



## **NEW ERA FOR FIRE RESCUE SERVICES IDENTITY CHANGE FOR MFB—CFA PAGE 5 For details**

### **Fire Rescue Victoria**

**N**o more MFB! It was only a matter of time! The Victorian Labor Government final passed legislation on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June. The legislative win means the Country Fire Authority will be devolved into a volunteer-only organization while maintaining it's 1220 volunteer brigades. A new professionals-only agency called Fire Rescue Victoria will run metropolitan fire services, replacing the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. It will take control of the 38 professional CFA brigades at "integrated" stations which are shared by professional and volunteer firefighters. The state's fire services boundaries will be changed, bringing outer suburban areas of Melbourne which are protected by the CFA under the control of Fire rescue Victoria. The model will come into effect in the middle of next year.



### **Presumptive Legislation for Victorian Career & Volunteer Firefighters**

**V**ictorian career and volunteer firefighters who develop cancer because of their work, will now have a presumptive right to compensation. This means firefighters will no longer have to prove their cancer was caused by their firefighting, probably the most important aspect of the state's new firefighting laws.

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# “GENERAL MEETING”

Notice is hereby given that the next General Meeting will be held at the CFA Station Corio  
Birdwood Ave. (Melway’s 441 K 2

**1030 Hours, Wednesday 21st August 2019**

**AGENDA ITEMS.**

**Minutes of last General meeting  
President’s Report  
Secretary/Treasurer’s Report  
Guest Speaker;  
General Business**

**Allan Roberts  
SECRETARY/TREASURER  
Address all correspondence to:  
Allan Roberts  
Unit 158 Mernda Retirement Village  
89 Galloway Drive  
Mernda Vic 3754  
Telephone: Mob: 0433 007 720  
Email: rfavic1@gmail.com**

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 available.  
All wives and partners welcome  
Please join us!**

**Diary Dates 2019**

**August 21st;      General Meeting Corio  
November 16th   Christmas Luncheon  
Wed. 20th November; Annual General Meeting**

**Non financial Members**

Members be advised if your newsletter has an expiry date of 2/1/2018 that means you have not paid your subs since 2017 therefore if no remuneration is received by the 2/1/19 your name will be automatically removed from the mailing list. If, for whatever reason any member is unable to meet this request please do not hesitate to call the secretary, (confidentiality is assured).

## OFFICE BEARERS

**President:** Alex Shepherd  
**Vice President:** Sam Capes  
**Sec./Treasurer:** Allan Roberts

**General Committee:**

Arthur (Sam) Capes  
Mike McCumisky  
Len Manning  
Ian Geddes  
Kevin Hede  
Colin Harris

**“Water Off”  
Editorial Staff  
Colin Harris  
John Laverick**

**Auditor:**  
Mike Enticott

## SICK LIST (\* In Nursing Home)

John Bellis	Bob Horgan
Don Brennan*	Alan James*
John Brown*	Archie McLachlan
Bob Brunning	Harry Mitchell
Bob Cameron	John Orange
Stan Cameron	Dick Prendergast
Harold Connell	Gary Spicer
Stan Devlin	John Schintler
Tom Driscoll	Alan Sugg
Jack Etherton*	Bob Tottle
Ian Fowler	Laurie Trewin
Barry Gavin	Ray Wellard
Jim Gibson	John Williams
Eddie Gilbertson	Tom Williamson*
Bill Grant	
John Hancock*	
Noel (Dutchy) Holland	

We wish these members a speedy recovery

**Note: If you know of any member who may be ill please notify a committee member.**

### MFB /CFA Valě

COLIN BURTON	BRIAN MORRISSEY
25/04/19	24/06/19
JOHN THOMSON	ALFRED SELL
06/05/19	30/06/19
JOHN ‘JACK’	ALLEN (BOMBER)
MCGUINNESS	MCKENZIE
29/05/19	RON SHAW

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

**Don’t forget the RFA website  
[www.rfav.com.au](http://www.rfav.com.au)**

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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; Colin D. Harris (The views expressed by the editor of this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Victorian branch of the RFA)



## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Where has all the time gone six months into the year and it seems like we were only celebrating the New Year yesterday, the footy season's nearly over and we are looking toward the end of the year again,

.Time certainly goes by quickly as we age!

I've been to a few retirement nights lately so we should be growing in membership both the RFA and the RDM. Those nights have been very entertaining in the stories that have been told and I reflect on how the Fire Brigade moves on and how I sometimes miss it.

I hope you are all well - if not get well quickly. Best wishes to you and all your family. See you soon.

**Alex Shepherd**

## **SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT**

Please give your family and friends details on contacting the RFA so we may be able to help you or your family members with support if required.

It gives me much pleasure to inform you the result of Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2019 was successfully passed by the Legislative Council a good result after a long fight.

The meeting at Corio Fire Station will be chaired by Sammy Capes owing that Alex Shepherd being away at the fire games and myself having a new knee fitted on the 6<sup>th</sup> August and unable to get to the meeting.

Whist folding the Water off Kevin Hede received a phone call to return home urgently. As Kevin had travelled by public transport I contacted DCFO DAVID BRUCE WHO HAD A CAR TO TAKE KEVIN HOME. **Thank you David for your ongoing support.**

**UFU CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON 16<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER. UFU WILL SEND OUT INVITATIONS.**

Special thanks to John Laverick, for his ongoing help to Col Harris with Water Off.

Thanks to Colin Harris, Kristina Starnawski and Mark Carter for helping out with **Gone But Not Forgotten.**

**For your information Russell Hawthorn is looking after all bereavements for me and if you need anything special required for you please contact Russell on: 0409 187 945**

**Please make sure that your family knows how to get in touch with the RFA for any assistance.**

Secretary of the Retired Firefighters Association, Allan Roberts, **on behalf of all members express our thanks and gratitude for the support that MFB Burnley staff collectively provided to the RFA members at their BBQ's following all our Meetings.**

Allan Roberts Secretary.

### **NEW MEMBERS 2019.**

ROGER NEATE	21/01/19
KEN COPELAND	26/01/19
NORMAN OLSEN	18/03/19
SERGE SLAVIERO	01/04/19
CLIFF STREETE	29/04/19
GERRY McCARTIN	22/05/19
JOHN BATTISTA	13/06/19
ROBERT KIRKMAN	21/06/19

## **MFB and UFU expand Macquarie University PFAS blood study to retired MFB firefighters**

- The MFB have expanded the Macquarie University / MFB PFAS blood study to include both **current and retired MFB firefighters, workshop and corporate staff.**

This study will examine whether PFAS levels in the bloodstream can be reduced by regular blood or plasma donations.

### **Study Overview**

In 2019, MFB and the United Firefighters Union partnered with Macquarie University Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, on a world-first study to improve the health of firefighters exposed to per and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly known as PFAS. This Macquarie University's Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences research study has been commissioned by the MFB, will be over a 12-month period and will include a study sample of 315 current and retired MFB firefighters, workshops and corporate staff.

The study will examine whether PFAS levels in the bloodstream can be reduced by regular blood or plasma donations. Further information about this study is in the Study poster.

The MFB and UFU encourages both current and retired MFB staff to take part in this voluntary study. This study been properly consulted on and agreed by both UFU and MFB via the Enterprise Agreement's consultative process.

### **Next Steps**

Further information please email the Study Coordinator at:

Email: [PFASClinicalStudy@mq.edu.au](mailto:PFASClinicalStudy@mq.edu.au)

Phone: 0466 938

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# Minutes of General Meeting, 15 May 2019, at MFB Burnley Complex at 1030hrs

Sam Capes (Vice President), Allan Roberts (Secretary/Treasurer) Ian Geddes (Minutes)  
Present: 33 members, Apologies: 14

## President's Report:

Sam Capes Vice President  
Conducted the meeting.

## Secretary/Treasurer Report:

Allan read the Minutes of the previous Meeting.  
Moved: Jeff Butterworth. Seconded – Ken Heddle  
Carried

Matters arising: Nil  
Correspondence:  
Various emails & correspondence re deceased persons.  
Allan Roberts (Alex Shepherd unavailable)  
New Members Roger Neate, Ken Copeland, Norm Olsen, Serge Slaviero, Cliff Streete  
Moved: Fred Laverick. Seconded: Ian Munro  
Carried

## Financial Report

General Acct - \$2,712.11  
Term Deposit - \$7,257.32  
Water Off mail out – Brigade does the printing free of charge, but, we will try to get it distributed on time  
Moved: Fred Laverick. Seconded: Ian Munro  
Carried

## RMD Report

Eddie McMullen (Leon Whittaker unavailable)  
Health Monitoring for Retirees (Glenn Marks)  
WFU Lunch – Saturday 16 November at Docklands  
RFA and RMD doing co-attendance of pre-retirement seminar in June  
Moved: John Schintler. Seconded: Col Harris  
Carried

## Almoners Report

Alex Shepherd's wife Lenore – recovering  
Kevin Hede's wife sadly passed away a short time after this meeting  
Dutchie Holland very much on the mend  
Don Brennan still loves visitors  
Note: if anyone has problems, please contact the RFA

## General Business

Bunnings BBQs – Mernda, Mill Park, Hoppers Crossing  
Paperwork & organising volunteers, Allan Roberts will report at Geelong meeting  
Osanam House – is RFA continuing with free lunch?

## Guest Speaker

Guest Speaker *Charlie Bezzina*, ex-homicide detective and author of *The Job*

38 years service, including 17 years in Homicide and in Drug Squads.

Charlie gave generously of his time, again, with his famous enthusiasm and insights.

Why are home invasions, car-jackings on the rise?

Police numbers are not keeping up with population numbers! 15,000 police for 6,200,000 Victorians, equals 1 for 414 people per office. Or, is it? 560 Members are

administrative – basically not on normal response. Operational Support, 3300 – Forensics, Station duty, Reports, follow-ups. Long Service leave, Rostered leave, Sick leave etc. reducing on-call numbers. On-call numbers are currently about 9,000 sworn members.

Compare;

New York 42,000 to 8 million population

London 40,000 to 8 million population

In Victoria, slightly higher Police Members work the old morning and afternoon shifts and numbers may be down to 2,000 to 3,000 overnight. About 1 : 615 Victorians

Political correctness, overcrowding in jails and court sentences are concerning to the serving Members. 'Career crims' no longer fear the Police, and 'friends of crims' are not investigated as they once were.

The 'one punch' law (think David Hooks). The bouncer was a amateur boxer and would be aware of the effect of such a punch – No Conviction

Assault on Emergency personnel – hard to get a conviction

Speed cameras – a good earner

Sentencing – only Murderers **may** get life

Manslaughter – averages 5-7 years

Commercial Drugs – **maybe** 20 years (Mokbel)

Bourke Street car massacre – 6 dead, numerous injured – 46 years (7.5 per murder)

Hoddle Street shootings – 6 dead 26 years (4.5 years per murder.

Most sentencing is based on previous cases (precedents)

3 rapes – 14 years (4.5 years per offence)

Self-defence by Police or Civilians has to be based on defending yourself with appropriate force.

Charlie left us with a great saying '*I would rather be tried by 12, than carried by 6*'

**Sam Capes** closed the meeting which was followed by BBQ and chats.

## RECENTLY RETIRED

Geoff Audsley	Peter Hewitt
John Battista	Terry Hunter
Cliff Brooking	Rob Kirkman
Gary Bull	Gary Lynch
Bill Davis	Ron McMillan
Kevin Doble	Colin Morton
Alan Drury	Norm Olsen
John Garvin	Serge Slaviero
Neil Harrington	

# FIRE SERVICES REFORM

## Meeting the demands of a 21st century Victoria

Victoria's fire services are being reformed so that they can meet the needs of our rapidly changing state – now and into the future.

The bravery, skill and dedication of our firefighters, whether career or volunteer, keep Victorian communities safe.

But firefighters are let down by outdated management and governance structures that can't keep up with Victoria's rapid growth and evolution.

Victoria has the best firefighters in the world, but they currently operate under systems and structures that have not changed since the 1950s.

As our state grows and changes, the demands on our fire services will only continue to mount. Our cities and suburbs have grown significantly and it is clear that these services are in need of modernisation.

These challenges have been made clear through a number of reviews in recent years, including the [2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission](#), and they have all concluded: We must modernise our state's fire services.

**Country Fire Authority** (CFA) serves rural, regional and urban areas with a network of 1,220 community-based volunteer brigades, including 38 integrated stations staffed by career firefighters and volunteers.

**Metropolitan Fire Brigade** (MFB) has career firefighters at 47 stations across Melbourne.

A new organisation – Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) – will bring together MFB and CFA career firefighters to serve metropolitan Melbourne and major regional centres.

The CFA will be restored as a volunteer firefighter organisation, and Victoria's 1,220 CFA volunteer brigades will be strengthened and supported to serve and protect their communities as they always have.

Importantly, CFA volunteers currently serving at one of the State's integrated stations will be able to remain at that station if they choose to, co-locating with Fire Rescue Victoria services under the altered boundaries.

Fire Rescue Victoria will cover existing MFB boundaries and serve metropolitan Melbourne, outer urban areas and larger regional centres across Victoria. Boundaries will also be altered to reflect population growth across the State – a change the fire services have requested for a long time.

To ensure our fire services can adapt as Victoria grows, an independent Fire District Review Panel will be established to advise on future changes to the boundaries.

In support of these reforms, the Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2019 was introduced to Parliament on 29 May 2019.

## Presumptive rights compensation scheme

The reforms will introduce presumptive rights to cancer compensation for career and volunteer firefighters, recognising the invaluable service they provide which often requires them to work in inherently dangerous conditions.

Administered through WorkSafe, the new scheme will apply to individuals who have served as firefighters for a specified number of years, depending on the cancer type, and have been diagnosed since 1 June 2016.

### Statement from MFB Chief Officer Dan Stephens regarding Fire Rescue Victoria Legislation:

I welcome the FRV legislation and am supportive of the opportunity to enhance Fire and Rescue Services in Victoria and our community service delivery.

FRV represents a once in a lifetime opportunity to create a new career Fire and Rescue Service to improve community safety for Victorians. The health and wellbeing of our workforce and the safety of the community are our highest priorities. MFB is an outstanding organisation that has consistently delivered for the community over the past 128 years and our reputation is highly regarded.

The same is true of the CFA and we will respect the history of both organisations as we work to build FRV.

We all have a role to play in making FRV the best it possibly can be for the community we serve. MFB will continue to work collaboratively with Government, our CFA colleagues and other stakeholders to establish FRV, and it remains very much business as usual during this time.

The volunteers are an essential resource within the fire and rescue service capability in Victoria – we simply couldn't function without the volunteer component within the CFA.

## Charlie Bezzina – the detective who made a difference!

At our last RFA General Meeting in May this year,

Charlie Bezzina was our surprise guest speaker. And, what a delightful surprise was he! A most passionate homicide (top cop) detective. Charlie spent 37 years in the Victorian Police Force and has seen more death and destruction that most in a life-time would never see. Disillusioned, Charlie left the police force after a distinguished career, where he put away many of Melbourne’s worst criminals.

In Charlie’s 17 years in the homicide Squad, he investigated more than 300 suspicious deaths, including 150 murders, among them the crimes of serial killer Paul Denyer, the killing of Melbourne gangland figure Alphonse Gangitano, the baffling disappearance of former gameshow model Jacqui Ramchen and the death of former Test cricketer David Hooks.

Charlie was brimming with exclusive information that only a seasoned detective can provide. His talk was an explosive and intriguing account of what it takes to be a criminal investigator at the highest level in these days of crime, drugs and murder and disappearing bodies.

Charlie gave our audience of 50 + RFA members a true account of his life in and on the job, his highs and lows and the often disappointing hierarchy above him, when



Charlie Bezzina, the detective who made a difference!

he was often moved as was some of his close professional police associates just when they were reducing crime statistics and making a real difference in the world of policing.

Charlie reminded the audience that there are only 9,000 police officers in Victoria, serving a community population of 6.3 million people. Another 3,000 officers are required!

Retired Detective Senior Sergeant Charlie Bezzina was an inspirational speaker. Those who missed him speak, sadly you missed an insight into a great man and the work he has done in the past to uphold law and order in this great city of Melbourne by bringing many criminals to face the courts and see justice, locking these crims away often for not long enough! (His words).

Charlie joined the retired furies for a BBQ at lunchtime and share a few more stories. At this time, I wish to acknowledge the MFB Burnley complex personnel who diligently worked hard to provide us with sustenance after our meeting once again, while we caught up with old colleagues and friends from the past (our MFB family).

**To all the RFA members out there, come along to our next meeting at Burnley. Bring a fellow ex-shift mate or two along, and join in the fellowship we have each time we meet.**

Col Harris

## **60 Years in Nunawading!**

June 26 saw the MFB hit a significant organisational milestone when FS27 (Nunawading) celebrated its 60 year anniversary.

In 1950 the Town Clerk of Nunawading Council wrote to the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board (MFBB) offering an allocation of land for a “nominal figure” of £500 for a fire station, to meet the demands of the growing community.

The original station was built in 1959 and designed by architect Harry Winbush. The site took over the fire station number 27, which had formerly been Prahran Fire Station, and has retained it ever since.

FS27 underwent initial refurbishment in 1985, and then in 2009 the old station was demolished to make way for the development of a new state of the art station, with construction commencing in 25 May 2009.

The original station was crewed by two officers and eight firefighters, enabling one officer and two firefighters to be 'on duty'. Today, the station has a minimum crew of six, and being so close to the Eastern Freeway and East Link, the crew turns out to a lot of car rescue incidents and house fires.



**Fire Station 27 Nunawading**  
Firefighters L-R; SSO. P. Mason, SFF. H. Kiernan, SFF R. Hetherington, Ff. G. Mackwell, Sff. G Larnar, SFF. K. Moore

Happy Birthday Nunawading!

Source; MFB Media Coms.

## AFSM recipients – and a little more about them:

Deputy Chief Officer David Bruce I met about 14 years ago when we and others completed the first commander's course back in the day. A cheery and positive fellow who loved the job and was clever to boot, and had his fellow firefighters health, safety and happiness in mind whenever he was called to the big job or just having a chi-wag at change of shift or at any MFB social event, including the many retirement functions he attended. He was an "A" platoon man and his Registered Number is 3848.

Dave joined the job in 1985 after he left Telecom (now Telstra) and was looking for a new career and change of direction. The Fire Chief at that time was Laurie Lavelle and the MFB was chugging along and this was the time near to the reign of Jeff Godfredson.

Along the MFB journey, Dave found a mentor in ACFO Paul Riley and one of the characters in the job. Another character Dave remembers fondly was Alan Drury (No.6 Stn and last posting was the EMR dep't before his retirement recently). David became an officer as he liked the challenge to make a difference and this he has done.

A few of the large incidents and fires he has attended over his 34 years in the job were many and varied, including Coode Island and the most recent being the illegal chemical storage facility in Tottenham, which may have everlasting consequences for the health and safety of crews attending, the residents who lived nearby and for the environment (Stony Creek and the Yarra River).

This Deputy Chief still loves the job and sees the challenges ahead for the new and recent change to the MFB, that being the new fire services model for Victoria, i.e. "Fire Rescue Victoria".

Dave is a great family man, an enthusiastic and long-time volunteer for the "Variety Club", has helped raise

hundreds of thousands of dollars for this wonderful charity, together with being a staunch helper at the Royal Children's Hospital each and every Christmas Day.

David, congratulations! You are a well-deserved recipient of the Australian Fire Services Medal.

Acting Deputy Chief Officer Martin Braid is the other recipient of the AFSM at the recent Queens Birthday awards for the MFB. Marty's registered number is 4315 and he joined the job in 1988 after being employed with the Melbourne City Council as an electrical fitter. Marty was encouraged to join the MFB family by a good friend and also encouraged by his wife.

Jeff Godfredson was the Chief at this time and he completed his recruit training at the now demolished Training College in Abbotsford. He has been in the job now for 31 years and is enjoying the

journey.

A couple of people who have inspired him along the way were Chief Officer Shane Wright and Paul Scott (SO No. 5 Stn). Becoming an officer has allowed him to experience more of the brigade after working in various departments.

Some of the many jobs Marty has attended over the years are as follows:

Factory fire in Oxford Street Collingwood, Coode Island chemical fire, the recent Tottenham chemical fire, Maycar – large tyre fire.

Marty still loves the job, enjoys working with the MFB people, serving the community and is looking forward to the challenges ahead. The final word from Marty is; "my time in the MFB has been great, and I would highly recommend the fire service as a career to any young person wanting an exciting career with many opportunities available." Thanks Martin Braid – Acting Deputy Chief Officer –

Col Harris



*Above; David Bruce and Martin Braid following the announcement of the awards..  
Image courtesy MFB Media Coms.*

## The Federal Election Cake Stall!

That Saturday when the Federal election was held, not that long ago, which many of us just want to forget, a bunch of clever people down Kernot way (near Phillip Island), decided they needed to have a laugh and put some fun into the cake stall and the produce they were selling.

There were:

**Jacqui Lambingtons, Iced Scomos, Bob Brownies, Chocolate Dutton Cakes, Wilkie Wonka Bars, Melting Scoments, Bill Shortenbread, Tanya Plibiscuits, Barnaby Bread, Pollie Waffles and Praline Hanson.**

**These goods were all for sale. The participants and the punters had a good belly laugh!**

# The John Schintler Story - In His Words!

**M**y name is John Schintler. I was born in the Royal Women's Hospital, Melbourne, on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 1935. Our family grew up at 23 Ivan Street, North Fitzroy.

There were my parents, my sister Margaret, brothers John, Kevin and Joe. My school days started at Alfred Crescent School and then onto North Fitzroy Central. I did not like school and left at aged 14 and started work which continued for the next 45 years.

My first job was with the Broadcasting Control Board, when they were first setting up for the coming of television. Sir Robert Menzies office was on the same floor and I saw him often. I seemed to get on very well with the Prime Minister.

I started taking singing lessons at the age of seven (7). I sang up until the age of 25 with big bands, on the radio and some television. I also sang at the Palais Theatre in St. Kilda and also at weddings.

After I left the ACB, I began an apprenticeship in the shoe trade. My first job was with "Fellinghams" and then later at "Paddle Shoes" in North Fitzroy, which was owned by the racing car driver - Lex Davidson. At the end of my apprenticeship, I was earning a wage of \$13.00 per week, whereas tradesmen were earning \$16.00 per week. I resigned and started work at "Paddle Shoes" in .....? It was about this time I met my future wife Doreen.

I left the shoe trade and joined the Melbourne Harbor Trust as a crane driver, as crane drivers were earning more money than a shoe maker. After a few years, a friend suggested I joined the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, which I did. (No waiting list, no 5000 applicants or difficult entry requirements in those days!). After recruit training at Eastern Hill, I worked at various stations in Southern District.

Another life change came in 1969, when I decided to leave the MFB after eight years and join the Victoria Police, where I also made life-long friends. My days in the MFB and the police force were the happiest days of my life. I went to work with a smile on my face each and every day.

I was appointed as sergeant to the Victorian Government House and Shrine Security section, where I stayed from 1979 to 1984 before transferring to the Coroner's Court, as an assistant where I stayed until having a heart attack which saw me retired in 1993.

I married my beautiful wife Doreen in 1957 and we had a wonderful marriage until her death on the 18<sup>th</sup> July 2018. Our marriage produced four delightful children, Janenne, Robin, Caroline and Andrew. My family are everything to me!

I am a life member of the Fitzroy Football Club (now Brisbane) Historical Society, the Melbourne Cricket Club, the Fitzroy Past Players and Officials Association, The Retired Police Association and the retired Firefighters Association. I am also a tour guide at the Fire Services of Victoria Museum.

## **A few facts and figures:**

The Chief Fire Officer was Mr. Whitehead. Some of the men I worked with were as follows: John Finkeldy,

Swampy Lake, Kevin Kennedy, Darkie Heywood, Ron Turner, Bernie Meath, Jimmy McMahon, Gus Reid, Porky Gibson and Ron Millard, Stan Devlin, Sammy Capes, Leo Clark, Jack Sexton, Norm Parsons, Jack Hancock, Laurie Jarman, Jack McKenzie and Dutchy Holland.

Some of the good officers I worked with were, Arthur Mears, Roy Treverton, Jack Moore, Ron Moran, Reg Garvin, "Sailor" Davis and John Chambers.

Some of the stations I worked at were: No.1, 2, 9, 29, 32, 33, 34 and 35.

## **A few short stories from the past:**

When I was at No.2 Stn, some bright spark decided to rent a black and white TV from one of those TV rental mobs. It was a coin in the slot arrangement whereby you shoved in coins to get the TV working for a couple of hours and when the timing clock stopped, off went the TV. One of the forward thinking firemen (clever dick), when the installer/technician wasn't watching, took a special key off his set of keys and went around the corner of the station and had the special key duplicated.

He returned the key unseen by the installer. The long and the short of this story is, that one of the shifts had free TV, whilst the other 3 shifts had to pay coin in the slot TV!

Another story I was involved in, was when the "Beatles" came to Melbourne. This was in 1964. I had a part time job as a parking attendant in the basement of the Southern Cross Hotel (no longer on the corner of Bourke and Exhibition Streets). Always wanting to make an extra quid and thinking about all those teeny boppers wanting a piece of the Beatles, I decided to procure the sheets from the bedrooms which the members of the band were staying in. I had the sheets cut up into various sizes of small pieces and starting selling the pieces of sheets to the mob of girls waiting out the front of the hotel, who were hoping to catch a glimpse of the famous band members. Hence to say, I made some good money!

And yet another story. It was at 35 Stn and when a certain officer was coming into the men's mess, he would whistle to let the fries know he was coming into their mess room. Some of the men were imbibing in some refreshments as do the Parisian firefighters do today. At the sound of the whistling officer about to enter the men's mess area, bottles were heard being thrown onto the roof of the premises next door. Needless to say, one stormy and rainy night, the premises next door flooded. The local plumbing company were contacted to find the source of the problem and I think you can guess the rest of the story as to what they found blocking the gutters and downpipes.

## **Last one!**

When I was at the Coroner's Office, I had to visit Russell Street police headquarters (1984). I had just left Russell Street, turned right into Latrobe Street and suddenly a large "kaboom" was heard which shook the vehicle I was driving. It was Craig Minoge and his mob who had just set off the car bomb outside Russell Street headquarters.

**Col Harris**





## A Historical Day for the UFU on the World Stage:

On 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019, UFU Vice-president Michael (Mick) Tisbury addressed the parties to the United Nations' Stockholm Convention, speaking of firefighter's experience of PFAS exposure, contamination and the ill effects of PFAS on firefighting personnel.

This was a proud moment in the history of the UFU, and never before has a uniformed person or a professional career firefighter made a submission to the Stockholm Convention, speaking about the serious effects of PFAS foam on professional career firefighters.

The UFU, on behalf of all professional career firefighters and



with the support of the IAFF and NZPFU, has led the charge on the world stage, calling for a worldwide ban on the use of PFAS in firefighting foam.

Mick was joined in solidarity by UFU branch president David Hamilton and IAFF Assistant general president for Health, Safety and medicine Pat Morrison.

Well done Commander Mick Tisbury!

**(Source: The "Senior" Firefighter)**

Mick Tisbury received AFSM honours on 26th January 2019 - Australia Day awards.

## The 'men's' disease that's now affecting more Australian women.

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is a leading cause of illness and death among Australians – second only to cancers – and it is affecting more and more women, according to a new report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

And while CVD is the leading cause of death globally for both sexes, women present with different symptoms and are more likely than men to die as a result, according to University of Guelph Professor Glen Pyle.

The AIHW report, *Cardiovascular disease in women – a snapshot of national statistics*, shows that more than half a million Australian women have cardiovascular disease, and that it accounts for almost one-third of all deaths among women.

“In 2016, more than 22,200 women died of CVD, making it the most deadly disease group for women,” said AIHW spokesperson Miriam Lum On.

CVD, which includes coronary heart disease, stroke and heart failure, is a largely preventable and treatable group of conditions.

“Cardiovascular disease is often seen as an issue predominantly affecting men, but there is increasing recognition that aspects of its prevention, treatment and management are unique to women,” said Ms Lum On. And prevalence increases with age, with 35 per cent of Australians aged 55–64 reporting a long-term CVD condition, increasing to 66 per cent for Australians aged 75 and over.

The better news is that despite the impact of CVD on Australian women, rates of acute coronary events (heart attack or unstable angina) and deaths have fallen substantially in recent decades.

Between 2001 and 2016, the rate among women fell by 57 per cent, from 465 to 215 events per 100,000.

Most chronic conditions, including CVD, share common risk factors that are largely preventable, such as tobacco use, risky alcohol consumption, overweight and obesity, physical inactivity, and high blood pressure.

However, a collaboration involving the Icahn School of

Medicine at Mount Sinai, the German Heart Centre Munich, global biopharmaceutical company AstraZeneca and Karolinska Institute in Sweden has demonstrated that more than 30 per cent of heart disease risk stems from genetic factors.

The study findings, published in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, introduce the biology of gene networks as a means to better understand the genetic basis of heart disease.

Highlighting the differences between men and women experiencing a heart attack, Prof. Pyle says that women are more likely to present without pain, or with uncharacteristic symptoms. Treatment guidelines, however, are based on data collected primarily from men, he says.

“Sexism in cardiovascular research means that not only are heart attacks often missed in women, but women are also less likely to receive recommended therapies, interventions and rehabilitation opportunities,” he wrote in *The Conversation*.

### **Facts on cardiovascular disease among Australian women**

- More than half a million Australian women have cardiovascular disease.
- It accounts for almost one-third of deaths among women.
- In 2016, 22,200 women died of cardiovascular disease.
- Between 2001 and 2016, rates of cardiovascular disease fell by 57 per cent.
- From 2006 to 2016, hospitalisation rates rose 11 per cent for women aged 25–34.
- They rose 4.7 per cent for women aged 35–44.

Have you experienced some form of CVD? Do you believe genetics played a part?

**Source; “Your Life Choices”**

## There are nearly 2.7 million carers in Australia, approximately 12 per cent of the population.

*Almost anyone can become a carer at any time.*



Carers are those who provide unpaid care and support to family members and friends who have a disability, mental illness, chronic condition, terminal illness, an alcohol or other drug issue or who are frail aged.

There are nearly 2.7 million carers in Australia, approximately 12 per cent of the population. Of those 2.7 million, about 856,000 (32 per cent) are the primary carer of someone who is frail aged or has a disability.

Most carers are aged 45 years or older, with a significant proportion – 27.4 per cent of primary carers – over 65 years old.

If you are new to being a carer for a loved one, here are some tips from the experts.

### Ask questions

To give your loved one the best care, you have to understand their needs. Set aside time to talk. Find out how they feel and what they want you to do for them. Don't argue or insist your own opinion is best. Offer ideas, but listen to what they have to say. Show that you've heard by repeating back key points, such as "I understand that you want to do more for yourself".

### Get organized

When you care for someone at home, days can feel long and unfocused. Give the days structure by making a schedule. Set times for meals, personal care, household chores, exercise, activities and relaxation. Also set sleep and wake times to ensure both of you get enough rest.

To keep things running smoothly, put prescriptions, insurance information, doctor contacts and health history in one place, such as a multi-pocket folder. Keep track of appointments in a paper, computer or smartphone calendar, and add your own appointments to the calendar to avoid scheduling conflicts.

More than a third of older adults take five or more drugs to treat different conditions. All those medicines can lead to mix-ups and mistakes. Go over the list with your loved one's doctor and pharmacist to ensure every medicine and dose is correct. Store all medicines in one place for easy access. Use a pillbox to keep organised by day and time. Keep meals simple

It takes time to prepare three meals a day. Planning ahead can help. Do all the week's grocery shopping in one trip. Cook a big batch of meals and freeze them.

### Look after yourself

It's very important to look after yourself. This includes eating and sleeping well, exercising, seeing friends and taking a break. It's good to talk to someone about what you are going through. This could be a friend or other family member, another carer or a counsellor. Almost anyone can become a carer at any time.

Source; Ben Hocking, *Your Life Choices*.

## Game-changing' cancer treatment on the horizon

Revolutionary "game-changing" cancer drugs that researchers say can target any type of tumor are being fast-tracked by the National Health Service (NHS) in the United Kingdom.

NHS chief executive Simon Stevens says the drugs, referred to as "tumor-agnostic" drugs, offer huge benefits to thousands of patients previously regarded as untreatable, according to a [report](#) on website news-medical.net.

Mr Stevens told a conference that tumor-agnostic drugs could target any type of cancer, irrespective of where in the body it originated or the tissue type in which it developed. He said the NHS had to be ready to fast-track the drugs in the same way as it had CAR-T cell therapies for cancer. [CAR-T therapies](#) are a form of immunotherapy that uses specially altered T cells to precisely target cancer cells.

The report explains that most cancer drugs target a tumor that has developed in a particular organ or tissue. A tumor-agnostic drug treatment treats any kind of cancer and can be used when the tumor has a very specific molecular alteration that is targeted by the drug or predicts that the drug is likely to work.

"This means they can be used to treat a range of cancer types, shrinking tumors in up to 75 per cent of cases," said Mr Stevens. "Two drugs that do this are due to be made available within months."

The genetic flaw that the new drugs target is a neurotropic tyrosine receptor kinase (NTRK) gene fusion. The alteration is most commonly found in rare cancers such as infantile

fibrosarcoma but is also present at low levels in more common cancers.

The drugs work by blocking NTRK, which results in shrinkage of the tumor.

One of the drugs was developed by Bayer and the other by Roche.

Mr Stevens has urged drug manufacturers to establish treatment prices that are fair and affordable.

Ian Walker, director of clinical research at Cancer Research UK, said: "The concept of focusing on specific mutations that drive a person's disease, versus the cancer type, is a fascinating one."

"Whilst this approach may not work in all cases, where the weight of clinical evidence supports the approach, this could open up opportunities for cancer treatment that we wouldn't have had 20 years ago."

"It's essential that patients are offered routine genetic analysis of their tumors, no matter where they live, to match them to appropriate treatments, such as these drugs."

Dr Alia Kaderbhai says GPs should not lose sight of the importance of risk reduction.

Speaking about developments in the screening of a variety of cancers, she said: "As primary healthcare professionals our key role is in risk reduction, in particular with regard to lifestyle modifications."

"We still really need to be focusing on preventive health, such as exercise, weight control, limiting alcohol consumption [and] not smoking."

# “Gone But Not Forgotten”

## **Colin BURTON Reg No. 1091 – “A community minded person”**

Colin was 21 when he joined MFB in August 1954, under Chief Officer Leonard Paton Whitehead. He had completed his National Service and was first stationed at FS01 (Eastern Hill), in the former fire station where the museum and new MFB headquarters now stand. At that time, all new firefighters were first stationed at Eastern Hill for training. Working hours were 3 x 8 hour shifts.

The following year, Colin was sent to FS12 (Preston), which was then located in High Street.

In 1956 and 1957 he served again at FS01 and at FS04 (Brunswick).

In 1971 Colin was transferred to FS15A (Ivanhoe), where he served out the remainder of his firefighting career, before retiring in August 1986 after 32 years of service. On his retirement, he had attained the rank of Senior Firefighter. Colin was an MFB representative on the World Police and Fire Games team of lawn bowls when the games were held in Melbourne in February/March 1995.



Colin spent his retirement years working at the Diamond Valley Railway (a miniature railway at Eltham). Colin loved working here and was given a 20 year pin for his dedicated work here as a volunteer. Colin was remembered as a tireless and dedicated worker, performing many significant roles over 20 or more years. He was a member of the Montmorency/Eltham RSL and a member of the Hurstbridge sub-branch RSL as a result of his earlier National Service training.

Colin was a CFA volunteer with the Whittlesea Fire Brigade and was an active member of the Eltham Lions Club. He joined the Lions club in 1974. Colin also was a bus driver for a local aged care facility in Eltham. Colin's son Robert, remembers that his father was always busy! Robert fondly remembers that he spent a

night shift at Ivanhoe Fire Station with his father when he was younger. In Robert's words, "He was a great Dad!"

**Colin Burton passed away on 25 April, 2019 at the age of 85 and is survived by his wife, children and sister.**



## **ALFRED SELL**

Born in 1934 and joined MFB on 30 September 1960, when William Thomas Aldridge was Chief Officer.

Alf began his career at FS01 (Eastern Hill), becoming a Brigade Driver almost immediately. Soon after, he was stationed at FS35 (Windsor), where he attended a fire at Thomas

Place in Prahran.

In late 1961 Alf was transferred to FS38 (South Melbourne), on B platoon, where he remained for nearly 20 years. During this time he attended fires in the Coldstream area (January 1962), in Upwey (1968), on South Wharf on a scallop boat, The Marana (1969) and also in the South Melbourne area.

Alf was promoted to First Class Firefighter (formerly Fireman) in 1963.

In 1969 Alf requested leave to attend his children's school break up. He was also involved

in his son's football team, applying for leave in 1972 to take ..."a group of young boys on a football trip, from the Mulgrave football club". In 1983 he also requested leave as it was his son's ..."grand final and I am the club First 18 trainer".

In 1975 Alf learnt to operate the ACCO A hose carriage.

Transferring to FS39B (Port Melbourne) in 1979, Alf attended fires in Wells Street, South Melbourne and at the CSIRO, Williamstown Rd, Port Melbourne.

As a Senior Firefighter (formerly Fireman), Alf applied to attend school at the Training College to study for exams.

In 1982 Alf became a Mobile Tender operator and in 1983 he mastered the ACCO 1810 appliance, retiring as a Senior Firefighter (formerly Senior Fireman) on 7 July 1987, after 26 years of dedicated service.

Alf passed away on 30 June 2019, surrounded by family.

## A Night Shift at Station 18

It was indeed a very cold night that I decided I wanted to return to my other family and complete a night shift at Hawthorn Fire Station. I had to complete the paper work (red tape) and satisfy the hard taskmaster (SO Tim Fryer) that I was up the task of jumping the pumper for the Friday night shift. My son James (I think they call him Jim?) brought home the paperwork for me, the Commander - Bruce Pickthall and ACFO Terry Hunter had to be briefed as was Deputy Chief David Bruce who had the final say.

Well, thanks to all of the above, I was passed and ready to get back on the pumper for probably the last time. At 68 years of age, I thought of Gary Cronin (my old boss at the old 48 station) and wondered how he was still jumping in and out of big red fire trucks. (He obviously still loves the job!).

OK, muster was on and luckily I had brushed up the boots from K Mart (spit and polished them), stood up straight (back's not as good as it used to be) and saluted officer Fryer as I stood in the muster line. Tim and the crew had polished their boots, so the old commander was happy!

My job was now to check the truck with my son and realised I had forgotten how much equipment is carried these days. Most of the said equipment I had seen from past encounters at Eastern Hill, where I would sometimes check the truck with the driver so as to basically know where equipment was, should I ever need to grab something when the heat was on.

The B.A. sets were checked with Sandy Bourke, the new rescue (forcible entry) tool was also checked and I observed the new "Milwaukee" scene spot- lights, now carried on all pumpers (fire duties/car accidents etc). The thermal imaging camera was all charged up and ready to go, the pumper checked for fuel and water, the engine started, the pump engaged and we were ready to roll if the bells came on. It was good that the crew had the engine door open and the exhaust fans operating even though it was an extremely cold night. Those diesel fumes are cancer causing!

It was now 1900 hours and the chicken curry I cooked for the boys was on the stove and ready to be had. Not just yet though! Officer Tim had other thoughts. It was drill time! Ok, I watched on as Travis Cutt was in the mix for a USAR course (Urban Search & Rescue) and wanted some rope and knot tying practice to get up to speed.

After 30 minutes of drill I was frozen, hungry and standing in my shorts and skinny hairy legs wondering why I wasn't at home sitting in front of the telly, dinner eaten and enjoying a lovely glass of red in a warm home? No, I had to wait until hard-arsed Tim had finished drill before we could get back into the kitchen for dinner.

Commander Bruce Pickthall was on when the bells came on and off we went to a full sprinkler call to a premises in Abbotsford. My driver was good and passed the test (slowed down and stopped at the red traffic lights) as we cruised down Barkers Road to the call address. On arrival, Richmond's crew was wondering who this old bloke was who just stepped out of Hawthorn's pumper. "I'm back" I said. "No, not really" I assured them.

SSO's Dave Kelly and Ken Durant were the OIC's and we had a quick chat. Frankie Velo was on Pumper 10 - I hadn't seen him for 10 or more years. It was only a quick chat, as water was streaming out of the building and the crews



*The crew in the Mess room at 18 Stn. Travis Cutt, Tim Fryer, Recruit/Chef Col Harris, James Harris & Sandy Bourke.*

*Tough lot at 18 Stn, they seem to have survived Col's chicken curry!*

were inside the premises busy trying to stem the flow. Rescue 3 turned up and pumper 18 was not required.

We returned to the station and noticed the radio procedures were much the same as they were umpteen years ago when I was sitting in the front seat on Pumper 1A. Commander Bruce Pickthall was in station when we returned. Dinner was dished out and together with steamed rice, we all had a great feed.

Talk was had about the good and bad old days and I could tell the crew and the commander had a great relationship, which wasn't always the case back in the bad old days. After Bruce went back to his Nunawading office to finish off the un-ending paperwork and hopefully a couple of hours of kip, we stayed up and chin-wagged for a few more hours and finally reclined.

Reclining was what I was looking forward to, yet as I huddled under the sheets and blankets, I slowly froze until about 2.00am when the faulty air-con finally switched off and my brain partook in a few hours sleep. Awoke a few times and waited for the bells to awaken the sleeping crew, but no!

No more call-outs and it was now morning, time to pack up the swag, have a wake-up wash and into the mess to be greeted by officer Tim with a nice hot cup of coffee for the old fireman. It was a great night shift and great to do it all again, with a happy bunch of firies who love coming to work.

**It is & was the best job I ever had! THANKS 18C - Ed**

## Life in the Australian Army...

**T**ext of a letter from a kid from Eromanga to Mum and Dad. (For Those of you not in the know, Eromanga is a small town, west of Quilpie in the far south west of Queensland )

Dear Mum & Dad,

I am well. hope youse are too. Tell me big brothers Doug and Phil that the Army is better than workin' on the farm - tell them to get in bloody quick smart before the jobs are all gone! I wuz a bit slow in settling down at first, because ya don't hafta get outta bed until 6am. But I like sleeping in now, cuz all ya gotta do before brekky is make ya bed and shine ya boots and clean ya uniform. No bloody cows to milk, no calves to feed, no feed to stack - nothin'!! Ya haz gotta shower though, but its not so bad, coz there's lotsa hot water and even a light to see what ya doing!

At brekky ya get cereal, fruit and eggs but there's no kangaroo steaks or possum stew like wot Mum makes. You don't get fed again until noon and by that time all the city boys are buggered because we've been on a 'route march' - geez its only just like walking to the windmill in the back paddock!!

This one will kill me brothers Doug and Phil with laughter. I keep getting medals for shootin' - dunno why.

The bullseye is as big as a bloody possum's bum and it don't move and it's not firing back at ya like the Johnsons did when our big scrubber bull got into their prize cows before the Ekka last year! All ya gotta do is make yourself comfortable and hit the target - it's a piece of piss!! You don't even load your own cartridges, they comes in little boxes, and ya don't have to steady yourself against the rollbar of the roo shooting truck when you reload!

Sometimes ya gotta wrestle with the city boys and I gotta be real careful coz they break easy - it's not like fighting with Doug and Phil and Jack and Boori and Steve and Muzza all at once like we do at home after the muster. Turns out I'm not a bad boxer either and it looks like I'm the best the platoon's got, and I've only been beaten by this one bloke from the Engineers - he's 6 foot 5 and 15 stone and three pick handles across the shoulders and as ya know I'm only 5 foot 7 and eight stone wringin' wet, but I fought him till the other blokes carried me off to the boozier.

I can't complain about the Army - tell the boys to get in quick before word gets around how bloody good it is.

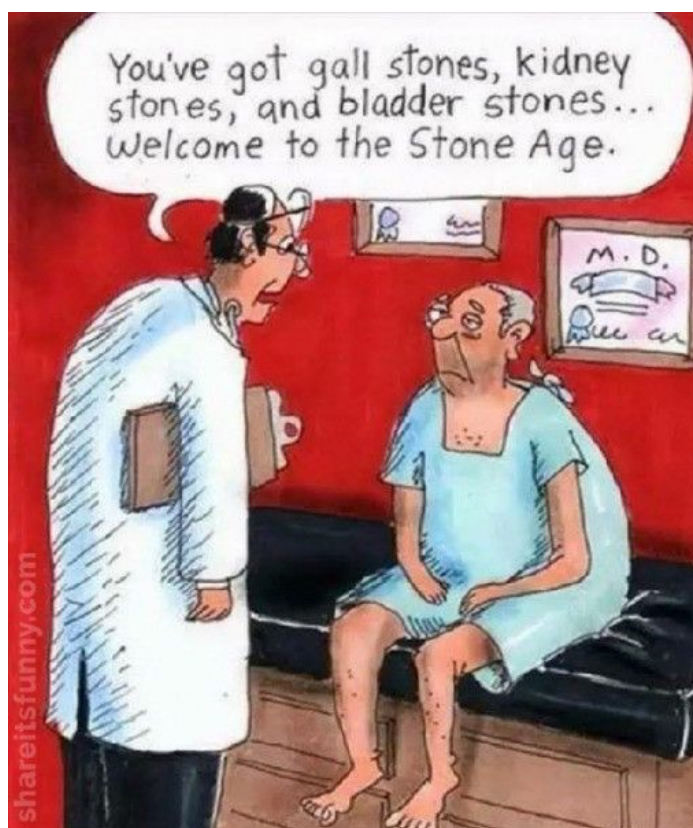
Your loving daughter,

Sheila

## BEST QUOTE OF ANY ERA!

"The Budget should be balanced, the Treasury should be refilled, Public debt should be reduced, the arrogance of officialdom should be Tempered and controlled, and the assistance to foreign lands should be Curtailed, lest Rome will become bankrupt. People must again learn to work Instead of living on public assistance." - Cicero, 55 BC

So, evidently we've learned bugger all over the past 2,069 years!!



**Volunteers Required**  
**The Fire Services Museum needs past fire service members to assist on an occasional basis at the Museum**  
**Please contact**  
**Mike McCumisky on: 9662 2907**



## **FIRE RESCUE RINGS**

As well as the Fire Rescue rings we now have sets of Tie Bars, Ear Rings and Cuff Links.

These are available in different combination sets or can be purchased as a single item.

They are available from the Secretary and will be on display at the next meeting.

If you would like to place an order now, give Allan Roberts a call.

**Telephone: Mob: 0433 007 720  
Home: 9216 1658**

## **Peer support is available to Retired Firefighters and Associated Members**

Fairlie Morgan— Employee Assistance Coordinator— [fmorgan@mfb.vic.gov.au](mailto:fmorgan@mfb.vic.gov.au)  
0407 665 174  
Chloe Henderson — Peer Coordinator  
0417 538 289  
Scott Darcy – Peer Coordinator –  
[sdarcy@mfb.vic.gov.au](mailto:sdarcy@mfb.vic.gov.au) – 0429 771 849  
John Howe — Retirees  
9729 0984

## **Download the new VicEmergency app**

The new VicEmergency app was launched recently and will replace FireReady this summer. The VicEmergency app is now available to download from the App Store or Google Play and Victorians are encouraged to download it ahead of the summer season.

The VicEmergency website has also been upgraded and a new emergency hotline released. The Vic Emergency app and website will provide warning and incident notifications about floods, storms, fires, earthquakes tsunami, beach closures, shark sightings and more.

**Copy deadline for Water Off Magazine  
for next edition is October 4th 2019.**



Charlie & Sage, from Mooroolbark

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To those members with easy access to email and would like to have their copy sent by this system, please send your email address to John Laverick. "Water Off" will be sent out in a PDF format.

John's address - -  
[retfire@bigpond.net.au](mailto:retfire@bigpond.net.au)

Before you send your email, click on 'tools' at top and click on 'request receipt'. This will reply to you and verify both email addresses are working correctly.

**UFU RETIRED MEMBERS  
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON  
Saturday 16th November  
Peninsula A Shed 14, Harbour Esplanade, Docklands.**

A reminder:

If you have accepted the invitation to the luncheon and through illness, or some other circumstance, find you are unable to attend, please notify the Union Office A.S.A.P.

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