



# email newsletter

## March 2002

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### Introduction

This email newsletter is produced for AITPM members. Members are encouraged to provide material for future editions. Members who have not received this edition electronically should advise the secretariat of their email address.

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# President's Message

The Executive of the AITPM's National Council met over the weekend of 9 and 10 February with a very specific goal: to review the Institute's 1995 Mission Statement and Corporate Plan.

A report is now being prepared for our next full National Council meeting in April, and over the next two issues of the newsletter I will provide you with an overview of the proposed plan and strategies. You are strongly encouraged to make your opinions known, to myself and/or your local Branch President.

The proposed 2002 Mission for AITPM is:

## **"Growing traffic skills and knowledge to deliver sustainable transport"**

These words, we believe, reflect the importance of the Institute's role in supporting you, the members, and the professional community, as well as demonstrating the significance of traffic skills as an essential element in achieving an integrated and sustainable transport system.

Next month's newsletter will discuss our principal objectives and our seven prioritised strategies.

Our highest ranking strategy is to encourage our members by increasing their opportunities for constructive activities and personal development. The management of our members' resources of knowledge and information and communication to all stakeholders, is the key plank of this strategy.

AITPM has a role in brokering connections between members and stakeholders. This concept of brokering does not have quite the same commercial connotation as say in the Insurance or Finance sectors. It defines AITPM as the hub that connects information and knowledge needs.

It is not our job to do everything, but rather to ensure that things get done. We may not, for example, design and present educational programs, but we may encourage a professional educational establishment to build and deliver such programs (with some assistance from AITPM).

Our particular strength could be to seek interaction with professionals and relevant industry bodies in order to market appropriately structured educational material.

Our key asset is the goodwill of our members and supporters. One of the important tests that I apply to anything we on the management team consider is:

" Does this enhance our key asset?"

John Reid  
National President  
Ph (03) 97350255 or [e-mail](#):

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# Feature

## “50kmh Limit A Success”

The Victorian Minister for Transport, the Hon. Peter Batchelor, addressing a breakfast meeting of transport professionals, including several AITPM members, has claimed success for their new 50kph limit in residential streets with serious accident rates falling by about 10 per cent. The reduced limit now applies on all unsigned sections of Victoria's roads, which previously had a 60kph limit.

The Minister said that the Victorian government may support further speed limits in line with "the slower the safer" reasoning.

He also spoke of the importance of educating the public about the new rules and he emphasised that enforcement of the new limits is not a revenue raising exercise. The Age newspaper reported that most of the 83,327 drivers caught exceeding the new limit have been fined, raising a total of about \$9 million.

One AITPM member has found some mixed reactions to the lower speed limit with a significant but relatively silent group preferring quicker speeds to road safety.

The RACV did some market research well before the introduction of the lower speed limits in Victoria, which concluded that their members generally supported the lower limits. Anecdotal evidence indicates that members now consider the lower speed limit a huge success. RACV plans a new market research study in the next couple of months.

## 50 Kph In Other States

### **Queensland**

Following the success of the 50 kph local limit in South East Queensland, the lower speed limit will be introduced throughout the rest of the State from February 2003.

Since the lower speed limit was introduced in South East Queensland in March 1999, initial road crash data analysis has shown an 18% fall in fatal crashes on local streets, when compared with the previous five year average. This represents a saving of 26 lives.

### **Western Australia**

Western Australia's Road Safety Minister, The Hon. Michelle Roberts, announced that a statewide 50 kph speed limit on all local streets had begun on 1 December 2001.

Roberts said that WA could expect a 20% to 30% reduction in serious crashes on local urban streets. Approximately 30% of serious crashes in the Perth metropolitan area occur on streets that have been included in the 50 kph initiative. The WA Police are starting to talk about enforcing the limits after giving a period of grace.

cont.



## **Further resources and information**

- [Q&A sheet from Victorian Government](#)
- [Q&A sheet from Queensland Government](#)
- N. Haworth et al from MUARC paper entitled "[A 50 Km/H Default Urban Speed Limit For Australia?](#)"

## **News**

### **Plan to head off West Gate gridlock**

The Victorian Government is investigating ways of increasing the capacity of the West Gate Bridge because of a forecast capacity problem by 2007.

VicRoads had been commissioned to come up with options to divert freight and passenger traffic across or under the Yarra. Options being considered include a bridge beside the West Gate; a tunnel under the Yarra; a new deck on the existing bridge or a widening of the existing bridge.

### **Light Rail Feasibility Study for Gold Coast**

The first stage of a two-part process to appoint a consultant for the Gold Coast Light Rail Feasibility Study began on Wednesday 6 February when invitations of interest were advertised nationally. The initial phase is to accept expressions of interest by consultants to conduct the technical work.

By early April, the Department of Transport expects to instruct a shortlist of three or four applicants to submit a detailed project outline. It is expected the study will take 12 to 18 months to complete.

### **Honda's Youth Driver Awareness Message**

Honda Australia Roadcraft Training (HART) at St Ives, Sydney, has joined forces with Rotary International and local governments in setting up a driver safety program for more than 6,000 secondary school students.

## **Discussion Points**

A number of important, on-going issues have been raised in recent newsletters. With feedback from members and further developments we will keep track of the subjects.

### **Christmas campaigns**

In the last newsletter statistics were presented that questioned the validity of focusing so much attention on the Christmas road toll compared to that of other times of the year. The value of the shock horror ads that have been pioneered in Victoria, was also questioned.

cont.



The newsletter editor has been given copies of a detailed scientific analysis conducted in South Australia, to evaluate the impact of the TAC “shock-horror” ads on the Victorian road toll. The report concluded that the road toll decline could be accounted for by a long-term downward trend (that started well before the ads were first aired), improvements in the road environment and economic conditions.

Last December an extensive anti-drink-driving Christmas campaign was run in Victoria, however, The Age newspaper reported that during that period there was a 44 per cent increase in drivers caught with illegal blood-alcohol levels.

### **Skills and Mentoring**

AITPM president, John Reid, has spoken of the need to do more to skill our young traffic planning and management professionals and ensure that the “wisdom of the elders” is not lost. Some things are starting to happen.

### **Mentoring Program Reaches New Heights**

VicRoads Metropolitan North West Region is leading the way for new employees and team leaders by instigating a structured Mentoring Pilot Program, which began in September 2001. The program’s 65 participants work in the Region’s Program Development, Program Delivery and Regional Projects sections. Participants benefit from tailored in-house training, one-on-one and group mentoring sessions, guest speakers and site visits to areas of interest.

One such site visit was to the West Gate bridge. The highlight of the tour was the climb to the top of one of the 40m high towers (see photos).

The effectiveness of the Program will be independently evaluated. Regional Manager Brian Negus proposes to extend the Mentoring Program to other staff within the region upon conclusion of the Pilot Program.

### **Increasing In-House Skill Base**

Western Australian Minister for Main Roads, The Hon. Alannah MacTiernan, has announced a program to strengthen specialist skills and experience within the Main Roads portfolio.

In 1998, the then government contracted out a considerable amount of design, technical, construction and maintenance services.

"There was a real risk that Main Roads would lose the practical know-how to effectively oversee private sector operations”, the minister said. "It would also lose the institutional memory and knowledge built up over the last 70 years."

Ms MacTiernan said that the private sector would continue to have an important role in building and maintaining Western Australia's roads. "The private sector itself has expressed concerns about the decline in Main Roads performance as an 'informed client'," she said.



## Speed Zoning at Work Sites

Members of the AITPM and the public have raised concerns about speed zoning at construction sites. Unnecessarily slow speeds and restrictions over long distances and for periods of time when work is not being carried out, are some of the issues that have been raised.

We are currently collecting available information about this topic and any comments would be appreciated.

The Department of City and Regional Planning, University of North Carolina have just published some research entitled "Effects Of Work Zone Presence On Injury And Non-Injury Crashes".

Some of their conclusions included:

- Work zones in the United States have approximately 700 traffic-related fatalities, 24,000 injury crashes, and 52,000 non-injury crashes every year.
- Compared with the pre-work zone period, the increase in non-injury and injury crash rates in the during-work zone period was 23.8% and 17.3%, respectively;
- After controlling for various factors, longer work zone duration significantly increases both injury and non-injury crash frequencies.

## Recent Events

### Review of Speed Limits in the Adelaide Hills

A South Australian Branch meeting recently looked at the reduction of speed limits from 100 kph to 80 kph on many of the winding and hilly State Network roads.

Jeremy Woolley reports on some of the issues and comments from the meeting:

- It seems that agencies are evolving their approach to speed zoning. In this case, there was widespread community consultation and an education campaign to ensure that the new speed limits would contribute to increased safety. In the past, there has been a "we know best, now do what you're told" attitude in some areas.
- The issue of appropriate speed limits (and associated enforcement activity) is still a hot community issue. The old problem of the compromise between a uniform single speed limit in an area or a confusing system of many different limits is still an area of much debate.
- It seems there will always be drivers who will see a speed limit sign and incorrectly interpret it as the speed at which one must drive regardless of the conditions. There was acknowledgement that speeding and road safety was a complex issue and that many factors contributed to crashes.
- Feedback from the audience indicated that there was clearly a need to extend such reviews and re-assess speed limits in relation to their road environments. Suggested starting points are the areas on the boundary of the current Hills review.



## **Traffic Incident Management – Inner Core**

The first of two technical seminars examining management of the inner and outer core of traffic incidents was held in Queensland at a joint meeting of AITPM and the IEAust Transport Panel.

Superintendent Grant Pitman from the Queensland Police Service - State Traffic Support Branch presented an overview on the challenges facing police and emergency services in managing the inner core and outlined opportunities for improvement including how road agencies and the private sector may assist.

[Link](#) to Superintendent Pitman's presentation

## **Functional Design Of Roads**

Gary Veith from our Victorian Branch reports on their February technical forum which focussed on the functional design of roads, including freeways, arterial roads and local streets. It was attended by approximately 60 people.

Mr Douglas Harley of VicRoads Design explained aspects of traffic modelling for major road projects, and how essential traffic parameters for analysis are derived from other major roads in the corridor under investigation. He described analysis methods, illustrated levels of service concepts, and stressed the importance of lane compliance and lane balance. Finally, an overview was provided of types of interchanges, in particular the “urban diamond” layout.

Gary Veith of VicRoads' Traffic and Road Use Management Department described factors affecting the choice of cross section and intersection types on arterial roads. He stressed the importance of providing, wherever possible, “desirable standards” published by Austroads and in other road authority guidelines. The requirements of trucks and buses were emphasised, and the use of minimum standards in inner city areas was acknowledged and discussed.

Kate Partenio of GTA Consultants provided a presentation on the influence of Planning Schemes and Rescode on local street design in Victoria. Kate described the various street classifications which apply and focussed on the movement of traffic local networks. Kate emphasised the importance of satisfactorily accommodating utilities and the need to have a network where arterial road spacing enables arterial roads to operate satisfactorily, rather than become overloaded due to the concentration of traffic on fewer routes.

## **Victorian Puffing Billy**

The Victorian Branch sampled an early form of transport for the December 2001 end of year seminar with a trainride from Belgrave to Emerald on the 100-year-old Puffing Billy. Not exactly the Orient Express but there was good dining and intrigue on the trip.

cont.



Dinner was at an old brick fruit packing shed, restored with inbuilt fireplace that was welcome warmth for what has been laughingly called summer. Food was of the “line-up-and-pile-the-plate” variety, which was OK for such a venue and was helped by an excellent red. The return journey was spiced with a certain intrigue. It involved a window on a certain house that was pointed out by our host on the outward journey. Alas the lights were off.

(For those who doubt the technical content of the seminar, the track diagram of Puffing Billy has been made [available](#)).

## Upcoming Events

### **Town Centre Modelling – NSW - 5 March**

The NSW branch is holding a seminar on “Town Centre Micro-simulation Modelling Using PARAMICS” which will be presented by Chris Wilson and Chris Zeto of Masson Wilson Twiney.

The use of micro-simulation models is becoming more widespread. Models are no longer limited to corridor networks. This presentation will examine the processes required to develop a town centre micro-simulation model and provide a demonstration of the Ringwood PARAMICS network under various network and demand scenarios.

- DATE: Tuesday 5 March 2002
- TIME: 5.30pm for 6.00pm start
- LOCATION: Committee Room No. 1, Burwood Council, 2 Conder Street, Burwood, 2134

For further information: Bernard Choongo on 9847 6680 or 0409 735 383

### **Integrated Transport - New Directions for Getting Started – Vic – 6 Mar**

The Victorian Branch has organised a major one-day forum in collaboration with the Department of Infrastructure to provide a better understanding of integrated transport. Presentations will cover the principles and application of international and local experience designed to provide tools and practical ideas on how to progress an integrated transport strategy.

Integrated transport requires a multidisciplinary approach. Speakers have been selected to provide insights from a wide range of perspectives. A number of case studies and current projects will be reviewed.

#### Presenters

Opening by **Hon. Peter Batchelor**, Patron AITPM, Minister for Transport

Other speakers:

- **John Collins** (Executive Director, Strategic Planning DOI),
- **John Stanley** (Exec.Dir.Bus Association Victoria),
- **Carlo Carli** MLA (Parliamentary Secretary, DOI),
- **Mike Hill** (Secretary VLGA),

cont.



Other speakers continued:

- **Cr Robert Laroocca**, (Mayor, City of Moreland),
- **Cr Dick Gross** (former Mayor, City of Port Phillip),
- **Philip Brogan** (Dir. Maunsell McIntyre, Sydney office),
- **Roger Collins** (Manager Economic and Environmental Planning, City of Manningham),
- **Russell Bittner** (Project Manager, Vic Roads),
- **Corinne Cadilhac** (Project Manager, DOI),

Summary and Closure by **David Anderson** CEO VicRoads

**Venue:** DOI Theatre Nauru House, 80 Collins Street Melbourne

**Time:** 9.00 am - 5.30 pm

**RSVP** is **essential**, to John Reid: [e-mail](#); or FAX (03) 97350255

Booking fee: **\$25** for non members, **\$10** for members

Credit Card or cheque made payable to AITPM at PO BOX 611 Lilydale Vic. 3140 prior to event.

### **Traffic Incident Management – The Outer Core – Qld - 6 March**

A second seminar in the series on Traffic Incident Management will look at the "outer core" of the surrounding traffic network.

Professor Phil Charles will present new developments in incident management including aspects of the US National Dialogue on Transport Operations. Dale Jepson will present the traffic operations perspective of incident management based on experience in the Gold Coast district, in particular the Pacific Motorway.

- **Venue:** IEAUST Building Hawken Auditorium
- **Time:** 5.30pm for 6.15pm

### **Traffic and Transport Modeling Course – Qld - April**

Queensland University of Technology is presenting an introductory course in Traffic and Transport Modelling in April 2002. The course presenters are Professor Luis Ferreira and Dr Jon Bunker from QUT and Damien Bitzios from PPK Environment & Infrastructure.

[Link](#) for further information

### **15th International Symposium on Transportation and Traffic Theory (ISTTT) 16 - 18 July 2002**

The Transport Systems Centre (TSC) at the University of South Australia will host the 15th International Symposium on Transportation and Traffic Theory (ISTTT) in Adelaide in 2002.

The ISTTT has been held in cities around the world approximately every three years, commencing in Detroit in 1959.

[Link](#) for more information



## **AITPM Conferences – Perth - 8 to 9 August 2002 and Sydney - September 2003**

The next AITPM conference will be held in Perth. We have received many more extracts than we have time to present, so we are now selecting the best papers that fit the theme of the conference.

The following annual conference will be held in the Sydney Entertainment Centre in September 2003 on the subject of Land use/transport integration.

## **Career Spot**

### **Get Well Soon Janet**

To Janet Brash, Vic Branch President, from all your colleagues and friends at AITPM:

Best wishes for a speedy and healthy return.

### **Contessa's New Arrival**

Contessa Hajinikitas, a past committee member on the NSW Branch and presenter at several technical seminars has given birth to her first child, Sofia. Born on 21st January 2002 at 21:21 weighing 3.090 kg. Impartial commentators have described her as gorgeous.

Congratulations to Contessa and Tomaso.

### **Road Safety Officer**

Ryde City Council is looking for a Road Safety Officer (grade 8) to develop and implement a road safety strategy and action plan with particular emphasis on behavioural/education campaigns.

Tertiary qualifications essential. Salary to around \$41,812 p.a. The position reports to Senior Traffic Engineer. Applications by 4 March 2002.

An information pack is available on the [net](#). For further details contact Warren Latham on 02-9952-8125.

## **Letter to the Editor**

Dear Sir,

I note the expert claim that "There was not a single international (walking) conference in the whole of the 20th century" (AITPM newsletter February 2002).

I refer the expert to the joint ARRB/DoT Pedestrian Conference held in Sydney in November 1986 which attracted overseas participation and included a significant paper on "Designing Safety & Comfort into the Environment" by Allan Katz of the Transportation Research Institute of Haifa, Israel which detailed the status of many overseas countries at the time.



His references detail many International Pedestrian Conferences, which had been held up to that point in time. Providing for pedestrians is not new to the 21st Century, just frequently not thought of in the planning processes and/or researched properly.

Dr Graham Brisbane.

## Odd Spots

1. Some people have a love for things on the road such as:
  - Manhole Covers ;and
  - The Traffic Cone Preservation Society
2. Past President Peter Croft has directed us to a site describing the "roading engineer" professional in NZ. [Link](#)
3. Harold Scruby from the Pedestrian Council has found an unusual use for bollards in pedestrian malls. See photo in the column on the right.



## Deadlines

AITPM will publish an email newsletter at the beginning of each month (with the exception of January). In the month prior to a newsletter, the deadlines for receiving information are as follows:

- Major articles – the end of the first week of the month;
- Features, news stories, event reports etc – the end of the second week of the month;
- Job advertisements (free for corporate members) - up until the end of the third week of the month.

Material can be submitted through the contact details above but the AITPM offers no guarantee of publication.

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