

# "WATER OFF"

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



August 2020. Vol. 24 No.3  
Inc/No: A16839F

## FAREWELL MFB.... WELCOME FRV.

At 08.00 hours on July 1, 2020, at Eastern Hill HQ, all MFB stations, the Victorian Emergency Management Training Complex (VEMTC) and the Burnley Complex, C Platoon firefighters lowered the MFB flag for the last time in simple ceremonies. In its place rose the new FRV flag. Fire Rescue Victoria was officially launched.



### Images;

**Top;** FRV/CFA graphic by a unknown firefighter.

**Centre;** MFB flag is lowered for the final time at the Victorian Emergency Management Training Complex (VEMTC)

**Centre right;** A rebadged pumper in action. Source; FRV Archives.

**Bottom;** The new FRV flag flies at VEMTC along with other Australian Flags.

**Source;** FRV Archives.

# August General Meeting Cancelled

## RFA BANK DETAILS PAYMENT.

From Firefighters Credit Co. Op.  
**TO Account: Retired Firefighters Association.**  
**Account: No: 91469S1**  
**In reference; put your name.**  
**From another Bank:**  
**BSB: 803-209.**  
**Account: Retired Firefighters Association.**  
**Account: No: 91469.**  
**In reference; put your name.**  
**PLEASE MAKE CHEQUE'S PAYABLE**  
**TO: RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS**  
**ASSOCIATION.**

**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**

## Diary Dates 2020

**August 19            General Meeting Cancelled**  
**November 18        Annual General Meeting**

## **Non financial Members**

Members be advised if your newsletter has an expiry date of 2/1/2019 that means you have not paid your subs since 2018 therefore if no remuneration is received by the 2/1/20 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  
Barbara McCumisky  
John Laverick

**Auditor:**  
Mike Enticott

## **SICK LIST** (\* In Nursing Home)

John Brown*	Michael Phelan
Bob Brunning	Dick Prendergast
Bob Cameron	Trevor Reed
Stan Cameron	Allan Roberts
Harold Connell	Gary Spicer
Tom Driscoll	John Schintler
Jack Etherton*	Graeme Taylor
Ian Fowler	Bruce Thornton*
Eddie Gilbertson	Laurie Trewin
John Hancock*	Robert Weitering
John Hansford	Ray Wellard
Noel (Dutchy) Holland	John Williams
Bob Horgan	Tom Williamson*
John Lake	
Archie McLachlan	
Harry Mitchell	

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 Valč**

Colin Busse	Les Napper
Jack Hancock	Stan Niocol
Alan Hodgkin	Ken Parsons
Jack Hoskin	James Thomas
William Laurie	
Kevin McCoach	
Terry Murray	

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**

“Water Off” is edited by Colin Harris, 2 Gowar Avenue, Camberwell 3124. Phone 0432 302 414. Email: retiredfirenews@gmail.com  
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



Hello all! What a crazy year 2020 has been. Firstly, we had bush fires all over Australia. We worried for the heroes who rushed to help their fellow Australians and mourned for the families of heroes who lost their lives. We came together and thanked all who put their lives on the line to save lives and property during that devastating time.

Then, when we were just about returning to some normal times, Covid-19 snuck up on us and has hit

Australia very hard, destroying jobs, business and lives in more ways than the fires and we are seeing lock-downs and we are asked not to visit loved ones and give hugs to them when we do see them. And worse of all, when we lose a loved one or a friend, we cannot attend a funeral.

Let us give thanks to all the front-line people who again are putting their lives on the line for us and are doing so unselfishly. But remember, it won't last, we will come together again and we will again have good times. FAMILY and FRIENDS ALWAYS.

Alex Shepherd

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

**FOR MEETING 8th JULY 2020.**

**Please Stay Safe and Look After Each Other.**

**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.**

**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.**

**As the CORONA VIRUS IS WITH US THE MFB HAVE KINDLY HAD THE PRINTERS FOLD WATER OFF FOR US.**

**COULD YOU PLEASE HELP OTHER MEMBERS OR RING TO SEE IF THEY ARE OK.**

**PLEASE NOTE: WHEN PAYING BY CHEQUE, MAKE OUT TO RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION.**

I have had my cancer return in the bladder and bowel with some spots in the bladder I have asked for someone to take over Secretary / Treasurer Position.

**Phil Cleary has put his hand up, this will take a couple of months to get done.**

**EVERYONE PLEASE KEEP SAFE.**

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 for their BBQ's following all our Meetings.**

Allan Roberts Secretary.

## **FRV Executive Team Announcement**

The Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Lisa Neville announced the fire and rescue sector executives who will be joining me to lead Fire Rescue Victoria from 1 July.

The appointments were made following a national competitive recruitment process with an independent executive recruitment agency, and involved two rounds of interviews conducted with senior executives from across government and the emergency sector, and myself.

I am extremely pleased to announce the following appointments and successful candidates:

- Mr Kenneth Brown (AFSM) as Deputy Commissioner in the Office of the Fire Rescue Commissioner
- Ms Michelle Young (AFSM) as Deputy Commissioner of Fire Safety
- Mr David Bruce (AFSM) as Deputy Commissioner, North-West Operations
- Mr Gavin Freeman (AFSM) as Deputy Commissioner for South-East Operations
- Mr Brendan Angwin as Deputy Commissioner for Operational Training
- Mr Martin Braid (AFSM) as Deputy Commissioner of Strategy
- Ms Kirstie Schroder will lead the FRV Corporate, Regulation and Strategic Services branch as Deputy Secretary.

Regards

Ken G. Block

**Fire Rescue Commissioner**



## **A message from MFB's Acting CEO/ Chief Officer David Bruce**

**Date: 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

This will be my final weekly message as MFB's Acting CEO/Chief Officer.

It has been my great privilege to serve as your CEO and Chief Officer and I am the last Chief Officer in a line that has covered the past 129 years of fire and rescue services in Melbourne. I have been extremely proud to represent the organisation and individuals who have served our community with such dedication, professionalism and dignity.

With the advent of FRV, there were of course always going to be significant changes occurring for us, and over the final 6 months in particular, we knew we had a big task ahead of us, and I commend all of you for the concerted effort you have put in. There will still be much work to do as we move into implementation and I am looking forward to continuing to work with you and the Fire Rescue commissioner Ken Block, as we continue to serve our community.

In the past few months the world as we know it has changed on a scale none of us could have foreseen and we have all had to dig deep and work through Covid-19 during the lead up to the transition and have been unable to gather and celebrate each other and the organisation that has brought us all together due to the restrictions.

MFB has come a long way. We have evolved and we continue to enhance our skills, understanding and experience to deliver exemplary service. I am humbled by the energy, resilience and good humour that has been

demonstrated daily by those around me and this has made me appreciate even more the considerable talents of all of our people. In recognition of our long history and our people, each MFB employee will receive a symbolic token to commemorate your dedicated service. This will be mailed to your home addresses this week.

It is important that we all take a moment to take stock and consider the many things you appreciated about the people with whom you work. It is these people with their talents, character and enthusiasm who will join you as part of FRV. I also ask that you take some time to thank your families and loved ones. I have no doubt that you have drawn on their support these past few months and over the years, and as I have said previously, I know I owe my own success, personally and professionally to my family.

As we say goodbye to MFB on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2020, let us also welcome a new beginning. The lowering of the MFB flag on Wednesday morning will be a historic occasion for us all and this is a time for us to be inclusive, to learn from colleagues old and new and to be open to the many opportunities and experiences these changes will bring.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge and add my personal best wishes to outgoing CFA Chief Officer and CEO Steve Warrington and thank him for his friendship over the years and his extensive contribution to Victoria's fire and rescue services.

For the final time, thank you for your service to MFB. I look forward to working with you as colleagues in Fire Rescue Victoria as we continue to serve our communities.

Regards, David Bruce  
Acting CEO/Chief Officer

## **Editorial**

### **The end of the glorious name - MFB**

Everybody knows and knew the name, and after 129 years the label MFB is no longer. I joined in 1973 and as a boy of 9 or 10 I used to watch the fire truck from Station 44 (Hampshire Road) race by my house in sunny Sunshine. In those days, it was an old rotary pump hose carriage. It probably didn't have seat belts, there were no female firefighters in the cabin and the shiny brass helmets were worn with pride by the smartly dressed firefighters.

Metropolitan Fire Brigade was a proud institution and I'm glad that I was part of it. I'm sure the new Fire Rescue Victoria will also be a proud institution. The CFA and MFB professional firefighters coming under this FRV umbrella will mean better resources, communications and an enhanced outcome for all Victorians as fire appliances and equipment, training and education develop and encompass both professional services.

Of course, this is more than just a name change. It is about fire service reform. With metropolitan Melbourne ever expanding and the need for more permanent professional firefighters being on duty 24/7 to cover these growing new suburbs, reform has occurred and Fire Rescue Victoria will forge ahead. It will no doubt also mean that employees of FRV may have the opportunity to exchange stations with their city or country cousins, exchanging information, learning new regions and areas, whether it be in metropolitan Melbourne or the back streets of Bendigo.

New recruits to FRV will learn about tackling bush/scrub/grass fires, large building/factory, high-rise fires, not forgetting Emergency Medical Response and other

important skills. Information exchange and rapid response in an era where things can change in an instant is vitally important. Employees from CFA and FRV corporate area will learn more about each other's agency and develop new friendships, making for better understanding and cooperation as FRV develops.

Will the CFA volunteers be compromised? No, I don't believe so. Surely the volunteer brigades throughout Victoria will see further improvement in training, equipment and PPE as our state gears up for another year of potential bushfire emergencies. Good communication and co-operation is vital in emergency situations, and all Victorians need to be satisfied that our fire agencies have good and effective resources and effective communication, both internally and also out to the community on days of high fire danger.

Covid-19 has changed the world and may be with us for many years. The numbers are steadily climbing and our emergency services, especially nurses/doctors, paramedics, police, military personnel including FRV on the front line ready to assist all Victorians.

As we head into this new era of Fire Rescue Victoria, let us not forget the proud history of the MFB. People like Barbara McCumisky and many others who have a record of knowledge and photographs of past history, past emergencies and who have immense pride to have been part of our wonderful organisation. MFB's past history will not be lost or forgotten. Like an old tattoo, the Metropolitan Fire Brigade and all it has been is etched into old skin which is still there and will not fade away any time soon! Go forward FRV for all Victorians!

(Editor)

## FRV Station Designation



Station Number	Location	Address
1	Eastern Hill	456 Albert Street, East Melbourne,3002
2	West Melbourne	60 Batman Street, West Melbourne,3002
3	Carlton	106 Bouverie Street, Carlton,3003
4	Brunswick	24 Blyth Street Brunswick,3056
5	Broadmeadows	338 Camp Road Broadmeadows,3047
6	Pascoe Vale	345A Gaffney Street Pascoe Vale,3044
7	Thomastown	92 Mahoney's Road Thomastown,3074
8	Burnley	450 Burnley Street Burnley 3121
9	Somerton	10 Somerton Park Drive Campbellfield,3061
10	Richmond	55 Church Street, Richmond,3121
11	Epping	28 Childs Road Epping,3076
12	Preston	471 Bell Street Preston,3084
13	Northcote	3 Mitchell Street Northcote,3070
14	Bundoora	1083 Plenty Road Bundoora,3083
15	Heidelberg	161 Bell Street Heidelberg,3084
16	Greensborough	141 Grimshaw Street Greensborough,3088
18	Hawthorn	45 William Street Hawthorn,3122
19	North Balwyn	312 Doncaster Road North Balwyn,3104
20	Box Hill	1052 Maroondah Highway Box Hill,3128
22	Ringwood	272 Maroondah Highway Ringwood,3134
23	Burwood	25 Highbury Road Burwood,3125
24	Glen Iris	1721 Malvern Rd Glem Iris 3146
25	Oakleigh	100 Atherton Road Oakleigh,3166
26	Croydon	306 Dorset Road Croydon,3136
27	Nunawading	364 Maroondah Highway Nunawading,3131
28	Vermont South	721 Highbury Road Vermont South,3133
29	Clayton	529 Clayton Road Clayton South,3136
30	Templestowe	40 Serpells Rd Templestowe 3106
31	Glen Waverley	645 Ferntree Gully Road Glen Waverley,3150
32	Ormond	311 North Road Sth Caulfield,3162
33	Mentone	103 Nepean Highway Mentone,3094
34	Highett	150 Wickham Road Highett,3190
35	Windsor	156 Albert Street Windsor,3181
38	South Melbourne	26 Moray Street, South Melbourne,3206
39	Port Melbourne	448 Graham Street Port Melbourne,3207
40	Laverton	5 Epton St, Laverton,3028
41	St Albans	9 Taylors Road, St Albans,3021
42	Newport	231 Melbourne Road Newport,3015
43	Deer Park	782 Ballarat Road Deer Park,3020
44	Sunshine	30 McIntyre Road Sunshine,3023
45	Spotswood	8 Highgate Street Spotswood,3015
46	Altona	7 Akuna Street Altona,3018
47	Footscray	69 Droop Street Footscray,3011
48	Taylors Lakes	470 Melton Highway Taylors Lakes,3038
49	North Laverton	8 Boundary Road Nth Laverton,3026
50	Ascot Vale	258 Union Road Moonee Ponds,3039
51	Keilor	145 Millera Road East Keilor,3033
52	Tullamarine	1 Western Avenue Tullamarine,3049
53	Sunbury	144 Gap Road, Sunbury 3429
54	Greenvale	33 Barrymore Rd- Greenvale 3059
55	Caroline Springs	8-10 Caroline Springs Blvd - Caroline Springs 3023
56	Melton	44 Henry St - Melton 3337
57	Tarneit	417 Derrimut Road - Tarneit 3029
58	Point Cook	85-93 Dunnings Rd - Point Cook 3030
60	VEMTC	284-290 Hume Hwy, Craigieburn 3064
61	Lara	147 Windermere Rd- Lara 3212
62	Corio	20-32 Birdwood Avenue - Norlane 3214
63	Geelong City	69 Mc Killop Street - Geelong 3220
64	Belmont	2-4 Reynolds Road Belmont 3216
66	Ocean Grove	5-11 Shell Road Ocean Grove 3226
67	Ballarat City	1120 Sturt St- Ballarat 3350
68	Lucas	89 Ballarat-Camgham Road, Winter Valley,3358
70	Warnambool	678 Raglan Parade - Warnambool 3280
71	Portland	130 Percy Street - Portland 3305
72	Mildura	326 San Mateo Avenue - Mildura 3500
73	Bendigo	145 Hargreaves St - Bendigo 3550
74	Wangaratta	28 - 32 Handley Street - Wangaratta 3677
75	Shepparton	84-98 Archer St - Shepparton 3630
76	Wodonga	81 Thomas Mitchell Drive
77	Traralgon	158 Princes Hwy - Traralgon 3844
78	Morwell	26 McDonald Street - Morwell 3840
79	Latrobe West	77-79 Lloyd St, Moe 3825
80	Craigieburn	2 Beasley Plc - Craigieburn 3064
81	South Morang	875 Plenty Road - South Morang 3752
82	Eltham City	61 Brougham St Eltham 3095
84	South Warrandyte	29 Falconer Rd, Park Orchards 3114
85	Boronia	300 Boronia Rd - Boronia 3155
86	Rowville	1063 Wellington Road - Rowville 3178
87	Dandenong	186-190 Princess Highway - Dandenong 3175
88	Hallam	12-14 Hallam- Belgrave Rd - Hallam 3803
89	Springvale	518 Springvale Road - Springvale South 3174
90	Patterson River	37 McLeod Road- Carrum 3197
91	Frankston	3 Cranbourne Road - Frankston 3199
92	Cranbourne	8 - 10 Arundel St - Cranbourne 3977
93	Pakenham	780 Princes Highway - Pakenham 3810
94	Mornington	859 Nepean Hwy - Mornington 3931
95	Rosebud	99 Boneo Road - Rosebud 3936

## FAREWELL MFB....WELCOME FRV.

By B. McCumisky

As the sun set on June 30, 2020, the final hours of an iconic organisation began ticking away. After diligently protecting the people of Melbourne for over 129 years, the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) was coming to an end. It was a bitter-sweet time for the firefighters, particularly those whose careers spanned decades with the Brigade. However, at the same time there was also an eager anticipation of life under the new Fire Commissioner and a new badge.

That night A Platoon who were on duty, moved quickly to get photos at their stations with shift mates, wearing the uniform for the final time as MFB firefighters.

At 08.00 hours on July 1, 2020, at Eastern Hill HQ, all MFB stations, the Victorian Emergency Management Training Complex (VEMTC) and the Burnley Complex, C Platoon firefighters lowered the MFB flag for the last time in simple ceremonies. In its place rose the new FRV flag. Fire Rescue Victoria was officially launched.

At the same time the career Country Fire Authority (CFA) stations around the state were also amalgamated into Fire Rescue Victoria heralding the beginning of a new wide reaching, state-of-the-art fire service. The CFA will live on with the volunteer firefighters at their stations.

The MFB's and CFA's proud histories will continue on in the stories that are told and retold by the retired and current firefighters, who recall the big fires, lives lost and saved, the odd and humorous situations they found themselves in, and their sporting and community achievements. But most of all, they will remember the camaraderie they shared that lead to lifelong friendships.

What was MFB and CFA will never be lost as the Fire Services Museum of Victoria, housed in the old Eastern Hill station building, is committed to preserving the appliances, apparatus, books, photographs and written records, so people can see what life in the brigades was like now and for many generations to come.

In the next and future issues of 'Water Off' the editorial team are planning to run a series telling the MFB story with illustrations and photographs. Next issue we go back to the very beginning and look at what led to the formation of the MFB.

It would be nice to do a similar series on the CFA, but we need someone to co-ordinate it, who is interested in researching the CFA history and can get access to the CFA's vast collection of photographs.

As you, our readers, view the MFB history in upcoming editions of 'Water Off', we invite you to comment, or submit photos or stories you think would be relevant. With your input we could make this magazine a fascinating record of MFB life as it was.

Comments and written content to:

Col Harris editor,

John Laverick co-editor, email: [retfire@bigpond.net.com](mailto:retfire@bigpond.net.com)

Photos and illustrations to:

Barbara McCumisky photo editor, email: [firechaser26@gmail.com](mailto:firechaser26@gmail.com) phone: 0448 682 206

# Fire Rescue Victoria badge

## From FRV Commissioner K. Block

It is my pleasure to share with you our badge for Fire Rescue Victoria.

Following an extensive and truly collaborative selection process, our future FRV colleagues have chosen a badge design that is uniquely Victorian and embodies the vital fire and rescue services we deliver to the community.

I am extremely impressed with the significant contribution and passion that staff from across MFB and CFA have brought to the badge selection process, with nearly 2000 staff participating in the badge vote survey and 95 potential designs submitted for consideration. There was also significant interest from staff in joining the FRV Badge Selection Panel – a group of eight future FRV employees who ultimately selected our FRV badge.

Thanks to the enthusiasm and contribution of our future FRV people, we have a badge that will help the community identify our firefighters and staff in an emergency and set us apart from other first responders. In selecting the badge, the panel carefully considered all feedback from the survey, including all 95 designs submitted by future FRV staff and the top two preferred designs from the badge vote.

The chosen FRV badge features a flame and crossed axes – the two design elements that were the most popular in the survey and that are internationally used and recognised as representing fire and rescue work. The axes highlight the important rescue work that firefighters do every day to keep our community safe.

The FRV badge also features a shield which represents strength and protection and a helmet which pays tribute to Victoria's proud firefighting history at MFB and CFA. Other features include the Southern Cross, and the laurel wreath which has a significant history of representing bravery and triumph over adversity. These features come together to make the badge uniquely Victorian.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to those who contributed to the badge design and selection process. The quality and quantity of designs submitted demonstrate that the people in our sector are always willing to go above and beyond.

If we continue to bring this enthusiasm into our new organisation, I have no doubt that Fire Rescue Victoria will be a success, and a workplace we can be proud to represent as we continue to deliver a high standard of service to the Victorian community.

Regards,

Ken G. Block

**Fire Rescue Commissioner**



## From the UFU

Every step of the way in Fire Rescue Victoria reform process, members have been there to advocate for a better service.

This reform has always been about making Victoria safer, for the community and for those who protect it.

FRV will mean safer workplaces for professional firefighters and better understanding in the community of the level of fire protection and

emergency response.

FRV ushers in the Victorian Firefighter Registration Board, which will recognise the extensive four year qualification training that Victorian professional firefighters complete.

For the first time in Australia, professional firefighters will be recognised as a registered trade. This is momentous and that is why the FRV badge is so significant.

When a member of the public sees that badge on a uniform or a truck, they will know that the wearer is a professional firefighter. They will understand the significant training and standards that those in the service comply to, and they will feel protected.

It was important that those who will wear the badge had significant input into its design and selection. As the FRV Commissioner Ken Block said, nearly 2000 staff took part in the vote on the badge, which had 95 designs submitted.

Eight future FRV staff made the final decision on the design.

The badge incorporates the best of MFB and CFA's distinguished firefighting histories with the inclusion of the helmet. It also incorporates the universally recognised flame and crossed axes symbols. The addition of the Southern Cross and the laurel wreath make it Victoria's own.

The process for updating trucks and uniforms is now underway. The union thanks members for their enthusiasm and dedication in the process of selecting the badge.

This has been a significant step towards FRV, and it's great to finally see it realised.



## History Repeats Itself! This Poem Written in 1869, Reprinted during 1919 Pandemic. Timeless!

And people stayed at home  
 And read books  
 And listened  
 And they rested  
 And did exercises  
 And made art and played  
 And learned new ways of being  
 And stopped and listened  
 More deeply  
 Someone meditated, someone prayed  
 Someone met their shadow  
 And people began to think differently  
 And people healed.  
 And in the absence of people who  
 Lived in ignorant ways  
 Dangerous, meaningless and heartless,  
 The earth also began to heal  
 And when the danger ended and  
 People found themselves  
 They grieved for the dead  
 And made new choices  
 And dreamed of new visions  
 And created new ways of living  
 And completely healed the earth  
 Just as they were healed.



## **When Good Intentions Turn Bad.** **By Alan Dickinson**

**R**emember that line from ‘Of Mice and Men’? The one about the best laid plans going awry. Well, I never had an incident as bad as NASA’s Mars Orbiter where scientists forgot to convert Imperial acceleration readings to Metric ones, but from a personal point of view, I’ve had my fair share of stuff-ups. Thankfully, not all in public view.

Early in my career, my day would begin with a large cup of coffee. No breakfast, just coffee, I would have something substantial at morning tea time.

Having turned my electric kettle on to boil and grabbing my favourite mug, I found that my coffee jar was empty. I had already run out of sugar and was making do with caster sugar. I once ran out of caster sugar and had survive on un-sweetened coffee, but un-coffee’d coffee was a disaster. I found the coffee tin at the back of my pantry, it was empty. Well, almost empty. I estimated there was possibly one teaspoon of coffee there.

I reached inside the tin with my teaspoon and deftly scooped what little coffee remained, all the while feeling the foil at the top of the tin cut into my hand. But I did it. I managed to scrape together one spoonful. Having poured hot water into my mug, I grabbed the milk carton from the fridge and proceeded to pour the milk, only to have it sink to the bottom of the mug then float to the top... in one curdled lump. I should have drunk it black.

I recall deciding to bake a cake. Not from scratch. From a packet. It was one of those complete cake mixes, but that is where the manufacturer is lying. You see it is not complete. One must provide an egg. Just one. But they don’t say that on the front of the packet and of course... I didn’t have an egg.

My only option was to ask Jean for an egg. Jean, my neighbour who lived two doors down was a talker. I mean she talked... incessantly. I dreaded having to talk, or should I say, listen to her. But I had to do it. I took a deep breath and headed towards Flat 5.

Forty-five minutes later, I arrived back with one egg. I had been holding it so long I’m surprised it wasn’t already half cooked. I placed it on my kitchen bench, turned to grab my mixing bowl, then watched in horror as my egg, the egg that I had suffered for, rolled the full length of the bench and onto the floor. There was no cake that day.

My stuff-ups extended to my work as a

Communications Technician. I was once sent to a home to provide an additional phone socket for a customer. Being before the days of cheap cordless phones, hard wired sockets were the only option. I dreaded placing sockets in rooms where ceiling or under floor cabling was required. One, because ceilings were full of spiders and two, because the crawl space under houses was full of spiders.

When I arrived, I couldn’t believe my luck. The customer wanted an additional socket in the kitchen, directly behind her living room where a socket already existed. In no time at all, I took the socket off the wall, drilled a hole, threaded a cable, replaced that socket and installed a new one in the kitchen. Easy peasy!

I returned to my depot where my boss asked me into his office. “You know that additional socket you installed?” he asked.

“Yes,” I replied gingerly.

“Well,” he replied. “The customer has just rung. She can’t close her sliding cavity door.”

More recently, my wife had to spend a night in hospital and was to be discharged early the next day. I decided to get up early and do a few chores. I loaded and started the dishwasher, making sure no plate was in a water-jet blind spot and loaded and started the washing machine, checking the labels and making sure that I only washed items that were machine washable.

I realized I had time to clean out our cat’s litter tray. It was always a challenge. Our cat would invariably try to do her ‘business’, while I was scooping out the results of previous visits. I was in luck. She was asleep, diagonally on the bed as usual.

Armed with a plastic shopping bag I scooped out her deposits as well as a large amount of urine-soaked litter. I topped the tray with fresh litter, tied the bag in a knot and carried it through the house to the garbage bin outside the front door.

I was half-way through the kitchen when I felt the contents of the bag shift. It was like when a ship lists and cargo rushes to one side. Well, this cargo was shifting alright, towards a split that had appeared in the bag. I watched in slow-motion, unable to stop it, as the entire contents of the bag cascaded out of the split, onto the floor and dispersed outwards throughout the kitchen. I look on the bright side, none of it went under the fridge!

*Alan Dickinson is a retired Telco employee responsible for maintaining communications for Melbourne’s emergency services.*



## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

**Mal Cotterill.** *Joined the MFB in 1966, recruit training at 10 Station and served at No1 and various other stations until pensioned off in 1980. Mal eventually found himself over in Broome WA where he now does a little prospecting (successfully by the look of it) and finds time to write articles for the **Australian Gold Gem and Treasure** magazine. This item, written by Mal, was first published in 1997.*

## GOLD in the Salt

**H**appy Birthday to me! I turned 53 the day the dealer arrived in town with the SD2000. Four were for locals at Cue WA, and three for Meeka up the road. In fact, we all had orders with John "Jay Jay" Ponton in Perth.

After sorting out some minor problems (my detector wouldn't work!) we all took off in different directions. I headed for the salt lakes near Laverton, where I knew prospectors had tried their luck the previous year.

Although prospectors were long gone, we did see the holes left after they swept through the salt. Every hole had been dug with a shovel and some were over two feet deep.

With the help of a local aborigine who happened to be an excellent prospector, they had apparently recovered 130oz in



**Mal** and his son with the 22.5oz "Little Dog" nugget.

three days which I'm led to believe, was shared fairly amongst them. I was told later that the biggest piece was a 30oz specimen with only a small amount of quartz.

While the locals were all asking what these successful prospectors were using, the entire operation was kept very quiet. Even when I arrived at the salt, other blokes had been running around with SDs for six weeks at least, their gold finds averaging only 10oz a week. While that may sound a lot to you, one chap who'd taken possession of his detector a lot earlier, scraped together 100oz in a couple of weeks. He even had a bloke on wages digging for him.

Personally, I found one nugget weighing more than 22oz and a collection of various

other sizes for a total of around 60oz. Like fishing, prospecting takes unlimited patience, perseverance and a touch of gold fever.

However, many guys turned up to the area, detectors still in their boxes, with very negative attitudes. They asked my opinion but in their minds they believed that there was no gold left due to the numerous tracks on the salt, the amount of detector holes that were scattered about and so on.

That was around September 1995 and I was still finding gold in the area. Areas do eventually get worked out but only when something better comes along, like the SD2100. Fifty percent of prospecting is in the head. Noted prospector Bruce Legendre talks about Zen, which I'm not really into, but I have to agree that positive thinking is a great help indeed.

**Mal Cotterill**



**Mal's wife and son, Clint,** with 30 ounces of assorted nuggets found on the salt near Laverton WA

## TEN DAYS AND FIFTY YEARS

Approximately 4 or 5 days after the fire at the William Booth Memorial Home on 13<sup>th</sup> August 1966 where 30 men lost their lives, Roy Treverton and myself were called into Chief Officer Jack Paterson’s office and were asked to attend a service in full uniform on behalf of the MFB at the Salvation Army Temple on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August at 2pm. This was ten days after the fire.

Roy and I walked down from No. 1 thinking this was a memorial service for the 30 men- the “nobodies” as I had heard them being referred to previously.

We met Mr Paterson, Deputy Chief Officer Frank Tueno, Assistant Chief Officer Fred Young and Superintendent Gordon Geddes and were all shown to our seating towards the front, and handed our order of service.

I soon realised that this was a funeral service as there were fifteen coffins lined up at the front of the Temple.

These fifteen victims of the fire had no relatives or friends to claim them or give them a funeral, so the Salvation Army took that responsibility to give them a decent and respectful funeral.

The service was excellent under Commissioner Herbert R. Scotney. The fifteen names were read out, including the name of the man in whose room the fire started.

At the conclusion of the service the fifteen coffins were taken out and placed in fifteen hearses in Bourke Street. Exhibition and Spring Streets were blocked off to traffic. The congregation were asked to line up behind the hearses. This included the Salvation Army Band, Salvation Army personnel, MFB representatives, Police, St John’s ambulance officers, doctors and nurses from



**Above;** The 15 coffins lined up inside the Salvation Army Temple prior to the service for the homeless who died in the fire.

the three city hospitals involved, media and other guests.

We walked/marched up Bourke Street, turned left into Spring Street and stopped at the Princess Theatre. The hearses continued on to Springvale under Police escort.

Roy and I walked back to No.1 and talked about how these fifteen “nobodies” were ‘somebodies’ today as they went out in style, the Salvation Army showing them their full mark of compassion and respect.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> August 2016, fifty years to the day of the fire, a plaque was unveiled in remembrance of those thirty victims and survivors, and also to the MFB and other services that attended. This plaque is at the site of the former William Booth Memorial Home at 462 Little Lonsdale Street.

Trevor Reed  
MFB No.1271

### When did I suddenly get old?

When did I suddenly get old? Was it just four weeks ago?

I don’t feel old. I move well. I bike ride, I swim. I hold down a job (well, at least at the moment). But everywhere around me the coronavirus and the media have me in the geriatric category – over the hill, one foot in the grave, nearly about to kick the bucket, drop off my perch, all the euphemisms for nearly dead.

Now I am also described as elderly. Elderly. I feel affronted being labelled like this, the connotations of helplessness surely not applying to me.

When the virus first appeared, my sick joke early on was that this was all a millennial plot to knock us baby boomers off so they could inherit a house or multiples thereof. But, of course, that was tasteless and unfounded. One day they will inherit our assets, but not *just yet*.

Everywhere the media are telling us to stay inside, confine ourselves to our houses, so we don’t get exposed because our age places us at higher risk. I

look at the statistics and shake my head in horror and disbelief. The statistics in this case do not lie.

This is all very confronting stuff, not just on a health, existential level, but also on our perception of ourselves, our very way of defining who we are.

I dare say that none of us feel our age, that we see ourselves quite differently from the strange face that peers out from the mirror in the morning, or that we catch a glimpse of in the shop window as we hurry by. Surely, we aren’t that thin/fat/stooped/grey-haired figure? We think we are still in our 20s, or at least young of mind, agile enough to do a sudoku, to hold our own in a discussion with our adult children and to manage our daily lives, fiercely independent and capable.

Yet a new reality knocks on the door and some adjustments have to be made. Perhaps it doesn’t matter what label is applied to us as long as we stay safe and stay alive. Perceptions after all are just in our head.

**Source; Your Life Choices....Dianne Motton**

## A Letter From "Ellen Churchill"

After reading the last edition of 'Water off' I wanted to reply to it because it reminded me my husband and I were involved in some great things and with great people.

I do remember 48 Station, Frank was there for a time. We made lots of friends and there were parties for the kids at Christmas time. The McKimms lived in the back of the station. We even went to their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding celebration.

The next subject is 30 happy years. To think what the foundation members would have been arguing about the members from the MFB, CFA, UFU with lots of names including Frank Churchill.

Then the 75<sup>th</sup> CFA Birthday. Well done the CFA and all the firefighters in that area.

Then after reading Colin's story I decided to tell my happy life before and after being the wife of a firefighter.

Now it's Patricia Cameron-Hill. Hello Pat, long time no see. There are a lot of oldies still around, still remaining and still reading 'Water Off'. I wonder what Camo and Churchy are up to now a days.

I am going to tell you all a happy and loving story of Frank and Ellen Churchill. Ellen was born in South Melbourne, Frank was born in Port Melbourne. We met when we were both 17 years old. When we met Frank had started being a butcher and I worked in a fruit shop.

On Saturday night my father walked myself and a friend "Phyl" up to South Melbourne town hall to a dance. When we were inside with the music going a young good-looking boy came over and asked me to dance and that was the beginning of our life together. We danced and danced. We were engaged at 18, married at 19 and had our first child at 20. We lived in a flat at Albert Park, until I was pregnant again we moved back to Port Melbourne where our second child was born, the first child was 2 years 2 months. Then guess what we were pregnant again, so that was 3 in three years we were both only 23.

Then our life changed, Frank went looking for a new job as a butcher, as he was walking through the city he was passing No 1 Fire Station, when a voice called out 'Where are you going Churchy?' It was his footy mate

Fred Goldsmith, he was a Swan's player, Frank replied – going for a job and Fred said – come in here we are looking for you, Frank went in and that was the start of his MFB firefighting job. The funny thing was that Frank and I always barracked for the Red and White back then and still do.



*Ellen and Frank proudly with their 5 children!*

Then we were lucky to get a brick commission house in Broadmeadows. That we lived in for the next 50 years. That was the best 50 years of our lives at that stage we had 4 children. Four years later we all drove to Queensland for a holiday, it was great. When we got home I was sick, I went to the Doctor and guess what I was pregnant with number 5, our 5<sup>th</sup> in 10 years 3 girls 2 boys. Frank then went to Dr UpJohn and that was the last one.

We had gone around our country a couple of times with our kids and when Frank retired we went overseas. We saw the other side of the world, too much to tell you about everywhere we went, we were away for 5 ½ months, we made lots of new friends.

When we got back Frank went to a meeting and when he got home, he said: 'Guess what the Police and Fire Brigade games are on soon would you like to go to Memphis USA?' So of course we were travelling again.

Frank and 3 other firefighters swam in the Senior Relay and they won gold for Australia, what a team. It was a great story. There is not time for every story of that trip. We went to Graceland to see where Elvis lived and loved seeing all his cars and planes. Our travels took us to many places in the US and we made many friends, whom we taught to dance and sing Aussie songs. We ended the trip in Alaska. By the time we got home we had been way for another 5½ months. In all, out of 15 months we had been gone for 11 months, not bad for 2 Aussie Oldies and still loving each other.

We were 76 years old when Frank passed away nearly 14 years ago. SO we will be the big 90 this year. We have 14 Grandchildren and 19 Great Grandchildren. A wonderful life together and for so much of it, Frank was a proud firefighter and I was proud firefighter's wife.

## After Shift Golf

Off duty frires, Jim and Bill are out golfing. Jim slices his ball deep into a wooded ravine. He grabs his 7-iron and proceeds down the embankment into the ravine in search of his ball. The brush is quite thick, but Jim searches diligently and suddenly he spots something shiny. As he gets closer, he realizes that the shiny object is in fact a 7-iron in the hands of a skeleton lying near an old golf ball.

Jim excitedly calls out to his golfing partner: "Hey Bill, come here; I've got some trouble down here."

Bill comes running over to the edge of the ravine and calls out: "What's the matter Jim? Everything OK?"

Jim shouts back in a nervous voice: "Throw me my 8-iron! Apparently, you can't get out of here with a 7."



## “Gone But Not Forgotten”

### Alan Hodgkin

It is with great sadness that I advise of the passing of Mr Alan Hodgkin, former Captain of the Bayswater Fire Brigade, on Monday June 29<sup>th</sup> 2020.

Alan joined Boronia Fire Brigade in December 1967 before becoming the inaugural Captain of Bayswater Fire Brigade in 1969 until 1973.

He continued as a firefighter until 1998, then later from 2003 to 2013, serving the Brigade as an active member until his passing.

Alan was a member of staff from 1973 until 1994, he served at many locations during his career and retired from the career ranks in 1994 as a Fire Officer 2 at Boronia Fire Station.



*Alan seated in the Bayswater Pumper named after him.*

Image; Bayswater Firefighters

Alan also worked as an Instructor across a number of Districts from 1996 to 2001, and as Infrastructure Maintenance Officer serving District 13 Brigades from 2003 to 2005.

Alan's awards over his time in CFA included the National Emergency Medal for the 2009 fires, the National Medal with 3<sup>rd</sup> Clasp, the Australian Fire Service Medal in 2018, and his 50 CFA Life Member Service Medal in 2019.

His passion and dedication to CFA and Brigades will be greatly missed.

Our thoughts are with Alan's family as well as the members of Bayswater Fire Brigade during this time.

### Les (Leslie) David Napper Reg 1845

It is with regret we advise of the passing of Senior Firefighter Les Napper. Born in Sale, Victoria in 1935, Les joined the Navy at 17 and was proudly part of the Royal Australian Navy's contingent at the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. He fought in the Korean War and the Malayan Emergency. In all, Les travelled overseas 13 times in his 10 year naval career.

After ten years at sea, Les joined MFB in March 1962, when shifts went from 84 hours per week to 40.

Les remembered fighting large fires at Coode Island in 1991, the wool stores in North Melbourne and rope factories in Campbellfield. He also remembered the old Toorak Theatre, which, when occupied by the Australian Ballet, caught fire in 1963.

He said it was a frightening experience, with walls



collapsing and the orchestra pit filling with water, putting firefighters at risk. He remembered the days before Breathing Apparatus (BA). Les spent approximately 20 years of his 43-year career on C Shift at FS01 (Eastern Hill) before finishing on C Shift at FS24 (Malvern).

Les was known for being an ardent Collingwood supporter and was also a great person to show you how to tie knots. Les was focused on fitness, and at 65 years of age was still a member of three tennis clubs and enjoyed cycling and travel.

Les retired in May 2005 at 70 years of age and was a regular and much-loved volunteer at the Fire Services Museum. He is survived by his wife Geri.

Image; Barbara McCumisky

### Dependable Leslie David Napper

When I joined in '73, I had the pleasure of meeting  
Les Napper

He wasn't an ex-army man he wasn't a sapper  
Les was an Australian Navy man who went to war  
Korea it was and today it's much more  
A navy man he was for 10 good years – he was happy  
and proud

He was softly spoken and was never loud  
I met him when I was young and green and he was not  
As he was a naval man he could always tie a good knot

Les was kind, considerate and liked a joke  
And he told me he never did own a Mini Moke

He was young and saw the world

And came back to Melbourne to serve again  
This time it wasn't on a big grey ship, it was a shiny red  
fire truck

Les Napper a fine gentleman he always was  
Through thick and thin he had your back  
At a fire, in the smoke he was there and that's a fact  
He pinged the tennis ball on his days off  
He loved his tennis, but wasn't a toff  
However, the love of his life was his lovely wife Geri  
She came along and he wanted to sing out loud a song  
He was so happy and contented in his senior years  
I wish I had seen him for one last time  
It wasn't to be and the loss is mine  
Les was humorous, generous and had a great smile  
He was passionate, generous and tough as a tile  
Les was brave and joined the fires at age twenty seven  
He won't be forgotten, he's at peace now and no doubt  
in heaven.

Col Harris

## C.F.A. Valor Medal Recipient

**MR. J .E. RYAN – Willaura Rural Brigade**

The CFA's highest award for bravery the Valor Medal, was awarded to Willaura Rural brigade member, Mr Joe Ryan. Only in exceptional cases is the Valor medal awarded. Joe was only the 8<sup>th</sup> firefighter to be so honoured.

The honour bestowed came as a result of his actions at a house fire in the early morning hours of the 21<sup>st</sup> October, 1976, at great risk to his own life, Joe entered the burning building three times, rescuing 5 children, the babysitter and the family dog.

Joe explained how he was woken by unusual brightness in his house and realised the house across Avery Street was on fire. He knew the children's father was working night shift and their mother was in hospital having a baby. The children, Leonie, Mark, Pauline, Wayne and Peter Cordwell, were aged between 2 and 10.

After dashing into the blazing home several times, Joe rescued all but one. The young babysitter and two of the children were easy as they were in a part of the house not yet on fire, but the others were already overcome by the smoke and heat. As they were found, Joe passed them out to his wife Mary, who took them across the road and placed them on a mattress on their own front veranda.

Making yet another try, Joe stumbled across a whimpering bundle on the floor of the burning house. He scooped up the bundle and rushed outside to find it was the family dog.

Entry to the children's bedroom was through a window and across a bed. In the smoke and chaos, Joe hadn't realised there was a bed bunk above. Back in he went and found young Peter unconscious and in a bad way.

After rescuing Peter, it took a combined effort of the brigade's communications officer Harold Hockley, a first aid instructor, together with Nurse Elaine Conboy, Doctor Handscombe and policeman Merv Goodson to revive the young lad with mouth to mouth resuscitation (recollections from Joe Ryan).

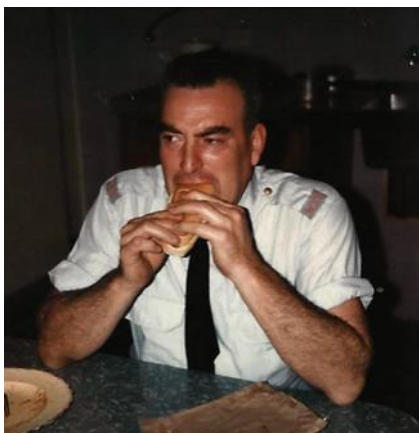
Mr Ryan credited his CFA training as a teenager at Penshurst for saving the lives of the last 3 children and said he would do it again if in the same situation.

Mr Ryan was presented the Valor medal by CFA's Deputy Chairman, Mr Col Diffy at a dinner in Willaura, attended by 90 CFA officials and district people. Among those present was Maree Sawitsch, the babysitter pulled from the burning house by Joe Ryan.

"It is with sadness that CFA advise the passing of Mr Joe Ryan of the Willaura Fire Brigade on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> of April 2020

## James William (Bill) Thomas

**B**orn 17th December 1932 in Boulder Western Australia. Bill's family come to Melbourne in 1935 and settled in Hawthorn. Bill went to school at St John's in Hawthorn and on to St Ignatius Richmond where he took up barracking for the Tigers rather than the Hawks.



Aged about 14, Bill got a job in a wool factory then moved on to French Polishing at Gleeson's furniture in Richmond.

After completing National Service at Puckapunyal, a cousin, Norval Wynne talked Bill into joining the Fire Brigade. Bill had 26 years at Eastern Hill, Templestowe, Kew, and Hawthorn, retiring on 2nd September 1982.

Bill spent 8-9 years with the 12th Hawthorn Scout Group attended many camps to places like Lorne, Wonga Park and as Assistant Scout Master took a group to Adelaide where the heat reached 42 degrees. He attended with the troop Greystanes Janboree Sydney.

In 2013, Bill's ill health forced him into Aged Care (Strathdon Age Well) in Forrest Hill where he enjoyed the company of the staff, visitors and other clients.

Bill passed away in his sleep on Friday 13th March 2020.

## Stan Nicol

From Wayne Nicol (Stan's Son)



**D**ad was always extremely proud of his service to the Community of Warrnambool and surrounds. Part of his story was very much intertwined with "integration". My father was the first full time employed O.I.C. at

Warrnambool which had previously been entirely a volunteer organisation.

Change always comes with both costs and benefits. He earned the trust and admiration of the men who had dedicated themselves selflessly to community service. I am sure that didn't come easily. At the end of his tenure Warrnambool was an integrated fire brigade where paid emergency service responders worked side by side with the good will, good spirit and mutual respect of a solid base of valued volunteers. I am sure they must have been interesting times.

I feel rather proud that he will be remembered as part of the history of the Warrnambool Fire Brigade. His dedication to that job is quite a legacy. He was a role model to his family and I am sure, for those that remain, he will be remembered for service to community.

Wayne Nicol

Image; Warrnambool Fire Brigade



## 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**

### **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 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.

## **Where are they now?**

It is a topic we often talk about at reunions and other social events, have you seen or heard from so and so.

Many are old mates, ones we were on shift with or just stationed with. People we did recruits with or other courses.

Some have slipped of the radar!

However, I am sure many of you know such people.

Its about time we chased up some of these people and had a chat, many are not on social media, but most have a phone.

The Retired Members Division of the Union is trying to....**Recognise and record any of these past Firefighters.**

It is intended to have a section on the RMD portal, and the Magazine (Senior Fire Fighter) with a current picture and one of when they served. Also, some relevant information about the person.

### **We need your help to make this work!**

So, if you can reach out to these people and assist with this process, it will help with our history. You know these people more than we do, so how about some assistance.

Forward your information to Glenn Marks or Russell Hawthorn.

Glenn can be contacted on 0403026830  
[markskateers@hotmail.com](mailto:markskateers@hotmail.com)

Russell can be contacted on 0409187945  
[rjph@aapt.net.au](mailto:rjph@aapt.net.au)

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

### MFB

Employee Assistance Coordinator

Irina Tchernitskaia – PH: 0407 665 174

Email:- [ITCHERNITSKAIA@mfb.vic.gov.au](mailto:ITCHERNITSKAIA@mfb.vic.gov.au)

Peer Coordinators

Chloe Henderson PH: 0417 538 289

Scott Darcy PH: 0429 771 849

Email:- [sdarcy@mfb.vic.gov.au](mailto:sdarcy@mfb.vic.gov.au)

Retirees

John Howe PH: 9729 0984

### CFA

Career Peer Coordinator Trent Egan

PH: 0448 071 299

Email:- [Careerpeercoordinator@cfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:Careerpeercoordinator@cfa.vic.gov.au)

**Copy deadline for Water Off Magazine  
for next edition is July 17 2020.**





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## Geelong Firey's Muster

*C.F.A. – M.F.B. – VIVA - AVALON  
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 Smorgasbord Lunch  
 On the 4th Tuesday of March & October  
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 Members, Wives, Partners,  
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**Contact:**

**Peter Lang 5275 6039**  
 To receive Mail out notification



## Download the 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.

## 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**

# UFU RETIRED MEMBERS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

**Place, Date and Time yet to be announced**

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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