

## **GRAEME PARKER**

On leaving school I took employment in the banking sector for three years. Seeking a bigger challenge, I sought a career with ambulance service Melbourne in 1979. After a few tries I was successful and commenced my training at Vale Street in April 79 with class 6C.

In that initial period, I worked mainly at the city and Eltham branch. In 1985, I commenced my training on MICA working mainly at MICA 4. Later as Team manager at MICA one and then 20 years as CSO and in later years in the role of group manager in Melbourne West Region.

While there has been ups and downs during my career. I've greatly enjoyed working in the ambulance service. I think the reason for this is the incredibly dedicated people that I've been able to work with and learn from.

In the years prior to my retirement, I was able to spend time working in rural areas like Wangaratta Bendigo, Gippsland and Ballarat. This period of working in rural Victoria was one of the most enjoyable times in my ambulance career. I retired in July 2023 after 43yrs and no regrets.

Like many others, I see the retired Association having a very important role to play. Particularly in the area of bringing people together in a supportive environment with a focus on welfare. The strength is in the quality of the Associations membership.

We are fortunate to have some very capable and dedicated people who will continue the work already commenced to improve the benefits and welfare to members.