

"WATER OFF"

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



May 2023 Vol 28 No 2
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**Next RFA General Meeting
Glenroy RSL
Thursday 18th May 2023
10:30am**

186 Glenroy Rd, Glenroy

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**The Late Keith Adamson with brothers
Peter & Paul**

“GENERAL MEETING”

**Glenroy RSL Thursday 18th May 2023. 10:30am
186 Glenroy Rd, Glenroy.**

Volunteers Required
The Fire Services Museum needs past fire service members to assist on an occasional basis at the Museum
Please contact
Bryan Robertson
0418 129 252

All Correspondence to:
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RFAV Secretary
PO Box 93
Numurkah 3636
Phone 0419 778 161
or email at rfavic1@gmail.com

Non financial Members

Members be advised if your newsletter has an expiry date of 2/1/2020 that means you have not paid your subs since 2019 therefore if no remuneration is received by the 2/1/22 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: Phil Cleary

General Committee:

Col Harris
Len Manning
Mike McCumisky
Ian Geddes
Kevin Hede

**“Water Off”
Editorial Staff**
Colin Harris
James Harris

Valē

Tony Hynson, Keith Adamson, Albert Harvey, Terry Brown, Norm Cameron, Maxwell Madley, Damian Foletti.

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

Sick List * In Care Facility

**Bruce Petrie,
John Brown*,
Stan Cameron,
Geoff Cuzac,
Jack Etherington*,
Ian Hockey*,**

**Archie McLachlan,
Bob Burrows,
Trevor Reed,
Gary Spicer,
John Williams
Len Lette**

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

Diary Dates

**Next RFA Meeting
Glenroy RSL
Thursday 18th May 2023
10:30am**

186 Glenroy Rd, Glenroy

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Hello all,

I hope you are all well! We're now in the middle of autumn, and it seems the weather is better than last summer. Anyway, it's good to enjoy it while we can. I hope you and your Family and Friends are doing OK and keeping safe from the ever presence of Covid. It doesn't want to go away I think we just have to live with it. We have lost some of our past firefighters, friends and family members in the past months. My thoughts go out to their families and I hope they are coping. There is help available from FRV, UFU, RMD and RFA, if needed. I hope to see a lot of you at our next meeting and be able to talk again how good we were once (a long time ago).

Alex Shepherd - President

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT



Hi all,

Well I'm back on deck after my big operation on my shoulder. It feels great and thank you to all those members who emailed me good luck.

Well, we are still having trouble with cheques and money sent to me to pay your dues. I will explain it again. There are 2 ways to pay your dues.

No.1 Pay me cash when you come along to a meeting and I give you a receipt for your payment OR No.2 Go to your bank and ask the teller you want to put some money into this account which is:

GMCU Goulburn Murray Credit Union - BSB 803 078 Account No 37460 Note: If they say they can't do it, you will have to come to a meeting and pay.

*Don't forget our May Meeting which is on Thursday 18th of May at the Glenroy RSL at 10.30 a.m.

Lunch is available at Seniors Prices and I must say the meals are delicious!
"See You There"

Also we have a few more goodies for sale on the website www.rfav.com.au click on the Merchandise Page.

Regards RFA Secretary Phil Cleary

**Any enquiries call the Secretary:
Mob. 0419 778 161
Email: rfavic1@gmail.com**

Bruce Van Every – His Story!

Most of us still around, remember C.F.O. Neville Van Every. I was one of many at his funeral a few months ago now. I spoke to Neville's son, Bruce, after the funeral. After getting his phone number, we made contact and so Bruce and Beth, his wife came for morning tea at my home for a story to be told about Bruce, his upbringing and living with his fire chief father.

Neville Van Every was Chief of the M.F.B. for 4 years and retired in 1975. He was a well - respected chief, "a man's man." During his time as chief, Neville had a heart attack and was off work for a few months, yet returned to full-time work after a few months, full of vigor and then retired in the year 1975. Son Bruce said, that his dad was "hard but fair".

Chief Van Every was married to Shirley (nee Aldridge), the daughter of former C.F.O. Bill Aldridge. Shirley lived and breathed the fire brigade most of her life. She grew up and lived in fire stations for over 40 years. Shirley learnt short-hand and typing, and often would write her shopping lists and other discreet notes in short-hand which couldn't be read by her husband.

Bruce remembers his dad as an avid golfer and wood-worker (self-taught), making furniture, a kitchen and taking the family on holidays. He also mentioned a time when he and his sister Glenys, were sitting in the back of the white "Pontiac" where there were 2 x buckets of golf balls. Unbeknown to their parents, they started dropping golf balls from the open windows of the fast moving vehicle on a country road and then watching them bounce all over the road behind them. Neville finally woke up to what was going on in the back seat, jammed on the brakes and discovers one empty bucket of golf balls! Neville was not amused! (I didn't asked if Bruce and his sister were punished!).

Friends were not allowed to come and visit at the fire station where the family lived. Bruce said it was an understanding that was abided by all who lived in fire stations. This was due to OH&S (safety precaution) and not having children being anywhere near fire appliances which could be turning out to calls at any time etc. Bruce mentioned the old Camberwell station where there were officer's quarters for two families to reside in. There was an area of grass between the quarters where the family children could play. Bruce and Glenys had a happy childhood and enjoyed living at the fire station. In the fifties and sixties, the officers worked 60 hours per week, so Dad wasn't home all that often. Many lived on station where rent was cheap and the hot water was free! (How the wives put up with the bells, I'll never know! – Ed).

Bruce was 22 y.o. when his father became Chief. He remembers his father telling him about the William Booth Memorial fire, where many men died in that horrendous fire. Neville and his men were pulling bodies out of the building many dead! Firefighters and officers like Trevor Reed also attended that fire.

I asked Bruce if he intended to join the fire service and follow in his father's footsteps. No, was the answer. Bruce attended "Swinburne Junior Tech" in Hawthorn & graduated as a physicist from RMIT.

"Now, I heard that Neville liked a beer or two?" "Yes he did and wine as well!" I asked Bruce "how did his father wind down" from the pressure of being a senior officer and chief. He said his father relaxed by playing golf, watching TV, Foxtel, reading golf magazines, watching old western films and watching & following Aussie Rules Football. His team was Hawthorn.

When Neville was in aged care, he talked to others & staff around him and often handed out chocolates. Neville loved golf so much, he was still having golf lessons when he was living in care and would order a taxi to take him from his home to Bundoora Golf Course, where he could practice his favourite shots.

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 Colin Harris. "Water Off" will be sent out in a PDF format.

retiredfirenews@gmail.com

Peer support is available to Retired Firefighters and Associated Members

FRV

Employee Assistance Coordinator

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Email:- irina.tchernitskaia@frv.vic.gov.au

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Retirees

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Bruce, Lauris and Glenys with the Pontiac at Torquay Hotel early 1960's



Bruce, Lauris and Glenys in backyard of Camberwell Fire Station Early 1960's

Your Story

Well readers, the poor old editor is getting short of stories! People are dying before their story is told. There are a million stories out there in retired fire brigade land, both M.F.B. and C.F.A. that haven't been told. Don't be shy! I've been to funerals where people don't know much about the deceased person. The person in the box forgot to tell his or her story. It doesn't have to be a bragging story about your exploits as a firefighter, rescuing damsels in distress, however, it could be about your time spent with colleagues at various stations, the interesting calls attended, the funny incidents on station or out at calls. It could include your hobbies, your retirement adventures and holidays. All it takes is a phone call or an email to the editor and have your story told. If you are not computer savvy, then write it down and post it to me, Colin Harris (Editor "Water Off") – 2 Gowar Avenue, Camberwell, Victoria, 3124

Chris Bahen

I spent my early years in Thornbury and Preston. Along with my wife and young family I moved to Epping at the end of 1968, when Epping was basically still a country town.

In January 1971 I was invited to join the Epping Rural Fire Brigade, which was formed in 1944, the same year the new CFA replaced the CFBB. (Country Fire Brigades Board). The new Epping Brigade operated from the home of the first Captain (Cliff Smith) until they moved in to an old tin shed purchased from the Army. This shed was reconstructed by the original members in the late forties on council land in Houston Street. Helmets, PPE, boots or overalls weren't issued.... members organised these ourselves. There were times when some of our MFB friends gave us their old tunics, which was much appreciated.

Epping Brigade was one of forty five brigades in CFA Region 14 with headquarters at Sunbury. This Region consisted of six brigade groups covering a large area around the MFB/CFA boundary, stretching from Diamond Creek, Werribee, Melton, Bacchus Marsh, Lancefield, Wallan and Whittlesea.

The Epping Station was old, with a leaking roof and no sealed floor. Almost all the small space was occupied by the single truck, an Austin small town tanker equipped with knapsacks and beaters. There were rumours that Epping Brigade's future was in doubt, but we made sure this would not happen. At that time Epping hadn't done much fundraising and the balance sheet was very low and in need of urgent attention. We did manage to give the old station a facelift and the Whittlesea Council supplied a concrete floor in for us. CFA erected a small portable building adjacent to the shed, which we used as an office and for training small groups of members.

We held working bees which produced more improvements. The walls and ceiling were lined and space made for a second vehicle, and facilities for tea and coffee. We took on FEM work, servicing fire hose and extinguishers in commercial premises and schools. We commenced the annual Santa Run in our growing area and we supported Police with the Blue light Disco. We ran major raffles, and we decided to hold an annual dinner/awards night which was well attended and is still an annual event.

In the late 1970's we saw the need, with CFA approval, to set up for road rescue work. At that time the Werribee Brigade were replacing their Ford 500 first rescue unit which created the opportunity for us to buy it. The next move was to purchase the LUKAS road rescue tools, and the Werribee Brigade ran our initial training prior to going into operation. Three years later we replaced the F500 with a brand new Ford F350 cab chassis and purpose built body. To this stage there was no CFA funding for vehicles and equipment. All rescue funding is now handled fully by CFA.

Seven months after joining the Epping Brigade I was elected Secretary/Treasurer, a position I held for four years before moving on to 1st Lieutenant, and on November 1st 1977, was elected Captain. A major event for the Brigade occurred on July 1 1987 when the Epping Rural Fire Brigade ceased and the formation the Epping Urban Fire Brigade took place. Consequently we were fitted out with our first dress uniforms and our first Pumper was commissioned.

I continued on as Captain for a combined 24 years.

During my time as a Brigade Officer I also held positions with the Southern Hume Highway Group, as Deputy Group Officer then Group Officer, for twenty years. I was also approached by the CFA CIS State coordinator to become a CIS Peer which I accepted and found the training most interesting and the support to those in need of the service was very well appreciated. I was also appointed Regional CIS Peer Coordinator.

I was a Brigade delegate to the City of Whittlesea Fire Prevention Committee for twenty four years, a delegate to Victorian Rural Fire Brigades Association Region 14 Council and later a Delegate to the Victorian Urban Fire Brigades Association Region 14 Council. I am a Life Member of the Country Fire Authority, Epping Fire Brigade, Hume Fire Brigades group, and CFA Rescue Association. We had an ongoing battle with CFA for seventeen years for a new station and we were getting nowhere. We turned to the Whittlesea Council for support, and also local Members of Parliament, including former Premier the late Dick Hamer. Also the CFA Deputy Chairman.

The land now occupied by the CFA Epping Fire Station at Epping Rd and O'Herns Rd was donated to us as a result of a meeting I had with the City Engineer, when a large farming and timber property was being rezoned for housing development, soccer ground and RSL.

The Fiskville Training College in its day was a great place enabling some excellent training, with opportunities to meet many people. The facilities, food and accommodation were second to none. Members who attended the training courses were then able to pass the training information on to our brigade members.

The original Epping base radio was operated by the Communications Officer, my wife Joan, for 24 years from our home. Joan was also Group Communications Officer for a good part of that time. Joan's brother, Ian Dawes, was the "C" shift VKN8 operator back in the late 50's early 60's. I have had the honour of being presented with the National Medal in March 1998, the AFSM In 2000 and the Centenary Medal in 2003, along with Long Service Medals commencing at 12 years to the latest at 50 years. The current vehicle fleet comprises Scania Pumper, Isuzu 4WD 3000 Litre Hino Tanker, Hino Crew Cab Heavy Rescue, Station Wagon, FCV 4x 4 crew cab.



GTV 9 News Cameraman - Chris Bahen

As a young man, RFA member Chris Bahen had a big ambition to be a projectionist. He made a visit to Hoyts Head Office to meet the Chief Engineer, but there were no vacancies – he continued these visits every week until he got a job. He began training and working at various Hoyts suburban theatres as assistant projectionist. The normal work hours were Monday to Saturday evenings and in addition there was a Saturday matinee and an intermediate session. The next move was the projectionist course at the Royal Melbourne Technical College (RMIT), resulting in a part time position as a projectionist in the Radio School Theatre.

1957 saw the beginning of television in Australia, which made a huge impact on picture theatres. Many people who went to the movies weekly started buying television sets and had little money left over to afford the pictures. Attendance at most theatres was rapidly declining with some theatres closing, leaving staff to consider their future.

In the later part of 1959, while my theatre, the Circle, Preston, was still operating, I applied to Channel 9 for a job in the film department. I was lucky to be successful and started there on 2nd November. Most of the programs at that time were on film and needed to be checked for faults or damage. Commercials were required to be inserted in programs before going to air, and then removed after the programs had been aired. Also, film editing was required for segments in certain other shows.

In 1967 I moved to the News Department as a news cameraman, which was a very interesting job. At the beginning of each day a news cameraman would never know where he would likely be assigned. We used our own cars and were paid a car allowance. Around 1977 Channel Nine commenced using their own sign written news car fleet. We were often called out from home after hours or be assigned to a job on our way to the office. Working away from the studios, it was common to be covering stories with most of the news crews from other television stations. I had a good relationship with them, as with my work colleagues from Bendigo St, Richmond.

The Nine Chopper was great value both locally and in the regional areas. If the flying distance was too far, we would use a twin engine fixed wing aircraft. In more recent years after the Nine chopper was sold, it continued to be jointly hired with Channel Seven.

I would often attend the MFB training college to shoot a story on the graduations, always a big event for the new firefighters. On one occasion I attended No.1 Station to do a story on the firefighters having their Christmas lunch.

Years ago, when the News only ran for thirty minutes, the Sunday Night News included a segment called Sunday Magazine. I did a story with reporter, Jason Davis, on board the submarine, HMAS Onslow, travelling from Sydney to Melbourne over three days. Going out through the Sydney Heads the waters were very rough but we did manage to get a few hours under water where it was very calm. The Navy conducted a series of noise level tests during the voyage. This three-day cruise was a great experience. HMAS Onslow is now on display at the Navy Museum at Darling Harbour in Sydney.

In 1980 Channel Nine was changing to electronic news gathering, replacing film. This was much improved technology for television as it didn't require processing time like film. This enabled the crew on the chopper to play the footage back to Richmond, or the reporter could do a live cross from the chopper.

Around that time the newsroom was getting a facelift, involving new Edit Suites and a News Exchange, the first of its kind on the 9 Network. News Director John Sorrel wanted someone with on road reporting experience to take charge of this department and offered me the position.

We opened the News Exchange in October 1980, and is best described as a control room for the News Department. Its purpose was to receive and send news items to the Network or overseas, and to distribute incoming newsfeeds to Edit Suites, News Sport, and the Production Desk.

Rick Merrin from the MFB Training College approached us about setting up a MFB transmitter in the news exchange, to play out any fire/rescue related news coverage to Fire Vision. We were happy to do that, and Coode Island was a good example. Rick was able to feed this into the MFB system.

My days at GTV9 have left me with many happy memories and good friends, whether they were in front of the camera or playing very important roles at the station. Many of the big stars and others have left this world, their talents and friendship never to be forgotten. I spent thirty nine years at GTV9 and have been retired for twenty five years and have managed to keep in touch with many colleagues, enjoying the reunions whenever they are held.

New York Emergency Medical Technician Murdered Just doing her job!

Harry Parker, Larry McShane – New York Daily News

A deranged Bronx defendant was sentenced Wednesday to life without parole for the murder of beloved city EMT Yadira Arroyo, the final step in a tortured legal process stretching over six heartbreaking years.

Jose Gonzalez, 31, appeared seven weeks after his conviction for the murder of Arroyo, a 14-year EMT veteran and the mother of five sons, in the headline-making case. The courtroom, as it was during the trial, was packed with the victim's family and colleagues.

"This is a moment many of us thought to be far out of reach for years," said Oren Barzilay, President, Fire Department New York - EMS Local 2507. "Now that a sentence has finally been issued, it's a blessing to know that Yadira's family and colleagues can be at peace. She was a light in the EMS family taken too soon. It is a relief to finally have justice."

The long-awaited guilty verdict came in March, just eight days before the sixth anniversary of Arroyo's gruesome death beneath the wheels of her hijacked truck.

The career criminal had a rap sheet of 31 prior arrests when he crossed paths with Arroyo, who was working an overtime shift when killed.

The prosecution was repeatedly delayed in a battle over the defendant's mental health, with dozens of hearings held and conflicting court filings over his fitness for trial. The case finally began this past February, with Gonzalez convicted after a month-long trial and two days of deliberations.

Arroyo's colleagues wept in the courtroom when the verdict was read, while Gonzalez stood impassively.

"Yadira Arroyo was an extraordinary EMT who cared for her patients deeply – just as she was doing when she was brutally killed six years ago," said FDNY Commissioner Laura Kavanagh. "We are grateful her killer will never be on the streets again, with no eligibility for parole ... We will continue to honour her memory of service to our city."

The shocking March 16, 2017, killing left Arroyo's co-workers devastated — particularly her partner, who watched helplessly as Gonzalez jumped inside their truck and twice ran Arroyo down.

The lethal encounter was set in motion after Gonzalez jumped on the back of their moving vehicle, with things escalating from there. Once arrested, the killer bizarrely began reciting the alphabet.

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AUSTRALIA DAY 2023 – FIRE SERVICES MEDAL AWARDS

ACFO Quinn's passion for driving change through creative and innovative approaches to ensure a safer workplace and improve firefighter health, safety and wellbeing has seen him lead FRV's response to the current COVID-19 pandemic.

ACFO Quinn has dedicated his 32-year career in the fire and rescue service to the development of firefighters and the health, safety and wellbeing of others.

Brad is passionate about driving change through creative and innovative approaches to implementing new technology, equipment and systems, to ensure a safer workplace and improve firefighter health, safety and wellbeing.

Commander Wayne Riggs dedication to improve aviation programs and capability within Victoria has resulted in some of the most significant changes over the last decade in the way aircraft are dispatched and used operationally to protect communities.

Wayne's influence and leadership in gender diversity has also been integral to the development of women in the aviation sector. His mentoring and support has seen an increased number of women in the sector and greater gender representation across a range of roles.

Fire Rescue Commissioner K. Block congratulated recipients on their well-deserved honour.

"The Australian Fire Services Medal is a prestigious and respected award and it's fantastic to see our firefighters' efforts and service to the community recognised in this capacity today, Commissioner Block said. "ACFO Quinn and Commander Rigg have not only demonstrated exceptional ability and dedicated service to the community over many years, but they have played an integral role in the enhancement of our organisation.

Being a New Officer: More than Passing a Test

March 6, 2023 - FIREHOUSE

Jacob Johnson tells senior officers, captains and chiefs that the success of the newly promoted officer hinges greatly on the kind of mentoring that individual is provided by superiors.

Jacob Johnson

Mentoring. It has become the most underrated and forgotten skill on the job.

Far too often, and more than we like to admit, we associate mentoring just with the newbie officers who hit the firehouse. When it comes to recently promoted officers, we assume that all of the time that they spent studying for promotional exams, being a part of committees, taking on special projects, etc., prepared them for that first appointment. Although these things might prepare them for administration work, organizing their day and meeting deadlines, those three items are only 10 percent of their day-to-day job.

Embracing the anxiety

The first part of any successful mentoring program for new officers is a solid, consistent training program before those people hit the firehouse “by themselves.” This is the biggest opportunity for a senior officer or OIC to have a once-in-a-lifetime effect on new officers, the one that remains with them forever, the one that they refer back to when they make decisions, have bad days, have difficult conversations or even in moments of celebration throughout their officer career.

On the first morning of a mentoring program, the senior officer or OIC must sit down with new officers to establish expectations. What kind of expectations, you might ask? Easy: the expectation that for at least the next year—almost always longer—when the “bells go on”, it always will feel like/similar to the first day that they were put in charge of their crew. Getting ready in the morning—brushing their teeth, putting on their uniform, kissing their family goodbye—will be different than before they were an officer. As they walk to their appliance, they will have more pride, but more anxiety, too, because they know in that moment that their books, policies, assessment centres, test and interviews didn’t prepare them for this feeling. As the senior officer or OIC, you must explain that this is OK.

Share mistakes, lessons learned

Take your new officers through your first day. Be vulnerable and share a mistake that you made with the individual or a victory and what you learned from that.

Explain to new officers that they can be certain that some days will feel like a failure, but that’s only because they care so much, and that in those moments, there are milliseconds of success, and you will be there to walk them through and teach them.

It’s important for new officers to know that they will have questions. Put another way, they can’t expect of themselves to have all of the answers. However, they can bank on that fact that they will have you to help to guide them down the path of success.

‘I won’t let you fail’

“What if I fail?” they might ask. Good leaders will answer, “I won’t let you fail, and you won’t let yourself fail, because of the passion and the love that you have for our department and for the job,” much like my fire chief, J Taylor, told me in August 2022 when I accepted the appointment to assistant chief of the Pearland, TX, Fire Department and worried about potential failure.

Keep in mind that “I won’t let you fail” doesn’t mean that the new officer won’t do something wrong, miss a deadline or get an old-fashioned firehouse butt chewing. What it means is that, when the new officer does something incorrectly, misses a deadline, makes a sketchy call on scene or gets that butt chewing, you—the senior officer/captain/chief—will take full advantage to point out the shortcoming, resolve it with the new officer and provide the individual with the information that’s needed to not let it happen again and to be successful in the future. That’s what’s expected of us by our predecessors. That’s our job. That should be a new officer’s expectation of you.

This expectation talk isn’t one of official manner as their boss or senior officer. This expectation talk is the brotherhood, the sisterhood. It’s action, not a word or phrase. This is a senior officer’s moment to find the opportunity to have an effect. Don’t miss it. Walk new officers to the right front seat on their apparatus of the day. Let them have their moment of “I am a company officer.” Introduce them to their mentor for the day. Wish them luck and watch them grow.

You’re done now, right? It’s that easy, right? Nope, not even close. They haven’t even made a run yet. You just are getting started. Crawl low rookie, follow me.

Editor:

The above is an extract from a U.S. fire publication "FIREHOUSE". I have changed a few words to make it more Aussie centric. When I was in the job, over 9 years ago, there was no mentoring programs for young officers newly promoted. I always wondered why? It's obvious, and I'm sure many of our readers will agree, that newly promoted officers need a mentoring program. An ongoing mentor is a person with experience, knowledge and confidence who can pass these attributes to the younger generation of fire officers. Boy, did I need a mentor! Didn't we all need mentors? Yes, we did! The clever S.O.'s, SSO's and Commanders all needed a mentor. Some will say they had one! Some will say they didn't need one! (They must have been the clever dicks!). I say, we all needed a mentor. Now, that could have been one of our senior officers, it could have been a station mate (senior man), it could have been your Mum or your Dad. It could have been a neighbour who you looked up to when you were a kid? That fact is we all need a mentor! I'll continue to argue this till the day I die!

So, I wonder when FRV will introduce mentoring programs into the fire service to assist our junior officers in their progress to become proficient, confident and knowledgeable fire officers in the field? When we retire, knowledge and experience, goes down the gurgler – gone! I often wonder if the fire service will one day realise the potential of using retired personnel as mentors for their up and coming fire officers to listen and learn from those experienced retired personnel who have had 20 plus years of management & fire experience as officers that these younger women and men can learn from?

Celebrating 52 Years' Service: LFF Terry Theodore

Reg No. 2596

For more than half a century, LFF Terry Theodore has served Victoria's fire and rescue services.

Terry was on MFB Recruit Course 1, which was held between the back of FS10 (Richmond) and the back of FS01 (Eastern Hill) in 1971. Since then, Terry has never shied away from the action, spending most of his career in some of Victoria's busiest fire stations, including FS35 (Windsor) and FS10 (Richmond), and remained on a frontline appliance at FS29 Clayton until his retirement.

Terry took pride in being a firefighter, but sought no accolades for it. His fellow firefighters noting that if you needed something done without a fuss, Terry was the one for the job.

A man of few words, those he shared had impact, and at a recent structure fire, Terry was overheard encouraging a rookie as he threw on his BA, saying, "Don't wait for an invitation son, get in there."

While younger firefighters aspired to his skill and experience, his more seasoned colleagues knew that if you were heading into a fire, he's the person you'd want at your back.

Humble to the end, Terry waved off suggestions of fanfare for his retirement after 52 years of service last week, but his colleagues couldn't let Terry off that lightly, with Acting DC Gary Mann, ACFO Barry Gray and Commander Andrew Thorn sharing stories and presenting Terry's belt, axe and key at a lunch at FS29 with Terry's wife and crews from FS29 and FS31 (Glen Waverley).

Congratulations on your retirement Terry! We wish you all the best in your future travels!

Editor's note: I was stationed with Terry now and then in Central District/Zone over many years. Terry was cool, smart, he knew his job! He was professional and easy to get along with and was not a loud mouth. Well done Terry! All the best in retirement!

RFA (Vic) offers our deepest sympathy to Family, Friends and colleagues of 1st Class Firefighter Izabella Nash of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services who tragically died after serving at a factory fire at Slacks Creek, QLD. Her colleague Lia Drew was injured and we wish her a speedy recovery.

Dementia: When to hang up your keys?

How can a doctor gauge whether a person living with dementia can safely drive?

University of Queensland researchers believe they have the answer. They are working with people living with dementia to develop an online driver safety test that can be performed by GPs in their surgeries. **About 472,000 Australians have dementia and there is no clear line when driving is deemed unsafe.**

Dr. Theresa Scott, from the university's School of Psychology, said flaws in current driving tests mean people living with dementia are sometimes given no formal assessment, or are told they have to stop driving as soon as they are diagnosed even when they could continue driving safely.

"Some people don't accept the decision to stop driving as they feel they haven't been fairly assessed, and continue driving, which puts them and others at risk," she said. "Our new fitness-to-drive assessment, incorporates real on-road footage and gives the person a "behind-the-wheel" driver's perspective."

University of Queensland Faculty of Medicine, Emeritus Professor Geoff Mitchell said current office assessments conducted by GPs are fraught with risk. "The tools available are blunt instruments, and GPs heavily rely on memory tests and opinions of loved ones," he said, "To have a tool that is practical, accepted and reliable will be welcomed by all GPs who look after people with dementia.

It will also help reduce the risk of fractured relationships with patients when refusal to grant a licence occurs or GPs have to refer the person for further testing."

The Navigating Fitness to Drive with Patients with Dementia project is expected to be available by 2025.

From: The Senior Newspaper

Long and Good Service Awards

Held at Shepparton on April 12th 2023



These awards are held every year in different areas of Victoria by Fire Rescue Victoria so employees can receive their service awards.

From left to right Phil Cleary RFA Secretary and Tom Mcpherson FRV Media Director, middle Acting FRV Chief Commissioner Gavin Freeman on the right Fire Fighters waiting to receive their awards.

Thursday 27TH JULY 2023

CELEBRATING

35 YEARS! OF MEETING UP!

CSI CLUB SOUTHPORT

154 SCARBOROUGH STREET

SOUTHPORT

(clubs no: 07 5532 - 9944)

Please arrive between 10.00am - 11.00am

**COME AND MEET UP WITH 'OLD'
MATES, FRIENDS & 'OLD' WORK
COLLEAGUES.**

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A Joke for Joyce!

A WOMAN BROUGHT A VERY LIMP DUCK INTO A VETERINARY SURGEON.

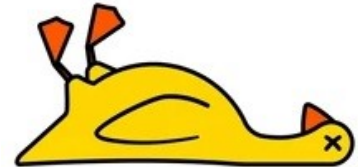
AS SHE LAID HER PET ON THE TABLE, THE VET PULLED OUT HIS STETHOSCOPE AND LISTENED TO THE BIRD'S CHEST.

AFTER A MOMENT OR TWO, THE VET SHOOK HIS HEAD AND SADLY SAID,

"I'M SORRY, YOUR DUCK, CUDDLES, HAS PASSED AWAY."

THE DISTRESSED WOMAN WAILED, "ARE YOU SURE?"

"YES, I AM SURE. YOUR DUCK IS DEAD," REPLIED THE VET.



"HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE?" SHE PROTESTED.

"I MEAN YOU HAVEN'T DONE ANY TESTING ON HIM OR ANYTHING. HE MIGHT JUST BE IN A COMA OR SOMETHING."

THE VET ROLLED HIS EYES, TURNED AROUND AND LEFT THE ROOM.

HE RETURNED A FEW MINUTES LATER WITH A BLACK LABRADOR RETRIEVER. AS THE DUCK'S OWNER LOOKED ON IN AMAZEMENT,

THE DOG STOOD ON HIS HIND LEGS, PUT HIS FRONT PAWS ON THE EXAMINATION TABLE AND SNIFFED THE DUCK FROM TOP TO BOTTOM.

HE THEN LOOKED UP AT THE VET WITH SAD EYES AND SHOOK HIS HEAD.

THE VET PATTED THE DOG ON THE HEAD AND TOOK IT OUT OF THE ROOM.

A FEW MINUTES LATER HE RETURNED WITH A CAT. THE CAT JUMPED ON THE TABLE AND ALSO DELICATELY SNIFFED THE BIRD FROM HEAD TO FOOT.

THE CAT SAT BACK ON ITS HAUNCHES, SHOOK ITS HEAD, MEOWED SOFTLY AND STROLLED OUT OF THE ROOM.

THE VET LOOKED AT THE WOMAN AND SAID,

"I'M SORRY, BUT AS I SAID, THIS IS MOST DEFINITELY, 100% CERTIFIABLY, A DEAD DUCK."

THE VET TURNED TO HIS COMPUTER TERMINAL, HIT A FEW KEYS AND PRODUCED A BILL, WHICH HE HANDED TO THE WOMAN.

THE DUCK'S OWNER, STILL IN SHOCK, TOOK THE BILL. "\$150!" SHE CRIED, "\$150 JUST TO TELL ME MY DUCK IS DEAD!"

THE VET SHRUGGED, "I'M SORRY. IF YOU HAD JUST TAKEN MY WORD FOR IT, THE BILL WOULD HAVE BEEN \$20,

BUT WITH THE LAB REPORT AND THE CAT SCAN, IT'S NOW \$150."



Bells By The Beach Holiday House, 24 Roditis Drive, Ocean Grove

Our dog-friendly holiday rental was established in 2005. It will close as a business at the end of February 2023.

Operating our small business has been a source of great pride and joy for us. Bells By The Beach has earned a strong reputation for being one of the best dog-friendly holiday houses on the Bellarine Peninsula.

We are super proud of all we have achieved and all the wonderful experiences and memories we have created for more than 600 families and fur-kids over the years.

The property has been sold to private buyers who will use it as their personal holiday oasis.

We thank everyone we have met during our time as the owner/operators of Bells By The Beach, Ocean Grove.

Many people have become good friends and they will continue to be part of our lives when we retire to Queensland in the coming months.

Kindest regards, Jan & Lin Bell

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