

INFORMATION REQUIRED!**Fire Museum request for Gym Team Historical Information**

- Photographs
- Stories
- Names of the original team members
- Names of subsequent team members
- Dates, Places, Events, Memorabilia
- Copies of original photos and articles would be appreciated.

Contact:
Harry Purcell 5774 7254,
Or send to H. Purcell c/o Fire Services Museum
39 Gisborne St. East Melbourne 3002.

Note:
Any piece of information no matter how small can help build a better picture.
All original items will be copied and returned.
Thanks to the those who have responded to our appeal so far, but there are still many gaps to fill.

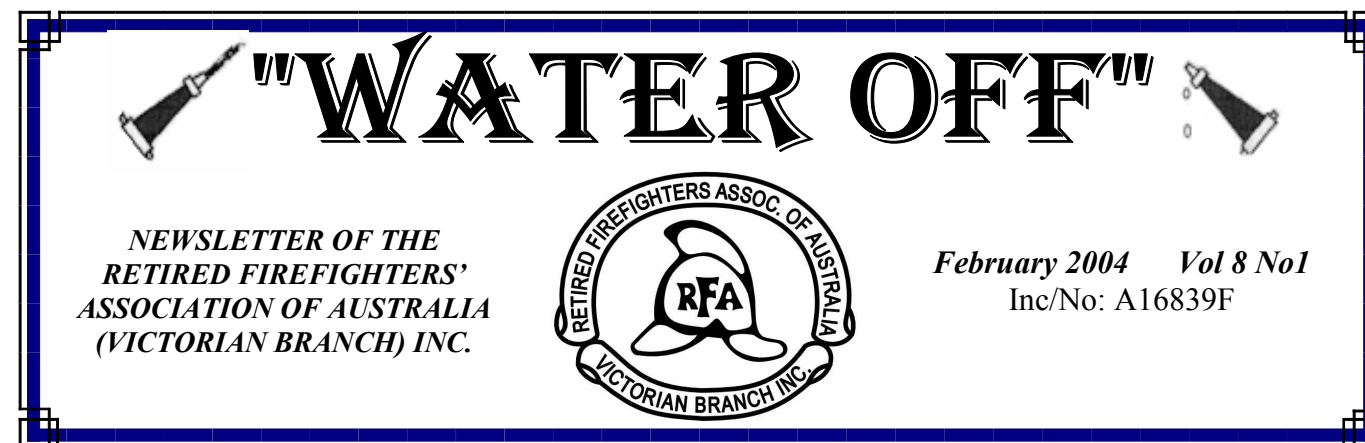
The information required is to set up a web site containing Fire Brigade history and the gym team is part of our historical past.

PRINT POST No. PP333964/0020

RFA Newsletter
If undelivered return to;
The Secretary
6 Wingara Ave.
East Keilor 3033

**SURFACE
MAIL**

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Australia**

**RFA President Elected**

The AGM saw Mike McCumisky put his hand up for the position of President following Don Brennan's ten year reign. Don had indicated a couple of years ago that it was time he stepped down and allowed some new blood to steer the RFA into the future. A new era for the RFA has dawned and with the support of the membership we can look positively to the future.

Mike McCumisky is well known and respected in the Victorian fire services through his work in the electrical and technical fields.

Mike joined the MFB Thornbury Workshops as an electrician in 1974. It was his dedication and quality of work which brought him to the attention of his superiors, which soon had him progressing through the various technical departments of the workshops to become the supervisor of the Service Technicians in 1984. This was the period of change when the MFB was converting to the new Com Centre, and the installation of the fire station equipment (FSE) in all watchrooms as well as the fitting of the AIU's.

After the retirement of Kevin Weir in 1989 Mike was promoted to Electrical Manager from a selection of five applicants. It was this role in which Mike had the biggest impact on Brigade operations with his involvement with the Fire Investigation Unit as the Electrical Investigator. Mike's work load became heavier necessitating the need to train on shift electrical investigators.

Mike at this time was also appointed "Project Officer," liaising with architects, consultants, contractors and sections of Telstra. This ensured that all new fire stations were fully operational by move-in day.

As the result of greater community education the number of fires of electrical origin were reduced and after 25 years service Mike decided to retire and pursue his other interest - the Fire Services Museum.

There is an old cliché - "Behind every great man there is a greater woman." Mike's wife Barbara, has for many years been involved with the MFB through her photography, as editor of the old "News Review," also the Fire Mark publication and along with her



Above: After ten years as President Don Brennan congratulates Mike McCumisky and hands over the reigns.

Dalmatian dog "Kitt" the JFAIP Program.

Between Mike and Barbara the list of credits between them are too numerous to mention here, but it would be remiss of the Editor if the contribution they have made to the RFA and articles for "Water Off" was not acknowledged - for much of the historical content of this magazine is due to many hours of research carried out by the McCumisky's.

Don Brennan laid solid foundations for the RFA and we thank Don and Nancy for their dedication over the past ten years. They are still keen to play an active role in the welfare of the membership and look forward to seeing everyone at our meetings.

“GENERAL MEETING”

Notice is hereby given of our next General Meeting to be held at the Carlton Football Club Social Club, (Melway 29 G12) 1030 Hours, Wednesday February 18th, 2004

AGENDA ITEMS.

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

Please come along, bring your partner and have your say in the running of the Association. Join in the fellowship of your old friends and make new ones.

Lunch and beverages available.

**JOHN BROWN
SECRETARY/TREASURER
Ph: 03 9336 2492**

OFFICE BEARERS

President, Mike McCumisky
Vice President, Ian Fowler
Sec./Treasurer, John Brown

General Committee;

John Laverick
Ken McGillivray
Bob McNeil
John Schintler
John Wallace
Auditor; Theo Teklenburg

Diary dates 2004

February 18th General Meeting
March 28th Reunion
May 19th General Meeting
August 18th General Meeting
November 17th Annual General Meeting
November ? Luncheon St Kilda Town Hall

VALE

Ernie Finn (MFB) Bruce Kendall (MFB)

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

SICK LIST

Jim Casley	John McLoon
Arthur Graham	Alan Roberts
Clarrie Hart	Kevin Roderick
Ian Heath	Jack Sexton
Peter Heslop	Graeme Simpson
Peter Hornsey	Frank Stubberfield
Geoff Jones	Kevin Sullivan
Ron Kennedy	George White
Bob McLoon	

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.

“Water Off” is edited by John Laverick, 40 Brunel Street Essendon 3040. Phone / fax 9337-9820. E Mail rfa@smartchat.net.au
All articles accepted for publication by the editor are done so in good faith and no responsibility is accepted for any inaccuracies that may occur.
Signed; J. Laverick.

REUNION DAY LUNCHEON Sunday 28th March 2004

Our annual reunion day Spit Roast Luncheon will be held at the MFB Training College (Engineroom area lower yard) at 1100 Hours.

BYO Drinks.
Tea and coffee will be supplied.

Cost: \$13.00 per guest, members free.

Parking will be available in the top yard and also in the lower yard for those with reduced mobility.

**Hope to see you there.
Acceptance form below.**

REUNION DAY AT M.F.B TRAINING COLLEGE

Acceptance Form

Members Free; Guests = \$13 per head.
R.S.V.P. Friday 4th April, 2003
Please return this slip to;

**Mike McCumisky
26 Roslyn St.
Burwood Vic. 3125
Phone 9808 1659**

Name

(please print)

Your Telephone No.

I/We will be attending the Reunion at the M.F.B. Training College
619 Victoria Street Abbotsford
at 1100 Hours on

Sunday 28th March 2004

Guest/ Spouse Name

(please print)

Please find enclosed Cheque / Money order

for the sum of \$.....

How Much Water Should You Drink?

Most people are probably familiar with the advice to drink at least eight glasses of water a day, or maybe six to eight glasses. It's advice that slips just as easily off the tongues of health professionals as your next-door neighbour. Everybody seems to know it, but just how true is it?

The evidence for eight glasses

The accepted water wisdom in the US - to drink eight eight-ounce (about 250 ml glasses a day - was recently blown out of the water by an eminent physiologist. After an extensive review, he could find little scientific evidence even to suggest where this advice originally came from. His conclusion was that it's probably more than most people need and that many appear to be getting along quite healthily with less.

The new Australian Dietary Guidelines include the advice to drink plenty of water'- no specific advice on amounts is given, as it will vary from person to person. In general, though, the experts who put together the guidelines consider an adult in a temperate climate needs two and a half to three litres of fluid a day (depending on your size and level of activity).

So how much water?

In real life this doesn't mean endless glasses of water - in fact the food you eat contributes about one litre to the total, and your body produces another 250 mL when it uses the food, leaving you with only about 1.25-1.75 L to actually drink. That's only about five to seven large glasses (each 250 mL or one cup).

And the really good news is that almost any fluid counts - see right. Sometimes it's said that tea and coffee don't because caffeine is a diuretic, but in fact the evidence suggests that for tea and coffee at least, the effect is only slight.

It's only alcoholic drinks stronger than 10% that

cause you to lose more fluid than the drink provides. As a rough guide, every 1 mL of pure alcohol you drink, you lose 10 mL of fluid in urine. So if you drink a 125 mL glass of wine (12.5% alcohol) you'll lose about 150 mL of fluid - a net fluid loss. If you drink full-strength beer (5% alcohol, you'll lose about half the fluid, but the other half contributes to your daily fluid intake.

However, there are some good reasons for focusing on water as your main fluid once you've drunk enough milk for your calcium needs - water has no kilojoules, and it's cheap.

Can you drink too much water?

It doesn't happen under normal circumstances, but it can happen. Too much water means the body can't get rid of it fast enough, and the water in the bowel draws salt out of the blood. It's the low salt level that's dangerous, sometimes even fatal.

The AIS says this is rare, but it can happen to people who exercise for very long periods of time (two to three hours or more), drink a lot of water but don't replace lost sodium. Working out how much water you generally lose in an exercise session (by weighing yourself before and after) and trying to drink just enough to replace it is the best way of not overdoing it. (If you drank during the exercise, take that into account too when weighing yourself.)

Some medical conditions (such as some kidney conditions) can also make it easier to drink too much.

Almost everything counts

Although water is king, all these count towards your daily fluid goal:

- Water
- Milk
- Juice
- Cordial & soft drinks
- Sports drinks & sports water
- Tea & coffee

LETTERS

Do Drop In

Recently we had a trip into the Alpine area and we stayed at Myrtleford Vic. While there we visited Dennis Lamb and his wife Sheila and were made very welcome. Dennis is legally blind and cannot drive. Like us, Dennis and Sheila are getting frail, they accept it and are in good spirits. I ask any members who knew him to call in and say hello if they are in the area.

His address is 117 Merriang Rd. Myrtleford Vic. 3737, Phone: 5752 1457.

Jim Holmes

Nev's Fast Flying Feathers

That great pigeon fancier, Neville Smith, last year raced his birds in South Africa. Though he didn't win, the prize money covered his expenses.

He's off again on the 3rd February 2004 to try to do better this time. As this issue goes to print before he gets back, we will let you know how he got on in the May issue.

Where is he now?

If anyone knows where Lionel Sleeman is living, please contact the Secretary John Brown.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome again to the RFA. Barbara and I wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous year ahead. To those on the sick list, we wish you a speedy recovery.

Our thanks go to Don Brennan, our recently retired President, who after ten years of dedicated work for the RFA, has decided to take a well-earned break. They say that behind every good man there is a good woman, and Don certainly has one with Nancy. Between them they have done much to build up the RFA to the very successful organization that it is today. They have also encouraged the Members wives to come along and enjoy the activities.

Their offer to assist with advice gleaned over the years, will be both welcome and appreciated by this newcomer to the President's chair, along with the continued support of the committee and members.

The AGM, the first meeting at the Carlton Football Social Club, new home for the RFA meetings, was very well attended. The choices on the lunch menu seemed to meet with everyone's approval.

Also our sincere thank go to the UFU Social Committee, who as usual worked tirelessly to give us that wonderful lunch at the St Kilda Town Hall that we all look forward to with such enthusiasm.

Coming up in 2004 we have our first RFA meeting for the year on February 18. The annual RFA Spit Roast lunch will be held at the MFB Training College in the engine room on Sunday March 28.

I look forward to catching up with you all very soon. In the meantime, take care and stay safe.

Regards,
Mike McCumisky

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT



Our first Meeting at the Carlton Social Club went very well. The meeting room and the catering were very good. Unfortunately no one wanted to take on the President's position, after several calls for someone to take the position failed, and the few nominated declined. It was suggested that someone take it on as an Interim President. Mike McCumisky was nominated and seconded and he accepted the position. Though Mike is heavily involved in the Fire Museum, we hope that after serving his year as Interim President he will take on the position next A.G.M.



Above: The Fire Services Museum crew place the coffin atop the 8 pump for the cortège to the cemetery at the funeral of Jim Nevins

The out-going President, Don Brennan invited the four MFESB D.C.F.O's to attend our A.G.M. to introduce themselves to our members. Unfortunately Shane Wright had other commitments, Dave Nicholson had a morning meeting, but attended later, Tony Murphy was detained on M.F.B. business, so they missed the meeting. Keith Adamson held the fort and gave an "excellent" talk on what is happening with the M.F.E.S.B. (See page 6 for a summary of D.C.F.O. Adamson's presentation).

As you will see in the Obituary Section that we have lost more mates, Roy Treverton: Having been at No. 1. Station for all those years was known by practically everyone. His service at Springvale Crematorium was attended by a huge crowd from the top brass down to serving members. The Fire Museum Pump complete with crew in old uniforms looked

(Continued on page 5)

RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

VICTORIAN BRANCH

Reg.No. A16839F

Statement of Income and Expenditure for year ended 30 June 2003

		2002
	\$	\$
Income		
Opening Balance Credit Union 1 July 2002	5,890.84	7,093.29
Members' subscriptions	3,412.60	3,641.00
Sale of promotional items	44.00	501.10
Donations	-	302.61
Socials	960.00	1,103.50
Joining fees	20.00	45.00
Transfers	1,000.00	-
Interest received	220.91	229.79
	<u>11,548.35</u>	<u>12,916.29</u>
Expenditure		
Postages and telephone	851.90	892.25
Reunion Day catering	910.00	1,262.50
Magazine expenses	88.25	75.50
Computer upgrades	2,095.96	337.50
Affiliation fees	100.00	100.00
Promotional material	-	2,567.00
Donation	-	-
Stationary	132.75	117.50
AGM and meeting expenses	1,879.45	1,476.45
Sundries	103.89	153.95
Government & Credit co-op fees & charges	51.10	42.80
	<u>6,213.30</u>	<u>7,025.45</u>
Closing Balance Credit Union 30 June 2003	<u>5,335.05</u>	<u>5,890.84</u>
	<u>11,548.35</u>	<u>12,916.29</u>
Bank Reconciliation		
Bank balance as at 30 June 2003		
Main account	1,360.22	
Term deposit	<u>3,974.83</u>	
	<u>5,335.05</u>	

Bank Reconciliation

Bank balance as at 30 June 2003

Main account	1,360.22
Term deposit	<u>3,974.83</u>
	<u>5,335.05</u>

Statement prepared from information supplied.

John Brown
Secretary/Treasurer

T. A. Teklenburg
Auditor

Murphy's Law

A complex system that works is invariably found to have evolved from a simple system that works.

It's a Fact!!!

Some people find reading Shakespeare stimulating, others like mysteries and again some are moved by romance. But to me there is nothing like reading subjects based on facts, and the following facts I'm sure, are what you have always wanted to know.

If you yelled for 8 years, 7 months and 6 days you would have produced enough sound energy to heat one cup of coffee.
(Hardly seems worth it.)

If you farted consistently for 6 years and 9 months, enough gas is produced to create the energy of an atomic bomb.
(Now that's more like it!)

The human heart creates enough pressure when it pumps out to the body to squirt blood 30 feet.
(I haven't got that much.)

A pig's orgasm lasts 30 minutes.
(In my next life, I want to be a pig..)

A cockroach will live nine days without its head before it starves to death. (Creepy.)

(I'm still not over the pig.)

Banging your head against a wall uses 150 calories an hour.
(Don't try this at home..... maybe at work.)

The male praying mantis cannot copulate while its head is attached to its body. The female initiates sex by ripping the male's head off.
('Honey, I'm home. What the....?!)

The flea can jump 350 times its body length. It's like a human jumping the length of a football field.
(30 minutes... lucky pig... can you imagine???)

The catfish has over 27,000 taste buds.
(What could be so tasty on the bottom of a pond?)

Some lions mate over 50 times a day.
(I still want to be a pig in my next life ... quality over quantity)

Butterflies taste with their feet.
(Something I always wanted to know.)

The strongest muscle in the body is the tongue.
(HMMMMMMMM.....)

Right-handed people live, on average, nine years longer than left-handed people.
(if you're ambidextrous, do you split the difference?)

Elephants are the only animals that cannot jump.
(OK, so that would be a good thing.....)

A cat's urine glows under a black light.
(I wonder who was paid to figure that out?)

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
(I know some people like that.)

Starfish have no brains.
(I know some people like that too.)

Polar bears are left-handed.
(if they switch, they'll live a lot longer.)

Humans and dolphins are the only species that have sex for pleasure.
(What about that pig???)

..... The big night arrived and six hundred eager firies charged in (naturally, we four had a front table). The beer and mixed drinks flowed, some greedy ones hid jugs of beer under the tables.

Now Rocky was a bit belligerent and on several occasions we had to separate him and other firies. As the night went on, everyone got a little worse for wear. Finally the night ended and we prepared to leave, still Rocky was challenging people and his good friend Frank was trying to quiet him down, when a Police Divvy Van arrived.

Spotting Rocky, they tried to quiet him down, failing to do so, they went to put him into the van. Frank interceded trying to help and he was tossed into

the van as well.

I must ask Frank how long they were kept, as Rocky passed away several years ago. When we went to pay the bill we were a little short, but Laurie who was a raconteur gave the Manager a short shuffle.

The night was so successful for them, that they invited the four of us and our spouses for a free night.

We decided that this was a oncer.

“More Drop Kicks & Punts”

I really am kicking with the wind on this one. Your response has been nothing short of fantastic thank you.

We are in the second quarter and at half time I propose to send all of the names I have to AFL, VFL and other clubs for a story of MFB personnel that played since the very first game and also verification of games played etc.

I don't want this to be a stab pass but rather a carefull concentrated effort to kick a goal from dead in front. I ask for your patience in submitting 113 names to all of the clubs for their perusal, this will take time. Of course we could “wing it” and give you the names now but I think it would be better to wait for the final list.

We have had many full forwards play for the MFB in the Wednesday League. Is there someone out there that would like to compile a history of those blokes?

By the way - the Fire Museum has mounted on the wall at Newport a board with the personnel from the mid-week league 1967 - 1986, come down and have a look.

As they said when your team was in front with minutes to go - “Ring the Bloody Bell.”

“It's the way we have in the Fire Brigade.”

F. C. Kerr

Name the Players

Regarding our appeal in the last issue to name the players in the photograph below the following details were forwarded to the Fire Museum by retired firey Terry Walker from NSW. The photo was taken in 1966. MFB won by 5 points for 4th successive year. Dodger Ryan Best and Fairest in competition.

Back Row:

Ron Millard (Secretary), John Howe (Umpire), Jack Thompson, Don Jenkins, Ron Clough, Terry

George, Graham Danby, Bluey Billington, Dodger Ryan, Terry McGrath, Brian Parsons, Regan Lynch (Umpire), Jack (Doc) Steel (President).

Centre Row:

Mick Gaudion, Rob Morgan, Cyril Collard, Titch Renwood (Capyain), Col Campbell (Coach), Ray Quirk, Johnny Meggs.

Front Row:

Wacky Gallop (Trainer), Laurie Drew, Alan Sanders, Ron Cripps, Peter Williams, Ron Evans.



A BIG NIGHT OUT

Once upon a time in the early 70's was four furies named Rocky, Ron, Laurie and John. They decided to have a "Boy's Night Out" at Whisky-A-Go-Go. A good night was had and we thought this would be great for a mob of furies. As it was rather expensive,

we asked the Manager which was his worst night for business, "Monday" was the reply. We then suggested, if we had a fixed reasonable tariff, we could get up to six hundred furies. He agreed. So we sent out flyers and told those attending to send their money to their District Station.

(Continued from page 3)

great. Former South Melbourne Footballers also attended. Jim Nevins finally succumbed. Having several strokes and both legs amputated, it all caught up with him. His Family paid to have Jim taken to Keilor Cemetery on the 8 Pump and what a **GREAT** job Fred Kerr and his crew put on. Current members in uniform including D.C.F.O. Dave Nicholson formed a Guard of Honour and saluted as the pump passed. Unfortunately Erne Finn's Service was not that well attended due to him being supered out several years ago. No M.F.B. Appliances attended, as they were busy cleaning up after the previous days freak storm. I apologised to his wife, her comments were "A Fire Appliance would have been nice". But understood.

What a wonderful job the Fire Museum does at Funerals. These men donate their time and the money charged is for fuel only. Previously the Fire Museum paid for the fuel, but can no longer carry the expense.

Once again, the Union Luncheon held on the 20th November, 2003 at St Kilda Town Hall was a roaring success. The catering and service was first class and the hardworking team of Union Social Club members are again to be congratulated. Costs are escalating and at \$44.00 per head this year, next year it could be dearer to put on. So it's **IMPORTANT** that when you receive your invitation that **YOU** buy the **WHOLE** book of raffle tickets to help with costs. It's great to meet up with old mates, so you are really getting \$88.00 of value for \$20.00. So to keep the eagerly awaited day going, please purchase the **WHOLE** Raffle Book.

This year was booked for 500 people, seventy people who said they would attend didn't, costing the U.F.U. a lot of money. This day is so good, people travel from far away places to attend. Some I saw there were: Harry Richards from Ulladulla, Laurie Jarman, Coff's Harbour, Ken Bouchaud and Don Muir from Corowa, Ron McDonald from Maldon. A special thanks to Nancy Brennan and my wife Jean for generally helping out and collecting dues.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

As of December 2003

Access Account: \$1,626.88

Term Deposit: \$4,069.30

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Carlton Football Club 19th November,2003

Present:

As per Attendance Book: 44 Members and 4 Guests. D.C.F.O's Keith Adamson, Dave Nicholson, Tony Murphy, SF. Phil Lewis

Apologies:

Messrs John Berry, J. Fleming, P. Lang, R. Wells, C. Brown, W. Bates, F. Stubberfield, L. Rose, K. Clinkaberry.

President:

Don Brennan called for One Minutes Silence for members who have passed on to a higher duty.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS A.G.M. ON 21.11.02 READ:

Moved: J. Etherton, **Seconded:** A. Burt

SECRETARY/TREASURERS REPORT:

Term Deposit: \$4021.79

Access Account: \$915.21 **Audited Account not available at time of Meeting Moved** A. Roberts **Seconded:** E. Harrison

PRESIDENTS REPORT:

Don Brennan read out a statement covering his 15 years of Service, the last 10 years as President. Thanking his family for their support and the Committee and Members who also supported him. He then reiterated that it was time for NEW BLOOD and he was adamant that he would resign.

Moved: B.Jackson **Seconded:** I. Fowler

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS:

Present Committee prepared to stay on, the call for nomination of President failed to attract a Candidate, after several attempts, Mike McCumsky agreed to be Interim President.

Moved: A.Roberts **Seconded:** I. Fowler

Correspondence:

The Secretary read out letters between C.E.O. Peter Akers and himself Re Fire Appliances and Senior Officers attending Ex-Employees Funerals.

Settled to everyone's approval.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Fred Kerr and F.S.M.V. volunteers were thanked by the members of the wonderful turn out of the 8-Pump at Roy Treverton and Jim Nevins Funeral's.

Fred then stated that as the Pump has travelled vast distances to attend Funerals at their own expense, it would be necessary to charge \$200.00 if the 8-Pump was requested, after all the Crew do donate their time.

D.C.F.O. Keith Adamson gave a most comprehensive account of the M.F.E.S.B. workings and responsibilities.

MEETING CLOSED: AT 1120 HOURS

JOHN BROWN

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Summary of Keith Adamson's Address to the RFA Members

Turn Table Ladders were hardly used and were to be decommissioned, although the Union considered there was a need for them, they will go. More Telebooms will be commissioned to replace the Ladders. The Telebooms incorporate a 15-metre boom and a 5000 litre per minute capability.

The First Responder Program has saved its 21st Patient and has been a resounding success. No. 13 Stn. was called to attend retired S.O. Duncan McLean's heart attack, but unfortunately he failed to respond.

Up to the time of writing this, still no C.F.O. has been appointed. There are a lot of conjecture and theories flying about, but no appointment (nearly two years have passed since Alan Richards retired).

The Training College looks like being sold as the Board has agreed to acquire land near the corner of Burnley Street and Barkly Avenue for the development of the Burnley Community Safety and Training Complex.

From the Immediate Past President

After a decade in the position of President I felt it was time for a change of leadership with a younger person taking over.

I would like to welcome Mike McCumisky to the position of President. Mike was employed in the Electrical Dept. of the M.F.B. Together, with his wife Barbara, They have been involved with the Fire Services Museum over a number of years. Barbara has supplied historical articles for "Water Off" for quite

some time.

I trust the committee and members continue to give them the same support you gave Nancy and myself during my time as President.

On behalf of Nancy and myself we say thank you for making the job easier over the years and look forward to seeing you at our next meeting at the Carlton Football Club.

Don Brennan

Annual UFU Family Picnic

Sunday 22nd February, 2004

Moonee Valley Racecourse

10:00 til 4:00

Free BBQ, ice cream and lollies for the kids, carnival rides, foot and novelty races for everyone, BRTs and:

Free BBQ for adults,
BYO drink's and Salad.

Retirees are invited to bring their grandchildren.

This is a great opportunity to relax with families, workmates and fellow UFU members. The Social Committee put a lot of work into this day, so we'd love to see you all show up.

C'mon and make every effort to get there!!
Looking forward to seeing you there!!!!

DO YOU WANT TO BE PART OF RECORDED HISTORY?

The Fire Services Museum has undergone in the last 12 months a complete renovation of all its display areas, included in this is a room that has been set-aside as an area to reflect upon the commitment of the firefighters and support staff to the community. This room is known as the 'Griffiths Gallery', which was named after the first and highest fire brigade Valour Award winner Jumbo Griffiths, who won the award in 1918. Three walls of the room will, feature separate displays.

Victorian Firefighters Memorial Wall.

This wall honours the 91 Firefighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty. A large action shot of a firefighter covers an area 2.2meters x 2.7meters, superimposed in front of this are 4 Perspex shields with the honour roll in gold lettering.

Valour Wall.

The 6 M.F.B Valour Award recipients are featured with their Military and Brigade Service Medals. A larger area in the C.F.A. room will feature the 17 recipients of the 'Horrocks Shield' and 20 Valour Medals winners; this section should be completed by the end of the year.

Ex Serviceman's Memorial Wall.

Fire Brigades have traditionally given their first priority to recruiting from the ranks of the ex-servicemen but the role of the ex-serviceman within the firefighting community has never been fully understood or publicly recognised. This recruiting policy has resulted in a high proportion of servicemen within its ranks that have had a huge influence on the evolution of Brigades, i.e. In the MFB alone, 5 of its Chief Officers and 4 of the 6 valour medal recipients were servicemen.

This memorial wall will display the medals and particulars of MFB employees Brigade and Military Service; the information will also serve as a genealogy base for future generations. Because of the numbers involved with the CFA section, 2,087 firemen enlisted in W.W.1, this section will again be displayed in the CFA Room, which is a much larger area.

Now the reason for all this information... we are seeking your assistance in obtaining the medals or

replicas of fire brigade employees for both the CFA and MFB collections. As a lot of ex servicemen still wear their medals at parades and reunions it would be a big ask to donate the originals but the replicas of your sets make an excellent record for future generations.

The museum is also pursuing unusual sets of medals of brigade employees; we have already obtained the replica sets of Lieut. Borella. VC. MM. MFB. 1910 - 1913 and Jock Stewart's Military Medal set. If you know of any unusual medals sets maybe you could let us know.

The best way to know what is going on at the museum is of course to bring in the family and have a look, so how about it?

Thank you to all that have contributed to this memorial, too many to record here.

Bill Bayley.



Albert Chalmers Borella, 1881 - 1968. V.C. M.M. The most decorated ex-fireman in the Brigade's history is honored in the "Griffiths Gallery."

Albert C. BORELLA. MFB 1910 - 1914

How much do we know about our Nation's history? For that matter, what do we know about our Brigade's history?

We have all heard of 'General Custer's Last Stand', Lord Nelson's dying request; 'Kiss me Hardy' and more recently Tensing and Hilary's ascent of Everest in 1953.

But what about Bert Borella from up the bush at Borung'...Do you know where Borung is ... Have you even beard of Bert Borella ... No ... Well read on because I think you will be interested in this piece of Brigade history and folklore.

Albert Chalmers Borella (Photo opposite page) was born at Borung, Victoria on 7th August 1881, the son of Louis Borella of Thyra, NSW. Bert was educated at Borung and Wychitella State schools and became a farmer in the district; he served in the local company of the Victorian Rangers. In 1910 he came to Melbourne to gain employment in those difficult depression years and joined the MFB.

Fireman Borella was stationed at Eastern Hill, No. 10 Station, Hoddle Street and a brief period at No.37 Station, which was then in Inkerman St Balaclava. While at No.37 Stn. he instructed the crew in the operation of the motorized hose cart. Amongst the crew at No.37 was 'Jumbo Griffiths' who was to become the Brigades first Valour Medal winner in 1918. One wonders what influence they had on each other! Those that remembered Bert recalled that he was a quiet, unassuming but determined person and a very good firefighter.

After three years service with the Brigade, Bert left to take up farming in the Northern Territory and he was there in 1914 when W.WI erupted. He enlisted with the A.I.F at Townsville on 15th March 1915 and began an incredible period of 4 years army service, which was to make him the most decorated ex-fireman in the Brigade's history, and yet we knew nothing about him or his acts of valour!

Service Record.

March 1915... Enlisted with 26th Australian Infantry Brigade. A.I.F.
April 1915... Landed at Gallipoli.
September 1915.. Promoted to Corporal at Gallipoli.
May 1916... France, promoted to Lance-Sergeant: was wounded and evacuated to England.
January 1917 ... France, promoted to Sergeant.
February 1917... Mentioned in Dispatches: 'for devotion to duty, and general good work in the trenches since the battalion has been in Gallipoli and France.'

March 1917... Awarded the Military Medal: "for having displayed conspicuous bravery in action during the attack on Malt trench, north of Warlencourt, where he assisted Lt.Ward in reorganising the men and consolidating the line."

April 1917... Commissioned 2nd Lieutenant

November 1917... Promoted to Lieutenant.

17th - 18th July 1918... Awarded the Victoria Cross.

February 1919... Demobilised.

October 1939... Enlisted with 12th Aust. Garrison Battalion.

July 1941... Prisoner of War Group Rushworth.

January 1942.... Promoted to Captain.

Demobilised 1945.

After W.WI Bert Borella was Inspector of Dangerous Goods, Department of Supply until his retirement in 1956 when he went to live in North Albury where he died on 7th February 1968 at the age of 87 years.

A replica set of Lt. A.C. Borella's medals have been purchased by the Fire Services Museum and will be displayed on the M.F.B. Ex-Servicemen's Wall at the Museum.

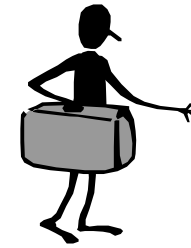
17" - 18" July 1918, at Villiers-Bretonneux

CITATION:

For most conspicuous bravery in attack. Whilst leading his platoon with the first wave Lieutenant Borella marked an enemy machine-gun firing through our barrage. He ran out ahead of his men into the barrage, shot two German machine-gunners with his revolver and captured the gun. He then led his party, now reduced to 10 men and two Lewis Guns, against a strongly held trench, using his revolver, and later a rifle, with great effect, causing many casualties. His leading and splendid example resulted in the enemy garrison being quickly shot or captured.

Two large dug-outs were also bombed and 30 prisoners taken. Subsequently, the enemy twice counter-attacked in strong force, on the second occasion outnumbering Lieutenant Borella's platoon by ten to one, but his cool determination inspired his men to resist heroically, and the enemy was repulsed with heavy losses. (London Gazette: 16th September 1918.)

Bill Bayley



TRAVELLING WITH SILVER

Christmas has come and gone and I'm still here - not good. This is just a short one about a trip, or a portion of one, taken by Mrs. Silver and myself a few years ago.

You don't have to be a greenie to enjoy the nearly 3000 national parks in the U.S. but it probably helps. For myself, my favourite shade of green is on Uncle Sam's bank notes, but Mrs. Silver said we must visit some and she wanted to start with Yellowstone, (I guess she wanted to see if Yogi Bear was real) where the Rocky Mountains curve into Idaho and Montana.

This park has the greatest concentration of volcanic activity with around 10,000 geysers and what they call "Mud Cannons" with the big daddy "Old Faithful" exploding a spectacular spray of water and steam every 64 minutes. Black grizzly bears, moose, elk, bison and lots of deer.



Above: "Old Faithful," Watched by another "Old Geezer" - Silver, along with Mrs. Silver and a few friends.

Our correspondent, never to miss an opportunity, can be seen boiling eggs in a pot for his breakfast near the base of the geyser.

Another popular park is Yosemite in California. It slices through the Sierra Nevada Ranges and is full of gushing waterfalls, one is ten times the height of the Niagara.

The Grand Canyon is a must, every bit as big as you can imagine, walk along the rim, in parts 1.6 Klm. deep. It was snowing at this time but on an earlier trip with Eddie McMullen and George McLennan. It was very hot to the degree that George (who liked a drink at the time) tried to hire a donkey to carry his grog supply. Where was Eddie? Still in L.A. out on a boat off Venice Beach with some new friends who thought he was gay!

In the same vein and just as grand is Death Valley in Southern California. It's the hottest and driest area of America, a lot of it below sea level. Utah and Arizona have some great parks ranging from the incredible colours of the Painted Desert to the pre-historic cliff dwellings of Mesa Verde.

Located in the valley where the Green River cuts the Rocky Mountains on the border of Utah and Colorado is Dinosaur National Monument, the

resting place of gigantic bones excavated in view of visitors. Twenty four complete skeletons have been found.

Down south in New Mexico and Texas are the Guadalupe Mountains, also to be found the Carlsbad Caverns where "Big Room" is the largest underground chamber in the world. Two elevators (max. load 45 people each) take visitors down to 2 walks, a 20 minute and a 2 hour walk both on lit paths from the cave which also houses a sit down restaurant and bar several hundred feet underground.

Mrs. Silver declined the trip down in the lift but I jumped at it. I kept in mind if the power failed half way around the walks what happened? I asked the Ranger and he said a back-up diesel powered generator took over and if this failed a second back-up diesel started up. I gave up, when they go in big - they go in big!

**Happy Travelling.
Silver**

Murphy's Law

Some people manage by the book, Even though they don't know who wrote the book or even what book

Barbara McCumisky continues her historical series on significant fires and incidents that occurred during the formative years of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade.

STEWART DAWSON'S FIRE

As reported by The Argus newspaper, March 1927

One of the most spectacular and sensational fires witnessed in Melbourne in recent years occurred in a building generally known as Stewart Dawson's, on the corner of Collins and Swanston Streets in the City, shortly before 1 o'clock on the Saturday afternoon of March 12, 1927. So rapidly did the fire gain hold of the entire upper floor of the four storey building, that some of the occupants were trapped by the flames and had to escape by ladder raised by the firefighters.

Notwithstanding the frail construction of the upper stories of the building, the Fire Brigade was able, owing mainly to the promptness with which it was summoned, to confine the flames to the fourth floor, which however, was completely gutted. Considerable damage was caused to other parts of the building by water.

In their attempt to rescue those who were in the building at the time of the outbreak, two civilians and a police constable were burnt. The civilians were treated at the Melbourne Hospital. They had entered the building at the first signs of the fire and it was their intention to warn any tenants who had not left the premises of the danger and to rescue two women who were apparently trapped.

Within a few minutes of receiving the summons, detachments from Eastern Hill, William St., Bouverie St. (Carlton) and several suburban stations were in attendance at the burning building. For some time the dense smoke, believed to have been caused by the ignition of chemicals and photographic materials in the Melba Studios, on the fourth floor, made the work of the firefighters difficult. Initially no flames could be seen, and the attention of onlookers who had gathered in thousands was centered on the rescue of the people trapped.

Two women were leaning from a window on the Collins frontage, screaming loudly for assistance. The women appeared to be in great distress. They were practically enveloped in smoke, which was gushing from the window behind them. As the Brigade's ladder was placed in position in Collins St. under the window at which the two women were standing, a hush fell on the huge crowd.

Hurriedly a firefighter climbed the ladder and spoke to the women. Without hesitation both stepped on the upper rungs of the ladder. The elder of the two made her way to the ground unassisted, the other, apparently suffering from the effects of the smoke, was helped to safety by a firefighter. When she was half way down the ladder the crowd broke into loud

cheering.

The rescue of the women was the signal for a demonstration, but almost immediately the sounds of cheering were hushed when the spectators saw a civilian and a constable stagger towards windows nearer the south eastern corner, than those from which the women were rescued. Both men appeared to be exhausted and signalled feebly for help. Excitement



Above: Firefighters rescue two women from the upper floors of the burning building. The elder of the two, showing a lot of courage, was able to descend the ladder unassisted.

reached a high pitch and for some minutes the progress of the fire was forgotten while the crowd watched the men seek fresh air on a narrow parapet beneath the widows from which they were leaning. The precariousness of their position was appreciated by the

onlookers who did not hesitate to applaud the firefighters who mounted the ladders and took the men to safety. The civilian was badly burned on the face and hands, and after initial treatment by the firefighters, was conveyed by Civil Ambulance to the Melbourne Hospital. The constable was suffering mainly from the effects of the smoke. The other people who had entered the building had been able to escape via the staircase.

Immediately the women and men had been rescued fierce flames appeared to envelop practically the whole of the interior of the upper floors. With amazing rapidity the light wooden partitions dividing the various offices were consumed, and the flames reaching the windows, were driven some distance across the roadway. In spite of their apparently hopeless task, the firefighters were successful in quelling the flames in a remarkably short space of time. At one period it seemed that the whole building would be destroyed, but assisted by adequate water supply, the firefighters, working under CO. Harrie B. Lee and DCO. J.T. Wilkins, were able to confine the

out break to the floor of the building upon which it had originated. Within three quarters of an hour of it first being seen, the fire was practically extinguished.

Commenting after the fire on the rescue of the women, CO Harrie B. Lee said:

"We feared that the women might jump, but they kept their heads wonderfully. I should have liked especially to congratulate the elder woman, who showed remarkable courage in descending the ladder unassisted, but I did not have an opportunity. My experience has always been, however, that women display more courage and remain more cool-headed than men in such circumstances. They simply do what they are told but men do not."

Stewart Dawson's was on the corner of Collins and Swanston Streets now occupied by the Manchester Unity Building.

Barbara McCumisky

DARWIN AWARDS

Named in honor of Charles Darwin, the father of evolution. The Darwin Awards commemorate those who improve our gene pool by removing themselves from it.

Accident Report

This one needs an introduction, so you won't be lost at the beginning. This man was in an accident at work, so he filled out an insurance claim. The insurance company contacted him and asked for more information. This was his response:

"I am writing in response to your request for additional information, for block number 3 of the accident reporting form. I put 'poor planning' as the cause of my accident. You said in your letter that I should explain more fully and I trust the following detail will be sufficient. I am an amateur radio operator and on the day of the accident, I was working alone on the top section of my new 80-foot tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of several trips up the tower, brought up about 300 pounds of tools and spare hardware. Rather than carry the now unneeded tools and material down by hand, I decided to lower the items down in a small barrel by using the pulley attached to the gin pole at the top of the tower. Securing the rope at ground level, I went to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and material into the barrel. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to ensure a slow decent of the 300 pounds of tools."

"You will note in block number 11 of the accident reporting form that I weigh only 155 pounds. Due to

my surprise of being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate of speed up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40-foot level, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collarbone. Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley. Fortunately, by this time, I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold onto the rope in spite of my pain. At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of tools hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel."

"Devoid of the weight of the tools, the barrel now weighed approximately 20 pounds. I refer you again to my weight in block number 11. As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40-foot level, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles, and the lacerations of my legs and lower body. The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of tools and, fortunately, only three vertebrae were cracked. I am sorry to report, however, that as I lay there on the tools, in pain, unable to stand and watching the empty barrel 80 feet above me, I again lost my presence of mind. I let go of the rope..."