

**Although normally dedicated to a specific Road Safety issue, this edition of the ACRS – Victorian Chapter newsletter will instead outline the latest news and information which has taken place in the world of road safety over the past months.**

### WORLD HEALTH DAY 2004

For the first time World Health Day was dedicated to Road Safety. It was launched globally in Paris, by French President Jacques Chirac on 7 April 2004. The World Health Organisation and the World Bank jointly produced a comprehensive report on the magnitude of road trauma, the risk factors, and its impact and prevention. Road trauma represents a huge public health issue, with an estimated 1.18 million road deaths in 2002, (3,000 per day). Road traffic deaths are ranked 11th globally among causes of death. Injuries are thought to total between 20 and 50 million a year, making road traffic injury the 9th ranking contributor to global disease/injury (this is expected to rise to 3rd by 2020). Road trauma disproportionately affects vulnerable road users and the socio-economically disadvantaged. Globally, over half of those killed on the roads are young adults, often the primary source of income in families. Around 90% of all road deaths in 2002 occurred in low and middle income nations. Road trauma is thought to cost these nations between 1% and 2% of their gross national product; more than the aid they receive every year. However, some developed nations have demonstrated that road trauma is preventable.

#### Recommendations:

- Limit exposure to risk via transport and land use policy
- Construct the road network to prevent injuries
- Legislate and enforce key road safety rules
- Improve post crash care
- Address key issues like speeding, drink driving, restraint wearing, helmet wearing (especially in low-middle income nations)
- For public and private sectors to work together, across areas like transport, health and manufacturing
- Develop targets and a national road safety strategy

For more information go to: [www.who.int/en/](http://www.who.int/en/)

### Road Safety Day in Victoria

The Victorian Chapter of the College hosted Victoria's World Health Day event. Professor

Peter Vulcan, former Director of MUARC, Mr Eric Howard, General Manager Road Safety, VicRoads, and Professor Ian Johnston, Director MUARC presented the Past, Present and Future of Road Safety in Victoria respectively. The seminar was launched by The Honourable Rob Hulls, Minister Responsible for the TAC, who also presented the Victorian government road safety partners (TAC, VicRoads, Victoria Police and Dept of Justice) with a Prince Michael Award, for their collaborative approach to tackling road safety. The British organisation Road Safe presents these international awards to organisations or individuals who make outstanding contributions to road safety.

### UNITED NATIONS

In response to World Road Safety Day, the UN devoted for the first time, a plenary session to Road Safety. Secretary-General Kofi Annan argued that the key to preventing road trauma is the commitment of relevant sectors to work together to make road safety happen. He highlighted the importance of partnerships between public and private sectors across domains. The general assembly of the UN discussed implementing the WHO Report recommendations.

### SAFEROADS 2004 CONFERENCE

The Saferoads partnership, VicRoads, Victoria Police, TAC, Municipal Association of Victoria, LG Pro and RACV, aims to assist municipalities to work toward improving road safety at the local level. The theme of this year's conference was "Saferoads 2004: Key Issues - Local Solutions", with an emphasis on promoting a multi-disciplined approach, involving collaboration with partners, and strategic integration of community programs.

The local and international keynote speakers were Chief Commissioner Christine Nixon and Ms Jeanne Breen respectively. Ms Breen has been involved in transport safety for 25 years. Based in London, she was responsible for establishing and developing two non government organisations, in London and Brussels, and promoting research-based transport safety policies at national and international levels. Jeanne was recently involved in writing the World Health Organisation Road Injury Prevention Report referenced above.

For more information about the conference or to access the conference papers and abstracts go to: <http://www.saferoads2004.com/downloads.shtml>



## ACRS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The National and Victorian Chapter annual general meetings were held in May. At the Victorian Chapter AGM the new committee was elected and at the first meeting of the new committee held on Wednesday 23 June 2004 the Executive Committee was elected.

The Chapter welcomes and congratulates David Healy as the new Chair and Peter Frauenfelder as the new Secretary. Also congratulations go to David Skewes and David Bowd who will continue in their roles as Vice Chair and Treasurer respectively.

After significant service in their roles outgoing Chair Anne Harris and outgoing Secretary Greg Rowe stepped down from their positions. On behalf of its members the Victorian Chapter Committee would like to thank Anne and Greg for their dedicated and exceptional contribution to the College in their roles and looks forward to their continued advice and guidance as part of the committee.

## HYPOTHETICAL @ PARLIAMENT

On 23 March 2004 the Victorian Chapter of the College held its first "Hypothetical" in the Legislative Assembly at Parliament House in Spring St. Discussing the issue of Emerging liability issues for businesses with fleets, the College assembled a panel of experts which discussed a hypothetical case of a worker seriously injured while driving for work. Legal liability, OH&S, employer, employee and fleet responsibilities were all addressed. Facilitated by Mr Jim Jarvis a very stimulating, informed and entertaining discussion resulted and hailed as a success by many of the 100 or so chapter members who attended.

## VEHICLE SAFETY SEMINAR

On 10 August 2004 the Victorian Chapter of the College held a forum discussing recent advances in vehicle safety in Sweden and Victoria. Guest speakers included Mr Anders Lie, Vehicle Safety Specialist, Swedish National Road Administration and Mr Julian Del Beato, Research Engineer, RACV.

Mr Lie gave an overview of road safety in Sweden including the Vision Zero concept. Vision Zero was passed by Swedish Parliament in 1997 representing an entirely new way of thinking with respect to road traffic safety. The stated long term goal is that no-one shall be killed or seriously injured within the Swedish road transport system. More specifically, Mr Lie outlined a multidimensional model of the many factors which lead to safe driving, including the human tolerance to forces, infrastructure design, vehicle safety, road rule compliance etc.



Mr Del Beato gave an overview of the Australian New Car Assessment Program (ANCAP). ANCAP is designed to provide consumers with information about how well new vehicle models protect their occupants in serious crashes.

Mr Del Beato discussed the most recent advances and testing regimes and what the test results mean for the safety of vehicles and the consumers buying them.

For more information about ANCAP refer to the February 2004 edition of this newsletter.

## COMING EVENTS

### ACRS Victorian Chapter Seminar *Roads & Road Safety: A European & Australian Perspective - EuroRAP & AusRAP*

The aim of EuroRAP & AusRAP is to provide a safety rating for roads. Guest speakers include **Professor Claes Tingvall**, Director of Traffic Safety at the Swedish National Road Administration and **Dr Ken Ogden**, General Manager, Public Policy, RACV.

**When:** Wednesday 10 November 2004 at 4pm  
**Where:** TAC Auditorium, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, 222 Exhibition St. Melbourne  
**RSVP:** [jgspeas@bigpond.com.au](mailto:jgspeas@bigpond.com.au)

## PAST EDITIONS

To access previous editions of any of the Victorian Chapter newsletters go to:

<http://www.acrs.org.au/collegethapters/victoria/newsletters.html>



ACRS Victorian Chapter Newsletter Committee  
Paul Tierney - Email: [paul\\_tierney@tac.vic.gov.au](mailto:paul_tierney@tac.vic.gov.au) Shannon Newman - Email: [shannon@tim-newman.com](mailto:shannon@tim-newman.com)  
Natasha Anderson - Email: [natasha\\_anderson@racv.com.au](mailto:natasha_anderson@racv.com.au) Dale Cofield - Email: [Dale.Cofield@roads.vic.gov.au](mailto:Dale.Cofield@roads.vic.gov.au)  
Website: <http://www.acrs.org.au>

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