August 2022





# **Ambulance Active - Winter 2022**

## Are ambulance performance indicators fit for purpose?

Victorian's have recently seen their state government making funding announcements that are designed to improve the efficiency of the health sector.

The announcements come after media about the sectors failure to cope with Covid. In recent weeks the media has also started to ask questions about what the landscape was like pre-Covid. The AEAV has contributed to this by calling out failures in the health sector that existed in 2017-19 and our belief that the system was destined to fail with the increase in demand and patient flow delays that resulted from Covid.

The current Victorian government has invested heavily in the sector, with particular attention paid to ambulance. When the current government came to power in 2014 the ambulance sector was at crisis point and the focus was on fixing response times. That required money and more staff. There was a honeymoon period from 2015-17 with paramedics at AV feeling the love. Unfortunately, that commitment was non-existent for private non-emerg, ESTA and AV support staff.

Since 2017 that mutual endearment has been taken for granted by the government, and AV were left to their own devices to chase KPI's. The result being AV squeezing the system and workers harder and harder to satisfy the desire of the government for better performance. This has been reflected on in the Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission's report into AV.

The hidden damage to the workforce was a result of the insatiable thirst for KPI's and the fact that AV was able to make those KPI's look better than they really were and were also instructed to artificially inflate KPI's that should reflect the impact on the workforce.

Hiding the impact of the KPI's and ignoring the indicators that the system was failing meant that the government fell into the same old "crisis-investment cycle", which results in systemic overhaul not happening until people are literally dying.

#### Welfare figures inflated

AV is not currently required to report to government on staff welfare other than 8 questions that are taken from the annual People Matter Surveys. These figures are also reported in the AV annual Report. This should be the failsafe to ensure that the workforce is not being pushed beyond reasonable limits to achieve the governments KPI's. Unfortunately though, the government has instructed AV and other public health services to inflate these "welfare" indicators. Sometimes inflating figures by nearly 30%. The consequence being that AV has routinely been able achieve the KPI of 80% of staff with a positive response to safety and culture questions. When in reality, the true figure is more like 60%.

#### Response data hides underlying systemic failures

The main KPI that AV and the government trots out to the public as their proof that the service is functioning well is the KPI of 85% of Code 1 or Priority Zero cases attended within 15 minutes. This has been a political winner for the government and for many years was a factor in the AV Exec receiving bonuses.

This figure has effectively been used as the indicator for the health sector more broadly and improvements in the KPI has regularly been used as the indicator that the health system was improving and even exceling.

Although the problems are far more deep-seated than ambulance, the Victorian government has still unapologetically used this figure as a broad indicator of a healthy system. This has allowed the government to deflect from the failures of the sector and the increasing pressure that has been the precursor for the crisis we are now in.

As an example, using single officers and community officers to "stop the clock" is one way AV has improved this KPI for many years, but it has hidden the underlying resourcing and workload issues. Obviously, these early interventions can sometimes have a significant impact on patient outcomes but on many occasions the focus has been on stopping the clock to achieve the 15-minute KPI.

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Firstly, the government and AV need to understand that it is in everyone's best interest to have a system that is open and transparent and engages in adult conversations with the public. No longer focusing on making things look good for political purposes. Tell it how it is

In addition to the above example, there are numerous other examples of how AV has been able to make things look better than they were and how the government has been able to make it seem like the increasing workload pre-Covid was being soaked up without any adverse impact on staff.

Some of these include:

Increased reliance on continuous overtime

Decreased opportunity for meal breaks

Staff asked to work during annual leave

Community Officer's working with paramedics in busy regional centres

Crews requested to clear despite not completing current case.

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Page 2 RAAV Ravings

# A Message from AV CEO Professor Tony Walker ASM



Hi everyone,

It is great to be able to reconnect with the RAAV community. I hope this finds you well and continuing to navigate the diverse challenges we have faced since late 2019. From bushfires, pandemic and most recently floods, we are living through some difficult times. Through these challenges, however, have come stories of kindness and compassion, both from within Ambulance Victoria and the wider community. Such stories of generosity and resilience are uplifting examples of the strength of human spirit and the resilience we have when we work together in communities.

Given the current environment I want to remind you all that the RAFE Peer Support Program is available to support you. Checking in with former colleagues, family and friends is as important as ever. Contact RAFE on 0428 332 418 or via email RAFE.peersupport@ambulance.vic.gov.au.

This year AV are proud to be partnering with the Movember Foundation to change the face of men's mental health. We celebrate the Mo throughout Movember by growing a moustache, moving for men's health, hosting a fundraising event or whatever else you can to stop men dying too young. Check out this link and see what you can do to support this important cause. <a href="https://au.movember.com/">https://au.movember.com/</a>

On a personal note, as many of you are aware since my last message to you back in February, I have undergone surgery and chemotherapy for bowel cancer. The good news is that I am well and in remission, however it has given me pause to reflect on what's important and I've decided the time is right to step down as Ambulance Victoria CEO. AV has been a part of my life for nearly 37 years, and as I am sure you can appreciate, this hasn't been an easy decision but is the right one for me and my family.

As I sign off for the last time as Ambulance Victoria CEO I would like to acknowledge and thank the RAAV Committee for their dedication and commitment to engaging and supporting our former colleagues. Your contribution of time and effort in providing the opportunity for connection and reflection is highly valued.

Farewell everyone and take care.

Tony

Tony Walker

Chief Executive Officer Ambulance Victoria





# **Presidents Report**



A special shout out and congratulations to Tony for the past 36 Years plus with Ambulance Victoria in his leadership and guidance as CEO

I believe Tony has been instrumental in making Ambulance Victoria one of the best Ambulance Services "World Wide." All of us here at RAAV wish Tony a happy and healthy retirement and hopefully we will see Tony at one of our many luncheons

Tony's last day with AV was 28/10/2022

The AGM was held on Friday 14th October 2022 at the Ambulance Museum.

We had depleted numbers due to the rain and floods in the area

With members contacting us to say they were unable to drive to the Museum, however we had 28 members present. The Meeting went really well followed by lunch which was provided.

Due to the very successful "Good Sam" program we would like to let members know that this app is open to members of RAAV and would invite anyone interested in being part of the program to download the app and participate in the program.

To look for the app just log into the AV website "Good Sam."

Due to restrictions being lifted I look forward to catching up with you all in the near future.

lan Donaldson President

#### **New Members**

We are pleased to welcome the following New Members to our Association.

Shaun Ryan - Newtown
Kerry Cursons - Numurkah
Kevin Carter - Essendon North
John Williams - Nichols Point
Michael Collins - Ormond
Barry Sidebottom - Sunbury
Graham Parker - Diamond Creek
Malcolm Campbell - Werribee
Lindsay O'Brien - Launceston Tas.
Justin Nunan - Woodend

We look forward to welcoming all of you, our new Members, to a luncheon meeting soon.

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# **District Meeting Dates**

#### Our next District Meetings for 2022 are:

Geelong & Surf Coast - Wednesday 9th November 12 noon at Geelong RSL, 55 Barwon Heads Road Belmont

Wimmera & Grampians District - Thursday 10th November 12noon at White Hart Hotel, 55 Firebrace Street Horsham

Central & Northern Victoria - Tuesday 15th November 12noon at Bendigo RSL 73 Havilah Road Long Gully

Metro East District - Thursday 17th November 12noon at Wheelers Hill Hotel, 871 Ferntree Gully Road Wheelers Hill

Gippsland Region - Thursday 24th November 12noon at Morwell Golf Club, Fairway Drive Morwell

North East Victoria - Saturday 26th November 12noon at Benalla Bowls Club, 25 Arundel Street Benalla

Dill McNally

Metro - West District - Friday 2nd December at Kealba Hotel, Cnr. Sunshine Ave, & Main Rd East, Kealba

<u>South West Victoria</u>- Monday 5th December 12noon at Warrnambool Football Club

<u>Metro - South District</u> - Tuesday 6th Decemberat Steeples Restaurant Cnr Racecourse and Tyabb Rds Mornongton

<u>Ballarat & Central West</u>.- Wednesday 7th December 12noon at the Golf House Hotel 920 Doveton St North Ballarat

North West Victoria - Tuesday 13th December at Mildura RSL, 130 Madden Avenue Mildura

Metro - North District - Wednesday
14th December 12noon at Darebin RSL
\*402 Bell Street Preston



# **Birthday Greetings**

November:		Bill McNally	11 <sup>th</sup>
Maules	1 <sup>st</sup>	Trevor Mitchell	12 <sup>th</sup>
Max Lee	1 st	<b>David Doering</b>	13 <sup>th</sup>
Greg Prosser		<b>Bob Bowman</b>	14 <sup>th</sup>
Christopher Case	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Peter Spolding	14th
David Gilies	4 <sup>th</sup>	Allan Vivian	15 <sup>th</sup>
Michael Rienits	6 <sup>th</sup>	Peter Crew	16 <sup>th</sup>
John Haines	7 <sup>th</sup>	Gary Dole	18 <sup>th</sup>
Daryl Lee	9 <sup>th</sup>	Phillip Wade	18 <sup>th</sup>
Mal Cole		Charles James	19 <sup>th</sup>
Michael Knight	10 <sup>th</sup>	Laurence Timpso	
Nigel Longman	10 <sup>th</sup>	Bert Martin	$20^{th}$
Kerry Cursons	11 <sup>th</sup>	Garry Hodson	21st
Brian Shott	11 <sup>th</sup>	Joy Mayhew	21st
Alan Bray	12 <sup>th</sup>	Gary Patten	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Neville Lloyd	12 <sup>th</sup>	Patricia Wells	22 <sup>nd</sup>
John Fahey	13 <sup>th</sup>	David Riddell	23 <sup>rd</sup>
Barry Schurmann		Colin Saunders	24 <sup>th</sup>
Dee McDonell	14 <sup>th</sup>	John Williams	24 <sup>th</sup>
Peter Pildre	15 <sup>th</sup>	Laurie Henry	26 <sup>th</sup>
Robert Spencer	15 <sup>th</sup>	Andrew Wilson	26 <sup>th</sup>
Greg Wood	15 <sup>th</sup>	Ray Hubbard	27 <sup>th</sup>
Alan White	17 <sup>th</sup>	Shaun Ryan	27th
Kevin Cannon	18 <sup>th</sup>	Les Wood	27 <sup>th</sup>
Steve Mulligan	19 <sup>th</sup>	Noel Mirtschin	27 <sup>th</sup>
Greame Williams	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Rosemary Bosse	28 <sup>th</sup>
Janelle McManus	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Morrie Browne	29 <sup>th</sup>
Noel Brebner	25 <sup>th</sup>	Mone Browne	-,
Gillian Evans	26 <sup>th</sup>	January	
Terry Baulch	27 <sup>th</sup>	Suridary	
Darrell Douglas	30 <sup>th</sup>	Rodney Bell	6 <sup>th</sup>
D		Peter Skinner	6 <sup>th</sup>
December:		Peter Briscoe	7 <sup>th</sup>
Graham Lewis	4 <sup>th</sup>	Leo Cartwright	7 <sup>th</sup>
Alan Smith	4 <sup>th</sup>	Ken Curtis	8 <sup>th</sup>
Steve McGhie	5 <sup>th</sup>	Allan Cross	9 <sup>th</sup>
Colin Street	6 <sup>th</sup>	Peter McMurtrie	11 <sup>th</sup>
Neil Flanigan	11 <sup>th</sup>	Tom Witte Ronald Mc Clean	12 <sup>th</sup>
_		Moridia IVIC CICAIT	12



Brad Pike	12th
Dennis Meek	14th
Brian Mellor	14th
Louis Grygierczyk	17 <sup>th</sup>
Ross Harlock	18 <sup>th</sup>
Athol Nicholas	18th
Allan Malone	19th
Dennis Wood	19th
Dave Tyson	20 <sup>th</sup>
Pat McKenzie	21st
David Perkins	21st
Tony Veitch	21st
Ben Ellis	23 <sup>rd</sup>
David Hadj	30 <sup>th</sup>
lan Johnson	30th
Geoff Quennell	30th
John De Boer	31 <sup>st</sup>
David Pederick	31 <sup>st</sup>

# Members not in good health

Howard Smith Don Pollard Frank Gaylard

We wish all Members a speedy recovery

# Payments to the Association

Please be aware that any payment made to the Association MUST have either your NAME, INVOICE NUMBER or MEMBER NUMBER for us to allocate the received amount. Failure to do so may render the sender to receive a reminder invoice which could be an embarrassment to both yourself and our accounts department.

Several payments have been made to our account with no idea who sent them To the Members who sent these payments please contact our Secretary to ensure the correct details are recorded and you are correctly credited with the payment.

# **District Reports**

#### South West Victoria

#### Warrnambool FC

# 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022

A meeting was attempted between the SW and Geelong but, unfortunately, it didn't come to fruition so the September meeting returned to home base, so as to speak.

We had 10 Members in attendance with some of those travelling from Hamilton and Casterton, there were 11 apologies, a Guest Speaker and Assistant Secretary of the Association, Jim Ballard and his wife. Jim brought people up to date with operations of the State Committee.

Bob Reilly was able to organise a Guest Speaker at short notice, thanks Bob, and all present were bought up to date with the Operations of Wannon Water by the Manager of Asset Planning, Brad Clingin. His speech was very interesting and elicited many questions from Members.

Two of our Members are on the sick list, Terry Baker and Norm Burville, but are currently recovering and hopefully will be feeling better soon. We wish them all the best.

A good day was enjoyed by all present and a number of car stickers were purchased by Members. Let's promote the organisation wide and far.

Ray Lougheed Convenor

#### **Ballarat & Central West**

At our usual venue of the Golf House Hotel we hosted 7 Members and partners with a number of apologies for the day.

As usual we all enjoyed the company and, of course, the food and gossip.

Still looking for a Member to step up to the plate and take on the role of Coordinator of this important District. Any takers?

#### Metro South District

The September luncheon went well with 30 attending and because we

decided to go back to Steeples it proved a great success.

As we are starting to return to some form of normal I believe we will have an increase of numbers at our Tuesday December 6th. Luncheon which will be held at Steeples in Mornington.

Bryan Cass Coordinator

#### Metro West District

We had our lunch at the Kealba on the 2nd of September and 30 members and partners attended.

It was a lovely afternoon where everyone got to catch up and discuss the holidays they had just recently

been on or the ones coming up in the future.

We are growing slowly as paramedics are retiring and they hear about us.

I have attached some photos of our lunch.

Our next lunch will be on the 2nd of December 2022 at the Kealba Hotel around midday.

Everyone is welcome and please bring your partners as they are welcome.

Georgie Hall Coordinator

## Central & Northern Victoria

Peter Briscoe Convenor

#### North East Victoria

The NE luncheon meeting was a great afternoon for all of the 29 members and wives who attended. This has been one of the best turn-outs I've enjoyed since being a member, with a few members joining us after a long absence.

We have a new Associate Member following Roger Vidler bringing along Kerry Cursons, Dick's wife, and it was good to have Barb Osmotherly join us.

We had a moment of silence for Chas Martin and Jim Osmotherly before the awarding of Life Memberships to Jon Edwards & Eddie Kay. We were gladdened to hear that both of these guys had enjoyed their time with Ambulance, as varied as their experiences have been in, and out, of "the job".

We send our regards to Don & Shirley Pollard, Don has been in hospital again & not travelling well.

Leanne Russell-Jones Convenor

# Geelong and Surf Coast District

At our lunch we have 16 Members attend. One being a phone call apology while proceeding in a cab to the RSL & one via an attending member both due to sudden illness. One other absentee being a known dicky attender. Overall, we had that 16 which included John & Judy H. I had sought the opinion of Andrew Pipkorn some months ago & with a chat to John H, today, agreed to initially support then adopt the role so sought to keep this Branch operative... The new form of Name Badges were spoken about, Kevin Cannon asked me if I had received my two, then explained his pathway of ordering. John advised me to contact Jim Ballard. I will so do, providing this is in line with your agreement.

Ben Wright Convenor

# Quick Quiz:

- Q1: How many stars are on the Australian Flag?
- Q2: What famous company invented the moving assembly line?
- Q3: What type of animal is seen on the Lamborghini?
- Q4: Who plays Ray Charles in the film "Ray"?
- Q5: Who wrote the classic book "Cloudstreet"?
- Q6: The dollar sign is above which number on a keyboard?
- Q7: What is the National Animal of Canada?
- Q8: What is Australia's largest bird of prey?
- Q9: In what sport could you play at "Shortstop"?
- Q10: What type of vehicles are Vespa's?

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# **Ambulance Victoria Needs a Performance Review**

Ambulance Employees Australia Victoria (AEAV) is calling for an independent review of the ambulance sector's performance following the seventh Code Red of 2022.

During a Code Red, the Melbourne metropolitan area is often left without any ambulances available to attend the most critical cases and patients are asked to find their own way to hospital.

AEAV is calling for a wide-ranging review of ambulance services performance by the Victorian Ombudsman, with the focus on the historical issues that led to the current crisis.

AEAV Secretary Brett Adie said the ambulance system is continuing to fail the Victorian community.

"We can't just keep blaming COVID for the woes in the sector. There is no doubt that COVID has been the catalyst, but the root cause of the current issues is far more insidious," Mr Adie said.

"If we don't understand the underlying issues that led to the current crisis then how can the public or paramedics have any confidence that things will improve.

"Since 2015 Ambulance Victoria have driven their staff into the ground to achieve KPI's and used these KPI's to hide their failures.

"Whether it was single officer responding to "Stop the clock" – whereby an ambulance responds to a patient regardless of it being the most appropriate resource or not – or manipulating welfare stats to

make things look better than they were, the responsibility sits with those who let the sector be driven into the ground and kept ignoring or hiding the undeniable indicators.

"The government and Ambulance Victoria cannot be trusted to be honest about the cause of the crisis. Critical eyes need to look through the COVID smokescreen to find the real cause," Mr Adie

The Union is calling for a review similar to the one recently conducted at Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority (ESTA), which found significant historical issues that led to the crisis there.

# Victoria's ambulance crisis sparks warning due to 'extremely high demand

Ambulance records have been smashed in Victoria for the third quarter running, data released on Saturday reveals. In a statement Ambulance Victoria said Covid, sicker patients resulting from deferred care and staff furloughing had created the record demand for ambulances, which they said had increased 16 per cent from the previous quarter.

The data revealed that from April to June this year ambulances responded to 97,928 'code one' cases across the state – an astonishing increase of more than 13,000 from the same time last year.

Ambulance Victoria has responded to a record number of calls from April to June this year, new data reveals.

Ambulance Victoria said the number was also nearly 5000 more than from January to March this year.

The average response rate across the state was 15 minutes and 49 seconds, the data reveals.

Felicity Topp, the interim chief executive at Ambulance Victoria, said Covid continued to present a risk.

"There are no signs of demand slowing down through winter. Covid-19 continues to pose a high risk to Victorians and will continue to do so for some time," Ms Topp said on Saturday.

Ambulance Victoria said Covid showed no sign of slowing down throughout the winter.

To cope with the demand Ms Topp said Ambulance Victoria had overseen a huge expansion of their number of paramedics and triage services, as well as encouraging the use of the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department.

She said a record 700 paramedics were recruited last year, while 400 have already been recruited so far this year.

From April to June, more than 8000 patients were referred to the virtual emergency department, the data showed.

"If the patient does not appear to require immediate transport to the ED, paramedics are able to arrange a video consultation with an emergency physician or nurse practitioner to determine if care can be safely and effectively provided at home," Ms Topp said. She said that "thousands of patients" had been treated at home from this method.





Some very happy faces at the Metro - West lunch held on Friday 2nd September at the Kealba Hotel



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# Retired and Former Employee (RAFE) Peer Support Program

Ambulance Victoria (AV) are committed to improving the mental health of its people, even after they have left the organisation. Whilst working for an emergency service is rewarding, it also comes with a range of unique challenges.

In 2018, AV in collaboration with the Retired Ambulance Association of Victoria (RAAV) introduced a Peer Support Program for retired and former AV employees which provides access to:

Peer Support (1800 626 377, option 1) 24/7 phone counselling line\* (1800 626 377, option 2) Chaplaincy (1800 626 377, option 3) VACU clinician network appointment\* Other services readily available in the community

The RAFE Peer Support team are not counsellors and do not make psychological assessments. They are trained to deliver psychological first aid and have excellent listening skills.

The RAFE program is designed to facilitate connection, opportunities for social support and access to community support services. Access to the RAFE program is free of charge and any retired or former AV employee who feels they require support is encouraged to do so.

The RAFE volunteer Peers are available to provide support seven days a week, 7am-5pm.

You can contact our RAFE volunteer Peers by emailing RAFEpeersupport@ambulance.vic.gov.au

# Continued from Page 1

#### Review of the indicators

In recent weeks the AEAV has called for an independent review of the indicators that the government and AV use as the litmus test for ambulance and the health sector more broadly.

The government not only has a responsibility to accurately report on whether the health service is operating at sustainable levels but also has a fiscal responsibility to the taxpayers and the community more generally. If reliable and accurate indicators are not in place then how can the community or health workers have any confidence that things will actually improve.

The AEAV will be advocating for reliable indicators which accurately reflect the performance of the sector and the impact of service delivery on the workforce. The AEAV will be calling for indicators similar to:

Percentage of shifts finished on time Percentage of delayed meal breaks Sick leave/ WorkCover trends Number of dropped shifts Average overtime hours worked

Indicators such as these would highlight the strain on the system before decreases in response KPI's and would result in a deeper understanding of issues that will further impact service delivery if not addressed.

For many years now the government has been happy to just look at the sector from afar and has not wanted to understand the impact of the focus on better response KPI's. They didn't want to know, and the health services and others were so set on keeping the government happy that they didn't want to be the ones to ruin the facade.

The community and the healthcare workers deserve a more resilient health system than what we currently have

<sup>\*</sup> Available to former employees for the first 12 months following separation from AV

# **Committee Matters**

Welcome all to this, the last newsletter of the year, and hasn't this year passed quickly.

With the Association not only increasing with new Members we are also increasing our meeting bases and are looking forward to 2023 to see an even bigger push to continue to expand.

It is with pleasure that we have been honoured with 3 new Members to the Committee being David Hadj, Graham Douglas and Julianne Casey. Graham has also taken on the role as Membership Officer and has already made several changes to the structure of the portfolio. Both David and Julianne bring much new advise and we look forward to their involvement and expertise.

The inaugural Meeting of a secondary base in Gippsland will be conducted on Thursday 17th November, a time and place will be circulated very shortly.

As we strive to engage with more former Ambulance Staff and Paramedics we ask you to encourage any or our former colleagues to consider joining in the ever positive association of friendship and cooperation. As mentioned both by Tony Walker and Ian Donaldson we all wish Tony a restful retirement and I know he is willing to join us and we will be most greatful for any ongoing contribution he may be able to offer us in our continuing development.

Finally may I, on behalf of the Executive and Committee wish each and everyone of you all the very beast for the Festive Season and trust that 2023 will bring you the joy and happiness you wish for.

lan Cameron Secretary

# With sadness we record the passing of:

Lesley John Ken Clarkson Ronald Lawrence Hartley Lyle Douglas Teakle Margaret Johnson (Wife of Charles) Norma Paley (Wife of Stan)

We Honour their Service to Ambulance May they rest in peace

# **District Reports**

#### Metro East District

Wheelers Hill Hotel saw 11 Members and Partners attend our lunch on the 18th August. The usual banter and frivolity made for a very successful day. Unfortunately several member were unable to attend due to other matters.

We look forward to seeing many members attend our final function for the year on the 17th November at the Wheelers Hill Hotel.

## North West Victoria

Allan Cooksley Coordinator

#### Gippsland District

Gippsland Luncheon, Inverloch 25<sup>th</sup> August 2022

The Gippsland group met today (25th August 2022) at the Inverloch Esplanade Hotel (aka the Invy Espy).

It was very pleasing to welcome 30 attendees from Central Gippsland, Latrobe Valley and South Gippslanders'.

Jim Ballard substituted as co-ordinator as Neil hasn't been well lately. Also on the sick list have been John Waters who made a valiant effort to attend today. We hope all our ailing members get better soon.

Jim quickly addressed the group welcoming some first timers and their wives to our luncheons; we hope we see everyone in our coming events in the future.

Jim again ran through the process for obtaining support with hearing loss through CompLaw who are the solicitors we have contacted to assist our members should they wish to pursue compensation. Also Jim reminded the group that we have some RAAV pullovers available through our order process. The RAAV name badges sold well with another 15 being requested today.

Noel Mirtschin addressed the group with regard to events happening within the RAAV Caravan Club.

A great day was had by all in quite cold conditions outside. A big thanks to the venue who catered well for the group in this time of acute staff shortage.

Sue Hall

Assisting Coordinator

#### Metro North District

Metro North members met on September 21<sup>st</sup> at the Darebin RSL.

12 Members and partners attended. It's great to see our numbers increasing.

Thanks to Ian Cameron for starting the group before handing over to me, and to our "West brothers and sisters" for their support and guidance.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 12.00 at the Darebin RSL (Bistro), 402 Bell St Preston.

It would be fantastic to see a further increase in attendance.

Col Evans Coordinator

#### Wimmera & Grampians District

With 8 Members and partners attending the White Hart Hotel on the 11th August and several apologies we enjoyed the companionship and gossip of the day as well as the well presented lunch.

It would be nice to see a Member take on the role of Convenor of the District and we encourage any member to consider the role.



# Quick Quiz Answers:

A1: 6

A2: Ford

A3: Bull

A4: Jamie Fox

A5: Tim Winton

A6: 4

A7: Beaver

A8: Wedge Tailed Eagle

A9: Baseball

A10: Scooters

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# Retired Ambulance Association of Victoria Inc.



# Committee of Management

President:

lan Donaldson

Vice President:

Greg Wood

Secretary:

lan Cameron

Assistant Secretary: Jim Ballard

Treasurer:

Ben Ellis

#### Committee Members:

Les Wood

John Clancy

John Head

David Hadj

Graham Douglas

Julianne Casey



How many tickles does it take to make an Octopus laugh? Ten-tickles.

Facebook: Retired Ambulance Association of Victoria Inc.





# www.retiredambulacevictoria.org.au

All Correspondence to: The Secretary 68 Dyer Street Rupanyup Victoria 3388

Mobile: 0435 010 943

Email: raav.secretary@gmail.com



What did one plate say to his friend?

Tonight, dinner's on me!