

TASMANIA AGM 2011

SUMMARY OF REPORT FROM VICTORIA REGION

It is a pleasure to be here on behalf of Victoria Region. The Region is pleased with the rapid growth in membership achieved by Tasmania Branch over the past few years. The Branch technically has the numbers to be a Region, but wisely has decided not to apply for Region status until there is a greater buffer from the minimum number required. At this time there are approximately 32 members with a few unfinancial. Recently there were eight unfinancial members. Too many complications arise should membership for any reason reduce from the minimum of 20 required for region status.

I encourage all members to endeavour to increase membership through work colleagues by emphasizing the advantages to be had from membership of IPA. It may be considered that the travel benefits would be appealing to the younger members who are able to readily travel overseas or older members who no longer have to work around extended family commitments. Many countries have IPA House accommodation available at very good rates as indeed we have in Victoria and now on the Gold Coast, which should be available for booking very soon.

It is understood that Tasmania, like Victoria has difficulty trying to cater for members getting together due to distance. Having your membership and especially executive, split between Launceston and Hobart obviously creates problems, but endeavours must be made to have perhaps 3 or 4 meetings throughout the year. Victoria has had considerable success through the use of guest speakers at meetings and I note that Tasmania has also done this previously.

The Region is also pleased to hear that the Branch credit card facility has been closed as it was of minimal value but attached high charges onto the Branch. Victoria Region is quite willing to accept responsibility for handling of new Branch memberships and rebate of fees for existing renewals. Such will not impact upon Branch finances as a set percentage is required to be returned to the Branch. New members and fee renewals can be made electronically via bank transfer, but for those not computer minded, cheque or postal order would have to be sent to Pete Henry, the Victoria Region Treasurer.

As the current Treasurer of the Branch has indicated he will not be standing at this election, I will point out that the work load will be considerably reduced as a result of fees being paid to Victoria. Responsibilities will now be confined to petty cash control, payment of accounts, sale of souvenirs and preparation for an annual audit.

Pete Henry as Treasurer and I, as Secretary, are always willing to help our counter parts in the Branch and are probably the best placed to provide advice regarding the constitutional and administrative requirements. Please do not hesitate to contact either of us by phone or email.

In response to a request for information on our IPA houses: Victoria's is located between the airport and Melbourne city. It is virtually adjacent to a tram stop and about a 30 minute ride into Melbourne. The premises has been converted from a shop with accommodation behind and above into a meeting room at the front with a kitchen behind which is shared with any guests in the motel unit at the rear. The upstairs area is fully self contained and occupied by a tenant independent of IPA. Guest rates are \$50 per day a single and \$60 per day for a couple. Although basically suitable for a couple, a child can be accommodated for an additional \$10.

The unit recently purchased at Gold Coast, or perhaps more correctly Broadbeach, is a very nice 2 bedroom, self contained unit in a block mostly run by Defence service organizations for holiday bookings. It is located a couple of hundred metres from the beach and 4km from Pacific Fair shopping complex. The accommodation block has a swimming pool and kiddies wading pool. No prices have been established as yet but expect details to be advertised in Police Down Under very shortly.

Geoff Woodman
Secretary
Victoria Region

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN RELATION TO THE 'GOLD COAST I.P.A. HOUSE'

Around the time of the above report being presented, there was a change in the circumstances relating to the selection of an appropriate property and another unit was selected.

The new 'Gold Coast IPA House' is a unit within the Grande Florida Beach Resort. The resort is 12.5km north of Coolangatta airport, 6.5km south of Surfers Paradise and just 1.5 hours drive from Brisbane.

Further details can be found on our Website.....