

# "WATER OFF"

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



*November 2015 Vol 19 No 3  
Inc/No: A16839F*

## Queensland Reunion

**Thursday 30th July 2015  
Southport Yacht Club, Gold Coast**

Well folks what can I say. Booked for 45 people and upon arrival Peter (Maitre) organised seating for 42. However, lads and partners kept coming until we finally had a group of 56 all together. Wow! Organised chaos was the order of the day! But finally all bums got a seat.

We had 8 from Queensland Fire Service join us. Can't thank them enough for making the effort. As I was told "we all did the same job".

Helen Lyons did a sterling job of 'grabbing' everyone as they walked in. Orders issued :(1) sign in sheet, (2) email address and then ensuring they bought a raffle ticket before moving on. Next year you are on again.

The Southport Yacht Club has to be the best location for a luncheon and the weather of course was startling. Once, finally seated we had a minute silence, thanked the QLD folks for coming and then ordered our meals. Whilst waiting, everyone got down to mingling and meeting their next door neighbours. It was great to see the QLD and VIC 'crew' together and once again reliving some of the 'jobs' that they had had. Many fires were once again put out on the day.

After lunch a thank you of appreciation was given to peter and June Coulson for the 26 years organisation of the QLD luncheon. If the 30th July as in anyway a sign of the times and with numbers like we had it will be a great event for many more years to come....or we will be seating on the sand!!

**For further information for next years event contact;  
Ian & Gail Fagerness 07 55224321  
(0431 486 141)**

### **Attendees**

Peter and June Coulson; Brian and Gayle Millstead; Alan Boyd; Trevor and Betty Reed; Tony Hynson; Bob and Ann Wheildom; Barry and Hannah Stevens; Ian and Gail Fagernes; Ken and Mary Longmuir; Geoff Linley and Partner; John Rodda and Alice Murray; Gary Schiele and Ken Connellan; Sammy Capes; Ron Miller; Alan Thompson and Hilary Sanders; Reg Christensen; Ken and Wendy Bouchaud; Allan Thompson and partner; Ian (Chook) Fowler; Colin and Lillian Briely; Don and Nancy Brennan; Robert Young; Noel Barnes; Chris and Rosemary Badrock; Stan and Helen Lyons; Geoff Cusack; Peter and Glenda Shanahan; Alan Dalrymple; Keith Lyn; Pete Goldsmith and Adrian and Lorraine O'Keefe

### **QLD Crew**

Dave Slade; Bill Carter; Robert and Lorraine Paterson Peter and Marilyn Dawson; Allison Harris and Barry and Hannah Stevens

### **Apologies**

Dave Lawrence; Bob Burrows; John Gresty; Alan Young; Gary Wright and Alan Deanes.



# The Retired Fire Fighters Association of Victoria Office Bearers 2014-2015

**President:** Don Brennan  
**Secretary/ Treasurer:** Allan Roberts  
**Vice President:** Alex Shepard  
**General Committee members:**  
Arthur (Sam) Capes  
Mike McCumisky  
Ian Geddes  
Kevin Hede

**Auditor:** Mike Enticott  
**Magazine Editor:** John Laverick

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### **“Annual General Meeting”**

**Notice is hereby given that the next Annual General Meeting will be held at Burnley Training College. 1030 Hours, Wednesday 18th November 2015**

#### AGENDA ITEMS.

**Minutes of last General meeting**  
**President’s Report**  
**Secretary/Treasurer’s Report**  
**Guest Speaker;**  
**General Business**

**Election of new committee members**

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.

#### **SICK LIST** (\* In Nursing Home)

|                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Bob Brunning          | Jack Sexton     |
| Stan Cameron          | Ralph Weitering |
| Huew Campbell*        | Brian Whittaker |
| Keith Dumas           | John Laverick   |
| Eddie Gilbertson      | Harry Mitchell  |
| Clarrie Guthrie*      | Dave De Fonte   |
| Clarrie Hart          | Gary Spicer     |
| Ron (Darkie) Hayward* | Don Brennan     |
| Bob Horgan            |                 |
| Murray Jelleff        |                 |

We wish these members a speedy recovery.

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

### 2015 New Members

Over the last 12 months we have had a number of new members join. We would like to welcome both them and their partners to the association :

|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Alan Smith          | Steve Aicher   |
| Graham Spiby        | Phil Rook      |
| Graham Thompson     | Peter Flavelle |
| Jim Stargatt        | Noel Lovelock  |
| Peter Andrews       | John Hoskin    |
| Reg Christiansen    | Fred Koolstra  |
| Ron Darby           | Kieth Willison |
| Bob Ross (rejoined) | Rod Nixon      |
| Russell Hawthorn    | Bill Thomas    |
| John Cooper         |                |

**Allan Roberts**  
**SECRETARY/TREASURER**  
**Address all correspondence to:**  
**The Secretary**  
**50 Cameron Parade, Bundoora Vic 3083**  
**Phone:- 0433 007 720**  
**email: [rfavic1@gmail.com](mailto:rfavic1@gmail.com)**

“Water Off” is edited by Angela Potter, Email: [rfa.magazine@my.com](mailto:rfa.magazine@my.com)

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; A. Potter. (The views expressed by the editor of this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Victorian branch of the RFA)

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As reported in our last Water Off this is my final Presidents report. Age and medical issues have finally caught up with me. I have held this position for 17 years. It has been a pleasure working with all committee members over the years.

The secretary/treasurers over the years—Peter Holton, John Brown, John Berry (twice) and Allan Roberts have done all the work, which in turn has made my position very easy.

I would like to thank John Laverick our Editor of the Water Off for 21 Years of excellent service. John through a number of bouts of illness has never missed a dead line. To Barbara McCumisky for her assistance to John and for her supply of photos and historical records.

To Mike McCumisky for arranging through Meg Rainer of the MFB to have the magazine printed and delivering the magazines to Australia Post for posting.

To Theo Telkenburg who has been our Auditor for all the years.

Special thanks to all members who have helped to put the Water Off together and getting it ready for postage.

To the members who assisted at BBQ's at Bunnings and Ozanam House and the UFU Picnics I thank you all for your assistance.

Thanks to the MFB and CFA for the use of their premises for our meetings in Burnley Offices and Corio Fire Station. And special thanks to the MFB for supplying BBQ lunches at our meetings and printing of the magazine.

And finally to the UFU and in particular Peter Marshall for their support and assistance over the years

To you the members who have kept the RFA going strong for 27 years, and I hope it goes on for another 27 years.

Hoping to see you and your partners at the next meeting.

Don Brennan

## Merchandise and Membership Fees

|                      |         |
|----------------------|---------|
| Once off Joining Fee | \$5.00  |
| Yearly Subs          | \$10.00 |
| Badges               | \$5.00  |
| Cap                  | \$20.00 |
| Polo Shirts          | \$20.00 |
| Apron                | \$20.00 |

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

The committee have been busy over the last 12 months with meetings at the UFU for the Retired Division which is progressing. Some of our members have nominated for the Functions committee.

I mentioned in the last Water Off that I had been contacted about Dairies. They will be ready for distribution in December 2015 for the 2016 year. The publishers have started to pay a weekly Payment of \$100.00. Until the last few weeks, I have contacted them for an ongoing update.

By the time this Water Off is published we will have had the usual fund raiser BBQ at Bunnings Hoppers Crossing. Thanks to Brennan Family and Committee.

Ozanam House Luncheon on Monday 23rd November 2015.

The RFA web site has been running for 18 months and seems to be getting plenty of hits .

I the secretary of the Retired Firefighters Association, Allan Roberts, express my thanks and gratitude for the support that MFB Burnley staff collectively provide to the RFA members at their BBQ's following all our Meetings.

I would like to thank Angela for wanting to help with the Water Off.

Also a very big thank you to John Laverick for the Water Off production over the years.

Also Barbara McCumisky for her stories and photos. I sincerely hope that Barbra will still be around to help us out.

I would especially like to thank Don Brennan for his time that he has given to the Retired Firefighters Association as Committee and President.

Over the last year John Berry has been a great help to me as secretary.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Closing Balance @ 30th September 2015  
Running account S1 = \$5597.71  
Fix Term 6 Months L1 Account = \$6711.25

All payments for memberships etc are to be paid to Firefighters Credit Union

BSB: 803-209 Account Number 91469

**Please ensure you put your name in the reference field.**

# Retired Firefighters Association of Victoria

## Annual General Meeting

### Minutes

### 12th November 2014

President - Don Brennan,  
Secretary/Treasurer - John Berry,  
Minutes - Ian Geddes.  
Present: 54 Apologies: 8  
New attendees -

- Duncan Strang (Southern),
- Ken Edwards (Eastern -T/C).

Sick List:

- Jack Moore,
- Brian Whittaker,
- Neville Smith.

#### Secretary/Treasurer Report:

John read Minutes of 2013 A.G.M.  
Accepted – John Howe,  
Seconded – Harry Floyd – Carried.  
Matters arising: - Nil

#### President's Report:

R.F.A. now in 26th year, with over 500 members.  
Bunnings (October) - \$1685.00  
As of today, John Berry will be retiring as Sec/Treasurer.  
Don thanked John, also the M.F.B. (use of T/C and other matters), and the UF.U. (Paying Insurances).

#### Financial Report – John Berry:

Closing balance - \$4835.31  
Term Deposit - \$6438.21

This report must be submitted to Corporate Affairs before the end of each November to comply with legal requirements. Theo Teklenbury (Auditor) has done this for MANY years and is now retiring.

Mike Enticott, (General Manager of Credit Union) has offered to do the Audit. THANKS THEO for your diligence, experience and control.

Moved – John Berry,  
Seconded – John Chambers – Carried.

#### Elections:

President – Don Brennan.

Secretary/Treasurer – Allan Roberts.

Vice President – Ian Fowler and Alec Shepherd both nominated.

Both men gave us a short presentation, and by a show of hands Alex Shepherd scrapped in. Alex is new Vice – President.

Committee – Sam Capes, Ian Geddes, Kevin Hede, Mike McCumisky.

Don, and ALL of us, thanked Chook Fowler for his great involvement/enthusiasm over the many years.

Don, and ALL of us, thanked The Ant for his great work over 18 years and presented John with a signed photo of the recent Southport (Qld) lunch.

P.S. – we know that nick names are not to be used, but in the case of these two stalwarts.....

#### General Business:

Geoff Annals has supplied a Brass Helmet, Allan Roberts a C.F.A. Flag, and Mick Shanahan will obtain an Aviation Services Flag – to be used at Funerals.

Craigieburn Training College – visit will be in groups of 12 -notify Don. Pick up at 25, 27, 44 and Burnley (using M.F.B. Bus). Wear long sleeve shirt to prevent chaffing.

Historical Society - Mike showed us a M.F.B. Fire Museum Book 1891 – 1920 (\$45, and \$38 to Museum Members). Sam Capes motioned a \$200 Bunnings Voucher for John Berry. Graeme Duncan suggested a plaque.

Amended Motion - Graeme Duncan/Ian Geddes, Seconded - Noel Pinnell - A fire related item – Carried.

Col Harris spoke of the Brigade Classic Cars Display held each November at Burnley Training College.

John Brown spoke glowingly of the work done by Don, Nancy B. and daughter Angela P.

Doug Overton asked about Tom Williamson - some old mates still enjoy a phone call with Tom.

Phil Cleary - R.F.A. Website. [www.rfav.com.au](http://www.rfav.com.au)

It is up and running – whatever you want to post on it (retirements, news/goss, events, - whatever).

Use this website to notify and pick up information.

Meeting ended 12 noon

## From the EDITOR

After over 20 years of putting fingers to the keyboard, John Laverick has decided to stand down from the role as Editor. I know that the committee had been trying for a while to get someone to assist John. After a couple of conversations and a lesson in the current format of the RFA Magazine, I agreed to jump in the deep end and assist where possible. I didn't think I would be the Editor so quickly, however with the support of your committee we are moving ahead.

However one thing I need to stress to you all. This is your magazine and without your input it will not be able to continue. Therefore I am asking for your support. If you have any stories that you would like to share with your fellow members and their partners and families please forward them to me at [rfa.magazine@my.com](mailto:rfa.magazine@my.com) before the publication close off date.

With your support we can keep this magazine going and keep it interesting for all who read it. I will then enjoy putting your magazine together.

Regards  
Angela Potter

*"Journalism is the ability to meet the challenge of filling*

## Magazine Dead Lines

The members need at least 2 weeks notice prior to both annual and general meetings and the editor requires time to edit copy and set photographs then send off to printers who require at least a week to print.

The following are the deadlines for articles and reports for publication in the RFA magazine for 2016. Material received after these dates will be held over until the next magazine.

|                        |                                |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| February 2016 magazine | <b>Friday 8th January 2016</b> |
| May 2016 magazine      | <b>Friday 8th April 2016</b>   |
| August 2016 magazine   | <b>Friday 8th July 2016</b>    |
| November 2016 magazine | <b>Friday 7th October 2016</b> |

## **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 secretary Allan Roberts with subject "Water Off by email" to Allan Roberts email address: [rfavic1@gmail.com](mailto:rfavic1@gmail.com)

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.

## Honouring your outgoing President.

Five years ago the MFB advertised for nominations for any past or existing members to have a fire truck named in their honour.

My family wrote to the MFB asking if they would honour my father Don Brennan. We had not heard anything since, until dad came home from one of the RFA meetings at the Training College to inform us that he had seen a truck with his name on it.

As a family you could say we were wrapped with the prospect of him being honoured for his 28 years of service with the MFB.

On Saturday 11th July, our family was invited to station 35 for the formal dedication of the truck.

I would like to personally thank the guys on 'B Shift' at 35 for making our family feel welcome.  
Angela Potter



## GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Articles like these as we have often stated, are the hardest because of the memories that keep flashing up. In this case whilst I did not know Bruce, I, similar to many others know his father Bill (Matt) Dillon very well and would never want to go through the same devastation as he of losing a son.

**Bruce Edward Dillion, 1962-29/7/2015.** The following are extracts of a letter I received from Matt, regarding Bruce's life and the overwhelming celebration of life conducted by members of the club that he was President of for 16 years.

Matt & Judy's son did not smoke or partake of alcohol and was a conscientious worker who unfortunately was diagnosed with Brain Cancer 5 years ago and was advised there was nothing they could do for him, in fact informing him that he only had about 18 months to live. On hearing this there was an immediate call to arms from Bruce's wife, Matt's family and his club mates, they were going to do everything within their power to help him if it was possible beat this insidious condition.

The club members set about painting his house and building a gym in his garage. This gesture gave him a great lift and a positive outlook about his condition. Bruce who already had a great love of roses planted many different types, and with his veggie garden it became his little slice of paradise. One thing he could not handle was inactivity so he talked his boss into giving him some part time work, against his doctor's orders. Matt told me that Bruce, knowing full well what the outcome of the condition would be, confided in him that he would organise his funeral and make sure his wife would be OK.

The bond he had with his club mates never wavered. They would call in and spend time not only at home but also take him to the club for coffee and a chat. There was no doubt all that support was helping, in fact at times he was feeling so well everyone was starting to wonder if the cancers were in remission, unfortunately that was not the case as some time later the cancer took hold causing Bruce to collapse.

He was immediately transferred to St Vincent's where he was advised that he only a week or so to live. His wish to be sent home could not be accommodated due to the fact he was too ill.

The best they could do was to transfer him to Healesville Hospital Palliative Care Unit which was closer to home. His

club mates rallied around the family keeping a vigil with his wife and Matt's family. The members and their wives not only looked after the shopping, bills etc they would ensure he almost had a visitor 24/7. The Doctors commented he would not have survived as long as he did without the love & support of the family & club mates.

The Funeral (Celebration of Life) was as he wanted, Matt was left speechless There was approximately one thousand mourners at the service many from overseas and interstate and they led the way to the Healesville Cemetery. After he was laid to rest, each club member filed past and with the special spade placed at the grave site placed soil on the casket. Matt was then given the honour of doing the same. There was no one who did not shed a tear as he was such an integral part of their life.

Matt and the family were then escorted back to the club house by his mates with Bruce's Harley leading. The members and their wives who are aged between 40-70 years would tell Judy & Matt what their boy had done for them. Matt and his family want it known they will never be able to thank the club members & families enough for the love and support they have showered upon them.

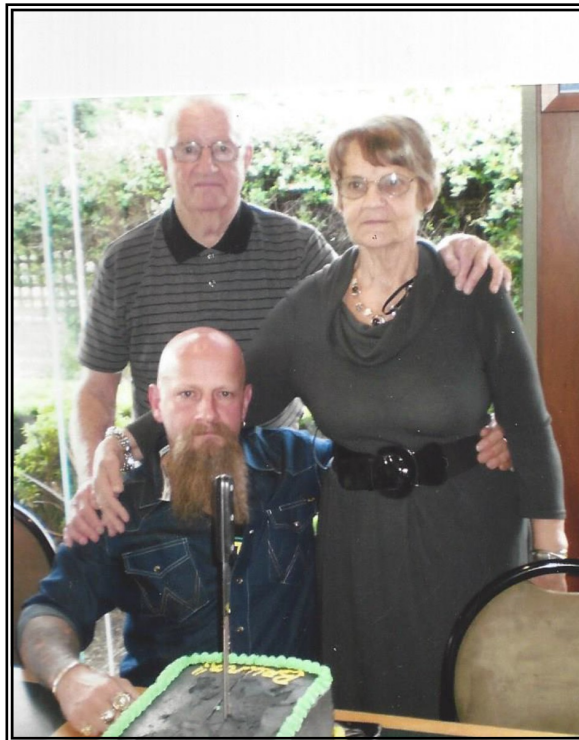
One little thing that Matt did not put in the letter was, he & Judy would drive from Bairnsdale to Healesville & back at least three times a week to assist them. Unfortunately the worry of

Bruce's illness did not help Judy who herself was going through her own medical condition.

**Matt, on behalf of all the RFA & Brigade members we are thinking of you and Judy at this tragic time, do take strength from all the love, support and kind thoughts from Bruce's club mates.**

---

**KELLY. John Mervyn.** Passed away suddenly at home in Mulwala on Sunday Oct. 4, 2015, aged 77. Dearly loved husband of Mavis (dec. ), much loved father of Steven, Debra and Peter and stepfather of Janette. Fondly missed Pa to Scott, David, Jackson, David, Kelly, Elisha, Reece, Samuel and Jacob and Great Grandpa to Declan. You will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved you. Finally At Peace But Will Remain Forever In Our Hearts. - See more at: <http://tributes.heraldsun.com.au/notice/210112049/view?random=1444089256531#sthash.E3u6iBFz.dpuf>



## Valē

David (Dave) Gallop  
Stewart Wilkinson  
Jack Mervyn Kelly

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

## IMPORTANT DATES



|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| 18th November 2015  | RFA Annual General Meeting   |
| 21st November 2015  | Annual Christmas Luncheon<br>Malvern Town Hall   |
| 24th November 2015  | Geelong Firey's Muster   |
| 29 November 2015    | MFB Running Club—Classic<br>Car & Motorbike Day at<br>Burnley Training College from<br>10am to 2pm |
| Early February 2015 | UFU Fire fighters Picnic   |
| 22nd March 2015     | Geelong Firey's Muster   |

## CHANGES TO POWERS OF ATTORNEY



The powers of attorney legislative framework will change when the Powers of Attorney Act 2014 (Vic) commences on 1st September 2015. The key changes are:

1. Increased clarity around the roles of each party to a power of attorney and the point at which a power of attorney becomes active;
2. Improved protection of the interests of individuals making powers of attorney; and
3. The introduction of the new supportive attorney appointment (to enable people to retain the dignity of being able to exercise their decision making capacity longer than is presently formally provided for).

Existing powers of attorney will remain valid after the new legislation has commenced. The new legislation does not affect medical powers of attorney or guardianship relationships.

Source: Seniors Rights Victoria Newsletter, May 2015.

## ITS JUST THE BEGINNING

Summer isn't even here yet and the fire season has started early. The question I have for you all is have any of you developed and implemented a fire plan.

Prepare your property, understand your local grassfire and bushfire risks, familiarise yourself with Fire Danger Ratings and talk to your family and friends about what you will do in the event of a fire Emergency.

Do you have copies of all your personal records in case you have to evacuate?

Do you have a meeting place for you and your family?

Have you spoken to your grand children and visitors about your fire plan?



*Photo courtesy of Herald Sun.*

Drivers are urged to remember the road rules and give way to emergency service vehicles when under lights and sirens.

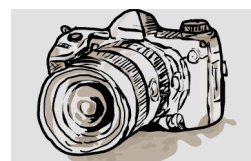
## Time to pay those Membership Fees.

Once again this year at the UFU Christmas Luncheon, Nancy Brennan and myself will be out the front willing to take your well deserved Membership dues.

To assist us on the day can we please ask that where possible you come with the exact money and have your name tag on so that we know who we are writing the receipts out to. We will also have some merchandise available as well. Prices are outlined on page 3.

Angela Potter

## PHOTOGRAPHS WITHIN RFA MAGAZINE



Photos must be either at least 2MB or 300dpi (dots per inch).

We are not able to use hard copy photos from a home printer. If in doubt send in professional prints to save disappointment.



## RFA NEW UPDATES

### Putting the final touches to the RFA Magazine

As you all know it starts with the Editor spending hours in front of the computer finding articles which they believe may be of interest to the reader. Once completed it is sent to the printers. But it doesn't stop there.

Every 3 months your committee comes together and spends number of hours at the Museum putting the final touches to the magazine—folding and putting the address stickers on over 800 individual magazines.

For the May edition of the Magazine Alex Sheppard, Mike McCumisky, Don Brennan, John Berry and Nancy Brennan were your magazine legends. (as per photo below)

Without this commitment from some of the members, your magazines would never arrive in your mail box.

As usual when any of you guys get together the stories flow freely. I hope to be able to include some of these in future editions.



### Great news for Victorian CFA Members

A giant step forward for the CFA members. Craig Lapsley Emergency Management Commissioner confirmed that the authority has been provided funding for EMR implementation to all integrated stations by the 2016/17 financial year. The program will be delivered to all CFA integrated fire stations over the next two years. Funding this financial year will allow 19 integrated stations; the remaining will be covered in the 2016/17.

Training will commence with the **South Morang and Mornington stations** in the final quarter of 2015.

The following Information supplied by various union members.

Back on the 5/9/14 the fire service there had that horrific fire and explosion of the “B” double truck on the Mitchell Highway at Angellala Creek which injured Fire fighters & members of the public. Well now the Fire Service members of the state with the motto of **Beautiful one day, Perfect the next** have a reason to be pleased with the Queensland Branch of the **UFU & UFUA**. They have been pushing the Government for The Presumptive Legislation that recognises occupational cancer. It has now being enacted for career fire fighters and they are still trying to obtain it for bush fire service members. The other bit of good news involves the Aviation members. If you remember in the November edition of the RFA newsletter we made mention of the new station opened at Gladstone airport. Well the members up there have taken the top prize for being the best in Australia. See the following.

### Six things you may not know about airport fire station crew



Senior fire commander Greg Hunt holds the St Florian award, with ARFF executive general manager Michelle Bennetts, crew leaders Paul Gray, Brett Lee, Jay Aspros and ARRF national operations manager Rodd Sciortino in the front, and Gladstone's airport firefighters in the background.

The Gladstone crew received the St Florian's award today from the Airservices Australia Aviation Rescue Fire Fighting's executive general manager Michelle Bennetts and national operations manager Rodd Sciortino in a presentation at the Callemondah Drive station. Photo Mike Richards / The Observer



Gladstone has had an airport firefighting service for less than a year, but these men have been recognized as Airservices Australia's Crew of the Year.

Here are six things you may not have known about the service:

- 21 staff in the station, including six new recruits and eight permanent staff.
- 1 emergency situation where a Virgin plane called in 30 kilometers from Gladstone with a problem. It burnt off fuel but landed safely.
- 25 airport aviation firefighting services around Australia, and Gladstone won Crew of the Year.
- 1 year ago the Gladstone crew began to set up and the station officially opened in August 2014.
- 2 hours per shift is spent in the gym as part of the firefighters' contract to keep physically fit.
- 4 of the criteria for the St Florian award is based on: professionalism, innovation, teamwork and community service

## FIRE AND ICE GALA BALL

Last but certainly not least, the first night after the AFL Grand Final the Melbourne Docklands area will be jumping as approximately 800 Firies including wives and partners will be at the UFU's **Fire & Ice ball**, the last one held there was in 2011 for UFU 's 100 year celebration. They are great nights, the union staff & members are to be commended for their commitment.



Photo of Eric and Mary Daffy with Don Brennan

## BUNNINGS BBQ SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER 2015

Another great successful day. Firstly I want to thank Bunnings Hoppers Crossing for their on going support and allowing us to do a bbq there every year.

There is a lot of prework that goes on before we even get to start to the Sausages and special thanks goes to Don and Nancy Brennan for submitting the application (12 months in advance), UFU for the Insurance, Don for chasing up the delivery of the sausages and onions on the day and picking up the bread on the way to the store. And of course Nancy for keeping an eye out for when the soft drinks are on special.

The day arrives and temperature wise it is looking like it is going to warm with the possibility of a thunderstorm. By about 11am the storm clouds started to roll closer. However it was out day, they kept rolling on past. Although it was a warm day it was a successful day.

There is an average of 1200 sausages cooked, number of kilos of onions and 61 loaves of bread. However it's the mateship and stories that are spurn under the Bunnings shelter is where all the laughs are.

A great day had by all and a special thanks goes to our wonderful members who travel from all over Melbourne. This year special thanks go to: Don Brennan, Alex Sheppard, Col Harris, Ian Fowler, Ken Heddle, Kevin Hede, Allan Roberts, John Berry, Nancy Brennan and Angela Potter



## We say Thank You

### RFA EL PRESIDENTI TO STAND-DOWN AT COMING AGM

I have been invited by the new editor (Angela Potter) to put a few words together about the journey and projects her **Dad** (Don) and I have undertaken since we started this third stage of life. Let's start with Don. He retired from the MFB in 1987 with a sound strategy that involved caravanning, world travel, new home and numerous other projects for Nancy and him, I (Ant) on the other hand had retired in 1988 with what one could say was, no real plan apart from a philosophy of have a go at everything, reinforced by the words of the my treating cardiologist imbedded in my brain; your body will soon tell you what you cannot do.

This is where I can say without regret Don stepped in, and took me on a journey of discovery. First he got me involved in real-estate, tenants, land-lords, property development, Supreme Court, taxation, building plans, old style country dealing with suppliers and many other facets of the building industry, including attending workshops and/or meetings about the latest building information.

Not finished there, as President of the RFA he got us involved for the first and the following yearly fund raising at Bunnings stores, including obtaining all supplies for each event, philanthropy with the money raised. Insuring proper meeting protocol at all RFA days is followed with the use of a gavel etc. Even right up to now, his latest venture, **Do Not Swan-Dive onto carpet covered concrete**; it has a bad habit of smashing one's rib-cages, having visited him in hospital and receiving numerous phone calls, plus seeing the damage I can vouch for that. Don, you can rest assured I will not try it I'll take your word on this one. Don is similar in many ways to all males, however; what has showed through all of this is his loyalty and honesty to all this could never be questioned. Yes he can be a pain in the, you know where, but I can tell you we are all very pleased he is on our team.

There can be no doubt we are very thankful for the many years Don and Nancy enthusiastically served as Mr and Mrs El Presidente'

One other item many may not be aware of, Don has not only been on the steering committee of the UFU Retired Members Division he has been elected as their foundation President for this year.

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### WATER OFF EDITORIAL STAFF SAY ADIEU

As the famous Earl of Oxford (Sir Robert Walpole) quoted, every drop of ink in my pen ran cold in his letter to George Montagu, (3rd July 1752) The RFA committee can only imagine that is the reason for this dedicated team to say adieu at the forthcoming AGM.

Most members would not have any idea of the time and effort they have put in to ensure the RFA reaches its full potential. Let's go back to around 1995 when the journey started for them. Because of a most unfortunate death I fell into the role of Secretary/Treasurer of the association, which at that stage was in serious decline, membership almost non-existent and the A5 newsletter, our main form of communication, was in need of a new beginning.

I approached (or should I say got down on my knees) an old work-mate **John Laverick** to take on the role of Editor, after much kicking and screaming and when he could not stand watching me do it anymore he agreed to take on the role. His first request was; I must not put on a show like that ever again, even when I spilt my milk. The second request, he would develop a whole new format for the newsletter, the third, he have total control as editor, this I agreed to straight away, (I was well aware he had already been involved in the successful production of six books).

One thing I did not tell him was that in our travels I had met a career book critic/editor from Canada (who I still communicate with) and he would be reviewing the revamped product for me; guess what, it came back with flying colours. The next step was to get a reliable source of good pictures and comment from someone with a great source of a historical and intimate knowledge of the fire services, there was none better than **Barbara McCumisky**.

Some would say it is only the RFA newsletter. Let me tell you it was the nucleus that brought about the regeneration of the RFA. Not long after the first year or so we had people from many parts of the world, after reading it, requesting more information about our association. With the request increasing the membership started growing again. The revamped product was not only a winner it was also our best means of keeping the members up to speed with information etc. add to that the great articles coming from members, like Les Gray, Fred Kerr, John Brown, Barbara & the late Don Cameron plus others.

With its popularity & growth some even suggested we should publish it monthly, which of course fell on deaf ears. I know what you are going to say, there is a new format called the internet however, until the older generation like me drop-off; the newsletter will still be our most important means for the transfer of information.

The newsletter set up by John L, is the members newsletter, I know the young ones who are not members say it is not relevant to their times. My response; it is not your newsletter. It was designed for and still is for the retired members. I for one have no hesitation in saying John and later Barbara brought new life into the association at a time when it was needed. Take Edward Bulwer-Lytton's quote. Beneath the rule of men entirely great, / the pen is mightier than the sword, unquote. The newsletter has certainly proved that it saved the RFA. Barbara & John we are indebted to both of you for the great legacy you have given us.

**John Berry**



## **FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

### **Melbourne Fire fighter Stair Climb Saturday 5th September 2015**

Wearing 25kgs of fire fighting gear, 343 fire fighters from MFB, CFA, SA, NSW, QLD, New Zealand, Alaska and New York climbed for a Cure up the 29 floors of the Crown Metropol. The goal was to raise \$250,000 for cancer research at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. Congratulations to all who competed, the total raised for Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre was \$250,072!




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### **Early start predicted for 2015/2016 fire season.**

Its official the CFA have advised that the Southern Australia Seasonal Outlook has predicted that Victoria is heading towards an early start to the fire season with an above normal fire risk.

CFA Chief Officer Euan Ferguson says “In Victoria the temperature and rainfall over the next few months will be critical in determining the fire threat, fuel growth and conductions this summer.

Whilst August to October are traditionally Victoria’s wettest time of year, a decade of below average rainfall means the state remains quite dry. Even with average rain fall over this it is unlikely that we could see a reduction in the fire risk.

Chief Officer Ferguson also stated “It’s important to be aware of the fire risk Victoria is likely to be confronted with over summer, and we will be again be working closely with out emergency management partners and the Victorian communication to appropriate respond to these risks.

**Great News—Female in Charge.**

### **Lucinda Nolan appointed as CFA’s new Chief Executive Officer**

As Acting Chair of the Board, I have great pleasure in announcing the appointment of Lucinda Nolan as CFA’s new Chief Executive Officer.

The Board conducted an extensive search, which attracted a number of exceptional candidates.

Lucinda Nolan has an impressive background, with more than 30 years in Victoria Police, and brings with her outstanding leadership experience across a range of roles. She is currently working as Victoria Police’s Deputy Commissioner, Regional Operations.

Many of the challenges faced by Victoria Police are similar to the ones we are facing at CFA. Lucinda will bring fresh ideas and drive real change to make us an even better organisation.

She will begin in the role in November.

I’d like to thank Michael Wootten who has held the role since the departure of former CEO Mick Bourke.

Michael enjoys the gratitude of the board for his commitment and dedication to CFA.

Regards

**John Peberdy  
Acting Chair**

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### **UFU R.M.D. Members attend Parliament House.**

Tuesday 18th August, the Retired Members Division organised a trip to Parliament House. Approximately 70 RMD and RFA members attended and were given a guided tour of parliament house.

Emergency Services Minister—Jane Garret, Frankston MP Paul Edbrooke and Vicky Ward from Eltham acted as our tour guides.

At the conclusion of the tour, we enjoyed lunch in the Federation room. UFU Secretary Peter Marshall, spoke and thanked the ministers for their assistance during the day. RFA and acting RMD President Don Brennan and RMD Secretary Bruce Smith also thanked the ministers and answered questions regarding the RMD and RFA. Thanks goes to Dan Hunt of the UFU for all the work he did in arranging the Day.



**Annual General Meeting – Wednesday 18th November 2015**  
**Nomination For Positions on The Committee.**

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

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

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

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

Nominations must be in writing on the form below, signed by the Proposer and the Seconder and accepted by the Nominee. Completed nomination forms must be returned to the Secretary at the address shown below **no later than 17:00 hours (5.00pm) on Friday 6th November 2015.**

**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 .....

**Return by Friday November 6th 2015 to:**

**Allan Roberts**

**Secretary Treasurer**

**50 Cameron Parade, Bundoora, Victoria, 3083**

**Ph 0433 007 720**

## LOOKING TO CATCH UP

If you have lost contact with some of your old mates, please let us know and we can share your information to help bring you back together.

**Bill (Matt) Dillon** is keen to catch up with some of his old work mates. Due to moving house and other associated things and living in Bairnsdale he was hoping that exhibiting his phone number will generate phone calls for him from the old Southern District and/or Fire Prevention. Give him a ring, he would be very pleased to be able to establish contact again his number is 03 5153 1335.

## NON FINANCIAL MEMBERS

Members be advised if your newsletter has an expiry date of 2/1/2014 that means you have not paid your subs since 2013 therefore if no remuneration is received by the 2/01/2016 your name will be automatically removed from the mailing list. If, for whatever reason any member is unable to meet this request please do not hesitate to call the secretary, (confidentiality is assured).

**Allan Roberts**

**SECRETARY/TREASURER**

**Address all correspondence to:**

**The Secretary**

**50 Cameron Parade, Bundoora Vic 3083**

**Phone:- 0433 007 720**

**email: [rfavic1@gmail.com](mailto:rfavic1@gmail.com)**

## BIT OF A LAUGH

A Priest was being honoured at his retirement dinner after 25 years in the parish...

A leading local politician and member of the congregation was chosen to make the presentation and to give a little speech at the dinner.

However he was delayed, so the Priest decided to say his own few words while they waited:

**“I got my first impression of the parish from the first confession I heard here. I thought I had been assigned to a terrible place. The very first person who entered my confessional told me he had stolen a television set and, when questioned by the police, was able to lie his way out of it. He had stolen money from his parents; embezzled from his employer; had an affair with his boss’s wife; had sex with his boss’s 17 year old daughter on numerous occasions, taken illegal drugs; had several homosexual affairs; was arrested several times for public nudity and gave VD to his sister-in-law. I was appalled that one person could do so many awful things... But as the days went on I learned that my people were not all like that and I had, indeed, come to a fine parish full of good and loving people.”**

Just as the Priest finished his talk the politician arrived full of apologies at being late. He immediately began to make the presentation and gave his talk:

**“I’ll never forget the first day our parish Priest arrived” said the politician. “In fact I had the honour of being the first person to go to him for confession.”**

**Moral:** Never, Never, Never Be Late

# Firefighter's Picnic

**Early February 2015 (actual date to be confirmed)**

**11am. till 4 pm.**

**Venue; Moonee Valley Racecourse**

**(Enter from McPherson St.)**

**Retirees - Bring the Grandkids**

**BBQ sausages, hamburgers and drinks  
for the kids supplied.  
BYO salads, plates etc.  
Rides, games and prizes.  
Lots of fun for all!**

## WORLD POLICE AND FIRE GAMES UPDATE

Following the item in our last newsletter, there are a couple of things I'd like to add.....

With more sports, activities and competitors it is bigger than the Olympic Games.

And as an age group based competition in all sports and activities it is open to serving and retired Police and Fire fighters. We had about 20 Fire fighters from Melbourne travel to Fairfax county Virginia.

We were lucky in having a hard working committee in Chris Trevean, Eddie McMullen and John Garvin putting together fundraising and other activities to make the trip very affordable to all.

Fairfax was a friendly and clean city and we were welcome everywhere we travelled and the transport was free from graffiti and no feet on seats or eating on trains or buses or you would get arrested and the fares were cheap also.

Competition in all sports was in Great Spirit and the camaraderie among competitors was fantastic and something that makes it all worthwhile. The after competition in the various bars and restaurants were also hotly contested and the boasting only got in the way of the truth.

The biggest contest is staged after the games have finished and that is "The Dashes". The friendship was formed between the British Police darts players and the Aussie darts players at the Adelaide games where the flights of both teams were burnt and placed in an ash tray and played for just like the Ashes in cricket between the two Countries hence the Dashes. They have been played for after the World Police and Fire games since. Australia having won the first contest has lost the past 4, our captain John Garvin is starting to lose faith in us.

We all had a great time and are looking forward to going over to the World Police Fire Games again which will be held in Montreal Canada in 2017 after that in 2019 in China. We would like to invite all retired Fire fighters who would like to have a go at one of the activities or just come over and have some fun, we have a club and to join it is only \$10 and \$10 a year, we can be contacted by email,

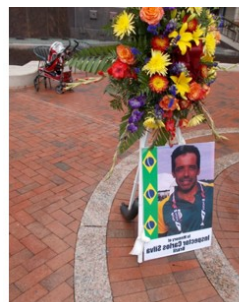
The address.....melbournefirewpfg@gmail.com  
We are also on Facebook for all you social people.  
I've included some photos that you may enjoy.



Alex Shepherd

Unfortunately at the World Police and Fire Games, one of the bicyclists was killed and two others were seriously injured after a cycling crash. The crash happened on the Loop, a 7.5 mile paved, windy road with hills at the Prince William Forest Park in Trangle, Va. Prince William County police say the riders, were from Brazil. According to police, the crash was triggered when one of the riders sustained a front tire blowout, which caused a chain reaction with the other cyclists. The deceased bicyclist was identified as 48 year old Carlos Silva. The other two cyclists were a 44 year old man and a 43 year old man. Police did not release their names. Official Statement Released July 2, 2015:

*We are deeply saddened that an athlete participating in the World Police and Fire Games passed away today at the cycling event in prince William County. Two other athletes are severely injured. Please join us as we keep these athletes, their families and friends in our thoughts and prayers during this tragic and challenging time.*



# BELLS BY THE BEACH

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

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

[facebook.com/bellsbythebeachholidayhouse](https://facebook.com/bellsbythebeachholidayhouse)



## Geelong Firey's Muster

**C.F.A. – M.F.B. – SHELL - AVALON**

**Serving & Retired – Staff & Volunteers**

**Smorgasbord Lunch**

**On the 4th Tuesday of March & November**

**@ 1130 hrs**

**GATEWAY HOTEL**

**218-230 Princess Highway – CORIO**

**Members, Wives, Partners,**

**Family & Friends**

**Contact:**

**Peter Lang 5275 6039**

**To receive Mail out notification**



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**FIRE SERVICES MUSEUM of VICTORIA Inc**  
39 Gisborne Street, East Melbourne VIC 3002

**BOOK SALES ORDER FORM**

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Fire Services Museum of Victoria Inc, 39 Gisborne Street  
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### “Appliances And Vehicles Of The Metropolitan Fire Brigade Melbourne 1891 to 1920”

The first book ever published by the Fire Services Museum of Victoria

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Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Make Cheque or Money Order Payable to “Fire Services Museum of Victoria”

# **UFU RETIRED MEMBERS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**

**Saturday 21st November 2015**

**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.

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Allan Roberts.

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Bundoora Victoria 3083

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