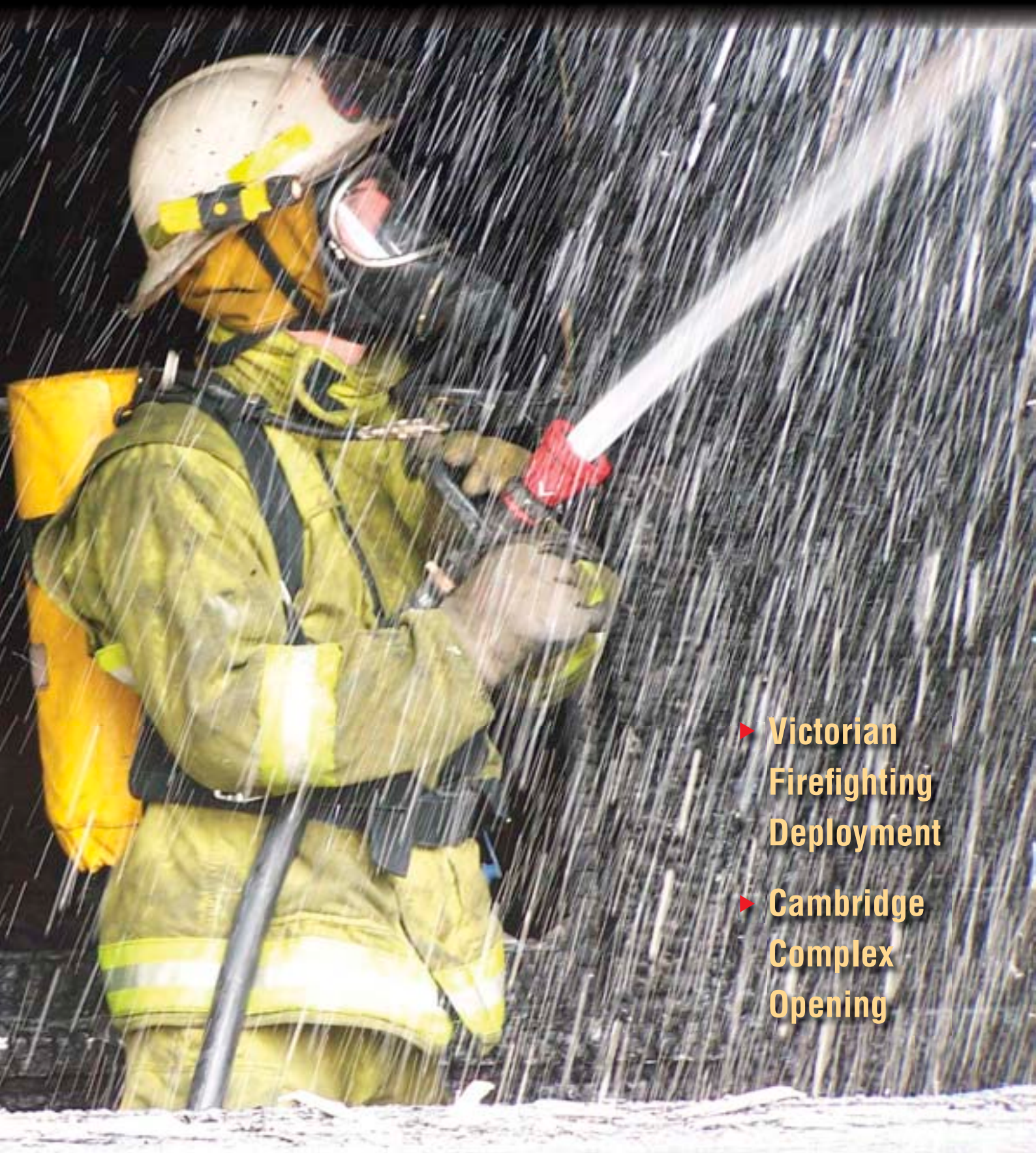


Fireground

autumn 2006



- ▶ **Victorian
Firefighting
Deployment**
- ▶ **Cambridge
Complex
Opening**

AUTUMN 2006

Official Journal of
The Tasmania Fire Service



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and
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of the
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FIREGROUND are not
necessarily those of the
State Fire Commission

Fireground!

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Cover: Fire at Humphries Street New Norfolk
Photo courtesy of Brigade Chief
Lachlan, David Gleeson



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From the Chief Officer



In January 1994 TFS entered a new era of interstate co-operation when we deployed a firefighting taskforce to Sydney. Since then we have deployed people on a number of occasions to NSW, Victoria and even to the USA. We have progressively learned from each deployment and in January 2006 following a request from Victoria, we quickly and efficiently assembled and deployed a multi-agency taskforce, for the first time with fire appliances. Bass Strait provided to be no barrier and with great assistance from the TT Line all people and appliances travelled on the Spirit of Tasmania overnight landing in Melbourne immediately ready to go to work.

Our people were very easily able to work within the Victorian operations thanks to the national adoption of ICS and common training standards. The Tasmanian interagency co-operative arrangements between Parks & Wildlife Service, Forestry Tasmania and TFS were showcased to the Victorians. Our interagency maturity is now such that personnel from the three agencies seamlessly worked together, the only differences apparent being the different uniforms. While two of our Engineering Services personnel went as part of the taskforce they had few jobs but the TFS light tankers were closely scrutinised, photographed and complimented by Victorians wherever they went

The week long deployment was a total success from both Tasmanian and Victorian points of view. The viability and effectiveness of deploying a taskforce of both people and equipment was well demonstrated. Being able to access additional trained equipped and organised resources from interstate obviously adds and extends the capabilities of fire agencies. Whilst Tasmania has not yet had to call for outside assistance I anticipate it may at some stage in the future be required. Should that happen I am certain it would be willing and successfully provided.

I congratulate all of the Tasmanians for their professionalism, spirit and commitment they displayed for the duration of their tour of duty.

Editorial

By Editor Linda Lacy

The very first edition of Fireground was in August 1981, I am proud to say that this edition is my 20th. Looking back over the editions it is amazing to see how it has evolved, even over my five years as Editor. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and hope we will continue to work together for quite some time.

This edition's centrefold, kindly provided by the Bushfire Co-operative Research Centre (CRC) is on "Recruiting and Retaining Australia's Volunteer Firefighters".

Please send your articles, photos, award details etc to fireground@fire.tas.gov.au

Closing date for next edition will be 11th April 2006, however, don't wait for the closing date - send your articles as the events occur - if they miss that edition, I'll carry them over to the next one!

My contact details are:

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A New Complex (not just for Training)

By District Officer Training Services, Greg Butters



The Tasmania Fire Service's redeveloped Cambridge Complex was officially opened on Friday 2 December 2005 by the Hon. David Llewellyn, Minister for Health and Human Services.

The redevelopment was completed towards the end of June 2005 with the feature being the development of five "state of the art" training rooms.

Primarily the facility was redeveloped to ensure continued learning and development opportunities for all TFS personnel and TasFire Training commercial clients; however, since its completion the facility has also been utilised for training purposes by a number of other emergency response organisations.

In addition to providing new training facilities, the redevelopment includes new offices for the East Coast District staff and a new home for our Cambridge Volunteer Fire Brigade. The Cambridge Fire Brigade station incorporates a two vehicle appliance bay, new kitchen and meeting room as well as the associated PPC and equipment storage facilities.

Through extensive stakeholder consultation the TFS now has a complex that combines Training Services, TasFire Training, East Coast District offices and the Cambridge Fire Brigade under the one roof with our Engineering Services complex on the same site.

So, if you get the chance, call in, we would be only too happy to show you around.





The Taskforce has arrived! - photo by Ian Hunter, Commander MFB Fire Investigation Unit

2006 Victorian Firefighting Deployment



The Taskforce being briefed before departure in Devonport

On 25th January 2006, Victoria's Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) requested firefighting support from Tasmania. The situation in Victoria was grim. Major bushfires had already destroyed homes, property, livestock and had taken three lives. With extreme fire conditions predicted and anticipating they would exhaust their firefighting resources that week Victoria was now reaching out to other states for support.

Tasmania met Victoria's request, supplying multi-agency incident management team personnel and a taskforce of 20 Toyota light tankers complete with crews, commanders, communications and support; a decision that was not taken lightly. Consideration had to be given to the likelihood of bushfires occurring in Tasmania and the availability of resources to manage them. Fortunately, in this case, Tasmania was experiencing unseasonal weather and confidence was high that the bushfire situation in the state would continue to remain stable for the duration of the expected interstate deployment. This meant carefully selected supplementary response and regional reserve units from around the state could be released to help our interstate neighbours without compromising fire protection in Tasmania.

The strong firefighting partnership that exists between Parks & Wildlife, Forestry Tasmania and the Tasmania Fire Service once again proved



Briefing by Chief Officer Ewen Waller DSE



1 February 2006

Mr John Gledhill
Chief Officer
Tasmania Fire Service
G P O Box 1526
HOBART TASMANIA 7001

Dear Mr Gledhill

Re: Moondarra Fire Support

The Moondarra fire near Erica has and will continue to have an impact on the wider Latrobe Valley community for some time to come. No one will feel the effects of this fire more than those smaller communities and isolated residences that are in close proximity to the fire area.

This fire, being approximately 15100 Hectares, has taken the combined efforts of many agencies, people and resources to bring to its current status. Those agencies amongst others have included CFA, DSE Group, Tasmania Fire Service, Forestry Tasmania, NSWRF, Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Service Board (Melbourne) and Grand Ridge Plantations.

As you are aware, significant wildfires have simultaneously affected many parts of Victoria causing CFA to respond its vast human and physical resources to many parts. The effect of this resulted in CFA and DSE people and equipment allocated to the Moondarra fire having to redouble their huge effort for a sustained and prolonged period of time.

Their combined efforts have been outstanding. It was obvious however that this fire would require work for many days and in conditions that would be challenging and taxing.

To this end, it was identified that to be successful, additional and fresh resources would need to be sourced from further afield. Consequently a request for assistance was made to Tasmania Fire Service.

As a testament to the strength of rural communities, volunteer fire brigades and the Australian spirit of helping a mate in need, TFS Strike Teams responded to provide support, assistance and relief to local firefighters.

The ability of your members to quickly integrate into the established fire management structure, their willingness to do all tasks asked of them, and the moral support afforded to CFA and DSE Group crews by simply arriving was most uplifting.

I have received nothing but praise for their efforts.

I take this opportunity on behalf of all volunteers, staff and communities within CFA Region 9 to thank you and your members for their outstanding efforts and commitment. It will not be forgotten. I respectfully request that you convey our gratitude to all concerned.

I trust that the remainder of the 2005-2006 summer period is quiet for your Brigades.

Yours sincerely and in great appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Sherry'.

David Sherry
Operations Manager
Region 9

its worth and a multi-agency interstate taskforce was quickly formed. In 48 hours strike teams and incident management personnel were in place and assigned duties at two of the largest bushfires in Victoria.

This deployment showed once again the interoperability fire agencies have in using a national incident command system and the benefit this provides for the nation in times of disaster. It also showed Tasmania has the capacity to quickly deploy or withdraw an interstate vehicle-mounted taskforce and that its firefighters can deliver effective fire suppression services under virtually any circumstances.

Operational analysis conducted in Victoria prior to the taskforce's departure reinforced how comfortable DSE was with Tasmanian personnel. Debriefs held in Tasmania so far have vindicated the decision to send firefighting units interstate. This initiative has been so popular with firefighters that post incident analysis has been predominantly focused on streamlining any future deployment.



Media Release

From the Department of Sustainability and Environment

Thursday, 2 February 2006

DSE VICTORIA THANKS SUPPORTERS ON MOONDARRA FIRE

The enormous effort put in to fighting the fire that started in the Moondarra State Park in the Gippsland region, south east Victoria on January 19 involved personnel from across the region, across the state and across state borders.

Led by the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), fire crews in the region comprised staff from DSE, Parks Victoria, Country Fire Authority (CFA), VicForests, Department of Primary Industries, Grand Ridge Plantations and Melbourne Water.

When the fire situation deteriorated, assistance was called in from DSE crews in other regions and from CFA crews outside the local area.

DSE's Acting Regional Director, David Tainsh said that the willingness of other DSE and CFA regions to send their firefighters to help was tremendous.

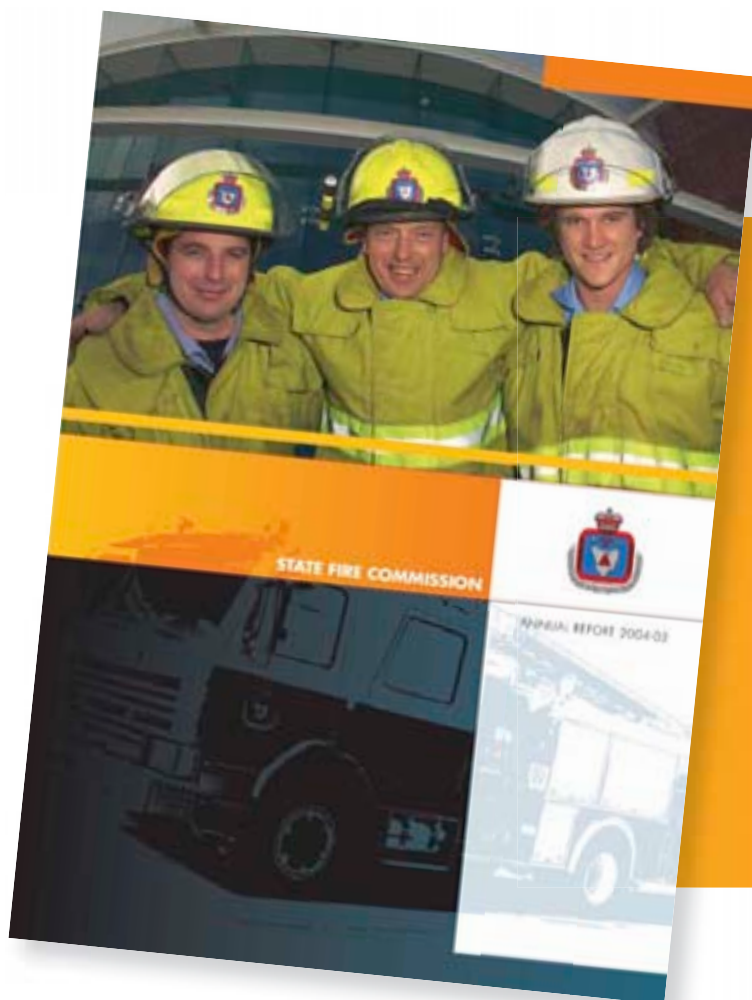
"We've had an excellent response during a difficult time right across the state," Mr Tainsh said.

"And then we called for help across state borders and were rewarded with some experienced and highly skilled crews from New South Wales and Tasmania, who travelled long distances with their vehicles to work side-by-side with our own firefighters."

"We would like to thank all the fire crews, from all agencies and states who have helped us fight a difficult fire with professionalism and proficiency."



The southern contingent of the Taskforce after arriving home on 3rd February 2006



SFC Annual Report

The State Fire Commission Annual Report for the 2004-2005 financial year has been tabled in Parliament. Hard copies are available on request from regional headquarters or by contacting Felicity Poulter on 6230 8610. An electronic version of the report is available on the TFS website in the "publications" section.

Forthcoming Events

The Tasmania Fire Service will be holding its Bi-Annual Conference on 15/16 July 2006 in Launceston.

It is anticipated that Registration Forms will be sent out in late March 2006



The outlook is positively healthy for Tasmania Fire Service

As a member of the **Tasmania Fire Service** you have access to a Corporate Health Plan through **MBF, Australia's largest privately owned Health Insurer.**

Karen Osborne is the Business Partnership Manager for MBF in Tasmania. Phone 0419 007 192 or e-mail karen.osborne@mbf.com.au

Some membership advantages include

- **MBF Member Privileges** offering special discounts on movie tickets, sporting goods and much more at selected retailers.

- More value from your extras cover for services at dentists, pharmacies, optometrists and physiotherapists within the **MBF MemberCare** network.

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“Change Your Clock, Change Your Smoke Alarm Battery” Campaign

By Acting Manager Community Education, Chris Tomes

The TFS and Duracell have once again teamed up to run a campaign to urge all Tasmanians to “Change Your Clock, Change Your Smoke Alarm Battery” on Sunday 2nd April. The campaign aims to link the practice of changing your clock at the end of daylight savings with replacing the battery in your smoke alarms to ensure they are kept in working order.

What does the campaign involve?

The campaign runs over a two-week period, from 20th March, to the end of daylight saving on Sunday 2nd April. It includes:

- Advertising in metropolitan, suburban/regional and ethnic newspapers, metropolitan and regional radio, and a new television campaign ad during the last ten days in March;
- Campaign posters and shelf tags in major retail outlets where batteries are sold;
- Campaign messages printed in supermarket catalogues and delivered directly to households; and
- A media relations campaign to generate publicity through newspapers, radio and television.

How can you help?

The most effective way to raise awareness is through creating media publicity.

A media relations program coordinated by Community Education will target the major media outlets. For instance, publicity will be generated in metropolitan newspapers, radio news and talkback, and television news, however, your station/brigade can help support this campaign by generating local publicity through fire station and community activities.

1. Key Messages

The TFS and Duracell urge all Tasmanians to “Change Your Clock, Change Your Smoke Alarm Battery” on Sunday 2nd April.

For around \$5, a battery for your smoke alarm is the cheapest life-saving investment you can make to protect your home and family.

The most important battery operated device in your house is your smoke alarm and the TFS encourages the use of a long-lasting alkaline battery to ensure your smoke alarm’s effectiveness until the end of daylight saving next year.

Only a working smoke alarm can save lives.

The campaign is proudly supported by Duracell.

2. Campaign Logo



How to create a local media story

The “Change Your Clock, Change Your Smoke Alarm Battery” campaign is about creating awareness in the public in an effort to increase the number of operational smoke alarms in the community.

Local Newspapers

Contact your local newspaper (editorial department) at least three weeks prior to the campaign. Advise the editor or journalist that the campaign is coming up and that there are a range of stories and photo opportunities available.

Community Education has media releases available.

Photo: You may wish to invite the local newspaper to come to the fire station and take a photo of you with a smoke alarm and a Duracell battery. Other photo opportunities for

the local paper may include a recent victim of a house fire standing in their burnt out home holding the smoke alarm and battery, "smoke alarm saves occupants from fire", firefighters educating school children on the importance of working smoke alarms, firefighters changing smoke alarm batteries at an important community centre such as a Scout's Hall, or a picture of a firefighter helping an elderly or disabled person change the batteries in their smoke alarms.

NOTE: It is very important that only Duracell batteries are used in this campaign, as Duracell is our supporter.

Local Radio (where applicable)

Contact your local/community radio station the week commencing March 13th. Advise the producer/presenter the campaign has been launched and a TFS spokesperson is available for interviews to discuss the campaign; the importance of smoke alarms in saving lives; statistics such as an estimated 84% of Tasmanian homes now have a smoke alarm installed and that it is vitally important that they are working smoke alarms. About half the fires causing property loss or death occur in the home and most fatal fires occur at night, while people are asleep. Encourage the public to take this opportunity to help family and friends unable to change their own smoke alarm batteries, etc.

4. Campaign Contact

George Auchterlonie, Community Education 6230 8443 or 0418 145 746

5. Suggested Local Activities

You can help expand the reach of the campaign in your area by organising additional activities. We have listed some suggestions below, but use your imagination, work with existing relationships and expand on past activities.

Help spread the message to ethnic communities by utilising any TFS personnel with second languages. This may include a visit to ethnic clubs and community facilities to discuss the importance of smoke alarms.

Ask the local library, bowling clubs, tennis clubs and other community centres to place a poster (contact Community Education) in a prominent position to remind the public and/or members to change their smoke alarm batteries on Sunday 2nd April.

Suggest a local hardware store combined with the local newspaper give away smoke alarms in the lead up to Sunday 2nd April. Smoke alarms can be given away with Duracell batteries. Duracell batteries can be obtained by contacting George Auchterlonie, Community Education 6230 8443 or 0418 145 746.



New Executive Officer Finance

Please welcome Roy Leeman to the TFS. Roy commenced employment on 24th October 2005 replacing Justin Young as Executive Officer - Finance. Justin is now Manager TasFire Training located at Cambridge.

Roy's duties include monitoring of TFS finances, fulfilling our taxation obligations and the preparation of financial statements for inclusion in the annual report.

Originally from Belfast Northern Ireland, Roy immigrated to Australia in 1970 and has been resident in Tasmania since 1989. He has had a varied career working in film, television and radio, the computer and logistic industries and a conservation charity, the Australian Bush Heritage Fund. For ten years he owned and operated Balcarres Pet Retreat commercial boarding kennels and cattery located at Allens Rivulet near Sandfly.

Recently married to Debbie and living at Allens Rivulet he has a stepson Adam. Roy's interests include golf, reading, drinking excellent red wine and spending time with his family.

In addition to being a qualified accountant he is a Fellow of the Taxation Institute of Australia and a Member of the Australian Institute of Directors. He is based on the first floor at Hobart Headquarters.



The Leemans - Roy, Debbie and Adam at their recent wedding

Retirement of Manager Administration

By Director Corporate Services, Mike Gallagher

The recent retirement of John Thomson - Manager Administration, who served the TFS diligently for 25 years was celebrated at a morning tea held at State Headquarters on 14 December 2005.

John joined the TFS on 20 October 1980 and officially retired on 14 December 2005. In his early days John held a number of jobs including jackaroo on Three Hummock Island, soldier, mechanic and driver with the Australian Army, Manager Kay/Hertz Rent a Car and Duty Officer with the State Emergency Service before joining the TFS as Personnel Officer.

John made a significant contribution to the TFS and was an extremely loyal and dedicated employee and manager. He was instrumental in setting up the statewide administrative teams as well as being responsible for payroll, information and records and the library.

John provided invaluable assistance to those looking to retire and as secretary he provided great assistance to the State Fire Commission, State Fire Management Council and the State Fire Commission Superannuation Scheme.

John project-managed the implementation of our payroll system "REMUS" back in the mid 1990's. Selection, testing and finally implementation occurred in under three months and just prior to the end of the financial year. This was an outstanding achievement with the South Australian company showering John and the team with compliments. Following this a large number of state service agencies followed.

John was the Manager in charge of Pay for some years and during that time he was a very "hands on" Manager and got involved in the day to day processes of the pay. John was also the System Administrator for REMUS and maintained a very good knowledge of the system. This involvement provided the Pay Office with much needed support, which continued after the transfer to Finance. John had a wealth of knowledge regarding awards, and his knowledge was constantly relied upon.

John was responsible for a large number of changes to administrative processes and procedures and at times had the difficult task of carrying out or advising staff of changes that were sometimes unpopular. John always carried out these tasks in a professional way.

To John and his wife Robyn we wish them the best of health, happiness and good fortune in their retirement.



John pictured with members of the State Fire Commission

Welcome to Nigel Robertson new Manager Administration

Nigel Robertson was appointed to the position of Manager Administration on 12 December 2005.

Nigel comes to us from the Department of Justice where he held the position of Business Manager with the State Ombudsman, Health Complaints Commissioner and Energy Ombudsman for approximately 4.5 years.

Nigel has a wealth of experience in finance, human resource management and a range of other corporate services functions. He has held a number of other positions within Government and private enterprise.

On a personal level Nigel is married with two children. We wish Nigel all the best for the future.



John with new Manager Administration Nigel Robertson



TFS Trucks and Machinery Auctions

By Executive Officer Assets, Marcel Legosz

In May this year TFS, in conjunction with Fowles Auctions, conducted an auction at Engineering Services Cambridge.

The purpose of the auction was to dispose of old and superseded fire appliances and equipment. The roll-out of the new Light Tankers provided not only a timely boost to a large number of brigades but also the opportunity for TFS to offer to the general public, in particular the farming community, a variety of serviceable fire appliances.

The opportunity to also dispose of old equipment was too good to pass up and the auction, which was attended by a large number of people, was very successful. In November and December this year subsequent auctions were held at Youngtown and Burnie also with excellent results.

There were a number of larger appliances included in the auctions and as expected our returns from these were not as high as the light tankers due to their specific configuration. Some ideas have been floated as to our future disposal methods for this type of appliance. These ideas will be examined with regard to auctions in 2006.

A brief summary of the auctions is shown below:

Location	General Items	Vehicles	Total Lots
Cambridge	130	13	143
Youngtown	133	18	151
Burnie	117	19	136



Toulouse Patisserie Café Fire

By Station Officer Hobart Fire Brigade, Steve Percival

New Years Eve 2005 was just another night at Hobart Fire Brigade, drizzle and a cold evening had kept all quiet until 2.39 am when "B" shift was called to respond to "crates on fire next to gas cylinders", no other information was available at the time so it was a single pumper response.

When we arrived Police had blocked off either end of Harrington Street between Macquarie and Liverpool Streets, passers-by were frantic and trying to open my door before we had even stopped. The back of the three storey Toulouse Patisserie Café was ablaze and the thunderous sound of escaping gas could be heard along with a brilliant glow from the overcast clouds.

A fire at the rear of the building had caused two 90kg LPG gas cylinders to vent and ignite, the left hand cylinder was venting onto the valve group of the other and the combined burning gases had a blow torch affect against the building. Flames had travelled four metres onto the outside of the building then another three metres into the kitchen area of the basement.

A second and then third back up was requested, a 64mm line was directed to cool and control the two cylinders while a BA crew entered the building from the first level Harrington Street entry. Leading Firefighter Stewart McKinlay and Senior Firefighter Shane Gustas did a brilliant job of stopping a near flash-over situation and forced their way down to the basement and took control of the fire. Steven Jones the pump operator was no slouch getting water into the truck and laying out the



two attack lines - one 38mm and the 64mm). As soon as the first back-up had arrived my crew entered the building, then a short time later so did the back-up crew, this left the third crew as safety BA if required.

Senior Station Officer Phil Smith took on the IC role (second pump) while Leading Firefighter Frank McGrath took control of the LPG gas cylinder sector (third pump) this left me with operations.

It was a very dangerous situation given the burning gas and a great team save. Damage has been estimated at \$400,000 and the cause as deliberate by person/s unknown.

Thanks from Jacqueline!

The future is looking bright for young Jacqueline Gleeson, a junior member of Chudleigh Brigade after an horrific start to 2005. Jacqueline was hit by a car in February and was rushed to Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne where she spent five days in intensive care and nine days in the neurological ward before being transferred to a Victorian Rehabilitation Unit for five weeks. During her stay in hospital she received a most welcome gift of a teddy bear from the TFS and a visit from the Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade.

Since returning home, Jacqueline has been attending St Giles to help her with her fine motor skills and strength building and she is now down to monthly visits after much hard work. Towards the end of November she also started back at school full time.

Jacqueline and her parents Carol and Murray wish to thank the brigades in the Tamar District for their generosity and best wishes. The money raise is being used to assist Jacqueline keep up with her education and special activities, helping with her fine motor skills and short term memory.



Brendon Gleeson, Josef Wells, Jennifer Pennell, Jayden Bohdal, Caitlin Cramp, Shannon Ager, Jacqueline Gleeson, Dominique Pennell and Joshua Wright

A 'New Way' for Fire Reports

By Acting Deputy Chief Officer Mike Brown and Office Supervisor North, Carol Davey

TFS volunteer brigades have now been entering incident reports by making a free call to the AIRS call centre for more than a year now.

More than 4600 incidents have been entered into the system through the call centre.

Brigade Officers have reported that in most cases:

- The report has been entered "much" quicker than usual;
- The brigades have reported a fast, polite and friendly response from the call centre;
- The incident data is generally more consistent and more accurate.

Occasionally problems occur, such as a computer or Telstra line outage, however these are generally fairly brief (we have been notifying all of these instances via pager message) and infrequent.

Also the caller may be diverted to an answering service when the call centre is busy. Please leave your number on the answering service as the call centre will usually call you back within ten minutes.

In the future brigades will be provided statistical reports on their attendance at incidents, either annually, six monthly or three monthly depending on the number of incidents attended. Specifications are being developed and reports will be made available in the near future. Also under development are maps of incident location which will also be made available to brigades.

Should you experience any problems you are asked to report them as soon as possible to David van Geytenbeek at the Fire Management Unit on 6230 8482.

Juniors and Cadets join up at Kelso

By Brigade Chief Kelso, Helmut Rechberger

In June 2005 Kelso Brigade implemented a Junior/Cadet program. An information night resulted in five young people ranging in age from 10 to 16 years joining the brigade. This program is enthusiastically co-ordinated by Kelso's Third Officer Maree Millier and Firefighter Edmund Ten Berge.

With recent changes to the brigade's structure and direction it was seen as a positive move to provide a Junior/Cadet program for the young people living in the local community which takes in the areas of Kelso, Green Beach, Clarence Point, Badger Head and York Town areas.

The juniors and Cadets have now been issued with their PPE, thanks to Tamar Field Works Officer Kevin Robertson.



Back (left to right): Third Officer Maree Miller, Mitch Millier, Scott Tarrant, Edmund Ten Berge
Front (left to right): Michael Nuccitelli, Simon Rechberger, Tom Squires

Feedback Trial is Extended

By Coordinator Human Services, Steve Willing

Since June 2005, the TFS has been trialling a Workplace Feedback System with about a quarter of its career members in a variety of work groups. The purpose of the trial is to find out what form/s of Feedback System work best for various areas of the organisation.

The trial is ticking along steadily - most work groups have finished one round of meetings and many are lining up for their second. Senior managers have chosen their format and scheduled their meetings, most will be completed by the time this goes to print.

We ambitiously set the finish date of the trial as the end of February 2006, but the work groups need more time to do

it justice (even without fire season disruptions). So to make sure we get realistic information to base our decisions on, we've decided to extend the trial to the end of May.

Once the trial is complete, the Steering Committee will evaluate the results and determine which format/s to roll out to the rest of the career members in the TFS beginning later this year.

If you would like more information on the trial, you can find it on the TFS Intranet site at "Info Centre/ Corporate Information/ Feedback Trial". If you have any comments or questions, contact Steve Willing, 6230 8665.

Running in a red tutu ...

By Cadet Prospect Brigade, David Claridge

The 3rd September was a day where several members of Prospect Brigade volunteered their time for a good cause. We were approached by the Make a Wish Foundation Event Co-ordinator Gail Moreton who asked us for some vehicles and runners to participate in a 57 km run from Prospect Vale Market Place to Elizabeth Town. The only catch to lending a hand was having to wear a red tutu, which made it a "fun run" and not a "race". The tutus deterred many males, but the Make a Wish cause was too important to give up on.

The Make a Wish Foundation grant wishes to children who are dying of a life threatening illness enabling them and their family to have some great memories. The Foundation has been operating in Australia for 20 years and has granted over 4000 wishes.

The early morning briefing proved demoralising to the unexperienced participants, as we were running with dozens of professionals, many of whom were using this as practice for other upcoming events and were to complete legs of over 20 kms. The local media were also on the scene to collect stories and photos of runners in tights and tutus. A poodle also participated wearing its owners red garment.

Rob Green, Daniel Reid, Stephen Gray, Alistair Shephard, Matthew Buck, Glenn McAdam, Scott Hunter and I participated in legs of 4, 5 and 6 kms. The morning brought a pleasant breeze which gradually turned into a sweltering heat by afternoon. Luckily, fires around the area were almost non existent so the trucks did not need to be rushed off to an emergency. Scott Hunter kept the runners going with his



inspirational talks over the radio and the occasional sounding of the sirens prepared the people of Deloraine to fetch their wallets and purses in support.

Everyone was grateful for lunch at Westbury and drinks at the Elizabeth Town hotel at the finish line, all of which were kindly donated. Members of the Make a Wish Foundation lined the road and collected a tidy sum of over \$1,000 making the day well worth while.

Prospect Brigade is already in training, developing a group of "ironmen", hoping to improve on this year's great achievement.





Mersey Exercises

By District Officer Mersey, Paul Hill

October has been the month for exercises in the Mersey District. The main exercise was conducted in the surrounds of Sheffield where firefighters from the Roland Group were confronted by such emergencies as a house fire / hazmat, pump and chainsaw challenge, 4WD and extinguisher use and an industrial accident. All these scenarios tested a wide range of firefighting skills along with the suitability and reliability of the equipment we use. Nine trucks with fireies from six brigades covered approximately 100 kms on the day travelling between the tasks winding up at Kimberly Station for debrief, BBQ and refreshments. The exercise was a success due to the great work from the scenario managers and Group Officer Mark Furley. A good day was had by all with all participating brigades performing well.

The next exercise was organised by Heybridge Brigade Chief John White and held at the Heybridge Station. A series of tasks including a house fire with fatality, firefighting from an elevated position (utilising live fire), gas fire fighting and a large flammable liquid fire were tackled by members from Heybridge, Penguin and Riana. Fat fire demonstrations were another feature of the night. Not only did everyone have the opportunity of participating in live firefighting practice guided by David Meldrum and a band of volunteer training instructors, the spectacle also provided in the cover of darkness sets of spectacular photographs. A delightful supper was provided by the "Heybridge Catering Corps" where after the debrief, the three brigades mingled and compared notes. Well done to John and his team for an informative and practical training session.

Group Officer Neville Bingham organised a group exercise for the Barrington Group involving Devonport Volunteers, Tarleton, Turners Beach, Forth and Melrose Brigades utilising eight trucks. Amid realistic weather conditions such as violent electrical storms and torrential rain, the brigades tackled a live gas fire in a simulated car, a farm accident requiring CPR, flammable liquid fire and a house fire, along with map reading and communication skills. Neville harnessed the skills and expertise of two Brigade Chiefs being Ian Wilkinson and Shane Buchwald to assist with planning and building of props. The debrief at the Melrose Station was quite lengthy. Well done Neville on a great but wet night.

An exercise mainly involving members from Wilmot and Cradle Mountain brigades was conducted on the evening of 5th December. Approximately twenty firefighters navigated six fire trucks to various addresses and grid references to control simulated emergencies. These included retrieval of and emergency care for people who fell down a cliff, locating and marking a safe helicopter landing pad, gas fire fighting and pumping.

The tasks tackled by the teams must have been more strenuous than I had thought as the crews seriously undertook the task of rehydrating after the debrief at Wilmot Station.

Well done once again to Group Officer Neville Bingham for his efforts in pulling the appropriate people together ensuring a successful and totally enjoyable night.

The benefits of all these exercises extend well beyond testing of skills and equipment. The work involved in putting them together is well and truly worth it. Thank you to all involved.

News from New Norfolk Brigade

By Firefighter Lachlan Brigade, Mark Dorney



Firefighters Mark Dorney and Peter Evans of Lachlan Brigade



Firefighter Doug McNeill of New Norfolk Brigade
Photos by Brigade Chief Lachlan, David Gleeson

During November 2005, a hazard reduction burn was carried out on Lower Swamp Road, Lachlan. The purpose of the exercise was to consolidate training carried out by members of the Lachlan and New Norfolk Brigades over winter. Lachlan 4.1, New Norfolk 4.1 and 5.1 were in attendance with full crews. The burn was started at 1900 hrs and completed by 2130 hrs.

On 19th November 2005 New Norfolk Brigade hosted Magra and Lachlan Brigades for a training / familiarisation day. The purpose of the day was to ensure all crews from the three brigades had a basic understanding of the capabilities of each type of appliance in our area.

During the course of the day New Norfolk was called to respond to a fully involved structure fire in Humphries Street New Norfolk.

Hobart Airport Visit

By Third Officer Bagdad Brigade, Jim Clifton

On Thursday 3rd November 2005 eleven members of the Bagdad Brigade visited the firefighting facility at the Hobart Airport as guests of the Aviation Rescue Firefighting crew.

After being shown the aircraft simulator and building complex complete with fire panel and smoke machine we formed into two crews. The first crew donned BA gear and did a direct attack on several fires inside the aircraft, rescuing a "passenger". The second crew attacked a fire in the port engine and learned how to put out a fuel fire by combining water fog with a dry-chemical extinguisher.

The Aviation Rescue Firefighting crew then demonstrated how they tackle an aircraft fire with a two pronged attack by initially engulfing the plane with a 70 metre jet of 6% foam mixture via the roof mounted nozzle. One crew will enter the plane and carry out rescue and firefighting while the second crew will knock down the fire from the outside. Needless to say speed is of the essence, they have only one minute to kill an engine fire before it engulfs the fuel tanks which are in the wing directly above.

We were then given a guided tour of their facility including a ride in the million dollar appliances.



Brigade Chief Jim Clifton extinguishing the engine fire
Photo by Fourth Officer Craig Harback

Our thanks go to the Aviation Rescue Firefighting team and to Field Officer Paul Horne for supplying us with the BA sets.

Keep up the good work guys!

New Arrangements in Firecomm

During 2005, a working party met to review the working arrangements in FireComm. This working party consisted of FireComm representatives, the United Firefighters Union Secretary, and representatives from TFS regional management and Human Services.

After analysing the workload and diversity of tasks undertaken by FireComm staff, a variety of changes were approved by the Chief Officer. These are:

- Shift times for FireComm staff changed to two 12 hour shifts per day. These two shifts run from 0700hrs to 1900hrs and from 1900hrs to 0700hrs. The new shift arrangements commenced on Friday 18th November 2005.
- Shift strength in FireComm increased by one with all shifts having a staff of two Communications Officers and one Leading Communications Officer. This change also commenced on Friday 18th November.

To enable shifts to run with three people per shift, three new permanent staff members and one temporary day work staff

member were appointed. These staff members undertook preliminary training and started work within FireComm during October 2005.

To enable a Leading Communications Officer to be rostered onto each shift, two new Leading Communications Officers will have to be appointed. It is expected that the advertising of these positions and the selection process will soon occur. Until then, FireComm will have appropriately skilled staff acting in these positions as a development opportunity. A Leading Communications Officer or an acting Leading Communications Officer is therefore on shift as from 18 November.

The registration of all Fire Permits now occurs in FireComm, however, regional staff still handle permit enquiries.

A number of other improvements are also being implemented to ensure that FireComm staff are able to work effectively, undertake career development and provide the best possible support to operations across the State.

Somerset Brigade - Juniors and Cadets

By Firefighter Somerset Brigade, Kate Wilkinson

As a part of teaching our juniors and cadets the roles and responsibilities of becoming a volunteer firefighter we undertake controlled burn offs during the summer months. These are usually community based activities, which allows good liaison between the fire service and the wider community.

Over the past four weeks our juniors and cadets, under the supervision of senior firefighters, have undertaken two controlled burn offs as part of our training program.

The first was undertaken during October 2005 on a private property and consisted of two large piles of stumps, trees, branches and other debris. As the piles were situated on marsh it was important for them to understand where to park vehicles for best access and to assess current weather and wind conditions. By understanding the importance of these factors they are able to safely determine where the fire should be ignited.

Each took a turn of igniting the fires with a drip torch. The piles took quite a while to light due to recent rain and there was also a fair amount of dirt contained within the piles of debris. After several minutes they were able to ignite one pile of rubbish, whilst the other proved to be more difficult.

After carefully assessing the rubbish piles, and allowing them to die down to a smoulder, the juniors and cadets packed up Somerset 3.1 and 5.1 back up and we headed back to the station.

The second and more recent burn off was undertaken at the front area of a vacant residential block. Once again we took Somerset 3.1 with the 7.1 in tow. We quickly assessed the situation - wind direction being the determining factors and by now the juniors and cadets were able to tell which way the wind was blowing and where best to light the fire from. By assessing the situation it was realised the other residents would be in the line



of smoke - they were informed of this and allowed us to proceed.

Firstly, they damped the surrounding areas with a mixture of water and foam to prevent these areas from catching alight. Once this was achieved they lit tree branches with a drip torch. The outer edge of the rubbish pile was set alight to create a mushroom effect, which worked extremely well.

As the debris was extremely dry it burnt very quickly with the heat and the intensity being greater than that experienced the previous fortnight. By running the hose reel from the 3.1 the juniors and cadets were shown how to dampen the intensity by spraying the fire with a fog spray. As the fire intensity increased a second hose line was rolled out with a TFT branch attached as a back up.

During this time the juniors and cadets also shipped a standpipe to a nearby ground ball hydrant, rolled out and connected 64 mm line from the standpipe to the pump on the 3.1. The pump operator was then able to fill the tank. Once the tank was full the hose lines were supplied directly from the standpipe via the pump. This allowed us to have a full tank of water for back up purposes.

The fire did not take long to die down and they effectively hosed down relevant areas, and raked surrounding debris into a pile. Once the fire was at a manageable size for the owner to control they washed down the hose lines, and made-up all the equipment used during the night.

Over the past weeks our juniors and cadets have effectively and efficiently been taught the importance of how to light, control and manage a burn off, as well as liaise with the community and make-up equipment. It is imperative that they understand the importance of safe and correct fire prevention and firefighting for our future.

New course recently conducted at Training Services!

By Station Officer Training Services, Mark Suhr

This photo is from a course run by Tasmania Police, part of which was conducted at the new Cambridge Training complex. Nine police officers plus four instructors have spent eight weeks undergoing intensive training to become part of the elite team of the Special Operations Group. The fire house was utilised for two days as part the training.

In addition to the Special Operations Group training, Training Services have assisted with Breathing Apparatus Courses, a Dive Course, and induction into the roles and responsibilities of the TFS for Police Recruits.

Word has spread and other agencies are now requesting the use of the new Training Complex.



New Bushfire Safety Publications

By Acting Manager Community Education, Chris Tomes

'Bushfire - Prepare to Survive' and 'Using Fires Outdoors' is now available.

Bushfire - Prepare to Survive reflects the national position on community safety during bushfires published in November 2005 by the Australasian Fire Authorities Council, which represents all Australian fire services. It provides detailed information on steps householders should take to ensure they and their homes are safe from bushfires.

Using Fire Outdoors provides advice on the use of campfires, barbecues and incinerators throughout the year, with an emphasis on periods when fire permits are required and total fire bans are in force.

These publications replace earlier brochures entitled Will You Survive? and Using Fire Outdoors. Brigades should now dispose of old stock. Electronic versions are available on the TFS website at www.fire.tas.gov.au

Both publications have been sent to all council offices throughout Tasmania for display and distribution.

Copies are available from all Regional and District offices or by contacting Community Education, Kelly Marriott-Smith on 6230 8485.



Christmas around the State

A large number of staff from various divisions attended Christmas functions just prior to Christmas. Santa managed to call in to each of them for a quick visit and photo session!



The Chief's gift takes pride of place on his desk!



HFB Christmas Party

By Station Officer Hobart Fire Brigade, Peter Tavaszi

Approximately 200 adults and children attended this year's Christmas party at the Glenorchy Station. Before lunch the weather was fantastic and the people providing entertainment were kept busy with enthusiastic children. Then the weather finally beat us, the skies opened up to greet Santa who hurriedly exited his sleigh and entered the station to the excited children, the rain hadn't dampened their spirits. Santa was swamped but still managed to pass out the Christmas stockings and pose for photos.

Thanks again to all Santa's helpers and special thanks to D Shift for their help throughout the day especially manning the BBQ. A great day was had by all!



Hobart Hash House Harriers and Harriettes (H5), christmas run on 19 December 2006, photo taken in Salamanca Place

2005 Christmas Pageant

By Acting Manager Community Education, Chris Tomes

Picture this two old fire trucks slowly winding their way around Hobart's city centre. Firefighters (from the past) sitting in the front with their old uniforms and brass helmets.

The city centre is packed with thousands of people all vying for that perfect viewing platform to see the long line of vehicles and participants in the 2005 Hobart Christmas Pageant.

Each fire truck has approximately 30 screaming kids in Christmas costumes, fire costumes etc. They look great and they're loud. The fire trucks have been lovingly decorated with streamers and tinsel by all the kids and have never looked better.

Half way round the city centre everyone starts to get tired. The kids have been waving at a hundred miles an hour to everyone they see. Can they keep it up? They do. Heroically they soldier on waving and cheering to everyone. The public loves them and the kids are having a blast.



Finally after what seems like hours we arrive back at the station, tired and weary. The kids slowly remove their hats and costumes and ask mum and dad for a drink. They're tired and weary but you know, I reckon if you were to ask them to do it again, they would, without hesitation.

What a day, what fun. Can't wait until next year!

Thanks from Ouse Playgroup

Santa recently "hitched" a ride to Tynwald Park New Norfolk to make a surprise visit to the Ouse Playgroup Christmas party. Santa's sleigh was being used by Mrs Clause, however, Colin Triffitt of New Norfolk Brigade came to his rescue!

Maree Nichols of Brady's Lake Brigade said that the smiles on the children's faces were "worth all the money in the world"!



Santa "on duty" at Deloraine

Recognise those boots?
They look a lot like
TFS PPE!

I'd say Santa is ready to respond to any call, ripping off the red suit and jumping onto the truck as soon as his pager goes off and I bet you thought he only worked one day a year!

Photo taken by Glenn
Boxhall of Meander
Brigade



Margate Brigade's Family Christmas BBQ

Brigade Chief Margate Brigade, Bill Quinn



District Officer Hugh Jones presented awards and Life Membership was awarded to Colin Fehre, Jim Mulder, Simon Roland and Bill Quinn having served 15 years. This award consists of a wall plaque and also the name on display in the station.

A special award was presented to Mrs Livy Polita in recognition of her husband and past Brigade Chief the late Maurice Polita, in appreciation of the

many years service to the Brigade and the community.

Simon Roland was awarded the brigade's inaugural "Firie of the Year" for all the work he has put in to the Juniors and Cadets, fundraising, social club and overall commitment to the brigade.

It was now time for the more humorous awards to be made. These went to various members and were influenced by the funnier side of brigade membership. To protect the innocent, names are not supplied.

Some of the awards were:

New PPE item the steel toe capped thong

A Death Certificate for the oldest pair of sneakers any of us have seen.

The OOPS award, and many more.

The social club as a whole and especially Craig Woolford, Simon Roland, Chris Beck and Derek Verdouw did a fantastic job in organising a terrific day.

The Social Club of the Margate Brigade organised a "Gourmet BBQ and Spit Roast" for Brigade members, their families and invited guests.

The day was an opportunity for a relaxed get-together, allowing all members and their families to enjoy lots of good food, drink and fun. Large platters of prawns, crayfish, smoked salmon, various salads and "nibbles" were on offer.

The spit roast was supervised by chef extraordinaire "Aristos" (AKA Neil Brooksbank). The beef and pork roasted to perfection, as were the potatoes, pumpkin and carrots; green peas, corn and gravy accompanied these.

Children and those not tempted by Neil's great efforts had the choice of traditional BBQ fare of sausages, veggie burgers, marinated chicken and onion.

As if this was not enough dessert consisted of cheesecakes, mud cake and a large iced chocolate cake.

The jumping castle kept the children amused allowing an opportunity for the parents to get to know each other a bit more.

Rocherlea Lolly Drop

By Firefighter Rocherlea Brigade, Michael Ling

Rocherlea Brigade conduct a "Christmas lolly drop" on Christmas Eve and whether rain, hail or sunshine the drop must go on.

This year the Brigade was fortunate to receive a generous donation of \$500 from the Manager of Amcor Mowbray, Launceston.

The lollies were divided between four trucks each with a full crew plus Santa, setting off to the designated areas.

The brigade would like to extend a grateful thanks to all involved, volunteers, families and business and look forward to continuing the union in the future.



Dulverton Group Exercise

By Field Officer Midlands, Paul Horne



Forty personnel from six brigades in the Dulverton Group turned out on a cool but fine Sunday morning on 27th November to show off their skills at some short but demanding exercises. Brigades were to follow a trail which started at St Peters Pass and went through to Mike Howe's Marsh on the Interlaken Road stopping at various points selected by district staff where competitive drills were carried out.



To get brigades familiar with each others appliances, a relay pump exercise was held first near the Midlands Highway next to a large water hole. Oatlands Brigade nearly claimed the first incident when their appliance's rear wheels started to disappear as it got closer to the water hole but some clever driving saved an embarrassing situation.



Next up was an exercise which involved pumping and ladder skills which showed the fitness of the firefighters. The youthful Jericho team led the way in this event with an outstanding time of three and a half minutes. Next best was Tunnack with a time of four minutes followed by Tunbridge with four minutes and five seconds.

The final exercise required crews to extinguish a small fire by using a 3.1 appliance to transfer water to a drum, drive to and draught water from the



drum using a 5.1 appliance. Pawtella and Tunbridge Brigades could not be split and were equal winners of this event in the slick time of three minutes and fifty five seconds.

Brigades returned to the Oatlands Station where a barbecue and refreshments were provided and National Medals presented to Jericho's Michael Agnew and Rod Taylor.

New High Visibility Uniform and PPE for Engineering Services



Engineering Services introduced the new high visibility uniform and PPE in January 2006 to meet the necessary requirements of the relevant standards associated with working both in the field, as well as on the roadside around vehicular traffic, both day and night.

The two fine upstanding members of Engineering services, Alex Godman and Craig Plummer looking a million dollars in the new gear!

Photo Competition Winner

When photos are received for Fireground, they are not necessarily submitted by the photographer. In these instances the names we have received will be published and the prize money will be split between the person submitting the photo and the actual photographer. Remember; please advise the name of the photographer for each photo submitted.

The winning photo from this edition is:

1st place



Photo taken by Brigade Chief Lachlan, David Gleeson (\$100)

How to enter:

Simply send your photo with details of the incident and name of photographer

Please ensure digital photos are of 3 mega pixels and above, also ensure date stamp is off

If emailing photos, please don't reduce the size when Outlook asks you if you want to keep original size or send smaller, this affects the quality and therefore the size of the photo we can print

Photos may be of any TFS event or incident

May include TFS personnel in turnout gear or uniform

Any photo submitted to Fireground automatically becomes an entry to the competition

All photos become the property of the TFS and may be used in any publication or displays with acknowledgment made of the photographer

Post them in to:

Linda Lacy

Editor - Fireground

GPO Box 1526

HOBART TAS 7001

or email them to: fireground@fire.tas.gov.au

New Norfolk's Open Day

On the 12th December New Norfolk conducted an open day and BBQ to inform members of the community on fire safety in preparation for the upcoming fire season. A fire education pack was won by J Smith of New Norfolk, and was presented by James Wakefield and James Lusted.



Recruiting and Retaining Australia's Volunteer Firefighters

Jim McLennan & Adrian Birch (*La Trobe University*)

Project: Enhancing Volunteerism (D3)

Program: D - Protecting People and Property

1. Abstract

This Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) project aims to enhance recruitment and retention of Australia's rural fire services volunteers. This paper reports on findings from preliminary investigations of current concerns about present and future volunteer fire fighter numbers. A research agenda addressing these concerns is then outlined.

2. Introduction

Australia is one of the most bushfire-prone countries in the world. The burden of protecting people, property, and the natural environment in vulnerable rural regions in all states and territories falls largely on volunteer rural fire services. In 2004/5, the eight Australian volunteer rural fire services comprised approximately 214,000 volunteers, with numbers in each state and territory as shown below:

ACT Rural Fire Service	350
Country Fire Authority Victoria	58,000
Fire and Emergency Service Authority WA	22,000
NSW Rural Fire Service	68,000
NT Fire & Rescue Service	200
QLD Fire & Rescue Service (Rural Fires)	44,000
SA Country Fire Service	16,000
Tasmania Fire Service	5,000

4. Contributions so far

To date, the Bushfire CRC Volunteerism Project team has produced five major reports for fire services:

- Volunteer recruitment and retention issues.
- Fire services volunteers data base management systems—in most instances these do not provide fire services with the information needed for strategic planning and policy development.
- Profiles of Australia's volunteer firefighters—this highlights the ageing volunteer memberships of many fire services
- A review of the literature (Australian and overseas) relating to several emergency services volunteers recruitment and retention issues
- Women volunteers in fire services.

Three brief reports have also been distributed:

- Exit interviews and surveys of volunteers
- Fire services' volunteer recognition and service award systems—this suggests a need for fire services to review their current schemes so as to ensure the schemes match the needs of today's volunteers
- Costs of replacing volunteers who leave.

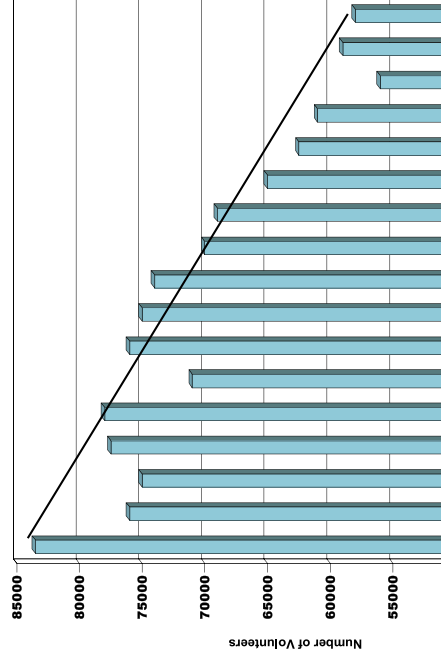
A research data base of literature relating to emergency services volunteers—mostly in the form of articles and reports—has been prepared and is available to all who request this.

5. Research priorities

Our research makes it clear that fire services need good



A decrease of 30% over 16 years



The contribution by volunteer firefighters to the Australian economy is considerable. A report prepared for CFA estimated, conservatively, that Victoria's volunteer firefighters saved the State some \$480 million in the year 2000-2001; a figure three times the annual CFA operating budget at the time (Hourigan, 2003). As several commentators have noted, if the cost of current levels of community protection against fires provided by volunteers had to be assumed fully by state and/or local governments, the financial impost involved would probably be regarded as intolerable by the taxpayers/ratepayers (Gledhill, 2001; Turner, 2004).

3. Recruitment and retention Issues

Most rural fire services have reported declines in their numbers of volunteers over recent years. Figure 1 illustrates this for CFA Victoria. Another issue of concern is a general increase in the average age of volunteers. Figure 2 shows the age profile for Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (Rural Fires) volunteers in 2003-4: 31% of the volunteer membership was aged 55 years or more.

All fire services report a common set of current difficulties associated with volunteer numbers:

- In many rural communities, volunteer brigade member numbers have dropped and those remaining are ageing.
- In some new housing developments on urban/rural fringes, brigade memberships remain low, notwithstanding increased protection level needs.
- For many brigades on urban/rural fringes, it is difficult to find crews 9-5 weekdays.

Other issues identified include:

- Under-representation of volunteers from a non-Anglo Australian cultural background.
- Under-representation of women, particularly in operational roles.

quality information to guide their responses to the current and future threats to volunteer numbers. Future threats are posed by (a) demographic changes (an ageing population and changes in the makeup of households), and (b) economic changes—particularly structural changes in the nature of work.

In particular, fire services need information about:

- Their communities—who does, and does not, volunteer and why**
- Their volunteers—who stays, who leaves, and why.**
- The needs of key “third parties”—employers of volunteers, and families of volunteers**

6. Research in progress

The following projects are being undertaken jointly with fire agencies:

- **CFA:** Longitudinal follow-up study of new volunteers—at 6 months; 12 months; two years.
- **CFA:** Survey of four new communities in Melbourne's ‘growth corridors’—is motivation to volunteer with emergency services linked to ‘sense of community’?
- **NSW RFS:** Survey of 13 rural towns and communities (6,000 households) in the NSW ‘Grain Belt’—knowledge of the rural fire service and volunteering; expectations; perceived barriers to volunteering
- **NSW RFS:** Survey of employers of volunteers—knowledge; concerns; needs.
- **NSW FB:** Survey of retained firefighters—nature of agreements with employers
- **SA CFS:** Survey of women volunteers—experiences; retention and recruitment issues
- **TFS:** Volunteers needs for training in leadership; people management; conflict and dispute resolution.

7. References

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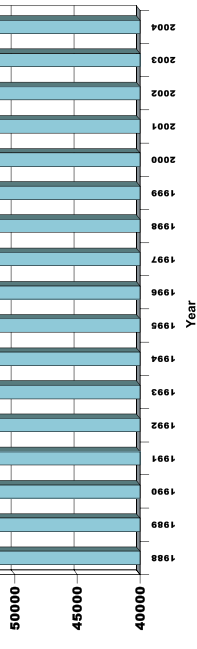


Figure 1: CFA Volunteer Numbers 1988 to 2004

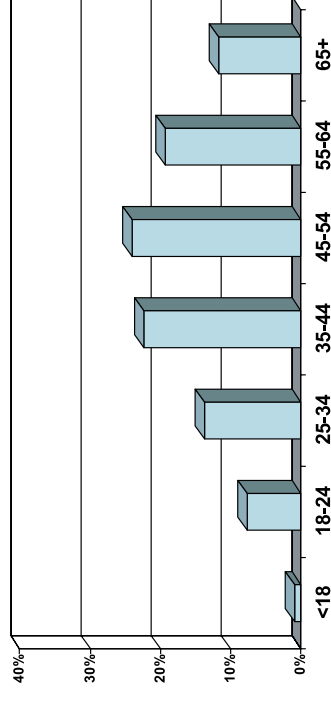


Figure 2: Age profile – QLD F & R S (Rural) volunteers (2004)



Photo Gallery



Bushfire at Cloudy Bay, South Bruny Island which was recently attended by Hobart Fire Brigade who offered assistance to Parks & Wildlife Service and South & North Bruny Island Brigades
Photo submitted by Field Officer Peter Tavaszi and Senior Field Officer Rod Cuthbert of Hobart District



Hazard reduction burn in Kingston near Maranoa Heights in mid December 2005
Photo submitted by Firefighter Kingston Brigade, Matthew Davis



Log truck fire on Plenty Valley Road - damage confined to rear axles and tyres.
New Norfolk and Bush Park Brigades responded.
Photos by Second Officer New Norfolk Brigade, Justin Benson

This photo was taken by Aurora employee Ian Stewart during the recent storms - the same storm caused many fires across the state, a few keeping our crews extremely busy.



An exercise showing what happens when half a cup of water was put in a pot of hot oil
Photo by Firefighter Wesley Vale Brigade, Veronica Atkins



Fire at the Raminea Hall - attended by the Dover Brigade
Photo submitted by Firefighter Dover Brigade, Simon Holmes



Fire in a block of flats in Bay Road, New Town just prior to Christmas.
Photos by Station Officer Hobart Fire Brigade, Craig Chivers



Supervise Response Course recently undertaken by Firefighter Brett Green of Brighton Brigade
Photos submitted by Firefighter Brighton Brigade, Brett Green

The North West Bay Group made up of the following Brigades - Kingston, Howden, Snug, Margate, Summerleas and Sandfly
Photo taken by Firefighters Doug & Ange MacDonald from Kingston Brigade



Celebrations at Sassafras



On 20th September 2005, the Sassafras Fire Brigade celebrated the awarding of the TFS Volunteer Medal to its Brigade Chief, Lloyd Marshall.

When all the invited guest had arrived, including District Officer Paul Hill, Group Officer Robert Atkins, Fieldworks Officer David Meldrum, Tasmania Volunteer Firefighters Association member David Haigh and Latrobe's Deputy Mayor, Rick Rockliff, as well as our own Brigade Chief, Lloyd Marshall, it was time for the ceremony to begin.

With Second Officer Tony Perry beginning proceedings by introducing our special guests and their reasons for being there, David Haigh followed giving a brief outline of the history behind the Volunteer Medal, the reasons for its introduction and read some of the information that supported the brigade's application for this medal. Robert Atkins then

took over to present Lloyd with his medal. Robert asked that Lloyd's wife, Rosie, also stand, as behind every great man there is a very good woman, and Rosie is always there to help out, keep tea warm and do what needs to be done while Lloyd was out on a call.

Once awarded the Volunteer Medal and having it pinned upon his uniform, a flurry of activity took place. It was off to the engine bay for a complete brigade photo, with all members and children included, before the main brigade and the special guests were photographed. As the night progressed some left to tuck tired-out children into bed while others continued to celebrate this wonderful award.

To Lloyd, the Sassafras Brigade members congratulate you on receiving the Volunteer Medal and thank you for your great leadership.

Rescue Exercise at Cadbury's Factory

By Senior Firefighter Hobart Fire Brigade, Adam Meredith

On 29th November 2005 Hobart Fire Brigade's C Platoon tested their operational rescue capabilities with a full blown field exercise at the Cadbury's chocolate factory.

Crews received an exercise pager message, "RESCUE person trapped on top of a coal silo at Cadburys Factory Claremont".

Three crews were faced with a technical rescue incorporating, ICS, aerial operations, confined space rescue, atmospheric monitoring and patient care.

On arrival crews found a semi-conscious casualty on top of a 15 metre steel silo. Once this casualty was rescued using

the hydraulic platform, a search and rescue was required to retrieve another victim from inside the silo using specialized confined space rescue equipment.

The exercise lasted four hours and tested both the Incident Control System with Senior Firefighter Adam Meredith acting as the Incident Controller and providing realistic training for rescue qualified firefighters at an industrial site.

The day was deemed to be a success as a number of skills, equipment and operational procedures were tested.



Darren Gye and Gary Loh rescuing the first casualty on top of the silo



Confined space rescuers Barry Bones and Peter Dart retrieving the second casualty inside the silo



Aerial operators Marcus Skelly and Gary Loh rescuing the first casualty from top of the silo, Richard Norris overseeing at the pulpit controls



Hobart and Oatlands Brigades working together

By Senior Station Officer Hobart Fire Brigade, Rod Cuthbert

Date:	24 September 2005
Time:	2130 hours
Incident:	3000 x 20 litre herbicide drums
Location:	Bowhill Road, Oatlands
Attending brigades:	Oatlands - Primary - Brigade Chief Kerry Mancey

Hobart Fire Brigade recently received a call to support Oatlands at a Hazmat incident in a remote location 8 kms west of Oatlands.

On arrival Senior Station Officer Rod Cuthbert liaised with Brigade Chief Kerry Mancey and both brigades began working as an incident management team with Oatlands Brigade supplying all operational staff utilising BA comms, fresh air base etc. Hobart firefighters supported Oatlands

personnel who performed extremely well under difficult circumstances.

Weather conditions were favourable due to an easterly breeze which assisted in the removal of smoke and gases from the extinguishment vantage point.

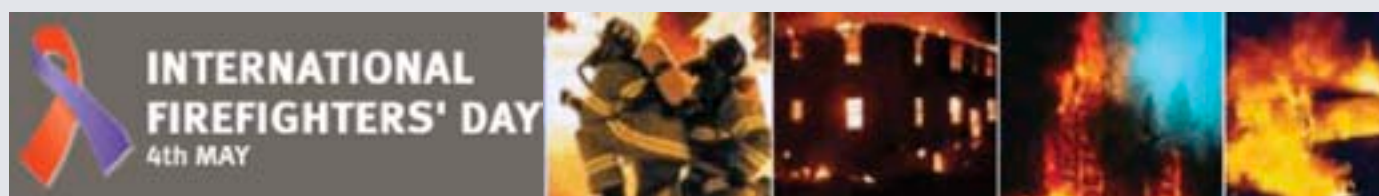
Council representatives were also on site and were extremely happy with all outcomes.

With the ever increasing diversity of calls now received within Tasmania it seems only natural that if available, and of course if appropriate, then Hobart can cover greater response distances to support our volunteer brigades within the southern region. This practice will continue to develop to a stage where all brigades within southern Tasmania can work together to obtain the very best outcome for all concerned with priority one still focussing on life protection.

It looks as though the Southern Region capability plan is progressing nicely.

International Firefighter's Day 4th May 2006

By IFFD Public Relations Officer, Greg Barnett



To all firefighters whatever walk of life, please don't forget to help commemorate and remember our fallen colleagues with a thirty-second sound-off of sirens followed by one minute's silence on the 4th May at noon. The first Sunday in May is also a recognised day for larger memorials and for those unable to attend services on May 4th.

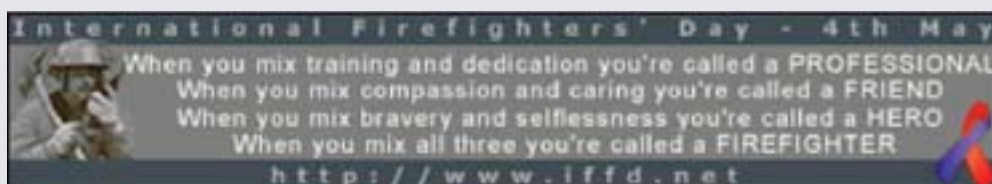
The IFFD ribbon (a red and blue ribbon pinned together at the top) uses colours symbolic of the main elements firefighters work with - red for fire and blue for water. Wearing or displaying the ribbons shows firefighters you honour the

sacrifice firefighters make for us every day - with their time, commitment, training and sometimes, sadly, their lives.

So if you want to thank your firefighters please make up a ribbon today or where you see them available for purchase and show your support and honour for them.

For all further details and information about IFFD please go to the new and improved IFFD site <http://www.iffd.net/> or contact Greg Barnett, Public Relations Officer IFFD.

email: barnett12@optusnet.com.au or phone 03 6394 7656



Bushfire Safety DVD & Advertising Campaign

By Acting Manager Community Education, Chris Tomes

This year Community Education is embarking on an exciting project that involves the production of a bushfire safety DVD and advertising campaign.

Funding has been received from the Natural Disaster Mitigation Program for the development and distribution of the DVD. A Project Team has been formed and the tender has been advertised. The winning tenderer is expected to commence work with the Project Team soon.

Background Information

According to the Tasmanian Emergency Risk Management Project, wildfire (bushfire), is considered the most costly natural disaster impacting on Tasmanian lifestyles, with an average annual cost of \$11.2 million between the years 1967 to 1999. Community education and awareness programs are considered one of the appropriate tools to raise awareness amongst the target audience.

It is the belief of Australian fire services, supported by a recommendation of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Bushfire Enquiry released on the 24th January 2005, that at-risk residents need to take some responsibility for their own bushfire safety by preparing themselves and their properties for fire. This belief has been formed over the last decade or so, based on experiences with major fires in most Australian jurisdictions.

The Australasian Fire Authorities Council, comprised of all Australian fire services and public land management agencies, has released a national position to support the COAG recommendation. This position sets out the responsibilities and actions residents living in or near bushland need to take in order to minimise their risk from bushfire.

Particular issues arising from this position include:

- the need to urge residents living in or near bushland to prepare themselves and their properties for bushfire, and
- the need to provide residents with sufficient understanding of the risks they face so they can make an informed choice about whether to stay and defend their property when bushfire threatens, or leave early if they are unwilling to stay.

It should be noted that while the position is well understood by fire services, it is not well understood by the community.

The TFS has a commitment to assist the community to minimise bushfire risk and act safely when fire occurs. The TFS has a number of campaigns and initiatives in place to raise awareness in the community about community safety from bushfires. These include:

- the School Fire Education Program
- the Juvenile Fire Lighter Intervention Program (JFLIP)
- Bushfire Awareness Week
- community information sessions
- brochures
- Freecall number 1800 000 699

- mobile community education trailers (2 with statewide access)
- the TFS Website www.fire.tas.gov.au
- the Fire Permit System
- TV Commercials
- print and radio advertising



Target Audience

Data indicates that those most at risk from bushfire are householders/ property owners living in or within 100 metres of bushland. For the purposes of this campaign, bushland includes bush, grassland, farmland, scrub and the like.

Recent events show that most property losses from bushfire occur when bushfires impact on the urban-rural fringe of cities and towns. People living in these areas come from all walks of life, with varying beliefs, aspirations and motivations and represent a reasonable cross section of the community. Some people who live in these areas are well prepared for the threat of bushfire whilst others are not prepared at all.

Objective

The objective of the campaign is to:

- provide the target audience with sufficient understanding of the risks they face from bushfire so they are motivated to prepare themselves and their properties for bushfire; and
- can make an informed choice about whether to stay and defend their property when bushfire threatens, or leave early if they are unwilling to stay.

From the campaign, the TFS is seeking:

- better informed householders
- householders with a bushfire plan
- better prepared properties
- householders willing and able to defend their homes against bushfires
- people unwilling to defend their homes prepared to relocate safely well before fire threatens
- fewer people killed or injured in bushfires
- fewer homes damaged/burnt by bushfire
- reduction in the costs associated with property loss
- less disruption to society from bushfires losses

The DVD is planned to be distributed by 30th September 2006 with a promotional campaign to coincide with distribution.

Esperance Group Day 2005

By Group Officer Esperance, Brett Burgess

The Esperance Group Day for 2005 was held on Saturday 19th November and took the form of another 4x4 competition for a couple of good reasons.

Due to the success of the first 4x4 competition the Esperance Group held in this district last year, the brigade officers and myself thought it plausible to try another, also a large amount of recruiting has occurred within the group over the past 12 months and this occasion would give the new troops a chance to practise and demonstrate the skills gained from the training they had been exposed to during the winter months prior to the fire season.

The day was held at the Tasmania's southern-most fire brigade 'Southport' and operated under ICS principles.

Seven crews participated representing all brigades within the Group, made up mostly by members with not a lot of experience under their belts along with a mixture of some from the old school too.

Whilst organising and coordinating the day's events I hadn't realised that all Sector Commanders came from the ranks of officers within the small but close knit Esperance Group and the professional way they all ran their sectors and assisted the crews when necessary was simply great and no doubt made the day another success.

The tasks crews were expected to perform included: Basic Skills; Map Reading; Handline Construction; Driving Communication; Wildfire Questions; Wet line Construction; Draughting and Appliance Tank Refilling using the group's high flow pump.

The sectors were spread out over the Southport - Kingfisher Beach area, some were easy to locate, some not quite so easy but believe it or not, nobody got lost although at one stage the crew of Southport 3.1 found it necessary to give a couple of us a first class demonstration of their off-road driving skills.



All Sector Commanders reported high standards from all crews but there could be only one winner and the story goes something like this - the Sector Commander of the wet-line construction sector was so impressed with the effort from the Geeveston 3.1 crew, he decided to give them full points which was just enough for them to pip Dover 3.1 and take the honours for the day. They are now proud custodians of a Blizzard Boss foam branch which was first prize (it may well have been the one they used to create their wet-line). Incidentally, the Sector Commander concerned is from the Dover Brigade.

We don't usually go in for individual accolades down this way, but it would certainly be remiss of me not to thank all crew members for taking part on the day, Craig Madden Geeveston Brigade; Glenn Baker, Alisdair Robertson and Byron Casey Dover Brigade; Dave Cameron and Andrew Skinner Southport Brigade for their assistance prior to and on the day; Huon Valley Mayor Robert Armstrong; Wren Fraser Southport Brigade for the great job with the sustenance and photographs; and to our District staff - the great man himself Hugh Jones and the living legend Mark Cullen thanks for your support and encouragement.



29th Australasian Fire Brigades Golf Championships

In early November the Tasmania Fire Service Golf Club contingent ventured to Queensland. The purpose of the trip is twofold. The first is renewing acquaintances with players from other states and territories, the second is to attempt to wrestle the Team Championship title off New South Wales.

The Tasmanian team consisted of John Bolton, Neil Redpath, Ian McLachlan, Ron Patmore and Ian Painting, with Stephen Heathcote as a reserve.

The championship rounds were played at the challenging Brisbane Golf Club and the Ambrose at the magnificent Brook-water Golf Club.

In the championships the team finished a competitive fourth behind the eventual winners Queensland. Ron Patmore is to be congratulated for being Tasmania's representative in the Australasian team. Other winners throughout the week were Brett Fazackerley who was a member of the winning Ambrose team, and Andrew Lowe a member of the runners-up. Greg Homan, Mark Wilkie and Aaron Parry each won the "nearest the pin" competitions, while Bob Graf, Ron Patmore and Ian McLachlan were successful in ball sweeps.



The Tasmanian contingent (missing Brett Fazackerley)

It was also great to see Andrew Comer call in at the Brisbane Golf Club on Thursday afternoon to catch up with the team.

Our group included seventeen golfers and four wives, which is exceptional for a state our size. A wonderful time was had by all and we are looking forward to the 2006 championships to be held in the City of Churches, Adelaide, at the Grange Golf Club.

The majority of Tasmania's group was from Launceston, and it would be great if some Burnie, Devonport and Hobart fires as well as other TFS personnel were to join the group in 2006. Bearing in mind that the 2007 championships are to be held in Launceston, the Adelaide trip would provide the ideal opportunity to experience the camaraderie this event produces.

The Changing of the Guard

Kevin Hardwick congratulating new Lower Derwent Group Officer Andrew Pegg who was recently elected to the position. Kevin, who is also Brigade Chief of Magra held the position for many years prior to Andrew's election.



Library News

NEW BOOKS

The 21 irrefutable laws of leadership : follow them and people will follow you / John C. Maxwell.

The Australasian inter-service incident management system : a management system for any emergency / Australasian Fire Authorities Council. 2005.

Command safety / Alan V. Brunacini. 2004.

The basic objective of this book is to improve the safety of firefighters who go into the hazard zone and do the job. The Incident Commanders who have the responsibility of commanding and managing those operations must have the ability to create the strategic support that ensures that personnel will always return from the hazard zones alive and unhurt.

Emergency rescuer's guide to cars fitted with airbag supplemental restraint system (airbag SRS) : (airbags and pyrotechnic seat belt pretensioners) / Australian Transport Safety Bureau. 2005.

Guidelines for development in bushfire prone areas of Tasmania : living with fire in Tasmania / Tasmania Fire Service. 2005.

Planning for wildfires / James Schwab. 2005.

Wildfires are both dangerous and costly, yet people continue to build in wildfire-prone areas. This poses challenges for governments and planners, who must decide whether to permit development in such areas and how best to design developments that are allowed. This report explores both issues, outlining how knowledge of wildfire risks can be incorporated into comprehensive planning and identifying best practices for development in at-risk areas.

Practise now! : mechanical reasoning supplement : how to prepare for recruitment and selection tests / Australian Council for Educational Research. 2005.

Vocational selection test : sample collection of questions / Australian Council for Educational Research. 2004.

NEW VIDEOS/DVDS

Black Tuesday : 1967 Tasmania bushfires / Bushfire CRC. 2005, 29 min. DVD.

On Tuesday 7 February 1967, 110 separate fires ravaged southern Tasmania. In just five hours 62 people would lose their lives, 900 would be injured and 7,000 left homeless. Over a half a million acres would be burnt and 1,293 homes destroyed. This is an account of four people's experiences on that day including a then 14-year-old boy who is now the Chief Officer of the Tasmania Fire Service.

Heathland wildfires / Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia. 2004, 10 min. DVD.

This film follows on from the Project Vesta and Dead-Man Zone training videos to discuss in detail Heathland wildfires. Includes a discussion of the 2003 Lancelin wildfire that claimed the life of a volunteer firefighter.



Firefighters Heath Peppin and Andrew Emery with Rebecca Evans and Enola Johnson from the TFS Library

NSW Fire Brigades global disaster assistance : Tsunami 2005 : stories of logistics support / New South Wales Fire Brigades. 2005, 60 min. DVD.

This DVD offers detailed personal accounts from four NSWFB firefighters operating in totally devastated environments around the Asia Pacific region following the 2005 tsunami. Three very different logistic support scenarios are documented which serve as insightful case studies for all firefighters and emergency services personnel.

State volunteer firefighting competitions : Latrobe, 12 November 2005 : raw footage ex Southern Cross / Southern Cross Network (Tas.). 2005, 18 min.

The Storm / SBS. 2005, 52 min. DVD.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, this program investigates the political storm surrounding the devastation of America's Gulf Coast. Frontline producer and reporter Martin Smith asks why the United States failed to protect thousands of residents from a predicted natural disaster and examines the state of America's disaster response system, restructured in the wake of 9/11.

WEBLINKS

Australasian Journal of Disaster and Trauma Studies

<http://www.massey.ac.nz/~trauma/>

Avian Influenza (also called Bird Flu)

Useful Australian websites:

- Department of Health and Ageing
http://www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/Content/health-avian_influenza-index.htm

This webpage contains information for the general public, health professionals, livestock and industry on Avian Influenza. Useful resources on this webpage include: the *Australian Management Plan for Pandemic Influenza*, and a video presentation: *Prepared and Protected: Infection Control and Personal Protective Equipment for Respiratory Diseases*.

- Federal Government's avian influenza website
http://www.avianinfluenza.com.au/pandemic_planning/index.html

Aimed at educating the public about the possible threat and business planning to minimise the effect of a pandemic on staff.

"Hurricane response revisited : lessons from Dennis, Katrina and Rita in 2005", Scratchline, Issue 14, Special Edition on Hurricane Response 2005.

<http://www.wildfirelessons.net/Scratchline.aspx>

Impact of climate change on long-term fire danger / H. Grant Pearce, et al. New Zealand Fire Service Commission Research Report, 2005.

This research report details the findings of likely changes in fire danger under scenarios of climate change for New Zealand.

http://www.fire.org.nz/research/reports/reports/Report_50.pdf

Western Australia Position Statement on Evacuation and Protection of People and Property Endangered by Bushfires / FESA, 2005.

http://www.fesa.wa.gov.au/internet/upload/shared/docs/Bushfire_evacuation_position_statement.pdf

Google Tips

- Have you ever wanted a definition for a word or term in a hurry? By using "define:" in Google a list of definitions and websites is provided, e.g. "define:avian influenza", "define:corporate governance".
- Use quotation marks to search for a phrase or for words that must appear adjacent to each other, e.g. "command and control", "Red Adair".

STAFF CHANGES

Enola is back after working at the Australian Institute of Police Management Library and the NSW Rural Fire Service Library in 2005. Enola replaces Grace as Librarian at TFS. Grace has now transferred to the Department of Infrastructure Energy and Resources working as a Systems Analyst with the Land Transport Safety Branch. We wish her well in her new position.

Contact Enola or Rebecca in the Library during business hours for more information or to borrow these items.

Ph: 6230 8679 or 6230 8681

Email: library@fire.tas.gov.au

or drop into the State Headquarters building,
Cnr Argyle & Melville Streets, Hobart

Tasmanian Mines Rescue Competition

By Instructor/Consultant TasFire Training, Eric Braithwaite



The winning team with TasFire Training Instructor Steve Webster and Events Organisers Martin Goosen and Jason Clark

The Tasmanian Mines Rescue Competition was conducted at Copper Mines Tasmania site at Queenstown on Saturday 19th November 2005. The competition is conducted over six specialist events. These are:

- Underground Rescue
- Firefighting
- Skill
- Theory
- Roping
- First Aid

The competition teams this year consisted of ABM Savage River, Zinifex Rosebery, Beaconsfield Gold, Copper Mines Tasmania, Henty Gold Mine and Cornwall Coal Co.

Each event is sponsored by various organisations. TasFire Training co-sponsored the theory event this year. This event is related to typical emergency situations and procedures that may eventuate in the mining workplace and was won by Copper Mines Tasmania. Scott Clark (TasFire Equipment North West) and Wayne Richards (Burnie) adjudicated in the Firefighting event which was won by Zinifex Rosebery.

TasFire Training currently provides emergency response training to several of the competing teams including ABM Savage River. Zinifex Rosebery and Cornwall Coal have asked for TasFire Training to assist them in 2006.

Henty Gold Mine (the overall winner) will host next year's competition and TasFire Training will continue its involvement in both training within the mining industry and sponsorship of competition events.

Appliance Fabrication Update

By Manager Engineering Services, Leon Smith



The backyard at Engineering Services Cambridge could have been mistaken for Grand Central Station during last year, with the tail end of the light tanker build coinciding with the beginning of the 2005/2006 medium tanker build. As at December 2005, 85 new cab chassis had been delivered to the workshops, 55 of which had been totally completed, with a further 20 having had preliminary chassis work and wiring undertaken by Engineering Services' Tradesmen. With the final Toyota Light Tanker of 55 being completed and commissioned in October, much of the preliminary work had already been undertaken on the development of the 2006 Mitsubishi Canter, medium tanker prototype, taking into account recommendations and the wish list gathered through consultation and feedback from the established user groups.

With a clean slate so to speak, Engineering Services sat down to design the new generation medium tanker with a high level of enthusiasm. Considerations such as water capacity, locker space, equipment along with manual handling, access to the cabin and rear deck area, lighting, pump capacity and overall mass and axle loadings were all factors obviously influencing the design of the appliance. After much debate and brain storming, a design was established which included innovations such as a full aluminium fire body chassis with integral cab guard, full length chassis lending itself to improved weight distribution and axle loadings, increased locker cubic capacity, allowing for breathing apparatus swing out stowage and the rectification of manual handling issues in previous models. A major feature of the new design is the inclusion of low



Increased locker capacity allowing all equipment to be accessed from ground level

level lockers in the tray for suction hose, fuse puller and pike pole storage, negating the need to access the rear deck for equipment, reducing the manual handling issues associated with lifting and twisting etc. The cab guard also houses the 'WAKU' multi-fold ladder, suction hoses and two 9kg extinguishers.

Apart from the locker layout, new features include, increased scene lighting in the form of a stem light which incorporates a 'Britax' gas discharge flood light, as well as a spot, class 'A' metering in the form of a 'Quenchmaster', LED tank level indicator, pump exhaust under deck to reduce emission exposure and engine noise, UHF radio and battery guard. The pumpset is a GAAM MK125, utilising a Ruggerini diesel which has diesel recirculation from the Mitsubishi fuel system. The vehicle has also been fitted with calcium long life



Extended chassis, increased deck storage area allowing increased water capacity and reduced front axle loadings



Modified cabin access steps



LED tank level indicator, ignition, throttle and stop

batteries, which to date have proven very reliable. Access to the cabin has been greatly improved with the fabrication of our own design of aluminium steps, incorporating a battery box, housing the original battery bank, negating the need to move wiring looms etc.

The appliance has been utilised at 'Falls Festival' by several Brigades and has received very positive feedback to date. All at Engineering Services are proud of the advancements in the new design and look forward to completing the project on schedule in June/July and commissioning the new appliances around the State. Once again thanks to everyone that participated in the development of the appliance and a special thanks from me to the Engineering Services' team that consistently work at a very high level to produce and maintain the TFS fleet of appliances.



360° stem light incorporating gas discharge scene light.

TVFBA State Competitions

By District Officer Mersey, Paul Hill

The 36th Annual TVFBA state competitions were held at the Wesley Vale football grounds hosted by Wesley Vale, Moriarty and Sassafras Brigades.

Not only were the Sassafras Brigade committed to co-hosting the event they were quite regularly seen in the paddocks beside the Bass Highway or in Latrobe training. The impressive part of this is that not only were the senior and junior competitors involved but the rest of the Sassafras unit consisting of non operational seniors, non competing seniors and junior juniors. Junior juniors are little people not yet old enough to be officially recognised as a junior but still issued a brigade "T" shirt. Sassy is a classic example of a brigade "that plays together stays together".

Their efforts paid off with the brigade taking out the aggregate, the first time a brigade in the Mersey District had won since Wesley Vale took home the trophy in 1972. The last brigade to win the title in the North West Region was Queenstown in 1986.

Senior team entries were a little down on previous years with 19 brigades entering, however, the juniors were there in force with 17 brigades entering teams. This equates to approximately 180 competitors.

Some of the juniors hardly looked old enough, while others were bigger than some of the seniors. Despite the size

difference, some of the smaller competitors, including young ladies, showed the big boys how it is done. Well done to all juniors with most of them surprising themselves as to what they can do when put to the test.

The senior events were hotly contested with teams indulging in friendly rivalry but more importantly using the opportunity of making or renewing inter-brigade friendships.

Congratulations to all senior members for the spirit in which they approached and participated in the competition. The atmosphere created by the competitors is the reason the competitions have been running for so many years.

The weather was kind for the day with showers easing at the start of events and holding off until the pack up

5.1 units were used instead of the usual 3.1 units. This was due to weather conditions with heavy rain for three weeks prior to the Competitions being held. This had the State Competitions Chief Judge wondering what he could do about a very wet ground! There was no need to fret as no vehicle or competitor became bogged.

The day was a great success thanks to the efforts of the host brigades, the TVFBA State Competitions Committee and additional support on the day from Kimberley, Latrobe and Port Sorell Brigades.



Photos by Firefighter Wesley Vale, Ross Morgan

Results

Junior Aggregate Winner

Dunalley	1st
Richmond	2nd
Upper Huon	3rd
Wesley Vale	4th

Combined Aggregate Winners

Dunalley	1st
Sassafras	2nd
Richmond	3rd

Aggregate Winners

Sassafras	1st
Dunalley	2nd

Well done Sassafras!



Australian Government Hose Specifications

This recently came across my desk, I hope you enjoy it as much as I did!

"Please be advised that all further hose issued by this Department will be in compliance to the specifications set herein. Any previously issued hose should be returned, and labelled "not in compliance".

All hose is to be made of a long hole, surrounded by canvas, rubber or plastic.

All hose is to be hollow throughout the entire length.

Do not use holes of different length than the hose.

The ID (inside diameter) of all hose must not exceed the OD (outside diameter) otherwise the hole will be on the outside.

All hose is to be supplied with nothing in the hole so that water can be put inside at a later date.

All hose over 153 metres (500 feet) in length should have the words "Long Hose" stencilled on each end so the firefighter will know it is a long hose.

Hose over 3.2 km (2 miles) in length must also have the words "Long Hose" stencilled in the middle so the firefighter will not have to walk the entire length of the hose to determine whether or not it is a long hose or a short hose.

All hose over 152 mm (6 inches) in diameter must have the words "Large Hose" stencilled on it so the firefighter will not mistake it for small hose.

Be sure to specify to the Stores Officer whether you want Level, Uphill or Downhill Hose. If you use Downhill Hose for going uphill, the water will flow the wrong way."





National Firefighter Championships

By District Officer Support Services, Gavin Freeman

The Tassie boys on their way to winning the hose cart and ladder event

The Tasmanian and Hobart competition teams did the TFS proud at the National Firefighter Championships in Queensland in November 2005 with both teams achieving podium finishes in several events. The National Championships are held every two years with this year's championships being the second since their inception in 2003. Events are drawn from every state and are made up of 80% utilising modern firefighting equipment and 20% historical.

The Tasmanian side is selected from nominees of both our existing competition associations, the Hobart team entered this year in their own right and self funded their trip. Tasmania is allocated three to four positions in these championships, any brigades that are interested in the 2007 event should contact Gavin Freeman in the first instance, should we receive more nominations than there are spots, selection will be based on brigades' performance in our local competitions.

This year the teams received sponsorship from BSH Electrical and Connect Financial and were accompanied by two hard working officials in Ted Domeney and Gil Graham.

Todd Cordwell from Franklin is now the National Ladder Champion winning that event from past winner Daniel Beamish of Devonport - making it first and second place for Tasmania.

The Tasmanian side also won the hose cart and ladder practice (a NSW event). The Hobart team also acquitted themselves very well coming fourth in that event.

The championships were very hotly contested and Tasmania came fifth overall out of thirty teams, which was an incredible performance. The team is grateful for all those people who assisted and supported them in travelling to Queensland for these titles.



Having a "devil" of a time! - The Hobart team are off in the pumper event sporting their unique team shirts which were so hotly sought after that one was auctioned at the farewell function raising \$120 for the Queensland Burns Unit.



Todd Cordwell is "crowned" National Ladder Champion



Brothers in arms - The Hobart team - Mitchell Devine, Darren Gye, Jason McSherry, Mark Bryant and Ryan Woolford



The Tasmanian team are pretty happy with their position after day one
Aaron Millar, Daniel Beamish, Ben Dick, Todd Cordwell and Anthony Hayers



The Tassie boys are congratulated by QFRS Commissioner Lee Johnson on their 5th place overall

“90 Years on...” A History of the Wynyard Fire Brigade from 1914

The Wynyard Fire Brigade recently celebrated its 90th Anniversary with an open day and dinner at the end of November 2005 where over 100 members and guests gathered at the Wynyard Golf Club.

The highlight of the celebration dinner was the launch by Chief Officer John Gledhill of “90 years on...” a book on the history of the Wynyard Fire Brigade from 1914 written by Brigade Chief Bruce Corbett, Dorothy Corbett, Firefighter Trevor Poke and Josie Poke.

In launching the book Mr Gledhill made particular mention of the formation of the Brigade and the enormous changes that have occurred in the community since that time. He said it was obvious that the brigade's early history was “dynamic” to say the least, particularly in 1948 when the Chief Officer was sacked and the brigade resigned.

Since the inception of the brigade, there have been seven Chiefs and after much searching the authors were able to obtain photos of them all. A descendant of the first “chief”, Mr George Crooks who was appointed by the Council in 1914 as “keeper of the reel”, was located in Queensland and was able to provide a photo of her great grandfather.

The 44 page book provides some very informative reading and includes memorabilia, photos and stories together with an interesting photographic history of the brigade's vehicles.

There was quite a deal of money raised by the brigade to have the book published and with a grant from the Waratah-Wynyard Council and assistance from the TFS 200 copies were printed.

After twelve months hard work, the authors have been delighted with the response to the book. Copies are available at a cost of \$10 by contacting the Brigade through any of the authors.



“Thanks Brother...”

By Firefighter Brighton Brigade, Mathew Philpott



The launch by the Chief Officer



The authors from left to right - Brigade Chief Bruce Corbett, Dorothy Corbett, Josie Poke and Firefighter Trevor Poke.



Third Officer Brian Willcox and the Mayor of Waratah-Wynyard, Cr Kevin Hyland perusing the launched product.



I'm writing this small note to say a big thank you to "A" shift Bridgewater and the Volunteers of Bridgewater Fire Station. The reason is that they gave me a brilliant way of doing a practical assessment for "conduct prescribed burning" course, a small burn on Saturday 28th January 2006, Bridgewater "A" shift had been tasked to do a hazard reduction burn on the bank of the Jordan River (northern bank) between the bridge and the Greenpoint wildlife reserve.

The two things I am most grateful for are: "A" shift not only accepted me as one of their own, but their leader for the purposes of the assessment and secondly for the attendance and help provided by the volunteer crew led by First Officer Robert Pearce who had had a busy night (8 calls) leading up to the 0930 start.

In short thanks to Leading Firefighter Jock Crome for instigating my involvement, to Station Officer Mike Westacott for "standing aside" and offering advice, and to firefighters Richard Onn and Lee Hodgman for their tireless efforts, and as previously mentioned thanks to First Officer Robert Pearce and his crew for their support.

As Jock said many times throughout the day "Thanks Brother!"

On The *Move*

A list of recent personnel changes within the Tasmania Fire Service

The following Career personnel changes have occurred

Arrivals

Corporate Services	Enola Johnson	Librarian	7th November 2005
North	Anthony Guy	Senior Fire Equipment Officer	13th December 2005
South	Philip Seelig	Fire Equipment Officer	9th January 2006

Departures

Corporate Services	John Thomson	Manager Administration	14th December 2005
Hobart Fire Brigade	Robert Pearson	Senior Firefighter	28th December 2005
Launceston Fire Brigade	John Adams	Senior Firefighter	23rd January 2006

Elevations

Human Services	Andrew Newell	Manager, OH&ES	26th October 2005
Corporate Services	Nigel Robertson	Manager Administration	12th December 2005
Human Services	Gerald Kutzner	OH&S Officer	16th December 2005
Hobart Fire Brigade	Jeremy Smith	DO Brigade Operations	21st December 2005
Northern Region	Jeff Harper	DO Field	21st December 2005
Hobart Fire Brigade	George Auchterlonie	Station Officer	12th January 2006
Hobart Fire Brigade	Peter Tavas	Station Officer	12th January 2006
Hobart Fire Brigade	Marcus Skelly	Station Officer	19th January 2006
Hobart Fire Brigade	Neil Brooksbank	Station Officer	19th January 2006
Launceston Fire Brigade	Andrew McConnon	Station Officer	27th January 2006

The following Volunteer Brigade Officers have been elected by their Brigades

BRIGADE	OFFICER	APPOINTMENT	BRIGADE	OFFICER	APPOINTMENT
Kelso	Maree Millier	Third Officer	Longford	Peter Tatnell	Fourth Officer
Rocherlea	Colin Buller	First Officer	Mayfield	Bruce Dunbabin	Brigade Chief
	Todd Heaver	Second Officer		Colin Walters	Second Officer
	Darren Badcock	Third Officer		Crispin Cotton	Third Officer
Snug	Glenn Hughes	Brigade Chief	Middleton	Julian Cotton	Fourth Officer
	Michael Horder	Second Officer		Allan Behrens	Brigade Chief
	David Archer	Third Officer		Warwick Cahill	Second Officer
	Phillip Grimsey	Fourth Officer		Daniel Puller	Third Officer
Lachlan	Tony Atkinson	Fourth Officer	Ouse	Craig Farrow	Brigade Chief
Snug	Glen Hughes	Brigade Chief		Tom Shoobridge	Second Officer
	Michael Horder	Second Officer		Matthew Cheeseman	Third Officer
	David Archer	Third Officer	Rokeby	Andrew Hall	Fourth Officer
Bishopsbourne	Phillip Grimsey	Fourth Officer		Shane Dyson	Third Officer
	Bruce Goss	Brigade Chief		Tony Perry	Brigade Chief
	Phil Reader	Second Officer	Sassafras	Lloyd Marshall	Second Officer
	Peter Gates	Third Officer		Andrew Perry	Third Officer
Circular Head	Kenneth Smith	Fourth Officer		Andrew Marshall	Fourth Officer
	Leo Berechree	Group Officer	West Coast	Gerry Smith	Group Officer



Kelso Brigade

By Brigade Chief Kelso, Helmut Rechberger

Juniors Michael Nuccitelli and Simon Rechberger

Juniors and Cadets - Back row: Maree Millier (coordinator), Mitch Millier, Scott Tarrant, Edmund Ten Berge (coordinator)
Front Row: Michael Nuccitelli, Simon Rechberger, Tom Squires

Kelso is a small community located approximately 13km north of Beaconsfield on the West Tamar; the brigade has a small but committed membership of nine active firefighters, three members, four juniors and one cadet.

The brigade has been operating in its current form since the early 1980's. Since the brigade's establishment there have to date only been three Brigade Chiefs, the founding Chief Jack Squires, Garnet Bealey and now since April of 2005 myself.

Kelso is a BA equipped brigade with an Isuzu Heavy Tanker and a recently upgraded Toyota Light Tanker. We have a significant area of responsibility in that we are responsible for the communities of Greens Beach, Yorktown, Clarence Point, and Badger Head as well as Kelso. We are also the primary response for any incidents which occur on the Eastern side of the Narawantapu National Park. In addition

we are a structural and vegetation support brigade for Beaconsfield.

The Brigade has over the last twelve months been working hard in the community trying to raise its profile and recruit new members. As part of this the Brigade launched a Junior/Cadet program in June of 2005, held an Open Day in November of 2005 as well as being represented at the Kelso 2006 Australia Day celebrations.

The Brigade has also been helping out the West Tamar Historical Society as a team of Archaeologists from Latrobe University have been camping at Yorktown undertaking an archaeological dig at the original 19th century settlement. The brigade has assisted by loaning a pump and hoses for fire protection to the group as well as providing general advice for their emergency plan.



Pumping action at the Open Day using the portable dam - Scott Tarrant, Simon Rechberger and Tom Squires, Supervised by Edmund Ten Berge



Who said it's not fun!
Michael Nuccitelli, Scott Tarrant, Simon Rechberger and Edmund Ten Berge

Awards

A list of recent awards presented within the Tasmania Fire Service

LOCATION/ BRIGADE	NAME	AWARD	LOCATION/ BRIGADE	NAME	AWARD
Bell Bay	Brian Coward	TVFFAF Award		Adrian Hall	Long Service (10 years)
	Ray Davie	TVFFAF Award		Dale Lloyd-Webb	Long Service (10 years)
Bicheno	Colin Lord	Long Service (15 years)		Peter Burr	Long Service (10 years)
	Barry Schultz	Long Service (15 years)	Castra	Graham Gibson	National Medal (15 years)
Bracknell	Ross Strickland	National Medal (20 years)		Chris Williams	Long Service (30 years)
	Alan Holmes	National Medal (15 years)	Channel	Bruce Phillips	Long Service (15 years)
	Ted Preece	Long Service (25 years)	Colebrook	Michael Hogue	National Medal (15 years)
	Ross Strickland	Long Service (20 years)	Collinsvale	John Anderson	TVFFAF Award
	Alan Holmes	Long Service (15 years)	Cradoc	Mark Duggan	Long Service (30 years)
	Christine Scott	Long Service (10 years)		Alan Lord	Long Service (30 years)
	John Scott	Long Service (10 years)		James Crane	Long Service (30 years)
	Stephen Scott	Long Service (10 years)		Stephen Duggan	Long Service (30 years)
Brighton	John Zielinski	TVFFAF Award		David Dean	Long Service (15 years)
	Lesley Plummer	TVFFAF Award		Nigel Goodwin	Long Service (15 years)
	Nigel Geard	TVFFAF Award		Luke Duggan	Long Service (10 years)
	Peter Geard	TVFFAF Award	Cranbrook	Alan Johnston	Long Service (25 years)
	John Zielinski	Long Service (25 years)		Robert Elliott	Long Service (10 years)
	Nigel Geard	Long Service (25 years)	Dunnalley	Trevor Newbold	TVFFAF Award
	Peter Geard	Long Service (25 years)	Eaglehawk	Bob Clifford	National Medal (15 years)
	Stan Nikel	Long Service (20 years)	Neck	Michael Clifford	National Medal (15 years)
	Andrew Walker	Long Service (15 years)	FireComm	Noelene Watt	Long Service (25 years)
	Christopher Stingle	Long Service (10 years)		Gavin Kerstan	Long Service (15 years)
	Simon Geard	Long Service (10 years)		Lochie Brown	Long Service (15 years)
Bushy Park	George Rumley	TVFFAF Award	Four Springs	Adrian Heazlewood	Long Service (35 years)
	Phillip Smith	Long Service (10 years)		Chris Viney	Long Service (35 years)
Carrick	Cheryl Hodgetts	National Medal (15 years)		Graeme Eyles	Long Service (35 years)
	Kim Brundle-Lawrence	National Medal (15 years)		Greg Johnston	Long Service (35 years)
	Ruth Simmons	National Medal (15 years)		Tim Hills	Long Service (35 years)
	Cheryl Hodgetts	Long Service (15 years)		Michael Souto	Long Service (10 years)
	Kim Brundle-Lawrence	Long Service (15 years)		Tim Eddington	Long Service (10 years)
	Ruth Simmons	Long Service (15 years)			



LOCATION/ BRIGADE	NAME	AWARD
Frankford/ Birralee	Gerhard Bock	National Medal (25 years)
	Denis Hall	Long Service (25 years)
	Gerhard Bock	Long Service (25 years)
	Neville Hall	Long Service (20 years)
Hadspen	Barry Harper	National Medal (15 years)
	Barry Harper	Long Service (15 years)
	Dale Sherwood	Long Service (10 years)
	Patrick Crimmins	Long Service (10 years)
Hillwood	Iain Nixon	TVFFAF Award
Hobart District	David Shorthouse	Long Service (20 years)
	Denis Hoggett	Long Service (20 years)
Hobart Fire Brigade	Paul Coad	National Medal (25 years)
	Noel Townsend	National Medal (25 years)
	Darren Gray	National Medal (15 years)
	Scott Morgan	National Medal (15 years)
	Stephen Benefield	National Medal (15 years)
	Steven Jones	National Medal (15 years)
	Larry Monash	Long Service (30 years)
	Lindsay Voss	Long Service (30 years)
	Robert Henry	Long Service (30 years)
	John Hall	Long Service (25 years)
	Paul Coad	Long Service (25 years)
	Noel Townsend	Long Service (25 years)
	Kim Jessup	Long Service (25 years)
	Andrew Adams	Long Service (20 years)
	Lee Hodgman	Long Service (20 years)
	Robert Ratcliffe	Long Service (20 years)
	Rod Sherrin	Long Service (20 years)
	Darren Gray	Long Service (15 years)
	George Auchterlonie	Long Service (15 years)
	Scott Morgan	Long Service (15 years)

LOCATION/ BRIGADE	NAME	AWARD
	Stephen Benefield	Long Service (15 years)
	Steven Jones	Long Service (15 years)
	Stuart Males	Long Service (15 years)
	Tracey Duggan	Long Service (15 years)
	Giulia Russo	Long Service (10 years)
	Glenn Greenland	Long Service (10 years)
	Neil Brooksbank	Long Service (10 years)
	Stewart McKinlay	Long Service (10 years)
	Michael Agnew	National Medal (15 years)
	Rod Taylor	National Medal (15 years)
Jericho	Leon King	TVFFAF Award
Karoola	Richard Lang	TVFFAF Award
	Neville Jones	National Medal (25 years)
Kempton	Rodney Ratcliffe	National Medal (15 years)
	Stephen Whelan	National Medal (15 years)
Kimberley	Phillip McCormack	National Medal (15 years)
	Alan Kingston	Long Service (30 years)
Koonya	Marcus Clark	Long Service (15 years)
	Jim Mulder	National Medal (15 years)
Margate	Melissa Heard	Long Service (10 years)
Melrose	Neville Bingham	National Medal (35 years)
	Donald Hawley	TVFFAF Award
Moorleah	Malcolm Murdoch	National Medal (35 years)
	Robert Clarke	National Medal (15 years)
Moriarty	Peter Dawson	Long Service (25 years)
	Andrew Ford	Long Service (20 years)
Mt Nelson	Danial Johnson	Long Service (10 years)
	Adrian Webster	Long Service (25 years)
	Andrew Webster	Long Service (25 years)
	David Lodge	Long Service (25 years)
	Andrew Johns	Long Service (15 years)



LOCATION/ BRIGADE	NAME	AWARD	LOCATION/ BRIGADE	NAME	AWARD
New Norfolk	Dale Britten	Long Service (35 years)	Somerset	Dean Stokes	TVFFAF Award
	Gregory Burn	Long Service (20 years)	Southern Region	Hugh Jones	Long Service (25 years)
	Gerard Garwood	Long Service (15 years)		Steve Walkley	Long Service (25 years)
	Graham Molan	Long Service (15 years)		Chris Arnol	Long Service (20 years)
	Neville Rushworth	Long Service (15 years)		Gavin Freeman	Long Service (20 years)
Nubeena	Garry Cooper	National Medal (25 years)	TasFire Training	Chris Brown	National Medal (25 years)
Old Beach	Craig Bowerman	National Medal (15 years)			
	Robert Crump	Long Service (30 years)	Tea Tree	Chris Manton	National Medal (15 years)
	Graeme Whitchurch	Long Service (25 years)	TFS HQ	Peter Alexander	TVFFAF Award
	Barry Ryan	Long Service (10 years)		Sheila Millhouse	Long Service (15 years)
Orielton	Suzanne Lee Birch	TVFFAF Award		Scott Thomson	Long Service (10 years)
Parattah	Gordon Palmer	Long Service (30 years)	Triabunna	Louise Izzard	TVFFAF Award
Pipers River	Andrew Frankcombe	TVFFAF Award		Lynette Deegan	TVFFAF Award
Port Sorell	Dennis Barrett	National Medal (25 years)		Chris Deegan	National Medal (35 years)
	Matthew Niekamp	National Medal (15 years)	Tunnack	Douglas Scott	Long Service (35 years)
	Leon Connors	National Medal (15 years)	Upper Huon	Geoff Dixon	Long Service (10 years)
	Roger Eadie	National Medal (15 years)	Wattle Hill	Bob Madsen	National Medal (25 years)
Prospect	Alister Shephard	TVFFAF Award	Westbury	Phil Matthews	National Medal (25 years)
	Kenneth Claridge	TVFFAF Award		Phil Matthews	Long Service (25 years)
	Ted Innes	TVFFAF Award		Ian Mitchelson	Long Service (20 years)
Riana	Sam Ling	National Medal (25 years)		Paul McMahon	Long Service (15 years)
	Gerry Clarke	National Medal (15 years)		Brendon Blazley	Long Service (10 years)
Richmond	Andrew Luttrell	National Medal (15 years)	Whitemore	Graham Dent	National Medal (25 years)
Risdon Vale	Ann Harrison	Long Service (10 years)		Barry Pearn	Long Service (30 years)
	Leanne Doherty	Long Service (10 years)		Ivan French	Long Service (30 years)
	Robyn Leahy	Long Service (10 years)		Brenton Heazlewood	Long Service (25 years)
	Tanya Clifford	Long Service (10 years)		Graham Dent	Long Service (25 years)
Rokeby	Peter Francis	Long Service (15 years)		Andrew Spencer	Long Service (10 years)
	Leanne Clark	Long Service (10 years)		Stewart French	Long Service (10 years)
Sassafras	Lloyd Marshall	TVFFAF Award	Wynyard	Andrew Bassett	TVFFAF Award
	Andrew Perry	National Medal (15 years)		Christopher Neilson	TVFFAF Award
	Tony Perry	National Medal (15 years)	Yolla	Brian Morse	TVFFAF Award
Snug	Phillip Grimsey	Long Service (20 years)			
	Rodney Kemp	Long Service (10 years)			



“Diamond Princess” in Port

By Station Officer Hobart Fire Brigade, Steve Percival

On Sunday 5th February 2006 two crews from the Hobart Fire Brigade took part in a familiarisation of the Cruise Ship the Diamond Princess. The familiarisation was part of the Southern Region Operational Capability Plan for Marine Response.

The ship is the second largest of its kind in the world and is a regular visitor to the Port of Hobart. It has a crew of 1100 and can carry 2700 passengers, on this visit to Hobart it was at full capacity. A very comprehensive tour was given to us by Staff Captain Inger Olsen. Inger is the 2IC on board and works a three month tour up to 18 hours per day.

It has a dedicated fire crew for each area of (1) engine room 24 crew (2) boundary cooling 23 crew and (3) deck area 23 crew. The ship was built in Nagasaki and launched in 2004 giving it the latest in fire suppression and detection capabilities. The ship has smoke detectors and a sprinkler system throughout and the engine room is protected by water mist and up to 130 cylinders of CO². In the event of fire the alarm is monitored in a control room off the main bridge, from here closed circuit TV can view all areas on the ship and respond the appropriate fire crew. Ventilation, fire doors and ballast are also controlled from the centre.

The crew leader for each of the response teams wears a helmet with built in camera, and radio comms to the other members. Communication throughout the ship is from fixed lines and portable radio.

We are the first land based brigade to request a visit, the purpose was to find out what role the Staff Captain sees brigades like ours playing in the event of an incident. The Diamond Princess is reliant on us supplying water from shore using the international coupling that is carried on the city appliances. This would involve the snorkel as the entry point is forward and aft at about 10 metres above the wharf deck. Initial crews would be met at the gangway and incident control set up in the control room.

The priority is to evacuate all passengers and non essential crew and then be deployed to assist on-board fire crews with fire location and suppression. We could also be deployed on the Hobart Ports Fire Tug “The Godley” for boundary cooling.

Inger has invited us to participate in an engine room fire exercise on one of their future visits to enhance our marine response capabilities and we were very keen to accept this invitation.

The photos show the Hobart crew, the control centre and one of the camera helmets



Bill Pregnell
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To The Mercury

LETTER OF THANKS TO EDITOR

i, Bill Pregnell, John Radcliffe, Mr. Chris Batchelor of Metro Tasmania, wish to thank everyone who took part in the Road Safety Awareness campaign launched at the D.E.C. on Monday 12th December 2005.

Our thanks to Tasmania Police, Fire Department, S.E.S., On Road Off Road Driver Training for supplying the wrecked car, driving instruction school Robyn Eccles, V.I.P. Brian Gisborne, Bicycle Awareness Safety, Radio H.O.F.M for the direct broadcast and The Mercury Newspaper for there report plus many others that attended.

We thank all those for there support in this campaign to keep our roads safe with a special thank you to Adriana Taylor, Mayor of Glenorchy, for her attendance at such short notice.

Bill Pregnell
Road Safety Awareness

John Radcliffe
Two Way Taxi Trucks

Chris Batchelor
Metro Tasmania

Bill Pregnell

John Radcliffe
Chris Batchelor



Artist is Ariane Easton
- our fire safety messages are obviously working!

NEW SOUTH WALES FIRE BRIGADES

227 Elizabeth Street, Sydney NSW 2000
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Telephone: (02) 9265 2999 Facsimile: (02) 9265 2988



Home Page: www.nswfb.nsw.gov.au Email: nswfb@nswfb.nsw.gov.au ABN: 12 593 473 110

Your Reference: Telephone No: (02) 9265 2999
File No: Facsimile No: (02) 9265 2988
Contact Officer: Email:

15 December 2005

Deputy Regional Chief Andrew Comer
Tasmania Fire Service
Northern Regional Headquarters
339 Hobart Road
YOUNGTOWN TAS 7249

Dear Andrew

I write in order to pass on my personal thanks for the extraordinary level of support and assistance provided to NSW Fire Brigades' (NSWFB) Firefighter David Daniels during his recent illness and hospitalisation. His mother's words perhaps sum up the situation, "It was incredible. They've treated us like family."

To say that your people went above and beyond the call of duty to help a colleague they didn't even know is an understatement. From the time that it was discovered that David was a firefighter, to the time he was discharged from hospital, the Tasmania Fire Service bent over backwards to do everything humanly possible, and more. It would be remiss of me not to mention in particular District Officer Craig Maxwell and Field Works Officer Rodney Springer for their efforts. David, the entire NSWFB and I are indebted to all of you.

Thank you so much.

Yours sincerely,



GREG MULLINS AFPM
Commissioner



Photos by Leading Firefighter Hobart Fire Brigade, Jock Crome



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16/1/2006

Dear Sir

I write with reference to the bush fire that occurred adjacent to East Coast Natureworld, Bicheno on Tuesday January 2nd at 4pm.

My wife and I would like to record our gratitude to all those firefighters who took part in saving our wildlife park and the animals it contained. There can be no doubt that without their professionalism and hard work the main part of the park would have been destroyed and with it irreplaceable native bushland, animals and buildings. Had this occurred and Natureworld been forced to close then eight permanent, several part-time and casual workers would have lost their employment. The effect to Bicheno in visitor numbers, loss of coach trade and a major attraction would have been severe.

Watching the firefighters handle the blaze was a humbling experience. Obviously well trained and lead their whole approach was one of quiet efficiency and dedication to the work in hand. The fact that they were all volunteers makes the whole thing even more remarkable. Every single one of them can be extremely proud of what they achieved and the credit they brought to the Tasmanian Fire Service. Their courage in the face of a heavy wind, which was driving the flames and seemed to be constantly changing in direction, will be remembered by all who witnessed what they were doing.

Thank you to all, especially to the dry humorist who shall remain nameless, who remarked on leaving that we need not worry about another bush fire for at least two years.

Yours sincerely



Bruce and Maureen Englefield
Owners East Coast Natureworld

Be Alarmed!

change
your
smoke
alarm
battery



Only working smoke
alarms save lives

Change your clock,
change your smoke
alarm battery.
Sunday April 2,
end of daylight
saving.



A community safety message from
DURACELL



www.changeyourbattery.com.au
www.fire.tas.gov.au