

**RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA  
VICTORIAN BRANCH INCORPORATED**

Members who have not renewed their membership are reminded that subscription for 1996 are now due and payable.

The Secretary  
Retired Firefighters Association of Australia  
Victorian Branch Incorporated.  
24 Lincoln Drive  
Lower Plenty 3093

Please find enclosed Cheque/Money Order for \$10 being for subscription for 1996.

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(Please include address even if it has not changed so computer records can be updated for future mail-outs).

**NOTE: Our subscription year is from;- February 1st 1996 to January 31st 1997.**

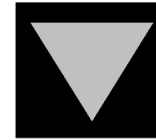


# **“WATER OFF!”**

**NEWSLETTER OF THE  
RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA,  
(VICTORIAN BRANCH) INC.**

**AUGUST 96**





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"Water Off" is edited by John Laverick, 40 Brunel Street Essendon 3040. Phone / fax 9337-9820.  
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.

## **"ASSISTANCE REQUIRED"**

You meet some interesting people at times.

I was guest speaker at a Salvation Army elderly group meeting recently and was asked by a former "Army Lass" did I attend the fire at the William Booth Hostel 30 years ago, or could I remember any details.

She told me she was on duty at the hostel on the night and had to be rescued by Firefighters using a ladder. The lady was most appreciative and full of praise for the fire crews who attended.

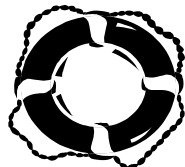
I detected a tear in her eye as she recounted the events of that night and I felt a little embarrassed at not being able to recall what shift was on let alone names of anyone who attended.

I was rostered at No.3 at the time and certainly my shift did not attend as we were not on duty. The only thing I can remember is scrubbing tarps from the salvage van that had been returned from the Morgue and were a bit "on the nose".

Can anyone fill in some details for me like;

- What shift was on?
- Who was first on scene?
- Who performed the ladder rescue?
- Any other details that can be recalled!

If you can assist, please give me a call on;  
Phone/fax 9337-9820, or write to;  
John Laverick, 40 Brunel Street Essendon 3040.



## **“ GENERAL MEETING”**

**Notice is hereby given of our next meeting to be held  
at the Fitzroy Bowling Club, 1030 Hours Wednesday  
21st of August 1996**

### **AGENDA ITEMS.**

- **Minutes of last general meeting,**
- **Secretary/Treasurer's report,**
  - **General business.**

Please come along and have your say in the running of the Association and join in the fellowship of your old friends and make new ones.

Lunch and beverages will be provided as usual. **@ \$2 per head.**  
Drinks at bar prices.

#### **NOTE;**

Any member who has not been financial for 3 years, will be crossed off the mailing list. If you have not paid your current subscription for 1996, please fill in the form on the back page of this edition and return to the Secretary/Treasurer.

**JOHN BERRY  
SECRETARY/TREASURER**

## REPORT FROM SECRETARY / TREASURER



The magic of the 1996 Olympic Games are now over and perhaps I will be able to get back to a normal routine again. I am not sure how the rest of the community managed to keep awake to watch them.

This coffee drinking does not work, it has got to be a better diuretic than beer, then, if you drink beer only, after a while you just don't give a "s...t". Oh decisions, decisions!

If you want to see some "G&D", the Paralympics are about to start. If that demonstration event at the Atlanta Athletics Stadium of the 800 metre wheel chair event, (the only one at this venue that an Australian won) did not stir your national pride nothing will. The skill and athleticism of the participants was awesome.

Report of the meeting 22nd May 1996 is as follows;

**Item 1;** The main agenda item, ie; Offices of the Secretary and Treasurer to be amalgamated was discussed, moved and carried unanimously by the members present. The Office of Fair Trading to be notified accordingly.

**Item 2;** Guide lines/direction for the President/Secretary to follow in relation to closer affiliation R.F.A./U.F.U. moved and carried that we look to a closer working relationship with the U.F. U Social Committee re the Annual Dinner.

**Item 3;** Due to increase in catering costs at general meetings, a levy of \$2.00 per member be paid by the attendees, moved and carried.

**Item 4;** Committee to investigate arrangements for Guest Speakers at Annual/General meetings, moved and carried.

## "WANTED!"

*Your input to this newsletter.*

What do you want? What would you like to read? How can this newsletter be of interest to you? We are looking for suggestions to improve our line of communications.

If you feel you can contribute an article, a paragraph, a page, or a regular column whether it be a humorous anecdote or a serious comment, let's hear from you!

Below are a few suggestions; (Just to give you a clue on how bereft of ideas I am.)

- What ever happened to?
- Do you remember so and so?
- Do you remember the fire at .....?
- Where are the characters that made the job?
- Who were the characters behind the nicknames?
- How did they get the nickname? (But let's keep it clean.)
- Who is responsible for the care and feeding of the Domesticated Mongolian Field Mouse?
- If you would like to ask a question, or can answer a question, (even the one above), let's hear from you.

Most of us have a story to tell and many have difficulty in putting pen to paper, if this is the case give me a call. I am no literary giant nor the greatest speller in the world, but between us we should be able to put something together. Who knows, there may be a frustrated "Hemingway" hidden in you, (I found I was in the "Daffy Duck" class!).

If you can help, get off your backside, put the old top boot through the telly and give me, John Laverick, a call on 9337-9820 or drop a line addressed to - 40 Brunel Street Essendon 3040.

On our second day we take the usual city tour, more churches, museums and palaces. They gloat that their palace (2000 rooms) was bigger and better than all the others in Europe. In the afternoon we visited Toledo, a 7th century walled city about 70 km. south of Madrid. It was built by the Arabs and was multicultural until the 14th century when all of Spain became catholic. As usual we did not have enough time. Would have liked to have spent a couple of days.

We return to England for a further 3 days and visit Southampton on the coast and Chichester on the way back to our friends. Once again we are on the go. This time to Heathrow for our flight to Singapore and an 8 day R&R before heading home to Australia.

Once again we take the usual city tour although we had done this trip some 12 years earlier. Singapore has certainly changed in those years. We use public transport, buses and underground and visit numerous places including Sentosa Island (well worth a visit). The area has been changed and modernised since our last visit. The Bird Park with birds from all over the world. Shopping is good but prices are about the same as home and the dollar about one for one. We felt after 6 days we could have left for home, but stopped the full time, leaving Singapore about 3 hours late and arrived back in Melbourne about 8.30 am.

In all we visited 17 countries in 10 weeks and look forward to returning there in 1996. This is only a brief resume, it is impossible to put into words all of the places we saw but have taken numerous photos and videos for our memories.

If anyone would like information about the trip or costs please feel free to contact us.

**Don and Nancy Brennan**



**Item 5;** Almoner/Social worker positions, moved and carried that a number of members assist the committee in this area. those members are as follows in alphabetical order; A.Deans, I. Fowler, R.McLoone and T.Reed. Please assist them thereby assisting our members or their loved ones.

**Item 6;** General business;  
R. Lennie, ex C.F.A. career member, spoke on the changes to the C.F.A. rank structure, the members present now have a better understanding that changes are not only affecting the M.F. B. but all services including all artisan and clerical areas.

**Item 7;** F. Churchill spoke on Credit Union and advised members that one of the main stalwarts of the Credit Union, Theo Teklenburg, is to retire. He will be missed by many of the members he has helped over the years. It was moved and carried that a letter of appreciation from the Association be forwarded and that he be invited to join the R.F.A. Frank also raised items of interest in relation to the current Government, C. F.A, M.F.B. and U.F.U position and the possible Flow on affect it may have on this Association.

**Item 8;** Ex-Secretary P. Holton gave a very informative talk on cardiac surgery, which was very "light hearted" and was well received by the members present. I'll let you in on a secret, this proves a lot of people wrong, (Piggy does have a heart).

**Item 9;** Correspondence;  
At the last meeting a letter forwarded by one of our members in the Sunshine State highlighted some of the problems he was experiencing in relation to his identification by the community that he is on a pension. On this members behalf I forwarded a letter to our representative on the E.S.S.S Board. Unfortunately he did not reply to the letter. It was answered on his behalf by a Mr. Chris Artis (Manager, Advisory and Compliance) who, From our telephone conversations seemed a very committed person to members of the E.S.S.S on pensions, (approximately 5000).  
(cont.over)

We were not happy with the initial reply to our first letter, it appeared to be totally bureaucratic. On the members behalf another letter was forwarded identifying the total negativity of the response and the need to be aware of the basic psyche of persons that have been terminated from their employment due to an injury or illness related problem, also the need for them to gain information from D.S.S etc.

The second letter from Chris is very positive and as stated earlier Chris is committed to people on pensions. He has given a commitment to have a newsletter in December of this year which will include D.S.S issues also that they intend to reapproach the D.S.S on the matter of recognition of the E.S.S.S pension card.

**Item 10;** Health news from our Almoner/Social workers; One of our committee has found a way to get out of doing the garden, just tell the boss (wife) "when I bend over I black out". I am not sure if it works for everyone, however ring R. Medwin for advice.

Ray Griffith, the "ORRIBLE POM" from the Training College and his wife are having a bit of a down lately, if you get the chance give him a ring and say "HI".

Blast from the past old "B District" days. Ron McComb, if you need any advice on orchids and leather work, give him a ring.

If you know of any member or retired persons from the various services or departments who may be suffering health problems let us know, as the members in the other states have no way apart from this newsletter of knowing.

**Item 11;** The R.F.A. at this time has no protocol to follow in relation to Honorary Life Membership. The committee would like to foreshadow a proposal to establish same ie; any member or deceased members spouse who reaches the delightful age of ninety automatically becomes an Honorary Life Member.

morning  
the whole countryside is covered in snow, a real Xmas postcard scene. (By the way, Ken and Jany run a Bed and Breakfast home and would be pleased to have customers. If anyone is interested please contact us). We leave after a great time and head south past Amsterdam, The Hague and Rotterdam returning to Brugge. Next morning again heading south along the coast to Calais. There are nice beaches and hundreds of high-rise holiday units. After arriving at lunchtime we decide to take the ferry back to Dover and then train to London and onto Horgham for 3 days with our friends.

Our next trip is by plane to Vienna in Austria for 3 days. We leave Gatwick and arrive 2 hours later, the temp. is -5 degrees C, it is cold but not raining. There is very low cloud cover which did not lift for 3 days, visibility about 800 metres. We take a city tour by bus past City Hall, Parliament House, Opera House, numerous museums and palaces, We visit the Summer Palace (Schonbruan). It has 1200 rooms and is lavishly decorated throughout. There are 102 museums, opera houses and galleries in the city.

After the tour we walk to the city centre. Once again we take in the local Cathedral and visit some of the fine historic buildings. As it is near the end of November in the 3 streets near our hotel and in front of the City Hall there were numerous colourful Kriss Kringle stalls with hundreds of Xmas decorations and hand made toys. We catch the underground train and go to the outer suburbs and ride the biggest ferris wheel in the world. Unfortunately the fog was still down so the view was limited. On our final morning we went to a small church to hear the Vienna Boys Choir before heading back to the airport for a flight back to Gatwick for 1 hour before catching another flight to Madrid in Spain. The flight took us over the Alps which were covered in snow and a spectacular sight. At one stage I counted 25 aeroplane jetstreams flying at all angles.



## **TRAVELLING WITH THE BRENNAN'S**

(Cont. from last issue)

The final day of our 12 day tour of Europe dawns, we leave Paris early and head for Dunkirk. The countryside is very flat with plenty of farm cottages. The total distance of the tour from Calais and return to Dunkirk was 4450 km. We leave the tour at the ferry terminal and pick up a rental car. This is the first time we had driven on the right hand side of the road. We head back to Belgium and call it a day mid-afternoon at Brugge. This is a medieval city shaped like a heart around a large city square. Bicycles are very prominent means of transport. Next morning we head for Nijmegen in south east Holland on the German border. We pass through Gent, Antwerp and Breda, all large cities. We stay with my sisters' inlaws for 2 days. We go into Germany for a short drive to Kleve, a small country town. The Walkaan River forms the border between Holland and Germany and has large numbers of barges taking cargo in and out of Germany.

We head north to Friesland and the little town of Birdaard where Ken and Jany Copeland live. They have a very nice 2 storey house on a canal. We spend 5 days with them and travel all around the countryside including another trip into Germany. We take Ken for a day trip into Amsterdam travelling along the top of the dyke between the North Sea and the Zider Zee. In Amsterdam we take a canal cruise, this takes about 1.5 hours. We pass historic buildings including the house where Anne Franke lived during the German occupation of the 2nd World War.

We then stroll around the city including the red light area where scantily clad women display their wares in the windows. We return to Birdaard late in the afternoon and it starts to snow. Next

**Item 13;** The committee have received a brochure from the "Craft Creators", a company that supply guest speakers and demonstrators for meetings or special events. Prices range from \$40 up to \$600. A sample of subjects they cover are as follows; Weaving, ceramics, book-binding, pottery, textiles, bears, dolls, bees, candles, hand made paper, stamps, silk painting, needlework, tools, fashion design, artists brushes, gardening, small business development, community radio, aromatherapy and other subjects. this will be an agenda item at next meeting. Anyone looking for speakers in any of these items can contact the facilitator K.Cowen, phone- 9532-7440.

Hoping this newsletter finds you all fit and well and looking forward to seeing you at the meeting on Wednesday 21st August.

### **JOHN BERRY**



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### **OVER THE STY.**

**(Being an occasional column by an unknown correspondent).**

Whilst wallowing in the sty the occupant came across an article in the latest issue of the Australian Firefighter announcing the retirement of S.O. Joe Trickey from the Queensland Fire Service. Young Joe, as he was known by his mates in the M.F. B. is a son of the late S.O. Old Joe Trickey, formerly of the old

No.34 Stn. (Cheltenham) and is the brother of Harold and Ernie of the M.F.B. and uncle of??, also of the M.F.B. Joe's son Bruce has followed in Old & Young Joe's footsteps and is an S.O. at Burleigh Heads. We think it would have been easier to have called him Young Young Joe to differentiate him from Old and Young Joe. With so many Trickey's in the Fire Service it is refreshing to note that Trickey Dickey late President of the U.S. A. is no relative.

The occupant has fond memories of Old Joe at 34 Stn. (cont. p8) when one wet Saturday night he was sent to stand-by at 34 as all the night shift had thrown one. 34 Stn. as all you old B\*\*\*\*\*'s know had an asphalt engine-room floor and through the passage of time the air conditioned Morris Hose Carriage had sunk into the floor in a hollow so steep that one had to use first gear to climb out of the hole. In the wee hours of the morning a call was received and the occupant and Old Joe proceeded to the call. Upon returning to the station and backing into the engine-room it was discovered that the station pet cat had been sleeping under the Hose Carriage and had been ironed by the aforesaid H.Car. This did not do a lot for the thickness of the cat but improved it's length by about 3 feet and made it very wide as well. As the occupant did not like to handle long thin cats he prevailed upon Old Joe to dispose of same. If I recall correctly the cat was given a decent removal into the messroom rubbish bin. The messroom incidentally was of huge proportions being approximately 5 x 2.5 feet that is with no chairs or table. It was a very modern functional station.

It is of interest to note that it had been rumoured for a couple of years that the station was going to be closed. One day, the buzz was that the station had been reprieved as the septic tank had been removed and sewerage had been connected. The occupant had learnt his first major lesson. It is the Oinks rule No.1, whenever a major work is undertaken it generally means that the station will be closed as this is exactly what happened a few weeks later.

a microwave oven until they reach a desired temperature.

Investigations of the packs have revealed that the wheat filling had ignited during heating. In most cases the packs had been in service for some time with constant use resulting in the reduction of the moisture content of the wheat, causing overheating of the wheat resulting in fire.

It is appreciated that there are clear instructions on the commercial packs, this is not the case with many of the home made units. It is also important to note that tests have revealed that some packs ignite prior to the recommended heating time.

Given that these packs have the potential to cause serious injury and/or damage from fire, the Brigade strongly urge that the public be made aware of this problem.

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**The following retirees are on the sick list and we wish them a speedy recovery.**

- Ray Griffith and his wife.
- Tony Hynson.
- Ross Medwin.
- Wells Hitchcock.

\*\*\*\*\*

**VALE**

We regret the passing of the following retired fighters and offer our deepest sympathies to their families.

- ◆ Jack McKenzie; Ex S.O.2 Windsor
- ◆ Mark O'Brien; S/F
- ◆ Jim Rowe; Ex S/F Western Dist.



health at the moment but we hope things improve for him in the near future. (Ed.)

### “FIRES OF INTEREST”

ADDRESS; a unit in South Yarra.

Neighbours spotted smoke coming from the unit and saw flames through the window and alerted the Brigade. On arrival Firefighters kicked in the front door to rescue an elderly woman from the unit. The 80 year old resident had fallen, knocking over an electric radiator. The radiator set fire to the carpet sending out thick black smoke into the room. The woman was unable to get up and was soon overcome by the acrid smoke. Firefighters from Windsor fire station managed to get her out and began first aid and were greatly assisted by a doctor who lives nearby. The woman suffered smoke inhalation and was also treated by ambulance crews before being transported to hospital. There was no smoke alarm installed in the unit.

Editor's note.

Domestic smoke alarms have been credited with saving a potential 259 lives and 389 dwellings where damage to property has been confined to the area of origin in Victoria since 1993 to Dec.1995. (M.F.B.-C.F.A. reports)

1995 Has seen domestic smoke alarms in 55% of households in Victoria. These statistics have been supplied by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

### Potential Hazard

The Brigade has identified a number of fires involving a therapeutic Heat Wheat Pack. These fires have occurred in both commercially manufactured as well as home made packs. These heat packs are used to apply heat to various areas of the body for therapeutic reasons. The units are heated by placing them in

## TRAVELLING WITH SILVER



Hi. What with doing a bit of work, selling house, moving and building again it doesn't leave much time for getting about.

However, No.1 daughter just returned from her honeymoon and third trip to Bali Indonesia and said you have to take a look, it's different. Mrs. Silver said OK. I'll rough it for a week (no dishwasher) and away we go.

The Ant family, John and Elaine, were up scunging free board at Jim Evans place in Darwin, so I took a bag of garbage to chuck out the window but couldn't get it open, never mind, they would eat it in Bali.

It's some time since we have flown over inland Australia and it is a reminder of how desolate and remote we are. It made one realize how lucky the Japs were that we dropped the bomb on them otherwise they may have got Australia. Also this Marbo business our black brothers are on about is a real sting. You see they don't really want it, but say they do, hoping us whitey's will then take it off them.

Anyway, arrived in Denpasar, temp, 33deg. beautiful. Three main places to stay in Bali, Nusa Dua, very up market; Sanur, slower with more opportunity to meet the locals and Kuta very much for tourists and the younger ones.

We decided on Sanur at a very nice hotel called Peneeda Beach View Hotel, next to the Hyatt. The beach was just but there were 3 pools which we had almost to ourselves. Tourism is not going all that well at the moment. Either the Aussie's are broke or going to Hawaii some say.

The Hyatt like the Sheraton's are full of Japs and you could be anywhere in the world once you are locked away in them. Quite a number of Germans, Danes and Austrians there as Bali

There are two distinct types of locals, Balinese and Javanese. The Balinese are a very gentle and happy people. The Javanese have mainly come down from Jakarta to prey on the tourists and are not a very pleasant type. (A bit shifty like Frank Churchill).

For the best sunset in the world get on the beach at Kuta with 5000 others to photograph it.

The bargaining begins as soon as you leave the hotel. 10,000 Rupiah equals \$6 Australian. Say a beautifully copied Rolex watch, they want 40,000 RP. you offer 10,000 and settle for 15,000.

Everything is open to barter. For instance, a car (80 Sigma) with driver will pick you up at 9am, drive to Kuta (1.5 hours), stay 2-3 hours waiting, then on to Nusa Dua and return to Sanur at 4pm. (7 hours all up) for 30,000 RP. or \$18 Aust.

A very safe and clean restaurant Indonesian style at Sanur is Kul Kul, right opposite the Peneeda Beach View. Most important, don't drink the water even if they say it's boiled. Bali belly will get you. Plastic bottles holding 6lt. cost \$4 Aust. Very hard to get used to cleaning the teeth in.

Harking back to the street cars for hire, there are a lot of private operators who are uninsured so dodge these guys. Travel Insurance is a must like anywhere.

Incidentally, all hotels have females waiting to massage you on their beach or lawns. Our lady charged 7500 RP. per hour, about \$4.50 and she was very good.

Made friends with some of the street vendors and after a number of days we could walk down the street and the call of G'Day Silver would come from both sides of the street.

Wood carvings are a good buy but declare them at customs, they only

want to inspect them for exotic white ants and if found will fumigate them and return them. Mrs. Silver bought 9 watches for friends and they are still going, they must have thought Mr.& Mrs. Christmas had arrived. Next time you're at Sanur mention Silver and you get the special morning price.

Went to Turtle Island where they breed the protected species and only slaughter them for special occasions.

A point of interest, cock fighting is banned unless on special festivals. It was made illegal because the young people were losing all their money gambling but it still flourishes behind closed doors.

All up, we will be going back again.

### **Happy travelling - SILVER**

PS. On the plane and at the airport an ugly Australian was present. Full of grog, (airlines fault). wanted to argue with Immigration and Security then wanted to **buy** a Porter for a week. Makes you feel real proud!

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### **"CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK"**

Heard from retired firefighter Tony Hynson recently. He told me how his son, "Peter" (not a firey) rescued a man from a blazing house on the previous Sunday night in Croydon. It appears Peter was driving past when he noticed smoke coming from a house. He stopped and got a passer-by to call the brigade, then heard cries for help from inside.

Unable to gain entry through the front door went around to a window, broke it and using all the training his dad had drilled into him as a child, pulled a doona over the broken window and dragged the occupant to safety.

It was good to hear from Tony. He is not enjoying the best of