

VICTORIAN PARLIAMENTARY FORMER MEMBERS



ASSOCIATION Inc

Reg No A0094073P

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Email: secretary@vicformermembers.org.au

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OUR EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE 2022

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
Jeanette Powell
Nina Springle

PAST PRESIDENT (Ex Officio)

Philip Davis

ANNUAL REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As with the Victorian community generally, 2022 saw your Association return to a more normal post pandemic pattern of activities. Face to face committee meetings made a welcome comeback however, we decided to retain Zoom based meetings for our smaller, geographically spread Executive meetings. To date, this arrangement has worked well. We also saw a return of social functions after more than two years.

This year also saw a number of significant initiatives supported by the committee. The most far-reaching of these came from the "Transitioning To Life After Parliament" Research Project which reached an international audience through the CPA Global conference in Halifax, Canada and publication of an article in 'The Parliamentarian'. The Victorian Parliament CPA achieved a slot on the Conference agenda to present the research and we were invited have a representative join the Victorian delegation and the Deakin University team to participate. The Committee accepted the invitation, and the Chair of our Support and Wellbeing Committee, Andrea Coote, agreed to be our representative. Andrea represented VPFMA wonderfully, and our thanks go to her. A full report on the Conference presentation will be given later in this meeting.

The other significant initiatives involved our entry into the digital era. After careful consideration, the Committee supported three proposals which should benefit members. These are:

- A move to electronic banking which as well as allowing payment of membership fees and charges for our lunches and other events to be made by Electronic Funds Transfer, also allows our treasurer to dispense with the cheque book and pay our bills electronically. There is no reduced accountability as the Secretary and President are also authorized on the account, must co-authorise payments over \$500 and have real time oversight of the account.
- The establishing of the VPFMA website as a significant tool for communication with our members. This has allowed us to provide a range of information including reports and news. It has been established with both a public face and a 'Members Only' section entered by password. If you have not yet registered for the 'Members Only' section, I would urge you to do so.

Recognising that a website reflects poorly on an organisation if it is not kept current and properly maintained, we appointed Social Trek, the company that designed our website, to maintain it.

- The creation of a mechanism for LinkedIn groups through which our members can share their contact details with ours to keep in touch, create interest groups or let others know what they are doing. This followed some requests from members for contact details of others, or to publicise business activities. Your committee takes the security of members details seriously and determined that the voluntary sharing arrangement through LinkedIn allowed individual members the choice to share or not.

Committee member, Tammy Lobato, was an active advocate of VPFMA having a digital presence and we probably would not have come this far without her drive. The Committee appointed Tammy as our website co-ordinator and she continues to provide advice on digital matters. Thanks, Tammy.

Support and Wellbeing

As with last year, our key focus in supporting members was the ‘Transitioning To Life After Parliament’ research and we held a lunch to present it to our members in the first half of the year. The importance of this work to us cannot be overstated.

Relationships is the central theme of the report and VPFMA believes that it has captured the myriad of those relationships. In particular it shows a strong awareness of the relationship between an MP and their electorate and how important that relationship is to an MP's self-image. This report does not deny reality. It shows an awareness of the public perception and standing of current and Former MPs in the Community and highlights the need for MPs to understand how they are seen by the general community and hopefully improve the perceptions. It also provides extensive evidence to counter some of those perceptions.

One aspect of this research that impressed VPFMA was that it picked up the importance for our democratic system of the people who serve in the Parliament. There is an inherent understanding in this report that barriers to attracting quality candidates for Parliament work against the interest of our system of government. One of the biggest barriers identified is the

lack of pathways out of the Parliament which may mean that people who view Parliament as the opportunity to contribute through public service fear that their ex-parliamentary career will be irretrievably damaged, consequently reducing the pool of people seeking to enter the Parliament.

In embarking on a research-driven approach to our support of former MPs, we were wanting to achieve a report which showed the strengths and weaknesses of our former Victorian Members of Parliament in order to understand the work and pressures on those who are elected and that also offered approaches to correct those things.

We believe that this report gives us that, but what it also does is place an obligation on us to put in place programs and measures that respond to the issues it has identified. That will continue to be a major priority for us.

Coming out of the research, the Parliament provided an opportunity for a number of our members to undertake a formal Mental Health First Aid training course and a follow up more advanced course with psychologist Gus Carfi who has worked for some time with PoV, including assisting Former MPs. As a result we now have six members from across the parties who are trained to undertake contacts with departing MPs from the 2022 election.

Leadership of our Support and Wellbeing Committee has been provided by Andrea Coote and Hugh Delahunty and we acknowledge their work and that of the committee members. Members can be assured that whenever there are issues involving their welfare this group will be there making sure that proper attention is paid to them.

Representation

We continue to have a very good, strong relationship with the Parliament through the Presiding Officers and Clerks.

This relationship is evidenced in a number of ways.

We were involved in the discussions around how the exit procedures for departing MPs might be improved following our research showing that many MPs felt poorly treated in the way post-

election office clearances and audits were handled. Parliamentary staff who were to be involved in these duties attended the mental health first aid training that I mentioned earlier alongside our Support and Wellbeing Committee members. Procedures were revised, and we will be interested in feedback on how they worked.

We continued to take up matters that were of concern to our members. In particular, non-sitting day parking and the distribution of former Members permits. We were also able to resolve an issue around access to the Parliament building that was reported by some of our members.

The Presiding Officers again made a grant available to the Association aimed particularly at assisting us in our support and wellbeing activities.

On behalf of the Association I would express thanks to the Presiding Officers we worked with this year, Hon Nazih Elasmr, Hon Colin Brooks, and Hon Maree Edwards and to the retiring Clerk of the Parliament Mr Andrew Young for their support of the positive relationship we have with the parliament. We look forward to continuing this relationship with the incoming Presiding Officers, Clerk of the parliament, Bridget Noonan and Legislative Council Clerk, Robert McDonald.

Matters on behalf of individual members were also taken up with superannuation trustees and VIRT.

Social

This year we were finally able to return to a more normal social calendar.

Along with the special lunch for the presentation of the 'Transitioning to Life after parliament' research by the Deakin University team, we also had a mid-year lunch. Both were well attended and there was a general feeling that catching up with former colleagues face to face again was welcome.

We had one visit, to the Shrine of Remembrance where our guide, the Shrine CEO, Dean Lee, gave us a great insight into how it has established galleries and expanded its commemoration

and remembrance roles. For those interested, committee member, Geoff Howard, provides an account of the visit on our website.

Today, of course, we are back to an in-attendance AGM followed by our annual end of year lunch which, I think, we are all looking forward to enjoying.

Your committee will be looking at social activities for next year to build on this start and would appreciate feedback from our members on what they would like to do.

One matter that we worked on this year and hope to progress early in the new year, is formal recognition of the VPFMA by the Parliament. Your committee has worked toward an acceptable wording with party whips and we believe that there is support to move forward.

Thanks

Your Association is not a one-person show, and there are many people working on your behalf that I would like to thank.

The members of the 2022 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.

Candy Broad after serving on our committee for many years has decided not to seek re-election. Among Candy's community roles, she is now chair of GOTAFE, a role that will take much of her time. I thank Candy for her contribution. She will always be welcome at our functions.

Our Secretary, John Lenders has put his great organizational skills to good effect on our behalf. Not least of which has been his compilation of a list of former members of the parliament of Victoria which allows us to communicate not just with association members but virtually every former Victorian MP. It is so extensive that even the Parliament now requests our assistance in communicating with them.

Barry Steggall, and Neil Lucas our other executive members have provided sage advice and devoted their time, energy and enthusiasm to their duties. Thank you.

Finally, in thanking all of our members, I note that our Association is non-partisan and works to support all former MPs no matter how long they served, whether they were Party affiliated or independent, or what parliamentary generation they belong to. All are welcome. there is no association without you and the contributions that you make to it.

Peter Loney

VPFMA President

December 2, 2022

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Profile of Victorian Former MPs

- 293 Former MPs before election
- 339 (Using ABC Estimate) post election

VPFMA has active contact with all but 25 former MPs

Average age was 72 prior to election and likely to drop to 69 post election

- Ages range from 95 (Digby Crozier) to 32 (Daniel Young).

On average 18 years since departure from Parliament and likely to drop to 15 post election

- 49 years for Bob Fell and Edward Lewis

On average an MP for 12 years

- Ranges from Ken Jasper (35 years) to Margaret Lewis (5 months)

Current Financial Membership is 155 and there are 13 new applicants

Communications

Customised Newsletters are sent depending on need to advise of VPFMA events, the death of former MPs and information from the Parliament.

VPFMA Website now active and running

Regular communication with individual members, the Parliament and Consumer Affairs.

John Lenders

Secretary VPFMA

December 2, 2022

SUPPORT and WELLBEING COMMITTEE REPORT

It is a great privilege to Chair the Wellbeing and Support Committee of the VPFMA. Thank You for giving me this opportunity.

Hugh Delahunty and I are inaugural Members of the Committee and were very pleased to have Geoff Howard, Jeanette Powell and Nina Springle join us, each of them has brought fresh ideas and first hand experience to the committee, they are very valuable additions!

This year has seen some great progress with the highlight being the launch of the Deakin Report “ Transitioning to Life After Parliament”

This report has attracted significant attention and I had the opportunity to join two of the authors Dr Amy Nethery and Dr Zim Nwokora at the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference in Halifax Canada in August, my report is attached to the AGM papers. Our report received great acclaim and I was able to cement the VPFMA’s role as the leader of this important issue amongst the Commonwealth Parliaments.

Since returning from Canada, The Deakin Team have published the following paper which you might like to read:

“Politics as a transitory vocation: A case study of the post-parliamentary challenges experienced by former Victorian MPs”

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10361146.2022.2112654>

In addition Dr Amy Nethery is meeting in the UK with Members of the House of Commons to discuss the report, Dr Zim Nkowora is presenting a paper in South Africa and another member of the Deakin team Dr Professor Ferguson has recently presented a paper at an academic conference in Canberra.

I think we can collectively take great pride in this work and I want to thank everyone involved, The VPFMA Committee, the Clerks of the Parliament, the Presiding Officers and most of all

those Former MP's who contributed to the report, their frank and forthright comments reflected what so many of us have personally experienced.

Going Forward:

In readiness for the work we will do with Former Members who left the Parliament last weekend Hugh, Geoff, Jeanette, Nina and I all completed the Mental Health First Aid Course which will be invaluable as we speak to each individual, mainly to ensure we make the correct suggestions about what next steps the Former Member can take.

Hugh and I discovered from the calls we made after the 2014 and 2018 elections that most former MP's were not ready to speak to us until the February after the election. Your Committee therefore has developed a strategy and will call all those former MP's in February, with frequent follow up calls in subsequent months.

Hugh and I found that it didn't matter if we were contacting a Former Member from a different Party to our own, everyone almost without exception was so happy to speak with us and to share experiences.

Parliamentary Services have been exceedingly supportive and had embraced the recommendations from 'Transitioning to Life After Parliament' implementing many of them in time for last weekend's election, so hopefully we will hear more positive stories as we make our calls.

Together with the Wellbeing and Support Committee we wish you a safe, well and happy year ahead.

ANDREA COOTE

Chair, VPFMA Wellbeing and Support Committee

ADDITIONAL REPORTS

CPA CONFERENCE HALIFAX, CANADA

Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to go to Halifax, it was most uplifting and I felt so proud to be representing the VPFMA.

After being in Canada and seeing the reaction to our presentation and report I truly believe we have cemented our position as leaders in this really important work and we should explore how to advance this. I think this is important not only to our CPA role but also give former Members something to be really proud of and perhaps to have some 'ownership' in which could in turn enhance their self esteem

My recommendations:-

1. VPFMA to outline Terms of Reference for Deakin University to developing a second report on Transitioning to Life After Parliament, elaborating on the findings from the initial report.
2. Consider assisting other smaller Parliaments in developing a similar program. We could form a group of interested volunteer members prepared to do this pro bono.
3. In conjunction with the CPA develop a comprehensive workshop program for the next CPA Conference (Ghana)
4. . The VPFMA should report to the CPA (Victorian Branch) and the CPA Australia) on the CPA Conference in Canada.
5. South Australia, NSW and WA are all extremely interested in our project we should see how we could constructively work with them this in advancing this work. We could invite other Australian Parliaments to a Seminar. This would go beyond the research and is an opportunity to showcase the way we operate, create a co-operative structure of Australian Former MPs Associations

Andrew Young, Clerk of the Parliaments, provided me with a comprehensive summary of the actions the Victorian Parliament have taken in response to the recommendations in Transitioning to Life After Parliament and I have included this summary as appendix 1 of this report.

At the conference I introduced our segment and my speech is included below, then Dr Amy Nethery and Dr Zim Nwkora gave their presentation (a copy in my accompanying email) and we all answered questions of which there were many. We subsequently spent considerable time with representatives from Malaysia, UK, Chanel Islands, and the African and Caribbean Countries as well as other Australian Parliamentary representatives.

ANDREA COOTE

Chair, VPFMA Support and Wellbeing Committee

DIGITAL PRESENCE REPORT

Continuing the VPFMA's commitment to enhancing the communication methods and connection opportunities for our members, we embarked upon the digitalisation of our communication by creating a website and a LinkedIn group.

The website was created to compliment and expand the information provided through email or posted letters - those forms are also considered important by our committee and they will continue.

The timing of the website creation was particularly important to have occurred this year around the same time as the Deakin Report - Transitioning to Life After Parliament. Because of the international and local interest in this report, having a website allowed everyone to access it at their convenience.

Our committee consulted with the AFL past players association to understand how they created their website and what was important to their members in terms of content and accessibility. From that consultation we developed a Member's Only section of our website that is only accessible by current financial members of the VPFMA. This section is important given the sensitivity of some issues relating to former members that could be used inappropriately or misunderstood by others.

We were interested to know what communication method the AFL past players used to continue or to reconnect with other past players. They have a LinkedIn Group - private only to those past players. This group allows for invites, reminders and informal chats between past players. We also took up this idea and have our own VPFMA LinkedIn group.

If anybody would like any assistance connecting with either the website or the LinkedIn group please speak with John Lenders, Nina Springle or Tammy Lobato.

Tammy Lobato

VPFMA Digital Presence Coordinator

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Financial Position

INCOME

	2021/ 22	2020/ 21	2019/ 20	2018/ 19	2017/ 18	2016/ 17
Subscriptions	6600.00	10650.00	4850.00	4490.00	4495.00	4475.00
Luncheons	7430.00		6370.00	6240.00	6120.00	6730.00
Mid Year				3190.00	2800.00	2100.00
MCC Event					2025.00	
Vic Parl Grant	10,000.00		6000.00	10,000.00	5000.00	
Sundry				10.00	236.00	80.00
Bank Interest			73.36	636.05	292.08	172.21
Bank Int. - deposit	365.59	361.52	652.59			
Term deposit closed			10,000.00			
Total	24,395.59	11,011.52	27,946.00	24,566.05	20,968.08	13,557.21

EXPENDITURE

	2021/ 22	2020/ 21	2019/ 20	2018/ 19	2017/ 18	2016/ 17
Luncheons	10342.00		9008.00	8345.00	8,144.20	7581.00
Mid Year				4127 .00	3,456.00	2308.50
MCC Event					1929.60	
Obituaries						
Website	3930.00					
Stationery & Postage				58.95	20.00	308.52
Sundry				36.00	231.00	290.59
Audit	440.00	440.00	440.00	440.00	440.00	440.00
Consumer Affairs - return	248.00	59.20	59.20	57.80	56.90	
Term deposit established	10,000.00		10,000.00			
Research Project		10,000 .00				
Bank Fees				15.00		
Total	24,960.00	10,499 .20	19,507.00	13,079.75	14,277.70	10,928.61
Surplus	(564.41)	512.32	8,439.00	11,486.30	<u>6,690 .38</u>	<u>2,628 .60</u>

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Statement of Assets & Liabilities for the Year ended 30 June 2018						
Members' Funds	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17
Balance year commence	48,030	47517.00	39114	27591	\$20,901	18272
Unpresented cheque No58	3,935		-36	36		
Rounding	-1	1		1		
Increase in Term deposit	10,000					
Surplus (Loss) for the Year	(565)	512.00	8439	11486	6690	2629
Total	61,399	48030.00	45 517	39114	27 591	20 901
Represented by						
CBA Cheque Account	24,920	21916.00	21765	14015	3,128	8,730
CBA Term Deposit	36,479	26114.00	25752	25099	24,463	12,171
Total	61,399	48,030	47,517	39,114	27,591	20,901

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Victorian Parliamentary Fonner Members Association Inc, which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2022 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

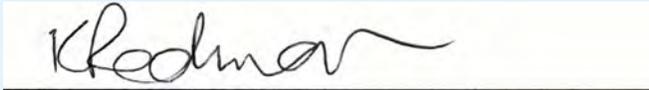
In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional ethical pronouncements. -

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion:

- a. the financial report of Victorian Parliamentary Fonner 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

- b. the financial report also complies with International Financial Reporting Standards as disclosed in Note 1.



Kayleen Redman CPA