

State Bank  Victoria

# Our Bank

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DECEMBER 1988

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ON     ◆     THE     ◆     1ST     ◆     DAY  
OF



*Christmas*



## From Father Christmas to the Stilt Man – we've got the spirit

The intermittent rain did not dampen the spirit of the families at the Christmas party in Albert Park.

Everyone had a good time, despite the cloudy weather.

There were many attractions but the favourite with the children was Father Christmas, especially when he handed out presents.

There were pony and cart rides, and a merry-go-round to keep the children entertained. The inflated castle, where the children jumped and bounced around, seemed more popular when it was raining.

Lawrence the Magician turned up and entertained everyone with his magic tricks. His rabbit-appearing trick confounded everyone, parents as well as children.

The Stilt Man made a guest appearance as well and from the point of view of the children's wide-eyed upward glances, he must have seemed to reach the sky.

You may find a few statistics interesting.

Assistant social club secretary Sue Kennedy says 1220 presents were ordered for Father Christmas to hand out, compared with about 1000 last year.

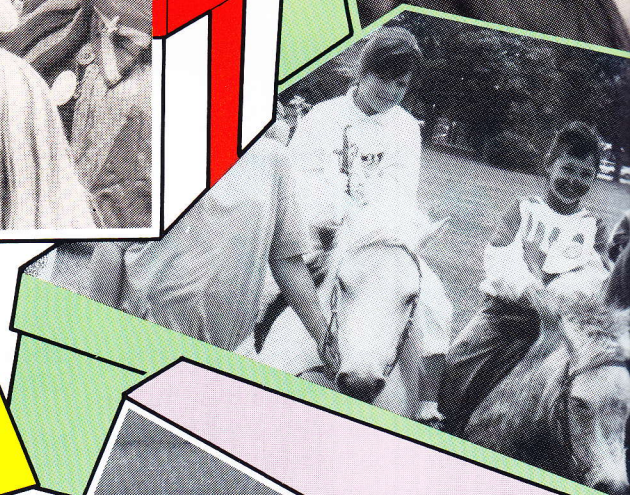
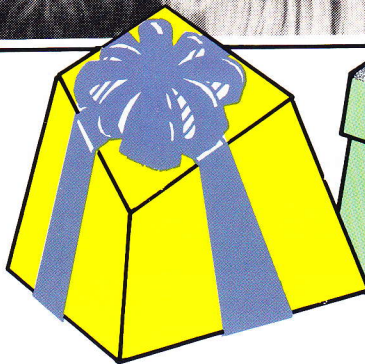
About 3000 drinks and 3000 ice creams were consumed as well as plenty of coffee and tea.

Says Father Christmas, who looks a little like the social club's Trevor Walters: "Ho ho ho. We had a good day. The kids enjoyed themselves and that's the main thing.

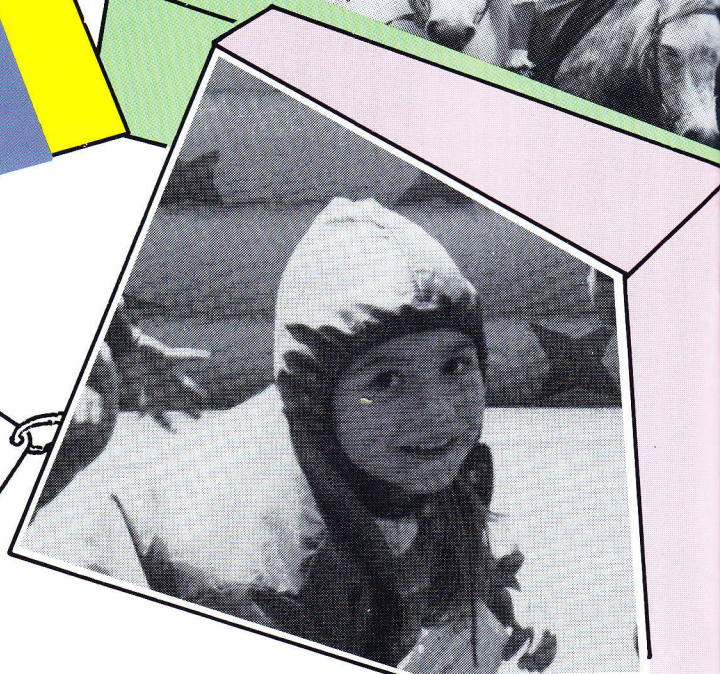
"But remember, if you're awake when I arrive at your house on Christmas Eve, you won't get any presents."

Father Christmas  
clowns around with  
Sweet Pea and  
Crazy Daisy

Getting into  
the swing  
of Christmas



Bouncing around  
is fun even when  
it's raining







Father Christmas  
and friends



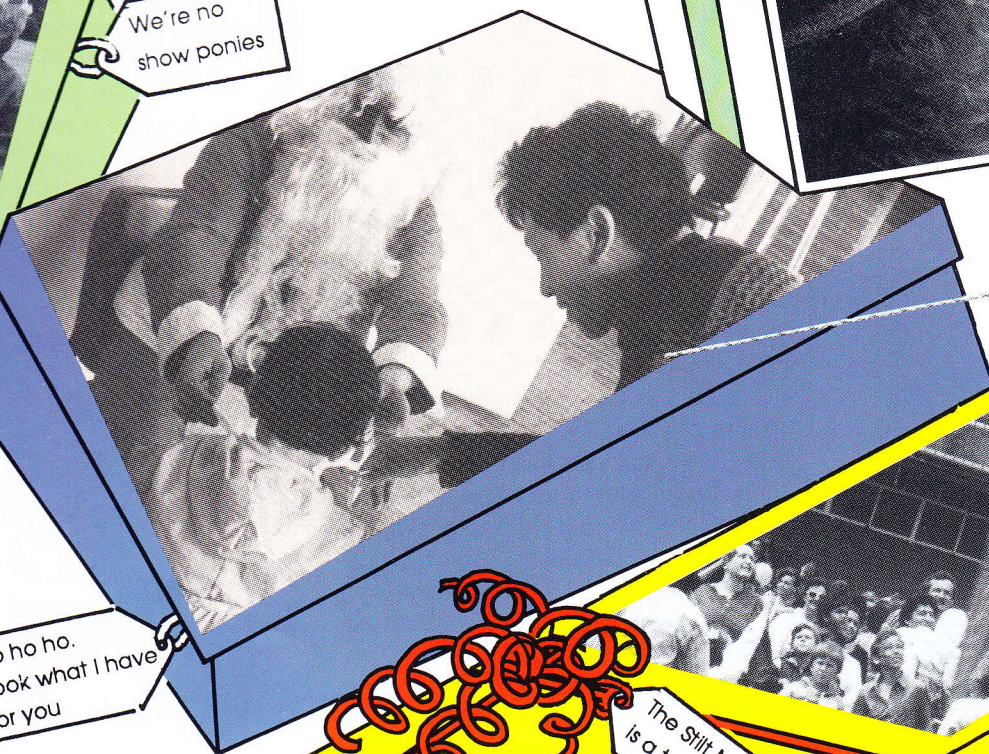
Don't worry Mum,  
it'll wash off,  
I think



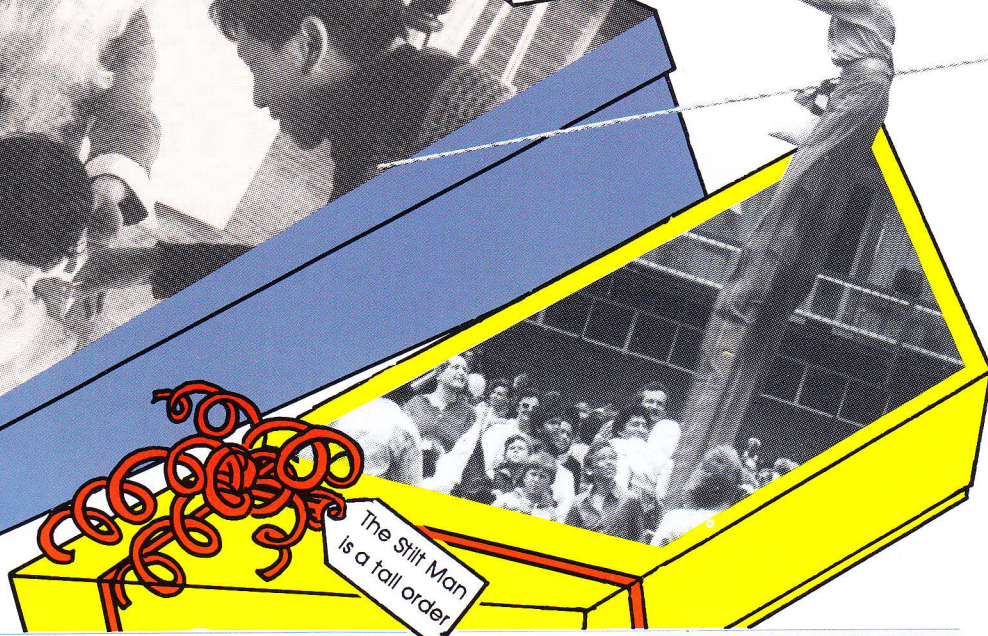
We're no  
show ponies



Ho ho ho.  
Look what I have  
for you



The Stilt Man  
is a tall order





# Last minute Christmas shopping ideas



f you're like the majority of Christmas shoppers, you've waited

until the last minute, madly rushing around to find the perfect gift or face the terrible fate of having to settle for something that doesn't quite match your expectations.

Or, perhaps you helplessly watch as your holiday budget dwindles into some sort of Bermuda Triangle before you're halfway through your gift list.

Do you dream of a store that has everything you need for Christmas in one convenient location at prices that beat retail store markups by 20 per cent to 120 per cent?

Airport Luggage leather briefcase, Oron men's and women's wallets, and key case.



Table-top ceramic urn and baking dish in bone on black, milk jug, sugar bowl and coffee mugs in blue on white.



The staff shop is the answer to your last minute Christmas shopping needs.

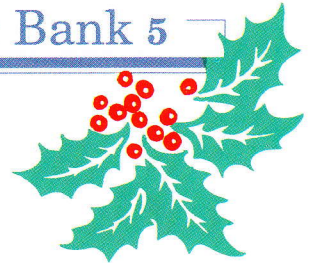
"Everything is on special," says Social Secretary Rex Anderson. "All our prices are less than those offered through other retailers, sometimes as much as half price." Of course, the traditional Christmas necessities such as greeting cards and wrapping paper are available; however, you'll find most store items can be purchased throughout the year and always at special discount prices.

The shop's extensive range of holiday gift chocolates and lollies will certainly make tasteful gifts. The Kathy Brugge pralines imported from Belgium which are delicately shaped as sea horses and shells are almost too beautiful to eat! Among the shop's wide selection are gift ideas that are sure to impress the most discerning tastes.

Krosno hand-made wine goblets, Waldorf salad bowl and silhouette squat vase.







motif and can be purchased with matching wrapping paper. Various other gift ideas occupy every shelf such as Pierre Cardin tie and sock sets, photo albums, leather hand bags, crystal and soft plush toys in a variety of whimsical characters from Echidnas to opossums. Jigsaw puzzles ranging from 1000 to 4000 piece sets would provide hours of challenge and so would the shop's collection of mini mind games similar to Rubic's Cube.

The holiday season also marks the beginning of summer, and the Staff Shop provides everything you need for sun and surf such as beach towels, Bollé sunglasses and UV brand suntan lotion – all at attractive prices.

For the kitchen, Ken Done designer placemats, coasters, napkins and oven mitts make attractive gifts, and so does the collection of spice and milk bottle style containers featuring the popular goose design. Most items from the staff shop may be ordered by telephone and sent directly to branch locations.

However, oversized or fragile items must be collected at the shop.

Forget the high cost of regular retail prices. You'll discover cost savings and convenience that is hard to resist at the staff shop.

The social office staff wishes everyone a Happy Christmas!

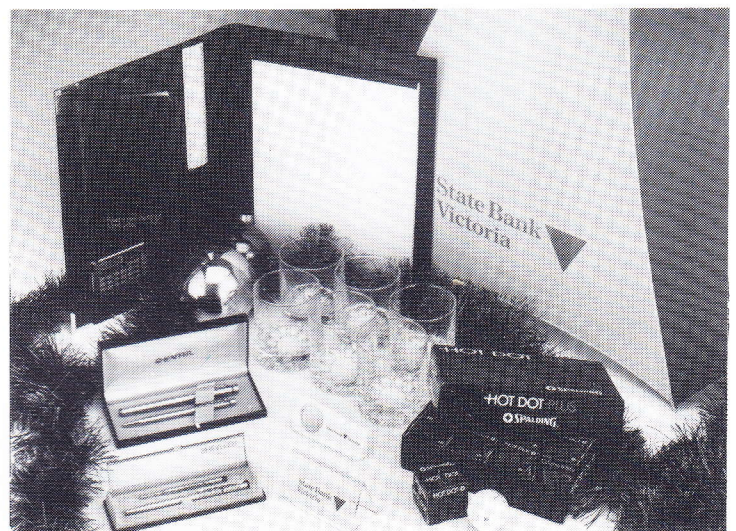


Pewter champagne goblets, beer tankard and beer mug with wooden detailing on handle and bottom.

You'll be delighted to find table-top ceramic stoneware which are hand-made in Australia using real gum leaves in the firing process, making each piece a natural original. The Krosno hand-made glassware imported from Poland features a delicate silhouette wave design. High quality Orotan leather goods can also be found at half the retail price. The Airport Luggage leather briefcase, featuring 24ct gold detailing, built-in folios plus handy compartments, comes with a two-year guarantee. Goodwill items featuring the State Bank Victoria logo will make impressive gifts for clients and colleagues.

And, for a trend-setting touch to gift wrapping, Christmas designer shopping bags are available in various sizes and styles. Also, distinctive new gift tags, called Appli-cards, feature a decorative wooden

Goodwill compendium, umbrella, whiskey glasses, Scheaffer fountain pen and pencil set, bottle opener, Spalding golf balls, Scheaffer pen set with refill, and business card holder.



**Forget the high cost of regular retail prices. You'll discover cost savings and convenience that is hard to resist at the Staff Shop.**



Christmas designer shopping bags in a variety of sizes.



# High spirits and high jinks don't always mix

*Strategies for the holiday office party season*

If you're planning to join in the fun at the office Christmas party this year, you're probably brimming with optimism at the thought of celebrating with your colleagues and managers in a friendly toast to the holidays.

You may experience a lot of unnecessary cajoling by your more seasoned office party goers to ensure you'll be attending.

Though they offer no advice, and instead seem to smile knowingly as you appear to them blissfully unaware of what your experienced colleagues know as a social situation that is not entirely risk-free.

A simple survival guide will help your next holiday office party experience be as enjoyable and problem-free as possible.

The number one culprit of office party havoc is alcohol – especially during the holidays when festive spirits along with blood/alcohol levels seem to run higher than usual.



Certainly, a little alcohol contributes a bit of cheer to the holiday atmosphere. And, depending on your working relationships with colleagues, a more relaxed and friendly manner only adds to the fun. However, while a little giggling may be charming, when you start slurring your words and complaining

about the office temperature while removing items of your clothing, you've perhaps gone just a bit over the top.

"What people do outside office hours is not our concern, but if you have to face that person at work the next day it can be a bit awkward," says Helen O'Donoghue, equal opportunity manager.

Another concern is how to tactfully explain to a colleague that he or she has had enough to drink. How you handle such a situation depends on how well you know the person or your working relationship.

*The office party  
brings together  
everyone from  
clerical staff to  
upper  
management.*



*'What people do outside office hours is not our concern, but if you have to face that person at work the next day it can be a bit awkward'*

"You certainly don't want to demean the person or be too bossy, but perhaps you can suggest that they have a couple of glasses of mineral water during the next hour," says Helen.

"Also, taking a humorous approach can break up a lot of tension."

Besides taking the .05 drink-driving limit into serious consideration, taking responsibility not only for your own alcohol consumption, but for your colleague's drinking as well, will ensure against *day after* embarrassment, or worse, traffic accidents and serious injury, or even death.

If you discover your colleague or boss, after a couple of drinks, attempting to give new meaning to the term working relationship, how can you tactfully handle their misguided overtures? If you haven't already been corralled into a private corner, to avoid further embarrassment, take the person aside and then explain in a calm, business-like manner that perhaps the festive atmosphere has clouded their perception of what you wish to maintain as a solid working relationship and their advances are not welcome.

If you take an immediate direct approach, you will not only be able

to enjoy the rest of the evening, but you will leave no doubt in the mind of your admirer that you mean what you say.

What should you do if you're engaged in a conversation which subtly shifts gears into a gossiping session?

"Inevitably, the conversation will fall back on work because you're

*'Keep on your toes while within earshot of your customers because they've built up a perception of you and you could lose it all within an hour.'*

really in a work environment," says Helen.

"If you feel uncomfortable about something people are talking about, you can try to change the subject, or just politely move on to another group."

Gossip certainly has an irresistible appeal and can be quite innocent. It's up to you to use your discretion in determining what is innocent and what can pull you into a potentially damaging situation.

The office party brings together everyone from clerical staff to upper management. Extending mutual

respect for persons in positions of authority is standard working behaviour. It is important to remember that despite the festive atmosphere, the respect you would normally extend to your boss at work should be extended in social situations as well.

Also, although you may enjoy a close, friendly working relationship with a married colleague or boss, you should reassess how you relate to them when in the presence of their spouse.

The same assessment should be considered when customers are invited to an office party.

"Keep on your toes while within earshot of your customers because they've built up a perception of you and you could lose it all within an hour," says Helen.

Office parties can be fun and are a good way to form additional working relationships that would make your job easier and more enjoyable. But it is important to remember that how you behave at an office party can form a new dimension to your character in the minds of your fellow workers.

Enjoy the festivities but be careful not to over-indulge!

*Catherine Reynolds*



# Holidays are a time to switch off and enjoy the good life

## But, there are pitfalls!

*Our medical officer, Dr Philip Soffer, gives some summer advice*

**T**he festive season is a happy and enjoyable time of the year for most people. For some, however, it can be tragic and for others, it can be unhealthy, because of the peculiar things we do to our bodies at this time.

■ We spend more time in our cars – driving longer distance over unfamiliar roads with more weight in or on the vehicle. Please remember to have your vehicle thoroughly serviced before a long trip, to drive at a safe speed and to rest frequently.

■ We tend to drink more alcohol – lethal when combined with driving, and dangerous when combined with swimming, boating and sunbathing. Please remember to keep your alcohol intake low. Choose low-alcohol beers and soft drinks whenever you can.

■ We over-indulge with all the wrong sorts of foods at the festive season. The principles of good eating remain the same the year round – eat *less* sugar, butter, margarine, salt, oil, cream, milk, cheese, yoghurt, eggs and red meat and eat *more* fruit, vegetables, whole grain breads and cereals, fish and white meats and low fat dairy products.

■ Smoking, of course, is lethal all the year round, not only for yourself but also for your family, friends and workmates who are

forced to breathe your smoke when you smoke in their presence.

■ We spend more time in the sun. Sensible behaviour can significantly reduce the risk of severe sunburn and skin cancer. With the progressive disappearance of the ozone layer over the southern hemisphere, protection in the sun assumes even greater importance.

Use a sunscreen, preferably with a high protection factor (SPF15+) and reapply it frequently.

- Avoid the sun between 11 am and 4 pm.
- Limit the time you are exposed to the sun.
- Pay special attention to lipscreen for lips and the sensitive skin of children and babies.
- “Slip” on a shirt, “slap” on a hat, “slop” on a sunscreen.

■ Summer romances can also have unwanted side effects on your health! Remember this when the passion heats up – you are sharing the experience with everyone your partner has been with in the last six or seven years.

*You owe it to yourself, your family, friends and workmates to return alive and well in 1989. I wish you a safe and healthy festive season and new year.*

*Dr Phil Soffer*

## Don't make it a blue summer

Our friends in blue have started Operation Countdown to keep down the holiday road toll – so don't say you haven't been warned.

Chief Commissioner Kel Glare, who launched Operation Countdown in the City Square, says the the death and injury rate on Victoria's roads is unacceptable and the road toll puts an enormous financial and emotional burden on the community. Mr Glare has urged us all to take part in Operation Countdown – which runs to January 14 – and to heed police road safety messages.

Traffic commissioner Ron Anstee says police will conduct blitzes during the holidays but drivers have to be responsible for themselves. Christmas Day is on a Sunday and many people are likely to leave for holidays on Friday, December 23.

Mr Anstee says drivers should make sure they are not tired and should not drive after Christmas parties and that passengers have as much responsibility as drivers for reducing the road toll.

“They should not allow anyone behind the driver's seat if they are not prepared to be responsible,” he says.

## Free safety checks

Motorists can get free road safety checks during Operation Countdown to ensure their cars are in top shape for the holiday trip.

The checks will be at:

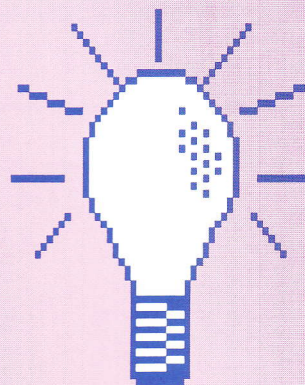
- RTA car park, Lygon Street, Carlton — December 17
- Council car park, Beach Road, Sandringham — January 7
- Eastern Park, Hearne Parade, Geelong East — January 17





## Got any bright ideas?

Please feel free to send along any comments you may have about Our Bank, as well as any story ideas or photographs you think may be of interest to all State Bankers. Your contribution will help Our Bank continue to feature stories that are interesting to everyone. Thanks! Send through internal mail to:



**"Our Bank" Editorial Team**  
080 Marketing Department  
State Bank Centre

My idea:

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*Merry Christmas everyone!*

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