

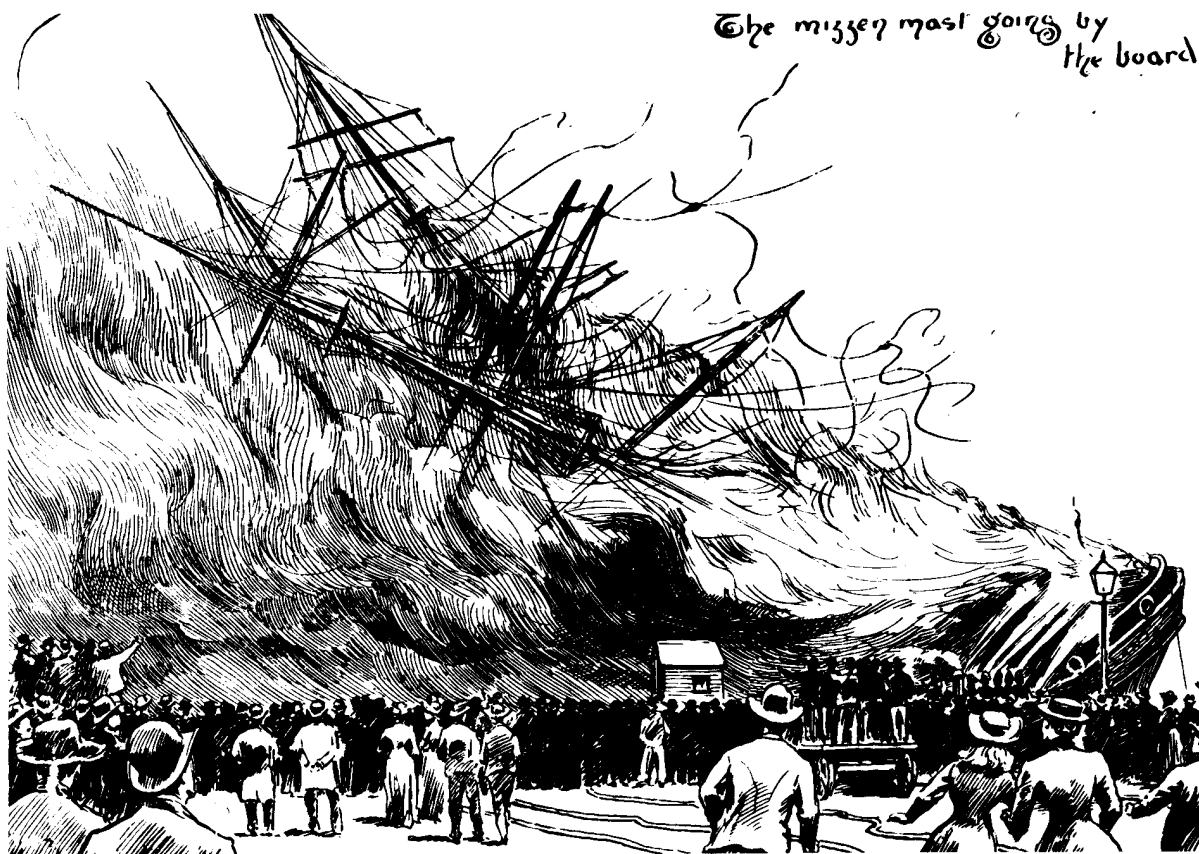
“WATER OFF!”

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

FEBRUARY 98 VOL. 2 No. 1

1895 ~ THE “HILARIA” BURNS

Barbara McCumisky continues with her historical series of significant fires that occurred during the formative years of the MFB. “Hilaria”, a jinxed ship? MFB District Superintendent Gee killed.
(Full story page 14)



E.S.S.S. OFFERS TRANSFERS BACK INTO BENEFICIARY ACCOUNT!

ESSS is now offering all existing beneficiary account holders the opportunity to *transfer* back any part of their ESSS benefit that is currently 'rolled over' elsewhere.

The opportunity has also been extended to all former contributors who may have rolled over their total ESSS lump sum elsewhere.

If your investment is not earning you a good return elsewhere, place it somewhere where it will. To investigate this opportunity contact John Kilkenny, Peter Ward or Alan Grimwood.

**NOTE; New address for E.S.S.S. Level 6, Building 2, 4 Riverside Quay, Southbank 3006.
Tel: (03) 9867 5788 Fax: (03) 9820 2769**

“GENERAL MEETING”

Notice is hereby given of our next General Meeting to be held at the Fitzroy Bowling Club, 1030 Hours, Wednesday February 18, 1998

AGENDA ITEMS.

- **Minutes of last General meeting.**
- **President’s Report.**
- **Secretary/Treasurer’s Report.**
- **Election of Public Officer**
- **General Business.**

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

Lunch and beverages will be provided as usual. @ \$3 per head.
Drinks at bar prices.

**JOHN BERRY
SECRETARY/TREASURER**

RFA OFFICE BEARERS AND GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President; Don Brennan
V. President; Ern Tamme
Sec. / Treasurer; John Berry
Gen. Committee;
 Ian Fowler
 John Laverick
 Bob McNeal
 Ross Medwin
 John Wallace
Auditor; Theo Teklenburg

VALE

Tom O’Brien, MFB
 John Hill, MFB
 Gordon Prosser, MFB
 Henry Bowyer, MFB
 We offer our condolences to the families of these men who have gone on to a higher duty.

SICK LIST

Ray Dent; Ray is at home and would like to see visitors, but please ring first.
 Jack Smith
 Jim Nevins.
 We wish them a speedy recovery from their

R.F.A. MEETING DATES

Enter these important dates in your diary.
 February 18, General meeting.
 April 19, Reunion Day Luncheon at T/ College.
 May 19, General Meeting.
 August 19, “ “
 November 18, Annual General Meeting.

QUOTE

I remember my youth and the feeling that will never come back any more - the feeling that I could last forever, outlast the sea, the earth,

DO YOU HAVE A STORY?

If you do, let’s hear about it. We don;t want your life story, but if you have an anecdote, be it serious, amusing, or just something you want to share with us. If you think it would be of interest to our members, send it in.
 Don’t worry about your spelling or grammar, none of us are Rhodes Scholars, we can tidy it up on the computer. If you have a photograph to go with the story, we can scan it and send it back straight away.

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As another year has ended, I hope all our members have had a Happy Christmas and received your Mercedes Sports or other car from Santa.

At this time of the year, some members of the MFB and the RFA, keep a tradition going that has been part of the Brigade for 60 years. On Christmas Eve at the Carols by Candlelight at the Myer Music Bowl, a few current and retired members and their families deliver to the stalls candles, matches, programmes etc. In a recent clipping from the Herald Sun it was recorded that the MFB Band conducted by Horace Stevens was the first band 60 years ago. If you would like to help at the Carols or at the St Kilda Junction on Good Friday, please give me a ring.

I would like to thank our Committee for their service during the past year and for standing for office again. I would also like to welcome John Wallace, retired CFA Geelong, on to the Committee.

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on the 18th February at the Fitzroy Bowling Club and with your spouses at our Annual Luncheon at the MFB Training College in April, (notice and reply form on page 15 of this edition).

I wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

DON BRENNAN
President

SECRETARY / TREASURER'S REPORT



With the festive season behind us, we now have a fresh year with its many and varied new challenges. I would like to start the first report for the year with something positive. Almost every day in the tabloids we are constantly being told by the Media, Business or Government that everything we do in regard to money is wrong, they almost have a Calvinistic doctrine in that regard. I believe it is time to stop this preoccupation with the idea that something must make money to be correct, no social consciences. If we look at some of these facts, the island we live on is the smallest and driest continent on the planet, yet our farmers are able through good farm management, supply food to many parts of the world, not just for money.

Per head of population the contribution made in Medicine, Arts, Research and the protection of other countries, not just for money, is second to no one.

The way people of this nation respond in time of emergency whether here or overseas is amazing. From my experiences overseas I have become acutely aware and appreciative of the infrastructure and human rights our forebears put in place and protected for us not just for money, no we are not perfect and do make mistakes however, I am very proud to be called an Australian when visiting other countries. Not because of the Media, Businesses, Politicians, or their doctrine, but because of Joan and John Citizen and I salute each and every one of you.

Since the last newsletter a number of significant issues have occurred. We now have on the Committee a Retired CFA career member John Wallace, John, we welcome you to the committee. The end of year Reunion dinner put on by U.F.U Social Committee at the St Kilda Town Hall was again a great success, the members of the Union and their partners are to be congratulated for the effort they put in to ensure the day is successful for retired members of the Union, (Letter of appreciation forwarded).

(Cont. over)

(Cont.)

Bill Webber ex U.F.U Secretary, Life Member of U.F.U and his Better half Mert attended the dinner their attendance was greatly appreciated by the people present as the applause clearly showed.

We now have been given permission from the CFA for retired members from the Geelong area to use the Corio Fire Station Gymnasium (Contact Peter Lang, 365 Bacchus Marsh Road, Lara, 3212 Telephone: 5275 6039) (Letter of appreciation forwarded).

Peter Lang has also accepted the position as adviser to the Committee and members regarding Superannuation amendments which may effect members.

A tentative arrangement has been made with one of our members who has undergone Palliative Care instruction, to assist in setting up a welfare type group.

Members who were active members of the U. F. U on retirement would be pleasantly surprised to receive a Christmas gift of a diary and card with the Firefighters prayer from the *Vic Branch* of the U.F.U. Well done Peter Marshall.

At the 20-8-97 meeting we had the Chief Fire Officer of the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services, Mr J. Godfredson speak about changes that were occurring in the service. Unfortunately one such change has directly effected Jeff, with the appointment of a Mr Robert Solly of Victoria as C.E.O., (currently on secondment to the South Australian Public Service). Mr Solly will take up his position at a date to be fixed in February 1998. The R.F.A wish Mr R Solly well in his new position. In the future the Committee will approach Mr Solly to either address one of our quarterly meetings and/or supply an article for the Newsletter at a time that is suitable to him.

The R.F.A also wish Jeff Godfredson every success for the future, Jeff is a great stalwart of our Association. With this appointment we hope we are not going to lose his support.

Items of Interest from our last meeting of the R. F.A 1911-1197

Item 1: This was the annual general meeting and we had over fifty in attendance.

Item 2: Presidents report included 1 minutes silence

Item 3: Secretary/Treasurer Report see financial report on opposite page.

Item 4: President vacated the Chair to allow for election of new office bearers and committee members.

Officers of the Committee are as follows;

- President..** Don Brennan
- Vice President:** Ern Tamme
- Sec/Treasurer.** John Berry
- General Committee:** Ian Fowler
- John Laverick
- Bob McNeil
- Ross Medwin
- John Wallace

Auditor: Theo Teklenburg

Item 5: Meeting closed and motion was carried the meeting reopen to discuss general business.

Item 6: A motion was moved to increase the Annual Subscription after a number of speakers spoke for and against, the motion was put and not carried.

Item 7: A motion was moved and seconded the charge of \$2 for lunch and beverages be increased to \$3 carried,

Meeting closed 11:55 am.

Item 8: Members should be aware that the Federal Government in the 1997/98 Budget identified changes in the Superannuation/Pension area, most

of these changes are proposed to take effect on 1st

July 1998 make sure you have the correct information regarding your personal situation, see

Department of Social Security or Financial Adviser.

RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA VICTORIAN BRANCH

Statement of Income and Expenditure for year ended 30 June 1997

INCOME	\$
Members subscriptions	4,042.00
Badge sales	30.00
Socials	123.00
Joining fees	50.00
Interest received	488.50
	4,733.50
Opening balance Credit Union 1 July 1996	8,452.72
	13,186.22
 Expenditure	
Postage & telephone	866.45
Catering	987.00
Magazine expenses	237.15
Computer purchase	2,872.00
Software purchases	125.00
AGM and meeting expenses	1,347.80
Donation	1,000.00
Sundries	463.00
Government charges	19.19
	7,917.59
Closing balance Credit Union 30 June 1997	5,268.63
	13,186.22

Bank Reconciliation

Main account	588.16
Term Deposit	4,680.47
	<u>5,268.63</u>

Statement prepared and figures correct from information supplied

J. Berry

Treasurer

T. Teklenburg

Auditor

Up to the age of 65 there are approximately 5 people in every 100 who are affected with Alzheimer's disease. By 80 years of age Alzheimer's disease affects 25 people in every 100. The incidence of people acquiring Alzheimer's disease continues to increase with each year of life.

ALZHEIMER'S! ARE WE ALL AT RISK?

WHAT IS ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE?

Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia. It is an irreversible brain disorder in previously well middle-aged and older people. It is a brain disease and results in permanent memory loss and confusion. It is not part of the ageing process.

Alzheimer's disease usually has a gradual onset where people may have problems remembering recent events, and difficulty performing familiar tasks or learning new ones. There may also be changes in personality and behaviour, impaired judgement, or in following directions. People who are affected with this disease may believe they are living in the past.

At the beginning of this century a German neurologist (Alois Alzheimer) described the brain changes which are characteristic of the disease which is named after him. These specific changes can only be seen by microscope and their nature is complex. They result in large numbers of brain cells (particularly neurons in the brain's outer layer) slowly dying.

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

Maybe you have a friend or relative whom you are concerned about - someone who may be missing appointments, blaming others for mistakes, getting lost on the way to work, or forgetting to turn the tap off over the kitchen sink? You know something significant is wrong - could it be Alzheimer's disease?

There are many reasons for forgetting apart from Alzheimer's disease. The early signs of this disease are very subtle and vague. You are probably feeling very worried and wondering what to do next.

WHERE DO I BEGIN?

A person with dementia may not recognise his or her problems. Therefore, if someone you know is showing signs of changes in mental ability, encourage him or her to see a doctor. Family and friends will be required in helping to diagnose Alzheimer's disease and are needed for ongoing support.

- Talk over your concerns with family and friends.
- Visit your local doctor to discuss the situation

He/she may refer the affected person to a

specialist. (Geriatrician, Psychogeriatrician, Neurologist, or Aged Care Assessment Team), or order tests to assist in making an accurate diagnosis.

Contact the Alzheimer's Association for information and advice.

Much can be done to make life more pleasant for you and the person with Alzheimer's disease. It is acknowledged that caring for such a person can be a difficult and demanding task. There are no simple rules to follow that will work every time but it is usually better to know what to expect.

Understanding the nature of the disease may help to dispel some of your fears and worries. It will also enable you to decide how best you can help the person with dementia.

WHO IS AT RISK?

Old age, regardless of how it is specifically defined, is now being experienced by more people for a longer period of time than ever before. If we live long enough we could all eventually develop dementia.

FAMILY HISTORY

If you have a parent or a brother or sister who has developed Alzheimer's disease before the age of 60 your chances of developing the disease are increased. If a parent, brother or sister developed Alzheimer's disease in his/her eighties, your chances of developing the disease are the same as for the rest of the population.

GENES AND HEREDITY

A great deal of research is being undertaken to unravel the secrets of genetic codes. Some people may have the genes which predispose them to Alzheimer's disease. However, there has been a situation where one identical twin has developed Alzheimer's disease, while the other twin hasn't, which highlights the complexity and puzzle of this disease.

WHO CAN HELP?

Alzheimer's Association Victoria offers support, information and referral services, counselling, education, and self-help groups to everyone interested in and affected by this disease.

The Association has a Telephone Information and referral service manned by a team of trained and dedicated carers on hand from 10am to 4pm. each weekday. If you need

BELIEVE IT OR NOT!

Another fishy story?

Fish stories come and go and I dare say that many of our members, when they read this, will say, "not another one that got away", but this is a story with a different twist to it - almost a hole in one.

I was holidaying on the banks of the Murray River at Yarrowonga during January with my family. Most days I went fishing in the river with some mixed results. But on this particular day I landed a very nice 2.5kg Murray Cod - a nice fish indeed - I was very pleased.

After the usual showing of the fish to my fellow anglers and the members of the family, including my grandchildren, who consider that Pop is almost a wizard to catch a fish that big. I proceeded with the next job which was to clean and fillet the fish. To my surprise and astonishment, when I cut it open, I discovered a golf ball in its stomach.

Now I know the cod has a large mouth, but to see the golf ball in its stomach certainly surprised us all.

The golf ball is in perfect condition, so any of you golfers that have played the river course at Yarrowonga - Mulwala Golf Course and have lost the odd ball during play, if you care to contact me, it might be your ball.

Ross Medwin



And when I opened it up I found a golfer inside, - - still trying to chip out!!!!

RETIRE ED UPDATE

Congratulations to Basil Smith

Basil Smith has just been notified that he is a recipient of an Australia Day Award in the City of Deakin. Basil is being recognised for his active involvement in a number of voluntary activities he participates in in the City of Deakin. Foremost among these is his role in the RETIRE ED Program, the MFESB's initiative which involves retired fire officers speaking to senior citizens groups about fire safety.

Basil will receive his award at a ceremony at the City of Whitehorse Offices on Tuesday, January 27.

Senior Citizens Week

Senior Citizens Week is fast approaching and will take place on March 15-22. An important part of the week is the three day Seniors Expo, held from Tuesday, March 17, to Thursday, March 19, at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre, Southbank. Open each day from 9:00-5:00, for a \$3.00 entry fee you can mingle with exhibitors from more than 100 leading business, government and community organisations. One of the highlights of the Expo is the RETIRE ED stand, always a

popular meeting place for seniors wanting to learn about fire safety. Stop by the stand at any time during the expo and chat with the Retire Ed Officers about the latest in fire safety..... or the last time you were on shift together!

RETIRE ED

The members of the RETIRE ED team had another successful year in 1997. They delivered 114 lectures to 5000 audience members throughout the year, bringing the total of their lectures since the start of the program in 1993 to over 550. Some of the highlights of the year were the Seniors Expo and Open Day at Eastern Hill Fire Station during Senior Citizens Week and the partnership developed with a number of MFESB bilingual employees, delivering lectures to migrant senior citizens.

With a number of fatal fires last year involving older people living on their own, there will be a number of initiatives introduced this year to try to reach these people, their carers, neighbours and family members to protect them against a fire emergency developing.

If any retired firefighter would like to become a part of the RETIRE ED program, ring Sharon

Do you remember

Templestowe Nursery Fire - Friday 31 January 1964

At 1555 hours numerous Triple 0 calls were received at Eastern Hill Watchroom to a building fire at the corner of Foote Street and Mont View Road, Templestowe, opposite the Templestowe Cemetery.

At 1557 Surrey Hills Hose carriage who were mobile at the time, responded and on arrival found the building had collapsed and was virtually completely destroyed by fire. Word back at 1609 requested Camberwell and Kew Stations to come on.

Obvious confusion in regards the boundary between the CFA & MFB resulted in the call never being relayed to Dandenong Fire Station Watchroom, which at the time handled all CFA calls received by the MFB, *Thus a communication foul up occurred, - what's new*

As a result of the fire seven (7) children aged between seventeen (17) months and thirty (30) months were burned to death.

The burn injuries sustained made facial identification impossible and the deceased were identified by the clothing they were wearing, thus if the child had a yellow jumper on when taken to the Nursery and fragments of yellow wool were located on the body remains it was deduced that this was the child.

The identification statement made by the parent was a virtual repeat of :

*" The deceased was my child,
I have known the child all of its life,
I identified the child by the clothing found on
the body*

The circumstances surrounding this occurrence revealed some interesting points

* Local CFA Brigades never attended the call as the CFA never received notification of the incident

* As the call occurred within the CFA area it was the responsibility of the CFA to conduct the fire cause investigation and assist at the

Coronial Inquiry

* the proprietor of the Nursery was assisted by her daughter and son in law

* it was unregistered at the location

* they had previously conducted a nursery at Caulfield that had been deregistered

*by some administrative quirk they still received the free milk allocation for the Caulfield operation which was transported to Templestowe

*the children, in excess of forty (40) were collected from the Windsor and St Kilda area.

*the parents had no knowledge of the location where their children were taken to, all they



*Total destruction of Nursery
Police standing at location where each
deceased child was found.*

knew was that a V/W Combi Van collected the children at approximately 0500 and returned them after 1800

* the building which housed the children was formerly a fruit packing shed with an earth floor that had been ingeniously converted by the use of V/W crates into a basically habitable dwelling.

* due to the heat of the day, 103 F, (41 C) , the majority of the children had been located in the shade of the orchard on the property, thus there were only the deceased left in the destroyed building.

* the Coroner in his summing up found *I must per-force be bringing in an open findings in this case but indicate in my summing up that my inclinations are towards the cause of the - fire bring an electrical -faul t of unidentified character*

* the proprietors were each fined ten pounds



TRAVELLING WITH SILVER

Although it's only about 40k x 50k, the island of the Republic of Singapore still manages to change its face every month with the closure of an old hotel or the opening of a new one, but while the commercial and some residential areas have changed rapidly, there are plenty of untouched spots still to found in some of Singapore's original settlements.

The governments modernisation and development programs have increased the standard of living for thousand of its residents but some of the local colour has gone. The government is aware of this and has gone to great lengths to create tourist attractions.

If you want to really "do Singapore", give yourself at least a week.

"PAULAU SENTOSA", meaning "Island of Peace and Tranquillity", but known as "Santosa Island", is a great attraction. This tropical resort island is half a kilometre south of Singapore. And while there are many spots to escape the never ending shops, why not look to the temples of the island people.

At present, many of the founding temples and mosques are still to be found on their original sites, but this is changing rapidly as the value of land increases. Since the population is predominantly Chinese most of the temples are Buddhist or Taoist. These range from one room huts with a shrine to monasteries inhabited by monks and nuns still practising.

The best kept temple is not in Chinatown, but down Serangoon Road in Little India. On the opposite side of Serangoon Road and a little further on is the "Temple of a Thousand Lights". Inside, a 15 Metre high Buddha is

covered by a thousand light globes.

Singapore is famous for it's "shop-houses". These buildings with a shop on the ground floor and living quarters above are the result of regulations drawn up by Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles who selected Singapore as a British naval base in 1819. The idea was that the dwellings could withstand the frequent storms that hit the area.

Along North Bridge Road is the Arab community. Time here seems to have stood still, as you will see the residents with the latest watch on their arm but the fashions are straight from Ali Baba.

The East India Company provided a grant to build their mosque in 1820 but was demolished 100 years later to make way for the present building which is renowned for it's architectural beauty. A good time to visit is mid-day Friday when large crowds come for prayers. Just don't tell them your name is Rubenstein.

The shop-houses of Little India have the best selection of Indian goods outside of India. I can vouch for the shopping in Arab Street where all goods are reasonably priced from jewellery to food to haircuts in a chair outside on the footpath. Even grave stones are available but a bit heavy in excess baggage.

The main shopping area of Singapore with designer labels and such can be a bit pricey.

The place is the cleanest place you can find, so don't get caught littering, \$500 fine first offence. Barely any crime, I walked in all areas, day and night, with no worries. The beer, (Anchor or Tiger) is beautiful, but can be expensive, depending where you drink it.

**Happy Travelling,
Silver**

FIRE SERVICES BOWLS CLUB NEWS

A thank-you to those members who responded to the challenge from South Australia to retake the trophy and return it to it's rightful place in Victoria. This challenge will be played out at Webbcona S.A. on March 4th.

We had a good turn-out at Sunbury on Jan. 8th where we gave them a thorough hiding. President Ted said, "If they can't find our shield, Sunbury may have to replace it". Their members turned the place upside-down and found the shield and have promised to update

it.

The committee's move to offer free membership for one year to all new members has proved successful with ten new members accepting our offer.

George Stevens, a retired CFA member, has offered members a game in an invitation event he is organising in Morwell on February 8th.

UPCOMING GAMES

Feb. 12, Thursday, Kingsbury 1230 Hours

BROWN'S BITS

From our roving correspondent of the north west of our fair city

I feel it's time to congratulate the committee of the RFA. These people donate a lot of their time and effort to the running of the organisation and I'm afraid it's all taken for granted by a lot of us.

Peter Holton was a major driving force, and until he became ill, was the backbone of the RFA. The three main people now carrying the load, President Don Brennan, Secretary/Treasurer John Berry, and Editor John Laverick are doing an excellent job.

I first met Don Brennan in the early sixties when I was a "Subby" at 52 Stn. Forty Eight Stn. was the District Stn. in "G" District. We were then on the 56 hour system. I think it was Ray Holt who was sick and I had to replace him. On entering the firemen's mess I found "Barge" and another firey playing "knuckles". This involved punching fist to fist till one gave in. With knuckles bleeding Don's opponent called it quits. My Comment, "you pair of bastards are mad". Years later, Don told me the only one to outlast him was Ron "The General" Grant.

John Berry, why he got the nickname "The Angry Ant" I don't know. In all the years I've known him he was always a happy, smiling good natured bloke. I spent 12 months in the Training College with him when we were S. O.1s and never saw him lose his cool. So if anyone knows the answer let us know. As Secretary, he is doing an excellent job. His organising of the College and other functions are first class.

John Laverick, what can I say? This man is one of nature's gentlemen and an absolute genius. He's an electrician by trade but can do every other trade better than most tradesmen. I've known John since he came out of recruits and I'm proud to say that he's been a personal friend ever since. His work as Editor is of professional standard.

John, "Colonel Clink" (Ken Clinkaberry) and I have worked around each others houses for years, anything needed doing we worked as a team. John "the brains", Clinka "the brickie" and me the labourer. In the early seventies, I decided to build an inground swimming pool. After getting council permits, I hired an excavator and had the hole dug. Then, the three of us did the boxing for the concrete. John laid it all out, we ordered the premix concrete and waited. My 100ft tape had the first 10 inches missing (a long story), so while we waited, Clinka decided to check the measurements, he comes charging in and said we are a foot out with our measurements. Panic, I order 7 yards of crushed rock to be delivered urgently. Puzzled, John said, "I'm sure I measured right", so he checked. Sure enough, the Colonel had forgotten to allow the first foot. Another phone call cancelling the crushed rock and Clinka barred from measuring.

So, to the committee and their Spouses, congratulations.

Editor's note;

We thank our correspondent for his comments.

LET'S GO RABBITING!

Early in the 1960's whilst stationed at No50 Station, one of the enjoyments of life was to go rabbiting and head of expertise in this department was Charley Blythe.

So Jack Cooper and myself agreed to go with Charley and our 3 sons & heirs in Jack's brand new Ford Zephyr, (just a few miles on the clock).

We arrived at our destination and proceeded to work some burrows. The young boys wandered off and were skylarking a little bit away from us while Charley was trying to hear the ferrets working. Charley lifted his head away from the hole and said his piece. He had just put his

head back over the hole when Cooper, being grumpy as usual, planted his foot on Charley's backside jamming his head in the hole, (bring on the shovel to dig him out).

Later the same day, the ferret stuck us up on the way back to the car for lunch, so Charley left Jack and myself in charge of ferret retrieving and took the three boys back to the car to boil the billy on the primus. When Jack and I returned, Charley had lit the primus in the back of Jack's new car, our two boys had eaten all our lunch and Charley and his son were calmly eating cold savs and toast.

We arrived home with a few pair of rabbits but Charley was banned with the primus on our next trip.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

A replacement pumper arrived at No. 19 station and after inspection and comments on size, air conditioning and electric windows, a wash seemed in order. Whilst cleaning the new appliance one of the leading fire fighters asked about the name on the door, F. Scott Valour Medal Winner 1958. After many inquiries the fire services museum of Victoria forwarded some newspaper clippings about a rescue in Hill Rd, North Balwyn by Frank Scott on 18th December, 1958.

Now Hill Rd is a short distance from the new No.19 station and the crew with their curiosity fully aroused decided to visit the scene of the rescue. Armed with photos and information they soon discovered the house where the rescued girl Joan Woods, lived. A knock on the door was answered by a grey haired lady who proved to be Joan's Mother. The obligatory cup of tea followed with the information that Frank Scott had continued an on-going relationship with the family. Mrs Woods then said that Joan Woods now lived in Darwin, but is currently in Melbourne on holidays.

No.19 stations crew thought what a wonderful idea it would be to invite Frank Scott in company with Joan Woods and her family to visit No.19 station and see the appliance named after him and reminisce about that fateful day nearly forty years ago.

Now Frank Scott is a very modest and

he insisted proceedings be kept very simple and low key.

And so it was arranged.

On Sunday 16th November 1997, The No. 8 Rolls Dennis Pump, the very same appliance that had turned out from No. 1 station thirty nine years before arrived at Joan's mothers house in Hill Rd, North Balwyn. The number 8 pump now retired and part of the fire museums fleet., driven by Fred Kerr a member of the fire museum, conveyed the group to No. 19 station.

There to greet them were other members of that rescue team now retired. After many photos and swapping of yarns and



Joan Woods seated beside her rescuer Frank Scott in the No.8 Pump that carried the rescue crew 39 years

THE RESCUE

On the 18 December, 1958, Joan Woods aged 5 years fell into a disused and flooded mine shaft in Hill Road North Balwyn.

Fireman Scott, after being lowered sixty feet down the shaft to water level, searched with his feet until he located the child.

On finding her he requested additional Lifeline to immerse himself and effect recovery. He had the presence of mind to bring the girl to the surface feet first thus allowing some water to escape from her lungs.

Frank Scott was awarded the Royal Humane Society Silver Medal and the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board awarded the Valor Medal.

HISTORY OF THE MFB VALOR MEDAL

The Metropolitan fire Brigades Board on the 15 January 1920 instructed the Chief officer Mr. H.B.Lee to report on the availability of obtaining a standard medal or other recognition to be awarded by the Board in cases of outstanding bravery.

Resulting from Mr Lee's recommendations the Metropolitan Fire Brigade Board Valor Medal was instituted during 1921.

Since its inception only 6 Valor Medals have been awarded.

"Its the way we have in the fire Brigade".



RACING TIPS

From "My Mates Cousin"

Our man has had such a bad run lately that his financial adviser is seriously considering life in a monastery.

Since he recovered from the gout he's been pedalling his bike to the local fishing hole to supplement the boiled potatoes he's been living on. But his fishing stories are as doubtful as his racing tips, (his Melbourne Cup suggestions didn't even get a start). The way he tells it, a Murray cod he hooked was so big that when he landed it, the water level dropped and all the boats for twenty kilometres in both directions ran aground.

However, he's had time to study the form guide and speak to people "in the know" and has

come up with the following "hayburners" to watch.

SECOND COMING, an ominous sounding name and returning from a spell. I just hope he's got the name the right way round.

SLY SANDRA, a Class 1 filly that's doing well. I've known some 1st class fillies in my time and they've always knocked me back at the crucial moment. But, our man assures us that this one will go all the way.

BEIJING SOY, trained in Adelaide by "Doctor" M.D. Moroney and has shown plenty of promise, watch this one. If it doesn't show up at it's next start we may find it on the menu at the local Chinese Restaurant.

"May the horse be with you"

Who can remember PP's ("Partially Paid" Firefighters employed by the MFB), their stations and the problems associated with them. The following article is our correspondent's recollection of -

P.P. STATIONS

There were two PP Stations that I can remember and there may have been one in McBain St. Altona. The two that I had dealings with were 44A (St Albans) and 44D (Deer Park).

44A was situated at the corner of East Esplanade and Main Rd. adjacent to the railway line, 44D was situated at the present site of 43 Station.

Both PP Stations were constructed of corrugated iron and fibro cement and consisted of engine room, store room and a single men's flat. The single man acted as caretaker and PP Firefighter.

44A's appliance carried water and I think it was a Dodge or a Bedford. 44D's Appliance was pretty ancient and looked like a hearse with a coffin on top.

Both PP Stations were turned out from the old 44 Station's watchroom by operating a cam switch which operated a siren at the PP Station. The first qualified PP driver ascertained by phone from the station where the call was and drove off with his crew (if any). Any PP's arriving at the station later could find out where the call was by contacting 44 Station by the Street Fire Alarm located out the front.

Drill was given to 44D on Tuesday night and 44A on Thursday night. The men were paid a

retainer plus so much for attending a call. If they were at a call for more than an hour they were paid pro-rata.

44D closed in 1967 and 44A in 1969.

The following are the names of all the PP's at these two stations.

44A; Tom Hewitt and son Kevin, Jim Hetheringham and son ?, Colin Pace, John Doherty and J. Zammit.

44D; Andy Ross, Keith Lawton, Jack Varty, Alan Charles, Peter DeLulio, Roger Lewis and John Hatchard.

Sir Clip

Has anyone else have stories to tell about PP



44D, (Deer park) PP Station (Circa?)
Photographer unknown, taken with a Box

THE 'HILARIA' FIRE ~ 1895

The Illustrated Australian News, ~ August 1, 1895.

The "Hilaria" caught fire while she was berthed at Port Melbourne's Town Pier on Sunday July 7, 1895. The watchman on the ship gave the alarm about 1am. Capt. Allen, his wife and child made a hasty escape from the burning ship.

C/F/O Stein arrived with five steamers, five hose carts and 36 men. D/C/O O'Brien went into the hold in a smoke jacket to investigate the blaze and succeeded in extinguishing it with a hose line. Some of the 200-300 cases of kerosene in the hold were damaged and the woodwork of the 'tween decks had been charred to a depth of 1/4 inch. Cause of this fire was a mystery.

On Tuesday July 9, the watchman again gave the alarm for fire soon after 2am. This time the first and second mates were on board. The M. F.B. arrived with ten appliances and 30 men under C/O Stein. Again O'Brien went below in a smoke jacket, but was forced to return when tins of kerosene began to explode. Altogether there were 2,300 cases of kerosene and 500 barrels of resin on board.

Stein decided to fill the ship with water but this caused the ship to list to port, over the pier. When the fire could not be controlled, he ordered a tug boat to tow the ship away from the pier and other vessels. Capt. Throssell, the Deputy Harbour Master, arrived in the tug "Albatross" at about 5am.

Whilst assisting a party of firemen to release the moorings of "Hilaria", District Supt. Gee tripped over the chains and fell 26ft. down into the burning hold. For the third time O'Brien went below in a smoke jacket to attempt his rescue. This took nearly 1/2 hr. and several times it was thought he had been overcome by smoke and heat. However he succeeded in attaching a rope to the unconscious Gee, who

was immediately brought to the surface.

Firemen on the deck gave him artificial respiration. O'Brien was then hauled to the surface in a semi-conscious condition with his safety rope and air tube entangled. A Dr.

Cuscaden from a ship nearby, examined Gee and discovered that he had a fractured skull. Later, Dr F. Bird, the Brigade's Medical Officer, was summoned, but Gee died in the Melbourne Hospital without regaining consciousness.

Gee had been a fireman for 25 years and had been a Captain with the Carlton Brewery Brigade before joining the M.F.B. He was now a District Superintendent with No. 5 Stn., Bouverie St. and was 40 years old.

Gee's rescue now made it impossible to move the ship. At 9am a firing squad under Lt. Colquhoun from the "Nelson" fired six cannon balls at her in an attempt to sink her, but this had little effect. However they eventually blasted her with dynamite which flung the ship bodily into the air, causing the

masts to topple over the pier. The "Hilaria" finally sank.

Capt. Allen stated that he thought his ship was jinxed because he had fitted one of the "Habitant,s" spars to the "Hilaria" a short time before the fire. "Habitant" *was the sister ship and met a fiery fate at Port Melbourne the year before.

On Wednesday July 24, the Coroner held an inquest. The jury found that 2nd. mate Mark Lindsay and the watchman Edward Benson had wilfully set the ship on fire. They were arrested and committed for trial.

**The "Habitant" was not a sister ship, this was wrongly reported. The ships were built in different shipyards.*



"THE HERO" OF THE FIRE:
Deputy Chief Officer O'Brien



REUNION DAY LUNCHEON

Our annual reunion day luncheon will be held on Sunday 19th April 1998 at the MFB Training College at 1100 Hours.

BYO Drinks.
Tea and coffee will be supplied.

Cost; \$10.00 per guest, members free.

Hope to see you there.
Acceptance form below.

John Berry
Secretary

REUNION DAY AT M.F.B TRAINING COLLEGE

Acceptance Form

Members Free; Guests = \$10 per head.
Please return this slip to;

John Berry
24 Lincoln Drive
Lower Plenty 3093

Name
(please print)

I/We will be attending the Reunion at the M.F.B. Training College 619 Victoria Street Abbotsford at 1100 Hours on Sunday 19th April 1998

Guest/ Spouse Name
(please print)

Please find enclosed Cheque / Money order
for the sum of \$.....

R.S.V.P. Friday 10th April 1998

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