

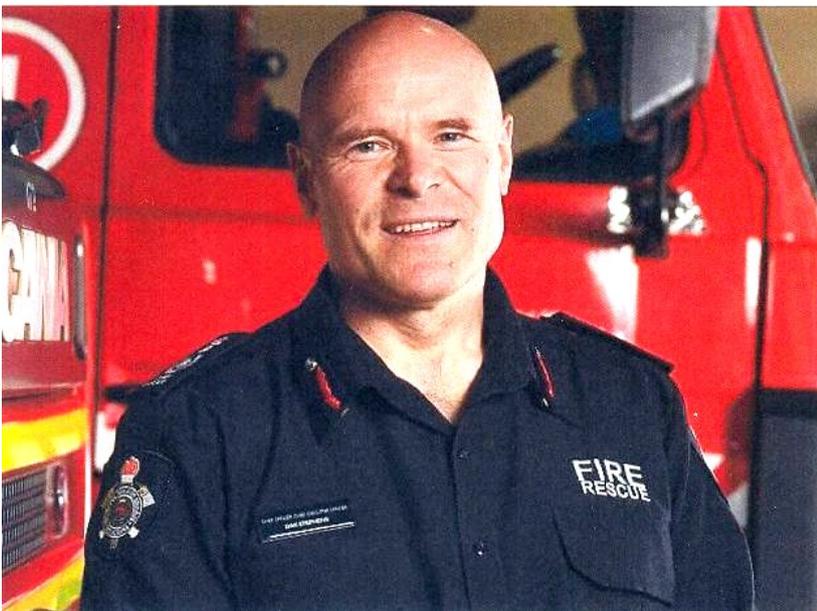
"WATER OFF"

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



*August 2018. Vol. 22 No. 3
Inc/No: A16839F*

New Chief Officer/CEO for MFB



MFB's new Chief Officer Dan Stephens introduced himself to Melbourne.

In interviews on Melbourne's media the new Chief/CEO took the opportunity to talk about how proud he is to be leading the MFB.

More about the chief on page 5.

Image and story courtesy MFB Media

CFA's New Ultra-heavy tankers tour state

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Image CFA Comms.

“GENERAL MEETING”

Notice is hereby given that the next General Meeting will be held at the CFA Station Corio
Birdwood Ave. (Melway’s 441 K 2

1030 Hours, Wednesday 15th August 2018

AGENDA ITEMS.

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

Allan Roberts
SECRETARY/TREASURER
Address all correspondence to:
Allan Roberts
Unit 158 Mernda Retirement Village
89 Galloway Drive
Mernda Vic 3754
Telephone: Mob: 0433 007 720
Home: 9216 1658

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

Lunch available.
All wives and partners welcome
Please join us!

Non financial Members

Members be advised if your newsletter has an expiry date of 2/1/2017 that means you have not paid your subs since 2016 therefore if no remuneration is received by the 2/1/19 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: Colin Harris
Sec./Treasurer: Allan Roberts

General Committee:
Arthur (Sam) Capes
Mike McCumisky
Ian Geddes
Kevin Hede

Auditor:
Mike Enticott

“Water Off”
Editorial Staff
 Colin Harris
 John Laverick

SICK LIST (* In Nursing Home)

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| John Bellis | Lindsay McCurdy* |
| Don Brennan* | Archie McLachlan |
| John Brown* | Harry Mitchell |
| Bob Brunning | Brian Morrissey |
| Stan Cameron | John Orange |
| Huew Campbell* | Dick Prendergast |
| Harold Connell | Ron Shaw* |
| Stan Devlin | Jack Shelley |
| Tom Driscoll | Gary Spicer |
| Jack Etherton | John Schintler |
| Ian Fowler | Alan Sugg |
| Barry Gavin | Bob Tottle |
| Jim Gibson | Laurie Trewin |
| Eddie Gilbertson | Ray Wellard |
| Bob Horgan | John Williams |
| Jack Hookey | Tom Williamson* |
| Alan James* | |

Diary Dates 2018

August 15, General Meeting (CFA Corio)
November 17th Christmas Luncheon
Wed. 21st November; Annual General Meeting

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

Don’t forget the RFA website
www.rfav.com.au



PRESIDENT'S REPORT I'm wondering where all the time has gone!

We used to have our milk delivered in glass bottles and there was one kind of milk - now there is about 20 types of milk. Bread was delivered to our door by a horse drawn cart and ice for our ice chests was delivered by the block and again delivered to our door. And our door was never locked and as kids we played on the roads or in parks and never felt unsafe.

We always had crime but nowadays it seems out of control and we don't seem to have any control of the problem. The political correctness police and the outrage police seem to have all the say in everything and it's getting worse.

However, as I'm writing this, the Thai rescue of the boys' soccer team is taking place and I'm feeling upbeat again. WHAT heroes the team of rescue workers are! Makes me feel good again. To all be happy!

Alex Shepherd – President

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT FOR MEETING -15th AUGUST 2018.

Please give your family and friends details on contacting the RFA so we may be able to help you or your family members with support if required.

We have organised a fund raiser BBQ at Bunnings. MILL PARK on the 4th AUGUST 2018.

Also a BBQ at Bunnings. HOPPERS CROSSING on SATURDAY 15th SEPTEMBER 2018.

HELPERS NEEDED: CONTACT:
ALEX SHEPARD IF YOU CAN HELP ON THE DAY.

Phone Home: 9446 1502 Mobile: 0416 930 529.

SPECIAL GUEST.

THIS MEETING IS ALL ABOUT YOU THE MEMBERS SO BRING YOUR PARTNERS AND JOIN IN THE DAY.

Special thanks to John Laverick, for his ongoing help to Col Harris with Water Off.

Thanks to Colin Harris,,Kristina Starnawski and Mark Carter for helping out with **Gone But Not Forgotten.**

Please make sure that your family knows how to get in touch with the RFA for any assistance.

The secretary of the Retired Firefighters Association, Allan Roberts, has expressed his thanks and gratitude for the support the CFA Firefighters at Corio Fire Station for allowing us to hold our meeting in August each year in the Training room.

The RFA appreciates all current CFA and MFB staff for supporting the Retired Firefighters Association Members.

After the meeting we proceed to the Corio hotel for a smorgasbord lunch

Allan Roberts Secretary

Peer support is available to Retired Firefighters and Associated Members

Fairlie Morgan— Employee Assistance Coordinator— fmorgan@mfb.vic.gov.au 0407 665 174

Chloe Henderson — Peer Coordinator 0417 538 289

Scott Darcy – Peer Coordinator – sdarcy@mfb.vic.gov.au – 0429 771 849

John Howe — Retirees 9729 0984

Download the new VicEmergency app

The new VicEmergency app was launched recently and will replace FireReady this summer. The VicEmergency app is now available to download from the App Store or Google Play and Victorians are encouraged to download it ahead of the summer season.

The VicEmergency website has also been upgraded and a new emergency hotline released. The Vic Emergency app and website will provide warning and incident notifications about floods, storms, fires, earthquakes tsunami, beach closures, shark sightings and more.

Minutes General Meeting, 16 May, 2018.

MFB Burnley.

Allan Roberts opened the meeting at 1030hrs.

Present: -31. Apologies: -11.

Allan read Minutes of previous Meeting. Moved.
Ken Heddle. Seconded. John Chambers. Passed.

Correspondence-Allan read out a letter that is sent to all persons about to retire, inviting them to join R.F.A.

Letter of appreciation from Mick Golan family.
Letter from Lisa Carson (daughter of John Brown),
John is hopefully moving to a good Residential Home.

Retirements-Des Ryan, Gary Wright, Arthur Deans.

TreasurersReport:

General Account-\$4,745.60, Term Deposit. \$7,107.29.
Accepted-Len Manning, seconded-Bob Chiron-passed.

Almoners Report

Ian Fowler Reported that Darren Brennan brought Don Brennan to the meeting. Don sat and grinned, but could not talk too much.

A little old mate (John B) told us that Trevor Reed is going home soon and would like a chat.

Retired Members Division.

Report from Leon Trembath-Uniform for Committee Members.

National/International affiliations being approached.

Christmas Lunch-Saturday, November 17. Pier 14. Docklands.

Presentation by John Berry –

“ What do you blokes get up to? Retirees should not forget our worth, either back then or now. If you have a goodwill story about a good person, a good thing that has happened, a funny thing you have learnt or if you have something you want to share, why not tell us? Exercise (mental or physical) is good for us, moves the body and clears the mind. The rev-up presentation actually made good sense.

Sammy Capes showed us many photos of his old vehicles that he displays and rallies, and gave us information about Rules/Regulations for owning vehicles from many decades ago--interesting.

Guest Speaker-

S.O. Scott Darcy. Peer Support Co-Ordinator Scott started at Aviation Fire/Rescue at Tullamarine, did some time in Tasmania, then joined the M.F.B. and has over 20 years' service. Peer Support is available to all retired personnel, plus families. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder is a rising problem, and is harder to diagnose and be accepted by Insurers.

Presently there are 30-50 persons in the Brigade with diagnosed/accepted P.T.S.D., but that is only the diagnosed number. The times are a-changing.

Bunnings BBQ Mill Park- 4TH August 2018

Bunnings BBQ Hoppers Crossing- 15TH September 2018

Next Meeting 15TH August 2018 at CORIO CFA.

A Message from the Vice-President

Apologies for missing the last meeting at Burnley! Mis-communication/incorrect date and other excuses!

Well the year is passing us by very quickly – more than usual! Being retired and still missing the wonderful job we had as firies, we have to move on and look forward to other things in life. Reading books that we didn't have time for, maybe the grand children (if you were so lucky), travelling, catching up with old friends, mates in the job, a part-time job to fill in the day, some new education, Men's Sheds etc. Some volunteering, new hobbies, being involved with the RFA, Fire Services Museum, Retire Ed, and many other things to keep away the dreaded dementia and loss of memory. Exercising is supposed to be the latest activity to keep the brain cells active and stave off memory loss for a few years.

As editor of "Water Off", John Laverick and myself need the stories coming in to keep this magazine/newsletter relevant and readable. We, along with the John Berry's, John Howe's and a handful of other committed retired gentlemen, keep this journal happening. If we don't get more input from you out

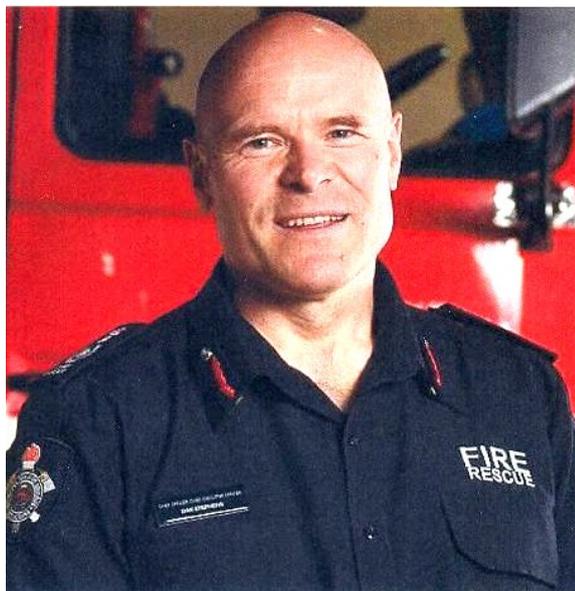
there in retirement world, then we may end up with a 4 page piece of paper that I'm sure you (the retired readers) won't be happy with.

So, without sounding like a retired commander, get your bloody pens out, brain into gear and start thinking about the old times, the stunts, the mad-cap things that happened at the fire station, the incidents/fires you turned out to and send in some stories to be published.

If we don't get **you** to have more input, then this editor and his accomplice just might have to hang up our pens, pencils and chuck the computer into the bin and just not stress out about getting print on paper for all of you out there in retirement world to sit back and read four times per year. Yes, you can criticise and then throw this 16 page piece of work in the bin and go back to what you were doing before you started reading. I do thank all previous contributors, current contributors and possible future contributors for what they have contributed to "Water Off".

You can send an email to: retiredfirenews@gmail.com or if you prefer to write in cursive script or CAPITAL LETTERS, then please do so and send to me Colin Harris – 2 Gowar Avenue, Camberwell 3124.

P.S. Thanks Les Napper for your contributions!
Colin Harris – Vice President & Editor



MFB's new Chief Officer/CEO Dan Stephens

I have recently been asked to share some information about Dan, and in particular his work history and qualifications, and I share the below information with Dan's consent.

In addition to holding the position of Chief Officer (which includes the equivalent CEO responsibilities) of the UK Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, Dan is the Chair of the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) Operations Coordination Committee, the strategic lead officer for National Resilience, and capability lead officer for Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) and the UK International Search and Rescue Team (UK ISAR).

In 2015, Dan was awarded the Queen's Fire Service Medal (QFSM) in the Queen's New Year's Honours List 2015 for service to the Fire and Rescue Service.

Prior to joining the fire service, Dan was a soldier in the Third Battalion, the Parachute Regiment.

Dan's fire service employment history is as follows:

Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive – Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service (Sept 11 – Present)

Assistant Chief Fire Officer (July 10 – Aug 11)

Director of Safety Culture and Compliance (July 08 – June 10)

Director of Performance and Values (Sept 06 – July 08)

Director of Operational Preparedness (Oct 05 – Aug 06)

All operational roles Firefighter – Divisional Officer (Jan 90 – Oct 2005)

Dan holds many fire service related qualifications, including strategic command and leadership qualifications, including:

Gold (Strategic) Command - Fire Service College

CBRN Gold (Strategic) Command - National Police Improvement Agency (NPIA)

Overhead Management of Catastrophic Incidents Programme - Texas Agricultural and Mechanical University Disaster City Campus

Multi Agency Gold (Strategic) Incident Command - College of Policing

Silver Command Course – Police National CBRN Centre

Training and Development Vocational Assessor – City Guild

Urban Search and Rescue Interim Responders Course – The Fire Service College

Level 3 Occupational health and Safety – National Examination Board of OSH

Rope Access Instructors Course – Safety Training Centre

Multi Agency Gold Incident Command – The Fire Service College

We look forward to Dan joining MFB next Monday, and I am confident that he is going to be the leader that we need him to be – someone that will bring certainty and stability and will support us in providing a world class fire and emergency service to the Victorian communities.

Kind regards,
Jasmine Doak

Valě

Colin Dyos	Andrew Shepard
Bruce Fisher	Mervyn Steadman
Jack Jorgensen	Graham Taylor
Max McCraw	John Tucker
Denis O'Sullivan	Brian Waterhouse
Doreen Schintler	

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

Volunteers Required
The Fire Services Museum needs past fire service members to assist on an occasional basis at the Museum
Please contact Mike McCumisky on: 9662 2907

One of our first female firefighters in retirement

Michelle Field was in the first group of female firefighters to join the Metropolitan Fire Brigade back on the 29th September 1988.

Michelle grew up in Diamond Creek, went to the local primary school and onto Hurstbridge High School, then to Sunbury High School before heading to university at the Phillip Institute in Bundoora.

It was an education in P.E. which she undertook for two years and then deferring for a year. It was during this time that Michelle decided on switching careers. Wanting a job that was active, exciting, fun and community focused, a friend suggested trying out for the MFB.

Out from recruits, Michelle was stationed at Thomastown (No.7), and being the first female firefighter that the all-male crew had ever seen, she had an appliance from every station in the district come and check out the new recruit. In those days and in her words, Michelle said that the guys were not sure what they could say and what they couldn't. Some didn't say a word, they just peeked through doors and windows.

The first night shift was interesting! Michelle wanting to finally go to bed at the allotted time of 2300 hours, however not wanting to be the first to go to bed, the ice was suddenly broken when a jolly good humoured senior firefighter wandered into the TV room dressed in a nightie, shower cap and pink fluffy slippers – what a hoot!

A few months into the routine of shift work, Michelle went to a house fire and some practical joker put a dead budgie into her turnout jacket pocket. The next thing the dead budgie was seen the next morning in a home-made cage hanging from the mess room ceiling. After that, Michelle received many home-made bird cages (for months) in the internal mail, just to keep the joke going for as long as it could.

The first big fire that Michelle turned out to was “Butterfly Lamps” in Heidelberg. It was a light globe factory and was well alight on arrival. Mr Reliable – Bluey Parsons took Michelle under his wing and showed her the ropes and they became good mates from then on.

Some of Michelle's best memories was learning firefighting from the old experienced hands.

People like Bryan Robertson, Phil Hayes, Des Ryan, Dodger Ryan, Wayne Dellamarta, Wayne Gosden and many others, some who are no longer with us. With some colleagues it was a pleasure to work with them and others not so much.

CFO Jeff Godfredson was the top brass in those days and some of the large fires attended were, Coode Island, Visyboard (many times), Northcote High School and of course the scores of grass fires out the back of Broadmeadows and beyond.

Michelle retired sooner than she would have liked to, however due to two hip replacements, she felt her time was up. A great career as a firefighter and one of the first females to join, she enjoyed, loved in fact the journey throughout the 30 years, which saw many changes and as we know the job will continue to change and evolve as we head towards to 22nd Century.

Now in retirement, Michelle is heading around Australia and has been on the road for a few months. She hopes to see and experience the beauty of our wonderful country, meet lots of fellow travellers and might not ever return! Shout her a beer if you happen upon her in the outback, back of beyond or somewhere where the sun is shining.

Enjoy your retirement Michelle!



Michelle on the road somewhere with her van. We hope she has a safe, healthy and enjoyable journey.

ILLUSTRIOUS MANPOWER DEPLOYMENT OFFICER

Ray Wellard, the person who boasted when he joined the MFB that he resided at Lower Kew (Collingwood),

was caught lounging at the new state of the art Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

Look closely, he is the one in the night attire, the other misfortunates standing around him are wanderers that had just dropped in under the pretext that they had called to see him, the fact is, it was just to get out of the cold.

All jesting aside Ray was an integral part of the MFB family, not only because of the important role he had in the service, but also because of his personal participation in the team building roles outside of his working hours, (World Police & Fire Games & Basketball & and various other roles/sports).

Unfortunately just at the moment he is not enjoying the best of health however, with Ray's G&D we all know it will not be long before he will be out & about again, then watch out. Mate get well soon, it did not feel right me hanging it on you whilst you are still going through



Ray with Visitors, John Berry, John Howe, Ian Geddes, with Noel Pinnell (just out of the picture). Looks like they have just eaten all Ray's lunch for him.

recovery so get you're a**e out of there so I will be able to dump it on you again. **Angry**

Firefighter's Old Wooden Lockers

OK, how many of you senior age furies can remember this type of locker?

One of our esteemed workshop personnel, Ron Currie was fortunate enough to purchase a set when the brigade got rid of them about 45 years ago. It is obvious from the picture Ha Ha, they were not built to last; Ron has only been able to use the set of them in his workshop at home for storage lockers etc. ever since the purchase. You can see they have not been wrapped in cotton-wool during that time and yet with a coat of paint they could last another fifty years or more.

Ron by the way, like the rest of the support personnel kept the service from falling apart; I have over my years in the service seen the great work they do. The following quote by Benjamin Disraeli (1804 – 1881) “The Continent will not suffer England to be the workshop of the world”. Unquote. In the brigade's case it would not suffer as they had their workshop to the Brigade world.

Another bit of info on our Ron. You may have remember the movie “The Man from Snowy River” where you would have seen Craig's Hut, which unfortunately was badly damaged later by a bush fire. Well our Ron was one of the volunteers that helped restore it.

The Boss (Wife) and I some years later did a four-wheel drive trip around the mountains and stopped to take pictures of the hut.

There is no doubt if you scratch the surface of any of our members you would be amazed by what you may find.



Alan Hodgkin AFSM

This year's Queen's Birthday Honours award for the prestigious Australian Fire Services Medal (AFSM) recognises five CFA members including Alan Hodgkin of Bayswater.

As a Volunteer and Career Firefighter covering fifty years, Alan is a surprised and happy recipient. He has throughout his career seen many changes in the fire services and has enjoyed his choice of occupation, paid and volunteer. Born in Omeo in 1937, Alan attended St. Patrick's College in Sale and came to live in Bayswater in 1952. He worked in the Fuel and Fodder business and joined the Boronia CFA as a Volunteer in 1967. With the commencement of Bayswater CFA, Alan became their first Captain.

In 1973, aged 35, he had the ambition to become a Permanent Firefighter and applied for induction in the oncoming influx of Staff. Training involved attending a three week course at the newly opened CFA training ground at Fiskville. There were four positions available as Day Workers, two at Boronia and two at Frankston. Alan and Murray Cox were appointed to Boronia and he remembers they were allowed an hour for lunch and he could drive home to Bayswater.

The Chief Officer of the CFA was Arthur Pitfield.

In 1974, Alan became a Shift Firefighter at Dandenong and in 1976, a S/O/1 Reliever at Morwell. With the introduction of Permanent Staff to Belgrave, he held a position there as an S/O/1 Reliever. Returning to Dandenong in 1978, Alan became a Permanent S/O/2.

With Eltham CFA introducing day time Permanent Staff, Alan moved there in 1984. He returned to



Above; Alan Stands proudly beside the Bayswater pumper named after him.

Boronia as a Permanent S/O/3 in 1989 and retired from the staff in 1992. He had many OIC's and two who bring to mind are Keith Johnson and Max Owen.

Whilst at Eltham, Alan has recollections of attending the Eltham Barrel fire that caused interest to the public and with Boronia, The Swagman, FTG fire. He recalls with sadness, Ash Wednesday when he was stationed at Dandenong.

Throughout all these years, Alan remains a Volunteer with Bayswater.

During his retirement, Alan has enjoyed camping at Cape York and caravanning around Australia several times. He has always volunteered in the local community including Knox Historical Society, Ferntree Gully and a Conductor on Puffing Billy. He is still an active member of the Fire Services Museum.

Alan visits Bayswater CFA daily. The fire brigade has been so much part of his life.

Candid Camera

On Friday the 6th of July 2018, one of our more senior members demonstrated to a crowd of diners the art of devouring a Vanilla Slice.

It is obvious from the picture, one must not only be aware of etiquette but it also requires your total concentration, failing to do so may cause you to not only become covered in icing sugar but also spread crumbs over oneself & table. Look closely here is an expert at work.

The other guest at his table stood to attention and saluted when the task was completed; it is not often you have the opportunity to see an expert at work.

Members be warned who knows where next; the hidden camera will strike

_Yes I am a little "S*%#"

JB



The Hon. John G. Howe (A great man!)

In the last issue of the RFA magazine, a disparaging article was published about the conman J. G. Howe (please refer to the last issue if your Alzheimer's has kicked in!).

Retired Station Officer John Howe was born in 1940 when men were men. His birth town was Beechworth and the hospital located in the same place. And, if you have never been to Beechworth, then you should go before your time is up. It's a lovely town with many historical features as they have the now famous "Beechworth Bakery". And I almost forgot, the court house where Ned Kelly was on trial for the murder of police personnel.

John's parents were Alice and William. Elder sister Beverley and younger brothers Kevin (deceased) and Donald grew up in Mellish Street, Beechworth. The family was rather poor.

John left school aged 14 and worked delivering milk around town with a horse and cart for about 18 months. John then started work at the Murray Breweries until the age of 17 and a half, then joined the Australian Army and was stationed at various locations including Kapooka, Puckapunyal and Canungra (Queensland Jungle Training Centre) as a member of the transport platoon.

Having served 3 years in the army, John went back home to Beechworth and found work with Sandy Burrige and Freddie Jensen working on tobacco kilns (there was a large tobacco industry in places like Myrtleford not far from Beechworth). Work was also found in the town of Beechworth and John also worked at the Beechworth High School.



On the 6th April 1962, when W. Aldridge was the CFO, John joined the Metropolitan Fire Brigade where he stayed until he retired in 1990. During those wonderful years with the MFB, John qualified to drive the hose carriage, the turntable ladder, the Simon snorkel, the Hale pump, completed a Breathing Apparatus course and the Road Rescue course (Ford F100 van).

In 1974 John undertook the Sub Station Officer's Course (SO's) and duly promoted.

John was involved in organising an MFB team to compete in the first World Police & Fire Games in San Jose, San Diego and Vancouver.

In 1988, John was asked to assist in organising the MFB Centenary Celebrations and came off shift to do so. John retired on 6th April 1990 and in his words "loved the job"!

John has two children, daughter Corie and son Elwyn, 2 stepdaughters and 8 grand-children and can you believe 2 great grand-children! (Well done John I say!)

IN HIS WORDS: "I have had a very interesting life, have been involved in many charities, assisted in palliative care and experienced much heartache and pain, which has allowed me to understand life and to cope and be the ma

n that I am and take me as you see me. I have been lucky to have travelled to many countries and all-around Australia. I have learnt that to survive in this world, one must have good health, a loving family, good friends and a sense of humour".

NOTE: John is our rep on the MFB Peer Support group to assist our members.

Measure Twice Cut Once

The Venue: New No1 Station car park, night shift (10-14). Fireman wanted to fit a sunroof in his Ford Station wagon, as he didn't have the necessary tool at home thought he might do a drill on the nibblers that were on the rescue van, stuck the template to the required area of the roof that needed to be cut out and away he went, nibblers did a great job hole was perfect, then went to fit the sunroof only to have it fit perfectly THROUGH the hole. Anyone see Senior Fireman Alan Richardson's green ford with a piece of corrugated iron where a sunroof should be?

As not to leave you wondering what eventually happened, a larger sunroof was purchased, and yes, "Measured twice and Cut once correctly.

A Bonnie Time Was Had By All (A true MFB fire call from 1956 – who remembers this one?)

It was a miserable, cold, wet Saturday afternoon in August, 1956. 4th class fireman Tom Hyland and myself, 3rd class fireman Fred Kerr, were playing snooker and listening to the Saints playing at home at the Junction Oval.

We had commenced afternoon shift at 1500 hours for our first afternoon shift at No.27 Stn (Windsor – now 35 Stn). At approximately 1630 hours, the bells went on and the fireman on Watchroom Duty shouted out from the doors (no PA in those days) to turn out for a street fire alarm, High Street and Punt Road, Prahran.

Station officer W.H. (Wackles) Clements was the officer in charge, I was driving and Tom was catching the Hose Carriage, when it coughed, spluttered and died. After several unsuccessful attempts to restart the engine, SO Clements was starting to panic and he screamed out “Kerr, get a hand chem and commandeer a car; Hyland, get a foam chem and go with Kerr!!”

I grabbed a soda acid from the rear compartment and with heart in mouth, but nevertheless looking resplendent with shiny brass helmet and buttons, belt axe and key, breeches and leggings,

I stepped out into the traffic. A faded maroon CV Citroen slowed and stopped, looking through the windscreen at me was a bald head, a huge pair of

shoulders and arms like tree trunks, and clad in a white T-shirt. I recognised him instantly, it was Bonnie Muir, ex-Australian Wrestling Champion and a referee with Stadiums Limited at West Melbourne.

With little confidence I stated “Sir, I have orders to commandeer this car. Would you take us to a motor car fire in Punt Road near High Street, Prahran?” Bonnie Muir consented, I climbed into the front seat while Tom shoved two poodles off the rear seat and boarded also. Meanwhile, SO Clements remained frozen in the front seat of broken down hose carriage Car 40.

As we approached High Street a large crowd had gathered around an unoccupied 1938 Ford V8, which was well alight. We beep beeped our way through the throng, Tom and I got out with hand chems at the ready when someone in the crowd was very unkind and yelled out “we’re saved, the keystone firemen are here!” Notwithstanding this remark and amid the laughter, I put the soda acid into the inferno and Tom finished it off with the foam. The fire was out and jeers changed to cheers!

Within minutes, No.28 Station (South Yarra – closed 1957), arrived on scene and SO Bill Wynd took charge. He complimented Tom and I, filled out the fire report, took us back to Car 40, picked up SO Clements, left Tom with the broken-down hose carriage and returned us back to Windsor Station.

I don’t think we ever thanked Bonnie Muir and his car for being a temporary fire engine!

Thank you to D.O. (retired) Fred Kerr and reprinted from MFB FIREMARK – Sept. 1994

CFA’s Ultra-Heavy Tanker specifications

- 9000-litre water capacity
- 200L A-class foam tank
- 24 tonnes / 8.5 metres long
- Hino 6x4 cab chassis with automatic transmission
- Two live hose reels
- Full stowage inventory
- Traditional two-person rear deck with protection system

Currently on tour across the state, the 24-tonne, 8.5 metre-long tankers can be used for knock-down and wet-down as well as bulk water carriers and mop up trucks to support bushfires or planned burns.

The tankers have seating for three crew, and include a bullbar-mounted remote control monitor which can be operated from inside the cabin to distribute more than 450 litres of water per minute. They also include a 200-litre A-class foam tank to allow crews to work ahead of fire fronts and for blacking out.

While there is potential for the ultra-heavy tankers to be used in urban fire fighting, they are primarily designed for use in grass and general fire fighting where there is limited access to reticulated water or large open water supplies.

The tankers join the two 11,000-litre bulk water carriers developed last year which are now in service in the north west of the state.



Images and information courtesy CFA Comms.

Murray Swinton — His Fight With MND

*This report from Commander Paul Illman highlights Murray Swinton's struggle against MND. It is a reminder to us all that this insidious disease touches many and our firefighting community has not been exempt. **We know that there is no known cure but we can do something about it by supporting the Victorian MDN Foundation in it's various fundraising activities***

Paul's report on Murray gives us some small insight into what MND sufferers are going through.

Just another blog in regards to how our fellow member of the MFB; LFF Murray Swinton is fighting hard with MND.

Murray is still in good spirits even though his health has declined a little with the disease taking a tighter hold with his wellbeing on a daily basis. He is now unfortunately pretty much confined to the home environment. Only making very brief appearances at certain functions and events.

His breathing has become more laboured with difficulties in coughing and sneezing. He is now dependant on his family and carer's for many of the things we take for granted. However Murray still manages to have a great conversation with anyone who drops by and has not lost his ability in face to face sarcasm! Again anyone is more than welcome to pop in, just need to be mindful of numbers.

Murray does immensely enjoy all the people who have called around and provided any support they can. Personnel from the MFB, Prahran football club where Murray played, old school mates and other work colleagues have formed an endless parade of well-wishers, supporters, good friends and spirit lifters. It has been absolutely fantastic with so many people dropping by and wishing Murray all the very best. His wife Tracie and sons Nick and Mitch are extremely grateful and very very appreciative of the ongoing support that has so graciously occurred.



He has a big day coming up with the Carrum football club where they will acknowledge Murray and will also be a huge fund raiser for the Victorian MDN Foundation and the Freeze 4 Charity while local football will be played at its best. He will be attending for a short period of time.

He was also keen to attend the MFB Police football game but unfortunately due to the elements it

was in his best interest to decline.

However as already advertised, LFF Swinton has another big day coming up at his home location on July 22nd with an informal 30 year ceremony.

The response again has been overwhelming to attend. But however as previously stated anyone who is interested needs to contact SO O'Meara for confirmation.

Finally and this was at the request of Murray he would like to send a monumental **thankyou** to all the members of this great organisation, UFU, Firefighters Charity Fund and those who have dropped in, telephoned or Facebooked him. Supported him in other ways, wished him well and have been there when needed.

I to would also like to thank you all for your ongoing support and efforts with Murray.

**Paul Illman | Operations Commander C Platoon
Southern District**

What is MND?

Nerve cells (neurones) control the muscles that enable us to move, speak, breathe and swallow. Motor neurone disease (MND) is the name given to a group of diseases in which these neurones fail to work normally. Muscles then gradually weaken and waste, as neurones degenerate and die

Motor Function

Motor function is controlled by the upper motor neurones in the brain that descend to the spinal cord; these neurones activate lower motor neurones. The lower motor neurones exit the spinal cord and directly activate muscles.

With no nerves to activate them, muscles gradually weaken and waste. Motor neurone disease (MND) can affect a person's ability to walk, speak, swallow and breathe. Watch the video *What is MND?* to find out more

The Neighbour.

By Alan Dickinson

Long ago in a quiet leafy street lived Charles and Alice Roper. They were well respected by everyone in the neighbourhood.

Although Charles was a little rough around the edges, Alice was ever so prim and proper. Butter would not melt in her mouth. She would often read at her local church where she was a dedicated member of the church council. When it came to functions at the church, Alice was also the voice of decency and decorum. Alcohol was limited to a glass or two of sherry and there was to be no modern music riddled with profanities.

It was a Saturday morning, Alice had a hairdressing appointment and Charles had intended to drive her, but there was a problem; their car wouldn't start. Charles had previously fixed his troublesome starter motor by giving it a tap with a spanner, but on this occasion the spanner was ineffective. Fearing she would miss her appointment, Alice left her husband working on the car while she walked the short distance to the corner of their street with the hope of hailing a taxi.

With no luck finding a taxi Alice returned home to find her husbands' legs protruding from under the car. She was shocked to see that he had failed to put on a pair of underpants and his "whatsit" as she would call it, was protruding from his shorts. She leant down and deftly tucked it back in, restoring his dignity and then proceeded indoors to ring the taxi company.

She was horrified to find her husband standing in their kitchen. Alice's face turned sixteen shades of crimson. "Who's under the car?" she muttered. "That's Bill," replied her husband. Unbeknown to Alice, their neighbor Bill had seen her husband working on the car and had offered to take a look.

Alice immediately burst into tears. She sobbed as she explained to her husband what she had just done and how she will never again be able look Bill in the eye, and once the news gets out she will be too embarrassed to show her face at church. Charles stifled a giggle, told her he would smooth things over with Bill and went out to talk to him.



He found his neighbor unresponsive, unconscious under the car. Bill had obviously been startled by what Alice had done and banged his head, knocking himself out cold. Charles rushed indoors and telephoned an ambulance while his distraught wife sobbed uncontrollably.

The ambulance crew extracted the unconscious Bill from under the car and placed him on a stretcher while Charles explained the chain of events. Upon hearing what had happened the ambulance officers became hysterical with laughter and promptly dropped the stretcher, with Bill on it. His fall was broken by his right shoulder. The ambulance crew eventually composed themselves and rushed Bill to hospital.

Bill finally came round in hospital suffering from a bump on his head, severe concussion, a broken shoulder and thankfully for Alice, no memory of being 'felt up'.

Of course Charles and Alice Roper never told Bill the true cause of his woes.

The names have been changed to protect the humiliated.

Ed's Note; This story is verified as true, hence, location and name changes.

The author is a retired Telco employee responsible for maintaining communications for Melbourne's emergency services.



MARK FLEMING

(late of Central District)

Currently living in **Sarina**. A town in the Mackay Region, Queensland, Australia. Sarina is about 34 kms south from Mackay and 190 kms north of Rockhampton on the Bruce Highway.

Mark is currently caretaking a disused BP Service Station site and there is 'heaps' of space for caravans to stop and enjoy the area for a while.

If you would like to give Mark a call – 0458 269 467 Would love to see an 'old mate'.

For those who may remember the old days!

Rescue at Malvern

(MFB News Review – June 1968)

The date is Tuesday, May 21, 1968 and in the early hours the brigade was called by D24 to assist two men trapped in a car, as a result of an accident in Waverley Road, near Burke Road, Malvern.

On receipt of the call at 0128 hours, No 23 station's hose carriage, No 1 Station's salvage van and No.4 Dennis pump were turned out. On arrival, it was seen that a semi-trailer loaded with 15 tons of steel had jack-knifed. The prime mover was on the footpath and the front section of a Toyota motor car with two men was underneath the front dual wheels of the semi-trailer. As can be imagined, the roof was crushed in.

We were assured the driver was beyond aid and we could see the passenger under the instrument panel, his head badly lacerated, with sections of the roof, the near side door and the seat jamming him in. It was hard to believe he was still alive.

The tow truck boys, ambulance and police had been working on the job for the past two hours prior to our arrival, but it was obvious they needed equipment. It was plain to see that the job was going to be long and tedious. At 0209 hours a word back was sent that two men were trapped and we would be engaged for some time.

As a precaution of possible leaking fuel, a line was run to the shut-off coupling and No 23's mobile appliance hose was at the ready at the car. Some thought was given to using the hydraulic jacks off the van under the semi-trailer to take the weight off the car, however it was decided the movement might cause the car hood to rip into the survivor.

It was difficult to get purchase with the alligator jaws, yet they did play their part. The two-stroke power cutter with the carborundum cutting wheel cut torn steel panelling here and there and the asbestos blanket was carefully laid on the passenger for his protection. At other times, hacksaws and tin-snips were used.

The lighting unit was called for and used to light up the accident scene. When all the visible obstructions were disposed of the power cutter made short work of the hinges on the near-side door and it looked as if it was a question of just unfolding the driver's legs and arm and pulling him out.

During all this time, the passenger was being attended to by two doctors and an ambulance man was cradling his head whilst another ambulance man, helped by a tow truck operator was administering oxygen.

The last thing to hold up the release of the man was a pointed piece of steel plate sticking into his back. This was a particularly tricky bit of work. The asbestos blanket was completely wrapped around his head because of the cutting wheel working about one and half inches away. At last at 0315 hours another word back was sent that one man had been freed. The remaining work was just straight ahead planning and more work.

The offside of the prime mover's cabin was less than an inch off an electric light pole carrying high and low-tension wires. A crane in attendance placed a cable under the semi and lifted the load holus bolus whilst a tow truck pulled the car from under. From then on it was a case of taking a strain on the off side door and the steering wheel and at 0430 hours a final word back was sent that the second man had been released.

No 23 Stn finally returned to station at 0557 hours. The driver was 22 years old and had just returned from Vietnam and was believed to have survived the accident. It was reported ACO Steel paid particular compliments to Sub-SO Kerr and Fireman Terry Murray.

THINGS WE USED TO DO

*Clean - Brass Helmet, Buttons, Couplings, Door Handles, Branches, Stand Pipes, Nozzels, Leggings, Top Boots, Belt Axe & Key, Sand soap Axe Handle, Empty Coke Bags (when delivered) Keep The Water Heaters Going For Hot Water to Clean the Drains, Chamois Appliances Returning to the Station after Hours.

Wear Shirt & Tie in Billiard room, Watchroom

Watchroom Duty

*Record Movement of the Appliances, Fire Reports To District Station, Testing Alarms on Bike, Then back to watchroom.

*Clean the Marble Stairs

*Orderly Box at Number One Station

*No Sleeping Time.

* If you did it was move the couplings so you could sleep in the trays.

*ANZAC Biscuits at Fire Duty.

*Only One Man At a Fire Duty. (No Appliance)

Sammy Capes

Brings back memories Sammy and not many firies in the job today would remember all those chores we had to do around the station.

What about the watchroom supervisory button???



FIRE RESCUE RINGS

As well as the Fire Rescue rings we now have sets of Tie Bars, Ear Rings and Cuff Links.

These are available in different combination sets or can be purchased as a single item.

They are available from the Secretary and will be on display at the next meeting.

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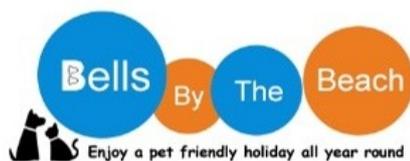
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To those members with easy access to email and would like to have their copy sent by this system, please send your email address to John Laverick. "Water Off" will be sent out in a PDF format.

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

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

**UFU RETIRED MEMBERS
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON
Saturday 17th November
Peninsula A Shed 14, Harbour Esplanade, Docklands.**

A reminder:

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

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