



ratio consultants newsletter August 2010

this months featured project is:

UCI Road World Championships



In 2010, Melbourne and Geelong will have the honour of hosting the world's second biggest cycling event, the UCI Road World Championships from 29 September to 3 October 2010. It's Victoria's most significant new event since the 2006 Commonwealth Games and it is expected that up to 300,000 spectators will participate over five days to enjoy this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The event is proudly supported by the State Government of Victoria, the City of Melbourne, the City of Greater Geelong and Cycling Australia.

The world's best cyclists from over 50 countries will come to Melbourne and Geelong and the images will be viewed around the world to an expected global audience of 200 million.

Ratio Consultants has been engaged by the Organising Committee to provide traffic & transport management planning services in support of the Event.



Being an international on-road event, the UCI regulations require completely closed roads during race times. The five days of competition will be contested on a 16km circuit within the central and inner-south-west areas of Geelong. With the Men's Elite Road Race being the premier event of the Championships, scheduled for Sunday 3 October 2010 the race starts from Federation Square and outside the Arts Centre and will travel to Geelong over the West Gate Bridge and through the City of Wyndham, finishing with 11 laps of the Geelong Road Race circuit.

The race requirements and the need to maintain access during race times has presented significant challenges to residents, businesses and has presented significant challenges to the traffic and transport management arrangements in Geelong, Werribee, and Melbourne.

Ratio has worked tirelessly in the last 6 months, preparing traffic management plans for the event, as well as participating in consultation with key stakeholders, including the Victoria Police, VicRoads, Department of Transport, City of Greater Geelong, City of Melbourne and Wyndham City Council, as well as providing support to the Organising Committee and Green Wave International (acting on behalf do the Organising Committee as the Traffic & Transport Manager) in formulating solutions to assist residents and businesses with their day to day access and movement needs.

We will continue our involvement in ensuring that the event is delivered safely and spectacular for local and international spectators!

It Doesn't Pay to be Dodgy

Every so often, a VCAT case is reported that makes us wonder, what were they thinking?

In the matter of Brimbank CC v PBS Developments (Vic) Pty Ltd et ors, it appears that a developer thought it was much simpler to forge a Planning Permit for the construction of three dwellings rather than actually applying to Council.

It seems the developer forged a planning permit and was able to obtain a building permit based on the forgery. The Council has sought to stop the construction from continuing, including by a request to the building surveyor to issue a stop work order, which was never issued. As such, Council has sought an enforcement order from the Tribunal and has referred the matter to the Building Control Commission for investigation.

The Tribunal has ordered that construction cease immediately and that the respondents must ensure that no dwelling is occupied. The Council has also reported the matter to Victoria Police.

It is believed that one of the dwellings has been sold to an unsuspecting purchaser.

Council has agreed to allow the developer an opportunity to apply for a belated Planning Permit and a subsequent hearing is scheduled to determine the enforcement order.

We will keep you informed on the progress of this case.

Well done Ratio

Ratio has experienced VCAT advocates and expert witnesses in both town planning and traffic engineering fields to suit every application. Ratio prides itself on effective communication skills and ability to put forward credible arguments. This has recently been recognised by two clients who wrote glowing testimonials about our very own Sam D'Amico and Robbie McKenzie after their VCAT experiences.

The testimonials included:

In relation to Sam:

I just thought I would drop you a line to advise that I was extremely happy with the way Sam handled himself during the VCAT hearing for my property... and when it was his turn to talk he spoke authoritatively and clearly, addressing the relevant issues which related to Planning and not being drawn into emotive responses.

And in relation to Robbie:

In a short amount of time, Robbie was able to understand all the history behind today's hearing and write a strong submission which addressed my concerns. At all stages he managed my expectations and kept me in the loop as to what he thought with regards to the best way to approach the hearing. Furthermore, the way he delivered the submission today in the final hearing was near faultless.

Both Sam and Robbie appeared as advocates in their respective cases.



This issue, we cast our eyes on Brett Young - Traffic Engineer

Likes: Watching the All Blacks win in Australia, in a pub full of kiwis! I'm enjoying checking out the sights of Melbourne, and getting hopelessly lost in the process.

Hobbies: Making my own beer, mountain biking, bush walks, fishing and boxing.

What am I reading right now: Roald Dahl's Complete Collection of Short Stories, one at a time – he's a legend! Look forward to reading his biography afterwards.

If on a desolate island, which three people would you like to be stranded with?

- Matt Watson (not sure if they play his TV show over here but he's a mad fisho from NZ, the guy that caught a marlin off a helicopter, a surfboard and a jetski. Check out this link: <http://www.theultimatefishingshow.com>)
- My good mate Jono (another mad fisho who also has a lot of respect for Matt)
- My girlfriend Karin (I'm pretty sure that's the only female I'm allowed to put down here!)



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Our new staff members:



Claire Murray

SENIOR PLANNER

Claire joined Ratio as a Senior Planner in July 2010. Claire has spent the past 5 years working in Perth on a variety of statutory and strategic projects. Her experience includes the preparation of development applications, scheme amendments, subdivision applications, planning submissions, due diligence/feasibility investigations and planning appeals.



Brett Young

TRAFFIC ENGINEER

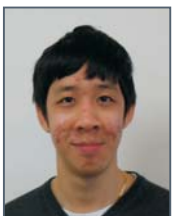
Brett joined Ratio in early July as a Traffic Engineer after having spent the best part of three years with a specialist traffic consultancy in New Zealand post gaining his Bachelor of Engineering from The University of Canterbury. Brett enjoys the outdoors and is looking forward to getting out and about in the warmer months of the year.



Tom Dwyer

JUNIOR TRAFFIC ENGINEER

Thomas Clement Dwyer or Tom as he is otherwise known, is currently studying a bachelor of civil engineering at RMIT and in his final year. In his spare time, Tom likes to play drums in bands, and hang out with friends. Ridiculously, Tom barracks for Essendon in the AFL.



Allen Lam

JUNIOR TRAFFIC ENGINEER

Allen is working with Ratio Consultants as a Junior (Undergraduate) Traffic Engineer. Allen's tasks include producing traffic impact reports, traffic and parking survey analysis as well as design works. Allen is currently studying his final semester at Monash University studying Civil Engineering focusing on transport and structural engineering.

So Far So Good . . .

Previously we have reported that the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) had created a Major Cases List, which would deal with projects with an estimated value of \$5 million or more. We are happy to report that the Major Cases List is in full swing and appears to be working.

Ratio was involved in an application for 27 apartments within a 4 storey building at 39 Riversdale Road, Hawthorn. The project was estimated to cost \$6,000,000.

The City of Boroondara refused the application on a variety of grounds and due to the estimated cost of the development, became one of the first applications to be considered by VCAT under the new Major Cases List.

From time of lodgement of the appeal, to receiving the decision was exactly 15 weeks, 1 week under the anticipated 16 week turn around time of the Tribunal.

Most importantly, the application was approved with only minor changes relating to screening of windows being required.

Box Hill Hospital Redevelopment

Ratio Consultants is proud to be involved with leading architects Jackson Architecture and Silver Thomas Hanley on the planned redevelopment of the Box Hill Hospital.

In December 2009, the Premier Mr John Brumby together with the Health Minister Mr Daniel Andrews announced the allocation of funding for the redevelopment, which would enable the construction of a new Emergency and Surgical Block and the part refurbishment of the existing Hospital building.

The ensuing feasibility study involved collaboration between the project architects, Department of Health, Eastern Health and the various project consultants to develop a plan for a new, modern and expanded hospital.

Ratio's key challenge on the project was to determine the requirements for additional car parking to serve the expanded facility, particularly in the context of existing parking pressures within the Hospital and surrounding precinct.

The parking evaluation process included an empirical study of current supply and demand, and the use of Department of Health parking evaluation tools to assist in the parking forecasts.

The redevelopment of the Box Hill Hospital is scheduled for completion in 2015.



Image courtesy of Silver Thomas Hanly Daryl Jackson Pty Ltd

Why Victoria is the best state

* The Victorian economy alone is larger than that of Singapore and Ireland.
* Victoria single-handedly, produces 13% of all of the planet's manufactured dairy produce.

* Melbourne is the only city in the world that has five international standard sporting facilities (including 3 with retractable roofs) on the fringe of its central business district.
* Melbourne is home to eight of Australia's top ten spenders on research and development (R&D) including Australia's largest, Telstra and Ericsson. In addition, Melbourne boasts Ericsson's 42nd Precinct, one of only three Ericsson R&D centres in the world.