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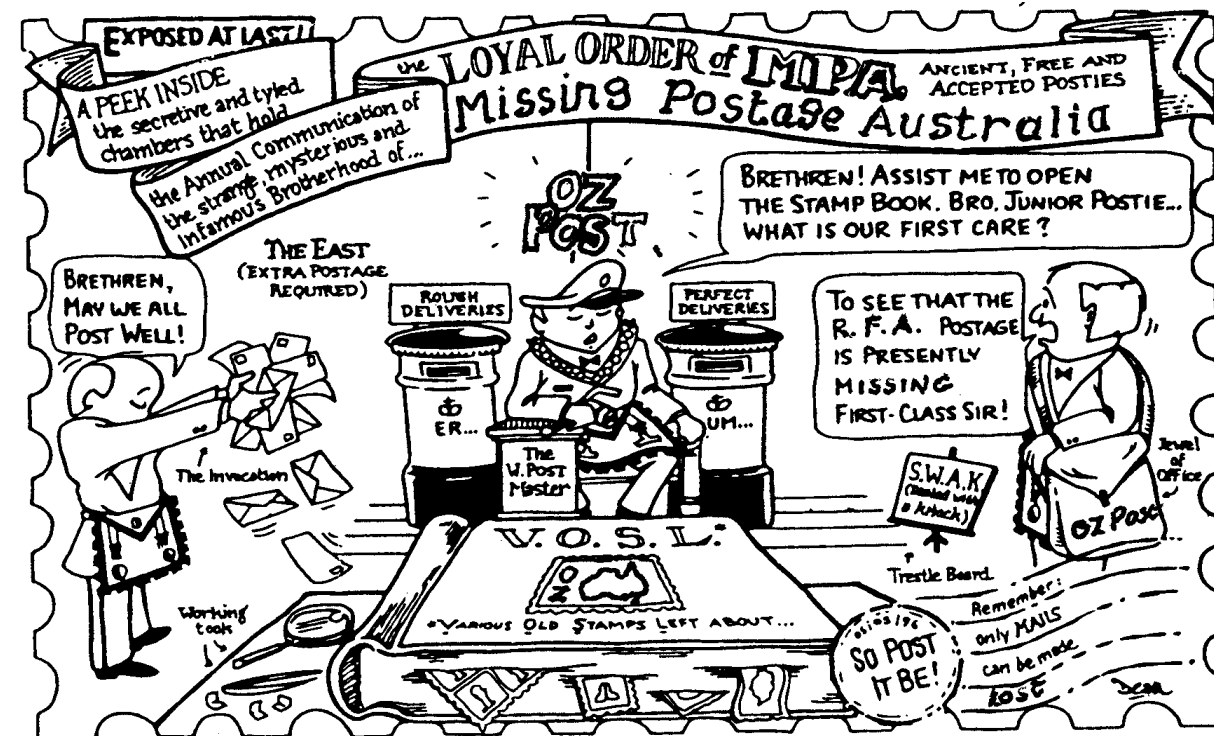
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LOST MAIL CAUSES CONFUSION

Members miss meeting as the quarterly reminder goes astray.

Acting Secretary, John Berry was driven to desperation point as he sought answers from Australia Post as to the whereabouts of the February issue of "Water Off". After a ring around by committee members, more

than fifty members and partners attended the historic first General Meeting for this millenium. The mail (missing for 10 days) was eventually found, but some did not reach it's destination till days after the meeting.



SECRETARY'S COMMENT...

I would like to thank the many members for their assistance during our mail fiasco, I know, if one cannot be positive about an organization one should not say anything. However, if all your mail is misplaced and cannot be found by Australia Post for more than ten days, it becomes

very difficult to remain positive about the negative answers and the poor performance of the mail service. Again many thanks to everyone involved in the ring around. Note (Numerous calls to Australia Post customer service failed to receive a satisfactory answer or compensation for the problem they caused).



“GENERAL MEETING”

Notice is hereby given of our next General Meeting to be held at the North Melbourne Football Club Social Club, Fogarty Street North Melbourne (Melway 43 B4) 1030 Hours, Wednesday May 17, 2000

AGENDA ITEMS.

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

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 and beverages will be provided as usual. @ \$3 per head.
Drinks at bar prices.

JOHN BERRY
ACTING SECRETARY/TREASURER
Ph: 03 9431 2880

OFFICE BEARERS

President, Don Brennan
Vice President, Ian Fowler
Acting Sec./Treasurer, John Berry
(The position of Secretary/Treasurer vacant)

General Committee;
John Laverick
Bob McNeil
Ross Medwin
Ern Tamme
John Wallace
Auditor; Theo Teklenburg

RFA 2000 Calendar

May 17: General Meeting
July 27: Queensland Reunion (Southport Y/C)
August 16: General Meeting
November 15: Annual General Meeting
November 25: U.F.U. Annual Luncheon (St Kilda T/H)
by invitation only!

VALE

Hugh Torney
Henry (Harry) Morgan: (Foundation member)
Heather Smith: (Wife of Ian Smith)
Pat Selby: (Wife of Claude Selby)

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

SICK LIST

Ron Cass
Lionel Rose
Claude Selby
Fred Wittmer
Jim Nevins - has improved and been seen driving around Werribee and Melton in a modified car.
We wish these members a speedy recovery.

Note:
Please keep information regarding sickies, etc, flowing. We endeavour to keep you informed, but we can only do this with your help.

LETTERS

REMEMBER ME!

Brother, when you weep for me,
remember, that it was meant to be.
Lay me down and when you leave,
remember, I'll be at your sleeve.
In every dark and choking hall,
I'll be there as you slowly crawl.
On every roof in driving snow,
I'll hold your coat and you will know.
In cellars with searing heat,
at windows where bars you meet.
In closets where young children hide,
you know, I'll be there by your side.
The house from which I now respond,
is overstaffed with heroes gone.
Men who answered one last bell,
did the job and did it well.
As firemen, we understand,
that deaths a card dealt in our hand.
A card we hope we never play,
but one we hold there anyway.
That card is something we ignore,
as we crawl across a weakened floor.
For we know that we're the only prayer,
for anyone that might be there.
So remember, as you wipe your tears,
the joy I knew throughout the years.
As I did the job I loved to do,
I pray that thought will see you through.....
Remember me!

Anonymous

NOISY RED WAGON!

Down at the fire station, a firefighter is working outside on the fire truck when he notices a little boy next door. The little boy is in a little red wagon with little ladders hung on the sides, he is wearing a firefighters hat and has the wagon tied to his dog. The firefighter asks, "what are you little boy?" The boy replies, "I'm pretending to be a firefighter and this is my fire truck". The firefighter walks over to take a closer look, "that sure is a nice fire truck" he says. "Thanks mister" says the boy. The firefighter looks closer and notices the boy has tied the dog to the wagon by its testicles. "Little boy" says the firefighter, "I don't want to tell you how to run your fire truck but, if you tied that rope around the dog's neck I think you could go faster". "Your probably right mister, but then I wouldn't have a siren".....

Old "News Review" copies wanted!

The Fire Services Museum has a substantial number of "News Review", but we are missing many copies from the eighties to the end of publication. If you have spare copies could you kindly loan/give them to the Fire Museum.
Ring Fred Kerr on (03) 9509 8906.

Old Photographs?

Did you enjoy the new photo display at the Retired Firies Reunion Luncheon at the Training College recently?
Some members of the Fire Museum went to a lot of trouble to cut, laminate and caption these photos. To keep our displays fresh and attractive please send any old photos to Len Greaney, Curator, Fire Services Museum of Victoria, 39 Gisborne Street East Melbourne 3002.
If you don't want to part with the oldies we will photocopy and return the originals.
Please help us! ... It is your heritage we are trying to preserve.
Send the photos in with names, dates and locations, in fact any relevent information that may be of help.

“It’s the way we have in the Fire Brigade” F. C. Kerr

People you meet!

During a recent trip to thee Murray River, I ran into a retired Firefighter on the links at Tocumwal Golf Club. His name is Ian McPherson. He wished to be remembered to his old shift-mates.
Also on our bus was a Ray Harvey, a brother in-law to Bill Webber. What do they say about a small world?
Jim Holmes.
P.S. I did not play the pokies, but Dot came out in

Dear John

On a recent visit to Townsville to visit Alun and Beth Williams I came upon these articles in the Queensland Firefighter’s magazine and thought you may be able to use them in “Water Off”.
Regards
Helen Crockett

Ed’s note:

It’s nice to hear from you Helen and thanks for the two articles re-produced in the next column.
The poem, I think, was written by an unknown American firefighter and published in one of their journals some years ago. The red wagon story I haven’t heard before.

BROWN'S BITS

From the roving correspondent of the north-west of our fair city.

BONES

Story 1:

Bones was driving the H/Carriage at a grass and scrub fire. After putting out the grass the officer told Bones to back up to a tree on fire, close to the edge of a big drop. Both leaning out of the appliance to watch the rear, the officer kept saying "back-up - back-up stop, stop, STOP". Quickly turning around to look at the driver... there wasn't one. Bones had leant out too far and had fallen out. A quick grab of the handbrake saved the day!!!!

Story 2:

Again driving the H/Carriage, Bones and crew were attending a crash exercise at Melbourne Airport. On the signal to start the exercise Bones took off to the scene of the aircraft crash. A number of dummies were spread out between appliances and the crash scene, these, Bones drove over easily.

After the exercise a debriefing took place. The casualty list read So many burnt to death, so many from asphyxiation and so many run over by a fire appliance.

Story 3:



RACING TIPS

From My Mate's Cousin

If the racing fraternity had a hall of fame for punters our man would qualify hands down. His tenacity is legendary at the local TAB.

He's been feeling a bit crook and has had a run of outs that would have a normal man on his back in bed with a nurse.... err.... with a nurse on his back in bed....err... his nurse's back in bed... anyway he's off colour.

A hay burner he's been following for months has just about put him in the poor-house. (In fact when he knocked on the door of the poor house they refused to take him in saying they "didn't want to lower the tone of the place")

Not having the strength to pump up the tyres on his push-bike he has worn out a couple of pair of thongs walking to the TAB just to back this thing.

Down to his last tin of beans and flat broke, he hocked Aunt Mabel's cuckoo clock to have one last fling and it has come home.... paying a modest sum. It was enough

The day after a particularly heavy night on the town, Bones was walking through the city when he noticed a Health Department van parked at the roadside. The occupants of the van were taking the blood pressure of passers-by as a public health awareness promotion. Bones, still feeling the effects of the last nights session, thought it a good idea to have his pressure checked.

The nurse did a double take when she read his pressure for it nearly blew the meter apart. Bones was told his pressure was so high he should not be walking around. He assured them he would take it easy and go home straight away.

When he finally arrived home there was an urgent message for him to come in and see the B.M.O. (Dr. Upjohn) the next day. It appears the nurse was so concerned about the state of Bones' health she notified the Vic. Health Dept. and they in turn rang the B.M.O. After a restless night worrying, Bones fronted the B.M.O. who immediately took his blood pressure and to his amazement found it was back to normal.

Bones was his old self again, for the effects of the previous nights session had worn off.

to buy a small electric pump for the push-bike tyres. It was one of those models that plug into the cigarette lighter of the car. He said he had to take it back because, not having a cigarette lighter, he tried to plug it into a box of matches and it wouldn't work.

However, he's all pumped up about the following selections.

The Legend: A Sydney based runner trained by J. Denham. This thing is out to live up to it's name.

Honourable Mention: To get an honourable mention means you haven't come first but this is out to prove them wrong. From Melbourne and trained by D. J. Hall

El-Don: We have mentioned this nedly before and from memory we called it Il Don. Sorry for the mistake but there is nothing "IL" about him and if he gets a start in the Adelaide Cup he will give it one "EL" of fright. Trained by Peter Hayes.

May the horse be with you!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Our first event for the year 2000 was the spit roast at the Training College.

Our guests included the newly promoted CF0 Alan Richards and his wife Cheryl, Keith Adamson, Peter Marshall - UFU Sec, his partner Sharron & members of the UFU Social Committee.

A special thanks to Fred Kerr and his fellow museum members for their display, Peter O'Brien from the Video Section and Inspector Paul Swain for arranging Fire appliances to attend.

Once again there was plenty of food from our caterers,

It was good to see Claude Selby and his wife Pat attend, Claude was in a wheelchair and was on day release from hospital,

Our next meeting is at North Melbourne Social Club - Wednesday 17th May at 10.30.

Dont forget to bring your partners.

Don Brennan
President



ACTING SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

ITEMS OF INTEREST SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER

Many of our members may not be aware of the changes that have occurred to the Fire Services Executives, Mr. Bob Solly Chief Executive Officer Metropolitan Fire & Emergency Services has resigned to take up a position with the Department of Human Services, this is an area he has always had a great deal of interest in. Our Patron D.C.F.0 Alan Richards has been appointed to the position of Chief Fire Officer for two years. Scuttlebutt has it that there will be changes to the make up of the Board later this year! A.C.F.0 Neil Bibby resigned to take up a position with the Country Fire Authority in May of last year, his position has been filled by a non-uniform person Mr Peter Akers. (We had not reported this earlier as we have been waiting on an article from Neil). The Association wishes them all well in their new chosen careers.

C.F.A MEDIA RELATIONS

Mr. Peter Philp, Editor of the C.F.A's Brigade News, contacted the R.F.A to develop reciprocal rights for the use of articles from our respective printed newsletters, it is great to have professional such as Peter and the Brigade News interested in our newsletter.

REUNION DAY M.F.E.S.B TRAINING COLLEGE

The President Don Brennan in his report made mention of the day and its success, the assistance afforded us by the M.F.E.S and their members was great. Peter O'Brien took a video of the day and it was shown on Fire Vision Mess T.V so now you have all starred in television, (I have heard that the police are interested in some of the mug shots shown). I unfortunately was unable to attend as I was already committed. Letters of appreciation have been forwarded to the respective

service and the Fire Services Museum President for their assistance. There is however a bit of a downside I have received a number of verbal complaints regarding some facets of the catering which is under investigation.

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTIONS, R.F.A.

Invoices for this years subs will be inside this edition of the newsletter, this year we are trying a new system and that is as follows,

- 1: If you do not receive one it will mean you are financial members for this year.
- 2: Members **receiving** a yellow statement, means you are 3 years in arrears and the account must be settled by the 30th of June. Failure will generate removal of name from mailing list.
- 3: Partners of deceased members automatically become honorary members and remain on mailing list, unless they wish to be removed.
- 4: Please advise the secretary of any change of address A.S.A.P this helps reduce mail cost to the R.F.A.
- 5: Receipts will be returned in centre of following newsletter.

MEMORIAL PLAQUE RELOCATION

The Bruce Adams and Eric Jamieson memorial plaque that was in Rockbeare Park Darebin, the area where they were severely injured whilst protecting the public from fire in 1968 has, because of the numerous acts of vandalism on the memorial, been relocated to the new Preston fire station Bell Street. Dulcie Adams and Pat Jamieson the respective members wives, were invited to the unveiling day. During my discussions with Dulcie it was mentioned how delighted she was for the opportunity to be present and see that their husbands had not been forgotten. They also had the chance to compare

(Cont. P.4)

(From P.3)

the past with the present generation of fire fighting resources at the new station. Dulcie believed that Bruce would have been more than impressed with the changes, she also requested that we pass on her sincerest thanks to all of Bruce's ex work mates e.g., Ken Clarke, Tiger Lyons, Ross Medwin, Pud Fawkner and the many other members of the service.

NOTE. I was sent to relieve Bruce for a couple of rosters after the incident, I must say every member of the old "B" District was effected by the calling of Bruce and Eric to a higher duty. Gone but not forgotten.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

The other night whilst visiting Lilydale I had a chance meeting with a son of a past icon of the M.F.B the person I am referring to was the late, "YACKA PRIESTLY", Yacka, was short for the place he came from (Yackandandah). During our discussions I made mention of my first meeting with Yacka which was a small factory fire, Lonsdale near Spring Street. Too many fires ago to remember the exact date but it would be mid to late fifties. Remember the type of building that use to be there then! 2&3 story, unprotected brick construction, wooden floors and joists, wooden internal stairs and iron roof and full of stock, on arrival we found this one heavily smoke logged ready to pop. The Senior Fireman and myself were attempting to get to the seat of the fire with a charged line of hose when our progress was stopped by a heavy metal door, after many tries with the seven pound key it still would not open. All of sudden this figure appeared in the heat and smoke wanting to know our progress, after being made aware of the problem Yacka stepped back two or three paces from the door, then threw the full weight of his body at the door. After a few attempts the door with the part of the brick- work holding the hinges and locks fell to the floor allowing us access to the fire. My reaction to this feat of incredible strength was one of total amazement. I said to myself "Ant if this man said jump my reply must be, how high Sir".

INTERESTING LETTER

We have received our annual informative letter again from Reg Carey and his wife, reporting on life in Tuncurry N.S.W, including their best wishes to all members of the R.F.A. In this letter however, they explained about a mishap that beset their under-sink water filter, it burst and flooded their kitchen just as Reg was about to leave to go fishing up the river, was it fate or was it Jacko! If I were you, after reading the last newsletter page 12 Action's column, I would most certainly check his whereabouts leading up to and including the day of the mishap. That friendly war he mentioned may not be finished.

M.F.E.S. MEDIA PRODUCTION SERVICES.

Following our reunion day Peter O'Brien, of the above group, may contact you regarding a number of projects involving fires and incidents the M.F.B have attended in the past which they want to exhibit on Fire Vision. The idea is to give the current members of the service an understanding of the history and tradition of the service.

If you receive a phone call please give him your assistance in this quest for historical data, your name may have been suggested as a possible source of information for his research. The quality of his work is very good and the visits are not intrusive.

REPORT OF MEETING 16/02/00

Item 1 President welcomed members and their partners and his opening remarks.

Item 2. Apologies.

Item 3. Minutes of previous meeting were read and confirmed **Moved** B.Jackson **Seconded** G.Payne Carried.

Item 4. Correspondence 1 0 Letters In / 3 2 Letters out.

Item 5. Secretary/Treasurers Report S. 1 \$1121.13, 1.1 \$4237.70, moved that the report be accepted **Moved** F. Churchill

Seconded B.Jackson Carried

Item 6 The Presidents report was read and accepted.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Item 7 The Secretary reported that the previously foreshadowed motion put 18/8/99, re Prevention of President and Secretary retiring in same year must be withdrawn, due to the fact it contravenes the Associations Incorporation Act 1981. Following further discussions on the subject. A motion was moved J. Berry seconded F.Churchill. That this meeting of the R.F.A invite the mover of the foreshadowed motion to now not put the motion **CARRIED.** The mover of the motion 18/8/99 agreed, motion withdrawn.

Meeting closed 11.45am

Trusting this newsletter finds you all fit and well. Come join us at our next meeting and bring your partner.

JOHN BERRY

ACTING SEC/TREASURER.

STOP PRESS:

A few interesting developments are taking place in relation to asbestos and the condition of some of our members.

At some time in the future we hope to have a member of the legal fraternity address one of our meetings.

gear, so the previous day, a trip to Jarvis Walker solved this problem. One such member was Kevin Clarke who, after a short time, had everyone terrified with his vertical casting ability. No matter how hard he tried, every cast went thirty foot into the air and crashed back somewhere on the boat.

During a quiet time, Jack Moore and others managed to lift Ken Hopper's line onto the other side of the boat and attached a filleted flathead. The look on Ken's face as he reeled that in.

But this was to be Ray's day. Mid afternoon and Ray's line started screaming as it took off. "Cut your lines" yelled Ray as the line started circling the boat. A twenty five pound gummy shark was pulled in a few minutes later, a good meal for all aboard.

Things just settled when Clarkie yelled "cut your lines" as he pulled in a nine inch flathead. "Good for one, Good for all".

One morning, out turned the carriage with Ray on board. As it left the station a brewery truck passed losing an empty steel "niner". Quick as a flash Osland and Woolmer carted it into Ray's office and stuck it on top of a cabinet behind his chair and obscured same

with some clothing.

On returning to his office Ray was approached by the two afore named complete with caps and coats, most official, stating they had a problem. "What's new" said Ray. They explained that they had caught two well known senior firemen drinking in the mess. "At ten o'clock in the morning" said Ray, "well bring them in". After reading the riot act and stating he carry the matter further he asked Osland what they were drinking from?

"It's up there behind you" said Ted, as they had discreetly uncovered the object. Ray turned and froze..."A #@%*&! niner" said Ray as the others could no longer contain themselves.

Ray "The Champ" Watt. A gentleman amongst men, an excellent gymnast and sportsman is not now with us of course, but he will remain always in my memories of the good, fun times!

Action Jackson

A NOTE FROM "MURPHY'S WOODYARD"

Correspondence from a far corner of our state

I am currently sitting propped up after having a replaced hip replaced by another replaced hip and thus have time to mumble in the froth, open a bottle of home brew and reminisce.

I have just read the February edition of "Water Off" and more particularly another article under "Do You Remember" by Peter Lang. This has prompted me to wonder if many of the readers would know of Peter's * (#;%@'# past.

Apart from pegging my half sister inlaw out to dry on a rotary clothes line, or going off crook because we, the local plumbers, ran a gas cooking demo in the fire station (I was Captain...so why not?) while Lang's local electricians (Peter was Brigade Secretary) missed out on a golden opportunity. Plus a few other healthy differences of opinion from time to time, Peter's and my family have remained close friends, mates and confidants for some fifty years.

But indeed those early years were good times. We didn't have much in material things but we certainly had fun. The brigade planted and dug a paddock of spuds on loaned ground with loaned equipment to finance extra equipment and costs of demo trips. (Old Proverb say... what happens on demo trips stays on demo trips.... so that part is safe Pete).

My previously mentioned sister inlaw also organised a

mannequin parade in which Peter modelled a bridesmaid, it was only his footy socks that gave him away. Later, Peter starred in the chorus line of "She Wore Red Feathers and a Hula Hula Skirt". Both these performances raised funds for the brigade and whisky consumption by the participants.

Apart from the great times we had in a small urban fire brigade, Peter was always on the go to improve on what we had. He deserves credit for setting up the idea of the Foster and District Emergency Squad to co-ordinate the activities of all organisations and services in the area in the event of a civil disaster or emergency. Peter and I had attended schools at the old Civil Defence Establishment at Mt Macedon and this had formed the basis for setting up rescue resources as an adjunct to brigade operations.

No doubt, Peter's appetite for change and advancement had been whetted by attendance at the Civil Defence School and direct contact with C.F.A. career officers. So he departed the "Green Hills of Foster" to become a shift firefighter with the C.F.A. at Dandenong. After a very short period and having passed the necessary officer's exam, Peter was promoted to the illustrious position of Sub Station Officer...with some notoriety. But, thereby hangs another tale!

Murphy's Woodyard

ACTION'S CHARACTER COLUMN

RAY "CHAMP" WATT..... No better name has there been for a true gentleman.

Ray arrived at No1 Station (to me, to late in his career) and joined Bill Brady, Myself, Bert Woolmer, Ted Osland, Trevor Reed and Kevin Clarke on the old then "D" platoon. I am sure he did not hear my name correctly when we were introduced, as for the next five years he addressed me as "Jeez Bwy" What's gone wrong now?

Ray's arrival caused Fred Kerr at No3 Station and also No2 Station to have the fastest turnouts known in the history of the brigade, particularly on night shifts.

Ray's biggest problem was that he had to check everything himself. Even at a false alarm it was mandatory that every building within two blocks in all directions were to be checked also. Fred quickly woke to the fact that unless he was there first with a false alarm word back, he was liable to be there for the next two hours. I encountered this situation myself very early with Ray on attending a chimney fire in a two storey building in Fitzroy. Here I am, young and fit, I wasn't going to allow a man of his age to climb ladders. So up the Com. ladder I go, gingerly edging over the crumbling parapet and attended to the problem, ten minutes later, problem solved. Ladder back on the Com ready to return. "Jeez Bwy" maybe I had better check! Ladder off, Ray crawling over crumbling concrete...Bwy mumbling..... "I give up".

One of Ray's number of problems was that he believed that one of his duties was to save the brigade's budget, particularly with clothing and so I threatened that if he did not requisition new gear for himself I would do it for him. No req. was forthcoming, so one afternoon I collected, from each member, new clothing from their lockers. If only the look on Ray's could have been frozen as I presented him with turnout boots, shoes, jumpers, shirts, socks etc. that he thought had been req'd in his name.

Until I met Ray, I don't think I had ever been fishing in my life and of

course Ray was renowned as an excellent fisherman and he decided to take me out and teach me the art. Now I had heard of Ray's fishing jaunts but of course one needs to experience these things oneself.

Ray was a member of the Albert Park Fishing Club and subsequently had a small boat in the clubrooms. When we arrived he asked if I could pick out his boat. Being about sixty boats in the building you would think it rather difficult to pick it in one, but I did and at the same time realised why Ray always needed a fishing partner. Sitting in the middle of the shed was this timber boat which appeared as if it had drifted from the Titanic to the Southern Oceans and had been found by Ray, to be fitted out with a Red Indian motor complete with flywheel and leather strap, all components painted or polished including the strap. The fishing partner was required to help carry the bloody boat to the water.

I was always led to believe that fishing was relaxing and had arrived with my sandwiches and thermos of tea, no beer on Ray's boat. After a short while I realized Ray's boat had advantages. It was that heavy when a wave hit it, instead of rocking and making one seasick, it went straight up and down.

I had heard that Ray's idea of fishing was to work hard and the next six hours was the reason I have not been fishing since. Anchor down and the next minute Ray had that many rods over the side I felt I was under a net - check this, watch that one and hours later still no sandwich or tea and of course the boat had to be cleaned after the trip didn't it. Enough said.

With an interest in fishing on the shift I decided to charter a boat for the day and all go out. This was arranged and about fifteen boarded. Of course a number of them had never been fishing and required

"Jeez Bwy", what's wrong now? I only asked you to help me clean it and carry it back into the boat shed!



Firefighters Credit Co-operative ----- a Profile

The personal touch to customer service has always been an important aspect of the Credit Union Movement's base of differentiation from other players in the finance market. For smaller, industrial credit unions, it is often this factor alone which enables them to retain and build their membership year after year, in an environment populated with larger competitors

Firefighters Credit Co-operative exemplifies such an organisation. They presently have 3,500 members and operate from their fully owned premises at 408 Brunswick St Fitzroy. "Firefighters" employ five staff members including the General Manager Mike Enticott, they also have an agency in the township of Eildon providing financial services after the withdrawal of the Banks.

"Firefighters" overriding commitment to the needs of members more than compensates for what some in the industry say is not a very large asset base, but they consider a **\$ 16 million dollar asset base growing annually and with increasing membership is not too bad.**

Fire fighters Credit Co-operative was formed 24yrs ago by members of the United Firefighters Union Victorian Branch and until 1993 operated as U.F.U. Credit Co-operative. The membership bond was based around Victorian firefighters and their families. The bond now includes all employees of Melbourne Fire and Emergency Services Board, The Country Fire Authority including volunteers, Ambulance Service of Victoria and persons who have an affinity with those covered by the bond.

Firefighters Credit Co-operative has a Board of seven Directors who are members of the Co-operative.

They are elected by the membership, and each member has an entitlement to one vote.

Directors are elected for a three year term on a rotating basis to manage the affairs of the Co-operative with the assistance of staff.

The activities of the Board are regulated by Corporations Law, Australian Securities and Investment Commission and must report to Australian Prudential Regulation Authority who ensure that Directors act in a prudential, consciable manner in the best interest of members. Regulations covering Non Banking Financial Institutions are stronger than those applicable to Banks, Directors are subject to severe financial penalties including jail if they allow the Co-operative to breach regulations. Despite all of this the Directors of "Firefighters" are classified as volunteers receiving only attendance at meeting expenses for their efforts.

Chairman of the Board of Directors Stewart Kreltszheim, a C.F.A. Regional Officer says **"we are a close knit team that work hard at serving our members. Each staff member performs all the task-telling, receiving loan applications and interviewing. We are quite proud of our staff"**

Kreltszheim is mindful that it is the Co-operative's staff who have been responsible for maintaining and building "Firefighters" membership over the past 20yrs. with our size, we cannot compete in price against other larger financial institutions. **However, we can give them a high level of service, human interaction and a personal touch typical of the caring nature of credit unions.**

He said, we accept that with our type of Bond many of our members have special requirements beyond those of the general population, so the Co-operative make a conscious effort to meet those needs. That effort includes staff visiting the workplace to promote the Co-operative and service members with the completion of loan contracts when necessary. We offer payroll deductions, saving visits to make deposits, Direct debits from accounts plus an Ezy Access Service incorporating a "Bill" paying system, where our Staff attends to mailing out cheques and payments on our members behalf, we accept loan applications by fax and assist members to manage their financial affairs without fee charges and we also provide competitive housing loans without establishment fees We have our own Credit Debit card with an emergency services logo motif identifying our background

In recognition of their commitment to social responsibility "Firefighters" deliver excellent service and competitive financial benefits to members, and hope they will retain their loyalty because of that. They also recognise the need to provide their dedicated staff with the best working environment possible, we are continually upgrading our equipment technology as well as our building, the latest alterations should enable an extra staff member to be employed. This will assist us to expand and allow any new members or staff to become part of the

"family" known as the Firefighters Credit Co-operative

Any one wanting further information about the Co-operative ring Mike Enticott on 9419 8911

“DOC STEEL” THEY CAME FROM NEAR AND FAR

In a previous issue of “Water Off”, a tribute to Bill Seabrooke, written by Jack (Doc) Steel was included. Now it's the “Doc's” turn to be “Guest of Honour”. Written by the late Jack McKimm for “News Review” Dec. 1976.

This could well be one way of describing the retirement party tendered Deputy Chief Officer Howard John (Doc) Steel at the Melbourne Hilton Hotel on Monday, November 15, 1976.

Four hundred and thirty-two people came along to pay their tribute to Jack as he was also known. This response alone places the function in the same category as those tended to Jack Paterson and Bill Leonard.

It could well be an interesting exercise for you students of human behaviour to hypothesise why this was so. Could it be because they were all Senior Officers of the Brigade? Hardly likely. Just to stimulate your thinking “News Review” would like to suggest you may come up with the common factors of great respect, mutual friendly relationships with so many people that was based on their consideration for the personal problems of staff members they so ably dealt with throughout their careers.

Widows of ex-fires such as Mary Barrett and Beryl Barnes, along with girls from the General Office, came along to pay honour to “The Physician,” as he was also known. Mary and Beryl both explained along the lines they felt they were representing Len and Ted who would have wanted them to be present. A wonderful thought. A visitor from the Police was amazed when he made the comment, “They must have thought a lot of this guy.” And that about sums it up.

Right from the beginning the charisma was terrific. The function was advertised to commence at 7.30p.m. but when the committee arrived at about 7.10 p.m. they found the foyer packed with enthusiastic patrons giving the pre-dinner drinks and the famous Hilton savouries a decent sort of nudge.

The Peninsula boys were well represented by “Yacka” Priestly, Tim Healy, Jim Healey and Aub Mather, Jack (Stork) and Audrey (still a crowd stopper) Graham came up from the other side of the bay, while nephew “Booka” Williams dropped down from the Healesville mountains. Wells Hitchcock commented that the only places not represented seemed to be China and Darkest Africa.

The Board was represented by Board President Ern Symes, Deputy President, Cr E. V. Johnson, Board

Member Doug Lush, who was attending his first Brigade retirement party, and Secretary Harry Mullen. The Chief Fire Officer N. Van Every and newly appointed Deputy Chief Officer E. Osborne, assisted by more than 100 others, made sure the firefighters were well and truly represented. Retired Chief Officer Jack Paterson and Third Officers Bill Seabrook and Leonard and many others faced the barrier. All Departments, the Victoria Police, and the best known fire engineering firms were represented.

Jack and wife Jean were accompanied by son Keswick and wife, brother Lal and another Mrs Steel. Board President Ern Symes and Union President Tom Trotman proposed the toast to Howard John. Mr Symes brought a touch of culture per medium of the Latin proverb “Si Monumentum Requirit Circumspice” which, when translated into Hiltonese means, “If you

require my monument, look around you.” Citizen Howard John had only to do just that to see the esteem in which he was held in Brigade and public life.

The Chief Officer presented Jack with a wallet of notes and the sign from his office door. His difficulty will surely be to convince wife Jean that the sign should grace the door of the den in their new home at Seaford. Someone even suggested it may finish up screwed to the door of the detached outhouse.

On behalf of the ladies present, Mrs Van Every presented Jean with a sheaf of flowers.

Dr John Upjohn, in responding to the toast of the visitors, noted that a previous speaker had

suggested that the function was not really a dinner dance but was a bucks' night with the girls being invited along to decorate the place with their beautiful frocks and pretty faces. Our popular medico then went on to suggest that if it was fair enough for the girls to be used in such a manner it was also fair that they should be allowed into the fire department, at least into the Control Centre.

He then went on to discuss the problems such a



Mr. Jack (“Doc”) Steel is farewelled by his wife on leaving for his last day as a fire officer.

WORLD FIREFIGHTERS GAMES



Are there any retired fires out there who are interested in a great holiday to Paris and/or



Europe and who also might like to play golf or another sport with fellow firefighters from around the world?

All you have to do is contact the Victorian Team Secretary, Lin Bell on (03) 9727 3179 or the President Bill Nuske on



6TH WFFG THANKS

We received a note of thanks from Jan and Lin Bell for the support of “Water Off” to the 6th World Firefighters Games.

The Bells, and their state committee, have worked tirelessly to ensure Victoria is well represented at the forthcoming games in France and any support we give them is in recognition of their dedication.

By the next issue of “Water Off” the games will be over and we hope we're able to bring you the results of all events.

We wish the team a successful competition and win or lose.... have fun!

FIREFIGHTERS KEEP ANZAC MEMORY ALIVE

Following the observance of ANZAC Day in Australia and the World Firefighter's Games to be held in France this year, this letter from member, Ron Currie, is timely.

I read in the last issue of “Water Off” about the World Firefighter's Games being held in Mantes France.

My wife Lesley and I, visited Ypres last year and were present when the Firefighters played the “Last Post”.

It was very emotional to be there at the time.

I thought that some of the 200 firefighters (representing Australia at the games) might get the chance to visit Ypres, they will come home with a lot of history about W.W.I. Ypres is north of Paris just over the Belgium border.

I hope you can publish some of this article that was sent to me from England.

In 1928, the buglers were simple workmen or members of the fire brigade. Often still in their work clothes they stopped to sound the salute on their way home. Later, all were uniformed and were either members or retired members of the fire brigade.

The first *Last Post* was sounded on July 1, 1928 and continued faithfully without a break until the German occupation in World War Two. The day the town was liberated, September 6, 1944, the ceremony was promptly resumed the same evening, although the enemy was only one mile away.

Just a few yards separate one side of the huge Menin Gate, the First World War's most sacred monument straddling the small Flemish town of Ypres, in Belgium, from the other. But distances are important in Ypres, even short ones. Because between 1914-18, the same tiny strip of land took four of the bloodiest years of warfare and 250,000 lives.

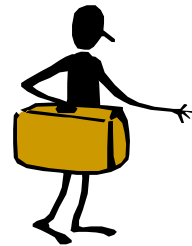
All is quite now. No gunfire, no exploding shells, but there is a daily act of remembrance. Every evening at 8pm since 1928, the *Last Post* has been sounded beneath the Gate's magnificent portals.

The tribute honours the 54,896 soldiers of the British Empire who fought and died in and around Ypres, and have no known grave. Their names are cut, unit by unit, column upon column, in the stone panels covering the walls of the great arches. Ordinary names of ordinary men: Smith, Clark, Johnson....

A nearby clock strikes the hour and traffic is stopped. two volunteer members of the local fire brigade using silver bugles donated by the Royal British Legion, play the salute.



Members of the local fire brigade play the *Last Post* following a minutes silence at the Menin Gate



TRAVELLING WITH SILVER

This edition was going to be a “stay at home” job but daughter Sue, (late communications), with husband Mal Owen, (No3 Stn.), decided on going to Perth for a few days and said, “what about it”?

Mrs Silver was allowed to make a decision, like every other time, and away we went.

Sue and Mal left a couple of days earlier than us so they had rented a vehicle and were waiting for us at Perth Airport on our arrival.

First stop for a few days was Margaret River, where the accommodation was first class, but that’s about where it finished.

The beaches reminded me of Port Campbell on Victoria’s West Coast without the cliffs and the town was well stocked with yuppies, (I guess I met too many of them in the Brigade, like Jack Neville, Alan Boyd and Frank Churchmouse). The famed wine we had, tasted like paint thinners and the light beer is like kissing your sister at anytime. From there we went to Scarborough and stayed for the remainder of the break.



Mr & Mrs Silver with family (centre left) on the beach at Scarborough in front of their modest hotel.

Most would have been to Perth, but for those who haven’t it’s about 1/3rd the size of Melbourne and very clean. The Swan River is supposed to be the oldest river in the world, (I wouldn’t know, you would have to ask Clinkaberry), but unlike Clinka, it too is very clean. Down towards Fremantle there is “Millionaire’s Row”, some of the best mansions you could ask for and all facing the river. Lang Hancock’s place (incidence, we believe that Rose has returned to the Philippines and is back pole dancing), Kerry Stokes of Channel 7 fame, Alan Bonds shack, Brian Edgely and some Arab named Yosse Goldberg.

Some guy named Bennet is building a place and spent

\$1.2 million on a retaining wall at the back. A number of Indonesians have built there also.

Prices range from \$15 million to over double that, (I don’t know if Don Brennan has a place there or not). Mrs Silver said, “what ever happened to hundreds and thousands”?

But as all tourists should do, we had the city tour and a river cruise before settling down for swim time. The tours always give you the feel of a different place. The beaches from City Beach through to Scarborough and beyond are really as good as any I’ve seen.

The locals when talking to Victorians or New South Welshmen seem to have to prove something like, “our state is the size of Texas, England and Ireland all put together, or, “it’s six times the size of England”. When I asked, “how many sheep to the 1000 acres (2)? they just say, “the value is underneath not on top”.....A good answer. There are 1.7 million people in W.A. with Fremantle and Perth having 1.2 Million of them, so there is only .5 million over the rest of the state, (not counting the Boaties).

Summing up, a good place to live and play, but remember, W. A. means “Wait Awhile”

Happy Travelling Silver!

P.S. I know someone who is soon having their 50th wedding anniversary and for \$5 I’ll give you their address and the date of the party. No names, but he used to be Union Secretary. (Just what is in Ellen’s handbag.....handcuffs, a gun or 50c pieces?)

LIFE’S IMPONDERABLES

If the black box flight recorder is never damaged during a plane crash, why isn’t the whole airplane made out of the same stuff?

Iwent to the bookstore and asked the saleswoman, “Where’s the self-help section?” She said if she told me it would defeat the purpose.

If all those psychics know the winning lottery numbers, why are they all still working?

Why do they call them “hemorrhoids” instead of “asteroids”?

situation would present to a B.M.O. in interpreting the regulation of a 37 in. normal chest measurement. The doctor was later assured he would have no trouble in this regard. He was politely and firmly reminded that the requirement of height and chest measurement for recruits was under the control of the Third Officer who had a most efficient staff of Station Officers on all four platoons who were expert in detecting any recruit who tried any funny business in distorting their chest measurements. The subject was closed when Mr Van Every remarked that the regulations may have to be changed.

H.J.S., in replying to the standing ovation he received,

traced his life through the Brigade, emphasising highlights at the many stations where he had been stationed. He stressed the point that when he joined in 1934, he certainly could not visualise that if he ever made the distance he would receive the send-off he was being given tonight.

Then the battle started. No one wanted to go home. Verbal appeals, switching off and on the lights only seemed to increase the charisma, until they finally gave up just after 1 am.,, but only to save the Chief the trouble of sending for the lighting unit.

Fred Kerr

NEW R.F.A. BADGES INVESTIGATED

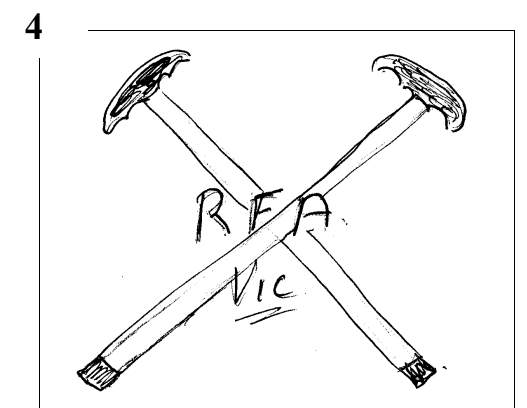
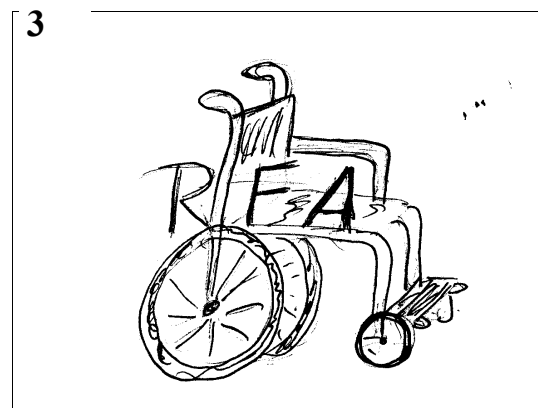
As our current badge has come in for some criticism for being “bland and not fire service orientated”, the committee and the membership has made it a point of discussion during recent meetings. We are currently looking at an association badge that’s more appropriate to our organisation and have asked the members to come up with some ideas. The badge design must be suitable to be worn in the lapel (metal) and sewn to the pocket of a jacket (fabric). As our name implies, the R.F.A. is open to all retired firefighters and members of related kindred industries from across the state. This necessitates a logo that encompasses all organisations that we embrace.

Below are some samples that have been submitted by members for our consideration.

Number 1: The Maltese Cross over crossed axes with helmet (brass or modern) in centre and RFA letters in front.

No 2: Maltese Cross with initials of Victorian brigades on points. Helmet in centre surrounded by words “Retired Firefighters Association”.

Some of our female members have indicated the last two submissions are most appropriate for an organisation such as ours.....or are they making a statement about their partner’s accomplishments at home?



WILDERNESS AIR FLIGHT

I would like to take you back around eighteen years, to tabloids headlining a blockade of the Gordon River Tasmania. Police arrest around 1000 protesters.

The people involved came from all walks of life, arriving in rubber dinghies, canoes and any other form of water craft, many rowing over forty miles to set up a blockade to prevent a second dam known as the Gordon below Franklin going ahead, Remember?

Now that we set the scene and the area involved lets explore the trip.

The flight my wife and I took, left from Tasmania's West coast from a place called Strahan, gateway to the Gordon and Franklin Rivers and covered the renowned World Heritage and Wild Rivers National Park with the islands premier scenic operations, "WILDERNESS AIR SEAPLANE". We have flown the Grand Canyon in America and the Milford Sound in New Zealand and believe this is even more breathtaking. It covers wild rivers, seething rapids and white water, mountains including the Frenchman's Cap, with a vertical face of 1000 feet, the service enables access to the heritage area with no impact on the environment.

The tranquillity of the Gordon River is experienced by a gentle landing on its mirrored waters. The tour of Sir Johns falls at Warners Landing is a highlight of the trip there we viewed ancient Huon Pines, many have being living on this planet before the birth of Christ, there we also saw some wild life in their natural habitat.

The wild Franklin River, with its ravines towering 1700 ft high is a dream for photographers (which I am not), if you go in summer you may see the occasional rafting party who dare to venture into its gorges and ravines. In winter, the only accessibility to see the boiling cauldron of white water is by air for the water has been known to raise 40ft overnight in a heavy fall of rain and hence rafting activities are restricted to summer only.

The wife and I would recommend this flight to both young and the young at heart. I was doubly lucky my wife sat in the co-pilots seat and watched everything the pilot did, so that in case of an emergency she could take over as they do in the movies (only joking) of course there was no need. The pilot and his safety



The seaplane flight takes you over Frenchmans Cap National Park where the scenery is some of the most rugged that Tasmania has to offer.

procedures and skill left you feeling totally safe and the commentary during the flight, was first class.

My feeling is that the world owes a debt of gratitude to those protesters and the Federal Government of the day that had the construction stopped and gained the world heritage listing of the area. This planet cannot afford to lose places like this for short-term gain; future generations would suffer if we as a society allowed destruction of such pristine temperate (cold climate) rain forest as this.

Photo and some information courtesy of Wilderness Air.

RIPPED OFF AGAIN!

The banks claim to make changes in response to "customer demand". But I am sure no customer has demanded the closure of local suburban or rural branches, or the bank install an impersonal teller machine that often is not working when you need it the most, or worse, when it is working, takes your card and refuses to give you money and keeps your card.

Another "Rip-Off" initiated by the breweries this time when they claimed the consumers wanted a better type of bottle and reduced the bottle size but not it's price. I don't recall complaining about the bottle shape nor do I know of anyone else. It seems that if the product is popular let's squeeze as much as we can out of the consumer!

ARE YOU HEALTHY ON THE INSIDE?

ONE THING IS CERTAIN - THE MILLIONS OF DOSES OF LAXATIVES WE SWALLOW EACH YEAR WOULDN'T BE NEEDED BY MOST PEOPLE IF WE ATE MORE FIBRE. But getting everything working like clockwork isn't the only reason to check your fibre intake. A high-fibre diet also has a role to play in protecting us from heart disease and even some cancers

What is fibre?

Fibre is made up of a number of components of plant foods that aren't digested in the small intestine like other nutrients. However, fibre can be broken down to some extent by bacteria in the large intestine. There are two main types: insoluble fibre and soluble fibre. A more recent addition to the fibre stable is resistant starch which, while not traditionally thought of as 'fibre', has been found to act in a similar way.

All plant foods - vegetables, fruit, legumes and grains - contain a mixture of fibres, and each type plays an important role in the body.

Insoluble fibre

This is the type of fibre you probably first think of - it's important to prevent constipation and associated problems like haemorrhoids. It works by providing bulk to the diet and speeds everything through the bowel. It can also have an influence on the bowel bacteria, which may help prevent bowel cancer.

Soluble fibre

This type of fibre has started to get a reputation for preventing heart disease. It's made up of things like pectin in fruit, and gums in grains, such as oats and barley and legumes. It can lower cholesterol levels in the body and help with constipation, too. There's usually much more insoluble fibre in plant foods than soluble - so if you're after a cholesterol-lowering effect, you need to take care to include high-soluble-fibre foods.

Resistant starch

Starch is found in many plant foods and has always been thought to be completely digested by the body's normal digestive system. However, we now know that some starch doesn't get digested and ends up as food for bacteria in the large intestine. It's thought to act in a similar way to traditional fibre to improve bowel health.

You can find resistant starch in foods such as unprocessed cereals and grains, firm bananas, lentils, potatoes and especially in starchy foods that have been cooked then cooled (such as cold potatoes or rice). 'Hi-maize', added to foods such as some white breads and cereals, is also a type of resistant starch.

Most people only eat about two thirds of the fibre they

need. At least 30 grams a day is the recommended amount for adults - kids need less. Aim to get it from a variety of foods because each of the different types of fibre is important to different aspects of your overall health.

The great fibre question ...

... does fibre prevent colon cancer?

Most people have heard that a high-fibre diet reduces the likelihood of bowel cancer - for years it's been the accepted wisdom. However, a study in 1999 called this wisdom into question and received a large amount of publicity, much of it suggesting that fibre was no longer relevant. That's far from the case.

What the study found was that people who ate the most fibre had the same risk of colon cancer as those who ate the least. Two things could explain the results:

First, none of the groups of people studied ate the amount of fibre recommended as a minimum amount (30 grams) - the highest amount eaten was 25 grams a day. This may simply not have been enough to work. Second, what we really know is that a diet high in fruits, vegetables, whole grains and legumes is linked to a reduced colon cancer risk. But it may not be the fibre. Instead it could be other things in these foods that are protecting you from cancer if you eat enough - for example, antioxidants or other plant chemicals. And there are thousands of them.

The evidence for fibre and prevention of breast cancer is also inconclusive - but it's hopeful.

In any case, eating at least the minimum amount recommended is good for many aspects of your health, so fibre is still very important.

How about heart disease?

The evidence that fibre protects you from heart disease is very strong. Not all of fibre's protective powers come from soluble fibre reducing your cholesterol levels, although this *is an important way fibre helps your heart*. Other ways it may act are by:

- Slowing your rate of digestion, which lowers insulin levels. Extra insulin can raise blood pressure, reduce the amount of 'good' cholesterol (HDL) in your blood and increase your risk of diabetes, all of which can affect the heart.
- Reducing your blood pressure the insulin effect may be one reason, but there are probably others too.
- Helping you to lose weight.
- High-fibre meals are usually more filling, so you eat fewer calories. Reducing the risk of blood clots - some chemicals formed by *bacteria when they break down soluble fibre* may reduce blood clots, which would lower the risk of heart attacks and stroke.