

## RPA CAMPAIGN BULLETIN #47 of December, 2019

The Australian newspaper columnist and Sky News anchorman, **Graham Richardson**, in an article headed: 'Appeal Flags for Republican Cause' and published on Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> June posed the query: "Whatever happened to the (Oz) republican movement"? Well, I can roughly answer for him – and others of course – that the Australian Republic Movement [ARM], Chaired by big-noting, elitist, red bandanna-wearing **Peter FitzSimons**, would appear to be in an UNhappy phase of disrepair, pro tem. Two of the ARM Senior Executives viz: **Dave McGregor** and **Michael Cooney** have resigned during 2019 leaving just **Sandy Biar** to carry the administrative can. More worrying – in cohesion terms – I have been given proof that several ARM Members are angry with the Bolshevik Cabal's now-position which is to champion the so-called First Australians' recognition in the Preamble of the existing, monarchical Australian Constitution *as a Priority* over the republic! *That* or a conflation of the 'recognition' idea jointly with a second campaign for an Oz Republic. A skewed policy which I reckon would be doomed to fail (i.e. *both* questions in any dual-issue referendum). The Real Republic Limited organisation may well side with the ARM in this seemingly reckless adventure as that organisation's now-retired from law practice Chairman, **David Muir**, enunciated to me in our last, protracted conversation. Facing the Music, alas: the **Sco-Mo** Coalition government won't be in any hurry to advance the 'recognition' concept. And, besides, as an avowed monarchist, our incumbent PM won't countenance any pragmatic or (heaven forbid) disruptive moves to re-consider Australia's federal structures (read: constitutional arrangements) unless something major and catalytic occurs like the queen's death or abdication. Perhaps, even, the 'knock-on' manifestations of the **Duke of York/Prince Andrew's** dalliance(s) with call-girls, **Courtney Wild**, **Virginia Roberts Guiffre** and/or **others** of the harem of America's most notorious sex trafficker – the recently suicided **Jeffrey Epstein**. Maybe even, the death of the queen's husband, **the Duke of Edinburgh/Prince Philip**. Maybe even the **Duke & Duchess of Sussex's** discontinuation of Royal duties.

Meanwhile, The RPA keeps the proverbial flame burning and the green & gold flag (figuratively) flying as The Quest needs constant nurturing. In the August 2018- December 2019 period The RPA did or was in the course of concluding ALL of the following:

- (a) Conducted Stalls at Expos in Melbourne (South Melbourne Convention Centre) over the 8<sup>th</sup>- 9th December weekend  
Sydney (Rose Hill Gardens Racecourse) over the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> May weekend  
Adelaide (Wayville Showground) on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June;
- (b) Appointed a new WebMistress in Ms **Tara Whitie** (pronounced 'witty') on 17<sup>th</sup> July;
- (c) Held a 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting at Ipswich, SEQ on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March;
- (d) Ran a Ticket of 2 endorsed Candidates, led by **Geoff Lutz**, for the Senate to represent the State of Victoria in the 18 May federal election to, primarily, maintain The RPAs registered [with the AEC] tax deductibility and not-for-profit statuses;
- (e) Compiled a comprehensive 28 point Policies Manifesto for both the federal election and general distribution & discussion topics on my pastoral rounds;
- (f) Conducted a 'Celebratory Event' in Canberra for 2018 Australian Republican of the Year, **Kelvin Fahey**;
- (g) Formed a 5-person Management Committee comprising key RPA personnel: **Miles Harris + Murray Gough + Kelvin Fahey + Scott Kitto** and **Self** to oversee the continuance of The RPA 2019-2022 Strategic Plan and the necessary near-future agenda-setting(s) including the 'federalising' of The Party's structures with first cab off the rank (re)instigation of a Victorian State Chapter. This Management Committee was subsequently augmented by one to a 6-person show with the appointment of Melbourne-based **Renato Montibeller**;
- (h) Built the RPA Membership Base right UP to 2840\* in round figures... \*some 237 established RPA Members UPgraded their Membership to a higher category, which boosted annual revenue and, indeed, kept The Party 'in the black' where it has stubbornly and fortunately remained since December, 2017;
- (i) Organised and Staged the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Wattle Day Luncheon at (Sydney suburban) Hunters Hill on Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> August 2018 at which the Guest Speaker, **Greg Blaxell**, excelled himself on the Local History topic;
- (j) Produced and widely disseminated Republican Campaign Bulletin #46 during March 2019 and beyond;
- (k) Produced and widely distributed annual Wattle Day Newsletter #13 in and during August 2018 – a massive labour-of-love in that 2234 postal mailer packages were shipped &/or hand-delivered;
- (l) Prepared for much more Wattle Day promotional activity by having minted 2000 Wattle Day badges – 1000 each of two colour schemes (see last page of Wattle Day Newsletter #14);
- (m) Organised and Staged the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Wattle Day Luncheon on Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> August 2019 at which the Guest Speaker, **Howard Brady**, delivered a masterly & realistic speech on the most contentious issue of the times: Climate;
- (n) Oversaw the rise in overALL profits of The Republican Umbrella Group's Premier ALL-Aussie product lines: 'REPUBLICAN-branded' wine + coffee + super-tangy olive oil + flags + banners + badges + water diverters;
- (o) Booked & Conducted a stall at the HHI Expo at Southbank, South Brisbane, SEQ, for/on the weekend 12<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> October 2019;
- (p) Put in to place organisational arrangements for an Extraordinary General Meeting at South Yarra, Melbourne on the night of 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019 where and when a Victorian chapter was (re)instigated;
- (q) Liaised with the Wattle Festivals organisation based in Hurstbridge, 3099;
- (r) Attempted to make a 'pow-wow' appointment with my counterpart in the ARM: **Peter FitzSimons** per 2 emails on 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> September, respectively, to discuss 'Where To From Here' for the Oz Republic. Subsequently, I tried but failed to get a Meeting with the ARM's National Director, **Sandy Biar**, at Leura in early December.

From *any*, indeed *every* perspective, I think The RPA UNceasingly remains purposeful (a la the Central Theme of Wattle Day Newsletter #14) and its best days are ahead of it. Whatever, The Show Goes ON!

Yours Patriotically, **PETER CONSANDINE**, Managing Director & CEO