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## RAAV Ravings



### Sebastopol resident George Prolongeau believed to be oldest Ambulance Officer in Victoria

While many things have changed dramatically since the 1950s, few have undergone as complete a transformation as the ambulance service.

Just two months out from his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, Sebastopol resident George Prolongeau has seen more developments in the industry than anyone in the state.

An ambulance officer up until 1977, the 99-year-old was formally inducted as a life member of the Retired Ambulance Association at a ceremony last December. He is believed to be the oldest surviving ambulance officer in Victoria.

For Mr Prolongeau, it was a stint in the army during World War Two which gave rise to a lifelong career.

"We were poor when we were young and I had no secondary education," Mr Prolongeau said of his early life in Sebastopol. "I worked in the family gold mine and on farms before getting the

call-up to the army, and being a Christian man I asked to go into a non-combat unit."

Mr Prolongeau served in New Guinea and Bougainville in the kitchen and in the field ambulance, experiencing the brutality of war but also gaining valuable skills.

Following the war he joined the Ambulance Service in 1952, where he slowly worked his way to the position of Ballarat station officer.

In contrast to the highly skilled and educated paramedics who operate ambulances today, Mr Prolongeau said ambulance officers in his era relied on the medical expertise of doctors and nurses. Mr Prolongeau himself was only required to have advanced first aid skills when first entering the service.

"When I was first working at

the hospital we had one ambulance, and the yard men handled that," Mr Prolongeau said. "They would have to pick up a nurse to go with them to do the medical side of things because they weren't medical men."

Despite being just weeks away from the enviable 100 club, Mr Prolongeau remarkably is unable to claim the mantle of oldest in his family. His 102-year-old sister Muriel still lives independently in Wendouree.

Mr Prolongeau put his longevity down to being a "health fanatic", and not over-indulging.

*Article courtesy of the Ballarat Courier*

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## Presidents Report

Hello and welcome to 2017.

I hope all members and their families had a very Merry Christmas and I, along with the Association Committee, wish you all the best for the year ahead and may all your New Year resolutions come to fruition.

The Committee will be working hard once again to realise all the aims and objectives of the Association and we will be keeping all members up to date throughout the coming 12 months.

Once again, welcome to 2017 and bring on the challenges.

Ray Loughheed, President RAAV Inc.



Don (Dusty) Rhodes receiving his Life Membership award



Ken Holt receiving his Life Membership award



Kevin Cannon receiving his Life Membership



Bill Jeffs receiving his Life Membership award

## Dr Graeme Sloman

The month of February will see the founder of MICU, later to become the Mobile Intensive Ambulance Unit, Dr. Graeme Sloman reach the young age of 90 years.

In association with Ambulance Victoria, The Ambulance Historical Museum and our Association we will host a morning tea at the Museum 1/55 Barry Street Bayswater on Tuesday 21st February commencing at 9.30am.

We look forward to seeing many retired and serving MICA Officers attending.

Please contact Ian Cameron or Dave Talbot (0427 567 122) prior to Wednesday 15th February to register your ability to attend.



Dave Talbot receiving his Life Membership award

## Peer Support

With the commencement of our Peer Support and Psych Services about to commence we are looking for more Members to carry out the role of Peer Support within the State.

If any Member wishes to assist us with this vital program please contact either President, Ray Loughheed, or Secretary, Ian Cameron, as soon as possible.

In particular we require Peer Support Members in the Metro District.

## Birthday Greetings

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

February:

Peter Dent - 1st  
Alfred Monk - 3rd  
Bruce Hyatt - 4th  
Colin Gaskell - 5th  
Linton Johnstone - 6th  
Lindsay Mc Coy - 8th

Valerie Morgan - 12th  
Bernie Morrellini - 13th  
Alison Campbell - 14th  
Neil Hall - 15th  
Rhonda Oliver - 16th  
Roger Vidler - 16th  
Ian Martin - 19th  
Arthur Manning - 21st  
Gunter Moses - 23rd  
Goffrey Cousins - 24th  
John Moss - 27th  
Joseph Spronken - 27th

Leanne Russell-Jones - 28th  
Max Brooker - 29th

March:

John Blotsfelds - 1st  
Bill Streegstra - 1st  
Charles Mc Lean - 2nd  
Ian Donaldson - 4th  
John Parkinson - 5th  
George Prolonguae - 8th  
Christine Davis - 12th  
Kevin Poole - 15th  
Stan Sandford - 18th  
Tony Davis - 19th  
Howard Smith - 19th

Ray Neil - 20th  
Len Starkey - 20th  
Gordon O'Keeffe - 23rd  
Charles Mackinnon - 24th  
Ross Eastwood - 25th  
Ted Giddings - 25th  
Graham Ryan - 25th  
Robert Hood - 27th  
Zitamae Dobson - 27th  
George Hood - 28th  
Charles Martin - 28th  
Jim Yandle - 29th  
John Brown - 30th  
David Gawne - 30th

## District Reports

### SW Christmas Meeting

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

The Christmas meeting of the SW members of the Association was held at the Flying Horse Inn Warrnambool at 1200hrs on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December with an attendance of 19 people, including partners. There were 9 apologies listed.

It was with a great deal of sadness that I had to announce the death of our esteemed member, Bill Spooner, and a minute of silence was held in his honour. RIP Bill.

Secretary of the Association, Ian Cameron, attended the meeting and was able to bring all members and partners up to date regarding matters of Peer Support/ Psych Services, Foresters Welfare Fund, Transition to Retirement and Membership ID cards. He also spoke about the various meetings held by the State Executive to promote the aims and objectives of the Association, highlighting the advantages of being a member.

The members present enjoyed the hospitality of the hotel and the chance to have a good chat over lunch.

We were very lucky to have a guest speaker Mr Dedy Friebe, the CEO of Food Share SW, and he gave all present a thorough insight into the operations of this community based voluntary organisation. The purpose of Food Share is to supply food to people in need via other community based groups such as the Salvos and St Vincent de Paul.

The meeting closed at approximately 1400hrs and all members went home to enjoy their Christmas with family.

A guy is looking for a place to sit in a crowded university library.

He asked a girl in the library: "Do you mind if I sit beside you?"

The girl replied with a loud voice: "I DON'T WANT TO SPEND THE NIGHT WITH YOU!"

All the students in the library started staring at the guy; he was truly embarrassed and moved to another table.

After a couple of minutes, the girl walked quietly to the guy's table and said with a laugh, "I study psychology, and I know what a man is thinking. I guess you felt embarrassed, right?"

The guy then responded with a loud voice: "\$500 FOR ONE NIGHT? ...THAT'S TOO MUCH!"

All the people in the library looked at the girl in shock. The guy whispered in her ear: "I study law, and I know how to screw people."



Alan Neicho receiving his Life Membership Award

## Quick Quiz:

Q 1: What was the name of U2's first album?

Q 2: How many cards are dealt on the 'River' in Texas hold 'em?

Q 3: What year was Melbourne established?

Q 4: What do you call a group of Owls?

Q 5: Where was Ned Kelly's last stand?

Q 6: Which desert lies in Mongolia?

## 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](mailto: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.





## Dr. Sloman & MICU/MICA - The Early Years

**Dr Sloman, set up the first Coronary Care unit in 1963 and became Director of Cardiology at Royal Melbourne Hospital.**

In 1969 he developed the concept of MICU for the treatment of pre-hospital heart disease and consulted with Hospital and Charities Commission and later senior Ambulance Management to set up such a unit.

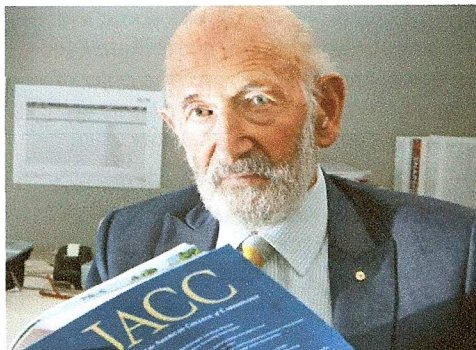
His vision and tenacity culminated in the birth of the MICA Ambulance in September 1971. We would not have existed or survived in those early years without his leadership and support of all his CCU personnel at the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

In the early days of MICA, (1974/75/76) groups of medical and paramedical personnel came to Melbourne to witness the MICA operation.

In 1976 a Dr Chambers from Brighton UK, was impressed and interested in setting up something similar on his return.

A group of cardiologist from USA attending a function in Melbourne took time out to see what we were up to.

Other groups of visiting paramedical personnel from the USA also spent some time running with us.



A USA Coastguard vessel returning from Antarctica sent their medics to spend a few days with us.

An ICU charge sister from the Midlands in a group from the UK stated that when the tour was being organised the Melbourne MICA was a must see. All this interest was not to our credit but rather to the one who created and kick started it to a level that set us apart from other organisations of the day. These were but a few that showed interest in our system in those early days.

A Nursing Sister from Indonesia who was sent to complete the CCU course at RMH also had the added brief to study MICA with a view to set up something similar on her return; this she did.

All these visitors returned home having gleaned something of what was possible. How much of what they witnessed filtered down within their organisations is difficult to determine. However out of all this interest during those early years the flow on effect must have benefited unknown numbers of people across the globe by improving the level of care offered by paramedical services. It is highly probable that this could be largely traced back to the Melbourne MICA.

Current Mica Officers would not be enjoying their present level of expertise had it not been for Dr Sloman's foresight and drive.

**We have much to thank him for.**

## Melbourne Hospital Research Hall of Fame

A FITZROY doctor who invented the first Australian-designed pacemaker has been inducted into the Royal Melbourne Hospital Research Hall of Fame.

Dr Graeme Sloman reflected last week on the golden age of medical advances in Australia following the Second World War.

"People that got involved then were very lucky -because it was a period of rapid growth. A lot of things were de-

veloped and -invented," Dr Sloman said. Dr Sloman developed the pacemaker in the 1960s as part of the clinical engineering team at the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

Dr Sloman also set up the first coronary care unit in Victoria in 1963, which changed the way patients with heart conditions were managed and boosted survival rates. He was among 19 legends of medical research -[inducted into the hall of fame on June 21 2014](#)



Allan Oakes receiving his Life Membership



Don Carpenter  
receiving his Life  
Membership award

#### Quick Quiz Answers

A 1: Boy

A 2: One

A 3: 1835

A 4: A Parliament

A 5: Glenrowan

A 6: Gobi

#### Members not in good health

Ron Jacobs  
Graham Ryan  
Charles Mackinnon  
Gerry Thomas  
Martin Moran

We wish all Members a speedy recovery



Jim Spanswick  
receiving his Life  
membership  
award



Ron Jacobs Receiving his Award  
for Services to the Committee &  
the Association

### Caravan Club

Last year we commenced our Caravan Club with a run to Mildura in February. Since then there has been no further runs due to our Secretary, Ian, being busy with other aspects of the Association.

Is any Member willing to take on the

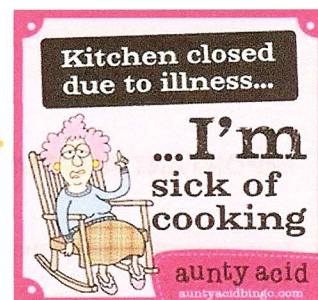
task of organising the Caravan Club please. We only require two or three runs a year.

We could perhaps organise to meet up with our South Australian Counterparts for a combined run.

**HELP NEEDED PLEASE!**

**With sadness we record the passing of:**

Roger Hardwick  
Bill Spooner  
Lionel Schneider



### Regional Meetings Dates

Our Regional Meetings commence with the first being:

Gippsland District on Thursday 9th February commencing at 12noon - Morwell Club

Geelong & Surf Coast on Wednesday 22nd February at 12 noon - Geelong RSL Belmont

North East Victoria - Tuesday 25th February - 11.30am Benalla Bowls Club

Central & Northern District Tuesday 28th February - Bendigo **(New Group)**

Ballarat & Central West - Wednesday 1st March 12noon - Golf House Hotel North Ballarat

South West Victoria - Monday 6th March 12noon at Warrnambool.

Metro (Melbourne) Wednesday 8th March - 10.30am at Doncaster AV Headquarters.

North West Victoria - Thursday 16th March - 12noon Mildura RSL

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



## Retired Ambulance Association of Victoria Inc.



All Correspondence to:

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Victoria 3165

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

[www.retiredambulancevictoria.org.au](http://www.retiredambulancevictoria.org.au)

Facebook: Retired Ambulance  
Association of Victoria Inc.

### Thoughts for the Day:

If you don't swear while driving then you are not paying attention to the road at all.

If at first you don't succeed.. Try doing it the way your wife told you.

If there's a bar where everyone knows your name your probably an alcoholic.

Common sense is a flower that doesn't grow in everyone's garden.



### IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Tea is more dangerous than beer. Please avoid drinking tea.  
I discovered this last night, I had 14 beers till 3am at the pub while my wife was just drinking tea at home. You should have seen how violent and angry she was when I got home. I was peaceful, silent and headed to bed as she shouted at me, all night and even into the next morning.  
Please ladies, if you can't handle your tea, don't drink it...



### 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