



Update from the President

Hi Everyone,

I hope you are well and things are on the improve, now that our COVID-19 restrictions are starting to ease. Particularly those members based in Melbourne. We can only imagine how hard it has been for you with the lock down under such harsh restrictions.

Recently we had the PMAV nominations for the new committee positions for the next 12 months.

I am glad to be able to report to the membership that the current committee has been re-elected for the next 12 months. I thank the old committee for their work and the new committee for putting their hands up to help continue the good work of the PMAV.

I would also like to make particular thanks to the following.

Treasurer Jim Darragh for his solid performance throughout the year particularly during the changes to our website and online membership applications. The volume of work Jim does for the PMAV is amazing and we are always grateful for his time and effort.

Our Vice President Jason Cornish for putting so much effort into many different projects including the submission for a government grant for communication equipment, organising rallies, updating our website including the on-line payment system and running the social media side of things.

Committee member Mark Askham whose IT experience has been of exceptional value to the organisation; fixing the new web site, PMAV mailing system, membership payment system and helping with our ongoing survey of small-scale miners.

He has also helped with our partner organisations to help MINELAB develop their Prospecting and Mining Economics and Social Impacts Report and being our APLA liaison officer.

Max Knight For helping with the development of our online membership system and the constant day to day duties of being the PMAV Secretary.

David Bentley for helping with the large number of submissions we have had to work through and the development of our amazingly successful "*Central West Investigation Economics Analysis*" which in effect bought the VEAC process to a complete stop at a critical time.

Mike Barry for his design work and printing for the PMAV (and for BUGU) in the form of flyers, pamphlets and banners. Mike also took the lead in notifying the PMAV membership of the passing of our matriarch, Rita Bentley.

Rex Motton and Tony Mills for their ongoing organising, support and advice in all areas of prospecting and mining.

Noel Laidlaw, Andrew Bales, Brent Shannon and others for their valuable support and information relating to Earth Resources matters.

Numerous branch committee members including but not limited to:

Lynnie Hindle, Greta Raadsveld, Bill Schulz, Ross Both, Neville Calaby, Gary Cullen, Travis Whitfield and all the committees who have represented their members.

Finally, a posthumous thank you to Rita Bentley for her 32 years on the PMAV executive, including 22 years as PMAV President. In her final weeks she was thrilled to be awarded the Order of Australia Medal for her years of dedication to the advancement of prospectors and miners in Victoria.

We thank her for her ongoing support and guidance even throughout her long battle with cancer

A huge Thank you to Bill Schulz for helping to organise Rita's O.A.M. Very much appreciated.

As far as the Committee is concerned this year has been unbelievably difficult and it is hard to understand how we got through as much work as we did.

Activities and achievements the PMAV has undertaken during the past 12 months include;

* Commissioning the extremely successful economics report into the true economic and social impacts that the Central West Investigation recommendations would have on the local, regional and state communities if it was accepted.

We were advised that this document alone has suspended the government's decision to implement the VEAC CWI recommendations.

* Worked with MINELAB, APLA, NAPFA and others to help develop a comprehensive social and economic report into the benefits of Prospecting and small-scale mining. This included the online survey many of our members undertook and we thank you.

We are expecting to see this report some time in the new year 2021.

* Organised mass petitions and emails to be sent to current Ministers regarding the VEAC Central West Investigation totalling some 60,000 emails and upwards of 60,000 signatures through 3 different petitions, including government petition No.105. If you haven't signed this yet, please do.

* Lobbied both sides of government to not accept the VEAC Central West Investigation.

* Rebuilt the PMAV web site, including over 200 online maps for our members to utilise, the ability to purchase memberships online and as a one-stop shop for all things prospecting.

* Took part in various meetings with Earth Resources including ERR Stake Holder group meetings affecting policy and regulation relevant to our members. Prepared several submissions to Earth Resources in regards to changes to current regulation and policy.

* Prepared several submissions into various local public land access reviews and inquires that affect PMAV members

* Prepared a submission for a one- off government funding to aid communications between the executive, branches and members. (we have progressed to the second round)

* Brokered a deal with APLA for cross sharing of information as well as sharing newsletters and magazines for members.

* Helped share up to date and accurate information to small scale miners and prospectors about what activities could take place during the ever changing COVID-19 restrictions.

I started to make the rounds to the various Branches with the aim to get to each branch to meet more of our members at a personal level and update the branches on the work of the PMAV. This was unfortunately interrupted by the COVID-19 restrictions. Once things free up I intend to continue with these drop ins and look forward to getting to each of the branches.

Since March 2020, the PMAV Branches have been forced to suspend meetings and outings due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. This has been extremely disappointing for our members.

I would also like to take the time to thank all our members for your support over the last 12 months. It has been a very trying time for all.

Let's hope 2021 can be a more positive year for everyone and our branches can get active on the social front once more.

ON behalf of the executive committee I would like to wish everyone a safe, happy and prosperous Christmas and holidays, and we look forward to catching up with you in the new -year.

Regards

Matthew Carkeek