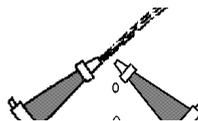




Inc / No: A16839F



“WATER OFF!”

NEWSLETTER OF THE
 RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
 (VICTORIAN BRANCH) INC.
 NOVEMBER 98 VOL. 2 No. 4

CLARKE'S WAREHOUSE FIRE

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 30, 1907

Another of Barbara McCumisky's historical series of significant fires that occurred during the formative years of the MFB



The biggest and most sensational fire that Melbourne has seen since the 'Great Fire' in 1897, occurred on Saturday night, November 30, 1907, in the large block of buildings in Elizabeth Street, just to the north of Lt. Bourke Street.

The premises of Messrs. Clarke & Co., general importers and the northern portion of Wallach's building, used by the Commonwealth Government as a store for telephone and postal supplies, were completely gutted and the structures themselves practically destroyed. The damage done was estimated at 70,000 pounds, but when the possibilities of a much greater disaster were taken into account, the work of the fire

NEW VENUE FOR A.G.M.

Melbourne Fire Museum Restoration Area, Champion Road Newport (see inside for details)
 Free BBQ and bring your partner!

“ ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ”

Notice is hereby given of our next Annual General Meeting to be held at the
Melbourne Fire Museum Restoration Area,
Champion Rd. Newport, Melway ref. 55 K7
10.30 Hours, Wednesday November 18, 1998

Followed by a free BBQ for members and partners

AGENDA ITEMS.

- **Minutes of last Annual General meeting.**
- **President's Report.**
- **Secretary/Treasurer's Report.**
- **Election of Office Bearer's and General Committee.**
- **General Business.**

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

JOHN BERRY
SECRETARY/TREASURER
Phone 03 9431 2880

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Members are advised that all positions for Officers of the Association are declared vacant at each A.G.M. Nominations for all positions are required, in writing, to be received by the Secretary/Treasurer by the close of business Friday November 13, 1998.

Nomination form on page 11 of this issue.

The present Committee is as follows;

President, Don Brennan
Vice President, Ern Tamme
Sec./Treasurer, John Berry
General Committee;
Ian Fowler
John Laverick
Bob McNeil
Ross Medwin
John Wallace
Auditor; Theo Teklenburg

VALE

Ian Chalmers
Stanley Alan Smith
Dell Broadby
Roma Draper
We offer our condolences to the families of these members who have gone on to a higher

SICK LIST

Ken Clinkaberry
John Medwin
Jim Nevins
George White
We wish these members a speedy recovery from their illness.

DO YOU HAVE A STORY?

If you do, let's hear about it. Be it serious, amusing or something you would like to share with us, send it in. Any photographs that you have to go with the story can be scanned and returned to you immediately.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Well here it is, another year has nearly come to an end with our annual General Meeting to take place Wednesday 18th November. All positions are vacant. Present members of committee all offer their services again except for Ern Tamme who has nominated for committee and Ian Fowler for Vice President. Please consider standing for any of the positions.

There will be a change of venue for this meeting. It will be held at the Fire Museum Workshops, Champion Road Nth. Williamstown (Melways 55 K7) (see enclosed map). Members are invited to bring their partners along to see over the museum and

enjoy a BBQ lunch with us.

If anyone requires transport from the Fitzroy Bowling Club or Nth Williamstown Railway Station, please ring me on 9850 6725 to be picked up. There is plenty of parking available.

I would like to thank all members of the committee, in particular John Laverick for his work on our magazine and Secretary / Treasurer John Berry for his ongoing work for us as well as on other committees representing the RFA.

Finally, I would like to wish all of our members and their families all the best for the coming festive season.

Don Brennan



SECRETARY / TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

It has come to the time of the year again for the Annual status report of the Retired Firefighters Association of Australia (Victorian Branch)

Reg. No. A16839F.

With your indulgence I would like to start the report by identifying the people or groups that have helped maintain the viability of the Association and thank them for their assistance. They are as follows (not in any order of priority). Our members and their families, my daughter Karen, Barbara McCumisky, M.F.B.E.S. Board, particularly the Library and Training Staff, The Firefighters Credit Co-operative Staff, United Firefighters Union Victorian Branch, N. S.W. R.F.A. member Reg Carey, (Queensland) Members June & Peter Coulson for the Southport Reunion Day. I have no doubt I have missed someone, for this I apologise. Again thank you all and we look forward to your continued support.

The status report of the Association pales in insignificance when you consider the problem the rest of the Country has experienced, however, one must not underestimate the importance of groups such as ours who contribute to the fabric of society and its social consciences.

This year the Association, in accordance with members wishes and direction, have maintained its close relationship with the General Community through its membership of various associations and committees. These partnerships allow us to become more acutely aware of pending changes that may, or may not, benefit our members and raise the relevant points of interest to the various groups; in other words constructive information dissemination.

The branch has over the preceding year gone through a successful period of membership enrolment and the quarterly general meetings are very well attended. This of course ensures lively debate and generates great fellowship.

On the financial side we have been able to reduce the cost of the newsletter collation and mailing to less than the cost of previous years. This reduction has been achieved due to the assistance of many. Special mention should however, be given to Nancy Brennan, M.F.B.E.S. Library Staff, our Committee and Public Officer. Their efforts without doubt, even with cost increases in other areas, enable us to remain financially viable. There is a down side and that is the cost of the General Meetings, (currently under review) and some other goals that the new Committee will need to review.

Note: Our President will have identified in his column that all members of the current Committee being eligible have offered themselves for re-election. However, the only proviso is, unlike members of Parliament who wish to stay elected for ever, this Secretary believes for an Association to remain vibrant Committees need to have new people on board, in particular the Secretary's position. I would like to stand down if possible to allow other members the opportunity to take on this role and enjoy the fellowship that I have experienced during my years as Secretary.

I WOULD LIKE TO WISH EVERY MEMBER, THEIR LOVED ONES AND FAMILIES A JOYOUS FESTIVE SEASON AND A GREAT NEW YEAR.

John Berry Secretary/Treasurer

SECRETARY / TREASURER'S QUARTERLY REPORT

Items of interest from the August meeting of the R. F.A.

Item 1. The Agenda was covered as identified in the last newsletter

Item 2. Correspondence: 4 letters in 4 letters out.

Business arising from the letters

Letter forwarded to E. S. S. S. regarding investment in Crown Shares. The following is the response from NU Paul Kessell (Investment Manager) E. S. S. S. "I wish to reiterate that the State Government has not influenced any investments undertaken by the Fund. E.S.S.S. manage an indexed domestic equities portfolio, which as a matter of course holds some Crown shares. The total value of this holding is approximately \$400,000 which equates to less than 0.02% of the value of the Fund as a whole. I hope this has answered your query and please do not hesitate to call if you have any other issues you wish to discuss".

Item 3. R.F.A. Financial status as at August 1st 1998 S. 1 \$113.74 L. 1 \$4479.54

Item 4. Letter and phone call from Pat Taylor, daughter of Bert & Pat Woolmer (deceased) regarding a memorial wall or some other form of memorial for Victorian Firefighters. A motion was moved and seconded that this meeting of the R.F.A. have the Committee investigate the proposal and report back. *Carried* Note: A considerable amount of research has already been undertaken by Committee.

Item 5. The Committee reported back to the meeting on the proposal to hold the Annual General Meeting at the Melbourne Fire Museums Restoration Area Newport.

A motion was moved and seconded that this meeting of the R.F.A. approved the proposal to hold the Annual General Meeting November the 18th 1998 at the Melbourne Fire Museum Restoration Area, Champion Road, North Williamstown, followed by a barbecue for the members and their partners. *Carried*

Note those members who voted against the motion we need your attendance and assistance to make the day a success.

Item 6. The meeting was made aware that Cyril (Cy) Arnmon has recovered from his recent bout of illness, and has now moved from East Keilor. The new address is the Brunswick Lodge, Loyola Avenue, Brunswick, ph 9388 0144. Cy would welcome visitors (he loves a chat). Please ring

before hand as he lives a hectic life.

Item 7. Rod Knowles member R.F.A. gave a informative report to the meeting on the various projects involving Occupational Health & Safety that he has been working on for the Union.

Item 8. Robert McNeil Committee member R.F.A. gave a report on recent meetings that have taken place involving the R.F.A. and other groups regarding the use of Melbourne Fire Museum vehicles for funerals.

Item 9. The Secretary gave a report on the information the Public Officer received from the Department of Justice regarding changes to the Associations Incorporation Act and the effects it will have on our Constitution including the possible cost involved.

Note The R.F.A Public Officer has attended a special meeting in Geelong, convened to discuss the aforementioned item. You will have observed we are exhibiting our Reg. No. on the newsletter cover and official letters. The common seal has also been altered to reflect these changes.

Meeting closed 12.05pm

Hoping this newsletter finds you all fit and well and looking forward to seeing you and your partner at our **Annual General Meeting, Location: Champion Road, North Williamstown. Melway Ref 55 K7** is the location of the entrance.

A free barbecue for your partners and members will follow the meeting.

Combined Council Meeting!

The guest speaker who was to address the meeting was unable to attend at the last moment due to being recalled to Canberra.

The Council have written to several top politicians, including the Prime Minister, suggesting that they take a close look at the plight of the self-funded retiree who is over 70 years of age in relation to medical costs and benefits.

Suggested Reading for members

Inquiry into Planning for Positive Ageing

from the Family and Community Development Committee, Level 8, 35 Spring Street, Melbourne (03) 9651 3526 and

A Guide to Services for all Victorians

from Dept. of Human Services (may be available at your local municipal offices)

Centrelink have information sheets on Health Cards and Pensions.

Melbourne Fire Museum Restoration Area, Champion Road North Williamstown, Melways Ref. 55 K7.

If you are coming across the Westgate Bridge, take the Williamstown / Melbourne Road turn-off, turn left into Melbourne Road and follow through (about 3 Km) until you reach the roundabout at Ferguson Street Williamstown. Turn right into Ferguson Street, cross over the railway line and

LETTERS

VICTORIA POLICE LETTER

Sergeant Garry Silk and Senior Constable Rod Miller

Dear Mr Berry and Association Members

Thank you for your expression of sympathy following the tragic killings of our esteemed colleagues on Sunday 16 August 1998.

Policing is a difficult sometimes dangerous profession. Events such as those at the weekend are a pertinent reminder of this fact and have the effect of drawing together the larger police family. Indeed, the support and comradeship I have witnessed during this difficult time makes me proud to be Chief Commissioner of the Victoria Police Force.

I am sure that most members of the force will agree that no amount of police training or experience could ever prepare anyone for the grief and tremendous sense of loss that we are now feeling.

The enormous response received to these untimely deaths has truly been overwhelming your message of support is sincerely appreciated and will assist substantially in the recovery process. On behalf of the Victoria Police Force - thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Neil Comrie

Chief Commissioner

THANK YOU

Herbert Henry (Bert) Woolmer
Sarah Gladys (Pat) Woolmer

Pat, Margaret, Sheila and families wish to thank you sincerely for your expressions of sympathy at this very sad time of losing Mum and Dad.

They touched so many and will remain in our hearts forever.

HINDSIGHT

In 1952, I purchased a property in Railway Cres. Williamstown for 1050 Pounds. It must be remembered that this was almost two years salary. I lived in this house for 8 years and rented it out for a further 2 years before I sold it for 2600 Pounds. It took me about 3 days to stop laughing. Of course I am now laughing on the other side of my face as similar properties in the same street are being sold for \$250,000.

Phil Dunn

FIRE AWARENESS WEEK SPARKS INTEREST

The Fire Services Fire Awareness Week, held from October 25-November 1, has sparked a great deal of interest in fire, safety.

The week was kicked off with the annual **Change Your Clock, Change Your Smoke Alarm Battery** campaign emphasising the need for simple maintenance to ensure the proper operability of your smoke alarm, Mark "Jacko" Jackson once again was the spokesperson for the campaign, giving people the "drum" and highlighting that a smoke alarm without a battery is about as effective as a full forward with ballet shoes,

On Sunday, the FAW's Media Committee focused on the main message for the week, "Take Care with Cooking" by demonstrating the potential dangers involved if people are not vigilant when cooking. Cooking fires account for one third of all residential fires; inattention when cooking is the main reason for these fires and the most common type of kitchen fire is the result of oil or fat igniting.

Firefighters re-enacted some of these common scenarios in a mock kitchen at the SSL Laboratories in Port Melbourne, highlighting how quickly fire can take hold in the average kitchen.

A highlight of the week was the Awards Presentation, held this year at Queens Hall, Parliament House. Included among the winners were the firefighters at Broadmeadows Fire Station C Platoon, who were commended for their efforts in promoting fire prevention and fire safety issues in their local community. They have done a lot of work with the Turkish community and other groups of people of non English speaking backgrounds as well as new mothers and children with intellectual and physical disabilities.

Fire Awareness Week is held nationally and in Victoria has been celebrated for over thirty years. The host organisation this year is the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment.

Sharon Landers

CLARKE'S WAREHOUSE FIRE

November 30, 1907

The fire raged for hours, and for a time, it threatened to demolish the whole block bounded by Elizabeth, Lonsdale, Swanston and Lt. Bourke Streets.

Burning debris flying through the air, lodged on roofs and in yards a considerable distance away, fresh outbreaks of fire added to the enormous difficulty of the firefighters work.

The firefighters operations were directed by Chief Officer Stein who was assisted by Deputy Chief Officer Lee. The dense crowd which lined the streets was kept in check by a cordon of 600 military and 120 police, both mounted and on foot.

The fire was first observed in a blind alley running from Lt. Bourke Street along the western side of the Money Order Office situated immediately to the rear of Clarke's and Wallach's buildings. In this alley, just before 9.30 p.m., a heap of packing cases, piled high against the rear wall of Clarke & Co's warehouse, was seen to be well alight.

The Post Office Brigade ran out their hand reel, and in a short while had water on the flames. However the fire continued to spread through the flammable material, and breaking through the windows of Clarke's warehouse, soon seized the whole building.

It was not until 9.40 p.m. that the MFB received a call from a street alarm at the corner of Elizabeth and Lonsdale Streets. Appliances turned out from F/Stn. 2 in Lt. Bourke Street. The call was relayed to headquarters at Eastern Hill. C.O. Stein despatched DCO. Lee in charge of a strong force. On learning of the serious nature of the outbreak, he quickly followed to direct operations in person.

As DCO. Lee raced down Lonsdale Street in the motor fire engine (one of the first in Melbourne), the flames burst through the roof of the warehouse, and the fierce glare that shot up against the dark sky, indicated to the firefighters that they had a big task ahead of them.

Clarke's warehouse was an 'L' shaped building, with a frontage to Elizabeth Street, and adjoining it to the rear was the Money Order Office. It was just in the right angle of the 'L' that the fire broke out, and it spread with alarming rapidity through both wings. The Brigade immediately attacked it from all sides, but the streams of water seemed puny beside the roaring mass of flame. For a long time, the fire defied all the efforts of the firefighters.

The greatest threat of danger lay at the rear of the building, but this was not so apparent to the spectators in the street where the flames thrust greedy tongues through the windows along Elizabeth Street. A cheer went up as a firefighter sent a stream of water flying at the front of the building from the top of a tall ladder erected in the street.

Floor after floor of the warehouse gave way and section after section of the roof crashed below, with every crash the flames leapt up higher than before. Four firefighters working on the third floor of the warehouse found themselves suddenly threatened by the fire above and below. Quick to perceive danger, DCO. Lee called the men back. From every vantage point on the surrounding roofs, twenty lines of hose poured their streams on the flames or protected adjoining buildings, but there was no stopping the flames.

The roof of the Post Office stores (Wallach's) adjoining Clarke's on the north side, took fire, and swiftly the flames ate downward into the building. A burning mass fell from the top floor, down the lift shaft at the rear, and the flames far below sprang up to meet it.

At 11 p.m. the last of Clarke's roof caved in. The wind which had been blowing from westward, veered somewhat to the north, and the flames swept over the Money Order Office. The crowd shouted "the Post Office will go" and for a time, it looked as though they were right. The rear wall of Clarke's swayed ominously, and the firefighters working on the roofs beneath it, who had disregarded the alarms that the crowd had been raising for nearly half an hour, were told to leave their positions by CO. Stein.

One line of defence for the Money Order Office was thus withdrawn, but the necessity for the withdrawal was shown some five minutes later, when the tottering wall crashed down across Condell's Lane and onto the rear of a building opposite, which was occupied by Messrs. Donegan & Co. cycle enamellers. Donegan's shop was a substantial stone building of two storeys, but its walls were badly damaged and its slate roof smashed by the falling bricks. The blazing material that followed the bricks, set fire to Donegan's and the firefighters were forced back once again.

As the wall fell, Third Officer Wilkins and a firefighter were running along the right of way with Mr. Wilkins in the lead. The firefighter dodged back in time to escape the avalanche of bricks and fire, but Mr. Wilkins was struck on the hand by a brick. He roughly bandaged up his hand and went on with his work.

At 11.10 p.m. the top portion of the south wall of Clarke's crashed down into the right of way, and the danger to the south and west increased. The wire workers shop of Messrs. Busst & Bills, just at the rear of Clarke's, was simply smothered in the fall and became a chaos of red hot bricks and blazing timber. The adjoining premises of Mr. H. Simkin, silversmith and Messrs. Orton & Burns, machinists, suffered less severely.

It became a question as to whether any part of

Clarke's would remain standing. Two minutes later part of the north wall collapsed. Two little old shops immediately beneath it were crushed like egg shells, and with them went a part of early Melbourne. These shops tenanted by Mr. H. Vandozo, restaurant keeper and the General Carriers Co., were built in 1844 and had stood on their sites ever since.

The same falling wall battered in the rear portions of the Rose, Thistle & Shamrock Hotel and a number of places fronting Lonsdale Street, including the shops of Messrs. A. Broughton, Denman, Lack & Robinson, and the Doon Beg Castle Hotel.

Then the wind changed round to the south and the pressure at the Money Order Office was relieved. But the flames had only altered their point of attack, and from the little shops beneath the wall, tongues of fire shot out and attacked the rear of the Rose, Thistle & Shamrock Hotel which adjoined them on the north side. However the firefighters were already defending the position. From the top of the high building occupied by Messrs. Patterson & Shugg and others, they directed water onto the hotel and soon had the fire there under control. The rear part of the hotel was wrecked, and all over the

house itself, the plaster was shaken from the walls. While all this had been going on, at the scene of the main fire, the firefighters had to watch out for flying brands which lodged on roofs and in yards over the whole city block. In Blossom Alley, alongside Messrs. Robertson & Moffatt's bedding store, a quantity of packing cases were ignited, and twice the roofs of sheds belonging to the same firm were ablaze. At the back of Mr. J. Cedzich's store at 287 Lonsdale Street, a quantity of kapok and coconut fibre took fire and proceeded to burn for one and a half hours.

All these outbreaks had to receive their share of attention. Everywhere possible, firefighters were positioned on roofs with lines of hose watching for the smallest outbreaks. On the roof of the Melbourne Hospital a staff of wardsmen, assisted by the military, played water on the sparks that fell thick and fast around them.

At 11.35 p.m., the fire in Condell's Lane and at the rear of the Money Order Office was declared under control and the danger to adjoining buildings was over. It was just minutes later when the burning buildings in Elizabeth Street had burnt themselves out, and by midnight the fire was thoroughly in



The aftermath!

View looking South West with the Post Office clock tower in the background and the burnt shell of Clarke's warehouse and other damaged buildings in the foreground. A difficult job well done given the circumstances and the limited technology of the day.

QUOTE

We judge ourselves by what we feel capable of doing, while others judge us by what we have already done.

Longfellow

Remember the days when you attended a fire or incident where there were casualties and you had to assist the best way you could with your limited training in first aid, perhaps even applying the Holger Nielson method of resuscitation to revive a casualty. Well, look what they are doing now with the MFESB's -

The EMS System

When a person is injured or becomes acutely ill, it rarely happens in a hospital with doctors and nurses standing by. In fact, some time usually passes between the onset of the injury or illness and the patient's arrival at the hospital, time during which the patient may deteriorate, and in some severe cases, even die.

The modern Emergency Medical Services (EMS) systems have evolved to provide what is known as "pre-hospital or "out-of-hospital" emergency care. The purpose of the systems is to provide trained personnel to the patient as quickly as possible and to provide emergency medical care at the scene, en route to the hospital, in the Emergency Department of the hospital where doctors, nurses and other members of the health care team are ready to continue total patient care.

This professional level of care is accomplished by a co-ordinated chain of people and resources, linked together to form the total emergency medical services (EMS) system.

In many ways, the growth of a country's EMS is the result of the public demand. In Australia, the need for a more organised approach to emergency medical care may have been less critical for a number of reasons;

- The size and distribution of Australian population
- The smaller incidence of major trauma
- The reduced impact of trauma due to a public acceptance of preventative measures e.g. helmets and seat-belts
- The public health care system approach
- Raised public awareness Cost effective measures.

As Australia grows as a nation, there is a need for a more organised approach to EMS development. All Australians should have the access to quality emergency health care regardless of their location. The only practical way to provide such quality care will be to introduce a more integrated and co-ordinated systems approach.

Australia is fortunate in having well developed ambulance services and Australia was one of the leaders in advanced pre-hospital cardiac care with mobile intensive care paramedic services established in the early 1970's.

The lack of people trained to the level necessary to provide care before the ambulance arrives is, however, the weakest link in the out of hospital resuscitation chain of the EMS system. The well accepted model is that of a "chain of survival" which includes;

- Early access,-

- Early CPR;
- Early defibrillation;
- Early Advanced Life Support (ALS),

To date, most effort to improve the chain of survival has focused on public CPR training. This however, has not been as successful as hoped and recent research has strongly linked poor cardiac arrest outcomes to delayed defibrillation.

There is now evidence the training of qualified and organised First Responders will help overcome this problem.

The First Responder

"First Responder" is a term sometimes used in police, fire and rescue services to designate teams or personnel who have the basic equipment and skills to mount an initial response to some particular emergency situation. The term implies that a "second responder" will follow, incorporating teams with specialist personnel and equipment.

In the emergency medical service (EMS) context, the first person to arrive at the scene of an emergency is sometimes also referred to as a "first responder", regardless of whether that person is a first aider, doctor, nurse or ambulance officer. The First Responder concept has been considered within Australian fire services, in the context that has developed in the United States in recent years, that is, to refer to a member of the emergency service who is not an ambulance officer but who has appropriate training and equipment to enable an initial response to EMS emergencies. The aim of such arrangements is to use existing personnel who have short response times to augment ambulance services and strengthen the "Chain of Survival" for critical cases.

First Responders therefore can be an important daily part of the EMS system,

The Emerging EMS in Australia

As in the US, the Australian Fire Services provide a ready model for the development of EMS systems. Fire Services are established, involved in training and certification programs, have efficient communications technology and most importantly are strategically located. Personnel and equipment are able to reach most emergency calls anywhere in the community within minutes.

In all cases, First Responders are people who have been trained and have successfully completed a medical First Responders Course.

Although Australian EMS systems have differences from others seen overseas, the rationale for EMS First Responder remains valid. It will also remain valid regardless of whether this idea is embraced by the MFESB. It seems inevitable that the EMS First Responder concept will find future application In

Australia, This will be as part of overall development of EMS systems that seem likely to include;

- An operational First Responder role for metropolitan fire services;
- Rural First Responder services;
- Further EMS involvement by volunteers, Police, SES, and others;
- Integrated emergency services communications systems.
- Smarter, cheaper electronic devices, including defibrillators;
- More input from Emergency Physicians.
- More emphasis on EMS systems rather than individual services.

With a skills based, augmented first aid level of training and no transport capability, it is clear that First Responders should not be considered a substitute for the services provided by qualified

ambulance officers/paramedics.

The aim of the First Responder program is to save lives additional to those that can be saved by the current ambulance response. First Responder skills and equipment will only prolong life for the first few minutes after the collapse before the arrival of the paramedic ambulance which is needed to provide a more advanced medical response, It is also important to minimise on scene times of fire appliances in order to maintain availability for other emergencies.

The MFESB is already involved in EMS by providing first aid at emergency scenes when required. First Responder training and equipment would improve the delivery of such care. Given such training and equipment and given the increased availability of firefighters, resulting from reduced turnouts in recent years, the extension and improvement of the MFESB's service to the public in the form of additional First Responder turnouts

DUCTED HEATING UNITS

As a result of recent news items concerning ducted heating fires, there may be some misinformation in relation to the cause of these fires.

THE FACTS ARE:

- To date there has been no evidence to suggest that, fires have started solely due to the build up of dust in the ducting of the heating system.
- Some fires have started due to lack of maintenance of the heating unit.
- Some fires have started due to restricted airflow into the return air ducting around heating fan units. This is mainly caused by the build up of dust and lint in the return air grill.
- The ducting itself may assist in spreading a fire

dependent on its flammability rating, acting as an avenue for the transfer of flame and or smoke.

- If the ducting itself ignites as a result of a fire in the heating unit, fire can spread along its length, under floor spaces or in roof spaces.

THE FOLLOWING PRECAUTIONS WILL HELP PREVENT FIRES IN DUCTED HEATING SYSTEMS:

- Have the heating unit regularly maintained by an authorised, registered tradesperson as per manufacturers' specifications detailed in the warranty book and on the heating unit.
- Regularly vacuum the fascia/grills/filters of the return air duct.
- "Test run" the unit at the start of winter on a day when you are home. (Never start a heater and immediately leave it unattended.)

HALOGEN FLOOR LAMPS MAY CAUSE FIRES

Since 1992 Halogen Floor Lamps are responsible for at least 11 Deaths and 189 Fires in the U.S.A. alone.

Halogen Floor Lamps are a popular, low cost, dimmable lamp which are free standing with a shallow upturned bowl shaped light fixture mounted on a 1.8 metre pole and are illuminated by a Tubular Halogen Bulb.

These Tubular Halogen Bulbs operate at temperatures much hotter than incandescent bulbs reaching temperatures up to 350°C, hot enough to ignite surrounding combustibles. Also the upturned bowl design of the lamp allows dust, insects and rubbish to accumulate posing a potential fire

hazard.

WHEN USING HALOGEN FLOOR LAMPS THE FOLLOWING PRECAUTIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN;

- Never place lamp close to curtains or wall decorations
- Never drape anything over lamp
- Never leave lamp "on" if unattended
- Use only a Halogen Bulb of 300 Watts or less
- To reduce likelihood of tipover, keep children and pets away
- Keep lamp away from elevated bunk beds
- Whenever possible set dimmer lower than the maximum setting
- Children should not play with soft toys near

DO YOU REMEMBER

On Thursday 5th November 1970 at 0025 hours, the Engine Room Fire Alarm sounded on the Bridge of S.S. IRON HUNTER, at the time the vessel was in ballast en route from Newcastle to Whyalla and was located ten miles east of Clifty Island in Bass Strait.

The S.S. IRON HUNTER was built by Whyalla Shipbuilding & Engineering at Whyalla in South Australia at an estimated cost of \$15,m and was commissioned in 1968.

The vessel was owned and operated by Broken Hill Proprietary Co Ltd and used as a bulk ore carrier, at the time of the fire crewed by seventeen Officers and twenty six Seamen.

It was immediately found that the engine Room was involved in a flammable liquid fire and the 6th Engineer was missing.

After initial attempts to enter the Engine Room failed, the decision to activate the installed fixed C02 system in the Engine Room was made.

The Pilot System C02 Slave Cylinders located on the Navigation Bridge was operated, to the horror of the crew, failed to discharge the 135 cylinders of C02 located in the bottle room adjacent to the Engine Room.

Subsequent Investigation found that the non return valves fitted to the Pilot System C02 Slave Cylinders, had been installed in reverse i.e. were "back to front", thus preventing the flow of C02 from the Pilot System to the Servo Cylinders in the Bottle Room.

Even if these had been correctly installed the piping from the Pilot System to the Servo Cylinders in the C02 Bottle Room was blocked with galvanising slag.

THUS A DOUBLE WAMMIE TO STUFF UP THE OPERATION OF THE SYSTEM - IT WAS OBVIOUS THE FIXED FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM HAD NEVER BEEN TESTED !

Following the failure to discharge the C02, an Engineer donned a Breathing Apparatus and at considerable personal risk and possibly miraculous intervention was able to access the Bottle Room and manually operate the C02 bottles, thus extinguishing the developing fire. There was considerable leakage of C02 from loose connections between the Bottles which caused discomfort to the Engineer after the bottles were being discharged.

The fire had destroyed the General Electric Console located in the Engine Room, this was the electronic brain of the vessel, thus rendering the Vessel inoperative, during this period the Vessel drifted, uncontrolled, for some thirty miles before being taken in tow by responding Vessels.

The location of fire was found in the lower level



The fire destroyed the control console located in the engine room. This caused the vessel to drift uncontrolled for some 30 miles before being taken

where the Bowser Briggs Lube Oil Filter and the Andale Duplex Basket Lube Oil Strainer were located.

The cause of the fire resulted when accidental discharge of oil from the Lube Oil Strainer occurred, this was due to a loose cover on the aft strainer, the discharging oil came in contact with steam piping, with resultant ignition of the oil occurring.

The cause of the discharge of lubricating oil was later established to be a design fault in the manufacture of the Lube Oil Strainer.

It was possible in this instance to carry out a re-enactment of the events leading up to the actual occurrence of fire, *could almost be described as an instant replay,*

During the investigation, the cover on the aft strainer of the Andale Lube Oil Filter was found to be loose, *even though by feel it appeared to be tight,* unfortunately by manufacturing design, there was a section of the cover that when the holding stirrup was tightened it would appear to be tight, but when internal pressure from the lubrication oil was applied, by the oil flow being changed from the forward strainer to the aft strainer, the aft cover would fractionally rise allowing the discharge of lubricating oil.

Electrical power was restored to the lube oil filter and strainer and lube oil discharged from the loose cover on the duplex strainer, this discharge of lubricating oil matched the burn patterns obviously visible in the area.

The resultant fire caused the death of the 6th Engineer and fire damage exceeded \$1m. The

TRAVELLING WITH SILVER



A friend returning from his first big trip overseas phoned me the other day and said, "never again", I said look, I'll give you 40cents and you can ring up someone who cares. He replied, "well, I am going to tell you

anyway" and there is a message here.

"On the way home from Europe last week I missed my connection in London because I hadn't been told there are two airports in London".

It turns out my friend had bought a Paris / London, London / Hong Kong sector. He flew to London with Air France and had a reasonably tight connection onto the next sector with British Caledonian for London / Hong Kong. What his travel agent Hadn't told him was he was landing in Heathrow from Paris but would have to go to Gatwick to Hong Kong.

London is just one city with a built in airline ticket booby-trap (the multiple airport).

The end result was he made it, his luggage didn't and his camera got pinched from his hotel in Prague. Incidentally, regarding the stolen camera, he reported it to the Hotel / Casino management and then also said he was calling the police. Hotel management said don't call the police, we will do something in the next couple of days. As you can imagine, they don't want any bad publicity.

I had already coached my friend prior to leaving that to claim travel insurance you must have a police report or at least proof of notification to the hotel management. I had also coached him on how to turn a \$200 Kodak into an \$800 Nikon.

On his last day in Prague at the Casino the hotel presented him with a \$800 Nikon and said it was his prize. Wasn't he lucky?

Back to the twin airport scene. Paris, Sao Paulo, Jakarta, Milan, Tokyo, Bucharest, Taipei in Taiwan and London all have two airports with New York having three.

Here, Sydney is bad enough, try coming from the U.S.A., clearing your bags at Sydney and wanting to go to Canberra. By the time you clear customs, get a trolley (if you can) at the international terminal and head out towards the domestic terminals you will have gone through enough hassles as it is. If you are tight for time and know that your bags won't make it in the normal way (you now have to carry your luggage as well), the tension builds.

Now the fun starts - trying to find a taxi that will take you from international to domestic terminals. The chances are the cabbies will refuse the fare, either telling you to take the shuttle (which usually is running at a frequency that will ensure you miss your flight) or you will be asked for an under the counter surcharge to make the trip worthwhile. If your flight connection is fairly tight the chances are at least 50/50 on success.

O.K. now consider the plight of a person who arrives in a dual airport city, unprepared and

unwarned that the airport he is leaving from is not the one he has arrived at. Often the person will have no local currency, thinking that he is only there to change planes and doesn't know that the interchange will require the use of a taxi, train, airport shuttle or in the case of New York, a helicopter.

Airport shuttle buses have a great habit of being there for every flight except yours. My feelings at most airports is to ignore them, plan around them, if one does happen along I consider myself extremely lucky.

Those international travellers who have been bitten once will not only ask their travel agents whether there is a change of airports but should demand to be shown the airport of arrival and departure in the printed timetables.

In a very small way Mrs. Silver and I are going on a whale watch for 4 days in the 3rd week of October to Hervey Bay. I suggested we just have John Danby out to lunch but she said she wanted to see them and not have to eat with them!

Anyway, Flt.1 Qantas Melbourne to Brisbane, Flt.2 Brisbane to Hervey Bay, all very straight forward. On return, Flt Hervey Bay to Brisbane, then catching international flight Brisbane to Sydney then domestic Sydney to Melbourne. Sounds easy? I bet something goes wrong, but so long as it's on the ground I can put up with it.

Happy Travelling

Silver

P/S. All arrivals at Sydney, even on transit are subject to \$3.80 P/P noise tax.



- - - the cabbies are on strike. the pubs are full and so is the shuttle driver!

Queensland Reunion Day

Thursday 31st July the Retired Firefighter's Annual Reunion was held at Southport Yacht Club. This was a special occasion as it marked the 10th Anniversary of this event which started with a casual lunch for 8 people and the remark made that we should all get together next year. It gradually increased in size and this year 37 attended. We were all saddened to realise how many of our firey mates had passed away during the past twelve months and we paid tribute to them by a minutes silence.

Also this year we had a "photo shoot" of everyone present. There was some dissent letting the women be in it. The women won!! Ross and Dell Broadby were not able to be with us due to ill health of Dell. Everyone had a good day, and it is an inexpensive day.

For the first time we had members who travelled down from Hervey Bay. Ian and Terry Heath, who always attend from Cleveland, we are thinking of them especially at this time as their 13 year

old grandson is in hospital having lost the sight in one eye due to a cricket game accident. A very sad thing for a young lad. Our thoughts also with Kevin Kennedy who has come through heart surgery and has to have another operation.

Many thanks to all who attended. See you all and maybe more next year. Last Thursday in July.



**EMERGENCY SERVICES
SUPERANNUATION
SCHEME**

WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY

The ESS Board invites all former contributors of the Scheme to invest their superannuation benefits into the ESSS Beneficiary Account or Allocated Pension facility.

The ESS Board sees this as an exciting opportunity for all former contributors to again be a part of the Emergency Services Superannuation Scheme.

The ESSS Beneficiary Account and Allocated Pension are facilities to invest your superannuation benefits.

BENEFICIARY ACCOUNT

The Beneficiary Account is an ideal investment vehicle to safeguard your benefits for the future. Earnings on your benefits accumulate, enjoy significant taxation advantages and withdrawals can be made at anytime. The Beneficiary Account offers a choice of managed products.

ALLOCATED PENSION

The Allocated Pension allows you to receive regular income from your superannuation benefits. It offers generous tax advantages and gives you the flexibility to decide how much pension you wish to receive. The Allocated Pension also offers a choice of managed products.

To investigate this window of opportunity please contact John Kilkenny on (03)9698 6444, so that

THE BEER, PIZZA AND ICE CREAM DIET

As we all know, it takes 1 calorie to heat 1 gram of water 1 degree centigrade. Translated into meaningful terms, this means that if you eat a very cold dessert (generally consisting of water in large part), the natural processes which raise the consumed dessert to body temperature during the digestive cycle literally sucks the calories out of the only available source, your body fat.

For example, a dessert served and eaten at near 0 degrees C (32.2 deg. F) will in a short time be raised to the normal body temperature of 37 degrees C (98.6 deg. F). For each gram of dessert eaten, that process takes approximately 37 calories as stated above. The average dessert portion is 6 oz, or 168 grams. Therefore, by operation of thermodynamic law, 6,216 calories (1 cal./gm/deg. x 37 deg. x 168 gms) are extracted from body fat as the dessert's temperature is normalised.

Allowing for the 1,200 latent calories in the dessert, the net calorie loss is approximately 5,000 calories.

Obviously, the more cold dessert you eat, the better off you are and the faster you will lose weight, if that is your goal.

This process works equally well when drinking very cold beer in frosted glasses. Each ounce of beer contains 16 latent calories, but extracts 1,036 calories (6,216 cal. per 6oz. portion) in the temperature normalising process. Thus the net calorie loss per ounce of beer is 1,020 calories. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to calculate that 12,240 calories (12oz. x 1,020 cal./oz.) are extracted from the body in the process of drinking a can of beer.

Frozen desserts, e.g., ice cream, are even more beneficial, since it takes 83 cal./gm to melt them (i.e; raise them to 0 deg. C) and an additional 37 cal./gm to further raise them to body temperature. The results here are really remarkable, and it beats running hands down.

Unfortunately, for those who eat pizza as an excuse to drink beer, pizza (loaded with latent calories and served above body temperature) induces an opposite effect. But, thankfully, as the astute reader should have already reasoned, the obvious solution is to drink a lot of beer with pizza and follow up immediately with large bowls of ice cream.

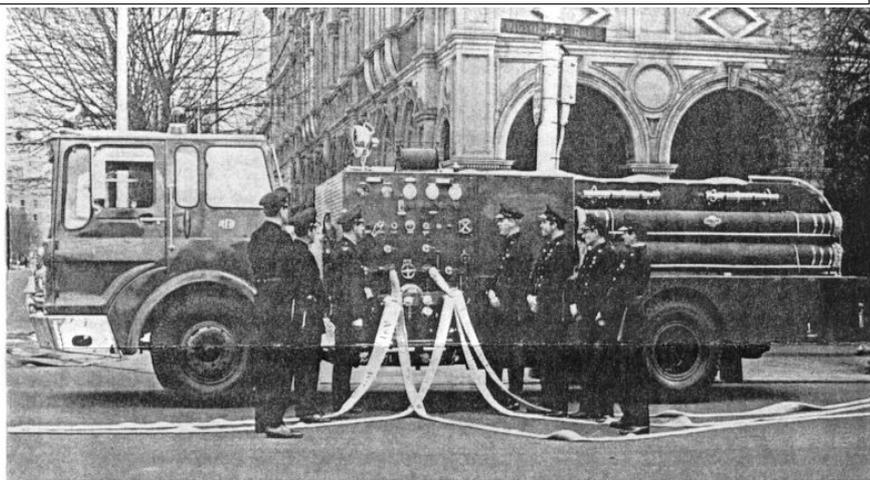
We could all be thin if we were to adhere religiously to a pizza, beer, and ice cream diet. Happy dieting!

When and an old pumper is pensioned off it will more than likely rust away in a tin shed somewhere. This

one is- **IMPROVING WITH AGE!**

The pictured appliance, No.10 Hale/Atkinson Pumper was sold by the MFB in 1995 for \$17500 to Lake McQuarie NSW. In 1989 the No. 9 Hale/Atkinson Pumper failed to sell at auction and was given on permanent loan to the Fire Service Museum of Victoria. The pumper is sponsored by Detroit Diesel who pay the registration and insurance and also service the engine. It has attended CFA championship weekends at the following: Mildura, Swan Hill, Echuca, Geelong, Traralgon, Trafalgar, Maffra and Heyfield.

Of interest is the fact that on the first trip to Mildura it used 1-1/2 gallons of engine oil on the way up and 1 gallon on the way back. At the present time, 5600 miles later, the long trips have done the job - it has stopped using oil. Only a few drivers in the Museum can handle



Getting to know the new No.10 Hale pump: L-R. Stan Patten, Jim Gibson, Basil Smith, Bob Liebert, Charlie Richardson, Bob Boothroyd, Ian McPherson.

the 10 speed Road Ranger gear box and as the old pump drivers at No.1 Stn. would verify, depending on your driving experience, it can be a "Beast or a Beauty" to drive.

"It's the way we have in the Fire Brigade"

Frustration can lead people to do some desperate things to try and remedy the situation. The Eastern Hill Fire Station was rife with practical jokers who were more than ready to take advantage of some person who through frustration was getting near the end of his rope. Well, we have one of those jokers who now feels it's -

CONFESSION TIME!

It was a Saturday afternoon shift (1500hrs-2300hrs) and I was detailed to be No.1 on the Hose Carriage, Billy Turner was No.2 and Saxa Gray was the driver with Don Edwards as orderly. I think the D.O. was Stan Richards and Roy Treverton was the S.S.O. In those days as we all know, we would be busy.

At about 1600hrs the S.F.A. went off at Westgarth and George St. Fitzroy. On our arrival we found it to be a G.B.M.R.D.N.S. hoax call. On our arrival back at the station the alarm went off for a second time! We just backed the truck in and bugger me dead, we were off again! With the same result as before. On the way home the boys formulated a plan to catch the shifty little bugger.

The D.O. rang the police and informed them of the situation and could they cruise around the area and keep a look out. Sure enough, the alarm went off again and by this time all of us were pretty pissed off. Especially one Mr. Roy Treverton who was REALLY pissed off. (For those of us who knew Roy back then can relate to this! It was even worse whenever South Melbourne lost the footy)

Anyway, Upon resetting the alarm, Roy took off his turn out tunic and decided to hide in the bushes. Upon doing so his very words were, "I'll catch this little bugger and kick the shit outta him!"

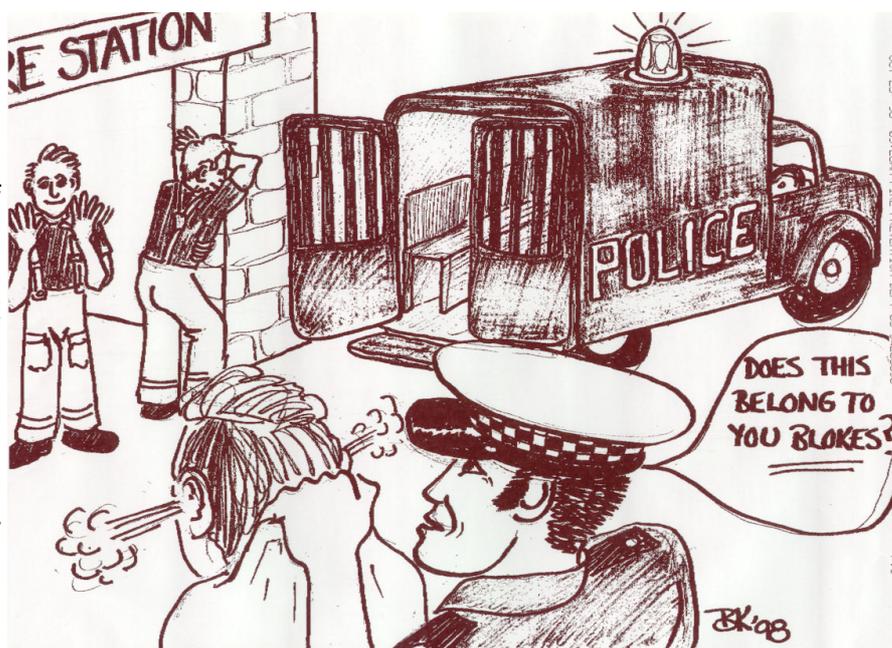
Returning to the station, I hung up

my gear on my allocated peg and I couldn't help myself, I ran around to the phone in the yard and rang 000. I then went on to tell them that there was a suspicious looking bloke hiding in the bushes near a fire alarm at Westgarth and George St. and I think he'd been breaking it. I hung up and then went around the front and told the guys to hang around to watch the fun!

Sure enough, 5 minutes later a police paddy wagon pulled up and this big copper alighted, unlocked the back and out shot one really, really pissed off Roy Treverton who shouted as he went past "Tell these bastards I'm a Fireman!"

Roy mate, after 30 years of not telling who did it - I own up, it was me!

By the way, you never did thank those



FINANCIAL PLANNER'S ADVISORY SERVICES GUIDE

From October 1 this year, it has been mandatory for all financial planners and their representatives to give clients an Advisory Services Guide before giving investment advice. The guide is supposed to help you understand:

- The nature of the advisory service being offered, including the risks of any

recommended investment.

- The method and amount of charges for the service - especially whether you'll be paying on a fee or commission basis, and how much that could amount to, both initially and over time.
- Your rights when using a financial planner, such as the complaints resolution scheme

**RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
VICTORIAN BRANCH INCORPORATED**

NOMINATION FORM.

For election of Office Bearers of the Association and ordinary members of the committee.

We hereby nominate;

Name: _____ **For the position of;** _____

Proposer's Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ **Post Code** _____

Secunder's Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ **Post Code** _____

I hereby accept the above nomination; Signature of Nominee; _____

Date; _____

Return by Friday November 13, 1998, to;-
The Secretary
Retired Firefighters Association of Australia
Victorian Branch Incorporated.
24 Lincoln Drive Lower Plenty 3093

BROWN'S BITS

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

DAFFY'S DOUBLE TROUBLE!

The trouble with stories is you hear them second hand and have to believe the teller. One such story concerns a character we'll call "Daffy Duck". Now where Daffy's parents lived they were told by the M.M.B.W. to connect to the sewerage. All the quotes were high so Daffy and his brother decided to do the job themselves. Daffy being good mechanically hired a backhoe.

So the job started, Daffy operating the backhoe. Things started OK but then something went wrong and he knocked part of the side fence down. The brother abused him and told him to get off as he would do a better job. He Did! He rammed it right through the back of the house. I don't know what happened after that, if someone does I'd like to know

about it.

CHEAP LUNCH FOR THE ALBURY BUNCH!

For those holidaying or passing through Albury, there are some cheap places to eat. The best is at the Thurgoona Golf Club East of Lavington. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 6pm - 9pm they have a \$7.50 a head (with a \$2 pokie chit back) Australian and Chinese smorgasbord including soup, prawns, prawn cocktails, sweets and coffee.

The S.S.A. Club in Albury, seven days a week, have special lunch and dinner deals at \$6 a head, salad bar and bread rolls included. Lavington Sports Club has special lunch and dinner deals, also a Sunday night roast including soup and sweets for \$7 a head. Nth

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