

May 2022

## RAAV Ravings



Volume 9, Issue 2

ABN: 77 829 511 359

Registered No: A00214235

### A couple of jobs a shift: Ambulance fleet crippled by hospital overcrowding

Victoria's paramedics are often attending only a couple of jobs a shift, as ambulance crews instead spend hours stuck at clogged emergency departments, according to unions and workers. Paramedics told *The Age* some patients were waiting too long to receive urgent hospital care. They joined other emergency health workers in calling for widespread system reforms to address chronic hospital bed shortages, a key cause of ambulance ramping.

Victoria's hospital system has been stretched for months.

"I don't think throwing money purely at more paramedics is the answer," one senior paramedic, not authorised to speak publicly, said.

"There are not enough mental health beds. enough transport officers to move that person to that bed and then everybody gets stuck get stuck in ED - there's no ambulances."

At one point on Thursday night there were nine major Melbourne hospitals with significant ambulance to 22 crews ramped at Monash Medical Centres at the Northern, Frankston, Austin, Royal Melbourne hospitals, the paramedic said.

They warned that very sick people including those who had had heart attacks were waiting longer than they should for a bed and said someone who'd had a stroke was ferried across town this week, as the ambulance crew was asked to bypass a hospital because they already had seven stroke patients waiting.



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nine major Mel-ramping, with up tre and long Sunshine and the

#### Code red as emergency department demand 'worst it's been in years'

Another paramedic, who works in Melbourne's western suburbs, said they recently attended just two cases in their first eight hours of a shift, and "that's not unusual in the last couple of weeks".

They described routinely waiting up to four hours in a room or corridor dedicated to ambulance triage. Other times, they said there was no room for them, and they queued outside or spilled into the airlock between the two doors at the hospital entrance. "It's a long way from ideal," they said. "We have limited treatment options, we have very uncomfortable stretches ... they're in a crowded area, they're at high risk of exposure to COVID."

Recently, they said, they convinced a mental health patient to come to hospital, only for them to become increasingly angry after they had to wait to be seen. They were still there when the paramedic's shift ended two hours later.

"They had put a bit of trust in me to come and get help that they really needed ... Next time, they may not trust us to come."

On Tuesday night Ambulance Victoria declared a code red for two hours when 99 per cent of the ambulance fleet was ramped at hospital or attending cases. Senior doctors and nurses emergency doctors told *The Age* that emergency department overcrowding was the worst it has been in years.

Australian Medical Association president Omar Khorshid said hospitals did not have capacity to cope with current demand. The nation was now facing a "perfect storm", he said, the result of decades of underinvestment and an ageing population, along with a backlog of delayed care due to the pandemic and an expected winter flu and COVID-19 season.

Calls from the AMA and states to increase federal funding of the hospital system to 50 per cent went unheeded in this week's budget.

"We're in for a really tough period coming up and the budget didn't address any of those issues, at all.

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Some people eat snails.

They must not like fast food.

### PAS Reunion

This is the final reminder for the forthcoming PAS Reunion which is to be held at the Chelsea Heights Hotel at 1200hrs on Friday 6th May 2022. Lunch and drinks at Bar/Bistro prices.

Please seek out your old work mates and remind them if they cannot see this Notice.

Any enquiries to Jim Ballard on mobile: 0419 384 716



## A Message from AV A/CEO

### Elizabeth Murphy APM



Hi everyone,

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this edition of your RAAV Newsletter in my current capacity as Acting CEO whilst Tony is on medical leave. We are all thinking of him and wishing him a speedy recovery.

By way of introduction, I commenced with Ambulance Victoria in August 2021 following a 32 year career with Victoria Police and moved across from my role as Assistant Commissioner- Road Policing Command into the role of Chief Operations Officer (COO) with AV at a time of both challenge and opportunity for the organisation.

With the recent release of the full report of the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission's review into workplace equality, we are now working toward the creation of a safer, fairer, more inclusive, diverse and equitable workplace. Meanwhile, we continue to face the impacts of COVID-19 despite the easing of restrictions. Workload demand and hospitalisation rates due to COVID continue to grow, as do the rate of infections, fatigue and furloughing of our staff. In order to provide best care to the Victorian community we are continuing to prioritise the health and safety of both our staff and volunteer surge workforce, for whose support we have been most grateful.

Since commencing with AV I have valued the opportunity to visit a number of metropolitan and regional branches and business centres and spoken with many of the frontline and corporate staff. The dedication and commitment of our people both prior to and throughout the pandemic is evident and has been reflected as they generously shared their experiences of this time.

I was also pleased to be able to attend the Ambulance Victoria Museum recently and share some of the incredible ambulance history with Chas and his team. It was a privilege to meet with Chas and appreciate his incredible work in preserving the past for future generations to understand the magnitude of change in emergency health care over the years. Our thoughts and support are with Chas as he faces his own health challenges at this time.

The Victorian Department of Health had warned of an increased risk of flu this year due to lower recent exposure to the virus and lower uptake of flu vaccines in 2021. Now that international borders are reopening, it's likely we will see more influenza in 2022. Please see your GP or pharmacist to discuss your flu vaccine soon.

Lastly a reminder that the RAFF Peer Support Program is available to support you. Contact RAFF on 0428 332 418 or via email [RAFF.peersupport@ambulance.vic.gov.au](mailto:RAFF.peersupport@ambulance.vic.gov.au).

Kind Regards,

Libby

Elizabeth Murphy APM  
A/Chief Executive Officer  
Ambulance Victoria

## Presidents Report



Greetings to all our members and hope this news letter finds you all ok and well.

I am delighted to hear that we are getting close to Covid normal with restrictions removed at the weekend, how many times have we thought that it couldn't get any worse and to think that it has taken so long to get to this stage.

All functions are operating as normal and we are increasing the numbers at our branch meetings and membership is increasing with new branches opening.

Just a reminder that we have the Ambulance Victoria MICA 50th Anniversary Rescheduled for the 2nd September 2022 both for the Gala Night and Symposium.

We are a little closer to looking for guidance to the Industrial Deafness Program with a view of a couple of options available.

Those options will be tabled at our next committee meeting next month

Will keep you updated.

We are looking for any interested members who could help with our Peer Support Group. We are particularly interested in someone being a retirement coach for transitioning Av Workers.

If interested please contact Ian Cameron or myself.

Looking forward to seeing you all again and grateful that we have seen our way through all the endless Covid restrictions.

Please take care and enjoy your freedom

Ian Donaldson  
President

## New Members

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

Graham Douglas - New Gisborne  
Kevin Kavanagh - Hamilton  
Allan Wilson - Brighton  
Lisa Binns - Seabrook  
Andrew Pipkorn - Mt Duneed  
Jennifer Moncur - Rosedale  
Shane Edwards - Stawell  
John Barry - Foster

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

## District Meeting Dates

Our next District Meetings for 2022 are:

Geelong & Surf Coast - Wednesday 11th May 12 noon at Geelong RSL, 55 Barwon Heads Road Belmont

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

Central & Northern Victoria - Tuesday 17th May 12noon at Bendigo RSL 73 Havilah Road Long Gully

Metro East District - Thursday 19th May 12noon at Whealers Hill Hotel, 871 Ferntree Gully Road Wheelers Hill

Gippsland Region - Thursday 26th May 12noon at Morwell Golf Club, Fairway Drive Morwell

North East Victoria - Saturday 28th May 12noon at Benalla Bowls Club, 25 Arundel Street Benalla

Metro - West District - Friday 3rd June at Kealba Hotel, Cnr. Sunshine Ave, & Main Rd East, Kealba

South West Victoria - Monday 6th June 12noon at Alexandra House 134 Brown Street Hamilton

Ballarat & Central West - Wednesday 8th June 12noon at the Golf House Hotel 920 Doveton St North Ballarat

North West Victoria - Tuesday 14th June at Mildura RSL, 130 Madden Avenue Mildura

Metro - North District - Tuesday 21st June 12noon at Darebin RSL 402 Bell Street Preston

Metro - South District - Tuesday 28th June 12noon at Frankston RSL 183 Cranbourne Road Frankston



## Birthday Greetings

May:

Trevor Martin 1<sup>st</sup>  
Laurie Spelling 1<sup>st</sup>  
George Jackson 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Raymond Harris 5<sup>th</sup>  
Denis Rowe 6<sup>th</sup>  
Peter Cain 7<sup>th</sup>  
Garry Cassells 8<sup>th</sup>  
Bruce Westerland 8<sup>th</sup>  
John Lacey 9<sup>th</sup>  
Trevor Greay 10<sup>th</sup>  
John Head 10<sup>th</sup>  
Allan Oakes 10<sup>th</sup>  
Kenneth Laycock 11<sup>th</sup>  
Geoffrey Williams 12<sup>th</sup>  
Bob Boucher 14<sup>th</sup>  
Greame Mant-Old 14<sup>th</sup>  
Stephen Nangle 14<sup>th</sup>  
Donald Pollard 15<sup>th</sup>  
Col Bowden 16<sup>th</sup>  
Darryl Wells 16<sup>th</sup>  
Eric Edwards 18<sup>th</sup>  
Sandra Johns 18<sup>th</sup>  
Ronald Hartley 20<sup>th</sup>  
Ross Smith 20<sup>th</sup>  
Bryce Lindermann 21<sup>st</sup>  
David Boyd 24<sup>th</sup>  
Gary Mason 24<sup>th</sup>  
Alan Ray 25<sup>th</sup>  
Dave Talbot 25<sup>th</sup>  
John Waters 27<sup>th</sup>  
Norman Burville 28<sup>th</sup>  
Heath Gangell 28<sup>th</sup>  
Michael Wilson 28<sup>th</sup>  
Daryl Anderson 29<sup>th</sup>  
George Gallagher 29<sup>th</sup>  
Peter Donovan 31<sup>st</sup>

June:

Douglas Martin 1<sup>st</sup>  
Graham Carpenter 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Richard Prigrove 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Bill Atkinson 6<sup>th</sup>  
Peter Butcher 9<sup>th</sup>  
Stan Medew 9<sup>th</sup>  
Brett Ckark 12<sup>th</sup>  
Hugh Esler 12<sup>th</sup>  
Tom Reakes 12<sup>th</sup>  
Stephen Williams 12<sup>th</sup>  
Robert Adams 13<sup>th</sup>  
Dale Gibbons 13<sup>th</sup>  
Bill Mc Cleish 14<sup>th</sup>  
Dianne Rock 15<sup>th</sup>  
Georgie Hall 19<sup>th</sup>  
Alan Cooksley 21<sup>st</sup>  
Barb Matson 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Clive Wawn 23<sup>rd</sup>  
David Boyd 24<sup>th</sup>  
Ian Mc Pherson 24<sup>th</sup>  
William Van Den Akker 24<sup>th</sup>  
Bob Gilmour 25<sup>th</sup>  
Leslie John 25<sup>th</sup>  
Terry Courtney 26<sup>th</sup>  
Robert Mercer 26<sup>th</sup>  
David Shugg 26<sup>th</sup>  
Barry Piez 27<sup>th</sup>  
Roy Ryder 27<sup>th</sup>  
Ian Rowed 28<sup>th</sup>  
Trevor Abbott 30<sup>th</sup>

July:

Frank Gaylard 1<sup>st</sup>  
Mick Hill 1<sup>st</sup>  
Wayne Simmons 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Frank Fordham 4<sup>th</sup>  
Thomas Chapman 7<sup>th</sup>  
Samual Hadden 7<sup>th</sup>  
Rob Phillips 7<sup>th</sup>  
John Engledow 9<sup>th</sup>  
Ian Gardner 10<sup>th</sup>  
Michael Higgins 10<sup>th</sup>  
Jock Purves 12<sup>th</sup>  
Phillip Worboys 12<sup>th</sup>  
Trevor Davies 13<sup>th</sup>

Anna Murphy 13<sup>th</sup>  
Don Tippet 15<sup>th</sup>  
David Skinner 16<sup>th</sup>  
Ted VanDyken 16<sup>th</sup>  
Michael Williams 20<sup>th</sup>  
Raymond Churches 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Peter Leek 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Neil Carolan 25<sup>th</sup>  
Darryl Tinker 25<sup>th</sup>  
Jeffrey Allan 26<sup>th</sup>  
Stephen Ford 28<sup>th</sup>  
Peter O'Meara 28<sup>th</sup>  
Ian Gedge 30<sup>th</sup>  
Colin Arscott 31<sup>st</sup>  
John Baldiston 31<sup>st</sup>



## 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

The first meeting of the Association in the SW was held in Warrnambool on Monday the 7<sup>th</sup> March at 1200hrs at the Warrnambool Football Club rooms.

The meeting was attended by 13 Members with 10 apologies. The guest speaker for the day was our State Secretary Ian Cameron and he was given a warm SW welcome by all present. I would like to thank Ian for his attendance.

Once again the Football Social Club went to great lengths to make our lunch time a pleasant experience with good service and a large variety of food and all Members enjoyed catching up with each other.

Even though Covid is still with us it is uplifting to realise that life is almost back to normal and that, at least, we can plan without fear of further shut downs.

With that in mind the next meeting of the SW Branch of the RAAV will be held in Hamilton on Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> June at 1200hrs. I look forward to most Members being able to attend.

Ray Loughheed  
Convenor

### Ballarat & Central West

Wednesday 16 March saw only 7 Members being able to attend our lunch at the Golf House Hotel.

We did note several apologies due to other commitments and it has been suggested that due to the ongoing issues with Bigpond emails some members may not have received notification.

### Metro South District

Happy to report that our new location at the Frankston R.S.L. was well received by all 26 Members who attended our luncheon on the 29<sup>th</sup> March. I know we are still coming to terms with the COVID-19 regulations and lockdown but with all regulations now removed I hope to welcome more Members to our next luncheon to be held at the Frankston R.S.L. on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June so catch you there please think about attending.

Bryan Cass  
Coordinator

### Metro West District

On 4<sup>th</sup> March Metro West and North had lunch at the Kealba Hotel.

We had 29 people attend. It was great to see that some of the members are now bringing their partners.

Our next lunch will be on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022 at the Kealba Hotel at 1200 hours.

They have a seniors meal and everyone enjoys a meal and a drink for around \$16.00.

I know it may be a bit of a trip for some retirees in other regions but you are more than welcome to pop in.

Georgie Hall  
Coordinator

### Central & Northern Victoria

The meeting was well attended by 19 members and partners. Everyone raised a glass for one of our life members Jack Ellerton who passed away just a few days before. Jack was extremely popular as was evidenced at his funeral with over 100 people attending including a strong representation of past and present AV staff. The service was conducted by AV Head Chaplain Dave Thompson and Jack's coffin was covered by the AV flag. An AV Guard of Honour escorted Jack on his last journey. A fitting end to a long career.

Peter Briscoe  
Convenor

### North East Victoria

With our Coordinator unavailable we convened with a small number of Members for our regular lunch at the Benalla Bowls Club.

We did record several apologies and a couple of members who indicated they would attend could not attend due to COVID restrictions.

However we all enjoyed a good chat and with the small group this made for some great stories. Looking forward to a fruitful day at the end of May.

### Geelong and Surf Coast District

With 13 attendees at the Geelong RSL, Belmont we enjoyed a small but successful lunch and the usual updates and general banter from Members and our two Committee Members. Glad to have John

& Greg contribute to the after get together, it is sure good to have Committee representation bridge issues among Branch membership.

We look forward to our next lunch in May.

Ben Wright  
Convenor

### Metro East District

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022 saw 13 members and partners attend our luncheon meeting at the Wheelers Hill Hotel for another fine lunch and catch up. Also pleasing to see some new members attend for the first time! Hope they become regular attendees.

Apart from reminiscing about our past experiences, why not, it's also a good time to sell more RAAV merchandise!

Great to have our Secretary, Ian Cameron attend as he had a previous meeting in town.

Our next meeting will be on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

### North West Victoria

Allan Cooksley  
Coordinator

## Quick Quiz:

Q1: Cheese and kisses is rhyming slang for what?

Q2: What is the only US State that ends in the letter G?

Q3: What country was formally known as Siam?

Q4: Troy Parker and Matt Stone created which TV show?

Q5: Who famously sailed on "The Beagle"?

Q6: Which major river runs through Budapest and Vienna?

Q7: What famous company invented the moving assembly line?

Q8: In what year were the Melbourne Olympics?

Q9: The coccyx bone is also known by what name?

Q10: Who wrote the lyrics to "waltzing Matilda"?



## A couple of jobs a shift: Ambulance fleet crippled by hospital overcrowding

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Unfortunately, we are not seeing any vision from the Opposition either," Dr Khorshid said.

"[You can't just say] let's build a new emergency department or a bigger one because that'll be full in five minutes. What you need to do is look at the actual root cause of the problem."

"It's the fact that you can't get people out of beds, that there's not enough beds ... that's jamming up the emergency department and therefore when that's jammed up, that leads to the ambulance ramping." A spokesperson for federal Health Minister Greg Hunt said hospital ramping was "a matter for the Victorian government", adding that Commonwealth funding for Victorian hospitals had grown significantly more than the state's funding since 2013

Relax COVID rules even more? Be careful what we wish for

In a bid to get paramedics back on the road, Ambulance Victoria is using its own dedicated teams based at hospitals to care for patients as they wait to be accepted by the hospital. The service also has hospital ambulance liaison officers stationed at 14 major Melbourne hospitals working with hospital staff to get patients offloaded more quickly.

Ambulance Victoria wouldn't comment on the number of cases being attended to each shift on average. A spokeswoman said amid high demand for emergency care, the public could help by saving triple-0 for emergencies and consider a GP, pharmacist or Nurse-On-Call for less urgent health issues.

Victorian Ambulance Union secretary Danny Hill said he had recently received a briefing from Ambulance Victoria where he was told that ambulance crews were attending to about 2.2 cases a day.

This number was smaller than it should be, he said.



"Previously, crews may go to 10 cases in a single shift," he said, explaining that this might include a number of minor incidents where people don't need treatment.

"The paramedics themselves are actually saying they want to be more productive, and actually get out and do the work that they're trained to do.

"When they're at the hospital, they can hear over the radio of other cases going on ... and they are not able to attend to them."

Mr Hill said that highly skilled MICA paramedics, meant to be reserved for the most gravely ill, were being sent to less serious cases because there were no other ambulances available to respond to them.

Ambulance Employees Australia Victorian secretary Brett Adie reported that sometimes crews were waiting so long at hospitals that new staff had to be sent to relieve them.

"Then [they are] only getting to a couple of jobs during their shift as most of their shift is spent at hospital."

But he stressed that this was happening before the pandemic, and the new challenges created by COVID-19 – including furloughing of staff – had just exacerbated existing problems, necessitating extraordinary coping measures.

One of these has involved deploying volunteers [to fill shifts](#) and drive ambulances.

The Age has [previously reported](#) patients have died after waiting to be accepted by hospitals after arriving in an ambulance.

In December last year, the last month data was publicly reported, almost 35 per cent of ambulance transfers to emergency departments were taking more than 40 minutes.

This week the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine called on the Victorian government to fix the root causes of ramping by delivering more in-patient beds and staff across the health system so that more help is available outside traditional business hours, not just in emergency departments.

"The Australian government also has a role to play in the solution to ramping in Victoria. Greater investment in the NDIS, aged care and mental health is required to ensure patients requiring these services can be discharged safely and promptly," the college's Victorian chair, Dr Mya Cubitt, said.

In response to questions about ramping, a Victorian government spokesman highlighted a \$1.4 billion health package announced in February, including funding to support COVID-19 patients at home.



A new addition to the Ambulance Museum - A Humber Ambulance





## 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](mailto: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

## Ambulance Transport Issues - Urgent or Transfer

It has come to the Committees' notice that several Members have been declined Ambulance transport even when the Member or a family member has made a request for transport or assistance whether it is urgent or general transport. Following discussions with Ambulance

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

John Ellerton  
Frank McNeil  
Gwen Tringham (wife of Ray)

**May they rest in peace**

Victoria ALL Members of the Association who have served 12 years or more are entitled to ambulance transport.

If the Member or family member requires non urgent transport the normal procedure remains the same, a doctors referral is required but if the non emergency booking department refuses to accept the referral then PLEASE give Secretary, Ian Cameron, a call or email and he will have the matter attended to immediately.

If the matter is urgent and you are told a clinician will contact you DO NOT accept this and again either insist on transport or call our Secretary for assistance, he will follow up with the relevant manager.

## Quick Quiz Answers:

- A1: Wife (Missus)
- A2: Wyoming
- A3: Thailand
- A4: South Park
- A5: Charles Darwin
- A6: Danube
- A7: Ford
- A8: 1956
- A9: Tailbone
- A10: Banjo Paterson

## Committee Matters

Welcome to our May edition of RAAV Ravings.

What a change from 3 months ago when we basically had no idea if/when we may be again in lockdown, masks still everywhere and QR Code logins.

So much has changed since and now with the prospect of no restrictions at all we are finally feeling like free people again.

We are looking forward to having all our Districts being able to return to full operations and lunches with all our colleagues being able to fully and freely attend.

On that note a successful start for our Wimmera & Grampians District and with the promise of more members able to attend we will certainly see an increase in our numbers.

We also intended to commence our Metro North District but unfortunately we were stymied at the last minute due to the chosen venue not having enough staff to cater on the day.

With luck on our side we will make another attempt on Tuesday 21st June, this time at the Darebin RSL 302 Bell Street Preston. We look forward to all Members in the North of Melbourne being able to attend.

With the chaos of the past 2 years we are well behind with awarding our deserving Members of their Life Membership Awards. Over the next 3 months or so we will be attempting to award all Members who have gained their Life Membership status.

Jim Ballard has continued to pursue best options for any Member with hearing issues due to work related issues. He is tirelessly following up on some new and promising leads and as soon as we can provide ongoing information and support this will be distributed in a timely document.

It is anticipated that a new Peer Support Coordinator will be assigned to the role within the next month to 6 weeks. We are in a bit of a slow lane due to AV being so heavily over-worked at the moment.

We still require at least 3 Members to join our Committee so that the Association can operate at its most efficient capacity. Please give serious thought to offering your time to assist.

Ian Cameron  
Secretary

## District Reports

### Gippsland District

We met on Thursday 24th at our regular meeting spot, the **Morwell Bowling Club**. We had a very good turnout with members and wives travelling from Phillip Island, Yarram/Foster, Invaloch/Wonthaggi, Maffra and the Latrobe Valley, our numbers totalled 23 with a couple of newbies, Rob Fletcher, & Lindsay and Christa King, a warm welcome to all. We also had 3 apologies.

Jim Ballard was in attendance representing the Committee and he spoke about the difficulty with email and the distribution of the last newsletter as there is a Bigpond conflict with our operating system, hopefully we can get on top of this before the next newsletter, he also informed us about our growing statewide membership, ongoing benefits of membership and the proposed new name badges.

Also in attendance was Gippsland's AV Chaplain Heather McDougall-Toms. Heather is an ordained minister but reiterated that her pastoral work is not merely religious but more a supportive role for those of us in need. Heather is aligned with the Peer/RAFE support system and can be contacted anytime on 0438 396 856.

Sue spoke about the forthcoming Caravaners Club who are meeting in Daylesford from the 28th February until the 7th March. More on that in the next newsletter.

We pass on our best wishes for a speedy recovery to John Waters who has been in hospital with a severe back problem.

We would like any members or potential members from east of Sale to make themselves known as we are aware of ex ambulance people in that area who might enjoy our fellowship and sup-

## District Reports

port as we are under represented in the East.

Sue Hall  
Assisting Coordinator

### Metro North District

With everything set and around 6 or 7 Members able to attend our first lunch of our new Metro North District at the Moon Dog Bar, Then with 6 days before the lunch a sudden notification that the venue could not host due to insufficient staff. Time did not allow us to reorganize so with regret we cancelled the lunch.

We are more hopeful for a better response and a different venue. The Darebin RSL, Bell Street Preston on Tuesday 21st June.

## Urgent 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 Or email: [raa.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:raa.secretary@gmail.com) as a matter of urgency.

### Members not in good health

Howard Smith  
John Waters  
Terry Brooks  
Pat Mc Kenzie  
Chas Martin  
David Gawne  
Peter & Pat Briscoe  
Terry Baker

We wish all Members a speedy recovery



## 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  
Treasurer: Ben Ellis

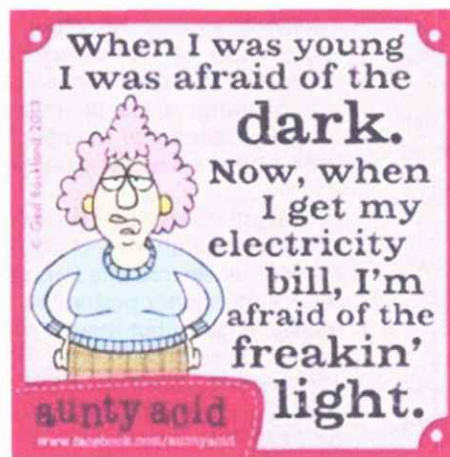
#### Committee Members:

Les Wood  
John Clancy  
John Head

My doctor said now that I'm older  
I need to install a bar in the shower



Facebook: Retired Ambulance  
Association of Victoria Inc.



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

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

Mobile: 0435 010 943  
Email: [raav.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:raav.secretary@gmail.com)

Some PEOPLE  
just need  
a HUG...

