Board to link San Remo and Phillip Island was officially opened by the Minister of Public Works, the Hon. M. V. Porter, M.L.A., on Friday, 21st November.

At a ceremony to mark the occasion a welcome was extended to the assembled guests by the President of Bass Shire, Cr. C. A. Blackney. The President of Phillip Island Shire, Cr. W. G. Papworth, in his remarks compared the development on the island which took place as a result of the first bridge being opened in 1940 with the development which the new bridge will encourage.

The opening attracted keen local interest and many residents, including children, were present.

In his reference to the workmen engaged on the erection of the old bridge, the Chairman of the Country Roads Board, Mr. I. J. O'Donnell, said "I personally want to pay tribute to them for their undoubted loyalty and their hard work in the construction of the bridge". Mr. O'Donnell went on to outline the events leading up to the completion of the new bridge.

Importance of Westernport

The history of the development of the Western Port area was summarised by Mr. Porter, who remarked that "Western Port continues to play an important part in the history of the State of Victoria". The Minister then spoke of the difficulties of deep water, strong cur-

rents, and a tidal range of some eight to ten feet which had to be overcome during the construction of the new bridge. "But, despite all these things, today we have a bridge of which all Victoria can feel proud."

At the conclusion of his address, the Minister declared the bridge officially opened as Mrs. Porter cut a ribbon spanning the aluminium handrails of the bridge.

Details of Bridge

Total length of the bridge is 2,100 feet consisting of a central 200 feet navigation span flanked by 150 feet anchor spans and 100 feet approach spans on each side. Width between kerbs is 28 feet, and a footway 5 feet wide is provided on the south side. Navigational clearance height at high tide is 40 feet. The bridge contractor was John Holland and Company Pty. Ltd.



The Minister of Public Works addresses the gathering.



Aerial view of the new Phillip Island bridge.