

"WATER OFF"

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



November 2008 Vol 12 No 4
Inc/No: A16839F

WILLIAM, Eastern Hill Fire Station's Very Own Ghost.

Almost everyone who has worked at the old Eastern Hill Fire Station (now the Fire Museum) has heard of the building being haunted. Most have regarded the stories as being myths with little credibility, but some have actually witnessed peculiar happenings which have no rational explanation. The old station ceased to be operational in October 1978, but to this day, talk of the ghost of someone who was killed on the premises still persists.

Those of you who don't believe in ghosts may have to change your thinking after you read this issue of "Water Off." The notion that a ghost actually resides in the old building is now supported by a number of people who have experienced its antics. Not only that, but research has revealed who he is, and how he died.

The following is an account of an incident that occurred at Eastern Hill Fire Station and reported in the Argus newspaper on September 10, 1931.

Man Drops from Eastern Hill Fire Tower. Brother of Retired Chief Killed.

As the result of a terrible fall of 140 ft. from the top of the Eastern Hill fire tower on September 9, 1931, William Lee, 70, of Hampton, was instantly killed, almost every bone in his body being broken.

He was a brother of Mr. Harrie B. Lee, who was the



DCO. John Wilkins (L) CO. Harrie B Lee (R) and William Lee at rear.

Photo: Fire Services Museum of Vic.

former Chief Officer of the MFB and retired in 1927.

The unfortunate William dropped into the concreted court yard of the station. It happened that, at the very moment of his fall, a member of the Brigade staff, named Eric Goodwin 40, a motor mechanic, was crossing the yard directly under the observation platform. The falling body struck him with tremendous force, dislocating his left shoulder and knocking him prostrate, which necessitated his removal to hospital.

Working as an insurance agent and regularly transacting business with the firefighters, William Lee was a frequent visitor to the Eastern Hill Station. He had previously lived at the station with his brother and was thoroughly familiar with the structural layout of the building.

It would appear that after entering the station about 1 pm. on September 9, he climbed up the iron stairs to the observation room. He was not seen there, as the lookout was not on duty during the day. He apparently opened a window of the small room and fell over the iron railing which encircled it.

William Lee had been in ill health for some time. For ten years he lived at the fire station, but had moved out about eight years prior to his death. During his residence there, his first wife was killed in an accident.

Personal experiences with William Pages 7, 8 and 9

“ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING”

Notice is hereby given of our next Annual General Meeting to be held at the Brunswick Campus R.M.I.T. 25 Dawson Street Brunswick, (Melway 29 F8) 1030 Hours, Wednesday 19th November 2008

AGENDA ITEMS.

- Minutes of last Annual General meeting.**
- President’s Report.**
- Secretary/Treasurer’s Report.**
- Election of office bearers**
- Guest Speaker:**
- 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 BERRY
ACTING SECRETARY/TREASURER
Please Note;
Until further notice address all correspondence to:
The Acting Secretary,
24 Lincoln Drive Lower Plenty 3093
Ph. 9431 2880

OFFICE BEARERS

- President,** Mike McCumisky
- Vice President,** Ian Fowler
- Sec./Treasurer,** John Brown
- Acting Sec/Treasurer,** John Berry

General Committee;

- Ian Geddes
- John Laverick
- Ken McGillivray
- John Schintler
- John Wallace

Auditor; Theo Teklenburg

“Water Off”
Editorial Staff
 John Laverick
 Barbara McCumisky

Valë

- Ron (Sailor) Davies (MFB)
- Tom Trotman (MFB)

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

SICK LIST

- Stan Cameron
- Jim Casley
- Ron Cass
- Ken Clinkaberry
- Ernie Goodall
- Clarrie Hart
- John (Jesse) James
- Ron Kennedy
- Jack Sexton
- Ron Turner

We wish these members a speedy recovery

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

Diary Dates 2008

- November 15th Luncheon, St Kilda Town Hall
- November 19th Annual General Meeting
- November 24th Geelong Reunion, Shell Club

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to our new RFA Members. We hope you enjoy our quarterly Newsletter. To those on the sick list, we wish you a speedy recovery.

Looking to the Future Membership of the RFA:

As discussed at previous meetings we need to form a sub committee to look into future planning of the RFA and what processes we need to follow to encourage continued membership. We are still looking for several Members with sales and marketing skills to assist in the development of this project.

NOTE FOR THE NOVEMBER ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ELECTIONS

At the November Annual General Meeting, the positions of the whole Committee come up for election. Those interested in becoming involved are welcome to apply on the form provided on page 15. The number of applicants will determine if any ballots are required. If there is no voting required, and providing the existing committee members are willing to continue for another year, they will need to be confirmed by the members at the meeting.

One important position is definitely available this year. John Brown has retired after five years as Secretary / Treasurer due to his health status. John Berry very kindly stepped in to act as Assistant Secretary/ Treasurer only until the AGM so we need to find a member with just a little spare time and good with paperwork.

WE WILL NEED TO RECEIVE AT LEAST ONE NOMINATION THE POSITION OF SECRETARY / TREASURER

The extent of the work as Secretary is to handle a relatively small amount of correspondence and as Treasurer to record all incoming and outgoing transactions, mainly memberships.

IF THERE ARE NO NOMINATIONS FOR THE ABOVE POSITION AT THE AGM AND NO ONE IS ELECTED, THEN THE RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION VICTORIAN BRANCH INC. CANNOT LEGALLY CONTINUE TO OPERATE UNDER CLUB RULES.

IT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF ALL MEMBERS TO FIND SOMEONE WILLING TO TAKE ON THE POSITION.

Just a reminder that John Laverick our editor welcomes copy and one liners as space fillers, so if you have any interesting stories about your time in the Brigade, or news from other organisations you have been involved with, please send them to John.

On behalf of the Committee, thank you for your support throughout the year and I take this opportunity to wish you all Seasons Greetings and good health in the New Year.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting in February 2009

Regards, Mike



ACTING SECRETARY/TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2007/2008

On behalf of the Committee and myself I would like to present to the members of our Association, the annual & financial report.

The year was one that, on the surface, appeared to be just another uneventful year; however, a number of significant changes did occur. This impacted on the committee & members; following is an overview of the changes.

The Secretary/Treasurer John Brown was confronted with a life threatening condition requiring him to step down from the position to enable Jean and himself the opportunity to devote all their energy in combating this threat to his health.

A number of families were also confronted with life changing situations due to illness and/or death of a partner. The loss of Phil Lewis, created problems in the printing of the newsletter, and I am not sure what would happen without the support of the **MFB**. The MFB and the following supporters **UFU, Melbourne Fire Museum, Firefighters Credit Co-Operative and John Hudson and his group**. All have been of great assistance again to the RFA.

On behalf of the committee & members we like to wish them and especially those families who have lost loved

ones, **A Great Christmas & Prosperous and a Healthy New Year** and we assure them they will not be forgotten.

The RFA membership whilst gaining new inductees, did not keep up with the loss of members who were called to a higher place. While one can understand that the members that have recently joined are hesitant to take up position of office until they feel they have got to know the lay of the land. They must understand we urgently need to call on their talents now. They come from a different era of fire services and for us to keep abreast with the changing times and progress the RFA, it is imperative their wealth of new information is available to the committee for it to be effective in meeting the challenges of today.

The **Financial report** will be presented at the Annual General Meeting on the 19th of November for your acceptance, the committee by keeping a tight control on expenditure have been able to maintain the figures in the black, however this would not have been possible without the support of the above-mentioned groups.

I will leave you with this sobering thought for all to digest; over one and half score of homes from the MFB Fire Services family, both current and retired, have lost a loved one during this financial year, unfortunately I do

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

not have the CFA's number, but with their numbers of personnel I believe this figure would be much greater. The moral to this fact, comes from a quote we have on a little fridge magnet? **ENJOY LIFE - IT'S NOT A REHEARSAL.** (I know some religion's believe it is)

ALWAYS REMEMBER THIS:

**You don't stop laughing because you grow old,
You grow old because you stop laughing.**

Yearly subscriptions members. As previously explained the expired date on the label under your address on the newsletter advises you when it is due, example 2/1/07 means you owe for two (2) years and come the 2/1/09 it will be three (3) and if no remuneration is received during that year in accordance with the protocol of the committee your name would be removed from the mailing list. If, for whatever reason, you are having difficulties in this area **PLEASE** contact the Secretary to insure the line of communication is maintained. The yearly subs are still \$10 the same as it has been for the last twenty years.

CAPS, (BASEBALL STYLE) are now available the final cost is \$12 dollars if you require postage add \$5-50 total \$17-50. They will be available at the Union's Luncheon and at the Annual General Meeting 19/11/08.

A tribute to two late stalwarts of the MFB and RFA

Since the last quarterly meeting we have had two members of great significance called to a higher place.

Ron Davies (Sailor), apart from being a gentleman of the highest order, was also a top musician with the distinction of being our oldest member (92 years). At his funeral Eddie McMullen made sure the big red truck that attended had Sailor's favourite 33 station showing.

Tom Trotman who gave so much of himself gaining a

better retirement benefit for all Emergency Service personnel and the establishment of the Firefighters Credit Union was also a great humanitarian and a top bloke. At Tom's celebration of life his close mate Peter Lang eulogized his life with a very insightful and moving presentation (see below).

To the **Families** of both men rest assured that their loved ones will not be forgotten by their workmates.

J Berry

On behalf of the committee & members of the RFA

Nursing Home Notice

To all ex 48 Station members, MFB Cricket Club or Latrobe Golf Club and/or any other member of the MFB. This is to advise if you are going past the "Yarralee" Nursing Home 48 Sackville Street Kew, 3101 Phone 03 9817 6263 you might like to call in and see an old work mate Ray (Darky) Holt, he would love to see you and chew the fat about the old times or show you how to hit a golf ball. Lloyd H, I reckon you may have a story or two about the old days.

John. B (Ant)

P.S. to the above: It is great to see that the tradition of calling on fellow firies when they are not going through the best of times is still occurring. Tony McCoy and the crew from No 18 Station called to Ray's Nursing Home to say good-day on Saturday the 11th of October. To me it shows members in the service still think of us as family even though we are retired. On behalf of the committee and members of the RFA we thank them very much for their gesture and wish them and their loved ones **A Great Festive season and a Healthy & Prosperous New Year.**

MINUTES of the R.F.A. MEETING

20th August 2008 at RMIT – Brunswick 10.30am

Mike McCumisky (President), John Berry (Act. Secretary/Treasurer), Ian Geddes (Minutes).

Mike welcomed first time attendees – Arch McLaughlin, Ray Quirk.

Attendance & Apologies: - As per book.

Minutes of previous Meeting:

John Berry read Minutes from Meeting dated 21st May 08, and presented the minutes to be accepted.

Moved – Kevin Hede – Seconded Len Manning – Carried.

Business arising:-

Fund Administrators of Anzac Run have not returned calls, made to organize RFA donation etc, so \$200 cheque has not be sent.

Update on sick list people – If family/ friends wish to send update, please do so if you wish.

Tom Trotman, Ernie Goodall and Ron Turner - updates given at meeting.

Correspondence In/Out:

Lionel Sleeman in Darwin and working at Arnhem Land Mines. Noel Dahl and Reg Carey sent regards to John

Brown.

Les Gray please to be recognized by his peers for the articles he does for the newsletters.

Jack Sexton – having Eye sight problems.

Ian Fagerness & wife Gail – would like to assist with last Thursday in July Luncheon at Southport, Qld.

U.F.U's Motion becomes part of the A.C.T.U's Executive resolution on Global Warming. (Regarding the effects climate change will have on all Firefighting Services resources i.e. staffing/equipment).

Bereavement cards sent to the wives of members whom have been called to a higher duty.

9 Letters sent out, including one of appreciation from the members to the Union for the new Computer Monitor supplied to the Editor of the newsletter

Correspondence accepted. – Moved John Howe – Seconded Russell Mawson – Carried.

Treasurers Report: - John Berry

At call \$3017.79. - Fixed Term \$6,222.84

Moved – Godfrey Payne, Seconded Bob McNeill - Carried

Secretary's Report: - John Berry

R.F.A. baseball style Cap with suitable rear adjuster, embroidered with "R.F.A.logo" in gold at front on a blue cap.

Cost \$10.00. An additional \$3.00 to have "Melbourne–Australia" on back. \$5.00 postage. John Berry and John Hudson to collaborate.

Motion – Don Brennan – Seconded Ian Fowler- Carried
John Berry, in conjunction with John Hudson, to purchase 200 caps with Melbourne-Australia on back – Carried.

Moved \$200 petty cash spent on the following, admin/supplies, meeting and newsletter collation tea/coffee/milk/cakes etc, be replaced- Seconded Don Brennan- Carried

Presidents Report: - Mike McCumsky

Fred Kerr will have an article re: Anzac Runners for November "Water Off".

Nominations for ALL Committee positions must be before November A.G.M.

Venue for Meetings – unresolved.

Membership subscriptions are due at the start of each calendar year 2/1/08 etc.

Mike then made a **Life Membership** presentation to John Brown – members present gave "John" a standing round of applause.

Guest Speaker –

Sue Jamieson – Employee Assistance Program. Has had a long background with Vic. Police in peer support and personnel assistance, before joining the Brigade 3-4 years ago. This Employee Assistance Program is an update/upgrade of the Peer Support Group and Critical Incident Stress Debriefing that was around in the late '80s. Nowadays, about 45 people, mostly operational, plus some highly trained specialists, make up the team. The team also includes Rev. Ron Manly.

Sue's involvement starts with the Recruits, and continues to the Specialist Courses. A larger body (I.P.S.) operates throughout Australia, and worldwide.

Sue has both Union and Board support, and her scope has been gratefully extended to past firies/employees. Interestingly, she reckons that firies are very good at getting over most of the nasty incidents that firies encounter as firies have an inbuilt mechanism/tradition (thank god for mess rooms.) A LOT of the work her team do involves marital/children/money/time usage/bad habit issues. She has an informal way about her and , importantly, realizes that being accepted by firies ain't that easy. She then asked for our opinions.

Most members' comments:-

MFB management in the past has shown little interest in Retirees, of late this appears that it may be going through a change

Unless you do it for yourself, perhaps with mates, it won't get done.

How do all retiree's get notified of this Program? – Sue will make information available at Christmas Luncheon.

In summing up, a number of retirees who did the Peer Support and Critical Incident Courses in the late '80s, and saw some good outcomes, have been advised from present Firies that good results are occurring now.

Most members present hope that they will never need her services, but would feel easy going to her team if the need arises.

The R.F.A. will contact the Union and request that Sue Jamieson be placed on the Christmas Luncheon Invitation list.

Next meeting – Wednesday 19th November 2008 at Brunswick

Meeting closed 12.05hrs

In Time of Illness or Grief

Member information

In the event of illness or following the death of a member the families will be dealing with a great amount of grief. They may wish to notify the relevant fire service of the illness or death, but do not know how or who to contact at this time of need.

The RFA members at the May 2008 meeting indicated that a one stop phone contact should be established to assist the grieving family in notifying the person's responsible in the relevant fire service.

This has now been established.

Following the illness or death of a member, the family, if they wish to notify the Fire Service concerned, they should **contact the Secretary/Treasurer of the RFA** whose phone number appears in bold print on page two of all editions of "Water Off". The family may of course decline this offer if the wish

Change of Venue for Retiree's Christmas Luncheon!

RETURN TO ST. KILDA TOWN HALL

11.30am Saturday 15th November 2008

The UFU Social Committee have successfully re-negotiated this popular venue after the recent refurbishment.

The UFU Social Committee work hard to ensure the success of this function. It is costly to the UFU and it is up to us to support them by selling the raffle tickets. **PLEASE**, when you receive your raffle tickets, **do endeavor sell them all** and return the butts, along with your attendance reply by November 4th. If you can't attend for whatever reason, please let the committee know.

Note: Those who do not reply for 2 years will be removed from the invitation list!

TOM TROTMAN FUNERAL EULOGY

Read by Peter Lang

Historically 1950 was a turbulent time for the Victorian Fire Services Union and Management, relationships were at an all time low.

The Firefighters Union applied to the Industrial Court for a reduction in hours from the 96 hours/week to hopefully gain a 56 hour/week. To the surprise and in some areas dismay Judge Gamble ruled that Firefighters, like every one else, should work a 40 hour/week. This decision placed Fire Brigade Board in the incredible position in having to double its work force over night.

A newly married pastry cook by the name of Thomas Henry TROTMAN applied and commenced duty in January 1950 as a probationary Firefighter with the Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade.

He was elected by his workmates, whilst still a Probationary Firefighter, to be their Representative on the State Committee of the United Firefighters Union.

This was obviously a very precarious position for Tom to be placed in when the relationship that existed between the Fire Brigade Board and the Firefighters Union was considered.

Tom survived this turbulent period and progressed over time through the Fire Brigade promotional structure to become a Sub Station Officer, Station Officer and District Officer and retired after 35 years service as the Officer in Charge of the Special Service

Many years of his service was at the Lalor Fire Station, where he and his Wife RENE raised their 6 Children in the Fire Station Quarters.

On promotion to Officer Rank – Tom, as was the required practice, resigned from the Firefighters Union and become a Member of the Officer's Association.

This was an august body of Officers and gentlemen that was dominated by the prevailing rank structure with little being achieved in improvements to wages and conditions for the Officers. Generally the flow on from the gains achieved by the Firefighters Union was the only industrial benefits the Officers received.

Tom became active in the Officers Association and eventually becoming President, whilst still a junior Officer.

With incredible diplomatic skill together with his dedication and forceful personality, he led the negotiations resulting in the Officers Association becoming a part of the Firefighter Union structure.

Thus was achieved – ONE UNION - ONE VOICE For all Firefighters.

He was later to become the first Officer to be President of the United Firefighters Union, which was an incredible achievement. This indicated the high esteem he was held in by all ranks within the Fire Service.

His service in the industrial arena was recognised by him being made a Life member of the United Firefighters Union of Australia.

There was a move to establish a Firefighters Credit Union which reached fruition on 27 February 1976 when the First meeting of the Credit Union Board was held and

Tom was elected the Chairman of the Board of the Credit Union and allocated No.1 Account Membership.

Initially the Credit Union was called the UFU Credit Union, this resulted in the Credit Union having limited funds and it was found prudent to acquire Union Stationary that was embossed with the UFU Logo and purchase a rubber stamp which read Credit Union which was applied under the Union Logo. The name was later changed to Firefighters Credit Union.

He was very proud of the success of the Credit Union, which started off with volunteer helpers and a \$500 loan limit to the current position where it owns its own premises, has 9 full time Staff and 2 Branch Offices and the asset base now exceeds \$50 million.

Over the years Tom gave freely of his many talents and skills that he had acquired as a Husband, Father, Firefighter, Professional Boxer and Industrial Advocate.

He was always mindful and appreciative of the support that Rene and his 6 Children had given him in achieving so much for his fellow Firefighters. We too are grateful and sincerely thank Rene and the Family for allowing Tom to be our representative.

Tom was always immaculate in his dress, he wore his uniform with pride, courtesy in his manner and tolerant in dealings. He communicated with the most legible hand writing.

We will miss Thomas Henry TROTMAN

In conclusion I leave this prayer with you;

When I am called to duty, God
Wherever flames may rage
Give me strength to save a life
Whatever be its age

Let me embrace a little child
Before it is too late
Or save an older person from
The horror of that fate

Enable me to be alert
And hear the weakest shout
And quickly and efficiently
To put the fire out

I want to fill my calling
To give the best in me
To guard my friend and neighbour
And protect their property

And if, according to your will
I have finished my earthly life
Please bless, with your protecting hands
My family and my wife

Farewell Thomas Henry TROTMAN



William's Nocturnal Antics

*Glenn Cumming's
experience.*

Glenn Cumming is the current Secretary of the Fire Services Museum. As he has a full-time job elsewhere, he often goes into the Museum at night to take care of correspondence etc. On this particular night he had been working until very

late, and had been alone in the Museum, or so he thought. Before leaving Glenn walked around checking that all the lights were off and doors were locked. Satisfied that everything was in order, he set the alarm, went out, got in his car and drove out the gate of the little carpark behind the Museum. As the gate has to be secured also, he got out of his car to shut it and lock the padlock.

Set in the cobblestones of the laneway just outside the gate is a strong wire mesh covering the skylights that channel light into the basement under the Museum. It was originally the basement under the old Eastern Hill Fire Station.

Attracted by a yellow glow, Glenn was surprised to see light filtering out of the mesh. His immediate thought was that someone must have left a light on, and as he hadn't been in the basement himself that night, he hadn't checked that the lights were off there.

Backing back into the carpark, he returned to the Museum, turning off the alarm as he entered. Down in the basement, he discovered that a light was indeed on. He did a complete circuit of the basement checking that there were no other lights on. Leaving the basement in complete darkness, he then set the alarm and left the Museum.

Once more he got out of his car to shut the gate. Confident that all was in order, he glanced down at the mesh expecting see darkness. He was quite startled by the sight of the soft yellow light again filtering out. He began to wonder if someone from the Museum had been hiding down there and was playing tricks on him or perhaps someone had accidentally been shut in there. Quickly he dismissed those thoughts, as he had done a complete check of the basement. It was also alarmed, so anyone moving around down there would have set off the siren, but there was silence.

Re-entering the Museum and disarming the alarm as he went, Glenn headed once more into the basement. The thought occurred to him that a firefighter from next door might have gone down there, having entered through the other door off the carpark while he was still in the Museum.

Once more the same light as Glenn had turned off previously was on again. Turning all the lights on, Glenn made a thorough search of the hose cellar, the old Print Shop and all the rooms off the passages. He called out as he went, still expecting to meet a firefighter down there. There was no answer, in fact no noise at all apart from his footsteps. It occurred to him that if a firefighter had gone down there, the alarm would have been triggered when he set it upstairs.

Although having heard of William, up to that night, he hadn't taken any of the talk seriously. After all, this was a former fire station, not a cemetery, which would be a much more likely haven for ghosts.

After completing another circuit of the basement, he once more turned off all the lights, convinced there was no living person lurking in any of the now darkened corners of the musty rooms.

After setting the alarm he ran out of the Museum, jumped in his car and drove out the gate. Quickly he leapt out, closed the gate and snapped the padlock shut. He didn't dare look back at the mesh a third time.

A Mysterious Visitor

Barb McCumisky's experience.

For many years I have worked in the Fire Museum, mainly as its Photographic Curator, so I am quite familiar with William and his activities. These include the unexplained opening and shutting of doors, lights going on and off, strange noises etc. However earlier this year, I had a different kind of experience.

I was working alone in the Photographic & Research Group room, which is located at the western end of the building, in what many of you retired firies would remember as Mr. McKimm's office. My husband, Mike had told me that another Museum member was coming in to work on one of the appliances, but he did not say what time.

Just before lunch, I distinctly heard the front door of the Museum slam. As I had the door of the office open, it was quite loud and could not be confused with another noise. I then heard footsteps coming down the passage into the engine room. I naturally assumed that it was the Museum member arriving to work on the appliance. As I had the light on in the office, I was expecting him to come in and see me.

The footsteps continued intermittently in the engine room for several minutes, but no-one came into the office. Since it was lunch time anyway, I got up and went out into the engine room to greet the worker. I was really surprised to find the engine room empty. I walked around checking in and under all the appliances, but found no-one.

It is a rule of the Museum that all personnel entering the premises must sign in the occurrence book which is kept in the kitchen. Thinking that he might have gone to sign in, I went and checked the book, but the only entry for that day was my own. I had left the book open at the correct page, so anybody signing in, just had to pick up the pen and write their name.

By now I was really starting to suspect William, but just to be sure, I did a complete check of the Museum, but the place was empty. I hadn't heard the front door closing again, and if the person had left by another door, I would have seen him, so he could not have gone out.

Much later that afternoon, a couple of Museum members arrived to work on the appliance....and no...neither had been in earlier in the day.

Most Compelling Evidence

MFB Fire Dog Kitt 1's experiences.

By B. McCumisky

Those of you who were working with the MFB during the late 1980's up to the mid 1990's will remember my dalmatian Kitt, the MFB's first fire dog. He had a rock solid temperament and it seemed that nothing could faze him. He performed fire safety demonstrations in front of thousands of people, he could walk off lead down Bourke St. (CBD) in rush hour, he sat on the bank of the Yarra during the MFB Centenary celebrations with fireworks all around him, yet not one of those occasions produced even a hint of fear. I was convinced he was totally fearless, until one day when we were working in the Fire Museum.

Back in those years, I was Curator of the Museum and spent many hours per week there cataloguing the vast collection of memorabilia. I was also Photographic Curator (a position I still hold) so I was well and truly occupied. Because Kitt was such a reliable dog, I took him with me every day for company.

So far in this issue of "Water Off" you have read about William Lee and some of the experiences people have had with his ghost. I suspect that the true skeptics among you still believe there is a plausible explanation for the previous accounts. However having seen what happened to Kitt, convinced me that the old station is really haunted. Dogs cannot make up stories, and they don't go from being a normal dog to a shaking wreck in a matter of seconds when no obvious traumatic event has occurred.

Kitt and I had been working in the Museum all morning and after lunch I had occasion to go down into the old Print Shop in the basement. As usual Kitt got up off his mat to come with me. He very rarely left my side. I went down the basement stairs inside the Museum and unlocked the door of the passage that leads down to the Print Shop and hose cellar. I was a bit surprised that Kitt was still standing at the top of the stairs. I called him, but he did not move. I went back up to him and noticed his tail between his legs, very uncharacteristic for him. He was also shivering, but as it was quite cold in the basement I didn't pay any attention to that at the time. He had never had any trouble with stairs before so I didn't think that was his problem. I went back down to the Print Shop expecting him to follow.

I had been in there I suppose about five minutes when I heard Kitt whining miserably. I went back to him and he was shaking uncontrollably, salivating and sweating through his paws, all signs of extreme stress. He was still riveted to the spot at the top of the stairs where I left him.

As we were alone in the Museum, and nothing had occurred that could have possibly frightened him like that, I was quite mystified. We returned to the Museum and within a couple of minutes he settled down on his mat and returned to his normal self.

The next day I was relating the strange occurrence to Peter Cox who worked in the Print Shop in the new station. He was also Secretary of the Museum at the time and was very familiar with Kitt. He said he was not surprised at Kitt's reaction and reluctance to go into the basement, as he himself believed that it was haunted.

A couple of weeks later I needed to go to the basement again. Since our previous visit, Kitt had been perfectly normal and not shown any further fear. Of course he got up to come with me. This time I stayed with him, intending to try and coax him down the stairs, or maybe see for myself what had scared him so badly. He stood at the top of the stairs and did not move. I put his leash on and tried to guide him down the stairs. Within seconds he started to shake uncontrollably and sweat through his paws. I took him back inside and got a biscuit, thinking he would be distracted by that. But no, as soon as he got to the top of the stairs the terrible shaking started again. Once more we returned to the Museum and he returned to normal within a couple of minutes.

Peter suggested that I try taking him down to the old basement by the stairs through the door off the carpark. Before I attempted that, I got some pieces of raw steak. Kitt loved steak and would do anything to get some, as he only got it on very special occasions.

By the time we reached the door to the basement he was leaping about with excitement as he could smell the steak in my hand.

I opened the door and went ahead of him, holding my hand out with the steak. At the top of the stairs he stopped. He appeared rooted to the spot. I held out my hand so he could sniff the steak and then threw it down the stairs expecting him to leap after it, as he would normally do. His tail dropped and he immediately started the violent shaking. He was sweating through his paws again and started whining. In the better light, I could see look of terror on his face and in his eyes. I was then convinced that he knew there was something lurking in the basement. I took him back to the Museum and once again he returned to normal within a minute or two.

I never tried taking him into the basement again, and never during all of his 13 years did he ever exhibit such terror again.



Above: *Kitt, normally totally fearless, but the basement would leave him a shaking wreck.*

Photo right: William's favourite "haunt". The former hose cellar in 1973, in the basement of the old Eastern Hill Fire Station. Photo: B. McCumisky

Another Ghost at Eastern Hill ?

Ken Madison's experience

This singular occurrence happened while I was working in the Communication Centre at the old Eastern Hill Fire Station in 1979. At that time, the practice was for half the Control staff to bed down in the old CFO's quarters at 22.00 hours.

On this particular night I went to bed alone in the CFO's room (the one with a large marble fire place). The bed was by the French doors which opened onto the verandah, about five paces from the open door to the passage.

I was about to shut my eyes when the open doorway, which had been in darkness was suddenly illuminated by a man standing in a bright light. He had some papers in his hand. He was not an ethereal being in as much as he looked like any other human. He was about six paces away, but did not enter. He was of average height, medium build, darkish complexion with side boards, and possibly in his mid forties. He was wearing a light polo shirt, light colored slacks with a belt and shoes that were two toned (either black & white or brown & white) also a panama hat with a colored hat band.

I would say neatly dressed in 1950's fashion, but a very sporty or racy character. His whole body was outlined with a white-blue light which gave the impression of an arc welder at work (there seemed to be powerful energy involved.) All this happened within about 15 seconds. He de-materialised like a child's sparkler



fizzles out. I was not scared, as there was nothing sinister about his manifestation. I immediately went to sleep, but at 06.00 I told Station Officer Jack Lock (now dec.) of the apparition.

He said "Kenny, have a look in the Sun – Jackie Pat passed away yesterday, it's in the death notices". The news reporters came into the Control Centre after midnight and brought copies of the papers. Sure enough the death notice of Ex CFO Jack Paterson was there.

Jack Lock said, "I know who you saw last night, as I was in quarters at Eastern Hill when Jackie Pat was Chief. The man you saw was the Chief's batman who did all his odd jobs and ran all his messages, and the papers in his hand were probably betting slips as Jackie Pat was a great punter."

Jack told me his name which I have now forgotten. My belief is the batman sighting was a one off appearance and that he had merely come to see his Chief. I don't think it ever happened or will happen again. Sorry there were no other witnesses. I wish I'd had a flash camera!

The only other intermittent occurrence was in the same passageway, where there were a number of steel lockers, which would bang and shake violently and give anyone a start, as if done by a practical joker. There was also a toilet (the Chief's and Deputy's) off the passage which used to flush by itself. S/Fm Ernie Mackney was outside when it flushed itself and a detached voice from within said "That's a good garbage gobbler!" and chuckled. It was most likely the ghost of Harry B Lee's brother who was known for his practical jokes.

Hopefully one of you readers of *Water Off* may be able to recall the name of Jackie Pat's batman, and enlighten me whilst I am still earthbound.

Share your experiences.

Although William died such a tragic death, he is not a ghost to be feared. In all the years he has haunted the basement and corridors of the old station, according to all accounts, he has never done anyone any harm. He seems to be a mischievous ghost preferring to indulge in disruptive antics, rather than the malevolent targeting of individuals.

Now that "*Water Off*" has revealed the identity of the ghost and some anecdotes of his antics, perhaps there might be more of you out there who will feel more comfortable about admitting to an experience with William. Perhaps you may have had an experience with a ghost at another fire station. Any stories we get, we will be happy to print in the next issue.

Please forward any contributions to "*Water Off*" Editor John Laverick. email: retfire@bigpond.net.au Or post to 40 Brunel St. Aberfeldie 3040.

Unexpected Offers To Buy Your Shares?

We have issued this warning before, but predators are trying to cash in on the current financial crisis and making ridiculously low offers for share holdings.

Have you received an unexpected letter offering to buy some of your shares? You should be aware of some pitfalls you may face when considering such an offer.

Although it is not illegal to make an unsolicited offer to buy someone's shares, it is against the law to mislead or deceive shareholders into accepting an offer. Also, the offer must comply with strict legal requirements, including the prohibition against misleading or deceptive or unconscionable conduct.

The Government introduced regulations from 8 April 2003 governing these types of off-market offers that give you more protection. Under the regulations a person who makes an unsolicited offer to buy your shares off market for a certain price must give you:

- a written statement setting out the market value of those shares on the day the offer is made; and
- a minimum of one month in which to accept the offer.

A failure to disclose the market price attracts a fine of \$22,000 or two years' jail for each breach for individuals and a maximum fine of \$110,000 for companies. We've received complaints that some Australian companies have offered to buy shares from small shareholders in public companies by issuing hundreds, and sometimes thousands, of unsolicited offers by mass mail-out.

Often these unsolicited offers came at a price below the current market price. Under the regulations, these offers have to tell you the current market value of your shares. This means that you will be able to judge the value of the offer for yourself.

We have found that inexperienced or elderly shareholders, or those under immediate financial pressure, are most at risk of signing away their shares without carefully reading the offer and taking the time to make a few important safety checks

Seven safety checks to protect yourself

1. Who is making the offer?

Read the offer carefully to see exactly who is making it. Some offers have used official looking letterhead, or names that sound like your company or a stock exchange, and may be sent at the same time as a company's own letters to shareholders. If you're not sure, phone your company's investor relations department to double check.

2. Why is the offer being made?

Naturally, the company or person offering to buy wants to make money. Perhaps there is public information about something that is expected to happen to your shares that you may not know about. For shares traded on the Australian Stock Exchange (ASX), check company announcements on the ASX website

www.asx.com.au, or talk to a stockbroker in case you have lost touch with important news that's been released to the market.

3. Do you really need to sell?

Unless you really need the money now, you may do better by holding on. Consider what the shares are worth now, what they may be worth in the future, what dividends they may pay you, and so on. If you do need the money, consider all of your options. The Corporations Act sets time periods in which an offer once made, cannot be withdrawn – use this time wisely.

4. What's the market price for your shares?

Get an up to date market price for your shares and compare it with the price being offered. Market prices can change daily, so check the most recent price for your shares on exchange websites, daily newspapers or a quick phone call to a stockbroker. While any offer you receive must quote the current market value it may be out of date.

If you hold shares that are not sold on the ASX or any other exchange (known as unquoted shares), the offerer needs to state the fair market value in the offer document. You will then need to make a personal judgment about what they are really worth. As a shareholder, you are entitled to talk to the company you own the shares in about its plans, including possible listing on an exchange. Maybe other shareholders in your company would like to buy directly from you?

5. How much is the offer really worth?

Watch out for two types of 'low-ball' offers. The first type offers significantly less than the share's market value. The second type offers to pay you by instalments spread over many years. With this offer, even if the total offer price is higher than the present market value, the many years you may have to wait for all your instalments means you usually get far less than selling on the market.

6. Compare the cost of selling on the market

Even if you hold only a very few shares, you can still sell through a stockbroker. Non-advisory brokers will sell the shares for about \$55-65 over the phone, or about \$30-45 over the Internet. You will need to open an account, although this is pretty straightforward. The ASX will give you their names.

To report an unsolicited offer which you believe is misleading or deceptive, or is otherwise against the law, you may lodge a complaint via our website at www.fido.gov.au or by writing to any of our capital city offices across Australia:

Manager
National Assessment & Action
ASIC
GPO Box 9827
IN YOUR CAPITAL CITY

HOW GOOD IS THIS

Revenge on Telemarketers

Revenge on the Telemarketer Three Little Words That Work!!

(1) The three little words: "Hold On, Please..." Saying this, while putting down your phone and walking off instead of hanging-up immediately) would make each telemarketing call so much more time-consuming that boiler room sales would grind to a halt. Then when you eventually hear the Telstra's "beep-beep-beep" tone, you know it's time to go back and hang up your handset, which has efficiently completed its task. These three little words will help eliminate telephone soliciting.

(2) Do you ever get those annoying phone calls with no one on the other end?

This is a telemarketing technique where a machine makes phone calls and records the time of day when a person answers the phone. This technique is used to determine the best time of day for a "real" sales person to call back and get someone at home. What you can do after answering, if you notice there is no one there, is to immediately start hitting your # button on the phone, 6 or 7 times, as quickly as possible. This confuses the machine that dialed the call and it kicks your number out of their system. Gosh, what a shame not to have your name in their system any longer!!!

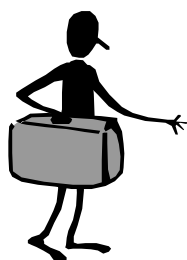
(3) When you get those "pre-approved" letters in the mail for everything from credit cards to 2nd mortgages and similar type junk, do not throw away the return

envelope. Most of these come with postage-prepaid return envelopes, right? It costs them more than the regular 50 cents postage "IF" and when they receive them back.

It costs them nothing if you throw them away! In that case, why not get rid of some of your other junk mail and put it in these cool little, postage-prepaid return envelopes. Send an ad for your local chimney cleaner to American Express. Send a pizza coupon to Westpac. If you didn't get anything else that day, then just send them their blank application back!

If you want to remain anonymous, just make sure your name isn't on anything you send them. You can even send the envelope back empty if you want to just to keep them guessing! It still costs them \$1.00 The banks and credit card companies are currently getting a lot of their own junk back in the mail, but folks, we need to OVERWHELM them. Let's let them know what it's like to get lots of junk mail, and best of all they're paying for it... Twice! Let's help keep Australia Post busy since they are saying that e-mail is cutting into their business profits, and that's why they need to increase postage costs again.

You get the idea! If enough people follow these tips, it will work ---- maybe you'll get very little junk mail anymore.



TRAVELLING WITH SILVER

Howdy, all you wild west fans. Having visited "Tombstone" and several other places in the U.S. I believe the west certainly was wild around Texas and Nevada etc. There are still original bullet holes in the bar and wall of "Madam Moustache's Bar."

California Capitol "Sacramento" has a lot of heritage going for it.

In 1839 Captain John Sutter, a Swiss Immigrant established a fort where the Sacramento and American rivers meet and soon did well in the wheat, flour and lumber business. The original fort still stands in 27th Street and is a favourite tour spot.

Around 1850 one of his workers found gold and the rest deserted to seek their fortune. During the boom Sutter lost his land and money and his son named the city after "The Blessed Sacrament" and in 1854 it became the capitol of California.

The Capitol Building was restored over 25 years ago at a cost of \$70 million U.S. Free tours of the building show the marble mosaic floors, crystal chandeliers and a magnificent dome. Over 100 of the original brick and masonry buildings built in 1849 to 1879 have been

restored.

Shops, restaurants and saloons in cobblestone streets also museums will keep you going all day.

Ronald Reagan was the last Californian Governor to occupy the 4 storey Governor's mansion on 16th Street before it become a museum in 1967. It's well worth a visit.

The wine country, gold country and the Sierras are only 1 hour away by car. San Francisco is a half hour flight and L.A. one hour flight and they go all day.

Incidentally, in Tombstone I visited the house of the famous sheriff, Wyatt Earp. He must have been a dwarf as it's not much bigger than a kid's cubby house.

Happy Travelling Silver

P.S. Over the paging system on a flight from Memphis to Denver.

"Weather at our destination is 50 Degrees with some broken clouds, but we'll try to have them fixed. Nobody loves you, or your money, more than South West Airlines.

Great Anzac Run 2008

At the risk of repeating myself but in the interest of the people perhaps not aware of the “Great Anzac Run 2008”, I would like to commence at the very beginning. Since 2005, the MFB running Club have been running from Canberra to Melbourne each year. The run finishes at the MCG where we run a circuit of the ground before the pre-match entertainment for the Essendon/Collingwood football match on Anzac Day April 25th.

The MFB Charity Running Club (MFBCRC) traces it's history back 1968 and since that time has raised a considerable amount of money for charity. Two years ago the club committee decided to reach for the ultimate and run relay from Gallipoli to London. It was at

the same meeting it was decided because of it's very close and synonymous involvement with the First World War, (Hotchkiss machine guns and armoured vehicles) the MFB along with the retired 1914 Hotchkiss Hose Carriage, participate in the venture also.

Whilst the organizing committee were attending to the enormous task of bringing together 24 runners, 24 support staff, transport, food, accommodation, safety etc. it was my role to facilitate the many tasks of transporting the Hotchkiss to Istanbul.

At our final committee meeting in April 2008 just before our departure on the 16th April, the final arrangements were thus.

Two members would fly to Glasgow Scotland to pick up a Scania Pumper for escort duty and drive it to Gallipoli. The rest of the mob would fly to Munich, pick up 9 camper vans, 1 Tilt Tray and 1 Mercedes Benz car.

It would be prudent at this point to mention the preparation of the Hotchkiss and how things went awry in Munich.

To take a Veteran Vehicle of historical significance overseas one has to obtain a CARNET from the Australian Automobile Association which is a passport for your vehicle. It comprises a book of vouchers and is essential for the temporary importation of vehicles into

most countries of the world plus a built in insurance guarantee plus one insurance policy for the Hotchkiss in the container on board the vessel plus one insurance policy for travel on the roads and on the back of the tilt tray truck.

The tilt tray was most important because it meant the Hotchkiss would ride piggy back for all of the journey apart from functions, memorials etc. The tilt tray was arranged through Linfox and the Deputy Chief Officer of the Munich Fire Brigade who in fact suggested first of all they may sponsor the cost and also one of their firemen would drive it all of the way.

So, with this understanding we arrived in Munich, the drivers were dispatched to pick up the 9 camper

vans, 2 of the organisers left to pick up the Mercedes Benz car and Bernie Dingle Dressed in his WW1 Army uniform argued with customs as to why he should be allowed to bring into the country a rifle and pistol.

I commenced proceedings to contact the Deputy Chief, Wolfgang Schoeler, by phone at the fire station. After one hour of trying with the male receptionist not understanding who I was looking for and unable to refer me to someone who spoke English, I gave up and went to the customs Dept. An English speaking official was at last able to contact, not Wolfgang Schoeler, but his deputy Adolf. No, they didn't have a tilt tray or a driver, but they would hire us a car trailer and we would have to hire a truck to pull it.

What happened to all the promises? Not even a “sorry mate”, not a completely nonsensical sign of non related events.

After expressing my complete disappointment at their broken promises and what the loss of the tilt tray meant to our endeavour, I hung up.

Decision time. What to do and none of the committee were there, so I had to make the choice. We did not have the time to hunt around for another tilt tray, we were in Munich and the Hotchkiss was in Istanbul. I decided if another tilt tray was not available in Istanbul I would drive the Hotchkiss the whole journey, 460 kilometers.

To be continued.



Part of the convoy of appliances carrying the MFB ANZAC Running Team to Tullamarine Airport for their departure to Gallipoli, stopped in Swanston St. CBD en route. Photo: Chris Maxwell, MFB Photographer.

Article Apology Dispelling an Urban Myth

Received an email from an observant member regarding a small controversial item sent in by another member, published on page 13 of the August issue titled "Refugee Status Anyone?" We weren't fully aware of the invalidity of the statements in the article until our reader brought it to our attention.

The story had origins in Canada and through internet has now spread worldwide. We apologise if we have offended anyone by the item. The following is an explanation of how it all started.

The "pensioners vs. refugees" brouhaha began back in March 2004, when the Canadian "Toronto Star" published an article about plans for Canada to work in conjunction with the United Nations to settle asylum-seekers from a Somali refugee camp in some smaller Canadian cities (outside the usual immigrant magnet communities of Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver).

As the Star's ombudsman later explained, a single paragraph in the midst of the article was somewhat ambiguous about the amount of financial assistance the Canadian government would be providing to these refugees:

Unfortunately, one Star reader who misunderstood the issue set loose an e-mail polemic about refugee entitlement without waiting for clarification, and the author of a follow-up letter to the editor published in the Star repeated the erroneous claim that the African refugees would be collecting monthly government allowances nearly double those provided to pensioners:

In short order, email forwards winged their way into millions of inboxes around the world suitably adapted to the recipient countries.

Information source: Snopes.com

Smile

A lawyer dies and goes to Heaven. "There must be some mistake," the lawyer argues. "I'm too young to die. I'm only fifty five."

"Fifty five?" says Saint Peter. "No, according to our calculations, you're eighty two."

"How'd you get that?" the lawyer asks. Answers St. Peter, "We added up your billable hours."

Recruiting 50's Style!

A member from Queensland sent in this clipping of the MFB's recruiting advertisement that appeared in the Melbourne "Herald" on Thursday January 12th 1950. We wonder, who was the firm jawed, wild eyed person who modeled for the ad?

It was a time of desperation for the Brigade Board who found themselves short of a few hundred firemen when they were forced to adopt a 40 hour week following a landmark decision in the industrial court.

Of course, the advertised utopian conditions did attract many fine men to the Brigade. Are there any members still around who answered this particular call?

MEN!

Look

WHAT THE

FIRE

BRIGADE

OFFERS YOU..

TO men seeking security in a well paid interesting career, the Fire Brigade offers unlimited possibilities. Here is a job with a future — a job packed with adventure and interest, waiting to be shared in the company of fine men among whom a strong bond of comradeship exists. A Brigade career is especially attractive to the married man. Away from the worries of industrial unrest and economic instability the man with responsibilities can find real security — the perfect foundation on which to build a happy and successful family life. If you're between the ages of 21 and 28— of good physique and enjoying normal health you've got the makings of a first class fireman. Decide now to do something about it. And remember! — The Fire Brigade is permanent . . . It's a job that's yours for life.

Commencing Salary
£8/16/-
(Rising to £10/6/-)

•

Free Uniforms

•

Forty-Hour Week

•

Superannuation

•

4-week holiday
every 11 months
On full pay

•

Splendid
opportunities for
advancement

Get the full story of this unusual and interesting career by calling personally between 9 a.m. and 10 p.m. any day at

EASTERN HILL FIRE STATION

Victoria Parade (opposite St. Vincent's Hospital), Melbourne

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email: bellsbythebeach@optusnet.com.au

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

bellsbythebeach

Welcome to our holiday house, an ideal spot for seniors, families, couples or small groups. Small or medium size dogs are welcome at our pet-friendly accommodation.

We offer you.....

- Refreshments and fresh garden flowers - on arrival
- Three bedrooms for 6 people - 2 QS beds and 2 Single beds
- BYO sheets and towels. Doonas and pillows provided on all beds
- Ensuite and separate toilet, shower/spa bath, hair dryer
- Gas log fire, gas cooking, microwave, cutlery, crockery and glasses
- TV, DVD, CD player, books, games and puzzles
- Undercover car parking and off street parking
- Private, secure fully fenced garden - ideal for kids and dogs
- 400 metres easy walk - on flat ground - to the beach
- A short drive to local shops, Ocean Grove Bowling Club, golf clubs, attractions etc
- Reasonable rates - Off peak \$100 double per night. Peak \$125 double per night.

**** Vacancies - week days or weekends (subject to availability) ****

PLUS: Free entry for One Adult when a second Adult or Concession admission is purchased for entry to the Queenscliffe Maritime Museum, Weeroona Parade.
Offer valid any day of the week.

Your hosts: Retired firefighter Lin Bell and wife Jan Bell
Postal address: 17 Miriam Court, Ocean Grove, 3226

MEMBERS INTERESTED IN RECEIVING THEIR "WATER OFF" VIA EMAIL.

To those members with easy access to email and would like to have their copy sent by this system, please send your email address to our editor John Laverick. "Water Off" will be sent out in a PDF format.

John's address

- - retfire@bigpond.net.au

Before you send your email, click on 'tools' at top and click on 'request receipt'. This will reply to you and verify both email addresses are working correctly.

GEELONG REUNION Date For Your Diary Monday 24th November



**Shell Club
Bacchus Marsh Rd.
Corio**

**Contact: Bill Icke 5244 1822
John Wallace 5278 4734**

RECENT RETIREMENTS

Allan Deans: 25th September

Pending Retirements

Bryan Robertson: 24th November, Montmorency
RSL. RSVP, 12B or 16B

SMILE

Mensa is an organization whose members have an IQ of 140 or higher. A few years ago, there was a Mensa Convention in San Francisco, and several members lunched at a local cafe.

While dining, they discovered that their saltshaker contained pepper and their pepper shaker was full of salt. How could they swap the contents of the bottles without spilling, and using only the implements at hand?

Clearly this was a job for Mensa! The group debated and presented ideas, and finally came up with a brilliant solution involving a napkin, a straw, and an empty saucer. They called the waitress over to dazzle her with their solution.

"Ma'am," they said, "we couldn't help but notice that the pepper shaker contains salt and the salt shaker..."

"Oh," the waitress interrupted. "Sorry about that." She unscrewed the caps of both bottles and switched them.

Annual General Meeting – Wednesday 19th November 2008
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 14th November 2008.**

Return by Friday November 14, 2008, to:
 The Acting Secretary
 Retired Firefighters Association of Australia
 Victorian Branch Incorporated.
24 Lincoln Drive Lower Plenty 3093

Retired Firefighters Association of Australia, Victorian Branch, Inc.

We, the undersigned, being financial members of the Retired Firefighters Association of Australia, Victorian Branch Inc. hereby nominate:

Nominee's Name

For the position of:

Proposed by (signature) (Print name)

Seconded by (signature) (Print name)

Nominee Acceptance (signature) (Print name)

Date

JOHN BERRY
ACTING SECRETARY/TREASURER
Ph: 03 9431 2880

Firefighter's Picnic

Sunday 22nd March 2009

10am. till 4 pm.

**Venue; Moonee Valley Racecourse
(Enter from McPherson St.)**

Retirees - Bring the Grandkids

Note: For catering purposes, please ring the union office on 9419 8811 and let them know how many you are bringing along.

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

PRINT POST No. PP333964/0020

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

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MAIL**

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Australia**

