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RAAV Ravings



Ambulance Victoria phone app to send Victorians to medical emergencies

First aid-trained Victorians could soon be called to handle triple-0 medical emergencies via a new mobile phone app.

Under the plan being developed by Ambulance Victoria, the app would notify the "trusted responders" when somebody nearby had suffered a heart attack.

The responders would be given the location of the patient and sent to provide CPR, as well as being alerted to the location of the nearest public defibrillator.

Paramedics would simultaneously be sent to treat the patient.

The idea has been hailed as a potential life-saver, but the union representing the state's paramedics has

warned it could also be used to water down services.

Ambulance Victoria's clinical and community services general manager, Ian Patrick, said the responders could include off-duty paramedics, medical professionals or other emergency responders, as well as members of the public with appropriate first aid training.

"This type of technology can pinpoint the location of 'trusted responders' who have downloaded the app onto their phone and identify if the responder is near a patient," he said.

"We know early effective CPR greatly improves a cardiac arrest patient's chance of survival."

Mr Patrick said similar technology was already being

used overseas.

Ambulance Employee Association state secretary Steve McGhie said the association supported people being trained in first aid and responding to emergency situations, but was wary of a watering down of services.

"I'm hoping it's not in lieu of putting additional resources in the community; we're a bit concerned it may have an effect on future Ambulance Victoria resourcing."

McGhie said the plan also opened the door to potential risks for people responding to a medical emergency.

"We're also concerned about the risk of people responding to a cardiac arrest in a hurry, the health and safety risk of someone who might be rushing to a scene," he said.

Mr McGhie said the association had not been consulted about the mobile phone app, currently out to tender.

Minister for Health and Ambulance Services Jill Hennessy said the idea met the aims of the government's Ambulance Action Plan, which includes better equipping people to act as first responders.

"Time is crucial in cardiac arrest cases and every second counts," she said.

"We know the evidence shows that survival outcomes for patients suffering from cardiac arrest are significantly higher when bystanders in the community act as first responders.

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Foresters - Death & Disability Fund

With ongoing discussion still in progress we are hopeful that a resolution will be forthcoming in the not too distant future.

However we are still in need of all members to indicate if they are willing to contribute or not. To date approximately 25% on our membership has responded to the emails and letters sent out.

Please advise Secretary, Ian Cameron, as soon as possible so that we can make a strong case to Foresters for our inclusion in this important Fund.

Subscription Renewals

With Members Subscription due on the 1st July. Invoices will be sent to all Members who are required to renew their Membership within the next 2 to 3 weeks.

Upon receiving your invoice you feel that it to be incorrect please contact Secretary Ian Cameron who can assist in resolving any issue.

If you do not receive an Invoice then your Membership is up to date or in advance.

We respectfully request prompt payment so that we can continue to provide the best services for you, our Members.

Presidents Report

Welcome to another edition of RAAV Ravings

The year is moving ahead and many projects still need to be finalised with many negotiations in the background.

As previously reported a meeting was held with the CEO of Foresters, Craig Bell, on the 5th April and he is to report to their Board during the 1st week of May. We would hope to have information regarding this meeting shortly after this their discussions.

Frank Abela is well underway to setting up the structure of the Peer Support and Psych Services Program and

training should be undertaken soon by workers in both Metropolitan and Regional areas.

Members who have not taken up the offer of the Funeral Participation offer are reminded to download a form from our website or to contact the Secretary, Ian Cameron.

If you know of a retired ambulance staff member who may be interested in joining the Association please either, once again, contact the Secretary or obtain a membership form at our website and pass it onto the possible member.

Enjoy reading the rest of the Newsletter and I look forward to catching up in the near future.

Ray Loughheed
President.



The Official Birthday Photograph for George Prolongueau's 100th Year.

The Birthday Event of The Year For Our Paramedic Centurion - George Prolongueau

Both the President and myself along with our respective wives were invited to attend George and Muriel's birthday party, in Ballarat, at the Gospel hall in Peel Street Ballarat which took place on the 4th March 2017

We together with close friends and family members and a congregation of 200 hundred plus guests celebrated both Georges birthday and sister Muriel (102) both born on the same day two years apart.

Representing R.A.A George was presented with the Ambulance Shield and Certificates

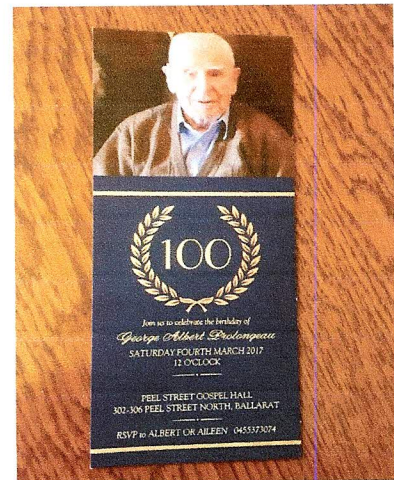
We were all thoroughly entertained by George with his wonderful life story

and the very early years of growing up in Ballarat. George has kept a diary of his life and a log every day since he has been able to read and write and also produced much loved poetry. George has been in demand recently and has been asked to write poetry for a number of groups included the respite centre in Ballarat.

Thank you George "you give us so much inspiration"

Forever young

Ian Donaldson



Birthday Greetings

We trust the following Members managed to have an enjoyable day with Family and Friends.

April:

Peter Croker - 5th
Bob Curzon-Siggers - 5th
Ian Cameron - 7th
Frank Bonser - 12th
Keith Lloyd - 12th
Ron Jacobs - 13th

Glen Robertson - 13th
Ted Mawby - 14th
Peter Moroney - 15th
Allan Jackson - 16th
Neil Barrett - 17th
Neale Johnson - 19th
Greg Taylor - 19th
Merilyn Raft - 20th
John Allen - 22nd
Keith Humphrey - 24th
James Osmotherly - 26th
Robert Gosden - 28th
Frank Abela - 30th

Laurie Campbell - 30th

May:

George Jackson 2nd
Denis Rowe 6th
Peter Cain 7th
Garry Cassells 8th
Bruce Westerland 8th
Trevor Greay 10th
Allan Oakes 10th
Ken Laycock 11th
Geoffrey Williams 12th
Bob Boucher 14th
Greame Mant-Old 14th

Stephen Nangle 14th
Don Pollard 15th
Darryl Wells 16th
Eric Edwards 18th
Ron Hartley 20th
Robert Reeves 20th
Max Beeson 21st
Bryce Lindemann 21st
Brian Phipps 24th
David Talbot 25th
Norman Burville 28th
Michael Wilson 28th
Daryl Anderson 29th
Peter Donovan 31st

District Reports

North West Victoria District

Thursday 16th March saw 7 members attend our Lunch and meeting at the Mildura RSL. The general discussion centred around the ongoing changes to the Association and the possibility of gaining access to the former Welfare Fund and our Peer Support program developments.

Central & Northern District

On Tuesday 28th February we established our next District centred around the Bendigo and Northern areas of the

State. The Bendigo RSL provided us with an enjoyable lunch. Our first meeting was attended by Three Members and one guest, who join up on the day, and included our Secretary Ian, as well as two Committee Members. The general feeling was that we strive for a continued meeting base in the area..

Foot Note: Following this meeting, Secretary Ian, was invited to an informal gathering lunch for retired Ambulance personnel, also held at the Bendigo RSL to give the attendees information about the Association. Approximately 55 people attended this function and on the

day 9 participants signed up and 15 others indicated they would favourably consider joining the Association. We look forward to the next Meeting in Bendigo.

South West District

Monday 6th March saw our Members attend the Flying Horse Hotel with 15 members in attendance and 8 apologies. It was pleasing to have in attendance our new Members, Keith Humphry and Geoff Elmes. And we look forward to seeing them attend more meetings in the future.

South West District Contd.

The members were bought up to date with all the information from the State Executive and all enjoyed the good food and jovial conversation.

The next meeting will take place at the Warrnambool Football Club Rooms in Cramer Street Warrnambool on Monday 5th June at 12 noon. This is a new venue which I am sure will be welcome by all members.

Ray Welsford will be the Guest Speaker at this meeting

Ray Lougheed, Convenor



Willeys 1916 Overlander 75
1st World War Ambulance possibly saw
action in Egypt

A new addition to the Museum - Please
come and view not only this but all our
exhibits.

Quick Quiz:

Q 1: In which town did the Flintstones live?

Q 2: What do the number go up to on a Roulette table?

Q 3: What is the capital of Pakistan?

Q 4: The Eureka Stockade was near what Victorian town?

Q 5: In what sport do you associate Aussie Robbie McEwen?

Q 6: Which band had a hit album called "Living in the Seventies"?

Q 7: Does sound travel faster in air or water?

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 badge, 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 ever area you reside.

Caps \$15.00 each

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

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 the order will be processed as soon as possible.



Victorian paramedic saves own life after self-diagnosing heart attack

A Victorian paramedic managed to save his own life after self-diagnosing a "massive" oncoming heart attack. David Watson, 52, was working alone at the Casterton branch, in Victoria's far west, when he felt a "sudden onset of crashing chest pain and tingles down both arms" about 4pm on Sunday April 30. He ran out to the ambulance and hooked himself up to a heart monitor. That's when he discovered he was in trouble.

"I thought, oh ... that's not right," he told the 3AW breakfast program. Mr Watson got behind the wheel of the ambulance and drove 100m to the local emergency department where he was given anti-clotting medication and pain-killers.

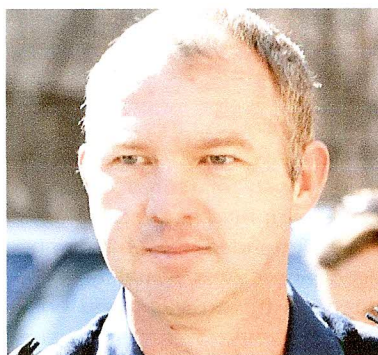
MICA paramedics from the Hamilton Unit drove an hour to tend to the emergency service relief worker.

"They basically said 'he's one of ours' and took over. They gave more pain relief drugs, organised a helicopter from Bendigo and called my wife and kept her updated all the time."

Mr Watson was flown to Geelong Hospital, and within minutes of landing he underwent surgery where a clot was removed from one of his large coronary arteries.

"I was awake the whole time. They removed a clot and put a stent in," he said. Mr Watson, from Torquay, will spend

the next two months off recovering. "I went to the doctor yesterday and he said I am lucky to be alive," he said.



New Members

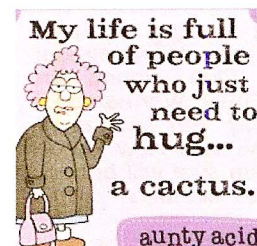
We welcome the following New Members to our Association and trust you enjoy our comradeship and we look forward to seeing you at a meeting somewhere around the State.

Trevor Mitchell - Briar Hill
Robert Mercer - Warrigal
Geoffrey Williams - Wangaratta
Peter Briscoe - Strathfieldsaye

Graham McRae - Eaglehawk
Iain Lewis - Beaufort
Bill Middleton - Kilcunda
Danny Lumby - Heathcote
Jeanette Williams - Eaglehawk
Athol Nicholas - Golden Square
Ronald Calloway - Kyneton
John Baldiston - Eaglehawk
Daniel O'Connor - Kennington
Daryl Anderson - Long Gully
John Ellerton - Myers Flat
Paul Pardoe-Matthews -
Nth Tamborine Old
Andrew Fowler - Cape Bridgewater
Avis Rowe - Flora Hill
Wayne Simmons - Huonville Tasmania

With the addition of new Members we now have an enrolment of **300 Members** in our Association.

We, of course, are always keen to accept new members and ask that if you know of a retired Ambulance Employee, please invite them to come "On Board"



Birthday Greetings

We wish all members an enjoyable day with Family and friends.

June:

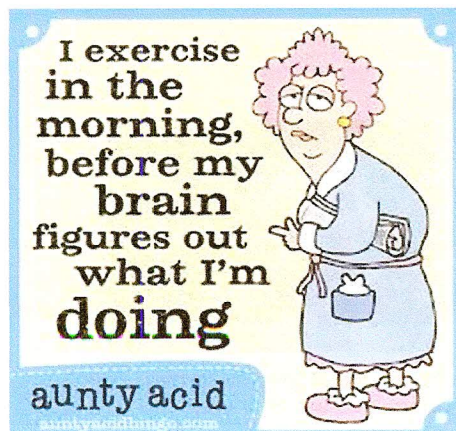
Graham Carpenter 3rd
Peter Butcher 9th
Alan Neocho 10th
Robert Adams 13th
John Jukes 14th
James Mason 19th
Alan Cooksley 21st

Robert Mercer 22nd
Clive Wawn 23rd
Ian Mc Pherson 24th
Evelyn Sherlock 24th
Bill Van Den Akker 24th
Bob Gilmour 25th
Leslie John 25th
Terry Courtney 26th
Brian Scully 26th
Roy Rider 27th
Ian Rowed 28th
Brian Beckwith 28th
Gerry Van Hees 29th
Trevor Abbott 30th

July:

Frank Gaylard 1st
Thomas Chapman 7th
Allan Hadden 7th
Rob Phillips 7th
John Engledow 8th
Michael Higgins 10th
Jock Purves 12th
Phillip Worboys 12th
David Skinner 16th
Ted VanDyken 16th
Peter Watson 21st

Ray Churches 22nd
Peter Leek 22nd
Neil Carolan 25th
Darryl Tinker 25th
Peter O'Meara 28th
Colin Arscot 31st
John Baldiston 31st



Quick Quiz Answers

- A 1: Bedrock
- A 2: 36
- A 3: Islamabad
- A 4: Ballarat
- A 5: Cycling
- A 6: Skyhooks
- A 7: Water

Members not in good health

Ron Jacobs
Graham Ryan
Gerry Thomas
Martin Moran
Greg Wood
Fred Kann

We wish all Members a speedy recovery

With sadness we record the
passing of:

Roger Street
Charles Mackinnon
Eileen Hall (Wife for the Late William)

Caravan Club



With Noel Mirtschin offering to be our Co-ordinator for the Caravan Club we will be scheduling various trip after the winter cold has diminished somewhat.

Our next Caravan trip will be a joint venture with our South Australian counterparts.

The Details are:

Sat 16th to the 23rd of September at the Narrawong Caravan Park. Dutton Way Narrawong.

Cost is \$32 per night with a 10% discount for the group booking with the SA Caravan Group which brings the cost down to \$28.80 per night for 2 people.

There are cabins for those who don't have a van but wish to come along. A number of different types of cabins and costs are available so if anyone is interested they can view the cabins

on the parks web site.

If anyone is interested they need to ring the park on 03 5529 5282 and book a site. They need to say its for Retired Ambulance Caravan Group so they can get the reduced rate. I have arranged for some of the sites to be saved for us.

HELP NEEDED TO CONTINUE THE CARAVAN CLUB ACTIVITIES

Noel can be contacted on
Mob: 0419 538 301

Regional Meetings Dates

Our Regional Meetings commence with the first being:

Gippsland District on Thursday 11th May commencing at 12noon - Morwell Club. The following meeting will be on Thursday 11th August also at the Morwell Club

Geelong & Surf Coast on Wednesday 7th June at 12 noon - Geelong RSL Belmont

North East Victoria - Saturday 27th May - 11.30am - Benalla Ambulance Station, followed by lunch supplied by AV.

Central & Northern District Thursday 25th May - Bendigo RSL

Ballarat & Central West - Wednesday 7th June 12noon - Golf House Hotel North Ballarat

South West Victoria - Monday 5th June - 12noon at Warrnambool.

Metro (Melbourne) Wednesday 14th June - 10.30am at Doncaster AV Headquarters.

North West Victoria - Tuesday 20th June - 12noon Mildura RSL

We look forward to seeing all Members at the various District Meetings throughout the year.

Retired Ambulance Association of Victoria Inc.



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Mobile: 0435 010 943
Email: raav.secretary@gmail.com

www.retiredambulacevictoria.org.au

THE ATHEIST IN THE WOODS

An atheist was walking through the woods.

'What majestic trees!

'What powerful rivers!

'What beautiful animals!

He said to himself.

As he was walking alongside
the river, he heard a rustling
in the bushes behind him.

He turned to look. He saw a
7-foot grizzly bear charge
towards him.



He ran as fast as he could
up the path. He looked over
his shoulder and saw that the bear was closing in on him.
He looked over his shoulder again and the bear was
even closer.

He tripped and fell on the ground.

He rolled over to pick himself up but saw that the bear
was right on top of him, reaching for him with his left paw
and raising his right paw to strike him...

At that instant the Atheist cried out,
'Oh my God!'

Time Stopped.

The bear froze.

The forest was silent.

As a bright light shone upon the man, a
voice came out of the sky.

'You deny my existence for all these years, teach others I don't exist
and even credit creation to cosmic accident.'

'Do you expect me to help you out of this predicament?

Am I to count you as a believer?

The atheist looked directly into the light, 'It would be hypocritical of
me to suddenly ask you to treat me as a Christian now, but perhaps
you could make the BEAR a Christian?'

'Very well,' said the voice.

The light went out. The sounds of the forest resumed. And the bear
dropped his right paw, brought both paws together, bowed his
head and spoke:

'For what I am about to receive, may the Lord make me truly thank-
ful, Amen.'



Facebook: Retired Ambulance
Association of Victoria Inc.

Committee: of Management

President: Ray Lougheed

Vice President: Ian Donaldson

Secretary: Ian Cameron

Treasurer: Darrell Rintoule

Committee Members:

Bill McKnight

Peter Leek

Dennis Meek

Les Wood

John Clancy

Frank Abela