

UFU RETIRED MEMBERS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Saturday 18th November 2006
11.30 A.M. to 4.00 P.M.
MALVERN TOWN HALL
Cnr. Glenferrie Road & High Street, Malvern

Please sell your raffle tickets and return the butts to Bruce Smith, P.O. Box 301 Woori Yallock 3139 by 3rd November, 2006

It's important to sell all your tickets to defray the cost of the luncheon.

PRINT POST No. PP333964/0020

RFA Newsletter
If undelivered return to;
The Secretary
6 Wingara Ave.
East Keilor 3033

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RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS HONOURED APPLIANCES NAMED

On September 23 at a ceremony at Eastern Hill Headquarters, six appliances were named in honour of six retired MFB personnel. The event was organised by SO. Mark Carter with the co-operation of B Platoon at FS 1 and throughout the Brigade, as move-ups had to be organised for the appliances attending on the day. **(Page 8 for details)**



Those honoured at the appliance naming ceremony L-R John Rodda; 'Pud' Fawkner's wife June and daughter Patrice; Len Hubbard; Bruce Kendall's wife Sharyn; members of Shane Coney's family; and Basil Smith with wife Barbara.

Photo by Chris Maxwell

“ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING”

**Notice is hereby given of our next Annual General Meeting to be held at the
Carlton Football Club Social Club,
(Melway 29 G12)
1030 Hours, Wednesday 15th November 2006**

AGENDA ITEMS.

- Minutes of last Annual General meeting.**
- President’s Report.**
- Secretary/Treasurer’s Report.**
- Election of Office Bearers**
- Guest Speaker: C.F.O. Tony Murphy M.F.E.S.B.**
- General Business.**

Please come along, bring your partner and have your say in the running of the Association. Join in the fellowship of your old friends and make new ones.

Lunch and beverages available.

**JOHN BROWN
SECRETARY/TREASURER
Ph: 03 9336 2492**

OFFICE BEARERS

Valē

President, Mike McCumisky
Vice President, Ian Fowler
Sec./Treasurer, John Brown

Bernie Brennan (MFB) Rex Shields (MFB)
Robin Jackson (MFB) Mervyn Thatcher (MFB)
Kevin (Sarge) Nally (MFB)

General Committee;

John Laverick
Ken McGillivray
Bob McNeil
John Schintler
John Wallace
Auditor; Theo Teklenburg

We offer our condolences to the families of these members who have gone on to a higher duty.

SICK LIST

Stan Cameron Clarrie Hart
Jim Casley Ron Kennedy
Ron Cass John McLoone
Bruce Gee Alf Powell
Ernie Goodall Graeme Simpson
Terry Harman Kevin Sullivan

We wish these members a speedy recovery

Note: If you know of any member who may be ill please notify a committee member. We endeavour to keep you informed, but can only do this with your help.

Diary dates 2006

November 15th Annual General Meeting
November 18th Luncheon Malvern Town Hall
November 27th Geelong Reunion, Shell Club

“Water Off” is edited by John Laverick, 40 Brunel Street Essendon 3040. Phone / fax 9337-9820. Email retfire@bigpond.net.au
All articles accepted for publication by the editor are done so in good faith and no responsibility is accepted for any inaccuracies that may occur.
Signed; J. Laverick. (The views expressed by the editor of this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Victorian branch of the RFA)

2006 Annual General Meeting – Wednesday 15 November 2006. Nomination For Positions on The Committee.

Nominations are called for the following positions on the Committee of the Retired Firefighters Association of Australia, Victorian Branch Inc.: -

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Ordinary Member of Committee, Six (6) Positions

Each position will serve for a term of one (1) year.

Please note that according to the Rules of the Retired Firefighters Association of Australia, Victorian Branch Inc, only financial members may nominate for any of the above positions and any member nominating must have been a member for at least one (1) year.

Nominations must be in writing on the form below, signed by the Proposer and the Seconder and accepted by the Nominee. Completed nomination forms must be returned to the Secretary at the address shown below **no later than 17:00 hours (5.00pm) on Friday 10th November 2006.**

Retired Firefighters Association of Australia, Victorian Branch, Inc.

We, the undersigned, being financial members of the Retired Firefighters Association of Australia, Victorian Branch Inc. hereby nominate:

Nominee’s Name

For the position of:

Proposed by (signature) (Print name)

Seconded by (signature) (Print name)

Nominee Acceptance (signature) (Print name)

Date

**JOHN BROWN
SECRETARY/TREASURER
Ph: 03 9336 2492**

Return by Friday November 10, 2006, to:
The Secretary
Retired Firefighters Association of Australia
Victorian Branch Incorporated.
6 Wingara Ave. East Keilor 3033

All fire services have their characters and the MFB is no exception. The MFB's "Western District" in particular had more than its share of these characters and fortunately, some very talented poets among them who were regular contributors (under aliases) to the newsletters of the time. These poems and anecdotes reflected upon actual events that occurred both on the fire ground and to the Firefighters during their on and off duty lives. Les Gray, who spent much of his career out west, has collected many poems and anecdotes from his time in the brigade. Les believes (and we totally agree with him) that these should be preserved for posterity, a heritage to be shared with the younger generation of firefighters.

THE FIREMAN'S LAMENT

T'was Shoddy Roddy from 44 who
caught the T.V. craze,
He gave away his Tarzan books that
served him many days.
He bought himself the T.V. News,
resplendent to be seen,
And strolled into the watchroom with
a shining new machine.

Now as he carried T.V. in,
a grinning Jim Moig said
"There'll be no drill for me my lad,
we're watching Mr. Ed".
"Be blowed to that" said Shoddy
Ron, "the Station we will dim it,
we're watching my new favourite
show, the one called 'Outer Limit'!"

Then through the station watchroom
door, Fate played a hard cruel trick
There stood in all his D.O. brass, an
angered Mr. Dick.
"What's this," he cried in nasty tones,
"A T.V. do I spy?"
"Yes Sir replied our hero "I cannot
tell a lie".

"Then take it out, and make it quick,
I'll see you have no fun"
and with eyes ablaze with fire he rang
up No.1.
"Put me on to Mr. Seabrook, son,
mind you do my bid".
This was the time, I'll tell you mate,
when Ronald flipped his lid.

Quoth Ron, "I have permission, Sir,
from "Garn", to quote his name
The one wot wore that Beatle wig that
brought him so much fame"
You too I'm sure remember this,
t'was not so long ago".
And as said Diplomatic Ron. "The
Memo Book will show".

"You've said enough" said Mr. Dick,
"I hope you bear in mind,
I am the Senior Officer and dislike
your flamin' kind.
Sit down and read your drill books,
men, I'm sure they'll help you pass
The exam they have at Eastern Hill
for men of "Upper Class" "

So all sit here, with tear dimmed eyes until the
night shift come,
In these hard old watchroom chairs
our backsides getting numb.
Playing draughts, ludo, and other
things and cursing on the name
Of "Mobey Dick" our own D.O.
who's made our life so tame.

P.E.A.K.

Non-de-plume
Elwyn Ashley Kitchen Powell (Alf) SF/m No. 44 Station
Ron Roddy SO2 No. 44 Station "D" Shift
Jim Moig SF/m No. 44 station "D" Shift
Mr. Seabrook Executive Officer, Bill Seabrook, No. 1
Station
Garn District Officer Garny Campbell No. 47 Station
"B" shift. Senior District Officer Western District.

Television sets in the Watchroom's were not tolerated
those days, it was considered (rightfully so) that it could
distract the man on Watchroom duty.


As it turned out District Officer Garnet Campbell "B"
Shift visited the station and in his wisdom decided it
would not impede the efficiency of the Station, as the men
generally in an out station congregated in the
Watchroom, particularly at the old 44 Stn., as the Mess/
Lounge room was upstairs. He apparently gave
permission for the set to be used after Tea (after the drill
was concluded) until midnight when the men retired to
bed, which the men agreed to honour for the privilege of
having the set in the Watchroom, and signed the
Occurrence Book accordingly (being the Senior District
Officer of the District).

Mr. Dick in the verse said he was the Senior Officer, I
believe he meant "The Senior Officer on "D" shift,
Western District. Of course he had every right in his
opinion that the set should be in the Men's Mess/Lounge
and not the Watchroom for obvious reasons.

GEELONG REUNION
Date For Your Diary
Monday 27th November

Shell Club
Bacchus Marsh Rd.
Corio

Contact: Bill Icke 5244 1822
John Wallace 5278 4734



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to our new RFA Members. We hope you enjoy our quarterly Newsletter. To those on the sick list, we wish you a speedy recovery.

At our August meeting, our Guest Speakers were from the MFESB Peer Support Group, due to a clash of commitments they were unable to attend and have now been booked for our February meeting. Briefly they can offer assistance and advice to all MFB employees for a whole range of situations.

Just a note, that at the November Annual General Meeting, the positions of the whole Committee come up for election. Those interested in becoming involved are welcome to apply on the form provided on page 15. The number of applicants will determine if any ballots are required. If there is no voting required, and providing the existing committee members are willing to continue for another year, they will need to be confirmed by the members at the meeting.

A reminder that John Laverick our editor welcomes copy and one liners as space fillers, so if you have any interesting stories about your time in the Brigade, or news from other organisations you have been involved with, please send them to John.

On behalf of the Committee, thank you for your support throughout the year and I take this opportunity to wish you all Seasons Greetings and good health in the New Year.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting in February 2007

Regards, Mike



SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

Unfortunately, our guest speakers for our August meeting failed to show. They were going to speak on Peer Support for M.F.B. employees and were to address R.F.A. members of their program, so they have now been invited to our February meeting. Our guest speaker for the November Meeting will be the C.F.O. of the M.F.B. Tony Murphy.

The Training College opening has been put back until the end of this year due to contaminant being found in the grounds.

The Budget for 2006-2007 is included on page 5 of this issue. This should be of interest to former Senior Officers.

My wife and I visited retired District Officer, Les.Gray and his wife, Muriel recently They own the "House of Bottles" in Kinglake. They have a great amount of very interesting things on display, my wife was fascinated by it all, and they would like any past and present M.F.B. personnel to visit and would make everyone very welcome.

Due to the financial position of the Carlton Football Club our meetings there are up to discussions. The conditions we have with them are - if we eat there, there is no charge for the room. Parking at Carlton, will always be a problem, although the position is ideal for all members. John Hudson who works for a Secondary College, formerly my old School, Brunswick Tech. In Dawson St. Brunswick, has offered the facilities of the school for free and there is plenty of free parking. This will be discussed at our next meeting.

The First Responder (E.M.R) continues to be successful. Now over sixty lives have been saved.

A few of our members are behind with their dues. If you fall three years behind, you will be automatically taken off the Data Base. As the production of "Water Off" and cost of postage is not cheap, it is important to honour your dues. I will include a notice for those three years behind or over. There is a lot who owe for the years 2005 and 2006. Yearly subs. of \$10.00 are due on 1st January each year and forward to Secretary, 6 Wingara Avenue, East Keilor Vic 3033.

Now all you members must know a lot of stories to tell, whether you were MFB or CFA employees, there must be a few warts along the way. You don't have to name anyone. Now come on you ANGELS in the CFA, we lack stories from you, give us a laugh..

New Member - Joined the RFA. in 2006 Brendan Hoey

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Funds as at 30.09.06
Access Account: \$2536.87
Term Deposit: \$4670.04

I would like to thank all Committee Members, especially my Wife, Jean (who is the real Secretary) the Brennans', Jack and Maureen Etherton and John Berry, for their help this Year, also to MFB Personnel, UFU, Theo Teklenburg, Auditor and to anyone else who has assisted during the Year.

JOHN BROWN SECRETARY/TREASURER

RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
VICTORIAN BRANCH
 Reg.No. A16839F

Statement of Income and Expenditure for year ended 30 June 2006

<u>Income</u>	\$	2005 \$
Opening Balance Credit Union 1 July 2005	8,083.69	6,261.74
Members' subscriptions	2,377.00	3,427.00
Sale of promotional items	45.00	48.00
Donations		5.00
Socials		560.95
Joining fees	80.00	80.00
Transfers		-
Interest received	242.83	213.65
	<u>10,828.52</u>	<u>10,596.34</u>
 <u>Expenditure</u>		
Postages and telephone	1,020.34	931.28
Reunion Day & catering	-	1,059.93
Magazine expenses	291.25	99.90
Computer upgrades & software	462.00	159.00
Affiliation fees	-	-
Promotional material	-	-
Petty Cash	400.00	-
Stationary	-	-
AGM and meeting expenses	345.83	217.94
Sundries		-
Government & Credit co-op fees & charges	63.20	44.60
	<u>2,582.62</u>	<u>2,512.65</u>
Closing Balance Credit Union 30 June 2006	<u>8,245.90</u>	<u>8,083.69</u>
	<u>10,828.52</u>	<u>10,596.34</u>

Bank Reconciliation

Bank balance as at 30 June 2006

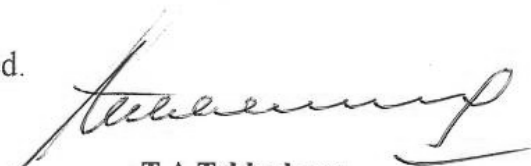
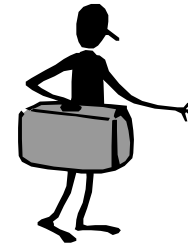
Main account	3,637.42
Term deposit	<u>4,608.48</u>
	<u>8,245.90</u>

Statement prepared from information supplied.

John Brown
Treasurer



T A Teklenburg
Honary Auditor

TRAVELLING WITH SILVER

Mrs Silver and I have just returned from a few weeks in New York. The old town hasn't changed, we use the Long Island rail network to go into the city, very safe, it even has conductors.

The city is as frantic as ever, a great place to make you use your eyes, brain and stay alert. You would be safer walking in Manhattan at night than in Sydney or Melbourne, mainly because of police presence.

As you come up the escalator from underground Penn station, half way up and the sirens start, at 5th the top the traffic noise hits and stepping out into the open is like walking into an ant hill. Visited Ground Zero, it hasn't changed a lot since the last visit, it certainly teaches you how to hate.

On to Batter Point and on the ferry to Liberty Island and Ellis Island. There are four ferries each with 250 visitors continually on the water.

Security is tight as at all airports. Airports in Melbourne, Sydney, Los Angeles, New York and the ferry terminal Mrs Silver was OK, but my feet thought my shoes had gone crazy. Two knee and one hip replacement set the scanners off and of course the shoes had to come off as well. I was looking for a blonde to have a strip search but they are short of a sense of humour.

Pennsylvania station is under Madison Square Garden and on returning home this day we missed the Williston Park and Oyster Bay train on track 19. Next train changed at Jamaica on track 44. Missed that and next one track 18, you have to keep moving. Mrs Silver surrounded by bags is sitting on the steps and gave new meaning to the term "Bag Lady", she was stuffed.

Our main reason for the visit was for our friend's Batt. Chief Bob Hesse and wife Rita 50th wedding anniversary. One of the best nights we have had, better than a couple of my weddings (not the last one dear).

A guy come up to us at the reception and said, "Are you really from Australia?" I thought there is 130 people here, I hope they all don't want to do this. It turns out he had



Above: Mrs Silver holds the bags while Silver, completely lost, argues with the information clerk at Pennsylvania Station New York.

been over here, stopping at BRISBAAANE and not coming further south. He had gone to ALICE SPRIGGS and said, "Man that town is so small even the local hooker was a virgin".

Out of over three weeks there we ate at home once, the remainder was a restaurant every night. More next issue.

The death penalty does work!!!

Regardless of whether you like it or not, it works. Spread over Manhattan are a large number of free standing A.T.M.'s, some were getting stolen. Two bodies with 15 bullet holes each were fished out of the East River.

Friend in the NYPD explained only half the A.T.M.s were owned by the banks, the other half were owned by private companies operated by the Mafia who used them for cleaning up drug money.

See, it does work, the robberies stopped instantly!

Happy Travelling Silver

Think about this...

ARL stands for Australian Rugby League and AFL stands for Australian Football League
Does the following apply to the ARL OR AFL?

36 have been accused of spousal abuse,
7 have been arrested for fraud,
19 have been accused of writing bad cheques,
117 have directly or indirectly bankrupted at least 2 businesses,
3 have done time for assault,
71, repeat 71 cannot get a credit card due to bad credit,

14 have been arrested on drug-related charges,
8 have been arrested for shoplifting,
21 are currently defendants in lawsuits, and
84 have been arrested for drunk driving in the last year,
Can you guess which organisation this is?
Give up yet? . . .
Neither...it's the 535 members of the AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT IN CANBERRA
The same group of idiots that crank out hundreds of new laws each year designed to keep the rest of us in line.

Fire Service Bowls Club News

It's over for another 2 years! - You ask what is over?

The Australasian Fire Services Bowls Carnival

Some 40 bowlers with partners descended on the Gold Coast in early September to do battle against other states, including the Kiwis. Coolangatta Bowls Club were our hosts to our 1st. night for registration, nibbles, drinks and especially catching up with old and meeting new friends from interstate. The ladies were informed of their activities for the week that included Shopping, tours, river cruise and more shopping if required.

Tweed Heads, Coolangatta and Condon venues were required at this carnival for the increase number of bowlers. The side includes past and present MFB, CFA. and associates members, donned their whites and put their best foot forward for Victoria.

Though not winning any major titles we had Fred Lodge and Ray Goudge in the last four of the singles. In the fours we had two teams do battle against each other for a place in the final. The team of P. Rodwell, K. Hopper, L. Edis N. Bickerdyke went down to G. Luke T. Freeman I. Yates P. Geran who in turn lost to the Team from Queensland.

The presentation dinner was held at Tweed Heads BC on the last night with Victoria winning the State Shield and Fred Lodge being the best bowler not winning a major award. So it was time to say our goodbyes, as some had early starts in the morning, and

a call to all bowlers to meet up again in Perth in 2008. God willing!

Bowlers interested in going to Perth or becoming members of the Fire Service Bowls Club can contact Les Buddle on (03) 9546 2603

World Police & Fire Games are on in March 2007. in Adelaide. For this contact Peter Geran through the MFB.

John Chambers.



Above: The Fours team made the final from left - G. Luke, Terry Freeman, Ian Yates and Peter Geran.

The Mexican Fisherman

A boat docked in a tiny Mexican village. An American tourist complimented the Mexican fisherman on the quality of his fish and asked how long it took him to catch them.

"Not very long," answered the Mexican.

"But then, why didn't you stay out longer and catch more?" asked the American.

The Mexican explained that his small catch was sufficient to meet his needs and those of his family.

The American asked, "But what do you do with the rest of your time?"

"I sleep late, fish a little, play with my children, and take a siesta with my wife. In the evenings, I go into the village to see my friends, have a few drinks, play the guitar, and sing a few songs. I have a full life."

The American interrupted, "I have an MBA from Harvard and I can help you!

You should start by fishing longer every day. You can then sell the extra fish you catch. With the extra revenue, you can buy a bigger boat."

"And after that?" asked the Mexican.

"With the extra money the larger boat will bring, you

can buy a second one and a third one and so on until you have an entire fleet of trawlers. Instead of selling your fish to a middle man, you can then negotiate directly with the processing plants and maybe even open your own plant. You can then leave this little village and move to Mexico City, Los Angeles, or even New York City! From there you can direct your huge new enterprise."

"How long would that take?" asked the Mexican.

"Twenty, perhaps twenty-five years," replied the American.

"And after that?"

"Afterwards? Well, my friend, that's when it gets really interesting," answered the American. "When your business gets really big you can start selling stocks and make millions!"

"Millions? Really? And after that?" said the Mexican.

"After that you'll be able to retire, live in a tiny village near the coast, sleep late, play with your children, catch a few fish, take a siesta with your wife and spend your evenings drinking and enjoying your friends."

MFB 2006/2007 ANNUAL BUDGET

To ensure the MFB has adequate resources to fund its operations, a budget process takes place every financial year to determine the financial requirements.

Primarily the budget consists of two parts, General (Recurrent) and Capital income and expenditure.

General income and expenditure is used for the day to day operating activities i.e. Contributions, Fees and Charges income etc. and salaries, external services, maintenance, training expenses etc.

Capital is used for the MFB's Fixed Assets program ie. Construction of Fire Stations, purchase of IT equipment and new appliances.

The MFB 2006/2007 Budget Totals \$334 million consisting of General income and expenditure of \$255 million and Capital income and expenditure of \$79 million. The Total Budget includes Capital Projects of \$33 million which have been carried over from 2005/2006.

Major sources of funding are Contributions from Insurance Companies, Municipalities and State Government as required by the MFB Act.

Major expenditures are Employee related costs of \$200 million, Operating costs of \$55 million and the Capital Project Program \$79 million.

Capital Project *Programs included in the Budget* are: Equipment:

- Personal Protective Clothing, Provision for Marine Response and Counter Terrorism Programs.

Information and Communication Services:

- Fire Station Turnout System Equipment, IT equipment (i.e. Desktop, notebook and printers) replacement programs and Business Systems application upgrades. Property:
- Completion of works for Burnley Centre, Croydon, Port Melbourne and Thomastown stations.
- Planned Acquisitions of sites in Spotswood and Altona
- Commencement of refurbishment of Footscray Fire Station
- Major accommodation programs

- Compliance and Security programs Fire Appliance and Light Vehicle:

- Mk 5 Pumper program stage 2 - Body fit out (5)

- Pumper Tanker stage 1 - Cab Chassis (5)

- Modular Transporters (3)

- Control Unit Replacement (1)

- Car and Light Commercial vehicle replacement program (85).

Harry Wiedemann

Executive Manager, Finance and Resource Budgeting

PERCUSSION RECITAL

Recently one our members (DON CAMERON) and his accompanist wife Pat, were invited to give a Percussion Recital at a private concert in Los Angeles.

Most of our members may not be aware that both are very accomplished BONGO DRUM players, in fact one of the visiting professional musicians at the function was so impressed with their sensitive playing of certain adagio piece which truly showed their true musicianship, was hoping they never went back home and the onlookers present believed they belonged there.

The amazing part of all this Don, who has had

medical procedures done on his lower extremities has great difficulties in holding the drums, however, being the true Aussie battler he is, never let the audience down.

It is hoped that we may be able to entice them to play at our next reunion day Don may even bring his didgeridoo along and explain his new honorary medical qualification he obtained on the plane on their way back to Australia.



Ant

Editorial

Recognition For Bravery?

This question has been asked numerous times after a dangerous rescue has been performed: - Should a firefighter receive recognition for placing his life on the line performing a difficult rescue?

Rescues are carried out almost on a daily basis by crews attending motor vehicle and industrial accidents. The High Angle and Urban Search and Rescue teams are occasionally called upon. These teams are well trained and equipped, all risks are assessed and well calculated before the task is carried out.

What of the spontaneous, spur of the moment decision of a firefighter placing himself in an extremely dangerous situation to rescue another person from certain injury or death? There have been well publicised incidents where firefighters have received bravery awards for placing their lives at risk in order to save others. On the other side of the coin there have been instances where firefighters haven't been recognized for an act of bravery through the attitudes of Senior Officers of the time.

We received the following letter accompanied by newspaper clippings of an incident and a Coronial Inquiry that occurred back in the fifties. It was considered by all involved at the scene and at the following Coronial Inquiry to be an act of bravery on the part of the firefighter. It seems, because of the attitude of the Senior Officers of the time, there was no acknowledgement by the Brigade of this firefighter's bravery.

We ask now, is it too late to rectify what seems to be an injustice?

The Letter

Dear John

On February 10th 1957, Numbers 33 and 34 Stations turned out for an incident at the Highett Railway Station. The Senior Officer in charge was SSO Joe Trickey, Number 34 Station, who forwarded the report of the incident to the Chief Officer, Mr Whitehead. I have never seen the report.

The press cuttings cover the story of the incident. The District Officer, Mr Bramwell did not attend the incident. The amazing part of the story is that the day following the incident, my photograph and story appeared on the front page of the Melbourne "Herald", and following the inquest a further photograph and story appeared in the Melbourne "Sun".

On both occasions not one Senior Officer from the Chief, Executive Officers or my District Officer ever contacted me. In relation to the publicity, I was completely ignored. I have been reliably informed that, at the meeting of the Royal Humane Society Board, Mr Whitehead, the then Chief Officer who sat on the Board, stated that these rescues were part of our job and do not merit recognition. My question is :- Would this happen in today's Brigade?

**Yours Sincerely
Bill Bates**

The Article

As published on February 11, 1957 in the Melbourne "Herald," headlined as follows:-

Bill Bates risked his life!

"Brave? No. We don't get rescue jobs often," was the comment of Bill Bates today. Yesterday he pulled a badly injured man off high tension wires.

But police who watched the hand of Sub-Officer Bates of the Mentone Fire Brigade slowly stretch out to the man's body think differently.

BATES DID NOT KNOW THE POWER HAD BEEN CUT OFF.

Police said they would tell the Royal Humane Society of his bravery.

This is the story: Twenty - three - year - old Vladyslaw Cur, a New Australian railway ganger climbed a 30ft stanchion supporting a 22,000-volt power line at Highett railway station.

FLASH, SCREAM

Cur accidentally touched the line. There was a flash and Cur screamed as he fell back and hung, badly injured, from a cross-member by one foot.

For nearly half-an-hour he hung there while officials tried to find out if the power was turned off.

Then Bates decided to wait no longer. He climbed up the stanchion **BELIEVING THE POWER STILL TO BE ON.**

Cur died in hospital yesterday.



Bill Bates' photo as it appeared in the Melbourne "Herald" February 11, 1957. The day after the rescue.

The Inquest

CORONER'S PRAISE FOR FEARLESS FIREMAN

The Coroner, Mr. Duggan, S.M., yesterday praised a Mentone fireman who climbed among high tension wires, believing the power was on, in a bid to rescue a fatally-injured man.

He said that the action of Raymond William Bates, of the Mentone fire station, should be highly commended and brought before the notice of the proper authorities.

The Coroner was holding an inquest into the death of Vladyslaw Cur, 32, of Albert st. Caulfield, railways painter, who was trapped on overhead wires at Highett station on February 10.

He recorded a finding of accidental death.

Queensland Reunion 2006

The annual Queensland reunion and get-together was held at the Southport Yacht Club on Thursday 27th July.

Numbers were down on previous years. Some have passed on whilst illness also plays a part. Nevertheless, those who attended enjoyed the meal and the company of former workmates and their wives.

Thanks to Peter Coulson for arranging a great day.

If you're in Queensland on the last Thursday in July next year come along and have lunch and meet up with old comrades.

Don Brennan



Below: *Waiting for the meal to be served are from left; Ken Hopper, Gordon Winch, Geoff Cusack, ? , Jack Hookey and Alan Boyd. (Don Brennan was having a "Seniors Moment" and couldn't remember the name of the member third from right. can anyone help him?)*



Left: *Having a lemonade and enjoying themselves from left; Jean Brown, Bob Wells, Ian Fowler, Kevin Kennedy, Peter Coulson, Trevor Read, Ian Fagerness and our Secretary pondering a joke ... John Brown.*

PILOT ERROR

A photographer for CNN was assigned to cover southern California's wildfires last year. He wanted pictures of the heroic work the firefighters were doing as they battled the blazes. When the photographer arrived on the scene, he realized that the smoke was so thick it would seriously impede, or even make impossible, his getting good photographs from the ground level. He requested permission from his boss to rent a plane and take photos from the air. His request was approved and he used his cell phone to call the local county airport to charter a flight. He was told a single engine plane would be waiting for him at the airport.

Arriving at the airfield, he spotted a plane warming up outside a hanger. He jumped in with his bag, slammed the door shut, and shouted, "Let's go!" The pilot taxied out, swung the plane into the wind and roared down the runway. Once in the air, the photographer requested the pilot to, "Fly over the valley and make two or three low passes so I can take some pictures of the fires on the hillsides."

"Why?" asked the pilot. "Because I'm a photographer for CNN," he responded. "And, I need to get some close-up shots."

The pilot was strangely silent for a moment, finally he stammered, "So, you're telling me you're NOT the flight instructor??!!!"

(Continued from page 9)

JOHN WILLIAM RODDA

The fifth appliance named was Car 189, Rescue 3, stationed at Carlton. Watching the ceremony along with John were his partner Alice, son Craig, family and friends.

Born in 1941, John joined the Brigade on January 24, 1964 (Reg. No.2045). During his career, he was stationed at most stations in Central and what was then known as Eastern District.. After 25+ years of service John resigned on September 18, 1989 as Station Officer (1).

Some of John's achievements follow:

1. Instrumental in developing the road rescue capabilities of the MFB, including the introduction of the "Jaws of Life"
2. Contributed to setting up specialist areas including equipment development and training for the Hazmat Unit, High Angle Rescue and trench Rescue.
3. Input into the development of the Dangerous Goods Act 1985.
4. After nearly 26 years service with the MFB, John resigned to take up a position with the Dept. of Labour (Work Safe) working to improve and enforce dangerous goods regulations which he has now been doing for the past 17 years.

John is well remembered for the part he played, along with colleague Gary Cronin, in the dramatic rescue of a 12 yr old boy who had been sucked under water and into the City Square fountain in the CBD in 1981. In recognition John received a Commendation for Brave Conduct from the Governor General, a Bronze Medal from the Royal Humane Soc., an MFB Citation of Service and a gift voucher for a pair of shoes.

John's notable contributions to the Brigade were being instrumental in change and innovation for the future and leadership in developing an enhanced role

for the MFB in the community.

SHANE CONEY

The final appliance named was Car 5, a Mk 5 pumper stationed at FS 18, Hawthorn.. Sadly Shane did not live to see the ceremony having passed away in 2005. His parents, along with brothers Ff. Mick, Doug, Chris and 6 year old daughter Hana attended the ceremony.

Born in 1966, Shane joined the Brigade on February 25, 1988, having previously worked as a boiler maker/welder with the Gas & Fuel Corp. During his career, he was stationed at FS 21, 22 and 23 in Southern Zone, then FS 2, 10, 18 and 1 in Central Zone. As a Sff. he had to resign due to ill health on December 31, 2004 and passed away early in 2005.

Shane had a special affinity with FS 18, Hawthorn, both the old and the new, as he used to rent an MFB flat for awhile above the old station.

Career highlights include:

1. Attending the NSW bushfires in 1994 as part of a task force.
2. Achieving a huge level of respect by his peers who set a 'leave bank' during his illness, when 100 firefighters donated in excess of 1500 hours of their own leave to Shane.
3. Actively pursuing medical knowledge to enhance his first aid skills by undertaking nursing studies prior to the Brigade's EMR pilot.
4. A role model to junior firefighters and his peers. Shane's notable contribution to the Brigade was being a role model for diligence, professionalism, work ethic with respect and trust.

Following the Naming Ceremony all those in attendance were invited to partake of a delicious spit roast with salad and dessert, followed by a visit to the Fire Museum which had been opened specially for the occasion.

Arabian Justice

An Italian, a German and an Australian football fan were arrested in a small Arabian state when they were caught peeing on a religious building after an all night drinking binge. The trio have to face up to the local sultan and are dished out the typical punishment for religious desecration - 20 lashes of the whip to the back.

But the Sultan was a big football fan so he kindly granted them two wishes each - but they were not allowed to change the number of lashes or the type of punishment.

The Italian says "Well we are the World Champions so I go first. I want the pleasure of a beer and a pillow."

The Sultan grants his wishes.

With a wide grin the Italian drinks his beer and binds the pillow to his naked back. But after 10 lashes the pillow falls apart and he has to painfully endure the remaining 10 lashes which leave deep welt marks on his back.

The German saw all this and spends a few minutes

thinking before smiling.

I would like to have two pillows for my back". The Sultan thinks about the uniqueness of the wishes but decides to grant it given he has used up his two wishes in one go.

However after 15 lashes of the whip both pillows have fallen apart and the German has to painfully endure the remaining 5 lashes which leave deep welt marks on his back.

The Australian is grinning from ear to ear and mutters something under his breath about a bulls#*t penalty. "Ok my first wish is to double the number of lashes to 40." There is stunned silence in the hall.

The Italian, German and Sultan are a little surprised at the first wish but then remember the strong fighting performance the Aussies put up during the World Cup in Germany 2006.

The Italian and German look at each other and nod in admiration - obviously this Aussie wants to show how tough he is. The Sultan asks the Aussie for his second wish. "Tie the Italian to my back!"

WHERE HAVE THEY GONE?

By B. McCumisky

Most of you who read *Water Off* will know of me, some remembering me from the *MFB News Review* and *Wordback* magazine days; and those who have retired more recently, will be familiar with my MFB fire dogs. However time marches on and circumstances change. I now have a new position within the Brigade, that being MFB Image Archivist.

This is a whole new 'ball game', because the MFB has never had an image archivist before. Up until the time of my appointment, each Brigade Dept. and station managed its own photographic collection as best it could.

My job involves locating all the Brigade photos and scanning them, digitally restoring those that require it, then organising them into chronological and numerical sequence. These will then be preserved on DVDs, some which will be handed over to the MFB Library for cataloguing. The general file will also become available on the Brigade's Intranet. Needless to say, back-up copies of all the DVDs will be stored in a secure, separate location.

I am assisted by two volunteers - Chris Maxwell who is a very accomplished 'stills' photographer and now working extensively on MFB photographic projects; and Arthur Blake who is heavily involved researching significant events and dates in the Brigade's history. This research is on a much broader scope than that done for the Centenary book *Life Under the Bells*.

Are they lost forever?

Of course with the MFB photos being housed in so many different locations, I expected some were bound to get lost along the way for any number of reasons. However I was certainly surprised and shocked to discover that apart from what is now in the Fire Museum's, Brett Hume's and my own collections, the Brigade is virtually missing all its photos from about 1950 through to 1982, So!.....where have they gone?

As soon as we mention the 1960s, 70s and 80s a familiar name will instantly be raised, that being the Brigade's own photographer, Rick Merrin. All the photos that Rick shot from 1982 through to his retirement are catalogued at the Smith Street Complex, but no-one can satisfactorily explain (including himself) what happened to all the photos he and others shot prior to 1982.

Apart from FS 50 (Ascot Vale) no MFB station is still located on the same site as it was back in the 1950s, and in many cases, the 1960s. It is possible that some photos got lost during moves, but we hope not. It is also possible that when cleaning out old stations, that the fires of the time decided that rather than be lost, the photos should be moved to a safer location or 'souvenired' as lasting reminders of that station's history, the fires its firefighters fought, and the men themselves who served there. I'm rather hoping that this maybe the scenario and that the photos have not been lost permanently.

Scanning the photos.

Like myself, many people are reluctant to loan their

photos, negatives, slides etc. as they fear that will be the last they see of them. In providing equipment for my job as Image Archivist, the Brigade has set me up with everything portable, so that I can come to you.

You no longer have to try and get to the Fire Museum, or anywhere else. I can visit you in your home and scan your photos right there where you can see what I am doing. At no time do your photos, negatives or slides leave your sight. So far this has proved very satisfactory as people are more willing to allow me to scan their collections if they know it can be done safely on their own premises. It is also proving very satisfactory at the fire stations, as the fires know their photo collections will remain where they belong.

So what am I looking for? The answer is any MFB related photos of fire or incident scenes, fire stations, appliances, firefighters, activities at the stations, community involvement, sporting teams and events, training, graduations, promotions, Long Service medal presentations, Valour medal awards, stations under construction or renovation, the famous MFB Balls, dignitary visits to stations, and Fire Awareness Week just to give you all an idea of the extensive range of topics the photos can cover. Photos of families who lived on station premises, such as Eastern Hill, William Street, Hoddle Street, Nth. Melbourne and numerous other stations would also be good.

I know that some firefighters made a practice of purchasing photos from the newspapers of any fires or incidents that they or their stations attended, so if you have any such photos I would love to hear from you. Negatives and slides are also very good, because with the scanning equipment and restoration software, it is quite possible to get a better photo than the print you may have.

No questions asked.

One thing I wish to make very clear. I am not looking to do anything in, who may have 'acquired' or 'souvenired' photos from stations or elsewhere over the years. I'm only interested in getting a scanned copy of what you have. No questions will be asked as to where or how you got it, and I certainly won't be reporting to anyone about what photos individual people have in their collections. What you have will remain with you.

Everyone has heard the old saying "A picture is worth a thousand words". This is particularly true of the MFB photographic history, as it gives the firefighters of today and tomorrow a graphic insight as to how things were done back in the early days, in some cases by their own family and relatives.

If you have any photos or albums pertaining to the MFB, I would be very pleased to hear from you. It doesn't matter how large or small or seemingly insignificant they are, because either I or Chris will have the equipment to copy it right in your own home. Your assistance will be very much appreciated

My contact details are:

Barb McCumisky

MFB Image Archivist

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MFB PERSONNEL HONOURED.

In attendance were the honoured MFB members, ret. DO Basil Smith, ret. SO1 John Rodda, and ret. Chief Supt. Len Hubbard, their families, MFB executive officers including CFO Tony Murphy, DCFO Keith Adamson, Peter Whelan, Director Technical Services, ACFO Mick Walker, MFB Admin staff and the families representing the honoured members who had passed away some time previously, they being ret. SO Albert Faulkner, Sff. Shane Coney and Bruce Kendall, Workshops.

The shiny appliances, four pumpers from fire stations 10, 18, 20 and 39, a pumper tanker from FS 26 and the Rescue Unit from FS 3 were all assembled in the yard and at 11.00 hours, Keith Adamson started the proceedings. After welcoming the guests and introducing the dignitaries he called on CFO Tony Murphy to speak.

CFO Murphy congratulated those honoured and expressed regret that some of them had not lived to enjoy this day, but was pleased that their families were able to participate. He also outlined the outstanding contribution that each member had made to the Brigade and naming an appliance in their honour is the Brigade's acknowledgement of their actions. All those honoured received a large framed image of 'their' appliance.

ALBERT GEORGE 'Pud' FAWKNER.

The first appliance named was Car 9, a Mk 5 Scania pumper stationed at FS 20, Box Hill. Sadly 'Pud' passed away in June 2004, but he was represented by his wife June, daughter Patrice, family and friends at the ceremony.

As the framed image was presented to Patrice, Keith Adamson spoke about 'Pud's' life and career.

Born in 1923, 'Pud' joined the Brigade on August 26, 1949 (Reg.No.262) having previously worked as a tram driver and conductor. During his career he was stationed at FS 12 for quite a number of years and then FS 21, 20, 1, 18, 4, 23, 22 and finally 27 on C Platoon. After 34 years of service 'Pud' retired on October 30, 1983 as Station Officer (1).

'Pud's' greatest achievement actually occurred after he retired. For ten years he was a presenter for the Brigade's 'Retire Ed Program'. He spoke to 255 community groups including multi cultural and senior citizens. His notable contribution was leadership in improving community safety, thus enhancing the standing of the MFB.

LEONARD JOSEPH HUBBARD.

The second appliance named was Car 17, a Mk 5 Scania pumper stationed at FS 39, Port Melbourne. Watching Len at the ceremony were Mary Cowling, SSO Tony Cowling and Ff. Rachel Cowling.



*Len Hubbard chatting to Keith Adamson
Photo by Chris Maxwell*

Born in 1941, Len joined the Brigade on October 23, 1966 (Reg.No.2304). During his career he served in all districts, the Fire Safety Dept., Administration, Research & Development and special tasks. After 21.5 years of service he retired as Chief Superintendent on May 13, 1988.

Career highlights include:

1. MFBB member Employee Representative
2. Initiating and running the Emergency Development & Research Dept.
3. Representing the MFB at community working parties involving chemicals and dangerous goods. Involved with the National Occupational Health & Safety Commission and dangerous goods legislation.
4. In Victorian Government working party to legislate hazardous substances and dangerous goods.
5. Travelling extensively investigating world best practices in the fields of PPE, BA and hazmat.
6. Establishing the MFB Hazmat Unit.
7. Participating in the original group to induct women into the fire service.
8. Elected Secretary of the United Firefighters Union and working to improve workers compensation conditions.
9. Instrumental in negotiating the introduction of the ESSS
10. Part of the formation group that founded the Retired Firefighters Assoc.

Divisional commendations awarded to Len were:

August 4, 1983 while at FS 47. "tip fire involving tonnes of chemicals burning underground and releasing toxic chlorine gas....involved in the evacuation of many civilians."

March 27, 1984 also while at FS 47 as DO, an incident occurred in Ballarat Rd. Braybrook "women trapped in a trench by a partly collapsed pedestrian bridge"

To add a little humor while recounting Len's career, Keith told of a couple of disciplinary misdemeanors that occurred over the years. On one occasion Len failed to turn out on the com ladder, having slept through the bells. His defense was that he had lived in MFB quarters as a child and sleeping through the bells was normal. He was fined \$2.

Len's notable contributions to the Brigade included being instrumental in change and innovation for the future, his leadership in improving community safety thus enhancing the standing of the MFB.



*Basil Smith listens to DCFO Keith Adamson
recalling his career in the Brigade.
Photo by Blair Dellemjin*

JOHN BASIL SMITH

The third appliance named was Car 25, a Mk 5 Scania pumper stationed at FS 10, Richmond. Watching Basil at the ceremony were wife Barbara and son, Ff. Graeme stationed at FS 10.

Born in 1923, Basil (as he was always known) joined the Brigade on November 15, 1946 having previously worked as an engine cleaner with the Victorian Railways. During his career, he was stationed at FS 1, 10, 12, 17, 18, 19, 20, 26, 27, and finally the Training College in Abbotsford.. After 37 years of service Basil retired on November 16, 1983 as District Officer.

Some of his achievements follow:

1. Instrumental in setting up the MFB Training Division in the 1960s, and involved with design of the College in Abbotsford.
2. Wrote the green drill book that every recruit received.
3. Instructed over 40 recruit courses and many specialist and promotional courses.
4. Honoured by the State Government for services to the community through services to the 'Retire Ed Program'

5. Still actively involved with 'Retire Ed' and has featured on Channel 31's "The Time of Your Life" program doing a fire safety segment.

Basil's notable contribution to the Brigade was being a role model for diligence, professionalism, work ethic with respect and trust. Also he excelled at leadership in improving community safety.

BRUCE KENDALL

Not all those honoured at the ceremony were firefighters. Bruce was the Fleet Acquisition Supervisor at the Brigade Workshops. He joined the MFB on January 27, 1961 as an indentured apprentice mechanic, but sadly passed away in January 2004 before his retirement. He already had completed 43 years of service. His wife Sharyn, daughter Cindy along with family and friends attended the ceremony.

Car 15, a Mk 5 Scania pumper stationed at FS 26, Croydon was the fourth appliance named

Some of Bruce's achievements follow:

1. Rose from apprentice in 1961 to Workshops Foreman and then later Fleet Acquisition Supervisor.
2. Represented the MFB in Tasmania, Thailand and New Zealand to co-ordinate a mechanical training program and project management roles.
3. Instrumental in setting up the MFB's design and construction department, constructing a new generation pumper (Mk 3) which went on to receive an Australian Design award.
4. Travelled to Sth. Australia, Queensland and New Zealand to carry out contractor inspections.
5. Awarded a Chief Fire Officer's Commendation in 2001 for completing 40 Years service

Bruce's notable contribution to the Brigade was being a role model for diligence, professionalism, work ethic with respect and trust, thus enhancing the standing of the MFB.



*John Rodda and "His" appliance.
Photo by Chris Maxwell*