

"WATER OFF"

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



November 2012 Vol 16 No 4
Inc/No: A16839F

Top Investigator Talks to RFA

At the forthcoming AGM we will welcome a Retired crime fighter and author of best seller "The Job".

Charlie Bezzina, a copper who fought crime from the front line has agreed to give some of his valuable time to talk at our November AGM. Many thanks to John Schintler for organising his attendance.

The committee have decided to whet your appetite further. We have purchased five of his books to give away in a raffle. Who knows we may be able to have Charlie sign them. You will be crazy to miss out on this opportunity. Just think this is almost like being invited to a book launch only in this case you have a chance to win a free copy.

Charlie Bezzina was one of Victoria's top homicide detectives. In his 17 years in the Homicide Squad, he investigated more than 300 suspicious deaths, including 150 murders - among them the crimes of serial killer Paul Denyer, the killing of Melbourne gangland figure Alphonse Gangitano, the Silk/Miller police murders, the baffling disappearances of former gameshow model Jacquie Ramchen and Sarah McDiarmid, and the death of former Test cricketer David Hookes. Charlie Bezzina's rose from a sheltered childhood in a Maltese family in Melbourne's western suburbs, to a widely respected senior detective who served Victoria Police with distinction and unquestioned integrity for 37 years.



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Notice

Retired Members Annual Christmas Luncheon

Due to an administrative error, the date for the Retired Firefighters Annual Christmas Luncheon that was advertised as November 24, 2012 is now;

**Saturday 10th November, 11.15am
at Malvern Town Hall.**

“ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING”

Notice is hereby given that the next Annual General Meeting will be held at the MFB Training College 450 Burnley St. Richmond.

10.30 Hours, Wednesday 21st November 2012

AGENDA ITEMS.

- Minutes of last Annual General meeting.
- President’s Report.
- Secretary/Treasurer’s Report.
- Election of Office Bearers
- Guest Speaker, Charlie Bezzina, (Vic. Pol. Ret.)
- General Business

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

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

Lunch available.
Please join us!

Non financial Members

Members be advised if your newsletter has an expiry date of 2/1/2011 that means you have not paid your subs since 2010 therefore if no remuneration is received by the 2/1/13 your name will be automatically removed from the mailing list. If, for what ever reason any member is unable to meet this request please do not hesitate to call the secretary, (confidentiality is assured)

OFFICE BEARERS

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

General Committee;

Ian Geddes
John Laverick
Mike McCumisky
John Schintler
John Wallace

Auditor;

Theo Teklenburg

“Water Off”
Editorial Staff
 John Laverick
 Barbara McCumisky

Valē

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Peter Heslop (MFB) | Frank Munday (MFB) |
| Ted Hudson (MFB) | Barrie Watkins (MFB) |
| John Maher (MFB) | |

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

SICK LIST (* In Nursing Home)

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Don Cameron | Jack Harbrow |
| Stan Cameron | Clarrie Hart |
| Huew Campbell* | Jack Moore |
| Ken Clinkaberry | Jack Sexton |
| Ron Clough | Brian Trembath |
| Russ Daniels* | Ron Turner* |
| Ernie Goodall* | Tom Williamson |
| Bill Grant | |

We wish these members a speedy recovery

Note: If you know of any member who may be ill please notify a committee member. We endeavour to keep you informed, but can only do this with your help.

Diary Dates 2012

| | |
|---------------|---|
| November 10th | UFU Christmas Luncheon Malvern Town Hall |
| November 21st | Annual General Meeting |
| November 27th | Geelong Firie’s Muster |

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As we come up to another Annual General Meeting, I would like you to think about nominating for a position on the Committee. An association is only as strong as it's working committee and we need fresh ideas to continue to grow. John Berry and I will be nominating again for our current positions.

On Saturday 12th September we held our annual BBQ at Bunnings Hoppers Crossing. A good day was had by all in attendance. We cleared \$2087.00 on the day.

I would like to thank the following personnel who assisted on the day –

J. Berry, K. Hede, A Shepherd, F. Laverick, J. Chambers, K. Heddle, J. & O. Wallace, S. Capes, and N Brennan. Well done members.

In the last financial year we have donated funds to the following - Oliva Newton John Association. (\$2000), Fire Museum (\$2000) and BBQ at Osram House (\$545.00). For financial 2011/2012 we donated a total of \$4545.00

Bunnings have given us an extra BBQ day on the 19th January 2013. If you can help on the day, please see me at the meeting or contact me on 9742 6626.

Special thanks goes to Antionette – Community Officer and David store manager at Bunnings for giving us this opportunity to raise funds for our community.

As this is our last Water Off for the year, may I wish all a Merry Christmas and a Healthy and prosperous New Year.

Don Brennan

SECRETARY/ TREASURER'S REPORT

Well, here we are racing towards the end of the calendar year with the Annual General Meeting almost upon us. However; before we get the mechanics of that out of the way I need to bring you up to date with this quarter.

First the confusion with the date we had in the newsletter and the actual one of the UFU's Annual luncheon. As you will know by now it was the 10th not the 24th of November. I can assure you this will never happen again as I have counselled the person who made the mistake most strongly, (The wife said I looked stupid shouting at myself in the mirror).

The other item, the raffle tickets confusion, I can tell you the UFU Social committee, who do great work for us Retirees, have spoken to their Secretary about it. In fact the punishment they have dished out reminds me of what they did to convicts that were sent from the old country to Oz. Those of you who don't know, in Port Jackson NSW there is a small island called Fort Denison, (commonly known as "Pinchgut"), where legend has it, a man's skeleton was hung from the gibbet showing the convicts what could happen to them if they stepped out of line. Well if you drive past the Union's office slowly you may see what the committee did to their Secretary (only joking). Of course I could use the statement uttered by a previous Prime Minister, **Life was not meant to be easy.**

I can only hope that these suggestions make you feel we know & understand the mix up of dates etc. and the problems it created for you, I would suggest however, you get rid of your current RFA Secretary/Treasurer because of his cést la vie, (such is life) attitude.

The inaugural RFA President Tom Williamson, to whom we owe a great deal for his effort in establishing the RFA, is at the moment not enjoying the best of health. I rang the other day to see how he was going and the first thing he said was to make sure that I thank everyone on his behalf for their cards and phone calls. That is our Tom more concerned about others rather than himself. During the discussion we touched on the Swan's grand final win,



Above: Fire Commissioner Craig Lapsley, RFA President, Don Brennan and Secretary, John Berry following Craig's excellent presentation at CFA Corio.

the only down side he said was he could not get on to Ken Hopper to let him know who won. Tom has started rehab and as always is very positive about the treatment.

Another of the foundation members, (the one we call the "Silver-headed one") **Don Cameron**, is not going through the best of time health-wise. He will start a new course of therapy to treat the condition. I did tell him if he could put up with my bull-sh#^ I would drive him there, for some reason he has declined. Most likely it is because he is not keen on me needing two telephone books on the seat for me to see over the steering wheel, or is it that I would look taller than him?

The **August meeting at the Corio Fire Station** was again very successful. Many thanks to the Firies at the station and the retired Geelong group. I wonder what they've got planned for 2013?

The meeting, (as advertised) had as our guest speaker,
(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

the **Fire Services Commissioner Craig Lapsley**. Craig was most generous with the time he gave us. Those at the meeting all agreed that they had seen and heard a very professional presentation, and when our President presented him with a small gift at the end of his talk, the members showed, by their warm round of applause, how much they appreciated it. Clearly it left all in no doubt why he was selected to undertake the role of Fire Commissioner.

I must admit having been involved as part of previous Government enquiries after the Ash Wednesday Fires I found his presentation most interesting, especially the part about how successful the exchange program in the various agencies were. However, when I read in the paper what is factually occurring I cannot help but wonder. I know I am from a bygone era but I must admit it is starting to sound a lot like what occurred after February 16th 1983 disaster. Gee I hope I am wrong.

In the Minutes you will see in the President's & Minutes sections items regarding the Bunnings day and the donation made with the **Firefighters Charity to purchase medical equipment for the Children's Hospital**. (This donation is part of the new financial year) The committee would like you to take notice in the financial report when we present it for your acceptance, that our little group will have donated to various charities and groups a total of \$4545 for 2010/11. **Important!** To our many supporters who have helped in bringing this to fruition, including the members involved; we give a great big thank you. This year let's go one better. (There I go again, your Sec, get rid of me or I will send you broke).

I would like to remind all who may be interested in joining the committee, all positions are declared vacant at the end of each year, so, get nominated and have a go.

I would like to thank the retiring committee for their contribution, in fact, I'll bring in my granddaughter's gold star stamp and give each of you one, just make sure you don't wash it off before you show your partners. It will be a reflection on how hard you have worked.

The following is an interim report on the progress of the **United Firefighters Retired Members division**, of which I'm acting Secretary.

Now that the rules of the UFU have been changed to incorporate the new division, lines of communication with the other International Alliance members need to be established to ensure we are not reinventing the wheel. This Alliance, which was of major importance in establishing The Fair Protection for Firefighters Federal Legislation. is just as important for future Retirees. Further word-back on progress to be posted in New Year.

I'm not sure if everyone has been made aware, that **Bruce Smith**, the firey who was the UFU's Social Secretary up to the last Retirees luncheon, is not enjoying the best of health. In fact, it could not have come at a more in-opportune time. Bruce, hang-in there mate as we have stacks of work waiting for you when well.

On behalf of the Committee I would like to wish all the members & families' a Happy Festive Season and a fulfilling New Year. To those families whose year has not been one of enjoyment, we are thinking of you.

John Berry

Queensland Reunion

Thursday the 26th of July 2012 the annual luncheon was again held at the Southport Yacht Club. Gail Fagernes reported the weather had not been too warm but on the day the Sun God smiled on them.



The day was special, not only because of the good roll up, but **Peter Coulson**, who organises the yearly event, was made a Life Member by the President **Don Brennan** on behalf of the RFA committee.

Peter has for 24 years, maintained one of the core aims of the RFA. (To give support and fellowship to each other and stimulate participation in activities that assist member's development). To Peter and June, all the members wish to thank you both for your continuing support.

Above; *Peter Coulson receives his Life Membership badge from President Don Brennan.*

Right; *The group photographed outside in the beautiful Queensland sun.*



Minutes General Meeting 15 August 2012, 10.30 hrs. at Corio Fire Station.

Don Brennan (President) John Berry (Secretary/
Treasurer)

Ian Geddes (Minutes)

Present: - 63

Apologies: - 10

New on Sick List: - Jim Hunter, Russ Daniels moved into high care, Jeff Hohmuth, George Tinkler.

New attendee member: - George Benham - ex Western/ Training College. Lives and Golfs at Moama.

Minutes from previous Meeting:

Secretary Berry read Minutes

Accepted - John Chambers, Seconded - Harry Mitchell. Carried.

Business arising: - Nil.

Secretary/Treasurers Report:

John Berry, on behalf of R.F.A., was invited to the MFB Retirement Readiness Seminar. This was the first time in 25 years that the R.F.A. (note what R for Retired means) has been invited to a meeting like this, hosted by the Brigade. John thought it to be very beneficial for future retirees.

Employees Support Group - is available to assist in times of special need and this assistance has been of great help to many members.

Lapel badges - The original supplier is out of business, so looking for a new supplier.

C.F.A. members could they please advise the Secretary if any RFA members are called to a higher place. Thereby ensuring we are able to give due respect in the newsletter.

Financial Report;

SI. \$2,972.12

II. \$ 5,913.50

Accepted Allan Roberts, Seconded Les Napper- Carried

President's Report;

Southport Yacht Club (Queensland) Lunch.

Don told of 32 persons present, including Gordon Winch (92) ex 19 Station. Peter Coulson (82) was honored with Life Membership for organizing this lunch for the past 25 years.

Union Christmas Lunch - Now on **10th November** at Malvern Town Hall. Not the 24 th as shown in newsletter
Don and John investigating plastic fold over I.D. Holder (flip into shirt pocket), for a R.F.A. I.D.

General Business:

John spoke of hospital equipment which the serving Firefighters Charity Committee are looking for support in their latest venture to purchase medical equipment for the Children's Hospital..

Motion - John Berry

That this meeting of the R.F.A. approve a donation of \$2,000, towards the Firefighter Charity Committee project, a purchase of a portable Glidescope for the Royal Children's Hospital, designed to investigate a patient's throat etc.

Seconded - Ian Fowler - Carried.

John Schintler suggested a donation, at some stage, to Alzheimer's group.

January Bunning's (Hoppers Crossing) - date to be confirmed.

John Howe - has a Wheel chair, walking frame and commode if anyone needs them.

John Williams mentioned the passing of ex-Supt Barry Watkins.

Ellen Churchill and No 5 Station crew, with Frank's Brass Helmet, had a ball with the Primary School kids.

Peter Lang asked about progress of R.F.A. Alumni group on the back burner at the moment. Further updates shortly.

Congratulations to Alan Roberts on C.F.A. 50 year Medal.

Harry Mitchell - Reported on advice he has received regarding the struggle some NSW & Victorian Volunteer groups are experiencing.

11.25 - Guest Speaker - Fire Services Commissioner Craig Lapsley.

Craig, 47, oversees the M.F.B, C.F.A. and D.S.E. since 2010, and is still active at Bayswater Station.

"Reform is about Change" - think all B.A.'s, hose and couplings, Legislation, telephone and warning procedures. (The Commissioner issues State Emergency Warnings and has operational command over the 3 agencies).

Six major priorities:

- 1) Protection of Life,
- 2) Issue detailed information to the Community,
- 3) Protect Community Assets (halls, schools, hospitals, water/pumping station etc.),
- 4) Residential properties,
- 5) Protect livelihoods/economies,
- 6) Environment protection.

From the floor to Mr. Lapsley.

John Berry - Have you researched how Germany brought about change to their Emergency Services with the reunification of their nation. Which is now a leading model.

Graeme Edwards - Position of Chief Officer must go to the front line people.

Peter Lang - New Craigieburn Training College, Fiskville and other sites resolution.

John Schintler - Emergency Calls Centre for all agencies discussion.

Len Manning - with new "country people", the old "stay or go" philosophy may not be understood as well as it is by the old timers.

John Williams - Craig's relief Deputy duties goes to one of the other Chiefs when Mr. Lapsley on leave.

Graeme Edwards/Ian Fowler - Local Government road scrub clearances has to be maintained.

President Don thanked Commissioner Lapsley for his interest and information and presented Craig with a model Fire Truck memento.

Craig returned to work and we went to the Gateway for lunch.

Meeting closed 12.30. Next Meeting at Training college, 15th November 2012

Gone But Not Forgotten

This section of our quarterly newsletter is always the most difficult for me to complete. I sit at the computer and the memories of a bygone time come flooding back, and you know, the ones of joy & laughter, the battles and heroics of the people you are trying to describe in a way that we hope will do the same to you when you read them.

Robert John Lee 1932-18/6/2012

I will be upfront about Robert, I did not know him until he joined the RFA, so, as I have done before I went to the Corio team for their advice & guidance in what they think I should write about their workmate. I must say it was a joy to hear the praises they expanded about him. The following is just a précis of their comments, a great family man, ticks all the right boxes as a husband, father & grandfather. A quote from Robert's Order of Service Booklet said it all. **To become a father is not hard - to be a father is however,** unquote.

They, all to a person, wanted to tell me about the various jobs they had turned out to with him, including the many saves etc. also the great sense of humour he had. I found listening to the many comments they said about him and his Celebration of life, it left me in no doubt he was not only a top family man and Firefighter, he was also a very highly regarded member of the community.

Patricia on behalf of the members and the committee of the RFA please accept our sincerest condolences and please take strength in the knowledge that the people that knew your Robert will always remember him not only as a top firey but also as a person they were proud to call a friend.

Noel William Dahl 1926-13/7/2012

I was very fortunate to meet Noel on some of the various courses we participated in at the Abbotsford training college and also at a number of further assistance fires and emergencies. He was without doubt a very skilled Firefighter and officer; in fact I heard from other Firies how pleased they were to have him backing them at a job and/or coming on from an adjoining station.

He eventually sought transfer to the Fire Protection department to further enhance his skills, it was during his time there, whilst I was visiting the training establishment, that our paths would often cross, we would exchange pleasantries' (you know what I mean) fun times.

In 1978 Noel retired from the job to explore life on the land as a farmer. In fact his wife Carole worked with one of my Sister-in-laws and his name would often come up in conversation. After a number of years they moved on to a larger farm.

Carole, I greatly appreciated your phone calls regarding Noel's health etc. The members of the RFA would like you to know your Noel was held in very high regard by all, and we hope that the new season and year may give you the opportunity to recover and reflect on the past and yourself for a change. There is no doubt we can only imagine the difficulties you would have been confronted with by the farm, drought and Noel's failing health.

William Barrie Watkins 1932-15/7/2012

Barrie joined the MFB in 1952 and by the time he retired in 1978, he had been a Superintendent for many years.

I first met him in the late fifties at the old Eastern Hill station when I was driving the Civil Defence vehicle for him to the various fire stations throughout the Metropolitan Fire District, conducting rescue drills in line with the Federal Government's direction in case of Nuclear Attack. I must tell you many of the members would try in a good humoured way to bring him undone.

Barrie, whilst not a large man, had great physical strength and would have them up on his shoulders from the so called unconscious position before they knew what had happened to them, (I was not smart enough, I should have put money on him to do it). In fact he received a letter of commendation from the Board for a rescue of a large person (member of the public) he had freed from a burning building.

As it happens with many fire services, our paths did not cross much until a certain District Officer, (Bill Bayley) conned me in to transferring back to Eastern Hill, where, lo and behold, Barrie was the Control Superintendent. As required by the MFB at the time the Senior Station Officers would always make sure I would be on the first big pumper that went to all large fires or incidents with him. Barrie as required by protocol would take charge of the situation and the role I had was to insure that sufficient extinguishing medium was being maintained.

Barrie was in his element at such occurrences he would turn the media into one of our allies, it was masterful the way he would corral and address them as one and give them the info they required for their editors.

Barrie, like most Senior Officers, would have had stories about them, most will be good and some not so good however. The Service as a whole was made the richer for the time he spent with us.

I had the opportunity to converse with him some time after he lost Rhoda, the love of his life, after a long illness; it was very obvious from the conversation that it had taken the wind out of his sail and he was just beginning to reacquaint himself to the service he knew, when his own life was cut short.

I, on behalf of all the retired members, thank him, it has been a pleasure knowing him. Mate, just make sure in the new transfer upstairs you don't tell them you nearly paid a Middle Eastern gentleman money when he told you over the phone you had a virus on your computer.

John Berry

The following are non-members of the RFA who have been transferred upstairs.

John Maher

Peter Heslop

Alan Homuth

Edmund Hudson

Frank Munday

The Following is an article by Rupert McCall in one of the Queensland papers. It was sent to us by one of our members from the sunshine state. It is a factual story and I must say if you do not believe in karma now - you will after reading this.

Helmet's Sacred Resting Place

It was just a souvenir. An honourable memento of an unforgettable experience, but a souvenir just the same.

There it was. Sitting on Gail Penrose's duchesse when she opened up the Gympie Times in 2009. Ten years earlier, her son Warwick brought it home from the US. He was an army captain and bomb disposal expert in an Australian team tackling a pre-Sydney Olympics anti-terrorism training mission with US firefighters, some of whom had responded to the World Trade Centre bombing in 1993.

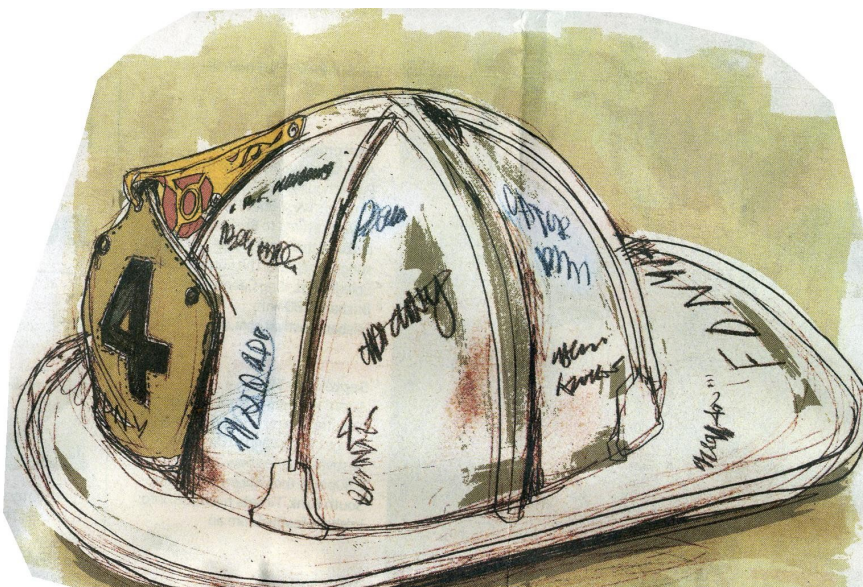
Paying tribute to the bond they formed during this exercise, Penrose orchestrated an exchange: he swapped a slouch hat for the Fire Chief's helmet, signed by the brigade.

Now, a decade on, Gail had an idea. Reading this newspaper about Gympie fireman Rob Frey embarking upon a Tour of Duty to commemorate the 343 firefighters killed on 9/11, she decided to contact him. Maybe he'd like to take that helmet with him?

Frey and Leon Colbert were the Queenslanders selected among an envoy of Australian fire personnel about to join US counterparts to run from Los Angeles to New York. In paying tribute to brothers lost, they would finish their 30-day campaign by striding across the Brooklyn Bridge and arriving at Ground Zero at 8.46am, the time American Airlines Flight 11 changed the world forever, nine years earlier.

Frey humbly accepted the kindness of Mrs Penrose's offer. But before the run could happen, a reconnaissance trip to map out the route was warranted. At this time, Rob Frey met a few of the American firefighters he'd be running beside, including a young man by the name of James Dowdell. They connected immediately. Dowdell was a well-grounded knockabout who loved a good time, but the story behind him joining the New York Fire Department-the reason he was lacing up for this run-cut deeper.

You see, James's father Kevin, was the one who went to work on that beautiful blue-skied morning in 2001 with genuine pride in his FDNY badge. He was also the one who didn't make it home to wife Rose-Ellen and his two sons. When the towers came crashing down and the dust finally settled, nothing was found of him. Not one single strand of DNA. Now to honour his memory, James had followed in his dad's footsteps by courting the same badge while older brother Patrick had taken up arms in Iraq.



Frey returned home with renewed purpose and perspective. As he sat down with a cold beer after another long shift one day, he gazed upon his own boys and felt the indescribable fortune of a father with nothing else to want for. He hugged them tightly.

And then he looked at the helmet. Rubbing his eyes, he looked. Could it be? No way. It was. There was the signature that ran a shiver down his back. The signature of Kevin Dowdell, front and centre.

Unbeknownst to James, that helmet was flown to US soil to be presented on the eve of the 2010 Tour of Duty run. At the Australian Consulate in Los Angeles and with Rose-Ellen in the audience, it was reunited with the family amidst liberating tears. They had something to hold.

And, waking up the next morning, those men ran shoulder to shoulder with great valour. Through the towns and across the desert. Up every hill and across every bridge. All the way to Manhattan.

This was the story for which Prime Minister Julia Gillard received one of six standing ovations in US Congress this year, an ovation shared by Rob Frey and James Dowdell who were present.

This was the story of a helmet amazingly destined to return to its rightful place. Not just a helmet but a symbol. A symbol of one man's courage and sacrifice.

A father and firefighter who didn't stop to think before selflessly running in to save as many as he could. Running in to the hell of that doomed tower on that terrible day, as everybody else was running out.

The Murphy's Family Journey in Time

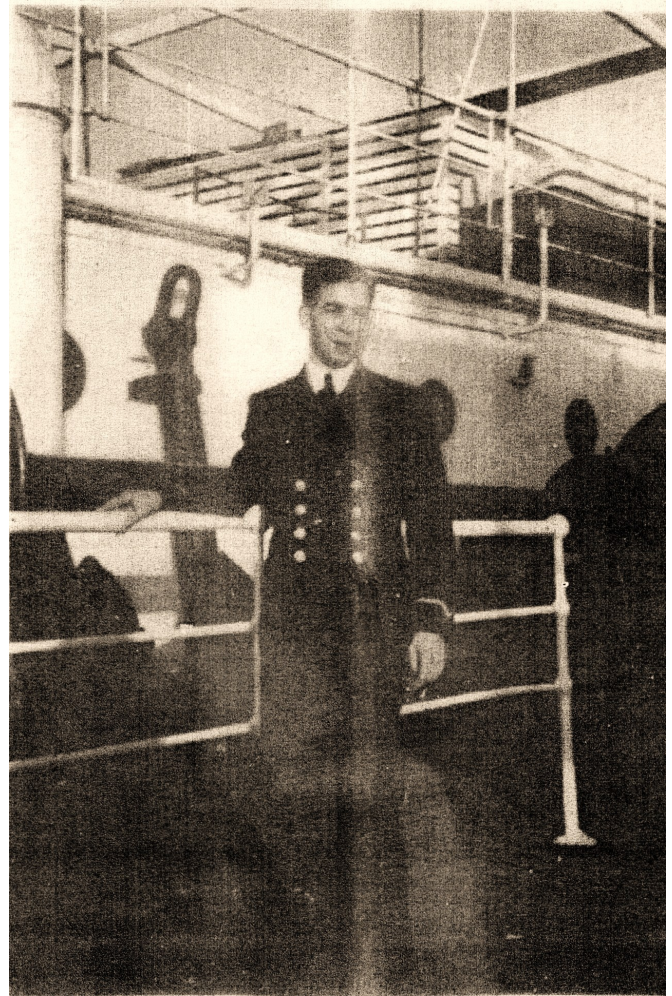
The Last Murphy leaves the MFB Family

In the last newsletter we reported that in this edition will be the final stage of the journey with Ken's dad Cyril of the MFB, who retired from the service in 1953. I believe it was not long after Ken had joined the permanent service, before this happened. Let us review Ken's journey.

We stated previously he was a very bright student, which was acknowledged by the Federal Government. Who trusted him with that unenviable task of delivering important military telegrams, later he became involved in the maritime services, (picture right) as a Junior Engineer aboard the S.S Arawa (Taken when he was 22) for which he received the Australian Defence Medal for his service in the Australian Defence Force. Cyril, his dad, as previously mentioned served in the MFB from 1913 to 1953, approximately 40 years, unfortunately, like many firefighters of his time, did not have a long retirement as he died in 1959.

Ken kept the tradition of a Murphy in the job going. During his time in the job he reached the rank of District Officer during that time because of a number of his skills were required on behalf of the C.F.O to establish a close communication with the Fire Services in Great Britain. In fact when he was travelling there he was invited by them to join their Senior Officer meeting.

Ken's love of the sea drew him back and he resigned from the service to become the master of his own vessel. This unfortunately was not as successful as he would have hoped creating the need for him to look for another career. However, his maritime experience proved to be a winner for him, the big Australian, BHP made him Chief Officer of their Fire Services which involved Sea & Land qualifications, which he had. It's a fact, Ken received from the CEO of BHP a letter of commendation for the way his crews extinguished a



very dangerous conflagration that had potential to cause great financial loss and damage to infrastructures.

The final part of the journey is that Ken has been a member of the RFA family for many years. (What is the saying,- "An acorn does not fall far from the tree")

John Berry

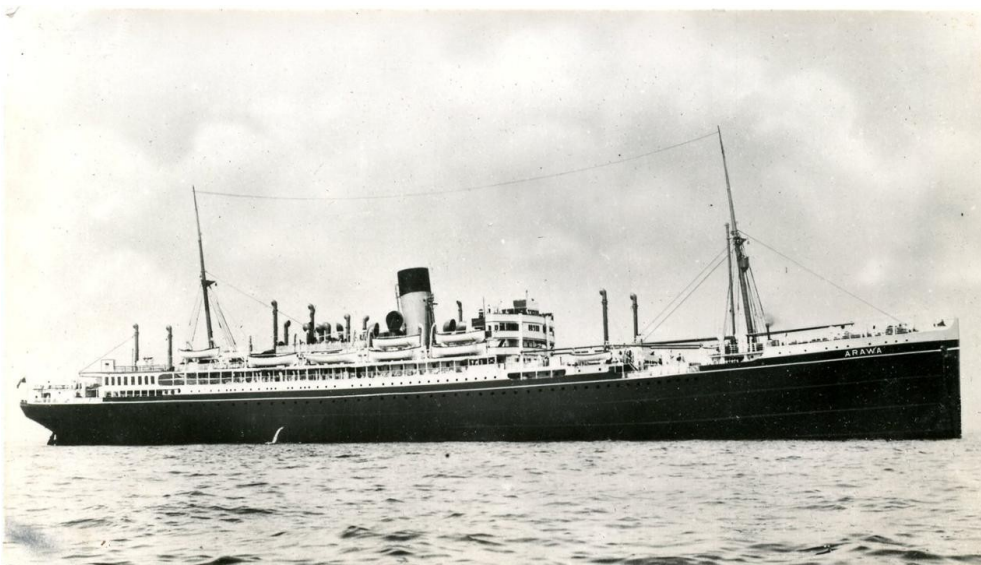
Above;

Ken Murphy, a 22 year old Junior Engineer, aboard the S.S. Arawa.

Left; *The S.S. Arawa, (formerly the "Esperence Bay", renamed at the start of the war), was an armed merchant ship and manned by the Royal Naval Reserve and civilian merchant men, some from Australia.*

It was used as a troop ship among other duties and repatriated P.O.W's at the end of the war.

It was returned to the Shaw Saville Line in 1945.



“Boiler Room Scams”

This case study is based on real victim profiles collected by the Australian Federal Police. These scams are called 'boiler room scams' because of the pressure put on clients to invest and the chain of calls received from apparently more and more senior salespeople. The websites set up by the scammers are fake and some of the overseas regulator websites are also fake. Before you deal with a company always check that it is licensed in Australia by checking ASIC Connect's Professional Registers

Mark received a call on his mobile from a salesman offering him discounted shares in a well-known company on the London Stock Exchange. The salesman said that if Mark invested he would see immediate gains as the offer was for shares at 30% less than current market value.

Mark was an experienced investor so was keen about the deal but suspicious. He told the stockbroker he didn't have time to talk but to call back.

That night a more senior salesman called Mark and directed him to the company's website. Mark was told he was lucky that the offer was still available.

The shares were almost sold out but a few had become available as another investor had pulled out. Mark said he would think about it.

The next day Mark received another call from the salesman and was urged to make a decision quickly as the shares were being snapped up by other investors.

Mark looked at the company's website which seemed to back up the salesman's claims. He also searched for the investment online and discovered it listed on an overseas regulator's website.

Mark decided to buy the shares before it was too late. He transferred \$7,000 from his investment fund into the broker's overseas account. He was told to put the money in an offshore account to reduce tax on the transaction.

A few days later, Mark checked the company's website again. It showed his investment was worth \$10,000 and he was happy with his \$3,000 gain. He also received a dividend payment of \$750 into his bank account.

The salesman contacted Mark the following week to check whether he had received his payment. He also urged him to invest in a similar offer which required a higher minimum investment of \$100,000. Mark agreed as the first deal had gone so well.

Once he was off the phone Mark had second thoughts about making such a large investment. He thought it was risky to put all his eggs into one basket.

When the broker called to confirm the funds transfer, Mark explained his concerns. The broker said Mark couldn't pull out of the deal as the investment had already been made on his behalf. If he didn't send through the funds, the broker's company would have no choice but to take him to court. Mark felt he had no choice, so he transferred the \$100,000.

Two weeks later Mark received a call from the Federal Police. He was told that other clients of the broking company had complained to the Police and to ASIC that they'd never seen their investment money or any return except for a few small dividends. He was devastated to find out that he was another victim of the scam.

The Federal Police told Mark that he could not get his money back because the company was operating from overseas and was outside their jurisdiction. When Mark checked online he found the company was listed on MoneySmart's list of companies you should not deal with, as they were known scammers.

More Scams Take Hold

Several scams are making the rounds in Australia, so consumers are being warned to remain vigilant.

Scammers are running free “investment seminars” promising 250% return in exchange for investors buying property in the foreclosure-riddled US property market. The house may seem cheap - often costing less than \$100,000 - but experts warn some may be located in terrible neighbourhoods or are abandoned.

“Aussies have bought houses in the US for \$50,000 and can't re-sell them for \$25,000,” warns real estate crusader Neil Jenman.

If you're interested in an overseas property investment it's essential to get independent advice, otherwise the promised returns may never eventuate. Meanwhile, NSW Fair Trading is warning consumers to look out for scam artists masquerading as government officials.

“Victims are losing money because scammers are sophisticated and convincing,” says commissioner Rod Stow.

“They trade on people's trust and regularly impersonate government officers, including Fair Trading and ATO employees.”

Fair Trading received 1000 scam reports in the first 8 months of 2012, ranging from roving home-maintenance con artists to unsolicited offers of bank refunds and dazzling wealth-creation schemes.

The ATO has delivered even worse news, saying it's received more than 10,000 scam reports through August, including a new trend in which fake job advertisements are used to obtain personal information. The bogus ads are posted on recruitment websites. Those who take the bait are asked to provide their tax file numbers, and sometimes their bank account details as part of the application process.

Source; A.C.A. Choice, October 2012 issue

“Classic Passion”

For MFB’s Rob Dean, restoring classic cars is a passion that’s brought him and his son closer together.

The Commander currently owns a 1967 Buick Skylark convertible, which he imported from California two years ago.

The gorgeous white convertible will be one of many on display at November’s MFB Charity Running Club’s Classic Car and Motorbike day.

"The idea for the day came about primarily because I was aware of the great number of firefighters who have a classic car or motorbike," he said.

"There’s also a great number who don’t have classics but are interested in these types of vehicles. I thought it would be an opportunity for fireys to show off their pride and joy, while raising money for charity at the same time."

This year, the event supports SANDS, a small group that support families who have experienced miscarriage, stillbirth and newborn death.

"They are a small support group who do great work in this area; my family had contact with them some years ago," Rob said.

Rob has owned various classic cars and he has passed on his passion to his son Cam.

"Cam has a 1968 VE Valiant ute which was in the



Rob Dean and his 1967 Buick Skylark convertible, one of the classics that will be on display at the Burnley Complex on November 25th

soap *Neighbours* for many years," Rob said.

"Cam and I bought it from Channel Ten and pretty much restored the whole car, fitting a 360 cu in V8 in place of the 318 V8 as the car had fallen into disrepair in the rear lot at Channel Ten."

Thanks to Meg Rayner and “Firecall” for article and photograph!

“MFB Classic Car Day”



Sunday November 25th



**450 Burnley St Richmond
(The Burnley Complex)**

9.30am to 2.30pm

**Come along and see the MFB Firefighter’s
classic cars and motorbikes**



“Gold coin entry”



\$10 per classic vehicle

All proceeds to go to

“SANDS”

(Stillborn & Neonatal Death Support group)

**Live Band, featuring the Firefighter’s
“RED RED RED”**

**SmokeBUSTer, Fire Museum appliances,
Jumping Castle, Face Painting,**

New Laws Give Good Counsel

Financial counsellors are celebrating an important win, with new protections to come into effect in March next year restricting the use of the terms “financial counsellor” and “financial counselling to not-for-profit organisations that actually provide those services.

Financial counsellors provide free, confidential and independent assistance to consumers.

However, for-profit organisations have also been using the term “financial counsel”, and can steer consumers towards expensive and unnecessary services.

“It has been a source of great frustration to us that, up until now, use of the term ‘financial counselling’ has been open to anyone”, says Fiona Guthrie, executive director of Financial Counselling Australia.

Under the restrictions, in order to give “financial counselling” an agency must offer free services, provide only sanctioned credit options, be eligible for membership of a financial-counselling association and ensure staff have adequate skills and training.

Elizabeth McNess & Madison Cartwright

Choice, October 2012 issue

Hubbards & Cowlings

a Five Generation Dynasty

By Mary Cowling



Rachel, wearing her granddad's helmet with her father SSO Tony Cowling, on her graduation day.

Top right: great-great grandfather SO Albert Hubbard, great grandfather DO Charlie Hubbard (middle), and grandfather SO Jim Cowling.

Images: Mary Cowling collection

As far as the Hubbards and the Cowlings are concerned, I will do my best to remember as far back as my grandfather, Bert Hubbard, to the latest member to join the Brigade, my granddaughter, Rachel Cowling. As I'm now 79, my memory, is perhaps not as sharp as it was, but I'll certainly give it my best shot, and tell the story of our five generations who have been part of the MFB.

In 1903, Albert Hubbard (known as Bert) was one of the first members of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade to join. But, my main memories of him were as the Station Officer at the Malvern Station in Willis Street, where he and the family lived until his death. Other brigade families living nearby, the ones I remember were the Trickeys and the Britts.

My father, Charlie Hubbard joined in 1928, and, as a child, my memories are of living in Wellington Street Flemington, up the road from the rail station, across the road from the Police Station. My brother, John (now 77) and I went to school at St Brendan's just around the corner from home. When I was 10 and John 8, mum had another son, Leonard Joseph, who grew up to become eventually a Chief Superintendent, and in between times, was Union Secretary, a job he was well suited for as he always loved an argument!!! I will not say anymore about Len's time in the brigade, as you said, you would write an article solely about him and his pal Frank Churchill, and I know Ellen will be able to tell you all about their union ties which I actually know very little about. I certainly do know not if dad or granddad took an active part in union affairs.

Dad transferred to St Kilda and for the first time, the family lived in brigade quarters, in Brighton Road Elwood. (Strangely enough, Jim (Husband) and I with baby Tony, were stationed there when he became a Sub-Station



Officer). Now, the old quarters are rented out privately, but they still look the same. My youngest brother, Kevin, was born there, then dad was moved to Bluff Road, Sandringham, where we lived for a few years.

Our next move was to Union Road, Ascot Vale where I met Jim Cowling, who had only recently joined. I trained as a nurse at the Children's Hospital, John became a panel beater at Symons and Fowler, Len and Kevin were going through school. Dad's next move was to North Melbourne Station in Curzon Street, and from there, I married Jim Cowling in 1955, and so the Cowling-Hubbard union began. Jim was stationed at South Melbourne and we lived nearby. Tony was born in 1957. Jim sat for the Sub S.O.'s exam and when he was promoted, we moved to quarters at Elwood where we had lived when I was young. Jenny was born in 1958 and Susan in 1960.



While we were stationed at Elwood, mum died in 1961 and a few months later Jim got polio. He was in Fairfield Hospital for 6 months, then he slowly recovered at home. He eventually resumed work, but as he was disabled he could no longer catch the carriage, so he was sent to the watch room at Eastern Hill on night shift. It was difficult for him to sleep at home because of all the school age kids living in quarters, but we managed. Eventually he made up his mind to try and move out, so, after looking everywhere, he finally decided to buy land at Sunbury and that is where he built the home he longed for, and we moved there in 1971. Sadly, he had a massive stroke, spent several months at Greenvale Centre, and died 1973 aged 41. I still live in our house in Sunbury.

Tony has been in the job over 30 years and is a Senior Station Officer. His wife, Susan, is Unit Manager of St Vincent's Emergency. Jenny worked in the MFB Communications Centre until it closed, her husband, David Short is a Police Sergeant. Susan, a nurse, her husband, Paul Dodemaide is a fireman. My two nephews, Neil and Rodney Cowling are also in the MFB. I have 6 grandchildren, 3 boys and 3 girls, and one of the girls, Rachel, graduated in Recruit Course 91 on July 27, 2005. She loves the job and recently passed the exam to become a Leading Firefighter. Next year she is off to America in a running team, joining American firemen in a charity run from Los Angeles to New York.

The Fire Brigade has been important in the life of my family for more than a hundred years, covering five generations, which I feel is a great achievement. Tony has Jim's brass helmet which Rachel is wearing in the photo I'm enclosing. It was taken on Rachel's graduation day.

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Mary Cowling

Fire Action Week Community Open Days

MFB would like to invite Retired Fire-fighters to attend the following Community Open Days

Those who have worked at Epping fire station or Glen Waverley fire station in the past are particularly encouraged to attend and share their local knowledge and experience with the community.

The day will promote summer fire safety messages as well as showcase MFB emergency response skills and equipment.

On-site activities include fire station tours, a museum appliance, road rescue demonstration, junior chief uniforms, information tent, face-painting, SmokeBUSTers experience and a free BBQ lunch for all!

Please come along with your friends and family to celebrate on the day – all are welcome!

**For more information please contact:
Meg Rayner at
mrayner@mfb.vic.gov.au or 9665 4394**

Epping Fire Station
Sunday 18th November
10am – 12pm
28 Childs Road Epping 3076

Glen Waverley Fire Station
Saturday 24th November
10am – 12pm
645 Ferntree Gully Road Glen Waverley 3170

WANTED

Retired fire fighters looking for things to keep them occupied and stimulated.

Join our dedicated team of Seniors Fire Safety Program presenters to spread a simple and practical home fire safety message to the elderly in our community, one of the most “At Risk” groups.

This program is delivered free of charge to local senior citizens and community groups such as, RSL, retirement villages, Lions, Probus, and Masons.

Every presenter will receive adequate training and be provided with an MFB polo top, and kit containing resources to deliver the home fire safety message.

All presenters are compensated for travelling expenses.

Regular meetings are held to inform presenters on what messages the Brigade want delivered and a great end of the year meeting/lunch is held for you and your partner.

Presenters also have the full backup support of MFB Community Resilience staff.

If you are interested in pursuing this opportunity, contact: Marthese Kavanagh on 9420-3908.



Fire Services Bowls Club.

The AGM of the bowls club was held at the Newport bowls club on 13th September 2012, where we saw an election for the following positions.

President: Peter Geran
SV/President: John Garvin
J.V/President: Peter Wright.
Secretary: John Budge
Treasurer: Alan Drury

After more than 20 years service Les Buddle stood down as secretary. Les was congratulated on his mighty effort by the president, this was followed by a good round of applause by all in attendance.

The next Australian Fire services bowls carnival will be held in Tasmania next November. Victoria's contingent will consist of 40 bowlers from retired Furies, MFB & CFA present serving members. They will be accompanied by 30 wives, partners and friends.

We are still looking for new members to help play in our games at other clubs during the year.

We welcome all furies, whether retired or serving members from MFB, CFA, Airport or other organisations

If interested contact John Budge.

rhondasad1@optusnet.com.au or 0438543334

More information including the fixture for the coming season can be obtained from the web site. www.sportingpulse.com. Then go to network then Lawn Bowls Victoria, finally, MFB bowls

GUESS WHO?

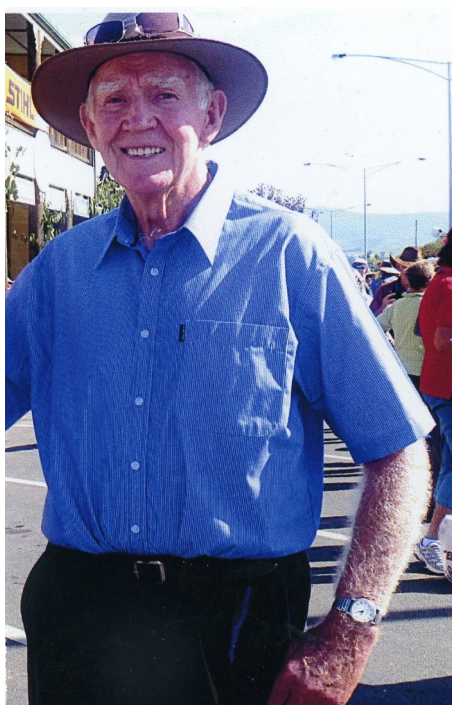
The photograph at right is of a well-known firey sitting behind the wheel of one of the famous MFB sports-car hose carriages. The person that sent it in is none other than big Kevin Kennedy, Kevin told me he used to reckon he was the biggest and toughest firey at the station until this bloke came along (only joking)

What is the name of the person behind the wheel;

What is his claim to fame;

What is the name of the MFB station?

First correct answer will be guaranteed that they will not be shown how to do the three person lift.



Left: This is a photo of an Ex MFB Firefighter who left the job for greener pastures. What we are looking for is his name. Alan Boyd who sent in the picture stated that I am allowed to give a few clues. This bloke was a good amateur fighter in fact he lost on a points decision to Tony Madigan to represent Australia in the Light-Heavyweight division at the Olympic Games, the one where Madigan fought the great Cassius Clay. First correct answer for this one, will be given the opportunity to go 10 Rounds with him wearing 12 oz. gloves



The last photograph, right, is of five retired desperadoes from the fire service, what we require is their names, be warned if we do not get a correct answer on this one, heads will roll, with the amount of silver they would have had on their shoulders in the old days, they could have you doing the marble stairs at the old No 1 for the next 12 months. (I kid you not)

SMILE

Three retired fireies die on Christmas Eve and are met by Saint Peter at the pearly gates.

In honour of this holy season,' says Saint Peter, 'you must each possess something that symbolises Christmas in order to get into heaven.'

The first man fumbles through his pockets and pulls out a lighter. He flicks it on. 'It represents a candle,' he says.

'You may pass through the pearly gates,' says Saint Peter.

The second man reaches into his pocket and pulls out a set of keys. He shakes them and says, 'They're bells.'

'You may pass through the pearly gates,' says Saint Peter.

The third man starts searching desperately through his pockets and finally pulls out a pair of woman's knickers. Saint Peter looks at the man with a raised eyebrow and asks, 'And just what do those symbolise?'

The man replies, 'They're Carol's.'

BELLS BY THE BEACH

HOLIDAY HOUSE • OCEAN GROVE



Family and pet friendly accommodation - short or long stays!

- Self contained 3 bedroom house, 500 metres from surf beach.
- Easy walk to the beach - no hills to negotiate!
- All pets welcome - they can sleep indoors or in their own room.
- Ensuite with spa bath/shower and handrail, toilet and vanity – extra WC off laundry.
- Fresh, clean beds with electric blankets. Two QS and two Singles. Doonas, covers, pillows provided. BYO linen or hire ours, with beds made.
- Undercover parking, large secure garden with fences.
- Gas log fire, aircon, warm outdoor shower (for after the beach)
- A short drive to main shops and Ocean Grove Market Place.
- Ocean Grove Bowls Club - for reasonably priced meals, pokies, and betting facilities.
- Lots of tourist attractions on the Bellarine Peninsula - parks, coastal drives, Portarlington, Pt Lonsdale and Barwon Heads.

24 Roditis Drive, Ocean Grove, Victoria

Your hosts: Jan and Lin Bell

Phone: 0403 221 737 or 03 5251 5899

Office address: 25 Gange Place,
Clifton Springs 3222

Seasonal rates for 2 to 6 guests - starting at \$140 per night during Winter. Other seasonal rates on application.

Check out our updated website: www.bellsbythebeach.com.au
e: bellsbythebeach@bigpond.com
Brochure available, inspection invited.



Geelong Firey's Muster C.F.A. – M.F.B. – SHELL - AVALON Serving & Retired – Staff & Volunteers

Smorgasbord Lunch
Tuesday 27th November 2012
1130 hrs @

GATEWAY HOTEL
218-230 Princess Highway – CORIO
Members, Wives, Partners,
Family & Friends

Contact:
John Wallace 5278 4734
Peter Lang 5275 6039

Recent Retirements

Rob Murphy, 12th October
Rob Taylor, 1st November

A Politically incorrect Blonde Joke

A blonde's dog goes missing and she is frantic. Her husband says, "Why don't you put an ad in the paper?"

She does, but two weeks later the dog is still missing. "What did you put in the paper?" her husband asks. "Here boy!" she replies.

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

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

John's address - - retfire@bigpond.net.au

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

Annual General Meeting – Wednesday 21st November 2012
Nomination For Positions on The Committee.

Nominations are called for the following positions on the Committee of the Retired Firefighters Association of Australia, Victorian Branch Inc.: -

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Ordinary Member of Committee, Six (6) Positions

Each position will serve for a term of one (1) year.

Please note that according to the Rules of the Retired Firefighters Association of Australia, Victorian Branch Inc, only financial members may nominate for any of the above positions and any member nominating must have been a member for at least one (1) year.

Nominations must be in writing on the form below, signed by the Proposer and the Seconder and accepted by the Nominee. Completed nomination forms must be returned to the Secretary at the address shown below **no later than 17:00 hours (5.00pm) on Friday 16th November 2012.**

Retired Firefighters Association of Australia, Victorian Branch, Inc.

We, the undersigned, being financial members of the Retired Firefighters Association of Australia, Victorian Branch Inc. hereby nominate:

Nominee's Name

For the position of:

Proposed by (signature) (Print name)

Seconded by (signature) (Print name)

Nominee Acceptance (signature) (Print name)

Date

JOHN BERRY
SECRETARY/TREASURER
Ph: 03 9431 2880

Return by Friday November 16, 2012, to:
 The Secretary
 Retired Firefighters Association of Australia
 Victorian Branch Incorporated.
24 Lincoln Drive Lower Plenty 3093

UFU RETIRED MEMBERS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Saturday November 10th 2012

11.30 AM. - 4.00 PM.

Malvern Town Hall

A reminder:

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

PRINT POST No. PP333964/0020

**RFA Newsletter
If undelivered return to;
The Secretary
24 Lincoln Drive
Lower Plenty 3093**

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