



Record of The RPA Convention #34 at Katoomba, NSW 2780 on Saturday, 28 May, 2022

Theme: 'Where to From Here for the Oz Republic?'

Moderator: **Peter Consandine**

1. Welcome, Background & Introductions – including discussion on the results of the Federal Election held on the previous Saturday and the ramifications thereof...It was agreed by Delegates that the concept of Multi-Party Democracy – albeit INdirectly – was given a big fillip;
2. Acknowledgement of 5 (five!) new Life Members of The Party namely **Rick Martin + Scott Peterson + Mike Burke + Howard Wheatley + Jim Boddy** – three of whom were to be awarded gold-framed Life Members Certificates this very night;
3. Necessity to locate and strike a deal with a new Republican Olive Oil Estate supplier – most probably in the Hunter Valley – due to closure of the first supplier;
4. New [actually, altered] RPA Membership categories schedule – deleting the \$10 'Trial' option which is effectively covered under the 'Concession' option. *The Party's structures were considered and deemed to be 'right for the times';
5. Wattle Day continuity with (a) Annual Luncheons [16 to date], (b) promotion of 1st September as a National *uniform* Public Holiday to replace the Queen's/King's Public Holiday and, therewith, (c) the maintenance of the garnering of attendant petition signatures;
6. The Petition to the [then] Federal Liberal/National Coalition gummint of the Day in 2021 apropos at least the conducting of a National Inquiry into the undermining of Section #92 of the Commonwealth Constitution during the tragic years of the Covid-19 Pandemic with the setting UP of a National Cabinet and it was the general belief of Delegates that the matter be 'kept alive and cogent';

7. Relations with the mainly Brisbane-based Real Republicans of Australia (The RRA) were appraised and found to be satisfactory going forward;

8. Now that Australia has, as anticipated, a Labor administration federally – as a result of the Oz General Election of/on 21 May – the necessity to keep prompting the expected new Attorney-General, **Mark Dreyfus**, to make an Oz Republic a PRIORITY concern in the anticipated second term of the Labor government with the new Assistant Minister for The Republic, **Matt Thistlethwaite**, and the [separate] Convenor of Labor for a Federal Republic, **Daniel White**, to be kept copied;

9. New batch of T-Shirts to add to The RPA range of products – utilising the handily test-run logo & promotional statement: 'All the Way with The RPA';

10. (a) Lengthy consideration of the (current) 33-plank policy manifesto was given and it was ultimately determined that The RPA needed to NOT add to same but to, indeed, narrow down the Primary policies to a minimum three (3!) and a maximum five (5!) for interim promotional purposes - at least until 2025...this strategy would mirror the recent successful 3 policy packages of the so-called Teal Independent quasi-party candidates [6 of 'em] at Federal Election 2022 &

10. (b) Ideas for future policy consideration would, amongst others, be
(a) plumping for banning of gambling industry advertising in ALL forms of media &
(b) plumping for a National Theatre organisation based in Canberra;

11. Unanimous decision to recognise the former NSW Premier and the former Federal Minister for Finance, **John Fahey**, as the 2022 Republican of the Year, In Memoriam. Mr Fahey was, decidedly, one *very prominent* Liberal in the Oz Republican 'Advance Guard' during his days in state and federal politics;

12. Delegates were pleased that The Party's finances were most healthy and concurred that the Republican Wine Club (established on 11th November, 1993) was *so important* in the necessary revenue scheme of things;

13. Westpac banking arrangements be re-formulated to accommodate the financial workings of both the Victorian & ACT Chapters of The Party;

14. Go-Ahead for future events viz: (a) Wattle Day Luncheon #17 on Thursday, 1st September 2022 at Oatlands near Parramatta

(b) Republic Convention #35 on Saturday, 28th May 2023 at Nowra [NSW South Coast] where the provisional theme is, provisionally, 'A Well-Educated Republic'

(c) Wattle Day Luncheon #18 on Friday, 1st September, 2023 again at Oatlands;

15. The so-called RPA Succession Plan was wholesomely discussed and it was decided that it should be proceeded with, as before;

16. Comparison of the ARM and The RPA models for an Oz Republic comprised General Business and was, thus, the last subject of the day's set Agenda.