



Tel. +61395891802  
Mob. +61429176725  
A0048538N Victoria  
ABN 31 010 090 247

18 Anita Street  
BEAUMARIS VIC 3193  
[info@prsa.org.au](mailto:info@prsa.org.au)  
[www.prsa.org.au](http://www.prsa.org.au)  
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## President's Report to 2009 Annual General Meeting

**Call for a Better Upper House Casual Vacancy Process:** On the occasion of the first filling of a Legislative Council vacancy under the new PR system, I emailed every member of Victoria's Parliament with a [call for countback](#) to replace the undemocratic system of party appointment, and noted the shame of having the first Victorian MP to not be directly elected by the people since 1856 take office this year.

**Local Government:** PRSAV-T Inc. wrote to the Minister for Local Government, Hon. Richard Wynne MLA seeking a meeting with him to discuss the benefits of rationalizing the proliferation of arrangements for PR wards, but he declined to meet us. The Shadow Minister, Mrs Jeanette Powell MLA, did agree to meet Dr Lee Naish and me, and a good exchange of views ensued. She and her adviser were interested in our [analysis of uncontested wards](#) at the 2008 polls, which were nearly all single-councillor wards.

**School Council Elections:** Our Vice-President, Dr Lee Naish, is corresponding with the Ministry of Education in an attempt to point out the poor policy they have, as an Education authority, in running first-past-the-post polls, whose injustices and unfairness has led to all the Victorian Government entirely abandoning that defective counting method at parliamentary and local government level.

**Vote-counting Services:** PRSAV-T Inc. again conducted the entire postal ballot for Oxfam Australia, and provided [counting services](#) for the Victorian Local Governance Association. Several casual VLGA vacancies were filled *gratis* as the VLGA uses the WA Upper House recount system.

**Renewal of PR Vote-counting Officers' Accreditation:** This will be undertaken from now on, well ahead of the [expiry date of 2010-12-31](#).

**Greens Bill for Upper House Countback:** Sue Pennicuik MLC has given notice of such a bill, and will invite PRSAV-T Inc. comment on it during its drafting stages.

**Donation to FairVote Canada for BC-STV Campaign:** PRSAV-T Inc. contributed A\$1,000 towards the PRSA donation to this campaign, which unfortunately was not successful.

**Meek and other PR refinements:** PRSAV-T Inc. has been approached for its support of the Meek PR system and is considering its value. A PRSAV-T Inc. Life Member, Anthony van der Craats, has also drawn attention to his counting refinements, which he included in a submission to the Federal [Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters](#).

**Quota Notes:** The PRSA National President has asked the PRSA(SA) President, Graham Pratt, to be the new Editor of *Quota Notes* and the first new issue is now being prepared by him.

**New Website Host:** Dr Lee Naish, the PRSA Webmaster, has moved our website to a new host, with a much larger space allocation, which PRSAV-T Inc. is funding. He has placed a site-specific search box on the site. The home page commemorates the centenary of Tasmania's first Hare-Clark poll on 1909-04-30.

Geoffrey Goode, President, PRSAV-T Inc.

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