



VICTORIAN INSTITUTE of RATE ADMINISTRATORS

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VIRA NEWS

Vol X111, No 1

SEPT / OCT 1989

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Institute has brought forward a surplus of \$1,658 as at the 1st July 1989. With expenses such as \$5,600 for the Seminar, \$1,700 for the purchase of ties and \$2,200 for handbooks on top of all our running expenses the Committee has had to work very hard to avoid a potential deficit. While I would not have been disappointed had we returned an operating deficit for the year I am very pleased to report a surplus.

While the financial viability of the Institute is important it's the support and involvement of the membership at large which made the year the success it has been. The interest and support displayed by members in relation to professional development typifies the increasing awareness throughout Local Government of the need to maintain suitably qualified and skilled revenue managers. The Committee with your assistance intends to pursue these objectives with the help of the L.G.I.T.C. Already further plans are being made.

During the Annual General Meeting held at the City of Oakleigh on 14th July this year

I reported that Geoff Cook and Russell Hodges would be stepping down from the Committee. Both Geoff and Russell have been valued committee members and I would like to take this opportunity to again thank them for their assistance throughout the year. Geoff has stated his intention to continue his involvement with the Institute in the Bendigo region and Russell will continue as Newsletter Co-ordinator. Kerry Hudson from the City of Malvern and Trevor Riches from the Shire of Pakenham have been elected and will replace Geoff and Russell. We welcome Kerry and Trevor.

Geoff Fleming, Murray Hockey and I have

Newsletter Co-ordinator: Russell Hodges Ph: (03) 754 8777 Fax: (03) 754 5264
Assistant Co-ordinator: Noel Grant Ph: (058) 58 2505 Fax: (058) 58 2406

met several times over the past months with representatives from the Municipal Valuers Group, the M.A.V. and the Local Government Department to discuss the implementation of the new Local Government Act 1989.

This Institute has made several submissions over the course of the new Act which were well received by the Local Government Department and resulted in various

prepared by the Executive of our Institute and the M.G.V. It was presented to the Municipal Association of Victoria and the Local Government Department on the 1st August 1989. Any member or corporate subscriber desirous of a copy of this submission may obtain one from myself.

The Institute was also invited by the I.M.M. to participate in the preparation of an implementation manual for the new Local Govern-

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changes to the Legislation. We have been given the opportunity to present a further submission in respect of those provisions of Part 8 which we consider are "unworkable". As Section 156 (Liability to pay Rates and Charges) is the area of the Act which has always been of great concern to both this Institute and the M.G.V., it was considered essential that this opportunity should be used to address this issue in detail.

A joint six page submission has been

ment Act. Part 8, dealing with rates and charges was assigned to the Institute, but at the last moment we were further advised that Parts 7 and 8 would not be proclaimed this year. It would appear that the Minister is intending to go back to the Parliament in the Autumn Session (March 1990) to introduce some changes to these Parts of the new Act. We eagerly await just what these changes will be.

Gerry Pekin

President.

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INTEREST ON OVERDUE RATES

By now you should be aware that the prescribed interest rate on overdue rates has increased to 20% for the 1989/90 rating year.

The State Secretary wrote to the Local Government Department in March this year following a request from the Geelong Region of the Institute who felt that the interest rate should be reviewed and suggested it be made consistent with the rate used by the Water boards.

I hope you are not caught like one efficient revenue manager at a leading Victorian municipality who already had his base stock of 43,000 notices printed with the interest rate of 17.25%.

It doesn't always pay to be too efficient does it Dale!

V.I.R.A. GENERAL MEETING AND SEMINAR

In conjunction with the Institute's annual country meeting, it is proposed to conduct a Seminar on the rating and property provisions of the Local Government Act 1989.

WHEN THURSDAY 15TH MARCH, 1990 (SEMINAR)
FRIDAY 16TH MARCH, 1990 (V.I.R.A. GENERAL MEETING)

WHERE MILDURA CITY

Confirmation and further details will be provided at a later date, however, it is essential to secure accommodation and depending upon response, determine suitable travel arrangements.

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V.I.R.A. COMMITTEE

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Clifford Wenlock (F.V.I.R.A.) Junior Vice President

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Dale Muir (M.V.I.R.A.) Membership Co-ordinator

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Civic Centre
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KNOXFIELD 3180 800 3096 Facsimile

Noel Grant (F.V.I.R.A.) Asst Newsletter Co-ordinator

Shire of Deakin
Shire Offices
Mangan Street (058) 58 2505
TONGALA 3621 (058) 58 2406 Facsimile

Murray Hockey (F.V.I.R.A.)

City of Sandringham
P O Box 27 598 8111
SANDRINGHAM 3192 598 4474 Facsimile

PROPOSED DATES & VENUES VIRA COMMITTEE AND GENERAL MEETINGS

Friday, August 25, 1989

City of Malvern 4 pm Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 12, 1989

Shire of Pakenham 4pm Committee Meeting

Friday, November 11, 1989

City of Croydon 5 pm General Meeting

Friday, February 16, 1990

City of Geelong 2 pm Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 15, 1990

Seminar*

Friday, March 16, 1990

City of Mildura 2 pm General Meeting

Saturday/Sunday, March 17 & 18, 1990

Institute Annual Social Weekend

Thursday, April 4, 1990

City of Knox 4 pm Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 9, 1990

City of Essendon 2 pm General Meeting

Thursday, June 21, 1990

City of Sandringham 4 pm Budget Preparation

Friday, July 13, 1990

City of Moorabbin 5 pm Annual General Meeting.

*** Full day Seminar on Part 8 of the new Local Government Act. Details will be made available during February 1990.**

VIRA ACTIVITIES DURING 1988/89

Friday 22/7/88

AGM - Shire of Flinders

Tuesday 9/8/88

G. Fleming and G. Pekin meet with TAFE representative Mr. Tony Lindsay to discuss prospects of Revenue Managers course.

Friday 12/8/88

First Committee meeting at Oakleigh to appoint office bearers and set meeting dates.

Wednesday 17/8/88

Geelong Region meeting at South Barwon

Tuesday 23/8/88

M. Hockey, G. Fleming, G. Pekin and Geoff Woods (now retired Rate Collector, City of Broadmeadows) observed demonstration of the scanning of Richmond and Broadmeadows Voters Rolls at Australian Electoral Office Scanning Centre in South Melbourne.

Tuesday 6/9/88

Special meeting of Executive to formulate committee position specifications at Caulfield.

Wednesday 13/9/88

G. Fleming and G. Cook meet with representatives from GBC to finalise design for Members Handbook.

Thursday 15/9/88

G. Pekin and M. Hockey attend debate at St.Kilda at the invitation of MMA. Jim Simmonds, Minister for Local Government and John Dlazapo, Shadow Minister, addressed the meeting.

Friday 29/9/88

Focus Advisory Team meeting.

Thursday 13/10/88

Committee meeting at Croydon

Thursday 3/11/88

N. Buck and G. Pekin attend Seminar conducted at the Melbourne Hilton by the National Review of Local Government Labour Markets.

Thursday 10/11/88

Meeting with Geoff Winston, LGITC and Laurie Groom, Consultant to Local Government. Re: VIRA Professional Development Seminar. Attended by N. Grant, G. Fleming, G. Pekin and D. Muir.

Friday 11/11/88

South East Region meeting at Moorabbin

Thursday 17/11/88

Meeting with Graham Holmes, Director General of Local Government and Chairperson for the National Review of Local Government Labour Markets. Re: Department and Review Support for Professional Development Seminar and implementation of an accredited qualification course for Revenue Managers.

Friday 18/11/88

Institute General Meeting at Northcote.

Wednesday 23/11/88

Geelong Region meeting at Bannockburn.

Tuesday 6/12/88

Special Executive Meeting at Caulfield to prepare submission to MAV and Department of Property and Services regarding new Notice of Disposition (T.Form) attended by G. Pekin, G. Fleming and M. Hockey.

Friday 9/12/88

Institute President and State Secretary attend the inaugural meeting of the South Australian Institute of Rate Administrators. SAIRA Committee was elected, office bearers appointed and the Constitution adopted at this meeting.

Tuesday 20/12/88

LGITC second meeting regarding Professional Development Seminar attended by L. Groom, G. Winston, N. Grant, G. Fleming and G. Pekin.

Tuesday 27/1/89

LGITC third meeting attended by G. Winston, G. Pekin, D. Muir, G. Fleming, and N. Grant.

Friday 10/2/89

LGITC fourth meeting attended by G. Winston, L. Groom, D. Muir, G. Pekin, N. Grant and G. Fleming.

Wednesday 15/2/89

Geelong Region meeting at Geelong and District Water Board.

Friday 17/2/89

Committee meeting at Geelong.

Friday 24/2/89

South East Region meeting at Pakenham. Guest speaker on new Local Government Act 1989, Hon. Bruce Chamberlain MLA.

Monday 6/3/89

Arrange article for FOCUS regarding Professional Development Seminar.

Tuesday 7/3/89

Members invited to attend meeting at MAV regarding Revision of Pensioner Rebate Scheme.

Friday 17/3/89

Institute General Meeting held at Shire of Deakin, Tongala.

Saturday/Sunday 18-19/3/89

Annual social weekend for Members and their families held at Moama.

Tuesday 21/3/89

9 a.m. LGITC fifth meeting attended by G. Winston, L. Groom, G. Pekin, G. Fleming and D. Muir.

11 a.m. Meeting at MAV. G. Pekin meets with Tony Penesabone of the MAV to discuss problems associated with verification of eligibility of Pensioner Rebates.

Continued Page 8

VIRA ACTIVITIES DURING 1988/89

Monday 3/4/89

Arrange printing of Seminar registration forms and name badges.

Friday 14/4/89

Ministers Meeting at State Bank Theatre attended by D. Muir.

Friday 21/4/89

Sixth meeting to finalise Seminar arrangements. Held at Caulfield Arts Complex and attended by Mr. Alan Moore, Arts Complex Co-ordinator, G. Winston, L. Groom, G. Pekin, G. Fleming, D. Muir and N. Grant.

Thursday 27/4/89

10.30 a.m. Inaugural meeting of Ballarat Region held at Borough of Sebastopol and Chaired by Ian Effrett.
4.30 p.m. Committee meeting at Knox.

Tuesday 2/5/89

Martin King addresses new entrants into Local Government at RMIT. Management Development Centre. Topic: Rating Systems in Victoria.

Friday 5/5/89

VIRA Professional Development Seminar attended by 108 members at Caulfield Arts Complex.

Speakers included: Mrs. Elizabeth Loftus - Director, Leo Cussen Institute, Mr. Des. Bethke - Chief Executive Officer, City of Melbourne, Graham Holmes - Director General, Local Government Department, David Williams - MOA, Rod McDonald - Local Government Department and Malcolm Hutchinson - IMM.

Wednesday 10/5/89

Institute General Meeting at City of Chelsea.

Wednesday 17/5/89

Geelong Region meeting at Corio.

Thursday 25/5/89

Follow up meeting to assess outcome of May 5 Seminar. Meeting attended by G. Winston, G. Pekin, G. Fleming, and D. Muir.

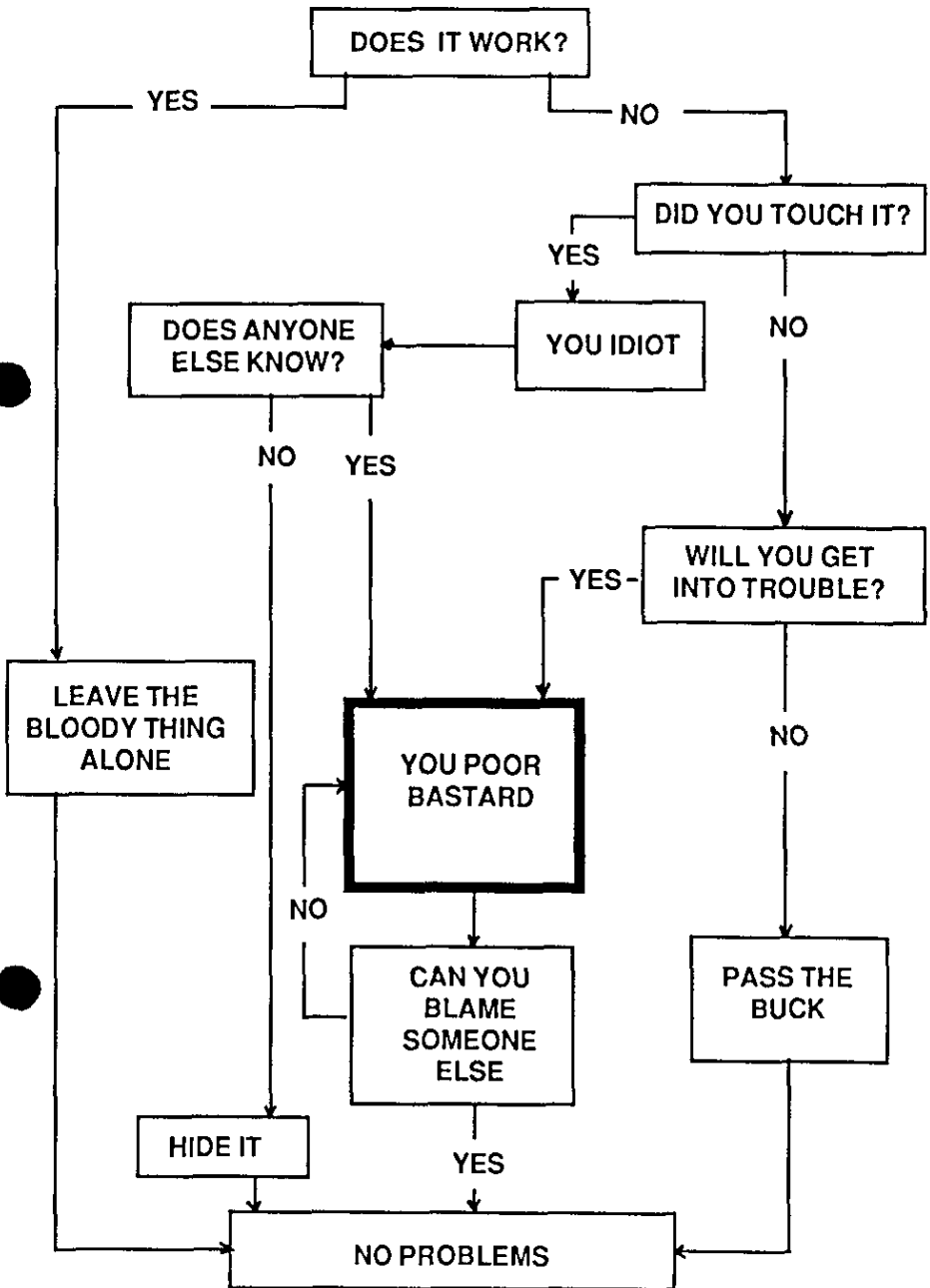
Friday 30/6/89

Meeting at Local Government Department arranged following the Department's Local Government Act implementation seminars. This meeting was the first of several to date held to address administration problems with the new Act.

The meeting was attended by John O'Donoghue - Local Government Department, Russell Charles - Local Government Department, Denis Quinn - Local Government Department, Paul Kenna - MAV, Helen Proctor - MAV, Barry Nagle, - MGV, Terry Cereni - MGV, Murray Hockey - VIRA and Gerry Pekin - VIRA.

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INVOLVEMENT OF
MEMBERS HAS
MADE THE YEAR
THE SUCCESS
IT HAS BEEN.**

PROBLEM SOLVING FLOW CHART



VICTORIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS' CONSULTATIVE GROUP

The V.L.G.O.C.G. is a newly formed group which was set up to discuss issues of a broad nature which are of interest to all professional groups in Local Government.

Invitations to participate in this new concept were extended to all professional groups in Victoria and Mr. Malcolm Hutchinson, through the administration staff of the I.M.M. has agreed to provide administrative support for the Group.

Mr. Tim Neville, C.E.O. for the City of Knox, is co-ordinating the Group which will

consider such broad based issues as Award Restructure, Freedom of Information, Human Resource Development and the Local Government Act.

The Group last met on the 30th August 1989 at the City of South Melbourne where representatives from Local Government Employee Unions participated in discussions regarding Award Restructure.

It is anticipated that the Group will meet three to four times a year or when matters of an urgent nature arise.

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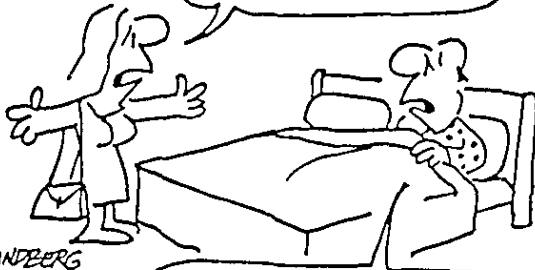
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