

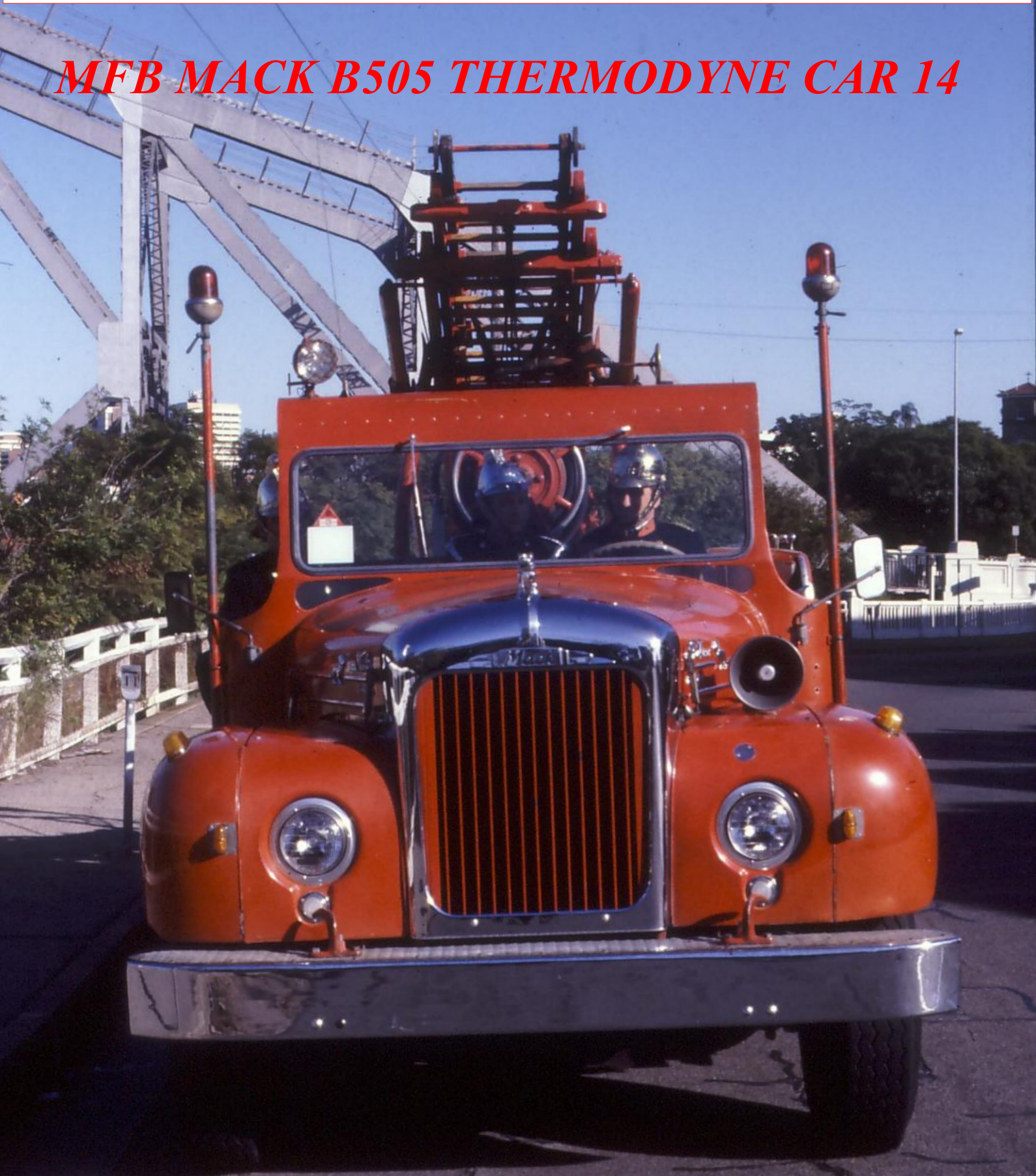


# *The Brass Helmet*

*Official Newsletter of the The Fire Brigades'  
Historical Society of QLD Inc*

*Jan - Mar 2010*

*MFB MACK B505 THERMODYNE CAR 14*



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The Queensland Fire Museum is operated by The Fire Brigades Historical Society of Qld Inc, and is located at YMCA Old Petrie Town, Dayboro Road Kurwongbah.

It is open to the public Sundays from 8am to 1pm.

New members Welcome  
Contact us for details.

## Memorabilia

A large range of firefighting memorabilia is available from the Queensland Fire Museum.

One of our specialities are brass and alloy cast items as shown on the right. Apart from the hose coupling, all items are produced exclusively for the Museum by local craftsmen.

All items are available for sale or produced to order from the Museum.

Prices are:	Brass	Alloy
Firefighters Axe	\$180	\$90
Half Helmet	\$25	\$17-50
Full Helmet (small)	\$35	\$25
Full Helmet (large)	\$45	\$35
Half Coupling	\$90	\$60

*NEW ITEMS - small replica axe and QFS Shield*

We also have available a large selection of postcard and collector cards depicting many of the original QFS and QFRS historic appliances.

They are available for individual purchase or in larger packs. Stocks are low on some cards.

*NEW ITEM - SIGNATURE SERIES DIECAST*

A new addition to our memorabilia range are these stunning Signature series diecast replica fire engines.

Large 1:24 scale \$99-00

Small 1:43 scale \$30-00

Contact us direct for more info on which models we currently have in stock. These are a must have for any enthusiast.



**The Society was begun in the early 1980's by a small group of energetic firemen. After an enormous amount of time and effort and after several moves the Museum was established at what was originally known as North Pine Country Markets, now YMCA Old Petrie Town. There are two buildings, a replica Fire Station and the main Museum building.**

**The collection embraces all fire services; industrial, commercial, rural, military and of course the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service with the aim to preserve the history of fire fighting.**

**We currently have 14 historically significant fire appliances on display.**

# ***SAFB 1975 MORITA LIFT MLD40 LADDER***



On a recent road trip from Adelaide several FBHSQ members discovered this very unusual SAFB appliance. Now retired and on display in a historical museum at Tailem Bend in South Australia, what makes this unit unique is that it was the only one imported new into Australia during the 1970s. In fact, only two were ever exported from Japan with the second unit going to New Zealand.

It is based on a Mitsubishi K201 chassis, powered by a Fuso V8 diesel engine producing 171 kw at 2500rpm coupled to a five speed manual transmission. This is a very large appliance, measuring 9.7 metres long sitting on a 5.15 metre wheelbase. It is 2.4 metres wide but surprisingly low as the cabin stands only 2 metres high, as can be seen in the current photo at the bottom of the page.

The ladder is built in six sections and is capable of reaching a maximum height of 40.9 metres in just 60 seconds, all hydraulically operated. It also has a lifting platform capable of carrying a weight of 300kg for either equipment or firefighters. The onboard Morita high pressure pump is rated at 3409 litres per minute which was upgraded by the SAFB from the usual 2273 l/m pump. Further upgrades to the seating was made to accommodate the larger frame of the Australian fireman.

Many thanks to Steven Schueler for allowing the use of his original photos and providing the specifications on this amazing appliance.



# Queensland Fire Museum



## **MFB Car 14 MACK B505 THERMODYNE PUMP/WHEELED ESCAPE**

If there is one model of appliance that is instantly recognisable as being from MFB Brisbane it is this open cab 1958 Mack B505 Thermodyne equipped with wheeled escape. It is believed that six of these fully imported cab chassis, still left hand drive, were built by Enoggera Body Works. The bodywork was designed by Mr Viv Dowling, then Motor Officer for the MFB but later Chief Officer from 1970 to 1980. They are fitted with a Gwynne single impellor pump capable of pumping 3375 litres per minute.

Four were equipped with wheeled escapes and two of these were on the northside of Brisbane, with MFB car 14 shown here based at Windsor station. A second Mack B505 pumper was based at the now closed Hamilton station and this can be seen in the photos of the Golden Fleece fire in 1969 ( Jul-Sept 2009 newsletter). Both of these Macks attended this fire.

Originally fitted with bells, these photos taken around 1980 by FBHSQ President Alex Nixon (ex FM 1st Class) show the electric siren on the left hand front mudguard and revolving beacons fitted later. Alex was based at Windsor station and also attended the Golden Fleece fire in 1969. The photo at the top was taken behind Kemp Place station with the Storey bridge shown in the back-ground and on the right we can see the wheeled escape at the rear of Windsor station.

The sister truck to MFB car 14, MFB car 7, is the flagship of our collection and remains on permanent display in our Museum at Old Petrie Town and is still fully operational.

Whilst rekindling fond memories for past fire fighters it is also destined to ensure the heritage of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade is preserved for future generations.

