



Retired Ambulance Association Victoria Inc.

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NEWSLETTER

The President and Committee trust that you all had an enjoyable Festive Season and that the New Year will bring the best of everything you desire.

The Last Partners meeting combined with the Christmas Luncheon was held at the Doncaster Complex of Ambulance Victoria on Wednesday 14th of December 2011. The proceedings were opened by our President, Chas Martin, at 1030hrs with a warm welcome to all. This became one of the largest meetings we have seen for some time with over 65 Members & Partners in attendance.

At the meeting we recorded our condolences to the families of former Chief Superintendent Mr H G (Jock) Berry and former Station Officer Ed Bailey, who passed away since the previous meeting. We also sent our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Wally Ross, and Ken Welsh who were on the sick list and Martin Moran who is recovering from a hip operation.

Following the meeting we received a most informative and motivating talk from Leigh Woodgate about her horse riding mishap as a jumps jockey at Hamilton Races, her life threatening injuries and her slow but steady recovery.

This was followed by an enjoyable Christmas luncheon again provided by Pauline & staff of A V.

Since that meeting we have recorded the passing of Ken Welsh (Winky) on the 9th January and we extend our condolences to his family. Kens funeral saw a large representation from both the Retired and Serving members of AV.

The next meeting signals a change in day as we are trying a Friday time slot in order to attempt to gain more car parking spaces at AV Headquarters as many staff take this day as ADO and there are fewer management meetings. ***NOTE: The change in venue for the next meeting only - details later in the newsletter***

I am sure that you all have read or heard about the NSW Ambulance Officer, Mike Wilson, who was killed on Christmas Eve whilst on a rescue mission. The NSW Ambulance Service and their Union have established a fund to assist the Wilson family with ongoing expenses for the children.

If any of our members wish to contribute, the appeal details are:

<http://www.ambulance.nsw.gov.au/Community-Info/Mick-Wilson-family-appeal.html>

I am sure all donations would be gratefully received.

The next meeting will be held on Friday 9th March at 10.30 Hrs at the Port of Melbourne Education Unit Theatre located at 343 Lorimer Street Port Melbourne with the guest speakers being Paul Holman and other senior members of Ambulance Victoria who will be giving us an insight of some of the issues facing AV at the moment. Following the meeting there will be the usual lunch (**Ladies please bring a plate**) and we are assured that Tea & Coffee facilities are readily available. Please register if you will be attending or not by contacting Ian on 85037745 or by email: i.cameron@y7mail.com no later than Sunday 4th March 2012.

As usual we are always interested in locating interesting Guest speakers so if anyone has heard of someone who they feel would suit our needs please contact Ian Cameron with the details.

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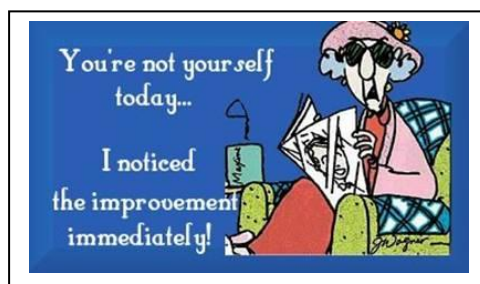
We note with regret the sudden passing Wilma Wilson, one of the telephonists at Latrobe Street for many years. Our sympathies go to her family.
On 29th January we also noted the passing of Alf Gunther, Assistant Superintendant of Metropolitan Ambulance as well as senior postings in regional areas of the State.

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I would like to share an experience with you all about drinking and driving.

As you well know, some of us have been known to have had brushes with the authorities on our way home from the odd social session over the years.

A couple of nights ago, I was out for a few drinks with some friends and had a few too many beers and some rather nice claret.



Knowing full well I may have been slightly over the limit, I did something I've never done before - I took a bus home.

I arrived home safely and without incident, which was a real surprise, as I have never driven a bus before and am not sure where I got it from.