

RAAV SAVINGS

Special points of interest:

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- > First Air Ambulances in Australia
- > Critical Response Display
- > A Trip To Antarctica
- > Guest Speaker for Doncaster



Current Style of Ambulance

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Working with Paramedics to End the Ambulance Crisis

Interim findings

Key challenges

The committee's interim report confirms a set of system-wide failures that the committee considers would, in all likelihood, worsen without a new start. In particular the committee has found:

- Ambulance response time performance in Victoria has declined over the past six years.
- Dispatching an ambulance to a Code 1 incident takes, on average, a minute longer in the metropolitan region than it did six years ago.
- The statewide target of 85 per cent of Code 1 incidents being responded to within 15 minutes has not been met since it was established in 2007. In the past six years it has fallen from 82 per cent (2008-09) to 74 per cent (2013-14). The Productivity Commission's *Report on Government Services* confirms that Ambulance Victoria's response times are among the worst in Australia.

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- The time ambulances are spending at hospitals has increased from 2008-09, including ramping during periods of high demand.
- Public demand for emergency ambulance services in Victoria has risen strongly – 5 per cent per annum over the past six years. Demand for Code 1 services in metropolitan Melbourne has increased very significantly, with 6.4 per cent growth per annum in Code 1 incidents over the past six years.
- Feedback indicates that many incidents are being dispatched as requiring 'lights and sirens' when that is not the clinical requirement.
- Ambulance Victoria's workforce experiences unacceptable levels of dissatisfaction and disengagement, workplace fatigue, injury and violence, which impact on their health and wellbeing.

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Opportunities for reform

The proposed reform opportunities include the following:

- Ambulance Victoria should reaffirm its core role as an emergency pre-hospital health response provider and to work collaboratively with other parts of the health system to support patients to receive 'the right care, at the right place, at the right time'.
- Victoria has a committed paramedic workforce that at times feels undervalued and disempowered. This needs to change so that Ambulance Victoria's culture better reflects community values and expectations.
- Ambulance call taking and dispatch is a critical part of emergency ambulance response. Greater focus is required on accurately identifying patient needs during call taking so that the right response can be provided. Please refer to page 3 for full report copy

Combined Meeting of SW and Geelong Members

Monday 30th March 2015.

A combined meeting of SW Victorian and Geelong members was held at the Commercial Hotel Camperdown on Monday 30th March, with an amazing attendance of 24 people.

The meeting was attended by a number of wives and Members and Ian Donaldson and Ian Cameron represented the

State Executive.

It was a good opportunity to catch up with Gerry Thomas and the rest of the Members from Geelong and to discuss old times, with cross boundary chatter between Members, and others who were present, being abundant. Everyone commented on the standard of the food and agreed that such joint meetings are very productive with

excellent outcomes.

Both the SW and Geelong are inspired to collaborate again in the future, with the idea of also meeting with Ballarat Members.

The next meeting of the SW Members will be in Warrnambool on the 29th June.



Members of the the RAAV where presented with a display of response vehicles and given a power point presentation of protocols used for the activation of specialised equipment for public events and time critical situations

The morning started with a presentation of guidelines and protocols of when and how this system is activated followed by a demonstration of their equipment including The Bicycle Response Unit. Command Vehicles. service equipment Pods. mobile Drs



Surgery and other numerous respond units.

Lunch followed with sandwiches and party pies and sausage rolls provided by RA

All attending had a most enjoyable day but we where a little light on numbers, on the day, It would have been fantastic if we could have a little more support considering the effort given to us and the service provided .

Yours Ian

It is with sadness we record the passing of Members Graham Linton and Colin Swinton. Our condolences are extended to their families.

Quick Quiz

Q Q 1. Which element has the shortest name?

Q 2. Who was the first person to fly an aircraft in Australia?

Q 3. Which is the rarest human blood type?

Q 4. In what year did Fitzroy win its first Premiership?

Q 5. What is the best known song written by Peter Dodds McCormick?

Q 6. With which team did Rex Hunt win a premiership?

Q 7. How many were there in the Ned Kelly Gang?

Q 8. In which country do they speak Flemish?

Q 9. What do the numbers go up to on a Roulette Table?

Q 10. In what year did Australia's last hanging take place?

Any Member who may have an idea, article or story of interest PLEASE send a copy to us.

Trip to Antarctica

14th January 2014, My eldest son Chris and myself, flew from Melbourne to Sydney, to join a Qantas 14 hr flight to Santiago Chile, where we stayed for a couple of days to recover from "jet lag". South America is 14 hrs behind Australian (Est). What a very clean city, population of 7.5 Million Where we enjoyed the different places we explored and the restaurants The next move from Santiago, was to fly south 4.5 hrs to a smaller city of Punta Arenas, where we enjoyed the hospitality of the Chilean people for

two days, taking lots of images, as we travelled, of the places and highlights.

The next flight of 35 minutes was from Punta Arenas to Puerto William, a very small town, basically an old naval town, where we boarded the

"Polar Pioneer" a 75 meter working boat for our two week

trip to the Antarctic. Very interesting, full details of the boat can be read by going to Google.

Then it was off to the Antarctic for a two week trip of a lifetime, where we viewed absolute stunning scenery and wildlife, Seals, Penguins, Whales, and Birds. Weather permitting each day, we could leave the boat on Zodiacs, to explore the many icebergs of so many shapes and colour, escorted by Australian naturalists, to land amongst the penguins and seals, at times we able to explore former scientific stations, one was still working (Argentinian) There were 54 of us (tourists) on the trip, from various parts of the world, The Accommodation, meals, and the "Bar" was world class.

The next phase was back on land, at Ushuaia in Argentina, and to explore this very old, but very scenic town, really is a Tourist town as big tour boats depart and return there, again 1st class restaurants.

After two days at Ushuaia we then had a 4.5 hr flight to Bue-

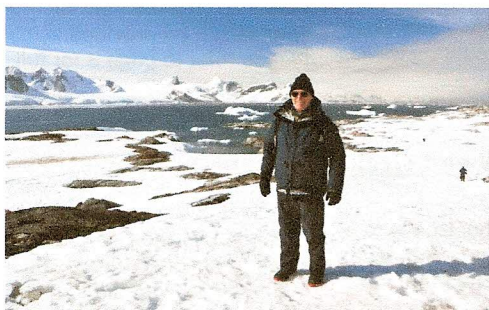
nos Aries in Argentina, where we spent two more days exploring the highlights, and a very delightful restaurant where we enjoyed a superb grilled steak! And side dishes each night! The wine was first class! Early the next morning, we were transported, to the airport to connect to our flight at Santiago, were we spent spare time relaxing in the America club, and enjoyed the rest and the meal, before boarding the Qantas 747 flight home.

The meals and the service are a credit to Qantas staff. Once back in Sydney, wait for a connecting flight to Melbourne, then picked up by family, back to Ballarat, next morning home to Warrnambool.

Very tired, to sum it up, what a wonderful experience, let's hope the Antarctic remains pristine for centuries to come in the future

All relevant information re the boat and its Australian owner and tour operator can be accessed on Google,

John Parkinson.





Ararat Ambulance Station
Unknown year

Quick Quiz Answers

- A 1. Tin
- A 2. Harry Houdini
- A 3. AB Negative
- A 4. 1898
- A 5. Advance Australia Fair
- A 6. Richmond
- A 7. Four
- A 8. Belgium
- A 9. 36
- A 10. 1967

Ambulance Crisis Contact

To receive this publication in an accessible format, please phone 9096 7331 using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or email appcc.secretariat@health.vic.gov.au

Guest Speaker

We have secured the services of Ewan Humphrey, EMR Co-ordinator who will be following up from our presentation by Colin Jones with the prime aim of the use and abilities of AED's.

On The Sick List

We wish a speedy recovery to the following Members:

Ron Jacobs
Brian Shott
Brian Beckwirth

New Members

With the ever increasing number of Members to our Association, we are pleased to welcome aboard the following:

Graham Carpenter - Glenroy
Colin Gaskell - Doncaster
Rhonda Oliver - Mortlake
Bruce Westerland - Frankston
Ian Seaman - Somerville
Terry Courtney - Benalla
Darrell Douglas - Langwarrin
James Ballard - Maffra
Denis Rowe - Alfredton
Clive Wawn - Highton

Looking forward to seeing you at a meeting soon.

Air ambulances

During World War One, aviation moved from experimentation to a powerful military force, and following the war, with a surplus of aircraft in circulation, new uses were found for the aircraft. This included the conversion of planes throughout the world into ambulance planes. Although in 1917, Lieutenant Clifford Peel, a medical student, outlined a system of fixed-wing aircraft and ground facilities designed to

provide medical services to the Australian Outback; the first custom-built air ambulances did not come into existence until the late 1920s. These ideas became reality under the guidance of the Very Reverend John Flynn in 1928 when the Australian Inland Mission service established the Aerial Medical Service, a one-year experimental program. Physicians in this program had several responsibilities, one of which

was to fly out to a patient, treat the patient, and fly the patient to a hospital if the physician could not deliver adequate care on scene. Eventually, this experiment became the Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia.

North West Meeting

On Thursday 16th of April our members in the North West of the State gathered at the Mildura RSL for lunch and with four members in attendance we enjoyed the catch up and the fine cuisine and surroundings. Whilst the usual Ambulance banter and exchanging of ideas and information were discussed. We are interested in gaining more members and increasing our involvement within the Association.



South West Group
Members at the
Wind Farm



Dates for the Diary

Geelong & Surf Coast -
Wednesday 15th July @ Belmont 12 noon
South & West Gippsland -
Thursday 11th June @ Morwell 12 noon
Metro - Wednesday 10th June @ Doncaster 10.30 am
North East Victoria - Saturday 25th July @ Benalla 12 noon
Ballarat & Central West - Thursday 24th June @ Ballarat 12 noon

South West Victoria - Monday 29th June @ Warrnambool 12 noon
North West Victoria - Tuesday 15th September @ Mildura 12 noon

Please advise the respective Zone Co-ordinator or our Secretary if you are going to attend any of these meetings.

Funeral Benefit Plan

We have been encouraged with the take up of our Funeral Benefit Plan.

Any Members who has not yet considered or completed a Plan or any member who may wish to review what you have already decided then please contact Chas Martin on 03 9725 7826 or Ian Cameron on 03 8503 7745 to obtain a Form or review your existing Plan.

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Warrnambool Ambulance Fleet
1994

Check us out at
www.retiredambulancevictoria.org.au

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Ian Donaldson



The Back Page

Traffic Camera

A man was driving when he saw the flash of a traffic camera. He figured that his picture had been taken for exceeding the limit, even though he knew that he was not speeding... Just to be sure, he went around the block and passed the same spot, driving even more slowly, but again the camera flashed. Now he began to think that this was quite funny, so he drove even slower as he passed the area again, but the traffic camera again flashed. He tried a fourth time with the same result.. He did this a fifth time and was now laughing when the camera flashed as he rolled past, this time at a snail's pace... Two weeks later, he got five tickets in the mail for driving without a seat belt..

You can't fix stupid.