



MEDIA RELEASE

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Vale Peter Rocke

The Executive Council and Secretariat of the Victorian Transport Association extends its deepest sympathies and condolences to the family and friends of Peter Rocke, who passed away last night.

Peter was a doyen of the road transport industry and a significant supporter of the VTA, serving as President in 1987 when the association was then known as the Victorian Road Transport Association.

Peter was also heavily involved in related industry groups and spent much of his working life advocating for better conditions for freight operators through his involvement with the VTA, and later the Australian Trucking Association, the Road Transport Federation and the National Freight Forwarding Association.

Hailing from a transport family – his great-grandfather started the family business carting supplies from Melbourne to the Bendigo goldfields in the 1850s – Peter joined the family business E.A. Rocke in 1955 at the persuasion of his father, Gerald.

He remained with the business through its eventual acquisition by transport company F.H. Stephens, which was later acquired by Mayne Nickless. Peter worked in numerous senior roles with Mayne Nickless including Victorian Operations Manager, General Manager of International Operations, Director of Operations and Regional Director, Victoria & Tasmania.

The Rocke name re-emerged in 2003 with the establishment of Rocke Bros. owned and managed by Peter's sons Michael, Mathew and Paul, with Peter serving as Chairman.

VTA CEO Peter Anderson said road freight operators owed a debt of gratitude to Peter Rocke for his lifelong service to the transport industry.

“Along with his highly visible roles advocating for the industry through the VTA, ATA and other associations, Peter mentored many people in the transport industry and did a lot of work to raise the working and safety standards for sub-contractors and owner-drivers,” Mr Anderson said.

“As Chairman of the Port of Melbourne for several years, Peter was heavily involved in reform at the waterfront in the 1990s, and as a skilled industrial relations specialist he was always available to offer advice and support.

“We offer our deepest condolences to Peter’s wife Ann and their children and extended family on the loss of one of our industry’s finest servants,” he said.

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