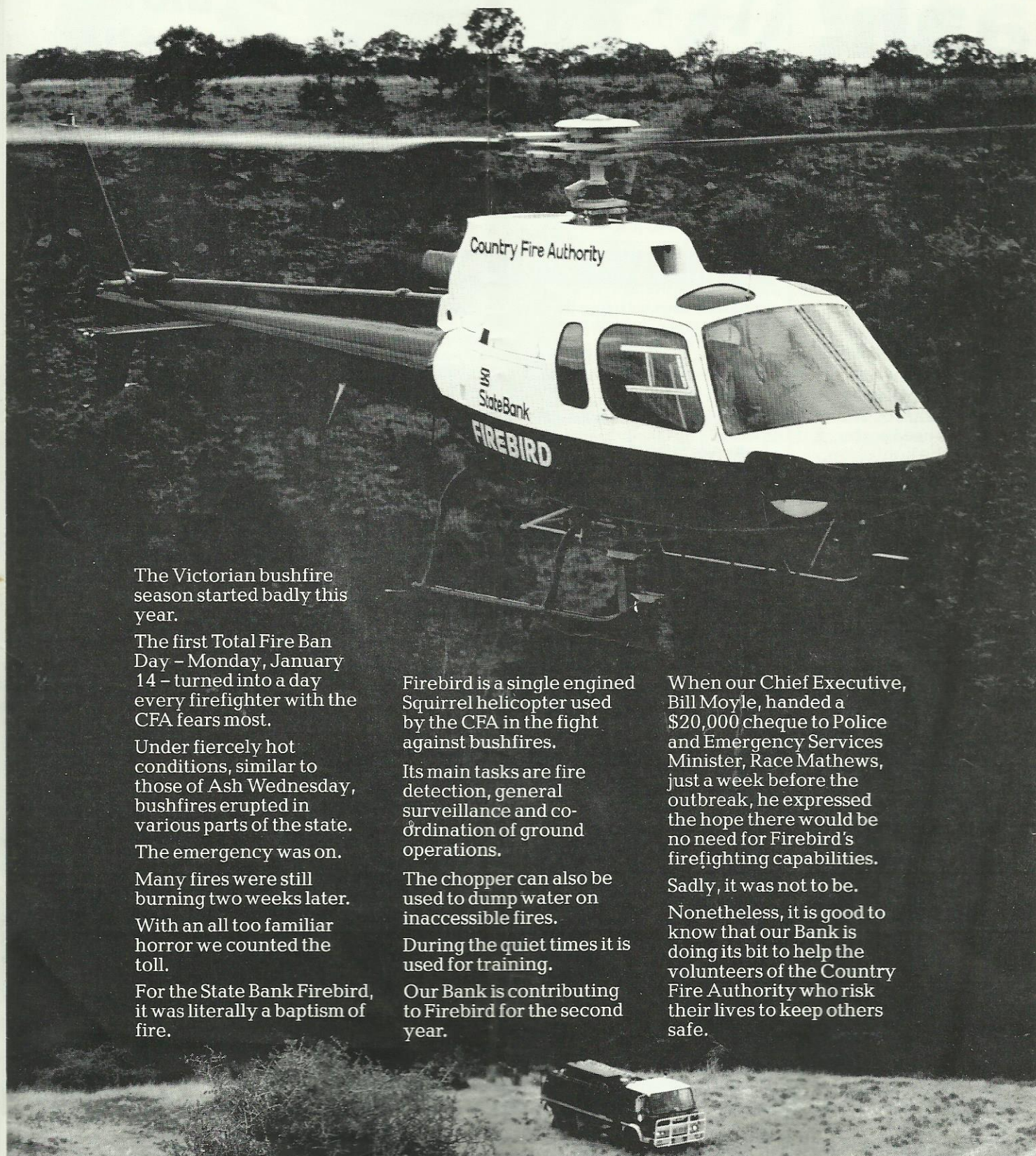


Our Bank

LOOKING AT PEOPLE AND EVENTS IN THE STATE BANK OF VICTORIA

ISSUE 1/85



The Victorian bushfire season started badly this year.

The first Total Fire Ban Day – Monday, January 14 – turned into a day every firefighter with the CFA fears most.

Under fiercely hot conditions, similar to those of Ash Wednesday, bushfires erupted in various parts of the state.

The emergency was on.

Many fires were still burning two weeks later.

With an all too familiar horror we counted the toll.

For the State Bank Firebird, it was literally a baptism of fire.

Firebird is a single engined Squirrel helicopter used by the CFA in the fight against bushfires.

Its main tasks are fire detection, general surveillance and co-ordination of ground operations.

The chopper can also be used to dump water on inaccessible fires.

During the quiet times it is used for training.

Our Bank is contributing to Firebird for the second year.

When our Chief Executive, Bill Moyle, handed a \$20,000 cheque to Police and Emergency Services Minister, Race Mathews, just a week before the outbreak, he expressed the hope there would be no need for Firebird's firefighting capabilities.

Sadly, it was not to be.

Nonetheless, it is good to know that our Bank is doing its bit to help the volunteers of the Country Fire Authority who risk their lives to keep others safe.

ooh! aah!

Our head office, State Bank Centre, was turned into a giant digital watch for the countdown to 1985 during one of the largest parties ever held in Australia.

An estimated 180,000 New Year's eve revellers thronged Melbourne's Bourke Street mall area for a spectacular laser light show as part of the State's 150th celebrations.

Our building, perfectly positioned at the corner of Bourke and Elizabeth Streets, was used as the screen for the light show.

Staff prepared the Centre for its role as a gigantic picture screen by drawing all the white window blinds before leaving on the Friday before Christmas.

All eyes were turned to it as numbers, 10 storeys high, were projected on the building to display the last 10 seconds of 1984.

A great roar from the crowd ushered in the New Year as the final second hit the wall.

Meanwhile, those of you who have been in the city at night will have seen our building impressively floodlit - the building virtually shimmers under the intense light.

The effect has been so good that our building has won the SEC's 150th Anniversary 'City of Light' competition.

The award was announced on New Year's day and the SEC said the building was 'a notable addition to the city skyline and a brilliant feature at night'.

Pick a Poet

A post Christmas story from St Albans branch where an anonymous poet is waiting for recognition.

We thought, dear readers, that you might like to pick the poet from the accompanying picture of our St Albans team - Terry Toomey, Assistant Manager, wasn't letting on when he sent in the contribution.

CHRISTMAS AT 250 - ST. ALBANS.

Christmas comes but once a year,
St. Albans celebrated with plenty of cheer.

Santa came and stood on the cash,
Customers thought he showed plenty of dash.

The helpers participated one and all
By dressing as the occasion would call.

Shirts were white, ties and skirts were red,
With a neat cap to go on the head.
Silver was sewn around the rim,
Finishing off with a neat little trim.

The manager was decked out like a penguin in black,
The customers were certainly taken aback.

Children saw it was a great little treat,
Lollies were given - they thought that was neat.

Showbags crammed with goodies galore,
We nearly ran out - wish we had more.
Little girls were throwing Santa kisses for free,
He wanted some big ones to sit on his knee.

"Merry Christmas" was the call throughout the place,
Smiles were wide on everyone's face.

The effort was worth it without a doubt,
But,
What will we do next year when Christmas comes about?

Sharing the spoils

Geoff Cameron, manager at Yarrowonga, is wishing he had kept his mouth shut after a challenge to keep shared cash shortages under \$100 in a year.

He agreed to buy cream cakes if tellers Kim Woodward, Lisa Brooks, Sharon McQualter and Tricia Curtis, could go two weeks without a discrepancy, and, with accountant Mick Kelly, also offered dinner if they could manage two months with an unblemished record.

Geoff and Mick have now 'shouted' dinner twice and the local baker is straining to meet the demand for cream cakes.

Well done, all of you.



Santa Claus and his helpers: Back row (from left): John Chapman, Manager, Ray McMullin, Terry Toomey, Lyn Penny, Alison Gilbert, Frank Bezzina, Robert Dominko. Centre: Margaret Tawadros, Lil Glasunow, Debbie Kirk, Glenys Laidler, Judy Shaw. Front: Janine Scott, Marilyn Thompson, Frossa Martinovic, and Ricarda Franz. Santa Claus was Chris Ramsdale.

游

(A Chinese "swim")

Paul Simms is a young swimming talent who looks like making it to the Olympic league if his present form is anything to go on.

Paul, of Internal Audit, has won his way into the Victorian swimming team which tours China next May.

His selection follows a winning streak which saw him take out every freestyle and open event from 100m to 1500m, as well as the 100m butterfly, during the December competition of the Victorian Amateur Swimming Association.

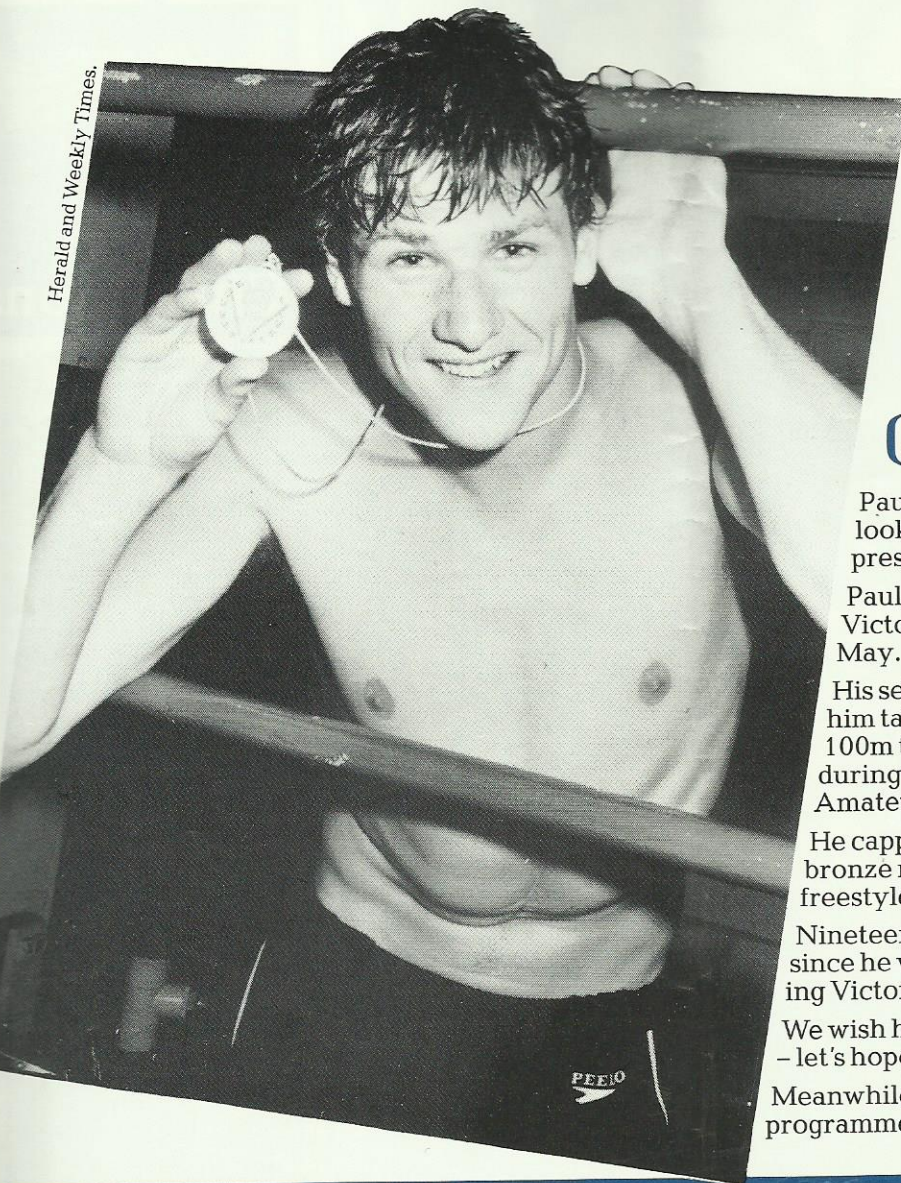
He capped that success with a victory over Olympic bronze medallist, Rob Woodhouse, in the open 800m freestyle at the Victorian championships.

Nineteen-year-old Paul, who has been swimming since he was five, says he is delighted to be representing Victoria and is looking forward to the trip to China.

We wish him luck for the trip and his swimming career – let's hope he puts Australia back in the Olympic race!

Meanwhile, we are doing our bit to support the VicSwim programme by handing out enrolment forms in branches.

Herald and Weekly Times.



RUSH ON EASY BANK CASH

All of you who worked behind the counters before the Christmas/New Year break don't have to be told how busy it was.

However, while we were all enjoying a hard earned rest, our Easy Banks continued to work at an average of one transaction every four seconds to keep customers in cash – those lucky enough to have some cash left!

In all, about \$10-million was dished out by our auto tellers between December 21 and January 1.

While the auto tellers of

other banks ran dry, we are pleased to report ours kept working, being topped up well before the cash ran out.

The machines only stopped for routine filling and maintenance.

While on the subject, our Bank has introduced electronic banking to Seymour.

Kerry Carboon, Darrell Winnell, Easy Bank Co-ordinator John Pickburn and Manager Ron Wilson, appeared in the Seymour Telegraph when the paper reported the arrival of the first auto teller in the town.



Ron says timing of the installation was just right for the festive season and

there has been a very encouraging customer response.

Upwardly Mobile

Congratulations to Keith Williams, Barry Shipham, Bill Davis and Ron Langdon - four new managers.

Keith has already had plenty to celebrate in 1985.

While most of us were seeing in the New Year, Keith and his wife, Judy, were celebrating the birth of their daughter, Erin, the first baby born in Frankston in our State's 150th year.

Keith is taking over our Sea Lake branch and is looking forward to the rural life.

Barry Shipham has been promoted to Assistant Manager at Doncaster Shoppingtown.

Barry spends most of his spare time gardening and following the sporting pursuits of his two children, Kris and Melissa.

He, too, is keen on a rural life and hopes to eventually move to the country and 'take up bowls and golf'.

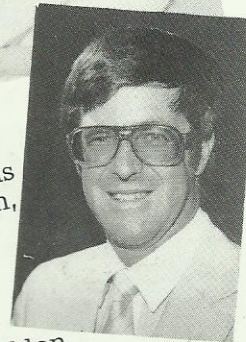
Bill Davis heads bush early February to take over at Woomelang branch.

It will be quite a change in lifestyle for Bill who has served most of his time in Melbourne's northern and western suburbs.



Ron Langdon, who has been A1 at Blackburn, hasn't had so far to travel to his new posting.

He says he has settled in well at Seddon. At weekends, Ron likes to get away from it all with a bit of surf fishing at Waratah Bay.



Farewell

Frank Alexander, who retired as Manager of our Newmarket Branch on December 28.



For those of us who take after Norm of Life. Be In It, a hard day at work leaves us with just enough energy to slump in front of the TV for a relaxing night.

In Geelong, Chris Davis at Malop Street branch is making sure the young women in the branch don't slip into such slothful ways.

Chris formed two teams - the Go-Go's - to enter the Geelong YWCA Twilight netball competition.

They comprised Judy Clarke, Melissa Shields, Lorraine Biddle, Gabriele Wright, Brenda Walton, Jenny Coleman, Ann Hoyle, Kath Richardson, Michele Waters, and "ring-ins" Jenny Richardson (Kath's sister) and Denise Dalton.

Much to the surprise of Chris the teams were so successful they won the premierships in the B1 and B4 grades!

A special pat on the back goes to Chris, not only for her organising skills, but also for winning Best and Fairest in B4.

STRATEGIC TALKS

New policies for our Bank's development during the next three years were drafted at a weekend long executive 'brainstorming' session at the beginning of February.

The meeting was called by our Chief Executive, Bill

Moyle, and involved our top 30 executives.

The three day meeting started on February 1.

'The meeting is to establish the Bank's current priorities and contribute to our strategic planning,' says Mr Moyle.

'Every executive will have the opportunity of contributing in detail to our strategic planning which will be translated

into a master plan for the development of our Bank's business over the next three years.'

Meanwhile, Mr Moyle and Jim McAnany, head of our International Department, have just returned from a two week round of talks on the future of our international operations with the Bank of England and other international banks in Britain.

New Camera

We have replaced our missing camera.

If any branch or head office department wants to borrow the camera to cover a possible story for OUR BANK, please send your request to:

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