

"WATER OFF"

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



May 2015 Vol 19 No 2
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GALLIPOLI'S 100th ANNIVERSARY ACKNOWLEDGED

Albert Borella
VC, Revisited

MFB's
Armed
Services
Honour Board
To Be Updated
Can you
Help?

Inside

- 3 President's & Secretary/ Treas's. Report
- 4 February Meeting Minutes
- 5 What Does a Chaplain Do?
- 6 Gone But Not Forgotten!
- 8 Armed Services Honour Board Update
- 9 MFB's VC Hero
- 10 UFU Retired Members Division Info.
- 11 Food Myths Debunked
- 11 Collectors do it again

“GENERAL MEETING”

Notice is hereby given that the next General Meeting will be held at the Burnley Complex 450
Burnley Street Richmond.
1030 Hours, Wednesday 20th May 2015

AGENDA ITEMS.

Minutes of last General meeting
President’s Report
Secretary/Treasurer’s Report
Guest Speaker; Peter
General Business

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

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

Lunch available
Please join us!

Non financial Members

Members be advised if your newsletter has an expiry date of 2/1/2014 that means you have not paid your subs since 2013 therefore if no remuneration is received by the 2/1/16 your name will be automatically removed from the mailing list. If, for whatever reason any member is unable to meet this request please do not hesitate to call the secretary, (confidentiality is assured)

OFFICE BEARERS

President, Don Brennan
Vice President, Alex Shepard
Sec./Treasurer, Allan Roberts

General Committee;

Arthur (Sam) Capes
Mike McCumisky
Ian Geddes
Kevin Hede

“Water Off”
Editorial Staff
John Laverick
Barbara McCumisky

Auditor;
Mike Enticott

Valē

Tony (Bill) Bayley (MFB) John Medwin (MFB)
Olaf Brooks (MFB) Neville Smith (MFB)
Victor Brown (MFB) Shirley Van Every (MFB)
Michael Clarke (MFB)

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

SICK LIST (* In Nursing Home)

Stan Cameron Clarrie Hart
Huew Campbell* Jack Sexton
Keith Dumas Brian Whittaker
Eddie Gilbertson
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 2015

May 20th General Meeting @ Burnley
August 19th General Meeting
November 18th; Annual General Meeting
November 21st; Annual Christmas Luncheon
11.30 am. Malvern Town Hall

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Our last meeting was held at the Victorian Emergency Management Training Centre in Craigieburn, (photo below). It was well attended and all present were suitably impressed with the layout of all the firefighting props, office and lecture areas.

Following our inspection we were supplied with a cooked lunch in the canteen. Many thanks to Kirsty Schroeder, Peter Thomas and Graham Gant and all of the other personnel who acted as guides and explained the workings of the College.

Some members of the RFA have received letters from the Union re their retired members division. These members are on the Social Committee Mailing list. Those who did not receive this correspondence will be able to pick it up at the next meeting. Alan Roberts will be writing a report on this matter. Be assured the RFA will keep going the way it is unless the members vote for a change of direction.

We have lost 3 members of late – SO1 John Medwin, SO2 Neville Smith and Shirley Van Every (Wife of former CFO Neville Van Every). To their families condolences to all from the RFA.

Our annual BBQ at Bunnings Hoppers

Crossing will be held on Saturday 10th October. The UFU cover our insurance for this day and we thank them very much for this sponsorship.

Look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

Don Brennan



Above; *Our members on tour of the Victorian Emergency Management Training Centre. All agreed it was great day, thanks to the staff who took the time to show some old fires what it takes to train the modern firefighter.*

SECRETARY/ TREASURER'S REPORT

This has been a busy couple of months starting with our meeting at the Craigieburn training facility (VEMTC) for our members and partners I would like to thank the staff for putting on a display and supplying lunch, all the members that attended were very impressed.

The United Firefighters Union in 2009 formed a steering committee to start up the Retired Firefighters Division. At that time our immediate passed Secretary, John Berry, informed the Retired Firefighters Association of this committee.

Don Brennan President, John Berry Secretary led the steering committee.

On Wednesday the 4th March the UFU called on the RFA committee to be a part of the steering committee at this meeting I suggested that Col Harris represent the RFA on the committee.

On the 8th April the UFU Division steering committee met and a poster and application to join form had been sent out.

It was decided to have the UFU Division to attend the RFA Meeting to inform our members and then call for Committee positions to be filled.

Most retired members of the UFU have received this information.

Some Questions have come up about a take over THIS CAN ONLY HAPPEN IF OUR MEMBERS AGREE, BUT I DO BELIEVE THAT THIS IS NOT ON THE AGENDA OF THE UFU.

The UFU.R.D will benefit the new retirees and will fall in with world union retirees divisions.

At the last RFA meeting it was moved that we give \$2000.00 to Challenge kids with cancer and Alex Shepherd will give a talk on what was to be done with the money.

We have several new members joined.
RON DARBY, JIM STARGATT, GRAHAM THOMPSON, GRAHAM SPIBY.

Progressive Publishing contacted me about diary's, I Have ordered RFA Financial year Diaries (See attached information).

Peter Marshall will give an update on Fiskville. Michael Thorbecke (Community Resilience Department) MFB will give a short talk and then will join us for lunch so members can ask Questions.

Treasurers report.

Closing Balance 31st March Running account S1 = \$4751.37.

Fix Term 6 Months L1 Account = \$6607.63.

Minutes of General Meeting 18th February 2015 Held at Craigieburn.

President – Don Brennan, - Secretary/Treasurer - Allan Roberts, Minutes - Ian Geddes.

Don opened Meeting and introduced Kirsty Schroeder (T/C Manager) and A.C.F.O. Peter Thomas (O.I.C. – T/C) Kirsty and Peter welcomed us and overviewed the Centre and wet our tastebuds for the tour we would do after the meeting.

Present – 53 Apologies – 8 N e w
Attendee – Ron Darby (Western/Central)
Sick List – Brian Nichols.

Secretary/Treasurer Report-

Allan Roberts read Minutes of General Meeting 20th August 2014.

Moved – John Schintler, Seconded – John Chambers – Carried.

Business arising – Nil

Accounts - General Account = \$6862.62. Term Deposit = \$6552.30.

Postage \$269.91. Office equipment \$126.62.

Presidents Report –

Bunnings on Saturday 10th October 2015 – contact Don.

General Business –

Book by Geoff Plunkett, “Let the Bums Burn” (about William Booth Memorial fire), Lonsdale St., in 1966 available from Fire Museum. Australia’s worst building fire – Salvation Army destitute men’s hostel.

Some now well-known fires attended, some running to the fire, saving many but pulling out 29 bodies.

U.F.U. Picnic at Moonee Valley – R.F.A. volunteers, men and women, served Barbeque lunch for 800 persons.

Correspondence –

From – Tullis family, J.Cannon, L.McSweeney, Ossie Bowd, N.Barnes, Lin Bell, (Bells by the Beach).

L.McCurdy, R.Herbert, T.Audsley, J.Brown, H.Richards, G.Franklin, D.Ashley,

To - Tullis, Brown, Brooks, Bailey families.

Moved – Len Manning, Seconded - Harry Floyd – Carried.

Allan Roberts/Alex Shepherd asked Ian Fowler to be Almoner (in our case, keeps an eye on the sickies) –Ian has accepted. (This is a nomination, so no vote required).

The R.F.A. has donated \$2,000 to Challenge for Kids. Supports kids with cancer. Allan is assured that every dollar goes directly to families, no administration fees. Don/Allan presented two (2) pretty important/prestigious Certificates of Service to – IAN FOWLER and JOHN BERRY.

Both men were overwhelmed, but did manage to get to their feet and say “Thanks”.

Elaine Berry was too shy, but we thank her as well.

Don showed us a Certificate of Appreciation from Vincent Care Victoria.

Allan has set up email address - rfavic1@gmail.com

John Berry spoke “close to the heart” about Bill Bailey – a great fire, great motivator, great gentlemen. The R.F.A. had presented a Commemorative Plaque to Bill’s daughter and she was most impressed. Rod Knowles spoke of Bill’s commitment to S.C.O.M.

EDITOR POSITION – John Laverick is retiring as Editor. We need a new Editor.

Meeting finished 11.25hrs.

Tour of Training Centre-

Started 2009, opened 2014, \$109 million. No “live in accommodation” at this stage due to 20% budget cuts.

Firstly, the locker rooms, office/lecture rooms, chemical lab (good place to have some fun) and then walk or bus around the yards. Covers 5 hectares. Refer Nov 2013 Water-Off.

Our 12 person group saw/listened to S.S.O. John H, and L.F.F. Janine G. showing us the “Wow” refinery of L.P.G, with tanks/noise/heat. ALL us oldies were mighty a feared, but still posed for the camera.

Lunch – this Training Centre is an upmarket Abbotsford – (today’s menu) rice, chicken teriyaki, vegetables, filo pastry rolls, salad, rolls – pretty damn good.

Chats and laughs til 2.30hrs, then home.

“Water Off” Deadline To Submit Copy for Publication

Due to the possibility of Australia Post going to a 3 day week delivery and other factors, we find that we have to set closing dates for acceptance of copy for Water Off.

The members need at least 2 weeks notice prior to both annual and general meetings and the editor requires time to edit copy and set photographs then send off to printers who require at least a week to print.

August 2015 edition deadline for copy is July 17th.

Employee Support Program Update

What on earth does a Chaplain Do?

What on earth does a Chaplain do? Why do, no less prestigious organisations like the MFB, CFA and Victoria Police employ them? & What relevance does religion and by association Chaplains have in the modern day work force?

In my view the above questions are all perfectly valid and reasonable questions that should be asked and answered. My name is Graeme Scorrige and I have been the MFB Chaplain since February 2013, and I will attempt to answer those questions in this short space.

I have been a work place Chaplain for more than 12 years, but my main focus has been working with the emergency service sector, having worked with and still working as a Chaplain with Victoria Police and the CFA, so hopefully the insights I bring to these questions will be helpful.

I will start by answering the last question first. My own personal view is the Chaplain is a person who assists people with the spiritual side of life – which doesn't necessarily mean the religious side of things. I define "spiritual" as a person's core beliefs – how they view the world and perceive the world and integrate those views into their lives. There are times when our core beliefs are incredibly challenged e.g. 9/11 (after which everyone felt that the world was a less safe place) and Black Saturday where the unimaginable became a reality.

As people that worked in the emergency service sector (and I include family members in this as well) there may well be critical incidents that challenge our core beliefs and internal security system and it is here that I believe

A priest was invited to attend a house party.

Naturally, he was properly dressed and wearing his Priest's Collar.

A little boy kept staring at him the entire evening. Finally, the priest asked the little boy what he was staring at.

The little boy pointed to the priest's neck.

When the priest finally realized what the boy was pointing at, he asked the boy, "Do you know why I am wearing that?"

The boy nodded his head yes, and replied, "It kills fleas and ticks for up to three months".



Graeme Scorrige;
*Chaplain to Victoria's
firefighters, passed and present.*

the Chaplain comes into their own. I am not saying that Chaplains will give you the answers, but a good one will hopefully point a person in the right direction to discover their own answers and will help them implement them. It doesn't really matter what the critical issue is (it will be different for each individual) and it can range from death of a loved one, to a relationship break down, retirement, sickness or illness, right through to coping with a natural or life disaster.

As the MFB chaplain – **I am available to all current and former MFB staff and their families** to provide support through whatever it is you are going through. I can conduct weddings, infant dedications and religious and non religious funerals (celebrations of a life well lived), pastoral visits to homes and hospital, and spiritual counselling or support. The MFB fund my position, because it's their way of holistically caring and supporting their current and former staff & their families. So don't be shy – my number is 0439972030.

Graeme Scorrige

Right:

*Our President is not one to let life pass by!
Don Brennan at his graduation ceremony after completing a Leadership course at Victoria University recently.
Wife Nancy has just completed a university course as well which makes one wonder how they find time for all their charitable work.
You're never too old to improve your mind and soul!*



GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

This has been one of those quarters where we would like to think that the reason for the high demand for our members to be transferred, is because the person in charge upstairs put in a big demand for a number of skilled firefighters, it is hoped that all vacancies have now been filled and the demand will not be as high for some time. The following is my recollection of the people transferred.

OLAF GREGORY BROOKS 1943-28/1/15.

Greg, if I remember correctly, was a Station Officer who took early optional retirement and moved to the Sunshine state. During his time in the MFB he was stationed, like many others, at a variety of stations,

I found him to be one of those unassuming type of Firefighter, in his case one with a very high level of knowledge & firefighting skill, you know the type you like backing you up and/or coming on in the big red truck to assist.

The rare times I did come in contact with him he always seemed to have that sense of calmness about him; I think the following describes exactly what I mean. Greg's wife Marion rang to advise me that he was very ill and in palliative care in Queensland and gave me the phone number. I rang and spoke to the actual nurse assisting Greg, on explaining the situation, you know I am in Melbourne no hope of being there etc could you on behalf of the members tell him he is in our thoughts etc. The nurse then told me he was the perfect patient never complained always cool, calm & collected even when he was experiencing a great deal of pain related distress.

Marion, please on behalf of the RFA, take strength in the knowledge your Greg was an intricate part in the protection of the community and was highly regarded by the Retired members.

ANTHONY JOHN BAYLEY (BILL) 17/3/1930-8/2/15.

Bill was without doubt an icon of the MFB he ticked all the right boxes, Leader, Top Firefighter, Instructor, Administrator and Family Man & Father, last but not least a Humanitarian. I know this may read like I am saying he was a demigod, which is not what I mean; Bill was the type of person that if you were picking a team to combat whatever he would be amongst the first you would select to confront the problem.

I was lucky enough to have him as my District Officer at the old No1 station, the days when it was the Headquarters of the Met's. I was his Station Officer he, similar to myself, enjoyed being stationed there, you could ask any firey of our ilk and they will all agree it was then a hive of activity, a place where you did not know what was going to happen next.

Bill as most will tell you, was not only a great tutor and leader to have at any emergency he was also a very powerful person, me the vertically challenged one, was the complete opposite which made us a pair that lent itself into lots of banter (Good times). Small example; we had a large sub-surface Sub-Station on fire, after termination of energy we flooded the area with high-x-foam, the boss then said come on Ant, let's go down and check it out, it is pretty obvious you do not need to be a Rhodes scholar to

know who's head is going to be below the foam. The one thing I did learn there, it is very hard to pull a big strong bloke down below the foam, (I know times like that, one must be serious, but it was the devil that made me try).

I must mention this, the Melbourne Electrical Supply (That was what it was known then) were very pleased with the way the fire was handled, a minimum of damage to all the other components and all extinguishing medium used was removed allowing them to get the rest of the system back on line again.

Another area that Bill was very keen about was about retaining the history of the station and the service; this continued on even after he retired from the brigade, driving many thousands of kilometres to insure the exhibits on display at the Fire Museum were at their best.

He idolised his family and after his wife Jean passed away I called to see him and it was blatantly obvious the loss had created a great void in his life. Unfortunately

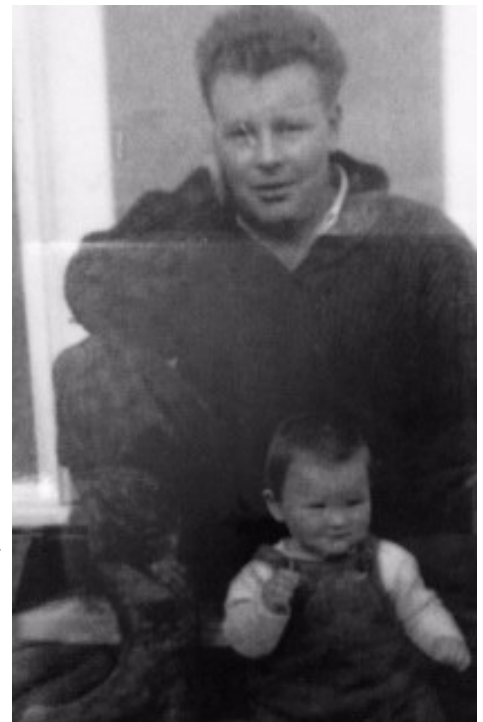
sometime later he was to be diagnosed with a life changing condition. Lindy his daughter and her husband Keith realised this and had him move in with them, there is no doubt about it being back in a family environment made a great deal of difference for him.

It was during this time that we were able to get him back into the fold of MFB retirees. One day we organised a luncheon for him with Jack Moore, Trevor Reed and myself, it was a good day and Bill suggested we should make it a regular monthly day, unfortunately fate stepped in and Bill's condition caused him to become very ill.

Lindy nursed him until he requested to go into palliative care (Bill was already under their care at that time). Lindy advised me she could see him relax there, I am not surprised knowing him he would not want to create any problems for his family.

Lindy was given strict orders by her Dad, no service funeral, just a private family one. Bill was never one to seek any form of recognition or a big deal being made about him, mores the pity.

Lindy & Keith, your Bill created a very big shadow for all the right reasons over the MFB, will be sadly missed by all who knew him.



Above; Bill and a very young Lindy

SHIRLEY DELORES VAN EVERY 13/10/1930 – 1/3/2015.

Associate member Shirley, wife of Neville, played an integral part in the history of the MFB not only as wife of a Chief Officer but also as daughter of W.T. Aldridge a (Past Chief Officer). This created a need for her to be involved in many roles, like when her father & the MFB sponsored Senior Fireman Jerry Brits daughter in the Miss Victoria Pageant. If I remember correctly they won the “Most Funds Raised” part of the pageant, then being interviewed for input into the book titled **Life Under the Bells**.

Unfortunately life is not always what you hope it will be, Shirley suffered a life changing physical impairment needing Neville to become her full time carer,

Neville, the eulogies at Shirley’s service clearly showed the impairment never held her back nor stopped your house being filled with laughter.

NEVILLE ANTHONY SMITH 1935-25/3/2015.

Where do I start, picture a bloke about 6ft 4inches tall and built like a brick out-house with a heart of gold.

I first met him in the early sixties at a further assistance in the western suburbs; he had in one hand a charged 2 1/2 inch diameter line of hose and branch, at the same time using his shoulder to break down a locked door. I suggested I go get the 12lb key we carried on the appliance and open it for him, his response of course was, she will be right son; next the door was down allowing him to have the most effective line attacking the seat of the fire.

Following that night we only came in contact occasionally and that was by phone you know getting fire reports or whatever, I did of course hear the various scuttlebutt about boxing prowess and the assistance he would give to off-duty Firies etc.

It was not until I was transferred on a permanent basis to Western District that we would come in contact more often, I found him to be a top Officer and if he called you on, you knew he had something big going, I can tell you if there was one thing Big Nev was not keen on, it was the District Station coming into his area.

We lost contact on a regular basis again when I was transferred out of the district and did not catch up again until we were in retirement, only in this case it was by long distance phone calls and the very occasional visit by us to Queensland.

This all changed over the last couple years when his health started to wane, the calls on some occasions would last up to an hour or so reminiscing about family, brigade, and life in general. It was very obvious he was missing his old work mates as the subject very often came up during the discussions.

The last call I had with Neville was about fortnight or so before he passed away, imagine, here is a bloke still making light of his condition and cracking jokes. I enquired was there anything he would like us to do for him, he made light of it again telling me if he thinks of anything he will let me know, that of course never happened.

Ethel, your Neville was quite a man, yes a scallywag however, if the going was bad he was the person you needed backing you up, I for one will miss the big bloke.

JOHN FRANK MEDWIN 21/05/1933-25/03/2015.

Wednesday the 25th of March 2015 was not a good day for RFA members, as we had two members (John & Neville) transferred upstairs. I hope they spoke to the bloke in charge up there and let him know that the transfer had occurred before the end of the roster and they are entitled to overtime.

On second thoughts that may not be a good idea, heavens know where they may be sent. I met John before I joined the MFB in 1956 he and my late brother use to work together for Ezywalkin shoes and he introduced me to him.

It was about a week or so after I started and whilst in recruits I saw him again, this time on duty at the old Eastern Hill station, he was cleaning his gear (Brass helmet, boots & leggings). They were spotless, the helmet just about blinded me and the shine on the boots was like glass, I immediately thought if this is the standard of gear required I will never make it. I could see myself being given the job of cleaning the yard and quarters alleyway for the rest of my time in the fire brigade, there was no way I was going to be able to replicate John’s standard.

The brigade with its different shifts and transfers etc. saw that the only time we seemed to catch up again was at fires or whatever. John of course had built up a fine reputation as a firefighter and a bit of a perfectionist. You only had to see his car, home and/or speak to the blokes at his station.

John unfortunately lost the love of his life Margaret some time ago and I feel he never really got over it. Jack Moore got him involved with Lawn Bowls and John maintained his close relationship with the Syndal Baptist Church congregation.

There is no doubt both them and the family helped him greatly, then unfortunately the medical condition he had earlier returned, only this time it was more aggressive and on Wednesday the 25th of March he passed away.

In my situation I had more to do with him in retirement and we would often be in discussion on the phone, most may not be aware he had an intimate knowledge about many aspects of life & finance also was a great supporter of the Firefighters Credit Cooperative.

Yes he may have been a perfectionist but that pales into insignificance with all his other fine attributes thank you John for being who were.

John Berry

MFB's "Armed Services Honour Board" to be Updated

On the 25th of April, Australia recognised the sacrifice our Diggers made on that day 100 years ago. We heard of the deprivation and horror they endured throughout the campaign, we heard of the heroism that came out of those killing fields.

Our armed forces have fought in numerous conflicts over the short history of Australia and it's appropriate that we recognise the sacrifices they made to maintain the freedom we enjoy in this great country!

MFB is compiling a database of all MFB current and former staff (corporate and operational) who have served in the Australian Defence Force. This year, Saturday 25 April marked the 100th Anniversary of landing of Anzac troops at Gallipoli. It is important to the organisation that we honour the service and sacrifice of our staff.

If you have a military background please contact LFF Scott Ivey with your details (Name, DOB, MFB Reg Number, ADF Service Number and nature of service) to be added to the database sivey@mfb.vic.gov.au.

As well as the Anzac Day Ceremony that we hosted at Eastern Hill on Friday 24th April we are compiling a

database of all MFB staff who have served in the Australian Defence Force, prior to joining MFB or currently as a reservist.

We currently have an honour board at HQ but that only accounts for WW1 and WW2 service. It is well overdue that we update this and honour the service and sacrifice of our staff.

LFF Scott Ivey is working with the M&C Team to start work on this mammoth task.

If you have a military background please contact LFF Scott Ivey with your details to be added to the database sivey@mfb.vic.gov.au:

HOW LONG IN RETIREMENT???

Although there are many uncertainties in life, an undeniable fact is Australia's population is ageing. Over the next 30 years, the number of people aged over 65 will double from 3.5 million (15 per cent of the population) to 7 million people (22 per cent of the population) and will outnumber those aged under 18. The number of Australians aged over 85 will also rise dramatically, tripling from under 0.5 million to 1.4 million people.²

This ageing trend will significantly increase demand for the Age Pension, aged care and acute health services, putting additional pressure on Government spending.

How long will I live?

Although it's great news Australians are one of the longest lived populations on the planet, and our longevity is steadily improving, it means potential retirees need to prepare for a long retirement.

Given current improvements in mortality, Australians already in the workforce need to be prepared to support themselves during an increasingly number of years in retirement. According to the latest estimates by the Australian Government Actuary, the average life expectancy for men aged 65 is now 87 years and for women aged 65 it is 90 years.³

For younger Australians, retirement could be even longer. Continuing improvement in mortality trends means they could realistically be living in retirement up to 30 per cent longer for women and 44 per cent longer for men than current retirees.⁴

That could mean spending up to three decades – or a quarter of your life – in retirement.

So, if you are planning for a retirement that is a little more comfortable than that provided by the Age Pension,

you will need to ensure your retirement savings are sufficient to last a very long time.

How can I save more?

Saving a little more while you are working can be one way to help ensure your money doesn't run out in the final years of retirement, leaving you totally reliant on the Age Pension.

There are also some clever strategies that can be used to help build your retirement nest egg. Consider talking to a financial adviser about some of the ways you can boost your retirement savings, including:

- **Voluntary after-tax contributions** – Adding as little as \$50 extra a month could add tens of thousands to your final retirement savings balance. For many people, this can be more tax effective than saving the same amount outside super.
- **Salary sacrifice** – By agreeing to forego part of your future pay, your employer places benefits of a similar value into your super on top of the normal SG contribution.
- **Spouse contributions and contribution splitting** – These strategies can build your super balance, equalise the super for each partner and potentially reduce your tax bill.
- **Government co-contributions** – If you are a low or middle-income earner and make an after-tax super contribution, the Government may make a contribution into your super (up to \$500 in 2013-14).⁵

Transition to retirement (TTR) pensions – Employees aged 55 to 75 can set up a TTR income stream will they are still working as a way to ease the transition into retirement. They can also boost their super balance and may even save some tax.

Source; Your Life Choices

Albert C. BORELLA. MFB 1910 - 1914

This article, written by the late "Bill Bayley," was published in the February 2004 edition of "Water Off". It is appropriate now that we tell the story again to honour not only Burt Borella, but the many firefighters who, at some time, have served in our armed forces.

How much do we know about our Nation's history? For that matter, what do we know about our Brigade's history?

We have all heard of 'General Custer's Last Stand', Lord Nelson's dying request; 'Kiss me Hardy' and more recently Tensing and Hilary's ascent of Everest in 1953.

But what about Bert Borella from up the bush at Borung'...Do you know where Borung is ... Have you even heard of Bert Borella ... No ... Well read on because I think you will be interested in this piece of Brigade history and folklore.

Albert Chalmers Borella was born at Borung, Victoria on 7th August 1881, the son of Louis Borella of Thyra, NSW. Bert was educated at Borung and Wychitella State schools and became a farmer in the district; he served in the local company of the Victorian Rangers. In 1910 he came to Melbourne to gain employment in those difficult depression years and joined the MFB.

Fireman Borella was stationed at Eastern Hill, No. 10 Station, Hoddle Street and a brief period at No.37 Station, which was then in Inkerman St Balaclava. While at No.37 Stn. he instructed the crew in the operation of the motorized hose cart. Amongst the crew at No.37 was 'Jumbo Griffiths' who was to become the Brigades first Valour Medal winner in 1918. One wonders what influence they had on each other! Those that remembered Bert recalled that he was a quiet, unassuming but determined person and a very good firefighter.

After three years service with the Brigade, Bert left to take up farming in the Northern Territory and he was there in 1914 when W.WI erupted. He enlisted with the A.I.F at Townsville on 15th March 1915 and began an incredible period of 4 years army service, which was to make him the most decorated ex-fireman in the Brigade's history, and yet we knew nothing about him or his acts of valour!

Service Record.

March 1915... Enlisted with 26th Australian Infantry Brigade. A.I.F.
April 1915... Landed at Gallipoli.
September 1915.. Promoted to Corporal at Gallipoli.
May 1916... France, promoted to Lance-Sergeant: was wounded and evacuated to England.
January 1917 ... France, promoted to Sergeant.
February 1917... Mentioned in Dispatches: 'for devotion to duty, and general good work in the trenches since

March 1917...

the battalion has been in Gallipoli and France.

Awarded the Military Medal: "for having displayed conspicuous bravery in action during the attack on Malt trench, north of Warlencourt, where he assisted Lt. Ward in reorganising the men and consolidating the line."

April 1917... Commissioned 2nd Lieutenant

November 1917... Promoted to Lieutenant.

17" - 18" July 1918, at Villiers-Bretonneux

Awarded the Victoria Cross.

CITATION:

For most conspicuous bravery in attack. Whilst leading his platoon with the first wave Lieutenant Borella marked an enemy machine-gun firing through our barrage. He ran out ahead of his men into the barrage, shot two German machine-gunners with his revolver and captured the gun. He then

led his party, now reduced to 10 men and two Lewis Guns, against a strongly held trench, using his revolver, and later a rifle, with great effect, causing many casualties. His leading and splendid example resulted in the enemy garrison being quickly shot or captured. Two large dug-outs were also bombed and 30 prisoners taken. Subsequently, the enemy twice counter-attacked in strong force, on the second occasion outnumbering Lieutenant Borella's platoon by ten to one, but his cool determination inspired his men to resist heroically, and the enemy was repulsed with heavy losses. (London Gazette: 16th September 1918.)

February 1919... Demobilised.

October 1939... Enlisted with 12th Aust. Garrison Battalion.

July 1941... Prisoner of War Group Rushworth.

January 1942.... Promoted to Captain.

Demobilised 1945.

After W.WI Bert Borella was Inspector of Dangerous Goods, Department of Supply until his retirement in 1956 when he went to live in North Albury where he died on 7th February 1968 at the age of 87 years.

A replica set of Lt. A.C. Borella's medals have been purchased by the Fire Services Museum and will be displayed on the M.F.B. Ex-Servicemen's Wall at the Museum.

Bill Bayley



UFU

Retired Members Division

Since it was first proposed it has caused considerable angst among some of our members.

Early 2009 our then Secretary, John Berry, advised our members of the UFU proposal and produced a question and answer sheet which all members would have received in their February 2009 issue of "Water Off". We have reproduced those Q & A's for those members who may have missed that issue.

Some members of the RFA have received letters from the Union re the Retired Members Division. These members were on the Social Committee Mailing list. For those who did not receive this correspondence we have reproduced it below.

WHY?

Former members of the Victorian Branch of the UFU, including Life Members of the UFU, have long called for a Retired Members section, as is common in other states and countries.

This would support retired members in a number of ways, including socially, health and welfare. In 2009 the UFU registered a rule change to allow a category of retired members, to clear the way toward starting a Retired Members Division. However, the dramatic change in the industrial environment under the previous State Government soon diverted our energies into other areas. Now is the time to finally bring this about. A steering committee has been working on plans to start the RMD and elections for office bearers will be held.

BENEFITS

The Retired Members Division can offer the range of benefits to which all UFU members are entitled.

These include:

- Links to international and national organisations of retired firefighters
- Legal advice and assistance
- Free will making services
- Access to accommodation Specials
- Discount new cars through www.discountnewcars.com.au/unions

In addition, members will have access to the full range of ACTU Member Benefits which include:

- Discounted car rentals
- Discounted movie tickets
- Discounts on tyres
- Up to 75% off wine
- Access to the ACTU Financial Planning Network

For More Information

www.ufuvic.asn.au/rmd
(03) 9419 8811
United Firefighters Union
Victoria Branch
410 Brunswick Street
Fitzroy 3165



UFU R.M.D. Questions & Answers

The following answers are fact not fiction.

Q. Why has the union sought to change their rules?

A. The UFU, who is a member of the International Alliance of Firefighting Unions, as such has their own Retired Members Section Alumni in the Alliance.

Q. Is the Union trying to take over the RFA?

A. No, the RFA was never set up as a sub-branch of the Union; the foundation members of the group established it as an independent body (apolitical group) however, the Union did and are still providing assistance to us.

Q. Will the RFA still be relevant and continue?

A. Yes, the financial members of the RFA are the only ones that can change its relevance.

Q. Was the Secretary/ Treasurer aware of the Unions action, if so why was the RFA not told of this earlier?

A. Yes I was, as a Life Member of the UFU I have on a number of occasions sought assistance for various retirees needing good advice and support from the Union (which they have never refused) and it was during these meetings I was advised in confidence of their proposal which was not to be of public knowledge until their members had received notice of the proposed rule change.

Q. If the Union members vote to accept the rule changes will the current Sec/Tres of the RFA seek a position of Office in the new sub branch? .

A. No, I am part of the RFA committee; however I will join the sub- branch if established.

Because of my close association with the union, I will dismiss myself from any RFA debate or discussion on said sub-branch. My role as Sec/Tres is to ensure the administration Of the RFA is in accordance with the constitution & member's direction. (I will step down if members think my close association with the UFU will compromise the RFA)

Q. If the Union members vote this in, can it be of benefit to the RFA?

A. Most definitely, the retired union members will have the opportunity to become part of a world wide Retired (Alumni) section which will have intra, interstate & overseas connections which have great initiatives (view IAFF Alumni section web site) and with the dissemination of information they gain. no doubt there will be a flow-on benefit to all.

Q. Can the RFA become a member of the I.A.F.F alumni section?

A. No I believe not, we would need to be a retired sub-branch of an affiliated member of the Alliance of Firefighting Unions.

Q. Can all members of the RFA become members of the sub-branch & remain a member of the RFA?

A. If the sub branch is established and the person applying meets the Unions conditions, ---"yes".

The above section on questions and answers may not raise all the points you wanted clarified, however one must understand the salient point, the Union will do what is best for its members, they are to be commended for not only their forethought in notifying us but also of their leadership in meeting the challenges of today and the future for its members.

John Berry

R.C.H. Good Friday Appeal

Brigade collectors do it again!!!

Although the wind was brisk when in the shade, the sun shined on this years Good Friday appeal. It is great to see some of the old faces return to Eastern Hill to play their important part in collecting for the kids.

Don Brennan (Don's 56th year), Alex Shepard, Ken Heddle, Ian Fowler, Freddie Kerr, Bob Chesher, Ron Barker, Jeff Annal, Kevin Hede, Mike McCumisky decked out in the old uniform and members of the Museum and their families joined the current members of the MFB in what was a wonderful achievement with Uncle Bob's beating last years total.

It is great day for the old to mix with young. Thanks for the help of these dedicated old firefighters, the kids are still always at the centre of their lives.

(At time of close we did not have final total)

Five food myths debunked

1. Eggs are bad for you

Eggs have long been blamed for raising dietary cholesterol levels and coronary heart disease, but if you've been avoiding eggs you can now rest easy. Blood cholesterol levels shoot up when a person eats too much saturated fat or trans fat, found in deep-fried and commercially prepared foods. One egg contains only about 1.5 grams of saturated fat and no trans fat at all. The Heart Foundation of Australia says that a person can enjoy six eggs per week without increasing their risk of heart disease.

2. Apples are healthy

An apple a day keeps a doctor away. This may have been true in the good old days, but due to the continuous growing of the same crops in the same soils – which leeches the nutrients from the earth – the nutritional quality of apples has decreased. This is why soil rotation is so important. Apples remain beneficial for their essential nutrients, such as fibre, but they also contain more sugar these days, as they are grown to be sweeter. Research conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture found that modern apples can contain a sugar content of up to 15 per cent – the equivalent of four teaspoons of sugar.

3. Bread makes you fat

Bread is one of the oldest processed foods around, and is made from a number of grains, including wheat, spelt, rye, oats and barley. Contrary to popular belief, bread actually contains very little fat, and eating the right kind of bread in controlled amounts can actually help you prevent weight gain. When it comes to eating bread, it's all about the quality. Wholegrain and multigrain breads are best because they have a low glycaemic index and contain large amounts of natural fibre. The health benefits of eating wholegrain and high cereal fibre bread include reduced risks of heart disease, Type 2 Diabetes and bowel cancer in adults.

4. Chocolate makes you happy

Chocolate has long been giving chocoholics an excuse to indulge, with its list of alleged health benefits, including being an antidepressant. The claim that chocolate boosts serotonin levels (a natural antidepressant produced by the brain) may be false, with researchers from The Black Dog Institute in Sydney, finding that even if a patient's mood changed after eating chocolate, their serotonin levels remained the same. The researchers do agree, however, that chocolate is a psychoactive food, and can positively affect a person's mind in the short term. Like bread, the value of chocolate lies in the quality. Dark chocolate – containing at least 70 per cent cocoa, is better for you than milk chocolate, as it contains high concentrations of antioxidants called flavanoids, which boost the body's endorphins, the temporary pleasure drug.

5. Artificial sweetener is better than sugar

Artificial sweeteners are synthetic sugar substitutes, and can be found in many processed foods such as soft drinks, as well as being used for tea and coffee. The sweetening ingredient in most artificial sweeteners is called aspartame and it is 200 times sweeter than normal sugar. While artificial sugar provides a good option for those wanting to cut down their sugar intake, the risks of synthetic sugar may outweigh the benefits in the long run. Studies have linked high-dose artificial sweeteners with cancer in animals, though there is yet no evidence that the same is true for humans.

However, it is important to limit your consumption of artificial sweeteners, as it is difficult for your body to process the chemicals they contain. This is particularly true for people with phenylketonuria disorder (PKU), who are unable to metabolise phenylalanine.

**Source; Simplifying Life Choices -
Amelia Theodorakis**



Queensland Reunion

Thursday July 30th, 2015
Southport Yacht Club, Gold Coast



To all who may be travelling through or just on holidays at the Gold Coast in July this year, come join us for the annual Firey's Luncheon at the Southport Yacht Club.

Held on the last Thursday in July, lovely food panoramic views are just a few of the things that will be part of a great day.

Arrive around 11.00am and say you are with the "retired fireies group" - cheap drinks and food especially for you!!!

Bring your partners, all are welcome.

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

For further information contact;

Ian & Gail Fagerness 07 55224321 (0431 486 141)

Australia Computer Terminology - Getting ready for Broadband in the bush

LOG ON: Adding wood to make the barbie hotter

LOG OFF: Not adding any more wood to the barbie.

MONITOR: Keeping an eye on the barbie.

DOWNLOAD: Getting the firewood off the ute.

HARD DRIVE: Making the trip back home without any cold tinnies.

KEYBOARD: Where you hang the ute keys.

WINDOWS: What you shut when the weather's cold.

SCREEN: What you shut in the mozzie season.

BYTE: What mozzies do

MEGABYTE: What Townsville mozzies do.

CHIP: A pub snack.

MICROCHIP: What's left in the bag after you've eaten the chips.

MODEM: What you did to the lawns.

LAPTOP: Where the cat sleeps.

SOFTWARE: Plastic knives and forks you get at Red Rooster.

HARDWARE: Stainless steel knives and forks - from K-Mart.

MOUSE: The small rodent that eats the grain in the shed.

MAINFRAME: What holds the shed up.

WEB: What spiders make.

WEBSITE: Usually in the shed or under the verandah.

SEARCH ENGINE: What you do when the ute won't go.

CURSOR: What you say when the ute won't go.

YAHOO: What you say when the ute does go.

UPGRADE: A steep hill.

SERVER: The person at the pub who brings out the counter lunch.

MAIL SERVER: The bloke at the pub who brings out the counter lunch.

USER: The neighbour who keeps borrowing things.

NETWORK: What you do when you need to repair the fishing net.

INTERNET: Where you want the fish to go.

NETSCAPE: What the fish do when they discover a hole in the net.

ONLINE: Where you hang the washing.

OFFLINE: Where the washing ends up when the pegs aren't strong enough.

Why Men Need Mates!

It may not be something the ladies want to hear, but there is now scientific evidence that proves that every man needs a good night out with the boys.

According to the research undertaken by scientists from Germany's University of Gottingen, male bonding is more likely to lower a man's stress levels than a night out with his partner, or time spent with the family.

Researchers studied groups of Barbary macaques, a type of ape that exhibits remarkably human-like social behaviour. The study – which will no doubt be seen as a green light by men across the country – found that males suffered much less anxiety and were more relaxed after time out with a group of other males. However, male stress hormone levels escalated when male macaques spent time with their partner or family members.

Long-term stress hormone elevation can increase the likelihood of disease and mortality. The study showed that males keeping a few close male friends could actually provide a buffer against day-to-day stress, while individuals with weak social ties had a higher risk of health problems.

So, even if men do act like monkeys, it seems that there's some method to their madness. Heading out for a beer with the boys doesn't have to be seen as a bad thing any more. Hopefully, the ladies will enjoy the benefits of lower stress levels around the house, and while the man's away, it'll provide the perfect opportunity for a girls' night!

Leon Della Bosca

(Your Life Choices)



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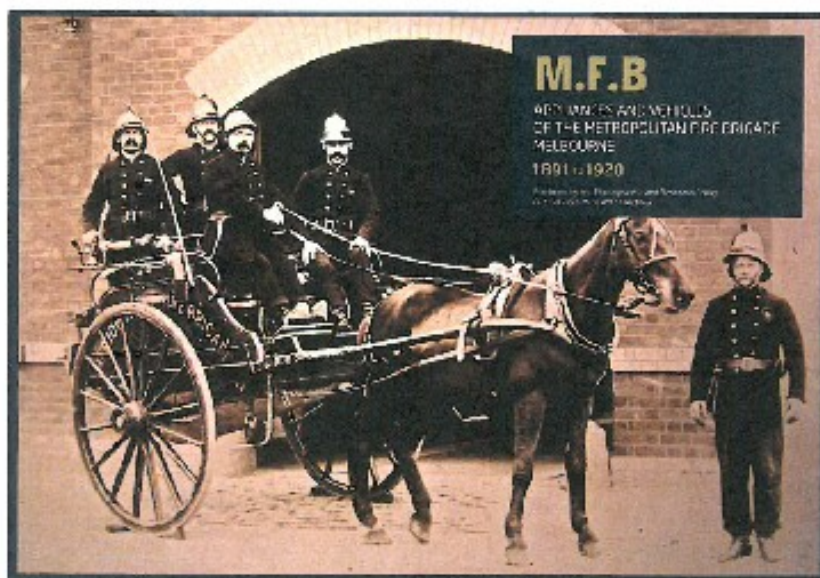
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Fire Services Museum of Victoria Inc, 39 Gisborne Street
EAST MELBOURNE VICTORIA 3002

A.B.N. 32 047 130 364
Inc A0044465F

E-Mail: fsmv.sales@gmail.com

The first book ever published by the Fire Services Museum of Victoria.



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Museum Business Hours

Thursday and Friday

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(We offer 5% discount for all firefighters)



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Geelong Firey's Muster

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Serving & Retired – Staff & Volunteers

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

GATEWAY HOTEL

218-230 Princess Highway – CORIO

Members, Wives, Partners,
Family & Friends

Contact:

Peter Lang 5275 6039
To receive Mail out notification

Recent Retirements

Bill Critchley
Julian Maunsell

Barney Milner
Gary Tilley

Pending retirement
Ray Brown; July 23

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.

UFU RETIRED MEMBERS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Saturday November 21st 2015

11.30 AM. - 4.00 PM.

Malvern Town Hall

A reminder:

If you have accepted the invitation to the luncheon and through illness, or some other circumstance, find you are unable to attend, please notify the Union Office A.S.A.P.

PRINT POST No. 100002647

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

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