

Fireground

spring 2005



- ▶ Volunteer Youth Development
- ▶ Regional Conferences

SPRING 2005

Official Journal of
The Tasmania Fire Service



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From the Chief Officer



I think most of us who have been TFS members for more than 15 years recognise the great progress that's been made in integrating the country and urban parts of the organisation. Everyone who's played a part in our evolution should be proud of our achievement in creating Australia's first integrated single fire service. While we have substantially achieved the single fire service goal there were still some remnants of the original two armed structure. Each region had a career brigade (two in the case of the North West) that was essentially managed as a separate entity.

In the wake of the retirement of Regional Officer Roland Hill last year and Regional Officer Graham Otley early this year, the opportunity was taken to refine our regional management

structure within the Southern and Northern regions. Regional Chiefs (Tony Davidson and Mike Brown) were appointed in the Southern and Northern regions. The Regional Officer North West became Regional Chief North West. So what was the title change about? The Regional Chief is also the Brigade Chief of the career brigade(s) in the region and has total responsibility for the resources of the region including the career brigade. Whilst on the surface it appears only a subtle name change it has significant implications that will enable greater access to and utilisation of people and resources in the region.

Both the Northern and Southern regions have Deputy Regional Chiefs who have strategic management responsibility for the operational capability and preparedness of their region's brigades including the career brigade. It's expected that the new arrangements will give greater flexibility and more easily enable people to move from brigade to regional areas (and perhaps to lesser extent vice versa) to provide assistance as and when needed. As deputies they will act as the Regional Chief in their absence.

Regional Chiefs now have full responsibility for all their region's people and resources. I believe these new arrangements will further assist in achieving the most efficient use of our people and resources and enhance the capacity of TFS to work for a safe Tasmania.

Editorial

By Editor Linda Lacy

Thanks for your articles. My call for help last issue was obviously read by many and articles have been arriving in a steady stream. Thanks for your consideration, this makes the preparation of Fireground easier.

To those of you from whom I request articles - it's my job - I don't mean to nag you, however, I thought I'd share some of the comments I receive when I "remind" people about an approaching deadline.

"Linda finally hunted me down and played on my conscience enough to get this done"

"You're certainly a pushy broad"

"You nag me more than my wife"

Also, keep sending those photos in - but remember to let me know what the photo is about - a paragraph may be enough, although I can't promise I won't ask for more! Also tell me who is in the photo so I can put the names with it. Thanks for all your support.



| | |
|------|---|
| Week | Leon Smith Presentation |
| | Ted Bugg Presentation |
| Week | Leo Berechree / Kerry Wells Presentation |
| | Greg Butters / Jodi Armstrong Presentation |
| | View slide show |
| Week | Milton de Jonge Presentation |
| | David Stott View slide show |



North West Regional Conference

By Regional Chief North West, John Streets



The North West Regional Conference was held on 30th April 2005 at the Burnie Civic Centre. The conference was very successful with a number of guest speakers including Leigh Miller, Manager Prevention of the Country Fire Service South Australia. Leigh presented the key note address, his topic being the Eyre Peninsula issues. Ted Bugg, Parks & Wildlife Service Cradle Mountain presented an interesting topic on "Fire in the Snow Zone".

Leo Berechree and Kerry Wells of the Smithton Brigade spoke on CISM from a personal point of view. Milton de Jonge of the Stanley Brigade gave a presentation from a volunteers' perspective of the fire service with David Stott of Port Sorell Brigade presenting an informative summary on the Volunteer Summit recently held in Canberra.

From within the TFS Divisions, Ken Burns and Danny Reid from the Fire Management Unit, spoke on incident information management and fire permits; Steve Willing and Gerald Kutzner, Human Resources, outlined the TFS conflict resolution protocol, Leon (Alfie) Smith, Engineering Services, addressed appliance updates and progress plans and added a touch of humour by showing his "Wombat Production" DVD. Greg Butters and Jodi Armstrong, Training



Services, spoke on their favourite topic of training, with the theme of "Where to from here" which raised a number of interesting questions from the floor.

The success of the conference was due to a number of factors, one of the obvious ones was the quality of our speakers. In addition we had a committee which was equally represented by career and volunteer, our five Session Chairs were all volunteers, three of them female. The outside displays were complemented by the involvement of the State Emergency Service, Parks & Wildlife, Tasmanian Ambulance Service, Bushwatch, the Community Education "Bug", Vintage Vehicle display along with current prototypes, and a CBR decontamination shower display. Within the foyer of the Civic Centre the TFS Museum Brigade had an excellent display, which was complemented by Dale Atkinson's fire service memorabilia.

After the Conference the delegates returned to the Burnie Fire Station to enjoy a barbecue, catering by the Salvation Army.

A big thank you to all involved.



Northern Regional Conference

By Regional Chief North, Mike Brown

The Invermay "Tramshed Complex" worked out to be an ideal venue for the first TFS Northern Region Conference. Some 260 people from across the Northern Region 'turned out' for the one day conference.

After arrival registration and coffee our first session chair Anthony Beckett welcomed the Regional Chief, and the Chief Officer who gave an overview of both regional and statewide developments and plans. The (very newly appointed) Deputy Regional Chief, Andrew Comer then presented an overview of the inter-agency protocols with senior regional representatives from Forestry Tasmania and Parks & Wildlife Service. The Regional Chief then presented a session on "working together" at our incidents with the main players from Police, Tasmanian Ambulance Service and the State Emergency Service.

Morning tea was followed by our keynote speaker Andrew Lawson of the South Australian Country Fire Service. Andrew presented a thought provoking presentation on the Eyre Peninsula fires of last summer.

Other presentations of note were the excellent papers presented by Craig Maxwell and Tim Watson on the value of pre-incident planning following the experience of the \$2 million hotel fire at St Helens. Whilst the subject matter was serious, Tim's jokes had us laughing in the aisles!

George Town Brigade Chief Andrew Taylor spoke on the rewards of volunteering.

The barbeque afterwards was a great opportunity to receive feedback and to evaluate the value of

such a forum. Given the favourable response, I'm sure we'll be doing something similar in the future, and I'm tipping we could have 300 there next time.

A special mention of thanks to all of you who made the journey; to Carol and her admin team for chasing the nominations; and Anthony Beckett, Eldon Griffiths, Bronwyn Rigby, Tim Watson, Andrew Taylor, and the members of staff for your courage in taking to the stage as a session chair or presenter.



Southern Regional Conference

Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Human Services, Mr David Llewellyn opened the TFS Southern Region Conference on Saturday, 25 June 2005 at the 'City Gate' Convention Centre in Mornington.

The conference was an opportunity for all Brigades and support divisions to get together and share experiences as well as learn from a range of speakers presenting a variety of fire related topics. Over 200 firefighters from all brigades in Southern Tasmania participated.

The key note address was from Chief Officer, Euan Ferguson of the Country Fire Service of South Australia who delivered a paper on the Eyre Peninsula fires that occurred last summer.

Other sessions included Interagency Bushfire Protocols with Ben Merritt Forestry Tasmania, Tony Blanks Parks & Wildlife Service, and Deputy Regional Chief Chris Arnol; Aviation Rescue and Firefighting with Brooke Chisholm of Air Services Australia; Incident Information, Fire Permits and Helicopter Operations with District Officer Ken Burns and Senior Station Officer Danny Reid; Critical Incident Stress Management with Leo Berechree Third Officer Smithton; Conflict Resolution with Gerald Kutzner and Steve Willing of Human Services; Appliance Replacement Strategy and the "Wombat Productions" DVD with Leon Smith Manager Engineering Services.

There was a display of firefighting equipment including a helicopter demonstration, also a TFS Museum display including items for sale where the "Wombat Productions" DVD sold out!

Deputy Regional Chief Chris Arnol and his organising group put together what proved to be a very interesting and entertaining conference.

Thanks to session chairs Malcolm Conway - Brigade Chief Kingston; Bill Quinn - Brigade Chief Margate; and Lyndsay Suhr - Group Officer Derwent.

Special thanks to everyone involved.





Deputy Regional Chief Chris Arnot, Chief Officer Euan Ferguson of the CFS South Australia and Regional Chief Tony Davidson



Hobart Water helps southern firefighters keep cool!

Hobart Water has lent its support to the Tasmania Fire Service by donating 2,000 water bottles to the Service's dedicated members.

Hobart Water's CEO, Dr Christine Mucha presented the water bottles to Phil Owen, Secretary of Old Beach Brigade at the TFS Southern Region Conference held in Hobart recently.

The 2,000 water bottles will be used by the Southern Region firefighters when the brigades conduct hazard reduction burns, training exercises and other related activities. The recommended intake of water to drink on the fireground is at least one litre per hour. This makes a durable water bottle essential for keeping firefighters hydrated and allows them to continue working on the ground.

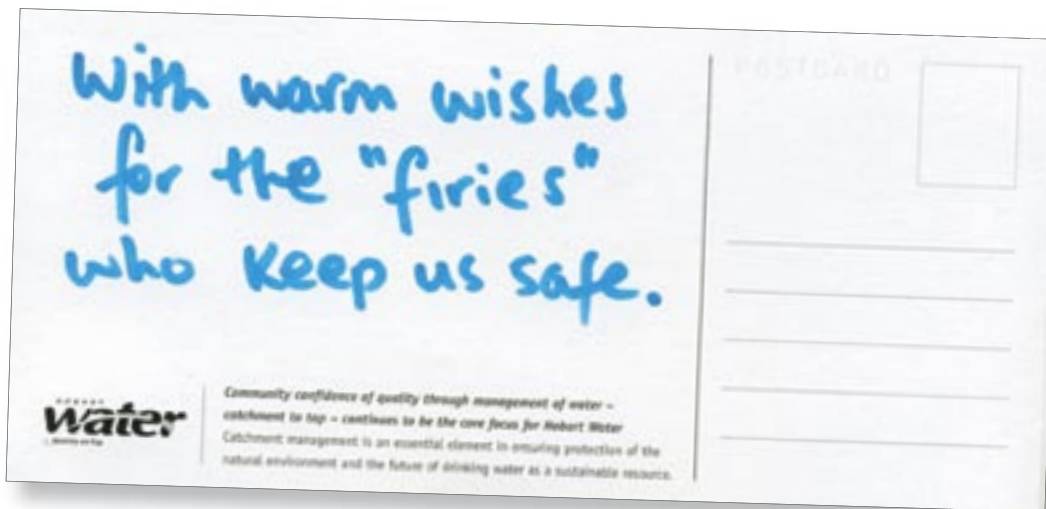
"Hobart Water is pleased to support vital community services such as the fire brigades", Hobart Water's CEO, Dr Christine Mucha said. "We've always had a close relationship with the Tasmania Fire Service as it plays a vital role in keeping water catchments and our infrastructure safe. In return, Hobart Water ensures that water is available for the community at all times, and especially during the fire season."



Hobart Water's CEO, Dr Christine Mucha with to Phil Owen, Secretary of Old Beach Brigade

Dr Mucha said that total fire bans are issued jointly by Tasmania Fire Service and Hobart Water. "We are delighted to support the Fire Service and hope these bottles will be of great use," Dr Mucha said.

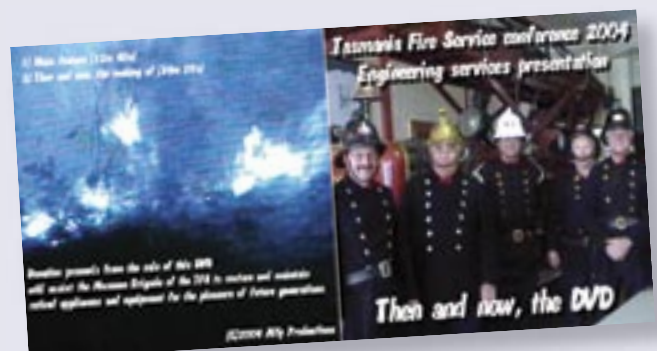
District Officer Brigade Operations, Gavin Freeman said that the TFS was pleased with the support received from Hobart Water. "Our people include a large percentage of volunteers who give so much time and effort to the Service and we are pleased to be able to give them a tool to aid them in their efforts."



"Then and Now"

Many personnel attending the Regional Conferences had the opportunity to see the "Wombat Productions" DVD "Then and now".

Anyone wishing to purchase a copy of the DVD for \$10 can contact the TFS Museum; or Frank Howe at Engineering Services on 6214 8841 or 0418 509 834; or by email - f.howe@fire.tas.gov.au



Safety Warning from Shell

The Autumn 2005 edition of Fireground included an article entitled "A message from Shell - Static Electricity in Petrol". It has since been brought to the attention of the Tasmania Fire Service that this information was not in fact released by Shell Australia.

Shell advises that whilst some points in the article were factual many were incorrect. In conjunction with Coles Express, they are currently working on a revised safety brochure for their service station network which covers the dangers of static electricity and the correct refuelling procedures to follow.

New Manager, TasFire Training

By Director Community Fire Safety, Damien Killalea



In June, Justin Young was successful in gaining promotion to the position of Manager TasFire Training. Justin had been acting in the position since October 2004 when the former Manager Teresa Banman took maternity leave. Teresa now heads up the Community Education unit.

Justin comes to TasFire Training from the TFS Finance Branch where he held the position of Executive Officer Finance.

Justin takes up his responsibilities at an exciting time for the commercial training unit. In June, southern staff moved into their new offices at Cambridge, and the unit is about to launch its new 'working safely at height' training course.

Whoops!

Last edition of Fireground I mistakenly inserted the wrong heading – making Chris Arnol the new Regional Chief South. My apologies to both Chris Arnol and Tony Davidson (the real Regional Chief South).

Chris was in fact appointed to the position of Deputy Regional Chief South.

Tony thought his promotion was very short lived! To all who attended the Southern Regional Conference, let me remind you that "He's the man!" Linda Lacy Editor.

CISM - Critical Incident Stress Management

By Manager CISM, Charles Blizzard

Unfortunately, emergency service work inevitably involves exposure to traumatic incidents. Such incidents frequently involve a “yuck” factor (blood and gore etc.) and/or the “Oh Shit!” dimension (threat to life). The ability of emergency service personnel to deal (or cope) with the personal consequences of attendance at such incidents and the assistance that the emergency services can provide their employees are matters of mutual benefit. The individual benefits from being able to continue working in their chosen field whilst maintaining their “normality” and the organisation benefits from having a functional employee for a sustained period of time.

Critical Incident Stress is not a recent phenomenon - not the RSI of the 1990's. Its presence has been acknowledged throughout the ages (in various formats and utilising various terminology) although it has been only relatively recently that it has “risen to a degree of prominence” in society.

It has been acknowledged in times of war, indeed, as early as 603BC combat stress was observed and recorded in military forces. Initially, there was no thought of treating the stressed personnel and many were ridiculed, imprisoned or killed in the belief that they were insane, lacking in moral fibre, cowards or traitors. During W.W.I “shell shocked” (stressed) personnel were identified as having a psychiatric condition that, in many cases, was treatable. It was found that immediate intervention resulted in about 65% being able to return to active duty.

During W.W.II about 10% of all battle casualties were psychiatric casualties (termed “battle fatigue”) - some units (with prolonged combat duties) experienced rates as high as 54%. By mid 1944 it was learned that certain basic intervention principles lowered the rate of stress casualties. Debriefings were conducted on the beaches of Normandy and those given the opportunity to ventilate were found to be more alert and ready for battle.

Some people think that if they have survived 5, 10, 15, 20 or 30 years in the emergency services their experience is going to make them immune to critical incident stress. Unfortunately there are no guarantees. The reality is that up to 87% of emergency service personnel will, at some stage in their career, be impacted upon to varying degrees.

It is a fallacy to think that surviving a certain number of years, or being exposed to particular incidents, will serve as a protection for the remainder of one's service. Many other factors are involved and the occurrence of certain events (for instance marriage difficulties, having young children, ill health, financial problems, and alcohol dependence) might mean that one's coping abilities are challenged. Therefore,



The CISM Team pictured at a recent training day

Fire Risks in TVs, Computer Monitors

By Director Community Fire Safety, Damien Killalea

what can make an incident critical is how it is personalised and where it fits in the individual's life continuum.

It is important to be aware that if an individual is impacted upon (for whatever reason) then it is a critical incident for that person and therefore it should be dealt with as soon as possible. The opinions of others (as to the criticality of the incident) are immaterial as the well-being of the person impacted upon is paramount.

Critical Incident Stress Management, which was introduced in 1988, is a central component of the staff support services available in the Tasmanian Emergency Services. Since 1988, emergency service personnel have been participating in critical incident stress debriefing sessions which have been conducted by the Tasmanian Emergency Services Critical Incident Stress Management Program. The program comprises psychologists and emergency service personnel who are trained in the "Mitchell Model" of Critical Incident Stress Management.

Services provided

The program provides both proactive and reactive services. They include:

- Education and information sessions
- Assessment
- Defusing and on scene support
- Group debriefing
- Individual debriefing
- Follow-up assistance
- Advice to partners, family and friends

Confidentiality

A cornerstone to the success of the program has been our commitment to confidentiality. Anything revealed in a debrief or brought to the attention of the program remains strictly confidential.

Activation

Responsibility for activating the program lies not just with managers and supervisors but also with the individuals involved and their colleagues.

We welcome requests for assistance for emergency service personnel from anyone - including partners, family and friends.

Contact

The CISM Program is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There are three ways to activate the program:

1. Contact your communications/control room and request the CISM Program
2. Contact a program member who is known to you
3. Phone 0427 181 207 direct

A recent house-fire fatality in Hobart highlights the potential dangers of some TVs and computer monitors.

Electrical authorities advise that some TVs and computer monitors may generate or maintain sufficient heat when in standby mode to catch fire. Electrical authorities advise that to minimise the risk of fire, TVs and computer monitors should be switched off using the appliance's on/off switch, and switched off at the wall outlet when going to bed or leaving the house.

Relying on the remote control to turn off the TV leaves it in standby mode, and at risk of catching fire. Using the on/off switch on the appliance doesn't eliminate the risk. A recent Hobart fire that killed an elderly man is believed to have been started by a TV left in standby mode.

Similarly, computer screens should also be switched off using their on/off switch and at the power outlet.

TFS recommends that other electrical appliances, whenever practical, should also be switched off at the power outlet when not in use to minimise the risk of fire.

More detailed fire safety information is available on our website at www.fire.tas.gov.au at Fire Safety and You | In the Home or by contacting the Office of Electrical Standards & Safety, telephone: 6233 7831



Rear view of TV from an unrelated incident. Cause - malfunction within TV set

Talking it through - a member assistance program

By Director Human Services, Robyn Pearce

Did you know that TFS has a confidential program that assists members to work through issues that may be affecting them?

What is it?

We call it our member assistance program. It is provided by ITIM Australia who has been working with TFS and its members in this area for many years. ITIM provide confidential counselling and support to members at no cost to the member. The range of issues that are covered by the program vary depending on whether members are career members or volunteer members. For career members, on site and off site support is available in relation to both TFS-related and personal matters. For volunteer members, support is only available in relation to TFS-related matters.

The following are examples of the types of services provided through on site and off site counselling and support:

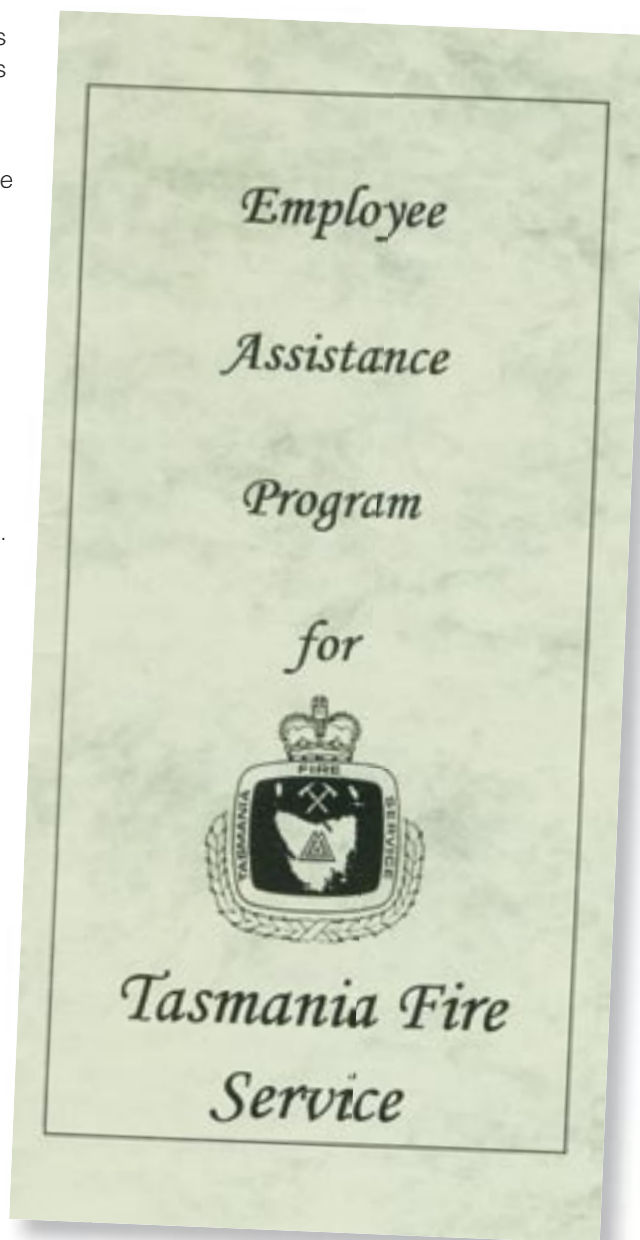
TFS-related

- Workplace conflict
- Managing workloads
- Problem solving
- Coping with change
- Stress
- Motivation and self-esteem
- Workplace bullying, harassment and abuse

Personal

- Emotional difficulties
- Relationship and family problems
- Gambling, drug, alcohol and other addictions
- Family conflict
- Grief, bereavement and loss

ITIM do not, however, deal with critical incident stress issues that are normally handled through the Interagency Critical Incident Stress Management Program.



How does it work?

You can contact an ITIM Counsellor in a number of ways. Our ITIM representatives visit workplaces regularly to touch base with members. This provides an opportunity for initial contact, however, given how widespread our members are, workplace visits won't work for everyone. So ITIM can also be contacted on their freecall number 1800 337 068. ITIM will arrange to talk to the member either face to face, over the phone, in writing or even via the internet.

Why contact ITIM?

There's an old saying that a problem shared is a problem halved. This is very true. We all have times when issues are bothering us that, in some cases, may seem small and in other cases may be causing us health problems. Often, by discussing these issues with someone, the problem does not seem as bad and other ways of dealing with it can be identified. Other people can give us a different perspective, especially if that person is not associated with TFS.

Who are our ITIM representatives?

TFS has three main people that we see around the state, however, other ITIM people are available within Tasmania should a member

wish to talk to someone other than the nominated ITIM representative. The names of our representatives are:

- South - Mike Sharpe
- North - Claire Wherrett
- North West - Ian Snare

Remember, the earlier a problem is identified and dealt with, the easier it usually is to resolve. Please contact ITIM - they're there to help.

Bushfire Mitigation Programme

The House of Representatives Select Committee Report "A Nation Charred" tabled in Federal Parliament in October 2003 made a number of recommendations in relation to minimising the incidence and impact on bushfires on the Australian community.

Following that, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) initiated the "National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management" which concluded with a report to the Prime Minister in April 2004.

Subsequent to that the Prime Minister announced in September 2004, the allocation of \$15 million towards a three year Bushfire Mitigation Programme (BMP) for construction, maintenance and signage of fire trails to assist local communities better prepare for bushfire.

The specific objectives of the BMP are to enhance the effectiveness of fire trail networks and increase the:

- Safety of firefighting personnel involved in fire suppression;
- Rapidity with which fire agencies are able to access a fire; and
- Type of resources that can be safely made available.

Funds are available on a \$ for \$ basis (State/Federal) and in Tasmania can be up to \$275K per year for:

- Construction of fire trails in areas identified as needing to be accessible for fire suppression and/or mitigation (fuel reduction);
- Maintain existing trails; and
- Construction and maintenance may also include upgrading the surface, vehicle carrying capacity, restoration of damaged trails, turning / passing bays, provision / maintenance of water points, erection of signage, mapping and security including fences and gates.

Eligible lands are primarily State and Council lands. Where private lands are involved, detailed arrangements need to be in place in relation to liability, accessibility and on-going maintenance with the private land holder.



Applications for funding are assessed by a State Assessment Committee against comprehensive and rigorous criteria. The Assessment Committee are responsible for advising the Minister on State priorities.

Where brigades or groups of brigades believe they have a project which is of strategic benefit and meets the objective of the BMP they should in the first instance contact their District Officer for the BMP Guidelines and further advice.

Further information is available on www.dotars.gov.au.

TFS participates in 2005 Crime Stoppers Youth Challenge

By Manager Community Education, Teresa Banman and Consultant Community Education, Chris Tomes

This year the TFS joined Crime Stoppers as a research partner for their program, the Crime Stoppers Youth Challenge 2005. (<http://www.crimestoppersyouthchallenge.com>)

The theme for the 2005 Crime Stoppers Youth Challenge was arson and related offences.

Tasmanian students were encouraged to work to discover new ways to help reduce crime through the Challenge, an innovative and award-winning competition in which they conduct research, present their findings to the community, and create practical solutions to assist in preventing crime.

During the launch at Dominic College, schools were encouraged to become involved in the Challenge, in which students in years 5 - 10 also examine the methods of solving crime and the role of Crime Stoppers. By studying arson, students will enhance their understanding of this

type of crime and impact on the victim, offender and wider community.

Entries close on 30 September 2005 and awards will be presented in early November. Cash prizes are shared between the schools and students who each receive a certificate of participation.

The TFS provided information on its website (www.fire.tas.gov.au) to assist students in undertaking the challenge and made a commitment to visit participating schools to talk about the issue of deliberately lit fires, how they are investigated, the role of the TFS and to discuss the impact of these fires on individuals, businesses, community and society as a whole.

At the time of printing 94 groups had registered (a total of 1828 students) to participate in the Crime Stoppers Youth Challenge.



Photos courtesy of Kevin Smith, Tasmania Police

Fighting the fires inside brigades

By Executive Officer Volunteer Support, Gerald Kutzner and Co-ordinator Human Services, Steve Willing

Conflict between people is natural, it arises from healthy differences between us. It is an opportunity to learn about ourselves and about other ways of doing things. We've all encountered it in school, families, sport and work.

For as long as there have been brigades, there's been conflict between members. Often it's revolved around issues such as training, communication, leadership, personality clashes and even problems outside of the brigade. Mostly our members manage to sort out their differences, but sometimes they don't, and as a result the conflict can last far longer and grow far bigger than it ever should. Other members get drawn in, factions form and the well-being of the brigade starts to erode.

Over recent years, TFS developed a Resolution Procedure because brigade officers and members sometimes need more support to help resolve conflict situations. The Resolution Procedure is for all members of the TFS to use. It aims to ensure that:

- both sides in a conflict situation get a fair go;
- conflicts are resolved, whenever possible, at the local level; and officers, managers and members have clear guidelines.
- The Resolution Procedure aims to address and keep issues within TFS. It's there for the issues that are too big to be resolved within the brigade, or for when other avenues have been tried.

There are two levels within the Resolution Procedure:

1. The Local Resolution Process is the main process for resolving the majority of issues at the local level. It is intended to be reasonably quick and informal.
2. The Formal Resolution Process is designed for use in addressing more serious behavioural problems that require formal investigation and resolution, such as harassment or discrimination.

If you notice an issue, the first question to ask is, "Do you want to resolve it?" Only if you can honestly say that it's not bothering you or the other people involved can the answer be "No". If this is truly the case, note it (with a Brigade Officer) and keep an eye on it. If it continues, you need to act.



If the answer is "Yes, it takes up headspace" (yours or someone else's), then you need to decide how to resolve it. Remember, conflict is not a problem - the problem is how we handle it. Here are a few options to start with:

- Talk to the other person(s) involved;
- Meet with your Brigade Chief and the other person(s);
- Have your Brigade Chief meet with the other person(s);
- Seek advice from District Officer or Brigade Chief;
- Send a written complaint to your District Officer or Regional Officer;
- Seek external support e.g. Volunteer Association, ITIM;
- Use the Formal Resolution Process.

Start with the most simple and direct approach that you feel comfortable with. Don't get more complicated, or involve more people, than you need to.

Remember to be soft on the people and hard on the problem - separate it from other issues that might be flying around (current or past). For the best chance of success:

- Focus on solutions, not blame;
- Act now (don't hope it goes away!);
- State your own needs and fears;
- Listen;
- Empathise;
- Let go of old issues;
- Act on the solutions you agree on.



If you find yourself (or anyone else) not doing this, call it and refocus on creating a solution (it might not be the one you have in mind).

If you are looking for support in this process, there is a whole range of people you can go to - not to recruit them to your side of the argument, but to provide perspective and ideas.

- Other brigade members
- Brigade Officers
- District Officer
- Regional Chief
- Volunteer Associations, ITIM
- Human Services
- Again, start locally and only involve others if you need to.

You may never need the Resolution Procedure, but know that it's there to support you when you do need it. Our aim is to help you to resolve conflict as locally, quickly and fairly as you can.

Appliance replacement strategy

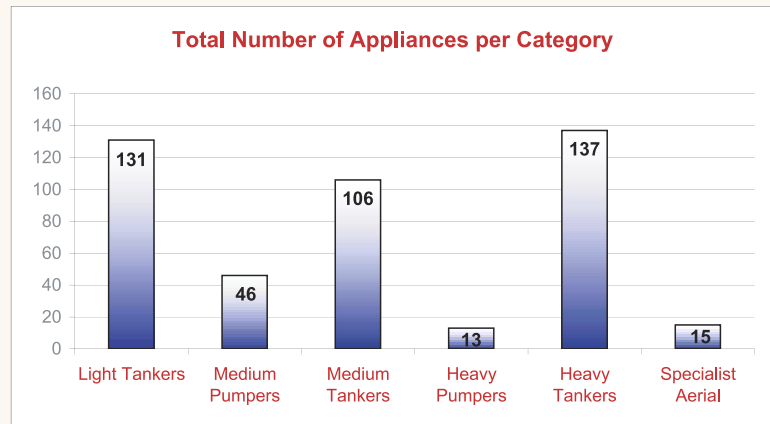
By Manager Engineering Services, Leon Smith

The TFS has formulated a five year appliance replacement strategy after considering factors such as age profile, appliance role and responsibility as well as budget.

The first year of this five year strategy has been partially completed with the fabrication of 50 Toyota Light Tankers, subsequently replacing one third of the Light Tanker fleet leading to the decommissioning of 39 petrol and 11 old model diesel Light Tankers from service.

The five year replacement plan has been prioritised considering the frequency of use of each appliance category as well as the consideration of ongoing appliance maintenance costs and availability of spare parts.

The completion of the program will see the elimination of all petrol single cab appliances from service establishing the Fire Service fleet at all diesel, the majority of which will be crew cab.



| Financial year | Appliance type | Estimated cost |
|----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2004/05 | 50 Light Tanker appliances | \$3.0m |
| 2005/06 | 30 Medium Tanker appliances | \$2.85m |
| 2006/07/08 | 30 Heavy Tanker appliances | \$6.175m over 2 years |
| 2007/08/09 | 30 Medium Tanker appliances | 2.85m |

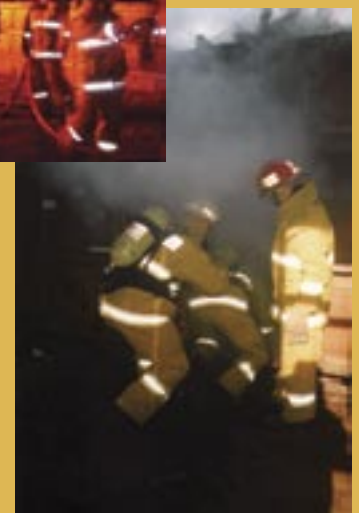
Prior to the commencement of each build program a user group will be established to determine the changes, if any, that are required to the next generation appliance to be fabricated considering manual handling, general configuration and operational suitability as per the defined role of the appliance.

Live structural training at Longford

By Firefighter Longford Brigade, Tania Evans

On 16th July the Longford and Perth Brigades were fortunate to be able to participate in live structural training at the old athletic shed at the bike track in Longford. It was a cold and rainy day but members braved the elements for an extremely worthwhile training day.

The training included a brush-up on primary and secondary search techniques, BA operations, relay pumping, basic fire investigation techniques and sizing up an incident scene. It was certainly a real privilege to be able to have live structural training and is an opportunity that shouldn't be passed up if the opportunity arises.



Appliance fabrication update

By Manager Engineering Services, Leon Smith

After a very successful 2004/05 financial year build, there are only 15 Toyota Light Tanker appliances remaining to be assembled, wired and commissioned. The project, as forecast, will be completed week three in August, a mere seven weeks into the 2005/06 financial year, totalling 38 weeks for completion. Due to the timely completion of the Light Tankers, the purchase of the 30 Canter cab chassis began during May, with delivery during June for pre wiring and the fabrication of the prototype. During June, a user group was convened to discuss any relevant changes that were required to be undertaken to improve the previous generation medium tanker. The established group comprised representation from all regions and included members of Engineering Services, the Volunteer and Retained Associations and the United Firefighters Union. The meeting was very productive with all attendees discussing experiences, equipment, roles and configurations of the previous models of appliance. After discussion, the group agreed that only minor refinements were required and that the current configuration had proven very successful in their respective applications. Since the meeting, Damien Berry (Engineering Services, Diesel Technician) has wired the first chassis that will be fabricated and presented to the group for evaluation, prior to mass production. It is envisaged that the prototype will be completed during September for appraisal.

The new generation appliance will have the following changes:

- UHF fitted during fabrication (as per all new appliances);
- Colour coded high intensity LED warning lights, front and rear;
- Stem lights, front and rear (as per tanker/pumper);
- Gas discharge flood light;
- Modified steps to rear of cabin;
- Stainless steel manifolds and valves;
- 'Top Dog' aluminium extension ladder, WAKU multi fold;
- LED lit strip lighting in lockers (reduce glare back into face);
- Electronic tank level indicator on pump panel;
- Modified pump exhaust system, (noise deadened);
- Increased locker capacity for breathing apparatus locker, comprising modified stowage/donning.

As can be seen from the list, these changes will lead to greater efficiency, safety and practicality. I, along with all Engineering Services staff, look forward to completing the prototype for appraisal and I wish to thank all members of the organisation that have taken the time to provide feedback to Engineering Services, as well as all members who attended the user group meeting.



Midlands "Handover"

District Officer Bill Burke handing over for disposal the last "all white" appliance in the Midlands District to Andy Triffett of Engineering Services on Thursday 14th July.



Westbury Brigade providing emergency care

By District Officer Tamar, Jeff Harper

On 26th June the Westbury - Hagley Development Association officially presented specialist emergency care equipment, in the form of a defibrillator and oxy-viva to the Westbury Brigade. This equipment follows over two years work between the TFS, Tasmanian Ambulance Service and local community groups which sees the Westbury Volunteers, as of 1st July 2005 providing a valuable support role to the Ambulance Service in the Westbury district.

The following article was included in "WHEN" (Westbury Hagley Exton Newsletter) and gives an explanation of the history behind the donation and how the service will be available to the community. Article courtesy of Irene Rofe, "WHEN"

"An initiative of Westbury-Hagley Development Association Inc Important and wonderful news!!!

A new support service to the Ambulance Service for the Westbury and Hagley district.

As from July 1 there will be an additional support to the Ambulance Service under certain medical circumstances. But for us residents, we still ring 000 and ask for ambulance.

The additional support service is to be undertaken by certain members of the Westbury Fire Brigade, members who have received specialised training to use a defibrillator and oxy-resuscitation equipment, which has the potential to save lives. These members have been trained, tested and reviewed again to ensure that they have the necessary standard to use this equipment.

The reason for the introduction of this support service is that most of the district is outside the magical golden ten minutes for revival. The ambulance may be at Elizabeth Town or Mole Creek helping another resident.

So from 1 July, when a resident rings 000 and asks for the Ambulance, the certified Westbury Fire Brigade members may attend your house. They will be followed quickly by the Ambulance Service who will then take over the task. The Ambulance Service are the only people who can make medical decisions - the Westbury Fire Brigade members are only there as their support.

This is a FIRST for the State of Tasmania and came about because of concerns about distance to homes in the district and how to assist local residents. A past President

of Westbury Hagley Development Association Inc. Mr B Richardson said the Association had sought medical advice from the local medical doctors regarding the value of defibrillator equipment. The advice was 'that provided assistance could be rendered prior to the arrival of a consigned ambulance, then there is a potential to increase a patient's survival chances.'

Westbury Hagley Development Association Inc applied and received a grant from the Tasmanian Community Fund to purchase the equipment. Westbury Fire Brigade members then put their hands up to deliver this support service while an ambulance is on its way to a resident's home. Certain members have been trained and tested and with the co-operation of the senior staff of the Tasmanian Ambulance Service and Tasmania Fire Service, personnel of Westbury Fire Brigade and members of Westbury Hagley Development Association Inc., there are now protocols for operation by these groups for this new support service, which commence on Friday, 1 July. "



Photos courtesy of Irene Rofe WHEN

Cambridge Training Complex

By District Officer Training Services, Greg Butters

Training Services and East Coast District have been operating from three temporary site sheds for about eight months while our new complex was being built. The sheds were very comfortable but some of the staff started to show signs and symptoms of "cabin fever" after working in what was fairly tight office space, however, on 23rd June all that changed as training staff, East Coast District and TasFire Training started moving into our new Cambridge facility. We now have a magnificent working environment including five state of the art training rooms, one of which could accommodate around 60 - 70 people theatre style.

There is still some building and landscaping work to be completed but all that should be tidied up prior to the official opening.

Hopefully over the next few months you will get the opportunity to have a look at our new facility. Check your Brigade's training calendar, there may be a training course programmed in for Cambridge.



“Life Saving Knowledge” - New Course: “Work Safely at Height”

By Manager TasFire Training, Justin Young

TasFire Training has long held the view that we should be providing training to the Tasmanian Community in the area of working safely at height. During 2003 we convened a working party to investigate the need for height safety training with a view to developing a course to assist workplaces address risks associated with working at height. The catalyst for this research and development was the increasing number of Tasmanian workplaces making enquiries about such training or seeking assistance in the area of height safety. As a result of a long consultative process which included input on the course content and assessment process from Tasmanian Industries and Employee Representative Groups, the course “Work Safely at Height” has been developed and has received national accreditation status through the Tasmanian Qualifications Authority. The final step of expanding the training scope of TFS in its role as a Registered Training Organisation has now been completed.

Falling Hurts!



“Working Safely at Height” is a full day course which is aimed at any employee or contractor who may be required to work at height during the course of their normal working day. I’m sure many of us have seen examples of risky work practices that occur due to pressures to “get the job done” or simply through ignoring the risk because “accidents happen to someone else”. Participants will be introduced to applicable legislation, Australian Standards and Codes of Practice that relate to undertaking work at height. The course places a heavy emphasis on the risk management process, assisting participants to identify hazards and risks associated with height related work. The course also focuses on ensuring that participants gain a better understanding of fall injury prevention systems. Course delivery is achieved with a combination of theory and practical instruction and all participants will be given the opportunity to work in groups and use fall restraint gear under an instructor’s supervision.

Through the introduction of this course we aim to raise awareness of the dangers associated with working at height. Our clients will gain a greater understanding of height safety risks and the control measures that can be introduced to remove or minimise those risks.

The main aim of our course is to reduce the rate of workplace incidents that result in serious injury or death. Many of these incidents occur because of unsafe work practices or inappropriate risk assessments. “Work Safely at Height” will further complement the suite of courses currently available across Tasmania that are delivered by TasFire Training, these include:

- Develop Fire Safety Awareness & Use Portable Firefighting Equipment
- Undertake Warden’s Duties
- Undertake Chief Warden’s Duties
- Work Safely in a Confined Space
- Use Workplace Breathing Apparatus
- Emergency Response Team Training

TasFire Training has consultants around the state that can provide additional information about courses or other services which we may be able to provide. If you would like some more details about “Working Safely at Height” or any of our courses please contact Consultants: Philip Mackrill in the North 6336 5688; Peter Ockerby in the North West 6434 6705 and Rod Vallance in the South 6214 8802.



TasFire Training’s Eric Braithwaite and Justin Young familiarise themselves with a fall restraint harness

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

By Personal Assistant, Margaret Kean

It was that time of year again where past and present members came and enjoyed the fantastic food on offer and socialised and caught up with new and old friends.

It was Australia's Biggest Morning Tea hosted in each region to raise funds for Cancer Awareness.

Many thanks go to all those members who slaved over their hot ovens to bring food and help set up the room to make the morning such a success.



What is happening in OH&S?

By Co-ordinator Human Services, Andrew Newell and Project Officer OH&S, John Green

What is happening in OH&S? A very good question! A question that has been asked in a number of areas across the state; in fact, we asked the same question ourselves almost twelve months ago. We acknowledge that a large number of initiatives we had planned and in some cases, part developed, had not seen the light of day. In simple terms, the rapidly increasing workload in OH&S far outweighed the OH&S project team's ability to progress these initiatives.

In mid 2004 we reassessed, put some issues on hold and settled down to identify and prioritise the outstanding initiatives and current workplace issues to establish a basis on which we could develop a plan of action. In August 2004, we undertook a bench-top audit to identify areas we needed to work on to meet the minimum level of SafetyMAP compliance (SafetyMap is an audit tool that is used to measure OH&S compliance to relevant legislation). That identified 89 individual issues that we had to address just to meet the minimum legal requirement. We identified a further 120 current workplace issues that we also needed to address. Over time we were able to consolidate the varied issues into 50 projects (some significant and others just needing guided implementation in the workplace - see table below for examples of the sort of issues we are or will be progressing). The glaringly obvious outcome of this process was that for the TFS to be able to move forward in the OH&S area with any sort of momentum we were going to need help.

Coincidentally at around the same time the Chief Officer had asked the OH&S Team to make a presentation to himself and the members of the Executive Management Team (EMT). The presentation needed to include what OH&S exposures the TFS currently has and what exposures are likely to be there in the immediate and long term future. At the conclusion of the presentation it was unanimously agreed that in order for the TFS to be able to make the work environment as safe of possible for its members it was going to have to review the way that it was developing and implementing the OH&S systems.

The most significant outcome of the discussions with the Chief Officer was the support from all of the Divisional Directors and Regional Chiefs to help implement and manage OH&S systems in their area. To date many individuals have

believed OH&S still lies outside of their area of responsibility or that it will be fixed by the OH&S Team. The support by senior management is being consolidated through the creation of Divisional and Regional OH&S Plans. In the main, these plans have been put together by a combination of managers and Employee Safety Representatives (ESR's). They are designed to be strategic (looking at the whole region/division) and the outcomes of the plans will be that everybody will receive the benefit of having a safer work environment to work in. Simply put, the plans include a list of the projects or issues each manager needs to consider in their work area. How to then manage the risk is documented and implemented on a timeframe that takes into account competing priorities. As new OH&S issues are raised they then need to be included in the individual safety plans - basically it ensures new issues are recorded and strategies are put in place to address the issues.

The other important outcome was a decision to provide more resources to OH&S. The additional resources will only be temporary in order for the TFS to "get over the hump" of outstanding issues and projects we are currently engaged in or need to be working on in the very near future. There will be a twelve month internal secondment position as well as a two year fixed term appointment. Both of these roles will primarily be engaged in managing specific high risk/high volume projects. They will be the type of projects where we have a high level of social and/or legal obligation to address the issue sooner rather than later.

Reinvigorated, we in the OH&S Project Team are now busily scoping out the overall OH&S Priority Plan, adding time frames, estimating costs etc. It needs to be said that when we are creating new procedures or policies we endeavour to consult with a wide range of stakeholders in order for us to make sure the new procedures, etc do what they are intended to do as well as be as practical as possible. If you are "lucky" enough to be asked to review one of our DRAFT procedures or policies, please take the time to do so as it is your opportunity to make sure we get it right. Your input will help us to implement more meaningful policies and workable procedures into the future.

Table of OH&S issues by actions required

| Review & Update | Develop & Implement | Complete Development & Implement | Expand & Implement across the State |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| OH&S Policy | Hearing Conservation Program | Hazardous materials | Emergency management |
| Accident reporting | Health & Wellness Program | Dangerous goods | Induction Procedures |
| Hazard reporting | Plant and Equipment Procedures | Elect and train ESRs | General contractor management |
| Accident investigation | Statewide consultation (committees) | Work at height | Operational contractor management |
| Risk assessment tools | Job or task risk assessment | Permit to work | Accident investigation recommendations |
| OH&S Training Courses | TFS Driving Policy | High risk work | Inoculations |
| Responsible Officer | PPE - maintenance and stowage | Data control | Access controls |
| Responsible Officer Training | Medical monitoring (noise) | Sun Safe Policy | OH&S signage |
| Accountable Officer Training | Electrical cable tagging | BA cleaning procedure | Distribution of Safety Alerts/ Newsletter |
| | OH&S measurement/ reporting | Safety Advisors | |

Educating the Tasmanian community about bushfire preparedness

By Consultant Community Education, Chris Tomes

With summer just around the corner, Community Education is gearing up for the "Bushfire Preparedness Campaign".

Continuing the strategy from previous years Community Education will again be concentrating on delivering several key messages to the "at risk" members of the Tasmanian community including:

- encouraging householders to create defensible space;
- encouraging able bodied people who have properly prepared their property to stay and defend; and
- letting the community know that a properly prepared home or shack is a safe place to be in a bushfire.

We are also encouraging affected members of the community, people living in or within 100 metres of the bush, to call the Tasmania Fire Service on free-call 1800 000 699 for a free brochure, 'Will You Survive', on what to do to prepare their home, and to visit our web site, www.fire.tas.gov.au where there is also detailed information about bushfire preparedness and a full range of TFS publications.

The advertising strategy to get these messages out to the community will include:

- radio ads statewide;
- print ads/editorials in all major newspapers statewide;
- information sessions to community/interested groups statewide;
- RACT Insurance "Spot-A-Fire Bug" visiting affected areas statewide;
- TFS website;
- School Fire Education Program;
- Community Fire Safety display trailers available for use by brigades statewide.

Community Education is encouraging all TFS members statewide to interact with their communities and offer advice about Bushfire Preparedness. We have numerous resources available (brochures, display trailers, stickers etc) that can be accessed by calling 6230 8485.

Tree Fire - Hadspen

By Brigade Chief Hadspen, Ian Gabites

This was a call to a fire on 22nd May, near Entally House. The tree in the photo was ignited by embers from a planned fire some twenty metres away and this tree was showering a similar tree and a gorse infested fence line. With fire erupting from nearly every limb and a failed attempt to fall the tree it turned into a watch and wait incident.



Pictured is Third Officer Hadspen, Patrick Crimmins

Photo Competition Winners

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 photos from this edition are:

1st place



Photo taken by District Officer East Coast, Gerald Crawford (\$100)

2nd place



Photo submitted by Firefighter Longford Brigade, Tania Evans (\$50)

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: fire@fire.tas.gov.au

The Bug in Action!

Below are photos from a number of schools around the state, where the Bug is spreading the good word.



The fire-bug went
 too cooee primary
 school too spraed a
 message. The message
 was about having a
 working smoke alarm,
 you need too put
 your clothes 2 Metes
 from the heter.
 These messages help
 you keep safe,
 this is a photo
 of -Me!!!
 by Sophie, 8 Grade 2
 Cooee primary school



A word on the “Make a Wish Cottage”

By Regional Chief South / Brigade Chief Hobart, Tony Davidson



When I was asked to comment on the Make a Wish Cottage Project, it was with a sense of pride that I reflected on the efforts of all the firefighters from the Hobart Fire Brigade who have contributed so much of their own time and effort to the Make a Wish Cottage Project over the past 15 months.

I am not so sure, however, that the project would have even started had everyone realised that it would be 15 months of dedicated commitment and hard work. But what I am certain of is that once the firefighters from the Hobart Brigade committed themselves to the project it would be a success.

Firefighters have a proud tradition of protecting and serving the public and this has not changed in modern times, but what had changed is how today's firefighter contributes to the community when they are not fighting fires and the “Make a Wish Cottage” is a perfect example of this.

When I started with the Hobart Fire Brigade some 30 years ago, firefighters and indeed officers, almost without exception, came from some sort of practical background. Many had second jobs and the brigade was more or less the place you went to two days and two nights every eight days.

Today's firefighters and officers come from far more diverse backgrounds and in the last ten years we have seen that females have joined the brigade in growing numbers. With the evolution of recruiting personnel from a primary physical skilled background to people who are more educated and career focussed, many of the new generation firefighters

wanted to do more than just be a firefighter for the 2 days and 2 nights they are on duty. As members of the Tasmania Fire Service they also are more concerned about their health and fitness and the welfare of the community.

For the past 20 years, members of the Hobart Fire Brigade have participated in the Tasmania Fire Service Charity Run, raising over \$300,000 for a variety of charities and other needy organisations. In addition to the Charity Run, firefighters across the state have participated in Bluey Days (Crop a Cop) and last year, in support of the Make a Wish Foundation, a Fleece a Fire Day, which was held in Hobart.

The success of this day led to an idea which became the Wish Cottage. The combination of the energy and enthusiasm of the Make a Wish volunteers, coupled with the desire and determination of Station Officer, Mike Westacott was a recipe for success.

The credibility of the Make a Wish Foundation and the concept of firefighters using their practical skills to undertake a renovation makeover, on a voluntary basis, was a natural partnership. With K&D on board as the major sponsor, the firefighters and staff of the Hobart Fire Brigade and Southern Region have been generously supported by the business



community of Hobart to achieve the magnificent cottage at Princes Street Sandy Bay.

The auction was held on Saturday, 20th August and we were blessed with the weather, no rain! The street was closed to allow some 'pre-auction' festivities. The band 'Reflection' played for about two hours, Ronnie and Maggie Burns were there, the sausages were sizzling and Banjos Sandy Bay provided platters of wonderful food.

Speakers Robyn Moore and Mark Bryant gave the history behind the cottage and the reasons for the makeover for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The auction reached \$300k quite quickly but then slowly went to \$315k and stopped. There were two buyers and they would not go much higher. The cottage was about to be passed in when a bid of \$330k was received.

When the contract for the cottage is settled, there will be a presentation of a cheque to the Make a Wish Foundation for the amount raised. Further details, people involved and photos will follow in the next edition of Fireground.

I congratulate all those involved in the Make a Wish Cottage Project on doing a fantastic job.

A brief note on the courtyard

Richard Onn volunteered to do the water feature, and together with Jock Crome, who did the courtyard, they came up with the idea of the storks in the water feature. White storks constitute the idea of rebirth, ie the new beginning to the house. One stork to represent the Tasmania Fire service and the volunteers who performed the work; another representing the Make a Wish Foundation and the final stork representing the suppliers and other workers who donated their time and money towards the projects. Neil Brooksbank, together with Engineering Services staff fabricated the aluminium frame and backing, the swirls which represents the contour of the landscape. Neil and Richard then welded the pieces to create the scene. Rob Ratcliffe and Jock did the paving and the blockwork for the feature in readiness for the plants.



Photo Gallery



Fire at Lease Street Gormanston 2004

Photo submitted by Brigade Chief Queenstown, Ian Mitchell



One leaf or two?

Photo submitted by District Officer Arthur, Rob Deverell



Ridgley's First Response Crew - Mathew Bell, Deklin Best and Jarod Bell

Photo submitted by Firefighter Ridgley Brigade, Adrian Best



Firies on holiday!

It seems to me that firefighting is well and truly in the blood. Scott Hayes, Third Officer of Legana was recently on holidays in Vanuatu, but still managed to check out the local fire station and its appliances!



We look forward to getting our copy of fireground each quarter, but it looks like it's not only my wife and I who want to read it now. Here's our two and half year old son Latham caught catching up with daddy's fire trucks at bed time.

Photo submitted by Firefighter Devonport Brigade, Greg Kelly



Collinsvale Out and About

Photo submitted by Firefighter Collinsvale Brigade, Rachel Anderson



Leading Firefighter Elijah (Eli) Marshall at a recent brigade fuel reduction burn

Photo submitted by Firefighter Collinsvale Brigade, Rachel Anderson



Recently the AS 355F Squirrel and Heavy Lift's Bell 212 conducted aerial firefighting trials. The Squirrel was filming the trials and this unique photo was taken as the 212 flew past the Squirrel.

Photo courtesy of Mercury Photographer Tony Palmer.



Firies back at school!

Honestly - the photos people send me! HFB visited Howrah Kindergarten recently - looks like they had fun!



D shift in Burnie testing the monitor at West Park

Photo submitted by Senior Firefighter Burnie Brigade, Heath Batten

Obituary

Gerald Sartori

10/09/1961 to 29/06/2005

Grassy Brigade

Gerald Hugh Sartori passed away suddenly on 29th June 2005 from complications with cancer.

Gerald was a member of the Grassy Brigade for ten years, the last seven years as Second Officer. Those who knew Gerald, know that he was not a man to stand around and wait for someone else to get in and do the hard yards, he was never one to mince his words and when side by side at the fire front, you knew as long as you could hack it, he would be there with you.

I will never forget the look on his face while at a structure fire, his first time in BA. I reckon he didn't shut up for two weeks, how he did this and how he did that. The structure was all but on the ground and I think all we saved was the back porch and the tank stand, but he was so pleased.

Gerald used to brag that when we had incidents in our area, it used to bring out Lorraine Duckett with enough tucker to choke a hippo - he loved her pizzas!

Gerald's community spirit didn't finish with the Brigade, he was also involved with the Swimming Association of King Island; the King Island Boat Club; the Grassy Working Men's Club and the Grassy Football Club of which he is a life member.

A keen scuba diver, Gerald was always happy to get a cray or two for anyone that asked and on many occasions he would take his trusty Tri-Hull out into Bass Strait to try and fulfil the dreams of others to catch a couple of crays (oh what a trip - Craig Maxwell and Rob Deverell).

Gerald leaves a huge hole within the King Island Community that only time will heal.

To Lyn, Brittany, Lee, Aaron, Jana and the Sartori family, our sincerest condolences.

Love and best wishes from us all.

King Island's Volunteer Firefighters



Gerald,
Lyn,
and their
son Lee

ICE - In Case of Emergency

A campaign encouraging people to enter an emergency contact number in their mobile phone's memory under the heading ICE (In Case of Emergency), has rapidly spread throughout the world as a particular consequence of terrorist attacks in London.

Originally established as a nationwide campaign in the UK, ICE allows paramedics or police to be able to contact a designated relative / next-of-kin in an emergency situation.

The idea is the brainchild of East Anglican Ambulance Service Paramedic Bob Brotchie and was launched in May this year. Bob, 41, who has been a paramedic for 13 years, said: "I was reflecting on some of the calls I've attended at the roadside where I had to look through the mobile phone contacts struggling for information on a shocked or injured person. Almost everyone carries a mobile phone now, and with ICE we'd know immediately who to contact and what number to ring. The person may even know of their medical history."

By adopting the ICE advice, your mobile will help the rescue services quickly contact a friend or relative - which could be vital in a life or death situation. It only takes a few seconds to do, and it could easily help save your life. Why not put ICE in your phone now? Simply select a new contact in your phone book, enter the word 'ICE' and the number of the person you wish to be contacted.

Request for Assistance

For the purpose of a book, Firefighter Alain Coltier of Swansea Brigade is looking forward to hearing the history of families (from 4th, 5th or 6th generation - if any) in volunteer firefighting. He would look to understand how such a tradition has managed to stay alive in the same family for more than a century.

Alain is therefore seeking information from anyone who can assist.

You can contact Alain on 6257 8095 or via email claes.danse@bigpond.com

New Pumper for Rossarden & 79th Birthday Present for Brigade Chief

By District Officer South Esk, Craig Maxwell

It has been a long process but recently the Rossarden Brigade was presented with a 31 Isuzu heavy tanker to replace the MK3 International tanker. This vehicle has bolstered the interest within Rossarden and the surrounding community and has seen new members signing on.

The Brigade Chief Arthur Whitehead is a man of many talents - he is the local council water inspector, fire chief, self appointed building inspector, caretaker and many of the residents would say that Arthur is seen as the Mayor of the small township at the foot of Ben Lomond. Arthur will quite honestly state that this truck has taken him ten long years of ear chewing to finally have it slotted neatly into the Rossarden station.

Arthur is semi retired and I don't think that he will ever slow down and even at a young 79 years of age he keeps his brigade on their toes. The active membership is only small for this very pro-active brigade of seven firefighters and one cadet member but they're all as keen as mustard. I wonder if there are any brigades that have a brigade chief that tips the scales for more than 79 years' life experience.

South Esk Field Officer Rodney Springer presents Brigade Chief Arthur Whitehead with the new Rossarden 31 Isuzu



Out with the old and in with the new

Long Service Presentations at Magra

By Firefighter Magra Brigade, John Broadhead

Long service badges were presented by District Officer Bill Burke assisted by Field Officer Paul Horne at a small ceremony held at the Magra Station on 16th June.

Brigade Chief Kevin Hardwick - 35 years service

Fourth Officer Wayne Marshall - 25 years service

Firefighter Keith Russell - 15 years service

Third Officer Randall Garwood - 15 years service



Left to right: Keith Russell; Randall Garwood; District Officer Bill Burke; Wayne Marshall; Field Officer Paul Horne and Kevin Hardwick.

Hobart District Function

By Acting Field Officer Hobart District, Peter Tavaszi

Hobart District end of fire season function was held at the Old Beach Brigade this year. The weather was fine and a magnificent spit roast was enjoyed by the members.

Acting Regional Chief South Chris Arnol congratulated the District for their efforts and dedication attending the numerous

incidents throughout the fire season. Jim Mollineaux of Molesworth Brigade received special mention for his valued service to the Brigade from its inception and was presented with his 35 year service badge.



Gerald Crawford, Chris Arnol, Leon Glover, Jim Mollineaux, Peter Eaton and Gavin Freeman



District members at the end of fire season function



Group Officer Lyndsay Suhr and Second Officer Wellington, Michael Hill



A/Regional Chief Chris Arnol congratulating Jim Mollineaux of Molesworth Brigade on his 35 year achievement

Longford Brigade Junior Program

By Firefighter Longford Brigade, Tania Evans

The junior program has been in operation for approximately two months. We have 6-8 juniors attending each fortnight where their program runs for one hour before the training for members. The juniors have been learning fire safety; the fire triangle; bowling hoses; parts to a standpipe; hose and nozzle operations.

The junior program is certainly growing stronger with new juniors joining each week and the members have taken on the program with much enthusiasm and willingness.



State Service Work Placement Program

By Co-ordinator Learning Systems, Suzanne Bacon

TFS State Headquarters was fortunate to be able to host Wen Hua Yang for two weeks' work experience as part of the State Service Work Placement Program. This program is designed to assist new migrants and humanitarian entrants to the State gain experience in an Australian work culture. The program is co-ordinated by the division of Industrial Relations and State Service Management (IRSSM), with assistance from Multicultural Tasmania; it runs for two weeks once a year, coinciding with the University holidays each June. During these two weeks, participants are placed with a supervisor and undertake unpaid work experience in a State Service Agency.

Tasmania accepts more humanitarian entrants per capita than any other State or Territory. Approximately 400 humanitarian entrants come to live in Tasmania each year, so this program is valuable both in assisting migrants to get work and in promoting understanding between new arrivals and established residents.

During her two weeks with the TFS, Wen worked in both the Library and the Information and Records Section, completing a large amount of data entry for both sections. This was always completed accurately and cheerfully and helped contribute to our day to day operations and our end of month reporting requirements. Her friendly personality really contributed to the team spirit and in the two weeks that she was with the TFS Wen made herself a valued, respected and liked member of the team. At another level she exposed the staff with whom she was in contact, to a different and refreshing cultural outlook which has broadened our own personal horizons.

Originally from Kunming in China, Wen Hua Yang travelled to Australia with her husband Fan Ling in 1998. Shortly after arriving in Australia, the couple had a daughter who they named Annika. The three of them lived in North Melbourne for five years, before deciding to travel to Tasmania for Fan Lings' job as a University Lecturer. After being a Chinese and History teacher in China, Wen decided that she would like a career change and commenced an accounting course at TAFE Tasmania. As a TAFE student Wen was eligible to participate in the State Service Program.

All members helped make Wen welcome, however, special mention

is made of Amy Stanwix (our new trainee) who supported, coached and encouraged Wen to learn both the technical tasks and "people" aspects of the role. In this role Wen was able to obtain experience with mail opening, sorting, scanning, registering, delivery and filing. Wen recounted how difficult and sometimes humiliating it was as an educated person to try and communicate meaningfully in English. With sympathetic support and encouragement from the Records team and an opportunity to use English on a day to day basis it was amazing to observe how her ability to communicate and her confidence improved in the two weeks. Wen valued her time with the TFS and was very sad to leave us.

Wen has been a joy to work with, and we wish her all the best in her long term ambitions of becoming an accountant and in her short term goal of obtaining a position in an Information and Records section of a large organisation.





Send Help It's Terrible

By Brigade Chief St Helens Brigade, Glenn Bailey

Photos by District Officer Craig Maxwell

At approximately 2:09 on 8th March I was awoken by the sound of my pager vibrating around the dining room table, upon reading the message I was stunned to see that the St Helens RSL Club in Quail Street was on fire.

The usual frantic dance took place (as is normal for that time of the morning) to find suitable clothing and footwear and I made my way to the door. Once outside I could see that this was a huge fire as the night sky was orange from the glow. So it was in the car and off to the station.

As I rounded the corner into Quail Street I realised that it was not the RSL that was on fire but the St Helens Hotel (the Newport Hotel). This brought a whole new meaning to the job at hand.

The St Helens Hotel is (was) one of the biggest buildings in the town and as such the brigade had a plan to deal with it in the event of a major fire (a plan exists for all our buildings).

Built around the late 1870's the hotel had a shingle roof that had been roofed over with corrugated iron and its insulation was sawdust and seaweed. The building was constructed of brick, timber, plaster, weatherboard, steel beams, cement sheeting, treated pine and concrete. It had been renovated many times, and was currently being worked on, and in the event of a fire, it was always going to be a challenge for any fire crew.

When I arrived at the station there was already a crew gathered. They were dispatched to the library end of the fire (north). I made a call to Firecomm to let them know what the fire was, and then request the assistance of Scamander and Binalong Bay Brigades. By this time the second St Helens crew had begun gathering and I headed to the fire in the group vehicle and blocked the roadway on the variety store corner. Upon my arrival I called in my 'sit rep' to Firecomm and stated that the flame height was at least 20 metres venting through the roof and the hotel was well ablaze.

When the second St Helens crew arrived they were immediately sent to defend the RSL in Quail Street (west).

Our initial attack on the fire was a defensive one. Exposures were my primary concern as the hotel was well ablaze and I still had only two crews of firefighters, with Binalong Bay and Scamander's arrival imminent we had the job in front of us. It was at this point that I decided it was best to ask Firecomm to send St Marys to assist.

Minutes passed and the additional crews arrived. Scamander was sent to the variety store corner (south) and Binalong Bay to the Newsagency corner (East). With all the crews now here we continued the defensive attack and had all sides covered.

As the intense heat subsided I decided to take a new angle

with my fire crews and ordered that every hose person was to now to focus on the fire. A quick call to Firecomm to let them know of my intentions and that we had changed to the offensive. At this point the St Marys crew arrived and were quickly put to work on the hoses relieving other firefighters, who were now tiring.

With walls crashing down all over the place and minor explosions being heard all over the building, the crew from the second St Helens vehicle aided by Second Officer J Coulson had committed to saving the Mahogany Hall (of East Coast Jazz fame). This is the only structure now left standing from the main hotel complex.

As daylight arrived the true extent of destruction was beginning to be revealed, and although the events of the darkness were spectacular, nothing could prepare the locals for what they were now beginning to see. Over one hundred years of history and memories lay in a crumpled twisted pile of rubble and I now saw views of the sky line I had never in my lifetime seen from this position.

By 8.00 a.m. most of the attending crews were stood down and sent home as the fire was under control and some of the crews had to attend work. A quick appraisal of the exposures revealed that fifteen windows had been broken in the extreme heat and that no other damage had taken place.

A team of four fire scene investigators arrived from all over the State and began to search for the reasons behind this fire. An excavator was called in to assist the team with the removal of debris and by 2.00 p.m. they had reached a conclusion. The excavator was then used to raise all remaining walls and chimneys and to break open the safe.

All the while the crews from St Helens were on hand to cool down and extinguish any flare ups that took place. By 6.00 p.m. some sixteen hours after we were called, the scene was handed over to the owners.

The process of re-stowing the trucks and washing the gear started at the station and after patrolling the fire scene a few times we called it quits for the night, twenty one hours after I left home I went back to crawl into my bed and believe me I was not the only one at this job who did that.

To end my story I would like to say how proud I am of the members of the St Helens Brigade and every member of the other brigades that attended, without their professionalism and manner in which they conducted themselves the PLAN would have fallen apart.

The life of a vollie is not always this exciting but we would not have it any other way.



Spate of MVA's for Avoca Brigade

By District Officer South Esk, Craig Maxwell

Over the past few months the Esk Highway east and west of Avoca has seen some horrific motor vehicle accidents. The Avoca Brigade has attended two heavy vehicle incidents and two passenger vehicle incidents, one involving the death of the single male occupant.

Due to the severity of these accidents the Avoca Brigade Chief Max Rak has become increasingly concerned with the OH&S issues and environmental hazards that can and have occurred at each scene. The stress to his staff and other emergency service workers and the long term effects that continual exposure to these type of incidents may have was a major concern.

The community opinions were also factors that were considered and how they would impact the brigade with recruiting members in the future. The support of the CISM team was fantastic and the concerted efforts of Max Rak to minimise the exposure to all concerned was praised by the OIC of Police (Acting Inspector Phil Gregory) at the fatality.

One of the factors that we tend to forget at a large accident scene is the environmental hazards that are part of overall scene control and are some times overlooked.

At the log truck accidents there were considerable amounts of fuel and oil that were spilt during the roll overs and in the recovery stages. This was a major concern as it had the potential to make its way into nearby watercourses.

The brigade has since been given instruction on hazard abatement, traffic control and the use of absorbent materials. We must understand that it is our role to ensure the scene is safe and to take all necessary steps to control and make safe during and after the site has been cleared. Always if unsure contact your respective District Officer who can advise you on actions to be taken.



Avoca Brigade Chief Max Rak inspecting a leaking log truck fuel tank west of Avoca



A considerable amount of fuel spilled onto the roadway at a recent passenger vehicle and boat rollover east of Avoca



Eldon Griffiths and new Group Officer David Wright

Changing of the guard

By District Officer Tamar, Jeff Harper

June 2005 saw a changing of the guard for the West Tamar Group. Eldon Griffiths, who had served as the Group Officer with distinction for the past 25 plus years, decided it was time for a change and stood down from the position he had made his own for so many years. Eldon remains as a firefighter with the Legana Brigade and has expressed a wish to continue with the incident management roles he has been performing over past fire seasons.

The new Group Officer for the West Tamar is David Wright, Brigade Chief Bridgenorth, who has already started to place his own mark on the group and we feel sure he will fulfil the role with just as much enthusiasm as his predecessor.

“Will You Survive” to be redesigned

By Consultant Community Education, Chris Tomes

After several years of diligent service to the TFS, the brochure “Will You Survive” is getting a well deserved makeover and is being totally revamped.

Community Education is committed to providing the Tasmanian community and TFS personnel with the latest fire safety information and that means regularly reviewing all of our material and updating it when needed.

The ‘new’ booklet will have the following features:

- full colour
- 20 pages
- larger print
- more photos
- latest up to date AFAC approved information

As part of the development of this booklet we will be bringing on board ‘focus groups’ from the general community (bushfire affected areas) to critique the contents prior to printing. We need to know that the final version produced is what the public (clients) want. We have successfully done this with previous publications and the process has proven to be very worthwhile. As well as giving the community a chance to offer feedback it also gives them a sense of ownership. Prior to printing, draft copies of the booklet will be distributed to selected TFS personnel for feedback.

“Will You Survive”, the new edition, is expected to be ready and distributed for the 2005-2006 summer season and will be available from all district offices or by calling Community Education on 6230 8485.



Magra Elections

By Firefighter Magra Brigade, John Broadhead

Magra Brigade recently held their Officer elections.

Elected were:

- | | | |
|---------------------|---|-------------------|
| Brigade Chief | - | Kevin Hardwick |
| Second Officer | - | Charlie Crosswell |
| Third Officer | - | Randall Garwood |
| Fourth Officer | - | Wayne Marshall |
| Leading Firefighter | - | Brett Harrex |



Left to right: Brett Harrex; Wayne Marshall; Randall Garwood; Charlie Crosswell and Kevin Hardwick

Symmons Plains - November 2004

By District Officer South Esk, Craig Maxwell

November saw the return of the Super Cars to Symmons Plains. The volunteer brigades from Longford and Perth were invited to give some much needed fire suppression assistance to the CAMS fire crews over three days of the event.

An official practice session was conducted on the Friday and only minimal fire cover was needed, however, on Saturday and Sunday twenty of our people volunteered their time each day.

The proposed role of TFS crews was to give fire coverage and support to the estimated eighty million dollars worth of equipment that was on site in the main pit area and also to have a limited exposure to the race cars and track.



Well things panned-out a little differently. When cars were stuck off the track and recovery vehicles got a little off the bitumen Longford 3.1 was called to recover the recovery vehicle assisted by Perth 4.1, and so from that point on TFS had a very active role in the rescue and recovery of cars both on the track and in the pit area.

A visible presence was also called for at the pit wall for emergency fire suppression if and when needed. The event saw TFS have minimal responses with three recoveries and a small vegetation fire on the final day to which the alleged perpetrator was apprehended on his return to Hobart.

Wesley Vale AGM

By District Officer Mersey, Paul Hill

Wesley Vale Brigade held their Annual General Meeting and dinner at Shearwater Country Club in mid July. Regional Chief John Streets attended and presented Group Officer Pardoe/ Brigade Chief Wesley Vale Robert Atkins with his second clasp of the national medal acknowledging 35 years of dedicated service to the community. District Officer Paul Hill presented 10 year service badges to Ashley and Kordel Dick and a 25 year service badge to Rod Hingston. Robert Atkins presented a "well deserved" medal to Paul's wife Joe for "putting up with him".

All in all it was a great night with good food and fantastic company.

Many thanks to the Wesley Vale Brigade.



Presentations at State Headquarters



On Tuesday 19th July a number of presentations were made to officers for long and dedicated service to the TFS.

Chief Officer John Gledhill presented long service badges to:

Jack Campbell for 20 years service
Lorene Smith for 15 years service
Debbie White for 10 years service
Wayne Alomes for 10 years service

Over the last couple of years a number of our clerical staff have recognised the value in obtaining qualifications relevant to the work they do.

The TFS has contracted with Work & Training and other registered training organisations to provide staff the opportunity to gain qualifications in Business Administration and other relevant qualifications.

Recently Kelly Marriott gained her Certificate 4 in Business Administration. Kelly has worked with the TFS in various positions since her permanent appointment in June 1997.

She has been working in Community Fire Safety since April 2000, and in November 2003 commenced course-work to achieve her Certificate 4 in Business Administration.

Kelly wanted to be challenged by the units she selected to study, and to add value to the work she delivers and has worked very hard to demonstrate competence in all of the units.

Qualifications for operational personnel were developed several years ago by Australian fire services through the Australasian Fire Authorities Council. These qualifications ranged from a Certificate 2 in Firefighting Operations, to the Advanced Diploma in Firefighting Management. Currently only 5 staff have achieved the Advanced Diploma. Chris Tomes is the 21st recipient of the Diploma in Firefighting Management.



Chris commenced as a recruit with the TFS in May 1984, and has progressed to the rank of Senior Station Officer. He currently works in Community Education as a Consultant, overseeing a number of very effective Community Education initiatives.

Chris has been working diligently for a number of years to gain technical expertise in firefighting and firefighting management, and continues to explore further opportunities for professional development.

Additions to TFE's vehicle fleet

By Manager TasFire Equipment, Nik Masters



TFE recently took delivery of a number of new service vehicles. The new model Toyota HiAce is a much improved van and includes many safety features such as ABS and dual airbags. The two new vans (one located in Hobart and one in Devonport) also feature significantly improved signage and I'm sure you will agree are real eye catchers out on the road.



In May 2005 TFE purchased a Holden Combo. The Combo represented a significant departure from the traditional service vans and was purchased specifically for servicing around the Hobart CBD primarily to assist in parking. To minimise the fit-out weight Engineering Services staff installed custom made aluminium shelving in a similar format to the traditional melamine shelving in the other vans. Many thanks to Engineering Services for their assistance.



New "Shop Front" for Hobart

Renovations were recently undertaken at TFE's Hobart headquarters in Brisbane Street. To ensure our occupational health and safety responsibilities were met with regard to customers entering the area, a number of changes to the layout were made. At the same time TFE took the opportunity to renovate the office area to provide a dedicated display for our products. The area displays TFE's traditional extinguisher range together with a number of new products including a battery-less torch, Ultimex fire suppression canisters and a Water-Mist fire extinguisher. Customers are also able to access brochures and pamphlets outlining their portable fire equipment responsibilities as business owners as well as TFE's services and our product range. If you're ever in the area please feel free to drop in and talk to one of our fully trained staff.





Long service presentations - Engineering Services

Mike Gallagher, Director Corporate Services presented the following long service badges to Engineering Services staff on Friday 27th May.

Tony Watson - Appliance Fabrication - 20 years

Leon Smith - Manager - 20 years

Murray Garity - Foreman, Fabrication - 10 years

Paul Cooper - Appliance Fabrication - 10 years

Craig Plummer - Appliance Maintenance - 10 years



Murray Garity, Leon Smith, Tony Watson, Craig Plummer, Paul Cooper



Long Service at Latrobe

By District Officer Mersey, Paul Hill

Latrobe Brigade Chief, recipient of 30 year long service badge congratulates Neville "Nifty" Smith on receiving his National Medal.

The presentation night recognised a total of 95 years service by the members of the Latrobe Brigade to the community and the Tasmania Fire Service.



End of the line at Meander Brigade

By Firefighter Meander Brigade, Wayne Johnston

1st July 2005 not only saw the Meander Brigade start a new financial year, but also the end of the line of their long serving Brigade Chief, Wayne Johnston. Wayne decided that after eleven years it was time for him to step down and hand the reigns to another. Wayne stays on as the elected treasurer for the brigade and to provide valuable mentoring for the new Chief, Jason Chilcott, and his new management team.

The following is a brief history (edited so as not to offend) of some of the "going on's" in his time.

In July 1994 the Meander Brigade held an AGM in the kitchen of the Meander Hall. Present were the five or six members and District Officer Rob Featherstone. Brigade Chief Neil Johnston indicated that he was stepping down and called for nominations - with none forthcoming.

Peter Chilcott suggested that I take it on; I said I would if he became Second Officer and so it was.

Looking back on my eleven years as Brigade Chief, many things have changed. We still have our 1974 Toyota Landcruiser 5:1 which had 3900 miles on it, was painted all white and lived in a very cold tin shed. Today it has covered many more miles, is half red and lives in a nice warm new station beside a very impressive Mercedes 3:1 4x4 and just like me it is about to retire because it's old and worn out!

Our membership has steadily increased over the years to eighteen active members and sixteen junior members. Some of those to leave throughout the years have been: Richard Johnston, Stuart Bowman, Daimian McLennan, Malcolm Welier, David Brown and Gary Parley. Sadly Robert Costello passed away and has been greatly missed. Gary Farley (Hopper) left with many memories as did David Brown whose fall off a ladder was a huge headache for Andrew Comer.

Ian Flowers served as the Second Officer for quite a while and his memorable tussles with different personalities in his time, have provided many stories to remember.

I have had two Chief Officers, with one always talking about ships; four District Officers all with their own styles and great to work with; two or three Field Works Officers; and two Group Officers with my favourite one called Uncle Errol.

Uniforms have changed - PPE was whatever you had on at the time and now if you are not fully decked out you don't go. Equipment has vastly improved as have communications. Firecomm used to ring me and I would then ring two or three



Wayne Johnston and new Brigade Chief Jason Chilcott

others, then the swiss phones and now the miracle of alpha numeric pagers.

I really can't leave out the two incidents that were serious, yet also had a funny side. Yes, I was driving the 5.1 when it decided to see what was over the bank on the Jackeys Marsh Road. When it finally stopped rolling I asked if everyone was OK. Denny Whiteley commented "Yes, but get off me you @\$%#+@!". What a baptism of fire for JC - his first call out!

Fire watches are never exciting, usually cold and no-one likes the after midnight shift. Beni and Allan, in the cold, dark, windy and isolated night also had the Police telling them a missing person could be hiding in the scrub with an axe - so they should probably keep their eyes open! They couldn't wait for changeover!

Being a Brigade Chief comes with certain community expectations - "Why the hell are you bringing permits in now?" or "You fellas are mad for taking permits off now, it's drier than in the middle of summer".

You also get to accept the accolades for a job well done and the criticisms for a job not so well done.

It has been an honour to have led the Meander Brigade but it has been relatively trouble-free considering the excellent quality of our members who could easily hold their own against any in the State. As our catch cry goes "Never fear Meander are here!".

PS The Brigade Chief's wife would like to thank those who have graciously helped her to control her little "burn-offs" over the years and look forward to your help again in the near future.

German Work Experience Student

By Senior Station Officer Hobart Fire Brigade, Andrew Skelly

The TFS recently hosted Michael Mueller, Paramedic from Kerpen Fire and Rescue Station, Kerpen City Germany as part of a study / work experience project.

To improve his promotion chances as a fire officer in Germany, Michael is currently studying forestry and conservation at the University of Applied Sciences Rottenburg. As part of his study Michael chose to study bushfires in Australia and had organised a visit to the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service. By chance Michael met up with Paul Omanski in Brisbane who had just returned from an eight month firefighter exchange at the Hobart Fire Brigade. Paul had such a good learning experience during his stay that he recommended that Michael travel to Tasmania.

After a few phone calls, between Shan Raffel (President elect of the IFE and Station Officer with the QFRS), Tony Davidson and myself, a six week stay was organised for Michael based at the Hobart Fire Brigade. The hardest part was ensuring his documents relating to insurance, workers compensation etc, were in order as all his policies were in written in German. Once this was done I met Michael at the Hobart airport and got him settled into the HFB flats and organised activities to help with his study project.

First off he experienced life on shift, with "D" platoon, training and attending calls, this was followed up by working on other shifts also.

Michael was able to attend a low intensity burn course with Forestry Tasmania, followed up with a number of practical days observing high and low intensity burns. This all added up to great experience for his bushfire project.

Although we had some rain Michael was able to leave after seeing a lot of fire. Special thanks to all those people that

made Michael's visit very memorable, especially to Tony Davidson for authorising the visit. 'D' platoon HFB for showing Michael the ropes; Ben Merritt, Martin Piesse and Dave Tucker from Forestry Tasmania for showing Michael lots of fire; Grace for providing lots of information from the Library and to everyone else that said "Hello" and made his stay memorable.

It was a pleasure to look after Michael as he was keen to make the most of his stay. It was interesting talking to him about working at a fire station in Germany. Besides his study trip to Tasmania, Michael has spent time in Tanzania as a paramedic, training locals in the use of donated medical equipment.



Regional Chief Tony Davidson, Senior Station Officer Andrew Skelly and Michael Muller

A Message from Michael

Hello to all of you.

One and half months are over now and I have to go back to Queensland and continue my work with the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service. I like to say thank you to all of you! It was a great time together with the Tasmania Fire Service and I met a lot of friendly and helpful people.

The time on the "Island" was really successful for my studying too. The equipment you guys use is very special and it was fantastic to learn from professionals. Even though the Tasmania Fire Service is the smallest Fire Service in Australia, I think you are very powerful, effective and well equipped.

I like to say special thanks to Andrew Skelly, Tony Davidson and John Gledhill who gave me the opportunity to do this

practical term in Tassie. Also special thanks to the people of Forestry Tasmania (together with them I met a lot of fires) and to the friendly welcome of D Shift at the beginning of my time in Tasmania.

If some of you need some help or contacts in Germany in the future, please feel free to contact me via email michael.mueller.78@gmx.de or ask Andrew Skelly for more details.

Thanks for your help.

Auf Wiedersehen (see you)

Michael Mueller

German student

Community Fire Safety trailers get a makeover

By Consultant Community Education, Chris Tomes

The two Community Fire Safety Trailers, one located in Launceston and one in Hobart, have had a makeover.

The makeover includes:

- New full colour posters on Home Fire Safety and Bushfire Preparedness;
- New bigger awning to protect firefighters from the elements, sun and rain;
- Television moved closer;
- New eye catching decaling on the exterior to bring in line with current advertising.

The community education trailer fitted out with posters, brochures, video facilities and other measures is designed to educate the community about fire risks and complement existing Community Fire Safety strategies. It can be used at shows, school fairs and similar community events that brigades attend, to help them promote fire safety.

Current posters promote bushfire preparedness, and home fire safety. Information on the posters and in accompanying brochures and videos is self-explanatory, leaving attending brigade members free to answer general questions about the TFS, firefighting and fire safety.

The trailer is available to all brigades statewide by booking through:

South - Kelly Marriott 6230 8485 or k.marriott@fire.tas.gov.au

North and North West bookings - Carol Davey 6336 5631 or c.davey@fire.tas.gov.au

Please note that:

- the trailer is only available if it is to be staffed by brigade members; and
- brigade members must make their own arrangements to pick up and return the trailer.



Gold Award for Community Education vehicles & fire appliance signage

By Consultant Community Education, Chris Tomes

Community Education's innovative design on the School Fire Education vehicles and fire appliances recently won a Gold Award for design excellence at the Printing Industry Craftsmanship Awards (PICA's).

The PICA's are held in Tasmania every year to award excellence within the print and design community.

There are two categories: Printing or Design, and a Gold or Silver award determined for each in various sub categories. The Gold Award that was won for the TFS signage was for Design.

Digital Ink, the advertising company that worked on the design for the TFS, took delivery of the award at a special presentation ceremony at Hobart's Wrest Point Convention Centre in April.

Ray Langmaid and Andrew Knott (Design Artist) of Digital Ink proudly presented the framed award to Community Education in June.

Chris Tomes was pleased to accept the award on behalf of Community Education and said "the eye catching design has been the subject of many positive comments from children



Chris Tomes with Ray Langmaid

and adults statewide, and I'm confident that the signage on the cars and fire appliances as well as the other fire safety strategies that we have in place, are helping to get fire safety messages across to the Tasmanian community".

Long Service at Port Arthur

By Field Officer East Coast, Steve Walkley

On 8th July Port Arthur Brigade took the opportunity to thank Roger Lerner and Max Thompson for their service to the brigade. Both Roger and Max commenced service in 1984 (25+ years service) and Max was also the Brigade Chief up until his retirement from the brigade.

The Tasmania Fire Service extends its appreciation to Max and Roger on a job well done.



Brigade Chief Peter Williams (left) and District Officer Gerald Crawford (right) presenting Max and Roger with their awards

Members and their families at the Port Arthur Station

On Exchange!

By Firefighter Launceston Fire Brigade, Daniel Searle

Nine months ago I joined the Launceston Fire Brigade and have experienced some truly Australian adventures in that time. I am currently on exchange with Senior Firefighter Rick Mahnken who is taking my place at the Devon Fire and Rescue Service in the United Kingdom.

I have been lucky enough to join a great shift and all of the guys are true mates. I had heard about Australian “mateship” and thought it was something totally different! Now I know what they are talking about. I hope I will stay friends with all of the lads on the shift for years to come.

I have picked up the nickname, Lord Dan of Devon. Not sure how, but it has stuck.

I have been a firefighter for almost seven years. Of those years the first four were spent with Somerset Fire Service, and the rest were with Devon Fire and Rescue Service. I am normally stationed at Exeter Fire Station. It employs a large number of people, covers a wide area and has a variety of calls. In one day it can range from a domestic house fire to barn fires, and then an animal rescue. Probably one of the major parts of the job is road rescue. We cover one of the busiest motorways in the county. We are trained in water rescue, hazmat and all the other emergency rescue areas. Our brigade also spends a great deal of time promoting fire safety, fitting smoke alarms, giving advice to members of the public and visiting various premises to carry out fire safety checks.

I joined the fire service at the tender age of 18 and felt I had never really had the chance to do much travelling other than

in Europe. I applied to the International Firefighters Exchange Program four years ago and had set my heart on a trip to Australia; I think this had something to do with my passion for surfing in warm water!

I received a few emails from people interested in an exchange, but it was only when I read Rick Mahnken's email posted on our brigade intranet site, that I thought the exchange might go ahead. There was a great deal of planning and organising of visas and accommodation, but it was worthwhile and we finally made it here.

In October 2004 we boarded a plane and made it all the way down under. To be honest I did not know very much about Tasmania and spent much of my time leading up to the exchange reading up on the place. It sounded absolutely brilliant, not as warm as I thought Australia would be, but being from England I think you would say I am used to the cold!

I met A Shift during my first week in Australia, in England we call the shift a Watch. They have all been brilliant and have made both my partner Jen, and I feel really welcome. I could not have asked to work with a nicer bunch of blokes. In fact all the guys on the station as well as the officers of the TFS have made me feel a real part of the Launceston Brigade. I had better stop here or they will be walking around with big heads if I keep going.

We bought a car, after much hunting around, and began to feel very settled very quickly. I spent my first month getting to





know my way around Launceston, and have only just worked out the one-way systems. Work was very interesting and I was learning different and new things every day. Many of the systems, practices and equipment are very similar, but like all things the slightest differences can throw you. The blokes were great at helping me out. I tried my best to limit the number of times I said "but in England we do this". They guys have been really keen to find out the differences between the Tasmania Fire Service and Devon Fire and Rescue Service. I was soon up and running, and turning out to "shouts". In England we call a turnout a shout and the Tassie guys did not know what I was going on about when I said we were going to a shout! To be honest the thing I found the hardest was knowing what truck to get on, how many trucks were turning out, and on several occasions, I was all dressed up with nowhere to go!

I was soon dealing with "scrubbies", and getting used to travelling to fires in 4x4s. What a great idea these trucks are! So handy for getting around in, and it's great to be able to liaise via radios with all the other trucks on the way to, and at the fireground, without having to go through Firecomm.

The exchange has not all been about work, I have had the chance to visit and explore a lot of Australia, and have been to some fantastic places. Some of the highlights have been the Ocean Road; Uluru; Western Australia and Surfers Paradise. We have also seen a lot of Tasmania, and cannot get over how beautiful and unspoilt it is. The first time we visited the beaches on the East Coast we were concerned

that there was something wrong with the place, there was nobody about!

The exchange has been a really worthwhile and fulfilling experience, not only on a personal front but also from a work point of view. I have learnt many new skills and have hopefully passed on some of my knowledge and ideas to the guys over here, they might disagree however. There are many initiatives that I plan to take away with me and pass onto my work colleagues in England. I will try and avoid saying "but in Australia they do this" when I return.

I really hope Rick has enjoyed his time in England and that he has got as much out of the exchange as I have. It sounds like he is having a fantastic time and has visited many places that I have never been to, and I live over there! He appears to have settled in really well which is great, and apparently there is a bit of banter flying around about some cricket matches being played?

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thanks to all who have made this exchange possible, and so enjoyable. Jen and I have felt really welcome, settled and we now class Tassie as our second home. Hopefully I have made some friends for life and I can return many of the favours if any of them ever decide to visit England's sunny shores.

Cheers

Pommie Dan Searle



Selected Results from the LFB smoke alarm survey

By Consultant Community Education, Chris Tomes

During the months of November and December 2004, Launceston firefighters conducted a smoke alarm survey of 351 households in the Launceston area. Selected results are presented below.

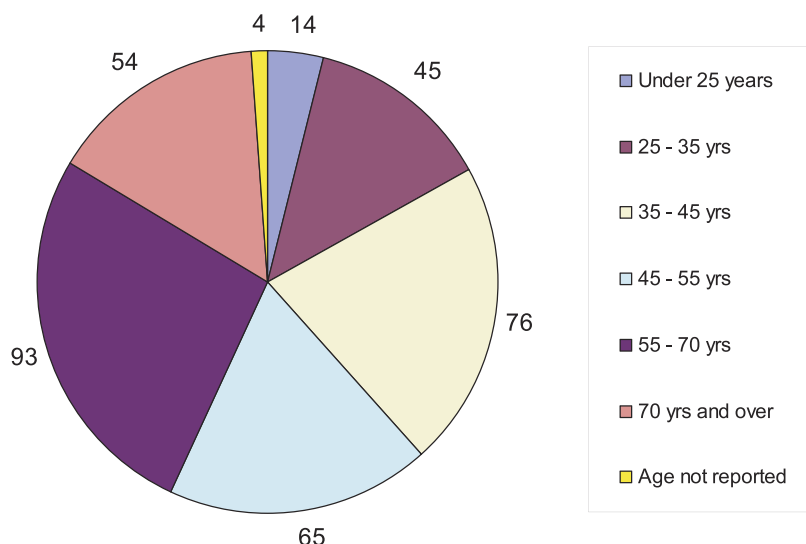
Over the last 6-8 years there has been a significant increase in the percentage of working smoke alarms in Tasmanian homes. Education of the Tasmanian Community by the TFS about the importance of working smoke alarms and also the requirement of the Building Code of Australia to fit a hard wired smoke alarm in new homes or homes being altered may be some of the reasons why this has occurred.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (phone survey) last reported that 81% of Tasmanian homes had working smoke alarms. There is a potential for the LFB survey to be more accurate because we have entered homes and verified the majority of the information as opposed to information gathered over the phone, however, we must not lose sight of the fact that the Launceston survey is a relatively small sample group in a localised area of the state. We need to be careful of the conclusions we draw from this survey and we need to look at this survey alongside other evidence that we have gathered to truly see what it is telling us.

This chart shows the age groupings and how they were represented in the sample.

The largest group represented was 55-70 years at 93 people and the smallest was those under 25 years. For whatever reason four people chose not to disclose their age category. As you can see, once the number of respondents is broken into age groupings we do not have enough people to in each category to provide figures that can be applied to all Tasmanians. An example is under 25 year olds who were only represented by 14 people. The time of day the survey was conducted may have impacted on those who were able to be contacted at home and this is why some are over represented or under represented. Most of the firefighters I spoke to indicated that surveying was conducted during the day. It may be safe to assume that older age groups would be home at this time.

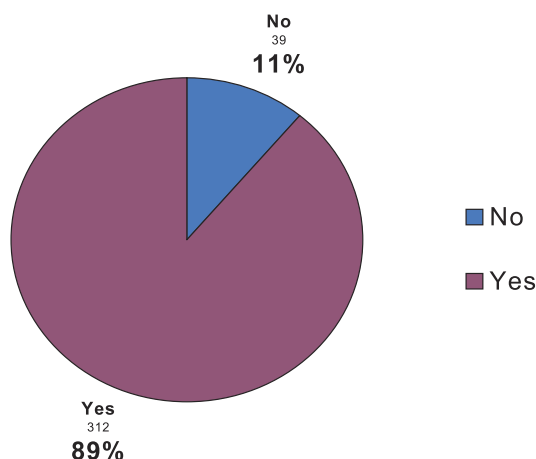
Age Breakdown of Survey Respondents - Total 351



351 homes across the Launceston area were surveyed in: Mowbray; Newnham; Rocherlea; Underwood; East Launceston; Invermay; Kings Meadows; Newstead; Norwood; Prospect; Punchbowl; Riverside; South Launceston; Trevallyn; West Launceston; Youngtown; Blackstone Heights; Prospect Vale and Summerhill.

Of those homes, 312 had smoke alarms with 39 having no smoke alarm.

Homes with smoke alarms fitted

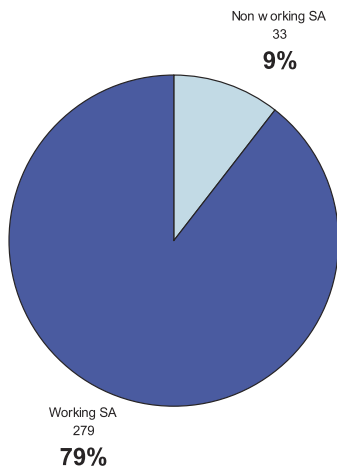


So of the 39 homes (11% - we surveyed 351 homes) without smoke alarms:

- 2 homes or 5% purchased alarms but didn't install them
- 25 homes or 64% never installed them
- 2 homes or 5% do not want them
- 4 homes or 10% have taken them down

Once again it is a small sample group, so therefore difficult to draw broad conclusions

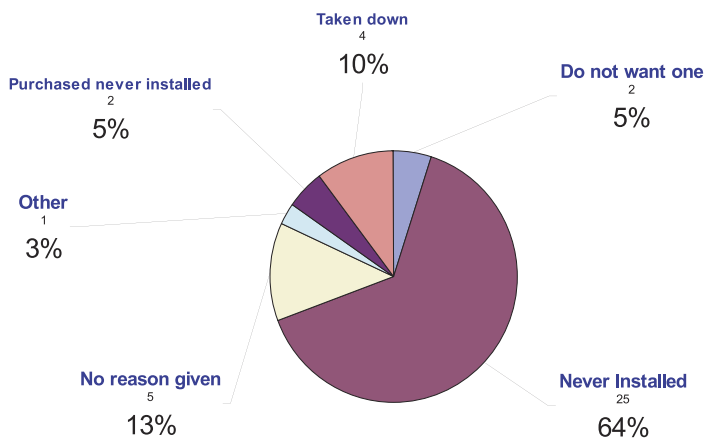
% of Working Smoke Alarms



The Launceston survey shows of the 312 homes with smoke alarms fitted 279 of those were working smoke alarms. That is 79% had working smoke alarms.

That compares closely with the ABS figure of 81%.

Reason for no smoke alarms



Selected Results

Percentage of homes with alarms - 89%

Percentage of homes with working smoke alarms - 79%

12% of homes with smoke alarms had interconnected alarms

80% of homes with smoke alarms had battery operated alarms

Older age group likely to have flat batteries

Younger more likely incorrectly fitted

Less likely to have working smoke alarms if living alone

Of non-working smoke alarms, 25% (9) had batteries removed; 75% (24) were either flat or wrongly fitted; (sample group very small 33 people)

TFS Online for the “Hottest News in Town”

By Director Corporate Services, Mike Gallagher

The TFS recently negotiated with Telstra to provide a dial-in number that will enable free access to the TFS website. A trial of approximately thirty brigades is underway with most Brigade Chiefs requesting access from their station. Brigade Chiefs have also been offered free access from another site. For those brigades without computers the TFS will be providing the necessary hardware and software. The number of brigades connected will almost certainly increase should the trial prove successful.

Over the past few months work has continued on populating the Document Bookshelf with many more policy instructions and standard operating procedures. A wealth of information can now be found in the Bookshelf and all members are urged to become familiar with this section of the Intranet.

Following a request from staff, printer friendly options have been added to enable the full page printing from both the public and members' areas.

TFS Intranet

Work Completed

- Members' Contact Details - addition field for Emergency Contact Details
- Members' Contact Details - removal of pager details as this field is not used
- Members' customised site map - individual site map
- Members' Online Email authority - provides contact details and permission to provide email details to your union, association or other representative body
- Printer friendly pages for both the website and intranet

Reports Completed

- New Brigade Election Report
- New Group Officer Election Report

Work in Progress

- Lost password auto email for volunteers - this will enable volunteers who have lost their passwords to apply for another online and be emailed a new password
- Contact Book upgrade to enable all members to access phone details

“Heritage Corner” - Biggest of the Big

By Tasmania Fire Museum Member, Terry Gill

As mentioned in “Heritage Corner” of Fireground Winter/Spring 2004, wheeled escape ladders progressively used by Tasmanian fire brigades from the latter part of the 19th century until the late 1970's, were the most massive items of firefighting equipment to be used manually by our firefighters.

Accordingly it was with some trepidation, that recently some southern members of the Tasmania Fire Museum (TFM) felt it was time to restore and reassemble the most massive of all the escapes ever to see service in Tasmania.

This was the John Morris and Sons, 60 foot (18 m) Ajax escape ladder, imported from Manchester, England for the Launceston Fire Brigade. The extra 10 feet of reach, compared with the others to see service in Tasmania at 50 feet, was achieved by having four ladders, a main ladder and three extensions, compared with the standard two extensions.

Entering service in October 1952, it replaced the brigade's original Shand Mason escape ladder that had been in service since 1893. Because of its greater mass and size it could not be carried on the Launceston Brigade's 1928 Dennis pumper, which had been modified to carry the 1893 ladder. To enter service, we understand that the new ladder was carried on a specially modified Ford Thames truck.

When the ladder was finally retired from service, it was offered to the then fledgling museum for its collection in the 1980's. It was transported to Hobart and put into storage, pending restoration.

The first step in the restoration process took place a few years ago. Students from Hobart TAFE's School of Painting and Decorating in need of a project, undertook the job of revarnishing the four ladder sections that had been removed from the ladder bed and carriage wheel assembly. On completion the ladder sections were returned to storage.

To the southern TFM members, restoration of the remainder, i.e., the ladder bed, plumbing mechanism, lever arms, winches and carriage wheel assembly, didn't look like a lot, compared to the 60 feet of ladder sections that had already been done. Oh yes?

Well looks are deceiving. What followed in the weeks of March to May 2005, were a lot of man hours of paint and varnish stripping, grinding, sanding, repainting, revarnishing and reassembly. This included the reinstatement of the original pin-striping and other intricate paint patterns, revealed by the stripping process. Over these weeks, the restoration and reassembly was done



by TFM members Peter Carson, Phil Mettam, John Mason, Graham Newbury, Don Jones, Terry Gill, Roland Hill, Frank Howe and Eddie Wilson.

Initially, no particular deadline was set for completion. Then someone suggested “Why don't we display the ladder at Agfest?” The pressure was then on, as this early May event drew nearer. The process culminated in the final rehousing of the ladder sections and refitting of the winches and cables

the night before the ladder was to be transported from Glenorchy to Agfest at Carrick. A good indication of the ladder's size and the complexity of restoration, can be gained from the pictures, particularly the one of it loaded on the Engineering Services tilt tray recovery truck.

On arrival at Agfest, the ladder was displayed in its upright position, attracting much interest from visitors to the TFS display. A few weeks later, the ladder had another outing at the TFS Northern Region Conference.

In line with the Museum's policy that appliances should be displayed in the areas where they saw service, this unique ladder will stay in the Launceston area.



Progress of the North West Regional Headquarters

By Regional Chief North West, John Streets



On 3rd December the TFS purchased by auction the Telstra administration and service building situated at 15 Three Mile Line Burnie, with the intention of establishing new North West Regional Headquarters and Training facilities. The building is a single storey construction, approximately 800 square metres in area, on 1.6 hectares and is adjacent to the TFS Mechanical Workshop.

After discussions with the local Divisional Managers within the existing Headquarters to establish their requirements, draft plans were drawn up, and a regional meeting was held to further discuss the building layout.

The construction work is being achieved by using contract labour. With the assistance of Andrew Newell and John Green OH&S procedures were set up to ensure the safety of all contractors and visitors.



On 9th May we commenced demolition of the inside of the building and to date have taken five very large skip bins to the tip. At the start of June we commenced the construction phase, which has included framing and plastering some of the offices, installing a sprinkler, smoke alarm and security system, rewiring the building, running some six kilometres of computer cables.

The refurbishment is progressing to plan; we do have a long way to go, but when completed will be like Youngtown and Cambridge an asset to our organisation.



Library news

Statistics

Many Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) publications are now available free on the internet - see www.abs.gov.au. From 1 July, a range of **free** content on the ABS web site was made available to the public and ABS is considering making further free content by the end of the year. Statistics of particular interest to members can be found at the following:

- Statistics - Tasmania (cat. no. 1384.6) - a comprehensive summary publication which provides a path to state statistics for the general or novice user.
- Regional Statistics, Tasmania (cat. no. 1362.6) - brings together a range of ABS and non-ABS data to provide economic, social and demographic indicators for Tasmania, its regions and local government areas

A course on how to use ABS statistics will be run shortly. If you are interested in attending, please contact the Library.

Videos

Video Catalogue: we are in the process of producing a new up-to-date video catalogue that will hopefully be mailed out to Brigades in late August. Look out for these in your mailbox, and do let us know if you need additional copies.

DVDs: we are starting to receive requests for videos in DVD format instead of VHS/PAL and the Library will accommodate these wherever possible. Where a program is available in both formats, we will purchase the appropriate one or both depending on demand. If a request is received for a DVD and it is not available in this format, we will organise **legal** reproduction.

Please note that it is against the Copyright Act to make a DVD copy of a video and to keep it without destroying the VHS edition. You will be fined if you are caught! If in doubt, please contact the Library.

NEW BOOKS

Doing it! Making volunteering youth friendly / Ann Deslandes. 2004.

This book is aimed specifically at people who manage volunteers and other staff in organisations that wish to involve young people in volunteering.

In the line of fire: trauma in the emergency services / Cheryl Regehr. 2005

In the wake of disaster emergency responders are first on the scene and last to leave. They put concern for the lives of others over concern for their own lives, and work tirelessly to recover the bodies of the missing. Their heroic actions save lives, provide comfort to and care for the wounded and inspire onlookers, but at what cost to themselves? This book, based on the authors' original research and clinical experience, describes the consequences of trauma exposure on police officers, firefighters, and paramedics.

NEW VIDEOS

Child's play. 2004. 5 min.

Using children as an example the programme demonstrates the correct techniques for lifting heavy loads.

Living with fire: bushfires and land management in Australia. 2002. 20 min.

Every summer our television screens show emotional scenes of burning homes and heroic firefighters, and again questions are raised about the place of fire in the Australian environment. Far from being a total disaster for native Australian forests, we know that our indigenous flora can survive and even thrive in the aftermath of a fire. However, the overall effect of fire on Australian ecosystems is still a topic of intense study and debate.

The new 10.5 and 8.5m fire/rescue extension ladders / NSW Fire Brigades. 2000. 7 min.

Covers design features (anti-slip devices, safety stickers, etc), spring loaded ladder pawls, safety tapes, ladder drills, extending and retracting, and care and maintenance of the ladders

WEBSITES

Bushfire CRC (Co-operative Research Centre)

The CRC involves State fire and land management agencies, eight universities, CSIRO, federal government agencies including the Bureau of Meteorology, Emergency Management Australia and the Australian Building Codes Board, and New Zealand fire and forest research agencies working together on research which enhances the management of the bushfire risk to the community in an economically and ecologically sustainable way. Check the site for information on latest research, publications, conferences, scholarships and more...
<http://www.bushfirecrc.com>

New Zealand Fire Service and New Zealand Rural Fire Service

Take a look at what's going on across the water in the land of the long white cloud. Heaps of resources and information about how they manage fires.
<http://www.fire.org.nz> and <http://nrfa.fire.org.nz>

London bombings

For official information about this attack, see the following sites:

- IntelCenter report (updated regularly) - <http://www.intelcenter.com/LTBA-PUB-v1-2.pdf>
- London Fire Brigade statement - <http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/news/statement.asp>
- London Metropolitan Police investigation - http://cms.met.police.uk/news/major_operational_announcements/terrorist_attacks

Unwanted fire magazines

Would you like some fire magazines to share around your brigade? For the mess table? The Library will be sending leftover copies of old and new fire magazines to your District Officers so please contact them if you would like some.

Contact Grace 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

Departing Tassie and Returning to Calgary

By “ex-exchange firefighter” Rob Yeats

The last few days in Tasmania were quite hectic, with a nephew visiting and taking him on final expeditions to the highlights of Tasmania. Drove to St Helens to stay in the TFS units, surfing for the kids and hiking for Glenda and I. Although I was knocked down by a wave while being an unobservant prairie dweller, which required a trip back to the units for dry clothes! St Columbia falls, Ralph's falls, which required a coast down the hill to the gas (petrol) station (we were not sure of the fuel supply), St Helens via Casha Gorge, wombats and wallabies were everywhere! Eddystone Lighthouse the next day, with another stop at Evergreech Forest Reserve for yet another walk before going back to South Arm via Richmond. A couple of trips locally, Cadburys, Lake St Clair.

The last few days were wrapped up with packing bikes, weighing the boxes, which mysteriously gained weight from Hobart to Melbourne! Chris Tomes had me into town for a presentation from Regional Chief Tony Davidson while the kids went surfing. Our final day was busy with Cody off early to Canada in the morning and us in the late afternoon. Peter and Fiona and the gang assisted with our movement to the airport. The journey home had begun!

Hobart to Melbourne, on to Singapore, then Seoul, Vancouver then Calgary. Lots of chicken! Large group of family met us at the airport, which had been totally changed since we left. Home for beer and pizza and yes, Cascade is a great beer - unavailable to us here. Jet lag soon caught up, and we all soon crashed, only to be disturbed by a phone call from Tasmania, Kim's friend Sam, seeing if we had made it OK. Two days of unpacking and finding everything was then the project.

I then had to report in to the CFD to cancel my tours off and find out where and what I was going to be doing. I went to #8, where Bill St Leger had been for most of his year, and was on the aerial ladder truck. First call was downtown and Deb Bergerson promptly went down the wrong side of the road (left) to remind me of driving and riding on the left. Luckily a Sunday morning minimised traffic, although we widened some eyes. We then went to a little bitty grass fire, which after the bush fires in Tasmania seemed hardly worth the effort. People here are much more concerned about prairie fires, especially those from eastern Canada. No burning off fuel here not in my backyard. Very different from Tasmania where the public understands the need to remove fuel.

The next few months saw me at #2 station, where an average day can have 17 calls, one tour we did 38 in the two day shifts. Nights can be equally amazing, with 10-12 sleeps per night, each one preceded by climbing 30 stairs to the second floor. I was promoted to Lieutenant at the end of the year and went to #14 station with a pump and an emergency, and fewer stairs. The last few months has seen the opening of two new stations and the hiring of many new rookies, none who I recognise and all who call me sir. I have been out as acting Captain (Station Officer) and expect to be doing it on a regular basis starting very soon.

Regards Rob Yeats



2005 NATIONAL FIREFIGHTER CHAMPIONSHIP



THURSDAY 3 TO SUNDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2005
BROADBEACH UNITED SOCCER GROUNDS
CNR OF CHELSEA AVENUE & SURF PARADE
GOLD COAST QUEENSLAND

**Firefighters from all
over Australia and
New Zealand
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Communities
Expo**

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QFRS hosts the 2005 National Firefighter Championships

By A/Operational Policy Advisor QFRS, Noel Harbottle

The Countdown Commences

Around 500 firefighters and their families from across the country will converge on the Gold Coast in November as QFRS hosts the second National Firefighter Championships.

Queensland has been allocated four teams for the Championships. The first two winning teams at the state championship titles held at Moranbah 2004 gain entry. Winning teams are Northern Beaches Central Region and Wondai North Coast Region. The remaining two teams will be decided from the 2005 State titles to be held at Bundaberg.

Brigades have competed by invitation in interstate events for most of the 20th century. The 'Inter-Colonial' competitions of the 1880's and 1890's were the impetus for staging the Centenary of Federation Fire Brigades Championship conducted at Corowa in October 2001.

Teams from Victoria, Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia participated in this history-making event. The success of this competition generated enthusiasm amongst participating fire and rescue agencies and competition associations to support the staging of a biennial National Firefighter Championship.

Competing agencies have, for many years, discussed the merits of conducting a National Championship. In October 2002, delegates from across Australia and New Zealand supported the concept and endorsed the New South Wales Fire Brigades to host the inaugural Championship held in Coffs Harbour in October 2003.

The success of the Championship was evident in the number of agencies represented: Army, Emergency Services, CFA (Victoria), New Zealand Fire Service, Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, New South Wales Fire Brigades, Northern Territory Fire Service, New South Wales Rural Fire Service, RAAF Fire Service, Country Fire Service South Australia and the Tasmania Fire Service. Contesting a variety of events, teams from four agencies were represented in the top six placings at the end of the competition.

The tradition now continues with the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service proudly hosting the second National Firefighter Championship to be held at Broadbeach, on the Gold Coast from 3rd to 6th November.

The TFS will be represented by two teams this year, "Hobart" and "Tasmania". "Tasmania" is a composite team made up from members of the TFBCA and the TVFBA and consists of Todd Cordwell, Franklin Brigade; Aaron Millar, Dunalley Brigade; Ben Dick, Wesley Vale Brigade; and Anthony Hayers, Ulverstone Brigade, as well as new Recruit Firefighter Daniel Beamish who is the defending National Ladder Champion. Two hard working officials, one from each association will be supporting the teams and judging throughout the event, they are Ted Domoney from Channel and Gil Graham from Devonport. Hobart competition team are funding their own way to the titles, we wish them all luck!

National Firefighter Championship merchandise is also available for purchase for those memorabilia buffs.

NATIONAL FIREFIGHTER CHAMPIONSHIP

GOLD COAST - NOVEMBER 2005

Proudly hosted by Queensland Fire and Rescue Service

EVENT MERCHANDISE






FRONT LOGO



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Polycotton Pique Fabric



ITEM 2 - T-SHIRT
100% Combed Cotton Fabric



ITEM 3 - CAP
Heavy Brushed Cotton Cap

IMPORTANT DELIVERY INFORMATION: Orders will delivered in October 2005. Payments will be processed on despatch of order.

| ITEM | CODE | ITEM DESCRIPTION | S | M | L | XL | XXL | TOTAL QTY | \$ EACH | \$ GST | \$ TOTAL COST | TOTAL | |
|------|---------|----------------------------|--------------------|---|---|----|-----|-----------|--------------------|--------|---------------|-------|-------|
| 1. | POLO | Maroon/Navy/White Polo | | | | | | | 27.23 | 2.72 | 29.95 | | |
| 2. | T-SHIRT | Maroon/Navy/White T-Shirt | | | | | | | 15.91 | 1.59 | 17.50 | | |
| 3. | CAP | Maroon/Navy/Grey Flame Cap | One size fits most | | | | | | | 9.55 | 0.95 | 10.50 | |
| | | | | | | | | | Freight & Handling | 9.09 | 0.91 | 10.00 | 10.00 |

GRAND TOTAL \$

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Delivery Address _____

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I enclose \$ _____ Cheque Money Order **OR PLEASE DEBIT BY** Visa Mastercard Mastercard Credit Cards _____

* All items feature the event logo and the Department of Emergency Services logo embroidered in two positions.
 * If delivery is faulty please contact Antipodes Clothing for repair or replacement. Claims should be lodged within 7 days of receipt of goods.

Contributors Name _____

Signature _____

What's cooking at the TFS?

The following is an extract from an article courtesy of Elaine Reeves of the Mercury Newspaper.

It's the only cooking lesson in town where you have to be ready for your entire class to fly out the door and leave you to clean up, pack up and go home.

Four lessons into a total of 21, Jeltje Gillian has seen half the class shoot through once: her students are Hobart firefighters, who must be in the truck within two minutes of the alarm going - which makes you wonder how much notice they can take of her caution about putting half-prepared or leftover food in the fridge straight away.

The classes are the idea of firefighter Richard Onn who, with other "healthy-minded" colleagues, formed a group called Firefit. They have a wellness program as part of their enterprise bargaining agreement with the Hobart Fire Brigade, which happily came aboard to pay for the cooking lessons. The lessons aim to give firefighters information on nutrition that will sustain them on long jobs and periods of intense activity, some hands-on cooking experience and encourage them to prepare and share meals as a group.

Little coaxing is needed for the last aim at some fire stations. Firefighters at Hobart, Glenorchy, Bridgewater and Clarence work two day shifts of 10 hours, then two night shifts of 14 hours, then have four days off. There are two crews on each shift at Hobart and a day shift only at Rokeby.

A crew of four stays together on this cycle - designed to give not only them but also their spouses and children the chance

to have a social life together. The hours may be odd but at least they know a year ahead exactly what times they will be working when.

Some crews are dedicated hunters and fishers in their time off. Greg Turner at Bridgewater makes his own venison sausages and a banquet of abalone, crays and scallops is not uncommon, especially at Clarence, "the gourmet station".

Rod Sherrin says at Clarence the crew often get fresh rolls and fillings to make their own lunch and once a week have a cook-up, a Sunday roast with pinkeyes and pumpkin from firefighter's gardens. twice a year, the station organises a couple of fishing trips - one to the lakes, one to the ocean - for about 20 firefighters at a time.

Two crews per session will get two cooking lessons each, according to a timetable as complicated as the firefighter's roster. The fire stations are superbly equipped for a cooking class: at Glenorchy there's a stove, a microwave oven, dishwasher, grill and sandwich grill. Firefighters put in \$2 a week each to keep a pantry stocked with condiments, spices and basics (and on the other side of the cupboard, a stock of chocolate bars).

Jeltje Gillian was recommended for the job because of her experience teaching people with diabetes how to cook food that will help maintain good blood glucose levels. The same foods with a low glycemic index (GI) (which ranks carbohydrate foods according to how quickly and high they make blood-sugar rise) as are recommended for people with



Photos by Leading Firefighter Mark Bryant

diabetes will benefit firefighters by giving them sustained energy.

Wild swings in blood-sugar levels make a person feel hungry, tired and tetchy. What is wanted is food with a low GI that level out the peaks and troughs in blood-sugar levels.



“Low GI and low fat will help your blood pressure, blood cholesterol level and have a big impact on your immediate performance,” says Jeltje, who wears two name badges: one as her name is spelled and one as it’s pronounced “Yelcha”.

One of the firefighters at the Clarence class is a former chef (a look at the knife skills of the men chopping vegetables for the soup rules them out) and I find Iron Mouth Chef (a nod to the TV show and the teeth braces he’s wearing) Simon Nelson supervising the sautéing of vegetables in the pot, which gives a much better tasting result than just adding them to the liquid.

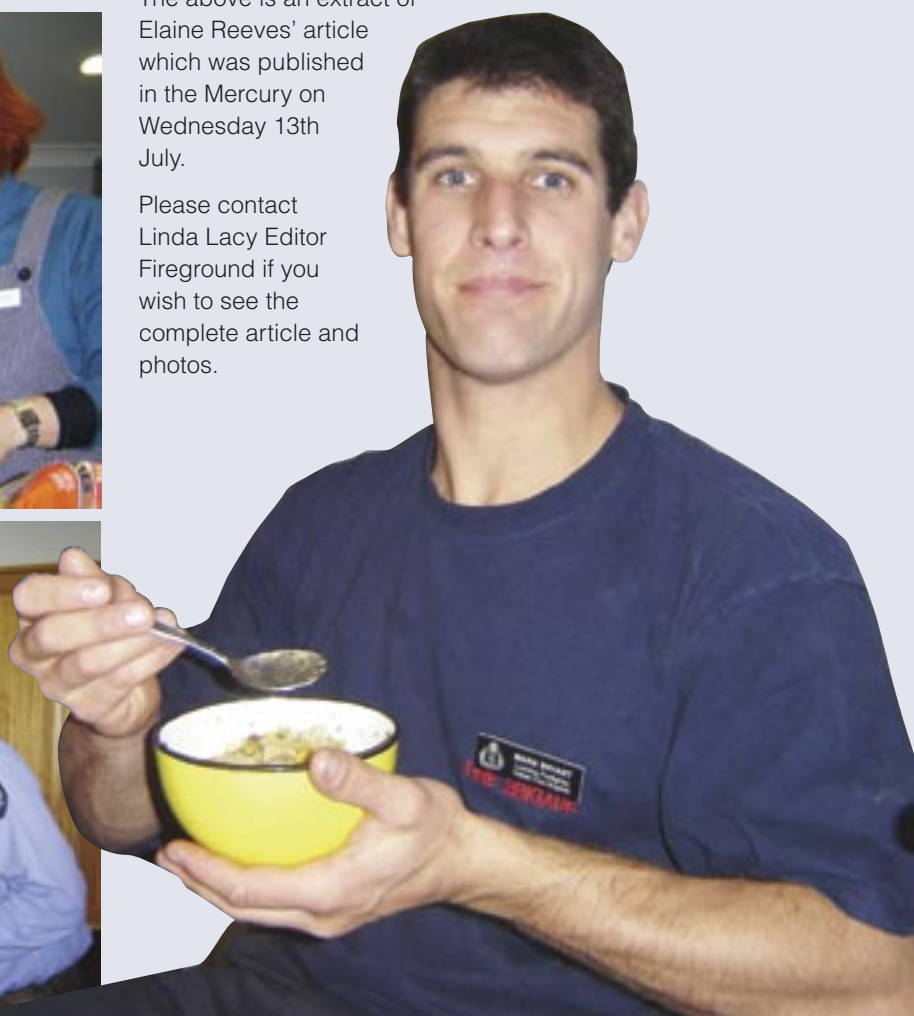
Nelson says his heart was never in cooking for a living but now he’s “grateful I can do it” and he enjoys cooking at home or seeing to the crayfish and scallops at work.

As we’re sitting around the table at Clarence eating minestrone soup, Jeltje Gillian suddenly leaps to her feet to rescue a banana dessert getting rather too crisp in the oven. How come, in a room full of firefighters, she was the only one to smell burning? I wondered aloud.

“We were waiting for the alarm to go off” was the answer.

The above is an extract of Elaine Reeves’ article which was published in the Mercury on Wednesday 13th July.

Please contact Linda Lacy Editor Fireground if you wish to see the complete article and photos.



TFS Recruit Course 1/2005 - “Forged in Fire, Temped in Unity”

By 2005 Recruit Training Team

On Thursday 30th June after the completion of the Training complex at Cambridge the TFS commenced the recruit course for the year of 2005. The twelve trainees have all been successful in meeting the requirements for gaining employment and have commenced their thirteen week induction.

Looking at their work history we have a number of diverse backgrounds ranging from fish farmers, hospitality, landscaping, and a police officer, just to name a few. This has given the training team a great skills mix of personalities to develop these trainees into professional firefighters.

The trainees have already set themselves a very high standard and we hope they are good to their word and can perform to the level they have committed to each other. Over the next three months the training officer will assess the performance of these trainees in a number of precarious situations such as confined spaces, working at height, strenuous activities in full PPE, exposure to unnatural room temperatures and challenging team activities.

Within the first few weeks we have already identified some great potential within the group and we eagerly await to see if these trainees develop into not only excellent firefighters but go onto bigger and better things within their designated brigades.

At this stage subject to manning levels throughout the state, the Trainees have been assigned to their duty stations with five coming to Hobart and the other seven returning to the Northern areas.

Special thanks go out to all the specialised instructors that have made their time available to help instruct on the course, as this ensures the trainees receive the best possible introduction into the lead combat roles the fire service is responsible for. This also includes the importance of other emergency services with Bruce Connor from the Tasmanian Ambulance Service making himself available during the Emergency Care component. His expertise and professionalism was extremely beneficial to the development of relationships between our agencies.

Congratulations to the twelve successful candidates and we wish them an enjoyable recruit course and a rewarding career with the Tasmania Fire Service.



Taroona training our kids!

On Friday 22nd July the Taroona Brigade was invaded by sixty prep and grade one students from the Taroona Primary School. The students had about a fifteen minute walk from the school to the fire station where they spent around two hours learning about fire behaviour and checking out the equipment used to fight fire. The brigade put on a couple of demonstrations which included breathing apparatus and oil fire behaviour.

The breathing apparatus demonstration was intended to show the children what a firefighter would look like in the event of a house fire, to hopefully make them aware that the firefighter was there to help them, not to be scared or try to hide from a person dressed in this equipment entering their house or bedroom. They were also shown photos of burnt out houses and the extreme damage that a fire can cause to other property. They also talked about the background of the Taroona Brigade.

The oil fire demonstration was to show the children that trying to extinguish an oil fire with water was definitely the wrong thing to do. The demonstration involved using the base of a 44 gallon drum with drip torch fuel. After the fuel was ignited for a couple of minutes, water was squirted onto the fire from a very safe distance. The reaction from the children was very encouraging.

The students spent time inspecting the firefighting appliances and all the equipment used to fight fires. The amount of questions asked throughout their time spent at the station was very impressive. Their young minds were soaking up every bit of information they could.

The main message of the day was that fire was not to be played with. If they found a box of matches or a cigarette lighter they must give them to a parent or at least put them out of reach of a younger brother or sister. Fire was to be treated with the utmost respect because fire can go terribly



wrong very quickly with no going back. We also talked about the importance of smoke alarms.

Their time ended with another fifteen minute walk back to school which was dampened down with a brief but effective rain shower, but they were in such good spirits it didn't matter. They all made it back safe and sound just in time for lunch. The feedback we received the next Monday was extremely positive. For the rest of the day the kids could not stop talking about their trip and what they had experienced. We also received a very positive response from the teachers and the parents that had accompanied the children.

Thanks go to First Officer Neil Cripps, Leading Firefighter Rebecca Cripps, and Firefighters Jeremy Harris and Jarrod Burton for helping on the day.



Volunteer Youth Development

By Field Officer South Esk, Rodney Springer



Following the good results of the South Esk exercises over the last few years, I thought it would be a good idea and opportunity to do something for the South Esk juniors and cadets.

Junior members have been on the increase recently and make up a large percentage of our volunteer brigade work force. There appears to be several reasons for this such as the demise of cubs, scouts and guides in several communities. Their parents are volunteer firefighters in the local brigades so the offspring tend to go to the station with their parents. This has been embraced by the Fire Service as a way of attracting members for the future.

As the plan was in its early stages of preparation, the Regional Chief North, Mike Brown, expressed his desire to have this idea cover the whole Northern Region and not just one district, this turned out to be a very good idea.

The three Field Officers from the north put a plan into action and it was called "Volunteer Youth Development 2005". A letter was sent to juniors and cadets aged 14 to 16 for an expression of interest. After this the plan for the weekend went into full scale planning. After several calls and visits to people and workplaces it all came together and went like this.

The emergency / safety plan was formulated and signed off by Station Officer Danny Guy from the Launceston Fire Brigade. It was decided to transport the juniors in Mitsubishi Canthers. The Canthers were resourced from Rocherlea; St Marys; Perth; Ravenswood; Cressy; Campbell Town; Rowella; Glengarry; Deloraine and Weymouth. Thanks to these brigades for their help.

The date for the weekend was 7 and 8 May 2005, a good choice as it was Agfest and Mothers Day.

The week leading up to this event was very busy with Agfest preparations as well as organising the Canthers to be at Youngtown was a logistical challenge on its own but we managed.

Well Saturday 7th May arrived and I went to Northern Region Headquarters with the thought "who will be here on time or late?" All was quiet and then it started to happen, the truck drivers, juniors, cadets and parents started to arrive. What a grand sight! On arrival they were booked onto the register and assigned to a truck and driver. At the same time all the participants were handed a show bag which contained a Mitsubishi cap, bottle of water, rat pack, bottle of cordial and a smart polo shirt. Dress for the day was yellow overalls and safety boots.

Time for a briefing, then onto the activities that were to follow. The Federal Member for Bass, the Hon. Michael Ferguson opened the day and then it was onto the Launceston Airport for a tour and demo of the fire station. Next the convoy of Canthers went to Fingal via farm roads and highways, a tour of the Cornwall Coal Plant and open cut mine, and then onto Gum Leaves at Little Swanport. A baked meal, a "fireside chat" with Regional Chief Mike Brown and then off to bed ready for an early start.

Sunday 0730 Chief Officer John Gledhill arrived and the juniors and cadets had breakfast "with the boss". There were

team building activities until lunch time and then pack up and return home to Northern Regional Headquarters via Royal George, and finished up around 1630 hours.

A large thanks to all the helpers who made this weekend happen and set the benchmark for the future.



Photos by Brigade Chief Hadspen, Ian Gabites



Midlands District Light Tanker Competition

By Group Officer Jordan, Tony Kenner

The Bagdad Brigade hosted the Midlands District competition on 15th May this year. The event was kept compact with brigades travelling no more than a 2 km radius from the Bagdad Station. Movement times and relatively easy locations to find are vital if the competition is to be completed in a reasonable time frame. Unfortunately a couple of teams were finding the closing stages a bit testing; therefore one or two stands were not tasked by all teams.

That aside, it was an enjoyable day. Most teams went away a bit wiser and hopefully picked up some information or improved their skills over a variety of tasks.

Twelve teams competed for 2005 and they were:

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| New Norfolk 4.1 | Lachlan 4.1 |
| New Norfolk 5.1 | Great Lake 5.1 |
| Gretna 5.1 | Great Lake 5.2 |
| Brighton 4.1 | Bothwell 5.1 |
| Brighton 5.1 | Magra 5.1 |
| Westena 5.1 | Westerway 5.1 |

After a number of years competing in the event, the team combination of Stefan Frazik from Westerway Brigade and Michael Apted from Maydena, under the call-sign of Westena 5.1, won the day, with a points total of 238. Not far behind was Lachlan 4.1 on 233.5 points, and third was Gretna 5.1 with 221 points.

We are all looking forward to heading up into the Derwent Valley next year.

I would like to thank the members of the Bagdad Brigade for their assistance before and on the day. Thanks to Roger Brown from Mt Nelson Brigade; Colin Triffitt from New Norfolk Brigade; and Colin Cunningham and Ross Johnstone from Gretna Brigade.

Also thanks to Paul Horne and Steve Walkley who assisted no end to putting the day together.



New Bagdad 3.1 Appliance

By Second Officer Bagdad Brigade, Tony Kenner

On 13th May the Bagdad Brigade took delivery of a replacement 3.1 heavy tanker to take up service for our community. A pre-loved Isuzu dual cab, which began its working life in the hands of the gentle firefighters at New Norfolk, has made its way to the Bagdad Station. It replaces a 1983 International 610A Acco heavy tanker, which was the original of the new heavy tanker configuration to come to the State after being built at the CFA workshops at Ballarat.

The Acco served our area for many years with a few hitches along the way. The truck was probably not suited to our sometimes steep terrain. The Hatz pumping system never let us down. The truck has now moved to a brigade in the Midlands and no doubt has been gratefully welcomed.

We have a few years now to wait before we get a chance to grab New Norfolk's current heavy tanker, so look after it boys.



Long service presentation - Bagdad

By Second Officer Bagdad Brigade, Tony Kenner

At Bagdad Brigade's monthly meeting, held on 8th June, District Officer Paul Horne presented long service badges to five members of the Bagdad Brigade. Two members received badges for 20 years service and three members for 25 years service. A nice round figure of 115 years experience.

Those pictured are, left to right:
Leading Firefighter Steve Forster 25 years
Third Officer Tom Adams 25 years
Brigade Chief Barrie Martin-Henry 20 years
Second Officer Tony Kenner 25 years
Leading Firefighter Graham Adams 20 years



Ever wonder what retired Regional Officers do in their spare time?



TFS Museum member Roland Hill

International Firefighters Day 2005

By IFFD State Co-ordinator 2005, Greg Barnett

International Firefighters Day was a very successful day. The word was spread wider than the previous year here in Tasmania and worldwide. With the help of state council and assistance from Leon King, Allison King and Lyndy Smith, I believe that this year went a long way to helping the idea of IFFD to be accepted. The only fallback was the support of some groups. Some larger and smaller brigades such as Beaconsfield, Scottsdale, Bell Bay and Gladstone held their own memorials. I'm sure there were more. Good on them, that is the idea. IFFD is there to show respect and remember our fallen comrades, whether it be a small gathering, or a large one. I think we need to get more of our firefighters interested, either by more notification in Fireground, out in the TVFBA newsletter and mail outs to Brigade Chiefs / Group Officers, feedback with ideas are most welcome.

The national television networks helped with promotion by having their teams wear the ribbons.

The Gladstone Brigade did not get in contact with me about IFFD until the Thursday before. They organised everything from contacting local surrounding brigades, made ribbons (because I didn't have enough time to get them to Gladstone via post) organised BBQs and had about fifty firies turn up. They raised \$120 via the ribbons they sold. Gladstone, as state brigades go, must get the compliments for this year.

St Patricks River Brigade hosted a marvellous day at Myrtle Park. The music was supplied free, everything was totally organised and well set out. The cold southerly wind may not have helped the low crowd number. To St Patricks River Brigade you could not have done more to help to show respect and promote IFFD, thank you. The day was well represented by the TVFBA with five northern delegates on the scene.

Advertising was done via the national networks, Ten and Seven. The Examiner kindly helped out with as much publicity as they could free of charge. Next year I believe more posters could be a more visible way of advertising - again any ideas? The Northern Region sent out pager notification about IFFD and events, also posted letters to all brigades in the north. The radio stations 7LA, Tamar FM, City FM, HO FM and a few others that I didn't notify broadcast articles about IFFD. The Southern Cross news team wore the ribbons the day leading up to and on the 4th May. Contacts for the mainland were redirected to JJ Edmondson in Victoria. JJ received a couple of newspaper enquiries and these articles should be included on the IFFD site some time soon. West Tamar Council included IFFD on their calendar of events.



Sponsors for spinning wheel prizes at Myrtle Park were:

Pearls, Launceston
Wills Music, Launceston
Richardsons Harley Davidson, Prospect
Charles Street Hardware, Launceston
CD Centre, Launceston
Begents, Launceston
Motorcycle Wreckers, Prospect
Ali's Barber Shop, Launceston
Sanity Music, Launceston
Tas Fire Equipment
Tasmania Fire Service
Private donors

And a big thank you to Calico Crossroads, Exeter for the supply of ribbon.

Above and beyond all of these very kind companies and people I would personally like to thank Marg Barnett for putting in over sixty hours of hand sewing the ribbons together. Plus time assembling boxes and helping promote IFFD. As a non-active member of TFS, Marg was very active and has offered assistance for next year. The Rowella Junior Brigade members who helped selling ribbons in Launceston's, Brisbane Street Mall and at Myrtle Park. Thank you very much.

The brigades, shops and individuals that had ribbon boxes a big sign of appreciation must go your way as well. Through everyone's generosity \$505 has been deposited into the TVFBA & TRFBA joint Bereavement Fund. Information about the bereavement fund can be obtained from the Sate Secretary TVFBA, Lyndy Smith.

Please if you would like to place orders for next year's ribbons or any other info on IFFD, contact me on 6394 7656 or at barnett12@optusnet.com.au before Christmas. Also, if you have any photos from the day, I'd appreciate a copy.

Thank you TVFBA State Council for backing IFFD 2005 and next year should be bigger and better statewide.

International Firefighters Day - Beaconsfield

By Second Officer Beaconsfield Brigade, Tim Williams

On Sunday 1st May the Beaconsfield Brigade held a memorial service for International Firefighters Day.

This day was incorporated into a family day and sausage sizzle for our brigade and other surrounding brigades. It was well attended with thirty people turning out for the minute's silence at midday followed by lunch, refreshments and games for the children.

A highlight of the day would have to be a callout at 1140 hours to extinguish a scrub fire. Luckily most members were present at the station by this time, so a quick turnout and extinguishment was promptly carried out.

The units returned to the station by 1158 hours, just enough time for the minute's silence at midday.

Hopefully more members and family will turn up for a bigger event next year!



Firefighter Tim Scott in charge of the BBQ



Beaconsfield Brigade Chief Greg Miller and Rowella Brigade Chief Phil Bassett Cowen enjoying a refreshment



New members Garry Miller, Marty Sutor and Justin Miller - a result of our Junior Fire Brigade Program

Ridgley mid year function

Ridgley Brigade held their mid year function on Saturday 16 July. The function was attended by past and current members of the Brigade and their families, other guests included Regional Chief John Streets, District Officer Rob Deverell and Field Officer Steve Townsend.

During the course of the evening John Streets presented Long service awards and National Medals to members. A great evening was had by all.

Back: Wayne Haywood (25 years); Micheal Richards(10 years); Daniel Britt (10 years); Steven Boon (10 years).
Front: Mark Lillico (15 years); Graeme Jones (20 years); Ian Cox (30 years)



On The *Move*

A list of recent personnel changes within the Tasmania Fire Service

The following Career Personnel changes have been effected

Departures

| | | | |
|-------|--------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| North | Jock Bryan | Station Officer | 5th July 2005 |
| North | Todd Edsall | Senior Fire Equipment Officer | 8th July 2005 |
| South | Steve Barber | District Officer | 15th July 2005 |

Elevations

| | | | |
|-------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| South | Chris Arrol | Deputy Regional Chief South | 16th February 2005 |
| North | Mike Brown | Regional Chief North | 11th April 2005 |
| North | Andrew Comer | Deputy Regional Chief North | 23rd May 2005 |

The following Volunteer Brigade Officers have been elected by their Brigades

| BRIGADE | OFFICER | APPOINTMENT | BRIGADE | OFFICER | APPOINTMENT |
|------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Tasman Group | Garry Cooper | Group Officer | Pawtella | Justin Burbury | Fourth Officer |
| Clarence Group | John Brassington | Group Officer | | Stephen Geard | Brigade Chief |
| Sorell Group | Brian Rainbird | Group Officer | | Brett Hall | Second Officer |
| Coal River Group | Robin Howlett | Group Officer | | David Thompson | Third Officer |
| Yolla | Phillip Hardy | Third Officer | Brighton | Peter Geard | Second Officer |
| | Jayde Beard | Fourth Officer | | Dean Plummer | Brigade Chief |
| Dover | Alasdair Robertson | Fourth Officer | | Michael Stingle | Third Officer |
| Kingston | David Jacobs | Fourth Officer | | Andrew Walker | Fourth Officer |
| Elizabeth Group | Henry Chugg | Group Officer | Collinsvale | John Anderson | Second Officer |
| Midway Point | Colin Ernest | Third Officer | | Colin Wright | Fourth Officer |
| | Andrew Dare | Fourth Officer | Meander | Jason Chilcott | Brigade Chief |
| Dunalley | Andrew Daly | Third Officer | | Alan Crosswell | Fourth Officer |
| | Garry Fahey | Fourth Officer | | Ricky Lehman | Second Officer |
| Deep Bay | Chris Petteerd | Second Officer | Westbury | Brendon Blazley | Leading Firefighter |
| Rokeby | Peter Francis | First Officer | | Rodney Brewer | Second Officer |
| | Hayden Williams | Second Officer | | Paul Mc Mahon | Brigade Chief |
| | Rod Heather | Third Officer | | Kevin Morgan | Third Officer |
| Geeveston | Craig Madden | Brigade Chief | Musselroe Bay | Tim Robinson | Fourth Officer |
| West Tamar | David Wright | Group Officer | | Brian Carson | Second Officer |
| Claremont | Russell Armstrong | Second Officer | | Earl King | Brigade Chief |
| | Troy Bedelph | Fourth Officer | | Paul Le-Baldwin | Fourth Officer |
| | Scott Munday | First Officer | | Jacqueline Webb | Third Officer |
| Oatlands | Kerry Mancey | Brigade Chief | Ringarooma | Troy Harper | Second Officer |
| | Barry Thomas | Second Officer | | David Hayward | Third Officer |
| | Phillip Worlton | Third Officer | | Kevin Rowbottom | Brigade Chief |
| Grove | Stephen Bartels | Brigade Chief | Arthur River | Mick Graham | Fourth Officer |
| | Dean Brittain | Third Officer | | Keith Kingston | Second Officer |
| | Bruce Ward | Second Officer | | Scott McDougall | Third Officer |
| Cradoc | Luke Duggan | Third Officer | | Marise Zeitzen | Brigade Chief |
| | Kim Griggs | Brigade Chief | Moriarty | Ben Dick | Fourth Officer |
| Deep Bay | Nicholas Direen | Third Officer | | Jamie Holland | Third Officer |
| | Malcolm Merchant | Brigade Chief | | James Hortle | Second Officer |
| | Pavel Ruzicka | Fourth Officer | | | |

Volunteer Forum

By State Secretary, Lyndy Smith

On 10th July volunteers from across the State met in Launceston to identify issues and concerns and to discuss the demands that are placed on volunteers. The forum was asked to identify the things that they like and dislike about the Association and ways that the Association could improve. In general people believed that having an Association is a positive way to be proactive and to take concerns to the TFS. People felt that a very positive side benefit of participating and exchanging ideas is the opportunity to form friendships with other volunteers from around the State.

The Association is aware of the need to improve its image and performance. To that end the State Council and the branches will be working hard to implement new strategies to increase support amongst volunteers. The forum also identified the need to be more transparent, and find ways to promote our achievements and better communicate with volunteers.

Training was identified as an important issue. The Association has representation on the Volunteer Training Advisory Committee which is working to develop a training program that is "volunteer friendly". Volunteers have to balance family, work and leisure whilst being on call 24/7. Getting time off work, recruitment, retention, additional expectations other than attending incidents and training. Expectations of volunteers from other agencies were identified as additional issues and demands.

By and large volunteers want to be recognised and they want their employers recognised. They need consistent and reliable communication. They want to be treated equally and



fairly. People volunteer for many reasons and they are proud to be a volunteer but there may be incentives to help with the recruitment and retention of volunteers in the future.

In the course of the day the draft Brigade Classification document recently released by TFS was discussed. The forum instructed the Tasmanian Volunteer Fire Brigades Association (TVFBA) to organise forums in each region so that more volunteers had a chance to discuss the Brigade Classification.

The volunteer forum provided a lot of good information and ideas to help the TVFBA develop strategies to meet the needs of its members. Thanks to all those who went along and contributed.



A very "Close Encounter"

Congratulations go to Damien Killalea who was recently awarded the Jock Muir Memorial Seamanship Award for the rescue of the crew of the yacht "Vagabond" which sank in the early hours of the morning off Eddystone Point. Damien and crew on his yacht "Close Encounters" went to the aid of the distressed crew and rescued them in very difficult conditions.

Damien was competing in an event in which he and his crew circumnavigated Tasmania, an event which the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania holds yearly. Damien was also praised for the results of the circumnavigation where they successfully explored more places and different areas than others during the event.



Turning of the first sod!

By Field Officer South West, Mark Cullen

Wednesday 3rd August marked a memorable day for the South West District with the turning of the first sod for the new Huonville Fire Station incorporating the South West District Headquarters.

The first sod was turned by Mr Ian (Dart) Duggan of Huonville. Dart joined the TFS with Huonville in January 1956 and was Brigade Chief of Huonville from December 1968 until December 1995. Dart is still a member of the Huonville Brigade as Permit Officer for the area and can be seen most Fridays at the Station reminiscing with Barry Jarvis (retired District Officer South West) over a light beer or two.

Dart has the distinction of having a 'Special Recognition Certificate' signed by retired Chief Officer GE Lowe for sleeping through one of Huonville's largest fires in May of 1991, namely the BP Service Station.

Other attendees for the occasion included Gavin Freeman (Acting Deputy Regional Chief South); Roland Hill (retired Regional Chief South); Barry Jarvis (retired District Officer South West); Huonville Brigade Chief Mick Direen and Second Officer Clancie Cleaver. Several members of the Museum Brigade were also in attendance to lend their support.

Planning for the facilities within the new complex has been done in partnership with Huonville Brigade members and the District Staff to ensure that the Station and Headquarters meet the needs of the South West District for the long term future.

This forethought will prove to be a worthwhile exercise as the community has seen a rapid growth in population and a corresponding increase in property values.



Ian "Dart" Duggan turning the first sod

The engine bay will have the capacity for five vehicles. The meeting room for the Brigade will also double as a major training room to deliver training courses for the District. With the ever increasing needs for training under the new Public Safety Training Package a central location for the District was needed.

The Headquarters have been designed to meet the needs for incident management teams into the future with the ever increasing threat of wildfires.



Gavin Freeman, Peter Carson, Roland Hill, Barry Jarvis, Phil Mettam, Ian "Dart" Duggan, Michael Direen, Clancie Cleaver, Hugh Jones, Mark Cullen, Graham Newbury and John Mason

Recruiting new volunteers - where do we go from here?

By Executive Officer Volunteer Support, Gerald Kutzner

From time to time many brigades in the TFS find themselves in a position where they have difficulties trying to recruit new members to replace others that have retired or moved out of the area.

A lot of brigades use word-of-mouth or local advertising as an approach to recruiting members. While these methods have been the mainstay of recruiting in brigades, a more proactive approach should be considered by those brigades that are finding it hard to attract new volunteers.

Recruitment, in a sense, is a bit like fighting a bush fire or structure fire. Your efforts are likely to be more effective if you carefully size-up the job, put together a plan, and marshal your resources to fight the fire. Recruitment is also more effective if you analyse your recruitment needs, prepare a recruitment plan and get everyone involved.

A good place for any brigade to begin is to put any pre-conceived ideas or views to one side and start by finding the answers to a few questions, such as:

Who in our community could potentially become a volunteer?

Try breaking the community down into smaller groups like commuters, shift workers, farmers, townspeople, etc this will help make the task more targeted and easier to manage.

Do potential volunteers really understand the demands and benefits of volunteering?

Perhaps people who could volunteer don't because they have some inaccurate perceptions about what's involved in being in a volunteer brigade and aren't aware of the benefits. How could you address this?

What things can the brigade do or change to make it easier for people to volunteer?

Many community organisations have had to change in order to stay relevant and capture people's interest. Don't assume that what prevents people from becoming a volunteer is outside the brigade's control.

How can you best communicate with the different groups of potential volunteers.

The one size fits all approach might not be the best one when it comes to trying to get the message out. Try tailoring your efforts to match the audience.

The above are just a few examples of the type of questions brigades can ask themselves to get a handle on what they might need to do differently if they want to try and attract more people into the brigade. Remember you've really got nothing to lose by taking a new approach if the old recruiting method hasn't been meeting your needs.

The "Butt Box"

Tony Davidson thought "the Butt Box" had gone astray

But it turned up unexpectedly the other day

There it was, waiting to be found

Out at the Glenorchy Museum Compound

This other ashtray has been found

Compared to the other, it's far more sound

Can anyone help us with its history

Up to now it's still a mystery!



All dressed up with nowhere to go!



TFS Museum members - Stefan Frazik; Roland Hill; Terry Gill; Peter Carson; Graham Newbury; Phil Mettam and John Mason

Making it safer to live in the bush

Recently released guidelines for people living in or near the bush provide tools for planning and developing in bushfire prone areas.

Produced by the Bushfire Planning Group, the Guidelines for Development in Bushfire Prone Areas of Tasmania provide guidance for anybody who already has, or is thinking of building within a bushfire prone area and describe a range of ways a property can be protected from bushfire attack.

The Bushfire Planning Group has representatives from the State Government, local councils, the Local Government Association of Tasmania and industry. It has reviewed existing bushfire safety materials and the results of interstate inquiries into bushfires.

Speaking at the launch of the guidelines the Chief Officer John Gledhill said, "Bushfires are a continuing part of the Tasmanian landscape and all members of the community need to be appropriately prepared for when bushfires come."

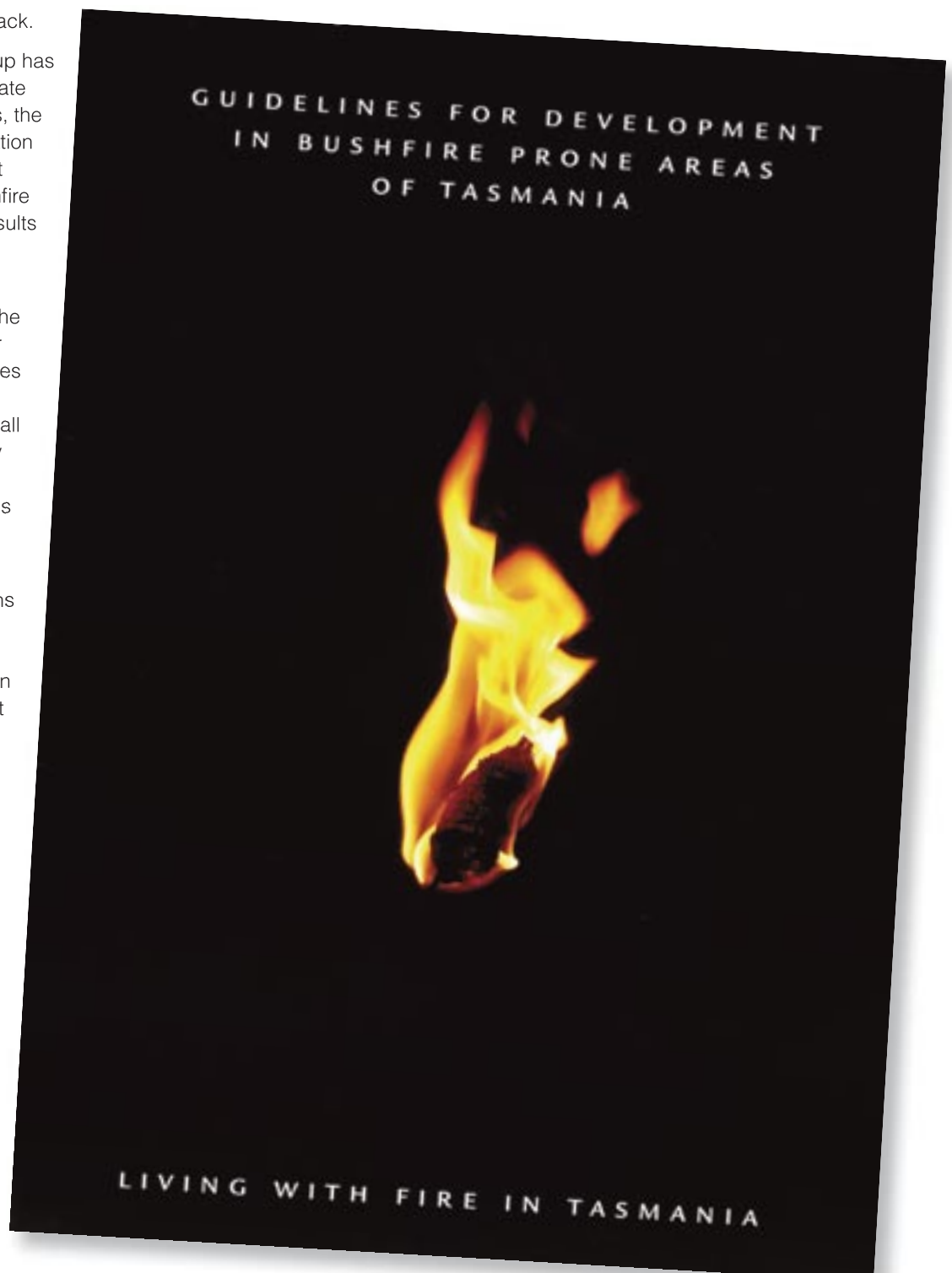
"The planning and development of subdivisions and buildings greatly influence the area in which a bushfire will eventually run and so have a great impact on the safety of the area."

"Good planning and development, such as that which is outlined in the guidelines, includes measures for minimising the bushfire threat. By producing these guidelines, The Bushfire Planning Group hopes to

reduce the physical and emotional costs that bushfires can produce."

The new Guidelines provide a plain language explanation of the issues that need to be addressed by people to live safely inside or beside the bush in Tasmania.

The Guidelines are available on the TFS website at www.fire.tas.gov.au





Historic building lost

Photos By District Officer East Coast, Gerald Crawford

An historic cottage on the Craigow property was lost as a result of an accidental fire on 15th March 2005. Major renovations were taking place, with painters stripping the old paint, which is believed to have started the fire.

The fire service was alerted at 1551 hours by one of the painters on site. When District Officer Gerald Crawford arrived at 1558 the house was fully involved. Both Cambridge Brigade and Hobart's Clarence Unit arrived at 1600 hours. Richmond arrived shortly after providing water backup. Firefighters fought for twenty minutes to bring the fire under control. The shell of the building was still standing, but due to the amount of heat, smoke and water damage it has now been demolished.

Retired Deputy Chief Officer Neil Manning was born in this cottage at Craigow and lived there with his parents until he was sixteen years of age. Neil's parents moved into the

cottage as newly weds, their first child Gwen was born some time later, followed by Neil in 1929. Neil's father worked at Craigow for over 40 years, later moving to Campbell Town, returning many years later to Richmond.

Neil advised that the property was originally owned by the Murdochs and was a large orchard property, having over 20 permanent farm hands at one stage. It also had seven workmens' cottages on the property. The cottage originally sat in the middle of an apricot orchard, and is now surrounded by vineyards.

Neil commenced work with the Fire Service at Sorell, progressing through the ranks before retiring in 1994.



Retired Deputy Chief Officer Neil Manning



Howden presentations

By Brigade Chief Howden, Bruce Moran

On 19th June our Brigade had cause to celebrate another member receiving their National Medal as well as celebrating the 80th birthday of our longest serving member.

Brigade Chief Bruce Moran has pulled off another one of his surprise events. He managed to convince Kent Harbutt that the Brigade was holding an event for Nan as she had celebrated her 80th birthday the week before. As for Nan she thought the day was for Kent to receive his National Medal. Neither Kent or Nan suspected what was going on until the day. Kent knew something was going on when his mother, brother and sister turned up. Then his daughter walked in and said "g'day dad". Kent was supposed to pick her up from the airport on Tuesday as she was coming from Melbourne for a holiday.

Nan didn't know until I called her to the front and presented her with three roses for her garden. This is the second time I can recall surprising Nan. The last time was when she received her National Medal.

Kent has been the Brigade's Secretary/Treasurer for over eleven years. He has been an Officer for over eight years. He is the only member we have to tell to be somewhere half an hour before hand so he is on time, this has always been the case and it's good to see nothing has changed over the eleven years I have known Kent. He has been a very good and valuable member and officer to the Brigade over the past fifteen years. He brings a good balance to the Brigade. Kent well deserves his National Medal for his ongoing dedication.

Ian Henderson, who is one of our newest members, was presented with two certificates from the Regional Chief South.

The day was enjoyed by all in attendance. Guests included Regional Chief South, Tony Davidson; District Officer Hugh Jones; Kingborough Mayor Mr Don Hazell and Mrs Hazell; North West Bay officers as well as past and present members of the Brigade and their families.



Nan cutting her Birthday cake



Ian Henderson receiving course certificates



Some of the brigade members and their families



Regional Chief South Tony Davidson congratulating Kent

Emergency services day at Maydena

An emergency services day was held at Maydena Primary School. It was attended by Maydena and Westerway Brigades; Maydena Volunteer Ambulance Service, Hobart Museum Brigade and the Maydena Police.

All children at the school were treated to a BBQ lunch and were then shown the ambulance, fire trucks and police vehicles. Sirens could be heard from afar and earplugs were a necessity!

The children enjoyed being able to familiarise themselves with the different types of equipment, protective uniforms and vehicles that are used in emergency situations. The Museum fire truck was a particular favourite.



Mayor Mr Don Hazell and Mrs Hazell
Kent's mother, brother and twin sister



District Officer Hugh Jones pinning on Kent's National Medal



The Brigade now has four National Medal recipients, Brigade Chief Bruce Moran, Nan Gear, Third Officer Kent Harbutt and Firefighter Ross Barnett



Linda Lacy

From: Russell Hill
Sent: Monday, 20 June 2005 11:28 AM
To: fire
Subject: A big thank you to.....

Hello,
I would like to say a big thanks to the firemen who attended to the following:
112 Geilston Bay Road Geilston Bay
Time: around 4pm Saturday 18 June
We had some smoke coming up through floorboards on our verandah.
We had not used the outdoor fire place before.
My wife called 000 and along came 2 fire trucks.
All who attended acted with such professionalism and care.
Some floor boards were removed without a scratch, nails removed without a bend, both boards & nails placed in a neat pile.
The next morning I was able to replace the boards, with the neat pile of nails.
O H and S was even thought of as a warning to cover the hole so children may not trip in the gap/hole.

100% effort was made to clear any possible source of heat/smoke using know-how and with modern technology.

We were given valuable information reagrding outdoor fireplace installation.

I was unable to gather any names of those who attended.(I forgot to ask).

If this praise can be brought to the attention of both the frontline firemen and management.

Also, a couple of pics of the men in action below.

Russell Hill



Linda Lacy

Subject: FW: Tour of station house

Sent: Sunday, 13 March 2005 15:31
To: fire
Subject: Tour of station house

Samantha and I have finally returned to Shanghai after our 7 week trip through Australia and SE Asia. We would just like to say thank you once again to Mark Bryant for taking some time out and giving us such a great tour while we were in Hobart in January of this year. It was one of the highlights of the trip, Samantha has bragged to all her friends about it. Thanks for helping make the our trip a memorable one, and thanks for being there to protect others.
Brendan & Samantha Mulvaney

Maj Brendan S. Mulvaney
US Marine
Olmsted Scholar, Fudan University, Shanghai, China



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs
TASMANIAN OFFICE

MR CHRIS TOMES
TASMANIA FIRE SERVICE
CNR ARGYLE & MELVILLE STREETS
HOBART TAS 700

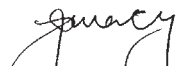
Dear Chris,

I would like to thank you for the presentation you gave at the Training & Information Program Welfare Officer course at Lindisfame RSL on 7 June 2005.

The feedback from this course has been extremely positive with many attendees stating that it is an essential course for all ex-service Welfare Officers. I have been told that your presentation was excellent and you provided information which was both interesting and informative.

Presentations such as yours are invaluable for the ex-service community Welfare Officers providing them with an awareness of the services available in the wider community.

Yours sincerely


Helen Watling
Executive Officer

23 June 2005

21 KIRKSWAY PLACE
 BATTERY POINT TAS 7004
 GPO BOX 481
 HOBART TAS 7001

Saluting Their Service



Waratah-Wynyard Council

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CONTACT: Wayne Trull – Executive Officer - Policy – (03) 6443 8360
 YOUR REF:
 OUR REF: 502.02

27 May 2005

Mr J Gledhill
 Chief Officer
 Tasmania Fire Service
 GPO Box 1526
 HOBART TAS 7001

Dear Mr Gledhill

COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

On behalf of the Waratah-Wynyard Emergency Management Planning Committee I would like to congratulate the Tasmania Fire Service on its Community Education Programs.

Both structural and bush fires have been identified as major risks within the Waratah-Wynyard municipal area and it was agreed that public education in fire awareness and prevention was a major risk mitigation measure. The Committee is very supportive of the Tasmania Fire Service's education programs

The Committee is confident that the effectiveness of these programs will continue well into the future and trusts that the Tasmania Fire Service will continue these programs, together with the accompanying high quality information publications and the existing highway signage.

Yours sincerely



Wayne Trull
 Secretary – Waratah-Wynyard Emergency Management Planning Committee



ROYAL HOBART HOSPITAL
 GPO BOX 1061L
 HOBART 7001
 TASMANIA
 AUSTRALIA

Burns and Surgical Specialties Unit
 July 5th, 2005

JB Gledhill
 Chief Officer
 Tasmania Fire Service
 GPO Box 1526
 Hobart
 TAS 7001

Dear Mr Gledhill,

Re: Fireground Photo Competition

Please extend our appreciation to the officer submitting the very impressive photograph of the St Helens fire. It was a particularly generous gesture to donate the money to the Burns Unit at Royal Hobart Hospital. We plan to put the money towards purchasing some pictures to brighten up the burns inpatient and outpatient areas.
 With thanks

Sue Clennett
 Clinical Nurse Manager

1st place



Photo taken by interstate guest - unable to be contacted. Photo submitted by District Officer Craig Maxwell - prize donated to Burns Unit of the Royal Hobart Hospital (\$100)



Tasmania

PA
7/7/05
Clay for info!

The Royal Hobart Hospital is part of the Tasmanian Hospitals and Ambulance Service, a Division of the Department of Health and Human Services



For all creatures great and small.

Ref: CM575GF

4TH July 2005

Gavin Freeman
 District Officer, Brigade Operations
 GPO Box 1526
 HOBART TAS 7001

Dear Gavin

RSPCA Tas Inc Southern Division sincerely thanks you and your crew for passing on your generous donation. We are truly grateful for such generosity and please accept our sincere appreciation.


Contrary to popular belief, RSPCA is not government funded and due to the current climatic conditions, there has been a substantial increase of animals entering the shelter, via the rural sector.

Other funds raised from donations, button days, paws walk, raffles, etc are directed to the animals currently in our care and provide for future care, constantly maintaining and improving the quality of the kennels, paddocks and general living conditions in and at the Centre.

You may be interested to know our future plans are to provide a proper aviary, an appropriate cattery, re-fence the paddocks, improve the grazing pastures, paddock shelters for the animals in care, an intensive care unit for all injured animals, and a rehabilitation yard that can house dogs suffering from persecution and neglect until, they are treated, rehabilitated and appropriately, re-housed.

Again, thank you for your generosity, it has been enormously appreciated.

Kind Regards


 Gisela Fisher (Ms)
 Animal Welfare Centre Manager

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| STATE FIRE COMMISSION | |
| 05 JUN 2005 | |
| Information & Support | |
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The Royal Society
 for the Prevention
 of Cruelty to Animals
 Tasmania Inc

Hobart
 PO Box 441
 Rosny TAS 7018
 Phone (03) 6244 3033
 Fax (03) 6244 5550
 Email:
 rspca@southcom.com.au

Other Centres
 • Launceston
 • Devonport
 • Burnie

Thursday June 16 2005

GPO Box 27
 HOBART TAS 7001
 Phone 6223 1815
 Attention Mr John Gledhill, Chief Officer

Dear Mr Gledhill
 Tasmania Fire Service
 GPO Box 1526
 HOBART TAS 7001

All I seemed to be capable of doing was stand in shock at what had happened, wring my hands, and think about what a stupid idiot I'd been. The hot plates aren't there to have heavy bags of groceries dumped on them!

Many thanks to the fire crew who came to my rescue at 10 Quayle Street on Tuesday afternoon.

Their faces I'll remember but *you* know their names: please thank the fellows for their kindness and for doing such a terrific job.

Sincerely

The fieries were marvellous. Quick as a flash, the power was off and my house was cleared of smoke. They were genuinely pleased I was OK and reassured me that that was all that mattered.


 Maureen Webb



