

A tribute to Dr John de Pont

Good evening, earlier this year John de Pont announced he would be retiring from the Board of HVTT formerly the International Forum for Road Transport and Technology (IFRTT) and organisers of the series of HVWD and more latterly the HVTT symposia.

John intends keeping involved with HVTT and I suspect he will continue offering a tremendous amount but given his long tenure on the Board that contribution needs to be acknowledged.

I'm Dom Kalasih and I've had the pleasure of knowing John for about 30 years. I've travelled with him, roomed with him, relied on his sage and expert advice on major government policy development and I've engaged his consultancy services.

Therefore, I feel I am well qualified and honoured to provide this tribute.

TECHNOLOGY CONVERGENCE 2023



- **John de Pont PhD, Engineering**

a celebration of John's contribution to heavy road transport and HVTT's best wishes he enjoys retirement



6 - 10 November 2023
Brisbane, Australia



First and foremost. John is a mechanical engineer having graduated from the University of Auckland and achieving a PhD in Engineering from Cambridge. The Department of Science and Industrial Research was New Zealand's government science agency and the closing down of its branch of heavy transport expertise led to John and Peter Baas establishing Transport Engineering Research New Zealand (or TERNZ) in the late 1990s. TERNZ quickly became the preeminent independent private researcher and advisor on heavy transport safety and engineering in New Zealand.

Here is a small sample of work and papers John has led.

Vehicle dynamics, pavement performance, vehicle suspension, surface transport modal share, even the stability effect of dead hanging pigs. I could also add New Zealand's diesel weight-based road tax system, Road User Charges, and numerous other areas where John's expert advice has been important for heavy road transport.

I do not believe PBS would have advanced in New Zealand and been as successful as it has if it were not for John.

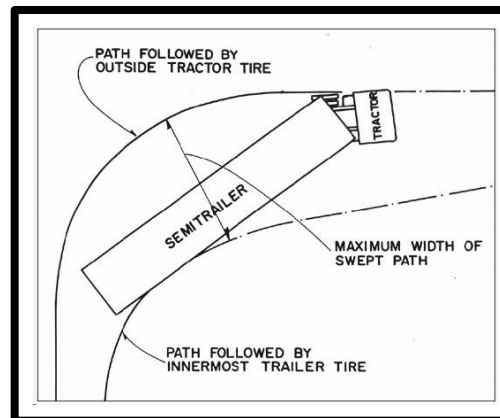
His diverse range of expertise in heavy vehicle engineering is unparalleled in New Zealand.

A consulting engineer

Stability Effects of Sloshing Liquids and Hanging Meat



John de Pont



7th International Symposium on Heavy Vehicle Weights & Dimensions
Delft, The Netherlands, Europe, June 16 - 20, 2002

THE EFFECT OF MASS LIMIT CHANGES ON THIN-SURFACE PAVEMENT PERFORMANCE

John de Pont, TERNZ, PO Box 97-846, S.A.M.C., Manukau City, New Zealand.
Bruce Steven, Civil Engineering Dept, University of Canterbury, Private Bag 4800, Christchurch, New Zealand.
David Alabaster, Transit New Zealand, PO Box 1479, Christchurch, New Zealand.



Tilt Table Tests -
SRT Calculator
Validation

Effect on Pavement Wear of an Increase in Mass Limits for Heavy Vehicles

Optimisation of heavy vehicle performance
September 2009

Assessing Road-Friendly Suspensions:
Implementation Feasibility Study



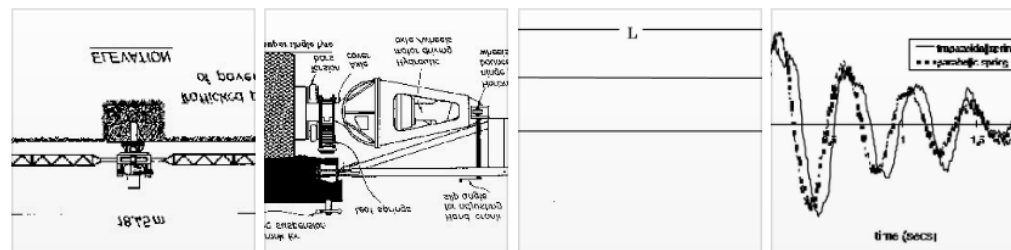
Prediction of freight growth by 2020 and rail's ability to share the load (de Pont & Mackie)

The Impact of Small Diameter Tyres on Pavement Wear

John de Pont
Bruce Steven
Bryan Pidwerbesky

The Relationship Between Dynamic Wheel Loads and Road Wear
Contact: [New Zealand Transport Agency](#) (Research Report ID No. 144)

Characterising Pavement Surface Damage Caused by Tyre Scuffing Forces



Accelerated Dynamic Loading of Flexible Pavements at CAPTIF

Bruce Steven · John de Pont · Bryan Pidwerbesky · Greg Arnold



Te Waka Rangahau me Puukahatanga o Aotearoa



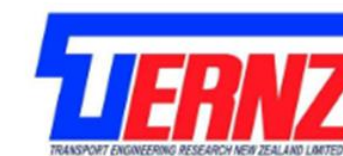
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Dr JOHN DE PONT
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John has over 30 years experience as a researcher with the last 20 years on transport issues. His research interests include vehicle-infrastructure interaction, vehicle dynamics, road roughness, vehicle performance and safety, transport economics, logistics and sustainability. John represented New Zealand on OECD scientific expert groups IR2 and IR6 and managed research element 1 of the OECD DIVINE project. He is the Treasurer and Vice-President for the Pacific region of the International Forum for Road Transport Technology and is on the editorial board of the International Journal of Heavy Vehicle Systems.

PETER BAAS (retired)
Emeritus Researcher
phone: 09 579 2329
e-mail: p.baas@ternz.co.nz

Peter has over 30 years of experience in transport research, over 20 in a leadership role. Over that time has been involved in a wide range of projects that have included: fleet fuel efficiency, log truck safety, school bus safety, driver recruitment and retention, driver fatigue, vehicle roadworthiness, road delineation treatments, the safety and effectiveness of overtaking lanes, vehicle roadworthiness and operator safety management systems. He has worked in collaboration with teams in the EU, Australia and Canada as well as



Load Security Testing of Logs
A Summary Report for the Log Transport Safety Council

P.H. Baas
T.H. Mueller
P. Milliken



SRT Certification of Class TD Trailers

John de Pont
Peter Baas
Don Hutchinson
Dom Kalasih

Including Performance Measures in Dimensions and Mass Regulations
(A research paper presented at the 7th International Heavy Vehicle Weights and Dimensions Symposium held in Delft, Netherlands)

John is an internationally respected expert.

It's fine being a brilliant mathematician and a super intelligent engineer but John is also an exceptionally good communicator and even more importantly, he has always been willing to share his knowledge, his expertise, and his experience.

That sharing has been at national level particularly with the Institute of Road Transport Engineers of New Zealand, as well as at international level with all the HVTT symposia.

John has also played a lead role in the OECD's international infrastructure research projects, particularly the DIVINE project (or the Dynamic Interaction of Vehicle and Infrastructure Experiment).

That research ultimately aims to strike an appropriate balance between vehicle weight limits, vehicle performance and road wear and it has been important research to benefit the economies and transport in multiple international jurisdictions.

A respected expert



John is passionate about his work and he is an engaged participant.

John doesn't simply attend conferences, he is a major contributor having written and presented papers at all HVTT symposia .

John has been extremely generous volunteering his time and expertise. He has also played a key role in organising transport engineering conferences in New Zealand.

John' has been a member and leader of the Scientific Committee, and he has also been a key member on many of the HVTT conference organising committees. His roles with HVTT have included Treasurer, Vice President Asia Pacific and President of IFRTT.

Not surprisingly his long standing contribution to HVTT led to him being inducted onto the HVTT Forum Honour Roll.

An engaged participant



HVT13 EXPANDIENDO HORIZONTES
Heavy Vehicle Transport Technology EXPANDIENDO HORIZONTES



HVTT conferences not only have the benefit of great sharing and discussion on technical issues, they also involve travel around the globe. John has been to 6 of the 7 continents for HVTT and I don't envisage a bid coming for a conference in Antarctica any time soon.

Asia has had Qingdao, China for HVTT16, Covid constrained international delegate attendance but John was lucky to visit just before Covid as part of the organising team

On the African continent: he attended Johannesburg, South Africa in 2004

In Europe he's been to: the Netherlands, the UK, to Sweden and to Paris

In North America: John's attended in Canada and the US

And in South America: he was at San Luis, Argentina in 2014

Closer to home Australia/Oceania have hosted in Melbourne in 2010, Rotorua New Zealand in 2016 and now we are here at HVTT17 in Brisbane where John finishes

A traveller



John has made a great many friends through HVTT.

There are far too many friendships to name, mention or show.

However, I do hope these pictures show that John's involvement and contribution has been much more than just going along to the formal parts of conference sessions.

Whenever possible John has added on some tourist adventures before or after conferences and that has added considerable value to the numerous life long friendships he has made.

A friend to many



Some other trivia and facts about John

He may be brilliant but he does have his quirks, Most people peel their fruit before eating but John eats his Kiwi Fruit, skin and all

I think what has made John so special and such an amazing contributor is his all round abilities. He is not only a brilliant mathematician and engineer, but he is also a good practitioner, a pragmatist, a good communicator both written and verbal, and on top of that he's just a top kiwi bloke.

And finally, John's extremely modest. You wouldn't know it talking to him and I think very few people actually realise the significance of John's role, but I can assure you he has made an unparalleled contribution to improving heavy vehicle safety and productivity in NZ and for that we should all be extremely grateful.

Other things about John

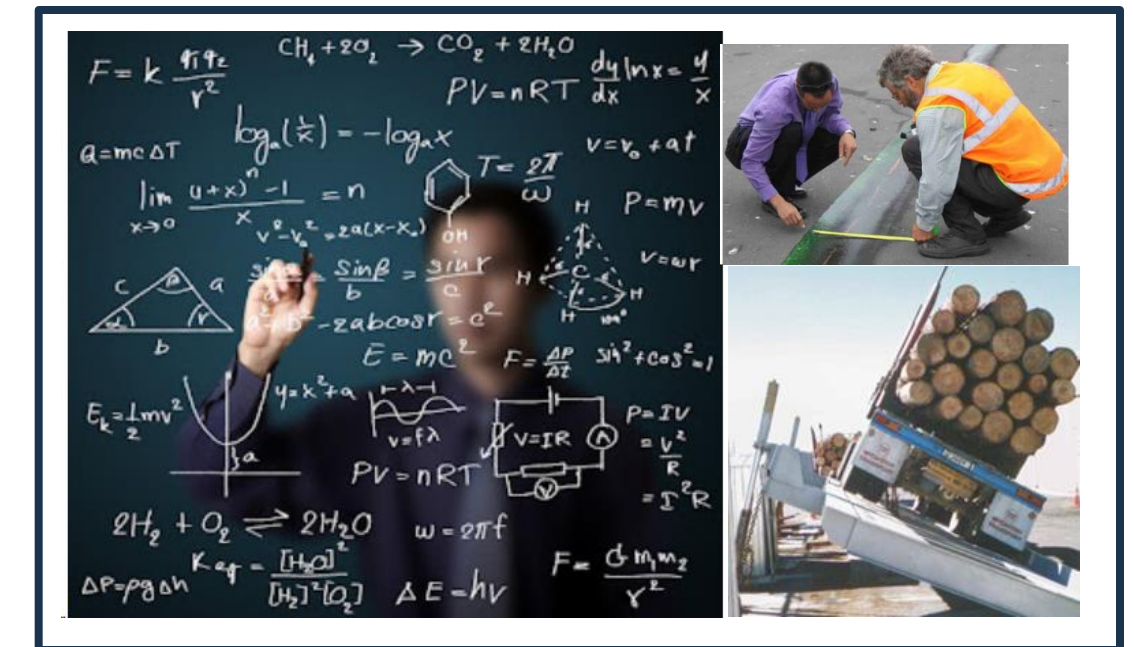


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- he eats kiwifruit with skin on



- a brilliant balance and blend of mathematician, engineer, practitioner and pragmatist



- bescheidenheid siert De Pont, modesty adorns De Pont, but unquestionably he has made a massive contribution to improving heavy vehicle safety and productivity in NZ for which we are extremely grateful.

And that brings me to a close,

John de Pont,

Thank you for your outstanding contribution, enjoy your retirement.

HVTT salutes your contribution to international heavy road transport. Thanks, and go well.

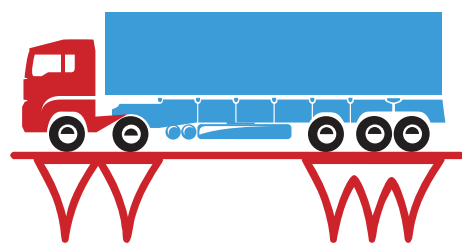
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John de Pont

**Bedankt, geniet van je
pensioen**

**HVTT salutes your
contribution to
international heavy road
transport**



ISWIM

6 - 10 November 2023
Brisbane, Australia



FORUM