

"WATER OFF"

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



February 2017 Vol 21 No 1
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RMD Invitation to Visit the VEMTC

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LMK smashes fundraising goal!

The *Let Me Know* (LMK) fundraising event held on Saturday 19 November was a fantastic success! More than 250 people attended on the night and enjoyed impressive performances from Australian ARIA award winner Ash Grunwald and supporting acts Nathan Kaye, Los Amgios, DJ Mermaid and DJ Aybner.

Former NSW Police Officer Allan Sparkes CV shared his experience dealing with PTSD and suicidal thoughts and encouraged everyone to ask for help when they need it. He also stressed the importance of not just asking if someone is okay, but more importantly asking them "how can I help you?".

The night also honoured the late MFB Station Officer Adrian "Newtz" Newton, who was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident in Bali in May earlier this year. Adrian initiated the event as

part of MFB's 125th Anniversary employee nominated events and activities competition after a number of firefighters he knew took their own lives in 2015.

The LMK Committee set themselves the goal of raising \$50,000 to go towards the development and hosting of a mental health app for emergency service workers. As a result of the fundraising activities, which included ticket sales, sponsorship, donations and an auction, the **total amount raised hit \$62,251**.

Thank you to Max Watts for kindly donating the venue for the event and to MFB for covering all other event costs as part of MFB's 125th Anniversary celebrations. Thank you to everyone who supported LMK, which enabled us to fulfil Newtz's legacy and have his family join us for the occasion.

“GENERAL MEETING”

Notice is hereby given that the next General Meeting will be held at the Burnley Complex 450
Burnley Street Richmond
1030 Hours, Wednesday 15th February 2017

AGENDA ITEMS.

Minutes of last General meeting
President’s Report
Secretary/Treasurer’s Report
Guest Speaker; Ross Fusca - Welfare Officer UFU
General Business

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

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

Lunch available.
All wives and partners welcome
Please join us!

Non financial Members

Members be advised if your newsletter has an expiry date of 2/1/2016 that means you have not paid your subs since 2015 therefore if no remuneration is received by the 2/1/18 your name will be automatically removed from the mailing list. If, for whatever reason any member is unable to meet this request please do not hesitate to call the secretary, (confidentiality is assured)

OFFICE BEARERS

President: Alex Shepherd
Vice President: Colin Harris
Sec./Treasurer: Allan Roberts

General Committee:

Arthur (Sam) Capes
Mike McCumisky
Ian Geddes
Kevin Hede

Auditor:

Mike Enticott

**“Water Off”
Editorial Staff**
Colin Harris
John Laverick

Valē

Kevin Clarke
Valentine “John” Davey
Allan Dingey (MFB)
Stan Gough (MFB)

William (Mike) Hunt (MFB)
Jim Scaresbrook (MFB)
Bob Soulsby (MFB)

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

SICK LIST (* In Nursing Home)

Don Brennan
Stan Cameron
Huew Campbell*
Keith Dumas
Eddie Gilbertson
John Cotter (CFA)
Bob Horgan
Harry Mitchell

Dave Dafonte
Gary Spicer
Trevor Reed
Murray Jelleff
Lindsay McCurdy
Bill Pinnell*

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 2017

Wed. 15th February; General Meeting
Sun. 19th February; UFU Picnic @ Moonee Valley
Wed. 17th May; General Meeting
Wed. 16th August General Meeting
Sat. 19th August Bunning’s BBQ
Wed. 15th November; Annual General Meeting

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



we all had.

I wish all members and their families a happy and healthy new year, I also hope you had a great Christmas full of good will and cheer. I look back on last year with some sadness of the people we lost during the year but I also think of the happy moments I'm sure

I look forward to a new year in which we all hope will bring us good health, happy moments with family and friends and some good fortune in Australia's future. This year I hope we do things we haven't done before and go places we haven't been too.

If you the members have any suggestions on some excursions or trips we can take in addition to our meetings and I would like to include our wife's or partners in this idea, please contact the committee and we will try to accommodate them.

I look forward to seeing you all again during the year. Good Luck and Good Health to All.

Yours Fraternally
Alex Shepherd

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT



After the Annual General Meeting Your committee are:

President: Alex Shepherd.

Vice President: Col Harris.

Secretary/Treasurer – Allan Roberts.

Committee: Sam Capes, Ian Geddes,

Kevin Hede, Mike McCumisky, Almoner – Ian Fowler.

Nominations – All accepted by the members.

I would like to thank the Committee, John Berry, John Howe, and John Laverick for the support and great work and time committed to keep the RFA in good stead.

Alex and I are still attending Retirement Seminars held at Burnley Street to MFB Members that are looking at retiring.

Don't forget the RFA web Site: Lots of info. www.rfav.com

The secretary of the Retired Firefighters Association, Allan Roberts, has expressed his thanks and gratitude for the support that MFB Burnley staff collectively provides to the RFA members at our Meetings, including the most appreciated BBQ following all of the Meetings.

The RFA appreciates all current MFB staff for supporting the Retired Firefighters Members.

VISITING STATIONS.

The Retired Firies really enjoy being treated to a cup of tea whenever they knock on the door of their local fire station and have a chat.

The Retired Firefighters have a wealth of "hands on" knowledge and are always glad to share this information with current Firies.

We have had several new members joining us in the last Year.

YOU AND YOUR PARTNERS ARE MOST WELCOME TO ATTEND THE MEETINGS.

PLEASE NOTE:

OZANAM HOUSE BBQ PUT ON BY THE RFA for some Unfortunate People, Date to be notified.

UFU FIREFIGHTERS PICNIC: 19th February 2017 at Moonee Valley 11 am.

TRESURERS REPORT.

Bunnings BBQ: Thanks to all helpers Money Raised: \$1219.70.

We have donated: \$500.00 to the Salvation Army Bourke st Melbourne.

\$500.00 to Challenge.

Fire Rings have been Purchased and some have been picked up.

I will have the rings that have been ordered at the meeting.

Except for size 9 as I only have 3 requested (**and need 6 to be ordered**) I will have size 10.

For you to try on.

Closing Balance: As at the 31st December 2016 Running account S1 = \$5413.35.

Fix Term 6 Months L1 Account = \$6877.36.

Allan Roberts

RFA Annual General Meeting – Burnley

Wednesday, 16th November 2016

MINUTES

Meeting at 10.30am.

President, Alex Sheppard welcomed all to the RFA 2016 Annual Meeting

A welcome also to new retired members attending for the first time: Russell Johnson, Dave Pricor and Steve Allen.

Apologies (13) were noted in the apologies book.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report – Allan Roberts

- Diaries were not available this year, due to an issue with a previous supplier. Matter has been dealt with and prosecution not proceeded with
- BBQ at Hopper's Crossing went well on Saturday, 22nd October. Thanks to the Brennan family and the other RFA members who turned up to assist on the day.
- Ozanam House lunch was cancelled this year and will be done in 2017
- A special thanks to MFB Burnley staff for hosting RFA lunches once again
- Financial report for the year sighted by all and detailed by Allan Roberts

Minutes & Treasurer's report accepted. Moved E. Paddon, I. Munro seconded the motion – carried.

President: Election of Office bearers for RFA Year 2016/2017

There were no new nominations at this time, so the current committee stands.

President: Alex Sheppard, Vice- President Colin Harris, Secretary/Treasurer Allan Roberts, Committee members: Ian Geddes, Mike McCumisky, A. Capes & K. Heade

It was noted that Leon Trembath (Retired Members Division) is the RFA representative for the RMD.

Life Membership of the RFA:

John Howe was nominated by John Berry to become a life member of the RFA for all the great work which John Howe does for the membership group. Robert (Rob) Horgan was also nominated for life membership of the RFA for his long time service and the Bravery Medal he received in Canberra, when he and his son saved the life of a trapped car driver back in 1997.

There was no guest speaker today, however, John Berry spoke about how we older people can improve our balance by specific balance exercises. This

information was backed by another RFA member who studies palates and practises this routine.

John Berry also showed a DVD on the PNG Kokoda Track walk which was most enlightening and showed how difficult it was for the Australian WW2 veterans who fought off the Japanese invaders in some of the most difficult terrains in the world. The RFA audience enjoyed all. Key words Courage – Endurance – Mateship – Sacrifice

Almoner: Ian Fowler spoke regarding the health of some of our retired colleagues.

General Business:

Bruce Smith (RMD President), spoke about Presumptive Legislation for all firefighters which will include PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder). This legislation is expected to be passed by the Victorian Government later this year or early next year.

Bruce Smith also reiterated that it is the UFU which funds the Annual Christmas party – not the Retired Firefighters Association.

RFA committee member Arthur Capes asked Bruce Smith about the cost variation between the two venues for the Christmas party. The Docklands venue was slightly cheaper.

John Howe mentioned that co-editor of RFA magazine John Laverick, is suffering from an illness at present.

John Howe talked about the importance of "Peer Support" and mentioned that there are 83 trained peers within the MFB and 1000 contacts were made during 2016. John also stated that RFA members should consider becoming a peer support member for the RFA.

Len Manning asked why there wasn't a Fire Services Victoria stall at Docklands for the Annual Christmas function to sell items for members and families on the day. The response was that there was not a suitable area at this time.

Trevor Reed asked that a donation be considered for the Salvation Army from the proceeds from the annual Hopper's crossing BBQ.

Meeting concluded at 11.50am. All proceeded to outside for BBQ lunch compliments of Burnley Complex management and assisted by MFB employees.

Report to RFA from Retired Members Division Committee of Management Meeting

The RMD Committee of Management met on 16 December 2016 and will be meeting the last Tuesday of every second month commencing the 28th of February.

Items discussed:

- Review of Uniforms for RMD members
- Retired Members Christmas Party Debrief
 - General feeling that went well for first event and most people were happy
 - Concerns/negative feedback included:
 - Lighting in the room – too dark
 - Accessibility to disabled toilet
 - Problem with ground floor toilets and lifts
 - Sue Murphy did excellent job with photos
 - Tentative booking for November 11th 2017
 - Eileen and Eddie to meet with Peter about how to better handle it next year
- General Business
 - Concerns were raised by John Berry about the role and the future of the RMD.
 - Ideas and discussion with John included:
 - The UFU is one of the most dynamic unions in Australia
 - RMD should be developing a database about the membership
 - RMD should look at the big picture for retired members
 - PTSI is something the RMD can be looking at more.
 - We should not underestimate the opportunity that we have.
 - We should start putting more information out. Nothing in the Firefighters Magazine about the Retired Members Division. Also need to

consider website and Facebook.

- Information is the most important tool we have.
- Attendance at funerals needs to be better.
- RMD should not plan social events as that's the role of the RFA.
- A one day seminar will be held to discuss a strategic plan for RMD's next steps.
- We will be informing the overseas Retired Members Divisions in the US and England that we have begun our division
- RMD will contact the Library from the National Union to see if there is any info on work injuries that we might link to the RMD.

Calendar of Events and possible activities

- Tour of VEMTC on 9th of February
- Future Meetings for 2017
 - 28th of February (tentatively scheduled as full day meeting for strategic planning)
 - 18th of April
 - 27th of June
 - 29th of August
 - 31st of October
 - December meeting will be the office closing BBQ date.

Suggestions for direction of RMD:

The committee of management is looking for suggestions about the future direction of the RMD. Please send suggestions to Leon Trembath (churinga7@gmail.com) or 51861333 so they can be included in the Strategic Planning session.

Respectfully submitted,
Leon Trembath, RFA representative to RMD
09 Jan 2017



From the
CEO



PFC roundup and support available

This week, MFB's Incident Management Team has been working with stakeholders and industry experts across the sector to replace foam and decontaminate our affected appliances, assets and locations and to ensure the safety of our people and the community.

All MFB operational firefighting appliances have now been sampled, and results will be reported next week.

MFB has a range of support available for any of our people concerned or experiencing anxiety about potential exposure, including peer support, the Employee Assistance Program, the Brigade Medical Services. You can access these services via the [Employee Support Program intranet page](#) or by calling the Workplace Health and Safety team on ex 54638. These include:

- Peer Support - 9665 4516
- Critical Incident Support - 9665 4500, pager "202354" (VKN Signal 27)
- Employee Support Program - 9665 4405 (on-call clinicians, psychologists and social workers)
- Optum – 1300 361 008 (confidential personal and family counselling, manager support, financial and legal advice)
- Chaplain (interfaith pastoral care) - 0439 972 030
- Brigade Medical Services - 9869 2000

The specialised blood testing is also available to assist former or current staff who are concerned by their exposure, and would like guidance from the Brigade Medical Service or their own GP.

For more information about PFCs and how to access MFB's Voluntary Testing Program please contact the Workplace Health and Safety team or visit <https://www.gobookings.com/au/clients/MFB>

Thank you to everyone involved in the project and support for our staff.

Kind regards

Jim Higgins ASM
Chief Executive Officer

Peer support is available to Retired Firefighters and Associated Members

Sandy Hearn – Peer Coordinator - shearn@mfb.vic.gov.au – 0417 538 289

Fairlie Morgan – Employee Assistance Coordinator - fmorgan@mfb.vic.gov.au – 0407 665 174

Scott Darcy – Peer Coordinator – sdarcy@mfb.vic.gov.au – 0429 771 849

Copy deadline for Water Off Magazine
for May issue is April 21st 2017.

A Festive season message from the Padre



Happy new year everyone!

When Allan Roberts tapped me on the shoulder to write an article for "Water Off", I immediately thought of the article I wrote for an MFB newsletter sent out just before Christmas. I have submitted this to "Water off" because I believe that the same sentiments apply to our retired members. I urge all readers to see if any of the views that I've expressed have any relevance in your lives or the lives of your retired colleagues and if you see a need please - please put your hand up because help is available.

As the year rapidly comes to a close and the last minute frantic activity that we all seem to get caught up in at Christmas time starts to abate, then I hope all of

you will carve out some time to put your feet up and reflect on the year just gone. 2016 was a confusing and disruptive year in almost every sense, particularly if one was a career fire fighter, with various political parties playing politics with both the CFA & MFB EBA. These actions not only caused angst for CFA employed fire fighters, but it spilled over and engulfed MFB fire fighters as well. In the heat of the battle - when morale was at its lowest point, and our people were being kicked around like a political football, our people stood firm and whilst it appeared that we were down, we were never out for the count!

Have you ever wondered why this was the case? As a frequent visitor to MFB stations & sites, I would like to suggest that this was due to the fact of camaraderie or put in the Aussie vernacular 'mate-ship'. Mate-ship is the reason that Australians have generally had lower casualty rates (when compared to other defence forces) in almost all of the wars that they've ever participated in.

Mate-ship will be increasingly important as we enter 2017 and not just because of the EBA. No,

we as a organization have a bigger battle to fight - I'm talking about mental health. MFB "mate-ship" is probably the single biggest weapon that we have in our arsenal to combat mental health issues of depression, anxiety, PTSD & even suicidal ideation. Can I encourage all of you to not be shy, or silent when a mate (he or she) is not coping, or when their mood or attitude changes. Don't be afraid to ask them the hard questions - 'are you ok?' And even if they say they are fine, keep an eye on them and offer them your support. Available to all retired members and their immediate family is the support of the MFB Peer Support team, MFB clinicians & God forbid even the Chaplain!!

I am reminded that whilst we can't do everything we can do something and you never know when your intervention may save a life!

Have a great Christmas everyone and a safe & joyous New year!

Cheers
Graeme Scorrige
MFB Chaplain
[0439972030](tel:0439972030)

RECENT RETIREMENTS:

SSO Geoff Hughes
SSO Alan Hunter
L/FF Michelle Field

Download the new VicEmergency app

The new VicEmergency app was launched recently and will replace FireReady this summer. The VicEmergency app is now available to download from the App Store or Google Play and Victorians are encouraged to download it ahead of the summer season. The VicEmergency website has also been upgraded and a new emergency hotline released. The Vic Emergency app and website will provide warning and incident notifications about floods, storms, fires, earthquakes tsunami, beach closures, shark sightings and more.

The FUTURE is approaching faster than one can handle....!

In 1998, Kodak had 170,000 employees and sold 85% of all photo paper worldwide.

Within just a few years, their business model disappeared and they went bankrupt.

What happened to Kodak will happen in a lot of industries in the next 10 years and, most people won't see it coming.

Did you think in 1998 that 3 years later you would never take pictures on film again?

Yet digital cameras were invented in 1975. The first ones only had 10,000 pixels, but followed Moore's law. So as with all exponential technologies, it was a disappointment for a time, before it became way superior and became mainstream in only a few short years. It will now happen again with Artificial Intelligence, health, autonomous and electric cars, education, 3D printing, agriculture and jobs. Welcome to the 4th Industrial Revolution. Welcome to the Exponential Age.

Software will disrupt most traditional industries in the next 5-10 years.

Uber is just a software tool, they don't own any cars, and are now the biggest taxi company in the world.

Airbnb is now the biggest hotel company in the world, although they don't own any properties.

Artificial Intelligence: Computers become exponentially better in understanding the world. This year, a computer beat the best Go-player in the world, 10 years earlier than expected.

In the US, young lawyers already don't get jobs. Because of IBM's Watson, you can get legal advice (so far for more or less basic stuff) within seconds, with 90% accuracy compared with 70% accuracy when done by humans.

So if you study law, stop immediately. There will be 90% less lawyers in the future, only specialists will remain.

Watson already helps nurses diagnosing cancer, its 4 times more accurate than human nurses.

Facebook now has a pattern recognition software that can recognize faces better than humans. In 2030, computers will become more intelligent than humans. (NEVER!/Albert)

Autonomous cars: In 2018 the first self-driving cars will appear for the public. Around 2020, the complete industry will start to be disrupted. You don't want to own a car anymore. You will call a car with your phone, it will show up at your location and drive you to your destination. You will not need to park it, you only pay for the driven distance and can be productive while driving.

Our kids will never get a driver's licence and will never own a car.

It will change the cities, because we will need 90-95% less cars for that. We can transform former parking spaces into parks. 1.2 million people die each year in car accidents worldwide. We now have one accident every 60,000 MI (100,000 km), with autonomous driving that will drop to 1 accident in 6 million MI (10 million km). That will save a million lives each year.

Most car companies will probably become bankrupt. Traditional car companies try the evolutionary approach and just build a better car, while tech companies (Tesla, Apple, Google) will do the revolutionary approach and build a

computer on wheels.

Many engineers from Volkswagen and Audi; are completely terrified of Tesla.

Insurance companies will have massive trouble because without accidents, the insurance will become 100x cheaper. Their car insurance business model will disappear.

Real estate will change. Because if you can work while you commute, people will move further away to live in a more beautiful neighbourhood.

Electric cars will become mainstream about 2020. Cities will be less noisy because all new cars will run on electricity.

Electricity will become incredibly cheap and clean: Solar production has been on an exponential curve for 30 years, but you can now see the burgeoning impact.

Last year, more solar energy was installed worldwide than fossil. Energy companies are desperately trying to limit access to the grid to prevent competition from home solar installations, but that can't last. Technology will take care of that strategy.

With cheap electricity comes cheap and abundant water. Desalination of salt water now only needs 2kWh per cubic meter (@ 0.25 cents). We don't have scarce water in most places, we only have scarce drinking water. Imagine what will be possible if anyone can have as much clean water as he wants, for nearly no cost.

Health: The Tricorder X price will be announced this year. There are companies who will build a medical device (called the "Tricorder" from Star Trek) that works with your phone, which takes your retina scan, your blood sample and you breathe into it.

It then analyses 54 bio-markers that will identify nearly any disease.. It will be cheap, so in a few years everyone on this planet will have access to world class medical analysis, nearly for free. Goodbye, medical establishment.

3D printing: The price of the cheapest 3D printer came down from \$18,000 to \$400 within 10 years. In the same time, it became 100 times faster. All major shoe companies have already started 3D printing shoes.

Some spare airplane parts are already 3D printed in remote airports. The space station now has a printer that eliminates the need for the large amount of spare parts they used to have in the past.

At the end of this year, new smart phones will have 3D scanning possibilities. You can then 3D scan your feet and print your perfect shoe at home.

In China, they already 3D printed and built a complete 6-storey office building. By 2027, 10% of everything that's being produced will be 3D printed.

Business opportunities: If you think of a niche you want to go in, first ask yourself: "In the future, do I think we will have that?" and if the answer is yes, how can you make that happen sooner?

If it doesn't work with your phone, forget the idea. And any idea designed for success in the 20th century is doomed to failure in the 21st century.

Work: 70-80% of jobs will disappear in the next 20 years. There will be a lot of new jobs, but it is not clear if >

there will be enough new jobs in such a short time. This will require a rethink on wealth distribution.

Agriculture : There will be a \$100 agricultural robot in the future. Farmers in 3rd world countries can then become managers of their field instead of working all day on their fields.

Aeroponics will need much less water. The first Petri dish produced veal, is now available and will be cheaper than cow produced veal in 2018. Right now, 30% of all agricultural surfaces is used for cows. Imagine if we don't need that space anymore.

There are several startups who will bring insect protein to the market shortly. It contains more protein than meat. It will be labeled as "alternative protein source" (because most people still reject the idea of eating insects).

There is an app called "moodies" which can already tell in which mood you're in. By 2020 there will be apps that can tell by your facial expressions, if you are lying. Imagine a political debate where it's being displayed when they're telling the truth and when they're not.

Looking at that new car option with end of year car sales?

Whether you're looking for your very first car, or planning to upgrade, deciding how to finance your new purchase is easy.



Car Loans
from
5.74%p.a.
With one new low rate,
we can help you turn
that dream car
into reality!
[Find out more](#)

Firefighters Credit Union

- Flexible terms and repayments
- Competitive interest rate Ability to pay loan out early
- No Monthly fees
- 100% Finance available
- Max term 7 years

5.74%opa
Comparison rate

*Eligibility criteria, fees & charges, terms & conditions apply. *Special rate offer only available until 28th February 2016. Comparison rate calculated on a secured loan amount of \$30,000 over 5 years. WARNING: This comparison rate is true only for the examples given and may not include all fees and charges. Different terms, fees and other loan amounts might result in a different comparison rate.

Need to know more, contact Firefighters Credit Co-Op Phone

8417 1777 or www.fccl.com.au

**The UFU Retired Members Division would like to invite you on tour of the:
VICTORIAN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TRAINING COLLEGE (VEMTC)**

When: Thursday 9th February from 11am to 3pm

Where: 284-290 Hume Hwy, Craigieburn

What: A meeting, tour & lunch at VEMTC facility

Transport: A bus will be departing from the Burnley Training Complex, 450 Burnley Street, Richmond at 10.00am.

If driving there, parking is available at VEMTC.

RSVP: Your attendance, dietary requirements and if you intend to travel by bus by email to reception@ufuvic.asn.au or by calling **9419 8811** by Monday, 6th February 2017.

Wives and partners are most welcome!

27th JULY 2017 ON THE GOLD COAST

Southport Yacht Club is located at
1 Macarthur Parade
SOUTHPORT



To all firefighters where-ever you may wander!

A luncheon is held at the Southport Yacht Club on the
LAST THURSDAY every year in July for ALL MFB fire
fighters and their families.

Lunch is available at discounted prices.

All drinks are at Members prices.

Situated on the lovely broad water at Southport
Gold Coast

Catch up with old friends and work mates and have a chat,
a drink and remember the good 'old days'.

SEE YOU between 10.30-11.00AM

Please contact : Ian & Gail Fagernes

on 07 5522 4321 or 0431 485 141 should you need further details.



GOLD COAST ACCOMMODATION

This year I was asked a few times about accommodation on the Gold Coast. I spoke to the Southport Yacht club and they gave me some names of placers that they said were in 'walking' distance from the venue. I thought I would send the names of the accommodation to you for your reference for next year.

I thought if I knew in advance how many were coming up I could ring around and see if there was a 'special' price say for 8 – 10 people.

- Ocean Sands – 075531 4188
- Oscar on Main – 07 5527 0966
- Deville Apartments – 07 5591 6322
- Main Beach Tourist Park – 07 5667 2720 – for the caravans
- Maldives Resort – 07 5557 7500 – they have 1 bedroom apartments
- The Crest – 07 5552 6200 – they also have 1 bedroom apartments

I have looked these up on line and they all appear to be very nice looking apartments so I will leave it up to you.

Thanks again for coming for those that made it last year.

FIRE RESCUE RINGS

The committee have ordered Fire Rescue rings and these have arrived. Please contact Allan roberts to arrange for pickup from him.



Wanted -

Stories from the past.

The job has always had it's characters. In past issues of "Water Off" we've presented many tales of the exploits of firefighters from the post war years.

What's happening now? Doesn't the job have these characters any more?

We had regular contributors from our retired ranks who could tell a great tale and remind us of what the job was all about.

But, these days nobody has a story to tell. Maybe they have, but doesn't think it's worth telling.

Come on, let us know, put pen to paper and send it to our Editor whose details are always on page 2 of each issue.

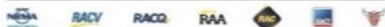


Your hosts:
Jan and Lin Bell, ex-MFB
 Offering extra-special service
 since 2006

M: 0403 221 737



OFFICIALLY ACCREDITED
 SELF CATERING



Pet-friendly Holiday House **24 Roditis Drive, Ocean Grove**

10 minutes walk, or drive 500m to dog beach

- Pets stay free, indoors or outside
- Self-catering kitchen, gas and electric cooking, microwave, dishwasher, all equipment supplied
- Cosy lounge and dining area, 100cm TV, DVD, CD player/radio, books, movies, new gas log fire, reverse cycle air conditioning
- New shower/bath room with walk-in shower, easily accessible for folks of all ages
- Queen and single beds, electric blankets, pillows, doonas. Need linen or towels? BYO or hire ours.
- Laundry/clothes line. Plus an extra toilet.... so convenient!
- Large garden, secure fences, short drive to shops
- Ocean Grove Hotel, golf and bowls clubs nearby

2017 nightly rates - for up to 6 guests

Summer \$250, Autumn \$210, Winter \$185, Spring \$210
 You can bring your dog or cat - they always stay **FREE!**

www.bellsbythebeach.com.au

info@bellsbythebeach.com.au

facebook.com/bellsbythebeachholidayhouse



Geelong Firey's Muster

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

Smorgasbord Lunch

On the 4th Tuesday of March & November
@ 1130 hrs

GATEWAY HOTEL

218-230 Princess Highway – CORIO

Members, Wives, Partners,
Family & Friends

Contact:

Peter Lang 5275 6039

To receive Mail out notification

Volunteers Required

**The Fire Services Museum needs past
 fire service members to assist on an
 occasional basis at the Museum**

Please contact

**Mike McCumisky on:
 9662 2907**

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 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.

Firefighter's Picnic

Sunday 19th February 2017

11am. 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!**

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If undelivered return to;
The Secretary
Allan Roberts.
50 Cameron Parade,
Bundoora Victoria 3083

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