

# "WATER OFF"

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



Nov 2023 Vol 28 No 4  
Inc/No: A16839F

## RFA General Meeting Old Eastern Hill

Fire Station

Wed 15th November 2023  
at 10:30am

### Index

- 2 General Meeting
- 3 President's & Secretary/Treasurer's Report
- 4 Pictures of last RFA meeting
- 6 Editorial
- 7 Old fires—who are they?
- 8 Do you remember this job?
- 10 e-Bike fires
- 11 Firey baker
- 12 Autonomous vehicles
- 15 Fire Ops 101



A photo of Michael Thornton age 3 at Sandringham Fire Station (36). Michael is the son of passed Senior Fireman Bruce Thornton and the Grandson of Frank Thornton who was a PP fireman stationed at Sandringham during world War 2

# “ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING”

**Old Eastern Hill Fire Station. Cnr. Gisborne & Victoria Pde  
Wed 15th November 2023 at 10:30am.**

**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  
PO Box 93  
Numurkah 3636  
Phone 0419 778 161  
or email at [rfavic1@gmail.com](mailto:rfavic1@gmail.com)

**Non financial Members**  
Contact Phil Cleary if you have not paid your annual dues or are not receiving Water Off.

## **OFFICE BEARERS**

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

**General Committee:**

Col Harris  
Len Manning  
Mike McCumisky  
Ian Geddes  
Kevin Hede

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

## **Valē**

Patrick Finly, Robert Horne, Bernard Lionel Joseph O'Hehir, John Stone, Trevor Gardner,	Ray Shipperlee, Thomas Driscoll Peter Williams, Maurice Foster, Les Oliver, Edward Harir.
--	--

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

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

Stan Cameron, Geff Cuzac, Jack Etherington *Ian Hookey, Archie McLachlan,	Bob Burrows, Gary Spicer, John Williams, Len Lette Kevin Tate
---	---

**\*\*The photo on last issue of Water Off was the Pelcarno Brothers on the flat roof of Eastern Hill FS.  
- Thanks John Berry.**

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

**Diary Dates**  
**“GENERAL MEETING”**  
**Old Eastern Hill Fire Station.**  
**Cnr. Gisborne & Victoria Pde**  
**Wed 15th November 2023 at 10:30am.**  
**NOTE: FOR CATERING PURPOSES PHONE PHIL CLEARY IF YOU ARE ATTENDING MEETING.**  
**\*U.F.U. Christmas Luncheon 11th November Sofitel Collins St. Melbourne. 11:30am.**

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

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Dear fellow RFA members,

I always try to look at things on the bright side, but lately, the world has gone mad! Fires and floods seem an everyday event somewhere. People hurting innocent victims and our Government doesn't seem to know what to do about it or it doesn't care. I don't read the paper any more. I just buy it for the crossword and I don't tune in the news on TV at all now and to make things worse **Collingwood won the Grand final!**

That's enough of me whinging. I hope all's well with you, your family and friends and your team won the grand final. Hah! Hah! Our next meeting is again being held at the Fire Services Museum. It's a great venue which is much appreciated by your committee, for it now gives us a home again, so come along and enjoy some talk and have a look around. The year is coming to a close too quickly but we can look forward catching up with family and friends again. I hope to see you soon! Good luck and good health to all. (GO TIGERS!!)

**Alex Shepherd - President**

## SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT



Hi all,

Well we are coming up to the last meeting of the year ,what a year it has been trying to find a permanent place to have our meetings, well I think the Museum is the right place, we had a ball that day and of coarse thanks to the museum staff for the work they did for setting it up for the meeting.

At the November meeting it will be at the museum again on Wednesday 15th of November at 10.30 am and we are having a BBQ lunch so we need to know numbers for catering so please let us know if you are coming?

Most of you would have received a RFA invoice by now, if you didn't your dues are up to date, this will be a yearly thing which makes it easier for members to pay there yearly dues, we can't set up a table at the UFU function any more because the Hotel Sofitel doesn't allow it.

I would like to thank all members who paid their dues under the new system it was great, if you didn't get a bill you must be up to date, once again thanks.

I would like to wish all members and there family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New year for 2024.

**Phil Cleary**

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



Some of our members at last meeting Eastern Hill



Ron Barker OAM



Bruce Petrie



Mike McCumisky



Ray Curtis



Old Eastern Hill Fire Station—Our November Meeting Place.

## Editorial And other conversations

We have had the VOICE vote! Did the world change? Has it divided the nation? What will be the outcome of the No or Yes vote? Here you are in November and I'm writing this a week before the vote, as I'll be in Sydney for 10 days and the printer must receive "Water Off" before I head there soon to look after a dog.

November is a time for reflection, especially the 11<sup>th</sup> of November. A day we all should remember. I've just read a book about Vivian Bullwinkel. This brave young nurse, was one of many who were shot, wounded and starved by the Japanese during World War 2. It was the Japanese invasion of Singapore. Nurse Bullwinkel was in a boat, which was capsized by the Japanese Airforce in 16<sup>th</sup> Feb 1942. She along with other nurses were taken to many internment camps in Malaysia and Sumatra. Those camps were brutal! They were starved, tied to stakes sitting in the sun for hours, deprived of medicines and yet, somehow, many survived.

### **I'll share a passage or two of their story:**

Weak and unable to walk, it was to be several weeks before Vivian was able to resume her duties at the compound hospital. On the day that she was due at the hospital, Vivian took herself off for a bath in the local stream. Ignoring the ogling guards, she completed her ablutions and made her way back to the hut where she took a mirror and began combing her hair. All of the hair on the left side of her head came away with the comb. Impassively she stared at the baldness in the mirror and thought "if it had happened before the war, she would have cried hysterically but now, who cares?" It was a statement of abject misery, of her declining health and fading hope of ever being rescued from a sea of jungle. She had come to the end of her endurance and had accepted the fact that they would all die in Belalau, because that was the way the Japanese wanted it.

**Sister Win Davis from NSW died one week after her 30<sup>th</sup> birthday. Sister Dorothy Freeman from Victoria died from the effects of beriberi, malaria and malnutrition. She was 32 years old. Sister pearl Mittelheuser from Qld, slipped away covered in an old rice sack, used to keep her warm from the malarial chills that racked her body. She was 41 years old. Of the 65 Australian Army Sisters, who left Singapore, there were only 24 alive and several more were admitted to hospital that month. Note: Vivian Bullwinkel was one of 21 nurses who were lined up on a beach, forced to walk into the water and were all shot by Japanese guards. Vivian was shot and wounded and left for dead along with the others, yet miraculously survived and after many weeks of hiding and somehow surviving, she along with an English soldier, surrendered to a Japanese patrol and were taken into a barbed wire camp, which was moved 4-5 times during her internment. Her mother in Melbourne, did not hear from Vivian for 3 years. \*\*A statue of Vivian Bullwinkel was installed and celebrated at the Canberra War Memorial earlier this year.**

**\*\* Our esteemed MFB colleague Jim Kerr – SSO was a Thai-Burma railway survivor (RIP Jim).**



Harold Martin stands in the path of the Thai-Burma railway he was forced to create as a prisoner of war.



Nurse Vivian Bullwinkel



Who knows these fire fellows from this old photo? (Tip: it's in Western District)

## U.F.U. CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON



**SOFITEL**



**COLLINS STREET MELBOURNE**

**11TH NOVEMBER, 2023**

**IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED YOUR INVITATION  
TO ATTEND THE FUNCTION AND YOU ARE  
NOT ATTENDING PLEASE LET EILEEN RUDD  
KNOW VIA THE U.F.U. OFFICE Ph: 9419 8811.**

## DO YOU REMEMBER?

At 2245 hours on Tuesday 11 December 1979 a fire occurred in Crude Distillation Unit No.3 at the Shell Refinery - Corio. Replacement value of CDU/3 was \$30m+ and the entire structure had to be demolished and rebuilt. It was responsible for 40% of the refinery production and provided 15% of Victoria's petrol usage.

The cause of the fire resulted from bearing failure in a pump which in turn caused the drive shaft from the electric motor to shear off, taking the shaft where it entered the pump, which was the opposite end to the pump inlet.

The hole in the pump casing allowed oil to discharge at 200 kpa at a temperature of 340 degrees

centigrade. The ignition of the discharging oil was either from the friction of the metal drive shaft contacting other objects during the pump and shaft failure or from the auto ignition of the discharging oil which was above auto ignition temperature.

The discharging oil caused the total and immediate involvement of CDU/3, preventing Shell Operators from isolating the supply of fuel entering the unit. The severity of the fire caused the immediate evacuation of the area.

To achieve product isolation to the unit, it was necessary for Shell Fitters to insert diversions and blocking spades, this was carried out under water spray protection whilst the fire fight was being carried out.

Brief description of the fire on arrival was;

- \* CDU/3 was totally involved
- \* flame height was approximately 100 metres
- \* during the initial fire attack there were 14 major explosions each sending a fire ball over 100+ metres upwards finishing with a mushroom effect

The responding Firefighters from the Shell Fire Station and the Country Fire Authority were faced with a fire of major proportions.

The initial fire attack commenced on the east and southern sides to prevent the fire from entering the adjacent hydrogen platform.

*Had this occurred the explosive domino effect could have involved the near by Terminals Compound where the largest spheres of vinyl chloride in the southern hemisphere were located and the Corio Distillery Bond Store that was at total*



*capacity with whiskey under bond storage. Had the explosive domino effect occurred, the potential damage and life hazard to the northern suburbs of Geelong could have been catastrophic.*

The second fire attack was launched on the northern side to prevent involvement of the adjacent Crude Distillation Unit, with the aim of encircling the fire around the western side where adjacent product tanks were exposed.

- Statistically the following applied;
- \*involved were 3 Shell appliances and 3 Country Fire Authority appliances
  - \*15 wheeled monitors and 50 hand held branches were deployed
  - \*10,000 litres of foam concentrate was used
  - \*5,000 metres of hose was laid
  - \*Firefighting manpower was obtained from Shell with 150 employees and the Country Fire Authority had 60 Firefighters on site.

At approximately 2345 hours there was developing a slight appreciable fire reduction, this was due to the burn down of the stored fuel within CDU/3 ( initially there was some 3,000 tons of product on site at CDU/3 ) and the gradual isolation of CDU/3 by Shell Fitters thus preventing incoming fuel.

At 0345 hours, some five (5) hours after fire commencement, the final knock down was achieved, bringing to a close what was later regarded as the largest refinery fire to have ever occurred in Australia.

**Peter Lang**



# THE SPECTACULAR INVICTA MILLS FIRE

&

## THE EVENTFUL HOUR'S LEADING UP TO IT

**It was Friday 26<sup>th</sup>. June 1987 and what a day it was!!**

*Retired D.O. Les Gray continues his series on "A Day in the Life of a Firefighter" A perspective of fires and incidents that don't appear on the official "clinical" reports.*

You will note in the latter half of the story covering the Invicta Mills Fire showed up some shortcomings in our fire-fighting procedures, although being a well trained, managed service in some instances this fire left a lot to be desired. As I write this I will deal with the short comings as I go. It shows up how loyal and dedicated fire fighters and our back up people are.

Mr. Don Mc Intyre and his crew from the workshops staff, no doubt put themselves at risk to keep Pumpers from running out of petrol during the fire.

On the day of the fire there apparently were manpower problems at No. 1 Station, a lack of trained Main Control unit personnel, however the duration of this fire and bringing it under control the brigade personnel concerned did a magnificent job under very trying circumstances.

It was evident from the beginning that there was an acute shortage of water for fire fighting.

After the fire many decisions were made by our Executive Officers and changes to existing procedures were made accordingly.

It began at 0800 hours when we mustered, the week before I had arranged to inspect 3 or 4 stations in the district on this day, mainly to meet Officers and men to keep them up to date on recent happenings, and discuss and sort out a few minor problems that had cropped up. I had also to visit I.C.I.'s complex, Hyde Street, Yarraville and arrange a combined drill for the following week with their Fire Officer. I needed a driver/orderly for that day, if there was a



*Above: Aerial appliances played a large role in bringing the blaze under control.*

Photo Courtesy MFB archives

spare man in the district. Luckily we did have a spare one available at No. 40 Stn. Laverton. SO1 Bob Undy arranged for F/m. Trevor Peters to standby and dismiss at the District Station. Trevor at this stage did not know that he would be driving me for the day, when he was told, he said it would be different for a change and was looking forward to meeting some of his contemporaries in our travels around the district. At this time we did not know what was in store for us. Trevor arrived at No.44 Stn. at about 0845 hours and after a quick cup of tea, with our turn out gear, correspondence etc. loaded aboard the car we headed to I.C.I., Hyde Street, where I discussed and arranged with their Fire Officer a combined district drill for the first day shift the following week.

Continued next edition Feb 2024

### **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**

### **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**

## E-bike Fire in Hostel in Sydney



Dramatic footage has emerged of the moment two backpackers were caught in a fireball when a lithium-ion battery exploded in a hostel in inner-Sydney. The fire, shortly after 9am on Wednesday, is believed to have been sparked by a faulty e-bike battery left on charge at the Darlinghurst hostel. Security footage from a hallway shows one of the French backpackers standing at the doorway and talking to his friend, who was still inside the room. The device suddenly explodes into flames, sending both men fleeing. They went to the nearby Kings Cross Police Station to seek assistance.

Fire and Rescue sent six trucks and 22 firefighters to the two-storey Mad Monkey Downtown Backpackers in Darlinghurst Road. Another 70 people were evacuated from the building, while surrounding streets were closed to allow firefighters to douse the blaze.

“All of a sudden smoke started to get into the room. It was, like, a really stinky smell, really bad smell,” one hostel guest who fled the fire said. Another said he had raced for the exit with just his passport and laptop.

Crews managed to contain damage to the one unit before extinguishing the fire a short time later. One of the men, aged in his 20s, sustained minor burns to his leg. He was taken to St Vincent’s Hospital for further treatment. Experts from FRNSW’s fire investigation and research unit are working with NSW Police to investigate the circumstances surrounding the incident. However, a faulty lithium-ion battery is believed to be the cause.

### **Why do lithium-ion batteries catch fire?**

Lithium-ion batteries are highly energy-dense and contain electrolytes that are highly flammable. There are several situations that can lead to lithium-ion batteries catching fire, including:

- Overcharging or use of non-compliant charging equipment
- Overheating or exposure to heat or extreme temperatures
- Physical abuse (e.g. dropping, crushing, piercing, and/or vibrations)
- Short-circuiting, battery cell malfunctions or system faults
- Defects or contamination introduced during manufacture

When lithium-ion batteries fail they can undergo thermal runaway. This involves violent bursting of one or multiple battery cells, hissing and release of toxic, flammable and explosive gases, and an intense, self-sustaining fire that can be difficult to extinguish.

### **How to identify a lithium-ion battery**

Lithium-ion batteries (LiB) come in various formats (i.e. cylindrical, flat, rectangular, pouch, and device specific) and can be difficult to identify as there is currently no requirement or standard for labelling or marking. Most Lithium-ion batteries will have some form of printing on them which contains either the words “lithium ion”, “Li-ion”, “Li-po”, “Lithium-polymer”, or some other variation of “Li” to denote the chemistry. If the battery is rechargeable and has “Li” or “Lithium” printed on it, you can safely assume that it is a lithium-ion battery.

Non-rechargeable or disposable lithium batteries, or lithium metal batteries should also be treated with caution as they can expel molten flammable metal and emit toxic gasses during a fire. Small fires involving single use, disposable lithium batteries should be treated as a Lithium-ion battery fire (see, what should I do if my device or battery is smoking or on fire?). Where large amounts of lithium metal batteries are used or stored, specialist Class D dry powder extinguishers may be required.

## **“FIREY BAKER”**

By: Carolyn Webb 2023 The Age

It's great to have nice workmates, but a team of **firefighters in Melbourne's north** have struck gold, at least when it comes to morning tea break.

Leading firefighter Mark Proctor is a former baker, and now regularly serves his mouth watering home-made cakes at the Fire Rescue Victoria station at Preston in Melbourne's north.

In between attending false fire alarms, burning houses and car accidents, Proctor plates up everything from Battenberg cakes to danishes and Swiss rolls. On Friday, it was a sponge with jam, cream and fresh strawberries.

Fireys need feeding, but they also give Proctor valuable feedback.

He is competing in eight categories in this year's Melbourne Royal Show cookery competition, ranging from sponge to profiterole , choux bun and shortbread sections.

The show starts on Thursday, but cooking entries were submitted on Saturday.

The results will be posted on the show's website on Wednesday and selected entries will be displayed at the Makers Pavilion during the show. A Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria spokesperson said this year there have been more than 3800 entries in arts, craft and cookery competitions, including 554 entries in cooking categories and 388 in preserves.

Proctor's workmate Matt Tucker says many firefighters can cook, but Proctor is "one of the best". He even declares that Proctor's jam doughnuts are better than those sold at nearby Preston Market.

Another Preston firefighter "Lachie Somers", is a fan of the cakes, but said: "I guess I've got to be careful that I don't overeat."

This is Proctor's third year competing in the Melbourne Royal Show: in his first year, a social club he formed, the Preston Pudding Club, won the Swiss roll section.

But disaster hit Proctor just before baking in four categories for last year's Show: his home oven blew up. "I'd spent five or six weeks practising and \$500 worth of ingredients," Proctor said.

"There was nothing I could do; that was the end of it."

Proctor has been practising for months for the 2023 show, last week alone using seven dozen eggs.

Baking cakes is now a fun hobby for Proctor, who trained as a baker in his UK home town of Blackpool and worked as chef in Germany, Greece and the Falkland Islands.

After migrating to Australia in 2001, he worked at "Laurent" bakery in the Melbourne suburb of Clayton and later cooked patient meals at Western General Hospital.

He then switched to maintenance and cleaning work for the Department of Housing.

Eight years ago, when visiting the Melbourne Royal Show, Proctor got chatting to firefighters at a fire brigade (now Fire Rescue Victoria) stall.

Helping people appealed to him, and he successfully applied to join, at age 52.

## **Autonomous cars cause gridlock in yet another US city**



The roll-out of so-called ‘robo-taxis’ in the US has stumbled at another hurdle, after one of the autonomous cars became trapped in an intersection, causing a traffic jam which could have been easily avoided if a human driver was behind its steering wheel.

For the second time in as many months, a group of autonomous cars have caused a traffic jam on the streets of a US city, with almost two dozen creating gridlock in Austin, Texas over the weekend. As reported by Electrek, the autonomous cars – operated by ‘robotaxi’ company Cruise, which is owned by car giant General Motors – were driving near Austin’s University of Texas campus on Saturday night when one of the vehicles became stuck in an intersection.

With one car already in the intersection and unable to navigate itself out, a queue of more autonomous robo-taxis soon began to form behind it, leading to a traffic jam – a video of which was later uploaded to social media platform Reddit.

A spokesperson for Cruise told Electrek the traffic jam was caused by an unexpected detour which led to more cars than expected on a route they wouldn’t usually take, with its programmers unable to reroute the robo-taxis fast enough.

“We prioritise safety in everything we do. It was a crowded, challenging environment; and, there was no pedestrian, vehicle or property damage,” a Cruise statement to Electrek said. “We fully recognize the inconvenience, and we’ve taken proactive measures to relieve the crowding in the area.”

The Austin incident comes just one month after almost a dozen Cruise autonomous cars caused a similar traffic jam in San Francisco, which has become the hub of robo-taxi development on public roads.

A group of a dozen Cruise robo-taxis reportedly lost connectivity due to a music festival which was occurring more than six kilometres away.

Just a handful of weeks later, Cruise was told to halve the number of autonomous cars it operates in California by the state’s road regulators after multiple incidents – resulting in no more than 50 of its robo-taxis being on the roads during the day and a maximum of 150 at night.

Last month, the California Public Utilities Commission – the state’s regulatory agency for privately owned public utilities – voted in favour of allowing Cruise and fellow ‘robotaxi’ operator Waymo to operate their autonomous cars with greater frequency.

The new rules – which were reportedly passed three votes to one – allow Cruise and Waymo autonomous vehicles to operate for 24 hours per day, seven days a week in San Francisco and part of the nearby San Mateo County.

**I Owe My Mother**

1. My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE .  
'If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning.'
2. My mother taught me RELIGION.  
'You better pray that will come out of the carpet.'
3. My mother taught me about TIME TRAVEL .  
'If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!'
4. My mother taught me LOGIC.  
' Because I said so, that's why.'
5. My mother taught me MORE LOGIC.  
'If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me.'
6. My mother taught me FORESIGHT.  
'Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident.'
7. My mother taught me IRONY.  
'Keep crying, and I'll give you something to cry about.'
8. My mother taught me about the science of OSMOSIS.  
'Shut your mouth and eat your supper.'
9. My mother taught me about CONTORTIONISM.  
'Will you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!'
10. My mother taught me about STAMINA.  
'You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone.'
11. My mother taught me about WEATHER.  
'This room of yours looks as if a tornado went through it.'
12. My mother taught me about HYPOCRISY.  
'If I told you once, I've told you a million times. Don't exaggerate!'
13. My mother taught me the CIRCLE OF LIFE.  
'I brought you into this world, and I can take you out.'
14. My mother taught me about BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION.  
'Stop acting like your father!'
15. My mother taught me about ENVY.  
'There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do.'
16. My mother taught me about ANTICIPATION.  
'Just wait until we get home.'
17. My mother taught me about RECEIVING.  
'You are going to get it when you get home!'
18. My mother taught me MEDICAL SCIENCE.  
'If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they are going to get stuck that way.'
19. My mother taught me ESP.  
'Put your sweater on; don't you think I know when you are cold?'
20. My mother taught me HUMOR.  
'When that lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me.'
21. My mother taught me HOW TO BECOME AN ADULT.  
'If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up.'
22. My mother taught me GENETICS.  
'You're just like your father.'
23. My mother taught me about my ROOTS.  
'Shut that door behind you. Do you think you were born in a barn?'
24. My mother taught me WISDOM.  
'When you get to be my age, you'll understand.'

## Wonderful old sayings by famous people

- "To get back to my youth I would do anything in the world, except exercise, get up early." - Oscar Wilde
- "The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for." - Will Rogers
- "Old age comes at a bad time." – San Banducci “
- "Inside every older person is a younger person wondering what happened." - Jennifer Yane
- "Old age is like a plane flying through a storm. Once you are aboard 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 don't plan to grow old gracefully. I plan to have face-lifts until my ears meet." - Rita Rudner
- "I'm at that age where my back goes out more than I do." - Phyllis Diller
- "Nice to be here? At my age it's nice to be anywhere." – George Burns
- "Don't let aging get you down. It's too hard to get back up." - John Wagner
- "First you forget names, faces, then you forget to pull your zipper up, then you forget to pull your zipper down." - Leo Rosenberg
- “Aging seems to be the only available way to live a long life.” - Kitty O'Neill Collins
- “Old people shouldn't eat health foods. They need all the preservatives they can get.” – Robert Orben
- "Middle age is when you're sitting at home on a Saturday night and the telephone rings and you hope it isn't for you." - Ogden Nash
- "It's important to have a twinkle in your wrinkle." – Unknown
- "At my age, flowers scare me." - George Burns
- "Nobody expects to trust his body much after the age of fifty." - Alexander Hamilton
- "At fifty, everyone has the face he deserves." - George Orwell
- "The important thing to remember is that I'm probably going to forget." – Unknown
- "As you get older three things happen. The first is your memory goes, and I can't remember the other two."
- “Birthdays are good for you. Statistics show that the people who have the most live the longest.” - Larry Lorenzon
- “The older I get, the better I used to be.” – Lee Trevino
- "You know you're getting old when you can pinch an inch on your forehead." - John Mendoza
- "I was thinking about how people seem to read the bible a lot more as they get older, and then it dawned on me—they're cramming for their final exam."- George Carlin
- "I don't feel old. I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap." - Bob Hope
- "I'm 59 and people call me middle-aged. How many 118-year-old men do you know?"- Barry Cryer
- "All men are the same age." - Dorothy Parker
- "I don't do alcohol anymore—I get the same effect just standing up fast." – Anonymous
- “By the time you're 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
- "Getting older. I used to be able to run a 4-minute mile, bench press 380 pounds, and tell the truth." - Conan O'Brien
- "I have reached an age when, if someone tells me to wear socks, I don't have to." - Albert Einstein
- "Grandchildren don't make a man feel old, it's the knowledge that he's married to a grandmother that does." - Collie
- "You know you are getting old when everything hurts, and what doesn't hurt doesn't work." - Hy Gardner
- "When your friends begin to flatter you on how young you look, it's a sure sign you're getting old." - Mark Twain
- "You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks." - Joel Plaskett
- "There's one advantage to being 102, there's no peer pressure." - Dennis Wolfberg
- "I've never known a person who lives to be 110 who is remarkable for anything else." —Josh Billings
- "At my age 'getting lucky' means walking into a room and remembering what I came in for." – Unknown
- "Old age is when you resent the swimsuit issue of Sports Illustrated because there are fewer articles to read." – G.B.
- "The idea is to die young as late as possible." - Ashley Montagu
- “You know you're getting old when you stoop to tie your shoelaces and wonder what else you could do while you're down there.” - George Burns
- "People ask me what I'd most appreciate getting for my eighty-seventh birthday. I tell them, a paternity suit." – G.B.
- "Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician." - Anonymous

## Fire Ops 101



Fire Ops 101 immerses participants in the time critical, highly technical and skilled work of an FRV firefighter.

Fire Ops 101 gives participants a taste of what FRV firefighters do daily and helps attendees understand the challenges firefighters face in combating incidents. It highlights the importance of staffing, training, equipment, response times, as well as the physical and mental strength that firefighters must possess.

This experience allows participants to wear protective firefighter clothing and experience what FRV firefighters do to keep communities and property safe.

All participants will be supplied with a preparation package prior to the scheduled day. The preparation package includes information on what to expect and items to bring on the day.

The program is safe and participants are guided by an experienced firefighter every step of the way. They are not expected to do anything they are not comfortable with.

Fire Ops 101 is an invite-only program designed for politicians, senior public officials, business leaders and FRV stakeholders to learn what it's like to be a firefighter and better understand the resources, equipment and training we need to keep communities safe. For enquiries email [fireops101@frv.vic.gov.au](mailto:fireops101@frv.vic.gov.au)

Due to the physical nature of the program, participants should eat a balanced breakfast and drink plenty of water prior to arriving. They should turn up in casual and comfortable attire. Shower facilities and lunch are all provided.



### 10 May 2023

Graduates include Tottie Goldsmith OAM, Susie McLean, Sue Stanley OAM, Wendy Lovell MP, Jack Gatto, Mike Brady, Commissioner Nicholas Wilson, David Southwick MP and Nick McCallum.



### 23 May 2023

Graduates include Rebecca Maddern, Paul Marsh, Melanie Davis, Dr Sarah Mansfield MP, Margaret Zita OAM, Kate Fitzgerald, Jeff Bourman MP and James Nixon.

---

**PRINT POST No. 100002647**

**RFA Newsletter**  
If undelivered return to;  
**The Secretary**  
Phil Cleary  
RFAV Secretary  
PO Box 93  
Numurkah 3636

**SURFACE  
MAIL**

**Postage  
Paid  
Australia**

