

VICTORIAN PARLIAMENTARY FORMER MEMBERS



ASSOCIATION Inc

Reg No A0094073P

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Email: secretary@vicformermembers.org.au

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OUR EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE 2021

EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT	Peter Loney
VICE PRESIDENT	Barry Steggall
SECRETARY	John Lenders
TREASURER	Neil Lucas

COMMITTEE

Candy Broad
Andrea Coote
Hugh Delahunty
Geoff Howard
David Koch
Tammy Lobato
John Pandazopoulos
Jeanette Powell

PAST PRESIDENT (Ex Officio)

Philip Davis

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A year ago, holding our AGM by Zoom, we anticipated that it would be a “one-off” and that we would shortly get back to a more normal year of activities. It was not to be, however, and we have completed another year of virtual meetings and limited interaction. We made plans for today’s meeting to be face to face and followed by our annual end of year lunch. Unfortunately, we were a little ambitious and here we are on Zoom again! As I indicated last year our experience with doing things differently was likely to see some things become more permanent and our Executive has determined to continue meeting on Zoom. Our Committee meetings will return to face to face. We were disappointed that our end of year lunch could not happen, but there is good news, we have decided that we will have a New Year lunch on Wednesday, January 19. Details will go out to members shortly. We are hopeful that this will be the beginning of a fuller social agenda in 2022.

We commenced the year with a new secretary and some committee changes. Your Committee has confirmed the priorities of the Association as Support and Wellbeing, Representation and Social. While the social aspect was not to the fore in 2021, our other priorities have continued to be our focus.

Support and Wellbeing

We are proud to have initiated the “Transitioning To Life After Parliament” Project which has been our major activity in this area. To have then been enthusiastically partnered by the Parliament, and supported by the CPA, meant that it was taken to a level well beyond that we originally envisaged.

Many of you participated in this project by completing the initial survey and perhaps being involved in a follow-up interview. The survey was sent to 217 former parliamentarians (VPFMA), and a smaller number of non-VPFMA members. 93 responses were received, representing a response rate of 43 per cent, which stands well above the accepted benchmark standards in this field. The sample included male and female former members of all ages and parties; some of whom served just one parliamentary term and others who served over several decades; some whose terms ended only recently and others who left the parliament a long time ago. It was almost precisely balanced with voluntary and involuntary departures and around 40% were regional or rural.

Thirty- nine in-depth follow up interviews were conducted. Interviewees were selected to approximate a representative sample, taking account of diversity in terms gender, location of electorate, timing of departure from parliament, and voluntary or involuntary departure from parliament.

The data collection was completed mid-year and the Deakin University team set about analysing the data in order to provide us with recommendations. The Executive and Committee has been given confidential access to the report and has worked on a response to it. We are also working closely with the Presiding Officers of the parliament on the way forward and to identify areas on which we can work together.

We have also discussed with Deakin the holding of a session prior to our January lunch at which they will provide a full report and question and answer session for our members. The Parliament of Victoria was our partner in this project and arrangements for a formal launch of the completed work are being discussed with the presiding Officers.

Our Support and Wellbeing Committee continues to be more than capably led by Andrea Coote and Hugh Delahunty. An initiative that was worked on this year was how we could support a voluntary visitors scheme for former MPs who are now in permanent care. A position paper was prepared for the full Committee's consideration, and this will be looked at further as the opening up of facilities occurs.

Representation

I reported last year that a strong relationship exists between your association and the parliament of Victoria. The Presiding Officers, Hon Colin Brooks and Hon Nazih Elasmara and the Clerk of the parliament, Andrew Young have been accessible to us throughout the year and we have had a number of Zoom meetings. This has resulted in some positive outcomes. We now have a portal on the Parliament's website which we intend will link to a website of our own. Thanks to John Lenders and Tammy Lobato for their work.

We again made a submission to the Presiding Officers for a grant from the Parliament to assist with the support and wellbeing activities of the Association. The request was written with the potential outcomes of the research project in mind and what role the Association might play in

response to them. The Presiding Officers notified the Association that they were pleased to continue to support these activities through a further grant.

We continue to pursue with the parliament issues that affect our members. One such is the arrangements around parking on Fridays of sitting weeks. This resulted in agreement that there should be an exercise of discretion on these days. The pandemic also prompted us to look at arrangements such as those for the distribution of parking permits which had largely been done at our AGM and annual lunch. We will continue to see if the Association can play a role in getting them out to members.

Our broader representative role will continue. We are now accepted by VIRT as the representative organisation of former MPs and a legitimate voice on their behalf. VIRT is scheduled to hold a review of Parliamentary salaries again this year and we will look at the need to make a submission to ensure that our members interests are not adversely affected by any changes.

Social

As I indicated earlier, we are hopeful of resuming at least some of our social agenda from early in the new year. This will start with the New Year lunch and hopefully continue throughout the year with the return of coffee mornings and visits. I was reminded recently that the Association used to be involved in an annual bowls tournament; it might be that we can again look at expanding some of our social agenda around members interests.

In concluding, there are a number of people that I would like to thank.

First, On behalf of the Association I would express thanks to the current Presiding Officers, Hon Nazih Elasmr and Hon Colin Brooks, and the Clerk of the Parliament Mr Andrew Young for their support of the positive relationship we have with the parliament.

The members of the 2021 Committee have been diligent in carrying out their role on behalf of members and I thank them all for their input to the Association's deliberations throughout the year.

One member deserves a special mention. John Pandazopoulos has decided not to seek re-election after a long and valuable contribution to the Committee. John is now chair of Parks

Victoria, a role that keeps him very busy. I thank John for his contribution and look forward to seeing him at some of our functions.

Our support and Wellbeing sub-Committee has been well led by Andrea Coote with the strong support of Hugh Delahunty. Members can be assured that whenever there are issues involving their welfare Andrea and Hugh will be there making sure that proper attention is paid to them.

At the last AGM John Lenders was elected Secretary to follow Andrew Brideson. A tough act to follow. John has tackled the role enthusiastically and as meticulously as Andrew. Similarly, the other Executive members, Barry Steggall, and Neil Lucas have devoted tremendous time, energy and enthusiasm to their duties. Thank you.

Finally, can I thank all of our members. There is no Association without you and the contributions that you make to it. I am looking forward to seeing you all again as our social gatherings resume.

Peter Loney

VPFMA President

December 10, 2021

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Victorian Parliamentary Former Members Association was incorporated in 2016. All statutory requirements of the governing Act have been met. Advice on the conduct of an AGM via the internet was sought from, and given by the Registrar of Consumer Affairs Victoria prior to the 2020 AGM.

Despite restrictions imposed as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Association has continued to operate under the direction of its Committee and Executive although most of our scheduled public activities had to be cancelled or postponed.

Committee meetings were held in February, May, September & November. The Executive met an additional six times for formal business. Most meetings were conducted exclusively by Zoom with a small number of hybrid ones.

Communication is essential to the life of any organisation and the VPFMA has worked closely with our own members and the Parliament to keep in contact with as many of the 297 living former Victorian State MPs as possible. I am pleased to report that we now have contact details for all but 29 of these 297 former MPs and of these all but four have eMail addresses.

This makes it relatively easy to communicate our Newsletters and the advice of the passing of our former colleagues promptly. The Association continues to be appreciative of the Parliament's action in publishing obituary notices in the Melbourne Newspapers, and again thanks Carolyn Macvean (Parliamentary Librarian) for her role in this task.

Membership is the lifeblood of any organisation and one of the most important aspects of the Secretary is to maintain a "Membership Register" in conjunction with the Treasurer. Despite a difficult year with no public functions the VPFMA was joined by 13 new financial members which after some losses leaves us at (including 4 life members) 152 financial members.

Renewal notices were sent to members on 30 June and reminders on 23rd October. Whilst most members renewed our losses were mostly due to ill health and deaths with a few no longer interested.

The Parliament was what brought us all together and it remains a key aspect of what the VPFMA is about. Relationships with the Presiding Officers and Parliament's staff are good and we are trying to continue to streamline access to any services available to former members.

John Lenders

VPFMA SECRETARY

Deember10, 2021

SUPPORT AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Wellbeing & Support Sub Comm. is chaired by Andrea Coote and over the last couple of years we have contacted over 30 MPs who walked down the steps of Parliament following the 2018 elections, about 3/4 of these were defeated MPs.

Before starting this process we receive training from Parliament House staff about the appropriate way of going about contacting these MPs.

We discussed their transition back to public life and explained what assistance was available to support them from Parliament House. Most MPs who had retired were on the Defined Benefit superannuation scheme and had planned their retirement. Other MPs were on the New Super Scheme and were thankful for the redundancy payment.

Most defeated MPs had many challenges leaving Parliament and transitioning into public life. We learnt of mental health issues, relationship breakdowns, frustrations, shame and loneliness. Many found difficulties in obtaining meaningful employment. Some were very bitter, many reported being belittled and dejected by the process.

We rang them a couple of times and overall they were very thankful that a fellow MP had contact them. We have agreed to call them following the release of the “Transitioning to Life after Parliament” report.

Visiting former MPs in Aged Care facilities has been on put on hold during Covid pandemic. But it has been agreed that we need to develop protocols before this process starts.

Hugh Delahunty

Support and Wellbeing Committee

December 10, 2021

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Financial Position

VICTORIAN PARLIAMENTARY FORMER MEMBERS ASSOCIATION INC						
Statement of Final Accounts for the <u>Year</u> ended 30 June 2021						
Income						
	2020/21	2019/2020	2018/2019	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
Subscriptions	10650.00	4850.00	4490.00	4495 . 00	4475.00	4270.00
Luncheons		6370.00	6240.00	6120.00	6730.00	5115.00
Year End						
Mid Year			3190.00	2800.00	2100.00	2200.00
MCC Event				2025.00		
Vic Parl Grant		6000.00	10,000.00	5000.00		
Sundry			10.00	236 .00	80.00	75.00
Bank Interest		73.36	636.05	292.08	172.21	83.00
Bank Int. - deposit	361.52	652.59				208.00
Term deposit closed		10,000.00				
Total	11,011.52	27,946.00	24,566.05	20,968.08	13,557.21	11,951.00

Expenditure						
	2020/21	2019/2020	2018/2019	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
Luncheons		9008.00	8345.00	8,144.20	7581.00	5255.13
Year End						
Mid Year			4127 .00	3,456.00	2308.50	2351.40
MCC Event				1929.60		
Obituaries						1235.92
Stationery & Postage			58.95	20.00	308.52	316.42
Sundry			36.00	231.00	290.59	197 .20
Audit	440.00	440.00	440.00	440.00	440.00	
Consumer Affairs -return	59.20	59.20	57.80	56.90		
Term deposit established		10,000.00				
Research Project	10,000 .00					
Bank Fees			15.00			15.70
Total	10,499 .20	19,507.00	13,079.75	14,277.70	10,928.61	\$9,371.77
Surplus	512.32	8,439.00	11,486.30	6,690 .38	\$2,628 .60	2,578.23

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Statement of Assets & Liabilities for the Year ended 30 June 2018						
Members' Funds	2020/2021	2019/2020	2018/2019	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance year commence	47517	39114	27591	\$20,901	18272	15694
18/19 chq presented		-36	36			
Rounding	1		1			
Surplus for the Year	512	8439	11486	6690	2629	2578
Total	48030	45 517	39114	27 591	20 901	18272
Represented by						
CBA Cheque Account	21916	21765	14015	3,128	8,730	6272.95
CBA Term Deposit	26114	25752	25099	24,463	12,171	12,000.00
Total	48030	47517	39114	27,591	20,901	18,272.95

Neil Lucas

VPFMA Treasurer

Dec 10, 2021

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Independent Audit Report to The Members of Victorian Parliamentary Former Members Association Inc

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Victorian Parliamentary Former Members Association Inc, which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2021 and the income statement, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes and the directors' declaration.

Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The directors of the company are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the financial reporting requirements of the company's constitution. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances. In Note 1, the directors also state, in accordance with Accounting Standard AASB 101: Presentation of Financial Statements, that compliance with the Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) ensures that the financial report, comprising the financial statements and notes, complies with IFRS.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

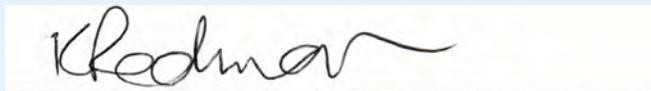
Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional ethical pronouncements.-

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion:

- the financial report of Victorian Parliamentary Follower Members Association Inc is in accordance with the company's constitution, including:
 - i. giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2021 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
 - ii. complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the company's constitution; and
- the financial report also complies with International Financial Reporting Standards as disclosed in Note 1.



Kayleen Redman CPA