To Fellow Firefighters Active and Retired

**Your assistance is required.**

My name is 7333 S/F Todd Maguire and I am currently attached to Region North 2 Lismore/Ballina NSW.I relocated my family to Lennox head in 2010 and I was transferred to Northern NSW in 2015.

I have been a fire fighter for 28 years. My formative years were spent in Headquarters straight from the college in 1994 and I continued as a Relieving Firefighter based there for 18 years.

My father was **2887 Inspector John Maguire,** and my brother is **6792 S/F Mark Maguire** currently at 35 station Botany. At 56 years of age, I am very proud to be a career Firey.

**I am in constant contact with many firefighters active and retired and we believe the unique culture which forged the close bond and camaraderie of Firefighters, particularly at Headquarters Fire station and the old District Stations is slowly being lost.**

There is no doubt that times do change but the great memories of our Service and the characters who have passed through the Bathurst Street gates should never be forgotten.

**I have great support so far with coordinating a story/photo book going with the working title:**

***The Headquarters of Sydney’s City***

We would like to collect short article/stories and anecdotes and old photos as an historical record. Light-hearted, semi factual and a fun read is the style. A book for Firies and the General Public.

The theme is the everyday happenings of the station culture which is slowly disappearing.

* Polishing the brass
* CHARACTERS PAST AND PRESENT
* HQ Icons Nicknames
* The Friday night station washout
* Pit Day when Crews cleaned the underside of Appliances (Yes believe it or not)
* Zotting
* Mild shenanigans
* Respect for rank structure
* Cook ups (good and bad)
* Fire incidents out of the norm
* Salvage work
* Roll call antics.
* Interesting drills
* The history of The Bird bath

***Etc. etc. etc. over the past 50 years or so***

**Here’s where you can get personally get involved.**

The basis of the idea involves contacting as many past and present members like yourself to share

* **A light-hearted interesting story or event about an incident or person from your HQ experience, or**
* **A photograph you may have representing the iconic Headquarters lifestyle.**

My amateur writing skills have proven worthwhile from my years writing for THE BEAST Magazine in Sydney amongst other varied printed material. I have a great network of dedicated experts lined up to assist in producing a very professional result that we can all be very proud to be associated with.

For the research I imagine contacting:

* Retired NSW Firies association members
* Union members past and present HQ icons/firefighter personal archives
* Julie at FRNSW library
* Historically recorded data curators
* Museum of fire
* Any other recommendations you may have.

All stories will be tasteful with discretion and names protected as required. The culture of HQ is diminishing, and I feel it would to be a great opportunity done in the proper way to pay homage to an iconic place and its firefighters.

The resultant product will be for both firefighters and public enjoyment to give all an insight into our unique lifestyles. Our history is too good to lose.

**I look forward to your reply for comment and discussion of this unique idea that already has legs and needs to be done for all our benefit.**

Please contact me directly at your convenience

Thank you

Todd Maguire

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