

"WATER OFF"

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



May 2011 Vol 15 No 2
Inc/No: A16839F

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Above; MFB Board meeting with Samuel Mauger presiding. Samuel Mauger was a key player in the formation of the MFB. More about the formation of the board and the "Turbulent Years" page 7.

Image courtesy Fire Services Museum Victoria



Left; Victorian Fire Services Bowls Club Members, a large contingent, photographed at the Australasian Fire Services Bowls Carnival. Teams from all states and New Zealand competed.

Report, results and photos of the successful teams on page 12.

“GENERAL MEETING”

Notice is hereby given that the next General Meeting will be held at the MFB Training College 450 Burnley Street Richmond.

1030 Hours, Wednesday 18th May 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.
Please join us!**

If a man does not embrace his past he has no future

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

Jim Casley (MFB)
George Larner (MFB)
Mick Taylor (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	Fred Harris
Stan Cameron	Clarrie Hart
Huew Campbell*	Barry McColl
Ken Clinkaberry	Merv McInnes
Russ Daniels*	Jack Sexton
Wayne Dellamarta	Basil Smith
Ernie Goodall*	Ron Turner*

We wish these members a speedy recovery

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

Diary Dates 2011

May 18th	General Meeting
July 26th	Geelong Firie’s Muster
August 17th	General Meeting (Geelong)
November 16th	Annual General Meeting
November 19th	Annual Christmas Luncheon Malvern Town Hall
November 29th	Geelong Firie’s Muster

“Water Off” is edited by John Laverick, 40 Brunel Street Aberfeldie 3040. Phone / fax 9337 9820. Email retfire@bigpond.net.au
All articles accepted for publication by the editor are done so in good faith and no responsibility is accepted for any inaccuracies that may occur.
Signed; J. Laverick. (The views expressed by the editor of this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Victorian branch of the RFA)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At the time of writing this report it is the Easter Anzac day weekend. On Good Friday some of our members attended MFB's Headquarters station to go out on the streets to shake cans for the Children's Hospital. They were; Ian Fowler, Fred Kerr, Doug Knight, Mike McCumisky, wife Nancy and myself. Apologies if I have missed anyone.

On Saturday 30th April we will be having a BBQ at

Bunnings, Hoppers Crossing. This will be completed by the time this goes to print. Hopefully we will have a great result with all moneys going to Breast Cancer.

By the time you read this edition Nancy and I will be cruising down the Danube and Rhine rivers in Europe, so apologies for the next meeting.

Sorry Silver but this is on the other side of the world from your favourite America, look forward to sharing some of the highlights in the future editions of Water Off.

Don Brennan



SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

Hello all. I would like to start my quarterly report with a little reflection on a bygone time.

Prior to the start of the UFU's parade & family day, the many that attended had the opportunity to see

two of the long gone icons, the fire horses, steamers and hose carts. The horses and appliances created a great deal of excitement by their presence, similar to what I imagine would have occurred when they came charging down the road in their heyday.

Now it just so happens one of our members, retired District Officer Ken Murphy, had sent me a comprehensive report on his family's journey through time with the brigade. His late father Henry Cyril Murphy came to Melbourne to play football and joined the brigade in 1913. Ken, you could say, was almost born at Eastern Hill as a few days after his birth his mother and father took him back to quarters at the old Eastern Hill Fire Station. In the articles he talks about the stories his dad told him about the horses as there were still stations with them when his father joined the brigade.

With the aid of Ken's documents I will touch briefly on the interesting period of the fire horse. The fire horses had to be sturdy animals between the ages of 5 and 7 years and quiet to ride and drive and be approximately 15.3 to 16 hands high. The breed stock used came from America, the animals were very lightly shod and ran mainly on the natural frog of the foot, making them very sure-footed. Because of this they could not be used to do a hard day's work. Contrary to general belief they were not owned by the Brigade but were on hire from large contractors. The drivers (Coachmen) were not firemen, however the Chief Officer always saw the applicants personally.

A couple of other interesting facts: If it was a fire the coachman would remove the horses from the steamers because of the noise, vibration and the smoke, he would also be required to keep the coal up to the steamer. Often they would be needed to ride one of the horses back to the station to give word-back.

The Crews on the appliance would assist in keeping the horses excited when going to a call, by calling out

loud "Hi" "Hi" this helped ensure the horses galloped all the way, if going up a hill they would jump off and help push the appliance. Just imagine riding on a steamer appliance going to a call with the horses galloping at full speed and you screaming out to keep them going as fast as they could go; we thought riding in the old open hose carriage was exciting. I have no doubt a turn-out behind a pair of galloping horses would have the old heart beating faster than in the old open appliances.

I hope these facts have stirred the old grey matter. As they say in the classics, "You ain't seen nothin' yet", as we explore his family's journey in the coming newsletters.

The following is an update on the RFA etc.

The Geelong boys organised another great luncheon at the Gateway Hotel for all retired firies and partners, the only downside, I have been advised, was when the bionic man, "Langy", went near the poker machines the lights would go out. I have heard they are not sure if it was caused by all the metal he has in him, or if he has now developed a force-field and/or the machine knows how careful he is with a dollar.

John Wallace always the diplomat made sure everyone that attended enjoyed themselves. Many thanks to John & Peter for the day.

Some retirees (Basil Smith, Fred Harris, Michael Ford, Linley Bell and Doreen Schintler have not been enjoying the best of health, the members and committee wish them all a quick return to better health.

My boss, (the wife) saw how well Autumn leaves (Silver) was looked after by his better half when he slipped and fell, she decided to try me out "I reckon my cooking is that good it has made her better" or maybe it's more than likely it was that bad she just had to get back on her feet as it made her sicker?.

Talk has it, that they are now carrying out in interviews for the vacant position of MFB CEO/CO (Interesting times)

The UFU's Gala Ball has been a sell-out 1100 tickets sold from what I have heard it will be a spectacular event.

The late Bill Webber's book is in its final planning stage, launch date to be announced.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

The MFB FIRECALL 11th of April, Issue 273, reported on the successful three day exhibition at the showgrounds on the Disaster Response Capability of the MFB, CFA, SES, DSE and AMBULANCE VICTORIA under the auspices of the Fire Services Commissioner and their ability to work with other

agencies in Melbourne, Victoria, nationally and internationally. If I remember correctly this sounds a bit like the old DISPLAN.

See you all at the next meeting 1030 hours Wednesday 18th May 2011. Could the ones who are not at the meeting please raise their hand.

John Berry

MINUTES R.F.A. GENERAL MEETING

16th February 2011 - 10.30am
at Training College.

Don Brennan (Pres), John Berry (Sec), Ian Geddes (Minutes). Don Brennan opened meeting.

Apologies - as per book.

First time attendee - Trevor Watson.

John Berry read Minutes of General Meeting (18th August 2010). Business arising - Nil.

Minutes be accepted. Moved - H. Floyd. Seconded - I. Fowler. Carried

Treasurers Report - John Berry

\$4,503.85

\$5,544.91 at 6.25%

Tom Williamson, Reg Carey and Neville van Every send their regards and have great memories of old mates.

Report to be accepted. Motion - A. Roberts, Seconded - G. Butterworth. Carried

Merv McInnes (Airlie Beach) is battling breast cancer and treatment is ongoing.

Funds to be raised from next Bunnings Sausage Sizzle - Breast Cancer will be the funds recipient.

Ozanam House - Don Brennan & John Berry, suggested a barbeque be put on for homeless people who go to Ozanam House (opp Royal Children Hospital) on a day in Sept/Oct. Brian Jackson spoke in support. Moved - I. Fowler Seconded - A. Roberts. Carried

Good Friday Can Shake, Meet at Eastern Hill about 9a.m.

John Berry spoke about U.F.U. Parade and Family Day, and was delighted that the CFA, M.F.B & Airport fires, gave great support to this important milestone in the UFU's 100 Year celebration.

Anyone who is interested in free computer training at Training College, contact John re: dates/times.

General Business.

Jack Moore - reported there may be problems with Union and R.F.A. trying to organize different meetings. Having more meeting days will only create problems for retirees, the UFU need to be aware if they meet on different days. Both the R.F.A. and their Retired section will be effected by this arrangement. Most people present agreed.

Sam Capes - Advise the CFA had pictures/videos of 100 Year Parade. enquired if the RFA had sent a letter of appreciation to the UFU. John explained that the Parade was a Union function and we marched under the UFU's Retired Division not the RFA. UFU. Peter Marshall joined the meeting..

Ellen Churchill thanked the R.F.A. (especially Mike McCumisky) for assisting her at the Parade.

Doug Overton - not so impressed as to why the parade had to stop at the Town Hall in the heat, he was advised the change was requested by Mr. Doyle The Right Worshipful Mayor of Melbourne. The UFU had to meet this request.

Brian Jackson - are retirees getting notified of the R.F.A. Suggested- whoever attends retirements should mention the R.F.A. to retiree.

Fred Kerr - driving an old Fire Engine from L.A. to New York City later in 2011 as a memorial trip to Sept 11 (looking for starters, see page 5.)

Peter Marshall, who had joined the meeting, watched John Berry's video presentation of the effects that fast running water had on a roadway in the recent Queensland floods, and pictures on the U.F.U. 100 Year Parade.

Peter Marshall addressed the meeting on the 100 Year celebration (1,500 attendees) on a 40° day. he thanked the Police for march management, their band and the Watsonia Pipe Band, Alexandra Gardens management, Council assistance, Brookes Trailers (Rosebud) for loading 2 Barbeque Trailers. All of the above help make the day the success it was.

Peter mentioned that the members database needs updating, and this is being rectified. The U.F.U. Social/Committee did an absolutely fabulous job all day never stopped. Peter asked John Berry and Don Brennan if some R.F.A. members would like to go to the Ball in June. Brigade memoirs is being collated. Photos of U.F.U. Parade are on the Union website - www.ufu100.com or www.ufuvic.asn.au; with photos from Barbara McCumisky and other professional photographers.

C.F.A. are trialing first responder in South East Melbourne (Dandenong/Springvale). M.F.B/C.F.A. are pursuing ability to transfer between the two organizations.

Laurie Lavelle was to do a short presentation, but due to time restraints, he has been asked to do this in May.

Meeting ended 12.30p.m.

Andrew Brennan, Colin Hallam, Vera Stojanouski and Chris Smith (Dizzy) who came in from off-duty to assist with the Barbeque, the Training college staff are giving the RFA wonderful support.

Next meeting - 18th May, at Training College.

Gone But Not Forgotten

The members and committee were hoping that this section of the quarterly newsletter was not going to be required for a long time, but with great regret we again must report that two more of our members have been transferred and will take up the role as the junior person at the big muster. It is important that you never forget the members who have been transferred.

JIM CASLEY 1931-2011.

Jim joined the MFB in 1956 two months after I joined the job and retired in 1987. I did not get to know him until I was on the old Z shift at No 1 station and cannot ever remember going to a job with him which prevents me commenting on his firefighting skills. What I can say, I never heard anyone put him down, in fact whenever his name came up in conversation it was always of a positive nature in the way he carried out his role as a firefighter.

Jim to me was what I would say was a bit of enigma, a technocrat with great electrical knowledge who believed all problems could be solved scientifically, but in other ways did not see the forest for the trees. An example of what I mean, Jim, who was living by himself in retirement, had been experiencing some health problems but had not set in place some way to alert anyone should he have a mishap. Unfortunately this occurred, and if it was not for the perseverance of one of the RFA committee he may have never got the medical attention that he urgently required. One can only imagine what would have happened if that committee member had not persisted in locating Jim.

If nothing else he has left all of us a message that is do not forget the basic's, a simple "What If" checklist and make sure when you find something that needs correcting you do so.

John Brown who attended Jim's service informed me that the current members from the local MFB station did a great job in the way they assisted at the service, Brownie said Jim would have been rapt with all the attention they gave. On behalf of all the retired firefighters we would like it known to them how much we greatly appreciate their effort, "Well done"

Wanted

Retired Firie with video camera experience, (Must be good)

To accompany 5 other retired firies for an experience of a lifetime.

We'll be flying to Los Angeles USA and driving across America via Route 66 in an old fire engine and finish in New York prior to the 10th commemoration of 9/11.

For further details ring;
Fred Kerr 0408 139 353

GRAEME "BLUEY" BILLINGTON 1936-2011

Bluey joined the MFB in 1961 but I did not get to know him until later however I must admit I had heard about this tough raw-boned firie who was in the successful 1963 mid-week premiership side of the MFB.

I first got to work with him when I was relieving at the old North Melbourne station, let me tell you I found him not big on Pomp & Ceremony but a top firie, a bloke with a very dry wit and a great sense of humour who enjoyed the mateship that the fire service brought. I know there are many of you old blokes from the brigade who will have a story or two about "Bluey".

My last conversation with him was in 2010 when he was in the Royal Melbourne Hospital. I know he would not be upset with me telling all of you about it. The story will, I believe, give you an insight into the unique character he was. Of course I will not use all of his colourful terminology, it went like this.

I rang to see if I was allowed to visit & during discussion with the Sister in charge, she enquired if I would like to speak to him as he was standing next to her. Bluey came on the phone; "Ant did you send in this box of fruit". "No Blue, it's from the union"! Well it's great and I'm taking it home to the grandkids. "I want to know if I can come and see you?" No Ant, I am going home to my daughter, the grandkids and fishing. The XXXX Doctors want to start me on all this XXXX, I asked if it would cure me, I'm not happy with their answer so I told them stick it; I'm not going to keep causing problems for the daughter, I'm going home to enjoy the time I have left, doing the things I want to do, not all this bullXXXX their talking about.

I, unfortunately, did not realise the gravity of his condition and failed to take the opportunity to find out the address in Warrnambool where he was going to stay and missed out speaking to him again. I know the people that knew Bluey will all tell you he was the genuine article, he will not be forgotten. (Blue, I can just imagine the stirring of the possum you are going to do when you catch up with Churchill & Hubbard at the new posting).

JOHN BERRY

Geelong and District Fire Brigades

Fireys Muster Smorgasbord Lunch

Serving and Retired – Staff and Volunteers

Tuesday, 26th July, 1130hrs
and Tuesday, 29th November, 1130hrs

Gateway Hotel

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

Contact:

Jack Wallace 5278 4734

Peter Lang 5275 6039

UNITED FIREFIGHTERS UNION 100 YEAR CELEBRATION PARADE & FAMILY DAY

I reported in the last newsletter that the UFU had organised for Sunday the 30/1/11 a Parade & Family Day starting from Eastern Hill Fire Station, the following is an update on the success of the day.

First I would like to mention how lucky we are to live in this great nation of Australia. I'm at a loss to name another country where Local Government, Police, Fire Service Leaders, Service & Suburban Bands, retirees and the public would help a small union, that started with such humble beginnings, celebrate the occasion of it reaching 100 years of protection of their members conditions (Career Firefighters). The only downside, the media outlets did not give it the coverage it so richly deserved, which proves again, they do not want good news stories about the community.

The planning that went into the event to make the day such a success would have made a military General very pleased to see the way the secretary did his white board presentation. It was like a military campaign, but in this case the person in charge was the UFU Secretary Peter Marshall. I have no doubt the United Firefighters Union in this day and age are very fortunate to have a person of his calibre as Secretary. **Well done Peter.** The temperature of the day 40 degrees plus did not stop the day going ahead.

The numbers that were involved in the parade, I have been advised, was in excess of three thousand and approximately 20 firefighting appliances. I do know, when we were crossing Lonsdale and Nicholson street, the leading group were almost down to Swanston street. Not being a regular to old Melbourne town I was very surprised how busy it was for a Sunday and the public were very generous in their applause.

The parade halted at the Town hall where the UFU President made a presentation to The Right Honourable Lord Mayor of Melbourne. The parade then continued on to the Alexander Gardens where the Social committee had set up marquees, trailers with bands playing, barbeques, games, shade-tents, food for children and various other

The old and new. These photos will give you a better understanding of the improvement in fire fighting appliances over the 100 years. Right; 1800's era Manual pumper and Steam Pumper. Below; Latest high tech. Aviation firefighting appliance.



amenity tents. Also included was a bus to take the families back to their cars. Our forebears, I have no doubt, would have been in raptures about its success.

It would be remiss on my part if I did not, on behalf of the members and committee of the RFA, pass on our appreciation to all the Fire Service's Leaders, CFA, MFB, Dept. of Aviation Fire & Emergency Service, Police, and Melb. Fire Museum, Mayor of Melbourne & Staff and last but not least all the participants in the parade.

John Berry

RFA President Receives Accolades.

Don Brennan and daughter, Angela Potter, were on the receiving end of accolades from the Mayor of Wyndham, John Menegazzo. The following comments from the Mayor were published in the local newspaper.

"On the weekend, I was on hand to witness the handing of the keys to two new houses from the 'Habitat for Humanity Network' to two specially selected families.

The Habitat's Wyndham chapter is led by Angela Potter, who, along with the support of many local businesses and sponsors and a small army of volunteers, has been involved for many months in assisting to construct the

two houses that would eventually be allocated to two families in need.

While the efforts of everyone involved are to be applauded, I would especially like to thank Don Brennan, who, at the young age of 74, spent the past few months working tirelessly to ensure the successful completion of the project.

Just an example of Wyndham's quiet achievers, but great role models for the rest of the community."

Ed's Note: Congratulations, from the members of the RFA, to Don and Angela on their efforts to see the project through.

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. .

The First M.F.B. Board Members consisted of the following men.

The Hon. Supt. S. Mauger	Appointed by the Governor in Council.
Supt. J. Ballenger	“ “ “ “ “ “ “ “
Mr. H Turner	“ “ “ “ “ “ “ “
Mr. G. Terry	“ “ City of Melbourne
Mr. W. Keele	“ “ Northern Municipalities
Capt. Sir H. deKellett	“ “ “ Southern “ “
Mr. R Anderson	“ “ “ Insurance Companies
Mr. W. Archer	“ “ “ “ “
Mr. E. Watson	“ “ “ “ “

The above men provided Chief Officer Stein with the money allowing him to get on with the task of organising and running the fledgling Melbourne Fire Brigades. In addition to these positions on the Board, Mauger, Ballenger and de Kellett still turned out to fires for another 6-7 years..

At the time of writing this instalment new information has come to hand and, as a result, I have to regress into the past from time to time allowing readers to have a better background knowledge of some of the men that I have mentioned in the previous instalment, in order to tell of the roles they played in firefighting at the time and for their input into the draft bill for the M.F.B. Act 1890.

Three of the first board members above namely Mauger, Ballenger, and deKellett served on the M.F.B. Board for many years to come, I will mention another man here who was never a member of the Melbourne Fire Brigade, but contributed so much towards its existence, his name was Theophilus Smith-Marshall, whose occupation was school teaching and in 1870 he was posted to Chiltern as Head Teacher, whilst there he participated in the formation of the Chiltern Fire Brigade and was appointed as its first Captain.

In 1880 he returned to Melbourne, as Head Teacher of the Kensington School (a promotion). I have no record of when the Kensington Volunteer Brigade was founded, but it is recorded that he was their first Captain. It is reasonable to assume that he played a part in its formation some time in 1880? In 1883 he was elected President of the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Association. He worked on the draft bill for the amalgamation of the volunteer brigades for seven years which entailed over 50 meetings. Circa late 1890's he retired from active fire fighting and his intention was to focus entirely on his school teaching career.

As you have read in the previous instalment on the 24th. May 1883, Capt. Kelly of the Prahran Municipal Brigade convened a meeting of interested Fire Officers to form an association, (The Metropolitan Fire Brigades Association) their main objective was the passing of a bill in parliament for the amalgamation of all brigades in Melbourne into one Brigade, at this meeting some 30 Officers attended and a committee of 7 men were elected to the committee, they were Capt. Kelly, Prahran Brigade, Capt. T.S. Marshall,

Kensington Brigade, (Chairman of the meeting) Capt. Sir. Henry de Kellett, Kew Municipal Brigade, Supt. S. Mauger, Clifton Hill volunteer temperance Brigade, (who possibly took the minutes) Supt. J. Ballenger, Carlton United Breweries Brigade, Messrs. Kay, and W. Keele, (insurance companies representatives), T.S. Marshall was elected President, S. Mauger, hon.secretary.

As a result of this meeting five men were selected to work on a draft bill for amalgamation. They were Supt. Hoad, (when Hoad retired Supt. Stein replaced him). Supt. Mauger, Supt. Ballenger, Capt. de Kellett, and Capt. Marshall.

In 1889 to hasten the introduction of the bill a large deputation from the Victorian Fire Brigades Association, mostly from the country, was received by the Chief Secretary, the Hon. Alfred Deakin, Capt. Marshall even though retired from fire fighting was invited to attend as he was the only one that had intimate knowledge of brigade functions in the city and country. Most delegates wanted 2 Boards, one for Metropolitan Melbourne and the other for the Country, instead of one for whole State. Marshall strongly advocated for 2 Boards, a paid system for the Metropolitan area and a volunteer one for the country. This actually suited the Government, Councils and Insurance Companies, otherwise the cost would have been prohibitive.

The facts of the matter expounded by the deputation impressed The Chief Secretary and on the delegation retiring Marshall had a personal interview with Deakin at his request, he went more fully into his reasons for 2 boards, as a result of the days proceedings a Bill embodying the 2 boards, Metropolitan and Country was drafted. The draft bill was presented to the Chief Secretary, the Hon. Alfred Deakin who in 1890 introduced it to the Legislative Assembly. It was presented again to the next session of parliament for its second reading and was ratified.

The Fire Brigades Act was passed in December 1890 with provision for a Country Fire Brigades and was written into the Statute Book and became Law. The Melbourne Fire Brigades Board met for the first time on 6th. March 1891 in the Melbourne Town Hall.

The Melbourne Fire Brigades Board was proclaimed a Body Corporate, having its own seal, with succession of its Chief Officers, it's boundaries were fixed at a 10 mile radius from the Melbourne Post Office. The M.F.B. Act named the Victorian Government, Municipalities and Fire Insurance Companies as contributors towards the maintenance of both Brigades and the administration by their Boards.

On the 1st. May 1891, Stein was appointed Chief Officer, Messer's. E.S. Watson (an insurance company representative) was appointed first president of the M.F.B. Board and J.H. Scattergood as first secretary, (he was a former Clerk to Supt. Stein) the M.F.B. Board decided to purchase the whole of the existing plant and suitable buildings of the volunteer brigades at the current valuation, after all their debts were paid, the balance was handed to the members of the volunteer brigades as a small recognition of their many years of service to their communities.

Stein took over the men from his old insurance companies brigades, many of the former volunteers joined the Melbourne Fire Brigade and others as auxiliary firemen.

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

Stein was paid 800 pounds per annum, and supplied with quarters, Archibald Mc Dowell as Deputy Chief Officer was paid 250 pounds with quarters, District Superintendents 150 pounds with quarters, Station Foremen 110 pounds with quarters, permanent firemen 100 pounds with quarters. The auxiliary firemen were paid a retainer of 16 shillings per month, and depending on their ranking they were paid 6 shillings to 2 shillings and sixpence per hour for attending fires.

Chief Officer David Stein was given powers to command and manage the M.F.B. in the saving of lives and property in Melbourne's Fire Districts, general orders and regulations were written up to enforce the fire fighters obedience to the Board and its Chief Officer. A system of fines, suspensions and demotions in rank or instant dismissal and other forms of punishment could be administered as well, drinking, smoking and playing cards were allowed on the stations, no swearing or gambling was to be tolerated. Stein took a hard line on any person who was under the influence of alcohol whilst on duty, often ordering the loss of a weeks pay. If a person was suspended from duty he suffered loss of pay until the Chief decided his fate.

As you have previously read, Stein, many years before whilst serving in the London Fire Brigade, had personal experience of being suspended. He knew quiet well how the abuse of the system operated and should be handled as were the men. The other side of Stein, when dealing with men who had bent the rules, particularly if they were generally diligent and of good character, was inclined to be lenient when deciding what sort of punishment was to be administered. It was said of him that he was a hard man but a fair man, most importantly the men knew where they stood with him.

The old Insurance Co's head station built in 1882 located at 447 Little Bourke Street, was constructed of brick with basement, ground floor with engine room and stables for horses and a feed store, with 100ft. high brick fire watching tower at rear, the top floor had accommodation for 20 permanent men with essential amenities and a billiard room. Stein made it his headquarters until the new Headquarters Station No.1, at Eastern Hill was opened in 1893. The old station remained in commission until it was sold in 1919.

By the end of 1891 Stein had a permanent force of 59 paid men, 209 auxiliary partially paid men, 4 Steam engines, several manual engines, 25 hose carts, 58 hand reels, 3 extension ladders, 33 horses, 71,080 feet of hose, 49 Fire Stations, 48 Telephones, 8 private fire alarms and several fire alarm circuits connected to his head station. By 1892 he had 83 permanent men, 229 auxiliary firemen and 48 Fire stations in Melbourne and its districts. The permanent men worked 6 days straight and had 1 day per



Chief Officer David Stein: 1st May, 1891, was given Powers to command and manage the MFB.
Image; Fire Services Museum Victoria

week off and were granted 3 days annual leave per year. All of the outer volunteer suburban stations were equipped with hand pulled hose reels, the men referred to them as "the old iron horses" they were constructed on an iron chassis which were attached to a large axle with 2 light weight wooden spoked artillery type iron shod wheels, with a pulling pole attached at right angles allowing for men to push on and others pushed from the rear. They were heavy cumbersome apparatus and if they had long distances to travel up to 10 or more firemen and auxiliaries could be pulling and pushing them along with ropes attached, and they could carry up to 4 - 6 lengths of 100 feet 2 1/2" dia. hose wound around the reel.

Carried at front or rear on the chassis, in a box like compartment were a Stand Pipe, Branch, and various size nozzles and other pertinent small gear, the District Stations having, in addition, a manually hand operated engine.

There were ample horses stabled in the inner stations to pull the Steamers, the 25 horse pulled Hose Reels, and a number of Hose Carts, the 3 Extension Ladders, the 56 feet high Shand Mason, 65 feet Hayes La France and the old 72 feet Italian Ladder, he also had several wheeled single horse drawn "Curricule" fire escapes carried on Ladder Carts and a similar Shand Mason "Telescopic" Fire escape Ladder cart, they were ideal for a quick get to work in confined spaces and narrow laneways. These two wheeled escapes in most cases could reach to window sills on floor levels and roofs of buildings now being constructed in the city and suburbia to 3 - 4 stories in height.

The Curricule ladders extended to 45 feet and were made up of three lengths 1 fixed and 2 sliding, these two lengths were



The old Insurance Co's head station built in 1882 located at 447 Little Bourke Street, was MFB headquarters until the opening of new headquarters at Eastern Hill in 1893.
Image; State Library Victoria

constructed on top of the bottom length which was fixed to a sliding metal frame attached to the sturdy wooden and metal bodywork on top of the cart which had a sloping top of approx. 30deg's when made up in the road travelling mode, with the heel of the ladders protruding well out over the horse and shafts approximately 7 feet off the ground level and the head of the ladder protruding downwards at rear approx. 2 feet off the ground.

The top length at its head had a small wheel attached allowing the ladders to ride up the wall of the building when being extended (if the ladder hit the wall below or near its intended objective) it had a crew of 4 men, the driver and the man in charge sat in the drivers seat one on either side of the ladders and 2 standing at rear holding onto the ladders.

On arrival at a fire the horse and cart was backed towards the wall of the building at right angles, the correct distance out for the height of the objective to be reached, i.e: window sill or roof parapet. The horse was then unharnessed from the shafts, the ladder safety locking bolts were removed and the front of the cart was lowered with its shafts resting at ground level. This allowed the heel of the ladder to slide and make contact with the ground between the shafts now at approximately 70degs of elevation. The wheels were chocked and the ladder now could be extended by hand winching around by cable drum via cables and pulleys, (the drum cable went from the drum up and around the pulley at the head of the fixed length and then down around a pulley at the heel of the first sliding length and then up and around a pulley at its head and then down and fixed to the heel of second top sliding length). The front of the cart acted as a buttress supporting the ladder when it was extended. The bottom fixed length and the first sliding length had wooden lattice side work supporting the ladder when extended against stress and strain. Final adjustments could be made by the crew if necessary before the head of the ladder reached the objective by removing the wheel chocks and moving the ladder by pulling or pushing on the wheels inwards or outwards from the building.

The Shand Mason single horse drawn 2 wheel fire escape, extending to 50 feet were similarly constructed as the Curricule Ladder Carts, the action of positioning the ladder cart, removing the horse from the shafts and lowering them down onto the ground, elevating and extending of the ladder etc. was almost identical as the curricule. In addition Stein had several ladder/hose carts which carried manually operated 20 and 30 feet extension ladders and hooked Pompier ladders, these carts also carried hoses, branch pipes, stand pipes and other essential fire fighting gear, and one salvage van, eight exercise carts for keeping the horses fit.

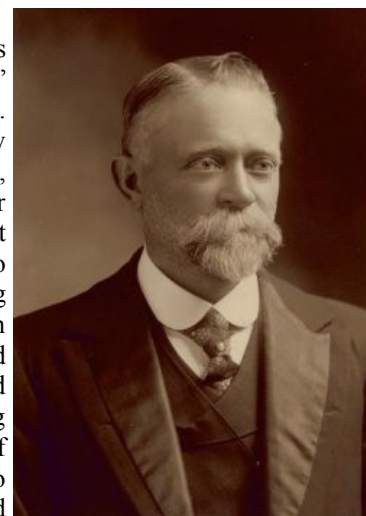
There was limited accommodation at fire stations for the permanent men and others lived in nearby houses rented by the Board and when alerted by the stations turn out bell they ran to the station to catch their detailed gear, the auxiliary firemen made their own way onto the fires either running, hitching a ride, or taking a Cab.

It is now expedient for me to halt Chief Officer Stein's story and will return, in my next instalment, to his tenure of office circa 1903, this is for my convenience, because I need to write of four of his old time volunteer colleagues (from 1891 until the time of their death or retirement). Three of these men now fought fires with Stein, after the Fire Brigade Act. became law. They continued to turn out to fires with

him for the next 6 – 7 years, even though they were appointed to the first M.F.B. Board but still served him loyally until his retirement in 1908. The four men concerned were Samuel Mauger, (even though Stein and Mauger in the past had not seen "eye to eye") Sir Henry deKellet, James Ballenger, and Theophilus Smith Marshall, who, after amalgamation of the brigades, continued School Teaching until he was appointed Chief Officer of the Country Fire Brigades Board. I also will include the history of building the new M.F.B's Headquarters Station, No.1 at Eastern Hill and it's opening, of it's many additions and alterations over the years until it's de-commissioning in 1977 (it is now the Fire Services Museum Victoria) and the opening of the new No.1 Fire Station on the Corner Gisborne and Albert Streets.

Samuel Mauger, (pronounced "Major") was born on the 12th. November 1875 in Geelong and as a boy joined the local Chilwell - Newtown Fire Brigade, he proved to be a very keen lad and the Captain promoted him to being his assistant.

In the intervening years he attended "Allbricks" trades school where Mr. Eastwood taught him how to make silk hats. By 1873, at the age of 16 years, after months of unemployment he travelled up to Melbourne from Geelong as a steerage passenger on a sailing ship named "Despatch". He arrived with his carpet bag containing a change of under clothing and two books, and one shilling and six pence in his pocket. In Melbourne he continued on with his involvement with fire fighting, he was a young man of fixed principals with many ideas and aspirations.



*Samuel Mauger circa 1910.
Image: National Library of Australia*

He founded the Fitzroy Volunteer Brigade and later the Clifton Hill Temperance Volunteer Brigade and was elected Superintendent of same. As you have previously read when in 1887 after Supt. James Ballenger resigned he was elected Secretary of the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Association.

A photograph of him circa 1934 shows him to be a smallish dapper man with thinning grey hair, he had a moustache joined to a circular grey clipped beard around his chin and wore round thin rimmed glasses. The photograph doesn't give any indication of him being a bold fire fighter with extraordinary leadership skills. He was known to be a genuine kind man and a determined social reformer. In the late 1890's he owned a Hat Shop in Bourke Street, and at the same time he was secretary of the "Anti Sweating League", he put much of his time into the leagues main issues of gaining shorter working hours and better wages for workers. Because of his endeavours in this regard the government eventually set up the first Wages Board system. Later on, in the 1940's until the 1970's, the United Fire Fighters Union could virtually bypass the Chief Officer and the M.F.B. Board and deal directly with the Independent Wages, the

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

Industrial Appeals Board and other Tribunals etc. set up by the government for hearing arguments for and against and make unbiased decisions for better conditions and wages for firemen.

The Melbourne Fire Brigades Board were fortunate to have his acumen readily available to them during his 45 years of service. He was the right man for the right job in the right place and no doubt like many other men, for good or bad, over the years helped make the M.F.B. what it is. Amongst other things he was also working hard for shorter hours and more pay for the Shop Assistants Union. Oddly enough that was something he did not do for fire fighters in all his time on the M.F.B. Board!!! He voted against pay rises and other conditions that involved firemen that would cost money.

Despite all of this he was a very remarkable man indeed. He was the governments representative on the M.F.B. Board. From 1891 to 1936, he was President of the Board on five occasions, (1899, 1910, 1919, 1924 & 1934), he was a Justice of the Peace, and almost always Chairman of the Building & Plant committees well into the 1920's. These committees dealt with finance and everything else in the brigade other than fire fighting costs which was entirely left to the Chief Officer.

He took an active and prominent part in the fight for Federation and at the first Federal elections was returned unopposed for the Melbourne Ports. In 1906 he was appointed Honorary Minister in the Deakin Administration as acting minister of Home Affairs, this portfolio took in Footscray, and for the first time it had the honour of being represented by a Cabinet Minister.

On the 30th. July 1907 he was promoted to Post Master General of the Commonwealth a position he held until the defeat of the Deakin Government. Under his administration postal and telephone services improved throughout the Commonwealth. During the first Federal Parliament he only missed two meetings and they were due to ill health. During his time he was President of the Melbourne Total Abstinence Society, a member of the Board of the Rechabites, President of the Gordon Institute for boys, President of the National Temperance League, Hon. Secretary of the Protectionist Association, Vice President of the Criminology Association, President of the Young Men's Christian Association, and was associated with Church and Sunday School work.

It was said that by the end of his career he knew as much about the running of the M.F.B. as anyone including J.H. Scattergood the first M.F.B. Secretary, (1891 – 1898) who was dismissed early in 1898 for misappropriation of Brigade funds, even succeeding Brigade Secretaries F. Gomm, (1898 – 1914), J. Dudley (1914 – 1941) and Chief Officers David Stein. (1891 – 1898), Harry Lee (1908 – 1927), and J.T. Wilkins (1927 – 1940).

Samuel Mauger died on the 26th. June, 1936. For over 45 years his interest never waned and gave unstinted and valuable service to the Melbourne Fire Brigades Board. In all he devoted 61 years of service to the Victorian Fire Services, his dedication to improving fire fighting methods and equipment influenced all brigades across the Commonwealth. Several years before he died, the Western Australian Fire Services honoured him with a fifty year Service Medal and some time later the Country fire Brigades

Board presented him their Long Service Medal.

The Argus, Herald, Sun, and the Age newspapers on June 28th. 1937 reported the memorial service and dedication of a Harcourt granite drinking fountain in his memory, it was erected several days earlier on the reserve opposite the Eastern side of the turnout bays of the Eastern Hill Fire Station. Attending the Service were the Chief Officer J.T. Wilkins, a parade of firemen in burnished brass helmets formed a guard of honour at the front of the flag draped memorial, the Fire Brigade Brass Band at side played music at intervals.

The late Samuel Mauger was Vice President of the Australian Prohibition Council and the Victorian Prohibition League. The esteem in which Mauger was held can be gauged from the fact that among his contributors to his memorial were employees of the Victorian Liquor and Allied Trades Union. The speakers were Mr. Blackburn M.H.R., Mr. J. Hume-Cook, who unveiled the memorial, Mr. Onley M.L.C., the Rev. Charles Strong, and Chief Fire Officer J.T. Wilkins and Mr. Gordon Sprigg, treasurer of the memorial fund.

The Hon. A.G. Wales, M.L.C. who in 1936 was the President of the M.F.B. Board, (City of Melbourne Representative) read a glowing obituary to him, the last paragraph of it read, "His memory will be revered not only for his personality but also for definite and successful determination to place at the disposal of this State and his fellow men rare and commanding powers of oratory and administration".

The Footscray Municipality Mayor, Cr. Hanmer proclaimed in late 1936 that a memorial for the late Samuel Mauger erected for his work as the champion of Industrial Social Reform in the interests of men and women all over Australia. It was decided to build a memorial picnic shelter approximately 24 ft. x 14 ft. made of solid blue stone, honeycomb blue stone, and sandstone complete with concrete picnic table and wooden bench seats. The original location was on a plantation reserve on the Corner Geelong Road & Barkley Street intersection. The last official duty of the retiring Mayor Cr. Hanmer was to officially open Footscray memorial to the late Samuel Mauger on the 28th. August 1937. **A bronze plaque mounted over the North side doorway read:- Established by the citizens of Footscray to commemorate the fine civic service of the Hon. Samuel Mauger, M.P. 1936.**

It was reported in the Footscray "Advertiser" on Saturday 12th. February 1938 that a regulation will be gazetted forbidding the consumption of intoxicating liquor in the Samuel Mauger Memorial shelter due to noisy drinking bouts being held there. Cr. Mc Arthur told fellow councillors at a council meeting of a complaint by citizens of another noisy drinking bout occurring on Saturday night 7th. Feb. and into the following early hours of Sunday morning, the council considered it was not a credit to the city. Mc Arthur commented that much of the vandalism locally was due to the laxity of the police, councillor Jacka pointed out that the police had to many extraneous duties to perform, suggested the forbidding of drinking and described the shelter "as nothing else but a drinking den" for drunkards.

Seven years later the Footscray "Advertiser" published a report on Feb. 3rd. 1945 that the shelter was in a disgraceful condition, more of a resting place for dead beats and vandals rather than for citizens who were expected to frequent it.

Consistent damage prompted the council to remove the tiled roof, ceiling and pillars and leave the table and seats open.

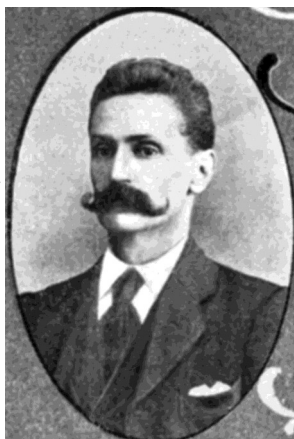
Samuel would have turned in his grave had he known the outcome of his memorial shelter as he was teetotal and was against alcohol all of his life. Several years later the stone work of the shelter was pulled down, removed and rebuilt in a picnic/playground, East side near the Pioneer Hotel in Footscray Park.

James R. Ballenger In 1890 Ballinger, Superintendent of the Carlton Breweries Brigade and ex President of the Melbourne Fire Brigades Association, (worked on the draft bill) and at this time was a Major in the Australian Militia, was appointed government representative on the M.F.B. Board. In 1895 he was elected as President of the Board. In July 1917 after 26 years of dedicated service, always having the Melbourne Fire Brigades interests at heart, he resigned from the Board, by now he held the rank of Colonel in the militia.



Above; J. R. Ballenger.
Below; Sir Henry deKellest
Images courtesy MFB Media & Communication

Sir Henry deKellest who in 1890 was Captain of the Kew Municipal Brigade, (he also worked on the draft bill), in 1890 was elected onto the M.F.B. Board as the Southern Municipalities representative. In 1915 he was elected President of the Board and for 33 years like his old comrade Ballenger had the interests of the M.F.B. at heart. He passed away on the 20th. June 1924.



A little about "The Country Fire Brigades"

In 1890 when the fire brigade act was passed the Country Fire Brigades Board (a body corporate having it's own seal) was created to organise the amalgamation and the administration of all of country Victoria volunteer fire brigades into one service. The Country Fire Brigades Board had jurisdiction over the remainder of the State outside the 10 mile radius of Melbourne's Fire Brigade District.

For the appointment of a Chief Officer the Country Fire Brigades Board advertised three times in the leading Melbourne, Ballarat, Bendigo and Geelong papers for the position of a Chief Officer, at a salary of 600 pounds per annum and a free railway pass. Twenty applications were received, the name of the man the Board and Chief Secretary was looking for was not among the 20 applicants (that was Col. T.S. Marshal). After a ballot the names of three men, Hennah, Vance and Palmer were recorded for special consideration by the board. A further ballot resulted in the appointment of Captain W.H. Hennah, as Chief Officer (he was currently Captain of the Ballarat City Brigade). It's

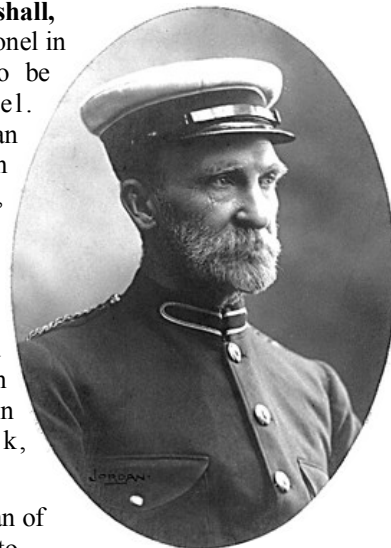
surprising that the question of a Deputy Chief Officer was held over until the next meeting of the board, however the appointment of a Deputy Chief wasn't taken until more than 20 years later.

In late 1891 Chief Officer W.H. Hennah, resigned, it appeared that there had been some misappropriation of the Board Funds. Criticisms by Councils and from the Press influenced the Board to ask for him to be dismissed.. There was an anomaly in the Act that all brigades were to be placed under local control, such control to be comprised of 1 Government representative, local Councils, Insurance Companies, and the Local Fire Brigades. It appeared that the Board and it's Chairman Cr. Burton did not have the authority to dismiss but could ask for a resignation, this was the best way of handling this delicate situation. Both Hennah and the Board Secretary W.S. Judd handed in their resignations and the Board accepted them, but immediately afterwards Judd was appointed to the dual position of Chief Officer and Secretary during the pleasure of the Board. Secretary Judd was instructed to notify the Fire Brigades Superintendents of Geelong, Ballarat, and Bendigo, that their services would not be required after Sept. 30th. 1892.

The Board decided to record in the minutes "that the resignation of Chief Officer W.H. Hennah has been accepted with regret and the same was accepted only on the grounds of the Board having adopted a more economical system of working in amalgamating the offices of Chief Officer and Secretary, and that a copy of this be given to him under the seal of the Board. After this the board decided to send a resolution to the Chief Secretary, with the request that he embody it with an amending Bill. .

Theophilus Smith-Marshall,

was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Militia, he liked to be known as Colonel. Marshall. He was an absolute achiever, a born organiser and leader, who accomplished so much in his life time. The only way I can write of his many achievements and interests is to start from the time he was born in 1842 at Greenock, Scotland.



In 1865 as a young man of 23 years he migrated to Victoria, on arrival he entered into the Education Department, he resigned

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

and in 1867 left Victoria to try his luck in the gold rush to Charleston, New Zealand. He was an unsuccessful miner and after several years he decided to return to Melbourne. He again applied to the Education Dept. to teach school and in 1870 was posted to the Chiltern Common School as its first Head Teacher. In 1871 he married fellow School Teacher Miss Margaret Fraser, they had 2 sons and 3 daughters.

-----To be continued-----

Australasian Fire Services Bowls Carnival

Saturday 26th. March saw 158 bowlers from all states and New Zealand plus 92 partners descend on the Port of Echuca to commence a week of bowls and activities. This commenced with a social night and registration at the Echuca Workers & Services club, this was a great time to catch up with friends made at previous carnivals.

Sunday saw the commencement of the carnival with bowls on the agenda each day till Thursday.

While the men were engaged on the bowling green, the ladies were on bus tours to various locations around the district.

At night, some states held different events for their members. Victoria hosted a BBQ for our visitors from across the Tasman.

Thursday saw everybody board the paddle steamers for an hours' trip on the Murray, then on to Morrison Winery for a BBQ lunch & wine tasting before being bussed back to their accommodation.

Friday was finals time for the Singles, Pairs & Fours, Victoria had representatives in all events with the following results.

Bill Weir played some great games in the singles to be finally defeated by NSW to become runner up. Great show Bill.

Peter Gerand & Alan Dury defeated Tasmania to win the pairs.

Alan Dury, John Garvin, John Fowler & Des Roche ran out winners in the fours. A good result for Victoria.

A very special thanks must go to the organising committee for what turned out to be a great carnival

Peter Gerand, Alan Dury, John Garvin, John Budge & Peter Wright, also the many other helpers. Not to forget our Mini bus driver John Barrett.

Keep up the practice as the next carnival is not far away. Tasmania 2013.

The Fire Services Bowls Club is made up of serving, retired members & associates.

Anyone interested in joining the bowls section, wherever you live in Victoria, we have members from Woodend, Ballarat, Euroa, your contact is Les Buddle on 03 95462603.

John Chambers



Top: The victorious Fours, from left, Des Roache, John Fowler, Alan Drury & John Garvin with the vanquished South Australians.

Above: Winning Pairs, Peter Gerand and Alan Dury with the Tasmanian Runners-up.

Below: Singles runner-up Bill Weir with the NSW winner.



The ROKEWOOD CROSS

Once upon a time there was a little Fire Station in the outer You Yangs called NORLANE

Its existence was totally ignored by Management and the higher ranks for it was feared that contact with the tribe who manned this Fire Station would infect those who transgressed with a virus, for all who occupied were United Firefighter Union members.

The Station was denied the opportunity of sharing the spoils and taking part in the many major fires that occurred as it was feared their presence may spread the virus.

But all was to change as the *RED STEER* had escaped and rampaging on the plains of Rokewood, causing destruction and fear. Every available appliance was dispatched and in desperation Norlane was called on to send its little red Tanker.

The fearless leader at Norlane selected his most capable Firefighters and Station Officer Kevin Stein with Firefighters Lenny Sheetz and Allan Boromeo was dispatched.

On their return Sheetz and Boromeo were overawed by the tactical brilliance and bravery displayed by Stein and insisted that a Medal be struck and awarded to Stein to commemorate the Battle of Rokewood

Diligent search was made amongst the contraband stashed at the Norlane Fire station, when a piece of metal that suited the purpose was found,

Remembering that the Victoria Cross is fashioned from the guns captured at the Battle of Sebastopol- when the Brits took on the Russians

This piece of metal was an off-cut when a new urinal had been installed at the Fire station, and was classified as *virgin stainless steel* as it had never been splashed on

A Cross was fashioned using the virgin stainless steel and red and black (DymoTape) ribbon was affixed with a



Above; L/R, Len Scheetz, Kevin Stein, Alan Boromeo following the Rokewood Cross presentation.

suitable safety pin

A formal parade was held and the dress of the day was butchers coats and flat caps, the citation was read and the Rokewood Cross a pinned on the breast of the recipient.

Thus, Kevin STEIN is the one and only holder of the coveted Rokewood Cross.

This bold group of Firefighters, Len SHEETZ, Kevin STEIN & Allan BOROMEO claimed to be the reincarnation of Rommels Panzers at Tobruk/El Alamain after their battle with the Red Steer at Rokewood.

Len Sheetz - represented the Geram Army, Kevin Stein - Rommel the Desert Fox, Allan Boromeo the Italian Army. With names like that there could be no dispute.

Thus, the Rokewood Cross was a combination of the Victoria Cross and the German Iron Cross

Vale Kevin STEIN R.C.

Nunawading Fire Station opening and community open day

MFB would like to invite Retired Firefighters to attend the official opening and community open day of the new Nunawading Fire Station.

Those who have worked at Nunawading fire station in the past are particularly encouraged to attend and share their stories about the history of the station.

WHEN: Sunday 22 May 2011
 WHERE: The new Nunawading fire station
 364 Maroondah Highway, Nunawading 3131
 Melways Ref: 48 F9
 TIME: 11am-1pm

The official opening will mark one year from the day crews moved into the new facility and will give friends, family and local community members the chance to check out the new facility.

The day will include the official opening ceremony, as well as a firefighting display, SmokeBuster and a BBQ lunch for all. The Fire Services Museum will also be represented with an historic firefighting appliance and crew.

Please come along with your family to celebrate on the day – all are welcome; RSVPS are essential, please RSVP by email to: fagushi@mfb.vic.gov.au

For more information please contact:
 John Nish at jnish@mfb.vic.gov.au or 9420 3867
 Freda Agushi at fagushi@mfb.vic.gov.au or 9665 9708

Recent Retirements

Wayne Mackwell 18th Feb.
 Geoff Anstey 24th Feb.
 Graeme Martin 24th Feb.

Pending Retirements

Pete Campbell 9th May,
 Union Hotel, Ascot Vale
 Brian Pyne, 11th May
 Clayton RSL.

Townsville Send Off

On Sat 26th Feb I had the pleasure of attending the retirement dinner at the Pier Restaurant in Townsville of one Senior Station Officer Alun Williams.

Some 80 people attended and with a membership of just 90 in the Townsville Brigade it was a fitting tribute for the respect that they held for him.

Alun retired after serving 49 years as a firefighter.

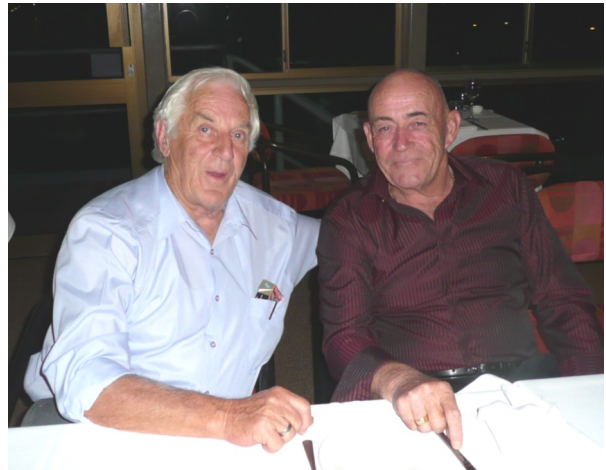
He started his career as a 16 year old junior firefighter in Worcestershire England and at 18 in Birmingham. He and his family migrated to Melbourne in 1966 and he joined MFB in 1967 where he spent 23 years stationed at No 1 then No 3 and at the training college as an instructor.

In 1991 he and his family moved to Townsville where he joined that brigade and served 19 years and retired as Senior station Officer.

He was presented with several items including emails from many parts of the world for his involvement in road rescue competitions as well as a certificate of

achievement from our Retired Firefighters Association. We wish him well in his retirement.

John Howe



Above; John Howe (left) gives Alun Williams a few tips on retirement activities.

Guess Who?

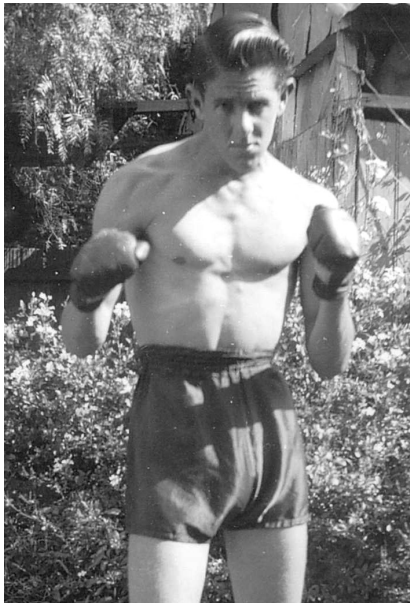
This picture is one of our retired members who worked his way up to six round bouts at the “Old House of Stoush” when he realised he was never going to be the “Great White

Hope” and gave it up. He later realised the folly of his ways and joined the MFB where he became educated in the important facts of life.

The question is, who is it?

A clue for everyone; One could never say that he was a shy, retiring type of person;

First correct answer will receive a pair of washed silver laces retrieved from his old gym boots, which must be collected at the next meeting due to the fact they may fall apart from age.



The picture above is one of a muster of a Geelong shift;

1. What shift is it?
2. What are the names of all present?
3. What was the significance for the person who is sitting down?

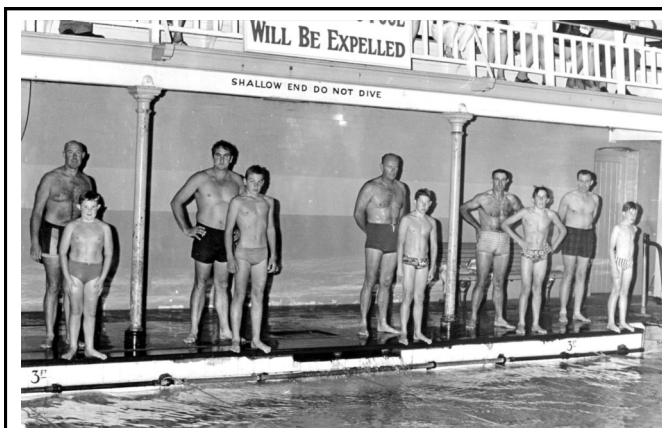
First correct answer will receive an actual framed copy of the photograph to keep.

GUESS WHO?

From the last issue.

We have not had anyone ring up about this one, the answers are as follows,

1. The picture was taken at the Melbourne City Baths,
2. Names starting from the left of the picture are Jack Moore and son, Cliff Walker and son, Bill Carter and son, Frank Munday and son and the last is Laurie Lewis and son,
3. The start was at the shallow end.



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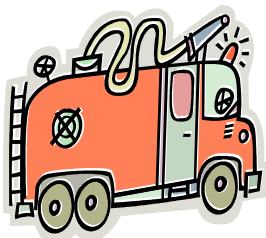
**Your hosts: retired firefighter
Lin Bell and wife Jan Bell**

QUEENSLAND REUNION

Southport Yacht Club Gold Coast

To all out there who may be travelling or just on holidays at the Gold Coast in July this year.

Come and join us for the ;



Retired Furies Luncheon Thursday July 28th, 2011

Enjoy lovely food,
panoramic views, gorgeous women and
handsome men - just a few of the things that go
to make a great day.

Arrive around 11.am, bring your partners and
catch up with old mates for a yarn.

Oh, and you don't even have to be retired!

**For further information contact;
Peter Coulson - 07 55292632**

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

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

John's address - - retfire@bigpond.net.au

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

MFB Golf Club 2011

- May**, Monday 16th, Sandhurst. (B)
June, Monday 6th, Metropolitan (D) Lunch incl.
July, Thursday 14th, Eagle Ridge (A) Cart incl.
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, Thursday 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

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Saturday & Sunday - Closed
Public Holidays, Closed

Phone 03 9576 8122

Fax: 03 9578 8166

Smile

You know you are getting old, when standing beside your coffee maker, you can't be certain its not you making those noises.



Image; MFB Media & Communications

**United Firefighters Union
GALA BALL 2011**

**Celebrating 100 Years
Saturday June 18, 2011**

Peninsular Ballroom Docklands

A once-in-a-century celebration that will bring current and former firefighters and their partners for a unique night.

Enquiries

- www.ufu100.com
- membership@ufuvic.asn.au
- Or call Trudie on 9419 8811

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