

APRAA Chairman's Report

August 2011



Chairman's Report

What a fabulous event the 2011 APRAA National Yard Tour was, VACC our host, delivered a first class event for delegates to enjoy. All the functions were excellently organised and run and of course very central to Melbourne.

This event was one of many where all the state associations have got together over the last eighteen months and the first official event under the Australian Motor Industry Federation (AMIF), APRAA's new political voice in Canberra. It has been a long road to get here, but that now that we have a complete and unified national body, I hope this puts to rest the notion that APRAA was no longer.

Now let me give you a run down of the yard tour, Friday night was the opening with a cocktail party held at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre, where the International Motor Show was being held, delegates enjoyed a great night networking and we were also honoured with Mr David Purchase OAM the Executive Director of VACC officially opening the weekend and I would like to personally thank David for giving us his time.

On the Saturday we all met at the VACC to board the bus and head out to Deer Park Wreckers, where we were provided with a warm welcome from Charlie Sant and his team and a fantastic hot breakfast, Charlie's site is a mix of the 'pick a part' yard and a spare parts shop selling tools, new parts and is a very well presented property, Charlie who has been a stalwart in the industry reminded delegates of the need to constantly turn over stock and keep it fresh, I as many of us would be well aware of, we must constantly monitor our stock to produce the best results for our bottom lines.

Next it was back on the bus and down the highway to Geelong and to Corio Auto Parts and again my thanks to owner Graham Alexander for letting us visit and also to his staff, a special thanks to Brad who gave us all a good look around. We were also given a demo of the Kobelco, which provided delegates with excellent example of its efficient dismantling of a VY commodore, removing radiators and condensers in one move the wiring loom in the next and then the complete engine and transmission all in a very short space of time and the operator sat comfortably in the cabin.

And we also had the Holden Vs Ford engine blow up contest, VACC Chairman Michael Cox assisted delegates in participating in the contest with donations going to Beyond Blue, I'm pleased to announce the commodore lasted close to 15 minutes and Beyond Blue received \$750.00.

Lunch was sensational and thanks to the guys for a great afternoon, we then headed back to VACC to be given an excellent presentation by I-Car Australia on the changes to modern vehicles and the dangers that face recyclers by not correctly dismantling vehicles especially when provided some parts to the collision industry our many thanks to Mark Czvitkoutis for coming down from Yass in the ACT and being part of

the yard tour, Mark owns his own crash shop and tagged along with us on the tour to get a full appreciation of our industry.

Saturday night saw the formal dinner, where delegates networked together and enjoyed a fabulous night, with great music and some great door prizes as well, the room was full of people who have our industry at heart and are driving it further than we've seen in years. The mix of delegates exchanging information was a highlight for me, just to sit back and see small and new business owners listening intently to business owners who have become hugely successful and are more than willing to share information, to me that's what its all about, it make these weekends a huge investment for any business owner and a cheap one at that!

Sunday morning brought us all together for the last time before heading home for a breakfast seminar conducted by Heather Frame from Action Coach Business Coaching, this was an excellent seminar into 'Working with Gen Y'.

I would like to lastly thank our event sponsors, who are the backbone of these types of events, to Roger McKinnon and his team at Parts Locator I would like to thank your company for its continued support of the industry and also Part Group, motortradecard, I-Car Australia, Action Coaching and of course VACC.

Finally the APRAA Executive will soon be asking for you thoughts on our next Yard tour and its makeup, these events are for you and we want you to help us in our next event, please contact your state Chairman to put forward your idea, it might include business seminars, sales training it might even include more social events like the Motor Show, any suggestion is valued.

George Papillo
APRAA National Chairman