

# "WATER OFF"

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



Nov 2022 Vol 27 No 4  
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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

**WEDNESDAY 16TH  
NOVEMBER, 2022 at  
GLENROY RSL - 10:30am.**

Wives, partners, girlfriends are most welcome  
to come along!

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Bradford House, Flinders Lane Melbourne—1952.

## FROCK CAUGHT ALIGHT, SET OFF £250,000 FIRE.

A hundred people fled from yesterday's £250,000 fire in Bradford House, Flinders Lane, while flames swept through corridors behind them.

The fire is believed to have started when a frock caught alight as one girl was passing it to another over a kerosene heater.

Police believe the girl panicked and dropped the dress near a pile of highly flammable gowns which burst into flames.

As the fire began to envelop the room girls fled screaming through dense smoke.

Within 10 minutes the entire floor was blazing and flames leaped from the windows. Police said the evacuation of the hundred people from the building into Flinders lane was amazing. Flimsy dresses and materials in the building made it burn so swiftly that they thought many would not have any chance of escape.

One fireman was badly injured when he fell down a smoke filled stairwell.

Source: [The Sydney Morning Herald \(NSW : 1842 - 1954\)](#)

# “ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING”

Wednesday 16th November, 2022—10:30am. Glenroy RSL.

**Volunteers Required**  
**The Fire Services Museum needs past fire service members to assist on an occasional basis at the Museum**  
**Please contact**  
**Bryan Robertson**  
**0418 129 252**

**All Correspondence to:**  
Phil Cleary  
RFAV Secretary  
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## Non financial Members

Members be advised if your newsletter has an expiry date of 2/1/2020 that means you have not paid your subs since 2019 therefore if no remuneration is received by the 2/1/22 your name will be automatically removed from the mailing list. If, for whatever reason any member is unable to meet this request please do not hesitate to call the secretary, (confidentiality is assured)

## OFFICE BEARERS

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

### **General Committee:**

Col Harris  
Len Manning  
Mike McCumisky  
Ian Geddes  
Kevin Hede

### **Social Secretary:**

Brian Jackson

**“Water Off”  
Editorial Staff**  
Colin Harris  
James Harris

## Valē

**John Chambers, Dr John UpJohn, Don Winning, John Poulter, Colin Sampson, Willian Casson, Raymond Dingey, Maurice Kean, Robert Herbert, Graham Danby, Richard Bright, Shane Howard, Laurie Trewin, Bob Horgan**

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

## **Sick List** \* In Care Facility

Bruce Petrie	Ian Hookey*
Dick Bright	Archie McLachlan
John Brown*	Trevor Reed
Stan Cameron	Gary Spicer
Geoff Cuzac	John Williams
Jack Etherington*	

## Diary Dates

UFU Xmas Luncheon  
3rd December, 2022 at Sofitel.  
RFA Annual General Meeting Wednesday  
16th November 2022, 10:30am

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

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



**G**'day Everyone! Where has the year gone! It just seems like it was yesterday we were celebrating the New Year and we were starting to get to some level of normality. I often wonder what normality is now a days? Anyway, it was great be able to schedule a meeting again, We had to change to a new venue, as the FRV venue at Burnley wasn't available and we don't know if it will be available in the new year? So, we are looking to hold our meetings at various venues around the Metropolitan area. **HAS ANYONE GOT ANY IDEAS ABOUT WHERE TO HOLD THE NEXT ONE!!**

I hope you all have been safe, well and you have been out and about enjoying our new found freedoms. I've got a couple of new hobbies which gets me out so I'm making the most of it. I hope all's well with family and friends and are looking forward to reunions and parties and just enjoying being together again.

My thoughts go out to our members and their family members who are sick or have suffered a loss.

**Alex Shepherd - President**

## SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT



**H**i all,

Well, it's getting to that time again - the AGM.

If anyone is interested in putting up their hand for a position on the committee, please let me know.

The next RFA meeting will be held at the Glenroy RSL on the 16th of November at 10.30am, 2022.

There is plenty of parking! The RSL is walking distance from the Glenroy train station. We won't be having any more meetings at Burnley, so you can bring your wives, partners, girlfriends etc.

Lunch will be available. The ladies can have a good time playing the pokies if they wish, while we have our meeting. \*Note: You will be paying for your own lunch.

Unfortunately we won't be collecting any RFA dues on 3rd of December at the UFU Retirement Luncheon at the Sofitel, Collins Street, Melbourne.

As this is our last RFA newsletter for 2022, I would like to wish all of our members and their families, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and hope 2023 is a better year.

**Regards RFA Secretary Phil Cleary**

**Any enquiries regarding meetings call the Secretary:  
Mob. 0419 778 161  
Email: rfavic1@gmail.com**

## A Brief From John Chambers

John Chambers (Retired District Officer)  
Birth Date: 14-July-1932 - Where: Windsor,  
Victoria.

Grew up in St.Kilda.

**Schools:** Brighton Road Primary School  
Sacred Heart Primary West St. Kilda  
St. Joseph Technical College South

Melbourne

**Work:** Engineering Firm as a Fitter and Turner in St.  
Kilda

**MFB:** Joined Friday 24<sup>th</sup> August 1956

Promoted SO2 - 8<sup>th</sup> June 1962

SO1 - 14<sup>th</sup> January 1977

DO - 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1979

**Reason of joining:** Tired of working indoors. Also in  
winter time going to work in the dark coming home in  
the dark. My brother was in the MFB and enjoying it.

### **Station's worked at.**

Fireman - at Brunswick (4) Coburg (6) Essendon (52)  
**SO 2** - Carlton (3) 18 months. Then placed on  
relieving. Many stations and Districts, including the  
following:

All Eastern, All Southern, Central: South Melbourne  
(38), Eastern Hill (1), Batman Street (2), Richmond  
(10) old & new.

Northern: - Ivanhoe (15) Greensborough (16) Western:  
Deer Park (43) and Ascot Vale (50).

**SO 1** - 1, 2 and all District Stations. Promoted to DO.  
while at No.2, I became the last serving District  
Officer. As No 2 was downgraded to an SO1 station  
**District Officer** - At No.1 and all District Stations and  
Acting Control Officer on occasions.

### **GOOD OIC's:**

Outstanding ones DO. Jack Shaw (Yorky), Ken  
Wilson, Claude Selby  
George White, Tom Shields, and many others over the  
years.

### **Some Best Memories:**

Where would I start? Enjoyed just going to work,  
meeting different people and some interesting critters.  
The district functions etc. Also, as District Officer,  
arranging Sunday lunches by inviting other stations to  
the District Station.

Hated doing race duties at Caulfield on race days.

The time officers were on 24 hour shift, being called in  
to No1. To be the watchroom officer for the night shift.  
Too bad if you had a busy day.

All good memories.

### **MEMORABLE Work Colleagues**

Have to start with my shift mates at No.4 Alan Eley,  
Jim Scarsbrook, Snow Arie, then later Alan (budgie)  
Graham, a great team! It is hard to mention all the great  
people I have worked with over all those years, but I  
still remember them.

### **Large Fires Attended:**

Bowater Scott - Box Hill

Naval Stores - Port Melbourne.

Fairfield Paper Mill store.

Tottenham stores 2<sup>nd</sup> day on joining MFB

Tannery - Richmond.

Plastics Factory Burwood - not a large fire, however  
very interesting

**An interesting situation:** During an industrial  
dispute where appliances were put out of action if gear  
was used. In Western District, all stations were out of  
action except being the DO at No.47. I could use the  
car which carried hose, branch and standpipe. With a  
driver we turned out for a house fire in Footscray, on  
arrival found the back of house well alight and not  
trying to use our gear we commandeered the hoses  
from places nearby and ran the hose line from their  
millcock, until the next stations arrived, which were  
from Port Melbourne and Preston.

**Who was the Chief Officer on joining?**

CFO Whitehead

**When Did I Retire?**

5/09/1988.

**Enjoy the job?**

YES.

### **WHAT HAVE I DONE SINCE?**

I like to travel: Australia - 4 x wheel drive over a fair  
part of the country from bottom to top and from East to  
West.

Overseas - Europe, USA, Canada, Africa, (top &  
bottom) Middle East, many Asian countries and the  
United Kingdom.

Sport: Lawn Bowls with MFB, Mulgrave Country  
Club and at Mansfield.

Volunteering: Fire Museum for 10 years, St. Vinnies  
Mansfield.

Ran a B&B at Mansfield for 2 years until family health  
reasons intervened, we then had to return to  
Melbourne.

**Family:** 4 Children - 10 Grandchildren - 8 Great  
Grandchildren.

### **A couple of funny stories:**

One day at No.3 Station, a certain S/FF arrived at work  
with a dead carpet snake (which he had accidentally  
killed in his back yard - oops! It belonged to his  
neighbour).

Then, a certain Station Officer placed it on the front  
floor of the hose-carriage all coiled up (looking like it  
was sleeping - or ready to strike!)

Low and behold we received a call and the DO open  
the carriage door and nearly fainted! Later on in the  
day, a ute arrived from the store to pick up tins of foam  
from No.3's store and of course the snake went with  
them the tins of foam. Stores people were not happy  
when the interesting delivery arrived!

On another occasion, I attended a fire in Brunswick  
and on arrival this chap came charging out of the place  
stark naked and sprinted up the street and we never did  
find him!???

John had many other stories to tell, however, those are  
not for publication in his lifetime!



**Some photographs of gentleman retired district officer John Chambers.**

## **John William McKenzie Upjohn OAM MBBS, FRACS, FRCS (Eng).**

31 March 1931 – 1 August 2022

John was the second child born to William and Norma Upjohn. He had an older sister Rosemary and later a brother David and younger sister June. His brother David had cerebral palsy and died at the age of fourteen, a tragedy that probably made him sensitive to those less fortunate than himself and perhaps influenced his decision to study medicine.

John matriculated from Melbourne Grammar and at the young age of sixteen went off to Melbourne University to study Medicine at the Mildura Branch, which had been set up to accommodate all the returning soldiers from WW2. Graduating in 1953, he pursued post-graduate training at The Royal Melbourne Hospital where he worked under many of the local doyens of surgery before heading to England, in 1958, for three years. The journey to England was as a ship's doctor with responsibility for the ship's crew, which at the age of twenty-seven he evidently handled with calmness.

Importantly, whilst in England John gained his Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons (England) and gathered General Surgical experience at the Wittington, Barnet General, Peppard and St Helier hospitals. He returned to Melbourne in 1961, once again working his passage as a ship's surgeon.

Back in Melbourne life became busy, as like many other young surgeons of that era, he held a number of Honorary Assistant Surgeon positions at numerous city teaching hospitals (RMH, Austin, Repatriation General and Queen Victoria hospitals), whilst seeking a permanent appointment. It was at the Austin that he first worked alongside John Fethers and in 1969 he was appointed Assistant Surgeon to Dr John Fethers at PANCH. John had now found his surgical home. Upon the untimely death of John Fethers in 1988, he became Acting Head of Unit for nearly two years until Hamish Ewing's appointment as the inaugural Associate Professor of Surgery to PANCH in 1989. John worked tirelessly at PANCH in this unit until his retirement in 1996.

John Upjohn was a great team player, known for his gentlemanly manner, considered surgical opinion and meticulous and cautious technical skills. Ever polite and respectful to all, but firm with his patients – he was always their advocate.

The quirky side of John would appear via his eclectic general knowledge and humorous anecdotes, delivered with a straight-face and usually followed by a short but joyful laugh; characteristics for which he is fondly remembered by the staff of that era.

John's loyal service also extended to the Metropolitan Fire Brigade where he served as Brigade Medical Officer for over thirty years. He was appointed to this position in 1964, following in the footsteps of his father Sir William Upjohn (a RACS Foundation Fellow). John is remembered by the MFB as 'a quiet man but with an understanding of firefighters'. He would say of his firemen patients: *You have to understand that if your house is burning down, they don't say: I'll see you next week, so if they have a medical problem then they need to be seen now too.* His life-long service to the MFB and medicine was recognised in 2003 when he was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM).

Across the generations the Upjohn family has made a commitment to the armed services with John serving as Medical Officer with the Army Reserves. In the early '80s this led to him taking a break from his Melbourne surgical practice to be the surgeon at RAAF Butterworth airbase in Malaysia. He reprised this service in the 2000's, but this time in the Solomon Islands where he made several trips to Honiara as a doctor with Aspen Medical, which provided health services to the Peacekeeping Force there.

In amongst the busy times establishing himself as a young surgeon, John met young Brenda Doggett and in 1963 they were married at the Melbourne Grammar Chapel. Their enduring marriage produced four children: Debbie, Ian, Suzi and Edward, and eleven grandchildren. John was immensely proud of their family.

John's son Edward summed up his father beautifully: *I know that sometimes I should try to emulate his special way of speaking less and listening more, of thinking longer and acting with a little less haste, if I do that then I might have some of his wisdom and patience.*

Fittingly, John's final journey was atop a vintage fire engine, surrounded by his loving family, friends, colleagues and many members of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade.

A true gentleman, John will be missed and remembered by so many.

(Tribute compiled by Hamish Ewing his longtime PANCH colleague with help from Edward Upjohn.)

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## **Dr. John Upjohn**

What a man, what a doctor  
He came from a doctoring family  
His father Sir William - I passed a medical check with him  
That was back in 1973, just before I got in  
The Upjohn family of doctors carries on in name still today  
The Metropolitan Fire Brigade was served well by Sir William & John  
Over many, many years!  
The Brigade Medical Officer (BMO) was in the old building  
At Eastern Hill for 40+ years, and when you visited, there were no fears  
Doctor John would go out of his way to ensure our fires recovered  
From the many broken bones, burns, fatigue and many other injuries  
He would visit you in hospital, he might visit you at home  
He was caring, a true and trusted professional  
Back in 1985, he saved my life  
I collapsed in agony at the Abbotsford Training College  
And rushed to the BMO  
Dr. Upjohn examined me and sent me home  
The next day I was on his doorstep, still in agonizing pain  
Later that day I was taken to PANCH to be diagnosed by his colleagues  
I was a mystery case, they couldn't work out what was wrong  
Dr. Upjohn took a chance and sliced me down the middle  
And found the offending appendix on the wrong side  
And as he removed this poisoned rotting thing, it burst!  
He later told me, I was lucky, another 8 hours and death awaited!  
Thankyou Mr. Upjohn, you have served the community & saved many lives!

R.I.P.—Editor

## IAN GEDDES REG NO: 2501



Born: 7/11/1949

Where I was born I can't quite remember which hospital somewhere in the CBD.

My dad (Gordon Geddes) was already in the MFB at No1. He was living in the 'married men's' quarters. He became an officer. Later in life he became a 'Super'. In those days unless there was a 'big job' on they really didn't attend incidents. Mum and Dad had four kids all up.

I went to Swinburne Tech and completed Applied Science.

Over a summer break I went picking melons and grapes. I was 19 at the time and I guess Dad & Mum decided that, this type of work would not be my career, so when I arrived home Dad had all the application papers filled in for the MFB. Only needed my signature and date!

So into the recruits I went. I had SO Tom Draper and SO Stan Devlan for instructors. Both great blokes. I started on a Friday but all we did was pick up 1 pair of boots, 1 pair of trousers and don't forget the "flat cap!"

On Monday we started our 'fitness runs'. Remembering that this was a 12 week course. It didn't take long before the 'older' blokes (27-28 years of age) worked out that running really wasn't getting them very far and a little boring to say the least. We would have to run around in Lincoln Street twice. In those days there was a 'knock shop' just up the road so the 'older' blokes would run up there and catch up to the main pack of recruits on the home run.

Remember the days when Lionel Rose and the 'Fighting Harada' was the big thing? Well, it came to pass that a bright idea was thought up for us to do some boxing as it certainly was a great way to keep fit. With that a pair of boxing gloves appeared. This was thought up by Noel Joyce who incidentally was already a good boxer. Geoff Wickham was in recruits with me. He was also playing AFL footy.

They paired me up with Geoff – who knows whether it was a very lucky punch or I was overly serious I am not sure, however, I knocked Geoff out! Well, you should have seen Tommy Draper – he nearly fainted. Boxing was not allowed ever again.

I was living at 10 then my first posting was to 13 great!! I had absolutely no idea about paperwork etc. I think they forgot to train us in that sort of stuff!

I worked with Allen Mearns, SO Ron Cripps and Harry Morgan & others. After attending a few other stations, I then spent time on shift at No: 3 and I still say it was one of the best stations that I worked at.

Some more names that I can bring to mind with a smile on my face are Harry Kiernan Senior, young (whipper snipper), Alan Shepherd, Brett Hume all young blokes and of course Jock Pollock.

I then went back to the Training College and loved it. Some of the names that I remember are Johnny Cross was the senior and was very proud and protective of 'his boys'. DO was Trevor (Foster) Reed, SO1 Johnny Tarr, Geoff Patman and Helen Gibson who was Admin.



In 1983 I became a DO and I married Jeanette in 1987. I was then swirled around the metropolitan suburbs to all the different stations and loved it. On a Saturday which I remember, I was ordered to go to a fire. When I arrived of course I gave 'word back'. DO 47 on scene. Communications came back: Thank you DO 47 you are at the wrong fire!! Johnny Chambers (R.I.P.) to this day will never forgive me as he was at Stn 23 and had to attend the right fire.

I think one of the most uncomfortable fires/incidents that I attended apart from Coode Island and others was at Ampol, Newport. A large supply pipe had been 'welded' open - mmmm. We waited for Mr. Les Gray to arrive as he was the chemical guru at the time - (well before Dangerous Goods). Finally, with the pipe repaired and closed with us walking in 4 inches of petrol that was flooding all the walkways we were able to get the hell out of the place.

When stationed at 10 I remember the day I said to Phil Bellinger and John Gribble that my car was not running too well. Next thing I know is, my car was pushed into the underground car park, the hoist for the AFFF drums maneuvered into place and the motor was then taken out and worked on. Thankyou fellas to this day.

Way out West they say!! Grass fires which you would all know at the time I didn't. This day I arrived and trying to find a vantage point I climbed up onto a rocky volcanic outcrop to have a gander. I was then yelled at - "what the hell are you doing up there?" I explained my current position and was told promptly - "get off the 'f....g' rocks because they are full of tiger snakes. Stamp your feet and get going" - oops I did. I also know that a couple of stations even kept the damn things. Yeah the good old West!

I remember going to the old 19 Stn (Kew) one day. Apart from the lovely old pool table paid for by the 'furies' I asked "what would be your highest risk area". Without blinking the Kew Cottages or Willsmere was named. So I went for a little drive. Upon arriving at the gates I was met by a man who asked what I wanted. I explained and then was told to "follow me". I followed in the car around corners up and down narrow roads until we reached a stopping point. At that moment another bloke came out of a building and asked the first bloke what was going on. The second bloke then advised me that it was an 'inmate' that had let me in and shown me the grounds. Oh OK!!!!???

In 1988 the first 'female firefighters' came into the job. Lots of moaning and groaning was heard. No more 'nude' streaking from bathrooms to bedrooms. Men mind yourself particularly your language, well I can tell you I met a couple of the opposite sex and trust me the air would turn blue in the 'mess' and not by the blokes. I remember one time I had a gun aimed at me and I also remember the 'good old days' when concern with some due to the alcohol consumption. I don't think I was around to watch for the heavy drug use.

Remember the good old days of 8 hour shifts? I was at No.10 and in one night we received 27 calls. I believe it was one of the busiest stations in Australia. I worked with the likes of Ian Dewhurst, Ken Wilson all great bosses. I was privileged as well, with these and other men whom I tried to learn from at the time.

In 1992 Jeff Kennett arrived on scene to become the Premier of Victoria. Geoff Godfredson was the Chief of the MFB at that time. Myself, and the other 3 DO's were called into the Chief's office. There he advised us that an initiative of installing smoke alarms into homes was going to begin. Fine, a good idea we thought. However, we were then told that we were to advise the people that they would be charged for this service. Eerrr - I made one step forward, drew a line with my boot across the floor and said that 'yes we would install smoke alarms however; we would not step over the line to make people pay.' So, the 4 of us were 'sacked 1993.

I married my soul mate Jeanette. We had a great married life together. When we both retired we started travelling. We would have an overseas trip every second year and taking about a month off each time. Then we would travel around Oz for the other holidays. I still miss her still. And I am still learning to cook!

I always remember being in London when two blokes came towards us. Yep, both MFB. So what else do you do in London we went to the pub and got drunk.

I can only thank the MFB and the blokes that I have made my lifelong friends. No other job does that. I have mates that were coppers but there is no camaraderie like the MFB. I enjoyed the 'job' and loved going and they even paid me to do it!

I have coffee with old mates on a regular basis, and once a month I catch up with other retired old farts, generally in Frankston. Family is very important with lots of nephews and nieces and I even have great nieces and nephews.

So thanks to all that made my working life fun and even getting paid for it. The mateship, and friendship for life - all free!

Cheers

## **Fiskville PFAS cancer cluster**

By Rachel Eddie & Ashleigh McMillan

Mark Potter's father died in 2014 after a series of cancers. He was a firefighter exposed to toxic chemicals at the notorious Fiskville training college. Eight years later, Potter misses him every day.

“For me, there will never be closure,” Potter said yesterday, when the Victorian government announced a \$57 million redress scheme.

Payments of up to \$45,000 will be available to about 1300 firefighters, family members and residents affected by per- and poly-fluoroalkyl chemicals (PFAS) at the site near Ballan before it was decommissioned in 2015 because of the high rate of cancer among those who had lived or worked there.

PFAS is a group of potentially carcinogenic chemicals that have been linked to cancer, low infant birth weights and other illnesses.

The redress scheme, launching on September 5, will come six years after the government promised it following a parliamentary inquiry.

Potter, whose father Brian blew the whistle on PFAS concerns, welcomed the news but said it came too late. He said his father should have lived another 10 or 20 years.

“But he didn't. I still miss him every day,” Potter said.

The redress scheme will include access to mental health and medical support, as well as non-financial compensation, such as case management and counselling.

Emergency Services Minister Jaclyn Symes said it would take 12 to 13 weeks for redress to be provided after an application, and the process was designed to be simple and efficient, so affected people did not have to re-traumatise themselves retelling their stories.

“This scheme is really about listening to people, believing people and responding as a government and providing support ongoing for those that have been impacted,” Symes said.

Potter is cautiously optimistic. He hopes the scheme will provide support and assistance to those who need it most, such as his mother.

“It is good. We're very happy,” Potter said. “That's the key message out of this, they've acknowledged us... There is this thing in the back of my mind, that this is long overdue.”

Potter said his father – who tried to raise his concerns through normal channels before blowing the whistle on the Country Fire Authority – would be happy to see the government recognise the wrongs of the past. He said there was still work to do.

Mick Tisbury, Fire Rescue Victoria's acting deputy commissioner, did not realise he needed closure until he learnt this week the redress scheme had been finalised.

“When it was finalised a couple of days ago, I was driving home [and I] got a bit misty eyed. I never actually understood 'closure', it wasn't until I was driving home, and just for me personally, I actually get it now,” Tisbury said. “I just felt this 12-year burden lifted off my shoulders.”

He said that personally the money was not important. Affected people needed the acknowledgement and mental health support, which he said he would access himself after realising his wounds had not fully healed.

“I'm not ashamed to say that. I'll access that, that will be available to everybody who registers on this redress scheme and that's really, really important.”

Country Fire Authority chief officer Jason Heffernan directly apologised to all affected firefighters, their families, and residents.

“Shortly after the parliamentary inquiry into the Fiskville inquiry, CFA issued a very public apology. Today I stand before you to extend and reiterate that public apology. We are so deeply sorry to our members past and present,” he said.

## Climate Change! – U.K. experiences “wild fires”

This article is from the July 22 issue of The Age Digital Edition. By Laura Chung

When West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service Deputy Chief Fire Officer Dave Walton got home, he and his partner both asked, “What the hell just happened?”

The pair had been responding to the fires and searing temperatures higher than 40 degrees that swept Britain this week.

Walton said Wednesday had been a game changer – it highlighted the challenges the country’s firefighters will face as climate change continues to cause more intense and frequent extreme weather.

Former NSW Fire and Rescue commissioner Greg Mullins has been to the UK four times in the past 15 years, providing advice to fire chiefs about managing and responding to fires.

He said fires in London highlighted the need for greater climate adaptation.

“The UK has no history of [wild fires] at all. Their systems and processes are built for urban fires, their uniforms are too hot, their trucks don’t carry much water,” he said.

“They have fundamental organisational issues they have to deal with. [English fire authorities] have been looking at [the risks] for decades; they knew it was coming up on them like a freight train. They are not used to fast-moving fires; they are used to static fires in factories or buildings.”

While the UK could learn from Australia about fighting fires, the difference in landscapes posed a challenge, he said.

“I think this is another wake-up call for everyone. We need to start adapting and take urgent action on reducing emissions.”

As blazes continue to sweep across Europe, Australian firefighters could be deployed if the call for help comes from overseas. No formal request had been made by publication deadline.

The UK has emerged from a week of extreme heat and fires in which airport runways melted, 15 major blazes swept the country and a dozen firefighters were injured.

The hottest temperature on record, 40.3 degrees, was reached in eastern England on Tuesday. By lunchtime, 29 locations in the UK had hit similar temperatures.

The heat was expected to ease for the remainder of the week, with a forecast top of 26 degrees in London yesterday.

Meanwhile, firefighters in Greece struggled to contain new fires around Athens, and countries in southern Europe took stock of damage caused by blazes. Cooler weather gave firefighters in Spain and Portugal some respite, but temperatures were forecast to rise back to 40 degrees in coming days.

**ATTENTION: All Retired Firefighters MFB, CFA, FRV**

**From: Peter Shanahan**

**No. 13 Luncheon is on again this year, 2022**

**Date: 13th of December**

**Sunbury Football Sports Ground.**

**For information contact: Peter Shanahan - 0417383328**

## **Ahhhh! Aging Quotes by Interesting People**

**“To get back to my youth, I would do anything in the world, except exercise, get up early or be respectable” – Oscar Wilde**

**“The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for” – Will Rogers**

**“We must recognize that, as we grow older, we become like old cars. More and more repairs and replacements are necessary” – C. S. Lewis**

**“Old age comes at a bad time” – San Banducci**

**Inside every older person, is a younger person wondering what happened” – Jenny Burn**

**“Old age is like a plane flying through a storm. Once you are on board, there is nothing you can do about it”  
Golda Meir**

**“I’m so old, that my blood type is discontinued” – Bill Dane**

**“The older I get, the more clearly I remember things that never happened” – Mark Twain**

**“Wisdom doesn’t necessarily come with age. Sometimes, age just shows up all by itself” – Tom Wilson**

**“Always be nice to your children, because, they are the ones who will choose your retirement home”  
Phyllis Diller**

**“I’m at an age where my back goes out more than I do” – Phyllis Diller**

**“Don’t let aging get you down. It’s too hard to get back up again” – John Wagner**

**“First you forget names, then you forget faces, then you forget to pull your zipper up, then you forget to pull your zipper down” – Leo Rosenberg**

**Old age is when you’re sitting at home on a Saturday night and the phone rings and you hope it’s not for you”  
Ogden Nash**

**“It’s important to have a twinkle in your wrinkle” – Unknown**

**“At my age, flowers scare me” - George Burns**

**“I don’t feel old. I don’t feel anything until noon. Then it’s time for my nap” – Bob Hope**

**“At my age, getting lucky means walking into a room and remembering what I came in for” – Unknown**

**“At 70, everyone has the face they deserve” – George Orwell**

**“All men are the same age” – Dorothy Parker**

**“By the time you are 80 years old, you’ve learned everything. You only have to remember it” George Burns**

**“Old age isn’t so bad when you consider the alternative” – Maurice Chevalier**

**“The older I get, the better I used to be” – Lee Travino**



# U.F.U Christmas Luncheon

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2022 at 11.30am  
to 4.00pm at the Sofitel Hotel  
25 Collins Street Melbourne  
RSVP by 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2022

If any member did not get their invite or has  
any questions about the luncheon contact  
Eileen Rudd 0414 754484  
Email: [erudd58@hotmail.com](mailto:erudd58@hotmail.com)

## *Geelong Firey's Muster*

*C.F.A. – M.F.B. – VIVA - AVALON  
Serving & Retired – Staff & Volunteers  
Smorgasbord Lunch  
On the 4th Tuesday of March & October  
@ 1130 hrs*

*GATEWAY HOTEL  
218-230 Princess Highway – CORIO  
Members, Wives, Partners,  
Family & Friends*

*Contact:  
Peter Lang 5275 6039  
To receive Mail out notification*



### **MEMBERS INTERESTED IN RECEIVING THEIR "WATER OFF" VIA EMAIL.**

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

[retiredfirenews@gmail.com](mailto:retiredfirenews@gmail.com)

### **Peer support is available to Retired Firefighters and Associated Members**

#### **FRV**

Employee Assistance Coordinator  
Irina Tchernitskaia – PH: 0407 665 174  
Email:- [irina.tchernitskaia@frv.vic.gov.au](mailto:irina.tchernitskaia@frv.vic.gov.au)

#### **Peer Coordinators**

Chloe Henderson PH: 0417 538 289

Scott Darcy PH: 0429 771 849

Email:- [sdarcy@frv.vic.gov.au](mailto:sdarcy@frv.vic.gov.au)

#### **Retirees**

John Howe PH: 9729 0984

#### **CFA**

Career Peer Coordinator Trent Egan  
PH: 0448 071 299

Email:- [Careerpeercoordinator@frv.vic.gov.au](mailto:Careerpeercoordinator@frv.vic.gov.au)

## **Downsizing Can Pose Some Dilemmas and Get an Early Start on Your Packing**

A RETIREMENT village can be a great way to downsize, meet new people and feel more supported. But where do you start when downsizing? If family or friends are helping you move, you have the final decision on whether you keep or get rid of your possessions. The situation can be even more daunting for people living on their own, for those who are physically challenged or those whose families are too far away to help.

So, where do you start? If you're on the downsizing journey, always take one step at a time. Firstly, it's important to know how much space you will have in your new home to give you an idea about how many personal possessions you can take. Most people will have gathered a lifetime's worth of well-loved belongings, so it can be difficult and emotional, to decide what to keep and what to let go of. It's wise to take an inventory of all your belongings before asking yourself what you would take with you in the event of an emergency. This will help you take stock of what is important to you, what you can live without and the things you can replace. If you are moving into a house or unit, take furniture that is necessary and doesn't clutter your space. Your new home should be comfortable and homely, but not full of your life's possessions.

Taking the time to properly plan your move will help you achieve everything in the ideal time frame and reduce costs and stress. Try not to rush yourself when organising the move. Many older people struggle moving from their home where they have lived for 20-40 years and more. Give yourself time to adjust and mentally prepare for the transition into your new life. Don't forget to re-direct mail and disconnect utilities.

Remember the physical aspects of packing and transporting your belongings and consider if you need help moving, such as unpacking, ensuring furniture is in position, installing electronic devices and hanging pictures. You may also want to sell of extra furniture.

### **SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER!**

**Ask your children to come and remove the things they have left in "storage" at your house.**

**Call for an expert opinion – call an auction house to advise what's saleable at auction**

**Tackle one room at a time. A good starting point is the linen cupboard. Keep a few special pieces and donate the surplus – even the shabby ones are often welcomed by animal rescue shelters.**

**Books seem to accumulate really quickly. Consider which books you really need to take with you and donate the rest.**

**The wardrobe: It's time to get ruthless. If you haven't worn something in more than a year, if it doesn't fit, or if it's a relic from the 70's or 80's pack them up and donate them to charity.**

**Finally; you don't have to do it alone!**



## WINTER 2022 - NEWSLETTER

Hello everyone,

We hope you are all keeping warm and toasty during winter. The past seven months have been busy at Bells By The Beach. Most weeks we've had guests arriving and departing 'back to back'. You may have noticed our website calendar has been booked up for months. This enabled us to welcome many families and also to enjoy a couple of holidays this year.

We are feeling refreshed, rejuvenated and ready to welcome 10 families and their dogs between now and the end of August.

We've loved our 'holiday job' for more than 17 years, welcoming you all and your gorgeous fur kids. But, as the saying goes, all good things must eventually come to an end.

With this in mind, we would like to retire to a warmer climate in 2023. Towards the end of 2022, Bells By The Beach Holiday House may be listed for sale. We hope to find a buyer to continue the business as a dog-friendly holiday rental. Please contact us if you know anyone who would like to take on this project.

Because it's unknown how long this process will take, we'll continue to accept bookings, just check the calendar for availability. It is likely we'll have open for inspections - any guests who may be affected will be notified of the day and time (usually Saturday or Sunday) as soon as we know.

The latter part of 2022 is gearing up to be busy and exciting for us. Thank you to everyone for supporting us over the years, we all look forward to warmer weather at the start of spring.

For more details about your bookings, or the sale of the property, please contact us on 0403 221 737 anytime.

Kindest regards, Jan & Linley Bell



24 Roditis Drive, Ocean Grove, 3226 M: 0403 221 737 / 03 5255 3839  
ABN: 48 244 766 035

[www.bellsbythebeach.com.au](http://www.bellsbythebeach.com.au) e: [bellsbythebeach@bigpond.com](mailto:bellsbythebeach@bigpond.com)

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