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RAAV Ravings



History of MICA in Victoria

Victoria's MICA (Mobile Intensive Care Ambulance) concept was initially established in Victoria in 1971 under a trial program running out of the Royal Melbourne Hospital (RMH) with a single vehicle staffed by an Ambulance Officer and a Medical Registrar (from the hospital's Emergency Department). It was the first MICA system in Australia and the 3rd such system to be set up in the world, following behind Belfast & Seattle.

The concept of Mobile Intensive Care Ambulances (MICA) was a development that was realised during the Vietnam War, where it appeared to show that the early stabilisation of seriously injured soldiers at the battlefield by highly trained field medics, and the rapid transport to front line hospitals by medivac helicopters significantly increased survival rates. Cardiologists during the early 1960's believed that patients were dying before reaching hospital. Untreated coronary patients usually died within 2 to 4 hours, and often before arriving at Hospital. Moves were made for the establishment of "flying squads" or Mobile Coronary Care Units in conjunction with the then Victorian Civil Ambulance Ser-

vice, emphasising the treatment of ventricular fibrillation following cardiac arrest or electric shock

A Dodge Day Care Clinic Bus - 208 was converted for the trial as it provided additional space and head room compared to the current Ford F100 emergency ambulance vehicles in use. It was converted by the local Ambulance workshop to keep costs down as funding was extremely limited. All equipment purchased for the trial was to be privately funded by the Strathmore Lions Club.

A review of the first six months of work demonstrated that the majority of work were cardiac cases. It was also realised that the increasing caseload was placing significant pressure on the Doctors, who also had their normal duties to perform in the Hospital, thus delaying the Unit from responding immediately as the Ambulance Officer would have to search for an available Doctor to respond. The Doctors involved in the trial felt that Ambulance Officers with appropriate training were more than capable of replacing the Doctor on the unit.

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As a result, 5th March 1973 saw the introduction of a second trained Ambulance Officer on each shift, replacing the Doctor. This allowed for improved response times and greater flexibility of the MICA Unit, knowing that a Doctor did not need to be found. This also saw a significant increase in the workload with dispatching to cases increasing by 500% in

the month of March as Control Officers were more willing to activate the Unit knowing it would not require a Doctor to be found.

Melbourne's newly established MICA was the second "paramedic only" service in the world. In 1967 a similar service using Doctors was established in Belfast, Northern Ireland, and a paramedic-only service began in Seat-

tle, Washington, USA in 1969. The first vehicle was joined by a second based at the Alfred Hospital, then a third at Western Hospital - Footscray.

NOTE:

This article has been edited to fit this space. The full article can be found at: [MICA Paramedics - Colac Ambulance](#)



Original 1971 Trial MICA Unit 208 based on a Dodge chassis

45th Anniversary of MICA

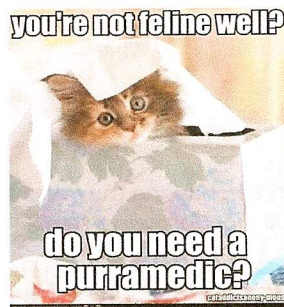
Friday 9th September will see the celebration of 45 years of MICA services commencing within Victoria.

The morning will commence at 10.30 am with the unveiling of the refurbished first MICA Vehicle '208'. Although not fully refitted it is very close and does look like the old 208. However the original cab/chassis was severely damaged many years ago and replaced with a slightly later model.

All former MICA officers and any of our Members will be welcome to attend this special occasion which will be held at

the Ambulance Historical Museum, 1/55 Barry Street Bayswater.

Ambulance Victoria CEO, Tony Walker will be in attendance along with senior officials of the Government and Health Department.



Tax & ABN Update

As a result of the Association gaining some funding from AV we have taken the necessary steps to become a more Accountable Organisation through the acquiring of a Tax File Number and an Australian Business Number. We are also pursuing the Not for Profit status that will grant us a tax free exemption.

Our ABN is: 77 829 511 359 and will be quoted on all official documents issued from the Association along with our Registration Number.

These changes are to ensure we can gain the best outcome for all members.

Wives/Partners Companionship Get-together

At a recent District Meeting the suggestion was made that our Partners/Wives also may have a need for support.

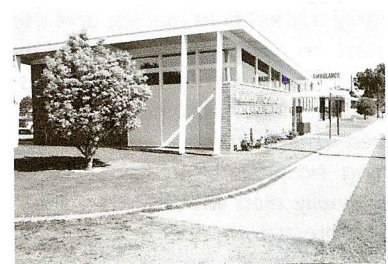
I am sure that we, as Ambulance Officers/Paramedics have, at times, taken home the traumas of the day only to be "a little intolerant" towards our beloved.

With the passing of the years we are also finding that, although we may have retired/left the industry, there is still a lot of "Baggage" being carried by us and this too can impact on our Wives/Partners.

Maybe we should encourage our Partners/Wives to come together and share the comradeship we all need from time to time.. Some of the suggestions to date are coffee mornings, informal contact gatherings at various locations and the ability to access all the Peer Support facilities we can offer either through our AV Network or Beyond Blue.

With this in mind are there any Members who may be able to assist our Committee in getting this idea up and running within the District areas of the State?

Please contact any of our Committee Members or District Co-ordinators to offer support and ideas for this very vital initiative.



Birthday Greetings

September Birthdays

Best wishes to you all

Charles Johnson 4th
Mal Peters 4th
Alan Close 7th
Ian Seaman 10th
Robert Reilly 13th
Drew Haldane 14th
Bob Beggs 15th
Warren Ashley 17th
Sandy Jones 18th

Neale Johnson 18th
Bruce Slater 18th
Jim Ballard 19th
Terry Baker 20th
Brian Trener 22nd
Bernie Griffiths 23rd
Mike Mc Manus 23rd
William Sleep 23rd
Bill McKnight 25th
David Appleton 26th
Don Rhodes 26th
George Brown 29th

October Birthdays

Best wishes to you all

Glen Dowlan 2nd
John Perry 3rd
Peter Whittle 5th
Ralph Mc Kelvie 6th
Brian Redfern 7th
Les Hotchin 9th
Bill Jeffs 10th
Jim Spanswick 11th
Ray Loughheed 13th

Richard Williams 22nd
Brian Cass 24th
Ken Atkinson 25th
Ian Dale 25th
Ken Holt 27th
William Bush 29th
Ben Wright 30th

Presidents Report

Welcome again to another edition of RAAV Raving's. Our Vice President, Ian Donaldson, and Secretary, Ian Cameron, have been working feverishly to get another edition out to members and they have succeeded very admirably in their endeavours. Enjoy the read.

As at the time of this report I am pleased to be able to say we are still in negotiations with AV in regard to a number of matters and I will discuss these individually. It has been a pleasure collaborating with AV through Mick Cameron and Tony Walker, we thank them for their

assistance and look forward to further meetings in the future.

Firstly regarding Peer Support and Psych Services, the Service will hopefully be in a position in 2-3 months to be able to notify RAAV of where we fit into the plans, as they are overhauling this area and a final report is due. They are aware of our members wishes regarding Peer Support so it somewhat of a waiting game at this time.

The Service has agreed to trial ID badges with the Executive of RAAV and photos will be taken at the AGM so that

badges can be produced. This is a good start and will flow on to all members in due course.

Transition to retirement has always been a problem from the point of view that RAAV has not been part of the process. In future it has been suggested that not only will retiring staff get a kit with details of the RAAV but a member of the Association will speak directly to the retiring personnel. We acknowledge AV's assistance in this matter.

The Service has granted us an amount

of money, as an operational budget, which will make the operation of RAAV a lot easier. There will be advantages for all members in the near future and these will be discussed by your Executive at the next Committee meeting.

I have just been told that one of the long serving members of the RAAV Committee has decided to resign due to health reasons. Ron "Sarge" Jacobs will be sadly missed from the Committee and I, on behalf of the rest of the Committee and members, wish him all the best for the future. Good luck Sarge.

The Committee could do with one new member. If you believe you could contribute to the operation of RAAV, the Secretary would be pleased to hear from you.

Ray Lougheed, President RAAV.



New Members

It is with pleasure we welcome the following New Members to our Association and look forward to seeing them at a meeting soon.

Roy Ryder - Bacchus Marsh
 Peter Butcher - Mildura
 Phillip Wade - Chirnside Park
 Linton Johnstone - Wangaratta
 Frank Gaylard - St. Leonards
 Mike Mc Manus - Croydon
 Terry Baulch - Clifton Springs

Shirts, Caps & Badges

We currently have a full range of shirts in sizes from small to 5XL.

Our caps are one size fits all.

Please support us by making a purchase of a shirt or cap or both. We will send them through the normal postage system or you may order them to be brought to a meeting in which area you reside.

Shirts are \$25.00 each & Caps \$15.00

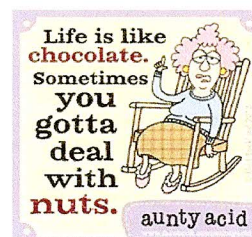
Car Badges are \$2.00 each and are either inside looking out or outside looking out.

Lapel Badges \$5.00 each

Bumper Stickers \$2.00 each

Pocket Badges: \$10.00

All orders are to be placed through Dennis Meek either via



Mobile : 0409 071 192 or
 Email: dennis.meek@bigpond.com

Alternatively orders can be given to any Committee Member or District Coordinator and these will be processed as soon as possible.

Geelong and Surf Coast District Report

Attendance was down this meeting, 8 members and partners were present including Victorian Vice President Mr. Ian Donaldson and his wife.

The meeting discussed the future visit to the Ambulance Museum which was called off for August, so will go ahead at a later date to be arranged by the working party. The November meeting and the trip to the museum will not be on the same day, we are looking at a Sunday to arrange the museum trip. Will check out a bus availability and cost.

Keeping the two separate we look forward to increase our attendances for both the meeting and museum trip.

It was also discussed that we approach

another Zone group to invite them to join our members in fellowship for lunch and meeting in the future.

Mr. Ian Donaldson informed the members of a meeting and discussion that was held with Mick Cameron and Colin Horwell on the future of the Peer Support programme that is being organized for past and present Ambulance Employees. There is another meeting the week after our Zone meeting and members will be kept up to date on the proceedings.

Mr. Donaldson asked all members to consider contributing an article to the RAAV newsletter.

Margaret Kerr - Acting Co-Ordinator



"Don't worry. The first 30 years as a paramedic are the hardest."

Bereavement

It is with Sadness we record the passing of:

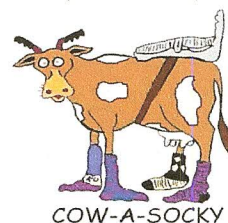
Rod Morris
Alan McNie

North West Victoria

Tuesday 12th July found members of our North West District enjoying lunch and comradeship at the Mildura RSL. Although it was a cold, wet and windy day we were warm and dry inside.

Although small in number we managed to spend time discussing the various upcoming changes within the Association and are looking forward to the developing engagement between AV and RAAV.

Hillbilly Motorcycle



North East Victoria

Jim Osmotherly, Co-ordinator

The North East District held their last meeting on the 30th of July, and there were 32 members in attendance. We had two guest speakers attend and everyone said that they really gained a lot from them. Mr David Jones, a Psychologist attached to the Peer support group and Mr Col Horwell, a peer support Co-Ordinator.

David Spoke First and gave a very enlightening overview of Mental health and P.T.S.D. and what is available to our Members. Col An-

swered the many questions that members asked.

It was suggested by David that we form a ladies group so that they can support each other also, seeing as how they were the one's who copped the flack when we arrived home, and are still being affected when their Husband or Partner has "Flash backs".

We could probably get there a 30 minutes or so earlier, and our wives/partners could go to a secluded area, have their meeting and then we

could all come back together. He also suggested that we have our meetings more often. We have only been having them three times a year and he thinks we need them more often.

I will send out an Email regarding this in the near future, or as soon as my Doctor decides that she wants to stop doing tests on me, and gives me a bit more spare time. If they left all the needles in me I would be a porcupine. I need also to apologise for the menu,

the Australian part was O.K but the Asian part left a lot to be desired. I have spoken to the C.E.O. and she said she would be there when we have our next meeting.

In the meantime she will address the issue and between her and the Chef they will rectify the problem. Hopefully I will see everyone at the next meeting, Date to be decided.

Annual General Meeting

This years AGM will be held at the Ambulance Historical Society Museum on Wednesday 14th September commencing at 10.30am. As usual it will be followed by lunch and there will be more than enough time to view all of the Museum.

We also wish to remind members that we are looking for Members to assist with organising some of the activities we are running. In particular the Caravan Club and our proposed morning coffee groups.

Anyone able to assist please volunteer at the AGM.

EFT & Direct Debit

Reminder to all Members

Please when you EFT , Direct Debit or cash deposit funds into our account ensure that you have added your Name, Member Number or the Invoice Number in the Reference Column.

We cannot assign transferred funds to your account if we cannot identify you.

Without these details a delay can result in an unwanted reminder notice being sent.

Sick List

We Wish the following Members and Partners a speedy recovery and hope to see them at a meeting soon:

Drew Haldane
Gerry Thomas
Trevor Forfar
Brian Shott
Dorothy Saunders (Cols' Wife)
Joan Mawby (Ted's Wife)
Chris Coucill
Patricia Carpenter (Don's Wife)
Jim Osmotherly
Darrell Rintoule
Charles Mackinnon
Ron Jacobs

Cataloguing of the Historical Society's collection

In February 2016 Ambulance Victoria commissioned a collection registration and sorting program at the AHSV. Paid museum staff with collections management and logistics backgrounds began sorting and cataloguing the collection onto the Victorian Collections on line database. All artefacts in the AHSVs collection are now being catalogued or filed under various categories in filing cabinets. When catalogued, the artefact is tagged, numbered and given a storage location so it can be found and retrieved. Space has been allocated at Bayswater for researchers to visit the museum when researching ambulance related history.

The project (excluding photographs) should be complete sometime in October. At that point the AHSV collection will be almost completely sorted and catalogued. If you are interested in seeing a small part of the catalogued collection on line, google "Victorian Collections" then type in Ambulance Museum Victoria".

Chas Martin urgently needs a volunteer or two to learn how to use Victorian Collections so that new items can be catalogued. If you are interested please speak to Chas.



Before Cataloguing Began



Cataloguing almost complete

District Meeting Dates

Our next round of District Meetings are as follows:

Ballarat & Central West - Wednesday 7th September 12noon Venue Golf House Hotel, 920 Doveton Street Ballarat North.

Metro (Melbourne) Wednesday 14th September at Ambulance Historical Society, 1/55 Barry Street Bayswater,

commencing at 10.30am. (Annual General Meeting)

South West Victoria - Monday 26th September 12noon at Hamilton, Venue Alexandra House

Geelong & Surf Coast on Wednesday 9th November commencing at 12noon - Geelong RSL Belmont

North West Victoria - Tuesday 15th November 12noon at Mildura RSL

Gippsland District - Thursday 24th November 12noon at Morwell Club

North East Victoria - Saturday 26th November 12noon at Benalla Bowls Club.

PLEASE Advise you District Co-ordinator of you intention to attend or no.

Retired Ambulance Association of Victoria



All Correspondence to:
The Secretary
Unit 2 / 20 Brooks Street
Bentleigh East
Victoria 3165

Phone: 03 8503 7945
Mobile: 0435 010 943
Email: raav.secretary@gmail.com

www.retiredambulancevictoria.org.au

Facebook: Retired Ambulance
Association of Victoria Inc.

The Back Page

A bookie was at the races playing the ponies and losing his shirt. He noticed a Priest step out onto the track and blessed the forehead of one of the horses lining up for the 4th race. Lo and behold, that horse - a long shot - won the race. Next race, as the horses lined up, the Priest stepped onto the track. Sure enough, he blessed one of the horses. The bookie made a beeline for a betting window and placed a small bet on the horse. Again, even though it was another long shot, the horse won the race. He collected his winnings, and anxiously waited to see which horse the Priest would bless next. He bet big on it, and it won. As the races continued the Priest kept blessing horses, and each one ended up winning. The bookie was elated. He made a quick dash to the ATM, withdrew all his savings, and awaited for the Priest's blessing that would tell him which horse to bet on ... True to his pattern, the Priest stepped onto the track for the last race and blessed the forehead of an old nag that was 100/1. This time the priest blessed the eyes, ears, and hooves of the old nag. The bookie knew he had a winner and bet every cent he owned on the old nag. He watched dumbfounded as the old nag pulled up and couldn't even finish the race. In a state of shock, he went to the track area where the Priest was. Confronting him, he demanded, 'Father! What happened? All day long you blessed horses and they all won. Then in the last race, the horse you blessed never even had a chance. Now, thanks to you I've lost every cent of my savings! The Priest nodded wisely and with sympathy. "You're not Catholic are you my son?" "No, I'm Jewish". "That's the problem", said the Priest, "you couldn't tell the difference between a blessing and last rites".



Members of our North East District at lunch in Benalla

STUDENT WHO OBTAINED 0% ON AN EXAM

I would have given him 100% for his wit!!!

- Q1. In which battle did Napoleon die? * **his last battle**
Q2. Where was the Declaration of Independence signed? * **at the bottom of the page**
Q3. River Ravi flows in which state? * **liquid**
Q4. What is the main reason for divorce? * **marriage**
Q5. What is the main reason for failure? * **exams**
Q6. What can you never eat for breakfast? * **Lunch & dinner**
Q7. What looks like half an apple? * **The other half**
Q8. If you throw a red stone into the blue sea what it will become? * **It will simply become wet**
Q9. How can a man go eight days without sleeping? * **No problem, he sleeps at night.**
Q10. How can you lift an elephant with one hand? * **You will never find an elephant that has only one hand..**
Q11. If you had three apples and four oranges in one hand and four apples and three oranges in other hand, what would you have? * **Very large hands**
Q12. If it took eight men ten hours to build a wall, how long would it take four men to build it? * **No time at all, the wall is already built.**
Q13. How can u drop a raw egg onto a concrete floor without cracking it? * **Any way you want, concrete floors are very hard to crack.**

Committee: of Management

President: Ray Lougheed
Vice President: Ian Donaldson
Secretary: Ian Cameron
Treasurer: Darrell Rintoule
Committee Members:
Bill McKnight
Ron Jacobs
Peter Leek
Dennis Meek