



petrol tax plan

Canberra set to lift levy by 1c a litre

From RUSSELL BARTON

CANBERRA. — Motorists face a further one cent a litre petrol price rise after next month's Budget.

Federal Cabinet is believed to have decided to announce in the Budget a one cent a litre special excise levy earmarked for spending on upgrading main roads.

The levy will increase to two cents next financial year and will continue until the bicentenary, 1988, when it will be reviewed.

It will take the price of super petrol to almost 42 cents in Melbourne, representing a rise of about five cents a litre within a few weeks.

Other recent rises in Melbourne have been caused by the Federal Government's import parity price adjustment on 1 July and a brake on discounting.

The Government expects the levy to raise up to \$150 million this financial year to be channelled into a special highway trust fund.

The revenue harvest will swell to between \$300 million and \$350 million in 1983-84 when the levy rises to two cents a litre and the scheme operates for a full year.

The idea for the excise increase was born at last month's Premier's Conference. The Queensland Premier, Mr Bjelke-Petersen, put the proposal, on behalf of the other Premiers, that a special levy be imposed to upgrade roads in preparation for the bicentenary.

The Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, and the Transport Minister, Mr Hunt, promised to examine the proposal.

The plan touched off a debate in Cabinet on two issues: the inflationary impact of an excise increase, and whether the roads should be earmarked for roads.

Each two cents increase in the price of petrol adds about 0.3 per cent to the consumer price index. With the price increases already on the petrol pumps, the Budget levy will mean a CPI impact of almost 1 per cent.

This will be increased to more than 1 per cent because of the decision by the NSW Premier, Mr Wran to impose a three cents a litre "licence fee" on petrol sales in NSW.

Mr Wran announced the rise at the Premier's Conference.

The Treasury sparked the argument on the second issue. For many years it has been resisting what it calls the "hypothecation", or earmarking of revenue. The department argues that any increases in Government receipts should flow into consolidated revenue, particularly in a year like 1982-83, when revenue is limited by recession.

Cabinet is believed to have approved the excise increase on its political attraction, combined with the recent flattening out of revenue from the oil levy.

Below inflation

Because overseas oil prices have fallen, the price of Australian crude oil (supplying about 70 per cent of our needs) has stopped rising and retail petrol prices have not kept pace with inflation, even though they have continued to creep up.

The existing Commonwealth excise on petrol and diesel fuel is 5.155 cents a litre, but all States except Queensland have added their licence fees — legal devices to enable the States to charge a petrol tax.

The previous Liberal Government in Victoria imposed a licence fee of 2.05 cents a litre on super petrol, 2 cents on standard and 3.33 cents on diesel.

The Australian Automobile Association, which covers all motoring organisations like the RACV, has opposed any excise increase since the Premier's Conference.

Its secretary-general, Mr Bruce Lunn, said last week that motorists were already paying more than \$3000 million in various taxes and less than 25 per cent of that was spent on roads.

The extra \$300 million to \$350 million earmarked for roads will provide a significant increase on the present amount of about \$700 million provided by the Commonwealth to the States each year for road building and maintenance.



Bid to stop Marlboro send-up fails

By MARK METHERELL

The Philip Morris tobacco company has failed in legal manoeuvres to prevent reference to Marlboro being published in an article about spoofs on the Marlboro man in the latest 'Medical Journal of Australia'.

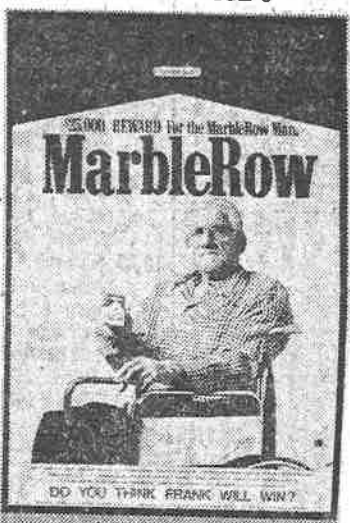
The 'Journal' cover features a picture of a Sydney man who smoked through a tube in his throat after undergoing a tracheotomy, an operation to treat cancer of the larynx, or voice-box. The picture was entered by the anti-smoking group BUGA-UP in a \$25,000 photograph competition staged by Philip Morris last year to find a "Marlboro man of Australia".

The journal article, titled "A tracheotomy for the Marlboro man", said that if the scientific community were to take a more active role in ridiculing cigarette advertisements, particularly those aimed at young people, "then efforts to reduce cigarette sales may meet with greater success than the finger-wagging campaigns of the past".

Publication of the article has brought strong criticism of the Australian Medical Association from a spokesman for Philip Morris. The spokesman, alluding to the recent allegations of medical fraud and overservicing, said that the AMA was diverting attention to other industries when it should be concerned with putting its own house in order.

The Australasian Medical Publishing Company, affiliated with the AMA, got a hand-delivered letter from Philip Morris's Sydney solicitors last Thursday asking that no reference be made to the Marlboro trade-mark in the 'Medical Journal' which was then going to press.

Continued: PAGE 5



The cover of the 'Medical Journal of Australia'.

Must the Governor General grant a double dissolution automatically? PAGE 11



Moments in sport which raise the hairs on the back of your neck PAGE 32

NEWS SUMMARY

Union health fund
The Federal Health Department is believed to have recommended to the Government that Australia's biggest union be allowed to set up its own health insurance fund.

Probate warning
Trustee companies warn State Government against going ahead with its probate legislation.

TV politics
The ALP says controls over political broadcasts by TV stations are inadequate, and guidelines should be drawn up.

Land rights laws
Aboriginal land rights legislation should be changed because it contributed to racial tension, according to the Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, Mr Everingham.

Kidnap move
British SAS troops are reported to be on their way to Zimbabwe to help in the hunt for a group of rebels that has kidnapped tourists, including two Australians.

Fruit industry
Government assistance and controls affecting the ailing commercial fruit industry should be terminated or phased out, according to draft recommendations of the Industries Assistance Commission.

Insurance move
The State Insurance Office will be allowed to move into the general insurance field.

ODD SPOT
A US army infantry battalion has hired an expert to teach recruits a war dance. The instructor says he hopes to develop "tranquillity, courage and tenacity in the warriors".

INDEX TO PAGES

Amusements	26-27
Arts	1-4
Business Age	21-25
Comics, Crossword	24
Editorial	13
Law List	18
Letters	12
Tatts (No 176)	29
World News	6-7, 9
Classified index	28
Personal notices	28
The Age interstate prices	PAGE 2

WEATHER TODAY

VICTORIA: Cold. Squally northwest to southwest wind. Showers. Snow on ranges. Details — 29



Charles, Princess Diana and Prince William

ed as atter airut

— More than 247 people were missing in the West Beirut, ed 6000 PLO...
...at least 21 sep...
...t 247 people...
...t another 395...
...ce Israel re...
...Thursday...
...duels during...
...suburbs in...
...raelis cut off...
...ntensity only...
...l stopped at...
...pital sources...
...ge buildings...
...since Thurs...
...International

Compo costs rise by up to 300 pc

By PETER STEPHENS

Victorian companies are being hit by increases in workers' compensation premiums of up to 300 per cent. The sudden rises have been cited as one of the main reasons for the thousands of layoffs in the manufacturing industry.

The Victorian president of the Metal Trades Industry Association, Mr John Phillips, said last night that big companies were being asked to pay annual premiums of millions of dollars.

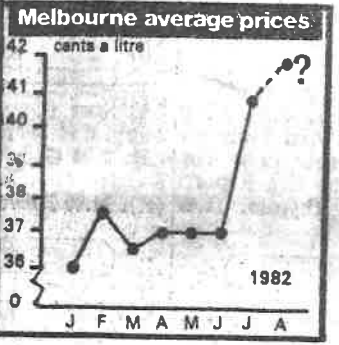
"Companies in our industry employing as few as 20 people now have to meet workers' compensation premiums of around \$30,000 per annum," Mr Phillips said. "This cost, which has been of great concern over recent years, has reached alarming pro-

Senior company officials said the steep rise was passed on to higher prices, if it could not be absorbed, led to a standing down of staff.

Mr Phillips told the MTIA's annual dinner that the association was reviewing the costs and benefits of workers' compensation in Victoria, aiming to cut rapidly rising costs.

It is believed that the MTIA plans to approach the State Government with the results of the review, to seek improvements, and greater efficiency in workers' compensation legislation.

The chief executive of the Insurance Council of Australia, Mr Rodney Smith, said industry had enjoyed a holiday of low premiums for many years, mainly because of heavy discounting of workers' compensation by insurance companies.



When you're reaching for the sky you need your feet firmly on the ground

dangerous volcanic ash

From SIMON BALDERSTONE

CANBERRA. — Australian scientists have developed a method of tracking clouds of volcanic ash which recently posed a serious threat to passenger aircraft near Indonesia.

Scientists from the CSIRO and the West Australian Institute of Technology devised a method to track ash clouds when they disperse and rise to altitudes used by large passenger jets.

The Minister for Science and Technology, Mr Thomson, yesterday described the method as "certainly a brilliant piece of science — and a credit to the ingenuity of Australian science and technology".

On 24 June, a Perth-bound British Airways Boeing 747 carrying 239 passengers lost use of all its engines and fell 25,000 feet over the sea near Jakarta before the pilot was able to restart the engines, which had been fouled by the volcanic dust.

On 14 July, a Singapore Airlines 747 plunged more than 18,000 feet near Java on its way to Melbourne after two of its four engines were rendered useless by volcanic dust. It landed at Jakarta.

After the second incident, the CSIRO and WA Institute of Technology team was asked by the Department of Aviation to attempt to locate a cloud moving closer to the West Australian coast.

The cloud was dispersing, and becoming more difficult to distinguish on normal satellite photographs.

Using a ground station built of surplus Department of Aviation material and able to receive data from a United States satellite, the scientists detected that the silicates content of the cloud gave it a thermal emission pattern (of energy heat) different from other clouds.

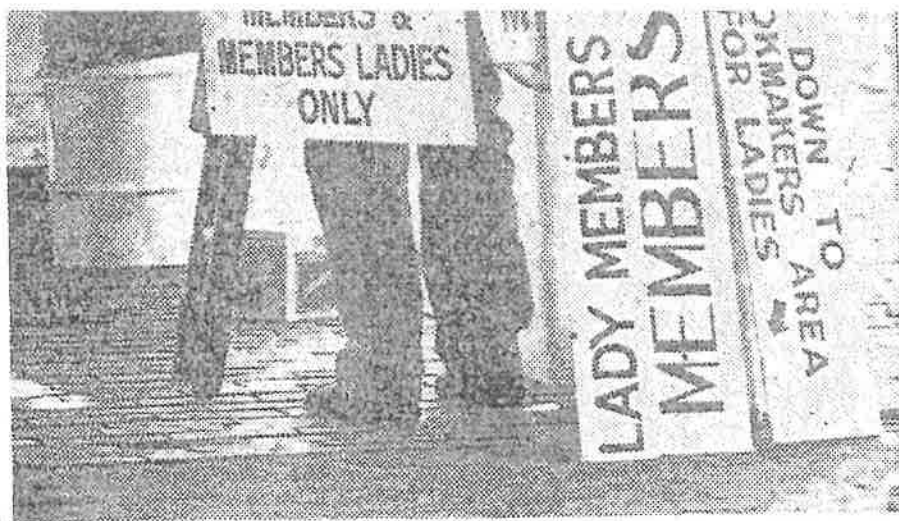
An instrument in the satellite had recognised this difference, but a two-day programming effort was needed to show the difference on a monitor screen.

Dr Frank Honey, of the CSIRO division of ground-water research in Perth, said yesterday:

"When the data was analysed by CSIRO's computer the troublesome cloud showed up on the computer's screen as a smudge of different intensity to the surrounding rain clouds."

The successful recording was made on 17 July after the volcano's second eruption.

Mr Thomson said the team had devised a way of extracting a signal from a "very large amount of irrelevant noise by mathematically subtracting infra-red images and using special signal processing techniques".



Picture: JOHN LAMB

Times are changing at Caulfield racecourse and so must the signs. By 7 August about 80 signs restricting the movement of women in the members' section will have been changed. This follows the Victoria Amateur Turf Club's recent decision to remove sexual discrimination at Caulfield and Sandown. Barriers in the members have also had to be removed.

Bid to stop send-up fails

FROM PAGE 1

The letter, from the solicitors Sly and Russell.

Said: "We are instructed that 'Marlboro' is a registered trade mark owned by our client and that no consent or approval has been given by it to your use of the mark in the article."

The Medical Publishing Company, after consulting its own solicitors, decided to publish the journal, complete with references to Marlboro.

The editor of the journal, Dr Alan Blum, said yesterday that the attempt by Philip Morris to delete references to Marlboro in a publication which had no vested interests indicated the fear the company held about having its image figure ridiculed.

He said he knew of no other instance in which a corporation had dared to challenge the official journal of the nation's medical association.

The director of corporate affairs for Philip Morris, Mr Ken Baxter, said yesterday that the letter from Sly and Russell to the Medical Publishing Company resulted from the cigarette company's standing instruction to its solicitors to protect the company's trademark.

Mr Baxter denied that the company had acted to protect the Marlboro man from ridicule. He said that the solicitors did not know what was in the article.

"We find it ironic that at a time when the entirety of health policy is under scrutiny and serious allegations are being made about the behavior of a section of the medical profession, albeit a small section, that the AMA seems more concerned to divert attention to other industries than concern itself with putting its own house in order and dealing with matters which would appear to take higher priority in the broader public mind," Mr Baxter said.

case was heard by the Arbitration Commission — a body more familiar with the relatively prosaic demands of workaday trades than the rewarding of artistic merit.

It was, in fact, the first time the commission had been asked to arbitrate a claim by ballet dancers — a precedent, according to Mr Baker, that was long overdue.

The commission agreed after a brief hearing to hold a work-value investigation before making a decision on the dancers' claim for a 45 per cent pay rise.

Mr Justice Robinson has been nominated by the Commission to investigate and report on various aspects of the dancers' work over the next six to 12 months.

Mr Baker snatched a few minutes before afternoon rehearsal started yesterday to discuss the dancers' position.

"When the Australian Ballet started in 1962 ballet dancers were the highest paid group in theatre. Now it is the other way around".

He acknowledges that dancers are in an unusual position. "Dancers are dedicated or else they wouldn't be doing it... that's one reason why we would be reluctant to strike."

But the fact remains, he says, that although dancers are artists, their talents are rewarded with a weekly wage that has, in real terms, shrunk steadily in relation to other workers both within and without the theatre.

Actors' Equity organiser Mr Greg Jones, who represented the dancers at yesterday's hearing, says wage rates range from \$190 a week for a first-year dancer to \$381 for the seven principal artists in the company.

"This is supplemented with a touring allowance of \$202.50 a week to pay for accommodation when the company is performing outside Melbourne — which is about half the year," he says.

"The problem is that although the dancers come from all over Australia, Melbourne is regarded as the home town. Many of the dancers have no family support here and find it difficult to live on their wage."

Berber has taken off as Australia's most popular carpet. And Hall's have the biggest range of pure wool and

berbe prices meet

The first carpet since Ali

wool blend berbers around