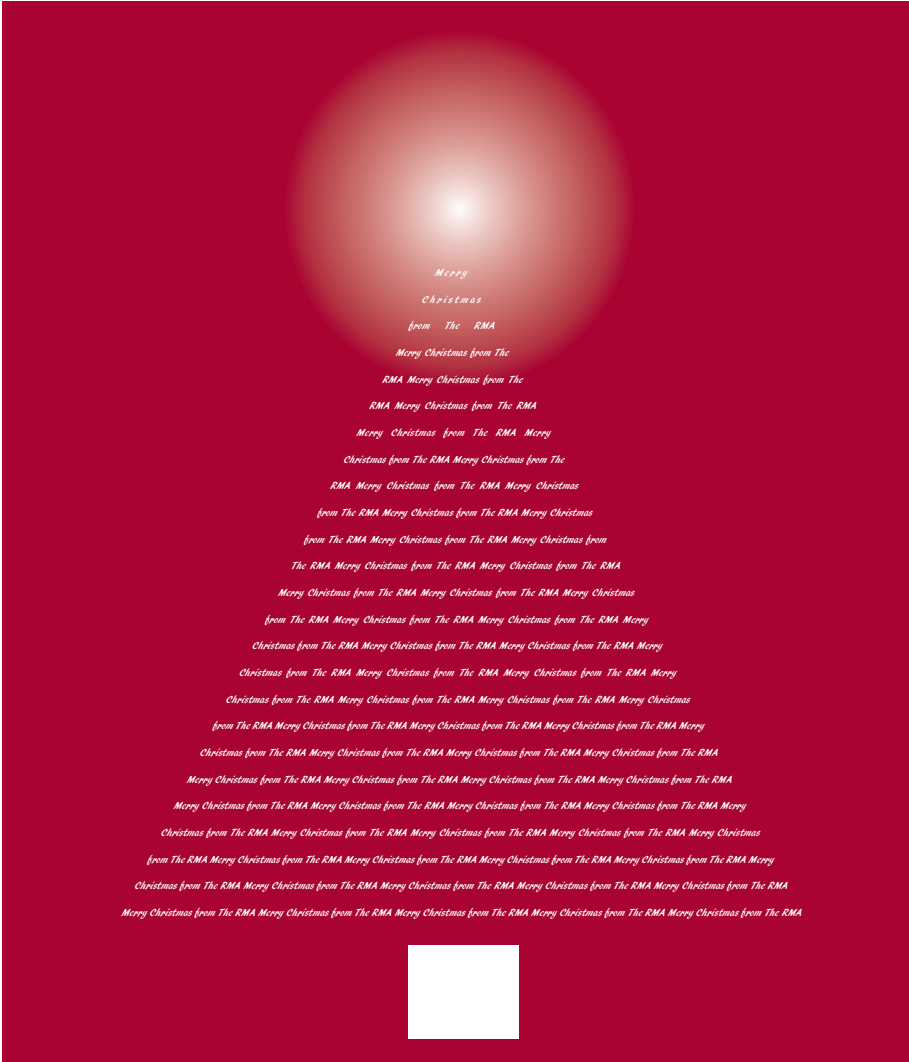


Revenue Management Association

NEWSLETTER



December Edition 2002

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MESSAGE FROM NEWSLETTER CO-ORDINATOR

Hello and welcome to the first edition of the RMA newsletter for 2002/2003 year.

Firstly I welcome Kerrie Wellington to the Committee as Legal/Publicity and assistant newsletter co ordinator.

If you have anything you would like placed or to see in the newsletter please email Vanessa at vanessa.faulkner@nillumbik.vic.gov.au or Kerrie at kwellington@darebin.vic.gov.au

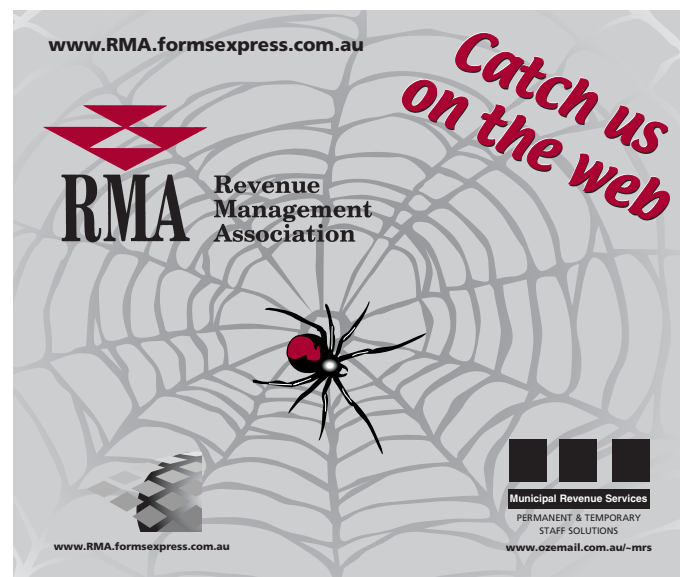
In September 2002 I attended a graduation night with Doxa Career Plus as one of our trainees was graduating. The Career Plus program is an excellent opportunity for young people who are disadvantaged or unable to obtain full time employment, the Doxa staff are very supportive of the trainees throughout the whole trainee course usually 12 months. These young people are really grateful to be given a chance and are keen to learn and develop office skills to continue their employment, the benefit to us is we can train them the way we want them to operate. Nillumbik Shire has had 2 trainees from the program and they are both now fully employed with Nillumbik 1 in the revenue services area the other 1 in the property services area. I strongly recommend this program if you require new staff, for further information please contact Doxa on 9376 7900 and see the article a view from a Trainee written by Seamus Spillane.

Looking forward to another great year with the RMA.

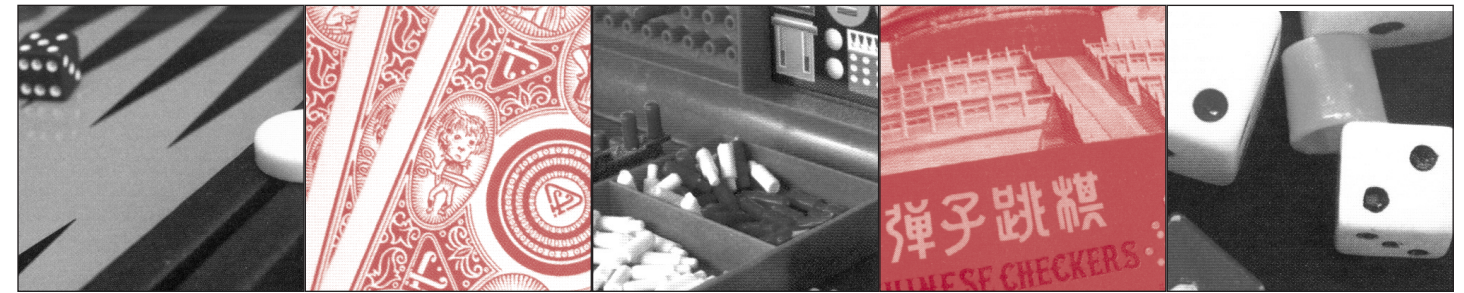
Vanessa Faulkner
Newsletter Co ordinator
Revenue Management Association.

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- > Games / Puzzle page



PUZZLE PAGE



Find the 19 names of the rivers below in the word find. There is 1 river still in the puzzle email the name of this river to vanessa.faulkner@nillumbik.vic.gov.au no later than 29th November 2002 to win a prize.

R	E	B	I	T	S	V	C	Y	N	J	A
E	N	I	H	R	I	U	A	O	O	C	S
N	I	L	E	S	O	N	D	R	N	E	R
N	W	C	T	Z	G	N	D	N	G	G	P
H	O	U	O	T	A	A	O	N	I	E	O
L	L	S	S	L	N	M	A	Z	N	L	E
A	Z	E	D	P	O	G	B	I	A	B	F
U	I	S	K	U	J	R	E	E	U	M	V
N	O	N	N	A	H	S	A	N	Z	O	A
M	E	K	O	N	G	T	A	D	L	I	D
S	E	M	A	H	T	D	O	G	O	X	H
R	E	G	I	N	Y	M	A	D	X	Z	D

- AMAZON
- COLORADO
- CONGO
- DANUBE
- GANGES
- HUDSON
- INDUS
- JORDAN
- MEKONG
- NIGER
- RHINE
- SEINE
- SHANNON
- THAMES
- TIBER
- VISTULA
- VOLGA
- YANGTS
- ZAMBEZI

The Missing River is called

GENERAL INFORMATION

RMA Meeting Dates
For 2002/2003

December 2002 - 6.12.02

March 2003 - 14.03.03

August 2003 - 15.08.03

RMA Newsletter Cut Off Dates
For 2002/2003

October 18th - December Edition

January 6th - Country Edition

June 23rd - AGM Edition

NEW PENALTY INTEREST RATE

The Penalty Interest rate of 12% was gazetted on 29/8/02 effective from 25/8/02. For Council's this new rate will become effective for the 2003/2004 rating year.

Local Authorities Revenue Management Association	This is the Queensland Branch of RMA. Their first conference will be held in Brisbane 28th & 29th November 2002. For information contact Paul Browne on 9205 5261 or email brownep@yarracity.vic.gov.au
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COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2003

Get your Voter's rolls ready as 53 Councils will be having elections in March 2003.

SRO Wording to be included in Council's publications for Land Tax Valuations.

Mr Graeme Wallace from the State Revenue Office would like Council's to include the following wording in Council's Brochures and websites where the use of Valuations are explained. The suggested wording is -:

The State Revenue Office uses site values for the purpose of assessing land tax under the Land Tax Act 1958. The site value of land returned at the 2002 council general valuation, which will appear on council rate notices for 2002/2003, will be used for land tax in 2004/2005. There is no right of objection or appeal to a council valuation arising from its use for land tax. Therefore, any objections against the 2002 general level of valuation must be made to local councils within the time limits prescribed under the Valuation of Land Act 1960.

Further information on the use of valuations for land tax can be found on the State Revenue Office website at www.sro.vic.gov.au

PRESIDENTS REPORT



The Association's Annual General Meeting held at the Jika International Hotel/Convention Centre in Fairfield, on the 30th. August 2002, was one of the best attended Meetings the Association has held since its inception. The Association is indebted to our major sponsors for the A.G.M. - Maddocks - Lawyers & Consultants; Anstat Property Information; and Geac Enterprise Solutions; and is most appreciative of the presentations given, and the contributions made, by the representatives of the major sponsors, to such a successful day.

Most informative presentations were also provided by Renata Plessinger from American Express, Brenton Vilcins from N.R.E. and Andrew Muscat from Human Services; and the Association appreciates their ongoing support for the R.M.A.

One of the highlights of the day was the Bob Patterson Address presented by Paul Maley, whose experiences in the U.S.A., Ireland, Europe and Australia, as a professional basketballer, provided a very real insight as to how determination and dedication can lead to success, and how essential a sense of humour is in our dealings with people from all walks of life.

The success of the Meeting, in terms of attendance, sponsorship, speakers and presentations, has provided the Executive Committee with the challenge of continuing to provide quality venues and varied, topical, interesting and challenging issues and presentations. If you have any ideas or preferences on Meeting venues, topics, issues etc. please contact any member of the Executive Committee whose portfolio and contact details are listed in this Newsletter.

On the subject of the Executive Committee, I am most appreciative of the decision taken by the other members of the Executive Committee to re-elect me as President of the Association for the 2002-2003 year. I look forward to representing the interests of all members of the Association, and promoting the aims and objectives of the R.M.A.

I would also like to extend congratulations to Kerrie Wellington from Darebin on her election to the Executive Committee, and to the Committee members who were re-elected at the A.G.M. The Association is indebted to Mike Piritidis for his contribution to the Association as a member of the Executive Committee last year.

The Association continues to be recognised as the peak body representing Revenue Managers in Victoria, as exemplified by our continuing involvement in Local Government and State Government Working Parties and Task Forces reviewing Legislation, Regulations, Guidelines, work practices, "e commerce", and IT developments.

The Associations support provided to our counterparts in Queensland, has resulted in the Association being invited to attend the inaugural Local Authorities Revenue Management Association Conference on the 28th. & 29th. November 2002, in Brisbane. That has been complemented by the invitation received from the N.S.W. Rating Professionals, for the R.M.A. President or his representative, to attend the Annual Conference in Newcastle on the 19th., 20th. & 21st. March 2003, and present a paper on rating processes, trends, and applicable Legislation in Victoria, prior to the 1995 amalgamations, and since then.

The details of our next Meeting on Friday, 6th. December 2002, are contained in the Meeting Notice accompanying this Newsletter. Please make a special effort to attend and participate in the presentations scheduled, and the surprise special events and activities planned for the day; and the opportunity to expand your R.M.A. network.

I look forward to welcoming you to the Meeting, and to hosting the social/ Christmas drinks and nibbles at the end of the day.

Haydn Williams. F.R.M.A.

President.

Ph. 03 9599 4480 (Bus.)

03 9532 4139 (Home)

Mobile: 0417 390 341

A VIEW FROM A TRAINEE

Nillumbik Shire Council and DOXA over the past year have given me a great opportunity to enter in to the workforce with the extra support I needed. Before I started at Nillumbik, DOXA prepared me for work by putting me through their four-week pre-employment program. This program includes a three-day camp that looks at how to work as a team, a day on dressing for work and also a shopping day where DOXA gives each trainee in the program \$150.00 to purchase clothing for work.

August 20th came and I started work at Nillumbik. I was taken through this maze of corridors and was shown my desk. From this point on I was trained up in the daily tasks of the department while also studying on the job towards my Certificate 3 in Business (Officer Administration).


The Monday before my 21st Birthday DOXA came out and visited my mentor Vanessa and I to see how I was doing. Somehow from that visit Vanessa found out my birthday was coming up and organized this huge morning tea/party without me knowing about it. I was surprised that after working at Nillumbik for 8 days, my collages cared so much about me that they organized this morning tea/party.


During the 12months DOXA continued to visit Vanessa and I to review my progress and offer support in my development as an employee. This give me an opportunity to discuss any difficulties I was experiencing and ask questions I had about work. The 12months went quickly and I learnt a lot of what a revenue and property department does.

An outstanding achievement award is given to the trainee that has shown the most improvement and achievement throughout the 12months. I was a runner up and as I have been nominated for this award DOXA took all the nominated trainees to the Melbourne Grand Prix in a corporate box for a day.

Overall Nillumbik and DOXA has given me a chance to enter the workforce and prove my self as an employee. This has enabled me to gain a full time position at Nillumbik as a Property Officer.

Séamus Spillane


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RMA COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND THE COUNCIL'S THEY REPRESENT

Paul Browne -	Campaspe, Central Goldfields,Darebin, Hepburn, Loddon, Macdeon Ranges, Moorabool, Mount Alexander, Yarra.
Terry Everett -	Brimbank, Ganawarra, Hume, Melton, Mildura, Moonee Valley, Moreland, Swan Hill
Vanessa Faulkner -	Alpine, Delatite, Indigo, Moira, Murrindindi, Towong, Wangaratta, Whittlesea, Wodonga
Ian Holland -	Bass Coast, Bendigo, Dandenong, Frankston, Mornington Peninsula, Shepparton, South Gippsland, Strathbogie
Rod Leith -	Ararat, Ballarat, Buloke, Hindmarsh, Horsham, Northern Grampians, Pyrenees, West Wimmera, Yarriambiak
Megan Woods -	Baw Baw, East Gippsland, Golden Plains, Knox, Latrobe, Manningham, Nillumbik, Wellington, Yarra Ranges.
Haydn Williams -	Bayside, Glen Eira, Kingston, Melbourne, Port Phillip, Southern Grampians, Stonnington, Warrnambool.
Mario Patti -	Colac Otway, Corangamite, Geelong, Hobsons Bay, Maribyrnong, Moyne, Queenscliffe, Surf Coast, Wyndham
Kerrie Wellington -	Banyule, Boroondara, Cardinia, Casey, Glenelg, Maroondah, Mitchell, Monash, Whitehorse


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To discuss your Council's requirements, please contact our Local Government Industry Managers:

Carl Jones Tel: 03 5229 1568 Mobile: 0408 402 722 Email: cjones@rmg.com.au	Brooke Boyd Tel: (03) 9320 2334 Mobile: 0408 402 774 Email: bboyd@rmg.com.au
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HEAD OFFICE
RMG House, 363 King StreetMelbourne Vic 3000
Telephone: 1300 13 5284 Facsimile: (03) 9326 4588
Email: contact@rmg.com.au Website: www.rmg.com.au

CORE COUNCIL'S TO APPEAL TO HIGH COURT

Bayside, Frankston, Moreland and Yarra have been battling the companies for five years to pay rates for stringing their telecommunications cables in public space.

In April 2002 the Full Bench of the Federal Court overturned an earlier decision of the court that directed the telecommunication companies to pay the rate notices issued by the Councils.

It is the view of the MAV that Telstra and Optus escaped on a technicality, despite the court acknowledging that councils had an obligation to issue rate notices.

The CORE Councils have received legal advice that they have an equal chance of succeeding in their appeal.

The MAV believes the sovereignty of local government to rate all property owners fairly and

equitably is at stake and we fully support the council's decision to continue pursuing the matter. Telstra and Optus now owe the local communities of these four councils in excess of \$2 million in outstanding rates and interest.

There have been questions raised over the cost of the appeal to the High Court. This cost is minimal in comparison to the benefits that will flow to communities by forcing these commercial entities to play the same rules as other businesses.

The Mayors of the CORE Councils said they are committed to pursuing the matter as the financial sustainability and viability of local communities relies upon all profit driven businesses paying their fair share of council rates.

This Report supplied from the MAV Website

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Like to know more?

For more information contact
Marie Treacy
Business Development Manager
marie.treacy@maddocks.com.au

ML&C Collections Pty Ltd
140 William Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000
www.maddocks.com.au

Telephone 61 3 9288 0555
Facsimile 61 3 9288 0666
Email inof@maddocks.com.au

CHRISTMAS 2002

The RMA committee wish you all a wonderful christmas and a safe and properous new year.

Christmas Tree Facts.

The tree, used as a symbol of life, is a tradition older than Christianity and not exclusive to any one religion. It's a part of our holiday customs that engages not only our senses of sight, touch and smell but also our sense of tradition, hope and good will. Long before there was a Christmas, Egyptians brought green palm branches into their homes on the shortest day of the year in December as a symbol of life's triumph over death. Romans adorned their homes with evergreens during Saturnalia, a winter festival in honour of Saturnus, their God of Agriculture. Druid priests decorated oak trees with golden apples for their winter solstice festivities. In the Middle Ages the Paradise tree, an evergreen hung with red apples, was the symbol of the feast of Adam and Eve held on December 24th. The first recorded reference to the Christmas tree dates back to the 16th century. Decorated fir trees with coloured paper, fruits and sweets.



RECIPE - Jewelled honey nougat

Preparation time: 25 Mins

Cooking time: 10 Mins

2 1/2 cups granulated sugar

1 tsp vanilla extract

100 mixed glace cherries

1 cup liquid glucose

125g blanched almonds

rice paper

1/3 cup honey

125g pistachio kernels

2 egg whites

Preheat oven to 200C. Line the base of an 18 x 28cm tin with rice paper so it sits flat and does not overlap. Put the sugar and glucose in a heavy based saucepan and stir over medium heat until the mixture comes to the boil. Put the honey in a small saucepan and stir over medium heat until the mixture comes to the boil. Put the honey in a small saucepan and warm gently until runny. Do not allow the honey to boil as this will alter its flavour.

Place a sugar thermometer in the mixture and boil until the mixture reaches 140C(the soft-crack stage). If you don't have a sugar thermometer, drop a little of the syrup into a bowl of iced water, remove the sugar drop and stretch it between your fingers. If the syrup separates into hard but elastic strands, it has reached soft-crack stage. Pour in the honey.

Put the egg whites in a clean, dry bowl and beat until soft peaks form. With the motor running, slowly drizzle the syrup down the side of the bowl and whisk until the mixture is stiff and firm.

Put the nuts on a baking tray Heat in the oven for 10 minutes, Fold the vanilla extract, butts and cherries through the egg-white mixture.

Spread the mixture into the tin with an oiled palette knife or spatuala. Smooth the surface and cover the top with another layer of rice paper. Allow to stand for six hours. Using a lightly oiled knife, cut into long bars or small squares. Wrap in gift paper and tie with string.

RMA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Position	Name	Council	Contact Details
President	Haydn Williams	City of Bayside	Bus: 9599 4480 Fax: 9599 4456 Email: hwilliams@bayside.vic.gov.au
Vice President & Membership Co-Ordinator	Rod Leith	City of Ballarat	Bus: 5320 5518 Fax: 5332 8122 Email: rodleith@ballarat.vic.gov.au
Secretary	Terry Everett	City of Moreland	Bus: 9240 2210 Fax: 9240 2420 Email: teverett@moreland.vic.gov.au
Treasurer	Megan Woods	Shire of Nillumbik	Bus: 9433 3275 Fax: 9432 9559 Email: megan.woods@nillumbik.vic.gov.au
Special Projects & Marketing Co-Ordinator	Paul Browne	City of Yarra	Bus: 9205 5261 Fax: 9205 5266 Email: brownep@yarracity.vic.gov.a
Newsletter Co-Ordinator	Vanessa Faulkner	Shire of Nillumbik	Bus: 9433 3286 Fax: 9432 9559 Email: vanessa.faulkner@nillumbik.vic.gov.au
Communications Co-Ordinator	Mario Patti	City of Maribyrnong	Bus: 9688 0350 Fax: 9689 3478 Email: mario.patti@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au
Minute Secretary	Ian Holland	City of Frankston	Bus: 9784 1850 Fax: 9781 3117 Email: Ian.Holland@frankston.vic.gov.au
Legal/Publicity Co-Ordinator & Assistant Newsletter Co-Ordinator	Kerrie Wellington	City of Darebin	Bus: 9230 4626 Fax: 9230 4438 Email: kwellington@darebin.vic.gov.au

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SHOWCASE

The Revenue Management Association is proud to support the inaugural Local Government Suppliers Showcase. Featuring almost 100 exhibitors, Mark this date in your diary as a "must do" and stay tuned for special offers for all RMA members.



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The Committee has determined membership categories and fees for 2002/2003 will be as follows:-

Associate (ARMA)	\$35.00	(An individual who is an Administrative Officer and a Council employee)
Member (MRMA)	\$55.00	(An individual who is a Council employee and holds a Managerial or Supervisory position)
Fellow (FRMA)	\$60.00	(An individual who has held the Member status for more than 5 years)
Corporate Associate (CARMA)	\$55.00	(An individual who is associated with a Supplier of goods or services)
Corporate (CRMA)	\$100.00	(A business or organisation, ie not an individual or Council)

All members should now have received their Renewal Notices. Fees are due to be paid by **30 November 2002**, so please ensure that you do so. Also check that the details we have are still current.

For at least the 3rd year running the Committee has resolved not to increase fees.

Please note changes to the criteria for some categories. Also a new category of Corporate Associate has been introduced to differentiate between associate members from Councils and Corporations.

Contact me at the City of Ballarat on (03) 5320 5518 if you need to check any details. You can advise me of any changes to your details on your Membership Renewal Notice, or you can E-mail me at rodleith@ballarat.vic.gov.au

Rod Leith

Vice-President/Membership Co-ordinator



John Zukerman



Lisa Deppeler



Leigh Marescaux

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0407 419 994

Leigh Marescaux
8627 0705

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