

## RAAV RAVINGS

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South Support Centre at  
Carrum Downs

## A Report from the Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held at Ambulance Victoria Headquarters, Doncaster, on Friday 14th September 2012. The proceedings were opened by President, Chas Martin, with a warm welcome to all, and a special welcome to Stan Sandford, Allison Campbell & Gerry Van Hees who were attending their first meeting.

Chas noted that with 49 members and guests in attendance this was the most members to attend an AGM in memory. Chas reported on the untimely passing of Allan Downie on the previous evening, having only joined the Association 1 week earlier. Also in his report he noted that with the continuing

growth in membership the committee is looking forward to expanding the Association to include other areas of the state in regional meetings and being involved in closer contact with members from these areas. Treasurer Ron, reported that we are in a healthy financial position with a working account balance of \$1027.36 and the term deposit account in credit at \$6383.10 having earned an interest amount of \$544.51 over the past 12 months. The term deposit account has been re-invested at an interest rate of 4.5% for a period of 5 months. This years "Gift to Charity" being \$500.00, was donated to Berry Street to assist them in their programs for young adults.

Over the past 12 months there has been a significant increase in membership with 30 new members joining to date, and with continuing contacts being located in various areas of the state there is confidence of further member numbers increasing throughout the coming year. Currently the total membership stands at 184. However, regretfully we record the passing of 5 members being: Jock Berry, Ken Welsh, Carl Bryant, Doug Woodhouse and Allan Downie. We extend our condolences to their families.

Following the formal agenda we were presented with a very interesting presentation from RACVs Mr. Mel Higgins on the Years Ahead Program

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## Happenings out South West

The South West Group of the Retired Ambulance Association held a meeting on the 27th July at Maceys Hotel in Warrnambool. The meet saw 7 members attend with several other members unable to make it on this occasion. This was accepted as the start of more enthusiastic lunches in the future. It was

also a chance for many former ambulance employees in the south west to get together and talk about old times and to discuss what they are each doing now. The distance in travelling to Melbourne means past members in the SW find it hard to get to meetings in the city. These local meetings fill the void

and keep members up to date regarding activities of the Association. The next meeting will be held in Hamilton on Monday 26th November at the Botanical Motel, 75 French Street, commencing at 12 noon. Thanks to Ian Johnson for organizing the venue. Ray Loughheed - Liaison

## Changes to the Constitution and Rules

Consumer Affairs Victoria are renewing the Act of Parliament which governs how associations are organized and managed. We therefore are required to review all aspects of our operations and management and must make changes to our procedures as necessary.

Some of the changes will require us having to review and update our Constitution and Rules of Association. Our Constitution has not received any attention or review for 10 years so it seems timely that we

incorporate all the necessary changes that are proposed through this new Act. Major changes that will effect our Association include:

- Annual financial reporting
- Statement of purpose
- Rules of the Association
- Legal protection of officer bearers
- Minimum rights of members
- Roles and duties of the Secretary
- Record keeping
- Register of members and personal information.
- The committee intends to com-

mence immediately on reviewing all the processes and will bring to the membership any formal documentation that are necessary for you to make an informed and appropriate decision as to the structure and management of our Association

The committee envision there will be no controversial or divisive issues affecting the membership whilst under taking these deliberations or upon completion of this review.



**Up and running  
More information  
being added**

## Web Site Development

The temporary website is now available and can be viewed at "www.retiredambulancevictoria.org.au" We are now developing the actual content and are please with the new draft samples supplied to the Committee.

At the temporary site you can download the new Membership Application form or send an on line email to the Secretary. These features and much more will be available in the new site. The web site of our sister organization Ambulance Historical Society of Victoria Incorporated is complete and can be viewed at "www.ahsv.org.au" which can be an indication of the skill sets going into the development. We intend to have online access to our newsletters and more info about retired ambulance members so get on board and send any photos, anecdotes or stories to the secretary now!

## Membership Fees

Membership fees for 2012 / 2013 are now due and payable.

Please ensure that your fees are paid before the end of November 2012.

Payment can be made either by cash/cheque to Darrell Rintoule or bank deposit into our account at the Commonwealth Bank.

Either Darrell or Ian will give you deposit details if you wish to use a direct debit or cash deposit at a bank branch.

## Signing in at Doncaster

Most of us are aware these days that Health and Safety are major issues pursued by all organizations and business throughout the country. Ambulance Victoria is no different and A V have requested all members who attend any of our functions at any of their premises must be "signed in" therefore we have provided a list of all members names and you are requested to locate your name and sign or initial

the register. The list at Doncaster Headquarters is located at the Front Office and if we attend any other AV location a separate list will be provided for each function.. The primary function of this register is if there be an incident at any of these locations A V will be aware of the approximate numbers of person within the premises. Please assist all of us by signing in.

## New Committee

At the Annual General Meeting we saw a slight change in the make-up of the committee. As there was only one nomination for President Chas Martin retained this position. With the retirement of Ron Batten as Treasurer we see the appointment of Darrell Rintoule as the incoming Treasurer for the next 2 years

Holden "Skate Board" Ambulance. Although this one was based at Eildon several were used throughout the state



### Meeting Times for 2013

Following the survey earlier this year as to the need for more meetings next year the committee felt that the final result was inconclusive and subsequent discussions by the committee, it was decided to recommend that an open vote be conducted at the Annual General Meeting to gauge if there should be more meetings or stay the same as currently held.

Following an overwhelming show of hands it was decided that the format will remain the

same as current - 4 meetings a year held in the 3rd month of each quarter.

Further discussions are being held between AV and the committee to establish the timing of these meetings and whether to stay with the Friday format or move to another day of the week.

It is hoped that a final decision will be circulated to all members before the next General Meeting.

### New Members

It is pleasing to have so many new members joining our ranks. We are proud to welcome the following new members:

Brian Trenery from Warrnambool

John Parkinson - Warrnambool

Robert Reilly - Bushfield

Bob Bowman - Warrnambool

Gerry Van Hees - Narre Warren North

Trevor Walker - Blackburn

and Michael Wilson - Mount Helen.

Looking forward to seeing you at a meeting soon.



Former Latrobe Valley Ambulance at Thomastown Museum

### Next Meeting Dates

The next General Meeting (Christmas Meeting) of the Association will be held at Doncaster on Friday 14th December at 10.30am. Our guest speaker for this meeting will be the renowned actor Mr. John Wood. Please advise Ian Cameron if your intention is to attend or not able to do so. Tel: 03 8503 7745 or Email: i.cameron@y7mail.com before Friday 7th Dec.

Those wishing to attend the SW Meeting (Luncheon Meeting) in Hamilton on Monday 26th November Please Advise Ray Loughheed on 03 5562 5367 or email: 6jedburgh@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing all members at either meeting as this will be the last meeting for the year.

Have a safe & happy Christmas & New Year.

**John Wood,  
actor  
as Guest Speaker**

### Guest Speakers

Have heard an interesting speaker or been told about someone who has an fascinating story?

Know of an organisation with that latest 'must have' product?

Perhaps it is just 'I'd like to know about that' type of subject

If so give Ian Cameron a call on 8503 7745 or email i.cameron@y7mail.com with any information.

### Ron Batten Retires

After 22 years of dedicated service our Treasurer, Ron Batten, has decided to hang up his pencil, rubber and calculator and find a chair in the middle of the meeting room instead of at the head table. His valued contribution has seen our financial position go from strength to strength, coupled with his negotiating skills where he has squeezed the

best interest rates from any bank manager who tried to under cut him.

He also gave respected and thoughtful input into all discussion and decision making processes at committee level as well as during members meeting deliberations.

Ron will be sorely missed on committee but we know that his advice will always be avail-

able if or when we may need to consult him.

Thank you Ron, for a job exceedingly well done.

Ron's replacement, Darrell Rintoule has some very big shoes to fill. Welcome aboard, Darrell.

### Sick List

Ray Thomas (Plod) has just spent the last week in hospital and is still recovering. We wish him a speedy recovery.

WW1 Ford Model T Ambulance at Thomastown Museum



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Check us out at  
[www.retiredambulancevictoria.org.au](http://www.retiredambulancevictoria.org.au)



Current style General Purpose Ambulance  
Mercedes Benz Sprinter

### Your Committee

- **President**  
Chas Martin
- **Vice President**  
Peter Leek
- **Secretary**  
Ian Cameron
- **Treasurer**  
Darrell Rintoule
- **Committee**  
Bill McKnight  
Ron Jacobs

Did you know that the first meeting of the Association was held on 16th October 1977. There were 27 attendees at that meeting and it would appear a committee was formed in order to organise regular gatherings of retired ambulance personal. Existing records show that Mr. Norm Mills was President in November 2000 with Chas Martin attending his first meeting.

Since this time the Association has grown steadily from humble beginnings to a membership now exceeding 180.

The Association was Incorporated on 13th August 1990 with the original Constitution being adopted in March of that year, changes were later made to the Constitution in November 1993 which still remains as our guidance to this day.

### The Back Page

In a parochial school, students are taught that lying is a sin.

However, instructions also advise that using a bit of imagination was OK to express the truth without lying.

Below is a perfect example of those teachings:

An attractive young woman on a flight from Ireland asked the priest beside her, 'Father, may I ask a favour?'.

'Of course child. What may I do for you?'

'Well, I bought my

mother an expensive hair dryer for her birthday. It is unopened but well over the customs limits and I'm afraid they'll confiscate it.

Is there any way you could carry it through customs for me? Hide it under your robes perhaps?'

'I would love to help you, dear, but I must warn you, I will not lie.'

'With your honest face, Father, no one will question you.'

When they got to Customs, she let the priest go first. The official asked, 'Father, do you

have anything to declare?'

'From the top of my head down to my waist I have nothing to declare.'

The official thought this answer strange, so asked, 'And what do you have to declare from your waist to the floor?'

'I have a marvellous instrument designed to be used on a woman, but which is, to date, unused.'

Roaring with laughter, the official said,

'Go ahead Father