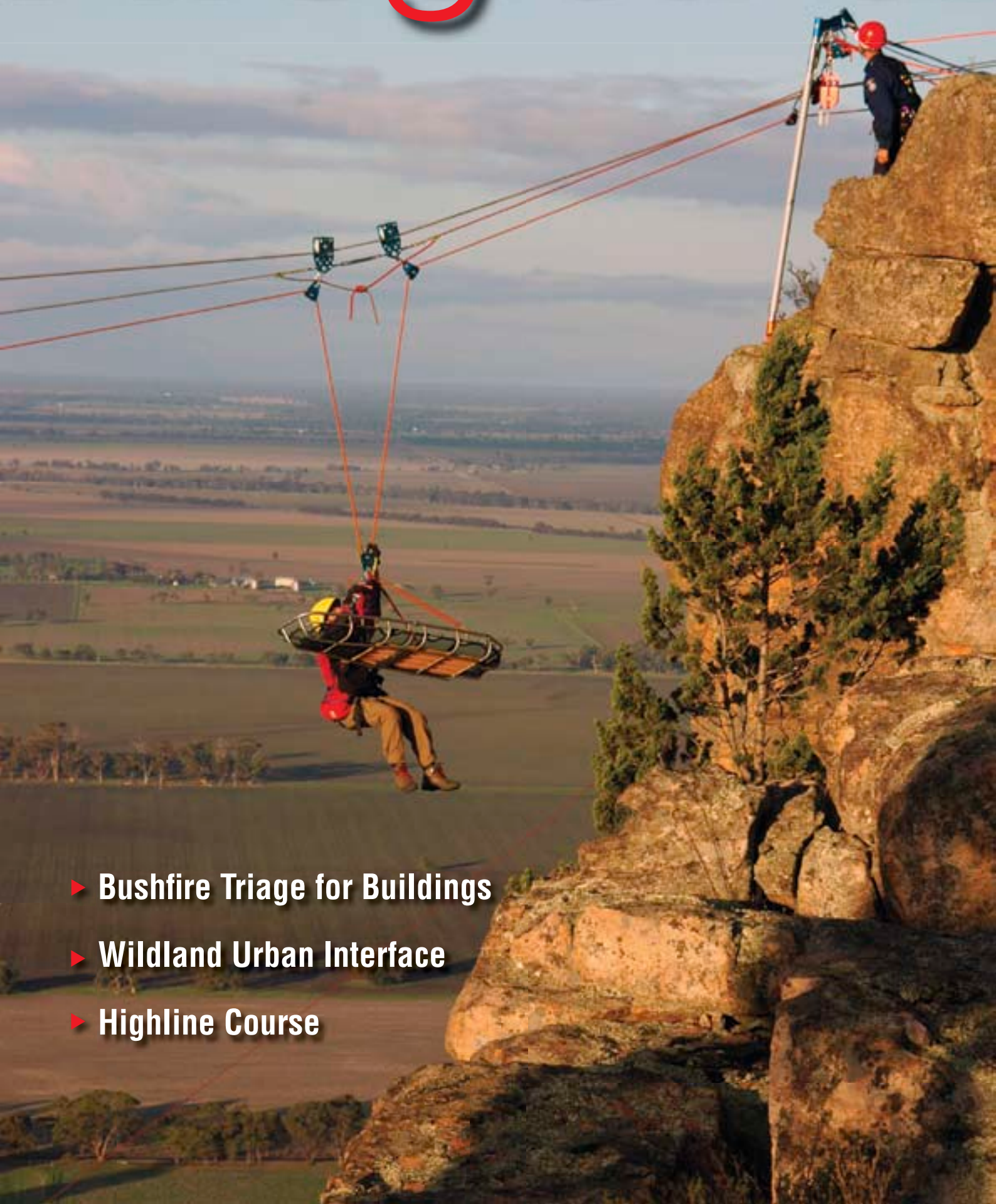


Fireground

autumn 2008



- ▶ **Bushfire Triage for Buildings**
- ▶ **Wildland Urban Interface**
- ▶ **Highline Course**

AUTUMN 2008

Official Journal of
The Tasmania Fire Service



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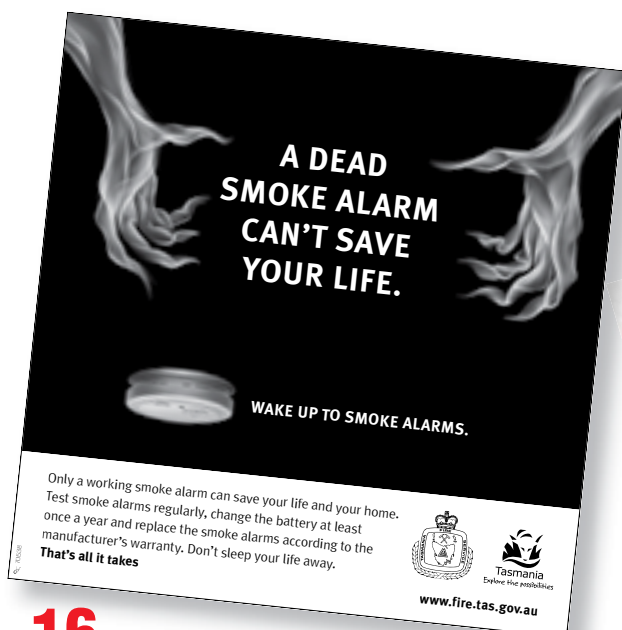
Fireground!

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Front Cover: *Highline Course at
Mt Arapiles Victoria -
photographer Warren Frey*
- Station Officer Ian Bounds (left)
and Leading Firefighter Stewart
McKinlay (article page 46)

Back Cover: *"Change your clock, change your
smoke alarm battery"
campaign 2008*



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From the Chief Officer



Helping to keep Tasmania safe is very much what TFS exists for and we continue to do it well. For many Tasmanians, TFS is the organisation with firefighters and big red trucks that put out fires. In simple reality that is TFS - but as we all know it's just a little more complex! Working pro-actively with the community to reduce unwanted fires and emergencies is a vitally important part of our role too. Regardless of how effective we are in that work, it's inevitable that fires and other emergencies will continue to occur. So we always will need to maintain our excellent response capability.

More and more we are recognising the value of having close community involvement in what we do. We have a responsibility to identify those most at risk and as a priority, work with them to help keep them safe and deal with and manage their risks. Our education programs are targeted on those who are most vulnerable and the risks they face. Whilst TFS has a role to help keep Tasmanians safe, individuals have a fundamental responsibility for their own safety.

In recent years our strategies for managing bushfire safety have centred around encouraging those at risk to accept responsibility for their own safety. We recommend that people living in bushfire areas prepare their properties and when fires occur, either stay and defend or leave well ahead of the fire. Regardless of their strategy choice, people are

obligated to make adequate preparations to make their properties as safe as possible. Our DVD "Bushfire - Prepare to Survive" focuses on how to prepare and what to do. But people living in bushfire areas also need to know about the current situation and how they are likely to be effected. They need current information about where fires are and what's likely to happen. The TFS website is our way of getting that information out to those needing it, either by people directly accessing the website or through the media, especially radio.

As good as our use of technology is, the information available on the TFS website is limited by what we are able to gather or are given. Improving the flow of relevant up-to-date information from fireground to website presents us with a challenge now and into the future. Regular and accurate situation reports are needed at any time but are essential when a fire or emergency is developing fast. The people at risk need this information to enable them to make informed decisions about their actions and behaviour. Collaboratively working with a prepared and informed community will help us together improve the safety of people and their property.

John Gledhill

Stop Press

A recent reshuffle of State Cabinet has resulted in a change of Minister for Police and Emergency Management. On behalf of TFS I welcome our new Minister Jim Cox and farewell our former Minister David Llewellyn.

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank David Llewellyn for his support and close interest in TFS over the last 6 years. (In fact, it is 10 years given his previous service as Minister responsible for TFS making him our longest serving Minister.)

To Minister Jim Cox welcome - I'm sure he will continue to provide great support and commitment to TFS.

Forthcoming Events

**The TFS will be holding its
Biennial Conference on
19/20 July 2008 in Launceston.**

**It is anticipated that Registration Forms will
be sent out in late March 2008.**



HFB Member receives Chief Officer's Commendation

Senior firefighter Scott Vinen was recently presented with a commendation from Chief Officer John Gledhill.

This commendation was in recognition of his exceptional performance during the Myer fire which occurred on Saturday 22 September 2007 when Scott, of his own initiative and disregard for his personal safety, responded to an emergency call for assistance from his fellow crew members.

Scott's courage and presence of mind were clearly demonstrated when he returned to the first floor of the Myer Liverpool Street store to locate and assist two of his fellow crew members to safety after they encountered thick smoke during fire operations, their BA air cylinder supply was at dangerously low levels and they were unable to find a way to safety.



Scott being congratulated by Chief Officer John Gledhill



Scott with members of B Shift

Editorial

By Editor Linda Lacy

This edition's centrefold, kindly provided by the Bushfire Co-operative Research Centre (CRC) is on "Prepare, Stay and Defend: A case study of Hobart's urban interface". This one is of particular interest to me as I was one of the 49 households surveyed, and of course I was one of many who said that the presence of the TFS increased our confidence to stay!

This issue includes articles on the opening of the new South Bruny Fire, Ambulance & SES Station, and recent fires at Bellingham and Packers Spur.

Due to the ongoing coronial enquiry the article on the Myer fire is still not available and will be printed in a future edition.

Closing date for next edition will be 31st March 2008, however, please 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!

Please send me your photos, they don't have to be for the competition or with an article - but tell me where they were taken and the event, I'll contact you if I need more information.

Please send your articles, photos, award details etc to:

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Field trip with Kevin Turner, Assistant Chief CalFire, looking at fuel modification programs near San Bernadino National Park

The World of the WUI

By Deputy Regional Chief, Chris Arnol

How good are we at handling fires on the wildland/urban interface (WUI)? After all, it's this interface, where the houses meet the bush, that the Tasmanian community can suffer its greatest loss. Well on the 1st August 2007 I headed overseas to see how other countries manage these incidents. In Australia strategic fuel management and community education issues are being well addressed but the hectic 2006/2007 fire season we just came through made me particularly keen to see where front line operations could be improved. This article highlights some of the things I discovered in my travels.

United States

My contact in the US was Ruben Grijalva, Director of Cal Fire. Cal Fire is the second largest fire organisation in the US; FDNY is the largest. Cal Fire has 16,000 employees, 802 fire stations (575 are in cities) 22 air bases, 1095 fire engines, 38 aerial trucks, 63 paramedic

units, 58 bulldozers, 11 mobile kitchens - and why do they need all that stuff? Simple ... in summer Cal Fire responds to 200 bushfires a day - yes I did say *each day*.

I spent a very worthwhile week with Ruben and his staff looking at procedures, equipment and training programs. Cal Fire Academy staff walked me through their training programs and the props they specially built to practice urban



CalFire props compare pretty well with the real thing



Examples of purpose built structures at the Cal Fire Academy that are used for urban interface drills.



Bushfire appliances and machinery - Ventura County Fire Department

interface drills (see photos) I was delighted. This information was exactly what we needed and the Americans were more than willing to share it with me.

Ruben had arranged visits to County Fire Departments in Orange, Riverside, Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties, so I went to southern California next. County Fire Departments in the US provide a broad range of firefighting services (bushfire, structure fire, flood, hazmat, RAR, special rescue, etc) much like we (TFS) do so it was good to compare us with them. I must say, it felt strangely comforting to find these agencies grapple with the same issues we do at times, eg. volunteer availability, budget cuts, limited community understanding of bushfire ... and there are no magic solutions.

But where the urban interface is concerned the yanks have got themselves organised. They all adopt a rapid, high-volume initial attack policy. The minimum number of trucks that respond to any fire is four; and aircraft often arrive ahead of them. No one wants big fires on a bad day. Americans realise the urban interface differs considerably from conventional bush or structural firefighting and they have developed a specific operational approach to deal with it. Well, what do they do?

In short, structure protection is managed separately within the incident command system. Strike teams, of up to 5 fire engines, are co-ordinated by a (structure protection) Group Supervisor. Each strike team is assigned an area to protect, and reassigned as the fire passes. Being organised this way eliminates a lot of confusion. Crew leaders are also taught the tactics they should apply when working the interface. The basic urban interface drill is; reverse into a drive - using the dwelling for cover - and run hose either side of the home to attack the fire as it approaches the home (see photos), report back and move on as soon as they can.



UI Drill position in the driveway, using a standard type 3 engine purpose designed for UI fires in the US. They are very much like our structurally equipped heavy tanker.



UI Drill being used in anger with an urban pumper - note ladder for the roof



UI Drill - connect hoses from same point and run either side of home

All the Departments I visited use pre-incident response plans to get organised quickly on the day. These plans detail things like; expected fire behaviour, best access, water supplies, radio frequencies, number of strike teams required in each area and the tactics they might use.

It is important to remember these crews are "on their own" because America evacuates during wildfires. Defendable space is seen as their "first weapon against wildfire" and firefighters are very proud of the work they do with their communities to regulate this. They know their life could depend upon it. Vaughan Miller, Assistant Chief, Ventura County said to me, *"We do a lot of our firefighting on the days before the fire"*.

Mediterranean Europe

After that I was off to Europe (Spain, Portugal, France, Italy and Greece). The first thing that stuck me was just how similar the vegetation and terrain was to the US (steep hills, dry country with pines, oaks, scrub and grass). I shouldn't have been surprised; the climate is identical after all.

There was one stand out difference though. Buildings are all constructed of non-combustible material (stone or concrete with ceramic rooves). Fuel clearances are still required around properties but compliance is a problem. Although people are expected to evacuate their homes during a fire, the foresters I spoke with felt that because of the non-combustible nature of the homes, people would be safer to remain with them.

In many ways operations are the same as in the US. The urban interface risk has been mapped. Resources are pre-deployed on bad fire days. Each country goes for rapid, high-volume initial attack incorporating aircraft. Everyone uses some form of ICS and strike teams of 5 vehicles or so. In the main aircraft are co-ordinated centrally.



A Canadair is one of the most commonly used aircraft. This one is laying retardant on a fire in France.

Foresters are responsible for land management and wildfires but urban firefighters normally assume the lead when fires approach the built-up areas. Therefore, by default, structure protection is separated from perimeter control. This presents obvious challenges and Europeans admit they find firefighting on the interface difficult and chaotic. Unfortunately, urban firefighters are not trained in forest fires or foresters in urban operations. The one notable exception to all this is France.

In France firefighters are responsible for all firefighting activities, thus fixing the co-ordination problem. It is also law that people stay and defend with their property during fires. This got my attention because we could make direct comparisons with Australia. Everything is well documented (but in French of course). Urban interface tactics and techniques virtually mirror America's. But it was after that the surprises came out.

The French are actually geared up for a head attack on large bushfires using ground forces (see photograph). No one else I know is. In Var (southern France), where the worst fire potential exists, a special Urban Interface Unit is dedicated to operations on the urban fringe. Town planning is carefully controlled and firefighters work directly with residents who stay to fight fires. Minimum initial attack is 6 trucks and two attack aircraft, and this must reach the fire in 10 minutes. Just when I thought I had heard it all, they told me what they do when conditions are extreme; two attack aircraft are "in the air" at all times, initial attack may involve up to 40 fire units and "new starts" take total priority. That means they will even redirect resources from an existing fire to stop the new one getting away.



Example of strike teams in use at a fire in Montpellier in France. The home was unoccupied when fire in crops spread to it.

The French in action



The amazing French. 15 trucks each with 2000-6000 litres of water muster for head attack on a fire. The clearance in front of them would be about 100 metres.



Peschici 2007. A holiday resort in Italy. Four died and the forest was totally destroyed. 2000 people evacuated to the beach. Businesses crippled - nobody came back to holiday this year.



Typical firefighters - Portugal

Let's face it; the dread of most fire commanders is the classic interface fire; where a large number of fire appliances are required to defend hundreds of homes against a major fire running through them. These fires are far from routine. They are dynamic, high stakes, time critical, complex events that not only involve firefighters, but police and the community action as well. It is not reasonable to expect traditional wildfire or structural firefighting methods to cope with them.

The key issue for us though, is dealing with the structures properly in this environment, and we need to rethink the "fire and movement" of structural firefighting. It's about *external* ignition sources and it's about getting organised quickly. Whilst away I discovered that other countries have developed specific ways to do this. The consistent themes were: a package of things ...

- Have operational pre-plans for the interface
- Ensure everyone has defensible space; prepare the battleground
- Go for high volume initial attack to keep fires small
- Get organised into taskforces to better co-ordinate response
- Have training programs for crew leaders that specifically address structural tactics on the urban interface, and
- Have fireies help residents stay and defend their properties

How good are we at handling fires on the urban interface? Well, not that bad but a rethink is in order. TFS can be at world class WUI organisation if we implement the few simple things I have highlighted above. The fact is with global warming and an ever increasing urban sprawl pushing further into native bushland, the urban interface fire problem isn't going away. It is the "big future" for fire agencies.

With the Chief's blessing we will introduce these in the next year or so.

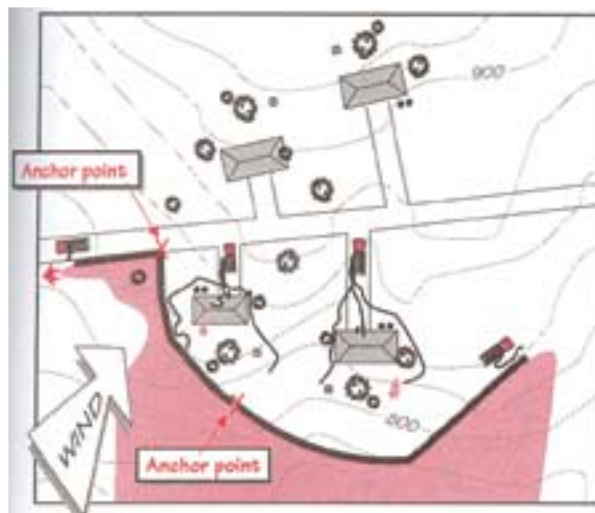


Diagram of appliances deployed for structural protection

By the way, my trip was funded and made possible by the Churchill Fellowship Trust (see article, Spring edition Fireground). Fellowships are again on offer. Applications close at the end of February 2008. If you are interested to find out more go to www.churchilltrust.com.au



Giovanni De Siervo (left) showing Chris the Civil Protection, Political Room where civil disasters are co-ordinated from deep underground in Rome. Lillo Testasecca international liaison is accompanying them.



Aftermath of a fire outside Athens. House to the left saved, houses to the right lost, all solid construction.



Portugal 2007



Catalonia, Spain 2007. This fire closed the highway between Spain and France and caught passing trucks alight.



USA Riverside County 2007
Note from the 4 photos above just how similar the UI problem is worldwide



Hobart - October 2006, photo courtesy of the Mercury Newspaper



Geona in Italy. A station officer there told me he had to deal with a 5th floor apartment alight when they had interface fires.



Aircraft using retardant on UI fire

Bushfire Survival DVD Project highly commended

By Project Manager, Chris Tomes

On 14th February the Federal Attorney-General, the Hon Robert McClelland MP and the Minister for Home Affairs the Hon Bob Debus MP, presented the TFS with a highly commended award for the Bushfire Survival DVD Project.

A trophy and certificate were presented to the TFS for the Bushfire Safety DVD and integrated communications campaign at an awards ceremony at Parliament House Canberra.

The TFS entered the Pre-Disaster category that covers projects aimed at preventing or mitigating disasters and emergencies or their effects, including preparedness activities.

The Australian Safer Communities Awards are sponsored by Emergency Management Australia and are aimed at recognising people and organisations for best practice and innovation in emergency management.

I was very proud to accept this award on behalf of the TFS. It took a team of people to produce the Bushfire Safety DVD and integrated communications campaign and I would like to once again thank the following for their outstanding contribution to the project:

- Project Team members Jess Brown, Ken Burns, Gerald Crawford, Damien Killalea, Danny Reid
- Digital Ink, Corporate Communications, Southern Cross TV, CGU Insurance
- D Shift Hobart and all the TFS staff that helped out.



Forty years on ...

On the 27th December 1967 Dennis Tennant commenced employment with the TFS. Recently a function was held to recognise this remarkable feat - forty years consecutive service with the Hobart Brigade.

In his speech, Regional Chief Tony Davidson stated that Dennis had made his greatest and best known contribution in the area of BA or SED, becoming the "Guru of BA" and that the TFS has enjoyed its enviable record in relation to the reliability and performance of its BA and associated equipment as a direct result of Dennis' efforts.

Dennis, your friends and colleagues from those forty consecutive years wish to congratulate you.



Station Officer Dennis Tennant and Regional Chief Tony Davidson

Opening of new South Bruny Station

The 15th January 2008 was an eventful day for South Bruny residents as it marked the opening of the Fire, Ambulance and SES Stations - all in one building! The new station is located at 3341 Bruny Island Main Road.

District Officer Hugh Jones welcomed all guests advising the reasons for the combined services building. Relocation to the South Bruny Fire Station now provides a more centralised and accessible location and provided upgraded facilities for all users.

Local Co-ordinator Mr Dick Goodwin applied for a Grant from the Australian Government Regional Partnership Program for the extensions and alterations, so as to provide a much more



functional building, other funding was received from the sale of SES/TAS building to Council, funds from Bruny SES Unit and the TFS.

After addresses from Kingborough Council Mayor, Dr Graham Bury and Julie Collins MP Federal Member for Franklin, the official opening was conducted by the Hon. Lara Giddings MHA, Minister for Health & Human Services.



Dennis with retired HFB members



Bellingham fire

By Senior Firefighter Launceston Brigade, Belinda Harvey



Looking from the ocean near Bellingham towards the area of the fire

The Bellingham fire ended up burning out a total area of 2600 ha, and although no homes were lost in the blaze a 210 ha private pine plantation and four unattended vehicles were destroyed.

The work to contain the fire was conducted by a joint effort between Forestry Tasmania, Gunn's, Parks & Wildlife Service and the TFS. At the height of the fire 90 personnel were in attendance plus 14 heavy and light tankers, 3 helicopters and several dozers.

The main control centre was at Forestry Tasmania and we would like to thank them for opening up their facilities to us and accommodating us there. Everyone worked well as a team to achieve a good end result.



Inaccessible area of the fire in the sand dunes with a natural control line (the ocean)



Area of the sand dunes with a small amount of fire activity



Lucky escape for the owners of this house - area all around the shack is burnt out



Closer view of how lucky this house was



Aftermath of
Bellingham fires



The area burnt either
side of the highway
which was closed for
approximately 2 days

Fire crews hard at
work replenishing tank
supplies from the water
carrier on the roadside

Photographer Firefighter Lilydale Brigade,
Clinton Dean





Annual Winter Fire Safety Campaign

By Manager Community Education, Sandra Barber and Consultant Community Education, Chris Tomes

With winter and the associated cold weather fast approaching, the TFS is again gearing up for an increase in the risk of house fires across the state. The annual TFS Winter Fire Safety Campaign for 2008 will have two phases

March and April will see the first phase of our winter fire safety campaign strategy, the Change Your Clock Change Your Smoke Alarm Battery Campaign.

The second phase of the winter fire safety campaign strategy includes a series of television advertisements that promote:

- the importance of working smoke alarms; and
- preparing and practicing a home fire escape plan.

This strategy focuses on parents / carers of children and elderly people and aims to increase their awareness of fire safety issues in the home and encourage them to take an active role in the development of awareness and fire-safe behaviour.

These advertisements, airing on WIN, Southern Cross and TDT during the months of May, June and July, keep the issue of fire safety in the home in the forefront of people's minds during the winter months when the risks are greatest.

Other strategies aimed at those most at risk from fire include:

- School Fire Education Program;
- Advertising and editorial in local newsletters;
- Advertising and editorial in 'Community Chat' Housing Tasmania newsletter;
- Project Wake Up!;
- Advertising and editorial in major newspapers statewide;
- Advertising on fire trucks and School Education vehicles;
- Mobile Display Trailers North and South;

- TFS website;
- Free call 1800 000 699;
- Brochures and booklets; and
- Home fire safety resources available by contacting Community Education Administrative Assistant on 6230 8485

Key fire safety messages:



- Working smoke alarms
- Risk of death from home fires
- Importance of having smoke alarms
- Only working smoke alarms save lives
- Change the batteries in smoke alarms annually
- Home fire escape plan
- Adult responsibility for alerting and evacuating children

These strategies should help ensure that we continue to see a drop in the number of house fires in Tasmania.

A DEAD SMOKE ALARM CAN'T SAVE YOUR LIFE.

WAKE UP TO SMOKE ALARMS.

Only a working smoke alarm can save your life and your home. Test smoke alarms regularly, change the battery at least once a year and replace the smoke alarms according to the manufacturer's warranty. Don't sleep your life away. That's all it takes

www.fire.tas.gov.au



PREPARE, STAY AND DEFEND: A CASE STUDY OF HOBART'S URBAN INTERFACE

Tom Lowe*, Amalie Tibbits, Josh Whittaker, John Handmer

Centre for Risk and Community Safety, RMIT University, Melbourne.

* Lead researcher: thomas.lowe@rmit.edu.au



Photograph courtesy of Ian Stewart

The Event

The 11th October 2006 was a day of extreme fire danger in Hobart, more extreme than on the day of the devastating 1967 fires. On the evening of the 11th, a fire was deliberately lit at Rosney Hill in Hobart's eastern shore suburbs. Fanned by strong winds, the fire soon broke through containment lines, leaving the Tasmanian Fire Service (TFS) no option but to concentrate on asset protection. In the next few hours the fire covered a distance of 8km, burning out an area of 860ha.

The Message

Shortly after the outbreak of the bushfire, ABC local radio began broadcasting information updates and safety advice for concerned residents. A key message delivered was that property owners should return to their homes, prepare them for the arrival of the bushfire then evacuate with valuables or prepare to stay and defend the property. The resulting influx of road traffic was noted to have created congestion problems that were further exacerbated by road closures, traffic signal failures and a large number of interested onlookers making their way to the affected areas.

The Response

A survey of 49 households located within 100m of the bushfire zone was conducted in the month following the bushfire. This research provided a detailed picture of people's experiences and behaviour before and during the fire. The research also enabled an understanding of the key influences on householder's decision making processes to prepare, stay and defend or leave early and rationales for behavioural actions.

The Survey

A survey of 49 households located within 100m of the bushfire zone was conducted in the month following the bushfire. The research allowed a detailed picture to be drawn, of issues and events surrounding the fire enabling an understanding of the key influences upon householder's decision making processes to 'prepare, stay and defend or leave early' and rationales for behavioural actions.

Key Findings

Of the households surveyed:

- People returned to their properties to check the situation.
- Over 90 per cent stayed and defended, although only 43 per cent had a fire plan before the event.
- Many people were unsure of what they were doing, and relied on advice during the event.
- The presence of the TFS increased confidence to stay.
- If they felt under threat, many residents would have left and many had a fall back plan to do so.
- Residents had very high expectations of the support and assistance the TFS would provide.
- In general, residents were positive about the experience.

The Outcomes

Overall, the fire response was a success, with minimal losses and a positive experience of staying and defending for many residents.

The study highlighted the reliance residents at the urban interface have on fire services not only to respond to an event but also provide support for householders carrying out their own bushfire plan.

The 'prepare, stay and defend, or leave early' policy requires residents to be self-sufficient in making and executing their bushfire plans. The results of this study questions resident's readiness to take this on, suggesting that fire agencies may need to provide greater assistance both before and during an event to ensure people are able to carry out a safe and effective bushfire survival plan. This work contributes to the development of a decision-support tool for the 'stay or go' policy



Field survey area

"Change your clock, change your smoke alarm battery" campaign 2008

By Consultant Community Education, Chris Tomes

The TFS and Duracell have again teamed up to run a campaign to urge all Tasmanians to "Change Your Clock, Change Your Smoke Alarm Battery" on Sunday April 6. The campaign aims to link the practice of changing your clock at the end of daylight savings with replacing the battery in your smoke alarm to ensure they are kept in working order.

What does the campaign involve?

The campaign runs over a two-week period, from March 24, to the end of daylight saving on April 6.

It includes:

- Advertising in metropolitan and suburban/regional, metropolitan and regional radio, and a television campaign;
- 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 co-ordinated 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.

Key Messages

- The TFS and Duracell urge all Tasmanians to "Change Your Clock, Change Your Smoke Alarm Battery" on Sunday April 6.
- 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 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.

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 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 24. 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 who are unable to change their own smoke alarm batteries, etc.

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 in a prominent position to remind the public and/or members to change their smoke alarm batteries on Sunday April 6.

Volunteer recruitment DVD is "Typical!"

By Executive Officer Volunteer Support, Jacqueline Fisher

Suggest a local hardware store combined with the local newspaper give away smoke alarms in the lead up to Sunday April 6. Smoke alarms can be given away with Duracell batteries. Duracell batteries can be obtained by contacting Chris Tomes, Community Education 6230 8443 or 0419 120 159.

An information kit and posters will be sent to all Career and Volunteer brigades prior to the campaign.

The TFS web site will have a link from the home page to information about the campaign, smoke alarms, evacuation planning and to the campaign website www.changeyourbattery.com.au

When Manager Organisational Learning, Suzanne Bacon developed a volunteer diversity presentation titled 'Typical' for the 2006 TFS Biennial Conference, little did she know that her work would end up on a DVD. This new volunteer recruitment DVD forms part of the TFS Volunteer Recruitment Project, funded by Emergency Management Australia as part of the National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund.

This DVD introduces Maude, an accountant by profession, but don't hold that against her. Maude is interested in becoming a volunteer firefighter and would like to know what sort of person becomes a volunteer firefighter? Who is a typical volunteer? And most importantly, will she fit in? To help answer these questions Maude embarks on a statewide quest to find the "typical" volunteer firefighter. During this journey Maude meets a diverse range of highly skilled and dedicated firefighters located in suburban, rural and remote brigades across Tasmania. Maude meets junior and cadet firefighters, males and females, employed and unemployed members, mothers and fathers, new members and long serving members.

This DVD is aimed at anyone interested in becoming a TFS member and wondering the same questions as Maude - Who is the typical volunteer firefighter? Will I fit in?

For a copy of this DVD please contact your regional office or download a copy from the TFS website.



Community Safety initiative at Cambridge Primary School

By Consultant Community Education, Chris Tomes

Recently the construction company Bovis Lend Lease approached the TFS to participate in a community initiative at the Cambridge Primary School. Bovis Lend Lease is the company conducting the major construction work in Cambridge (Hydro and Harvey Norman Centre). Their approach is to give back to the communities they are working in at the time.

On Friday 2nd November the TFS, in collaboration with Bovis Lend Lease, presented the students of Cambridge Primary with show bags containing a variety of items including a fire blanket (kindly donated by Bovis Lend Lease).

A big thanks to the Station 3 career crew: Colin Attrill, Bill St Leger, Peter Dart, Richard Norris; and Cambridge volunteers: Geoff Kent, Sam Hibberd, Bob Glass; Bovis Lend Lease representatives Erin Porter, Warren Desmond, Tony Barbeta, Drew Miller and Cambridge Principal Kim Harvey and all the students.



New testing & refilling workshop for TasFire Equipment - Burnie

By Senior Fire Equipment Officer North West, Adam Lewtas

The workshop relocation from the Devonport fire station to the new site at the North West region's Three Mile Line complex has finally happened for TasFire Equipment.

The old saying "you'll only get out of it what you are prepared to put into it" fits well with this project. From the start, back in May 2007, TFE NW had the luxury of being largely in control of the project with minimal input needed from management or the use of outside service providers. Not only has the work been done by the staff who will use the workshop, the input into the design, layout, tooling and equipment has given us the desired outcome with minimal costing. With this comes the satisfaction of knowing that we have done it ourselves and take pride in the result.



Phil Peppiatt in the new TFE workshop

Standard uniform issue for junior and cadet volunteer members

By Executive Officer Volunteer Support, Jacqueline Fisher

A uniform can help a junior or cadet be easily identified and feel that they belong to their brigade. Therefore it is essential that following the three month probation period each junior or cadet is supplied with a standard uniform issue.

The new Junior and Cadet Program and Toolkit provides the following details and guidelines for junior and cadet uniform issue and wear. This will be supported in the new TFS Junior and Cadet Firefighter Policy.

Standard uniform issue

- 1 yellow Propane flame retardant overalls
- 1 helmet, jockey style
- 1 floppy hat
- 1 pair gloves

Uniform guidelines for juniors and cadets

Juniors and cadets are required to supply and wear sturdy footwear with TFS issued uniform.

For occupational health and safety reasons it is compulsory for all juniors and cadets to wear their uniform, whilst on station and when participating in off station activities, although pure theory classes can be done in casual clothes.

Be sun smart. Sunscreen is available at every brigade. Always make sure that juniors and cadets wear their helmet or floppy hat when outdoors.



Cadets Emma Shepperd and Matthew Sansom of Fern Tree Brigade

The uniform supplied remains the property of the TFS and must be returned in full when leaving the service.

All items will be replaced on a fair wear and tear basis.

Information contained in the TFS Volunteer Handbook, Section 4D Presentation, Uniforms and PPE is also relevant for juniors and cadets.

A full standard uniform and protective clothing will only be issued if and when the cadet firefighter becomes a full time active member.

The relocation has also seen the introduction of new equipment. A twin refill rig has been installed which provides more efficient and environmentally friendly filling of powder extinguishers, along with a state of the art "Carbatec" extraction system which dramatically reduces contaminants from being released into the atmosphere from the recharging process. This is a great result for both us and our clients!

Special thanks must go to Phil Peppiatt for his efforts and contribution in helping to source materials and designing, installation and commissioning the workshop equipment. Thank you also to Bradley Gregg (NW region's builder) who built all our benches and installed our extraction system ducting and the shed it and the compressor lives in. Thanks also to Paul Starick, Craig Turale and Danny Delpizzo for their efforts too. In fact, in some way everyone in TFE NW did their bit while still managing to conduct their daily business which was a fantastic effort.

Like any project, this one required a lot of pre planning and much input from a lot of people but just when we thought

we were on top of things someone always threw that tricky curve ball - but we got there and it is a great result for all concerned.

So next time you are 'North of the Border' or 'West of Lake Central' drop in and say hello!





KGV Grandstand fire - October 2007

By Station Officer Hobart Brigade, Peter Tavaszi

The Glenorchy landmark KGV was fully involved in fire when the first crews arrived. Glenorchy, Hobart and Bridgewater crews battled for over two hours to bring the fire under control.

Structural collapse was a concern at the southern end of the stand as large cracks opened along the brickwork. Members of the Glenorchy Football club were notified and assisted in identifying hazards within the stand and confirmed that the cladding along the rear of the stand was possibly asbestos. This proved to be correct which hampered overhaul and the fire investigation as the cladding had exploded out into the car park over a large area.





Diversity in Emergency Services Conference 2007

By District Officer Training Services, Greg Butters

In partnership, the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board (MFB) and the United Firefighters Union of Australia (UFUA) conducted a national "Diversity in Emergency Services Conference" from 31 October - 2 November 2007. Overall, the conference was attended by Fire, SES, Police, Ambulance, Surf Lifesaving, Local and State Government bodies, Airlservices Australia, Bushfire CRC and a number of overseas delegates.

The conference objectives were:

- To explore and showcase the business case for diversity within the emergency services sector
- To learn from a wide range of international and national experiences in the sector about the challenges faced by emergency services in developing diversity competence and engaging with diverse groups in the community
- To explore and consider the various strategies developed and/or recommended to emergency services to follow and implement to assist their diversity goals
- To promote diversity as the responsibility of all departments within emergency services organisations and therefore all departments have a contribution to make

It was appropriate that such a conference was conducted in Melbourne. MFB provide a service to a population of approximately 3 million people with a community that is made up of people from 214 different countries where 236 different languages are spoken, 30% of people speak a language other than English at home and 5% speak little or no English at all.

Over the three days there were a number of International and National speakers, however, the speech Captain Brenda Berkman (retired) from the New York City Fire Department presented demonstrated the difficulties minority groups and females, in particular, face in a male dominated workforce. Back in 1982 Brenda won a federal sex discrimination lawsuit that resulted in the first women firefighters being employed by the New York City. Brenda was able to speak from experience on the enormous amount of barriers that anyone who isn't a white Anglo Saxon male living in the United States has to endure and trying to join a brigade. She also expanded on the continual harassment and bullying she had been subjected to during her Fire Service career. One of our own female firefighters, Belinda Harvey, also presented a well received representative paper on female firefighters currently employed within fire agencies across Australia.

Further examples internationally included Station Manager, Carl St Paul, who is now one of the highest ranking black officers in the London Fire Brigade. Carl's studies identified that in 1985 the London Fire Brigade had a workforce of

around 6000 professional firefighters of which less than 100 were from minority ethnic groups and on average there was about 30 women. Today, through effective communication and recruitment strategies, the London Fire Brigade has about 600 (10%) ethnic minority firefighters and around 200 (3.3%) female firefighters. This is higher than the national average of just 2.2% of a firefighting workforce that totals around 34,000.

From the volunteer perspective Jim McLennan from La Trobe University delivered a presentation on findings from studies into recruitment and retention of women volunteer firefighters in Australia. Jim's results, in the main, identified that women felt reluctant to join because they may not be welcomed into the brigade, they aren't suited to the role and/or they may have children to look after. Interestingly, the majority of current women volunteers felt they were welcomed and accepted into their brigades but a significant number also reported discrimination and harassment in some form, which is disappointing.

Diversity really is more than just looking at gender; it's about race, culture, language, disability, socio-economic background, age and sexual orientation. It wasn't until I attended this conference that I realised what a diverse workforce really does mean and that the variety and subsequent community representation within TFS, in the broader context, should reflect the community groups we serve and protect.

I had always thought diversity in emergency services, particularly the TFS, was something that was just there; in fact I still think TFS has a range of people with diverse backgrounds demonstrating some of the different cultural perspectives and views of the Tasmanian community in general.

Very briefly and without being statistically boring, the Tasmanian population in 2006 was around 476,481 people, which was represented by:

Females: 243,099 (51.0%)

Males: 233,382 (49.0%)

Within these figures the Tasmanian community is represented by:

- Indigenous people: 16,767 (3.5% of our population);
- People born outside of Australia: 50,543 (10.6% of our population); and,
- the remainder being Australian born.

The average age of Tasmanians is 39 years, compared with 37 years nationally, and 92% of all Tasmanians only speak English at home.

The TFS has an operational workforce (professional and volunteer firefighters) of around 5,085 representative of:

TFS Career Firefighters - 293

No of males - 287 (98%)

No of females - 6 (2%)

TFS Volunteer Firefighters - 4792

No of males - 3996 (83%)

No of females - 796 (17%)

While only comparing male - female members and not the percentage of minority groups employed, these TFS percentages demonstrate the need for strategic decisions and planning from both a recruitment and community engagement perspective. The fact that there are 10,000 more females in Tasmania compared to males, and with Tasmania's demographics continuing to change, this conference highlighted the need for all emergency services to identify ways of attracting more females and ethnic minority group applications, without lowering the standards for recruitment.

The diversity challenges together with historic and cultural change will be one of the many issues confronting emergency services into the future. Emergency services worldwide have recognised these challenges and it is through conferences like this and effective communication those real and perceived barriers can be overcome.

The National Secretary of the UFU, Peter Marshall, summed this conference up well when he wrote, *"I am quite confident that the knowledge, ideas, insights and information that will be shared, exchanged and debated during this conference will win hearts, change minds, forge new partnerships, strengthen existing ones and open new doors to exciting possibilities that would ultimately lead to an inclusive fire service that benefits everyone"*.

Overall I think the conference achieved its objectives, it really was about accepting that everyone is different and different people see things differently.

Some of the statistical data was retrieved from the Diversity in Emergency Services Conference, 2007. *Final program and abstract book and the Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006. Census QuickStats: Tasmania.*



Captain Brenda Berkman



Carl St Paul

TFS website changes

By Director Corporate Services, Mike Gallagher

There have been significant changes to the display of the bushfire summary information to improve ease of use: the colour coding of bushfire statuses on the bushfire summaries and bushfire maps; bushfire mapping on Google Maps and Google Earth; and a special area for the mobile devices (mobile phones, blackberries, PDA's etc) to display bushfire summaries, fire permit information and bushfire maps.

Colour Coding Bushfire Statuses







The statuses of the bushfires can now be seen at a glance with the introduction of colour coding and the mouse over status description.

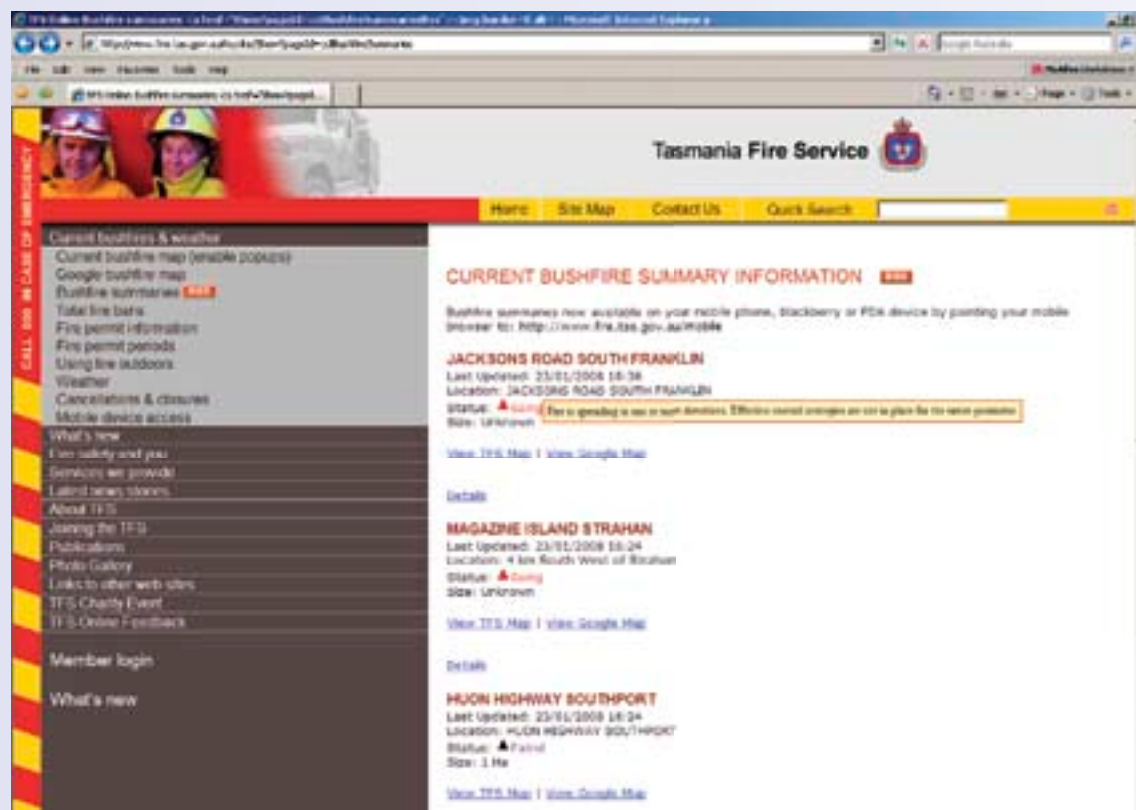
The address to view the enhancements is as follows:

<http://www.fire.tas.gov.au/mysite/Show?pageId=colBushfireSummaries>.

This information is also available to the public through TFS Online pages on the "Current bushfires & weather" page. "Bushfire Summaries" menu item.

The colour coding of the statuses is also available on the existing WebMap and new Google Maps and Google Earth

INCIDENT COLOUR LEGEND	
Image	Status
	Going
	Being Controlled
	Contained
	Patrol
	Stop
	Permit Fires



Bushfire mapping on Google Maps

You can now display current bushfires in Google Maps. The address is: <http://www.fire.tas.gov.au/mysite/Show?pageId=colGMapBushfires>. This is available to the public through TFS Online pages on the "Current bushfires & weather" page. "Google bushfire map" menu item and also from the "Bushfire summaries" page.

Some nice features have been developed with the bushfire mapping on Google maps and these include:

- Clicking on the bushfire name in the right pane will move the map to the fire's location and display the bushfire summary information;
- Moving the pointer over bushfire icon on the map will display the name of the fire;
- Clicking on the bushfire icon on the map will display the bushfire summary information;
- The scroll wheel on the mouse will zoom the map in or out;
- Satellite overlay can be selected from the buttons on the map;
- Every 5 minutes the page is refreshed to keep the information up to date.



It is proposed to include fire boundaries, however, in the meantime you can link to the existing Webmap using the link at the end of the bushfire summary popup.

If you use Google Earth then there is a link on the Google Maps page that will load the same bushfire information into Google Earth.

Mobile device access to TFS website

The new TFS-Online for mobile devices (Mobile phones, Blackberries, PDA's etc) is designed to allow the public to get the most up to date bushfire, permit and bushfire map information from their mobile phone (or other mobile device).

This is a big step forward in providing the public with the latest bushfire information and if there is concern about a fire or smoke, the location and status of the fire can easily be found. Property owners and those on the move and away from their computers now have a very good alternative for accessing bushfire information.

If you have a mobile device that is web capable and web browsing is included on the device's plan then go to the link www.fire.tas.gov.au/mobile



The following menu should be displayed:

Bushfire Summaries: Displays the current bushfire list and selecting one will display the details of that fire.

Fire Permits: Displays the council municipalities that require fire permits and permits issued by region.

Maps: Displays the instructions and links for loading and using Google Maps for Mobile to display the bushfire maps. The colour coding of the bushfire status and display of the bushfire summary information is not currently supported by Google Maps for Mobile.

On your mobile device: click on the link to download Google Maps for Mobile and follow the instructions. Depending on the type of mobile device, select "Search" or "Find Location". Enter the following URL: <http://www.fire.tas.gov.au/mysite/bfmap.jsp> and to load the current fire permits, follow the above instructions using the URL: <http://www.fire.tas.gov.au/mysite/permmmap.jsp>.



Driving under operational conditions

By Firefighter Middleton Brigade, Steve Kerr

For someone who's only been in the TFS for less than a year I seem to have done a lot of (required) courses in a very short time. The "Drive Vehicles Under Operational Conditions" course was yet another to do. Instead of the 14 hours over two full days we were down to 12 hours - a 4 hour theory (evening) session and a full day of extra-classroom stuff.

There were seven on the course and Matt, the instructor arrived spot on time at Kingston station, we'd all been there for at least ten minutes though! Those who had done the course had warned us that the theory part would be a little dry - it wasn't! I hadn't driven many 4wd's, others hadn't driven them at all, whilst there was a semi driver, and tractors really shouldn't be compared at all! The emphasis was, throughout this session, more on the brain than the mechanics of the drive system (thank heavens or I'd have been a mechanic).

Personally the major insights I gained were the considerations of "entry, ramp over and exit" angles, safety (why are you in this situation?) and the threat of peer pressure, all common sense really (but more on day two). Oh - and checking the vehicle before you take it out - especially if it's the group's 7-1!

To day 2 - the "off-road putting into practice what we've all learned" part. Not the best of days to have chosen for this as it's the Volunteer Fire Brigades' competitions day at New Norfolk so there aren't any vehicles and no Brigades want to have a 5-1 away at the moment! Three trainees, Matt and Phil awaited our chariots - just two 7-1's. Matt (tongue in cheek) offered to take his wife's Subaru - we persuaded him that it wasn't a good option. A couple of phone calls later and we had a 4-1 from Howden. For those like me, who only had a licence to drive 5-1's, "L" plates were affixed and off we went. It's presence was invaluable.

The day wasn't exactly meant to be hard 4wd country. Assessment of driving on bitumen was undertaken; proper speed for the conditions, "push pull" steering (pretty easy for me who hadn't driven a car with power steering before) before heading to the gravel. A break half way up the long hill for more instruction, and then the first insight on hill stopping and starting in a tanker. I'd driven my Brigade's 5-1 but had never known this technique and, after many years of driving, it's hard not to put your foot on the clutch! On we go to the first "risk assessment". It was all a bit too easy actually so swap drivers (again) and back down for lunch - thanks Banjos (at Margate).



Back up the hill and things got serious. Some idiot (his name is below the title of this article) noticed a trail into the bush so we're off to explore and find a man-made obstacle. Risk assessment undertaken and both the instructors think it can be overcome. Much debate but they're in charge so it's down to a driver, three guides and a photographer (for insurance purposes?). Well, the left running rail almost bottomed out first, then two wheels weren't on the ground, the bottom was softer than we thought and it looked like we were seriously stuck. No way forward and only way out was back, but it did get out. It would have been easier without the tow ball on though! For those of us who considered it a bad option anyway it was an example of "peer pressure" - in this case the instructors! The important lessons here were to assess a track before committing yourself, ignore peer pressure and ask yourself "is it safe, is there a better route, should I even be here at all?" Good lesson learned!

Onwards to some sort of creek crossing, well - large mud hole anyway but a series of them. Back to risk assessment - how deep, how soft. To their credit Matt and Phil showed us how to properly survey

this by wading through the water before emerging at the other side and assuring us that it would be OK. We trainees declined the offer to repeat their assessment and drove through, thereby keeping completely dry.

Upon reaching the plateau near Snug Tiers we had a look at one final track. Deep ruts, full of water and we all, by now, knew that it was not an option. May get in but no way out. The "brain" part of the course was now learned. A chat ensued about what we would have wanted of the course but didn't get - the only things that were raised were no sand work and no really steep hill work (as in driving some dozed fire trails).

So back down the track (with a stop to remove a rock from between the back tyres of the 4-1 and leeches from legs) and to the Howden Station where it was ensured that the units were handed back in as good if not better condition than they were when borrowed.

Like all of the courses I've done this one was both informative and done with a suitable mix of information and humour. I also now know why horses wear blankets on a hot day - thanks for that one Phil! A great course to undertake and the concepts are, hopefully, now ingrained in my head for the forthcoming fire season.

Please - no-one mention Banjos car park again!

TFS Charity Event - Michele Wylie fundraising

The TFS has been raising funds to assist Michele Wylie's rehabilitation. Michele is the wife of Claremont Brigade volunteer firefighter, Barry Wylie. Michele became paralysed and blind due to a reaction to antibiotics prescribed for her in March 2005. This was later diagnosed as Steven Johnson Syndrome.

Barry reports as follows



"I'd like to introduce Donna and welcome her to our family home. Donna is an aquarobics instructor who assists Michele in the hydrotherapy pool at home twice a week. During the short time Michele has had the pleasure of her expertise in the water we can see a special bond growing between the pair.

Both Donna and Michele have the same goals, that being, to get her muscles to develop and get Michele's defenceless body to move. Although Michele is taking large amounts of steps and moving in the pool, her legs are still very heavy in her wheelchair and on land. She is certainly moving ahead with her health, nerve and muscle regrowth but still at a very slow rate. Her body needs to adapt to the new changes, and trying to encourage her brain to move the right body part can sometimes be very frustrating for her.

Once again we will be off to Singapore for a week to attend check-ups by the eye team and catch up with the large family of strangers that has been a great part of our lives. We have managed to rack up six trips to Singapore and also the one stint where we were over there for four months living out of a hotel room and suitcase.

Please once again except our thanks as thoughts and well wishes are still streaming in.

Barry, Michele, Justin and Adam"

So what does the Feedback System *look* like?

By Co-ordinator Human Services, Steve Willing

Why were actors pretending to be firefighters in HFB recently?

One of the comments from the Feedback Trial training was "It sounds good, but what will it actually look like?" At that stage we didn't know because we were allowing work groups to work out the best way to do it. Now we have a clear idea what it looks like, and we thought the best way to show people was to create a DVD.

The DVD is to be used:

- in training for the Feedback System; and
- as a review before your Summary Meetings.

All staff will see the DVD during their Feedback System training session, and copies are available:

- in Feedback Resource Kits in each workplace; and
- from the TFS Library.

We co-wrote the script with the production company so it is specific to TFS situations. Local and interstate actors were hired to play the roles of firefighters and support staff.

Chapters allow you to easily select the sections relevant to you. They include four scenarios of day-to-day feedback and summary meetings in both operations and support divisions. Going by comments from firefighters, the scene in the duty office and BA room is very realistic.

Mike Brown and John Gledhill both make an appearance to show their support of the Feedback System. There is also a quick overview of the Feedback System and a check list of what to do.

The end result is an informative and professional looking product. Thanks to everyone who helped or let us use their space and props to film it.

Glenorchy Christmas Party

By Editor Fireground, Linda Lacy

It was a hard act to follow, but Barry Bones managed to equal Pete Tavaszs's mighty efforts of organising the Fire & Ambulance Christmas party held at Glenorchy Station. Pete obviously handed over the instructions on how to arrange excellent weather conditions as once again it was a beautiful day.

D shift whipped up the salads and then proceeded to cook the BBQ, then Santa made a visit much to the delight of approximately 200 adults and children.

The go karts, mini golf, merry go round, swings and jumping castle were a hit, as was the face painting! Kate from "Make Believe Children's Entertainment" patiently and painstakingly painted the faces of many happy children - painting tigers, cats, dogs, skeletons, fairies - even a fire truck! I was so mesmerised I wanted my face painted too maybe a pink heart and some flowers but the queue was too long! Thanks Kate - I'll join the queue early next year!

Thanks Barry and the D Shift crew - we all had a fantastic day!

Some loved Santa ...



Some slept through it ...



Some pretended their children wanted to see Santa



Some didn't even make excuses



*... and others
weren't
happy to see
him at all!*



Happy painted faces



Kate from "Make Believe Children's Entertainment"

Northern and Southern Regions in the Christmas Spirit!



Enjoying a chat in the sunshine



Enola
Johnson
with Janine
and Lewis
Maney



Katie and the Chief comparing
hats and sunnies!



Chefs extraordinaire - Nigel, Tony and Mike



Jeremy Smith, Aaron Cashion and Matt Bloomfield of the
Emergency Services GIS unit, Mark Chladil and Paul Salter

Oh sure
Belinda -
ho, ho, ho!



Young
Dale
Lapham
with Santa
- he's been
a good
boy!



So have you
been a good
girl Yolanda?



The Chief in
the "Christmas
spirit"! (It's
polite to wear a
gift!)



'Surprise' Christmas Dinner

By Clerical Support Officer Northern Region, Amanda Ross

On 30th November thirty-eight Northern Region staff and partners frocked up and rocked up to Northern Region headquarters full of anticipation (and a little trepidation) of what their "surprise" Christmas Dinner would involve.

During the year staff received picture clues aimed to entice and intrigue! The pictures included: a couple dressed up to the nines (yes - pretty standard for a Christmas dinner); a stubby holder (desirable for a Christmas dinner); bottle of wine (essential for a Christmas dinner); and a piece of wool! Yes, a piece of wool! Now, what could wool possibly have to do with the Northern Region Christmas dinner?

As it turned out, it had quite a lot to do with it! Believe it or not, Northern Region staff and partners wine and dined in a shearing shed south of Ross.

Can you imagine how difficult it would have been to collect money from staff if they knew they would be dining in a tin shed! Especially considering many of us have more moths than money in our wallets! No wonder, Office Supervisor Carol Davey kept it a big secret until the night!

The whole event was a huge success! From the champagne and cheeses that greeted us on arrival, to the wonderful pre-dinner snacks provided by Cressy Brigade, to the delicious fully catered dinner provided by Group Officer Chris Cashion at the beautiful setting of Beaufront, to the noisy, highly entertaining bus trip home, it was a fun-filled adventure!



Amanda Ross and
Neil McEachen



Heath and Sally Bracey

To protect, or turn away - new TFS position on triage

By Director Community Fire Safety, Damien Killalea

For some years now, the TFS has been urging people to prepare their properties for bushfire and make a decision about whether to stay and protect them when fire threatens, or leave. More recently, with the release of our *Bushfire: prepare to survive* DVD and related publicity, the number of people preparing their homes and staying to defend them has increased significantly.

Despite this, when bushfires are burning on hot, dry and windy days and our resources are stretched to the limit, firefighters are still faced with tough decisions about which homes they will defend and which ones they will leave. "Triage" is a term we've been using over the last couple of fire seasons to loosely describe how we categorise buildings as "defendable" or "undefendable". To clarify and formalise this process, the State Fire Commission recently produced policy statement 1/07 (refer right) entitled *Bushfire triage for buildings*.

Triage is a system originally developed to categorise casualties in battle; those beyond saving, those who needed immediate medical attention, and those who can wait for treatment.

Our triage policy is similar; it puts buildings into one of three categories: those that are not defendable, those that can be defended with the help of firefighters, and those that don't need to be defended by firefighters. This policy legitimises firefighters' decisions to focus their energies where they can be most effective - protecting buildings that need their protection - and ignore all others.

Before next fire season, steps will need to be taken to "operationalise" the policy. A tool to help firefighters quickly assess which category a building fits into will be developed, ways to identify buildings will be agreed, and appropriate training in application of the policy will be provided.

To provide further encouragement to householders to prepare their homes for bushfire, next summer's bushfire safety campaign will draw attention to firefighters' focus on homes that can be defended.



State Fire Commission POLICY STATEMENT BUSHFIRE TRIAGE FOR BUILDINGS

Triage in a bushfire context is the sorting of buildings at risk according to their defendability. Defendability depends on a number of factors including building characteristics and available firefighting resources.

Triage enables often limited firefighting resources to be deployed strategically where they will be most effective. When carried out well in advance of a bushfire, it provides an indication of the defendability of their homes. This may be used by occupants to evacuate adequately, and inform their decision to stay and defend them or leave.

The defendability of a building is affected by fire behaviour at the time a fire approaches; these cannot be guaranteed until shortly before the fire arrives, and the triage category assigned to, any building will vary over time.

When undertaking triage, buildings and other features should be assessed against the *Development in Bushfire Prone Areas of Tasmania*, including defendability for firefighting.

Triage Categories

Undefendable (Red)

Firefighters will not defend the building as:

- the building does not have sufficient defendable space, or
- the condition of the access way prevents firefighters or occupants from accessing safely, or
- for any other reason, the building is unlikely to survive a bushfire and defend it.

All who stay face an unacceptable risk of harm.

A building categorised as undefendable because it doesn't meet defendability requirements may be re-categorised if there is enough time to fix deficiencies.

Defendable with firefighter assistance (Orange)

Firefighters may defend the building as it has defendable space, can be accessed, and

- occupants are absent or have advised that they will be absent, or
- occupants have advised that they will stay and defend it but firefighters need assistance.

Any additional resources or water required may be provided by firefighters. Firefighting resources provided will depend on the level of threat expected at the time.

All who stay face an acceptable risk of harm if properly prepared and equipped.

If required firefighting resources are unavailable, the building will be categorised as undefendable.

Defendable without firefighter assistance (Green)

Firefighters will not need to defend the building as it has defendable space and occupants who are planning to stay have the necessary resources to defend it.

All who stay face an acceptable risk of harm if properly prepared and equipped.

J B Gledhill
Chief Officer

mission

Number 1/07

BUILDINGS

ording to their level of 'likely defendability'.
eatures and condition, fuels, fire behaviour

safely and in sufficient quantity to locations
of a fire, triage also provides householders
encourage them to prepare their homes
ve when fire threatens.

time of fire impact and the direction from
ore impact. Therefore the defendability of,

ssessed against the TFS Guidelines for
ble space, access and water supplies for

ccupants getting to or from the building

even if civilians and/or firefighters stay

able space, access or water supply
cies.

ccessed safely and:

ghters have assessed that they will

ters. The level of assistance and
the time of impact.

ed.

sed as 'undefendable'.

and firefighters are confident that
t safely.

d.

The Games are coming - Hobart 2010

Expression of interest - Volunteer sport co-ordinators positions

The Department of Police and Emergency Management is proud to announce that they are hosting the 13th Australasian Police & Emergency Services Games to be held between 20 and 27 February 2010 in Hobart.

The Games which are held every two years offer up to 45 sporting disciplines including Aquathlon, Archery, Badminton, Basketball, Cross Country, Cricket, Cycling (road, criterion, track), Darts, Duathlon, Golf, Hockey (field, indoor) Lawn Bowls, Mountain Bikes, Netball, Orienteering, Power Lifting, Rowing Indoor, Rugby 7's, Sailing, Snooker, Shooting (large bore, practical pistol, pistol service match, shotgun, small bore), Soccer (outdoor, indoor), Softball, Squash, Swimming (pool, open water), Stair Race, Table Tennis, Tennis, Ten Pin Bowling, Touch Football, Tug of War, Track and Field, Triathlon, Volleyball (beach, indoor) Water Polo.

Expressions of interest are sought from members (career or volunteer) who are interested in assisting with this special event in the role as a sports co-ordinator.

Sport Co-ordinators Role: (To manage a sporting discipline), responsibilities may include:

- attend sports co-ordinators meetings
- provide a list of equipment required to the Sport and Resource Manager
- undertake programming for the event
- ensure all competitors are registered prior to competing
- manage all sport volunteers, including meals, breaks, training
- manage officials and referees
- manage medal presentations
- liaise with sponsors as required
- ensure all policies and procedures are put into place
- assist in the promotion of the sporting event
- other duties as required by the Sports and Resource Manager

Experience and skills abilities:

- previous experience in the sport would be advantage
- a high degree of self motivation, planning, enthusiasm and organisational skills

Coordinators will be supplied with all available assistance including contacts from previous and next years AP & ES Games that will assist in the role.

Please forward expression of interest or to obtain any further information and/or general enquiries to assist with the event, please contact:

Inspector Mark Beech-Jones (2010 - Games Director)
03 6230 2376 or e-mail mark.beech-jones@police.tas.gov.au
Mail: GPO Box 308c Hobart 7001

For members who may be interested, between 11 and 18 October 2008 the Australasian Police and Emergency Services Games will be held in Coffs Harbour. Members wishing to find out more about the 2008 Games can find out further details by going to www.nswpolicesport.com.

As the 2010 Games draw nearer, regular updates will be provided to all members via a link to the Tasmania Police website at www.police.tas.gov.au/Games2010. Members are encouraged to access both websites.

*"There's nothing uniform ...
about these Games!"*



Foam trials at ESSO Longford Victoria

By District Officer Mersey, Paul Hill

As many people are aware, some time ago a new "B" class foam was introduced to the TFS, this being RF 6 (RF = Reforming Foam) an environmentally friendly foam. This AFFF light water foam was withdrawn from the market as it did not meet international environment regulations. After being in service for approximately six months concerns from around Australia were raised about the heavy viscosity of the foam concentrate and in particular here in Tassie a possible instance of the concentrate congealing in appliance foam tanks. Solberg Asia Pacific Pty Ltd have now bought the copyright of the RF Series foam and hired the chemist responsible for its development. This chemist had also developed an RF Alcohol Resistant Concentrate (ATC) (also known as Alcohol Type Concentrate).

Solberg were aware that the Melbourne Fire Brigade (MFB) was heading to ESSO Longford to test the efficiency of their foam induction equipment on their new type of urban pumpers and saw this as an opportunity to demonstrate their new RF ATC, and realising the TFS had doubts about the earlier product RF 6, they invited TFS representatives to attend.

The Longford training ground is a commercial enterprise run by First Alert mainly developed to train ESSO employees who work in the refinery plant or on the 18 oil rigs at sea. To the best of my knowledge I believe that this complex is one of only two of this magnitude in Australia, the other being in Queensland. There are numerous props fuelled by natural gas, crude and black oil piped from the ESSO plant. Over the two days 14,000 litres of aviation fuel was also used, mainly to get the black oil and crude burning. As you can imagine when the pits are fired up massive amounts of black smoke is generated so lighting up is dependent on the wind direction as smoke is not allowed to drift over the ESSO plant but the biggest consideration is the huge helicopters ferrying crew to and from the oil rigs using the air field next to the training ground.

MFB over the past 5 years have commissioned 30 new urban pumpers built on Scania cab chassis. These are of two configurations, one is very similar to our Freightliners and Scania's, the other is a dual rear axle with the same Darley mid mount pump but has extra locker space and water





tank capacity of 3,000 litres. They use a Foam Pro direct injection system the same as ours but the round the pump proportioners are Foam Majors. We had both styes of trucks to play with, but unfortunately neither foam major would work and one of the foam pros failed on the first day. This was just the start of a long list of mechanical hick ups.

MFB had just recently employed a chemist, mainly for deployment on CBRN and HAZMAT incidents. His services were used at the foam trials testing the foam water solution ensuring the correct amount of concentrate was being inducted. It was found that the viscosity of the ATC concentrate currently used by MFB varied and such the concentrate percentage in the water. The fourteen officers and firefighters working under the guidance of the MFB Deputy Chief Officer used Task Force Tips without aspirators which produces foam with at best an expansion ratio of 8:1 so the variation in solution quality was hardly noticeable in the produced foam.

On the first day all trials were using the current ATC used by MFB and various attack methods on four different ponds. One thing that really stood out was that the foam did not knock the fire down as fast as AFFF. Without getting too technical the main reason for this is that the AFFF contained one type of fluoro surfactant that enhanced the flow of film across the flammable liquid surface but it also had the feature of a more rapid knock down because of the way it altered the water properties. It is because of this type of fluoro surfactant that the previous AFFF was removed from the market. The ATC foam as used by the MFB does have fluoro surfactants but at

this stage not considered to be as detrimental as that used previously.

The second day RF ATC was used. This foam has no fluoro surfactant content and the chemist that produced it promotes the footprint application method as used by the "William Brothers International Fire Fighting Company". In this method foam is applied to one point of the flammable liquid and the produced foam allowed to flow over the surface doing all the work. Once again the same four ponds were used. In addition the RF ATC was used on a three dimensional fire being a simulated leak on a large valve. Even the RF chemist was impressed at how well his foam handled this.

It was impossible to scientifically compare the two foams because of variants in application methods and weather conditions, but the following are some observations.

- The Viscosity of RF ATC appeared to be more consistent providing a more reliable solution;
- Less concentrate was used on most props;
- Aeration and bubble strength appeared greater;
- Superior reforming properties.

In the near future the RF ATC will be trialled on our induction systems. Regardless of the foam we use, the opportunity to work with the MFB on large scale flammable liquid fires has been invaluable and will be discussed with Learning and Development regarding the different application techniques and rates.

TFS and the Freycinet Challenge!

By Senior Firefighter Hobart Brigade, Warren Frey

Surf skis are not something you would expect to see a lot of in winter especially in the HFB carpark, however, this phenomenon is becoming increasingly more common. The Freycinet Challenge is held each October, so by August training for the event is well and truly in full swing. Early in the morning before work, no matter how dark and cold it is, the paddlers will be out on the water stroking, the road riders will be racing the traffic, the runners will be slogging the footpath and the mountain bikers will be riding wherever they like, all in preparation for two days of friendly competition and fun.

This year's event saw four teams and one crazy individual from HFB enter the gruelling two day paddle, road ride, run and mountain bike event totalling more than 200 km's around Tasmania's spectacular Freycinet Peninsula and east coast. The event attracts a lot of entries and this year was no exception. A mass of runners started the race on the first day in two stages beginning what was to be a fast paced weekend full of fun and some surprising results but mostly pain.

The first day's run was a difficult circuit around the coast along the hazards and then over the saddle and back to Freycinet Lodge. The first casualty was Stewart McKinlay from Team "Dirty Dog" who managed to get a very nasty flesh wound to the knee during what was a rather rapid descent down the saddle. The following stage saw Jason Johnson from "Crusty's Crusaders" manage the second fastest road ride for the day not far behind ex fire Mark Bowden from "Bike Ride". The third HFB team "All Fired Up" sent Jamie Stubbs out onto the water for the kayak leg where he not surprisingly smashed the competition to smithereens performing the fastest time possible by a human being. The final leg was the mountain bike ride and all of the HFB riders did exceptionally well not to get lost like half the field. As you can see from the photos they were all happy to finish, especially Martin Grubb and Will Russell from "All Fired Up". Evenings at the Freycinet Challenge are low key and very laid back as you might imagine. Everyone was exhausted (except for Jamie) so the only ones still running around at the end of the day were competitors' children who had a great time. Sean Mennitz who managed an impressive 12th for the day doing the whole course as an individual was strangely absent.

Day 2

The previous day's results amongst the teams had been close and there was only a slim margin between "Crusty's Crusaders" and the "Red Hot Pumpers" so the pressure was on. First off the mark were the kayakers who had a 14 km leg. With thousands of dollars worth of toys floating out in Coles Bay the start was quite spectacular. The teams soon lost sight of the flotilla as it made its way out into the bay and from then on it was a waiting game for the bike riders a few bays around the coast. Jamie Stubbs was the first to emerge from around the point and his distance in front of the other paddlers was rather devastating for those waiting on their bikes with butterflies. It didn't





take too long for the other HFB kayakers to arrive and they would have been happy and surprised with how well they had actually gone. Best of all they were now in a position to sit back and watch everyone else suffer.

The road ride was a relatively short but lung busting 35 km and then the mountain bikers were next. Like the first day many got lost and there were some nasty crashes. Chris Collins (Crusty) managed to blow a tyre and probably have the best stack of the day with scratches, missing skin and a blood covered bike to prove it ... even so he still got back on and managed one of the fastest times.

The final leg of the competition was another 15 km run, this time over the saddle again to the end of Wine Glass Bay and then back over the saddle. I figured the run along the beach would be the easy bit, but sadly the climb back up the saddle was relief after battling the soft steep sand.

The finish line was packed with spectators and photographers, news crews and cameras all pointing at other people but it still felt good running over the line. Sean Mennitz managed an impressive 10th place in the individuals which was an amazing effort. As far as the results went between the teams it was competitive and close but from "Crusty's Crusaders", "better luck next time lads!"



Frequently Asked Questions - Brigade Officer Elections

By Regional Chief, Tony Davidson

The following questions are often asked in relation to Brigade Officer Elections. The answers provided below aim to resolve these common queries and help clarify the election process.

Q: When are Brigade Officer Elections held?

A: All officer positions are elected for a term of 5 years. At the end of the 5 year term the position is declared vacant and elections must be held as soon as possible.

Q: What if an officer resigns before their five year term is completed?

A: An election is held to fill that vacant position. If an officer of a lower rank is nominated but not successful, that officer remains in their current position until the completion of their original elected term (5 years).

Q: What happens if elected terms finish on different dates?

A: Where possible all officer positions should end their elected term on the same date. Then a full brigade election can be arranged. If officer vacancies fall on substantially different dates then an election for each of the relevant vacant positions must be held as soon as possible.

Q: Can an officer or brigade member be voted out of their position or the brigade?

A: No, however, all TFS volunteer members must conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the TFS Code of Conduct. If you have any issues in relation to member behaviour please contact your Brigade Chief or District Officer.

Election Tip: Conduct a brigade brainstorming session 1-2 weeks before the scheduled election. In groups of 3 or 4 discuss and list the personality, leadership and technical skills that the position(s) requires. On completion of the list each group writes their identified qualities onto a main board. All brigade members can then discuss and rank in order of importance the qualities required for the vacant officer position.

IMPORTANT: DO NOT mention names or members during this exercise.

Further information regarding the Brigade Officer Election process can be found in the TFS Volunteer Handbook section 4A.5.



TasFire Training's new website!

By Manager TasFire Training, Andrew Lyons

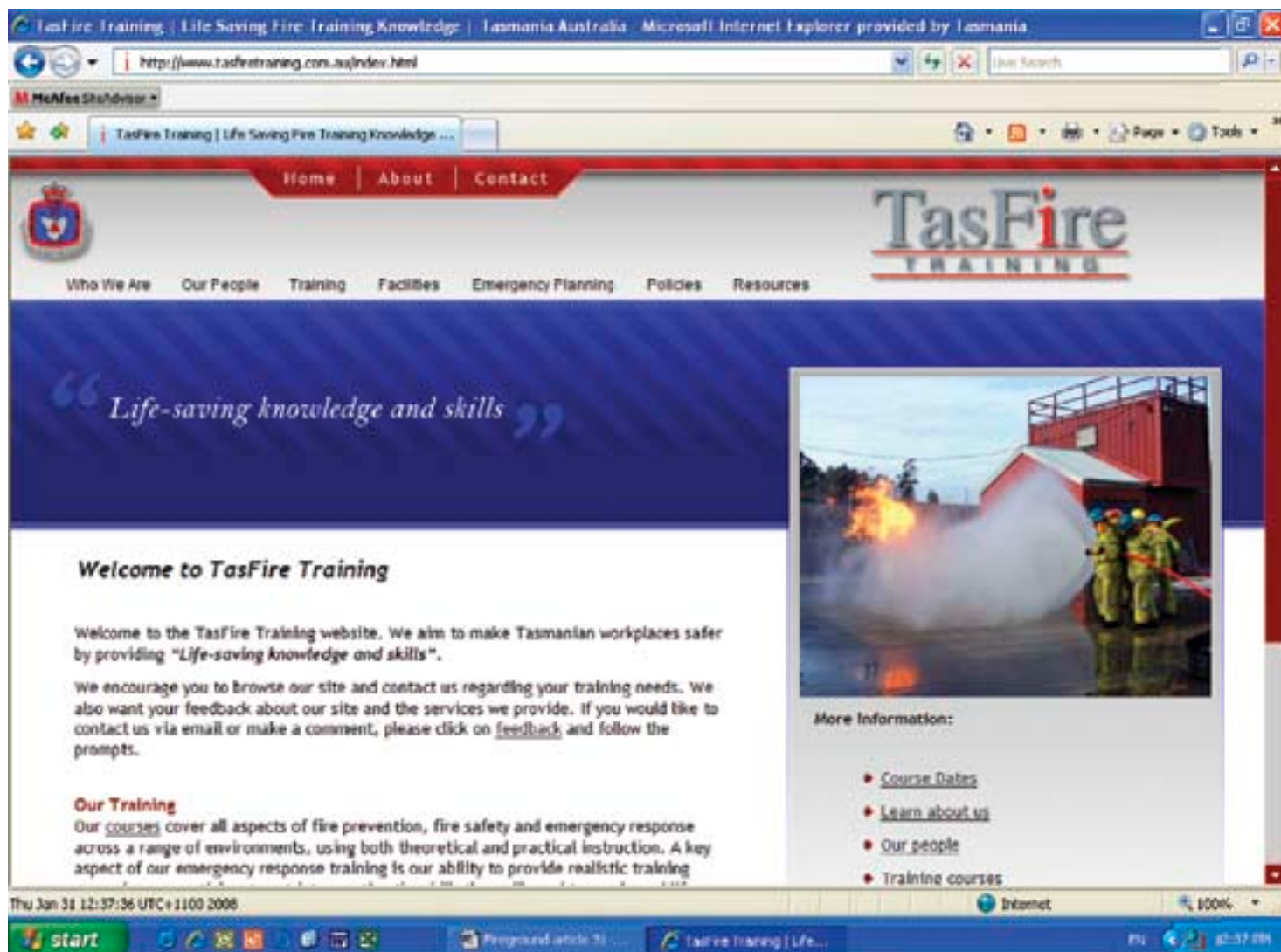
TasFire Training (TFT) launched its new website in January 2008. The concept of TFT having a comprehensive website was born several years ago and during 2007, approval was given to establish a website of its own.

The need arose from an increase in demand from existing clients to access information about services offered and to be able to complete bookings online. In addition, from a marketing perspective, it was important that TFT respond to the increasing trend of prospective clients searching for and carrying out research on the web using various search engines.

As a result of this, the website was developed and it includes information about the range of training courses that TFT offers, scheduled course dates and an online booking facility along with other important information and links. The website can be accessed by using the below address or by using links from the TFS website.

If you have or receive any enquiries regarding commercial training or any other services that TFT provides, please refer them to our website or contact our regional consultants.

Check it out at: www.tasfiretraining.com.au



Derwent Group Exercise

By Group Officer Derwent, Lyndsay Suhr

A group exercise was held in December 2007 on the northern section of Mt Faulkner, with the purpose of familiarising brigades on the recently upgraded trails, waterholes, safety areas, signage and helicopter zones. This area has been inaccessible for about ten years. Funds for the upgrading were procured from the Bush Fire Mitigation Program initiated by the Glenorchy City Council to protect the Cities of Glenorchy and Hobart from fire originating on the Lyell Highway. The work was carried out by TFS career and volunteer personnel.

Eleven brigades, 18 appliances and 52 personnel participated, approximately 98% had never been in this critical, strategic area before.

During the day 24 km's of trails were covered, this allowed those attending to gain an appreciation of how steep and inaccessible the country is, the trail network, practice and learn off road driving skills, use of chainsaws (fallen tree across the trail). Each appliance started with members from two brigades in each one and a progressive change of crew mix continued throughout the day.

At the completion a BBQ was held at the Molesworth Recreational Ground where the new fire station is to be built.

I would like to thank all brigade members for giving up their day, the Molesworth Brigade, the District Staff for their time, assistance and of course the food!



Acting District Officer Ian Cawthorn with Group Officer Lyndsay Suhr



Derwent Group members

Hobart Fire Brigade 24/7

Recently Senior Firefighter Richard Onn of Hobart Brigade competed for a Hobart art prize. The competition requirement was a painting of a Tasmanian building older than 80 years that has undergone some refurbishment.

The following is Richard's supporting statement:

"Since 1911 the Hobart Fire Station has stood as a silent sentinel watching over the people of Hobart. It has had human occupation every minute of every day since. It has grown and been retrofitted constantly to cater for advances in technology, an ever increasing population and a nuance of ever growing threats facing today's society. However this medium for people helping people still retains its practical elegance and nobility."

I chose this subject because I, myself am a firefighter and work within the Tasmania Fire Service. I have a connection both physically and emotionally to this building and the people who work within its walls today. I share an affinity with the other men and women who put their own lives on the line for the life and property of others. This building is more than just a historic Hobart landmark it represents safety and protection, hope and community spirit!"

The Chief and Deputy were so impressed with the painting that the TFS has now purchased the work and it will soon be proudly displayed at State Headquarters/HFB.

Deputy Chief Officer Mike Brown said "It is a great painting and to have it painted by one of our own makes it particularly special".



State Operations

By Deputy Chief Officer, Mike Brown

Late last year a review of the Fire Management Unit and other related positions was conducted. Following this a number of changes were made to clarify roles and improve the co-ordination of statewide operations. These changes included the establishment of a State Operations unit.

State Operations is responsible for:

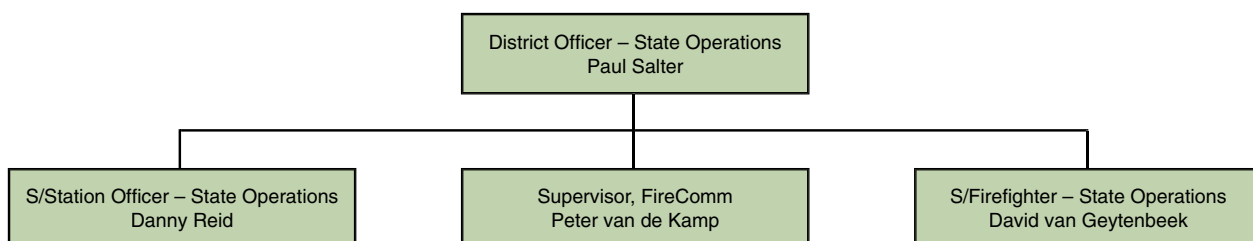
- FireComm;
- Statewide operational reports;
- Operational data;
- Mapping;
- State operations facilities;
- Operational media co-ordination and website updates;

- Aircraft coordination and contracts;
- Operational support development; and
- Permit and declaration co-ordination

For the majority of the year State Operations will be staffed by a core team of four lead by District Officer Paul Salter.

At busier operational times, Mark Chladil and Jess Brown who normally work in the area of planning, research and policy will also work with State Operations as seasonal and operational demands increase.

In addition, other specialist roles such as seasonal helicopter support personnel will also be appointed within State Operations.



Senior Firefighter David van Geytenbeek, District Officer Paul Salter and Senior Station Officer Danny Reid

King Island fire recovery

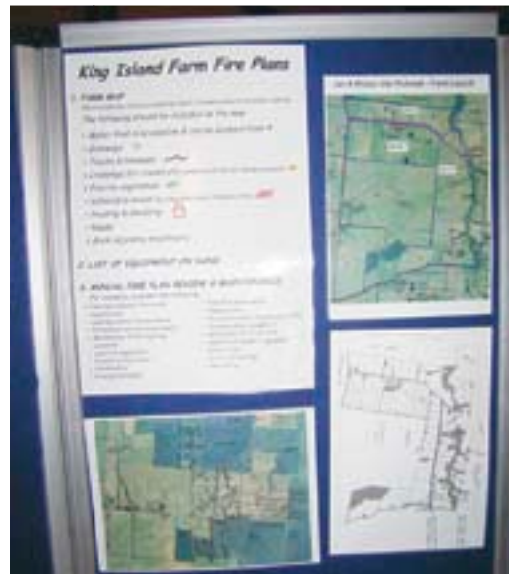
By Field Officer Arthur, Gerard McCarthy

Following the King Island fire in February/March 2007 which burnt 12,500 ha (70% of the native vegetation), Debbi Delaney, the King Island Fire Recovery Officer, in consultation with the King Island Fire Management Committee visited property owners who had been affected in the fires to note their concerns and ways they believed the agencies can do better in the event of another major fire. The feedback from property owners was excellent and these comments were taken back to the committee who decided community participation in the development of the plan was vital. It was agreed to conduct Community Meetings at four locations, North King Island, Naracoopa, Grassy and Currie.

The plan will identify a range of significant social, economic and environmental values on the island at risk from the bushfire hazard and specify a range of options to reduce the risks to an acceptable level.

The meetings were held early December and organised by Debbi Delaney supported by representatives from the TFS, Parks & Wildlife Service, Forestry Tasmania and the King Island Council. The agenda consisted of an overview of the Risk Assessment Process given by Chris Irvine of Parks, then followed with group participation identifying local values, assets to the island, key risks, level of risks and treatment options. An information display was made available with the main emphasis on encouraging land owners to make a Farm Fire Plan with an A4 aerial photo of their property supplied on application and highlighting key points such as gateways, tracks, roads, water accessibility for firefighting, vulnerable areas, housing and sheds which would be available to fire crews when entering their property.

The project brief sets a target date of May 2008 for the completion of the plan and June 2009 for the implementation of the actions specified within the plan.



Example of a farm fire plan



State Competitions

By Firefighter Rokeby Brigade, Jess Brown

On 10th November 2007 Rokeby Brigade competed in the State Competitions held at New Norfolk. We believe this was the first time Rokeby has competed in these competitions. We all thoroughly enjoyed the day and got a lot out of it. Thanks to Trevor Newbold from Dunnalloy Brigade for running through the events with us prior to the competitions, without his help we would have had little or no idea with what we were getting ourselves in for!

Any brigade out there thinking about entering the State Competitions for their first time - just go ahead and do it, it is such a fantastic day!





Highline Course Mt Arapilies

By Senior Firefighter Hobart Brigade, Warren Frey



At some stage down the track it seems that most vertical rescue teams will want to take on the challenge of building a highline. The reason for this is not so much because highlines are something we are likely to use, but more so because they are a natural progression of the skills and knowledge that we have built on over many years practicing rope rescue. Highlines are basically used to span across open areas from one side to the other to allow vertical and horizontal access to a patient positioned out of the reach of other more common rescue systems. They are a complex construction of multiple lines and pulleys rigged together under great tension. They take a long time to set up and require a thorough understanding of mechanical advantage systems (pulleys) and the loads and forces that they can create.

Fortunately HFB and LFB sent two members each from their respective vertical rescue teams to participate in an Advanced Instructors course at Mt Arapilies in Victoria last year. The course was run by Fire & Rescue Australia (F&RA) in conjunction with Ropes that Rescue (RTR) Arizona. For the past few years F&RA have brought over Reed Thorne from RTR to teach on a number of different vertical rescue disciplines. Reed can best be described as an American icon and is well known around the world as one of the most knowledgeable and experienced operators in rope rescue. He writes articles for various magazines and has pioneered many of the techniques we use today, so it is a privilege to have the opportunity to learn from someone who has a unique ability to teach us "why" we do things a certain way rather than just "how".

The course ran for seven days rain hail or shine (mostly rain) in one of Australia's premier climbing destinations. The views were spectacular and we had the pleasure of sharing the experience with eight other participants from varying backgrounds including Mine Rescue, NZ Fire & Rescue, Tasmanian SES, Australian Customs, and Mountaineering and Antarctic Division guides. During the week we managed to build a number of highlines each appropriate for different situations and one by one we all had a turn at testing the system as the litter attendant and patient. Although safety factors are built into the systems, they are under great load and it certainly builds faith in the equipment and techniques when you are dangling out in the middle of nowhere rather

than straight down as per the norm. Interestingly knots are avoided for this very reason as they reduce the strength of the rope. Instead prussiks (rope wrapped around rope under tension) are used to join and attach ropes to the different components within the system wherever possible. The terrain around Mt Arapilies provided an inexhaustible choice of locations from where to rig some difficult and spectacular highlines. One of the highlines was more than 300 metres long reaching from the top of an outcrop all the way to the ground below. Using the available terrain to build systems on some very exposed positions well above the ground is something that quickly builds confidence in yourself and those around you. The course proved to be an intense week of learning new skills and techniques that will be very useful within the different rigging scenarios that we currently practice. Most importantly it confirms that the techniques and equipment we use in a very dangerous environment are current and safe.



Photographer Warren Frey

Mersey District exercises

By District Officer Mersey, Paul Hill

Over the past few months three exercises of note were conducted in the Mersey District. These exercises have proved to be of great benefit testing our equipment suitability and locations and the effectiveness of our training. They also provide an opportunity for brigades to work together in a controlled environment breaking the ice if or when they need to work together on real life situations. Two of these exercises also involved SES which has greatly enhanced working relationships between the two agencies.

The Pardoe Exercise involved four scenarios at different locations around the Latrobe area involving eight volunteer fire crews from Latrobe, Moriarty, Port Sorell, Rubicon, Sassafras and Wesley Vale Brigades. The scenarios offered a vast variety of challenges for the participants. For this exercise we were fortunate to have two derelict shacks to burn down, compliments of the Perry family, and vehicle wrecks to burn, provided by Graeme Brown. Nothing can be of better training value than to be faced with live firefighting in a controlled environment. One of the scenarios simulated an unfortunate event where firefighters that were setting up relay pumping for the structural protection in a wildfire situation became entrapped under a fallen tree. This scenario required the TFS and SES to work together rescuing the trapped firies and continuing with the relay pumping. The Latrobe SES were training for the National competitions in NSW and really appreciated the props we set up and the opportunity of training with us.

Another exercise was set up at the Ulverstone BP service station primarily to test the emergency management procedures of the service station's staff. Once again the opportunity was seized to strengthen the working relations with SES. The scenario set up was that a car had lost control and run under a road gas tanker that was decanting to the station's storage tank, damaging the piping and causing a leak. The unfortunate part was that the tanker driver was pinned under the car and unconscious, therefore unable to give advice to the responding Ulverstone Brigade. The service station staff were brilliant, swinging into action shutting down the station and taping off the area and notifying emergency services along with the gas company. The Ulverstone Brigade and SES made safe the area and rescued the truck driver pinned under the car and administered emergency life support for the car driver. The scene was that realistic that the grapevine ensured that Devonport Brigade heard of something big happening in Ulverstone and offered their assistance. It was a great exercise with all in attendance gaining valuable knowledge on the intricacies of gas tankers. The Brigade and SES can see the value in working together and it was not long after the exercise that both agencies got together to show off each others equipment and share a few war stories over a barbequed sausage and lemonade.

The Barrington exercise saw the Devonport volunteers, Forth, Melrose, Turners Beach and Wilmot Brigades tackling six challenges around the Melrose station grounds and on Group Officer Neville Bingham's property. The challenges included live structural firefighting in a training container, off-road driving, long relay pumping, hazmat and emergency life support just to mention a few. This exercise was conducted in a relaxed atmosphere where all participants were given the chance of experiencing the challenges in a manner that made the learning of new skills enjoyable. The exercise took up a full Saturday but all brigades were keen to participate.

All of these exercises proved a great success and would not have eventuated if not for the efforts of Group Officers Robert Atkins and Neville Bingham. Many thanks also to the scenario managers for a top effort and see you all at the next one.





Packers Spur fire

By District Officer Midlands, Gerald Crawford

The Packers Spur fire was ignited by a lightning strike on 17th November 2007. Packers Spur is in the Adamsfield Conservation Area which is east of Lake Gordon and north of the Strathgordon Road.

Initial size up was done by Parks & Wildlife and it was decided to send in their remote area firefighters to try and contain the fire. A helicopter was also used to bucket water to the crews and also water bomb the edges. The fire initially burnt through button grass and mixed heath, including reburning button grass that had been burnt by a prescribed burn some 2 months previously. This operation had limited success and over the next 28 days some 4500 hectares was burnt. The fire was still monitored for the next few weeks to check on the hot spots which were burning in the peat on most of the southern and eastern edges.



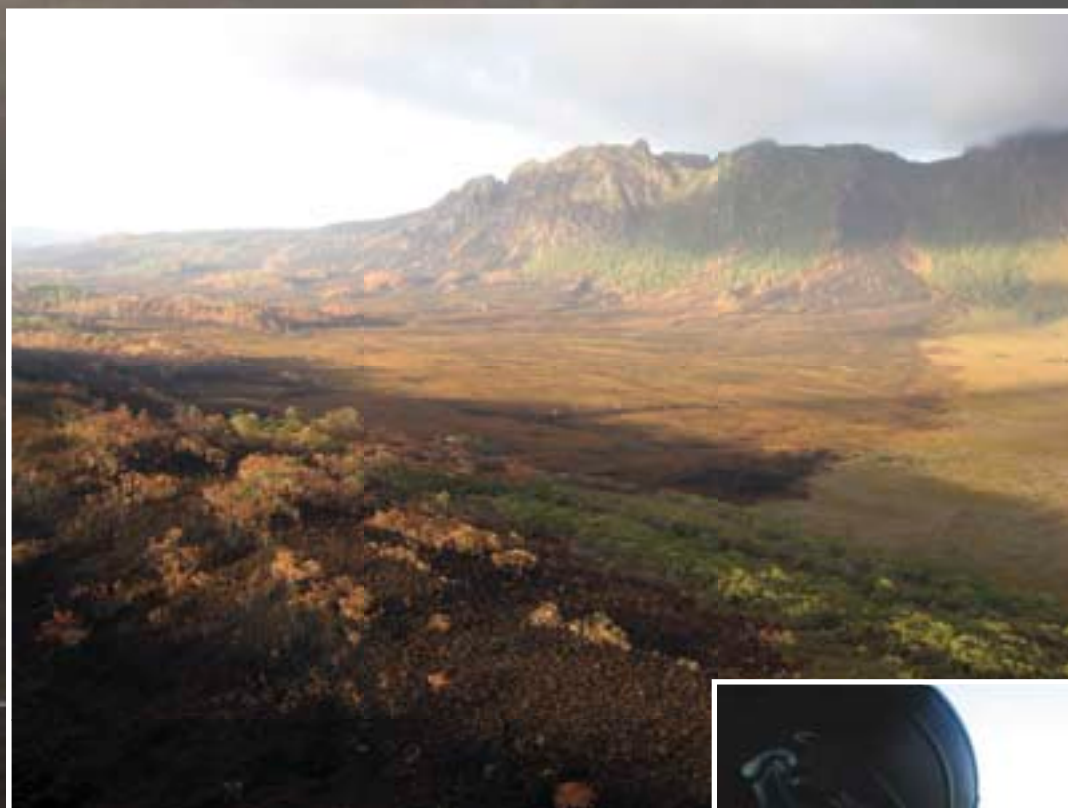
(Background Photo) Early morning smoke on the Tiger Range Photographer Paul Black

There was no road access to most of this fire except in the first few days when it was burning around the Adamsfield area so all equipment and firefighters had to be flown in and out each day. Helibases were set up at the Mt Field Works Depot, Salvation Creek and one on the Gordon River Road. There were up to 4 helicopters on most days performing a variety of roles including crew transport, water bombing, aerial reconnaissance and transport of water.

Remote area crews from Parks, Forestry and TFS all spent a considerable number of hours working in some very steep and rugged terrain to contain this fire. Most of the work was

digging into the peat so as to allow the water to extinguish the fire. Only one structure the "Hilton Hut" near Adamsfield was destroyed.

One of the major concerns with this fire was that if it had run through to the Gordon River Road it would have cut the main transmission line from Strathgordon to Hobart with a resultant loss of power and also had the potential, under the right conditions, to run through to the Huon. (At the beginning of March, Packers Spur fire still remains alight and is a current incident making it one of our longest running fires in recent times - Editor.)



Gordon Plains, Thumbs Packers Spur and Saw Back Range showing less activity

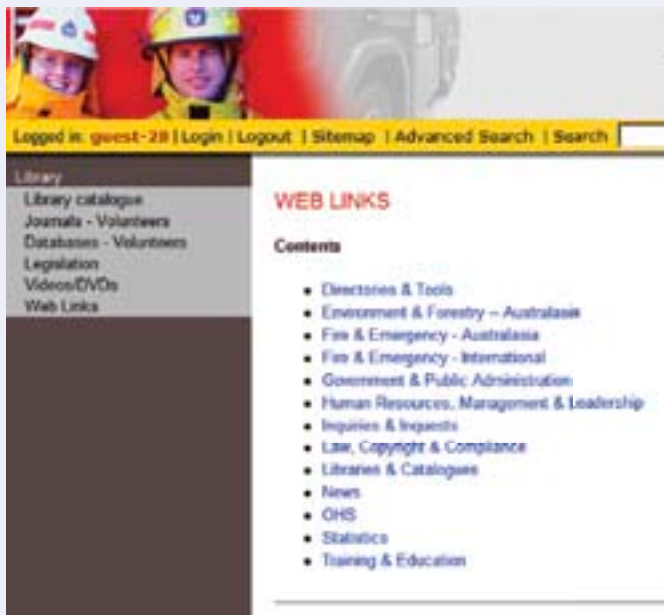


Martin Piesse
(Forestry Tasmania)
conducting an infra
red scan of the Saw
Back Range

Library News

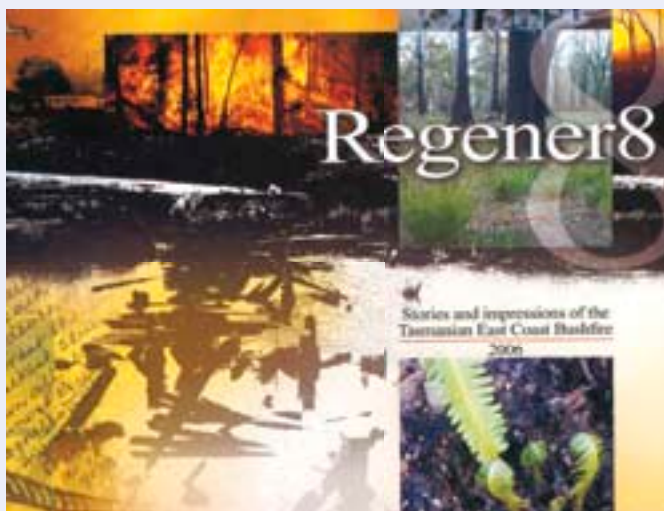
NEW WEB PAGE

There is now an extensive list of TFS relevant web links on the intranet. You can find this page under Info Centre>Library>Web Links. Please feel free to suggest any additions to the page.



New publication on 2006 East Coast bushfire

A collaborative effort between community members, the Break O'Day Council and the University Department of Rural Health has resulted in the publication of *Regener8: stories and impressions of the Tasmanian East Coast bushfire 2006*. The book is a compilation of stories, interviews, poems and images by those affected by the devastating fire that lasted three weeks. The book costs \$15 plus \$2.50 per book for postage and handling. Purchases can be made through Healthy Community Project, PO Box 395, St Helens TAS 7216.



NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

Australian code for the transport of dangerous goods by road and rail (ADG Code) / National Road Transport Commission (Australia). Canberra: Canprint, c2007.

Coaching basics: complete, how-to guide to help you understand the value of coaching, create results driven coaching, increase organisational effectiveness / Lisa Haneberg. Alexandria, Va.: ASTD Press, 2005.

Field guide: fuel assessment and fire behaviour prediction in dry eucalypt forest / JS Gould. Canberra: Ensis-CSIRO, 2007.

Fire in dry eucalypt forest : fuel structure, fuel dynamics and fire behaviour / J. S. Gould. Canberra : Ensis-CSIRO, 2007.

Fire suppression practices and procedures / Gene Mahoney. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education / Prentice Hall, 2007.

Chapter 1. Fire behavior and combustion - Chapter 2. Fireground tactical tasks - Chapter 3. The model incident command system and firefighters' safety - Chapter 4. Fireground planning and tactics - Chapter 5. Fireground operations - Chapter 6. Fires in buildings - Chapter 7. Fires in mobile equipment - Chapter 8. Special-interest fires.

Leadership capability framework / Australasian Fire Authorities Council. East Melbourne, Vic: AFAC, c2007.

Lessons learned in the development of the US Interagency Wildfire Lessons Learned Center / Mary Omodei. [Melbourne, Vic.: La Trobe University, 2007].

The Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center actively promotes a learning culture to enhance and sustain safe and effective work practices in the entire US wildland fire community. The Bushfire CRC researchers reviewed the US LLC as part of the Fire Knowledge Network initiative to have an Australasian Centre for Lessons Learned (ACLL) function.

New vehicle technology issues for rescuers / Michael Vanderzalm. [Melbourne]: Victoria State Emergency Service, 2004. 1 CD-ROM.

Regener8: stories and impressions of the Tasmanian East Coast bushfire 2006 / edited by Rosa McManamey. Launceston, Tas.: Regener8 Stories and Impressions, 2007.

Report for lessons learnt: a review of the 2006/07 bushfire season [Tasmania] / by GHD for the Tasmania Fire Service. Nowra, NSW : GHD, 2007.

Wangary fires inquest (Eyre Peninsula) 18 December 2007 / Anthony E. Schapel. [Adelaide]: State Coroner, 2007. 617 p.

NEW DVDS IN THE LIBRARY

15 minutes of flame / South Australia. Country Fire Service. Adelaide, S.A.: CFS and Govt. of South Australia, 2005. 1 DVD (23 min.)

For nine nights in September 2005, more than 100,000 people witnessed the capability of today's modern CFS at the Royal Adelaide Show.

Alternate fuel vehicles workshop / Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia. Perth, W.A.: FESA, 2006. 1 DVD (39 min.)

Contents: Introduction (2 min.) - H2 buses (10.27 min.) - Hybrid vehicles (9.18 min.) - CNG buses (17.13 min.)

Conflict management / Michael Henry. Bendigo, Vic.: Video Education Australasia, 2006. 1 DVD (27 min.)

What is conflict - Role of conflict in the workplace - Conflict spiral - Conflict management - Constructive conflict management.

Demystifying LNG: modern answers to LNG fire protection. U.K.: Angus Fire, 2007. 1 DVD (16 min.)

"Demystifying LNG" reviews the latest developments in fire fighting foam technology for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). The DVD takes an in-depth look at the unique hazard posed by LNG and the need for specialist fire protection equipment and techniques. It features dramatic footage of recent large-scale tests carried out by Angus Fire in collaboration with BP at the new world-class LNG testing and training facility at Texas A&M University.

Heavy rescue / Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia. Perth, W.A.: FESA, 2006. 1 DVD (32 min.)

Contents: Introduction (1.22 min.) - Heavy rescue tools (11.05 min.) - Metropolitan passenger train hazards and isolations series A and B Train (8.31 min.) - Utilising hydraulic jacks (3.47 min.) - Utilising air bag lifting equipment (4.28 min.) - Casualty transfer boards (3.26 min.).

Road crash rescue / Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia. Perth, W.A.: FESA, 2005. 1 DVD.

Contents: Introduction, Personal protection equipment, Scene appreciation, Safety systems, Stabilisation, Casualty care. Extrication techniques - B Pillar tear, Roof fold, Footwell exposure, Dash lift / Roll, Oyster / roof flap.

Stop the red steer / Tasmania. Archives Office. S.I.: [Council of Fire and Accident Underwriters of Australia], 1967. 1 DVD (14 min.)

Shows the devastation of areas near Hobart in the February 1967 bushfires and the efforts of regular and volunteer firefighters to control them. Demonstrates methods of preventing and dealing with bushfires recommended generally.

CONTACT US

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,
Corner Argyle and Melville Streets, Hobart

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



Dad's home!

Submitted by
Firefighter
Lilydale Brigade,
Clinton Dean
(\$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

Birthday gifts that keep on giving

By Advocate Newspaper Reporter Nyssa Skilton

What do you need when you turn 60 years old? That was the question facing Wynyard Brigade Chief Bruce Corbett as he approached his 60th birthday late last year. Bruce said he had received the best birthday present already - a granddaughter born in March 2007.

So instead of a birthday party, Bruce had a 60th birthday charity bash. Instead of presents, he asked for donations to be made to Make-a-Wish Australia.

The charity bash, held at the Wynyard Fire Station, raised a giant \$3,300 to go towards granting wishes for children under the age of 18 with life threatening illnesses.

Bruce said that everyone put in a lot of work for the event, particularly his wife and family. "I was just the old bugger that turned 60" he laughed.

Joan Fawdrey from the Make-a-Wish Burnie branch said the \$3,300 was a wonderful contribution. "That is a big figure and we are so appreciative that Bruce has done this for our special children. It is so unselfish of him and it makes one proud to be a part of our community."



Bruce Corbett and his wife Dot hand over the proceeds from his 60th birthday to Make-a-Wish representatives Joan Fawdrey (right) and Trudy Connolly. Photographer Stuart Wilson

(Bruce and Dot also raised money for the TFS Charity Event - Michele Wylie Fundraising through their workplaces, in addition to fundraising with their Brigade - Linda Lacy Editor)

Photo and article courtesy of the Advocate Newspaper

The winds of change

By Senior Fire Equipment Officer North West, Adam Lewtas

For those who have not met me or knew me previously, I used to work at Vestas where they manufactured the Wind Turbines which are located at Woolnorth (near Smithton) and in South Australia. We also shipped to France and China. My position was a dual role of Warehouse Team Leader and an Incoming Quality Inspector, controlling documentation, component inspections on gearboxes, generators etc, non conforming report writing for components, stock control, and anything else they could get me to do. This was a very demanding job as everybody always had a problem or needed something. Before this I have worked in hotels and bottle shops, and back to my days in the bush cutting and carrying manferns out of the gullies - picking the leaches off in the winter and looking out for snakes in the summer.

Peta and I have 3 children, 2 daughters aged 11 and 9; and a son almost 3 years old. In my little spare time I enjoy going to the gym, food and getting my bass guitar out to annoy the neighbours. I'm also a true blue Carlton supporter (lost interest now?)

TasFire Equipment has seen a lot of change during the past two years with retirements, transfers and departures. This has brought its own challenges as I was still learning all the aspects of work we undertake, policies and procedures as



well as dealing with areas that were behind in their service schedule due to the staff shortage.

With plenty of new staff in the North West and me having 12 months in the job I am finally starting to get somewhere, and hope that I have brought some positive changes and direction with different skills that TFE and the TFS will benefit from in the years to come.

Photo Gallery



These photos were taken at a training burn off in October 2007. Photographer Senior Firefighter Somerset Brigade, Kate Wilkinson.



Bagdad Brigade start training at a tender age. At their recent Brigade Christmas BBQ two ultra junior members tried their hand at hose rolling. They are Jessica Harback daughter of Third Officer Craig Harback and Connor Black nephew of Fourth Officer Andrew Clifton. Photographer Second Officer Bagdad Brigade, Jim Clifton.



Prosser's Road fire
Photographer Firefighter Lilydale Brigade, Clinton Dean



Dad's home!
Submitted by Firefighter Lilydale Brigade, Clinton Dean



Prosser's Road fire
Photographer Firefighter Lilydale Brigade, Clinton Dean

Coningham fire



This was at a backburn that Parks firefighters were lighting up along a firebreak (there were houses on the other side of the firebreak) - between Old Station Road and Coningham Road. The helicopter was waterbombed the backburn, and then firefighters would move in to blacken out the edge. Photographer Firefighter Kingston Brigade, Anne Durdin



The Coningham fire - a view of the Channel Highway in Lower Snug, near the car wrecker's yard. Photographer Firefighter Kingston Brigade, Anne Durdin



Out from behind the desk and onto the fireground at Coningham - Firefighter Kingston Brigade / Communications Officer FireComm - Kylie Harbottle.



The helicopter going down to fill up from a dam across the road from the car wrecker's yard in Lower Snug. Photographer Firefighter Kingston Brigade, Anne Durdin



Photographer Leading Firefighter Kingston Brigade, Matt Davis

Coningham fire



Photos taken of Coningham fire from Woodcutters Point Bruny Island
Photographer Karen Davis

Remote area firefighting helicopter training exercise

By Station Officer Special Operations, Dale Lapham

With a predicted busy fire season ahead for 2008, a joint remote area firefighting and helicopter training exercise was formulated by Station Officers responsible for Special Operations and Planning & Capability from the Launceston Brigade.

The exercise was conducted in the Trevallyn Reserve area, which is located only minutes from the CBD, but provided the participants with the feeling of being in a natural bush type environment. As per usual when organising any outdoor activity within Tasmania, the Spring weather provided some interesting challenges with strong winds and rain present on the day.

A total of sixteen senior firefighters were selected from the Launceston, Devonport and Burnie career brigades. All participants had previous skills and knowledge in both remote vegetation firefighting and were competent in working safely around aircraft.

An incident Action Plan (IAP) had been developed for the exercise, which then required the groups to be split into four Sectors. Four Crew Leaders were chosen, providing them with some valuable training prior to their Leading Firefighter assessment block towards the middle of 2008. Each Crew Leader and their eager crews were then transported by vehicle to a given reference point on a map and then had to follow instructions provided to them on the IAP.

This first stage tested their knowledge on both map reading and GPS navigational principles, as they were given a set timeframe to traverse from their original drop off location to another predetermined point of reference on the map. They were required to radio their group's location at certain time intervals throughout this first leg and provide accurate grid references.

Each crew were required to carry enough food, water and firefighting equipment to complete the detailed tasks on arrival at the second stages of their IAP's.

The tasks varied in complexity and were designed to simulate remote fireground operations. These included relay pumping, helicopter helipad (landing zone) construction, hover entries and exits into a helicopter, sling loading and the safe removal of an injured firefighter from a remote location.

As each task was completed by the crews they were then transported by helicopter to the next point on their plans, which enabled all members to perform each scenario throughout the exercise.

The training enabled the firefighters to hone their skills prior to the upcoming bushfire season and provide them with the confidence and knowledge to utilise the aerial support that is now a regular tool in the TFS's battle against fires in steep and difficult terrain throughout the State.

Thanks to all personnel who actively contributed in the planning phases of this exercise and a special acknowledgement to Darryl Taylor the owner/operator of Tasmanian Helicopters Pty Ltd, Nick Talbot his ever trusty pilot and Parks & Wildlife for the use of the reserve.



Cars put to the test in bushfire conditions

TFS has promoted the principle of "Prepare your home for bushfires then stay and defend it or leave early" for several years now, however, research has shown that leaving at the last minute either by foot or in a vehicle has proven to often be fatal. The recent experience on the Eyre Peninsula, Kangaroo Island and in Western Australia reinforces this. AFAC has prepared the following guidelines from recent research. The TFS endorses the AFAC guidelines, recognising that vehicles provide very little protection for people trapped in bushfires. Firefighters should discourage people from fleeing bushfires at the last minute, or using roads in the vicinity of bushfires unless declared safe by firefighters.



Media release

Tuesday 8 January

Cars put to the test in bushfire conditions

Advice for people trapped in their cars during a bushfire has been updated with a groundbreaking study into what happens to a vehicle caught in the middle of a firestorm.

The research initiated by NSW Rural Fire Service and conducted by Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre with CSIRO scientists, sought to determine the maximum heat load that a vehicle could face while remaining a safe haven for its occupants, both in terms of the air temperature and the air quality inside the vehicle.

The study of burnovers in civilian passenger vehicles was conducted in January 2007 at the NSW Rural Fire Service Hot Fire Training Facility in Mogo, on the New South Wales south-coast. Seven used cars were subjected to burnover conditions with a gas flame front simulator. The two-wheel-drive sedans, which ranged in size, age and make, were donated by the NRMA.

Each car was fully instrumented with sensors to monitor for air toxics and heat levels at many points inside the vehicle including above and below the window height, front and rear seats and, above and beneath a woollen blanket. Comparisons were made between having the air conditioner on or off, and by facing the car forwards, side-on or backing to the flames.

The research made several key observations:

- Using a woollen blanket for shelter in either the front or rear foot-well of a vehicle is the most effective strategy to reduce exposure to both toxic gases and high temperatures.
- Operating an air conditioning system in recirculation mode reduces temperature exposure in all but extreme conditions and may add to your comfort in the very early stages of exposure. However, air conditioning, whether on or off, will not increase your chances of survival.
- Facing the front of the car towards the approaching fire was better than side or rear orientation.
- Direct flame contact from either the passing fire front or from burning ground fuels makes the vehicle almost immediately untenable for occupants.
- Testing under a wide range of conditions (slow/fast burn, front/rear/side orientation, etc) found that the rise in air toxics inside the vehicle was the main reason the car became unsuitable for its occupants.
- Thermoplastic body parts and the structural design features of different vehicles contributed to the varied performance of cars in burnover conditions with the more recent models performing worst.
- There was no significant involvement of the cars fuel systems in any of the experiments. (None of the cars tested had plastic fuel tanks).

Lead researcher Justin Leonard, from CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems, said the range of temperatures inside the vehicles was considerable.

"Some tests recorded peak temperatures up around 300C in parts of the cabin but at the same time down low under the woollen blanket the temperature was around 40 to 50 degrees, which is quite survivable. Even when blankets were not used sheltering below the window level in the front and rear foot wells was the best strategy"

Mr Leonard said the smoke and toxic gases inside the melting cars was often more significant than the heat.

"Many cars are lined with PVC materials and when that is heated above 220C, it may release hydrogen chloride gas, before it ignites. That is a severe irritant and this could cause people to panic and get out of the vehicle."



The Australasian Fire Authorities Council (AFAC), the peak body for the fire and emergency services, has used this research to refine its guidance for people in vehicles during bushfires

These guidelines were previously based on evidence gleaned from tragedies from the fireground, the observations of emergency service workers and from limited tests on vehicles in the 1960s.

The guidelines were sound but there remained uncertainties on some factors including the construction and materials of modern vehicles and the influence of protective actions taken by occupants. (For example, having the air conditioning on or off, the orientation of the car to the fire front, seeking protection under woollen blankets, or seeking refuge in various parts of the car's interior.)

The Chief Executive Officer of AFAC, Naomi Brown, said this research provided a better understanding of what happened to vehicles in bushfire conditions. Fire agencies and emergency services would use this research as a basis for their community safety campaigns.

"It is with extreme caution that people should be given advice about taking refuge in their vehicle in a bushfire. This research shows that sheltering inside a vehicle is a high risk strategy and that it is highly unlikely that a person will survive in all but the mildest circumstances."

"Whilst sheltering inside a vehicle offers a slightly higher chance of survival than being caught in the open, the current policy of preparing your home, and deciding early whether you stay or go, is a much safer option. It is essential that all people likely to be exposed to bushfire risk realise this."

Naomi Brown and Justin Leonard are available for comment.

Video of the burnover can be viewed at <http://www.bushfirecrc.com/research/d11/vehicle.html>
High Resolution photos of the burnover can also be downloaded from the same web address.

High resolution copies of the video are available for TV from AFAC

Guidelines for People in Cars during Bushfires can be viewed at
http://www.afac.com.au/awsv2/publications/guidelines_information.htm

For more information contact:
Jay Gleeson
AFAC Communications Manager
Ph: 03 9418 5203
Mob: 0424 143 152
Email: jay.gleeson@afac.com.au

Training day at Cambridge

By Second Officer Channel Brigade, David Cooper

On Saturday 10th November, Channel Brigade was lucky enough to have the Cambridge training complex to themselves. Channel 4-1 and Channel 4-2 were met at the complex by South West District Officer Hugh Jones and Senior Field Officer Phil Smith). We were given a briefing about what to expect from the day and a quick classroom refresher on RECEO and LACES. After that the fun began.

The day started with a vehicle fire which was responded to by Channel 4-1. After the completion of the scenario incident, a small debrief was given by Hugh and Phil. The scenario incidents then progressed in complexity, so that eventually we attended two separate vehicle fires, two vehicles on fire at a petrol station forecourt which had spread to the workshop behind, two more separate structural fires (with varying amounts of victims found inside including the Brigade Chief in the final incident!) and one LPG fire. It should be noted that all of the incidents were out of the new Volunteer Training Exercise book so that we could log maintenance of competencies. All of the officers had a chance of being the Incident Controller and other members had a chance of

being crew leader on the back up truck when it was needed (just about all incidents!). All members had a chance at using their skills under different scenarios and all members who were BA qualified managed to put their skills to the test (more than once).

The most important parts of the day were the debrief sessions. As everyone knows there is always room for improvement and it is better to make mistakes on the training ground than at a real incident. Mistakes were definitely made (I promised I wouldn't name names but I wonder who that carton of beer came from?) and lessons were learned by everyone, from the newest member to the most experienced. The debrief sessions also gave a chance to refresh memories on some of the procedures that should be followed at certain types of incidents. We now have to take these lessons away and put them into practice.

All in all a very busy day which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Thanks to Hugh and Phil for giving us their undivided attention and organising a great day.



On The *Move*

A list of recent personnel changes within the TFS

The following Career personnel changes have occurred

Arrivals

TFE	Andy Smith	Fire Equipment Officer	22nd October 2007
Northern Region	Lauren Hunt	Clerical Support Officer	12th November 2007
TFE	Aaron White	Fire Equipment Officer	28th November 2007

Elevations

Engineering Services	Paul Cooper	Foreman Appliance Fabrication	16th October 2007
Southern Region	Brendon Burrige	Station Officer	7th November 2007
Southern Region	Mark Bryant	Station Officer	7th November 2007

Departures

TFE	Zac Blizzard	Fire Equipment Officer	31st October 2007
Corporate Services	Kevin Broughton	Purchasing Officer	30th November 2007
Engineering Services	Brendon Wass	Appliance Fabrication Technician	19th December 2007
TFE	Carl Barnett	Fire Equipment Officer	24th December 2007
Northern Region	Simon U'ren	Firefighter	30th December 2007
Corporate Services	Marcel Legosz	Assets Officer	1st February 2008

The following Volunteer Brigade Officers have been elected by their Brigades

BRIGADE	OFFICER	APPOINTMENT	BRIGADE	OFFICER	APPOINTMENT
Barton	Ewan Taylor	Brigade Chief	Molesworth	Terry Root	Third Officer
	Frank Youl	Second Officer	New Norfolk	Peter Brazendale	Second Officer
	John Taylor	Third Officer		Neville Rushworth	Third Officer
Cape Barren Island	Shayne Maher	Brigade Chief		Noel Hardwick	Fourth Officer
	Vicki Little	Second Officer	Prospect	Stephen Gray	First Officer
Claude Road	Callum Woodham	Second Officer		Glenn Mc Adam	Third Officer
Falmouth	John Jamieson	Brigade Chief	Relbia	Daniel Cox	Second Officer
	Matthew Bennell	Second Officer	St Helens	John Le Fevre	Fourth Officer
	Gary Keys	Third Officer	Tunnack	Leonard Byers	Brigade Chief
	Tony Chugg	Fourth Officer		Rodney Hughes	Second Officer
Frankford/Birralee	John Penney	Brigade Chief		Robert Scott	Third Officer
	Neville Hall	Second Officer	Winnaleah	Brett Scott	Fourth Officer
	Kevin Reynolds	Third Officer		Ronald Apted	Fourth Officer
	David Bruce	Fourth Officer			

Awards

A list of recent awards presented within the TFS

LOCATION/ BRIGADE	NAME	AWARD
Bagdad	Graham Adams	Long Service (25 years)
Bicheno	Douglas Renshaw	Long Service (20 years)
Bushy Park	Adam Gittus	Long Service (10 years)
Channel	Michael Groth	Long Service (25 years)
	David Cooper	Long Service (10 years)
Deep Bay	Malcolm Merchant	Long Service (30 years)
Fern Tree	David Hart	TFS Volunteer Medal
	Chris Wagstaff	TFS Volunteer Medal
	Don Jones	National Medal (45 years)
	Matthew Fishwick	National Medal (15 years)
	Don Jones	Long Service (35 years)
	Terry Gill	Long Service (30 years)
	Nick Barta	Long Service (15 years)
	David Hart	Long Service (10 years)
	Peter Scott	Long Service (10 years)
	Damien Jones	Long Service (10 years)
Gretna	Trafford Harvey	Long Service (20 years)
	Colin Cunningham	Long Service (20 years)
	Sally-Anne Coleman	Long Service (10 years)
Hobart	Brendon Burridge	National Medal (15 years)
	Stuart Males	National Medal (15 years)
	David Collins	National Medal (15 years)
	George Auchterlonie	National Medal (15 years)
	Ian Cawthorn	Long Service (25 years)
	Wayne Smart	Long Service (20 years)
	Jeremy Smith	Long Service (20 years)
Kempton	Tim Kirkwood	Long Service (15 years)
	John Smith	Long Service (10 years)
	Paul Lang	Long Service (10 years)
Kimberley	Alwyn Parker	Long Service (15 years)
	Pat Parker	Long Service (15 years)
Kingston	Brian Wylie	Long Service (15 years)

LOCATION/ BRIGADE	NAME	AWARD
Kingston	Raymond Carter	Long Service (10 years)
Koonya	Gregory Sweeney	Long service (10 years)
Lenah Valley	Andrew Ingram	National Medal (15 years)
	Eric Percival	Long Service (40 years)
Moriarty	Peter Laphorne	Long Service (10 years)
Mt Nelson	Michael Smart	Long Service (20 years)
New Norfolk	Michael Hanson	National Medal (25 years)
	Noel Hardwick	National Medal (15 years)
	Michael Hanson	Long Service (25 years)
	Noel Hardwick	Long Service (15 years)
	Justin Benson	Long Service (15 years)
	Mark Lusted	Long Service (10 years)
Oatlands	Phillip Worlton	Long Service (30 years)
	Kerry Mancey	Long Service (30 years)
Penguin	Gordon Patchin	Long Service (10 years)
	Michelle Clarke	Long Service (10 years)
	Tony King	Long Service (20 years)
	Joel Seymour	Long Service (20 years)
	Gary Smith	Long Service (25 years)
	Brian Morse	Long Service (35 years)
Poatina	Russell Smith	Long Service (40 years)
	David Archer	Long Service (20 years)
	Tony Keach	Long Service (15 years)
	Rudi Tubb	Long Service (15 years)
	Andrew Thirkel-Johnson	Long Service (15 years)
	Marcus Archer	Long Service (15 years)
	Bill Scott-Young	Long Service (15 years)
Prospect	Oliver Breeze	TFS Volunteer Medal
	Steve Gray	National Medal (15 years)
Queenstown	Timothy Kremmer	Long Service (20 years)
	James Smith	Long Service (30 years)
Riana	Brian Sharman	Long Service (15 years)



Michael and Gerald Aulich of St Marys with the Hon David Llewellyn and District Officer Craig Maxwell
Photographer Peter Troode



Group Officer Lyndsay Suhr, Regional Chief Tony Davidson & Brigade Chief Eric Percival

LOCATION/ BRIGADE	NAME	AWARD
Riana	Gary Morse	Long Service (25 years)
	Sam Ling	Long Service (30 years)
Ridgley	Karen Betts	Long Service (10 years)
	Shannon Lees	Long Service (10 years)
	Steven Boon	Long Service (15 years)
	Mark Lillico	Long Service (20 years)
	Graeme Jones	Long Service (25 years)
Risdon Vale	Wade Stewart	Long Service (25 years)
	Chris McNerney	Long Service (15 years)
Somerset	Justin Artis	Long Service (10 years)
	Robert Dawes	Long Service (10 years)
	Kate Wilkinson	Long Service (10 years)
	Micheal Richards	Long Service (15 years)
	Darren Smith	Long Service (15 years)
	Dean Stokes	Long Service (15 years)
	Craig Stirling	Long Service (15 years)
Logistics	Andrew Davis	Long Service (30 years)
State HQ	Kym Manten	Long Service (20 years)
	Robyn Pearce	Long Service (10 years)
	Elisa Lang	Long Service (10 years)
	Kelly Marriott-Smith	Long Service (10 years)
	Debbie Mitchell	Long Service (10 years)
St Marys	Gerald Aulich	National Medal (45 years)
	Michael Aulich	National Medal (15 years)
Stowport/ Natone	Nigel McLaren	Long Service (10 years)
	Stephen McLaren	Long Service (10 years)
	Fiona Tustian	Long Service (10 years)
	Philip Tustian	Long Service (15 years)
	Ian Atkinson	Long Service (30 years)
Tunnack	Cameron Scott	Long Service (15 years)
Ulverstone	Leigh Spicer	Long Service (20 years)
	Chris McKenna	Long Service (20 years)



Regional Chief Tony Davidson with Andrew Ingram of Lenah Valley

Junior Awards

By Field Officer South Esk, Rodney Springer

On 16th December 2007 the Perth and Evandale juniors held an end of year function consisting of ten pin bowls, BBQ and award presentations.

Leading Firefighters Mark Jones of Perth and Bronwyn Rigby of Evandale put a great deal of effort into the junior program throughout the year which kept the wheels turning.

The juniors receive a lot of support from their brigades, who recognise that the juniors of today are the future of tomorrow.



Jacob Littlejohn of Perth(2nd), Joshua Summers of Perth (1st) and Matthew Sharp of Evandale(3rd)

LETTERS

THANK YOU to the Musselroe Bay community for assistance given.

I write to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to those members of the Musselroe Bay Fire Brigade Community who helped out at short notice when the word went out that there was to be a concrete pour and I was/am temporally on a walking stick because of a injury to my hip-leg. With out their help we would have not have been able to do the task at hand, that was to re establish firm paths after we were burnt out some years ago. We did have rough paths made from loose bricks remaining after the bushfire.

On the morning in question Friday last the 23rd Nov 07 a group of half a dozen community spirited residents [Tas, Stoucher, Doc, Ian, Bob and John] were on site ready for the truck to arrive at about 7.30am; once things got underway it was all hands on deck and the shovels and rakes etc. soon had the concrete in place.

I can only repeat my sincere heartfelt gratitude for the help given so freely to my wife and I.

Kind regards :)

Norm Andrews



"Doc" of the shovel supervised by "Tas" with "Ian" [a retired builder] in the background. "Doc" and "Tas" are members of the Musselroe Bay Brigade

Dear Fire Brigade members,

The Tasmanian Land Conservancy wishes to thank all of those fire fighters involved in putting out the fire on our land at Rockmount Road, Ellendale, on 15th November. Without your quick response & persistent efforts, this fire could have resulted to extensive damage to the neighbouring Conservation Area.

As Managers of land with significant conservation values (including the Ellendale property, known as Silver Peppermint Reserve) we are well aware of the ecological & safety need to burn native vegetation, and will be developing a fire management plan for this reserve soon.

We look forward to working with you in the future (although hopefully not in an emergency situation such as this one).

Please pass our thanks onto all those TFS members involved with this fire, their efforts are greatly appreciated.

Warm regards

Denna Kingdon
DENNA KINGDON
RESERVES MANAGER

3.12.07

To the Chief officer,

Please pass the enclosed thankyou card onto those brigades involved in fighting the bushfire at our reserve on Rockmount Road, Ellendale, on 15th November 2007—their efforts were greatly appreciated.

Kind regards

Denna Kingdon
Reserves Manager.



TASMANIAN Land CONSERVANCY

PO Box 2113, Lower Sandy Bay TAS 7005
03 6225 1399 03 6225 1394
www.tasland.org.au info@tasland.org.au
08 743 606 934

*Grammar
Christmas Camp*
17th December 2007

17th December 2007

Tasmania Fire Service
D Platoon (Al Williams)
339 Hobart rd
Youngtown



Dear Mr Williams,

Just a small note to say a big THANK YOU for your help during the Grammar Christmas Camp 2007.

The camp was a huge success, the children, students, staff and parents gained immense pleasure and satisfaction from the entire weekend. It is a joy and privilege to be able to offer some respite and care to these very deserving families.

Our guests, their companions, assistants and staff thoroughly enjoyed the visit from the Fire truck and the kindness your officers showed was much valued. Your support during our past two camps has been truly appreciated and we look forward to continuing the tradition in 2008.

Once again our sincere thanks for your support of our camp.

Kind regards

Carol Bennett
(Mrs) Carol Bennett
Registrar



Channel Historical & Folk Museum Assoc Inc.

Channel Heritage Museum

ABN 25 356 938 161

2361 Channel Hwy
Lower Sngg TAS

P.O. Box 559
Saug TAS 7054

Museum: Ph 03 6267 9169

Secretary: 6267 4665



Button Street, Mowbray Heights
Launceston, Tasmania 7248

P.O. Box 136 Mowbray
Tasmania 7248
Fax: 4334 5980

14th January, 2008

The Chief Officer
Tasmania Fire Service
Cnr Melville & Argyle Streets
Hobart TAS 7000

Dear Sir

I am writing to you to pass on our Association's thanks to the fire-fighters who attended the fire at Coningham and Lower Snug on the 11th and 12th of January. They did a marvellous job in protecting property and containing the fire.

Our particular concern was the Channel Heritage Museum with its valuable collection of information, photographs and memorabilia relating to the history and development of the Channel district.

A number of members were present at the Museum to monitor the fire and to do the immediate preparations in case the fire threatened the property but we were grateful for the brigade's presence.


When it was necessary there were a number of fire units near the Museum and they were able to put out spot fires and made the area safe with control burning.

Again with our thanks.

Yours sincerely

J. Hocking

Joyce Hocking
Secretary.

 STATE FIRE COMMISSION 16 JAN 2008 Information & Records	
File	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Index	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
File No.	153
File No.	00331169
Copy on file	
Searchable Data	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

LETTERS



Forestry Tasmania
OPENING OUR FUTURE

Phone:

Your Ref:

Our File:
29th January 2008

Simon Phillips
30 Gellibrand Street
ZEEHAN TASMANIA 7469

Dear Simon

On behalf of Forestry Tasmania's Marchison District I would like to extend our thanks and appreciation for the support of the Zeehan TFS Brigade and the provision of their Station during the recent fire fighting operations at Argent Track and Backagain Point.

The Zeehan Fire Station once again proved to be a good base for the Incident Management Team, providing computer and communications access, as well as a meeting point and storage area for the crews deployed on the fire.

The local volunteers were also of great assistance with their local knowledge and general help with tasks around town and keeping the station in order.

In particular I would like to mention "Tinker". Tinker was first at the station every morning, and available all day, able to assist at a minutes notice without a fuss, and did many things from collecting lunches to delivering fuel for helicopters in Strahan and finding those hard to get things only locals know the whereabouts of. It is people like Tinker that are the heart and soul of local Tasmanian Fire Brigades and his assistance is acknowledged and has been greatly appreciated.

In the event of another fire, and if available, there would be no hesitation with FT using the Zeehan Fire Station again.

Once again thanks to the Zeehan TFS Brigade for your assistance and support.

Regards,

Paul Smith
Assistant General Manager Operations

Cc: Rob Devenell, District Officer
Tasmania Fire Service
3 Mile Line
BURNIE TASMANIA 7320

Dear Tas Fire Service

We would like to pass on our sincere gratitude to all the Fire Fighters, both on the ground and in the air, for setting up a line of defence as fire approached our home on Saturday afternoon. Also thanks to those who patrolled the fire all night and worked all day yesterday to make sure that the fire was contained. Their professionalism and dedication is to be commended. They are all an absolute credit to the Tas Fire Service.

Lindy & Peter George

**The Mercury
Letters**

14th January 2008

On behalf of the residents of Davies Road/Old Station Road, Lower Snug we would like to express our sincere thanks to all the fire brigade crews and helicopter pilot/s who successfully prevented the bushfire in the Coningham area from devastating our lives. It was a close call for some of us and we are immensely grateful for their magnificent efforts. They cannot be praised highly enough for their dedication and skill and should be regarded as some of the community's best assets. A toast to you all!

S Scott et al
Halcyon, 78 Davies Road, Lower Snug.

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Tasmanian Fire Service

Just wanted you to know that this letter was submitted to the Mercury but I don't know if they published it. Anyway please pass on the thanks expressed there to your wonderful crews.

*Sincerely,
Sheila Scott*

*What if
Tony Please pass on
30/1*

580 Acton Road
ACTON PARK 7170

29 January 2008

Mr. John Gledhill,
Commissioner of Tasmania Fire Services,
Cnr. Melville/Argyle Streets,
HOBART 7000

Dear John

I write to express our appreciation of the magnificent effort on the part of your service when we were confronted with fire on and near our property on Friday 25th January 2008.

The fire which was obviously deliberately lit by some person or persons unknown, took hold very rapidly on the property next door to ours, which over the years had amassed a considerable amount of combustible material by way of vegetation which had not been cleared. As a result, this made for a very intense fire.

In response to the telephone call made by my wife on 000 the fire fighting unit was on our property in what seemed like a matter of minutes. I was very impressed with the professionalism of these fire fighters in their response to the fire. They went about their business which gave complete confidence to us in their ability to protect our property, which I may say, I had taken great lengths to ensure was reasonably fire safe, and easy to defend in the event of fire, unlike our neighbours properties. This was commented upon by the brigade members attending.

It was the Seven Mile Beach Unit that fought the fire from our property, and those members were very courteous and obliging, keeping us updated of the situation. Because of the amount of fuel on the adjoining property, the fire fighters had to remain for some considerable time, to ensure that the fire was safe before leaving.

I understand that on this particular day, many fires were lit in the Acton Park/Rockey/Howrah and adjoining areas, in spite of this, I was very impressed that our call was responded to so rapidly.

Having lived through the experience of the 1967 bush fires and attending those fires as a Police Officer stationed at Oatlands and having subsequently served on the then Rural Fires Board in my capacity as a Police Inspector, may I indicate that I am very impressed with the way the Tasmania Fire Service is meeting its responsibilities in protecting our State from the devastating effects of fire.

We would appreciate if you could pass on our thanks to all those members who were involved in responding to the fire situation on Friday, and in particular to the members of the Seven Mile Beach Unit who were in attendance.

Kindest regards,


Maurice and Gwenda Massie

Email: massie415@bigpond.com
Tel: (H) 6248 6373

Dear Sir

As residents of Old Station Rd (at #434) Oyster Cove, we would like to thank the Tasmania Fire Service and all the volunteers from the many brigades in the Southern region that came to our assistance and the assistance of our neighbours during the bushfire that swept across Old Station Rd, through our property and the Coningham reserve on Friday 11 January 2008.

This was a stressful time for us as our inaugural experience of bushfire, but we felt extraordinarily well supported by everyone involved not just while the fire front came through but for several days afterwards while crews continued to check progress and assist with on-going flare-ups. At one stage on Friday there were at least six crews based on our property and we understand that there were crews stationed at every house for a period. This was a wonderful experience of community, professionalism (from volunteers!) and dedication in their truest sense. We also appreciated the excellent community education campaign that TFS has provided over the last couple of years.

Please pass on our heartfelt thanks to all the men and women involved. We feel very privileged to be part of a community that responded so well to our emergency.

Yours sincerely


Vanessa Elwell-Gavins


Keith Elwell-Gavins

A fire safety message from your local fire service

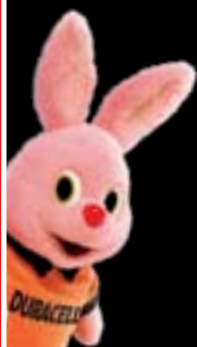
Change
your clock!



Change
your smoke
alarm battery
April 6th.



Only working smoke alarms save lives!



A community safety message from
DURACELL



www.changeyourbattery.com.au