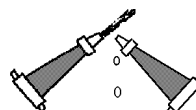




Inc/No:A16839F



“WATER OFF!”

NEWSLETTER OF THE
 RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
 (VICTORIAN BRANCH) INC.
 February 2000 Vol 4 No1

E.M.S. FIRST RESPONDER ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT

LAUNCHED AT CARLTON FIRE STATION

At last the M.F.E.S.B. have received the green light for the expansion of the First Responder role across the whole Metropolitan Fire District. The Minister, the Hon. Andre Haermeyer, officially launched the expansion at No. 3 Station at 10.30am on Tuesday 8th February. There was a big media turnout on the day.
 The program will also be publicised through radio

announcements, newspaper advertisements both major and local, posters and brochures dropped into most letterboxes in the MFD.

Congratulations to all involved, particularly both the M.F.E.S.B. and the U.F.U. who worked closely together to pave the way for successful implementation.

With this decision one could say the wheel has just



Shown - are Firemen/First Aid attendants (as they were then known) in the drill courtyard at Eastern Hill. (Note: A young Silver, always the volunteer, is strapped to the stretcher.)

“GENERAL MEETING”

Notice is hereby given of our next General Meeting to be held at the North Melbourne Football Club Social Club, Fogarty Street North Melbourne (Melway 43 B4) 1030 Hours, Wednesday February 16, 1999

AGENDA ITEMS.

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

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

JOHN BERRY
ACTING SECRETARY/TREASURER
Ph: 03 9431 2880

OFFICE BEARERS

President, Don Brennan
Vice President, Ian Fowler
Acting Sec./Treasurer, John Berry
(The position of Secretary/Treasurer vacant)

General Committee;
John Laverick
Bob McNeil
Ross Medwin
Ern Tamme
John Wallace
Auditor; Theo Teklenburg

SICK LIST

Bill Carter (Now in full time care)
Ben Conway (Recovering from operation)
Jim Holmes (Nursing Broken Ribs)
Graham Keays (In nursing home - Ill health)
Lindsay Lyons (Not the best but still alert)
Brian McMillan (Queensland)
Jim Nevins (Recovering see letters Page 14)
Claude Selby (Sunshine Hospital)
Bill Severn (Eye Problems & hypertension)

VALĒ

Brian Badrock
Leo Brown
Mrs J. Cockburn

Note:
Please keep information regarding sickies, etc, flowing. We endeavour to keep you informed, but we can only do this with your help.

RFA 2000 Calendar

February 16: General Meeting
March 26: Reunion MFESB T/Col.
May 17: General Meeting
July 27: Queensland Reunion (Southport Y/C)
August 16: General Meeting
November 15: Annual General Meeting
November 25: U.F.U. Annual Luncheon (St Kilda T/H)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I would like to welcome you all to the 21st Century and the apparent demise of the Y2K Bug. The last meeting was the A.G.M. and once again was well attended. The hospitality and the meal at the North Melbourne Football Club were once again very good. Guest speakers were Alan Richards D.C.F. O and Peter Marshall, Sec UFU, who spoke on the MFSB structure as it is today, including the closing and relocation of Fire Stations. C.E.O. Bob Solly and Keith Adamson also attended. The election of office bearers saw the Status Quo remain with no further nominations as John Berry stated he had 24 nominations for Secretary but all withdrew the day before the election. It may seem okay that the committee is doing their job but new blood is always required to get more ideas and to stop being stagnant. Our next meeting is once again at the North Melbourne Football Club on Wednesday 16th February, and our Spit Roast lunch is on Sunday the 26th March. Don't forget your spouses are welcome at the meetings.

Don Brennan



ACTING SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

Whilst contemplating what I would start the first report of the new year with, in light of all the commotion regarding the Y2K bug, I thought about the following quote "Ring out the old, ring in the new; ring happy bells, across the snow. The year is going, let him go; Ring out the false, ring in the true" (Alfred Lord Tennyson). I do not think there is a more fitting quote for the start of this year and newsletter.

In the recent MFESB newsletter "Fire Call" they made mention of a couple of items ie. New Years Eve Fizzer; Their pre-impact preparations for the Y2K were so successful they were able to enjoy their time with families and loved ones the next day rather than facing a major catastrophe.

The other item was that the "First Responder" had received the green light for the rest of the metropolitan area from the Government, the official launch was at No. 3 Station on Tuesday the 8th of February at 1030am. Well done to all those involved. With this EMR first responder decision, one could say the wheel has just about completed the full circle. If you look at the picture on page one you will see that firefighters ran the Ambulance service until 1902.

REPORT ON ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 19/11/99

Item.1. President's opening remarks.

Item.2. Apologies.

Item.3. President called for a suspension of standing orders in regards to the business of the meeting,

thereby allowing one of our guest speakers who had been called to an urgent meeting to give his presentation earlier.

Item.4. Peter Marshall United Firefighters Union (Victorian Branch) Secretary, gave a very informative lecture to the members present on the changes that had occurred to union members. In relation to the federal award, changes to their conditions and wages, including the numerous benefits the Trade Hall Council has and was establishing for their members both past and present. A retired C.F.A, career member responded on behalf of the members present, thanking Peter for this most informative talk and the assistance given by the union when requested. The speaker then asks for his leave to attend to pressing business.

Item.5. Resumption of standing orders.

Item.6. Minutes of Annual General Meeting 18/11/98 were read, Ross Medwin moved and seconded John Laverick; the minutes read was a true and factual account. Carried.

Item.7. Secretary / Treasurers Report see financial report as read (page 5), Frank Churchill moved that the report be accepted, seconded John Cotter. Carried.

Item.8. The President's report was read. Graham Edwards moved it be accepted, seconded Greame Simpson. Carried.

(Cont. over)

Item.9. The President vacated the chair to allow for election of Officer bearers and Committee members. The incumbent committee was

returned unopposed. The Secretary/Treasurers position vacant, filled by an acting person until filled.

Item.10. The President welcomed and introduced our other guest, Mr Bob Solly C.E.0 M.F.E.S.B, D.C.F.0 Alan Richards (R.F.A. Patron) and Director of Corporate Relations Mr Keith Adamson, to the members present.

Item.11. D.C.F.0 Alan Richards, took the opportunity to explain to the meeting the considerable changes that had occurred to the service. The areas covered related to the strategic location of fire suppression resources, Government Acts E.M.S FIRST Responder and the P. O.D system. Public expectations of the service in relation to public education of the young, aged, immigrants and the impaired. Question time followed, The President on behalf of the members thank them for they're most interesting presentation and the hope that we at some later date may call on them again. The guests were invited to join us for lunch.

Meeting closed at 1208 hours.

Trusting this newsletter finds you all fit and well. Start the year with a high - join us with your partner at the next meeting.

John Berry
Acting Sec/Treasurer

HEART SUPPORT AUSTRALIA

Recently we had an ex-career member of the M.F.E.S. B. Frederick J. Wintle (Tiny) join our Association. Tiny is the Director of the national, volunteer non-profit organisation committed to the establishment of self-help management programmes and the adoption of nation-wide information and rehabilitation initiatives for people with a heart condition. They have also just introduced a new initiative called "BRAVE HEART" AUSTRALIA, a support service for young people (aged 13-30) with heart conditions; their siblings and the children of parents with heart conditions.

IF YOU NEED FURTHER INFORMATION OR WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT THEM, THEIR CONTACT NUMBERS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

TEL: (06) 2852357 FAX: (06) 2811120

Email: hsa@dynamite.com.au

Postal address: HSA, GPO Box 2650, Canberra, ACT, 2601

PLANT THIS INFORMATION IN THE BACK OF YOUR MIND!

You have heard of fire dogs chasing after fire trucks and riding on them, well imagine a retired member with over forty years of service on seeing an appliance going to a call having an immediate surge of adrenaline

and takes flight after the vehicle. In fact, going through red lights to keep up with it in an effort to assist them in their fire extinguishment endeavours. The moral to the story, if ever placed in the same situation, take three deep breaths of air, let the adrenaline surge pass. If you must help do not go through red lights unless advised by the police. "IT CAN BE VERY EXPENSIVE"

MID WEEK FOOTBALL REVIVAL FOR M.F.E. S.B

The Fire Service will again participate in a mid week competition this year. It will be in the form of a Football Emergency Services Carnival. Dates and times to be arranged. Information will be available on the Brigade Website and/or SF/m Bernie Hoare No 38 Station D Platoon, SF/m Dizzy Smith No 35 Station B Platoon.

UNION'S ANNUAL LUNCHEON FOR RETIRED MEMBERS

The 1999 function was again a great day. The opportunity to meet with old friends and rekindle old memories is something to see and behold. The Union, its members and the Social Committee are to be congratulated for running this day for all retired career union members. The members just keep growing - in excess of six hundred present including the new Minister the Honourable A. Haermeyer and the C.E.O. Bob Solly and his wife.

OLD FIRE TUNIC REQUIRED FOR MEMBER

One of our members require for his own personal use, one fire tunic (large size) to enable him to fulfill public relations projects he undertakes for the community in his immediate area. If you have one you do not need, please contact **Tom Driscoll 52593066.**

John Berry

RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA VICTORIAN BRANCH INCORPORATED

Inc. No. A16839F

Statement of Income and Expenditure for year ended 30 June 1999

<u>Income</u>	\$	30 June'98 \$
Opening Balance Credit Union 1 July 1998	4,682.78	5,268.63
Members' subscriptions	3,591.50	3,753.00
Badge sales	81.00	105.00
Socials	1,370.00	44.00
Joining fees	115.00	225.00
Interest received	228.17	249.80
	<u>10,068.45</u>	<u>9,645.43</u>
 <u>Expenditure</u>		
Postages and telephone	822.00	834.82
Reunion Day catering	2,284.00	1,045.00
Magazine expenses	53.45	227.18
Badges	-	496.32
Donation	-	500.00
Printing cards Name tags and accessories	-	518.90
AGM and meeting expenses	941.00	1,093.00
Sundries	213.00	239.00
Government charges	8.47	8.43
	<u>4,321.92</u>	<u>4,962.65</u>
Closing Balance Credit Union 30 June 1999	<u>5,746.53</u>	<u>4,682.78</u>
	<u>10,068.45</u>	<u>9,645.43</u>

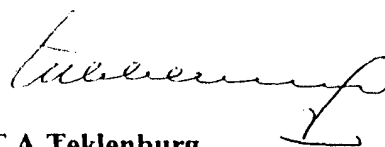
Bank Reconciliation

Main account	1,610.56
Term deposit	<u>4,135.97</u>
	<u>5,746.53</u>

Statement prepared and figures correct from information supplied



J A Berry
Treasurer



T A Teklenburg
Auditor

LIFE'S IMPONDERABLES

If you're in a vehicle going the speed of light, what happens when you turn on the headlights?

WALKING HELPS BOOST MEMORY IN THE ELDERLY

For many of his 88 years, Harry S. Truman left reporters gasping for breath as he offered sharp tongued commentary during his brisk morning walk.

John Glenn credits his celebrated return to orbit at age 77 to daily exercise, including a two mile power walk.

Now, brain researchers finally are catching up with senior pedestrians.

A new study suggests that taking an invigorating walk gives older people's brains a good workout, boosting memory and sharpening judgment.

Anaerobic exercise - stretching and weightlifting - did not produce similar cognitive improvements. The experiment was conducted at the University of Illinois reported in an issue of the journal "Nature".

The mental benefits of walking were especially significant, researchers said. Because the senior citizens had not exercised regularly before joining the study.

"People who have chosen a lifetime of relative inactivity can benefit mentally from improved aerobic fitness", said the study's lead author, cognitive neuroscientist Arthur Kramer. "It's never too late".

Researchers recruited 124 sedentary men and women ages 60 to 75. They were randomly assigned to either a walking program or an anaerobic regimen of stretching and muscle toning.

The experiment lasted six months. Walkers eventually were completing an hour long loop

around the university's Urbana-Champaign campus three times a week.

Kramer and others administered a variety of simple tests to gauge the participants ability to plan, establish schedules, make and remember choices and rapidly reconsider them if circumstances changed.

Neurologists call these brain functions "executive control processes" because they help a person live independently. They are controlled in the brain's frontal and prefrontal lobes.

"These areas of the brain decline the earliest with aging", Kramer said. "So executive control is more severely affected by the normal aging process than other brain functions".

Among other things, participants were shown alternating letters and numbers, and asked to quickly determine between vowels and consonants, and odd and even numbers. The exercise is known as task switching.

The walker's ability to switch tasks improved by 25%, while other non walkers showed little improvement.

Previous studies have shown that regular exercise may reduce the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease later in life, possibly because exercise enhances the production of certain hormones and other protective compounds in the brain.

Those studies involved only people with long term exercise habits. And Alzheimer's involves the death of brain cells, which is different from more generalised memory lapses that frequently accompany aging.

Experts who reviewed the Illinois study said it is not clear how walking might stimulate memory

ANOTHER REASON TO STOP SMOKING

Germany's "Test" magazine reports that the British Health Ministry has asked for a new warning on cigarette packets sold in the EU: "Smoking makes you impotent". Researchers have found that men who started smoking in their teens or twenties have a 50% higher risk of becoming impotent in their 30s or 40s than non smokers.



TRAVELLING WITH SILVER

Once a playground for those bitten by the casino bug, the Genting Highlands Resort now caters for families with a city of entertainment that is the third most popular tourist destination in Malaysia after Kuala Lumpur and Penang.

The setting for this resort is the 1800 metre Gunung Ulu Kali 58 Km from the capitol Kuala Lumpur.

There are indoor and outdoor theme parks that have similar attractions to Disneyland and Disney World. While Disney characters charm visitors to their parks in Los Angeles and Florida the Genting Resort has Tabby the Tiger, Allie the Elephant, Joe the Orang Utan, Benny the Clown and Frank the Churchill.

The cost of the most expensive rides such as the double - loop roller coaster or Space Odyssey 2020, a terrific journey through the darkness of space, does not exceed \$3.50, (depending on exchange rates). While the kids enjoy the rides, mum and dad can try their luck in the Casino, Blackjack, roulette, baccarat, poker, keno or the traditional Chinese dice game Tai Sai, grand prizes include Mercedes Benz, B.M.W's and Porche motor cars.

There are more than 35 food outlets on the

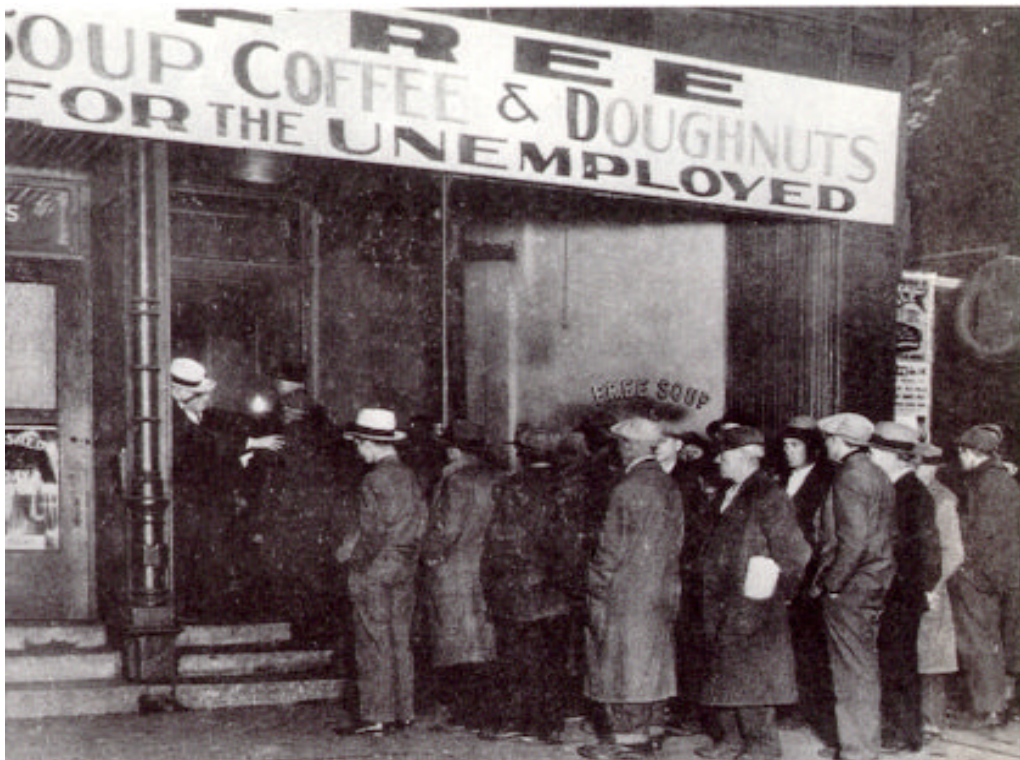
mountain and some of South, East Asia's finest golf courses and a ride on the Genting Skyway cable car over a distance of 3.5 Km. They say it's the longest and best cable ride in South East Asia - now hang on, the Cairns cable ride takes some beating!

When you descend on Genting's other resort Awana, which is also a hilltop resort you will find it's golf course is rated in the top 100 in the world. The best part at this time is the value for money, \$1 Aus. Buys 2.45 Ringgit and the beer is beautiful.

Now you're not really travelling with Silver because Silver has not been here - yet. My source of information is a friend and his wife, he is the South East Asia manager for BHP, specialising in their Colourbond product, and guess where BHP pay for him to stay? The Genting Highlands Resort. It's tough at the top, I will definitely get there, even if its only for the beer!

Silver's next trip is to Margaret River and Scarborough Beach in Perth leaving March 11 while Mrs Silver is setting up Singapore, London, Devon, New York, Boston, Los Angeles, Hawaii and Auckland in September - if we are all still here!

Happy Travelling



Silver (wearing the hat) joins the queue at the Travel Agency to book his flight to the popular Genting Highlands Resort.

Another Barbara McCumisky story from her historical series of the formative years of the MFB.

The last issue of "Water Off" featured a report from the newspapers of the day, of the disastrous accident which occurred back in 1907, involving the crew of the Merryweather motor pumper which hit debris in the middle of Flinders Lane. The driver lost control and careered into a shop window. Fortunately there were no serious injuries to the firefighters, but the pumper

was badly damaged. However that was not the only accident to befall the Brigade on that fateful night.

"Water Off" continues the reports from the "Age" newspaper on the other accident involving Fire Horse Negro. We warn you, that as there were no news photographers at the time, the reporters of the day tended to write very graphic descriptions.

FIRE HORSE NEGRO DIES!

The account from "The Age" dated August 13, 1907, is as follows:

The breaking of a street fire alarm at the corner of Flinders Lane and Russell Street at 8.28 o'clock on the night of August 12, resulted in a disaster the like of which has not occurred in fire brigade experience in Melbourne. The alarm which caused all the trouble was a false one, perpetrated supposedly by some larrikins, and this more than anything of the kind which has previously happened, makes it plain that no penalty can be too severe as a fitting punishment for persons who see humour in mischief of this description.

The position of the fire alarm broken was of such importance that Deputy Chief Officer Lee turned out a strong force of men and appliances, the latter consisting of a motor pump, a motor chemical engine, a horse chemical engine, a ladder carriage and a salvage van.

DCO Lee got away first with the motor chemical, and went along Evelyn Street to Spring Street, followed by the horse chemical. The motor pump dashed out of the station along Gisborne Street, followed by the rest of the appliances, and both sections converged upon each other at the corner of Spring and Collins Streets, where the clamour created by the ringing of bells and the spectacle of flashing helmets, brass work and galloping horses, drew the attention of crowds of people.

Mr Lee, in the motor pump, just shaved a tram, which fortunately came to a standstill in time, and continued down Collins Street. The horse chemical followed, but in turning, Negro, the offside horse, stumbled, and falling against Titan, threw him out of his stride, and veered him southward.

The ponderous vehicle swayed after the staggering horses, which were then almost on the telegraph post, rendering the impact inevitable. The pole snapped in the sudden turn, and the horse Negro struck the post with tremendous force with his offside flank, and was to all intents and purposes torn asunder and disembowelled. The poor animal had his off hindquarter torn almost off, and his intestines lay about

on the pavement.

The driver, F/f Robert Archibald, and F/f J Davis beside him, were flung on to the footpath. Two firefighters, Hargrave and S Barker, who were in the body of the vehicle, were thrown up against the box seat with great violence. Third Officer Wilkins and F/f Creevy on the footboard behind, were thrown inside the vehicle as the engine crashed up against the post, breaking the fore-carriage and twisting all the ironwork.

A great crowd quickly collected, and for a time all was confusion. Negro lay disembowelled and groaning in agony in the gutter, with a flood of blood running away from him, and the firefighters lying about in dazed condition. Somebody rang for an ambulance, but before it came the injured men were removed to Dr. Fred Bird's private hospital in Spring Street. Here it was found that third Officer Wilkins had his right shoulder dislocated, driver Archibald had severe shock and concussion, F/f Hargrave had a broken blood vessel in his leg, while F/f's Davis, Barker and Creevy escaped with a severe shaking and bruises.

As soon as Third Officer Wilkins had his shoulder pulled back into place, he returned to look after the horses and the vehicle. He saw that Negro was beyond help, and requested a Constable to shoot the horse. The Constable had no revolver, and seemed indisposed to make any effort to get one, so at last, after quite an inexcusable delay, a firefighter, taking an axe from the vehicle, killed the poor animal with repeated blows of that weapon. Bystanders expressed strong indignation at the delay that was allowed to take place in killing the animal, though there were several constables amongst the crowd.

DCO Lee had not actually witnessed either of the smashes (the motor pump crash was written up in the last issue of "Water Off") but, surmising that something had happened to the horse chemical, had, after sending the motor pump on towards Elizabeth Street, turned

back to look for the horse chemical, and was amazed to find it a ruin and fire horse Negro dead. A full inquiry would follow into the cause of the disasters, which appear to have been wholly due to a train of accidental circumstances.



Above: *The horse chemical engine after it was repaired. Hotspur, (left) replaced Negro.*

BUYERS BEWARE

Information from the Department of Justice

Advertisements and catalogues can make products sound better than they actually are, so it isn't surprising that people who buy things via the internet, mail or over the phone often complain about receiving goods that are not what they expected. There can also be long delays before goods are delivered, and sometimes they never arrive at all.

Consumers should never place an internet, mail or phone order without first considering a number of points:

- can the company be phoned or e-mailed directly for further information on the product or service?
- by using a search engine, has the shopper shopped around to compare similar products or services?
- is the price really lower than what a regular store would charge?
- what is the freight or delivery method?
- what about packaging and postage costs? Is it possible to return the goods and receive a refund?
- if the goods are imported from overseas, are they legal? What is the currency exchange rate? Is sales tax or import duty or insurance applicable?
- is it possible to inspect the goods before buying?
- do they come with a guarantee?
- given that many mail order firms have a long delivery period, they may not be a good choice for people who need something in a hurry.
- Victoria's consumer protection laws may not apply to a seller operating outside the State.

And if the goods are not needed straight away, maybe the shopper should think about whether they are needed

DO YOU REMEMBER? Geelong New World Supermarket Fire - 24 July 1969

At approximately 0845 hours the Cafe Manager entered his Office which adjoined the Bake House of the New World Super Market in Malop Street - GEELONG.

As was his normal practice he took off his coat and hung it on a hook fitted to a set of metal shelves that were located alongside his desk.

Whilst working at his desk he noticed smoke coming from the vicinity of his coat, thinking his coat was on fire he immediately removed it from the hook then discovered smoke issuing from behind the metal shelving.

The Watchroom at Geelong City Fire Station received the first call at 0855 hours to a small shed fire at the rear of the store.

On turning out the appliance driver - S/F Bob (Gabby) HAYES observed the large plume of smoke, now several hundred feet rising skywards remarked-"a F???? lot of smoke for a small shed fire"

On arrival the initial attack was to locate a missing Baker from the Bake House area that was completely involved,

He was later located in a nearby Hotel enjoying a cold pot and having a grandstand view of the ensuing firefight.

Difficulty was encountered in removing customers, who were insistent in paying for their purchases at the unmanned cash registers, with the roof void above them completely involved.

The fire had flashed over the aluminium sisalation under the roofing iron, the aluminium peeled off and small pieces the size of cigarette papers were falling, burning, onto and igniting the mountains of toilet rolls, tissues packets and cardboard cartons stored at the rear of the store.

This sisalation paper was embossed with a Firefighters Helmet and allegedly had a fire rating of "I", subsequent inquiries found that the test it had been subjected to was for clothing and fabrics and not building materials.

It was also of interest that when the store was built, resulting from appeal, sprinklers, were removed from the Fire Brigade requirement - but when the building was rebuilt sprinklers were installed without any argument !

The cause of the fire was traced back to a general purpose power outlet in the Bake House on the opposite side of the wall to where the Cafe Manager hung his coat, a build up of flour had occurred, subsequently ignited and the fire track from this location could be clearly identified.

Peter Lang

Below: *The La France 100' Ladder in use at the blaze.*

*Some 10 weeks later, whilst drilling, **Sub Station Officer Frank Markham** received fatal injuries when the cable broke on this ladder*





WORLD FIREFIGHTERS GAMES

Are there any retired fireies out there who are interested in a great holiday to Paris and/or Europe and who also might like to play golf or another sport with fellow firefighters from around the world?



July 2000 will see an influx of international professional and volunteer firefighters into the north-western region of France. The 6th World Firefighters Games will be held in Mantes, about 50kms west of Paris, from 6th to 13th July.

A contingent of nearly 200 firefighters, family and friends will represent Australia, including 30 people from Victoria. Joining up with the Victorian team will be two firefighters from the Army Fire Station in Moorebank, NSW. Victorian team members come from suburban Melbourne, Bacchus Marsh, Hoppers Crossing and Werribee.

The Games are open to all firefighters - whether volunteers, professionals or aviation and rescue, along with their families, friends and staff from clerical, workshop, electrical and stores areas of brigades. Twenty members of the team have already put their names forward to enter, a number of events, including track and field, 10-pin Bowling, the Toughest Firefighter Alive, golf, dragon boat, bucket brigade, fire truck rodeo, fire extinguish, tennis, table tennis and trap shooting. Medals will be awarded to the first three place winners in each event category so there is also a

further incentive to be part of the action.

A team uniform has been specifically designed to create an outstanding image of Australian firefighters and their support team. All team members will proudly wear their uniform at the opening ceremony where delegates from all countries will gather at the Chateau de Versailles, and parade through the Chateau and gardens to the Grand Canal. Following a welcome from the W.F.G. Comite Francais, there will be a montage of firefighting from the past 100 years or so. If you would like to attend the 6th World Firefighters Games, you are invited to phone the Games Secretary, Lin Bell (ex-MFB) on (03) 9727 3179 or President Bill Nuske (CFA) on (03) 9749 3405 (AH) for more information.



ST ANDREW'S SHAKEN!

There was chaos at the mecca of golf, the historic St. Andrew's in Scotland, when an imposing figure stepped out of a limousine and onto the hallowed turf. Rumors and whispers abounded as members scurried to see who had graced them with his presence. Others looked up their "who's who" in golf to see if they could put a name to the

weather beaten face - a face that could only have come from years of squinting into the sun watching the flight of the little dimpled ball along the fairways of the world's great courses.

It was when he said, "Oi, where's the dunny mate?" that the noise of slamming doors and windows could be heard to the far reaches of the Hebrides.

The Colonel and his lovely lady Pam were holidaying in the UK when they dropped in at St Andrew's to give them some tips on course management (he reckons they need a few gum trees around the place). But alas, amid mumblings of "sassenachs" and "go back to the colonies" they beat a hasty retreat and headed for friendlier climes.

Ken and Pam were visiting daughter Julie



The Colonel photographed while looking for lost balls on the treeless ground of the the famous course.

ACTION'S CHARACTER COLUMN

Seeing an article in the last edition penned by Reg Carey confirmed my fears he is still out there somewhere.

Reg Carey - where do I start? I should start with stories I had heard before I had even met the man. As S/f Carey instructing a junior F/m on how to test auxiliary alarms from the outside with a hammer, unfortunately overheard by the DO, exit S/f Carey on the station bike to test alarms. As the man who had thrown more buckets of water than anyone in the Brigade. As S.O. Civil Defence with his biscuit van full of ropes and bits of timber, or later as DO Keys, Captain Jingles or to many as that "Black B". Whatever he was called everyone knew him. I was not to know at the time he was later to become a friend, a father figure and someone who taught me more about fire-ground tactics than any other, only my peers can judge whether he succeeded or not!

This article could be titled "Acts and Retributions". I joined Reg Carey on the new shift at No1 Stn., formed due to the 10/14 system. With the late G. Geddes, A. Cowban, Meggs, Duncan, Dewhurst and others he and I immediately declared a friendly war on each other that was to last for 5 years.

It started when I was wearing a striped pyjama coat on night shift that was called the coat of many colours. Reg decided to turn it into the coat of many strips and as such, at every opportunity would place a finger in a small hole and rip it downwards. Now, as long as it still had buttons on the front it was staying. Of course these acts could not continue unpunished so I will condense a summary of events over that period.

Strip 1: Reg Carey's tea on night shift was nearly always a tin of food which he heated before muster and poured it onto two pieces of toast. This particular night I removed his tin and replaced it with a tin of unmarked tomato soup. You can imagine the look as he emptied the soup over the toast, the plate and the floor. He immediately rang his wife and abused her for giving him the wrong tin.

Strip 2: Just before the flats at No1 were due to be demolished Reg had gone to bed in the D.O's room. I decided to give him a fright by thumping the wall behind him with the 7lb hammer off the Snorkel, seconds after I hit the wall there was a terrible yell and he emerged screaming and covered in white powder. A metre square sheet of cement rendering had crashed onto him in bed in the dark.

Strip 3: This was all by himself. I had collected the tea dishes to wash, "I'll wash my casserole dish" said Reg. Why? "Because if you break it I'll be in trouble" he replied. Next morning, "beauty, four days off" said Captain Keys as he stormed into the flat and threw his keys from the door into his kit bag on the other side of the room, "Chink" - departing Captain Keys to face wife with a now 9 piece casserole dish.

Strip 4 and for all the other strips: Due to promotion I was leaving and Reg was far ahead, so I had to do something quickly and I did.

At home I taped a 2 stroke mower on a small recorder and took it to work for a night of nights. Later that night I heard him in his room mumbling (I had sown up his pyjamas) then, "little B....d" and the sounds of brushing (I had put sugar in his bed). Silence descended and I nearly broke down laughing for three times I tried to put the tape recorder under his bed, eventually succeeding. Twenty seconds later all hell broke loose and all the flats erupted. Reg did not know what it was or where it was and he could not see it.

Silence again, and I prayed for a call. It came and I heard Reg scream "bloody mongrel" (I had filled his rubber boots with water). Knowing what his mood would be like on returning, I hid, (in his bed). He stormed in yelling to Arthur Cowban, but I heard Arthur ask, "what have you done to your head"? I forgot to mention - I had nugged his helmet.

I have not seen Reg for years and hope he is in good health, he will always be part of my memories!

Action Jackson



BROWN'S BITS

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

"Bushy" again!

The late "Whopper" Lane told me this story about Bushy.

While at No2 Station in the early sixties Bushy was sent to stand-by at No35 station on the 2300-0700 hour shift. Packing up his gear and bedding he eventually found No35 Stn. The DO and Whopper were sitting in the Watchroom checking the Occurrence Book when in walked Bushy with his bedding on his shoulder.

Dropping his bedding on the floor he gave his name as the stand-by from No2 Stn. and walked out again. Whopper said they were too stunned to say anything at the time, but the DO turned to him and said, "well that's sh....g in your face, give him enough work to keep him busy for the night".

Hindsight!

At the last RFA meeting one of the members reminded me of the scheme I proposed in 1975, (now called "Time Share").

I've long lost the original paperwork many years ago so I'll have to do it from memory.

While on L.S.L. I visited my Father In-law on the Gold Coast. He told me the G.P.O. (now Australia Post) had units on the Gold Coast for the benefit of their employees. This put the idea into my head so I

contacted an Estate Agent who drove me around to look at units in the area.

Two bedroom units varied from \$25,000 to \$35,000 depending on proximity to the sea. Promising the agent I would get in touch with him if I got started - I had to work out costs.

At the time we got 4 weeks annual leave every 11 months, being 52 weeks in the year the number for 1 unit would be 13 members (13x4=52) so a block of four would require 52 members. I suggested the price to join would be \$3000, (13x3=\$39000). This would cover furnishing, cutlery, maintenance, rates etc. and replace breakages. If the member did not want to use the unit he could rent to someone else.

After sending out the flyer to every Dept. I got one reply, so the scheme died. On reflection, with more annual leaves per year (which we later got) perhaps it would have got a bit complicated. But on today's value what would the \$3000 be worth today?

The first time I heard of "Time Share" was in Hawaii in 1980 when I was offered free car rental for a day to attend a meeting. I told the salesman that I tried to start the same in Australia and failed.



RACING TIPS

From My Mate's Cousin

Our man has been a bit crook lately, his knees have gone on him, "an old injury I got in the trenches" he said. But we have it on very good authority

that the he got his crook knees from crawling around the paddock at Flemington picking up discarded tote tickets during his lean times. "The only trenches he's been in are the sewerage trenches at the back of Gladstone Park" our informant tells us.

"What was he doing in the sewerage trenches" you may ask? Well, it appears that during the construction of the Gladstone Park estate a two-up school operated amongst the rubble at the back. To earn a couple of dollars our man got a job as the school's "Cockatoo".

One Sunday afternoon the Gaming Squad raided the school and locked up everyone in attendance.

The only one they missed was the "Cockatoo" who had gone to sleep and fallen into one of the newly dug sewerage trenches on the site.

Of course he's as welcome as a fart in a lift at any two-up venue now and has had to rely on his punting

pro prowess to get by since.

There's no time for sleeping if you want to pick a winner so here are the selections for the brave to follow.

Listoon Varna: Named by the same committee who built the camel. A country runner trained by G.A. Daffy from Camperdown way.

Luxatal: Lux is a unit of light - hope you can see your way clear to have a few units on this one. Another country runner trained by C. Nicholls out of Wangaratta.

El Camino: Named after a weather phenomenon peculiar to the Gulf of Mexico, (that's what our informant reckons). Trained by M. Price of Caulfield.

Getty: From Sydney, the trainer is a mystery. The owner was trying to get on the good side of one of the richest families in the world when he named this horse - which is typical of that Sydney mob.

LETTERS

STEAM TRAIN TO MILDURA

On Friday 19-11-99, we had an unusual trip to Mildura behind a J 515 class steamer.

Due to living some distance to Spencer Street, we had to spend the night in Melbourne staying at the Astoria Travel Inn near the Age office, for the departure time of 0718 hours.

The train was pulled by a diesel to Ballarat via Geelong. On arrival at Ballarat, 14 vintage carriages were added making a total of 17 plus a licensed Guard's van to supply nourishment and food. The J class was hooked on and away we went.

The trip was well known to locals along the line for thousands of people were waving to us both ways. We arrived at Mildura at 2100 hours, 20 minutes late.

On Saturday, we attended the Mildura Air Show at the airport. Mid afternoon, while taping a Spitfire going through it's paces, an unexpected hail storm hit, forcing a rather damp Jim and Dorothy to repair to the motel. Mildura had 2 inches overnight, nearby areas had 3 inches, (rain they didn't want).

Sunday was spent aboard the only powered paddle

boat, the P.S. MELBOURNE, on the Murray. We called in to many points of interest including the original pumping stations designed by the "Chaffy Bros.", fully restored and operational. The location of the pump is called "PSYCHE BEND" (a story waiting to be told). We arrived back at Mildura Wharf at about 2030 hours.

Monday we departed at 0845 hours and arrived at Spencer Street at 2240 hours and on time, (more than the Met can do), then back to the Astoria for the night.

The loco was watered by the CFA Volunteers except for one town with a pro crew complete with union placards.

J. and D. Holmes.

Jim's progress!

I visited Jimmy Nevins in his new home at 6 Emery Crt. South Laverton. Having recovered from a stroke and both legs amputated Jim is in good spirits and would like to see old friends. His Phone number is 9255 3783.

John Brown

EMERGENCY VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

A fact of life!

John Cannon was going through some old clippings and came across this photo of No. 48 Stn's hose carriage on it's side.

It had a disagreement with another vehicle at the corner of Spencer and Hawke Streets.

John believes it was being driven by the late Reg Hudson.

The date is unknown but it would be around the late 50's to early 60's.

If anyone can shed some light on it please let us know.



LETTERS PLEASE

If you have a comment to make or would like to share your experiences please drop us a line.

Send all correspondence to: John Laverick, 40 Brunel St. Essendon 3040.

Email:

rfa@smartchat.net.au

Phone/fax (03)9337 9820

REUNION DAY LUNCHEON



Our annual reunion day luncheon will be held on Sunday 26th March 2000 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
Acting 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 26th March 2000

Guest/ Spouse Name
(please print)

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

R.S.V.P. Monday 20th March, 2000

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