

"WATER OFF"

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



May 2021 Vol 25 No 2
Inc/No: A16839F

GENERAL MEETING:

Wednesday 19th May 2021

FRV Burnley Complex

10:30 am



John Laverick "Water Off" Editor
Retires after 26 years on the job.

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FS85 Boronia 'Bell' Heavy Pumper

“GENERAL MEETING”

Wednesday 19th May 2021
FRV Burnley Complex
10:30 am

AGENDA ITEMS:

Minutes of last General Meeting
President’s Report
Secretary / Treasurer’s Report
Guest Speaker
General Business

All Correspondence to:

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RFAV Secretary
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Non financial Members

Members be advised if your newsletter has an expiry date of 2/1/2019 that means you have not paid your subs since 2018 therefore if no remuneration is received by the 2/1/21 your name will be automatically removed from the mailing list. If, for whatever reason any member is unable to meet this request please do not hesitate to call the secretary, (confidentiality is assured)

OFFICE BEARERS

President: Alex Shepherd
Vice President: Sam Capes
Sec./Treasurer: Phil Cleary

General Committee:

Col Harris
Len Manning
Mike McCumisky
Ian Geddes
Kevin Hede

“Water Off” Editorial Staff

Colin Harris

Valē

Robert Cameron
John (Wacky) Gallop
Richard Moorfoot
John Schintler

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

Sick List * In Care Facility

John Brown*	Michael Phelan
Bob Brunning	Dick Prendergast
Stan Cameron	Trevor Reed
Harold Connell	Allan Roberts
Tom Driscoll	Gary Spicer
Jack Etherton*	Graeme Taylor
Eddie Gilbertson	Laurie Trewin
John Hansford	Robert Weitering
Noel (Dutchy) Holland	Ray Wellard
Bob Horgan	John Williams
Archie McLachlan	Neil Anderson
Harry Mitchell	

Diary Dates 2021

May 19, General Meeting
August 18, General Meeting
November 17, AGM

Note: If you know of any member who may be ill please notify a committee member.

“Water Off” is edited by Colin Harris, 2 Gowar Avenue, Camberwell 3124. Phone 0432 302 414. Email: retiredfirenews@gmail.com
All articles accepted for publication by the editor are done so in good faith and no responsibility is accepted for any inaccuracies that may occur.
Signed: Colin D. Harris (The views expressed by the editor of this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Victorian branch of the RFA and Fire Rescue Victoria.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Hello again. After enough false starts, we will meet up in May. I only hope the bureaucrats have finally got their act together and have improved the hotel quarantine requirements. We are now starting to accept overseas visitors and returning Australians. I hope they keep any virus or lock downs out of Victoria. The media love a crisis and they keep bringing out all these doomsayers who only push their particular ideas and political correctness and if you have a different view then you are wrong - no questions asked. We are now in the 4th month of 2021 and the weather is getting cooler, the football is back and we can now visit Family and Friends again. We can go to the supermarket without wearing masks! Life is great isn't it! I hope everything is OK with you and your Family and Friends and if you have had some illness or have had bereavement, best wishes, turn your face to the wind and smile.

Alex Shepherd (President)

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT



Hi all,

Well the year is nearly half way through and lets hope we can have a meeting on the 19th of May and not have to postpone it.

We won't be having a AGM until November. I have a lot to talk about in the May meeting and the August meeting. I have a speaker talking about aged care so he will be explaining the cost and how it is set out. He will also have plenty of material to give away explaining the whole concept.

Thanks to all the members that are paying their dues into the credit union. Please don't send cash in the mail. If you have any trouble paying into the bank just give me a call and I can work it out with you.

Don't forget the key chains and rings. They are at a sale price of \$25 each, You can purchase them at the RFA website and when you buy a ring please tell me the finger size. That's all for now. I will see you at the next meeting at Burnley on the 19th of May at 10:30am in Burnley.

Phil Cleary

Any enquiries regarding meetings call the Secretary:

Mob. 0419 778 161
Email: rfavic1@gmail.com

Deadline for August Water Off Magazine: 5th July 2021
for next edition 5th August, 2021.

DAVE BRUCE INTERVIEW

Fire Rescue Victoria

Col Harris



It's almost one year since the MFB name no longer existed and FRV evolved. Was the transition very difficult to achieve?

FRV was established on 1 July 2020 so we are now nine months into the journey. Key transitional items were identified

for Day 1 together with a list of transitional items for Post Day 1. The Transition Issues Team was formed in February 2021 to continue/fast track the transitional work to assist the leadership team to better understand the issues that are affecting people, address any issues that are raised in dedicated forums, and enable us to provide clearer advice and guidance as we work towards solutions. ACFO Mick Tisbury and ACFO Greg Christison are leading the work. Refer intranet page <https://mfbvic.sharepoint.com/sites/projects/intranet/projs/Transition/>

Were people resistive or cooperative to the transition generally?

Change brings about a variety of responses as everyone adjusts to the new normal – some aspects are positive and some more challenging. Generally I see a great deal of positivity and cooperation to ensure FRV provides first class fire and rescue services to our growing communities and demographics across Victoria. Cooperation, professionalism and interoperability continue to be such important and necessary components to be successful going forward.

Were any jobs lost during the transition to the new identity?

No jobs were lost and in fact we are growing.

Are people in the organisation generally happy that it now occurred?

The Commissioner and Deputy Commissioners have been visiting as many stations as possible to provide an opportunity for operational staff to raise any concerns. The majority of these visits have been positive and it provides a great opportunity to talk to the crews first hand and identify any real concerns.

Do you think Ken Block is enjoying his job at the top?

Yes, I do. FRV will benefit from Ken's professional leadership, extensive experience and his focus on the health and wellbeing of firefighters.

Is Ken enjoying our country and living in Melbourne?

What is there not to like about being in the most liveable city in the world. Ken has been travelling around Victoria visiting stations and becoming familiar with the areas FRV are responding into and the unique regions of the state. Hopefully Ken will get to see more of our beautiful country post Covid.

Are relations between the hierarchy and the UFU cordial? All parties are working together in a cooperative and professional manner. Much can be achieved via mutual respect and understanding of positions.

How did FRV go with dealing with Covid?

The COVID Team, led by ACFO Brad Quinn established resources to manage the pandemic and establish FRV's COVID Plan, provided excellent communication throughout the pandemic and continues to provide regular updates for staff. Further information and resources are available on the intranet [COVID-19 page on the intranet](#).

FRV was able to obtain early access to the COVID-19 vaccine for all operational and corporate employees and this has been communicated to all staff. District Operations Commanders will coordinate on-shift firefighter attendance where appropriate.

Were any employees affected by Covid?

Reporting, testing and results and the support provided to employees was logged and managed by the Covid team, FRV management and via the chain of command.

I know that there were very strict protocols put in place at station level – did these protocols work well? Any hiccups?

There were no cases of transmission at FRV sites. We had a couple of close calls, however the cleaning and isolation protocols and the Covid Team's management of any incidents that arose was first rate. This was a unique situation to be in for all of us and of course there will be learnings and opportunities for improvement identified and documented.

I remember about 10 years ago, I updated an Emergency Operations Manual held at the State Control Centre in relation to a pandemic affecting the fire brigade. Did anyone drag it out of mothballs and see if it was useful or not?

All available resources and knowledge banks would have been considered by the Covid-19 Team as well as the leadership team at State level.

I believe a commander or two have now relocated to country areas. Will those commanders have a say in when and if they will return to Melbourne? Do they have a choice?

Division B positions are advertised via Expression of Interest and the length of the appointment is discussed and agreed with the applicant(s). Generally speaking, the expectation is that the commitment is for a period of two years.

Are there any communication difficulties operationally wise, with metropolitan and country regions?

All FRV employees have an FRV email address and ICS are working with Division B staff to ensure they have access to the intranet. The Transition Issues Team will continue to identify any issues which need resolving.

Do you envisage metropolitan staff being seconded to regional Victoria?

Any secondment arrangements will be made via Expression of Interest. The expanded footprint of FRV provides additional professional development as well as lifestyle opportunities for those who wish to pursue opportunities in regional Victoria.

Will operational staff be able to swap a metro station with a regional station for say 6 months or a year – similar to when firefighters would do an overseas exchange?

Inter-Division Firefighter Training will commence on 19 April at VEMTC. The training will provide a pathway forward for firefighters to transfer between Division A and Division B stations.

FRV is working the UFU to establish an Inter-Division Transfer Working Party to develop the policies for the program.

Is FRV still in recruitment mode? How many firefighters are required on-going each year from now?

FRV will continue to recruit and the numbers of recruits will fluctuate depending on need and the ability to conduct recruit training programs at FRV training centres. FRV will continue to work with government on staffing levels.

We had a very small window of summer this year (very few bushfires, etc). Was this a relief for FRV in terms of newly streamlined integrated responses from metro to regions within Victoria? ie. are you still working on scenario responses for the future?

As with all fire seasons, scenarios, exercising, debriefs and OFIs are part of continuously improving the service we deliver to the community. Fortunately for Victorians the summer fire period was much less intense than last year's, however FRV's readiness to respond across the state was assured prior to the commencement of the season. FRV and other emergency response agencies formed part of the Operational Assurance Working Party and contributed to produce action plans for moving forward. FRV also chairs the AFAC Operational Assurance Group with membership including all fire and rescue services across Australia and New Zealand.

Any new equipment on the drawing boards for operational firefighters

ELT has just endorsed Torx and Allen keys for FRV Division A primary appliances and this item will now progress to Consultative Committee. The ERM department continues to focus on FRV's equipment and any significant issues will be raised with the Transition Issues Team.

When I was in ERM 17 years ago, we were responsible for new equipment, etc. Under FRV is there one or two departments in relation to equipment needs for metro/country requirements?

ACFO Paul Foster heads up ERM for FRV and works closely with CFA's State Logistics department. There is currently a proposal with ELT for an FRV State Logistics Centre to standardise work practices, equipment maintenance and/or replacement for ropes/harnesses,

TIC, BA, hose and equipment on primary appliances. Options are being considered as well as funding via the Capital Program once the project requirements have been scoped. Preliminary consultation has been undertaken with relevant departments and formal consultation will be undertaken in due course.

Has the relationship between CFA and FRV changed much since the transition from MFB?

FRV are now working directly with CFA via our seconded ACFOs and Commanders so there is a much stronger link between the firefighting organisations. Regular meetings occur between FRV and CFA Deputy Commissioners/Deputy Chief Officers so that we can continue to identify, discuss and resolve any issues or opportunities for improvement.

What does FRV have to do to become the best firefighting state in Australia?

Best practice in health, safety and wellbeing training, doctrine, policy and procedures and maintaining a motivated and professional workforce is a good start. Continuous improvement in our equipment and safe methods of work that best service the communities we work in is important.

Any plans for retirement after being in a highly stressful job for the last 10 years?

Are you trying to tell me something I don't yet know? All in due course, I still have some work to do!

When's the next Variety Bash? Will you be there raising funds for the needy?

I have enjoyed a long history supporting the Variety Bash together with our workshops personnel and many other dedicated and fantastic people. Covid will play a part in being able to be part of the next bash which is planned for August 2021 from Melbourne to Great Keppel Island. The event has been running for 30 years and the assistance it provides Aussie kids with along the route is outstanding.

How does your wife cope with the constant demands from your fellow colleagues?

Karen is my rock and she absolutely deserves a medal or two! She also has a interests of her own too which is important in any relationship.

What's been the most enjoyable part of being part of MFB/FRV over the many years?

Definitely the people I have met and known throughout my career and the advancement of health and safety initiatives that have been put in place. The respect I have for the men and women who go above and beyond the call of duty every single day is second to none. The characters I have met over the years and being part of the successes, the sorrows, the challenges and the triumphs are etched in memory and I wouldn't have it any other way.

New legislation which enhances the health, safety and wellbeing of our people and the community is something we can all be proud of as a collective.

The day Hawthorn's Hose Carriage turned out with no crew.

Well, it was a quiet Sunday day shift at 18. We started at 0800 and like we always do, the driver checks the gear, starts the appliance and makes sure everything is OK and ready to turn out.

After we completed the usual checks, we went into the mess room for a cuppa and of course a chat and some breakfast (nothing much has changed Phil! – Ed).

Suddenly, Dave Anderson took off out of the mess room at a hundred miles an hour and nearly went through the fly-wire door. I thought what the f#@\$%!! is he doing?

Barry Murfitt and I jumped up and looked out the mess room door. All I could see is the hose carriage going through the double station doors and the two carriage doors open and the truck is heading across the road towards Barry's car. (He was going on Annual Leave that night and was driving his precious car on the holiday).

Well! Luckily we were all fit in those days. Dave Anderson opened the back door of the moving carriage, jumped into the back seat and quickly climbed over into the front seat and turned the steering wheel to the left and managed

to control the vehicle travelling north down William Street Hawthorn, with the two carriage doors still open. Dave managed to stop the carriage and after starting the engine, reverse it back to the front of the station.

We had a talk about what had happened, and of course wondering what the boss (SO Bill Pinnell) who at that time, was talking on the phone to the D.O. telling him all about the near "accident" that had just occurred. However, I don't think he, the D.O. believed the story, so he decided to come out to the station and have a look for himself.

When D.O. George McIntosh pulled up in his car, he got out, put on his hat, walked over to me and shook his head, said a few words and gave me a stack of paper work and said "that will keep you busy for the rest of the day"!

The old No. 18 Station had a sloping engine room floor out to the street, so later, an order came out that you had to leave the carriage in gear when in station. Question: How do you leave an Acco A auto in gear when it didn't have "P" (for park - option) on the gear stick??

Phil Cleary



**Old 18 Station
William St Hawthorn
Completed in 1910**

**New 18 Station
William St Hawthorn
Completed 1998**



ONE OF THE FUNNIEST THINGS THAT I HAVE READ FOR A WHILE - ENJOY!!!

After I retired my wife insisted that I accompany her on trips to one of those big warehouse companies. Unfortunately, like most men, I found shopping boring and preferred to get in and get out. Equally unfortunate, my wife - she loves to browse and waste just so much time. Yesterday my dear wife received the following letter from the local Costless store.

Dear Mrs. Smith,

Over the past six months your husband has caused quite a commotion in our store. We cannot tolerate this behaviour and have been forced to ban both of you from the store.

Our complaints against your husband, Mr Smith are listed below and are documented by our video surveillance cameras:

1. June 15: He took 24 boxes of condoms and randomly put them in other people's carts when they weren't looking.
2. July 2: Set all the alarm clocks in Housewares to go off at 5 minute intervals.
3. July 7: He made a trail of tomato sauce on the floor leading to the women's restroom.
4. July 19: Walked up to an employee and told her in an official voice, "Code 3 in House wares. Get on it right away." This caused the employee to leave her assigned station and receive a reprimand from her Supervisor that resulted in a union grievance, causing management to lose time and costing the company money. We don't have a Code 3.
5. August 4: He went to the Service Desk and tried to put a bag of M&M's on lay-buy
6. August 14: Moved a "Caution: Wet Floor" sign to a carpeted area
7. August 15: Set up a tent in the Camping Department and told the children shoppers he'd invite them in if they would bring pillows and blankets from the Bedding Department, to which 20 children obliged.
8. August 23: When a clerk asked him if they could help him he began crying and screamed, "Why can't you people just leave me alone?" An ambulance was called.

9. September 4: Looked right into the security camera and used it as a mirror while he picked his nose.

10. Sept 10: While handling guns in the Hunting Department, he asked the clerk where the antidepressants were.

11. October 3: Darted around the store suspiciously while loudly humming the "Mission Impossible" theme.

12. October 6: In the Auto Department he practiced his "Madonna Look" using different sizes of funnels.

13. October 18: Hid in a clothing rack and when people browsed through yelled, "PICK ME! PICK ME!"

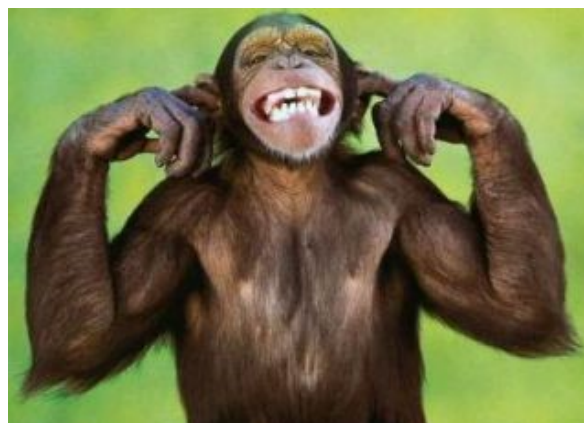
14. October 22: When an announcement came over the loudspeaker he assumed the foetal position and screamed, "OH NO! IT'S THOSE VOICES AGAIN!"

15. Took a box of condoms to the checkout clerk and asked, "Where's the fitting room?"

And last, but not least:

16: October 23: Went into a fitting room, shut the door, waited a while, and then yelled very loudly, "Hey! There's no toilet paper in here!" One of the clerks passed out!

Thank you, Management.



Water Off Editor Retires after 26 Years of Dedicated Service

John Laverick: A man of many talents, has finally retired after 26 years of reporting and presenting the many and varied articles which members have read over many, many years! John was ill for a short time about 4 years ago, so Angela Potter took over for a few editions and then I came on board to assist John with the production of "Water Off." Today (31/03/21), my wife and I took John and his delightful wife Pauline out for lunch, after spending the first 3 hours of the morning interviewing John for this, his story. After 3 hours, I hadn't finished the questions I had for him, so in the pleasant surroundings of his local garden nursery, I finished the interview on a quiet and sunny afternoon in late March, 2021.

Here is his story: John joined the MFB on the 2nd of April, 1965 after getting some brother-in-law advice from his wife's brother. Don Spottiswoode, who worked in the MFB Workshops. John never regretted that decision and after a 35 year association with the MFB John retired.

John was born in Footscray at home in the front bedroom of 22 McPherson Street. John had 2 siblings. He attended Footscray Primary School and Footscray Tech. From the age of 10 (lied about his age) he worked 6 nights a week at the local picture theatre selling sweets to the patrons up until he left school. The day he turned 14 John gave up the confectionary marketing and got a job with the view of an apprenticeship as a sheet-metal worker. After 3 months he decided sheet-metal working wasn't for him and applied for a job at Metters in Footscray, working his way up to servicing gas and electrical appliances. His knowledge of fixing appliances stood him in good stead for later in life, working there until he joined the MFB at aged 25

I asked John about his first day in recruits at Eastern Hill. The first day was spent getting fitted out with uniform and all your gear then a pep talk from the Chief (which included, "If you have the guts we'll give you the water" speech). Recruits in those day were assigned to catch gear for turnouts on weekends and on his second day and without any training was assigned to the 7 Dennis Pump. Bells went on for a further assistance to a fire in Hawthorn. It was a grain store on the corner of Burwood Road and Auburn Road (Murphy & Sons) and is still there today. He remembered being ordered into the building to back-up one of the firies on a branch and hitting his brass helmet on a steel beam and peeling the comb almost off. He recalled

the daily morning ritual of setting up the net and running the "pommpies" (Pompier Ladders). Slow at first and then we got better at running up those ladders. Pump drills and other drills like marching and com ladder drills. Some of the other recruits were "Dodger" Ryan and Mick Gaudion, both North Melbourne footballers. The C.F.O. at this time was Jack Patterson.

I wanted to know which officers, who showed true leadership. "Basil Smith, John Berry and John Brown" was his reply. Recruit John was also rostered to No.1, 3, 48 and 50 Stations for the odd roster. Later, he was rostered to 52 where he had Station Officers some readers may remember: Bill Hassall, Duncan McLean and John Brown.

It was time to step up and become an officer. Time for some schooling, learning mathematics and basic chemistry and completing many officer candidate drills off shift. The year was 1974. After becoming an officer he was stationed out west at various stations, including 44, 46, 47, 51 and 52. I asked John what was the worst accident he attended. There were many MVA's attended over the years and numerous fatalities. But the standout was being at 52 Station and were turned out for an exchange call for a fire in Ascot Vale. He was in the front seat, checking the Melways for the best route to the call. As the driver of the carriage came up to a red light at an intersection on Mt Alexander Road, the cars adjacent had a green light but were alerted and stopped. A small white car suddenly appeared from no-where, as the carriage proceeded through the intersection. At the last second, the fireman in the back seat yelled out "watch out, it's coming through". Too late! The hose carriage "T"- boned the small car and instantly killed the 74 year old lady driving. I asked John about the big jobs he attended. Again numerous, but one of the memorable ones was Nu-Farm. This company manufactured pesticides and was potentially a very dangerous place to be if a spill or leak occurred, if you were an employee on site or a responding emergency service worker. The night this incident occurred, a light plane had crashed after taking off from Essendon Airport and crashed into a house in Mathews Avenue, Niddrie. All the big gear was in Niddrie. John called for further assistance, as a vessel had over-heated containing 4 x 200 litre drums. A thermostat on the heating vessel had failed and the contents were being over heated and rapidly decomposing, issuing a cloud of toxic chemicals into the atmosphere

and into the prevailing wind. John and his crew came from 46 and the backup station was 40. No other appliances attended, so with a total crew of 6 personnel, B.A. was used, no gas suits, no specialist equipment, yet the crew were able to bring the situation under control and brought the incident to a satisfactory conclusion. The used equipment was hosed down and returned to the hose carriage, ready for the next call. (Decontamination was almost unheard of in those days!). There were other big jobs John attended as well as the many grass fires and car accidents attended. He needed a change as he was becoming restless, a little bored and knew he had more to offer the brigade – “time for a change” he said.

A Memorandum was hand written – (no computers in those days!) and came across John Berry’s desk at the District Station (47). John had applied for the Fire Protection Department at Abbotsford. Mr. Berry had a quiet word to John and asked if he was interested in helping to start up a Fire Prevention Department. S.O. Laverick was interested, and with the help of a typist, John & John and people like Bob Fowler and Jack Hoskin started writing and implementing training programs for outside industry. During this time, many other developments occurred, many of which are still in use by FRV and other fire services throughout Australia and the world today.

Barbara McCumisky, (photographer and unofficial MFB historian), was involved with John and the department in implementing a training program using one of her dogs. Kitt the fire dog, as he was eventually known as, helped teach young children fire safety. Barbara had trained Kitt to demonstrate fire safety and survival techniques to not only children but the wider community as well. The program ran for many years and was most successful. One of those programs that John was involved in was the J.F.A.I.P. (Junior Fire Awareness Intervention Program). Children/Teenagers who were identified as potential arsonists were put through this program to assist them to deal with their problem and also has been very successful. Both John and Senior Station Officer Bob Ross was also involved with this program after Professor Robert Adler from the Royal Children’s Hospital approached the Fire Prevention Department for help in setting up a program to research and develop effective intervention programs for children with fire setting tendencies. This later led into another project for John and the RCH, researching the effectiveness of a structured Fire Education program to be introduced into the curriculum of mainstream schools. This was the

forerunner to the Fire Ed program, which still runs successfully in primary schools today.

John retired from operations in 1990 when Jeff Godfredson was Chief. John continued to work in uniform (with a retired “R” on his uniform). He was then employed by the Royal Children’s Hospital with a grant from the Royal Children’s Hospital Research Foundation and The National Health and Medical Research Foundation. John stayed on behalf of the MFB until he had finished the program with R.C.H. That was 1993.

Immediately following the completion of the research project he received a phone call from the Brigade to see if he was interested in helping set up the Retire Ed program. John, with the help of John Howe, Bob Fowler, Basil Smith and Sharon Landers successfully introduced this fire safety program to our senior residents at clubs, retired groups etc; giving vital information to people at risk. This program also still runs today and is testament to the hard work of those individuals who initiated this program. John was involved for seven years and after that time (Year 2000), he finally could hang his boots up! Enquiries from fire services within Australia and overseas to the above programs were constantly being received.

But of course, it did not end there. Early 1997 John was offered a position at a specialist school for Autistic Children as a maintenance man, doing not only building maintenance but repairing classroom aids and adapting specialist equipment to suit particular student needs. It was one of the most enjoyable jobs because of the challenges these children posed. John spent 14 years working with the school finally retiring aged 70.

It’s been a pleasure interviewing John and I thank him for his time and certainly for the great work he has done over the many years as a firefighter in the community and for the work in helping to set up the Fire Prevention Department (Fire Safety) and finally to keep this publication for all retired and current firefighting staff ticking along – “Thankyou John Laverick!”

I must remind our members who have a story and want it published, to please contact me: COLIN HARRIS at retiredfirenews@gmail.com for your story to be told and published. Stories from members keeps our publication relevant and interesting. * **Your partner and children may want to read your MFB/FRV story one day as well!**

Colin Harris - Editor

Human Rights Unmet!

DEMINTIA CARE – by Eileen Wood

Services for Australians with Dementia are “fragmented, challenging to navigate and hard to access.” Writing in the *Medical Journal of Australia*, members of the National Institute for Dementia Research Special Interest Group in Rehabilitation and Dementia also say Australia “does not currently meet the human rights of people with dementia to timely and accessible health services of appropriate quality, or to participation in health care decisions”. The authors have called for the development of a new national framework, which “should include the development of a model of service delivery that considers accessible pathways to diagnosis and effective and seamless ongoing support of health and wellbeing throughout the course of dementia”. In Australia, dementia is the leading cause of disability, the second-leading cause of death in people aged over 65, and the leading cause of death in women. They say services faces workforce shortages and gaps in worker knowledge and skills related to dementia. **Principles:** The authors identified principles which they say should apply to models of service delivery, including: Having an overarching objective to maintain positive health and wellbeing of people with dementia, their care partners and families – Recognise dementia as a disability – Take into account the cognitive disability of people with dementia in accessing support and being a partner (along with their families) in planning care through supported decision making – Be delivered by a multidisciplinary workforce and accessible for all people with dementia and care partners – Be ongoing, cost-effective, economically sustainable, and needs-based, not capped according to central budgets – Be integrated for seamless experience for people with dementia and care partners, within and across primary, acute and subacute health care, aged care and social services. (Newspaper: THE SENIOR – March 03, 2021)

A Few Things People Learn Too Late In Life (Tell this to your Grandchildren) **Life is a journey of twists and turns, peaks and valleys: Good times and bad times and sad times.**

Most people are scared of using their imagination – They don’t know how to be creative!

Your dream doesn’t really matter to anyone else – It’s your dream, not theirs!

Friends are relative to where you are in your life – Priorities change and people move on!

Your potential increases with age – You have the knowledge, can do more, so just do it!

Spontaneity is the sister of creativity – Do you remember your spontaneous childhood?

You forget the value of “touch” – When was the last time you played in the rain and mud?

Most people do what they love – The others didn’t fight hard enough to do those things!

Many stop reading after finishing school – When was the last time you read a good book?

People talk more than they listen – “Don’t talk at people”- have a time equal conversation!

Creativity takes practice – Don’t stifle creativity. Creativity doesn’t have to be profitable!

“Success” is a relative term – Don’t let others define your success, you define your success.

You can’t change your parents – Just love them for bringing you into this wonderful world.

The only person you have to face in the morning is yourself – When you were younger, it felt that you had to please the entire world! You don’t! Do what makes you happy, not sad!

Nothing feels as good as something you do from the heart–No amount of money or achievement or external validation will ever take the place of what you do out of pure love.

Everyone who doubts you will always come around – That kid who used to bully you will come asking for a job one day. Just focus on you. The doubters will come asking for help.

Your purpose is to be you – What is the meaning of life? To be you, always, in everything you do, whatever that means to you. You are your own evolving masterpiece!

THIS HALF PAGE HASN'T
BEEN FILLED AS THERE
HAVEN'T BEEN ANY STORIES
FORTHCOMING FROM
OUR READERSHIP
GROUP.

We need articles from retired
personnel.

EVERYONE HAS A STORY!

Please send to:
retiredfirenews@gmail.com

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Secretary Phil Cleary**

Key Rings

With old style badge and new style badge
on a stainless steel helmet price \$25 Inc
Including Delivery



Victorian Fire Service ring
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Including delivery.

29th JULY 2021
at CSI CLUB
SOUTHPORT



154 SCARBOROUGH STREET
SOUTHPORT
07 5532 - 09944

(This year "NOT at the Yacht Club at Southport")

Please arrive between 10.30am - 11.00am

COME WITH 'OLD' MATES and 'OLD' WORK COLLEAGUES.

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FIRE/RESCUE NEWS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

Late Irish Firefighter Cared for by a Nurse He Rescued as a Girl

“Daddy remembered the nurse and remembered that she was hiding behind curtains when he saved her from the house fire,” said the daughter of Northern Ireland firefighter Kieran Barr.

An Irish firefighter who died earlier this month was cared for in hospice by a woman he had saved when she was girl. Kieran Barr had been a firefighter with the Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service in for more than 20 years, serving as station commander at the Crescent Link Fire Station before retiring in 2008, [the Derry Journal reports](#). He was diagnosed with cancer a few months after retiring, and he died March 1 in Foyle Hospice, where he had been since January. During his stay at hospice, one of the nurses caring for Barr had been rescued by the firefighter when she was a child, according to Claire Barber, Barr's daughter. Being humble, Barr didn't tell his family about meeting the nurse again after all these years, and they only found out all the details of the encounter from a doctor. “Daddy remembered the nurse and remembered that she was hiding behind curtains when he saved her from the house fire,” Barber told the Journal. Barr was awarded a medal for bravery for his actions that day, the first of two he would receive as a firefighter. “He said that the firemen were told not to go into the house. But Daddy went in and got the wee girl. He got burned in the fire as well,” Claire Barber added.

First NYC Medics Vaccinated as FDNY Sees 12th COVID Death

“After so many months, it feels great. I hope everybody can get it to make their families safe,” said a 20-year veteran FDNY EMT about receiving the vaccine this week.

New York City EMS workers received their first COVID-19 vaccine Wednesday, launching the city's long-awaited plan to inoculate first responders against the virus that has claimed thousands of lives across the five boroughs. But the breakthrough Randall's Island event was tinged with sadness as the FDNY announced a 27-year veteran EMT died of coronavirus on Tuesday night, only hours before the first rays of hope appeared for her colleagues with the arrival of the Moderna vaccine. “This is a great day for the FDNY,” said Commissioner Daniel Nigro. “Science

has answered the call for help from our department and all essential frontline healthcare workers and produced a vaccine to combat this deadly illness.” EMT Bennie Guzman, a 20-year FDNY veteran, choked up after receiving his shot while recalling how COVID had killed his mother in May. “After so many months, it feels great,” said Guzman, 58, who was among the first to get the shot. “I hope everybody can get it to make their families safe. I wish my mom was still around.” According to fire officials, the infection rate for the FDNY EMS was 37% with more than 5,700 of its first responders infected since March. The EMTs rolled up their sleeves Wednesday morning and sat in socially-distanced chairs while waiting their turns. “Our EMS workers have been on the front lines since day one,” said Mayor de Blasio. “We want to make sure they get vaccinated right away.”

Arson Investigator Fatally Shot

A Houston Fire Department arson investigator was fatally shot early Friday while working surveillance on a case, according to the department. Investigator Lemuel Bruce, 44, had been part of a team investigating a recent string of arsons in the city, [KRIV-TV reports](#). He was in the city's Timbergrove neighborhood at about 3:30 a.m. after spotting a vehicle of a suspect in the investigation. Bruce began following the vehicle while waiting for other members of the investigation team to join him. That's when shots were fired. Bruce was wounded multiple times, and he was taken to the hospital, where he later died from his injuries. The suspect was found dead at the scene of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, according to the U.S. Fire Administration. Joining the Houston Fire Department in 2003, Bruce had been an arson investigator for 5 years. He is the department's first arson investigator to die in the line of duty.

The articles above are from 'Firehouse Magazine USA.'

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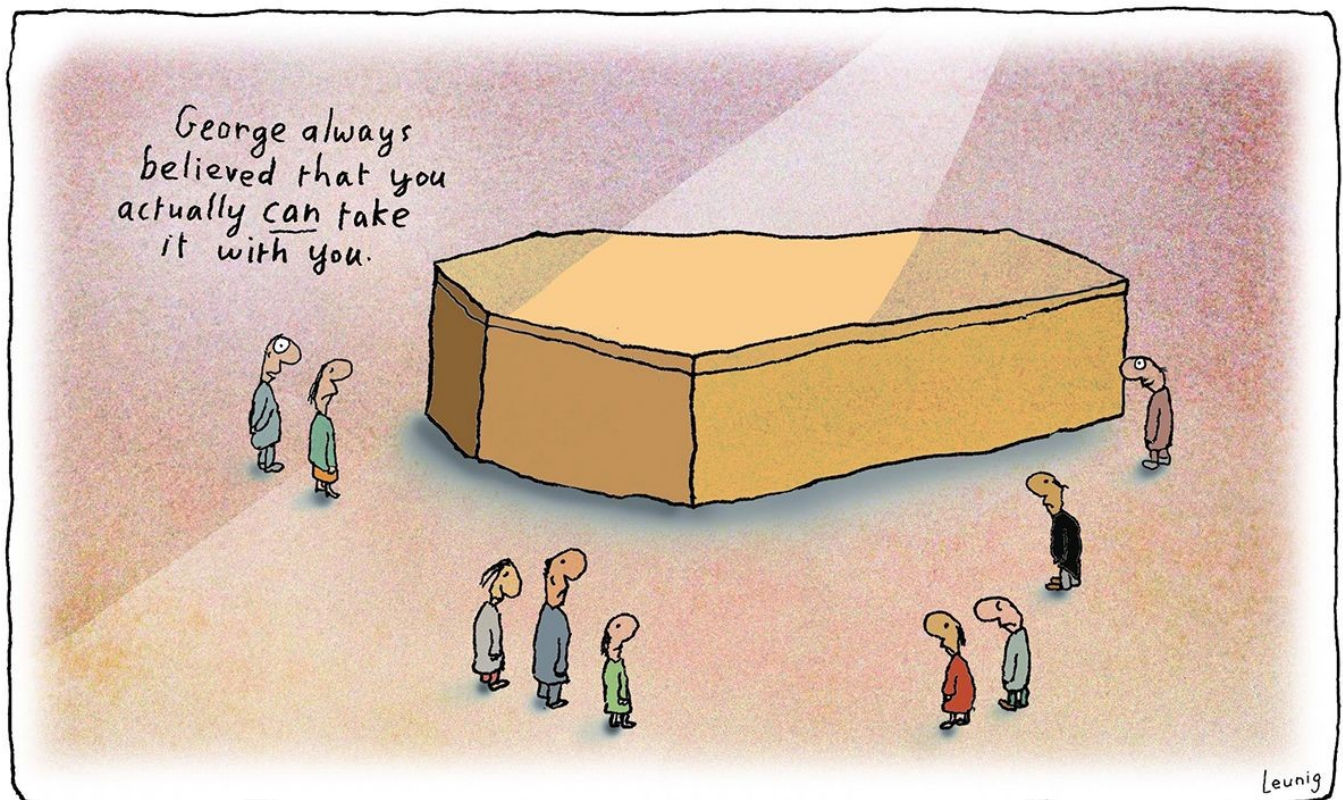
Police and Emergency Services Games 2021

2021 marks the 40th anniversary of the PSEG and Geelong played host to the games with over 40 sports on offer.

Down at the Geelong Darts Club, FRV was well represented with current and retired employees, and whilst numbers were down by almost 50% this year, FRV fared well.

TEAMS

Bronze – FRV Team – *From left: SO Tony Birtwistle, LFF David Garvin, retired SSO Alex Shepherd, retired LFF Mark Ballantyne, retired SSO John Garvin, retired LFF Chris Trevean and retired CFA Workshops Gary Dewar.*



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