

# "WATER OFF"

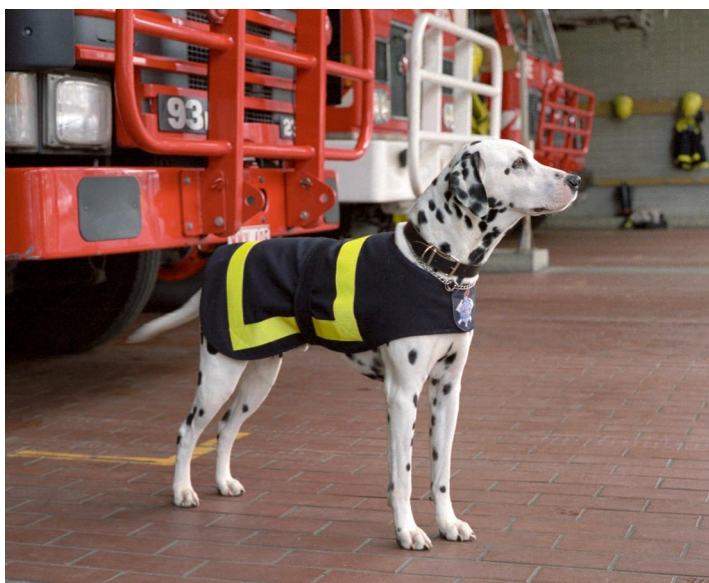
NEWSLETTER OF THE  
RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS'  
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA  
(VICTORIAN BRANCH) INC.



August 2011 Vol 15 No 3  
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## ONCE THERE WERE FIRE DOGS!

Dalmatian dogs have long been associated with firefighters, particularly in the USA they were used as mascots around many of the Fire Stations. But, here in Melbourne, the concept was taken much further. Story Page 6.



## OPEN FOR BUSINESS

FS 27 Nunawading officially opened with groundbreaking ceremony.

More Page 9

Photo B. McCumisky



## INSIDE FEATURES

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## IMPORTANT NOTICE

The next quarterly meeting, Wednesday 17th August, will be held at the CFA Corio Fire Station, Birdwood Avenue, (Melway's page 441 K2) starting 10.30am. Lunch at a venue near-by (at your own expense). Bring your partner, organise a car pool. Let's show some support for our Geelong members who go to great lengths to put this together.

# “GENERAL MEETING”

Notice is hereby given that the next General Meeting will be held at the C.F.A. Corio Fire Station, Birdwood Avenue (Melway’s page 441 K2).

**1030 Hours, Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2011**

## AGENDA ITEMS.

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

**JOHN BERRY**  
**SECRETARY/TREASURER**  
**Please Note;**  
**Address all correspondence to:**  
**The Secretary,**  
**24 Lincoln Drive Lower Plenty 3093**  
**Ph. 9431 2880**

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

**Lunch available at a venue nearby at members cost. Please join us!**

### **Non financial Members**

Members be advised if your newsletter has an expiry date of 2/1/2009 that means you have not paid your subs since 2008 therefore if no remuneration is received by the 2/1/12 your name will be automatically removed from the mailing list. If, for what ever reason, any member is unable to meet this request please do not hesitate to call the secretary (confidentiality is assured)

## **OFFICE BEARERS**

**President, Don Brennan**  
**Vice President, Ian Fowler**  
**Sec./Treasurer, John Berry**

### **General Committee;**

Ian Geddes  
John Laverick  
Ken McGillivray  
John Schintler  
John Wallace

**Auditor;**  
Theo Teklenburg

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

## **Valë**

Norma Adamson (MFB)	Norma Severn (MFB)
John Johnston (MFB)	Ern Trickey (MFB)
Francis Lowe (MFB)	

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

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

Keith Arms	Clarrie Hart
Stan Cameron	Barry McColl
Huew Campbell	Merv McInnes
Ken Clinkaberry	Lionel Rose
Russ Daniels*	Jack Sexton
Wayne Dellamarta	Basil Smith
Ernie Goodall*	Ron Turner*
Fred Harris	

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 so with your help.

### **Diary Dates 2011**

August 17th	General Meeting (Geelong)
November 16th	Annual General Meeting
November 19th	Annual Christmas Luncheon
	Malvern Town Hall
November 29th	Geelong Firie’s Muster

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All articles accepted for publication by the editor are done so in good faith and no responsibility is accepted for any inaccuracies that may occur.  
Signed; J. Laverick. (The views expressed by the editor of this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Victorian branch of the RFA)

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In my last report I mentioned about the BBQ at Bunnings Hoppers Crossing. A good day was had by all in attendance, we raised \$1725.75 and at the last meeting it was agreed to raise this to \$2,000.00 to be donated to Breast Cancer Research.

A huge thanks to the members who attended, J Berry, K Heade, I Fowler, F Kerr, J & O Wallace, J Chambers, G Duncan and myself. A special thankyou to the UFU for

covering our insurance for this event.

Nancy and I have just returned from our trip to Europe covering 11 countries which included Dubai, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Austria, Germany, Holland, Belgium, England and Ireland. I will include highlights of the trip in further editions of the newsletter.

Many thanks to the people who rang with best wishes to Nancy following her accident at Heathrow Airport.

Hope to see you at Geelong for the next meeting.

**Don Brennan**



## SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

On television, the Footy Show opens saying; WHAT A WEEK IT HAS BEEN IN FOOTBALL and all the other drama that goes on when a new team enters their competition or whatever.

Well I believe with what has occurred in the Emergency Services over the last quarter we would not be out of place to say; WHAT A QUARTER IT HAS BEEN FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES! But, in their case it is fact they have gone about their task with the minimum of fuss. The following is just a small example;

Let's start with the Chief Commissioner of Police, Simon Overland, who resigned before the end of his contract (no full time replacement at time of printing).

The United Firefighters Union's continuing success with the 100 year celebration programme with their Conference and Gala Ball (see report page 13).

Victorian Government is presented with an interim report on the Emergency Services response to the Victorian devastating floods from the Chairman of the investigating committee Mr Neil Comrie Retired Chief Commissioner and current MFB Board President.

Mr Nick Easy takes up his role as Chief Executive Officer of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. I must say his article, "CEO's View", The step toward interoperability between fire services, that was printed in a recent MFB newsletter FIRE CALL, was an eye opener. It was about the 25 MFB participants doing the SO's course that were joined by a CFA firefighter in completing their promotional training course.

The RFA members and committee wish the CEO well in his very challenging role and we hope in the future we may be able to entice him to attend one of our quarterly meetings.

The Country Fire Authority Career and Volunteer staff are to be congratulated in the way they have gone about their updates of stations, also with their recruitment and information days, add to that the training of first responders to meet the growing need of our ever increasing population. Who knows one day we may be able to have Euan Ferguson, their Chief Officer, attend one of our meetings with the push for interoperability between the services, (Which we already have with the RFA), one can always hope.

Another important item was the successful launch of a new tradition, The MFB (All staff) Firefighters Charity Fund and Fire Legacy launch at the Old Eastern Hill Fire Station.

I attended on your behalf as the RFA's representative and I must report it was a most successful day. Mr Neil

Comrie, in his address, spoke highly of the dedicated work the establishing team did in bringing it to fruition. From what I heard this is a great initiative and as the CEO Nick Easy said in his column the team are to be commended for their work. I have no doubt the community as a whole will be the richer for this project. WELL DONE.

This time of the year of course there is that southern migration to the Sunshine state to worship the Sun God.

**I hope all you members who rely on the Bush Telegraph for your info are now up to date on what is happening in their old careers.**

In the last newsletter I gave you a small extract from retired District Officer Ken Murphy's family journey with the MFB. We made mention about the Coachman & Horses, with your indulgence we will explore their trip a little further still, in the time of the horse drawn appliances.

The horses in fact were more important to the service than the Firefighters, they of course were pets to the crews and were treated with every care and kindness. If one got sick both the team would be changed and crews would visit them whilst they were recovering, and they of course got spoilt with lots of apples, carrots and sugar.

The horses, when on duty, stood in stalls, depending on the station, either just behind or to the side with their bits & bridles on. The harness consisting of the collar and reins was hung directly over the pole of the appliance and could be lowered into position on the horse merely by releasing a pulley, the whole operation of harnessing took only a few seconds.

Ken makes mention of a pair of horses, on being released from their stalls and finding the engine room doors open, careered out of the station, presumably believing they were being turned out for drill. They cantered away, keeping in line, around the block. Finally, with ears flicking a little self-consciously, they pulled up in front of the station as if reporting the completion of the drill.

Another night when the wind was blowing almost a gale, the engine room door blew open and one horse turned out by itself only to be arrested by a Police Constable, who checked at the station and asked "are you a horse short." (That reminds me of an incident that happened in my time when they rang up to see if we were missing a white panel van, no names, no pack drill.)

At some stations they were kept standing ready harnessed in the first response appliance. They would be relieved every 2 or 3 hours, if they were kept over their watch they would soon let everyone know it by pawing the floor.

*(Continued on page 4)*

*(Continued from page 3)*

Another incident Ken identified, was when the bells went on and one horse arrived at the pole and found that its partner had not arrived. It promptly went back to the stable and found the other horse lazily lying down. What went on between them is not known, but they trotted smartly back to the pole together.

Further update of this great family journey next newsletter.

Following his last report, our El Presidente Brennan and Mrs El Presidente are back from their European escapade, even after testing how far they can fall backwards with their bags down an escalator at Heathrow Airport to test the Ambulance Service of London.

Some other great news about a couple of our stalwarts from Western District, Huew Campbell now in low- care

accommodation would enjoy seeing some of his old shift mates. Gordon McKenzie is almost fighting fit and ready to launch the boat again and Southern District Ron Rae is fit to play hell on the greens again. Central District Laurie Trewin is enjoying his move to the Sunshine state.

Our Silver headed one has thrown off 8 kilo's and his weight reducing regime is called a viral infection. Me, I reckon that stuff they put in our tea when we did nasho's is definitively working and that drug to make me taller was a waste of money.

The next meeting Wednesday August 17<sup>th</sup> Corio Fire Station, organised again by the Geelong boys. I have a couple of great power- point programs to show, I promise they will not put you to sleep. Be warned if you do not turn up the Cats will not be happy. **John Berry**

## **Gone but not forgotten**

I'm sorry to report that the members and committee of the RFA have farewelled more of the clan and partners of others. We have regularly stated the importance of including this column in the newsletter, not only to inform and refresh everyone's memory regarding those that have left us, but also to ensure the families of RFA members we have not forgotten their loved ones.

**Ern Trickey 8/11/33-13/5/2011** . Ernie was a member of the renowned Trickey family of the MFB. I had the privilege of working with & knowing him since 1957. To me he was and always will be my idea of the true laconic Aussie bloke, tall and hard as nails, did not waste words and liked a joke & sport in that order.

He ticked all the right boxes, loved his wife Barbara, family & brigade and was as honest as the day is long, The following will give you an insight into the bloke I first met.

Ern was a top footballer, 185 cms tall with a playing weight of 77.5 Kgs, played 12 games for Fitzroy from 1953 to 55 and kicked 4 goals, and in 1957 played 4 games with 4 goals for South Melbourne. (Today he would have been a great player with the benefits they now have, i.e. not required to have a full time job).

I am not sure what the brigade is like now, but back in bygone days at No.1 Stn we did get our fair share of fires and incidents. I always felt at ease turning out with him especially if it was a bit of a nasty one. Let's say he had a presence about him, in other words, if it hit the fan, you always felt comfortable with him. Trevor Reed, another retiree, said he was one of the old highly regarded "D" shift boys.

Retired member, Rod Knowles, was on shift with the Ern for sixteen years in southern district, (Rod was the one that told us the sad news). Rod said "he was like a father to him". I cannot think of a higher compliment than that and to me reinforces the high opinion I also had of him. One other thing that was mentioned, the big fellow made sure Rod would not be affected by people who had a beef with the union (Rod's Minder).

Ern and I did a number of concrete jobs back in the fifties, we will call them work experience, as we were learning all about exothermic & endothermic chemical reactions. Well that is what the big bloke used to tell me as I was shovelling wet concrete mix around, he always made sure I was looked after (fun & fond times).

Unfortunately, Ern had not been enjoying the best of health for a number of years but when I did see him he still got stuck into me and had a joke. Barbara, I have a picture

in my mind of your Ern being junior man at the new station above, he'll make sure there won't be a moments rest for the old blokes and heaven help them if they turn off the radio when the Brisbane Lions are playing and winning.

Members, like me, who worked with him know he was a top bloke who will be sadly missed by all.

The following list are the Wives of late members who have left us, unfortunately we did not hear about them until the families returned the newsletter and/or I would get a "did you know" message much later. **Please, on behalf of the RFA, the Wife/Partner is, in our eyes , part of our family, this family is spread across the country and the newsletter may be the only way they may get to read about it and have the chance to offer their condolences.** Could you let your loved ones know to keep the RFA in the information loop?

**Norma Adamson; wife of the late Fredrick (Mick) Adamson**

**Francis Lowe; wife of the late Alan (Puncher) Lowe**

**Norma Severn; wife of the late William Severn**

### **MEMORIAL PLAQUES**

One other item that relates to this column is about a letter I received from our member, **Les Napper**, regarding Memorial Plaques. No, he is not getting ready to leave us, he is being very proactive and true to his Naval and Firefighting roles has set in place the pre-impact stage by writing to the MFB Deputy Chief Fire Officer Keith Adamson, to ascertain if it was permissible for operational Firefighters to include in their planning a plaque with the MFB Cross Axes & Torch emblem. The DCO went to the MFB Board with the request which they approved subject to the person having a clear record similar to the Military. Les stated this request was made approximately eight or so years ago and he was of the opinion most would not be aware of the approval. During his research he spoke to Arrow Bronze Plaques regarding his design of the RAN Fouled Anchor and the MFB Crossed Axes & Torch emblem which they are able to do.

The MFB are to be congratulated for their initiative of a garden of remembrance at Burnley to those in have lost their life in the course of their duty, however he has become aware most Valour Medal winners last resting place may not have any MFB recognition. If true, his concept could prevent this ever occurring again. CFA members, I am not aware of the Authority protocol.

**John Berry**

**MINUTES OF THE R.F.A.**  
**GENERAL MEETING**  
**18th May 2011 - 10.30am**

Ian Fowler (Vice President), John Berry (Sec), Ian Geddes (Minutes).

Don and Nancy Brennan on a European Cruise.

**Apologies:** - as per book.

**Attendance:** - 55 persons.

John Berry read Minutes from February Meeting. - John Howe moved minutes be accepted seconded John Moore carried.

**Business arising:** - John Berry reported on the success of the Fund Raising at Bunnings Store.

Ozanam House is planned for Oct/Nov, UFU agreed to assist, Acting CFO/CEO Shane Wright, believes MFB will be able to assist with Appliances and manpower.

February - **Mystery Guess Who** - "Fighting" D. Cameron. First correct answer was John Howe. Trevor Reed, Ian Fowler - missed by that much!

**Computer Training at Training College:** will not proceed as members do not seem interested, so program will be dropped. Training Staff to be advised.

**Treasurers Report** - John Berry- S1 \$5060.78, I1 \$5519.71

**General Business:**

**John Berry** informed the Meeting, Erne Trickey's Funeral service was being held at Echuca today, the Trickey family have a long tradition with the MFB, Father (Joe) (Dec.) joined in 1924, brothers Harold and Joe (Jnr) and son Steve Trickey are past members of the MFB.

**John Wallace** showed the Rokewood Cross medal that was struck by the career members of the Norlane crew for Kevin Stein following his fearless leadership at a very nasty fire at Rokewood. The members present thanked John for showing the late members medal, that showed the high regard the firies had for Kevin. (The Authority may not recognize the medal however, the career staff most certainly do).

**Fred Kerr** unable to attend meeting to talk about the commemorative drive from L.A. to New York for Sept 2011 memorial, Alan Boyd/John Berry gave a short update. Fred is still after a good video man (see February edition, P5).

**Doug Overton** commended the staff who arranged the Good Friday can-shake. Stated it was well organized, great social day, and the **MANY** thousands of dollars raised both on the day, plus the Brigade's Running Club fund-raising-run around the city and M.C.G.

**Jack Moore** Addressed the meeting about the importance of old brigade photographs after viewing John Megg's photos. He implored all firies who have "classic" shots to make them available to Barbara McCumisky (and Mike) for copying and retention in a central location for posterity.

**John Schintler** brought up some stories of the old No 2 Station and suggested that some firies played pranks on their shift-mates. The meeting was shocked to hear of such frivolity!

**Bunning's Fund Raising Barbeque (Hoppers Crossing).**

Funds raised for Breast Cancer was \$1725. A great day.

**Motion:** John Wallace moved - that this meeting of the RFA increase the \$1725 raised to \$2000 (extra money to come from R.F.A.). Seconded - Noel Taylor. Carried.

**Ellen Churchill** (Frank's widow) address the meeting regarding a problem that had occurred to her (removal from UFU's mailing list). The union's Secretary Peter Marshall at the last meeting stated he was not aware of the mistake. Ellen advised the May meeting they had now fixed the data base, also Peter had sent her a bouquet of flowers and a letter of apology. **Footnote** (any partner who does not wish to be on the mailing list of the UFU please advise them)

**Guest Speaker - Laurie Lavelle:**

Laurie is the Chairman of the EMERGENCY SERVICE FOUNDATION ([www.esf.com.au](http://www.esf.com.au)).

Laurie thanked the RFA for the opportunity to do this presentation.

The audio system was inoperable, yet Laurie gave us a very informative talk, The Foundation was set up after the 83 Ash Wednesday fires, with a \$500,000 donation. The E.S.F.'s purposes are to support emergency services members and their families following disasters. Primary grants of up to \$10,000 are made. Another purpose is to set up research and educational scholarships.

The criteria for both recipient groups is strict, with representatives from emergency services and civilian sections on the selection committee for the grants. Controlling the money flow is done on world wide financial risk assessment, fixed interest and sponsorship. This close scrutiny has allowed up to \$750,000 (90 scholarships) and disaster recovery grants to be made over the years.

From 2007, support of \$75,000 was directed toward volunteer organizations. Well organized conferences/exhibitions with local and overseas personnel, plus information/mentoring nights, sponsorship functions, and past scholarship alumni nights, all ensure strong present and future succession planning.

The Worcester Polytechnic Institute (U.S.A) came to Melbourne to look at the health and well-being of Brigade members. The Board, Union and 1,000 serving firies supported the program, which was then taken to other emergency services across Australia.

Reports and findings were made to host agencies.

Laurie gave thanks to members of the E.S.F, both the committee and full time secretary, for their work.

Laurie answered questions raised from the floor.

Vice President Ian Fowler thanked Laurie for his presentation.

Acting CFO/CEO Shane Wright joined the meeting to show us the new helmet and other items, as time was short it was suggested that he be invited to the Annual General meeting in November to have the opportunity to explore the subject fully. Shane welcomed this idea.

**Meeting ended 12.15 hrs.**

Ian Fowler, invited all persons in attendance to join him and enjoy the hospitality on the Training College Administration Staff (Andrew Brennan and others).

## ONCE THERE WERE FIRE DOGS!

*Melbourne's MFB took the Fire Dog Mascot concept much further than the U.S. model by promoting the fire safety message to children through the use of a trained Dalmation. The following story from Barbara McCumisky is about the first and most famous of them all! "Fire Dog Kitt"*

### THE PHENOMENAL PHOENIX.

Dalmatian dogs have long been associated with firefighters, so with my husband, Mike, and myself both involved with the MFB and the Fire Services Museum, and having dalmatians, I had thought over the years, how nice it would be to have a fire dog. All three of my early dogs Tikka, Sparky and Flicka did an occasional promotion for the Fire Museum, but I did not really have the time to train them for the demanding role of a fire dog.

Then in 1984 Mike, Helen and I visited the U.S. During our travels we met dalmatian fire dogs in Los Angeles, New York and Philadelphia. These dogs were assigned to particular fire stations as mascots. Philadelphia actually had a number of dogs at various stations. As I was intending to breed my first litter, I came home determined to train my first fire dog as a mascot for the Fire Museum.

Following a mating with a top South Australian dalmatian, Flicka whelped six pups in May 1985. I kept a boy who was registered as Firechaser Phoenix. Our daughter Helen gave him the call name Kitt, as she was a big fan of Knight Rider at the time and had seen his car 'KITT' at Universal Studios while we were in the US.

### EARLY TRAINING EXPERIENCES.

Training a working fire dog requires a lot of time, patience and 'behind the scenes' work. Kitt first visited the Eastern Hill fire station when he was 3.5 months old. He was totally unfazed by all the activity at a working city station. He greatly enjoyed the attention from the firefighters. To check his reaction to heights, I stood him up on the Magirus Ladder which was in the engine room. Much to my surprise, when the firefighters approached he warned them with a low growl not to come closer. He had claimed the appliance as his own. The firefighters were very amused, but I realised that I had some work to do convincing Kitt that the appliances were not his exclusive property.

As I was working regularly in the Fire Museum at the time, I decided that each day I would take Kitt with me and train him on the city streets. This proved to be very successful. He had inherited a very stable temperament from his mother and father, so he took the hustle and bustle of city life all in his stride.

Because of the very regular visits to the fire stations, Kitt soon learnt that firefighters could touch the appliances. In fact he decided firefighters in uniform were very special friends and always greeted them with wagging tail and lots of licks. A few months later I discovered just how much importance he placed on the navy blue uniform.



*: Mike McCumisky and Kitt 1 talking to Governor John McCaughey's wife when they both visited the Eastern Hill fire station in 1987.  
Photo: B. McCumisky.*

We were training in Bourke Street one day when an airline pilot approached us. As he went to pass, Kitt jumped up and with wagging tail and yips of delight, proceeding to smother the astonished man with 'kisses'. Fortunately he saw the funny side when I explained that Kitt was training as a fire dog and had mistaken him for a firefighter. Police, Ambulance and Naval personnel all received the same enthusiastic greeting.

Throughout his life Kitt never lost his love of the firefighters, the appliances and particularly games of ball in station yards. In fact it reached a point where I would have to go out of my way to avoid driving past a fire station, because of the fuss he created if we did not stop and visit. He also developed the ability to be able to pick a fire truck out of thick traffic in the city or on Toorak Road near our house. Even if he was sound asleep on the back seat of the car, he would wake up the instant we reached the Training College on Victoria Street in Abbotsford and start to 'dance' with excitement.

When we visited Canberra in 1990, I thought the appliances would be unrecognisable, as they were a lime green-yellow color. We were scheduled to attend a media day at Ainslie fire station, and I thought we might actually experience a calm arrival, but he wasn't fooled. As soon as we turned into the street I noticed the appliances on the apron some distance away. How Kitt knew they were there, I will never know, but instantly he jumped up yipping with joy.

### KITT AS MASCOT FOR THE FIRE MUSEUM.

In November 1986 Kitt participated in his first official Fire Museum event, the hand-over of an appliance from the CFA. The CFA's Chief Fire Officer Brian Potter officiated and Kitt behaved perfectly. I was really proud of him. The Museum Committee agreed to Kitt attending further events. A month later Kitt proudly rode on the Fargo No.3 Pump along with Zig & Zag at the Waverley Gardens Christmas Parade. Zig was strumming his banjo and singing. Everyone was greatly amused when Kitt started to 'sing' along with him.

Over the next two years Kitt attended many Fire Museum displays and events, the most notable being the openings of the new MFB FS44 (Sunshine) in 1987 and FS7 (Thomastown) in 1988. Another highlight was his participation in the Colac CFA Centenary celebrations in 1987, including a torchlight procession down the main street.

He met a number of significant people during his mascot years. During 1987 he met Governor John McCaughey and his wife when they visited the Eastern Hill fire station. He also traveled down Collins Street to the City Square on the Fire Museum's 1938 Dodge pump with then Police & Emergency Services Minister Steve Crabb promoting the CFA Championships in 1988. Again riding on the Dodge pump as the 101st dalmatian, he led a contingent of 100 dalmatians and their owners in the 1988 Moomba Parade.

#### **MFB RECRUIT FIRE DOG KITT 1.**

Then in February 1989 Kitt's career suddenly took off. SO. John Laverick (now ret.) of the MFB Fire Prevention Dept. spotted him riding on a Fire Museum appliance at a combined emergency services display at the MFB Training College in Abbotsford. John was involved with the Juvenile Fire Awareness & Intervention Program (JFAIP) and was looking for a non-threatening star for a fire safety video to target small children. He said if Kitt could be trained to do fire safety routines he might be suitable for the role.

A short time later we started training with a private instructor and it wasn't long before Kitt could crawl, stop, drop and roll and also bark when someone played with fire. However the funding for the video was slow coming through, so to keep up his skills, DO. Ron Haines permitted Kitt to train at our local fire stations in old Eastern District. Very soon D Platoon at the former FS28 (Waverley) adopted him and SFs. Ken McIntyre, the late Bernie Bastian and Ff. Rod Drew (now a Station Officer) became his co-trainers. He was also granted permission to practice at the Training College where he got some experience in the smoke house.

In mid October 1989, Kitt demonstrated his fire safety routines for a kindergarten visiting FS28. He was an instant success. A month later on November 15, he performed his routines at a Mt. Waverley preschool with his co-trainers, under the watchful eye of DO. Ron Haines. In early December Kitt visited Blackburn Sth. Primary School. Before the end of the school year he performed at a number of other primary schools during fire brigade visits, and the teachers accepted him without question.



*Kitt 1 riding on the Fargo No.3 Pump along with Zig & Zag and other characters, during the Christmas parade at Waverley Gardens shopping centre in 1986.* Photo: B. McCumisky.

Early in 1990 Kitt started participating in the 'Friday Displays' at Eastern Hill as well as continuing to visit kindergartens and schools in Eastern District. In June he performed his routines for the first time with the CFA. Working with the firefighters from the Nth. Geelong fire station, he visited the Grace MacKeller Elderly Citizens Centre. He proved to be an instant hit with the attending media, and featured in the two Geelong newspapers.

Finally funding for the video came through from the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation and filming started on June 7, 1990. By the end of June the video "Matches Aren't Toys" was ready for its final editing and evaluation. So successful was Kitt as a promoter of the fire safety message, that same video was still being used in the Juvenile

Fire Awareness and Intervention Program, up until Tessie (MFB FD Kitt 3) did a remake in 2002.

As a reward for all his hard work, Kitt was invited to be the official mascot for Fire Awareness Week in 1990. In this capacity he was required to perform at a variety of venues which included him appearing on a national TV breakfast program with Denise Drysdale and Ernie Sigley.

#### **KITT 1 GRADUATES AS MFB'S FIRST FIRE DOG.**

It was during Fire Awareness Week 1990 that the MFB honoured Kitt with the presentation of his own badge (a firefighter's cap badge) which was attached to his collar. During a short ceremony in the yard at FS1, CFO Jeff Godfredson also gave him the title of MFB Fire Dog Kitt 1, thus becoming the first officially recognised canine fire safety educator in the Southern Hemisphere. 'The Sun', a Melbourne daily newspaper of the time ran the story the next day

The Fire Prevention Dept. decided to keep the name 'Kitt' as it was easy for the children to remember and could be used for both male and female dalmatians in the future.

In December 1990, at the invitation of the A.C.T. Dalmatian Club, Kitt traveled to Canberra. During his stay, he became very involved with the Canberra Fire Brigade working with them, not only at the Dalmatian Club Education Day, but also at a number of schools around the city. The Canberra Brigade organised a media day for him, and as a result Kitt 1 featured on the 6 p.m. News on two out of the three Canberra TV channels.

*(Continued on page 8)*

*(Continued from page 7)*

The MFB celebrated its Centenary year in 1991 and Kitt 1 was very much a part of it. However his two greatest honours were his involvement in the Centennial Recruit Graduation Parade at the former College in Abbotsford, and Moomba on the banks of the Yarra River

Standing proudly on the open top of the old Fargo No.3 Pump, Kitt 1 led the recruits as they marched down the ramp for their graduation. It was a clear demonstration of the esteem in which he was held by the hierarchy of the Brigade.

As a highlight of the Centenary year, the MFB staged a spectacular display as part of Moomba on the Yarra River. It was here that Kitt 1 experienced what I consider to be the greatest honour of his career. He was chosen to sit with the only white appliance the MFB has had to date, a specially commissioned Scania Mk3 pumper, Car 327, affectionately known as the Centenary Pumper (now in the Fire Museum.)

This was no mean feat for a dog. He was right on the river bank at night with many appliances operating all around him. He stayed in position throughout in spite of the cheering of the huge crowd and the fireworks finale. It was the ultimate test to his ability as a fire dog and he passed with flying colors.

Unfortunately Kitt 1's career was to be cut short by illness. Late in 1992 it was discovered that he had a tumor. Also his spine and hip were starting to deteriorate as a result of an injury he sustained many years earlier when he misjudged the height and fell out of a hose carriage at the former FS29 (Glen Huntley). An operation saw the successful removal of the tumor. After four months recuperation he returned to work, but could only manage a few demonstrations per week and was limited to barking at fire and the smoke routine. "Stop, Drop and Roll" was discontinued because of the stress on his spine.

**KITT 1's CARREER HIGHLIGHTS.**

During 1993 Kitt 1 experienced the two highlights of his career. The first was featuring in a segment on Dr. Harry Cooper's "Talk to the Animals" show which at the time, was televised nationally and later screened internationally.

The second highlight was actually Kitt's greatest. He was invited to Sydney to participate with the NSW Fire Brigade in the Triple 0 Spectacular, a huge combined emergency services display held at the Darling Harbour complex. The estimated crowd on the day was 40,000. Kitt 1 presented two fire safety demonstrations, but the combined effects of his deteriorating health, the long car



*Kitt musters in the yard with No 1's crew, Circa 1992.* Photo; B. McCumisky

journey to Sydney and an unseasonably hot day were reflected in his performance, nevertheless he was a tremendous success with the many children and adults alike.

**RETIREMENT.**

Sadly Kitt 1's career came to an end in February 1994 at Bacchus Marsh fire station. Whilst endeavoring to crawl during a JFAIP demonstration, his hind legs collapsed. His troublesome hip had deteriorated to a point where he could no longer perform his routines. He never worked again.

**For five years Kitt 1 worked with the MFB completing a total of 378 demonstrations of his fire safety routines which spanned an illustrious and**

**colourful career.**

In retirement Kitt 1 lived another four years, but on May 12, 1998, five days after his thirteenth birthday, it became obvious that he could not go on, so sadly he was put to sleep. However his memory will live on through the 'Matches Aren't Toys' video and his later book 'Fire Dog Kitt Gets His Badge'.

**Barbara McCumisky**



**Above:** *Three Kitts??? Over a period of 15 years three Dalmatians were used by the MFB. Standing on top of the pumper is Dennis (Kitt No2). Seated, is Tessie (Kitt No3) who was in training at the time and in the foreground is the famous Phoenix (Kitt No1). At this time Phoenix was retired and too arthritic to climb aboard.*

Photo; B. McCumisky



# New FS 27 Nunawading Officially Opened



*The MFB Chaplain, the Rev. David Thompson blessing the new FS27, Nunawading during the opening ceremony watched by Commander Darren Davies. Photo: MFB*

On May 22, 2011 the new 'state-of-the-art' FS27 in Nunawading was officially opened by the MFESB Board President Neil Comrie. Situated on the same site in Whitehorse Road, it replaced the original station built in 1959. Photo: B. McCumisky

**Right:** As a variation to the regular opening ceremonies, local members of the public were invited to inspect the new FS27 and partake of a sausage sizzle and view a number of displays in the yard. The day was voted a great success, and future station openings could follow a similar format. Photo: MFB



## RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS STILL MAINTAIN COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The following stories came from Eric Daffy and Les Napper, you could say two of our newsletter's roving reporters who keep us up to date with the exploits of retirees who reside south of the Yarra River, the articles were in the Berwick News etc.

The first one centres on a picture of group of four neighbours (one is Trevor Reed) who have, on behalf of the rest of the residents of their street, raised with the Council and local Member, everyone's concern regarding the traffic management changes that has turned a once quite roadway into a problem one for the inhabitants due to the increase in density of vehicle parking and traffic movements.

I have no doubt from past experiences Trevor's negotiating skills would have been one of the salient points as to why the residents of the street selected him as one of their spokespeople. I cannot say at the time of printing if the problem has been corrected but I can inform you, on the day we called to see Trevor and his wife, Council members had been to see him with an alternative idea. "Sic, em Trev"

The other one is George Single, another retiree whose face is spread all over the 2011/12 Pakenham/Cranbourne

White Pages. The following extracts are again from the Berwick news.

The theme for selection was "Australians Creating a Better Future", which is aimed to recognise community members who strive to conserve or protect the local environment. George, a member of the ATA (Alternative Technology Association), has his home built with the latest innovative ways to conserve and protect the local environment.

I must confess when he first joined the MFB, he reminded me of an Absent Minded Professor; I did not know until later that he was in fact a chemist. Perhaps that is the reason I pictured him the way I did.

Over the years in the brigade, due to different shifts and districts, I did not see him often but, when I did, I still could not get my first opinion of him out of my mind. Now I see, from the article, he is being recognised for the great work/research into building homes that will leave a much smaller footprint. This of course reinforces the view I had of him. One other thing I see from his picture on the cover, he looks older next thing we will see, he has come up with a never grow old pill. (I'm lucky, I always looked old).

**John Berry**

## TURBULENT TIMES OF THE MELBOURNE FIRE BRIGADES

**1835 – 1970**

*Author, Les Gray, continues with his insight into the early days of Melbourne's Fire Services. .*

Theophilus Smith-Marshall for several years prior to being posted in 1870 to the Chiltern Common School No. 327 as head teacher (being it's first), he had played football for the Carlton Club and was its Captain. Whilst first at Chiltern he introduced Australian Rules Football into the area and was Captain of both the football and cricket teams. For 20 years he was secretary of the Victorian Football Association and helped in codifying the games rules.

He helped found the Chiltern Fire Brigade and was elected to be it's first Captain. The brigade won many cups at demonstrations and competitions, and won the prestigious "Britannia Cup" twice beating the Beechworth and Sandhurst (Bendigo) fire brigades, who at the time were very prominent in winning competitions.

Smith-Marshall was also secretary of the Chiltern Racing Club, on the committee associated with the construction of the public baths, also secretary of the Athenaeum Theatre.

The lure of gold wasn't far from his mind as he was co-owner of the Magenta Gold Mine at Chiltern and had financial interests in several other mining ventures in the district.

As you have read in May's 2011 "Water Off", in 1880 he and his family were transferred back to Melbourne as Head Teacher of the Kensington Common School. At this time the large Essendon Council area had been divided and Flemington was declared a separate council which included

Kensington. A volunteer fire brigade had been organised, and because of Smith-Marshall's previous experience (10 ½ years) of organising and training the Chiltern Volunteer Fire Brigade, and being one of its founders, it's first Captain was asked by the new Flemington Council and prospective firemen to be their Captain. (This statement now answers the question of how the Kensington Fire Brigade was formed and how he became Captain, refer Instalment No.3)

It is interesting to note that under Captain Smith-Marshall's training and direction the Kensington Brigade at the last Melbourne Volunteer Brigades demonstration with him participating in the teams events they practically won every event on the programme, he goes on to state that the Kensington Brigade had some good fire experiences attending many large fires amongst the noxious works along the salt water river. This was the Maribyrnong River below a natural rock barrier running across the river bed.

The noxious works Theophilus referred to were the ones located on the East side of the river from the North West approximately from Fischer Parade., down past the Flemington Race Course then South down the river to Shepherd's Bridge, Footscray.

They were smelly vile, abattoirs, hyde drying works, tanneries, boiling down works, i.e. boiling of animal carcass's and bones for the

making of tallow for the manufacture of soap, candles, and lubricant for the greasing of machinery moving parts, all of the effluents from these works were run off into the Maribyrnong River and at its confluence into the Yarra River near Lyell Street, Yarraville, it then flowed into Hobsons Bay.

Further away to the South East located on the East side of the Yarra River were similar obnoxious works, from approximately Punt Road, East Richmond, Burnley, North to Richmond and Abbotsford also emptied their effluent into the river, at this time 1870's to 1880's – 90's. The waters of both these rivers at the above mentioned areas would not have been potable for Melbourne's citizens to drink. At this time the Victorian

Government and its Board of Works were stymied for cash as it was for water

reticulation around Melbourne and its suburbs for drinking, manufacturing and fire fighting. They were faced with a mammoth task of finding revenue for sanitation works i.e. sewerage and treatment plants. Gone were the days in

1835 when John Batman and John Pascoe Faulkner arrived, when both rivers were in pristine condition. A little of the history of Solomon's Ford:- A farmer named Solomon owned the land on the West side of the river (Braybrook – North Sunshine), and he carted basaltic rocks

of all sizes and built up a reasonable road surface which allowed vehicular traffic to cross over coming from Mount Alexander Road Essendon via a track which followed the now Buckley Street through

Aberfeldie and down and around to the present day Avondale Heights and onto the ford, once across the river the horses pulled the wagons and carts up the steep bank along a switch back track up into what is now Duke Street, and then North into Ballarat Road. There was no bridge across the Maribyrnong River at the Keilor Settlement and crossing it at Solomon's Ford cut many miles off the trip to Ballarat from the East of Melbourne, Mt Alexander Road was a rough bush track in these times and went onto Mt. Alexander (now called Castlemaine) and Bendigo, (Sandhurst) .

At high tide the road surface was only just covered by water and at low tide the ford was about 18 inches above the lower level, which was brackish – salty water and above fresh water.

The ford is still in existence today and can be approached from the bottom end of Canning Street, Avondale Heights on a walking path via Cordite Avenue, Raleigh Road, and Maribyrnong Road off Mount



*T. S. Marshall*, image courtesy Fire Services Museum Victoria

Alexander Road Ascot Vale.

Smith-Marshall continued on combining both School Teaching and volunteer fire fighting until 1890 when he retired from fire fighting (as he thought) to concentrate on his School teaching career.

He found time to join the Victorian Militia and rose through the ranks to Lieutenant Colonel, and became secretary of the Victorian Rifle Club (303 calibre), Captain of both the Victorian and Commonwealth Rifle Teams, at one time accompanying the team to the United Kingdom to participate against the English and other British Empire teams. The Australian team shot their way through the elimination shoots as did the English team, and the shoot off ended up in a draw, the trophy was shared by both teams.

From late 1891 – 1892 until July 25<sup>th</sup>. 1894, the Country Fire Brigades had been administered by the Board Secretary acting in a dual roll of Secretary and Chief Officer. The then present incumbent was J.N. Stevens, the Country Fire Brigades Board acting under the auspices of the Chief Secretary of Parliament in the John Watson administration decided it was now time for a Chief Officer to be re-appointed to manage and administer the Victorian Volunteer Brigades as it had now proved to be impossible for one man to carry both duties efficiently. The board advertised for the position of Chief Officer, there were 75 applicants for the position.

Smith-Marshall was happily teaching school on an annual salary of over 500 pounds, he had no intention of applying for the position, his old comrades Supt. J. Ballinger of the Carlton Brewery Brigade and General Sir John Hoad of the Australian Imperial Army Forces visited him at his home in Kensington (there seems to be some collusion here?) Both these men knew of Theophilus' capabilities as a fireman and a military officer and they persuaded him to apply for the position which he did only 3 days before the applications closed, not seeing the advertisement and not knowing of the salary and conditions offered he was staggered to learn that the salary offered was 200 pounds annually.

David Stein Chief Officer of the Melbourne Fire Brigades also supported Smith Marshall for the appointment, as he was also aware of his capabilities, i.e. turning out to fires with him from 1880 – 1890 when Stein was Superintendent of the Insurance Co's Brigade and later Commander of all Volunteer Brigades in Melbourne and its suburbs. They had become good friends over the seven years when they worked together on the draft bill for the amalgamation of all Melbourne Volunteer Brigades into one.

At the interview he was asked why he did not apply originally in 1891, he told the panel that at the time he

was tired and needed a rest, I believe that the main reasons were that he wanted to spend more time with his wife and family, no more schedules to keep up with, no turning out to fires during the day and night, with school teaching he worked a five day week from 9a.m. to 4p.m. and had two straight days off a week and had ample time to enjoy time with his family during school holidays along with a generous salary and having good prospects of being further promoted within the Education Department with the incentive of a government pension on retirement, in other words he was a contented man and quiet happy with his lot in life.



*David Stein Chief Officer of the Melbourne Fire Brigades supported Smith Marshall for the appointment as Chief Officer of the Country Fire Brigades*

At this stage he stated that the outlook did not look too bright monetary wise for him to apply for the position, he queried the Board if there was a pension involved, the Board agreed that there would be and the salary would be increased accordingly over time.

He had a meeting with the Inspector General of the Education Dept. and told him of the situation he was in, the Inspector told him that "We do not want to lose your services." He was given a months leave to make up his mind and make a definite decision. Theophilus spent the month working with the Country Fire Brigades Board, it appears that there was a deal struck?, the Board got the man they wanted, he resigned from the Education Department and on October 1st, 1891 was appointed Chief Officer.

Overall in the first 5 years he lost in salary about 400 pounds in comparison to his Education Dept. salary, but over the proceeding years until his retirement he was well remunerated.

In his time he was a dominant and inspiring force, building up the Country Fire Brigades, doing like David Stein did for the Melbourne Fire Brigades. After 32 years of loyal service he retired on Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>. 1933.

Theophilus Smith-Marshall passed away at his home in Tennyson Street, St. Kilda at the age of 91 years, he was survived by his wife, 2 sons and 3 daughters, he was interred privately in the Melbourne General Cemetery.

In the Melbourne Fire Brigades there is a saying that I have often heard quoted at various meetings attended over the years "It's a way we have in the Fire Brigade". This saying was first attributed to Chief Officer Smith Marshall by William Wallace, President of the Country Fire Brigades Board in 1929 at a occasion held in his honour, after writing up his memoirs of the Victorian Country Fire Service. President Wallace starting his speech with the words that Theophilus Smith-Marshall had "**Played the game by example and precept, in the way we have in the Fire Brigade**".

Les Gray

## A BREAKDOWN ON ROUTE 66

Unfortunately the dream is over. We will not be going on our big adventure. But, first of all I would like to say thank you to the many who have phoned me for the position of video camera operator. What big adventure am I talking about? In June, 2010 I had this idea to buy a fire engine in California and drive it with 3 or 4 retired firies to New York using route 66. We were planning to arrive in New York, bunk down in a fire station in the South Bronx and in our old uniforms attend some of the remembrance services for a decade after Twin Towers 11.09.01.

The particular type of Mack fire engine I was after was a 1950's open cab pumper which I have wanted for a long long time but never thought I would have the opportunity to buy. And this purchase would have satisfied some other desires:

See a large portion of America by road.

Spend some valuable time with some old firies who I have a lot of respect for.

Stay at a New York Fire station and get to know some of New York's finest.

After some thought I had 3 offers from old firies, Don Cameron, Sam Capes, Alan Boyd with the cameraman still to be finalised.

After being refused official permission to stay at a fire station from the fire commissioner, New York Fire Dept, I obtained private confirmation that it could be and would be arranged. The next item to be finalised was that 2 retired firies from California would accompany us with camper vans for the whole journey at no cost to provide bed and breakfast, a truly magnificent gesture.

Whilst all of this was happening we had the thought, why not present an original brass helmet to "President Barack Obama" with a note of support and encouragement from our Prime Minister Ms Julia Gillard. These letters were drafted but not sent thinking that some more important items should be confirmed first. And what was more important than contact with a president and a prime minister?

Finding the exact type of fire engine!

If I was going to pay the purchase price, shipping and import duties, etc I wanted something better than "Well Its close", Its nearly right", " She'll be right mate".

Bring a past subscriber to S.P.A.M.E.A.A. (Society for the Preservation and Appreciation of Antique Motor Fire Apparatus in America). I know that these fire engines are advertised for sale every so often. Unfortunately, Mack's are very rare and the one I want is the most popular of the popular, so I had to be prepared for disappointment.

Between June, 2010 and March, 2011 I was notified of many, many Macks but there was always something wrong or missing. Because of the many jobs to do on the Mack when chosen, like seat belts, tyres, oil change, mechanical inspection and the list goes on, there had to be a date after which it would have been just too difficult to complete the preparation. Even though the retired firemen in California would arrange pick up, repairs and storage



*A 1952 Mack LS-85 Fire Engine. Fred, and his team of retired firies, intended to drive across the U.S. as gesture of support for the 9/11 Twin Towers remembrance services.*

we decided on April 30 as the deadline so they would not be compromised with time.

It is history now that we ran out of time. If I could sum up the feelings in our group it would be of extreme disappointment that it was within our grasp, but slipped through our fingers at the last moment.

The chance to drive through the States and spend some time with the NYFD, share their feelings, emotions, and hear their harrowing stories of death and heroism and miraculous stories of survival on that fateful day was the opportunity of a life time and may never come again.

However, we can still dream that one day our trip of remembrance may still happen. The terrorists may cause wanton acts or death and destruction but they cannot destroy our dreams.

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

**F.C.Kerr**

### **Geelong and District Fire Brigades**

## **Fireys Muster** ***Smorgasbord Lunch***

**Serving and Retired – Staff and  
Volunteers**

**Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> November, 1130hrs**

### **Gateway Hotel**

**218-230 Princes Highway, Corio  
Member, Wives, Partners,  
Family and Friends**

*Contact:*

**Jack Wallace 5278 4734**

**Peter Lang 5275 6039**

## REPORT ON UFU'S CONTINUING 100 YEAR EVENTS

In the May edition of the newsletter I reported on the support given to the Union & the success of the Parade and Family day, I thought the remainder of events organised for the year may have paled into insignificance, how wrong I was.

The next event was the four day UFU'S 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the National Committee of Management & Global Alliance at the Crown Plaza, 15-18th of June and following that the Gala Ball on the night of the 18<sup>th</sup> of June, this showed that Peter Marshall, the staff and Vic Committee's planning was more than capable of meeting any challenge, with your indulgence I will attempt to give you an insight into the success of the aforementioned.

The reason I was invited was to show the flag for the recently established UFU's Retired Division, now I am not going to make out that I attend conferences regularly but over the years I can say that I have been to some that had left a lot to be desired, this one however, got off to a great start. The opening formalities were kept short to ensure the invited guest speaker had every opportunity to leave a very indelible imprint on our mind regarding the importance of **Unity**, this he did in abundance and set the theme for the rest of the conference.

The speaker, retired AFL Footballer and current Radio commentator, David Schwarz wowed everyone with his subject of Addiction and the problems that are generated by it, the tools needed to assist the person affected by the condition and the importance of **Unity**. David's talk was not one of fire & brimstone, it was cold hard facts from one who had been affected and had done the hard yards to beat it.

The large group in attendance were in awe of his message, at the end he invited the people in attendance to raise any question (there were many) and his answers were clear-cut and insightful. The people that picked him were rewarded not only by the learning experience but it also would have allayed any perceived ideas this was just going to be another talk-fest conference for those that attended. David was given a standing round of applause at the end. To reinforce the message everyone in attendance was given a signed copy of his book. (A sound strategy by the union)

The agenda for the rest of the event not only covered items of a national nature but also an international one; you heard speakers from Canada, Ireland, Great Britain and America and others. All here in Old Melbourne Town for a full-on working conference (not a junket). It made

an old bloke like me realise just how far this small union, started by our forefathers back in 1911, had progressed. From what I have read, they had great foresight, but, I'm not sure if they would had foreseen anything of this magnitude.

The Gala Ball being held on the final night of the conference (see picture) left me stuck for a word to best describe it, "Phenomenal, Spectacular", as I said, I am not sure of the best word to describe the event. I am sure if there were any ghost of the old Painters & Dockers present they would have loved it.

Before I tell you about the night I would like paint a word picture regarding the lay-out so all you old fires that attended the many fires & incidents that occurred on the old wharves have a better understanding of the venue. The gatehouses and fences of the old Vic Dock are gone, now we have an electric tram going past the Central Pier which is overlooked by Etihad Stadium. We drove in because of the wife's injury, imagine arriving at shed 14 being greeted by young men in suits (not the shed foreman) who whisk your car away for you, on stepping onto the wharf instead of seeing cargo ships in their place are million dollar launches and a red carpet directing you to the entrance of a unrecognizable cargo shed, in its

place a venue fit for Royalty. The staff greets you and takes you to your table, it is then that you realise the images & memories of the past are no longer.

During the night you start looking around at the 1262 that attended, in an attempt to ascertain who you may know, it is then that you see the people in attendance are drawn from Members of all Political persuasions, Executives from many

other Unions including International ones & Associations, many Fire Service personnel, Leaders of Business and Commerce and last but not least Retired Members and their Wives like myself.

The night was a wonderful success for the organisers. I do know from some of the phone calls I received the next day from others that attended, who obviously must have had a great time too, going from the sound of their voices (you know like they were holding their head while they were talking).

I do not believe that I am going out on a limb with what I am about to say. I would like it known that I truly believe that the current Secretary of the UFU **Peter Marshall**, his Staff and Committee have made sure that this 100 year celebration of the UFU was not only of great significance to its members it also showed the State and Nation that we will never forget where we came from and our hunger for a safer community for all will never cease, it was a very powerful message they showed.

**John Berry**



## Guess Who?

### 1<sup>st</sup> GUESS WHO?

This picture was taken at a sports day for the MFB at the Sandown Racecourse; it is of the Chief Officer Jack Paterson making a presentation. The questions are;

1. What is the name of the person receiving the award?
2. The day involved more than one sport, name the different type of competitions held?

First person to contact the Secretary with the correct answer will receive their Registered Number framed (If they can remember it) the prize must be collected at the AGM Burnley Complex.

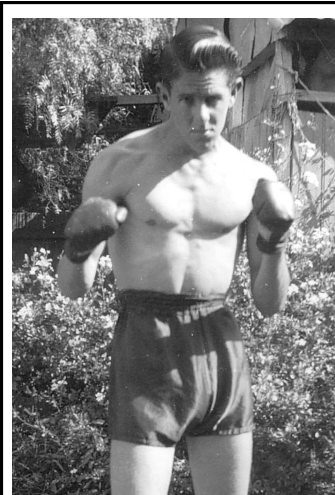
### 2<sup>rd</sup> GUESS WHO?

This picture was sent to me by one of the members who assure me he did not get food poisoning from the day even though the people serving the food were not wearing gloves, this guess who is a little bit harder. The questions are.

1. What is the name of the Chef and the person talking to him?
2. What is the middle name of the person sneaking away with his head down? (JM are the initials for first & last name).

First correct answer will receive a brand new set of food handling gloves; the prize must be collected at the AGM Burnley Complex

To all retired career Authority members we need some Guess Who's for the November newsletter. ANT



### Guess Who? From last issue.

“Fighting” D. Cameron. First correct answer was John Howe. Trevor Reed, Ian Fowler - missed by that much!

**Below:** Geelong shift muster.

It was Kevin Stein's (seated) last shift before retiring. Peter Lang and John Wallace are sharing the framed photo as they

were the only ones able to identify Kevin. The rest of the crew still remain nameless.



### HISTORICAL OLD APPLIANCE

The following picture came from Bruce Thornton's son who saw this and another on his travels in a shopping centre in NSW. When Bruce saw the pictures he immediately thought that the members would find them interesting when compared to the old Morris appliances.

In my case the picture makes me wonder if we'd had gear of that size, perhaps, when I was rostered to drive, I would not have found the telephone books that always mysteriously appeared on the front driver's seat. I will admit it did make it easier for me to see over the steering wheel (that is the problem with me being such a tall person). ANT



### Recent Retirements

- Dick Albert 30th June
- Max Hattam 6th July
- Wayne Garrard 8th July

# BELLS BY-THE-BEACH

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**Your hosts: retired firefighter**

**Lin Bell and wife Jan Bell**

## Queensland Reunion Southport Yacht Club 26th July 2011



We were unable to include the whole report due to its late submission, but below is the list of attendees;

Peter & June Coulson (QLD)  
 Bob Burrows (VIC)  
 Alan & Pat Hawkless (VIC)  
 Geoff & Margaret Cusack (VIC)  
 Jack Hookey (VIC)  
 Jack Sexton (QLD)  
 Ken Hopper (VIC)  
 Tony Hynson (QLD)  
 Bob Wheildon (VIC)  
 Trevor Reed (VIC)  
 Ian & Gail Fagernes (QLD)  
 Ian 'Chook' Fowler (VIC)  
 Gordon Winch – daughter & son in law  
 Jack Neville (QLD)  
 Ron Miller (QLD)

## MFB Golf Club 2011

**August**, Friday 19th, Riversdale (C)

**September**, Tuesday 13th, The Dunes (B)  
 1st Rnd. Champs.

**October**, Monday 10th, Yerring (A)  
 2nd Rnd. Champs.

**October**, Sun 16th - 21st Alice Springs  
 Australasian Champs.

**November**, Friday 4th, Woodlands (D)

**December**, Thurs 8th, Keysborough (C) AGM  
**Retired furies welcome, if interested contact;  
 Paul Sandilands or Tony Martin at 24Stn.**

### **BRASS HELMET REPAIRS**

Should you have a brass helmet that requires a little TLC

Please contact Markham for an appraisal.

**Brass 'n' Woodwind Workshop**

(Service and Repairs) 572 North Road, Ormond 3204

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Saturday & Sunday - Closed

Public Holidays, Closed

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Fax: 03 9578 8166

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

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

John's address - - [retfire@bigpond.net.au](mailto:retfire@bigpond.net.au)

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

# **UFU RETIRED MEMBERS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**

**Saturday November 19th 2011**

**11.30 AM. - 4.00 PM.**

**Malvern Town Hall**

A reminder:

If you have accepted the invitation to the luncheon and through illness, or some other circumstance, find you are unable to attend, please notify the Union Office A.S.A.P. On Ph: 9419 8811 or Nick Draper Mob. 0431 530 010

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