



"WATER OFF"



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



November 2011 Vol 15 No 4
Inc/No: A16839F

FEDERAL HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES VOTES UNANIMOUSLY

“FAIR PROTECTION FOR FIREFIGHTERS”

There are not many times a unanimous vote in the house has occurred, it shows the true reflection of the importance of the bill.

Peter Marshall the UFU National Secretary reported that The Fair Protection for Firefighters Bill was passed unanimously in the House of Representatives in Canberra on Thursday the 13 of October 2011.

Approximately 100 firefighters from throughout Australia attended Federal Parliament to witness this historic moment for all firefighters and their families. It was an emotional day as all present thought of firefighters currently battling occupational cancer and of those who had not survived.

The Bill presumes that some specific cancers are occupational diseases for firefighters so that firefighters can access medical assistance and compensation as they would for any other work-related injury or illness.

This Bill was achieved through the national union and with great support from the global alliance, including the presentation of expert evidence from United Fire

Fighters of Winnipeg President Alex Forrest and highly respected Fire Chief Ken Block of the Edmonton fire service.

The co-sponsored Bill by all parties including Independents, received unanimous support in the lower house. An extensive Senate inquiry recommended further improvements to the Bill of which now a process has been agreed where those proposed amendments will be discussed and considered.

The Bill was scheduled to return to the House of Representatives on 31 October 2011 for endorsement of any amendments, after which it was to be forwarded to the Senate in the first week of November.

The Parliamentary process necessary to secure this protection for firefighters is well and truly proceeding to a successful conclusion. As stated, the vote in the House of Representatives was unanimous which is significant in itself.

We hope to have more information on how this Bill will effect retired firefighters in our February 2012 issue!

Guest Speaker Coup for RFA



In the Secretary's report, mention is made that we have a very interesting guest addressing the November AGM. We are not suggesting that it is necessary to crawl over broken glass to be present, but it is promised, if you do not attend, you will have missed out on a great opportunity.

This guest has shown, by his bravery awards, (one of only two names on the Police Honour Board who had received two bravery awards) to be a person that will give his all to make this community a safer place, also the type of person willing to do the hard yards for the team. That person is retired **“DETECTIVE SENIOR SERGEANT PAUL MULLETT”**

“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

1030 Hours, Wednesday 16th November 2011

AGENDA ITEMS.

- Minutes of last Annual General meeting.
- President’s Report.
- Secretary/Treasurer’s Report.
- Election of Office Bearers
- Guest Speaker, (Paul Mullet, Vicpol 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 2/1/2009 that means you have not paid your subs since 2008 therefore if no remuneration is received by the 2/1/12 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
 Ken McGillivray
 John Schintler
 John Wallace
Auditor;
 Theo Teklenburg

“Water Off”
Editorial Staff
 John Laverick
 Barbara McCumisky

Diary Dates 2011	
November 16th	Annual General Meeting
November 19th	Annual Christmas Luncheon Malvern Town Hall
November 29th	Geelong Firie’s Muster

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 so with your help.

Valē

Bruce Bedson Snr. (MFB)	Allan Hawkless (MFB)
Michael Ford (MFB)	“Tiny” Wintle (MFB)
Fred Harris (MFB)	Dave Yallop (QFRS)

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

SICK LIST (* In Nursing Home)

Keith Arms	Ted Harrison
Stan Cameron	Clarrie Hart
Huew Campbell	Barry McColl
Ken Clinkaberry	Merv McInnes
Peter Coulson	Doug Overton
Margaret Cusack	Lionel Rose
Russ Daniels*	Jack Sexton
Wayne Dellamarta	Basil Smith
Ernie Goodall*	Ron Turner*

We wish these members a speedy recovery

“Water Off” is edited by John Laverick, 40 Brunel Street Aberfeldie 3040. Phone / fax 9337 9820. Email retfire@bigpond.net.au
 All articles accepted for publication by the editor are done so in good faith and no responsibility is accepted for any inaccuracies that may occur.
 Signed; J. Laverick. (The views expressed by the editor of this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Victorian branch of the RFA)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Following on from our last Water Off report, Nancy and I attended the Austin Hospital on the 11th August and presented a cheque for \$2000.00 to the Olivia Newton John Cancer Wellness Centre. Melissa Cramp from the centre gave us a short guided tour of the new facilities which, when finished, will be world class.

Since our last meeting Mike McCumisky and myself met John Rees, Executive Manager of Media and Communications from the MFB, in regards to the printing of "Water Off". It was agreed that the MFB would finance the printing for the next 2 years before a further review is to be conducted. We thank them for this generous offer.

Don't forget our Annual General Meeting and all positions on the committee are declared open. Please consider applying for these positions.

Finally congratulations to Geelong on the win, is this the return of the "Colliwobbles."

D. Brennan



Above; *President Don presents the \$2000 cheque to Melissa Cramp of the Olivia Newton John Cancer Wellness Centre.*



SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

Welcome to the last report of the current working year, all positions of the committee, from the president down, will be declared vacant and we eagerly hope that we have a flood of nominations to fill the positions. Let's be totally factual we all have a use-by date and I feel that for the RFA to remain viable we need some new people. Take my role for instance, I am from a different era and this is a worry as I believe in this day and age to remain vibrant the secretary needs to have the finger on the pulse of the current society and from what I see and read I am not sure I do!

I must, before I get into the body of the report, on behalf of the members and committee, thank the following for their continuing support, CFA Officers & crew of the Corio Station, Firefighters Credit Co-operative, Melbourne Fire Museum, the following Metropolitan Fire Brigade departments, Media & Communications, Operational & Training Staff, Alan Roberts RFA member, The United Firefighters Union staff and all the retiring members of the RFA Committee, including the members who supply articles for the newsletter. Their support has been most generous and I am sure without it the RFA would have great difficulty in functioning.

This year, as I have reported in the previous newsletters, has been a very exciting one for all the Emergency Services with the many changes that have occurred and it has not stopped yet, we also have the Private Members bill introduced into the Senate, the vote was taken in the Federal Parliament House of Representatives for the presumptive legislation bill "Fair Protection for Firefighters" On Thursday the 13th of October for the

second reading of the bill, which was accepted unanimously and this in

itself is significant, it still has a few more steps before it becomes law.

I must tell you this is unbelievable news for the UFU, two International Fire Services, State Fire Services, ACT Fire Service and past employees of the various services who have all been of great assistance to the Senate enquiry Committee during their investigations. I know it could be said so-what, this is no big deal, let me assure you this is a giant step forward for Firefighters the world over and all those involved are to be congratulated for their endeavours. I believe a quote that Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister of Britain, said during the Second World War best sums up the position. **This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.** (Of the victory in Egypt speech)

There is no doubt the UFU National Secretary **Peter Marshall**, with his untiring determination, has made sure this 100th year of celebrations was not only a great success, but he has also insured that when future generations review the year, they will see it was not only one of reflection & celebration but also one of achievement in relation to a fair go for members from the fire-fighting fraternity. I would not be out of line in saying, the start of the second hundred years the UFU takes another great step forward for all Firefighters.

I attended the Trades Hall this quarter in my role as acting secretary of the UFU's Retired Division, at this point in time I felt the representatives from the many other groups were similar to myself all going through a steep learning curb as this concept is in its infancy. However I will say many there already have very viable

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(Continued from page 3)

established retired groups and I feel it would be to our advantage to have one address the RFA.

The coming meeting, when I present the financial report for your acceptance, you will see that we had not made the donation of monies raised at the Bunnings day; the reason for this is that the President was unable to present it until the new financial year.

Story has it that our President went into hospital for a Carpal Tunnel procedure brought on by all the days spent manning barbecues at various fund raising events. (She, who must be obeyed, even made him work when he could only use one hand). Believe it or Not

Unfortunately over the last quarter some of our foundation members Trevor Reed, Don Cameron (Silver headed one) and Ted Harrison have not been experiencing the best of health. I did suggest they need a good old fashioned smouldering urine-soaked kapok mattress fire to clear the sinuses (The young members probably would not know what we are talking about) However, I do wish I could tell you what the foundation members reply was, but it is very difficult to hear when your head is forced under water! (Only joking)

This part of the report should be called a journey back in time with the **Murphy family**. In earlier newsletters we looked at the importance of horses to the brigade, this time I would like to reflect on a couple of items in Ken's memoirs. One involves his late father and the other is about a past Chief.

I know many of us over the years have been sent out in task forces both intra and interstate, well picture this. Back in the twenties you and another fireman are called into the Chief's Office and told to get your gear together, the two of you are going onto a fire at the Wonthaggi Coal Mine. Ken did not say the way they travelled however; you do not need to be Rhodes Scholar to know it would not be by motor vehicle. In that era I believe it would have been by steam train and of course the old kit bags you had did not carry much; a couple sets of underwear & socks, towel, toiletries, tunics & breeches that would more than fill it, then catch the cable car down to the Spencer Street Station to leave on the Gippsland train. That night the train would pull into the station which, in those days, was not too far from the mine.

After you carry out your reconnoitre with the mine Supervisor re life involvement, equipment, poppet-head operation etc. you start your plan of attack, bearing in mind it has been burning for a number of days. Now the down-side for that era, no long duration oxygen sets, no gas-analyser apart from Canaries in cages to test for the coal and/or methane gas etc.

You are the expert they expect to make everything right and at this stage you would probably not had any food to eat and I reckon there is little hope of a good night's rest.



Above; Rescuer prepares to enter the Wonthaggi mine with latest canary gas analyser in the cage.

If I remember correctly the fire burnt itself out after the mine was sealed up. One other point I failed to mention, Ken's dad Cyril had worked in the mines at Broken Hill before he joined the MFB in 1913. (Oh I forgot these were the good old days).

The next is a little anecdote about an incident that occurred with a Chief and his driver. This Chief, (we will call him H B L), was returning from a fire in South Melbourne down Swanston St with his driver in his new car, when he told the driver to stop the car at the corner of Collins St. He then berated him in no uncertain manner for his wild and dangerous driving and advised him that he would take the cable back to Eastern Hill. So in full Chief Officer's uniform, the whole works helmet, belt, axe & key etc., he boarded the cable-car which would

pass the station. Surprise, surprise that driver never drove the Chief again, I wonder why!

In closing I would like to wish all the members and partners not enjoying the best of health a return to better days, to each and every one, all the best for the coming festive season and do have a great New Year.

I would also like to set all of you a challenge for the next meeting let's break the attendance record to hear the guest speaker we have coming I guarantee you will not be disappointed.

John Berry

FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL DEDICATION CEREMONY

Commander Peter Egan has advised the RFA that at 1530 hours Sunday the 4th of December 2011 the Official dedication ceremony will take place at the Burnley Complex, 450 Burnley Street.

The MFB will honour the 27 fallen Firefighters on the memorial, in attendance will not only be 100 family members of the fallen also, the Hon Peter Ryan Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the UFU State & National Secretary Mr Peter Marshall, the MFB Board President Mr Neil Comrie, the CEO Mr Nick Easy and CO Mr Shane Wright, RFA President Mr Donald Brennan.

Peter knows that many retirees would like to attend this very important day and he'd like to see us in attendance. Following the ceremony, afternoon tea will be served, finishing at 1700 hrs.

Car parking will be available at the rear of the Complex. Those wishing to attend please inform Ms Janine Clarke on Ph-9665 4501 Bus hrs.

Mr Peter Egan, I believe, should be congratulated for bringing this to fruition. It has taken a journey of 6 years.

Minutes, General Meeting 17th August 2010, at Corio Fire Station.

Don Brennan (President), John Laverick (Minutes).
John Berry Sec/ Treasurer.
Attendance as per book - over 50 members including partners.
Apologies - as per book.
Sickness - Lionel Rose, Ken Clinkaberry.
New members/attendees Robert Lee
Minutes of previous Meeting 18th May 2011 was read and confirmed.
Moved: H Floyd, Seconded: J. Chambers Carried.
Business Arising: Nil.

Secretary's Report.

Bruce Smith will retire from MFB 26th October 2011 (Contact A Platoon 26 Stn, Alec Sheppard also in October, contact D Platoon No 4 Stn,

Les Napper's memorial plaque drawing showed to the meeting, (Arrow Bronze Plaques) contact David Stenhouse 1300 55812. The meeting was told that the CFA already have permission for their plaques.

Reported on the UFU's push through the Senate, Cancer Presumption Legislation for Firefighters.

Reported on the meeting at the Trades Hall Council for the UFU's Retired Division,. Regarding COTA response to the Productivity Commission's report. **Draft report on caring for older Australians**

Treasurers Report:

Treasurers Report Working Account Balance - \$4,406.98
Term Deposit \$5,595.75. - Accepted.
Moved - G. Payne, Seconded -D. Cameron. Carried

Presidents Report: Don Brennan.

Spoke on the coming meeting with John Rees of the MFB Media & Communication.

B.B.Q for members & family proposal.

Booking Bunnings in the New Year for fund raising.

Warned about travel insurance, regarding the time you cover yourself for.

General Business:

Member Bob Thompson showed pictures taken at Ground Zero on his recent holiday in New York.

Member Don Cameron told a light-hearted story to the meeting.

Member Peter Lang advised the meeting about a research project that he and Barry Thomas are involved with regarding a Geelong firefighter. The family did not receive the correct entitlements when, as a result of a fire, his life was cut short. This incident happen many years ago.

Member Ian Fowler reported on his visit to see Harold. A. Sterling on his recent trip to Queensland. Allan is in James Park Community Care, Helensvale Qld 4212.

Member Murray Jelleff reported on his investigation into a suitable form of identification for members when attending any formal function and the need to show that the person is a retired member of an emergency service. G. Payne moved that this meeting of the RFA request the Secretary,

investigate further and report back to the members. Seconded H. Floyd, Carried

President Don Brennan, reported on wife Nancy's involvement with the CWA. They're knitting mittens and balaclava's for the troops serving in Afghanistan, very successful, but were looking for more volunteer knitters.

Guest Speaker.

The Secretary reported on the UFU's, Cohort study on Cancer Incidence in Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade Members 1980-1989. That he was involved in with Professor G Giles & Margaret Staples from the Victoria Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria, Professor G Giles presented the study at the International Association of Cancer Registries in Ottawa, Canada back in 1992. This clearly showed the union has always being very conscious of the possible link between a firefighting career and Cancer.

The Secretary with assistance from the CFA staff did a Power Point Presentation on the rapidly changing world we live in due to the advancement of technology and education, including some humorous ones.

Meeting Closed at 1217 hours, adjourned to the Gateway Hotel for lunch.

Geelong Fireys Muster



***C.F.A. – M.F.B. – SHELL - AVALON
Serving & Retired – Staff & Volunteers***

***Smorgasbord Lunch
Tuesday 29 November 2011– 1130 hrs***

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

***Contact:
John Wallace 5278 4734
Peter Lang 5275 6039***

Gone but not forgotten

This is a part of the quarterly report that the committee wish would not be required, maybe the next one. However, as I have said in previous reports our unique retired group can be likened to a classic bottle of wine, enjoy every last drop and when finished make sure you do not forget the name and/or vintage as you may never have the opportunity to see or enjoy that moment in time again.

FREDICK JAMES WINTLE (Tiny) 1941-3/8/11

Tiny joined the MFB in 1962 and left in 1977 due to poor health, I was never stationed or attended a fire etc. with him but I can say I remember when I first met him walking in the front station at the old Eastern Hill, I thought he was going to knock his head on the top of the doorway. He was that tall he just had to be called Tiny. I am not sure how tall he was but I can tell you a Collingwood six footer he was not! He was taller. If I was going to pick a scratch team for whatever he would probably always be the first pick because of his size. The other day when I was reminiscing about him, the person I was talking to told me a little anecdote that involved him. Picture an Officer about my size having a heated debate with him at the Windsor station, so as to insure he could be eyeball to eyeball, this officer got the chair out from behind the desk to stand on when Tiny came into the office. Today, with one of the new cameras, a picture like that would be worth a thousand words. The last time I spoke to Tiny on the phone it was about his change of address he said he was downsizing as there was too much maintenance for him & Julie. Julie, Tiny was well liked by all fireies and you know when he arrives at the new station up stairs they will have him as first ruck in their team.

MICHAEL FORD 1941- 3/8/11

Michael joined the MFB in 1967 and left in 1989 to further his career opportunities in another direction. I not sure what it is about people that are born in Ireland but they always seem to have a wonderful sense of humour and he was no exception to the rule. I relieved at a number of stations in the then "B" District and came in contact with him on many occasions at fires or whatever and he always had us in hysterics. I know this will sound like he was the class clown but nothing could be further from the truth, he was good at a job and around the station and always willing to give that extra effort for the team when needed, however when the pressure was off that was when the humour started. At some of the stations I have been at when the shift change came, the place would

light up when he mustered, similar to the late Danny Moriarty. I have often heard the blokes from the CFA talk about their musters so it is not just the MFB or the Irish it is just some people. Michael was one of them, interestingly I had a number of calls from many past work mates of his and everyone had a funny yarn to tell about him. I truly believe that a person who can leave us with such fond memories, leaves a wonderful gift to society, Picture him up there with Danny and Harry Morgan, it will be a laugh a minute and I pity the poor Officer in charge whoever it is, they will need to call on the big fellow up there to restore some order. To coin a phrase Michael thanks for the memories.

FREDERICK WILLIAM HARRIS (FOX) 1937-13/9/11

The Fox joined the MFB in 1963 and retired in 1990 during those years he spent a short time at No1 Station the rest was spent predominately in stations south of the Yarra, during those years spent there he attended many fires and other forms of emergencies, to his shift mates he was a top firey and good bloke to have at the station. Fred's retirement unfortunately was not as enjoyable as he would have hoped due to his health problems, earlier this year he sustained a very bad stroke, needing him to be moved into a high care accommodation at Echuca and on Tuesday the 13th of September he passed away. I was not a close friend of Freddie to different shifts and locations etc. but I believe from the short conversations I did have with him he would not have been a very happy vegemite with the way the stroke left him. Fred, I am sure Gus will look after you at the new station.

ALLAN EDWARD HAWLESS 1929-10/10/11

Allan joined the MFB in 1951 and retired in 1984 apart from No 1 and some other stations most of the time was spent as a member on C Platoon at the old Camberwell Station where as senior man he was a tutor to the younger members on the shift, in fact many went on to higher ranks. I personally was never stationed with him but I did, over the years, attend fires etc. with him and from my and others observation, he was a person that had a high level of knowledge about the trade of firefighting. I can remember when I joined in 56 we were always told the Senior Fireman was the tradesmen and as a junior fireman you were their apprentice. Allan on behalf of all of us apprentices thank you, however with your new transfer guess what? You are now going to be the junior man at the station and mate I have no doubt they will let you know. Patricia the Queensland reunion members are all very saddened that Allan will not be joining them again but you can rest assured at the next one they will all raise their glasses in his memory.

JOHN BERRY.

CONFUCIUS DIDN'T SAY...

Man who wants pretty nurse, must be patient.
 Passionate kiss, like spider web, leads to undoing of fly.
 Lady who goes camping must beware of evil intent.
 Man who leaps off cliff jumps to conclusion.
 Man who eats many prunes get good run for money.

War does not determine who is right, it determines who is left.

Man who fight with wife all day get no piece at night.
 It takes many nails to build a crib, but one screw to fill it.
 Man who drives like hell is bound to get there.

Finally CONFUCIUS DID SAY. . .

"A lion will not cheat on his wife, but a Tiger Wood!"

SUBSCRIPTIONS ADVICE

The following is advice for all members regarding your subs and receipts.

1. The subscriptions cost has not changed since the RFA was formed, back in 1988, it is still \$10 per year;
 2. Your receipt will be forwarded with your newsletter to save on postage;
 3. How to check if you are financial or not, under your name and address etc. is the word expires: and a date, that is when you cease to be financial. The committee understands we all at times, because of our busy lifestyles, may overlook it, that is why we give three years of not being financial before we stop the newsletter. Your membership is retained however; as we have no idea if you are still interested or not and postage is our biggest cost. The newsletter will be stopped until you contact the Secretary;
 4. Please understand the Members own and run the RFA, we implore all to become involved to maintain viability;
- JOHN BERRY**

Nigerian Scams Warning:

It seems to be the season for this type of scam as Australians at present, are being bombarded with Emails and letters offering a share in riches, lotteries etc. Below is a warning issued from the Australian Securities and Investment Commission.

You may receive an email/letter/fax that asks for your help to access a large sum of money in a foreign bank account. The message says that you will get a percentage of the funds in exchange for your help.

In all probability, the message is an example of the type of scam known as a Nigerian or "419" scam. The "large sum of money" does not exist. The messages are an opening gambit designed to draw potential victims deeper into the scam. Those who initiate a dialogue with the scammers by replying to the scam messages will eventually be asked for advance fees supposedly required to allow the deal to proceed. They may also become the victims of identity theft. The scammers use a variety of stories to explain why they need your help to access the funds.

For example:

They may claim that political climate or legal issues preclude them from accessing funds in a foreign bank account.

- They may claim that your last name is the same as that of the deceased person who owned the account and suggest that you act as the Next of Kin of this person in order to gain access to the funds.
- They may claim that a rich merchant, who has a terminal illness, needs your help to distribute his or her wealth to charity.

If you receive one of these scam emails, it is important that you do not respond to it in any way. The scammers are likely to act upon any response from those they see as potential victims.

What are scams using missed calls and text messages from unknown numbers?

IMPORTANT MFB EMPLOYEE SUPPORT PROGRAMME

The MFB Employee Support Program is looking for suitable candidates to enhance the existing Peer Support Team. We will be conducting a selection process in the near future and would like to receive a written expression of interest from any interested MFB personnel (both operational/non-operational, corporate, administrative and /or technical and support staff) , or retired Firefighters.

If you are selected you will be suitably trained and supported in your role as a Peer, to provide a listening ear, crisis and emotional support to Brigade personnel , retired Firefighters and their families.

You will be required to complete a 6 day training course and fulfil the requirements of the Peer Memorandum of Understanding.

If you are interested in becoming a Peer please contact Sue Jamieson, Employee Assistance Coordinator on 9665 4405 or sjamieson@mfb.vic.gov.au or SO Rod Egglestone, Peer Coordinator, on 9665 4516 or regglestone@mfb.vic.gov.au.

John Howe, Don Cameron and Dave Kewley are all peers and have been active in the program over the past 3 years.

The closing date for written expressions of interest is Monday 19th December 2011.

Missed call scams start by ringing your mobile phone and hanging up so quickly that you can't answer the call in time. Your phone registers a missed call and you probably won't recognise the number. People will often then call the number back to find out who it is. Apart from being a nuisance, the missed call can lead to a scam in two ways:

- The number you call back may be redirected to a premium rate service (a number that starts with 190) without your knowledge, which means you will be charged a lot of money per minute.

The number may tell you that you have won a prize of some sort and give you another number to call to 'claim' your prize, but they may not tell you how much the call will cost. This second number may be a premium rate number, again charging you a lot of money to get your 'prize'. Your prize may be nothing more than a ring tone subscription—which can also be a scam!

Text message scams work by sending you a text message from a number you may not recognise, but the content of the message could sound like it's from a friend—for instance 'Hi, it's John. I'm back! When do you want to catch up?' or 'Hey big fella, happy birthday!'

Another common tactic is for a text message to sound like someone flirting with you. Many people reply asking who it is and end up engaging in a lengthy SMS exchange with the scammer. Only later do they find out that they have been charged a high rate both for messages they sent (sometimes there are also charges for messages received as well).

TURBULENT TIMES OF THE MELBOURNE FIRE BRIGADES

1835 – 1970

Author, Les Gray, continues with his insight into the early days of Melbourne's Fire Services. .

When the first M.F.B. Board met in a committee room in the Melbourne Town Hall, on March 6th. 1891, Mr. W. Callaway (under secretary representing the Chief Secretary The Hon. G.D. Langridge), read the proclamation from the Government Gazette, confirming the appointment of the M.F.B. Board members present. Among the agenda items to be dealt with was the building of a larger and grander Headquarters Station to replace the old Insurance Companies Headquarters Fire Station located at 447 Little Bourke Street.

For the building of Eastern Hill Fire Station, in mid 1891 Architects were invited to enter a competition for the design of the building to the Boards instructions and specifications, which was to be built on a block of land on the Corner of Victoria Parade and Gisborne Street, bounded by Albert Street, East Melbourne, opposite Melbourne's Reserve Water Tank, (on this sight now stands the Eye & Ear Hospital) for which the Board paid 12,000 pounds. The existing double storey tenement buildings on the block were demolished. The specifications called for it to be constructed in the Queen Anne type of architecture, of concrete, iron, ornate masonry, brick and cement rendering, timber and slate rooves, basement, ground and first floor. The basement at front under the engine hall with provision for hose storage and inclement weather training area, a passageway way from the basement running under the ground floor South West side with boiler room, coke bunker and storage rooms.

The station was to have 3 turnout bays from the engine hall at front of the building facing onto Victoria Parade, a Fire Watching Tower at the rear of the building, stabling and stalls for horses at the rear of the engine hall including a hay loft and feed store. On the ground floor South East side a Chief Officers office and drawing room (for entertaining important people) with an entry to same from Gisborne Street, including an entry to the engine hall, a Board room and Board Secretaries office, a Telegraph room to provide for exchange telephones,

Street and Private Alarm terminals.

Offices for the Officers, married and single men's quarters, toilets and wash rooms etc., there had to be a single men's dining room near the engine hall and also dormitories. At the rear of the station on the Cr. Gisborne & Albert Streets, was to be provision for a shed long and wide enough to be constructed to house the American Ladder, (the Hayes La France). Also along the Albert Street boundary there were to be stables and stalls included for housing of the Chief Officers horse and buggy, and for the horses to pull the American Ladder, including a blacksmith's shop, carpenters and painters shop, additional feed store and hay loft .



Above; *View of Gisborne St and Victoria St intersection. Clearly showing the terrace houses along the left of Gisborne Street that were replaced by the Eastern Hill Fire Station..*

Image; Victorian Artists' Society

On the first floor at front directly over the Board room, Administration offices, and the Chiefs Drawing room were to be his private quarters, also on the first floor at centre front had to be the married Officer's quarters, adjacent to them and running along the South West side of the building were to be the married men's quarters with toilet facilities, bathrooms and wash houses, interconnected by cast iron balconies running around both sides of the internal hay loft and quarters, connecting with balconies at rear of the building between the rear of the hay loft and the fire watching tower with a doorway into same off the balcony, and also having a doorway to the tower on the ground floor.

The specifications called for having internal wooden and external cast iron stairways for ingress and egress from the basement, ground floor and first floor levels located from front, side and rear of the building.

Also to be included firemen's brass poles and wells, one beginning in a passageway on the first floor and terminating into the engine hall at side, and another from the first floor balcony South West side to ground level near the rear of the building.

Quite a few architectural firms submitted plans, the Victorian Institute of Architects were charged with judging the competition and they finally chose a set of plans. Chief Officer Stein was not pleased with them and the Board decided to now employ two firms of architects (one of which had originally submitted plans), to work together. The Victorian Institute of Architects were indignant with what they thought was unethical action taken by the Board, they published in their engineering journal a scathing attack stating there was a gross miscarriage of justice. The final outcome was that they could do nothing about it as their protests fell on deaf ears. It is fairly certain that Chief Officer Stein had a

large input and impact on the final plans and layout of the building.

The two firms working together came up with plans quite different to the original ones, which were accepted by the Board, apparently the original plans provided only for one small doorway at the rear into the engine hall, the new plans showed two large double hung brass and glass doors either side of the hay loft, stable's and stalls at rear of the engine hall, from two large alleyways, one on the South East side and another on the South West side, allowing for ingress and egress from the yard at rear. The South West side alleyway had a sloping stairway with balustrade each side, leading down into the basement and hose room (many years later the South East side of the basement was partitioned off and housed the brigades Printing Shop).

A Building Contractor was employed and work got under way in late 1891. The Station was officially opened on the 3rd. Nov. 1893, (this may appear to be a short time to build the station, what must be kept in mind is that the original station

was approximately one quarter the size of the complex as we knew of it in the 1960's, because of the station's many additions and alterations over the proceeding years and at the time there was no shortage of skilled tradesmen along with the low cost of living and wages. The building contractor was able to employ more than enough men to carry out the work over the 2 year period).

The total cost of building the Eastern Hill Fire Station including all the modern fixtures was 20,000 Pounds. The facade around the building, built in Queen Anne style had masonry columns with corbelled archways and corbelled parapets. The corbelled parapets supported appealing structural features such as masonry columns with small masonry balls fixed with a cone at top and other masonry ornamentations.

To be included and built into the Victoria Parade and Gisborne Street facades, on the ground and first floors were to be 8 feet wide stepped back veranda's with open brick archways protecting them from the elements, i.e. on the ground floor starting from Gisborne Street along Victoria Parade covered the front of the Board Room and the Chief's Office, to the 3 bay arched brick entrance to the Engine Hall at centre of the building and from the other side of the Engine Hall across the Telegraph Watchroom to the end of the building situated on a right of way from Victoria Parade to Albert Street. The ground floor Gisborne Street from Victoria Parade, the brick archways and veranda's covered the side of the Board Room, Secretaries Office, the Chief's entrance and his drawing room to the end of the building.

On the first floor from Gisborne Street along Victoria Parade the veranda's and archways covered the front of the Chief's quarters to the married officers quarters at centre, from the other side it covered the married men's quarters to the end of the building.

Along Gisborne Street from Victoria Parade veranda's and archways covered the entire length of the chief's private quarters to the end of the building. All of the external windows, sills and doorways on the ground floor



Above; *The official opening of the Eastern Hill Fire Station in November 1893.*

Image; Fire Services Museum of Victoria

and the windows on the first floor around the building were recessed back into the building line, all having extruding corbelled brick and masonry archways over them, with the exception of several rectangular windows, also recessed but having a small ornamental brick corbelled parapet over them at the top to protect them from rain.

The verge ends of the gable rooves, particularly the one at the centre of the building over the first floor Victoria Parade side had a very ornate large circular brigade logo featured, with a gargoyle of sorts on top at the Apex of the roof above the ridge height.

The completed building was indeed a very imposing edifice, overall with its high pitched gable rooves and valley's, constructed of timber and slate, with five vertical dormer windows on its sloping rooves facing Victoria Parade and Gisborne Street, along with four very ornate corbelled brick chimney's protruding well above the ridge lines, each with three inverted chimney pots on top and to cap it off at the rear it had its appealing fire watching tower with it's vertical recessed mock brick windows on all four sides with a corbelled on corbelled fancy brick and concrete balcony with it's balustrade situated approximately two thirds of the way to the top running around the tower, which was topped by an ornate octagonal metal and glass sided "light house" lantern type fire watching room with its low pitched roof, at top with a flag pole fixed in centre..

To mark the occasion a parade of approximately 200 permanent and auxiliary firemen marched in their turn out gear and black leather helmets, Chief Officer Stein and Deputy Officer Mc Dowell marched in their silver helmets, led by a brass band made up from bandsmen from the various former Melbourne Volunteer Brigades, followed by 8 horse drawn Steam Pumpers, several with a head of steam worked up, belching black smoke (this occurred as the firemen boiler operators every now and then threw several handfuls of sawdust into the fire box).

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

Two Extension Ladders drawn by their horses, one was the Hayes La France and the other the Shand Mason. Twenty two single horse drawn hose carts and several large horse drawn hose reels.

The Parade assembled in Victoria Parade between Swanston and Lygon Streets, and proceeded down past the Fire Station, it stopped near Lansdowne Street and was dismissed and broke up, many of the men and appliances returned to their stations, several Steam Pumps, Hose Carts and Hose Reels turned right into Gisborne Street and lined up along side the station for the public to view them.

The official party including the Chief Officer and Deputy, Board Members, Politicians, the Mayor of Melbourne and Insurance Companies Representatives, many with their ladies assembled at the front of the station for the official opening by the Chief Secretary. His address was responded to by the President of the Board Mr. M.A. Ridge. The official guests were entertained by the Chief Officer with light refreshments in his drawing room and private garden, (which was situated at rear South East of his quarters running parallel along Gisborne Street.)

It was reported by the Melbourne Newspapers of the day to have been a spectacular parade and display, one befitting Melbourne's new Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board and their determination to build up men and fire appliances to combat the cities ever growing need for fire protection.

Circa 1892 the M.F.B. Electrical Department and Workshops were located near the South Melbourne Fire Station until it was transferred to Eastern Hill No.1 Station in 1906. William Stock Senior was the Chief Electrical Engineer and W.T. Wilkins was the Chief Mechanical Engineer. (When William Stock Senior retired his son William Stock Junior was promoted to the role and remained in that position until he retired in the 1960's. Among other things in one section of the workshops Standpipes and Couplings and other equipment taken over from the Volunteer Brigades were being standardised to suit the M.F.B. requirements.

The Electrical Department whose original objective was to adapt electrical equipment supplied from the Post Master General's Department i.e. all of their existing telephones and switchboards supplied had to be modified and brought up to date to suit the Brigades requirements. At the same time the Blacksmiths shop section's main work was shoeing about 75 horses for the brigades transport. It's blacksmiths repaired broken metal body work and broken iron pulling trace chains and other metal parts. It's wheelwrights attended to any repairs required to the wooden wheels of the fire appliances, their carpenters repaired and restored timber body work to appliances and maintenance around the fire stations and the painters painted the repaired body work and Maintenance painting where required.

At about this time the new City and Suburban Fire Stations were being electrically fitted out (240 Volt) and the 12Volt Street Fire Alarm systems were being rapidly developed throughout Melbourne and it's outer suburbs and as a result of this the Electrical Department expanded

further in improvising and installing the necessary equipment in Fire Stations i.e. Watchroom Alarm Termination, and Telephone Switch Boards.

Many additions, alterations and refurbishments have been made to No. 1 Station since the opening day in 1893. Eventually it became necessary to centralise the Workshops and Electrical Department, in 1907 a new building section was added to the rear of the Headquarters Fire Station on the South West side. The feed store and hay loft were demolished along the Albert Street boundary, a new double storey building was added. On the ground floor beginning with an archway from the rear of the original building South West side over the main alley way from Gisborne Street which did a right angled turn and continued on to Victoria Parade, with a firemen's toilet opposite, continuing on with the General Store, Workshops and Electrical Department which extended to the Albert Street boundary. The entrance to the workshops was via a concrete sloping ramp that ran down into a side laneway at rear of the Fire Station, the entry to the General Store was off this ramp.

Above on the first floor level, dormitories, toilet's and shower rooms, billiard/recreation rooms and gymnasium were built to accommodate increasing numbers of fire fighter's. A door from the gymnasium opened directly onto a flat concrete, bitumen covered roof which was over the rear of the workshops. A matching cast iron balcony and balustrade continued on from the original married men's quarters with cast iron steps and balustrade to ground level terminating near the men's toilets, at the other end were located several single men's dormitories (small rooms) with a firemen's pole and well terminating at side on ground level beside the ramp, this gave the firemen when turning out a straight run from their upper quarters down the South West side alley way into the engine room through the two large brass and glass doors. One of the two original firemen's poles and well's was located on the above mentioned alley way from the cast iron balcony above South West side of the hay loft, terminating onto ground level on the external wall of the old kitchen-mess room near the rear of the building where the fire watching tower was located. In the 1950's at the beginning of the 40 + hour week, when the 4 platoon system become operative, it was converted into a school and lecture room. A new firemen's mess room was provided with cooking facilities, tables and benches fixed onto both sides of the room. This mess room was directly opposite across the alley way, then in the 1960's it was transferred to the first floor adjacent to the Billiard/Recreation rooms. The former mess room was converted to the Executive Officers lounge room and was used for meetings of the Professional Fire Fighters Association, a doorway from this room led into a passageway which ran to the front of the station which accommodated the Assisting Chief Officers, District Officers, Station Officers, Offices and the Roster Room, then turned South East past the 3rd. Officer's and Deputy Chief Officer Offices, (directly opposite the Deputy Chief's office) was an inbuilt orderly box, (where the fireman orderly answered telephone calls from the various Senior Officers and met visitors and fire fighter applicants to the station, and directed them to the persons concerned,) the

passageway entered directly into the South West side of the engine room towards the rear of it..

To accommodate the increasing numbers of married men, new living quarters were built, they were built in two rows, constructed of brick and concrete, consisting of ground and first floor, on the flat concrete rooves at top laundries including clothes lines were constructed. One row was built on the boundary facing Gisborne Street, the other row was built directly behind being separated by an alley way which ran down the middle of the two buildings starting from the main egress and ingress alleyway and iron gates from Gisborne Street to a pedestrian iron gateway to Albert Street.

This same alleyway from Gisborne Street not only allowed for fire appliances to come and go, but also for the delivery of stores, gear and equipment into the side yard at rear to the Workshops and General Store. (In former days it allowed horse drawn vehicles to deliver stores etc., feed and hay to be hauled up into the hay loft of the fire station and the hay loft and feed store bounding Albert Street at rear).

A few years later the Chief Officers garden had to be sacrificed to make way for what was termed as the new "Fire Station". It was of 3 turn out bay's and built on the Gisborne Street boundary. In the 1960 – 70's it housed an ultra large Hale Pressure Volume Pumper, in the middle bay a Morris Combination Ladder and Hose carriage, positioned directly behind was a Trailer Monitor Branch fitted with a 4 feed 2 ½ in. dia. hose Collector Head. In the other bay was a 146 ft. Magirus-Deutz Turntable Extension Ladder, on the opposite side bay at rear was a manned Orderly Box (it was referred to as the "Dog Box") fitted with a direct telephone line into the "Watch Room", the main reason for this was that the fireman on duty in the event of a turn out and return to station of the appliances he had to open and close the doors front and rear to secure the station. It is interesting to note that in the late 1950s in a vacant married men's quarters at rear on the South West side opposite the workshops ramp and the men's toilet block, (it was the flat with the training sprinkler system on a rising water main fixed to the wall, consisting of a main shut off valve, fire alarm valve fitted with a drain cock and direct Brigade alarm and local warning alarm, with a hand pump connected to a water main etc., it was out of this flat that Assistant Chief Officer Bert (Bull) Manning and his assistant Senior Fireman Jack Sheridan ran the M.F.B.'s Fire Protection Department, I will have more to write on the rapid expansion of the Fire Protection Department in a later instalment.

Returning to latter times on July 9th. 1895 the ship "Hilaria" berthed at the Melbourne docks caught on fire, the vessel was loaded with 2,300 cases of kerosene, (i.e. 1 wooden case contained 2- 4 gallon tins of Kerosene) and 500 barrels of resin. District Superintendent Christopher Gee (formerly of the Carlton Brewery Brigade) tripped and fell 30 feet into the burning Hold. Deputy Chief Officer William O'Brien who shortly before had been

forced out of the hold by exploding kerosene tins, donned a smoke jacket and climbed back down the holds vertical ladder, fire fighters tied off a life line and lowered it down to O'Brien, he searched around for some time and found the now unconscious Superintendent Gee, he tied the life line around Gee's body and firemen hauled him aloft O'Brien followed up on the ladder supporting him from below. O'Brien was almost overcome and had to be given artificial respiration. For his gallant and courageous effort he was awarded the Royal Humane Society's Gold Medal, although the medal was not an M.F.B. award it is now recognised as the first M.F.B. Valour Medal.

Supt. Gee was the second M.F.B. fireman to die on duty. Since the inception of the Melbourne Fire Brigades in 1891 there have been 27 fire fighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty, some of these men were killed in accidents whilst travelling to fires, standing and hanging onto the outside of appliances.

From 1897 St. Johns Ambulance Service had a permanently stationed Ambulance Litter at Eastern Hill, it was a single horse drawn light wagonette having 4 wooden spoke iron rimmed wheels, the horse being harnessed between two shafts. It was approximately 7 - feet high, canvas covered wagonette fitted out to carry two stretchers, having a double opening door and steps at rear allowing for ambulance men to lift and carry injured persons in stretchers up into the litter. The Ambulance men taught firemen resuscitation and first aid, also the lowering of injured persons to ground level wrapped in blankets and roped to the stretchers in the 2 and 4 point suspension methods, Stein believed that this type of training complemented the fireman's ability in saving lives on the fire ground and when the crews were trained he maintained the litter at No. 1 Station until 1902.

**To be continued:
Les Gray**



Above; *The ambulance litter in the yard at Eastern Hill. Firefighters were trained in First Aid by the St John Ambulance crews stationed there. The base of the watchtower wall can be seen at right of picture.*

Image; Fire Services Museum Vic.

A Response To Fire

This item appeared in the Bendigo Advertiser, written by James Leek. It was sent to us by our Bendigo member, John Bellis, along with photos of early Bendigo brigades.

In the summer of 1855 there was a serious conflagration which was responsible for the partial destruction of one the colony of Victoria's leading hotels, the Criterion.

The Criterion was one of Bendigo's own, being situated on the corner of Mundy and what is now called Hopetoun Street.

The best efforts of the public, using buckets of water to try to extinguish the blaze, was ineffectual.

The incident resulted in a number of citizens demanding that the infant community needed a fire brigade as most habitations and other buildings were constructed of highly flammable materials.

A public meeting was called on April 25, 1855, which resulted in the Sandhurst Fire Brigade being established.

Among the instigators of the new fire brigade was James Forrester Sullivan, whose United States experience left him in no doubt about a volunteer brigade should be formed and run.

The new brigade was quick to adopt a uniform that included a parade cap and a red shirt. The brigade was active in raising funds so that a fire station could be built, complete with bell tower, in the reserve facing Pall Mall, not far from the rear of where the Bendigo Court House was to be constructed in 1890.

The considerable sum of 500 pounds had to be raised so that a hand-operated pump engine could be bought, to assist in the quelling of any fires. However, at this stage Bendigo did not have a water supply.

The early brigade would be dependant on private wells, tanks and dams that were very much part of the alluvial mining scene, so actively pursued in that period.

The insurance companies assisted the brigades to acquire their new engine. The Paxton, which was made by Merryweather of London, arrived in the township on October the 20th, 1857.

The Paxton had manual pumping levers on the side of the engine. An additional engine, the Neptune, was also acquired. This allowed one engine to help supply the other with a stream of water from the pumps.

High Street residents were keen to have a brigade in their vicinity and so the number 2 Brigade was formed in late October, 1858. Their depot was on the corner of Myrtle Street.

On the last day of March, 1860, at about 7pm, the sombre tone of the fire bell could be heard throughout the township.

The fire watch from the bell tower had established that the number 1 Brigade had to go to Irishtown.

The volunteers were quick to take the engine down Pall

Mall and into Bridge Street. Unfortunately their efforts were slowed considerably by spectators who clung to the engine so they could cadge a ride to the fire.

By the time the brigade with their engine had gone as far as the Waterloo Hotel, they were told that what remained of the fire had already been extinguished.

The number 2 Brigade also came slightly later on the scene, but they, like their number 1 counterparts found they could return to their depot.

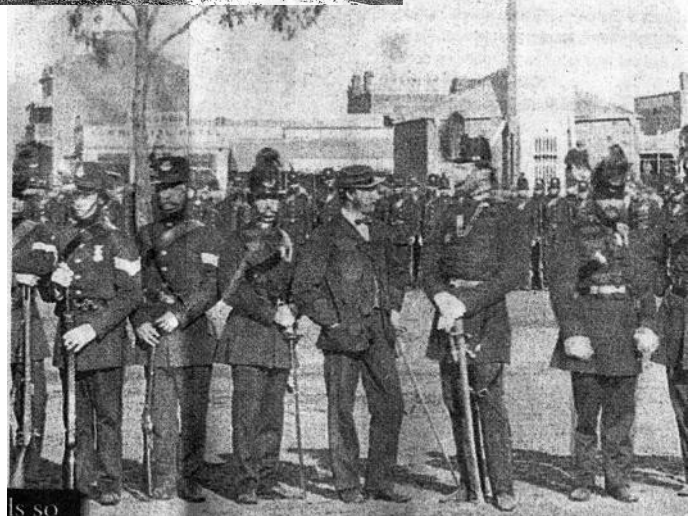
Opposite the Bakers Arms Hotel was a wooden slab building, the home of Mr. Strange, who happened to be absent in Inglewood.

Mr. Strange had left his home in charge of a James Crawford, who had left a burning candle inside the slab structure.

Crawford was distracted by a marauding goat. When he went outside to assist some others to catch the animal, the curtain inside came in contact with the burning candle and the fire's spread was rapid.

So fast did the flames take hold that nothing from the inside the slab home could be saved. The walls and roof were reduced to ashes.

Mr. Strange had only recently also lost his wife, so a second tragedy befell this Irishtown resident.



Above; *The Sandhurst Volunteer Rifle Brigade stands near the bell tower of the No 1 Fire Depot.*
Top; *Another of Bendigo's early brigades. It has been suggested that the short Firefighter standing near the rear of the horse at right could be our Secretary??*
 Photo; Batchelder Collection, State Library of Victoria.

"MFB Classic Car Day"

 20th November 2011 

450 Burnley St Richmond
(The Burnley Complex)

9.30am to 3.00 pm

Come along & see the MFB firefighters'

Classic cars & motorbikes

It's all for a good cause proceeds will go to

"SANDS"

(Stillborn & neonatal death support group)

 **"Gold coin entry"** 

Live Band featuring the firefighter's
"RED RED RED"

Jumping Castle, the "Smokebuster Bus"
BBQ & heaps more

Guess Who?

From August edition

The following is the results of the Guess Who photos from the last newsletter. Before I give the results I must tell you all a little story about the only person that rang. Picture me, answering the phone to find that this person had rung about the first photo and not the second one, even though he was in the second one and had missed it until I mentioned it to him.

The Sandown Racecourse picture **answers;**

1. Name of the person receiving the award from the then Chief Officer the late Jack Paterson, was Sparrow Mathews;
2. The competitions on the day involved Cycling and Athletics.

The first correct answer came from **Brian Jackson** who receives his old registered number framed, seeing he did not recognise himself in the second one. **He is in serious need of his old number.**

We must have stumped everyone with the second photo as we did not receive one call on it.

ANT.

SMILE

At a recent wedding, of which quite a number of retired firefighters were attending, the master of ceremonies yelled, "All the married men please stand next to the one person who has made your life worth living."

The bartender was nearly crushed to death!



Guess Who?

This motley crew above are not mustering, but enjoying a quiet moment around the station and partaking in the most favoured pastime of firefighters, since Moses played full back for the Apostles.

The questions are; Who are they? Where are they?

The first to answer both questions correctly will win a camping holiday for three (your partner and mother in-law included) at the Werribee Farm.





24 Roditis Drive, Ocean Grove, 3226

Your hosts: retired firefighter
Lin Bell and wife Jan Bell

Week days or weekends, for 2 or 4 nights or whatever takes your fancy...

- Fully self contained 3BR house, close to shops, cafes and beach
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- Bellarine Taste Trail - including food, wine, seafood, olives, wine tours
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www.bellsbythebeach.com.au

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FIRE SERVICES BOWLS CLUB.

The AGM of the Fire Services Bowls club was held at the Newport Bowls club on 22nd Sept. under the guidance of a weary president Peter Geran and treasurer Alan Drury both had just returned from the Police & Fireman's games in New York where both received a bronze medal in the fours competition. Congratulation to both.

After a report on the very successfully run Australian fire carnival (arranged by Victoria) held in Echuca earlier this year we got down to the nitty gritty business of elections for the coming season. With so many nominations for all positions, would you believe one for each, the following were appointed.

- President: Peter Geran
- V. Pres: John Garvin
- Junior V. Pres: John Budge.
- Secretary: Les Buddle
- Treasurer: Alan Drury.
- Committee: W. Wilson, P. Wright, R. Darby & M. Weston.

Secretary Les issued the fixture for the coming season 2011/12. Our first game to be at Hurstbridge on Thursday October 27th at 12 30pm. This is a mixed event.

More information can be obtained from the bowls web site on www.mfbbowlsclub/sportinpulse.com.au We hope to see a good roll up for the first game. New players are always welcome. Bring a friend male or female who can become an associate member.

John Chambers.

MFB Golf Club 2011

November, Friday 4th, Woodlands (D)
December, Thurs 8th, Keysborough (C) AGM
Retired firies welcome, if interested contact;
Paul Sandilands or Tony Martin at 24Stn.

Recent Retirements

Colin "Chooka" Fowler, 25th August

Carl Quinsee, 18th October

Bruce Smith, 26th October

Alex Shepherd, 28th October

BRASS HELMET REPAIRS

Should you have a brass helmet that requires a little TLC
Please contact Markham for an appraisal.
Brass 'n' Woodwind Workshop
(Service and Repairs) 572 North Road, Ormond 3204
Monday to Friday 9.00am-5.00pm
Saturday & Sunday - Closed
Public Holidays, Closed
Phone 03 9576 8122
Fax: 03 9578 8166

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 16th November 2011
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 on Friday 11th November 2011.**

JOHN BERRY
SECRETARY
24 Lincoln Drive Lower Plenty 3093
Ph: 03 9431 2880

Return by Friday November 11, 2011, to:
The Secretary
Retired Firefighters Association of Australia
Victorian Branch Incorporated.
24 Lincoln Drive Lower Plenty 3093



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

UFU RETIRED MEMBERS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Saturday November 19th 2011

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. On Ph: 9419 8811 or Nick Draper Mob. 0431 530 010

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