

"WATER OFF"

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



February 2013 Vol 17 No 1
Inc/No: A16839F

Australia - First Marine Fire Station For MFB !

A dedicated marine fire station at Docklands is one step closer, with the MFB board approving further investigations into the project.



The proposal will replace the current station at Port Melbourne (FS39).

Fireboat 1 commissioned and operational on the water for the summer boating season

Story and pictures page 7.

Above: An artist's impression of the proposed Marine Fire Station and home for the MFB's Special Operations Unit.

Courtesy: MFB FireCall

UFUA JOINTLY HOSTS INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON OCCUPATIONAL CANCER AND OTHER OH & S ISSUES AFFECTING FIREFIGHTERS

FORUM TO BE HELD IN MELBOURNE MARCH 2013

Further information page 4

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“GENERAL MEETING”

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

10.30 Hours, Wednesday 20th February 2013

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!**

Non financial Members

Members be advised if your newsletter has an expiry date of 2/1/2012 that means you have not paid your subs since 2011 therefore if no remuneration is received by the 2/1/14 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
Mike McCumisky
Alan Roberts
John Schintler

Auditor;
Theo Teklenburg

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

Valë

Les Harrison (MFB) Wayne Simpson (MFB)
Jan Lindeboom (MFB) Ian Summerscales (MFB)
Les Paterson (MFB) Ron Turner (MFB)

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

SICK LIST (* In Nursing Home)

Don Cameron Jack Harbrow
Stan Cameron Clarrie Hart
Huew Campbell* Jack Moore
Ken Clinkaberry Jack Sexton
Ron Clough Brian Trembath
Russ Daniels* Tom Williamson
Ernie Goodall*
Clarrie Guthrie*

We wish these members a speedy recovery

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

Diary Dates 2013

February 17th UFU Picnic, Moonee Valley
February 20th; General Meeting
May 15th; General Meeting
August 21st; General Meeting
November 20th; Annual General Meeting

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to the year of 2013. I hope that everyone had a good festive season and is looking forward to a safe, healthy and prospect year.

At our AGM I announced that my daughter Angela Potter, had applied for a Government Grant for the RFA, we were successful in our application and have received \$2700. John Berry, Angela and Myself have purchased the following

- Laptop computer
- Printer
- Monitor
- Projector
- Projector screen
- Video camera
- Laminator

And associated accessories

All to the value of \$1876.00

The remainder of the money will be used for postage and petrol money.

These items remain the property of the RFA and are to be used for meetings etc.

The BBQ at Bunnings was held on Saturday 19th January, we cleared \$1775.40 on the day. Members in attendance were J. Berry, A. Roberts, F. Kerr, A. Sheppard, I. Fowler, K. Hede, F. Laverick, E. Paddon, and D. & N. Brennan. I thank you all for helping out.

Once again I would like to thank Bunnings Hoppers Crossing for giving us this extra day. They have given us Sunday 3rd November for our next scheduled BBQ day.

Hope to see as many of you as possible at our next meeting.

Don Brennan.

SECRETARY/ TREASURER'S REPORT

I would like, on behalf of the committee, to congratulate you all for joining us again in 2013. Have we got a great year planned? Example; the February meeting I had booked an old retired Firies male dancing group, you know similar to the ones called Manpower; I had to knock them back unfortunately, by the time they got their Tunic, boots, leggings & breeches off the show had already being going for over 30 minutes, add to that, the sight, which I must confess left a lot to be desired.

One other item I looked at, was a make-believe talking parrot made by one of our Chemical Engineer Members (Turns Beer, Wine & Spirits into urine) the language was not only obscene he needed a number of toilet breaks during the presentation.

Following the disappointment of the first two acts, I decided like any other Secretary, I would call in the man at the head of the table the **President**, you all know how resourceful he is; straight away he decided to go to the highest Office in the land for their support, the Federal Government. I hope to have further info on the result before we go to print. It must be obvious to all from the aforementioned the association needs to get a young vibrant secretary for the RFA rather than the old bloke you have, my use- by date has long gone. I would like this to be my last year.

The following is just to bring you up to speed on the AGM and what has occurred since then. First the AGM, which I believe was the climax to a very successful calendar year, every meeting and family day we ran had great guest speakers, in fact **Charlie Bezzina** at the AGM was that good I had members, during luncheon break, raving to me how good he was, being the smooth operator (I like to think I am), I would immediately say what did you think of the Secretary's report, all to a person said it

would have been better without it. Note; if you saw me in the corner ripping up paper I was not upset I was just making the paper easier for recycling, that is my story and I sticking to it.

The Federal Government's grant:

During the business part of the meeting the President read out the letter I had received from **The Hon Jenny Macklin M.P** Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs & Minister for Disability Reform and **The Hon Julie Collins M P** Minister for Community Services, Minister for Indigenous Employment and Economic Development, Minister for the Status of Women. That letter advises the RFA of the success of our application for a grant under the Volunteer Grants 2012. Many thanks must go to his daughter Angela who was instrumental in organizing the application. The grant of \$ 2,700 will be of great assistance in the running of the RFA in many ways, (letters of appreciation forwarded to the respective Honourable Members and Don's daughter Angela Potter).

On Friday the 11th of January the President, his daughter Angela and I visited the Officeworks store in Werribee, purchasing many of the items in accordance with the equipment identified in our application. (See President's report) Please be advised if any member has thought about nominating for the Secretary position but did not, due to the fact they did not have a computer, well now we have one with all the bells & whistles, so here is the chance to get in on the ground floor and have a go. I would assist you get up to speed with everything.

The cost of **RFA lapel badges** will increase to \$5 dollars, an increase of \$2. The original manufacturer went out of business and as reported we were down to the last 4 of the 200 we had made of the new logo approximately 9 or more years ago. Ken Heddle (RFA Member) was able to get the best price for 200 through a company that does the Fire Museum work, some of the prices I was quoted to

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

set up the art work and manufacture them range from \$7 up to \$10 each for 200, most said if we were to order a thousand or more it would be possible to get the price down to around \$3, hence the reason we went with the Museum supplier.

The Geelong members had a very successful “**Fireys Muster**” again at the Gateway Hotel 27/11/12 good roll-up, great food & company what more could you ask for. The only downside was one of our stalwarts (John Cotter) slipped & fell just as he was walking in, the good news is he is fighting fit and the footy boots have had the cobwebs brushed off ready for summer training. He told me this year the coach will have him doing a lot of weight work and is relying on him to come out of the back-pocket like a Sherman Tank. If you are down Geelong way and you see a bloke about my size with two of the old house bricks in his hands running up and down the

foreshore, do not, and I repeat, do not get in his way. I’ve heard on the grapevine another drill they have him doing is punching in 100mm nails with his fist. (Trust me would I lie)

The end of the last year and the start of 2013 have not been the best for some of our members and their families, some have been called to a higher place and others, due to health problems, have been forced to change lifestyles to compensate for their condition. There is no doubt about it; this third stage of life really is a very interesting time when you consider all the contingences thrown at you. I find it certainly keeps you on your toes, add to that the changes that are happening in so many parts of the world definitely makes it worthwhile getting up in the morning. Have a great 2013 in the Chinese calendar the year of the Snake, one thing it is identified for is! Mystery, so keep alert.

John Berry

GLOBAL FORUM OCCUPATIONAL CANCER IN FIREFIGHTERS

The Global Forum on Occupational Cancer in Firefighters - and other important health and safety matters that affect firefighters - will be held in Melbourne, on March 14-15 2013.

This is a unique opportunity for all who are interested in advancing the cause of just and fair compensation for injured firefighters around the globe.

International and local speakers include scientists, epidemiologist, firefighting experts, Chief Fire Officers, senior operational personnel, health and safety experts and Australian MP’s.

A highlight will be the presentation by Dr Tee L. Guidotti MD, MPH, FACOEM, FACP, an internationally recognised epidemiologist and icon in the world of occupational and environmental medicine.

An Australian first. Secure your attendance at this international event, facilitated by the UFU Australia in conjunction with United Firefighters of Winnipeg and the Edmonton Firefighters Union.



**Registrations and inquiries now to
Trudie Webber at
pa@ufuvic.asn.au**

VITAL INFORMATION FOR

- FIREFIGHTERS
- EMERGENCY SERVICES
- HEALTH PROFESSIONALS
- ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES
- OH&S OFFICERS
- UNIONS
- & THE WIDER COMMUNITY

**MARCH 14-15 2013
CROWN PROMENADE
MELBOURNE**

Minutes, Annual General Meeting 21st November 2012 Training College

Present: - 68
Apologies: - 4

John Berry (Secretary/Treasurer), Don Brennan (President), Ian Geddes (Minutes).

Don welcomed first time attendees

Dr. John Upjohn, Harry Pantazis, Peter Shanahan, Ozzie Bowd, George Prentiss and David Kewley.

John Berry - Sick list same as August 2012 and updates -: Jack Moore has had a bad bleed on the brain and is recovering. Tom Williamson has had a stroke causing some vision and mobility problems. Jack Harbrow also recovering from a stroke. Don Cameron is undergoing chemotherapy which has created some side effects. Bob Burrows recovering from knee replacement in October.

Minutes from previous Meeting:

John read Minutes of Meeting 15th August 2012.

Accepted - John Howe, seconded - Ernie Paddon - carried.
Business arising: - Nil.

Treasurers Report:

As of 30th June 2012

Main Account	\$2,972.87
Fixed Term	\$5,913.37
	= \$8,886.50

Accepted - Allan Roberts, seconded Harry Floyd - Carried.

Presidents Report

Don spoke about the results of his daughter's (Angela Potter) assistance to the RFA in gaining a grant from the Federal Government and read the letter out that the Secretary received from Federal Minister, Jenny Macklin, advising him that the request for a grant of \$2,700 for use by the R.F.A. as a registered Volunteer group for purchases of equipment had been successful. Applause for Angela.

Don thanked Nick Draper (Union Social Secretary) for a very successful UFU Retirees Luncheon Malvern Town Hall.

John Berry called for nominations for the Committee for 2012/2013.

Reappointed to committee;

Ian Geddes, Mike McCumisky, John Schintler.

The Public Officer John Wallace advised us of the changes by the Department of Justice (Consumer Affairs) that his position on the committee is no longer needed and advised the members of his retirement from the committee. John Laverick requested that he would like to see new members on the Committee and graciously stood down. John will maintain his role as Editor of the Water-Off. The President called for a round of applause.

The Secretary moved that to meet the requirements of the Constitution we needed a member to be elected to the Committee.

The Secretary moved that this meeting of the RFA

nominate Allan Roberts to fill the vacant Ordinary Committee members position Seconded Les Napper - Carried

The Secretary foreshadowed a motion for the new year, re change of Constitution to allow an increase of 2 Ordinary Committee Members to meet the needs of the RFA

21 Day notification is hereby given of a pending change to Constitution to allow extra Ordinary Members onto the Committee. **Meeting closed 11.15 hrs.**

The following is a précis of the Guest presentation.

John Schintler introduced our Guest Speaker, Retired Senior Sergeant Charlie Bezzina.

Charlie spoke of his early foot patrols from Russell St., checking keys and shops. Later spoke of the Russell Street Bombing and of his "losing the Supt's car" in the explosion (he parked too close).

His 3 years in the Drug Squad, whilst being very interesting, he felt the Laws had not kept up with what was taking place in the community. The 17 years in the Homicide Squad was, in his opinion, his most productive/interesting. He retired after almost 38 years service.

Charlie showed a DVD of a Mal Walden documentary about his career, and footage of various other cases which clearly showed the skills of the Vic Homicide squad proving that it was second to none in relation to solving the many horrendous crimes. Listening to him made it easy to understand why they had been so successful.

Charlie stressed that the Victoria Police "work by the rules", but the criminals don't. Protecting the innocent is a good thing but it sometimes spills over to "protecting" the criminals as well.

All Homicide interviews are videotaped and only then would they be accepted in Court. EVERY murder investigation is done exactly with the same professional procedures, from David Hookes, Alphonse Gangitano to a less profiled murder of a member of the general public.

Charlie told us of Lewis/Jason Moran "toe to toe" confrontations (remember that these criminals were very volatile and easily upset), and the building of constant pressure on the Moran's.

Lesson - Do ALL your in-depth investigations thoroughly and THEN take it to court and get the conviction was the lesson the meeting picked up on.

Charlie said he was part of the best police force in Australia which now has a great Police Commissioner.

Fabulous presentation for the lucky members present.

Charlie received from the RFA a plaque and others gifts in appreciation of a most interesting subject.

The members all agreed Charlie, no matter the incident, would be a great bloke to be backing you up.

Winners of Charlie Bezzina's "The Job" were Ian Fowler, Bill Franklin, Jack Lake, Bob Thompson and Doug Overton. (Yes, Charlie signed his book for the lucky winners, only when they asked NICELY).

Dr. John Upjohn (Retired B.M.O.) was also presented with a "RFA plaque and gift for his 40 years of dedication to the health of MFB personnel.

At the Barbeque, Don thanked the Training College staff for their great support they give to the RFA, and presented a gift of appreciation.

RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
VICTORIAN BRANCH
 Reg.No. A16839F

Statement of Income and Expenditure for year ended 30 June 2012

<u>Income</u>	\$	2011 \$
Opening Balance Credit Union 1 July 2011	12,445.73	8,569.49
Members' subscriptions	4,070.30	3,440.05
Sale of promotional items	36.00	123.00
Fundraising	-	1,725.75
Joining fees	35.00	75.00
Transfers	-	-
Interest received	<u>330.57</u>	<u>297.09</u>
	<u>16,917.60</u>	<u>14,230.38</u>
 <u>Expenditure</u>		
Postages and telephone	1,206.13	1,201.25
Reunion Day & catering	601.43	33.08
Magazine expenses	128.21	117.18
Computer upgrades & software & internet	1,203.00	377.84
Donations	4,545.00	-
Sundries	299.16	-
Government & Credit co-op fees & charges	<u>48.30</u>	<u>55.30</u>
	8,031.23	1,784.65
Closing Balance Credit Union 30 June 2012	<u>8,886.37</u>	<u>12,445.73</u>
	<u>16,917.60</u>	<u>14,230.38</u>

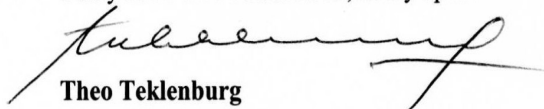
Bank Reconciliation

Bank balance as at 30 June 2012

Main account	2,972.87
Term deposit	<u>5,913.50</u>
	<u>8,886.37</u>

Independent Person's Certification.

I have examined the accounting records, including receipts, of Retired Firefighters Association for the period 1 July 2011 till 30 June 2012, In my opinion the Statement of Performance above is correct.


Theo Teklenburg
 Retired Credit Union Manager

First Marine Fire Station for MFB

The fire station, which would boast direct wharf access, will be the first of its kind in Australia.

Property Services' Acting ACFO Greg Pearson and Acting Manager of Land Acquisitions and New Builds Tammy Fisher, have been working on the concept for the past 24 months. The Marine Project Team has been involved in the consultative process with regard to the strategic planning for marine.

The proposal will replace the current station at Port Melbourne (FS39).

The 9,500sqm site will also be home to the MFB Special Operations Unit comprising of Urban Search and Rescue (USAR), HAZMAT and Marine Response – as well as a five bay fire station and administrative area.

Early drafts have accommodated for a commercial, mixed-use area, cafes or other retail outlets as part of an integrated development.

Currently, there are discussions with other government agencies looking at the site for potential co-location with the MFB.

Following the Board's investigation of options and the MFB being integrated in the master plan of the Yarra's Edge development, Property Services will

investigate the financial viability and suitability of the site and ensure response times from the current FS39 will not be compromised.

Whilst the cost of this project is substantial and the MFB's forecasted budget has already been allocated, Property Services is working with Places Victoria on ways to fund and explore alternative options, never before undertaken by the MFB, that would be of low cost to the MFB to bring this facility to fruition to meet its operational service delivery requirements.



Above: Artist's impression of the proposal.

Courtesy: MFB "Firecall"



MFB publicly unveils Fireboat 1

It's now operational and on the water in time for the busy summer period.

The 10.5 metre Promarine aluminium boat has been specially equipped with water and foam pumping capabilities, to assist firefighters in tackling marine emergencies in the Port of Melbourne and Docklands precincts.

It is currently moored at North Wharf, Docklands and firefighters from West Melbourne Fire Station will respond to marine calls. The vessel was officially commissioned on Monday December 31 and its first call was to a grass fire in Newport.

The vessel was funded as part of a \$9.8 million project that will overhaul the marine response capabilities of the MFB, which will include current and future fire fighting vessels, equipment, training and operations.

Left: Fireboat 1 demonstrates its capabilities after the commissioning.

Courtesy: MFB "Firecall".

"The growth of waterside living, recreation, business development and burgeoning trade in the Port of Melbourne and Docklands precinct has meant that the MFB capability needed to be strengthened to meet growing demand," CEO Nick Easy said.

"It has been nine months since the blaze that destroyed the luxury motor yacht in Docklands. While this was contained and no adjoining assets were damaged, this new fireboat is a significant boost for the community and the management of fire risks in the marine environment.

"Capacity will grow further with the addition of a purpose-built fire vessel, the procurement of which is well advanced.

In the past 12 months 100 MFB firefighters have completed Shipboard Fire Fighting training. This includes a period of training in Tasmania at the Australian Maritime College. An additional 40 firefighters have also been trained in Swift Water Rescue.

Acting Chief Officer Peter Rau said MFB had access to a small fleet of fire fighting vessels.

"Fireboat 1 adds to the fire prevention and suppression system already in place in ports and marinas in Melbourne; other emergency services, boat owners and port operators all have a role to play," Mr Rau said. "For marine emergencies, MFB will provide both a land and marine response."

Fire on the H.M.A.S Quiberon

The following article comes from one of the RFA stalwarts *Peter Watson*; I believe it is not only interesting but also unique as it brought about his desire to join the MFB.

It all started back on the 15th April 1943, the Quiberon had begun a "Refitting" at Victoria Docks, Melbourne.

At 0255hrs, fire was discovered in the forward lower mess deck, among numerous stored bags & hammocks in and around the "Mess Hammock Bin". Cause of fire was believed to be a short circuit in the night-light.

Below this deck (see attached drawing) was the starboard forward **Shell Room** (containing about 500 x 4.7" - 56 lbs. explosive shells) On the Port side was the Forward Magazine, (containing cordite charges to propel the shells).

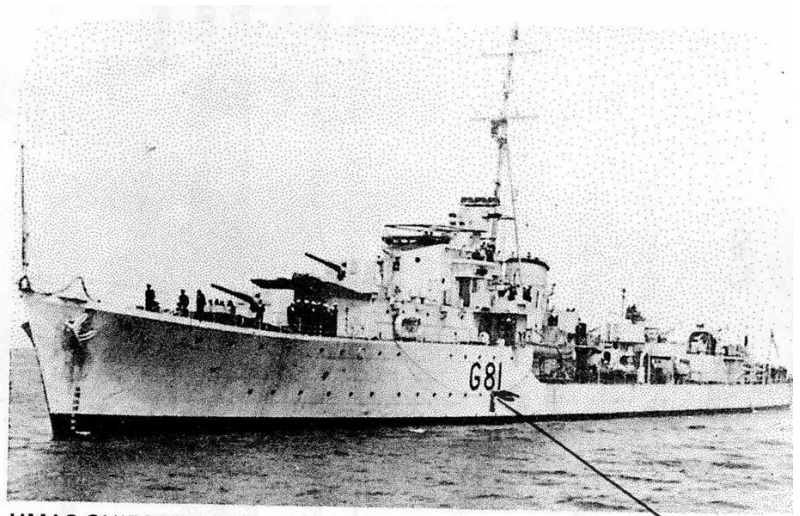
The Lieutenant Engineer (Tom Moffat) took charge of the immediate response, flood these 2 compartments & request assistance from the local brigade (MFB). Owing to the refit-in-progress the ship's fire-fighting equipment was out of commission.

The Brigade (probably William Street No.2) were soon on scene & ran hose lines from the wharf to the ship and Firefighters wearing BA's extinguished the fire. In the meantime the ship's crew wearing gas masks were removing containers of Pom-Pom ammunition in the area above the fire away from the heat.

One of the "Care & Maintenance" sailors on duty that morning was, Ordinary Seaman 2nd Class "Peter" R.M Watson, who remained on the Quiberon for the next 2 Years. In 1952 Peter joined the MFB and found that the Drill Instructor, **Tom Draper** (now deceased) and also the Third Officer (also deceased) **Jack Patterson** both had very clear memories of the event.

Peter, in his article mentioned some other items of interest about the ship; the refit was completed late May 1943, in the same month it sailed for Africa with a crew of 226 & 70 passengers (Prisoners of war).

The 2 officers he remembers from the fire, Jack



HMAS QUIBERON with original armament during 1943. No. G81

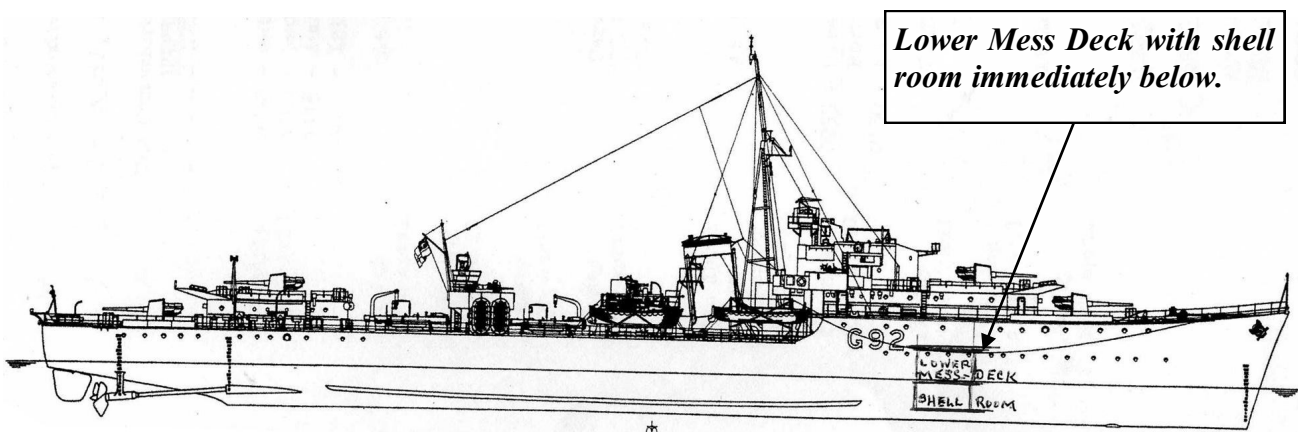
Patterson & Tom Draper were also involved in another ship fire, this one occurred on the 7th of August 1947 and was of greater consequence. This one involved a freighter named "Mahia" at Victoria Dock unfortunately in this one ten "10" Painters & Dockers lost their lives.

Friday May 20, 1955, Tom Draper, later received a bravery award for his rescue of 3rd Officer, Jack Patterson, who collapsed whilst fighting a fire in the hold of the freighter "Elm Hill" docked at South Wharf. District Officer Charlie Barton also collapsed at the same fire.

There's no doubt, people like Peter, because of their maritime skills, were, and still are, great sources of information especially ones involving Man-of-Wars and the fire service was made richer because of this knowledge.

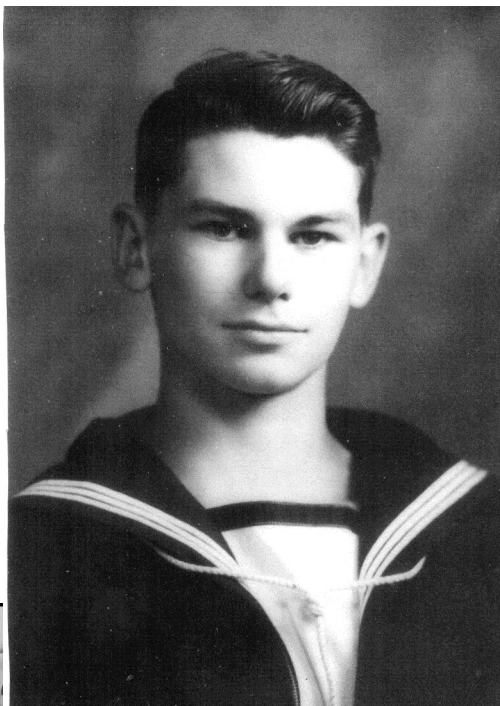
I will, as I told Peter, be forwarding his information on to the Fire Museum.

John Berry



Ordinary Seaman 2nd Class R. M. Watson.

Entered Flinders Naval Depot October 21, 1942. Drafted to HMAS Quiberon April 3, 1943. Served in Atlantic, Indian and Southern Oceans as part of the British Eastern Fleet then South and North Pacific Oceans as part of the British Pacific Fleet. Drafted from HMAS Quiberon 25th April 1945 - May 1945 to



Flinders Naval Depot Gunnery school AA3.

August 1945 Drafted to HMAS Kiama - Corvette, (VP Day) Mine sweeping New Guinea waters.

November 1945, drafted from Kiama to HMAS Arunta, December 1945 arrived in Japan as part of the British Occupational Forces.

Drafted from HMAS Arunta late May 1946, Demobilised 26th June 1946.



Right: Valour Medal Recipient, Tom Draper. Rumour has it, Jack Patterson wasn't too happy about having to be rescued by Tom. It must have been a tremendous blow to his pride.

Image:
B. McCumisky



Above: Third Officer, Jack Patterson dons breathing apparatus before entering the hold of the "Elm Hill".

It's believed he may have slipped in the No. 4 hold tearing the tubes to the mask causing CO to enter. Rescued by Tom Draper.

Charlie Barton, wearing the helmet in the background, collapsed from the effects of CO some 3 hours later after entering No 5 Hold several times.

The Firefighter holding the rope line in the foreground is Don Muir. Firefighter in peak cap unknown.

Image: Fire Services Museum Vic.



Above: The Mahia lists to starboard with the bow up out of the water. This was caused when firefighters filled the hold with water and the stern sank into the Yarra mud. Unfortunately, 10 Painters and Dockers lost their lives.

Image: Fire Services Museum Vic.

Gone But Not Forgotten

It is again with regret that we have to include this column in this issue. As I have stated in previous newsletters the RFA members and partners are a very unique group of the community, however the one downside is the fact most are in that wonderful third stage of life that seems to always bring with it health related problems.

I do hope the following will refresh your memories about the lives of some of these wonderful people who have left us.

Ronald Henry Turner 1934-26/11/2012. Ron (Sf/m) who served the community for 34 years was unfortunately not able to enjoy the retirement he so rightly deserved as the later stage of his retirement was cut short due to a stroke that he sustained which left him bedridden and unable to tend to his personal needs.

The first time I met Ron was many, many years ago when as a young officer I was sent as a reliever to the station, you could almost say he owned, he was not only there at its opening, in fact it was the station that he retired from, MFB No2 Stn Batman Street West Melbourne.

Whilst I was not on the same shift as him I did learn of his skills and ability at the morning debriefs from the Officer in charge of that shift. It was very obvious from what I heard that he was an integral part of the shift not only because of his knowledge of the City, Docks, Ships & Rail yards but also for his Firefighting capabilities.

I, like many other relievers, move on and in many instances you may never come in contact with them again; as was the case with Ron this did happen, however in retirement I did get to know him better when both of us attended the same sporting events, where I had the opportunity to chew the fat with him about our past career and retirement. It was during those occasions I found Ron was more a listener rather than a talker and I know from other members of the RFA that he was a top firey to be on shift with, steady, strong, knowledgeable and would stick with you no matter what.

Ron, thanks for the memories, Clive and Ian hope like all of us that your new posting will be better than the last one.

Leslie John Paterson 1927-7/12/2012. In Les's case I will be upfront I cannot remember ever meeting him, as is the norm in a case like this I went looking for someone that knew him, John Williams was one that provided the information. He told me he was not only able to help, but brought me up-to-speed with the fact that Les and he both sustained life changing injuries during the course of their duties which affected both their careers.

John informed me that Les, prior to the injury, was the ultimate Firefighter, with a wealth of knowledge, daring, caring, in peak physical fitness and would always put others first. I did question John as to whether this was a paid political announcement, his response was no it was not. He stated unfortunately, neither the Brigade nor the community, because of Les's injuries, ever had the opportunity to allow this man to reach his full potential in his chosen career.

I also spoke to a lady that rang who I believe was Les's Sister-in-law, who told me that Les never ever got over being pensioned out of the job. I must say I am disappointed that I did not know him as it sounded like the community is the poorer for his passing. **Les** on behalf of all Firies we hope the new posting will give you the opportunity to do all the things you wanted.

Leslie Edward Harrison 1920-13/1/13 (Dad) This Les I did know and as you can see from his year of birth and passing he had reached the grand age of 92 years young.

When I joined the MFB in 1956 Les had been in the job for over 15 years which made him one of the blokes you went to for guidance and advice, he was like the trade master during what one could call your apprenticeship.

He was old school no sh#* gets in and gets the job done. No BA's at most stations back then, they showed you how to survive without one, it did not matter if you had a big "Technicolor Yawn" when you came out for a breather from a fire, that was part of the trade no sitting on the rear-end, back in and get to the seat of the fire. They would show you the snake trick and the mouth beside the $\frac{3}{4}$ " nozzle for air, the clues about lath-on-plaster and old kapok mattress and getting the old hose carriages to work from street gutters with one length of suction.

He was of course one of the rare ones from that era when you compare his age to others, most members that made retirement back then did not seem to have any longevity amongst them. If I remember correctly he, like many others, was involved in the push to get BA's on all the big red trucks, even with all his skills he still knew the importance of obtaining better protection for all in the workplace.

Les's wife passed away a number of years ago and there is no doubt his children & grandchildren kept him young. Mate we all thank you for your advice & guidance.

John Berry

the

MFB PICTURE SHOW COMING SOON TO THE BIG SCREEN.

Barbara McCumisky

Those of you who regularly attend the RFA meetings will be familiar with Jack Moore (ret. Supt. MFB). During 2012 he was very active organising a photo scanning day at Fire Station 27, Nunawading, when Eastern District retired firies brought in their fire related image and newspaper clippings collections. The scanned images were then catalogued in the Fire Museum Image Collection with appropriate captions and credits.

Apart from the Museum acquiring a wealth of information, the day also proved to be an outstanding success socially. The firies at FS27 put on a gourmet lunch and then spent the afternoon entertaining the visitors while I completed the scanning. Jack was very excited about this and wanted similar days to continue in other districts.

After seeing the images that came in that day, Jack was keen that all the retired firies should view them and suggested I present them at a RFA meeting. I told him that I had a number of other images requiring face or place identification so I'd be very happy to do a presentation.

When Jack spoke about my planned picture show, RFA secretary Johnny Berry, pointed out that speakers had already been booked for all the meetings last year. Not to be out done, Jack moved a motion that I be the first guest presenter in 2013. The motion was seconded by Trevor Reed.

Jack could hardly wait for the day to come, which was intended to be at the February meeting in a few weeks time. We spoke several times about the content of the picture show with Jack getting more and more excited.

Sadly before Christmas Jack got very sick and was hospitalised. He is very slowly making progress, but won't be well enough to attend the February RFA meeting.

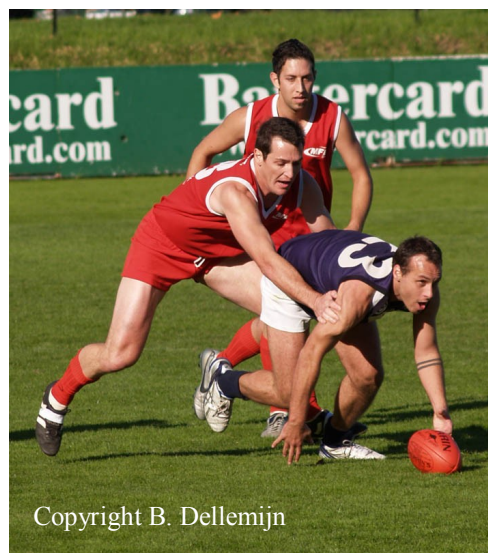
After some discussion, the RFA Committee decided in fairness to Jack, the presentation should be deferred until the May meeting. Johnny Berry rang me and explained



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Copyright Fire Services Museum Vic.

situation and I'm more than happy to oblige.

Jack is extremely passionate about the preservation of the image collection. You only needed to see his face light up every time we met, or I showed him a new photo I had found. Knowing Jack, I think he would be terribly disappointed if he missed my presentation.

I'm sure that each and every one of you RFA members will agree with the Committee's decision to hold my picture show over to the May meeting.

I assure you it will be worth the wait. I have many images ranging from big fires, MVAs, rescues, sporting events, recruits at the Training College, fire dogs, and station openings to firies working and relaxing around stations. I'm sure the picture show will bring back many memories for you

all. Jack said he was sure it would generate much discussion and I would get the information I need to complete the identification of the images.

Jack, we all wish you a good recovery and hope you continue to make progress each day. We are all looking forward to seeing you at the May meeting. You can't miss my picture show, because as you know it contains many memorable images. As you are the one who worked so hard to make it happen, we all want you to be there to enjoy it along with us.

LOOK BEFORE YOU COOK

Australians love their barbecue but, we become complacent as we have cooked so many over the years and we don't give a thought to how safe our favourite backyard barby is. This timely reminder from Energy Safe Victoria gives us some hints to make sure we don't ruin our next barbecue meal.

A faulty barbecue can burn more than your sausages. Clean it, check it and test it with soapy water, advises an Energy Safe Victoria (ESV) investigator.

A summer barbecue is one of life's simple pleasures. In addition to enjoying fresh, seasonal food, it allows us to enjoy quality time outdoors mingling with family and close friends. What could be better than this?

Before you light your barbecue you need to think about a number of factors and remember to look before you cook.



Above: *Look before you cook. Don't let your barbecue end up looking like this. Take 5 minutes to read this advice.*

Photo: Energy Safe Victoria

Barbecue Location

Ideally you need a clear space, with no overhanging branches or debris which could potentially catch fire. Try to set up out of the wind and ensure your barbecue is on firm, level ground with no risk of tipping over or rolling away. Gas appliances need adequate ventilation so never use a barbecue inside a caravan, tent or house.

Fuel

Always ensure you use enough charcoal to cover the base of the barbecue and only light it when the coals are cold; you don't want to burn yourself. Always remember to keep excess charcoal in a safe place well away from the fire.

If you are using natural gas or LPG there are a number of factors you need to take into account.

Always check your barbecue's hose and pipe connections are in good condition and never use home made connections. ESV recommends that you replace any out-of-date, old or damaged gas cylinders or fittings. You can find the test date stamped into the collar of the cylinder.

Safe, refilled cylinders are available from most petrol stations. When you are transporting cylinders keep them upright in the boot of the car. Always store them

upright away from heat sources, and avoid storing cylinders in your car.

Look Before You Cook

Before you light your barbecue take the time to check for gas leaks. This is specially important with new barbecues or those that haven't been used for a while. You can do this by brushing or spraying soapy water around the joints of the pipe work: if you see any bubbles then you have a gas leak. Tighten the connection and check again.

Extinguish Flames In An Emergency

Have a fire extinguisher, a fire blanket, a bucket of water or a bucket of sand close by while you are cooking. If the flames become out of control and you can't turn off the gas supply, don't hesitate to douse the flames even if it means your food will be ruined.

Enjoy having fun this summer and remember to stay safe and always treat gas with respect.

Source: Energy Safe, Summer 2012 edition

Another Thing I've Learned With Age

I've learned that the people you care most about in life are taken from you too soon and all the less important ones just never go away. And the real pains in the ass are permanent.

GUESS WHO?

The Old MFB 29 Stn (Glenhuntly) Manning Folklore

Over the many years that the MFB have been in existence we have heard many

stories regarding the personnel and various heroics. In some cases the belief that some members when given their transfer orders upstairs refused to go, they just hang round and make a nuisance of themselves at night, you know, by opening and closing doors etc.

Well in the case of the old 29, I believe the following fact may be a first for any Fire Station in the world; I have gone through my old Guinness book of Records and looked on the Internet and have not come up with anything similar. Imagine out of a crew of twelve stationed



there, five members, who with their partners, had a set of twins each, (I have been advised they were not conceived at the station) this is almost a 50% strike rate, OMG.

Jack Lake supplied the copy of the photograph and details, now here is the question, what are the names of the blokes in the picture? First correct answer will get the secret from Jack on how to have twins, (I'm sure all you retirees would want to know that).

John Berry



Above: Jack "The Fireman" Nevill celebrated his 80th birthday at his second home on the weekend. The popular former trainer, now turned successful punter, has been a regular at the NGRA's three homes, North Melbourne, Olympic Park and now the Broadmeadows venue. Jack is pictured with Angela Jackson and Queensland chaser, Nigaloo Magic.

80 YEAR OLD MAN KEPT BY DISH-LICKERS

This article is of one of our members, whose family & friends gave him a surprise party for his 80th birthday at the home of the Victorian Greyhound Racing Broadmeadows (see attached photo).

The person I am referring to is the well-known Firey of North Fitzroy fame, Jack Nevill. This person who, in his retirement, became well known in the Preston/Reservoir area because of his early morning walks/training regime of greyhounds (working-man's racehorses) in fact, story has it, many long-eared grass-eating mammals, were seen being chased by him, this was his way of keeping fit enough to train his dogs.

The only down side to this form of training was, at the end of every meal he had, when he finished said meal, he would lick his plate clean. His family became very concerned about this habit and suggested that he go from being a keeper of dish-lickers to being kept by them **BELIEVE IT OR NOT**.

Now however, if perchance you do venture out to a great night out at the Greyhounds and you want to rub shoulders with success, look for Jack, but be warned he will not be the one going through the discarded betting slips, he will be the one talking to the dogs, as he has also become well known as the Dog Whisperer.

John Berry

Fire Services Bowls Club

The Fire Services Bowls Club back in November 2012 travelled to Hobart for the Australasian Fire Services Carnival which is held approximately every 18 months . We compete against Retired & Active firefighters from WA , SA , NSW , QLD , TAS & NZ , the Carnival runs for a week and we compete for Gold & Silver medals . This time around we managed to win the overall best performed state for the second time in a row and we scored GOLD in the fours event with the team of A. Drury (Skip) , J. Garvin (third) , D. Roche (second) and P. Wright (lead) and that was their second time also in a row winning that event . Great effort fellas .

Coming events :

February 14, Newport Bowls Club 10am, Police game, 1pm Club singles final.

February 21, Kingsbury Bowls Club 12.30 pm. (Mixed).

March 14, Broadmeadows Bowls Club 12.30 pm. (Mixed).

March 28, Diamond Creek Bowls Club 12,30 pm. (Mixed).

Our current Club champion is Alan Drury (two years in a row) .

We currently have 110 members and always welcome new members . Membership fee's are \$15 male & \$5 female . Their are 7 monthly events that ladies can also enter please refer to our web site

The web site can be found at

(www.sportingpulse.com.au) click on Lawn bowls then click on MFB , this site has all the information you need .

If you have any questions please contact the following people :

Alan Drury mob: 0418 390 899 or Stn 6 'A' Platoon

John Budge mob: 0438 543 334 or Stn 12 'D' Platoon

John Garvin mob:0403 316 338

Cheers & Tight Ends , John Budge



Above: *The Victorian team managed to win the overall best performed state for the second time in a row and scored gold in the fours.*

Answers to November 2012 newsletter "Guess Who"

Name the person driving the old open carriage, his claim to fame and the station. I received many calls about this one.

The answers are, **Basil Smith - Fame**, apart from the Military Service, the high office in the RSL & Legacy. Basil was **District Officer in charge of Training** at the Abbotsford Complex during the busiest time in the history of the MFB in regards to recruitment, promotional and specialist courses. **No 19 the old Kew one.**

Name of winner is member **John Howe**, who advised me he knew how to do the three man lift.

I received a letter from one of our members regarding Basil and his trailer, the person I am referring to claimed that before he was transferred to the Fire Protection Department he could not spell the word Architect, now that he is in Fire Protection he is one, unquote. The name of said person is Bernie Bishop, Bernie's letter about fixing Basil's trailer is typical Basil, well worth a read and I will put it in the next newsletter.

The name of the person in the second picture is **Bill Ellis**, John Howe and Neville Smith both rang about this one, in fact Neville, who was not a bad pugilist himself, informed me that he can remember sparring with him on a number of occasions. I did suggest to Mr Howe seeing as I did not know of Bill's address, if he liked we may be able, next time Neville's in town, arrange for him to have a few rounds with him wearing the training gloves. For some reason he declined I am very sure he can remember Neville was the go-to-man if it hit the fan and you were looking for a good back-stop.

The last picture I must say I am very disappointed! In fact when I tried to order a number of litres of Carbox I was advised the only thing I could get that may be close to the old product, is a diluted form of Acetic acid. Now if we don't get an answer to the names quickly I will need to set up a roster of names of retired MFB members to go into the old Eastern Hill station to scrub the marble stairs. Be warned I have checked and found they still have the pieces of the rubber lined hose we used for kneeling, gal buckets & floor cloths

John Berry

BELLS BY THE BEACH

HOLIDAY HOUSE • OCEAN GROVE



24 Roditis Drive, Ocean Grove, Victoria

Your hosts: Jan and Lin Bell

Phone: 0403 221 737 or 03 5251 5899

Office address: 25 Gange Place,
Clifton Springs 3222

Family and pet friendly accommodation - short or long stays!

- Self contained 3 bedroom house, 500 metres from surf beach.
- Easy walk to the beach - no hills to negotiate!
- All pets welcome - they can sleep indoors or in their own room.
- Ensuite with spa bath/shower and handrail, toilet and vanity – extra WC off laundry.
- Fresh, clean beds with electric blankets. Two QS and two Singles. Doonas, covers, pillows provided. BYO linen or hire ours, with beds made.
- Undercover parking, large secure garden with fences.
- Gas log fire, aircon, warm outdoor shower (for after the beach)
- A short drive to main shops and Ocean Grove Market Place.
- Ocean Grove Bowls Club - for reasonably priced meals, pokies, and betting facilities.
- Lots of tourist attractions on the Bellarine Peninsula - parks, coastal drives, Portarlington, Pt Lonsdale and Barwon Heads.

Seasonal rates for 2 to 6 guests - starting at \$140 per night during Winter. Other seasonal rates on application.

Check out our updated website: www.bellsbythebeach.com.au
e: bellsbythebeach@bigpond.com
Brochure available, inspection invited.



Geelong Firey's Muster ***C.F.A. – M.F.B. – SHELL - AVALON*** ***Serving & Retired – Staff & Volunteers***

Smorgasbord Lunch
Tuesday 27th November 2012
1130 hrs @

GATEWAY HOTEL
218-230 Princess Highway – CORIO
Members, Wives, Partners,
Family & Friends

Contact:
John Wallace 5278 4734
Peter Lang 5275 6039

A Safe Drive Home

I would like to share an experience with you about drinking and driving.

As you well know, some of us have been lucky not to have had brushes with the authorities on our way home from the various social sessions over the years.

A couple of nights ago, I was out for a few drinks with some friends and had a few too many beers and then topped it off with a margarita. Not a good idea.

Knowing full well I was at least slightly over the limit, I did something I've never done before: I took a taxi home.

Sure enough I passed a police road block but because it was a taxi, they waved it past. I arrived home safely without incident, which was a real surprise.

I have never driven a taxi before and am not sure where I got it.

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.

Firefighter's Picnic

Sunday 17th February 2010

11am. till 4 pm.

Venue; Moonee Valley Racecourse

(Enter from McPherson St.)

Retirees - Bring the Grandkids

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

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

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