

**RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA  
VICTORIAN BRANCH INCORPORATED**

Members who have not renewed their membership are reminded that subscription for 1996 are now due and payable.

The Secretary  
Retired Firefighters Association of Australia  
Victorian Branch Incorporated.  
24 Lincoln Drive  
Lower Plenty 3093

Please find enclosed Cheque/Money Order for \$10 being for subscription for 1996.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouses Name: \_\_\_\_\_

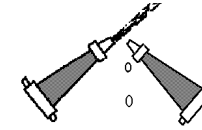
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(Please include address even if it has not changed so computer records can be updated for future mail-outs).



# “WATER OFF!”

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

*February 96*



## TRAVELLING WITH JIM AND DOT

We decided that Melbourne was too hot, so we took a flight to the Antarctic to cool off. Our plane took off from Tullamarine at 0855 hrs 25 mins. late on 13th Jan.96.

The weather was calm, but overcast, the cloud was solid other than a small break south of Hobart.

This lasted until we neared the Antarctic Continent when it cleared. The first sight was amazing, solid cliffs of ice hundreds of feet high fronting the Southern Ocean.

The plane (latest model jumbo) is not allowed below 10,000 ft. at sea level for environmental reasons. After crossing the coast at Cape Pepin, French base of Dumont d'Urville overland of George V Land. The plane was doing figure 8's so we got different views where we observe between the sea ice and pack ice.

Sea ice is the sea freezing, pack ice is formed by snow falling on the continent and turning to ice (no rain) the weight of this new ice forces the old ice to slide towards the edge of the continent, thus making icebergs measuring up to miles in size. The old ice is almost black. The most spectacular part of the flight was not the free grog, the passes the pilot made around Mt. Mackintosh 2468, Cape Washington, Mt. Melbourne, Pennel Coast and Cape Adaire. He flew the plane like a Tiger Moth, up ravines, valleys and glaciers some of them vanished in the clouds above us. This went on till it was time to head home over the pack and sea ice.

We flew over the magnetic South Pole. The Captain explained the magnetic compass was useless as every reading was pointing North also in low clouds pilots had a "whiteout" unable to know up from down. The Air New Zealand crash proved that. The continent is about twice the size of Australia and we were over it for 3hrs and a very small portion. The cloud cleared enough for us to see northern Tasmania, Bass strait and City of Melbourne landing at 2000hrs exactly on time. Arrived home tired and elated.

**Notice is hereby given of our next meeting to be held at the Fitzroy Bowling Club, 1030 Hours Wednesday 28th February 1996.**

Please come along and have your say in the running of the organisation. Lunch will be provided as usual.

If you have not paid your current subscription, please fill in form on the back page of this edition and return to Secretary.

John Berry

**Jim Holmes**

cont. from prev. page.

We have a couple of more trips into the Big Smoke and visit the normal tourist spots eg; Changing of the Guard, Tower of London, Tower Bridge. An open deck bus trip around London City, Oxford Street, Regent Street and of course Harrods. Would not like to be caught short there, the cost to use the loo was \$4.00.

The Tower of London was an excellent day out. Full of history and explained by the Yeoman Wardens who act as guides. They are popularly known as Beefeaters.

The Crown Jewels are kept here, there is an excellent display of weapons and armour used during the centuries. We visit St.Pauls Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Houses of Parliament and Downing Street.

In the next issue of "Water Off", I will write about our trip on the Continent including a stop over with Ken Copeland and his wife Janny, in Northern Holland.

As a matter of interest, petrol in;  
 U.K. cost Aust. \$1.10 per litre.  
 France " " \$1.40 " "  
 Holland " " \$1.80 " "

**Don and Nancy Brennan.**



***Report on the Retired Firefighters Association of Australia  
 Victorian Branch Inc. Annual General meeting.  
 Held at the Fitzroy Bowling Club, Brunswick Street Fitzroy,  
 Monday 4th September 1995, 1030 Hours.***

Members present as per attendance book.

Apologies; J. Medwin, J. Brown, K. McGillivray, R. Wells, K. Warfe, B. Thompson, B. Woolmer.

President called for 1 minute silence in remembrance of deceased members.

Minutes of previous Annual General meeting held Wednesday 17th October 1994 were confirmed moved, seconded and carried by the members present.

Secretary (Acting) gave his report moved, seconded and carried by the members present.

Treasurers Report moved, seconded and carried by the members present (see page 6).

Presidents Report (see page 4).

Secretary's Report (see page 5).

Acceptance of both reports moved, seconded and carried by the members present.

Election of Office Bearers are as follows;

President; Don Brennan,

Vice President; Ern Tamme,

Secretary; John Berry,

Treasurer; Peter Holton,

Committee; Messrs K. Warfe, R. McNeil, J. Laverick, R. Medwin.

Theo Teklenburg of the Credit Union was reappointed Auditor.

Meeting closed 1130 Hours.

## Presidents Report from Annual General Meeting. 1995

First I would like to explain that because of impending overseas trips by myself and John Berry that the Annual General meeting was brought forward from November to September. As you are aware Peter Holton had to resign as secretary due to a heart attack. John Berry took over the reigns till this meeting.

It is disappointing that apart from Peter Holton who has stood for a committee position we have had no further nominations. This I take it means you are satisfied with the current committee and the work they do.

As was mentioned in the last newsletter I was undecided about the Presidents position but it appears I will stand again. John Berry has agreed to stand as Secretary/Treasurer. This leaves one position on the committee available.

It worries me that we do appear to be stagnant as far as any extra activities are concerned. The questionnaire carried out during the year resulted in 6 replies out of a total of 440.

I would like to thank members of the committee and other association members who assisted in putting together the Water Off magazine, collating and sending out to each member. A special thanks to Jack Sheridan who edited each issue.

Because both the Secretary and myself will be away for the next few months we would like to hold our next meeting early in the New Year.

Don Brennan,  
President.

-cont. from prev. page.

You could buy it as cheap at Myers back home. They have lots of displays of trophies and artefacts.

Leaving Waterford we head for Blarney Castle where yours truly kissed the famous stone. I don't know who thought this one up but it sure brings in the tourists and the money. Heading on through Cork where the roads are very narrow and the traffic was slow with parking on one side and large trucks and cars edging past on the other. We travel on a part of the Ring of Kerry to Killarney. Our hosts could not believe the distance we travel in a day (420km).

Next morning we complete the Ring of Kerry. The road is narrow, rough and winding but the views are excellent. We pass beaches of pebbles and large stones also peat bogs which they dig up, dry out and use in the fire for heating and cooking. We head back over the mountains to Killarney. This took only 4 hours compared to the locals 8 hours.

Next stop Galway, we have had rain for the last couple of days. The countryside is very lush and green. We travel to Dunmore about 1 hour north of Galway and meet my 4th generation relations who still live on the original farm where my Great Grandfather was born and left to come to Australia in the mid 1800's. We were shown around the district and told of its history including the Cathedral at Nock.

Next day we head back up to Northern Ireland through Donigal, Londonderry and Coleraine for an overnight stop at Portrush. Here we visit the Devils Causeway, a well known rock formation on the cliff side and beach just north of the town. It has a world heritage listing. We continue on to Belfast and after looking around the city and an overnight stop in Larne we then fly back to London.

-cont. from prev. page.

Green fees were 50 Pounds or \$100 Australian. We head to Dundee then on to Aberdeen, Peterhead and Fraserburgh. This is a RAF town with satellite tracking and navigation. This is also a NATO base. We spend the night at Inverness. There are castles everywhere. We drive south down alongside Loch Ness to Fort Augusta. Didn't see the monster. We visit the local abbey, once again full of history.

We drive west to go over the new bridge to the Isle of Skye. It was opened 2 days before and the cost was \$8.60 toll each way; don't tell our Jeff. We travel back to Loch Ness and on to Fort William at the foot of Ben Nevis. Could not get to the top because of strong winds and fog.

We then continued on past Loch Lomond, plenty of hills and valleys, it is very scenic country. We detour across to visit Stirling Castle (yes another A.B.C.). The castle is being renovated and the army use it as a garrison. They are still excavating some of the old ruins and have found the old kitchens still intact.

Next stop is Glasgow. The buildings appear dirty and dull from the outside. After an overnight stop, we take a look around the city and then travel along the river Clyde to the Port of Glasgow. Taking the coast road we head to Stranrear from where we catch a ferry at 7am next morning to Larne in Northern Ireland about 20 miles north of Belfast.

After picking up another car we head down south through Belfast and after lunch at Newey (the border control is not manned any more since the peace talks but you cannot take any photo's). We arrive in Dublin. A short drive around that afternoon and next morning then we continue on through Wexford and take the back roads through Waterford. Next morning we visit the Waterford Crystal Factory. The crystal is magnificent but extremely dear.

## Acting Secretary's Report

When I sat down in my role as Acting Secretary in place of Peter, where I was required to make a report on the Associations activities over the year, to the Annual General Meeting, I wondered should I be subjective or objective in this report "you guessed it" I chose the latter.

From my research of the available documentation, eg;(financial statements, Water Off newsletter, scuttlebutt and various other information), it was obvious that the Association is not going from strength to strength, in fact it could be said that if we do not pick up our act we will not leave a viable association for future generations.

### Facts

- (a) For the first time membership losses greater than new applications;
- (b) Association assets held at the Credit Union lower than this time last year;
- (c) No new initiatives etc. being generated;
- (d) No policy developed to show where the association is going for the year 2000.

Issues that need, I believe, to be addressed urgently by the membership are as follows;

- (1) A review of activities similar to say a Public Bodies Review?
- (2) A membership recruitment drive?
- (3) The committee must become more membership driven!
- (4) Should the Association keep operating in its current way?
- (5) Where do the members want the Association to be in the future?
- (6) Should the Association cease to exist or not?

The above points I believe from my research are items we as members of the Association must address if we are to remain viable.

**Retired Firefighters Association Of Australia Victorian Branch**

Statement of Income and Expenditure year ended 30th June 1995

	\$
	2,284.00
INCOME	11.00
Members subscriptions social and badge sales	461.44
Petty cash refund	<hr/>
Interest received	2,756.44
	9,354.57
	<hr/>
Opening balance Credit Union 1st July 1994	12,111.01
	<hr/>
EXPENDITURE	619.05
Postage	1,098.75
Catering	425.60
Magazine expenses	310.40
Telephone	100.00
Reimbursements	568.00
AGM and meeting expenses	32.00
Sundries	11.92
Government charges	<hr/>
	3,165.72
	8,945.29
	<hr/>
Closing balance Credit Union 30th June 1995	12,111.01
	<hr/>
Bank reconciliation;	—11,616.96
Main account	0.00
30 days call	7,328.33
Term deposit	<hr/>
	8,945.29
	<hr/>

Statement prepared and figures correct from information supplied.

Signed-

Our first port of call was Winchester where we visited the Cathedral. They could certainly build things to last in those early days. The catholics have only been allowed to worship here since 1972. The first time for more than 300 years.

We then head off for Stonehenge. These formations are believed to be 3500 years old. Some of the large stones were brought from up to 360 miles away.

Next stop is Bath, the Romans built the baths up to 2000 years ago. Once again well worth a visit, also the Bath Cathedral. We then head off for Cardiff then on to Swansea, we stopped at bed and breakfast accommodation during our tour.

Leaving Swansea we head to Hereford and then to Stratford on Avon. This is the home of Shakespeare very much a tourist town with barges on the river. We visit Shakespeare's house and learn a little about his life and his family. We head for Nottingham for the night.

Next morning there is very heavy fog when we leave for York. This city has a very interesting history; regarding the Jewish population during the 15th century. We leave for Windermere in the Lake District, but once again heavy fog came down, so we missed on seeing the area.

Next stop is a visit to Carlisle Castle. Construction started in 1122 with work carried through the century. The final building built in 1932. Mary Queen of Scots and Bonny Prince Charlie were among some of the occupants over the years.

On to Edinburgh for our next stop over. We visit the castle, by this time we are getting A.B.C. out, (another bloody castle or another bloody cathedral). On leaving Edinburgh we call in to St.Andrews Golf Course, could not get a game as the Dunhill Cup was on the next day.

## TRAVELLING WITH THE BRENNANS (Watch out silver)



As mentioned in the Presidents message, my wife and self went on our first trip to Europe on the 3rd October. Travelling by British Airways we flew direct to London via Singapore. We were fortunate to have friends in the U.K. where we made our headquarters. We stayed with Roger and Ann Naylor at Pulborough in Sussex, about 1hr. 15 min. by train to London. On our second day we met up with John and Elaine Berry and spent the day looking around London. We spent our first week looking around Portsmouth, Brighton (no fish there Silver) and Dorking where Nancy met up with long lost relations who have traced theirs and her relations back to the 800's.

Portsmouth was very interesting with various ships including the "Mary Rose" which was originally sunk 19/7/1545 and brought up from the ocean floor in the early 1980's. It is currently being sprayed with silicone wax which will go on for 20 years so as to remove all water from the timber.

At Brighton we visited the Royal Pavilion, a must if you make it to that area. Money was no object to the Royals of the day. It is decorated in Chinese tastes with Indian style exterior. It was built for King George IV.

After a week stopping with our friends we picked up a car at Gatwick Airport and left for a 10 day tour of England and Scotland.

Ex Secretary's Report.

I haven't anything to report except to say that shortly after the Annual General Meeting I went for a poor mans Jenny Craig weight reducing course at the Austin Hospital, After 7 days in bed there I come home 3 1/2 stone lighter.

I also had a triple by-pass whilst I was about it. Although I can recommend the weight reduction I Am not sure about the by-pass as I was asleep during it and I cant remember much.

Many thanks to all those who enquired about my health through Don Brennan and I must report that I am about 105% fit. I have taken the position of Treasurer of the RFA and will see you at our next meeting.

Peter Holton.

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## REUNION DAY LUNCHEON

Our annual reunion day luncheon will be held on Sunday 14th April 1996 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 on page 9

John Berry  
Secretary



### OVER THE STY

Being an occasional column from an unknown contributor.

The occupants were talking to the Ex Sec. the other day and he said that he believed his quick recovery from his operation was probably caused by the fact that SILVER didn't visit him in hospital this time.

He also confided in the occupants that his diet now does not allow the eating of a certain variety of meat which we applaud but he has with his weekly egg 2 rashers of a vegetable product not called B... n. Apparently it looks like, tastes like and smells like the unmentionable meat product and is available in the Deli dept. of large supermarkets along with sausages and hot dogs made of similar materials and they are worth trying. It's also true that a certain P. Keating is not a major shareholder in the manufacture of same. So you couldn't accuse Keating of P..K barrelling during this election.

The occupants believe that the UFU Christmas party at the Show grounds was a far better venue than the Melbourne Town Hall, keep up the good work Social Committee, next year perhaps you could hire out the Pig Pavilion and me and my relatives could come along as well. Or perhaps it could be held at the Crown Casino and Silver could come along.

Oink Oink.

## REUNION DAY AT M.F.B TRAINING COLLEGE

Sunday 14th April 1996 at 1100 Hours

### 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 at 1100 Hours on  
Sunday 14th April 1996

Guest/ Spouse Name .....

(please print)

Please find enclosed Cheque / Money order

for the sum of \$.....

R.S.V.P. Friday 29th March 1996