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Victorian Transport Association Update 11 October 2019



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VTA E-News

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VTA gets behind Mental Health Month October

VTA backs World Mental Health Day Mental ill-health is a growing problem in our workforces and communities, which is why the VTA has been increasingly supportive of industry efforts to identify potential mental health issues before they become a larger problem. One in five Australians are affected by mental illness – yet many don't seek help because of the stigma associated with mental ill-health. Read VTA CEO Peter Anderson's statement on World Mental Health Day [here](#).

Victorians urged to report Dangerous Goods practices in new campaign

As part of a new Andrews Labor Government awareness campaign, Victorians are being asked to report unsafe Dangerous Goods (DG) storage and handling practices. The six-week campaign will urge all members of the public to call [WorkSafe](#) if they suspect DG – such as drums or containers of flammable liquids – are being stored, handled or disposed of in a way which might be unsafe. The campaign comes after legislation was introduced creating tough new penalties for the illegal storage and handling of DG, which could see individuals face up to 10 years in jail and body corporates fined more than \$6.4 million for the most serious offences. This campaign aims to encourage transport workers to not only report unsafe practices but also increase their awareness of their obligations under the [Dangerous Goods Act](#). Anyone concerned about the storage and handling of DG can call WorkSafe's advisory service on 1800 136 089.

NHVR performs its biggest operation to date

A recent national operation performed by the [National Heavy Vehicle Regulator](#) (NHVR), inspecting more than 3500 heavy vehicles, including oversize over mass and Performance Based Standards (PBS) combinations, has found that 93 per cent were compliant with their permit or notice conditions. This year's operation was designed to better educate drivers on compliance and saw officers from 10 agencies including police, state transport branches and the NHVR deployed to a staggering 142 locations across Australia, a significant increase from the 28 locations utilised in 2018. This initiative was a positive step forward for the industry and only saw 25.9 per cent of intercepts resulting in a warning to and information for operators.

Safe Work Australia launches National Safety Campaign

Government agency, [Safe Work Australia](#), launched its [National Safe Work Month](#) on 1 October to help build safe and healthy workplaces for all Australians. Each year in October, Safe Work Australia runs their awareness raising initiatives as part of National Safe Work Month. This year's theme is "Be a Safety Champion" – invites everyone to promote best practice work health and safety initiatives at their workplace. This National Safe Work Month the VTA urges transport employers and operators to be actively involved in promoting the health and safety among their workforces. Campaign resources and information is available on the Safe Work Australia [website](#) and will assist workplaces and operators to promote the Be a Safety Champion theme.

Victorian Government announces \$870M investment in road maintenance

The Victorian Government has announced a \$870 million investment in a road maintenance blitz. It will see hundreds of freeways, arterials and rural roads used by Victorians and commercial transport companies be rebuilt and resurfaced over the next two years. According to the Government, the investment will upgrade more than 1,800 kilometres of road, repair 150,000 potholes and trim more than 30,000 kilometres of roadside vegetation across Victoria in the next year alone. Key arterial roads like the Monash Freeway, Princes Freeway, Maroondah Highway and Cranbourne-Frankston Road are just some of the roads

set to receive asphalt resurfacing. A more detailed list of key arterials set for upgrades can be found [here](#).

NHVR flags EWD application review process

The [National Heavy Vehicle Regulator](#) (NHVR) is eager to have the first qualified Electronic Work Diary (EWD) system available to market, however not before some areas are clarified from applications currently being assessed for approval. As an electronic device or system, EWD's are required to be approved by the regulator, that monitor and record the work and rest times of a driver as a voluntary alternative to a traditional written work diary. The EWD Policy [Framework](#) and [Standards](#) document released by the NHVR back in 2017, was developed in association with technology providers, transport operators and police and is subject to comprehensive review and consultation. There is currently no application fee to apply for approval of an EWD and any approved EWDs will be listed on the NHVR [website](#).

VICT announces new company CEO

The [Victorian International Container Terminal \(VICT\)](#) has announced the appointment of Tim Vancampen as the company's new CEO who will join the VICT team at the end of November. Tim has previously held numerous senior management positions in Europe, America and Africa and brings a wealth of knowledge in port automation and terminal management, having worked on the world's first automated ports in Antwerp. At the same time, the VICT farewells Anders Dømmestrup who for the past five years has assisted in the delivery of Australia's first fully automated container terminal. The VTA wishes both men all the best in their new positions.

Vale Alexander John MacLeod

The Executive Council and Secretariat of the Victorian Transport Association extends our sincerest sympathies to family, friends and colleagues of Alex MacLeod, who passed away recently aged 90. Alex was a staunch supporter of the then VTRA for over 40 years and served as a member of the Executive Council for over a decade and also served as Chairman of the Port of Geelong Authority, Chairman of the Geelong Economic Board, Managing Director of TransWest, General Manager of Blakistons, and a Manager with Albion Reid/Boral. He was widely respected by the industry, VTA membership and Transport Workers Union, who will remember him as a gentleman that served the industry with distinction and humility. Alex is survived by his wife Helen, to whom we extend our deepest condolences.

Registrations are now open for VTA Golf Day 2019

One of the VTA's most popular social events is only weeks away and we are encouraging you to register for the annual VTA [TWUSUPER](#) Golf Day, being held on Friday, 15 November. In a break with recent tradition, the day is being held at the prestigious [Victoria Golf Club](#) and we urge you and your team to register early to avoid missing out on what is always an enjoyable and memorable event. For pricing and further information please refer to the flyer [here](#). To register, visit the event booking page here, or complete the complete the [registration form](#) and return to the VTA by email at events@vta.com.au.

VTA Driver Delivery Program- Candidates available

As members are aware, the VTA has been a vocal advocate for driver training as a mechanism for attracting new people to the industry, and our Driver Delivery program has trained dozens of new drivers and placed them in employment. We have a number of candidates who have recently completed the Driver Delivery program and we are keen to place them in driving positions with our members. The candidates vary in the types of heavy vehicles licences that they have attained and if you have available positions in your business and wish to obtain more details, please contact Deborah Hogg at the VTA on 96468590 or Deborah@vta.com.au

Save the date for VTA Christmas Lunch

The VTA's Christmas Lunch is fast approaching and we are encouraging you to Save the Date – Friday, 13 December – for the event, being held at the MCC Members Dining Room, Melbourne Cricket Ground. The day will be filled with great food, drinks entertainment, prizes and giveaways and will provide an opportunity to celebrate the years successes. Further details to come.

Training

- [Prescribed Industrial Waste](#) –15th, 22nd and 29th of October & 12th November 2019
- Master Class – [Coaching & Developing People](#) – 17th October 2019
- [Performance Based Standards \(PBS\) Training 101](#) – 23rd October 2019
- Chain of Responsibility – [Awareness](#) – 13th November 2019
- [Pallet Management for Pallet Controllers](#) – 14th November 2019
- Chain of Responsibility – [Safe Loads](#) – 20th November 2019

Upcoming Events

- VTA Golf Day, Friday, 15 November, [Victoria Golf Club](#)
- VTA Christmas Lunch, 13 December, [Members' Dining Room, Melbourne Cricket Ground](#)