February 2022

# **RAAV Ravings**



### Volume 9, Issue 1

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# Victoria's triple-zero ambulance call centre operating with skeleton staff as wait times balloon

Victorian residents in need of urgent medical care are "waiting for up to 20 minutes to get through just to have a call answered" by the state's ambulance call centre, the paramedics union says.

The call-taking service for ambulances in Victoria is operating with a skeleton staff, just months after a father of three died after waiting 25 minutes for an ambulance to arrive in Melbourne, the state's paramedics union and a call-centre operator have warned.

As few as five staff members are rostered per shift in Victoria's triple-zero ambulance call centre, leaving callers in the state of 6.6 million people waiting as long as 20 minutes to get through, according to Adam\*, an Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority (ESTA) call-centre operator, who spoke to SBS News on condition of anonymity.

The revelations come three months after Nick Panagiotopoulos died after waiting for 25 minutes for an ambulance to arrive at his residence in Preston, a suburb located 10 kilometres north of Melbourne's CBD.

Marty Smyth, the chief executive of ESTA - Victoria's 24-hour emergency call-taking and dispatch services for police, fire and ambulance - resigned just days after Mr Panagiotopoulos's death.

Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews described the incident as "unacceptable" on 9 December, vowing to fix the issue, and former police commissioner Graham Ashton was appointed to lead an independent investigation into the emergency call-taking service.

But little progress has been achieved since then, executive secretary of the Victorian Ambulance Union Danny Hill told SBS News.

"It's not uncommon that we see less than 10 ambulance call takers for the entire state of Victoria, when you have thousands of calls coming through each day," Mr Hill said.

"We're hearing of some very, very unwell patients, waiting for up to 20 minutes to get

through just to have a call answered," he said.

ESTA has a target of answering 90 per cent of calls within five seconds but, according to Adam, 90 per cent of calls are not being answered within that time frame.

"We're taking back-to-back calls, and calls are waiting for long amounts of time. We're not talking two or three minutes, which is already a horrendous amount of time to wait. We're talking calls waiting for 15 to 20 minutes," Adam said, adding that only five to 15 operators are rostered per shift by ESTA.

"Five to 15 people is not enough call takers to service the state of Victoria effectively and safely." he said.

The crack in ESTA's staffing system became apparent in May 2021, when it started experiencing delays of about two minutes in answering emergency calls, Mr Hill said.

"We raised some concerns then but not enough was done at that time to increase staffing to deal with the workload," he said.



"Ambulance Victoria, in preparation for the Omicron wave, recruited about 700 new paramedics in 2021, which is a record increase in staff, but we haven't seen that sort of increase occur with ESTA," he said.

ESTA is recruiting 43 new full-time equivalent call-taking, dispatch and mental-health support roles in 2021-22, following a funding boost in the Victorian Budget.

The new roles, a number of which are now operational, will help meet the growth in

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ambulance demand and improve police dispatch and radio-support needs. All of these roles will be fully delivered in the coming months.

According to Mr Hill, though, it's too little, too late.

"They're doing that now but a lot of those call takers will only come on in February. It takes some time for them to be trained and – unfortunately – we'll miss the workload for the pandemic," he said.

Even before the pandemic, being an emergency call-centre operator was an extremely difficult job.

"Every single call is someone's worst day. You're dealing with high-intensity situations. You're dealing with car accidents, dead people, people who're very distressed," Adam said.

But the recent delays in answering calls has taken job-related stress to unmanageable levels, he said.

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# A Message from AV CEO Professor Tony Walker ASM



Hi everyone,

It's good to be back after a few weeks off. We had all hoped for a different start to 2022, however, the Omicron variant has meant that together we need to stay the course and push through the challenges that this brings to all of us, our community and our health partners as they work tirelessly alongside us trying to meet demand. Please remember to have your booster vaccination as soon as eligible.

Given the current environment I want to begin by reminding you all that the RAFE Peer Support Program is available to support you. Checking in with former colleagues, family and friends can also be really helpful as the longevity of the pandemic impacts us all in different ways. Despite all we are facing at the moment, there are positive signs that things will settle into a new normal this year. Contact RAFE on 0428 332 418 or

via email RAFE.peersupport@ambulance.vic.gov.au.

I recently joined AV Board Chair Ken Lay and Chief Operations Officer Libby Murphy at a meeting with Premier Dan Andrews and Acting Health Minister James Merlino to discuss our response to the pandemic. They extended their sincere gratitude to the entire workforce, including paramedics, first responders, support staff, corporate services and our surge support partners. It was reassuring to know that both our day-to-day efforts and our planning around outbreaks and our longer term organisational recovery was appreciated with further support offered.

During January I had the opportunity to get out and about and catch up with our teams in Warrnambool, Port Fairy, Portland, Hamilton, Balmoral, Stawell and Ararat then up north at Mildura, Nyah West, Robinvale, Swan Hill and Ouyen. Some great discussions had and an opportunity to hear first-hand what's working and where we need to improve.

The Victoria Police & Emergency Services Games are proceeding with a strict COVID-safe plan in place. These Games are open to retirees who have served 10 or more years prior to resignation. There is a huge range of sports to select from, and you don't have to be a serious competitor. Some team-based events. A great social day. Website details below- if keen to register must do so by February 11<sup>th</sup>- please contact kerryn.douglas@ambulance.vic.gov.au for further information and assistance.

https://www.emergencyservicesgames.org.au

Finally, if interested, there are a few Ambulance Victoria books available for purchase, with funds supporting the Museum. Further information included in this newsletter.

Take care and stay well.

Tony

Professor Tony Walker ASM

Chief Executive Officer, Ambulance Victoria

# **Presidents Report**



Greetings to all our members and hope this newsletter finds you all ok and well

The last newsletter I believed that we were all in a favourable position to see the Covid restrictions behind us, how wrong we were and how disappointed we all are. With our roll out as it is we must now be in a good position to bring the numbers down.

Just a reminder that we all need to be double vaccinated to gain entry at our selective venues and in particular to AV facilities including the Ambulance Museum and AV Branches. If anyone needs help with downloading the MyGov App and linking the Certificates please call us and we will try and help.

The Committee and I once again look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year and catching up with all your lock-down stories etc.

The dates for the up and coming events have been ratified subject to a few late changes we hope everything goes to plan.

My wife and I would like to wish you a happy new year and hope you remain in good health. See you all at our next Luncheon dates

Please stay safe and well

lan Donaldson President

### **New Members**

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

Alan Ray - Mooroopna
John Coetzer - South Melbourne
Alex Gillam - Point Cook
Chris Eccles - Hoppers Crossing
Steven Fumberger - Mildura
Terry Pain - Mildura
Bob Pitman - Courabyra NSW
Wayne Urmston - Epping

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:

<u>Geelong & Surf Coast</u> - Wednesday 9th February 12 noon at Geelong RSL, 55 Barwon Heads Road Belmont

Central & Northern Victoria - Tuesday 15th February 12noon at Bendigo Club, 22 Park Street Strathdale

<u>Wimmera & Grampians District</u> - Thursday 17th February 12noon at White Hart Hotel, 55 Firebrace Street Horsham

Metro East District - Thursday 24th February 12noon at Wheelers Hill Hotel, 871 Ferntree Gully Road Wheelers Hill

<u>Gippsland Region</u> - Thursday 24th February 12noon at Morwell Golf Club, Fairway Drive Morwell

North East Victoria - Saturday 26th February 12noon at Benalla Bowls Club, 25 Arundel Street Benalla Metro - West District - Friday 4th March at Kealba Hotel, Cnr. Sunshine Ave, Main Rd East, Kealba

South West Victoria - Monday 7th March 12noon at Warrnambool

North West Victoria - Tuesday 8th March at Mildura RSL, 130 Madden Ave, Mildura

Ballarat & Central West - Wednesday 16th March12noon at the Golf House Hotel 920 Doveton St North Ballarat

Metro - North District - Tuesday 22nd March 12noon at Moon Dog World, 32 Chifley Drive Preston

Metro - South District - Tuesday 29th March12noon at Frankston RSL 183 Cranbourne Road Frankston



# **Birthday Greetings**

### February:

Peter Dent	1 <sup>st</sup>
Colin Hicks	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Alfred Monk	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Bruce Hyatt	4 <sup>th</sup>
Colin Gaskell	5 <sup>th</sup>
Linton Johnstone	6 <sup>th</sup>
Linsday Mc Coy	8 <sup>th</sup>
Peter Gregory	12 <sup>th</sup>
Danny Lumby	13 <sup>th</sup>
Terry Taylor	14 <sup>th</sup>
Neil Hall	15 <sup>th</sup>
Rhonda Oliver	16 <sup>th</sup>
Roger Vidler	16 <sup>th</sup>
Graham McRae	17 <sup>th</sup>
Ian Martin	19th
Warren Moulton	20 <sup>th</sup>
Malcolm Zadow	20 <sup>th</sup>
Arthur Manning	21 <sup>st</sup>
Anthony O'Sulliva	an 21st
Wendy Barry	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Goffrey Cousins	24 <sup>th</sup>
Glenn Solomano	25 <sup>th</sup>
Les Wiles	25 <sup>th</sup>



26 <sup>th</sup>		
27 <sup>th</sup>		
27 <sup>th</sup>		
Leanne Russell-Jones 28		
29 <sup>th</sup>		
1 st		
1 st		
2 <sup>nd</sup>		
4 <sup>th</sup>		
en 6 <sup>th</sup>		
8 <sup>th</sup>		
13 <sup>th</sup>		
13 <sup>th</sup>		
13 <sup>th</sup>		
15 <sup>th</sup>		
15 <sup>th</sup>		
18 <sup>th</sup>		
19 <sup>th</sup>		

Howard Smith	19 <sup>th</sup>
Len Starkey	20 <sup>th</sup>
John Faulkner	23 <sup>rd</sup>
Paul Chase	23 <sup>rd</sup>
Maureen King	23 <sup>rd</sup>
Eric Schanessma	23 <sup>rd</sup>
Ray Trinham	23 <sup>rd</sup>
Jon Edwards	24 <sup>th</sup>
Ross Eastwood	25 <sup>th</sup>
Ted Giddings	25 <sup>th</sup>
Graham Ryan	25 <sup>th</sup>
Glenn Solomano	25 <sup>th</sup>
Chris Varley	25 <sup>th</sup>
John C Clancy	26 <sup>th</sup>
Robert Hood	27 <sup>th</sup>
George Hood	28 <sup>th</sup>
Charles Martin	28 <sup>th</sup>
Jim Yandle	29 <sup>th</sup>
John Brown	30 <sup>th</sup>
David Cooper	30th
David Gawne	30 <sup>th</sup>
Stewart Blackburn	n 31 <sup>st</sup>
April:	
Peter Watts	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Paul O'Toole	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Karen Young	4 <sup>th</sup>

Bob Curzon-Sigg	ers 5 <sup>th</sup>
Wayne Brooks	7 <sup>th</sup>
lan Cameron	7 <sup>th</sup>
Tim Kay	10 <sup>th</sup>
Pauline Leask	11 <sup>th</sup>
Frank Bonser	12 <sup>th</sup>
Gavin Hall	12 <sup>th</sup>
Keith Lloyd	12 <sup>th</sup>
Ted Mawby	14th
Peter Moroney	15 <sup>th</sup>
Allan Jackson	16 <sup>th</sup>
Michael Mc Grath	16 <sup>th</sup>
Neil Barrett	17 <sup>th</sup>
Neale Johnson	19 <sup>th</sup>
Gregory Taylor	19 <sup>th</sup>
Merilyn Raft	20 <sup>th</sup>
John Allen	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Keith Humptrey	24 <sup>th</sup>
Pat Kelly	24 <sup>th</sup>
James Osmother	ly 26 <sup>th</sup>
Alf Greeves	27 <sup>th</sup>
Robert Gosden	28 <sup>th</sup>
Paul Lodder	28 <sup>th</sup>
Frank Abela	30 <sup>th</sup>
Laurie Campbell	30 <sup>th</sup>

Peter Croker

With sadness we record the passing of:

John Parkinson Max Beeson

# 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

Only the second meeting of the year, our Christmas meeting, was held at the Warrnambool FC rooms on Monday the 7<sup>th</sup> December at 1200hrs. To say the least it was a very strange year for all Statewide Members, with constant lockdowns and complete disruption to life as we know it.

The Christmas meeting was attended by 17 people including the State President, Ian Donaldson, and his lovely wife Christine and they joined in the comradery of the day and were given a warm welcome by all present. There were 12 apologies presented prior to the meeting.

The Football Club staff had gone to a lot of trouble to set up the tables with bon bons, serviettes and other table dressings to really enhance the Christmas spirit and I thank them for their extra effort.

It is safe to say all Members present enjoyed the lunch and we can only hope 2022 improves over the past 2 years.

The next meeting will be held at the Warrnambool FC rooms, Cramer Street Warrnambool on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March, commencing at 1200hrs and I hope to see a good attendance of Members.

Looking forward to a much happier 2022.

Ray Lougheed Convenor

### Ballarat & Central West

A well attended lunch of 17 members attended our usual spot at the Golf House Hotel on Wednesday 8th December.

We were honoured to have Gary one of the Chaplain's from the A V Grampians Region to chat to us about the current allocation for any Member who may require assistance.

We are now looking forward to the New Year and many more lunches and the usual stories amongst our Members.

### South Metro District

Our Luncheon held at Steeples on the 7th. December 2021 was well attended with 25 members coming out to enjoy friendship and share stories about their stay in lockdown.

I would like to take this opportunity to advise Members that our next Luncheon will be held at the Frankston R.S.L. 183 Cranbourne Road Frankston on the 29th. March 2022.

We will be seated in the Four Seasons Bistro area of the Restaurant and I hope this will give us a wider choice of food selection and a better location for our Members also look forward to your feedback on the day.

Bryan Cass Coordinator

### West Metro District

Our lunch went well and there were 30 in attendance.

Some of the members from Metro North came and fitted in well.

Mal Peters was given his life membership by John Head and I organised Flowers for his partner Coral.

Plenty of photos were taken and John will send them through.

I have attached a photo of all the members and it has already been posted on the signal 8 Facebook site.

And as people left they received some Lindt chocolates for a treat.

Georgie Hall Coordinator

### Central & Northern Victoria

Last meeting held at the Bendigo Club with a smaller group than usual Meeting attended by 10 and a good catch up as always.

Although restricted due to the COVID-19 virus.

However we enjoyed the day and hope to hold our usual Christmas lunch.

Peter Briscoe Convenor

### North East Victoria

# Geelong and Surf Coast District

Geelong & Surf Coast District Branch was at last able to find a space between Victo-

rian Covid group regulations, to finally come together on November 10<sup>th</sup> 2021 in order to enjoy the long awaited cross table chat among eleven members at our usual venue Geelong RSL.

The Covid lurgy continued to be felt by way of four of the eight apologies, being from members who had accepted medical appointments for self or family, knowing non acceptance of that being offered – the following wait thereon for another appointment was to be "unknown".

Two other apologies were from our usual Committee representatives, who themselves were likewise governed by Covid regulations making adjustments to their diaries regardless.

The RSL despite being themselves among many other like venues who had gone through a pretty torrid year of irregular stop, start, stop management, were paid compliments from members attending for their service & fair.

On hearing direction several apologies had eventuated, members offered as a group their concern & support for others

### Members not in good health

Howard Smith John Waters

We wish all Members a speedy recovery

### Quick Quiz:

- Q1: What bird is the world's fastest bird?
- Q2: Which country was formerly known as Rhodesia?
- Q3: Liesal Jones specialised in which swimming stroke?
- Q4: The Bathurst 1000 is racd on which mountain?
- Q5: Who took over as PM when Harold Holt Disappeared?
- Q6: The Angkor Wat temple is in which country?
- Q7: Sydney Crosby is one of sport's greatest players?
- Q8: What pigment give skin and hair its colour?
- Q9: Jeff Bezos founded which internet icon?
- Q10: In which city did the Wizard of Oz live?

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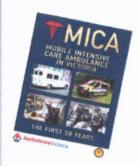


# Ambulance Victoria

# **Books**

Ambulance Victoria over time have published a fine collection of quality books relating to various milestones of our Victorian Ambulance Service. These books are most reasonably priced and only available from the Ambulance Victoria

Museum by post, or purchase at the museum.



### MICA – 50 Years of Mobile Intensive Care in Victoria

This remarkable book highlights the vision, initiative, and introduction of life-saving advancement in pre-hospital care, a world first initially by the Victorian Civil Ambulance Service in 1971. The book contains personal accounts from MICA paramedics, outlining the trial, tribulation, and success of this outstanding medical achievement. Excellent presentation, near A4 size, hard cover, 132 gloss pages with colour plates. This book does justice to the major advancement in paramedical care.

Limited one-off publication - While stocks last

\$30 incl. postage

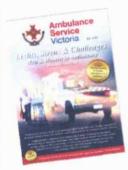
### Celebrating 30 Years of Women in Ambulance

Originally only an internal release, this book is now available to the public.

A quality, hard cover book, around A4 size, 48 gloss pages, colour plates with personal accounts of the female paramedics' milestone in ambulance history. Acceptance and challenges joining a previous all-male service for over 70 years. It also highlights the worthy contribution our female paramedics made to Ambulance

A must-have for your library. \$23 incl. postage





Services Australia wide.

# Lights, Sirens & Challenges

This quality, 100 gloss-page, A5, vinyl cover book with colour plates outlines the beginning of the Victorian Ambulance Service in 1915 onwards, and prior to this. In particular, bringing to life the history of the 1960s/1970s, and records the challenges of those decades and the catalyst this era provided for the first-class Ambulance Service in Victoria today. It features day-to-day ambulance cases in true context, including The Southern Aurora, Violet Town train crash, 1969, and The West Gate Bridge collapse, 1970.

Hands-on case accounts, spotted with humour – A book for the history buff. \$23 incl. postage Book specials while stocks last:

2 x books - Women in Ambulance & Lights, Sirens & Challenges - \$46 \$35 posted - Value! All 3 books - MICA 50 Years, Women in Ambulance, Lights, Sirens & Challenges - \$76- \$65 posted.

### Order Form

To facilitate prompt shipping, please complete the following two sections and return A.S.A.P. Shipping: Provide your name and address to where the book is to be posted and email to:

vintambos@bigpond.com

Payment: Direct deposit amount to: Account Name: Ambulance Historical Society Vic Inc.

BSB No: 704-230 Account No: 100167781
In bank reference field insert: Surname. - (Essential) & Book/s

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# Retired and Former Employee Peer Support Program

Although your direction has changed, we still share the same journey.

The Retired and Former Employee (RAFE) Peer Support Program is a new program available to all former employees of Ambulance Victoria.

The program allows volunteers to provide confidential support to previous employees who have retired or resigned and assist in linking them into appropriate support if requiring counselling or experiencing mental health issues.

RAFE volunteers are *not* qualified counsellors and are unable to make psychological assessments, but they do have great listening and communication skills that allow them to assist those who are seeking help.

Ambulance Victoria encourages all former employees to engage with this service – which is free – if they feel they require help.

To contact the AV Retired and Former Employee Peer Support Program

Email: RAFEpeersupport@ambulance.vic.gov.au

Available 9am - 5pm daily.

Access FAQ'S here

The RAFE Program is not a crisis service. If you are in crisis please contact Lifeline on 13 11 14 or if there is an immediate risk, dial Triple Zero (000).

Feedback forms have been developed to collect information to assess the effectiveness and level of client satisfaction with AV's RAFE peer support services or to services you may be referred. The information you provide will be used to ensure that procedures, protocols and training are meeting the needs of previous AV employees and will help us to continue improving our services. The surveys are designed to be anonymous and individuals will not be identifiable through the responses they provide. Please select the relevant link below and tell us your latest experience with the services provided by the RAFE team OR other service you may have been referred to via RAFE peer support.

2018/19 RAFE Peer Support Satisfaction Survey

2018/19 VACU Session Feedback Form

2018/19 Chaplaincy Satisfaction Survey

Editors Note: The links may not work in this document - Please go to AV website or contact RAFE Co-Ordinator for assistance

# Quick Quiz Answers:

A1: Peregrine Falcon

A2: Zimbabwe

A3: Breaststroke

A4: Mt Panorama

A5: John McEwen

A6: Cambodia

A7: Ice Hockey

A8: Melanin

A9: Amazon

A10: The Emerald City

# **Committee Matters**

Welcome to 2022 and we are hoping that this year will see us being able to fulfill all our gatherings and events with the minimum of disruption from any COVID related infections.

We have decided to establish two more Districts for our Members and families - the first being Wimmera & Grampians followed by Metro North.

Both these Districts will initially meet at local watering holes (so to Speak) and if these are considered favourable these will become a more regular venue.

With our Member base continuing to grow we find that we are in need of more hands to help with the running of the Association both on the

Committee of Management and as District Coordinators. With 4 Districts not having a leadership team and 3 positions vacant on the Committee we urgently request any Member who can assist to come forward and help with our expanding Association.

Further information can be ascertained from either our President, Ian Donaldson mobile: 0403 212 437 or our Secretary, Ian Cameron mobile: 0435 010 943.

Consideration is also being made in regard to some areas of the state that have gatherings but the distance Members are travelling is causing concern and we may commence a couple of sub - Districts to cater for these Members. More as and when these discussions are fulfilled

lan Cameron Secretary Volume 9, Issue 1 Page 7

## Triple-Zero Call Centre Contd.

According to Adam, emergency call-centre shifts at ESTA are 12 hours long and staff are meant to take a 30-minute break every 90 minutes.

"However, because of the call volume recently, we've been getting recalled from those breaks and breaks are being shortened," he said.

ESTA staff are meant to work four days in a row – comprising two 12-hour day-time shifts and two 12-hour night-time shifts – followed by four days of no work, Adam said

"But on each of those four days off, there will be multiple text messages and emails, asking people to come in and do overtime," he said.

"I think the blame needs to be split between ESTA and the government. ESTA has been chronically understaffed for years and they have done nothing about it. And the government could have implemented better things, too.

"It's not a new issue. People are just noticing it now because you're waiting 20 minutes for someone to pick up the phone to get an ambulance," he said.

A spokesperson for ESTA told SBS News: "Our triple-zero operators care deeply about the service they provide and the community they serve; any delays are unacceptable and we understand callers facing delays could be incredibly distressed.

"More than one-in-five calls to triple zero for an ambulance do not need an emergency ambulance response, and we ask the community to please save triple zero for emergencies and to use Nurse on Call where appropriate."



A paramedic moving equipment outside St. Vincent's Hospital in Melbourne

# **District Reports**

not in attendance. The value of having our usual Committee bridging re "Top Table" news was also mentioned.

Following the RSL ruling of the day allowing staff to provide a second sitting luncheon, members vacated the luncheon table in the time period allotted to comfortably reassemble in another second lounge area.

Bringing this brief Report together. I again extend Well Wishes on behalf of our Branch membership to those friends who apologised, to also include other members who have not been travelling so well over the past couple of years.

We all trust our next Luncheon Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> of February sees you a part of that Cross Table Chat. One can only predict there will continue to be the odd QR request to then divulge your "jab" status. Who knows??

Ben Wright

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### East & North Metro District

#### North West Victoria

Tuesday 14th December saw 17 Members and partners attend our Christmas lunch We were privileged to welcome 3 new members to our North West District, we look forward to seeing them as regular attendees.

Following the festivities we all passed our best wishes to each other and look forward to seeing all in 2022.

Allan Cooksley Coordinator

#### Gippsland District

The Gippsland "Chapter" met for the first time yesterday in a couple of months and went off without too many hitches. Jim Ballard and Kenny Ellis formed the 'welcoming committee' function and got everyone settled and chatting like we'd just left off the conversations yesterday.

A really great time of catching up and just celebrating our new-found freedoms; though a quick caution – make sure you've got your Vax Cert. on your phone and not on a card - - - some places won't accept the latter!

We had about 26 people turn up (though a certain L. Cartwright was

conspicuous by his absence! --- and missed).

Great meals at the Morwell Bowls Club – do NOT eat breakfast if you're planning to order the 'Seafood Selection'!!!

Hopefully, we will be able to move the venue about a little in future to encourage the South Gippsland and Bass Coast members along: Fish Creek, Tarwin Lower and Inverloch all have great pub meals available and any other venues anyone can think of can be considered as well. Any suggestions, pass them along to Jim Ballard, Suzanne and Neil Hall or myself and I/we can check them out.

John Waters Assisting Coordinator

# Contact Assistance Please

In early January we note a payment of \$10.00 being paid into our bank account from the Hamilton Branch with the name of Kavanagh. Is there any member who may know this person as we believe it is for a new Member payment and as yet no Membership form has been received.

Please let our Membership Dept. know if you can assist, via email to: raav.membership@gmail.com

# Help! Help!!! Please

With the ever expanding number of new Members to our Association and the increasing need to expand our meeting bases we are urgently in need of further assistance with Coordinators for 4 of our Districts as well as at least 3 more Committee members to allow full and comprehensive backup to our Members and the Districts. We are requesting any member who may be able to assist to please come forward and offer their expertise to the Association.

Please contact our Secretary, Ian Cameron, on mobile 0435 010 943 0r email: <a href="mailto:raa.secretary@gmail.com">raa.secretary@gmail.com</a> as a matter of urgency.

# The Back Page

# Retired Ambulance Association of Victoria Inc.



### Committee of Management

President:

Ian Donaldson

Vice President:

Greg Wood

Secretary:

Ian Cameron

Assistant Secretary: Jim Ballard

ciri Carrierori

Treasurer:

Ben Ellis

#### Committee Members:

Les Wood

John Clancy

John Head

An old lady offers the bus driver some peanuts... so the driver happily munches them.

Every 5 minutes she gives him a handful more peanuts...

Driver: Why don't you eat them yourself?

Old lady: I can't chew. Look, I have no teeth...

Driver: Then why do you buy

them?

Old lady: "Oh, I just love the chocolates around them."

Facebook: Retired Ambulance Association of Victoria Inc.

Therapist: Your wife says you never buy her flowers is that true?

Him: To be honest, I never knew she sold flowers



www.retiredambulacevictoria.org.au

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

Mobile: 0435 010 943

Email: raav.secretary@gmail.com

