



July 2013

Newsletter

Association of Retired Inspectors of Schools and Senior Educational Administrators

Please note that receipts from Stewart House for donations made by individual ARISSEA members have been posted via Australia Post this afternoon, 27/6/13.

If you wish to attend the next ARISSEA luncheon,
please print this first page,
complete the Booking slip,
include a cheque for your payment and
post to Jack Harrison.

Booking slip

2nd August 2013 Meeting

Complete and return with your cheque by 11th July to
J. Harrison, 2 Amalfi Place, Longueville NSW 2066 (phone 9427 5399)

Here is my payment of \$_____ (at \$40.00 per head)

for _____ and me to attend the ARISSEA luncheon
at 11.30am for 12.30pm at the Bowlers' Club, 95 York Street, Sydney on Friday 2nd August.

Please provide _____ vegetarian meal(s).

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone No. _____

* Print your surname here. _____

Make your cheque payable to the *Association of Retired Inspectors of Schools* and cross it 'Not negotiable'.

Money cannot be refunded for cancellations made after 18th July.



July 2013

Newsletter

Association of Retired Inspectors of Schools and Senior Educational Administrators

From the President



This being my first report after only a brief time as elected president I thank you for your confidence in electing me and assure you I look forward to serving you for the next 12 months. I trust that my role will be of benefit to all members and hopefully continue to meet the challenges we face over that time.

For those of you who do not know me very well I had a very fulfilling career as a primary and social sciences teacher followed by various appointments as an inspector, cluster director and CEO in the Curriculum area.

From the start I wish to acknowledge the work of Deanna Hoermann who is now our Immediate Past President and thank her for taking on the role for the last 12 months. We wish her well in her new life in the sunny tropics.

It was with sadness that we learned of the sudden passing of Marlene Sheppard in early May. I know Cliff Cowdroy attended her funeral in Bega and I have sent a card on behalf of ARISSEA members to her sisters and long time friend Barbara Zarembo.

Our Immediate Past President, Deanna Hoermann signalled a few issues that we may wish to investigate in the near future and I am keen to at least raise them with the committee and, if agreed, with all our members at some time during the next 12 months. I have raised them again here and propose we discuss them at some suitable date soon.

I emphasise of course that I am in the hands of you all about anything we decide and at this stage merely wish to note them.

Issues of concern in my opinion are:

- The future of our membership. How can we communicate more effectively with those potential members who seem to have slipped through our net in the last few years? How can we identify them? How can we find ways to communicate with them? How can we get everyone involved in recruiting them?
- As a body of former leading educators should we make an input into national and state educational developments? If so, how should we go about it and which issues or developments should we be engaged in?
- The presentation by Graeme Philpotts, the chief executive officer of Stewart House, at our Annual General Meeting was unanimously applauded by those who attended which raises the issue of should we have, say, one additional dinner meeting a year when a well known speaker could address us?

I believe it is vitally important that we continue to take steps to ensure our organization remains active, relevant and sustainable and look forward to being part of your endeavours over the next 12 months.

Syd Smith

From the Past President

Firstly my sincere apologies for not being able to be with you today and many thanks to Syd Smith for agreeing to read this message. I am still in Townsville and deeply involved in a visit by a leading music educator from the UK who arrives on May 1 to give a series of choral workshops for musicians and music educators that will culminate in a concert performance on May 11.

I would like to thank you all for allowing me the privilege of serving as President of ARISSEA for the past 12 months. In particular, I would like to thank Alan Rice who so generously shared his knowledge, wisdom and time with me which ensured a very smooth transition into the leadership position.

My thanks should also go to the ARISSEA committee members who worked to keep the organisation operational. They met on a number of occasions to ensure that our operation was effective and ongoing. In particular I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Geoff Walton and Allan Mills who stepped in and took over the secretary's responsibilities following the death of our previous secretary Brian Ford. They worked tirelessly to update our membership data base and meet the secretarial requirements of the organisation. s

Richmond Manyweathers continued his responsibility for our financial matters, albeit at a distance. Through the endeavours of all committee members ARISSEA is set on a firm path and there is a spirit of strong co-operation. It is essential for us to continue our financial support of Stewart House and to offer assistance where we can to help them face the myriad of emerging challenges.

We experimented with technological links to conduct some of our meetings and although there were some difficulties, I firmly believe it will be technology that will be important, if not essential, in the future for communication and involvement of more of our members.

Throughout the year I have made contact with a number of people who would have been eligible to join our organisation. Although politely enthusiastic there were only a few who responded by taking up membership in our organisation. This led me to reflect upon the ways in which ARISSEA might be able to attract more members.

I believe that we should seriously consider invitations to speakers from education and beyond to boost interest in our endeavours. There is nothing like a challenging presentation to stimulate discussion and ideas that could strengthen our efforts, broaden our activities and increase our networking.

I keep thinking of the enormous body of expertise, wisdom and experience that is resident within our organisation and how it might be used to advocate or present alternate perspectives on what is happening or impinging on education and beyond. It is through my involvement in an advocacy group for the Music Council of Australia that I believe ARISSEA should seriously consider playing more of an advocacy role.

It has been a great privilege for me to work with former colleagues and to rekindle our collegiality through our lunches. The Newsletters, produced so professionally by Peter Robinson, demonstrate the vibrancy of retirement through the members' accounts of their activities and their rich experiences. They are to be congratulated for their willingness to take the time to share their stories with all of us.

My relationship with you all has been very special. I thank you and send my best wishes for good health and enjoyment to each of you and your families. Gerd and I await you in Townsville if ever you travel to North Queensland.



Past President Alan Rice shares ideas with new President Syd Smith

60th Annual General Meeting

The meeting was held at York Conference and Function Centre on May 3, 2013. Chairman Alan Rice, Immediate Past President opened the meeting at 12.30pm. Thirty-five members, partners and guests were in attendance and ten apologies were received.

The minutes of the previous meeting, as published in the July 2012 Newsletter were accepted on a motion moved by Richmond Manyweathers and seconded by Ian Vacchini.

Reports (published in this Newsletter) were received from President, Deanna Hoermann (ready by Vice President Syd Smith), Acting Secretary and Treasurer. John Dugdale, Welfare Co-ordinator was unable to be present at the meeting and his written report has been incorporated in the minutes of the meeting.

Graeme Philpotts, Chief Executive Stewart House, was present at the meeting and accepted cheques totalling \$1300; \$675 from individual members' donations and \$625 from luncheon profits and an ARISSEA contribution. During his response Graeme provided members with an overview of the management and programs provided in 2012-2013 by Stewart House for children and young people.

A motion to designate a committee position as *Membership Officer*, moved by Vincent Delany and seconded by Alan Laughlin was carried.

The meeting appointed Alan Rice to act as returning officer for the election to fill the 2013-2014 executive and committee positions. The election results are listed in the following table:

POSITIONS	2013-2014
President	Syd Smith
Immediate Past President	Deanna Hoermann
Vice President	Referred to Committee
Secretary	Geoff Walton
Treasurer	Richmond Manyweathers
Newsletter Editor	Peter Robinson
Membership Officer	Allan Mills
Luncheon Co-ordinator	Jack Harrison
Welfare Co-ordinator	Referred to Committee
Stewart House Contact	Referred to Committee
Committee members/observers	Chris Carroll Laurie Craddock Vincent Delany Ray Gillies Bill Grant George Green Alan Pratt Alan Rice

The vacant positions to be referred to the 27/5/2013 Committee Meeting

Geoff Walton
Acting Secretary

Acting Secretary's Report 2013

We were all saddened by the death of Brian Ford in July 2012. Over many years the Brian and Denise partnership had provided ARISSEA members with a point of contact and a conduit for the exchange of information and advice. As Secretary, Brian managed ARISSEA business ensuring that the Association was achieving its objectives. Since July, Denise and members of her family have continued to support the work of the ARISSEA executive by providing access to archived and current files, responding to our requests for clarification about "the ways Brian had things organised" and forwarding correspondence.

Specific activities include:

Luncheon meetings- coordinated by Jack Harrison in August and December 2012. (Ian and Cate Vacchini have taken on the job of preparing and "minding" members' luncheon name tags.)

Newsletters were published and mailed to members in June and November 2012 and January and March 2013. Editor Peter Robinson's work load includes canvassing for articles, then editing, formatting and preparing the print-ready master copy, arranging printing and managing the mailing out of hard-copy newsletters.

He also formats two versions of the email newsletter and undertakes email distribution to members who receive their copy electronically. Peter and Wendy host the "pack and despatch" meetings. Each issue of the printed Newsletter is distributed to 152 members and 37 widows and widowers by mail. The email versions of the Newsletter is sent to 59 members by Email.

Committee meetings in June 2012 (hosted and chaired by Alan Rice), October (chaired by Deanna Hoermann) and March 2013 (chaired by Syd Smith).

Membership database working group meetings – hosted by Peter Robinson, July 2012 and August 2012. (Allan Mills accepted an invitation to join this working group and took on the tasks involved in designing, building, refining and testing a *Microsoft Access* Membership Database.)

Geoff Walton.

Acting Secretary. 3 May 2013

Membership report:

Following the death of Brian Ford it was necessary for the work he carried out for many years to be taken up by another member. Brian's records were made available by his widow, Denise, and have been converted into a database. This work has now been completed and provides information on our present and former memberships and also supplies the mailing wrappers for the distribution of the Newsletter.

- At present our active membership stands at 211. This is comprised of 164 male members and 47 female members.
- Two of our members are in their 99th year.
- As well as the members mentioned above, 37 widows and widowers remain in contact with the Association and receive the Newsletter each despatch.

- There are 42 members who were granted honorary membership due to having attained 80 years of age.

Most of our members become unfinancial at this meeting but 30 have paid fees in advance. Members have been reminded of their financial status and invited to renew their subscriptions.

Allan Mills
Membership Officer.



Committee at work 27 May 2013

Annual Financial Report 2012/13

Income and Expenditure, Year ended 31 Mar 2013

Income

	\$
Balance b/f	4,705.72
Subscription	2,370.00
Stewart House	2,700.00
Lunches	4,720.00
Interest	338.50
Projects	----
Total	14,834.22

Expenditure

	\$
Lunches	4,466.00
Newsletter	1,311.33
Stat/Petty Cash	64.26
Welfare	----
Stewart House	3,225.00
Union Shopper	115.50
Room Hire	100.00
Total	9,282.09
Balance Carried fwd	5,552.13

Lunches '12

Banked \$4720.00 Payment \$4466.00 Surplus \$254.00

May'12	\$1520.00	\$1386.00	\$134.00
Aug'12	\$1426.00	\$1463.00	\$ 45.00
Dec'12	\$2000.00	\$1925.00	\$ 75.00

Operating Surplus:

Subs. less op. costs (\$2370-\$1591.09)=\$779

Recommended final payment to Stewart House for 2012/3 year

Luncheon profit	\$254.00
Individual Member donations	\$675.00 (balance of 2012/3 contributions)
Ass'n Contribution	\$371.00
Total	\$1300.00 (+\$2025 from member donations in subs to May'12 already forwarded:
Total support for 2012/13 = \$3,325.00)	

Comments:

1. Newsletter annual cost seems to have stabilized at approx \$1300/annum.
2. Payment to Stewart House (\$1300) to be made asap together with new 2013/4 contributions to date \$1880.
3. Recommended that subs. remain at \$15.

Richmond Manyweathers, 3 May 2013
Treasurer

Welfare Report

I submit to you, for your melancholy consideration, the following particulars regarding the deaths and health of our colleagues over the past twelve months:

My records show that those who died were:

Merv Dunkley	09-02-2012
Peter Hazell	11-06-2012
Brian Ford	08-07-2012
John Nebauer	13-10-2012
Jim Docking	27-12-2012

Notes of condolence were sent sympathetically in the above instances and also one to Jean Koshemakin on the sad event of Herb's passing during the year.

A number of telephone calls were made in some of the few cases of illness or incapacity that came to my attention, such as one to Eric Flood and a contact for David Maher via his wife, Anne.

I report that ARISSEA's Welfare Petty Cash Imprest Account stands at the following position as at the date of this association's current annual general meeting:

4/5/12 Credit balance b/f	\$22.05
Less expenses	
Postage	\$4.20
Stationery	<u>\$0.35</u>
	\$4.55
3/5/13 Credit balance c/f	\$17.50

This is my last report to you as your welfare officer having been pleased to serve in that role since, I think, 1994. Someone else will now undoubtedly follow on in the position and in advance I congratulate them on their acceptance of its sensitive responsibilities.

John Dugdale
Welfare Officer



Graeme Philpotts at ARISSEA May Lunch

**ARISSEA acknowledged as an
“Outstanding Supporter of Stewart House in 2012”.**

In 2012 we were able to forward a total of \$3,345 to Stewart House. This sum was made up from members’ donations, the surplus from luncheon meetings and a contribution from Association working funds. Graeme Philpotts, Chief Executive of Stewart House, addressing members over lunch at our AGM on 3 May, outlined some of the areas that the Board of Stewart House has addressed over the last five or six years.

Specifically he spoke of the importance of strategies that have created and nurtured commitments of “longer-term” support. As an example he cited the “salary contribution scheme” that is providing a dependable revenue stream to fund the general operating expenses associated with giving some 1800 NSW Public School students a twelve day break at Stewart House.

During the meeting Graeme also undertook to provide articles to be published in our Newsletter.

ARISSEA members contributed to the 2010 and the 2012 Reviews and the next assessment is scheduled for the second half of 2014. We have been invited to contribute to the assessment program.

Your executive committee will formalise our response to this invitation at its September Meeting and would like to be able to nominate a team of at least 4 people to be involved. Please let us know if you would like more information and/or are interested in participating in the 2014 Review by contributing some of your time and your expertise.

Stewart House

Graeme Philpotts

Biennial Review of Programs

In 2012, an inspection team comprising a member of the *Stewart House Board of Directors*, Mr Tom Croker and three members of the *Association of Retired Inspectors of Schools and Senior Educational Administrators* Ms Margaret Hopkins, Mr George Green and Mr Geoff Walton served as an independent and objective party to assess current Stewart House practice and policy against agreed residential standards.

The team reviewed and appraised the residential programs developed for children in the care of Stewart House and provided an open avenue of communication between Stewart House employees, senior management, and the Board of Directors.

In their 2012 Annual Report, the Stewart House Chairman Barry Johnson wrote:

‘The executive summary of their comprehensive 50-page report is included in this publication but I must highlight their conclusions which should provide all our stakeholders and supporters with confidence that their donations are being put to good use.

Their words *From the evidence collected we are confident of our opinion that children and young people who participate in the Stewart House Out of School Hours Program:*

- *have the opportunity to enjoy a well-structured, all-inclusive twelve day away-from-home experience.*
- *are cared for and accommodated in comfortable, secure, clean, appropriately maintained facilities.*
- *benefit from working with a team of expert, enthusiastic, committed, caring supervisors.*
- *are provided with a structured program that encourages them to consolidate and expand their repertoire of effective personal and interpersonal skills.*
- *are given access to appropriate health services.’*

Amanda Bisset, Stewart House Marketing Manager further reported that the SHOOSHPAC report had been an integral component of the EOI submitted to the Premier’s Department that eventually secured the inclusion of Stewart House as one of the inaugural charities to be offered to NSW public sector employees under the recently formed NSW Public Sector Workplace Giving Program.

May Lunch



Alan Laughlin, Bill Muir, Alan Pratt, George Green and Vincent Delany

Members say

George Green

Stewart House and Rotary – Update

We are almost ready to launch our project that has become known by its email address, rotarians@stewarthouse.org.au. Graeme Davies, known to many of you as a secondary school principal, will take over as District Governor of Rotary District 9685 on July 1. Graeme, who is a long-term Stewart House supporter, has made our project a district project for his year in the chair. He will also promote it through the other district governors throughout NSW.

I have worked with Graeme Philpotts, CEO of Stewart House, to develop a speaker's kit comprised of a Power Point slideshow and notes. On invitation by clubs, we will arrange speakers to spread the Stewart House message across the state. The aim will be to raise community awareness of the work of Stewart House and to outline the ways in which clubs can help.

We now need build up a list of possible speakers throughout NSW to make this happen. Speakers do not need to be Rotarians. The task is a pleasant one, with talks usually being only 20 minutes or so in duration. Given that this project originated with ARISSEA, we would like to begin our list with ARISSEA members. Remember, you do not need to be a Rotarian to be a speaker.

Please indicate your willingness to participate by emailing Amanda at Stewart House, using the above address. You might also like to send a copy to me at grjgreen@bigpond.net.au. ARISSEA has a long and proud record of supporting Stewart House. This is another way in which we can help.

Union Shopper Affiliation

Geoff Walton

Since 2011 we have been paying fees for individual members to be affiliated with the Union Shopper Organisation. This affiliation provides you with access to wide range of discounted consumer and life style products and services.

Our annual affiliation fee will be due in November 2013 and, as a consequence, the executive meeting at the end of September will need to make a decision about whether or not to continue this affiliation in 2014.

It will help us if we know approximately how many members are using, have used or are intending to use (in 2013) Union Shopper to access discounted products and services. I will assume that if you do not respond, you have not used, or are not planning to use, Union Shopper.

geoff_walton@yahoo.com,
mob 0418241406 ph 02 96396847.

May Lunch



Joyce Rice and Jennifer Delany

Helen McMaster

Where can you see four countries in one glance? I know that place and have just returned from viewing one of the most amazing natural wonders of the world.

Standing at one point of the mighty Zambesi River I see, the life force which unites the neighbouring countries of Zambia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

The visit was to see Victoria Falls, something that I had on my 'to do' list for many years. Associated with this were visits to Lodges in neighbouring National Parks, in particular, Chobe where I believed elephants abounded in their hundreds.

On both sides of the Falls, in Zambia and Zimbabwe, David Livingstone is still revered. While he named them after Queen Victoria, the local name is 'Mosi-oa-Tunya': 'the smoke that thunders'.

At first I did not understand the full meaning of that phrase until setting out along the viewing path, donned with a voluminous coat, I was still completely saturated, and thought the young bikini-clad girls had the right idea. My dripping camera ceased to operate. How was I going to record this long awaited experience!

Later as I flew away, I saw the 'smoke' still rising from the Falls and the African sun setting on the River and the parks below, I realized I could write word pictures from the camera in my mind. This is what I wrote.



The queenly Falls that once inspired the fearless heart of Livingstone
Still regally thunder with the smoke that soaks us through and through,
In that rainbow world of splendour, time stands still as we gaze in wonder.

And you and I were there.

The kingly lion eludes us but the elegant impalas delight with eyes so bright
The famous herd of Chobe, in their hundreds, tramp and sway towards the coolness
Of the evening, watchful for their young, and patient till all united, however slow.

And you and I were there.

The leopard, evading common sight, did not escape your watchful eye
Lazily lying on the lofty limb, smirking and satisfied at the close of day.
Only the giraffes greet us curiously; baboons scamper and hide; zebras graze.

And you and I were there.

The fierce Zambesi in full flood unites four nations in its embracing flow.
Hippos wallow in the shallows while docile crocs doze on sunny shores.
Keen kingfishers wait, motionless; long-legged birds step lightly on soft lily-pads,

And you and I were there.

The blood red sky reflects the heart of this great land and beats in those dancing feet
Of performing youth who glow with the hope of the dawning of a new day.
For this vast continent's troubled past is being vanquished with their smiles.

And you and I were there.

The airy Lodge awaits along with warm welcomes from those proud dark faces
Who love their life and spurn riches for far greater rewards of peace and happiness.
This is our Africa, never to be washed from the camera in our minds.

And you and I,
 were so fortunate,
 to be there.

May Lunch



Allan Mills, John Edwards and Syd Smith

Members say

Graham Sims

Fires, Firemen and Fate Part 1

Once upon a time, it was the ambition of many a little boy “to be a fireman, when I grow up!”

The adventure and excitement implicit in the idea of wearing the uniform, complete with fireman’s axe, brass helmet, black boots etc, sliding down “the fireman’s pole”, (even though these were rare indeed in Australia), and racing along in that big red fire-engine, with siren blasting, were dear to the hearts of many a young lad.

The life of a fireman has always been a frustrating mixture of boredom, training, routine and excitement, often with life-threatening risk. When one looks at the art and nature of fire fighting over the years, there is no doubt that much has changed and improved.

Horse-drawn “fire-engines” gave way to motorised vehicles, initially heavy, ponderous and slow, with the firemen clinging precariously on the open top and sides of the vehicle.

Modern fire-fighting vehicles are speedy, specialised and safer, equipped with a wide range of resources and apparatus suitable for many different kinds of fires, chemical, electrical and so on.

It seems ironic that, in this modern world, the “romance” of being a fireman no longer seems so attractive to little boys (or girls). We tend to take the role of the fire-fighter for granted.

Nevertheless, their role has remained essentially the same: to use their skills, training and available resources to protect public life and property against fire and its associated dangers.

That role was put to a severe and tragic test on Sunday 27 August, 1922, a date so long ago that few people reading this today were alive then, over 86 years ago, and only 4 years after the end of World War 1.

Yet the circumstances of that fatal fire and its aftermath are, in their way, a significant part of Sydney’s history, and part of the long tradition of service and sacrifice, for which our Fire Brigade is known.

Just before 4pm on Sunday, 27 August, 1922, Headquarters Brigade attended a fire reported to have broken out in a well-known building, Adams Hotel and Chambers, in George St., Sydney next to Gowing Bros, on the corner of George and Market Streets. Nearby were Bakers Tennis Shop and the Palace Theatre.

The fire appeared to be on the third, fourth and fifth floors of the building, and the longest fire-fighting ladder in the Brigade was put into action. This heavy, wooden ladder, known as a “Simonis Electric Tower ladder”, was mounted on a swivel base on its dedicated vehicle.

The ladder could be extended to approximately 25 metres. As the key appliance, the ladder was extended so as to reach the third, fourth and fifth floors.

Three young firemen, William Brown, Len Chapple and Charles Dwyer, climbed the ladder, with Brown at the top, Chapple below him and Dwyer five metres below Chapple.

Using a high pressure hose, which they had to drag up the ladder, their task was to direct a strong and continuing stream of water at what was believed to be the seat of the fire, on the fourth floor, about 25 metres from the ground.

The heavy brass nozzle was connected to the end of the hose, manned by Fireman Brown, with assistance from his two colleagues.

The pressure was turned on and, although the fire was hot enough to singe their hair beneath their helmets, for a short while, all seemed to be going well, as witnessed by a large crowd gathered in George St., where traffic, (including, in those days, trams) had been stopped.

Suddenly, as reported later by onlookers, and as would clearly have been noticed by the three working firemen, the ladder swayed, moved, and, intermittently, continued moving.

As it swayed on its turntable, and, extended to its full length, it now required itself to be self-supporting, with three active firemen and a pulsating fire-hose dependent upon it. Much worse was soon to follow.

With the firemen helpless but still at their job, the huge ladder's top section began to bend like a fishing rod, and then, suddenly it broke, catapulting all three firemen into the air, far from the ground.

William Brown, nearest the top, fell the furthest, landing on his head on the roof of some two storey shops. (His badly dented brass helmet was found later.)

Len Chapple, only slightly lower down, fell and struck the parapet of these shops, bounced off, fell a further 6 metres onto an awning, rolled off its edge and fell a final 4 metres onto the street. Amazingly, a bystander partially caught him as he rolled off the awning.

Charles Dwyer, the lowest on the ladder, fell with the wreckage about 16 metres and landed tangled up in it.

Chapple, seriously injured, and Dwyer, remarkably, almost unscathed, were both rushed to Sydney Hospital.

Fireman Brown's position was perilous in the extreme, as he lay unconscious on the roof of the shop on which he'd landed. Colleagues used ropes to rig up a "bosun's chair" and lowered him to the ground.

Tragically, Bill Brown never regained consciousness and died in Sydney Hospital only two hours later. Ironically, his parents and brother were visiting Sydney, heard about the fire, feared the worst and rushed to the hospital, but too late, as their son and brother had already passed away.

Of necessity, fighting the fire had to continue, until, at about 5pm, the damage was surveyed and found to be restricted to the third, fourth and fifth floors, without reaching ground level. The Gowings building, next door, was not damaged and no other firemen or members of the public were injured.

As the shock of the tragedy began to emerge, thoughts turned to the following:

- The three young firemen: one dead, one critically injured and one relatively uninjured but in shock.
- The ladder: why had it twisted and then broken?
- Accountability: where did responsibility lie, and how could a repeat tragedy be prevented?
- The fire itself: almost as an afterthought, what had caused the fire at Adams Hotel?

All three firemen were from Headquarters Brigade.

- Bill Brown, aged 24 and single, was a Fireman 3rd class, had been in the Brigade for about a year, and was a returned soldier, having served in France in World War 1.
- Len Chapple (at least one source spells it “Chappell”), aged 32 and married, was a Fireman 2nd class and had been in the Brigade for 2 years. He was a former seaman in the Royal Navy and also a member of the Flying Corps, in World War 1. Chapple’s injuries were considered life-threatening, including concussion of the brain, fractured ribs and internal injuries.
- Charles Dwyer, Scottish, aged 28 and single, was a Fireman 3rd class, had been in the Brigade for 14 months, and suffered bruising and shock.

At least one report has it that, barely 15 minutes after being checked at Sydney Hospital, Dwyer returned to duty at the fire, where an observant officer ordered him back to barracks to rest. Dwyer later described Bill Brown as his “best cobber”.

Understandably, the ladder was seen as being the “villain of the piece”. The firemen did not simply fall off it. It broke, while performing precisely the role for which it was (presumably) designed.

Even before the official Coronial Inquest was announced, people began asking: Why did it break? Was it faulty? Too old? Unsuitable? Misused? Why? How? The ladder, to be precise, was a “Simonis Electric Tower ladder”, made in England and imported by the NSW Brigades in 1910.

Although 12 years old by the time of the Adams Hotel fire, the ladder was considered the best and most modern of its kind in Australia. It had been successfully used in previous Sydney fires, in which it had on occasion supported four men.

The ladder, of oregon and ash (timber) construction, with metal supports, consisted of one length attached to a turntable on the vehicle, and with four sliding, extendable sections, giving a total height of about 25 metres.

It could either be leaned against a wall or, once locked, be self-supporting on its base. There were stories that it had “swayed” at a previous fire, only a few months earlier, but without incident.

The Daily Telegraph editorial on Monday 28th August, 1922, the day after the fire, focused on the ladder, and foreshadowed an Inquiry.

- “The work of a fireman is more or less risky at all times, and there are occasions when it calls for nothing short of heroism.”

The editorial mentioned the advantages and disadvantages of “heavy” versus “lighter” ladders and concluded: “the breaking of a ladder while in actual use, with fatal results to [one of] the firemen working on it, is too serious a matter for any explanation to pass...”

On the day after the fire, flags at all fire stations flew at half-mast. Given the circumstances and, no doubt, the times, only four years since the end of World War 1, in which Bill Brown and Len Chapple had served, Bill Brown's funeral, on 29 August, 1922, was a large, publicly significant event.

As the Daily Telegraph of 30 August, 1922, stated: "Crowds estimated to number 100,000 lined Castlereagh and Oxford Streets and the suburban thoroughfares through which the funeral procession passed on its way to the Waverley Cemetery."

The fire-engine, known as "The Big Red Six" or "The Big Dennis Six", on which Brown, Chapple and Dwyer had ridden to the fire, was used to bear Brown's body to Waverley Cemetery.

Although it was a cold, windy day, the funeral procession was large, dignified and impressive. As the Daily Telegraph reported: "Headed by ten mounted police, the cortege was marshalled in the following order:

The Fire Brigades Band, a parade of 70 firemen from metropolitan stations, 40 returned soldier policemen, "The Big Dennis Six", bearing the coffin, a second engine and two motor cars carrying wreaths, mourners, members of the Board and officials, the workshop staff and members of the Dee Why Surf Club.

The chief mourners were William Brown's parents and relatives. Despite the icy, exposed conditions at Waverley Cemetery, a large crowd from the general public also gathered to pay their respects to a gallant young Australian who had done his duty both in war and peace time, and had made the ultimate sacrifice.

In deference to his military service, the Last Post was played, as his grave was closed.

Some 86 years later, an interested visitor to Waverley Cemetery can still observe an impressive marble obelisk, with broken column symbolising a life cut short, and bearing the inscription:

"In loving memory of Fireman William Hamilton Brown, who was killed at Adams fire, George St, Sydney, 27 August, 1922, aged 24 years."

Carved into the marble column are a fireman's helmet, belt and fire-axe.

Members say

Joan Healy

When doing some research recently I came across some very old copies of the then "New South Wales Educational Gazette". There was a section on the examination paper for teachers seeking to raise their status.

I have extracted a few questions that illustrate the type of knowledge that was expected of our teachers in the late 19th Century.

1. Quote two of the following passages:-
“O alienate from God.....thou shalt know”
“Servant of God, well done....by merit reigns”
“Ill for thee.....this day shall prove”
2. Describe the verse of Paradise Lost
3. Explain the phrases:-
Ordained without redemption
Perfidious fraud
Grateful vicissitude
War in procinct
Etherous mould
4. How many classes of Adjective Pronouns are there? Give examples of each.
5. Write a short essay on one of the following subjects:-
Great cities
Self esteem
The evils of carelessness
No lesson is given till it is received

ARITHMETIC

1. A and B walk a mile. A takes 1,980 steps, and B takes 2,112. How many inches is A's step longer than B's?
2. Multiply the difference between .019 and 3.5 by 100.001
3. What is the amount of the principal from which £5 10s.10 as interest in 3 months at 4 per cent per annum simple interest?
4. How many rails will enclose a rectangular field 5,580 feet long by 1.729 feet wide, the fence being straight, 7 rails high, with rails of equal length, and the longest that can be used?
5. Which is the greater, and by how much, .0476 Of a guinea or .325 of a half-a-crown?

GEOGRAPHY

1. Draw a map of Australia.
2. Give a description of Turkey in Europe.
3. Describe the climate and the vegetable and mineral productions of Victoria.
4. On what rivers are the following towns:- Ballina, Rockhampton, Port Elliot, Havre, Amsterdam, Glasgow, Liverpool, Cork, Nancy, and Warsaw.
5. Give a description of the Clarence River as to length, volume, and extent of basin.

SCHOOL MANAGEMENT

1. For what points of school organization does the Department hold the teacher responsible?
2. Are there any lessons that should be taken earlier in the day than others?
Give reasons for your answers.
3. Quote the regulations bearing upon the discipline of the School.

4. By what principles should a teacher be guided in drawing up a time-table?
5. Give some simple rules, showing the best way of conducting a lesson in writing to a second-class.

<i>Queens Birthday Award</i>

Richmond Manyweathers OAM for service to the community, particularly through Rotary International.

<i>Address changes/corrections</i>

(Changes shown in Bold)

BLUNDEN	G	Graham	
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LEACY F Fran
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VACCHINI I Ian
0417 466 127

Deaths

03/05/13 SHEPPARD Mrs MJ (Marlene)
Berrima 2577

24/05/13 WHITESIDE Miss MK (Moir)
Waverton 2060

26/05/13 PLAYFORD Miss P (Peg)
Marsfield 2122

18/06/13 MORRISON N (Neil)
Mosman 2088

Members are reminded that material is needed for the
November 2013 Newsletter

Accompanying photos are most welcome,
preferably as separate JPG email attachments,
rather than being embedded in the text.

Copy deadline: 16th October 2013

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