

# "WATER OFF"

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



*May 2012 Vol 16 No 2  
Inc/No: A16839F*

## MFB's CEO Guest Speaker

Nick Easy, MFB's Chief Executive Officer is our guest speaker for the May 16 Meeting at the Training College.

### **Members please Note!**

**Due to the CEO's busy schedule the meeting will start at 10 AM.**



Nick Easy commenced his role as Chief Executive Officer of the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board on 6 June 2011.

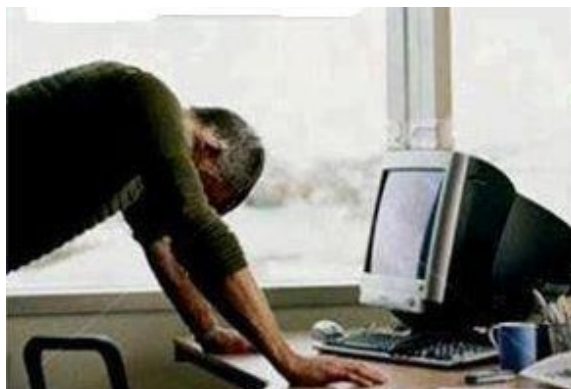
Prior to joining the MFB, Nick worked at Port of Melbourne Corporation (PoMC) for over 10 years, most of which were in senior executive management positions. Nick was responsible for the delivery of the Channel Deepening Project, the largest marine infrastructure project in the port's history, which was completed in November 2009.

Most recently, Nick was Executive General Manager Port Capacity, Where he was responsible for leading PoMC's Port Capacity Division. This division was responsible for the planning, approval, management and development of the organisation's short to medium term container and automotive capacity. Nick was also responsible for the management of activities associated with the Port of Hastings.

Nick holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Planning and post graduate qualifications in Environmental Management.

## COMPUTER CRASH

All Email Addresses Lost



Members who receive "Water Off" electronically will need to resend their email address to;  
retfire@bigpond.net.au  
Apologies for the inconvenience

## INSIDE

- 3 President & Secretary's Reports
- 4 A Journey in Time
- 5 February Meeting Minutes
- 6 Gone But Not Forgotten
- 7 Ozanam BBQ Day
- 8 Photo Memories Preserved
- 10 Les Gray's "Turbulent Times"
- 14 Considering a Retirement Village?

# “GENERAL MEETING”

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

**10.00 Hours, Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2012**

## **AGENDA ITEMS.**

**Minutes of last General meeting.  
President’s Report.  
Secretary/Treasurer’s Report.  
Guest Speaker, Nick Easy, MFB CEO  
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 2/1/2010 that means you have not paid your subs since 2009 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  
Mike McCumisky  
John Schintler  
John Wallace

### **Auditor;**

Theo Teklenburg

**“Water Off”  
Editorial Staff  
John Laverick  
Barbara McCumisky**

## **Valë**

Ted Harrison (MFB)                      Bill Toman (MFB)  
Ian Hay (MFB)                              Roy Tucknott (MFB)  
George Piper (MFB)

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                                      Clarrie Hart  
Stan Cameron                                  Jack Sexton  
Huew Campbell\*                              Basil Smith  
Ken Clinkaberry                                Brian Trembath  
Russ Daniels\*                                   Ron Turner\*  
Wayne Dellamarta  
Ernie Goodall\*

We wish these members a speedy recovery

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

### **Diary Dates 2012**

May 16th                      General Meeting (10am)  
August 15th                    General Meeting  
November 21st                Annual General Meeting  
November 24th                UFU Christmas Luncheon  
   Malvern Town Hall  
November 27th                Geelong Firie’s Muster

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to the start of another mid year. It is nearly time for the grey nomads to head north for the winter. Don't forget, if you are wintering in Queensland during July, the annual retiree luncheon is on the last Thursday of that month at the South Port Yacht Club from 11am onwards.

Since our last meeting we have had MFB President, Neil Comrie, give a very interesting talk about his life in the police force where both his father and grandfather were members. This was followed by a presentation by Mark Carter in relation to the Fire brigade Charity Fund, following this Lunch was held in the mess room.

Thanks to my wife Nancy for the supply of all the foods, the only down side was there were 18 members who put

their names down but did not attend. On Wednesday 11th April we held a BBQ at Ozanam Community Centre, Arden Street North Melbourne, where we catered for approximately 150 people. Special thanks for John Berry for arranging the food for the day.

CFO Shane Wright, and ACFO Terry Hunter were in attendance throughout the lunch and left some memorabilia for the clients. Nancy supplied Beanies and scarves that were left over from the CWA Knitting for Soldiers in Afghanistan project.

I would like to thank the following for the cooking and handing out of the food - John Cannon, Alex Sheppard, Kevin Hede, Alan Roberts, Ian Fowler, Nancy Brennan, Mike McCumisky, and John Berry. A great day was had by all.

The committee hope to see you at our next meeting.

**Don Brennan**

## SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

I'm not sure what it is about the second quarter of any new year, it always seems to have more items to report on than almost the rest of the year!

Let me start with the February meeting, guest speaker, Peter Marshall, UFU National Secretary, gave a presentation on the years of research, travel and work that went into the preparation just to reach the first Federal reading of the "Fair Protection for Firefighters Legislation". Everyone at the meeting was in awe on how a union the size of the UFU even got to first base. Then to achieve a unanimous vote in both Houses in favour of proclaiming the Legislation was amazing. It was very obvious that when he put the wheels in motion to gain this goal it was like he had brought an elephant into the room; and the only way he could get everyone to listen and understand, was to call on highly regarded Chiefs from overseas, plus more scientific research in support of the goal. To me it sounded like this Pachyderm whose normal gestation is around 22 months was going to be around 100 or more. The upshot of Peter's presentation was that he was swamped with questions and applause. There is no doubt unions today are required to be far more astute than they were in the past; Peter reinforced this comment by his presentation. (A letter of appreciation has been forwarded)

**Family Day** on Wednesday the 21st of March we had more interesting guest speakers; but before I report on that, I would be failing in my responsibility if I did not thank Mr & Mrs El Presidente Don and Nancy for their great effort in regards to the catering, the meal was great, I did not need to twist anyone's arm up their back, next year instead of a half can of sardines each it will be a full one.... (only joking).

The day started with a presentation from the current MFB Board President Mr Neil Comrie, (Retired Vic Pol Chief Commissioner & Current Chair of Vic Floods inquiry & Royal Commissions Bush Fire Recovery Recommendations)

I must say up front, there is no wonder why they pick this bloke to undertake such demanding roles, he is

without doubt a very switched-on person, if you ever get the opportunity to see him do a show & tell or the chance to meet him, you will understand just what I mean. At the end of his presentation the members made a small presentation to Neil (The people in attendance did not want him to stop).

Not to be out done, next up we had a power point presentation from MFB Acting Commander Mark Carter from the Firefighters Charity Committee, there is no doubt they are doing great work, when Mark finished he was given a well deserved round of applause, both speakers left the people in attendance crying out for more. We were however, able to entice them join us for lunch. It was a great day, two very interesting subjects, great food, dancing girls (I could be dreaming about the dancing girls).

The one unfortunate part was we had 18 late cancellations, please take note if any of the eighteen feel pains in your arms, it is just me sticking pins into the effigies I have of you. Be assured the pain will go away when you attend the next meeting (I told you before look out for us insects)?

During the day the RFA President, (Brennan the Enforcer), called for volunteers, or should I say told who would be assisting on the 11th of April at the RFA Barbecue day we ran at Ozanam Community Centre North Melbourne. Don Brennan, John Cannon and I recently visited the centre to ascertain just what is required; the staff at the Centre who do a great job in their role of assisting their many clients were also a great source of information for us. I will be upfront, it was a real eye opener to learn from them the many problems that their clients are confronted with. John Cannon was of course not surprised, most RFA members may not be aware that for many years he has been a pillar of support to the less fortunate members of society, when you hear of the many roles he has been involved in, it is easy to understand why he has such high recognition from Government & Church . (We of course made sure he knew he was the junior man, two paces behind during the tour) Don demanded it. The MFB & UFU also assisted with the day.

*(Continued on page 4)*

Unfortunately again this quarter has seen some members not enjoying the best of health at the moment. Brian Trembath who was involved in a very bad road accident is at time of writing still in Royal Melbourne Hospital. Colin Burton, has been checking out the Austin Hospital Coronary Surgical Theatres, Don Cameron (the Silver headed one), is so keen on hospital food he has spent six (6) days in Epworth, rumour has it the hospital rang Mrs Silver to come get him, the jokes he was telling the Doctors were driving them to drink (only joking about the drink). Last but not least is Tom Wilson, with the help of Roger Barnes Mechanical engineering/ MFB Employees Support Group, he has been given some mobility again.

One other thing I have noticed our nation, over the last year or two, has been confronted with one or two natural disasters, now I am not sure what I am about say is correct or not, however, the people being interviewed after each one all exhibited a great inner strength. They always seem defiant, in fact showing signs of satisfaction e.g. I have been tested but I am still here. To further reinforce this observation, the wife and I received a phone call from our youngest son,( who is currently working in

Port Headland) a few weeks ago to inform us they were shutting down operations and switching into a safety mode as Cyclone Lua, with winds around 270 kilometres was bearing down on them. From his voice you could tell that his crew and he were keen to experience it. Then late on the following Saturday night he rang again to advise us that it had passed and it was no longer a code red, no mention of how lucky they were, you know, just a matter of fact, there were no major problems and his voice sounded like they were all disappointed that they did not need to use all of their safety training, now if that does not sound familiar I will eat my hat. There are no doubt us humans are all a bit unusual, we love the challenge of the unknown and the optimism that goes with it, this great attribute sure makes it a better place to be.

In closing I would like to leave with a little brain teaser. "DO12"OR". There is no prize if you get it right, just the satisfaction that the grey matter still has it. See you all at the next meeting DO NOT FORGET IT STARTS AT 10AM the guest speaker is the MFB CEO NICK EASY, he needs to leave early to attend to urgent MFB business.

**John Berry**

## THE MURPHY'S FAMILY JOURNEY IN TIME

In past newsletters I have tried to give you an understanding of the evolution that was occurring in the MFB through the eyes of Ken's father Cyril. In the last edition, with the aid of his memoirs, we explored how the Brigade became motorised. Did we mention that none the vehicles had windscreens?

Ken's dad had tried for a number of years, through Gordon Lindsay, Third Officer at the time, to get a windscreen fitted to No 1 Station's Hotchkiss hose carriage, but all to no avail. Interestingly the Third Officer and the driver were the ones most affected by the lack of one.

Picture the officer pulling a small rope attached to a striker to constantly ring the bell (no electric bells back then) Gordon and Cyril (permanent No1 H/Carriage driver) were always at the mercy of the weather when going to a call.

No one could induce the Chief Officer Mr Wilkins to bring the windscreen request up at a Board meeting, as the cost to do all the appliances would be too great. The fact is it was not until the 1930's when the open Morris Commercial and Albion appliances arrived that windscreens came into common use.

The Hotchkiss hose carriages were then used as spare appliances right up to 1945. Of course during WW2 they were used for training the auxiliary fireman. Ken said that when he was a P.P fireman at Hawthorn, one would be used as a spare replacement for the Morris.

During the war the MFB received some La France 1000GPM pumpers under the Lend-Lease Scheme. Cyril Murphy purchased the original Hotchkiss, the one he drove at No 1 Station, for a friend.

I find the next point very interesting. During the earlier part of the war, prior to the Japanese bombing of Pearl



**Above:** *The first Hotchkiss the Brigade acquired was a motor car in 1912 for the CO and executive officers. It was the only Hotchkiss to ever have a windscreen. When the Chief updated his car, this Hotchkiss was converted to a hose carriage in the MFB workshops.*

**Photo: Fire Services Museum**

Harbour, the city area of Melbourne was invaded each day by American soldiers & sailors who probably outnumbered the Australian population. The next edition will cover more of the war years. **Ant**

## **SMILE**

The mates missus left him last Thursday, she said she was going out for milk and never came back! I asked him how he was coping and he said, "Not bad, I've been using that powdered stuff."

## Minutes, Meeting 15th February 2012, at Training College.

John Berry (Secretary/Treasurer), Don Brennan (President), Ian Geddes (Minutes).

Present - 68 including John Howe's brother in-law Alun Williams (ex No 3), down from Townsville.

### Apologies - 10

John Berry read Minutes from August 2011 Meeting.  
Minutes accepted - J. Schintler, Seconded E. Paddon - carried.

### Business arising - :

C.W.A., and Nancy Brennan, has forwarded 5,500 Beanies, 1,000 wool scarves and 1,000 wool gloves to our soldiers in Afghanistan. Members applauded this labour of love.

Following the enquiry from Murray Jelleff, John has got quotes for a R.F.A. Badge - about \$15 - and some follow up required.

### Treasurers Report - John Berry

S.1 account \$6,240.50

I.1 account \$5,756.20

### Secretary's Report

The R.F.A. has been informed that Basil Smith, Alfie Sell (ex 38), and Ted Harrison are very ill. The R.F.A. sends Best Wishes to ALL our sick members.

Fund raising monies - G. Edwards spoke about the Austin Hospital Volunteer Charity Shop. Other suggestions were for the Fire Museum, and the Firefighters Charity, organized by a group of serving Firies - still to be decided as to funds distributions.

Letter of appreciation from Slater & Gordon regarding the assistance given on behalf of a past member.

Report accepted - T. Reed, seconded H. Floyd. - carried.

### General Business.

Don said that the Ozanam House day, with both M.F.B./UFU. Support. Would be in 2012 (Date to be advised).

Luncheon on 21st March 2012 (see Nov 2011 Water Off).

Bunning's Barbeque - 15th September 2012. Contact Don Brennan.

### Guest Speaker — : Peter Marshall.

(The following is a précis)

Important information for ALL firies, past, present and future. Australia is only the third country (USA & Canada) to now have Fair Protection for Firefighters legislation.

U.F.U. proceedings commenced in March 2011. (aided by the International alliance)

Peter spent 32 days in Canberra over a 3 month period, culminating in presentations to Senators, Honorable Members and Brigade personnel. demonstrating the different levels of protective clothing worn at fires/

incidents. The demonstration included the scientific data regarding the levels of products of combustion the wearer absorbs with each type.

The question was asked of the parliamentarians as to how THEY would react if a fire occurred in their work places/private dwelling. It was pointed out they have a choice to leave, firies do not. When everyone is running out, firefighters are going in.

They were also informed that with a typical household, over 70,000 synthetic chemicals are present. The UFU sent in a Hazmat team to the Parliament labeling what gases were given off if the building & contents etc. were on fire.

These prolonged investigation/presentations/discussions to Govt. members led to over 100,000 (one hundred thousand) acknowledgements of support with regards work related Cancers. **Cancer related injuries** should be treated in the same way as if a fire fell through a floor.

**A Senate Report** covering fair protection for firefighters became a **Bill** in November 2011.

**WEB SITE** -: [eewr.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:eewr.sen@aph.gov.au)

This Legislation is still open for dispute in most States, the Senate Bill gives a fire with certain types of cancer a powerful ally. The Senate "presumptive legislation" presumes that certain cancers govern by years of service can be presumed to be related to firefighters duties. The UFU was able to increase the number of cancer sites to twelve by scientific fact.

Previous research did not take into consideration the healthy worker requirement, physical fitness level which a recruit is required to be is generally 20%-30% above that of the general population and this, along with ongoing work fitness levels, through training, awareness and lifestyle, assist firefighters through their working lives.

As for **retired firies**, the U.F.U. is prepared to assist with claims from retired full time ex-firies in Victoria,.

Peter had everyone's attention during presentation and when he finished, he was almost swamped with the many questions raised. Everyone present gave him a standing ovation for his most enlighten subject.

John Berry presented Peter on behalf of the RFA a gift of books & refreshment for his most informative explanation on how the UFU was able to gain this great achievement for the members. The President invited Peter to join us for lunch (after he attended to pending important calls) .

### Meeting closed at 1215 hours

During the luncheon break the main topic of conversation was about the members and spouses who were not experiencing the best of times

**Next General Meeting Wednesday 16th May 10.00hrs**

### Les Napper's moment of wisdom he wants to share

Les has found in retirement he has been gaining weight and he didn't know why until he read some labels.

The shampoo he uses in the shower when he washes his hair; the shampoo of course runs down his whole body. Then he found printed very clearly on the label! Is the warning "**For extra volume and body**" he now realises why he has been gaining weight!! This left him in a quandary what to use, the solution was Dawn dish washing detergent. The label reads. "**Dissolves fat that is otherwise difficult to remove**"

I bet you all thought this newsletter never gave health advice, there you are!!!!

## Gone but not Forgotten

The unfortunate part of any retired group is the fact that at times members are called to a higher place. This of course does not mean that they are the past and therefore no longer important; the fact is without their contributions we would have no future. The following quote is from an email I recently received, I believe it reinforces the point further **“Friendship isn’t about who you have known the longest, it’s about those who came and never left your side”** Speaking on behalf of the members & committee, be aware the Firefighting fraternity the world over in time of need will never leave your side, so we should never forget the contribution of the past.

**Edward Harrison (Ted) 1932-21/2/2012** I feel the following verse from the great Australian poet Banjo Paterson, *Mulga Bill’s Bicycle*; opening with a few word changes describes Ted as a boy to a tee. *”And I quote”*.

*“Twas Ted Harrison, from Bairnsdale, that caught the cycling craze;  
He turned away the good old horse that served him many days;  
He dressed himself in cycling clothes, resplendent to be seen;*

*He hurried off to town and brought a shining new machine;  
And as he wheeled it through the door, with air of lordly pride;  
The grinning shop assistant said, Excuse me, can you ride?”*  
*“Unquote”*

Well I have got to tell you he could ride; in fact they have on display in the Bairnsdale museum one of Ted’s old bikes. There is no doubt the brigade and its personnel owe a lot to his cycling prowess, he was one of those people able to bring the best out of the team by his ability to guide people on how to maximise their own potential and at the same time never forget the team must come first; I have no doubt this is a skill he gained in his road cycling career.

During my time in the MFB we did not come in contact much until the eighties, in fact it was on one of the courses he was conducting, in which I was a participant, when he showed to all of us not only his great integrity but also how to get the best out of a team. The course members to a person were in awe of his dedication to us, here was a bloke whose wife was going through a major medical crisis yet he was not only able to manage that and his family but also the course members. There is no doubt this showed to all of us that this bloke would be able to manage any emergency thrown at him.

I later had the opportunity to work with him as my immediate superior (I probably sent him grey), for me it was a great learning experience working with him, he never lost sight of the fact, during that time, when dealing with any contingencies if the result was not a win win for all it was a poor decision. During our many discussions it was obvious his decision to take the early optional retirement, rather than seek further advancement, was directly related to spending the maximum amount of time with his wife and family, especially in light of Rhonda’s earlier health scare. In our retirements our friendship remained, in fact we



*Ted Harrison didn’t let the conditions stop him in 1959 when he made it to the top of Mt Hotham through snow and mud. This 1959 Sun Tour photo of Ted appeared in an edition of the Herald Sun as a promotion for another tour.*

attended a number of Police & Fire games with our wives and some of our family members where he was very successful in Road Cycling races & Triathletes. I do believe, without a shadow of doubt, Ted was all class in everything he did, family, cycling, firefighting and friendship, this most certainly was shown at his Celebration of Life Service. **Mate to me it was pretty obvious why you left the bike**

**here, it has been just over seven years since the love of your life was called home and you know she will have a long list of trips to enjoy together and**

**there will be no time for training.**

**Roy Tucknott 1943-28/3/12.** I was fortunate to have a conversation with Roy to renew old times over the phone not long before he was going to take up his new posting upstairs. It was very obvious he was not going through the best of times which you could tell from the sound of his voice, but let me tell you he had not lost any of his humour or cheekiness as he got stuck into me like he always did. To me he was one of those blokes you love to have on shift with you or at an adjoining station, the type of bloke if you had him in your team and you needed someone to go and get the hardball he would be the one you pick straight away (tough son of a gun) he was like that around the station or at a job. Roy I can remember applied to be transferred to the Training College, during this time I would only see him on the rare occasion I visited the place, I have no doubt he would have been a very valuable asset to them. Roy took up the option to retire earlier to pursue other opportunities and in my opinion this is a loss to the MFB when they lose people of his skill and experience. **Roy on behalf of all your old work mates thanks for all the good times, Ann, I bet you would have thought it was karma when a big red truck & crew arrive to assist you with Roy.**

The following are retired MFB personnel, non RFA members who have been called to a higher place.

**George Piper, 1928-17/3/12, MFB service 2/11/55-25/11/83.**

**Ian Hay, 1936-3/4/12, MFB service 25/5/62- 20/8/87.**

**William Toman, 1928- 15/4/12, MFB service 12/10/51-15/12/83.**

**Leading Firefighter Mick Busst, current MFB member who recently made a submission to the Federal Government regarding the Fair Protection for Firefighters legislation, has lost his battle with cancer.**

**Ant**



## Ozanam Community Centre Barbecue Day

On Wednesday the 11th of April, a band of RFA members and the MFB Chief Officer (Shane Wright) and ACFO (Terry Hunter) plus UFU's mobile Barby had what one could say was an uplifting day. Please let me explain, as I mentioned in the Secretary's report the planned day went ahead. The band of Don & Nancy Brennan (Food handlers extraordinaire), John Cannon, Ian Fowler, Mike McCumisky, Allan Roberts, Kevin Hede, Alex Shepherd & I mustered at the venue.

The first task was an information session on the centre's protocol by their dedicated staff. Next we were given instruction and examination by our qualified food handling personnel Nancy & Don then we were allocated certain

tasks. In Alex's case he became keeper of the food thermometer, at first he was very concerned as it looked like it was for use in the nether region (we all of course volunteered to insert it).

The staff of the centre were very grateful when they realised we did not treat their clients like they were part of a soup-kitchen but as part of a community barbecue, the remarkable Nancy was also able to distribute beanies made by the CWA, the Chief distributed water bottles & carry bags.

The centre's clients seemed to enjoy the day a lot in fact at the end they said a prayer on our behalf. I do believe this crazy mob of old farts, with the UFU's mobile barby, if required, could just about handle any number of people. (Letters of appreciation to members forwarded)

**Ant.**

## **Retired Snr. Station Officer Roy Tucknott's Funeral.**



*Roy Tucknott taking his final ride on top of the No.8 Pump as he leaves St. Damian's Catholic Church, Bundoora after his funeral service.*

**Photo: Arthur Blake (FSMV)**

The following is the statement issued to all MFB personnel by Cmdr. Ian Hunter (Honours & Awards Committee):

"It is with regret that I advise all personnel that Retired Senior Station Officer Roy TUCKNOTT (Reg No 2422) passed away on March 28, 2012 after a lengthy battle with illness.

Roy joined the MFB on 8 March 1968 and retired on 26 August 1988 after serving the Brigade and the Community for over 20 years. After serving at FS 10, Roy was promoted to Station Officer and transferred to Northern District where he served, on "A" Platoon, at FS 11 and FS 6. After several years he transferred to the Training College where he worked on many Recruit Courses and later, as a Senior Station Officer, he managed the Promotions Department until his retirement. He was always proud of the fact that many of the recruits he had trained went on to complete Officer promotional courses, run by him, later in their careers."

Roy's funeral was held on April 4 at St. Damian's Catholic Church in Settlement Road, Bundoora.

## **FS 30 Closed!**

Recently the old FS30 in Foote Street, Templestowe closed, and the firefighters moved in to the newly completed station on the corner of Serpells Road and Williamsons Road also in Templestowe. The official opening of the new station is scheduled for Sunday May 6, 2012.



In its final years space was hard to find in the old FS30. Things just had to go where they would fit. Photos: Barbara McCumisky





# RFA Photo Scanning and BBQ Day at FS27.

The first of the much anticipated Fire Museum photo scanning and BBQ days for retired firies took place on April 16 at FS27, Nunawading. The event was a great success, exceeding all expectations with the photographic material presented and also the BBQ lunch.

In all seven attended on the day, including Barb McCumisky who did all the scanning. The retired people who brought a wealth of photos, news clippings and albums were ret. Supt. Jack Moore, ret. DO. Brian Jackson, ret. DO. Trevor Reed, Wilma Brown (daughter of the late DO. Jack Green), Ernie Paddon and John Magart (ret. MFB Electrical Dept.) Unfortunately ret. DO. Basil Smith, Peter Dymond and John Meggs were unable to get there on the day, but sent photos for scanning.

The Fire Services Museum is extremely grateful to all

these people for making their photos etc. available. One of the great advantages of having electronic copies made of these photos is that if anything happens to the original collections, there will be backup copies stored in the Museum.

Judging from the excited chatter, those who were there certainly enjoyed looking at each others collections, recalling fires and events that happened years ago, and sharing their experiences with the younger firefighters at the station.

Then there was lunch which turned out to be more like a banquet than a BBQ. The firies of B Platoon worked very hard to provide a high class meal with a variety of meats, which were cooked to perfection and several salads which were delicious.

A big thank you goes to Cmdr. Peter Egan (Eastern District) who permitted the event to be held at FS27.

Also very deserving of a big thank you and very high praise are SOs. Ross Duncan, Steve George and the firefighters at the station who all made sure everyone had an enjoyable and memorable day.



**Above:** *The Comet Ladder turning out of FS2, Batman Street, West Melbourne in the mid 1960s. Photo: John Magart.*



**Above:** *The disposals store in Mentone well alight, circa 1980s. Brian Jackson collection.*



**These 5 historical photos** are just a sample of many that were presented for preservation on the day. There will be more days scheduled soon.

**Centre:** *The fatal Brooks Building fire in Russell Street, CBD July 1962. Basil Smith collection.*



**Left:** *The Electrical Dept. in the old Workshops at Eastern Hill. L-R: unidentified, Wally Barton, Mick James, Alec Walker and unidentified. Photo: John Magart.*



**While Barbara McCumisky was busy scanning the RFA members enjoyed the hospitality of FS 27.**



**Left:**  
*In the mess room at FS27 L-R: ret. DO Brian Jackson, Cmdr. Peter Egan, SO. Ross Duncan, SO. Steve George, Lf. Shane Bishop and Ernie Paddon.*

**Right:**  
*L-R: Ret. DO Trevor Reed, Lf. Dean Gebert and John Magart enjoying the excellent BBQ lunch.*



**Mess room photo's courtesy B. McCumisky**

**Below right:**  
*L-R: ret. Supt. Jack Moore, Wilma Brown, ret. DO Brian Jackson and Cmdr. Peter Egan.*



**Left:**  
*Wilma Brown's father the late Jack Green (centre) assisting with the rescue of a worker from a gas holder at Tooronga, June 1956. Wilma Brown collection.*



## **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*

Chief Stein required firefighting appliances that had the capabilities for a quick "get-to-work" and knock down of carbonaceous and flammable liquid fires in their incipient stages to replace the almost out of date manually operated fire engines.

Merryweather had been manufacturing horse drawn Soda Acid and Foam Chemical engines since the 1890's and Stein had one of each in commission. By 1905, Merryweather were manufacturing 24 horsepower motorized versions and Stein ordered one of each.

The Soda Acid (water) and Foam including the earlier horse drawn and the now 1905 Merryweather motorised versions could be likened to very large mobile Soda Acid and Foam 2 gallon capacity hand chemical extinguishers mounted on a light truck chassis fitted with iron dubbed wooden spoked and rimmed wheels fitted with solid India Rubber tyres, fixed to the floor at rear of the vehicle was a 200 gallon elliptical heavy copper tank, which

contained the water and the appropriate amount of dissolved Soda Bi-carbonate powder. Mounted directly over the tank was a hose reel which was fixed to a stationary hollow horizontal steel shaft in a metal frame which the hose reel revolved around, a welded copper tube from the shaft passing down into the tank and stopping approximately 4 inches from the bottom, on one end of the shaft was a manually operated winch handle fitted with gears which allowed the reel to be rotated in both directions and a pad-bolt locking device to prevent the reel unwinding off the hose when the vehicle was in motion and the other end had a manually operated wheel valve to which was connected approximately 200 feet of rubber delivery hose and nozzle.

The Foam Chemical Engines were similar in construction to the Soda acids but with a pre mix alkaline tank holding approximately 150 gallons of water and the appropriate amount of Soda Bicarbonate and Liquorice Powder, mounted nearby in a separate copper internally tin lined tank which held the required amount of Aluminium Sulphate.

The Chemical engines carried a crew of 6 men, the Officer in Charge and Driver in the front seat, two men on the rear seats, directly behind the front seat sitting at right angles facing the road with their feet placed on the side running boards and two other men standing upright on the

rear running board, there was a metal rail attached for them to hold on to whilst the vehicle was in motion.

Stein's hose carts and other specialised appliances were now carrying transportation type Soda Acid and Foam 2 gallon hand chemical extinguishers and 1 quart (2 pints) brass hand operated reciprocating pumping action Carbon Tetrachloride fire extinguishers for use on small electrical fires.

In 1891 when the Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade begun operating there was no pension scheme and C.O. Stein commenced a humane policy regarding the sick and injured firemen. It was the custom to keep men on duty until they virtually died, his only other alternative was to dismiss them which he couldn't bring himself to do. The older men were reduced in rank and kept on, others were given Night Watchman duties, and perhaps others were given light duties, ie. hose testing and mending, looking

after the welfare and exercising of the station horses and other station duties.

He decided to make it a condition that when men joined the Brigade they had to take out an insurance policy covering their lives against fire related death and injury (for the benefit of their wives and families). In 1908 before he retired Stein was concerned that some firemen were allowing their Life Insurance Policies to lapse. He issued a General

Order that Life Insurance Policies must be forwarded to Headquarters Station once a year for inspection to make sure they were up to date.

Circa 1903 it appears that Fireman Harry Thomas Harrison from the Kensington Fire Brigade was thrown from a Hose Cart and killed whilst turning out to a fire, after the funeral service some of his Fireman mates gathered at a nearby hotel to remember their late mate and they discussed a proposal that firemen donate a small sum of money out of their wages to start up a fund to help families survive when death or debilitating injuries occurred. This proposal was taken up by the men, this was probably the beginning of the Widows and Orphans Fund? An accident fund was operating but a Superannuation Fund for firemen was yet to be initiated.

Circa 1899 when Melbourne's great building and land boom bubble had burst bringing to Melbourne and Victoria its first economic depression, and, when at it's worst, the Melbourne Firefighters first began the tradition of fund raising for charitable organisations which continues to this day.

Promotion to Officer rank (Foreman, equivalent of today's Senior Station Officer rank) was by seniority from the very beginning. Because of the small number of vacancies available for Officer rank in the M.F.B. a serving officer would have to retire or pass away before



**Above:** A horse drawn chemical engine outside Eastern Hill. Circa 1900's. Photo; Fire Services Museum

there was a vacancy available. At this time promotion by seniority suited the men, and tended to minimise tensions and was more or less accepted by all. But as a result, in most cases, the best qualified men were overlooked which didn't auger to well for the overall efficiency of the Brigade. Promotion by merit had been considered by Stein and the Board as early as 1905 and he recommended that Officer candidates must have both knowledge and practical fire fighting experience. It was resolved to encourage firemen to attend school classes and have regular tests on various subjects. The Curriculum covered subjects to be studied, hydraulics, mathematics, chemistry, electricity, building construction.

English, and the Regulations of the City of Melbourne and its Health Department These examinations also covered practical fire fighting exercises set with many problems encountered on the fire ground.

The Board appointed as the M.F.B's, first teacher Mr. Charles Lowe (later to become Mr. Justice Lowe). Lowe was assisted by Mr. W. Welch and later Mr. E.W. Mylrea, B.A., Dip. Ed., from the Victorian Education Department. Mr. Mylrea was to become the Brigades school teacher for many years and at one time organised for the better of the young Officer candidates to attend science course's conducted at the Melbourne University to study research into the chemical control of fires.

Many of the Brigades Officers were indebted to Mylrea for his teaching abilities and patience over the years for their rise through the ranks, for many of the candidates the "quest for knowledge" didn't come easy. However the new system of promotion by merit still allowed for some men to jump ahead of others.

Stein could be accused of nepotism when in March 1907 his eldest son, Fireman James L. Stein, was appointed to acting foreman after being only 4 years in the brigade, most men needed to have at least 10 years service before being even considered for promotion. Two months later in May 1907 for the first time an examination was held for promotion to foreman, Fireman James L. Stein was top of the class, which would have pleased his father immensely. However, there was still angst and resentment re James's early appointment to acting Foreman.

Another fireman promoted at the same time, James Kemp, also with 4 years service, (not taking away from James Kemp's abilities, because 33 years later he was to become Chief Officer) may have been a subterfuge by Chief Officer Stein to pacify and escape criticism from failed Officer candidates? Even though officially, promotion by seniority had ended for the Foreman's rank there was a system in place of unwritten examination for the Senior Officers, ie Deputy Chief Officer, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Officers and District Superintendents. These were by appointment which allowed some men to rise rapidly over others. There was plenty of bad feeling and accusations of the Chief Officer playing favourites and indeed this practice appeared to continue down the decades until the 1970's and perhaps later?

**J.T. Wilkins** was born in the Avoca district of Victoria and as a young man gained practical experience as a fireman in a local Country Fire Brigade. At the same

time, he was studying to be an Engineer, passing his final examination in 1889 gaining his Engineering Certificate. He joined the M.F.B. in 1891, several months after it was founded, and C.O. Stein appointed him Chief Engineer of the Workshops/come firefighter. In 1892 he was made an engine driver (steam?) and in 1894 was appointed Foreman, for the first 10 years of his service he managed the Brigades Workshops, it appears that he turned out to fires when the occasion warranted his attendance?



**Above:** In 1901 while John Wilkins (later Chief Officer) was a MFB engineer, he acquired a car in kit form from the Thomson Motor Car Co. of Armadale in Melbourne. Firefighters utilised their spare time to assist him assemble the car in the Brigade Workshops. Photo: Fire Services Museum.

For some reason, (probably due to a clash of personalities). C.O. Stein and J.T Wilkins did not get on with each other. But, after 15 years of service, in July 1906, the Board appointed Chief Engineer Wilkins to the 3rd officer rank, thus setting him up for the future Deputy Officer rank. This appointment was possibly to cover themselves in the event of Supt. Harrie B. Lee of the Sydney Metropolitan Fire Brigade refusing their offer of him becoming the M.F.B 's Deputy Chief Officer and eventually being promoted to Chief Officer when Stein retired.

This move could have been due to the stalled negotiations with Harry B. Lee because originally he was not interested, maybe because of the remuneration of the Deputy Chief Officer rank was not up to his expectation's and other reasons. Having in mind Stein's original salary paid 800 Pounds per year, plus quarters including free electricity, water, fire wood and no rates to pay plus other concessions. He was paid three times as much a year more than his Deputy Chief Officer, Chief Engineer and his four District Superintendents salaries combined together. I believe that Lee was content being the Superintendent of Sydney's Metropolitan Fire Brigades, Paddington Brigade, for the time being because he had good prospects of further promotion possibly in time to

*(Continued on page 12)*



*(Continued from page 11)*

become their Chief Officer. But, in mid 1906, he decided to accept the M.F.B. Board's offer (his decision to accept was probably due to the M.F.B. Board's increased inducements making it an offer too good to refuse. He transferred to Melbourne and took up the appointment as Deputy Chief Officer, it was then the Board promoted Wilkins to third Officer. Mr. A. Brims was promoted to the rank of District Superintendent and took over the management of the Brigades Workshops.

In 1906 the Brigade imported two motorised appliances from England with petrol driven pumps. They were Merryweather Hatfield pumps and could deliver 450 g.p.m. The first, reg no.1417 became Car 3 and was commissioned in September 1906 and placed at FS3 Bouverie Street, Carlton. The second, reg no.1413 became Car 2 and was commissioned in December 1906 and placed at FS28 South Yarra.



**Above:** An early MFB postcard of the Merryweather Hatfield pump and crew in the yard at Eastern Hill circa 1908.

Circa late 1907, Stein took 6 months sick leave and the Board decided to send him to Europe on a "Health" and buying trip. He was to look at "up to date" Turntable and Extension Ladders and other new innovations for the Melbourne Fire Service. Stein returned in early 1908 and brought back with him in the ship's hold a Turntable Extension Ladder and other firefighting equipment including an expensive Motor Car bought with the Boards money for his own use!!!

Turntable Extension Ladders in those days played a major role in fire fighting in multi storey buildings, they enabled fires to be fought from the outside, even though most of the time firefighters fought them from the floor of origin or if possible from floor to floor. Fires in basements were the most difficult to fight, in many cases hose lines were deployed and they were virtually flooded out to extinguish the fire.

Breathing apparatus was in its infancy, they had smoke jackets and helmets with reinforced rubber hose lines attached connected to manually operated Air Pumps which supplied breathable air to the users. Problems with them were the snagging of the air hose on projections and fogging up of the eye pieces in the helmets which made it very difficult for the user to see through.

There were no set firefighting procedure's, most

firefighting experience was gained on the fire ground, practical expertise was gained over many years, but the brigade's new approach through education, and practical training hastened the process.

There were many specialist small gear items designed and manufactured by brigades throughout the world which played an integral part in the extinguishment of fires and for salvage operations. Since the early days for example, to rid flooded basements of water either from fire fighting activities, storm water, or burst water mains, firemen used the bucket chain method of lowering buckets by rope line into the flooded basement and filling them, hauling them aloft and tipping the water into other buckets and then passing them from man to man out of the building and emptying them into the street gutter. A very arduous, and trying operation. For many years the brigade had no portable means of raising and expelling water out of these basements other than the bucket chain method. However for this type of Salvage Operation the Brigades Workshops Engineers overcome the problem by making up a Copper Syphon for raising water from one level to another working from Towns Mains pressure.

Basically, the syphon was approx 3 ft. in length and consisted of a 2 ½ dia. female M.F.B. coupling fitted to a copper cone tapering from 2 ½" to ½" dia. welded inside a bulb shaped chamber which was approx. 8 inches long and 3 inches in dia. at it's centre, the bulb chamber had a welded copper barrel attached, tapering from 1 ½" to 2 1/2" in diameter fitted with a 2 ½ dia. MFB male coupling welded on the discharge end of the siphon. Welded to the centre of the copper bulb shaped chamber at bottom was a M.F.B. 2 ½" dia. male coupling which was used in conjunction with a 2 ½" dia. suction hose and strainer, feed and discharge hoses.

The syphon was relatively easy to get to work, being placed as close as possible to the water level. a 2 ½" dia. feed hose from a pillar or groundball hydrant and stand pipe was then attached to the syphon and then a 2 ½" dia. discharge hose was attached to the discharge end of the siphon, then the suction hose and strainer was tied off with a rope line and lowered into the basement's water and secured. The discharge hose had to be as short as possible and run out free of kinks and preferably downhill. The effective output of the syphon was 50 g.p.m. under good conditions and for operational purposes the lift had to be a maximum of 25 feet.

Note- In today's values this 50 g.p.m. is insignificant, but it was a better way of removing water than the manual bucket chain, in those times 50 g.p.m. was considered a remarkable effort.

For example, a small 4-5 storey building having dimensions of a 50 ft. frontage by 80 ft. in length with a 12 foot deep basement of the same dimensions, flooded to 6 ft, would represent 150,000 gallons of water to be lifted out. The siphon, lifting 50 gallons of water per minute, would, in 60 minutes, have lifted 3,000 gallons and in 24 hours it would have lifted 72,000 gallons. Therefore, theoretically it would take the syphon 50 hours to discharge all of the water out of the basement. The syphon was virtually noiseless, but made a slight knocking in the bulb chamber which indicated that it was working and discharging water, At this point in time this



made the syphon a desirable piece of small gear for the Brigade to have at their disposal, to be called on when required.

Most basement floors would have had a slight slope constructed in them allowing water to drain into a sump, no doubt firemen in the salvage operations would have to bucket out and a final clean up of the floor with squeegees, mops and buckets. Another option would have been if, the building concerned had at street level bricked in skylight window pit covered with cast iron grate which allowed daylight to enter the basement, then firemen would remove a grate and open up a window and then drop in a suction hose and strainer from a steam pumper. This would have been a quicker operation than the syphon, particularly if a 1,000 gpm capacity steam pumper was used.

**In April 1908**, Chief Officer David Stein suffered a minor accident at a fire and never returned to duty, he tendered his resignation and on the 1st. July 1908, Deputy Chief Officer Harry B. Lee was promoted as Chief Officer and at the same time Third Officer J.T. Wilkins was promoted to Deputy Chief Officer.

In all, David Stein had over 33 years of fire fighting experience, 13 years in the London Fire Brigades, 4 years as Superintendent of Melbourne's Insurance Co's Brigades, and over 16 years as Chief Officer of the M.F.B.. On his resignation he received a benefit of one thousand four hundred pounds from the accident fund. He was literally showered with emphatic expressions both written and verbal praising his achievements from the Victorian Government, Melbourne City Council, M.F.B. Board, Insurance Companies, Melbourne's Businesses Association, the General Public and last but not least his fellow Firefighters, also receiving recognition of his achievements from many Metropolitan Brigades around the world.

David Stein proved to be a very good administrator and was a determined man with a strong personality, just the man the fledgling Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigades needed to get it established and up and running successfully. David Stein and his wife Hannah had eight children, 3 boys and 5 girls, his youngest son Fred died in Paris France of pneumonia on Armistice Day 1918. It appears that his Father had taken him on a holiday to England and Europe.

**Harrie B. Lee** was now Chief Officer of the M.F.B., (he like Stein was an Englishman). Lee's former occupation was a merchant marine seaman, learning his trade on cargo ships plying along the coast of Eastern Australia particularly the New South Wales Coast and after 15 years experience he had obtained the rank of Master Mariner. In 1893 there occurred the first great Maritime Strike and Harrie's ship was laid up in Sydney Docks, as were many others around Australia. Ships Officers and Seamen were thrown out of employment. Good fortune smiled on Harrie when reading one of Sydney's Newspapers an advertisement caught his eye. The Sydney Metropolitan Fire Brigade were seeking Firefighters. Harrie applied and was interviewed by the Chief Officer who gave him a start because he liked the look of him and being a seaman he knew he was well trained and disciplined and took orders immediately without question.

Harrie Lee was a big man having a kindly disposition

and a good sense of fair play. Within nine years Harrie had worked his way up through the ranks to become a Superintendent and when he transferred to the Melbourne M.F.B., he brought his seaman's vocabulary with him, he was considered to be outspoken and not very tactful. It took several years before Melbourne's Fire Fighters accepted him for what he was. He was "for" them and not "against" them. Over his 18 1/2 years tenure they found him to be dynamic and sincere, had their welfare at heart and described him as a man's man.

*(But, nevertheless, on the 29<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1912 the Herald Newspaper reported that when Sydney's Firemen's Union took its case to the Wages Board to be recognised as a Union, C.O. Harry B. Lee went up to Sydney to give evidence and he stated to the Wages Board that, in his opinion, "A Fireman's life was a lazy one, it was monotonous and fire fighting was infinitesimal part of the work they had to do". He also stated that, "The danger of fire was not great, as a matter of fact I have found that my men like attending fires, if there are no fires they become despondent, a blaze makes them cheerful and bright, all firemen know this". It makes one wonder whose side Lee was actually on?)*

*To Lee's statement at the Sydney Wages Board, the United Fire Brigades Union of Victoria was most indignant, firemen scarcely had no time to protest before members of the public leapt to their defence and Melbourne's Newspapers carried a series of caricatures and captioned jokes concerning a fireman's lazy life, even the then Victorian State Government's Chief Secretary Mr. Murray, in a vain effort to defend Harrie Lee, said, "It should be noted that the Chief Officer did not say that the men were lazy". There seems to be a contradiction here!)*

C.O. Harrie Lee soon effected far reaching and much needed changes, he considered himself to be a ubiquitous Chief Officer his philosophy was that being the Chief Officer, he is always on duty meaning that in his absence his omnipresence was everywhere, the Deputy Chief Officer at once assumes all of the duties and responsibilities of the Chief Officer and so on right down the ranks to Foreman .

C.O. Harrie Lee was determined to change the cynicism of the men towards promotion, he assured that there would be no more nepotism or playing favourites and if they applied themselves sufficiently enough to pass they would be promoted in their turn, his policy on this did change the promotional attitudes of men aspiring to be Officers.

-----**To be continued**-----

#### **Ed's Note:**

*Les Gray is a well respected retired firefighter who has a vast knowledge of firefighting procedures and equipment. He has carried out extensive research in order to write these historic articles, but, admits that his journalistic skills are limited and some of the information he obtains may be incorrect.*

*Les is open to criticism from anyone who may find some of his published information to be incorrect and is able to come forward and either ring Les to discuss the errors or send the corrections to the editor of "Water Off" for publication along with the name of the correspondent.*

## Considering Life in a Retirement Village?

*Many of us are at that stage in life where our family home of many years is now becoming a burden, too big, maintenance is getting on top of us, or we just need a change in lifestyle! This is an option open to you.*

To gain access to a retirement village you must have reached 55 years of age or have retired from full time employment. Once you have made a decision that this lifestyle will suit you, speak to your solicitor or lawyer about the fee and legal structures for such villages, as contracts are many and varied.

The financial implications of moving to a retirement village can be complex and comparing retirement villages with varying legal structures and departure fee structures can be difficult, so make sure you speak to your solicitor and financial planner for as much information as possible. Here is some basic information about what you need to know.

### Types of Retirement Villages

There are basically two kinds of retirement village: resident funded and donor funded. The latter are invariably owned and operated by not for profit organizations. They include an element of charitable subsidy and entry is generally restricted to the needy. The former may be owned and operated by the private sector or by not for profit organizations and they are conducted on a commercial basis to produce a profit or surplus, respectively. Sometimes it's hard to tell the difference between a profit and a surplus.

### Accommodation and facilities

The size and style of retirement village accommodation varies enormously, from bed-sitter apartments to spacious brick and tile homes. Most retirement villages have common areas and a range of facilities available for the use and enjoyment of all residents. More recent ones cater fully to the semi retired and baby boomers, featuring sports facilities, cafes, and restaurants. They more closely resemble resorts and gated communities, both of which are emerging housing options.

### Levels of care

A number of terms are used to describe the level of care that is provided in a particular village or in relation to particular units.

Units that are described as independent living units or self-care units provide the lowest level of care, although a range of personal services may be available on request on a user pays basis under an arrangement known as flexicare.

Units that are described as assisted living units or serviced apartments provide the highest level of care, usually including the regular provision of a range of personal services.

Confusion sometimes arises because low level residential care facilities, previously known and often still referred to as hostels, are also described as assisted living units.

Hostels and nursing homes are regulated and partly funded by the Commonwealth Government and different legislation, admission criteria and funding arrangements apply.

### Legislation

Each State and Territory has enacted specific legislation that regulates the operation of retirement villages. The legislation in each area is different and has its own definition of what is and what is not a retirement village.

In some cases the legislation applies differently to different legal structures and contractual arrangements. Particular legal structures and contractual arrangements may also attract the application of other legislation, such as strata title, community title, companies and securities, manufactured home or tenancy legislation.

### Costs

The costs incurred from selecting a retirement village can include:

- an initial entry price when you move in.
- recurring service charges during your stay and possibly afterwards
- a departure fee when you leave.

The nature of the initial entry price depends on the particular legal structure. For example, it may be the purchase price of a freehold property, security or other asset, or it could be a loan, premium or prepayment of rent.

### Departure fees

Departure fees are particularly important and particularly difficult to fully understand. There are well over a dozen different departure fee structures and they are a key factor in determining how much you (or your estate) get back when you leave the village. Depending on your financial resources, how much you get back could well determine or limit your future accommodation choices.

### Home and Residence Choices for Older People

A useful publication by the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs is "Accommodation Choices for Older Australians and their Families" which aims to help older Australians, their families and those who care for them, with important lifestyle and housing decisions.



**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
- Pet friendly accommodation - dogs and cats welcome at Bells
- Undercover parking, private secure garden, gas log fire, comfortable beds, air conditioning, ceiling fans and all the comforts of home!
- Shower/spa bath, toilet and another separate toilet off laundry
- Doonas and pillows supplied on all beds. BYO sheets and towels
- 400 metres easy walk to the beach past Begola Wetlands
- Bellarine Taste Trail - including food, wine, seafood, olives, wine tours
- Ocean Grove Bowls Club - for reasonably priced meals

**Reasonable rates - from \$120 double off peak**

Contact: Ph. 03 5251 5899  
mobile 0403 221 737

email: [bellsbythebeach@bigpond.com](mailto:bellsbythebeach@bigpond.com)

[www.bellsbythebeach.com.au](http://www.bellsbythebeach.com.au)

Office address: 25 Gange Place Drysdale 3222 Vic.

24 Roditis Drive, Ocean Grove, 3226

Your hosts: retired firefighter  
Lin Bell and wife Jan Bell

## Geelong Firey's Muster



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

**Smorgasbord Lunch**  
**Tuesday 27th November 2012**  
**1130 hrs @**

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

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

### **Good advice**

The correct way to treat a good wine....Open the bottle to allow it to breathe. If it doesn't look like it's breathing, give it mouth- to- mouth resuscitation.

### **Good advice**

One of our members was asking advice from his Trainer at the gym, "I want to impress that beautiful girl over there ; which machine should I use?"  
Trainer: "Try the Bank ATM across the street."

## **Pending Retirements**

Dave Lawrence, Tuesday 15th May

Chris Anderson, Thursday 17th May

## **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](mailto: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.

# **UFU RETIRED MEMBERS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**

**Saturday November 24th 2012**

**11.30 AM. - 4.00 PM.**

**Malvern Town Hall**

A reminder:

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

---

**PRINT POST No. PP333964/0020**

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

**SURFACE  
MAIL**

**Postage  
Paid  
Australia**

