

"WATER OFF"

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



May 2010 Vol 14 No 2
Inc/No: A16839F

PUMPER 35A NAMING HONOURS TERRY BEARDON

Following the death of retired Lf. Terry Beardon, his former shift mates were quick to ensure there was a "Fitting legacy for the role model Terry represented."

The following is the request for recognition sent to the Honours & Awards Committee recommending that Pumper 35A be named in honour of Lf. Terry Beardon. It was written by Lf. Paul Ritchie AFSM and an edited version is reproduced here with his permission.

Terry Beardon registered no. 2577, had been retired for 6 years after working in the fire service for 34 years. He sadly passed away on January 17, 2010. He was a great mentor to young fire fighters entering the Brigade, and I was very lucky to have him take me under his wing.

When the word hero is passed around, there is no-one more relevant to attach that status to than Terry.

He had earned the esteem of all his colleagues. His fire fighting skills and awareness on the fire ground were of an extremely high standard and even the officers listened, took notice and had great respect for him.

On reflection of his career milestones, I would like to recall one fire call attended by Terry Beardon;

Athol Lodge December 24th 1991.

At 22.37 hrs on Tuesday 24 December 1991 the brigade received the first of several calls to Athol Lodge, special accommodation home at 41 Acland St. St Kilda.

On the arrival of the Brigade, the premises 20 x 40 m was severely smoke logged. Several persons were trapped on the top floor of the two story brick building. Eighteen persons of various ages were rescued by fire fighters wearing breathing apparatus. Eighteen of the occupants plus one police officer were transported to one of four hospitals with varying degrees of burn and smoke inhalation. Six persons subsequently died as a result of injuries sustained. The fire was under control at 23.26 hrs



Above: SSO Bart Pribilovics (FS 35 A Platoon) and Terry's wife Mandy discuss the naming of the appliance in honour of Terry

Image B. McCumisky.

In 1993, the Brigade was presented with the Victorian Unit Meritorious Service award. The award was presented by the then Minister of Emergency Services The honourable Pat McNamara, Deputy Premier.

The Award read:

"This Award is presented in recognition of exceptionally high level of high commitment, expertise and bravery demonstrated by units of the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board in rescuing people trapped by the fire in Athol Lodge St Kilda on 24 December 1991.

The performance of the units on scene was outstanding and beyond what was reasonably expected of them. Many members placed themselves at personal risk to save lives of elderly people.

(Continued on page 13)

“GENERAL MEETING”

Notice is hereby given that the next General Meeting will be held at the MFB Training College
450 Burnley Street Richmond
1030 Hours, Wednesday 19th May 2010

AGENDA ITEMS.

Minutes of last General meeting.
President’s Report.
Secretary/Treasurer’s Report.
Guest Speakers: MFB Padre David Thompson,
& Media Coordinator Kristina Starnawski,
General Business

JOHN BERRY
SECRETARY/TREASURER
Please Note;
Address all correspondence to:
The Secretary,
24 Lincoln Drive Lower Plenty 3093
Ph. 9431 2880

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.

BBQ Lunch available
Please join us!

Non financial Members

Members be advised if your newsletter has an expiry date of 2/1/2008 that means you have not paid your subs since 2007 therefore if no remuneration is received by the 2/1/11 your name will be automatically removed from the mailing list. If, for what ever reason any member is unable to meet this request please do not hesitate to call the secretary (confidentiality is assured)

OFFICE BEARERS

President, Don Brennan
Vice President, Ian Fowler
Sec./Treasurer, John Berry

General Committee;

Ian Geddes
John Laverick
Ken McGillivray
John Schintler
John Wallace

Auditor;

Theo Teklenburg

“Water Off” Editorial Staff

John Laverick
Barbara McCumisky

Valē

Graeme Bell (MFB) George Hancock (MFB)
Ben Conway (MFB) John (Jesse) James (MFB)
John Cummins (MFB) Ernest Scown (MFB)
John Dorman (MFB) June Whitechurch (Payne)
William George (MFB)

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

SICK LIST (* In Nursing Home)

Stan Cameron Bill Franklin
Jim Casley* Ernie Goodall*
Ron Cass* Clarrie Hart
Huew Campbell Jack Sexton
Ken Clinkaberry Alby Smith
Russ Daniels* Ron Turner

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 2010

May 19th General Meeting
July 29th Queensland Reunion
August 18th General Meeting
November 17th Annual General Meeting
November 27th UFU Christmas Luncheon
 Malvern Town Hall

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It's hard to believe that almost 1/3 of the year has gone all ready. I agree with a relative in Ireland, that when you get to 65 there are only 6 months in a year. Time seems to move that quick.

Our organised BBQ at Bunnings of Hoppers Crossing took place on Sunday 18th of April. The weather was good for us and we sold out of both sausages and drinks. We made a profit of \$1607.00. This money will be forwarded on to Prostate Cancer Research.

I would like to thank the following members for working on the day and making it worthwhile:-

John Berry, Ian Fowler, John Chambers, Charlie Maile, Fred Kerr, Barry Beer and Nancy Brennan.

Thanks also to Bunnings Hoppers Crossing Manager Don and Social Sec. Antoinette for their assistance.

A great result and a lot of laughs was had by all on the day.

To those members who are not enjoying good health, we wish you a rapid recovery. Please, tell us if you know of any member who is ill, we can arrange visits, include



Above; *The Bunnings sausage sizzle team L-R. Nancy Brennan, John Berry, Don Brennan, Fred Kerr and Bunnings Hoppers Crossing Manager, Don, with Michael Bisby, supplier of all the sausages, onions and sauces.*

them on the sick list in "Water Off". and a mention at our meetings.

Don Brennan



SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

This report could be deemed as one of an overabundance of information (plethora) which will cover the "must know", "should know" and the "nice to know". Starting with the "**must know**", it is about the changes to the MFB and

CFA! Many members may already know about this, however, interstate and country regions may not be aware of the changes.

1. **MFB, Adrian Nye** President of the board has resigned (at time of writing the new one unknown).
2. **MFB, CEO Ken Latta** has retired, the new **CEO is Graham Fountain**. Graham has had 20 years experience with the CFA.
3. **MFB, Mr Peter Rau, formally CFA**, appointed to one of the MFB's Deputy Chief's positions.
4. **MFB**, reviewing firefighters uniform with a change possible.
5. **The Royal Commission** into Victoria's disastrous Bush Fires is still sitting; the aforementioned change makes one hypothesise as to the possible findings and the changes that may flow from said findings.

On behalf of the members & committee of the RFA I wish the aforementioned every success in their appointments and/or retirements. Ken, who was most generous in his support for the RFA, I have been told, like a lot of us in retirement, will catch up with all that lost time he missed spending with his family and the home renovations due to the demands of work, he is unable to accept the invitation to the May meeting, perhaps in the future as this invite is still open. **Stop Press Herald Sun 31/3/2010 Ken Latta to be**

announced as Harness Racing Victoria's new chairman.

Should know.

Our intrepid travel writer known as **Silver** (Don Cameron), previously the **Moth**, will from this day forward be known as **Autumn Leaves**; let me explain. Late last year he slipped and fell (Willy Fennell) on the floor at home which resulted in him breaking his femur and ankle. Whilst in hospital he had a nasty reaction to some of the medication. (It is not true Danby did it) Well, lo and behold he has fallen again in the garden at home; he told me it was a tree root which was the problem and it caused him to graze his arm!

Screaming out to his wife, to bring the first-aid kit out, they found it consisted of seven band-aids; she put two on his arm and five over his mouth. One can only imagine the terminology he was using. (Again it is not true Danby had been helping) **Be warned**; if he visits your place, please make sure you wrap him in pillows.

Noel Taylor's health update.

The President & committee, whilst helping at the UFU's picnic, were advised that he was ill, as the norm I contacted him to see if we could be of assistance whilst he recovers. I know we are sometimes slow in our response but this borders on the ridiculous. In my conversation with Noel I find, yes he had been ill, but it was **over three years ago** and he has been fighting fit for more than 2 years. Whilst he was very pleased to have received the offer, he hopes it is never required. The final point was if he did need it, his only request; **do not let "Autumn Leaves" help.**

(Continued on page 4)

You will see in the minutes of the February meeting that **Peter Marshall the UFU Secretary** gave a very informative power point presentation on their retired division and the reasons for its conception. **RFA members must understand the Union is not trying to take over our association.** Many like me will join their retired division because of the many benefits that membership of the worldwide alumni will bring. **Do not forget the UFU is very supportive of the RFA.**

Nice to know.

Recently, the wife and I attended one of our granddaughter's Grandparent's days. During the day we had the privilege of running into retired **BMO Dr John Upjohn and his wife.** They were there for their granddaughter. It was great to catch up with John as I had not seen him for a long time. I know a number of retirees are still patients of his, but, because of distance I'm not however.

I will always remember him as the **MFB's guardian angel.** His dedication to the well-being of all the brigade staff is still raised by many retirees. Towards the end of my career in the fire service and also early in retirement I was involved in some projects that required me to communicate with John, I have heard of the Hippocratic oath but his dedication to the brigade personnel amaze me, protection of their personal health was paramount. **Thank you Dr John.**

The RFA President Don and family, especially his daughter Angela, are heavily involved in the community project called **Habitat,** the building of homes for families in need. The **UFU Secretary Peter Marshall** and union members from both **CFA and MFB** stations close to the two homes being built and retiring **CEO Ken Latta** have been assisting on

weekends. In the future, on weekdays other members of the RFA will also be involved. This is the type of project that the recipients greatly appreciate but the rest of the community have little or no idea regarding the aforementioned involvement. **The RFA, would like it known we salute and commend all involved; projects like this enrich our humanity.**

Instant old age I got this from the brother-in-law. If the grandchildren ever asked you what it is like to be old tell them the following.

Put cottonwool in your ears;

Put pebbles in your shoes;

Put on rubber gloves;

Smear Vaseline on your glasses;

And there you have it..... instant old age!

Another way of telling you are old is to call the RACV to help you start your car and find when they arrive 45 minutes later the reason your automatic car would not start is because you did not have the gear lever in Park, similar to a Silver headed RFA member did in Whittlesea. **GUESS WHO?**

An easy way to remember the dates of RFA meetings and /or Union days is to do what Harry Floyd suggests. The second page of our newsletter just attached that to your calendar and there you have it instant reminder. (I knew we put it there for some reason!)

The members and committee of the RFA know that since the last meeting a number of families have lost loved ones to a higher place, to those families we want you to know we share in your loss and our memories of your love ones will not be forgotten.

See you at the May meeting.

John Berry.

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 17th February 2010.

Don Brennan (President),

John Berry (Secretary/Treasurer), Ian Geddes (Minutes).

Over 80 members present. Apologies: As per book.

Don Brennan welcomed members, including first time attendees Ray Costello, Bob Horgan, Bob McPhee, Laurie Trewin, Graeme Mc Donald and Ron Heyward.

Don thanked the Training College for use of the facility and reminded members to fulfill their yearly subscriptions.

John Berry read Minutes of previous General Meeting 19th August 2009.

K. Clinkaberry moved minutes be accepted, seconded:- B.Chiron. -carried

Secretary Report: John Berry

Correspondence 6 in 30 out, Reported on a member who recently passed away George Hancock (79), due to a bicycle accident, B. Robertson-moved report be received, seconded: - R. Rae. carried

John curtailed his report to allow sufficient time for Guest Speaker.

Treasurers Report: John Berry.

On call - \$1963. fixed Term - \$5211.96

Caps, Badges are still available for sale.

Presidents Report: Don Brennan.

Bunnings Hoppers Crossing (20/11/09) raised \$470.

Credit Union Office back at Brunswick St., Fitzroy.

General Business:

Don Brennan nominated Mike McCumisky for Life Membership, seconded J. Berry carried by all members present .

Don asked for volunteers for fund raising barbecue on 18th April at Bunnings Hoppers Crossing, received 8-10 names.

Don raised the subject of the R.F.A. Luncheon (Not the Union/Town Hall Lunch) at Training College, whether or not it should go ahead! Clive Miller asked if the Training College Luncheon was a sit-down. Yes, it has always been and catered for, at the Training College, free for members and \$20 for non-members (spouses, friends).

Brian Robertson asked about a bus/picnic outing. Costs, venue, organizing matters would need thinking about. On a show of hands, members voted to continue with the Training College Luncheon - Date to be set.

Members present gave a short list of persons newly on the sick list (as of February). Graeme Duncan is at Box Hill Hospital. Ian Fowler reported Wally McKenzie, Barry McColl are not well.

Jack Moore said John Medwin is at a Nursing Home.

Latest information is that both John and Graeme should be home by now.

Keith Lyon said Joe Fitzpatrick in Pt Macquarie (NSW) Hospital. Barry Beer said Mick Phelan at home in Hoppers Crossing.

An article from the Western Leader Newspaper - Barry Conlin, aged 73, still teaching fitness training and looks very fit himself.

August Meeting at Geelong a strong possibility, discussion at May Meeting.

Brigade funerals - Harry Floyd raised discussion on possible ways that RFA members could be clearly identified i.e. logo badge/polo shirt. More formal (warm clothing) is too expensive. Ron Rae suggested to make yourself known to the family.

Don Cameron - Gave a report on the current Brigade Chaplain, Reverend David Thompson. Suggesting we should have him attend a meeting.

Guest Speaker: 11.10am

Peter Marshall - Secretary U.F.U. (Vic), National Secretary U.F.U of Australia. Peter did a power point presentation in relation to Australian and World retiree associations. (United Alliance of Fire Fighting Unions) In 2005, the U.F.U. saw a opportunity to engage with retired union members.

Overseas Fire Services reports were related to instances where serving firefighters were under pressure to have non-firefighting roles downgraded. Community Support Facilitators (Civilians) may take over non-operational roles (lectures, demonstration/evacuation/drills.) Union/s support firefighters do these jobs.

Retired Members Section (Alumni). Refer Union Bulletin 19th January 2009 and 14th September 2009.

Purpose: To give retirees a voice, locally and internationally, and to forge links between serving and retired personnel. Other Unions have bonds with retiree groups (including A.M.W.U., C.F.M.E.U., M.U.A., and the Alliance of Retired American Firefighters).

Some retiree groups lobby government on pension/superannuation through their retired members divisions.

The International Firefighters Union Alliance (I.F.F.U.A.) and the International Trade Union Confederation (I.T.U.C.) are bodies that talk with power. Peter is the chairman of the I.F.F.U.A. Member countries include Australia, Canada, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom and the U.S.A., and have over 350,000 members.

Goals: To promote fire safety, remuneration and work conditions, and to give access to "Union Plus" discounts in many areas.

How will Retired Association Work:

Once again, refer to Union Bulletins of 19th January 09

and 14th September 09.

Ian Geddes asked about Eligibility, Graeme Edwards asked about support staff/non U.F.U members.

Peter said that the persons can apply, and the U.F.U branch Committee of Management would look at each application, in accordance with the rules of eligibility.

Harry Floyd - R.F.A. Members who are interested can contact Union Office and lodge their name, meetings will take place in the near future. Fees for Alumni membership will be set by the UFU. Office Bearers will be for 3 years, and conduct meetings each 3 months.

John Berry thanked Peter Marshall on behalf of the meeting for his presentation and generosity with his time. The members present now have a better understanding on why the UFU needed to amend their rules.

Meeting concluded 12.25pm

Barbecue followed. Thanks to College staff and management, especially Chris Smith and Dave Harris (cooks).

Next Meeting – Wednesday 19th May 2010, - 10.30am Training College. Burnley St., near Swan St., Richmond.

Guest Speakers

At the forthcoming **RFA** meeting we will welcome two members from the **MFB** who will address us on their respective areas of expertise. The committee believe this is a must attend meeting, the subjects that will be addressed have a direct relationship to a third age group such as ours.

The first guest speaker is a **Mr David Thompson MFB Padre**; David has a great depth of knowledge of the problems encountered by Emergency Service's personnel in their working environment. Members of the RFA who are involved with the Employees Support group that have attended their workshops speak very highly of David.

Our second speaker is **MFB Media & Communication Coordinator Kristina Starnawski**, who is looking into the history of MFB families, including research as a member of the Melbourne Fire Museum. Kristina is an Institutional member of the Australian Society of Archivists and presented a paper to their conference in Perth in 2008.

John Berry

RECENT RETIREMENTS

John Sanger, 17th February 2010

Peter Holmes, 6th March 2010

Mark Splatt, 28th April

Rob Harrison, 4th May

QUEENSLAND LUNCHEON REPORT ALONG WITH A SHOCKING WARNING

This report is for last year, it did not go in earlier due to the fact we did not have the space and now that I have been threatened with bodily harm, (they have taken my high heel boots away making me smaller Godfrey Payne), I have, of course, agreed to do so.

The luncheon which is held at the Southport Yacht Club; on the last Thursday in July each year is a very popular day for the members who live in the Sunshine state and the Mexicans from down south that visit. This year will mark the 22nd year that it has been going.

On behalf of all retired firefighters and families that have attended I would like to pass on to June and Peter a great big thank you for the great job you both do.

Most members would not be aware that June and Peter have always made sure the day went on, even when their own personal health was not the best, thereby ensuring the tradition, started back in 1988, continues.

I was going through some of the old newsletters regarding the day and when you see some of the names that have attended; it certainly brings the memories flooding back.

June also sent down an article from their daily tabloid about one of our retirees "**Colin Brierly**", who was almost fatally electrocuted due to the foil insulation installed in his roof under the **Federal Governments scheme**.

Colin is taking legal action against the Government for the near fatal shock that he received and also for not listening to his warning about the many problems that the scheme had.



Above; Colin and Lilian Brierly following Col's near electrocution.

The mishap happened to Colin when he ventured into the roof of his home after the foil was installed, he knelt on the foil and the electric shock went through his body and out through the head. The shock left him in an induced coma in the Princess Alexandra Hospital intensive care unit for two days.

While still not 100 %, every day that passes he feels his strength is starting to return. Colin and his wife "Lilian", both believe if the Government had listened to his warnings lives could have been saved.

Colin from all your firey mates we hope you have a total recovery and that a mishap like this never happens again.

John Berry

*The following is a letter sent to a prospective candidate for membership of the RFA along with a membership form.
(Is this to sort out the riff raff from joining our illustrious organisation?)
Names have been removed to protect the guilty.*

Dear John

Further to our phone call in the first instance Wednesday the 31/3/10 this is to advise I have spoken to senior members of our association and they have directed me to inform you of the following.

As you failed to take up the opportunity to join our illustrious group when you were younger, they will need to check if you are fit enough to handle full membership at this third stage of your life. To prove if you are or not, you will need to go through a small test prior to you attending your first meeting.

For the test I would suggest you bring a change of underwear, the people who will carry out said check will be, John, Arch, Alan & Trevor, the task will consist of you being tied to the flag pole in your underpants where buckets of cold water will be tipped over you for five minutes. If your testes have not dropped off you will move onto the final one, which is where you will be lashed to the pillar ball hydrant with the water running for five minutes (please be advised the water is from the Yarra so please keep your mouth closed) At the conclusion the Medical Officer will give you a short arm inspection; if he indicates there are two testes you will be allowed to join us, we of course will give you one metre of paper towel to dry yourself.

In confidence, for a very large fee, I can get you in through the back door and you will not need to do the test? Here is the million dollar question, are you still interested, just in case you are, I have forwarded an application form and the latest newsletter.

One other piece of advice, do not mention your association with the member (Phil) who we have sent to the outer colony for repatriation; it could be detrimental to your application.

Yours sincerely John
In charge of bastardization

ASPARTAME, NUTRA SWEET, EQUAL, ETC.

*Are you a user of artificial sweeteners? Do you consume diet soft drinks or food stuffs containing these products?
This is worth reading and make up your own mind.*

Aspartame Controversy

Aspartame has been the subject of much controversy in recent times. It is a synthetic chemical comprised of 50 percent phenylalanine, 40 percent aspartic acid and 10 percent methanol. Phenylalanine is a chemical that, when found in excess in the brain, can cause mental retardation or death. Aspartic acid is a chemical which evokes a chain of events in brain chemistry resulting in over-stimulation of nerve cells to the point of cell death. And methanol is wood alcohol, which was the poison that most remember causing blindness and/or death in some alcoholics.

Aspartame is unstable under certain conditions, including temperatures exceeding 86 degrees Fahrenheit. This makes the substance unsuitable for baking and difficult to store properly, certainly a crucial factor for soft drinks. And isn't human body temperature 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit?

Approved Despite Objections

The FDA first approved aspartame in 1974, but the approval was revoked due to concerns about the incidence of brain tumors in lab animals. After a change in administration in 1981, President Reagan appointed a new FDA director, and the substance was approved as a food additive, despite objections from the FDA's own scientists and toxicologists. Shortly after, the FDA director who approved the chemical took a job at the advertising firm representing the drug company that discovered aspartame. Nevertheless, in 1983 it was approved for use in soft drink formulas. This too was accompanied by much protest from within the FDA.

Despite these frightening facts about instability in high heat, in 1993 aspartame was approved as an ingredient in numerous food items that would always be heated to or above 86 degrees Fahrenheit. In 1985 over 400,000 tons of aspartame were used, averaging 5.8 pounds per person. It is an ingredient in over 9,000 items being consumed by more than 100 million people in the United States.

Studies Falsified

In a two-year study conducted by the manufacturer of aspartame, 12 of the 350 rats fed a normal diet and aspartame developed brain tumors, while none of the control group developed tumors. An FDA toxicologist testified before the U.S. Congress that aspartame was capable of producing brain tumors. This made it illegal under the Delaney Amendment (which prevents cancer-causing substances from entering our food supply) for the FDA to set an allowable daily intake at any level.

In the mid-1970s it was discovered that the manufacturer of aspartame falsified studies in their favor by removing tumors from test rats and documenting rats as survivors of the study when the rats had actually died. This means the brain tumor information was likely much worse than stated above.

Maybe a coincidence, maybe not, but the incidence of brain tumors rose for all age groups by 10 percent between 1973 and 1990, and for those over 65 years in particular, it rose 67 percent.

Frequent Encounters

Aspartame has been shown to cause birth defects, brain tumors and seizures and to contribute to diabetes and emotional disorders. We encounter aspartame in so many food and beverage products: chewing gum, diet soft drinks, children's vitamins and other drugs and supplements, yogurt and cereals. They've even added aspartame to Pedialyte, the electrolyte beverage some people give their infants when they have diarrhea. There is such a lack of mainstream information indicating the dangers of this product that most people don't even know of the risks involved.

When the temperature of this sweetener exceeds 86 degrees F, the wood alcohol in ASPARTAME converts to formaldehyde and then to formic acid, which in turn causes metabolic acidosis. Formic acid is the poison found in the sting of fire ants.

The methanol toxicity mimics, among other conditions, multiple sclerosis and systemic lupus. Many people were being diagnosed in error. Although multiple sclerosis is not a death sentence, Methanol toxicity is!

Systemic lupus has become almost as rampant as multiple sclerosis, especially with Diet Coke and Diet Pepsi drinkers. The victim usually does not know that the Aspartame is the culprit. He or she continues its use; irritating the lupus to such a degree that it may become a life threatening condition. We have seen patients with systemic lupus become asymptotic, once taken off diet sodas.

In cases of those diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, most of the symptoms disappear. We've seen many cases where vision loss returned and hearing loss improved markedly. This also applies to cases of tinnitus and fibromyalgia.

If you are using ASPARTAME (Nutra Sweet, Equal, Spoonful, etc) and you suffer from fibromyalgia symptoms, spasms, shooting, pains, numbness in your legs, Cramps, Vertigo, Dizziness, Headaches, Tinnitus, Joint pain, Unexplainable depression, anxiety attacks, slurred speech blurred vision, or memory loss you probably have ASPARTAME poisoning!

Is it reversible?' Yes! STOP drinking diet sodas and be alert for Aspartame on food labels! Many products are fortified with it! This is a serious problem.

It is also suspected that the Aspartame in thousands of pallets of diet Coke and diet Pepsi consumed by men and women fighting in the Gulf War, may be partially to blame for the well-known Gulf War Syndrome.

Children are especially at risk for neurological disorders and should NEVER be given artificial sweeteners.

Source: *University of Illinois Medical Centre Health Library*



This pictorial of Melbourne's fire stations no longer exist. We hope to include a few editions as they come to light. **Clockwise from top left:** Original F/S 10, Collingwood; F/S 48, North Melbourne; F/S 22, Ringwood; F/S 42, Newport; F/S 21, Surrey Hills; F/S 34, Moorabbin; F/S 13, Northcote; F/S 3, Carlton. Photographs courtesy of the Melbourne Fire Service Collection & Fire Service Museum.





FB Fire Stations may stir some
few of us. Sadly, some of these
pictorial of CFA stations in future
o hand.
ft:
ywood
ne
t B. McCumisky, MFB Image
ces Museum Victoria.



57 Station update on Jack Gallop's story by Bruce Thornton

My first introduction to the idea of “the Shack” was through Jack “Wacky” Gallop. We were on shift together and there was some talk about putting up a shack in the forest area of Mathoura, NSW. Jack and I discussed what was needed to erect a 3.75ms basic structure then Jack contacted one of the local Red Gum Timber Mills.

That first trip to the forest site was as mentioned in Jack's article with a fully loaded trailer in a convoy up the Northern Highway to Echuca then on to Elmore. People familiar with the area would be aware of the dip just after the crossroad, yes you guessed it, the car following me was not!

Passengers of the car were having a drink of tea when they hit the dip causing it to go all over them. I am not into sign language but the hand gestures I could see in my rear vision mirror from the car left me in no doubt they were not happy with me for not slowing down, it was Wacky's idea not to slow down “trust me”.

On arrival at the building site we emptied the trailer then both cars and went into Mathoura. On the way I thought the trailer was riding well on the rough roads to find it had become disconnected and had created its own road marking line on the road. On arrival in town the green red gum was selected and stored in the town's railway yards, we pre-cut the frame, loaded it onto the trailer then headed back out to the camp.

Most of the frame was up that night with the corrugated iron on one wall to stop the breeze. Some of the boys went back into town for “a beer” I stayed behind, as the night was cold I built a fire (timbers from a demolished bridge) I may have made it a bit big as the blokes reckon they could see the flames from the pub and it acted like a beacon for the trip back from the town.

Rising early the next morning we were able to get the rest of the iron etc on, having the shack to lock up stage before we left to go back on duty (Remember, when it's an emergency, firies can achieve).

The key to the shack needed to be kept in a safe place so we approached the brigade to have the key kept in No 1 station key cabinet, which they agreed to. For the people not familiar with brigade key cabinets, if the door is opened without a key it sets the fire station's alarm bells off (better than a safe).



Photographs top to bottom; Station 57 site, and the “honeymoon suite”.

A couple of years later I went up to see the shack which was now double the size of the original structure and had a chimney with a one- fire stove. The new addition, added by someone else, had walls made of red gum boards. It was called the honeymoon suite.

For the final extension to be added, the water tank needed to be moved. I achieved this by making a couple of slides where we were able to jiggle it into position, enabling me to erect the new addition.

As with any bush project, one needs to be innovative, the following better explains this point. On completion of the corrugated walls a hole was needed for the water pipe, this was achieved with a minimum of fuss, by a blast from a shot gun, creating a perfect 50mm hole enabling the water pipe to be reconnected. This is an old National service trick I learnt.

I like many others used to visit the shack often; in fact my brother's children and mine were introduced to the bush for the first time there. We showed them how to live off the land, and if that fails, there was always baked beans and spaghetti, they loved it.

The last little story for this edition is about a typical bush joke one reads and hears about!

On the way out one night the car hit a big snake. Checking the badly injured reptile, which appeared dead, we continued on our way. Whilst out, discussion

came back to the earlier incident. We thought to prove the point to the group coming up that night we would, on our way back to the shack, stop and pick up the snake, believing it was dead,

To be on the safe side it was hung out the window by the tail, only to find that it was not dead and it was not too happy about its treatment. Knowing that at this late hour there are no Vets open, it was decided we would do the humane thing for the badly injured reptile and send it on its journey to heaven by a flick of the wrist.

It was late at night and with no shovel we took it back to the shack to bury it the next morning, not to forget where it was, I placed it under the steps of the shack. Unfortunately, we were not able to advise the blokes coming home late from the tea party about the incident. In hindsight perhaps I should have, I was amazed see just how fast men holding their heads in the morning can move when they see said reptile waiting to be buried and believe it to be alive? In fact I think some may have S#!+ themselves.

In my defence I would have to say! It must have been the devil that made me do it.

To be continued next issue.

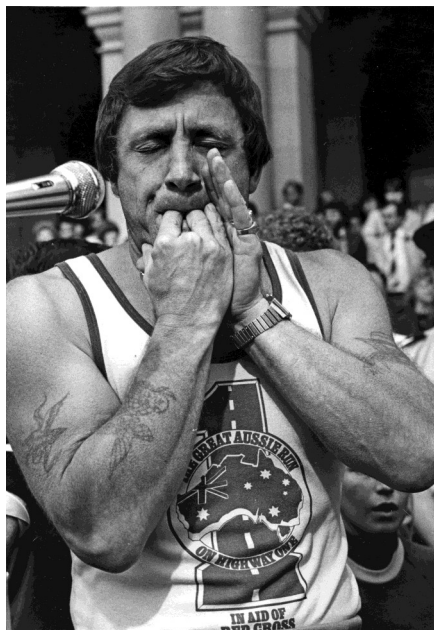
RFA MEMBER A WORLD CHAMPION

The Retired Firefighters Association has amongst its many members and their families, individuals who reached great heights in their chosen areas, I would imagine however, not too many have become a World Champion. Well if it wasn't for Arthur Capes (Sammy) calling in to see me the other day and refreshing my memory, this member's great achievements may not have been given the consideration it deserves.

The person I am referring to is none other than **Ralph Weitering** **WORLD CHAMPION WHISTLER.** Not only did he win the

Australian championship in 1983, Ralph then ventured overseas to compete in the Championship in America where thousands participate.

He literally blew them away with his power and rendition of different songs. One item that really wowed them was the national anthem "Advance Australia Fair". Whilst he was giving his rendition the family stood up and proudly waved the



Above: Ralph Weitering whistling on the steps of the GPO in Bourke St. during the triumphant welcome for the MFB Running Team at the conclusion of 'The Great Aussie Run on Highway One'.

Image: B. McCumisky

Australian flag (In one of Ralph's interviews he said the Americans were very impressed with his family for that).

If any one feels that this award is no big deal I have got to tell you they come from all over the world to be in this competition as it carries great prestige, not only for the winner, also for the Nation and/or the Country the winner came from.

Arthur left me with three video tapes that had amongst them, Ralph being interviewed, performing and various fire station shots, well what I have done in my very amateur way is transfer the information on to a video disk so now we will be able to view it at the meetings. It would be great if we could entice **Ralph and Dr John Whiteoak** (University lecturer in Music etc) to our meetings to talk about their achievements including the time and effort it has taken to reach such heights. I believe the members would much rather hear it from the people that have been involved in music at such a high level than read about it.

John Berry

MFB's Chief Officer's Reply

The following little story is one from retired DO Ken Murphy about a past Chief. It occurred whilst combating a large fire at Bearepairs rubber and tyre warehouse in Lonsdale Street during the Second World War, the Chief Officer, Leonard Paton Whitehead was being interviewed by the Radio Roundsman, (as he was known) about the fire.

He asked the Chief how he went about fighting a large rubber fire. Mr Whitehead replied in his slow churlish drawl that "we use water to put out most fires, but in the case of large rubber fires we use more water". Well in this case Ken felt the reply was appropriate for the occasion and typical of the Chief's touch of sarcasm. "Public Relations were not high on the agenda then."



Chief Officer Whitehead from the painting by ret. SO Rob Horne.

MFB Golf Club Fixture 2010

May 21st	Huntingdale, Lunch included.
June 18th	Riversdale
July 19th	La Trobe
August 17th	Eagle Ridge
September 24th	Long Island, 1st round Champ.
October 25th	Keysborough 2nd round champ.
October 31st -	November 5th Australasian Championships New Zealand.
November 15th	St Andrews Beach.
December 13th	Cranbourne AGM

Any queries call Ian Muntz 27D or,
Paul Sandilands 24C

PIN PULLER

When the employees of a restaurant attended a fire safety seminar, they watched a firefighter demonstrate the proper way to operate an extinguisher. "Pull the pin like a hand grenade," he explained, "then depress the trigger to release the foam."

Later an employee was selected to extinguish a controlled fire in the parking lot. In her nervousness, she forgot to pull the pin.

The instructor hinted, "Like a hand grenade, remember?" In a burst of confidence she pulled the pin -- and hurled the extinguisher at the blaze.

Gone but not Forgotten!

The RFA which was established by the foundation members to maintain a fellowship for fire fighting personnel in retirement, started with members from the more senior parts of society which always have a high number of members being called, as the saying goes the cream rises to the top and is always the first to go. Due to this, the committees over the years, have always made it a “**must do**” to ensure those that are called are not forgotten by keeping everyone informed by some of the various ways. Ensuring the name is exhibited on page two of the newsletter, articles, minutes etc and in conversation. Since the last newsletter, one could say history has repeated itself, the cream has been taken again.

Benjamin Frederick Conway (The Bosun)1929-2010

I was never stationed with Ben, but like many other fires, I had the pleasure of meeting him at fires and/or brigade functions. One person who did know him well was **Alan Connolly**, Alan rang me the other day to make sure he was not forgotten. During the discussion he made mention of Ben’s fire fighting prowess and what a top human being he was, in fact he could not have wished for a better firefighter to turn-out with.

Ben spent most of years in the job south of the Yarra. The name has not been lost to the brigade as he has a son in the job at Fire Investigation. I know at the next RFA meeting when we are having a cuppa, the blokes from his area will be discussing the old days and **BEN**.

John Dorman (The Dancer)1939-2010

Beverley, his wife, would like to thank both the MFB and the UFU for the tributes they placed in the daily tabloids.

The many brigade friends that attended John’s memorial made it such a wonderful celebration of his life.

Beverley said, “I know he would have loved it”. To the many Fire Brigade families who sent cards and flowers she cannot thank you enough for your kind thoughts. John really did love his time in the brigade and was in his element when other retired fires called and visited whilst on their travels north.

For the members who did not know John, I must tell you he loved a practical joke! You will better understand by the following. This joke would always involve his close mate who shall remain nameless; this mate had the ability to make it look like he was blind. Well John and his mate would go into the pub with a cane creating a bit of a ruckus on the way in, his mate would order the drinks and put fifty on the bar. The barman would put the change on the bar and John would



Left; George Hancock. demonstrates his strength.

Above; Ben Conway & son Alex.

Right; John Dorman. A loyal mate with a wicked sense of humor.



pocket \$20 of the change and give his so called blind mate the rest telling him here is your correct change.

After doing this a number of times, the rest of the drinkers wanted to lynch John who was making out he was ripping off a blind man, they then would quickly leave before this occurred laughing their heads off when it was safe. If you talk to anyone that worked with John all will have a story or two about him.

George Harmon Hancock1931-2010

George and his close mate Alan Boyd, both highly regarded firefighters left the MFB many years ago to pursue other opportunities, however, the mateship they had developed in the job was never forgotten. They are what you could call fitness junkies even up to this day. Unfortunately, in George’s case, his pursuit of excellence exposed him to an unforeseen accident.

George was out training on his bike when his front wheel caught in the wooden sleepers on a bridge throwing him off resulting in a fatal injury.

I can remember one fire I attended with George, that sticks in my mind, occurred in the early hours of the morning involving a three story building in the City. The fire was on the top floor, I was one (1) the carriage, George was 3. It was one of those old buildings with a common stairway with a number of doors to get through. Well the big bloke who was backing me up was virtually carrying me with the charged line and smashing down the doors until we got to the seat of the fire. It was like I had a human tank backing me up. The picture on this page will give you a better understanding of what I mean.

John Berry

(Continued from page 1)

This award acknowledges the special contribution to the community made by those units of the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board which attended Athol Lodge Fire.”

There has only ever been four Citation Awards issued in the history of the Brigade .

Over his 34 years of service Terry's actions through this fire call is one example that exemplifies the very best of what the MFB stands for .

The night of the Athol Lodge fire it was witnessed that Terry Beardon after rescuing people from the building, single handed had six persons on the lawn and was performing CPR on all of them until assistance arrived. This night and at many other fire calls Terry has been involved in saving peoples lives. The word heroism is exemplified by his work. When there is talk of bravery among people, Terry's dedication and commitment epitomizes what it is to be a firefighter.

The essence of leadership in the MFB is not just to follow process but to ascertain and understand a fluid situation and respond in the most effective way possible.

There is no greater validation than to save a life, something Terry has done during many fire calls. His actions, along with others, achieved a pathway for safety and effective fire fighting. Throughout Terry's career his actions are the fundamental spirit of what defines this organisation.

As a young firefighter I witnessed first hand his commitment to the community which had a transformational effect on what the role of a firefighter is. His actions that day and on many others put into practice all of the experiences and teachings from the Training College. No class could ever have prepared for what his



Above: Two of Terry's grandsons admire his name on the door of pumper 35A.

Image B. McCumisky

community service represented. His actions have stayed with me all my life in the MFB and are always a beacon by which I can judge my own actions.

There is no greater Epitaph than to have his name placed on an appliance thus continuing his vision.

Both Station Officer Bruce Weaver and myself have canvassed all platoons at Fire Station 35 and all members feel this is a fitting legacy for the role model Terry represented. We would be proud to have the name of Terry Beardon on our appliance as we continue to turn out and serve the community.

Terry Beardon will be sadly missed, his professionalism and work ethic has been an inspiration to many younger firefighters. His expertise and example have produced a large number of very skilled young fire fighters providing even greater protection for the community.

Pumper 35 A in station!

As Terry Beardon's funeral is expected early this coming week, could this be actioned a.s.a.p.

Kind Regards

Paul Ritchie, A.F.S.M. Leading Firefighter.

Epilogue.

The Honours & Awards Committee approved Paul's request so quickly that on January 22, 2010, Pumper 35A, proudly bearing Terry's name on its door, led the funeral procession through a guard of honour of nearly 80 firefighters to Bunurong Memorial Park.

A short time later, on January 31, 2010, Terry's wife, Mandy, and all his family were guests at Fire Station 35 for the official recognition of the appliance naming and an afternoon tea.

Valē

John (Jesse) James, 1942 - 26 April 2010

In his early 20's, Jesse flew, as a 10 Pound Pom, from Soho to Melbourne and joined up in 1966/67 Initially at No 1, Ted Harrison got him an old pushbike (Jesse's only transport). He transferred to 35C, with Whopper, Curlie, Moose, Tiny, Thommo, Thomas, Gags, Jock, Smithy and later Heppie, Dev and many others. He lived at 33 Station, and transferred into Southern, with Clean, Dutchie and Robbie, and his great and tolerant mate Mick C.

He retired in 1998 after 32 years. Jesse was an aggressive fire-fighter, a strong Unionist, and ALWAYS vocal. Jesse passed away at Bethlehem Hospital - R.I.P.

Ian Geddes

S.T.R. STROKE!

People of all ages can suffer a stroke. It's well documented that even very young children can suffer a stroke and, as we age, the possibility of being struck down with this condition increases tenfold. The following information may save your life or the life of a loved one.

STROKE IDENTIFICATION:

During a BBQ, a friend stumbled and took a little fall.... she assured everyone that she was fine (they offered to call paramedics) she said she had just tripped over a brick because of her new shoes. They got her cleaned up and got her a new plate of food. While she appeared a bit shaken up, Ingrid went about enjoying herself the rest of the evening.

Ingrid's husband called later telling everyone that his wife had been taken to the hospital, but at 6:00 PM, Ingrid passed away. She had suffered a stroke at the BBQ. Had they known how to identify the signs of a stroke, perhaps Ingrid would be with us today. Some don't die. They end up in a helpless, hopeless condition instead.

A neurologist says that if he can get to a stroke victim within 3 hours he can totally reverse the effects of a stroke ...totally. He said the trick was getting a stroke recognised, diagnosed, and then getting the patient medically cared for within 3 hours, which is tough.

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke

victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby fail to recognise the symptoms of a stroke.

Now doctors say a bystander can recognise stroke by asking three simple questions:

S.T.R.

S *Ask the individual to **SMILE**

T *Ask the person to **TALK and SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE Coherently** (I.e. It is sunny out today)

R *Ask him or her to **RAISE BOTH ARMS**
If he or she has trouble with ANY ONE of these tasks, call emergency number 000 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

NOTE:

New Sign of a Stroke -----

Stick out Your Tongue!

Ask the person to stick out his tongue..

If the tongue is crooked, if it goes to one side or the other, that is also an indication of a stroke.

The neurologist says; "If 10 people read this... at least one life will possibly be saved".

THIS IS ANOTHER "GUESS WHO" PICTURE

This one may be a bit hard to pick so we will give you a few clues. This is a picture taken about 1947, of a 3rd 18 side from the Eastern suburbs who were members of the VFL and now the AFL, this team's premiership flag was the only one that was flown from the flagpole on the grandstand for many years until the senior side won their first one. There are three (3) people that were members of the MFB two were players and one was an official (Secretary/Treasurer).

We require the names of the three. The first correct answer will receive a photo copy of the picture (framed) so as to enable you to hang it over your bed, to keep you safe at night. The people who are in the picture are not allowed to enter the competition.



(Results of the last issue's "Guess Who" next page)



“B” DISTRICT “GUESS WHO” PHOTOGRAPH

Page 15 of the February edition “Water Off”, there’s an old picture from the Late Leo Brown’s collection under the heading of “Guess Who”. Well the following information has been sourced from two stars that played in the game, Robert Horgan and Doug Jensen, plus articles gleaned from the old MFB News Review.

The prize, a framed used old rail pass, I must report, is still secure in my Coolgardie safe, (where I keep all my important RFA documents).

However, we still do not have all of the names. It is obvious from the lack of information received from members regarding names etc, that we have stumped you this time. Therefore it is imperative we give you the ones we have. **The committee do not want you waking up screaming out names in your bed at night because we have set you too hard a task.**

Starting from your left whilst looking at the picture; **Back Row** (standing) Keith “Coco” Robbins, Roger Neate, John Mason, Garry Rowell, Alan Sanders, Bill Stevens, Frank Ward, Brian “Bluey” Parsons, Arthur Cowban, Ron Kennedy, Billy Pearce, Leo Brown, Charles Maile, Peter **unknown?**

Front Row (kneeling) Allan Deans, Laurie Buckingham, Robert “Bobby” Horgan, Doug Jensen, “Son” Brett Jensen Mascot, Ray Cripps, Peter Combridge, John and Colin Tait.

The game was played at Epping on the 10/7/69 against “C” district, “B” district won 12-18/ 90 to 7-9/51, amongst the best players for the winners were Rob Horgan and Doug Jensen, we can guess why they remembered the game. If we do not receive the last name of the player next to Charles Maile we will put this “Guess Who” in the too hard basket.

John Berry

Sometimes it Just Doesn’t Pay!!

Fire investigators have determined the cause of a blaze that destroyed a \$500,000 home last month - a short in the homeowner's newly installed fire prevention alarm system.

"This is even worse than last year," said the distraught homeowner, "When someone broke in and stole my new security system..."

MEMBERS INTERESTED IN RECEIVING THEIR "WATER OFF" VIA EMAIL.

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 our editor John Laverick. "Water Off" will be sent out in a PDF format.

John's address - - 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.



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Lin Bell and wife Jan Bell

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UFU RETIRED MEMBERS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Saturday November 27th 2010

11.30 AM. - 4.00 PM.

Malvern Town Hall

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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