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RAAV Ravings



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Ambulance Victoria's plan to work with the community we serve

Ambulance Victoria has released its first comprehensive plan to engage and partner with the community we serve.

The *Ambulance Victoria Consumer and Community Engagement Plan: Working Together with our Community 2017-2019* outlines our commitment to change and adapt to meet community expectations.

Ambulance Victoria Chair Ken Lay, AO, said consumer and community engagement was essential in delivering high-quality pre-hospital emergency care.

"We are uniquely placed as the statewide emergency health responder, in engaging and partnering with people and communities, to respond to the emergency health needs of Victoria's diverse population," Mr. Lay said.

"We have more than 4100 highly skilled frontline health professionals who together with 1000 community volunteers and our key health and



emergency service partners are playing a critical role in providing emergency health care for Victorians in need.

"We know that greater engagement and participation by consumers and the community in their own health care decisions, and in the shape and delivery of health care services more broadly, improves people's experiences of care and ultimately their outcomes of care.

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"We know that greater engagement and participation by consumers and the community in their own health care decisions, and in the shape and delivery of health care services more broadly, improves people's experiences of care and ultimately their outcomes of care.

"We need to do more, and we are committed to working closely with our Community Advisory Committee encouraging the

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broad range of voices of our patients, carers, and community in broader engagement and listening to our patients' views and experiences as we take action to improve our service."

The Ambulance Victoria Community Advisory Committee, established 18 months ago, comprises members of the community who reflect the voice of patients, carers and families, and the cultural, gender and geographic diversity of the Victorian community.

Community Advisory Committee Chair Sue Clarke said the Committee would be pivotal in monitoring the success of the plan.

"Ambulance Victoria is on a journey to build our community participation to better reflect the values and experiences of the broad Victorian community," Ms Clarke said.

"Communities and their needs continue to change and evolve over time. Our challenge is to ensure that Ambulance Victoria continues to grow and innovate, to help shape contemporary emergency health care for the benefit of all Victorians."

The Plan focuses on:

- Better engagement with the diverse communities Ambulance Victoria serves
- Enhancing participation of consumers, patients and community members in the shape and delivery of our services
- Building opportunities for patients and consumers to be better informed and have a say, where possible in decisions about their care
- Improving the information available to the community.
- Strengthening support for staff and consumers.

Presidents Report



Welcome to another edition of RAAV Ravings and we hope you enjoy the read.

Just prior to this edition going to press your Executive had a very well received meeting at AV with Tony Walker and Mick Cameron resulting in a number of issues being discussed with good outcomes.

Peer Support was once again a major topic of the meeting and an understanding was arrived at that training for Peer Support people will commence in the very near future. Mick Cameron is going to follow up with the Peer Support Department at AV and an announcement should be made soon.

The Management of AV has agreed to an annual allowance for the running of the Administration of the RAAV which will mean we will be able to offer more for members. This was an outstanding outcome and I thank Tony and Mick for their assistance in this matter.

Tony Walker was brought up to date with the latest news regarding Foresters and he is waiting for further information regarding this important matter. I will contact Tony with results of our efforts once Foresters CEO, Craig Bell, contacts me after the 31st July.

Other matters such as ID cards, jackets for members and Transition to Retirement were also discussed with satisfactory outcomes in all areas.

We are slowly making headway in our efforts to improve the Association and will continue to inform all members of our progress.

Ray Loughheed

President



A Message from AV CEO Assoc. Prof. Tony Walker ASM

It is always great to have an opportunity to provide an update of the current activity within Ambulance Victoria, particularly given the number of initiatives and projects currently underway.

We have been actively working to ensure our staff's health and wellbeing with the state wide introduction of the new Stryker power life stretchers. We have lifted the profile of Occupational Violence with public campaigning, education and staff training taking a strong zero tolerance approach, and the provision of mental health training and awareness as part of the new Mental Health Strategy. Pleasingly we have been working with the retired Ambulance Association to develop a peer support program for retired ambulance staff to support our retired staff in their time of need.

The clinical Response Model, incorporating the Dispatch grid review changes, has now been fully embedded as part of normal business, which has allowed us to ensure that we deliver the right care, to the right patient, at the right time and minimise the impact that non urgent calls have on our available resources. As part of these changes around 95,000 patients no longer receive Code 1 Lights and Sirens response which frees up our emergency ambulances for emergency patients in the community. The referral service has expanded 3 fold to accommodate the increasing workload, and pleasingly we are seeing our response times improve and have just delivered the strongest cardiac arrest outcomes in our history.

The work around the government's \$500 million dollar investment on resources and infrastructure is well underway, with new resources commencing across the state, and the newly introduced Super Response centres due to commence operation over the coming weeks. This will see an additional 450 paramedics operating across the state.

Finally, I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the members of the museum in supporting the recent research for the 30th anniversary book celebrating Women in Ambulance - I have been lucky enough to have a sneak peek at the final version and there is no doubt that the photos and details provided by the museum have contributed to a fabulous book that speaks to the history of our organisation. Thank you again for your contributions and support.

Regards,

Tony

Quick Quiz:

- Q 1: Who is constantly pursued by Wile e. Coyote?
- Q 2: An oviform object is shaped like what?
- Q 3: What is Ozzy Osbourne's

real first name?

Q 4: Who does Dr. David Banner transform into?

Q 5: What do the numbers add up to on a roulette wheel?

Q 6: Which is the tallest breed of dog?

Q 7: How many strings does a violin have?

District Reports

Central & Northern

Thursday 25th May at the Bendigo RSL we entertained 15 members and guests with lunch and many memories. During our time together we welcomed two new members, Colin Bowden and Dale Gibbons. Our Secretary, Ian, Informed us of the ongoing issues within the Association and we look forward to a positive outcome for all Members. We are still asking for a Member to become the Co-ordinator for this District and any Member or Members who may be interested in becoming a Peer Support Mentor.



North East Victoria

With the Assistance of Ambulance Victoria - Benalla Branch, 18 Members and Guests were entertained with a complete overview of the current ambulance equipment and uses. Following this very interesting display Team Leader Tim Nolet hosted us with a fine lunch.. All members thanked Tim for his time and allowing us to view the Station and equipment. A number of us shared many happy memories of working in the former and existing station. Following this our Secretary, Ian, gave a short report on the ongoing process of Peer Support and the Foresters Fund as well as a general overview of happenings around the State.

Jim Osmotherly was unwell on the day, report by editor.

South West Victoria

Monday 5th June 2017

The 2nd meeting of the SW RAAV for 2017 was held at the Warrnambool Football Club rooms and was accepted well by all present and we welcomed new member Andrew Fowler.

There were 11 members present with an additional 3 prospective members attending plus there were 10 apologies.

All present were brought up to date with the latest information regarding Peer Support and Psych Services and the fact that negotiations are continuing between AV and Frank Abella as to how the structure of the program will operate. In the meantime, if any person has a problem AV will assist.

The matter of the Foresters fund was raised and I read out a letter I had sent to Craig Bell the CEO of Foresters. I have asked him, as the State President of RAAV, to notify us ASAP as to the

stage negotiations are at with the re-admittance of RAAV members to the Fund. A reply was received back that the Actuaries are still looking into the matter and we should hear some news very soon. We will keep up the momentum.

A very good variety of food was available at the Club and all enjoyed the get together.

Bob Reilly had organised a guest speaker, Ray Welsford, and we all enjoyed a talk on Genealogy and how to find lost ancestors. Thanks Ray and thanks Bob.

The meeting finished at around 2pm and many stayed on to enjoy drinks and more conversation.

The next meeting will be held in Hamilton on the 4th September.

Ray Lougheed - Co-ordinator

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 any item of our merchandise. 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 907 192 or

Email: dennis.meek@bigpond.com

Alternatively orders can be given to any Committee Member or District Co-ordinator and the order will be processed as soon as possible.

Birthday Greetings

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

August

Bill Harvey 1st
Robert Rigby 3rd
Geoffrey Coffey 7th
John Clancy 8th
Jeanette Williams 8th
Daryl Knight 13th
Paul Pardoe-Matthews 13th
Darrell Rintoule 13th
George Wait 13th
Margaret Kerr 14th
John O'Sullivan 18th
Stanley Paley 18th
David Calder 19th
Robert Henderson 22nd

Neville Hettick 24th
Bill Middleton 25th
Phillip Matthews 26th
Rodney Poulson 26th
Gary Thompson 26th
Peter Cassady 27th
Christopher Coucill 30th
Vaughan Murphy 30th
Ross Robotham 30th

September

Charles Johnson 4th
Mal Peters 4th
Alan Close 7th
Mal Peters 9th
Ian Seaman 10th
Ivan Lewis 13th
Robert Reilly 13th
Don White 13th
Bob Beggs 15th

Warren Ashley 17th
Sandy Jones 18th
Neale Johnson 18th
Sandy Kahn 18th
Bruce Slater 18th
Peter Aberly 19th
Jim Ballard 19th
Terry Baker 20th
Brian Trenerly 22nd
Bernie Griffiths 23rd
Mike Mc Manus 23rd
William Sleep 23rd
Bill McKnight 25th
David Appleton 26th
Don Rhodes 26th
George Brown 29th
David Appleton 26th
Don Rhodes 26th
George Brown 29th

October

Glen Dowlan 2nd
John Perry 3rd
Peter Whittle 5th
Ralph Mc Kelvie 6th
Bill Jeffs 7th
Brian Redfern 7th
Les Hotchin 9th
Geoff Elmes 10th
Jim Spanswick 11th
Andrew Fowler 13th
Ray Loughheed 13th
Richard Williams 22nd
Brian Cass 24th
Ian Dale 25th
Ken Atkinson 26th
Ronald Callaway 27th
Ken Holt 27th
Col Evans 28th
William Bush 29th
Ben Wright 30th

New Members

Rosemary Bosse - Trafalgar
Wayne Simmons - Huonville, Tas
Dale Gibbons - Maiden Gully
Colin Bowden - White Hills
Peter Pildre - Newborough
Wendy Barry - Junortoun
Malcolm Zadow - Bendigo
John Head - Pascoe Vale
Ben Ellis - Langwarrin
Sandy Kahn - Croydon

We welcome our new Members and look forward to seeing you at a meeting near your soon.

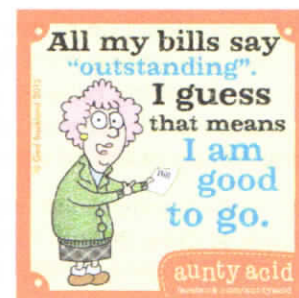
Editors Note:

As a side issue to our new members.

For the year 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 we have welcomed 44 new Members to the Association.

So far this year we have welcomed 4 new Members.

The increase in Membership is gratifying to all.



Ambulance Victoria Museum

With the new Museum in Bayswater now fully functioning we are please to report that there has been a large increase in groups and individuals visiting to see the display of cars and equipment.

We remind all Members that at any time you would be welcome to view the Museum and the various archives.

Before venturing to Bayswater PLEASE contact Chas Martin on 0428 813 385 to ensure a member of the museum will be available to show you around.

The outdated regulations that stopped Victorian women becoming paramedics

Sixteen kilograms — it's about the weight of a standard suitcase.

But up until 30 years ago, anything heavier was seen as too much for women to lift, and prevented them from a range of professions in Victoria, including becoming an ambulance officer.



Andrea Wyatt unsuccessfully applied to Ambulance Victoria in 1983 after being told just that.

"Basically we are required to work under the Labour and Industry Act 1958. Regulations 132 (b) (iii) limits the weight an adult female is allowed to carry to 16 kilograms," the rejection letter said.

"An Ambulance Officer would be required to lift weights in excess of this continuously. The Equal Opportunities Commission is aware of these provisions and I believe, will, in the future be endeavouring to have them changed."

Three years later a telegram arrived out of the blue asking her to sit an interview.

She went on to become one of the first two women in the state welcomed into the service's male-only ranks in July 1987.

"We were told by the management to expect a little bit of backlash from the guys — they had their own boys' club, I think and they weren't particularly happy about females coming into that," she said.

Three years later a telegram arrived out of the blue asking her to sit an interview.

She said while her male colleagues were only trying to be considerate, she resisted their attempts to lighten her workload.

"They were wanting to take the heavy lifting of any lifts we did, or volunteer to push the stretcher, I said 'no, no I'm here to do equal work'."

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"They were wanting to take the heavy lifting of any lifts

we did, or volunteer to push the stretcher, I said 'no, no I'm here to do equal work'."

WOMEN ASKED ABOUT BOYFRIENDS, BABY PLANS

Ms Wyatt laughed when asked whether she had ever had any trouble lifting more than 16kg.

"The thing that surprised me is I wonder what they thought nurses did in hospital, when they had to roll patients and all of that sort of thing, so it was crazy," she said.

Ms Wyatt said it took time for things to change, with one of her female colleagues who joined a few years later still asked whether her boyfriend knew she was applying, and whether she had plans to get pregnant.

"You just can't do that stuff in nowadays ... they didn't ask me, maybe I didn't look like the pregnant sort of person, I don't know," she said.

WOMEN PARAMEDICS EXPECTED TO OUTNUMBER MEN

Mel Buckingham started a few months after Ms Wyatt in October 1987, becoming the first ambulance officer in country Victoria.



She said when she started, women had to wear the same uniforms as the men, as well as share toilets and change rooms.

"We were all in together, there was no delineation at all ... didn't worry me, didn't care," Ms Buckingham said.

She still works in Ballarat and said an increasing number of women were joining Ambulance Victoria.

Ms Buckingham said part of the reason for the rise was many female nurses were choosing to re-train as paramedics.

Currently 43 per cent of the organisation's workforce is made up of women, and Ambulance Victoria's CEO Tony Walker said in the next 10 years, women were expected to outnumber men.

"Some of the women put the guys to shame in their ability to lift so ... it was an anachronism at the time," he said.

"Our women have proved themselves well equal to any male in this organisation."

District Reports Continued

Ballarat & Central West

Wednesday 7th June saw 7 members attend the Golf House Hotel in North Ballarat for our usual lunch. We received 5 apologies due to Members being away for the winter cold and enjoying warmer climates.

Following lunch our secretary, Ian, gave us an update on the progress of negotiations with the Foresters Fund and the Peer Support program, which will be headed by Frank Abela.

All in attendance thanked the Committee for their continuing endeavours in gaining better outcomes for all and hope to see progress within a short time.

We still require someone to step forward and take on the position of Co-ordinator to assist this area of the State.



North West Victoria

Tuesday 20th June greeted 5 members for lunch at the Mildura RSL. Several of our members were away travelling around various locations trying to warm up and enjoy some leisure time. This included our Co-ordinator, Alan Cooksley, who was travelling the Canning Stock Route. We look forward to his report upon return.

Our State secretary, Ian, gave us an update on the Associations progress with the Foresters Fund along with the Peer Support Program and the activities of our kindred Districts throughout the State.

Gippsland District

Our May meeting was held, as usual at the Morwell Club with 10 members and Guests present and 7 Apologies, following Lunch Chas Martin gave a report on the progress of the museum and the vehicles.

He also reminded those present the need for more memorabilia, honour rolls, signage etc.

He also made mention of how helpful AV has been with updating facilities in the kitchen and toilet areas recently.

A short discussion took place in relation to the caravan club progress and the details required for Noel to enter into the data bank.

Progress report on the Foresters Fund was available but no change at the present time.

Neil Hall - Co-ordinator

Geelong & Surf Coast

Our meeting held on Wednesday 7th June was a quiet affair until Ian Donaldson arrived. As usual, lunch at the Geelong RSL and was first class. 14 members were in attendance,

At the end of lunch we convened to the board room for our update with Ian on current affairs about the fosters insurance another extended conversation about memorabilia was held, it turned out all known memorabilia should be forwarded to the Museum either directly or via the Association.

Our next meeting is on the 16th August at the RSL Geelong if you are in the Geelong area about 12 noon on that date call in and experience good food and fellowship with us.

Trevor Forfar - Co-ordinator

A Chance to Catch up with Staff from Former Ambulance Services

Bendigo And District

Former Staff of the Bendigo & District Ambulance Service are invited to a get together on Wednesday 20th September 2017 at the Bendigo RSL for Lunch commencing at 12noon.

RSVP by 14th September to either Julie 0409 957 075 or Aileen 0428 377 365, you can also SMS to either number if wishing to attend.

We look forward to seeing you on the day.

Peninsula Ambulance

People have been discussing this for ages so here is your chance to catch up with former workmates of PAS to see who has grey hair or indeed if they still have hair!

A reunion is planned for 20th September 2017 at the Chelsea Heights Hotel at 12:00 hrs. Sorry for those who might still be working but we've had trouble accommodating everyone. It'll be bistro meals and drinks will be at bar prices.

I don't have contact with everyone from the old days so I'm asking people to spr...ead the word.

Naturally we need to let the hotel know how many to cater for so people interested in attending please email me at: jamesb0007@outlook.com



Car 842 - PAS MICA

The RAAV Caravan Group has now a Facebook site; RAAV Caravan Group. This site has been developed for those Retired or operational Ambo's interested in caravanning to have some input into the group. Although the group originally was set up for retired ambulance personnel I think that we need to expand to current operational members of Ambulance Victoria to be involved as well.

The idea is for paramedics to remain in contact with each who enjoy caravanning and the great outdoors. I have been in contact with the South

Caravan Club News



Australian group who are having a get together at Narrawong near Portland in September who have invited Victorian Paramedics to join them. Details are on the Facebook site.

I have had contact with the New South Wales Caravan Group in the last few days and look forward to develop an ongoing caravanning relationship with them in the near future. I am interested in hearing from anyone interested in assisting me with the caravanning group please contact me either through the Facebook site or via

Quick Quiz Answers

- A 1: Road Runner
- A 2: An Egg
- A 3: John
- A 4: The Incredible Hulk
- A 5: 36
- A 6: Irish Wolfhound
- A 7: Four

Members not in good health

Brian Phipps
Glenn Robertson
Bill McNally

We wish all Members a speedy recovery

Annual General Meeting

September 13th is the date for our next AGM.

As usual we are interested in members who are able and willing to assist in the ongoing development of our Association.

If you can assist we would be grateful for your involvement and give us the necessary energy to drive the Association forward into further progress and expansion.



email: noelmir1@yahoo.com.au or mobile: 0419538301.

Any Ambo either operational or retired who has a caravan and would like to be involved in the group could they email me with their details; i.e. name, email address, phone number so I can add you to our Caravan Group data base.

With sadness we record the
passing of:

Ron Jacobs (Sarge)
Gerald Thomas (Gerry)

Payment of Subscriptions

We note that many Members are still to pay their annual subscriptions. These funds are necessary for us to continue to advance our objectives and assist you, our Members, to enjoy the benefits of the Association.

When making a payment through EFT, Bank Deposit or Direct Debit PLEASE remember to add your name, Member number or invoice number as a reference so that we can record the correct details of payment to the correct Member.

Regional Meetings

Our Regional Meetings for the next three months are:

Geelong & Surf Coast on Wednesday 16th August commencing at 12noon - Geelong RSL Belmont

North West Victoria - Tuesday 19th September - 12noon Mildura RSL

Gippsland Region - Wednesday 10th August 12noon at Morwell Club

North East Victoria - Saturday 26th August 12noon at Benalla Bowls Club.

Ballarat & Central West - Wednesday 6th September 12noon at the Golf House Hotel

South West Victoria - Monday 4th September 12noon at Hamilton.

Metro (Melbourne) Wednesday 13th September - 10.30am at Doncaster AV

Headquarters.

Central & Northern Victoria - Thursday 24th August at the Bendigo RSL commencing at 12 noon.

We look forward to seeing as many Members as possible at any of these meeting bases and trust you all enjoy a great day.

**Retired Ambulance Association
of Victoria Inc.**



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Facebook: Retired Ambulance
Association of Victoria Inc.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A "DOG PERSON" TO
TRULY APPRECIATE THIS STORY "Stay!"

I pulled into the crowded parking lot at the local shopping centre and rolled down the car windows to make sure my Labrador Retriever Pup had fresh air. She was stretched full out on the back seat and I wanted to impress upon her that she must remain there. I walked to the curb backward, pointing my finger at the car and saying emphatically, "Now you stay. Do you hear me?" "Stay! Stay!" The driver of a nearby car, a pretty young blonde, gave me a strange look and said,



(this is going to hurt, but read on)



"Why don't you just put it in 'Park'?"

**I finally realized it..
People are prisoners
of their phones
that's why they are
called Cell Phones.**



Not quite sure what to
do right now...



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
Frank Abela
John Clancy

