Volume 1, Issue 3

31 July 2005

VicRoads

Roundabout

Regional Managers Message

With July now at our backs the midst of winter provides a moment's reflection on the year ahead. In budget terms 2005/06 is a significant year. Due largely to our major capital projects, the Region's budget is $79m with further projects expected. This makes for a very demanding year and I'm comforted to know the very substantial cumulative knowledge and experience of Eastern Region is onto it. I say cumulative because it will require a team effort. Anyone feeling at a loose end please see me immediately!

Have you seen on DOT:

- New Rates for traveling allowance
- Salary sacrifice your performance bonus
- CMG News Update
- Great Victorian Bike Ride
- Calling all Regional Managers of the future
- Engineer Seminar—Becoming a chartered accountant
- PMS Development Planning workshops

Several changes are being made at the corporate level to assist in program delivery. These include revised financial delegations and simpler submissions for TEC and contract liability changes. However, the program will be won or lost at the regional level and there are a number of key behaviours which will assist in getting us over the line. Focus on what's important, manage your time and escalate issues before delays result. And make sure you recharge by spending time with family and friends.

Changes in the management of Customer Service will come into effect over the coming months. The changes will better enable services to be managed as a consistent statewide business. I'd like to express my admiration for Michael Kearns in this process for his ability to work through a personally testing experience and continue to support his staff. Many staff have expressed their support for Michael and I'm sure this will extend to assistance in whatever future role Michael plays in the Region.

Further changes are afoot in staffing. Congratulations to Sisira who has secured a position in the RTA and to Carl Hodgkins as he takes a step up with Ports & Harbours. We look forward to your return to VicRoads. David McKinnis has joined us as our second Environmental Officer and we are very pleased to have another volley of Graduates to remind us we are getting old. Welcome to Styl, Lachlan, Jude, Matt and Peter.

Our Regional Reference Group gathered for the fourth time in late July. The RRG is a representative cross-section of the community formed to provide feedback on community issues and VicRoads performance generally. We chew the fat across a broad spectrum of topics with each session more a journey than a meeting. Of course views on what we could do better are in no short supply, but there's accolades too. Our TSS and HV permits team were noted as responsive and professional; our Customer Service Officers as helpful and knowledgeable and we were congratulated on the informative sign about construction works along Strzelecki Highway at the time of Phillip Island Motorbike Races. Well done to all concerned.

Finally, I'd like to pass on thanks to all staff for the peer support shown on the death of Wayne Briggs. A difficult time was rendered bearable. Keep it up.

Bruthen Nowa—Nowa - Stage 5

Roadworks have commenced on Stage 5 of Bruthen Nowa Nowa Road, from west of Buchan Road to Nowa Nowa township. The Contract value is $8m and is due for completion in late 2006. The contractor, Whelans Earthmoving, is working on two fronts in the vicinity of Buchan Rd and North of Nowa Nowa.

The major cut at Red Knob near the Buchan Road intersection is now over half completed, although the contractor has encountered some excavation difficulty with hard rock.



New road cutting at Buchan Road



Surveillance Officer Edwin Perry with one of the large rocks.

The material excavated from this cut has been carted in off-highway dumpers and placed in new road embankments either side of the hill at Buchan Rd. The eastern fill is now standing about five metres above the adjacent roadway.



50 tonne dumper providing a wind break!

At the Nowa Nowa end, the new road will take a straight line through a series of curves on the old alignment. The construction involves removal of the ridges on the right side and the placement of the excavated material in the gully on the left side.

The central section is currently being re-designed by the contractor in order to reduce earthworks. The VicRoads' original design placed the alignment away from the old road in order to avoid construction under traffic involving large depth cuts and fills. The new design is located very close to the existing road.



Materials being excavated from the ridge

Vegetation clearance from the worksite involves a linear logging coupe for which VicRoads is the licensee, having paid logging royalties to DSE . This simplified the process for the removal of timber and ensures productive use of the timber.

Responsiveness: *reacting or replying promptly*

Getting To Know The New Grads!!!



L-R Jude Hart, Matthew De Marco, Lachlan Lee-Archer, Stylianos Stilladis and Peter Liarakos

1. Where are you originally from?

Matt, Dandenong North - the Toorak of Dandenong.
Jude, Aspendale - the Toorak of Frankston
Styl, Reservoir - where???
Lachlan, Ashburton - the Frankston of Toorak
Peter, Bentleigh - The centre of retired old people.

2. First impressions of Eastern Region?

A small remote town out of Melbourne, which smells absolutely lovely!! The night life is not too bad as well.

3. What tasks will you be working on while in Eastern Region?

Apart from photocopying and filing hopefully we will get to see the extensive contrast of the Gippsland area.

4. Favorite football team (AFL/soccer etc)?

Traralgon-Tyers United. Go those Bombers, at least they're doing better than the Hawks & Tigers!

5. Favorite food?

Italian, bbqs & beer, or anything else brought from home.

6. Is anyone already up for our prestigious 'Nissan Award' ?

We're working on it, but there's a couple of nominations already on the board.

DID YOU KNOW….

Morwell CSC has a trainee, Owen Whitehead who started on 04/07/05. He will be with us for the next 12 months. Owen is from Boisdale and has now moved to Morwell since obtaining a job with us.

Welcome Owen!

7. Interesting fact about yourself?

Lachlan - Preaches the Good Book of "Love Thy Nature"
Styl - Blow dries his hair every morning and night to keep that silky smooth hair!
Peter - As an unequivocal fascination with Africa.
Jude - Still has faint hopes of becoming Australia's greatest wicket taker even though he hasnt bowled a ball in ten years!
Matt - After six months of extensive gym work here, hopes to compete in the World Bodybuilding Championship!

DID YOU KNOW….

We have a new Environmental Officer, David McKinnis.



David grew up in Western Victoria, close to Ararat. His interests are mainly outdoor based such as fishing and camping but also enjoys home brewing and partying.

David recently completed the VicRoads Graduate Program. Spending his first rotation in Sunshine, his second at Planning Investigations at Kew and his last rotation in Ballarat.

David believes the most enjoyable thing about Traralgon is its close proximity to a large array of fishing opportunities. “The only negative thing about Traralgon is the smell, but as everyone here said "You get use to it". I'm looking forward to my new role as Environmental Officer.”

A step back in time - 1971 Floods (Inspection of Monaro Hwy East Gippsland by Doug Howes

Major floods occurred throughout East Gippsland in 1971 with many roads and bridges damaged.

As there were no bridges remaining to allow access over Cann River, the only way to cross and continue inspecting the flooded area was in a 44 gallon drum and a bike attached on Stream Guage wires (see photo).

The township of Orbost was isolated when the timber bridge over the Snowy River was damaged. Beer kegs were rolled across a make shift span in the bridge so that essential supplies got through.

The Princes Highway was closed when the concrete bridge was washed out across the Cann River. A temporary steel Bailey bridge was constructed with load restrictions.



The photo shows Engineer Doug Howes (CRB Bairnsdale Division) Inspecting Monaro Highway (Cann Valley Highway).

A program of road and bridge improvements over the years has made the journey more secure.

How times have changed!

Traralgon Social Club Alert!

Footy Training

25th August 2005

Look out on DOT for further details!

Good News Story - Letter From A Local Resident

To whom it may concern,

We would like to make known, how very impressed we were with the work done by a crew who were extending culverts during the recent road works in our area. They spent several days working along the front of our home.

A very pleasant, considerate crew. The area of work was left in a clean and tidy condition; anything that needed to be shifted during the extension was put back in place. The overseer in charge visited to make sure we were satisfied with the state of our driveway.

We are very impressed, and feel credit should be given where credit is due Congratulations to the Crew.

Thank you

Betty and Nash Clarke

The Crew that Mr and Mrs Clarke was referring to was one of our Contractors - 'Stablelime Distributors' . The works were being overseen by Joe Gwizdek

Congratulations on a job well done!!!!!

'THINGLETOODLE' VISITS EASTERN REGION



A large, strange, furry creature has been seen roaming through the office in Traralgon recently. 'ThingleToodle', the VicRoads preschool road safety character, made a week-long visit to Eastern Region in July, calling in to preschool centres in Baw Baw shire with Di Campbell and Julie Cahir and to bus safety sessions in Orbost and Lakes Entrance with Greg Ryan.

Starting Out Safely and ThingleToodle

The ThingleToodle character is the means through which practical, enjoyable and educational activities from the VicRoads *Starting Out Safely* program can be used to convey road safety messages to children under six and their parents/carers.

VicRoads *Starting Out Safely* program has been developed to provide information that will convince parents/carers that they are central to their child's road safety learning and provide ongoing support to encourage them to:

- model safe road use behaviour
- supervise children effectively in all traffic environments
- train children in safe passenger and pedestrian skills.

For children, the *Starting Out Safely* objectives are to provide, via their parents'/carers' modelling, supervision and training, increased opportunities to:

- develop, practice and use road safety skills and strategies when supervised as a pedestrian, passenger or when playing.
- develop/increase their awareness of danger at the roadside and improve their self-control.



Three basic principles derived from research and experience underpin the *Starting Out Safely* program:

- Parents, no matter what their circumstances, do not want harm to come to their children.
- Parents of babies and young children are highly motivated to change their own behaviour if they believe it will benefit their children.
- Activities that promote communication between parents/carers and children are intrinsically worthwhile.

ThingleToodle

Use of characters to engage children's interest and influence their behaviour is a well established practice. Market research conducted in 2000 showed that parents believed that a children's road safety character such as Hector the Cat (whom they believed to have 'taught' them their own road safety) would be very powerful in influencing children's road safety learning.

On-line, anytime@VicRoads



vic roads www.vicroads.vic.gov.au

BRIAN TEASER!

"What number, when spelled out, has no repeated letters and has each of the vowels once?"

The answer to last months Brain Teaser was MAPS.

Congratulations to Michael Mattingley for providing the correct answer!