



TFBCA STATE COMPETITIONS

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firefighters from across
Tasmania



Competing in the 2008
State Fire Brigade
Competitions



Combining all
3 streams
Volunteer, Urban
and National



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Brigade Chief

2008

8 November 2008
Byard Park
DEVONPORT

This event is hosted by the Tasmanian Fire Brigade Competition Association (TFBCA)
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Fireground

spring 2008



- ▶ **New Pumper Tanker Rollout**
- ▶ **TFS Conference**
- ▶ **Mercure Hotel Elevator Rescue**
- ▶ **Australasian Road Rescue Challenge 2008**

SPRING 2008

Official Journal of
The Tasmania Fire Service



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Fireground!

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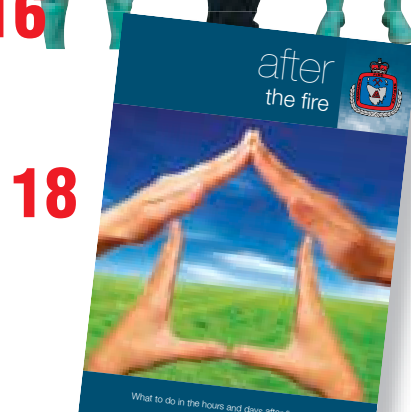
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From the Acting Chief Officer



Chief Officer John Gledhill is currently on extended leave to take a well deserved breather from work and to manage the construction of his new house (though I'm not so sure that building would be any less stressful!)

Up until John returns in March, I'll be acting in the Chief Officer's position and Regional Chief Tony Davidson and Andrew Comer will be acting in the Deputy Chief Officer role: Andrew in September - November and Tony for December - February. Naturally there will be subsequent acting appointments flowing through the TFS throughout this period. I know it makes it confusing to sort out just who is in which chair, however, it does provide for many of us to gain some experience in new and challenging roles.

Our biennial conference was again an outstanding success. I noted with interest the presentations from Gary Morgan, Dr Brad Aisbett and Tom Lowe all from the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre (CRC). It's becoming very clear that the research is now transferring to positive outcomes for the fire industry and the work undertaken by the many research staff and students is already providing improved effectiveness and safety for our people leading to better fire protection for the Australian community.

TFS has made a significant contribution to the Bushfire CRC and to the development of the next CRC process. I am confident we are receiving good value for our input. In recent

times each edition of Fireground has featured at least one Bushfire CRC research project. I can highly recommend the Bushfire CRC website for those wanting to know more. It's at www.bushfirecrc.com.

Road Accident Rescue (RAR) has formally been part of our operations for almost two years. TFS crews at our career centres have responded to many incidents where their new skills in patient extraction have been tested. I have only received positive feedback from my colleagues at Police, SES and Ambulance. FireComm staff have also preformed well in managing calls and responses not only for TFS crews, but also for SES who provide RAR services in much of rural Tasmania.

For the first time a TFS crew participated in the peak RAR National Competitions the 'Australian Road Rescue Challenge' at the Gold Coast in June. Our team lead by David Collins and coached by Steve Percival did an excellent job in achieving 9th place overall out of a field of 23 teams. As a first effort this is an exceptional result. Thanks also to Kevin Daly (Ambulance Paramedic and volunteer firefighter) for his valued contribution as the team's paramedic. An article on the competition is featured in this edition.

As we approach summer, and whilst I am acting in the Chief Officer's role, I intend to get out of the office to meet as many new faces (old acquaintances) as I can. Regional and District Officers are presently planning their District Conferences to be held in September and October. I'll endeavour to get to as many of these as possible. The agendas will be kept simple and brief to allow for your input and feedback. The forum will be informal as we wish to listen to your ideas or concerns.

Another important date for your calendar is November 8, I ask you all to consider participating in the State Competitions in Devonport this year. The organising team has put in a huge effort to arrange this as a very special day that allows for some of the traditional urban and country style events along with some exciting new events based on the National Competitions. There will be operational demonstrations and a variety of TFS support area displays on-site adjacent to the competitions. The intention is to "showcase" TFS and its activities so there should be plenty of interesting things to do and see between events.

Hoping to see many of you soon.

Mike Brown

Editorial

By Editor Linda Lacy

This edition's Bushfire Co-operative Research Centre (CRC) poster is on "exploring the impacts of emergency service volunteering on volunteer families".

This issue includes articles on the TFS Conference, the Mercure Hotel elevator rescue and many more.

Closing date for next edition will be 15th October 2008, however, please don't wait for the closing date - send your articles as the events occur - if they miss that edition, I'll bring them over to the next one!

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

I'd also like your feedback on Fireground. Are we covering the topics you want to read? Do you have any special requests?

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

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Bill Burke - going for gold!

Bill Burke retired from the TFS on 21st July 2008 after 50 years service as a career firefighter and officer.

Bill commenced his career with the TFS on 1st January 1958 as a volunteer firefighter and became a permanent member when he joined the Hobart Fire Brigade on 7th July 1958.

He was promoted to Station Officer, and due to injury his service was broken for a short period but in November 1973, Bill was again promoted to the rank of Station Officer.

He was promoted to Superintendent with the HFB in February 1984 and then moved to Midlands as District Officer in August 1995.

Over the years Bill served as the Acting Chief Officer in Burnie and Devonport and also as Deputy Regional Officer North. He also acted in the position of Brigade Chief Hobart

He was a long serving member of United Firefighters Union Branch Committee of Management and a foundation member of the State Fire Commission Superannuation Scheme Advisory Committee.

Bill was awarded the National Medal on 3rd January 1971 and has since received his 25, 35 and 45 year National Medal Clasps. On 1st January 1994, he was awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal for his dedication and commitment to the TFS.

Bill has made many friends along the way and never short of a word or two. He will be long remembered for his oratory



District Officer Gavin Freeman, Deputy Regional Chief Chris Arrol, Regional Chief Tony Davidson, retired District Officer Bill Burke, District Officer Hugh Jones and District Officer John Green

skills on a wide range of topics, much of it based on loose fact, some truth, a bit of myth, and plenty of fiction. But woe betide anyone who challenged him during one of his spiels, they would soon become the victim of his quick wit and tongue.

Although Bill has retired from the paid workforce he will still be around as a volunteer member with the Museum and also in his customary role at Christmas.

We wish Bill a very happy, long and healthy retirement.

Chief Officer's Award

The Chief Officer's Award is presented to a brigade that has been subject to unusual, difficult or demanding circumstances. Recently Chief Officer John Gledhill presented this award to Brigades of the Beaumaris and Golden Gate Groups in recognition of their commitment, professionalism and resilience during the St Marys - Scamander fires in December 2006. It was proudly accepted by Group Officer Golden Gate Gerald Aulich and Fourth Officer St Helens John Le Fevre.

Group Officer Golden Gate Gerald Aulich, Chief Officer John Gledhill and Fourth Officer St Helens John Le Fevre



TFS State Conference - "YOUR TFS"

The biennial TFS Conference was held at the Country Club Resort in Launceston over the weekend of 19 / 20 July 2008 and was opened by the Chief Officer John Gledhill.

Keynote speakers included Gary Morgan Chief Executive Officer Bushfire CRC, Phil Cheney Senior Principal Research Scientist CSIRO, Dr Brad Aisbett Deakin University Bushfire CRC Researcher and Tom Lowe Research Officer Department of Sustainability and the Environment.

There were case studies of the St Mary's/Scamander fire, the Myer fire and the Bellingham fire as well as presentations on Urban Interface Firefighting and lessons learned from the fires in Greece.

Barry Prismall Deputy Editor Examiner newspaper spoke on information management and the role of the media on the fireground.

Functional areas of the TFS had information booths and displays providing information to the delegates on the services provided outside firefighting operations.

There was also a pumping display and a display of equipment used for Urban Search and Rescue.



Phil Cheney Senior Principal Research Scientist CSIRO



Conference delegates - including Adrian Pyrke Manager, Fire Operations Parks and Wildlife Service, Tony Blanks Manager Fire Management Branch Forestry Tasmania, and Gary Morgan Chief Executive Officer Bushfire CRC



Deputy Chief Officer Mike Brown, Phil Cheney Senior Principal Research Scientist CSIRO, Chief Officer John Gledhill and Gary Morgan Chief Executive Officer Bushfire CRC



Robyn Pearce & Richard Warwick - toasting Nelson Mandela's 90th birthday



Manager Organisational Learning, Suzanne Bacon presenting "Typical"



Conference Session Chair - Firefighter Lindy Mifsud of Sisters Beach



Deputy Regional Chief Cris Arnol presenting "Urban Interface Firefighting"



District Officer Jeff Harper presenting "Case Study on 2006 St Marys / Scamander fire"



Leading Firefighter Stephen Smart and Senior Firefighter Jason Buchanan with District Officer Danny Richardson



First Officer Devonport Geoff Mills, First Officer Burnie Mark Lillico with Second Officer Burnie Scott Clarke



Station Officer Danny Reid with Leading Communications Officer David Macfarlane



New advertising on fire trucks

By Manager Community Education Sandra Barber and Consultant Chris Tomes

In 2004, as part of the integrated home fire safety campaign, Community Education took the rather big step of commissioning advertising on selected front line urban career pumpers statewide.

Four years on and Community Education has been receiving regular enquiries from firefighters statewide to replace/re-vamp the existing fire truck locker fire safety messages.

The original decals are now worse for wear, which is to be expected given the age of decals and truck use. We believe that it has been a successful marketing tool and has been well-received by the public and shifts.

New decals will appear on 13 pumpers statewide, Rocherlea 1.1, Launceston 1.1, Launceston 1.2, Launceston 1.3, Burnie 1.1, Devonport 1.1, N/W 1.2, Hobart 1.1, Hobart 1.2, Clarence 1.1, Glenorchy 1.1, Rokeby 31P and Bridgewater 31P.

We have worked with designers to develop decals that we think should work on the trucks. We have considered:

- **Safety** - the designs incorporate 3M high visibility tape (lights up when light is applied) that will make the trucks more visible at dawn, dusk, or night, in all weather conditions. 'Be seen on the road'.
- **Visual impact** - the designs are simple and clear. The messages can be read from a distance or from a moving vehicle.
- **Core messages** - the designs clearly link with our current home fire safety campaign. Our core messages are working smoke alarms and home fire escape plans.
- **Flexibility** - the designs can be adapted to different locker/truck configurations i.e. 2 or 3 lockers per side.

In spite of a very tight time frame we were able to undertake an inclusive consultation process. We would like to thank all involved for your valuable feedback and support including the Chief Officer, Regional Chiefs, District Officers and Career firefighters in all regions.



All the feedback we have received has been very positive including the following comments:

- *Visually appealing and very attention-getting*
- *Simple and easy-to-read messages, clean design (compared with 2004 design)*
- *Consistent with School Fire Education messages, will reinforce messages to families*
- *Focus on generic messages is appropriate, especially emphasis on 'working smoke alarms' rather than changing smoke alarm batteries*
- *Safety aspect - 3M reflective tape*

We also received some very useful constructive suggestions which have been incorporated into the final designs.

Once again thank you everyone for your valuable feedback and support.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions regarding the truck decals.



Our Experience - Bellingham fire "burn over"

By Bell Bay Brigade members, Third Officer Belinda Taylor,
Leading Firefighter Deb Smith and Firefighter Danny Johnson

The actual area in which the entrapment occurred

The following is a report by the three Bell Bay Brigade members who had responded to support Pipers Brook Brigade with a vegetation fire that was rapidly building up.

On 16th January 2008 at 1455 hours Bell Bay 5.1 along with our 3.1 unit responded to a large vegetation fire at Bellingham. The fire was extremely erratic in its behaviour with at least three wind directional changes during the first 5 hours. This caused the fire to burn around in a circle and eventually back towards its point of origin.

After being involved on the western side of the fire, we were directed to move further along the Bridport Highway in an easterly direction towards the Little Piper's River Bridge. We were tasked to follow up a dozer that was about to widen an existing track for a fire break. As we followed the dozer a small spot fire occurred on our left side of the track, Deb put this small spot out quickly with the hose reel. As we got back into the BB 5.1, Belinda heard a call on the UHF radio that the fire was bad out on the Bridport Highway. Then the dozer driver (via UHF) indicated that the fire was behind us. He had a better view of the immediate surroundings as he was in a high track dozer (up higher than us). As the OIC of the BB 5.1 unit, Belinda immediately asked the dozer driver to put in a fire break (cleared circle) around us. At that time we felt we had about 3 to 5 minutes before the fire would be on us.

Belinda reported our situation to Dalrymple 1 (our Incident Controller Don Mackrill) in DAL 7.1, that we were trapped and had no way out. Don advised us to look after each other, work together and keep communicating on the radio. Danny the BB 5.1 driver, placed the unit in the middle of the circle (cleared area). Belinda and Deb got out of the 5.1, Belinda set up the hose line and wet down the unit (and ourselves if required) while Deb got all the bottled water out of the rear locker and inside the cab of the unit and gave three bottles to the dozer driver who by this time had positioned his dozer alongside the 5.1 providing us with maximum protection from

the heat. This action certainly proved beneficial when the fire eventually hit us. We checked all of our PPE, did it up and got back into the cab. We closed the windows and air vents.

In no time there were spot fires all around us and the fire was burning in all directions. The heat from the fire was starting to become unbearable, the temperature was continually rising and the wind roaring increasing the amount of smoke which made us more uncomfortable. The flames and heat came up against the dozer, underneath it and then hit the 5.1 making the side of the vehicle very hot, surprisingly there was very little paint damage. Looking at each other (there's not much room with three in the front of a 5.1) we could see that our eyes were getting extremely blood shot and the heat made us feel like our blood was "boiling". We had to remove our helmets as they were getting too hot to touch.

At that point Belinda, again made contact with Dalrymple 1 (DAL 7.1) by VHF radio requesting support from the chopper, that was being used on the fire, "could it drop some water on, or near us to reduce the heat". Unfortunately contact could not be made with the chopper, we now know that it was refuelling at the time of our request.

The fire on the highway had built up, crossed the highway forcing DAL 7.1 to move further back down the highway (westerly direction) and away from our location. Don requested George Town 3, Ricky Hill, who was in the immediate proximity to maintain communications with us in BB 5.1. The continued communications certainly made us feel that others were with us during this experience.

As the fire subsided in our immediate area, we thought that we could move out towards the highway, but when we advised GT 3 that this was our plan, he advised us to "stay put" as the fire was still burning on the track closer to the highway. By this time we had drank all of our bottled water to help us keep our throats wet and to keep ourselves hydrated as we were wet through with perspiration. A short time later

the chopper passed overhead and again told us to remain where we were due to ongoing fire activity. After a short time and further communications with GT 3, with the assistance of the dozer we turned BB 5.1 around and started to head back to the highway. GT 3.1 met us at the junction of the track and highway. We can tell you we have never been so pleased to see the GT 3.1 waiting for us.

We moved further down the highway to find DAL 7.1 awaiting our arrival. After a few words with Don, he suggested that we stand down. Our response was "no way", but he did convince us to move back to the old Pipers Brook Station area for a rest, drink and some food. After a short rest, and with the adrenalin still running we returned to the fireground for further deployment. The total entrapment would have taken approximately 45 minutes from the time we were deployed onto the track.

Without a fear of a doubt, we believe our training played a big part in our survival, some of us had only just completed a "Respond to Wildfire" refresher on station within the past three months. In our opinion, the bottled water also played a big part in our personal survival, quenching our throats and keeping us cool.

So in conclusion, if we have one message to others regarding this occurrence, it is - work together, look after each other, remember your training and make sure when you leave the station, especially to a wildfire response no matter how rushed you are, make sure that you have plenty of bottled water on board your unit.

Five days after the incident when the crew returned to the scene to view the area again. The actual clearing made by the dozer is easily viewable - no doubt this is what provided them with the opportunity to survive the ordeal.



Leading Firefighter Deb Smith, Third Officer Belinda Taylor and Firefighter Danny Johnson - "please make sure you have drinking water on board"



Keeping calm, staying safe: the role of the firefighter in community safety

By Tom Lowe Research Officer Department of Sustainability and the Environment



The fire season started early for Hobart in 2006. Following one of the driest winters in Tasmania's recorded history, spring was dominated by high temperatures and hot, dry north westerly winds - weather normally associated with mid summer. In the days preceding the eastern shore bushfire, temperatures soared to 35 °C, winds reached 70 kph and humidity dipped as low as 4%. With the Fire Danger Rating approaching 120, conditions were similar to those leading up to the devastating Hobart bushfires of 1967.

Once started, the fire moved fast, breaching containment lines and rapidly consuming an ever greater area. The fire's predicted path would lead it into direct contact with an estimated 670 homes, a situation that would seriously stretch the available firefighting resources. While the Incident Management Team (IMT) attempted to contact threatened properties with warnings and advice, TFS used local radio to

urge residents in the affected areas to return to their homes and defend them against the fire.

People were so willing to defend their homes that traffic became congested as they poured back into the threatened areas. In the event, it seemed that residents' actions were an important factor in keeping losses low and allowing firefighters to move with the fire front. Despite the extreme bushfire conditions and scarce resources, no houses were lost and there was no significant structural damage apart from in more remote bush locations.

At the request of TFS, a group of researchers from the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre's 'Risk and Community Safety' group, surveyed and interviewed 50 householders that had been directly impacted by the October 12th bushfire. The results suggest that although the initial public



Tom Lowe Research Officer Department of Sustainability & the Environment

response to return home was strong, many residents weren't entirely sure as to what their next move would be.

Perhaps symptomatic of the influx of new residents to urban interface areas, most residents had no bushfire plan prior to the event and had received no advice¹ on how to protect themselves and their property during a bushfire. Over half of the residents suggested that their most likely plan would be to remain with their property until they considered the situation too dangerous or were advised to leave by police or fire personnel. As one researcher noted, '*Resident put wallet and keys in the car in case they had to get out*'. Disturbingly, recent research into the circumstances of all civilian bushfire deaths in Australia over the past 100 years² confirms this kind of late evacuation to be the deadliest option.

However, despite a lack of preparation or confidence that they could do what was needed to protect themselves and their homes, all of the residents interviewed stayed throughout the fire. It seems that, although the TFS crews did not actively assist most of the residents in the preparation and defence of their properties, and were themselves short of resources, residents found that the mere presence of the fire service increased their confidence and feeling of safety, with many finding that the positive and encouraging nature of the TFS crews made them feel they were doing the right thing.

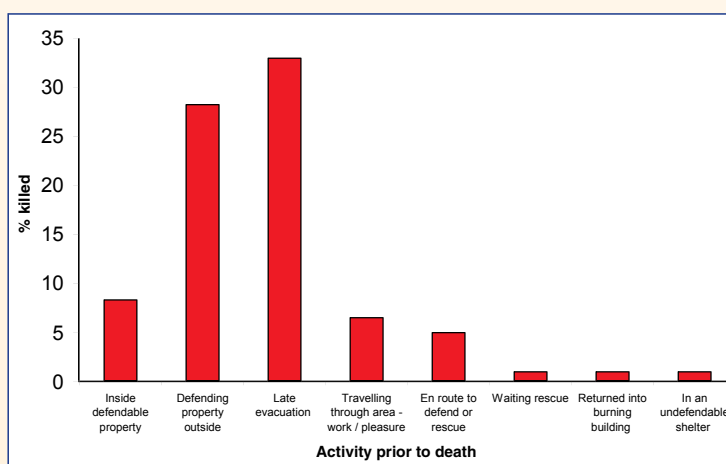
The information people received during the fire included advice to stay with their homes, details on how to defend their properties and maintain personal safety, how to use water effectively and information updates on the status of the fire. Of most value to the residents was the visual and personal interaction with firefighters.

Although this dependence is contrary to the intent of the AFAC position, i.e. '*... people planning to defend their properties must be prepared to be self sufficient*' (AFAC,

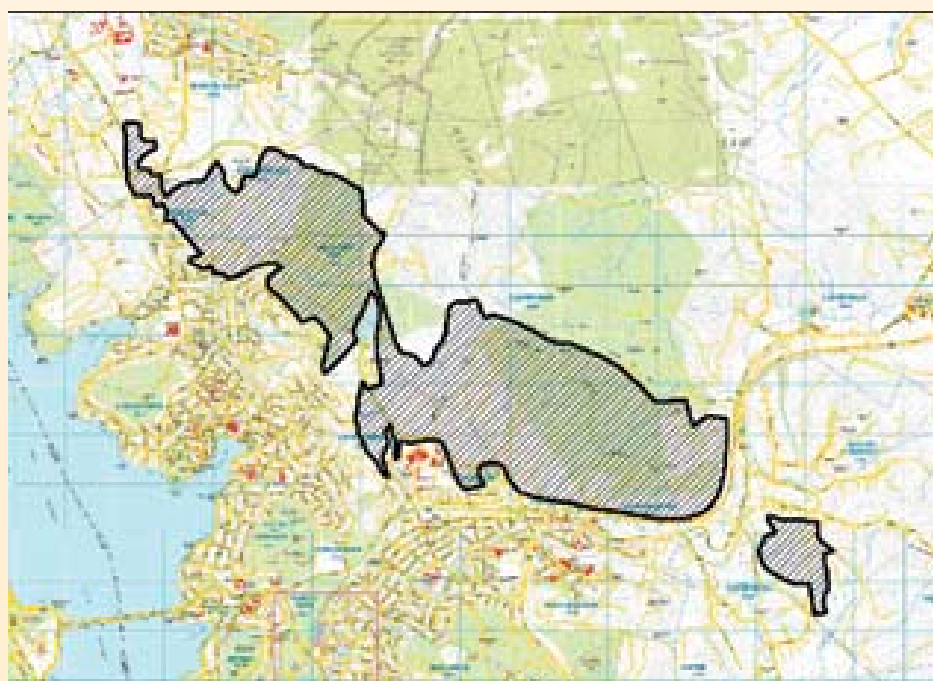
2005b, p. 5), it is well documented that many residents leave preparations to the last minute and continue to have high expectations of the assistance they will receive from emergency services during a major event.

At present, then, it may be unrealistic to expect the majority of people to maintain high levels of preparedness. This factor, combined with the reality of last minute preparedness actions, suggests that firefighters should be prepared to provide targeted support that encourages people to stay and defend (or, more importantly, not to evacuate at the last minute) by offering advice on quick preparations and safety information at a time when people are most receptive. Importantly, however, this should be viewed as an intermediate position in the transition towards a longer-term goal of community self-sufficiency.

- 1 The TFS's DVD *Bushfire: prepare to survive* was not distributed to at-risk homes until a few weeks after the eastern shore fire.
- 2 Haynes, K. and Tibbits, A. (2008) *An examination of bushfire fatalities in Australia*. Presentation at the Institute of Australian Geographers Conference, Hobart, June 30th - July 2nd, 2008.



Graph 1 Civilian bushfire deaths by activity. 1900 - Present. (Total fatalities used = 463). Source: Haynes and Tibbits (2008).



Greece is the word

By Deputy Regional Chief, Ken Burns

In November last year I was fortunate to be selected as part of an Australian Fire Assessment Team (AFAT) deployed to Greece in the aftermath of the devastating fires which beset the country during July and August of that year. In what was the worst fire season ever experienced in Greece, 76 people lost their lives, hundreds were injured, hundreds of properties destroyed and nearly 270,000 hectares of the landscape was burnt.

Australia and Greece have a long history of cooperation and cultural exchange. This is reflected in the large Greek-Australian population residing in Australia.

The Australian Government provided \$3 million in financial assistance to Greece and, in addition offered the expertise of an AFAT to identify lessons that can be learnt, based on similar Australian experience, as well as opportunities for future collaboration.

Greece (131,940 square kilometres) is about twice the size of Tasmania (68,332 square kilometres) but has a population of approximately 10.5 million people, about 21 times that of Tasmania's. The Greek or more correctly the Hellenic Fire Brigade operates 250 fire stations across the country and is staffed with 9,500 career firefighters who are complemented with a further 5,000 paid firefighters for the six month bushfire season between May and October each year.

Three issues emerged early in the deployment but were consistent throughout the visit:

1. The problems and experiences of the Greek community were very similar to those experienced in Australia. The rate of fire spread, difficulty in preparing the community and management of community information being typical of the issues confronted by Greek authorities.

2. The conditions were extreme, extended periods of severe fire weather which led to catastrophic conditions where experienced by Greece and neighbouring countries throughout most of July and August.
3. The fires would have challenged any firefighting agency in the world, conditions with temperatures in the low forties, winds in excess of 100 kph and single figure relative humidity whether in the northern or southern hemisphere for days on end would test the best of us.

AFAT identified many similarities and many differences in the way the two countries approach the issues of prevention/mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. The Hellenic Fire Brigade is an all hazards organisation which is well equipped and well prepared, conversely the level of preparedness within the community is generally very low and there is within the community a very high expectation on the fire service to protect them.

The management and distribution of accurate and timely information to people as to how to prepare, what to expect



Satellite imagery of fires - source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2007_Greek_forest_fires



Hellenic Fire Brigade 10,000 litre tanker pre positioned to provide static water supplies



Hellenic Fire Brigade Uni Mog Tanker specifically developed for mountainous terrain

and how to behave before and during a bushfire event is critical to community safety.

There were few public education strategies in place in Greece to deliver the types of messages that Australian communities have become accustomed to in relation to our Prepare Stay and Defend position. The Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council position on "Bushfires and Community Safety" is supported with some good research which clearly indicates the majority of people who perish in bushfires do so because they are caught in the open, often fleeing at the last minute. Many of the fatalities that occurred in Greece unfortunately reflected the research.

Similar to Tasmania, there is in Greece a demographic shift, urban sprawl is increasing with a subsequent increase in the interface and at the same time the population of rural areas is dwindling as younger people move to the cities leaving the elder population to manage the land. The subsequent effect of both of these trends is a change in land management practices which in turn is compounding many of the fire management issues.

The effect of climate change in the northern hemisphere is no different to what we are experiencing. Summers appear to be getting longer with more days of severe fire weather being experienced, heavy fuels are dryer and burn longer. People are landscaping their gardens with more drought tolerant species which by their nature are more flammable and the availability of surface water is diminishing. The Hellenic Fire Brigade has a fleet



One of 23 Canadair CL 415 aerial Tankers, just part of an extensive aerial firefighting armada



Typical Greek interface sprawling community just outside of Athens



Preparation, not oil wells but sprinklers established around the ancient site of Olympia to protect the precinct, unfortunately they were not as successful as it was hoped they would be

of 10,000 litre tankers which are pre-positioned during the summer to provide static water sources. Reflecting on that, I note that TFS has been making greater use of water tankers in recent years for the very same reason.

Whereas we in TFS usually adopt indirect attack strategies to manage bushfires, the Hellenic Fire Brigade favour direct attack. Their tactics are driven to a degree by the fuels, topography and a very high reliance on aerial firefighting resources. The Hellenic Fire Brigade has at their disposal an extensive armada of aircraft and helicopters, including 23 Canadair CL 415's.

Historically the Greeks have not had to contend with spotting, which has had an influence on their tactics, but this year for the first time many experienced firefighters observed significant spotting. It happens that a number of eucalypts have been planted in Greece in the last thirty to forty years and many of them now are reaching maturity and starting to shed bark, it may well be as this phenomenon increases the authorities will have to review their traditional tactics.

AFAT has provided an extensive report to the Attorney General's Department and made a number of recommendations with a view toward mitigating the consequences of such an event in the future.

During the course of my career I have been fortunate to represent the TFS both nationally and internationally and had the opportunity to observe many other firefighting organisations. Rest assured from my observations the TFS is a well equipped, well trained and well prepared organisation at the forefront of contemporary firefighting agencies.



A humbling experience, to walk across the ancient Olympic Stadium



23 people perished within 30 metres of this memorial to them



An olive grove, historically farmers used to plough under the trees. With fewer people working the farms the practise now is to slash under them



The vehicle in which some of those people perished

Obituary

Ian Mitchell

25 December 1941 - 9 June 2008



"Mitch", as he was affectionately called, joined Queenstown Brigade in March 1960 as a reservist and competed in the competition running side for many years, where he made many friends at demos which was evident at Ian's church service.

He became a firefighter in January 1963. Alongside his father, Mitch held many officer positions before becoming Brigade Chief for ten years and resigning to become an active member until his passing.

Mitch volunteered to assist at the East Coast fires on two occasions and once on the King Island fires.

Ian was the recipient of the National Medal with clasps, the TRVFA Medal, Life Member of Queenstown Brigade, and received the Australian Fire Service Medal of which he was justly proud.

Ian had 48 years and three and a half months membership with the Queenstown Brigade (a Brigade record) and 28 year's consecutive service with 100% attendance at weekly training nights.

Ian is survived by his wife Pat, son Trevor and daughter Shena.

R.I.P. "Mitch"

Halogen downlight safety

By Consultant Community Education Chris Tomes

Over the years there have been a number of fires in Australia related to recessed halogen downlights. Halogen downlights create a lot of heat and if they are not correctly installed and maintained they can cause a fire.

Safety tips

- Always use a licensed electrical contractor to install the halogen downlights and ensure the lights meet the current Australian Standards
- When downlights are installed, insist on the use of the best quality fittings and guards
- Halogen downlights require specific clearances near structural timber members such as roof, ceiling or floor beams
- Ensure the lights and transformer are not covered by ceiling insulation such as pulped paper, rock wool, fibreglass batts or polyester batts. The heat from the lights can cause surrounding combustible material to smoulder or ignite.
- When having renovations or work done to the home, ensure that new or existing ceiling insulation does not come in contact with the halogen downlights or transformers
- Newly installed insulation materials in ceiling and floor cavities should be checked for adequate clearance of a space, at least a hand span in width, around downlights and transformers
- Check and maintain the lights to prevent a build up of wind blown debris, such as dust and leaves, in the roof cavity near the downlights or transformers
- Vermin often like to nest within roof and floor cavities, as the halogen lights and ceiling insulation provide heat for nesting, regularly check for damage caused by vermin activity that could potentially cause a fire.

If in doubt, contact your local licensed electrical contractor or contact:

Office of Electricity Standards and Safety Phone: 1300 366 322 or visit www.wst.tas.gov.au or Aurora Energy Phone: 132004 or visit www.auroraenergy.com.au

Special thanks to Tony Millhouse Office of Electricity Standards and Safety for his assistance with this article.

CBR with TAS

By Station Officer Launceston Brigade, Al Williams

In the interest of maintaining our interagency response capability to CBR incidents in Northern Tasmania and beyond, a two day training session was conducted for another seven Tasmanian Ambulance Service (TAS) personnel in Launceston which will enable them to operate in the "Hot Zone" at CBR Incidents should the need arise.

The training covered many areas and involved an introduction to CBR, BA, all levels of PPC (Level A, B and C Chemical protective suits and respirators), decontamination methods and how zones are established at a hazardous materials event. Peter Mulholland from TAS also presented a session on administering Auto Injectors in the case of a nerve agent release.

As many of us are aware a CBR event is generally designed to cause mass casualties, as with any job of this nature it would be structured into three defined zones being the Hot, Warm and Cold zones with the Hot zone being the area of release of an agent or substance which may cause injury or death.

While the preferred approach is obviously to remove casualties from the hot zone and deliver them to the triage area prior to decontamination there are a number of circumstances that may require TAS personnel to suit up and enter the hot zone (as per the MOU).

Factors that would or may require TAS to enter the Hot zone include:

- Provide a triage capability to ensure patients are evacuated according to need
- Entrapment of patients in the Hot zone
- Inability to move/contain the Hot zone
- The need for the administration of auto injectors prior to casualty removal

It proved to be a productive and enjoyable couple of days where TAS personnel could determine through practical exercises any limitations they may have in inserting syringes or administering drugs into casualties and the difficulties of manhandling the casualties while dressed in the various levels of suits. Plenty of beneficial conversation and suggestions from both sides was to be had throughout the training and once again the opportunity

to train directly with other agencies is always good for interagency relations.

During one of the practical exercises on the second day we were surprised with an unexpected visit from the Minister for Health Lara Giddings who took the time to chat with the TAS personnel about the training being conducted but took no time at all in declining an invitation to try out one of the fully encapsulated suits.

Highlights - lunch on the first day - all the food you could eat! Turned out that the caterers gave us the promotion course lunches where we had food for 15 instead of 9.

Lowlights - they found out and took back the desserts before we could get to them as well as the sandwiches we had rejected, would have made for a nice afternoon tea. We had to bring our own lunches on the second day.

I would like to thank TAS attendees for their enthusiasm, Sheryl Griffiths for her assistance during the course, Aaron Parry for his efforts in keeping BA's up to our group as well as the promotion course crews, and C Shift for sparing anyone they could where possible - particularly Daniel Redpath and Mike Watkins in erecting the mass decontamination shower, great work in the rain.



Minister for Health Lara Giddings declined an invitation to try out one of the suits



New 'After the Fire' booklet

By Manager Community Education Sandra Barber and Consultant Chris Tomes

Community Education has re-designed the booklet 'After the Fire'. The booklet is designed to help householders in the hours and days after their home has been damaged or destroyed by fire. This is a stressful and traumatic event, and it is normal and common for people to have strong emotional reactions.

Being aware of these potential reactions has shaped the content and look of the booklet:

- We have not included images that may trigger emotional reactions, such as pictures of burnt houses, fire damage or firefighting;
- We have included a new section within the booklet called Your Well Being - Coping with a Stressful Event; and
- We have chosen positive images and soothing colours.

We have worked with designers to develop a look that we think should work. We have considered:

Front cover artwork. The image of hands forming a house is simple and optimistic (it symbolises rebuilding rather than loss). The top page of the cover incorporates the 'look' that appears on all other Community Education publications. When placed in a brochure stand the name of the booklet and the TFS logo are clearly visible.

Content is organised in a logical step by step manner:

Step 1 - Secure and protect your property

Step 2 - Your health and safety

Step 3 - Insurance

Step 4 - Leaving your home

Things to Do (checklist)

Step 5 - After the fire - salvage hints

Step 6 - Keeping a record

Your Well Being - Coping with a Stressful Event
(new section)

On the back of the booklet is a list of contacts that may assist families in their time of need.

An inclusive consultation process was undertaken. We would like to thank all involved for your valuable

feedback and support including: Regional Chiefs, District Officers, Career firefighters in all regions, RACT Insurance, CGU Insurance, and all the service agencies listed on the back contacts page.

We have endeavoured to incorporate all suggestions into the final design.

Once again thanks to everyone for your valuable feedback and support.

For further information or copies of the booklet please call Community Education on 6230 8485 or email communityed@fire.tas.gov.au Also available on the TFS website www.fire.tas.gov.au under publications



Fire Speak

By Acting Deputy Regional Chief South, Gavin Freeman



We have had many great characters in the TFS over the years and the nature of our business means we often think and speak under pressure resulting in some wonderful quotable quotes. We would like to make this a regular section in Fireground so if you have any gems please send them to g.freeman@fire.tas.gov.au. Remember if you are adding the name of the person making the quote you need to have their permission.

"We are going to do this drill in simulated darkness"
(Station Officer to his crew as he turns off the lights)

"It's not as windy in here as it is outside" (A firefighter's learned observations on the weather from inside the cab)

"This wouldn't be a bad place to live if it wasn't so hilly and wet" (A senior fire officer making an observation about the Huon Valley, maybe he should try the Sahara?)

"Yeah, a couple more blokes might be handy" (First responding officer -Jolly Swagman camping shop fire in Hobart when asked if he needed any back up to the fire that ended up being battled by 45 firefighters)

and finally the best quote for this edition *"No really, it is only fog"* (crew member on sighting the smoke from the South Hobart Cool Store Blaze - 6 days to extinguish and \$10M)

Female firies in the Derwent Valley

Out of the 40 New Norfolk Brigade operational firefighters, 7 are females as well as 2 female juniors and cadets- quite an impressive total!

One new member is Linda Merrick of Lachlan who advises that she joined because she lived on a small acreage and wanted to know what to do to protect it if a fire went through. "I have lived in the Derwent Valley for three years and wanted to put something back into the community" she said.

"You form very good friendships, and it becomes like an extended family, and you know everyone will support you. It is often thought to be a very male domain, but Brigade Chief Colin Triffitt and all the other firefighters are openly supportive. You don't need to be strong, or built like a man, we work to a buddy system and we are paired up accordingly. A lot of it is skill, like being a pump operator, but you don't need to be physically strong. It's fun and you learn a lot of new skills."

Brigade Chief Colin Triffitt, who has been a member since 1973, advised that the Brigade has always supported and had one or two female firefighters, but never as many as now, with the numbers really picking up over the past two to three years.



Junior Development Day

By Brigade Chief Old Beach Brigade, Dave McGuinness

On Saturday 19th April, junior firefighters from Gretna/Westerway, Claremont, Campania, Old Beach, New Norfolk, Margate/Sandfly, Upper Huon and Richmond brigades converged on Old Beach for the first, of what we hope will be many, Junior Development Days. There was a great deal of interest from other junior brigades, and my apologies go out to those brigades who wanted to join, but being the first day of this type, I wanted to keep the entries small, but hope to expand brigade numbers next year.

The day was focused on each crew member being given the opportunity to be crew leader, directing and supervising crews undertaking a series of tasks. From the feedback I received and what I observed, there is an excellent pool of potential junior firefighters who displayed a willingness to perform and will continue on into a career as an active volunteer or even a career firefighter.

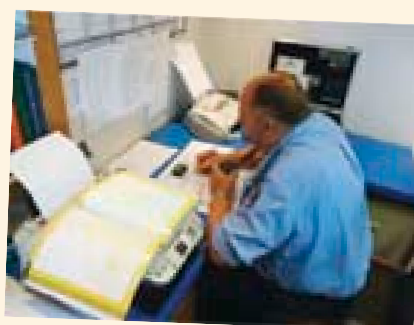
My thanks go out to all brigade trainers for their efforts in providing their time to train the juniors, and from the day's efforts it shows they are doing a great job. Thanks also to the ever reliable group officers Lyndsay Suhr (Derwent) and Colin Cunningham (Upper Derwent) for their assistance on and leading up to the day; Neil Brooksbank and Gerald Crawford from Capability and Planning HFB for provision of pumps, hoses etc; Steve Ransley and Anne King from the Old Beach Brigade for the excellent lunch, Midlands District for the donation of the shield and the many parents and spectators that attended to cheer on support their junior brigades.

Congratulations must go to Margate/Sandfly for their achievement in gaining first place on the day, followed closely by Campania for second place with third place going to Claremont and Upper Huon for a tie.

Looking forward to an even bigger and better event next year.



Group Officer
Lyndsay Suhr



Sandfly and Margate alliance for Junior Development

By Second Officer Sandfly Brigade, David Chopping

The Sandfly and Margate Juniors formed an alliance in June 2007 to compete in the TVFBA Competitions held at New Norfolk.

Both brigades only had a few junior members with Sandfly having 4 and Margate 5. The joint venture meant that training could be more involved and brought together close neighboring brigades. We have continued to train since then in an adhoc fashion but mainly every second Wednesday at Sandfly Station.

In February 2008 word came about a Junior Development Day to be held on 19 April 2008 in the Old Beach area. Would we attend? Could we develop the skills of our Juniors so they would be able to participate? The only possible answer for Sandfly/Margate was YES!

Each brigade entering the Development Day needed to provide and run an event and we chose a variation of the team-building task of bricks and planks that also included carrying over a hose and branch to extinguish a target, and dutch roll to finish.

The general guidelines were received for what the Development Day would entail. Training started: map reading, radio operation, first aid, hoses and branches, pumps, drafting and bringing it all together - team work. We practiced our event every chance we got!

The team attending the competition were Georga Brennan, John Lennard, Ben Chopping, Matthew Paynter and Jeremy Jacobs. With the guided adult assistance of Sandfly's Georgina Laing, David Chopping and John Brennan, and Margate's Jim Mulder and Anthony Atkins.

The day dawned, a calm mild sunny day. The start was a little delayed due to the complexity of setting up all the events. The Juniors were ready, nervous and excited, so were the leaders and supporters!

T cards handed in, the briefing was held and each team given co-ordinates for their first event - a total of nine to be completed.

Margate 4.1 provided transport with the very talented Anthony at the wheel. Map co-ordinates found and off went our team.

Many varied events from hose work to put out targets and 'move' a ball through gates, drafting, relay pumping, dutch rolling, first aid questions and tasks, item identification and general knowledge questions, bricks and plank task and the final one, a complex set up of a bucket of water inside a circle where the bucket needed to be removed without touching inside the rope. The juniors took some time to ponder their options and were strong in their resolve NOT to watch the cars doing drifts on the Baskerville course just behind them. They chose their method of attack and completed the task to gain bonus points for completing the task utilising all team members - that team work paid off! The team was absolutely thrilled with the day, and taking out first place, with a trophy just topped it off.

Congratulations go to Campania who came second, and to Claremont and Upper Huon who tied for third, as well as all of the other brigades who attended.

The team would also like to thank the organisers who had committed considerable time and effort in arranging it, and the Old Beach Brigade for hosting it. It was a great idea and it would be good to see it carry on again next year.





Mercure Hotel elevator rescue

By Senior Station Officer Stuart Males

Lift interior ceiling

On the evening of Sunday 11th May 2008, firefighters from HFB's "A" platoon faced a challenge unprecedented in HFB history.

Earlier on, only moments after commencing duty at 6.00 pm, two units from the Hobart Station responded to separate calls within the city area. One appliance had responded to an alarm call at Sandy Bay and the second to a smoke sighting from Church Street, North Hobart. This second call was confirmed en route by adjoining neighbours as a structure fire at a private school in Church Street and the smoke and flames were clearly visible as the appliance approached up Argyle Street. This fire alone was to tie up resources for the next two hours with crews and appliances from Hobart, Glenorchy and Clarence stations attending in some capacity during the early evening.

Just as a fire watch was being established at Church Street, with crews being released and returning to their respective stations FireComm received a 000 call to the Mercure Hotel in Bathurst Street Hobart advising that "something was on fire in a lift". Senior Station Officer Steve Walkley and crew responded from Hobart Station to attend, and as a two pump response is the norm for structure fires myself and crew responded as back up from the Church Street scene. En route to the Mercure I commented to the crew that this would most likely be a rubbish bin fire or similar as we had already attended an alarm call at the premises some 16 hours earlier at 4 am which was due to some non-stop partying being undertaken by a group of sailors from the visiting USS Tarawa. How wrong I was!

Upon arrival a full evacuation of the premises was underway. With the US Navy visiting over the weekend, the Mercure had a 100% room occupancy rate and guests continued to exit the upper floors and restaurant areas for some minutes. As I entered the hotel lobby I met up with SSO Walkley, the first arriving officer who was at the alarm panel faced with



Exterior view with doors removed

additional circuits operating even as he acknowledged the first. FireComm advised that a DBA call from the hotel had been received approximately one minute after the 000 call. As SSO Walkley checked the panel for information, I noted that two guest elevators were stationary with doors open onto the mezzanine adjacent to the panel, with no evidence of anything on fire, although a very faint smoke haze was visible throughout the ground floor. This was later discovered to be smoke that could not be evacuated from a wood fired pizza oven in the restaurant due to the flue fan shutting down when the alarm panel activation tripped the air conditioning systems.

At this time, we had multiple circuits activating on the panel, smoke reported on the upper floors and two stationary guest lifts. Initial thoughts were that there was a problem in the lift motor room.

Following a short period deliberating an action plan, a staff member approached one of the firefighters present and advised that a room service waiter was in fact trapped in a service lift quite separate from the two guest lifts and the lift car itself was burning.

With this additional information to hand the situation now became even more urgent.

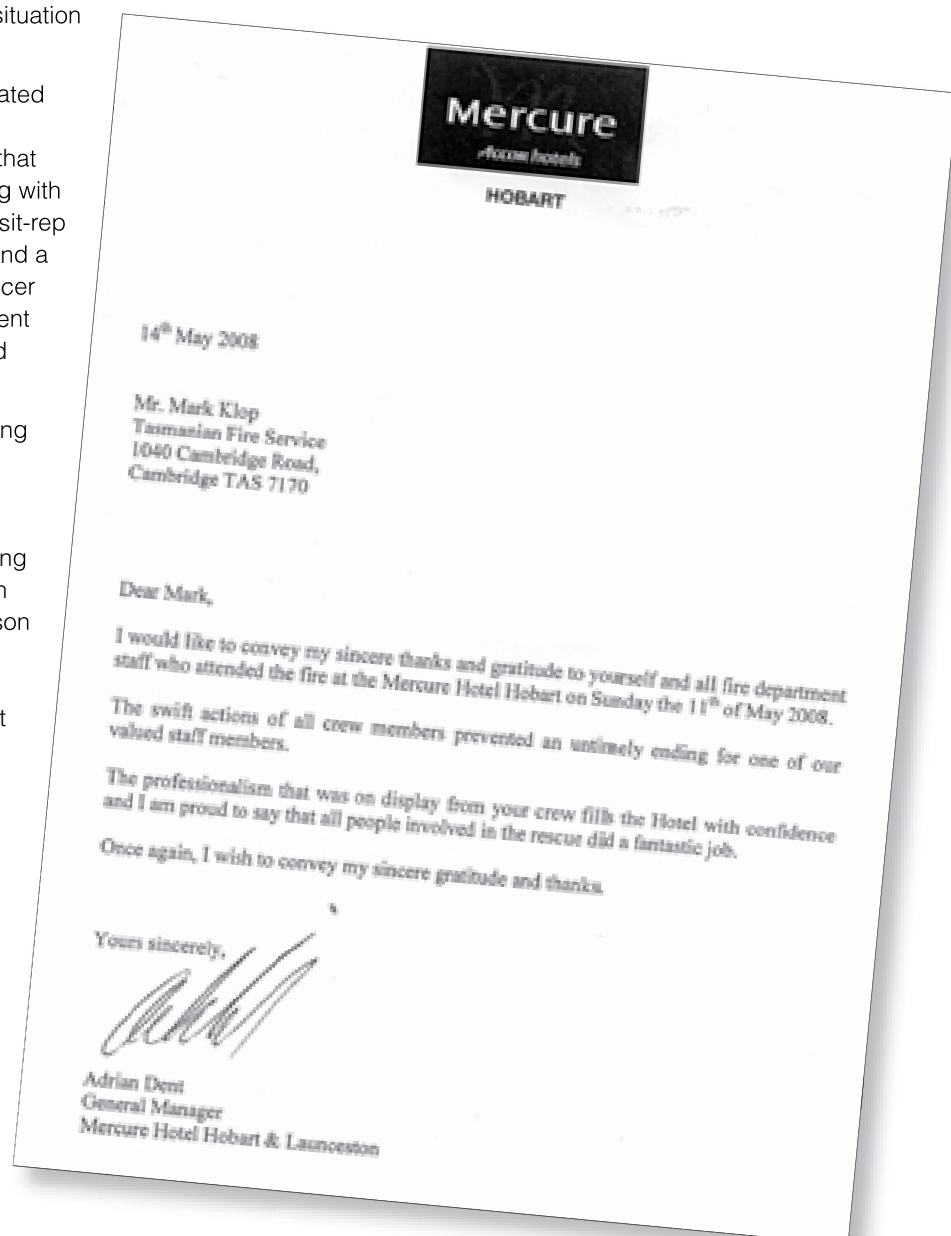
The lift shaft for the service elevator was located and communication with the occupant was established verifying in no uncertain terms, that the lift car was burning; the interior was filling with smoke and becoming uncomfortably hot. A sit-rep back to FireComm advised of the situation and a request for additional resources. District Officer attendance was also requested as the incident was 'ramped up' and the Incident Command Structure implemented.

District Officer Jeremy Smith, whose rear living room windows face the Mercure Hotel some 500 metres away, was quickly on the scene and after a brief situation report formally assumed the role of Incident Controller, setting up an IC point in the forecourt of the hotel on Bathurst Street and commencing formal liaison with hotel management, Tasmania Police, Tasmanian Ambulance Service and media. DO Smith requested further regional support and over the next few hours DO's Gavin Freeman, Greg Butters, Paul Salter, Hugh Jones and Jeff Knight provided operational, planning and logistics assistance.

Upon arrival of a Clarence and Glenorchy crews as well as the Hobart rescue unit the scene was split into three distinct sectors. SSO Walkley assumed command of the ground floor sector which undertook the forced opening of the elevator doors utilising Holmatro Road Accident Rescue tools. Once this was achieved, the elevator was identified some 20 to 30 metres above with flame and smoke

quite visible. A water stream from a high pressure hose reel was used to extinguish any visible flame as well as allowing water into the interior of the car via a rear set of doors that the occupant had forced open in an attempt to escape his entrapment.

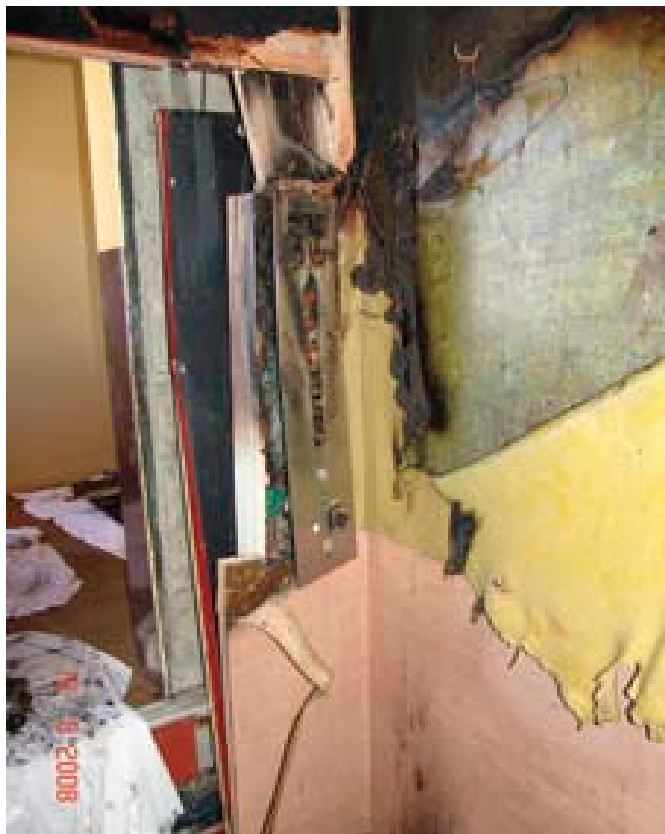
SO David Collins took command of the 5th floor sector and directed crews to force the lift doors, firstly on the 5th floor followed by the 4th once it was discovered that the bottom of the car had halted some half metre below the 4th floor landing. Although using similar techniques and tools as the ground floor crews, due to the age and construction of the lift doors this sector initially made little impact on accessing the lift car. As conditions on these two floors continued to rapidly deteriorated with heavy smoke logging, restricted visibility combined with the noise of the rescue tools they continued to persevere, adapting their efforts as required until finally the doors were forced open sufficiently to allow the trapped occupant to crawl under the buckled door and out onto the landing where he was assisted to the fire isolated stairwell where paramedics treated and transported him to hospital some 49 minutes after the initial 000 call.



SO Craig Chivers, during the operation managed the BA sector, the ongoing secondary search of all rooms within the hotel complex, rotation and relief of fatigued crews, the coordination of equipment transport such as breathing apparatus, hose, quick cut saws and hydraulic rescue tools by hand up and down the five hotel floors.

Ultimately the successful rescue of the trapped employee was a whole of brigade effort. An incident of this nature is very consuming of equipment and personnel. The successful outcome was attributable to many aspects on the night of the fire: the skilled fire/rescue operators with the recently equipped RAR hydraulic tools were able to overcome some extremely testing lift door hardware whilst working in heat and smoke; the high degree of physical fitness which had been required by crews that supplied all equipment on the upper floors by running up and down the fire escape stairway; the timing of the incident occurring at the conclusion of a separate structure fire allowing a full response; an effective command structure that upgraded and downgraded as required; and the willingness of the volunteer brigades from Mount Nelson, Cambridge, Bridgewater, Rokeby and Claremont in providing logistics support or attending their stations to maintain continued fire protection to the greater Hobart area allowed efforts at the Mercure to be focussed solely on the rescue, fire suppression and business continuity of the hotel.

By midnight that night other than the 4th and 5th floors, the Mercure Hotel was functioning again and by close of business the day after, investigations were complete, floors 4 and 5 had been cleaned and refurbished and the hotel 100% operational.



Lift interior showing area of origin behind switch panel

Fire Investigator's report

By Senior Fire Investigation Officer Southern Region, Mark Klop

I attended a fire in a lift car at the Mercure Hotel, 156 Bathurst Street, Hobart to determine the origin and cause of the fire.

A hotel employee who was attending to a hotel guest on the fifth floor entered the service lift on that floor and pushed the level one button. When the button was pushed the employee noticed that the lights flashed and what appeared to be sparks behind the buttons on the control panel of the lift. Shortly after this the lift stopped and the lights within the lift went out. The hotel employee used his mobile phone and called another employee of the hotel to inform them of the problem. The other hotel employee called the fire brigade on 000 and informed FireComm there was a fire and that there was a person trapped in a lift in the hotel. Whilst this was happening within the lift car, the fire and smoke intensified and the heat started to build.

The TFS arrived and was able to free the lift car occupant using portable cutting equipment normally utilised in removing trapped persons from vehicles in accidents. This process encountered major problems due to the construction of the lift car and the foyer doors leading to the lift well. Inspection of the lift car revealed that the most fire damage was contained to the control panel and the surrounding timber cladding. The ceiling of the lift car had also sustained severe heat damage and the vinyl cladding on the internal walls of the lift car had started to peel away from the walls at ceiling height.

The control panel was then inspected by Aurora Energy Inspector Damien Grubb and myself. A "V" pattern was evident from the ground and first floor control buttons leading up and out away from the remaining floor buttons above. These buttons were severely damaged by fire. The wiring and other remaining components within the control panel were also inspected; these components were severely damaged by fire. The remains of the control buttons were removed and inspected, this inspection revealed that all but one of the control buttons and switch components were intact and did not show any signs of failure or electrical arcing.

The remaining control button and switch components which were identified as being the remains of the first floor control button/switch showed signs of failure within the component that retains the light globe in the switch. This component showed signs of electrical arcing which may have failed due to wear of the bi-metal contact strip that had broken away from its location within the switch. The bi-metal contact strip had shorted causing the electrical arcing and subsequent fire within the control panel.

With all other ignition sources eliminated as a possible cause of the fire and the verbal information given by the hotel employee, it was determined that the fire within the lift car had originated within the electrical components of the first floor switch. The electrical arcing had in turn caused the cloth covered wires and other combustibles within the rear of the control panel to catch fire.

As a result of this fire investigation a national investigation into the control buttons of all lifts with Australia has been instigated and all interstate authorities and organisations associated with the lift industry have been notified of the incident.

Winter BBQ and Social Night for New Norfolk Brigade

On Friday night 18th July 2008 New Norfolk Brigade held its annual Social Night for members and their families. A great night was had by everyone including the kids who enjoyed playing pool and getting familiar with the fire trucks. Most of the kids had not been to the station before so there was plenty of excitement!

Some highlights of the night were:

- Two long Service badges were presented to Mark Lusted and Robert Jones.

On station awards were given out to:

- Peter Brazendale for 'The Wash of the Year' (Junior Car Wash fundraiser, hosing the washers);
- Neville Rushworth for 'RSPCA Award' (rescue of kangaroo hit by firetruck);
- Mark Lusted for 'Bravery Award' (jumped into Great Dane's mouth and escaped unharmed, while crew abandoned him to safety of truck).

8 ball Calcutta shark Alan Gittus (champion for 5 years in a row) was ceremoniously rolled by Shane Tassell who did a nice victory dance!), and to top it all off he won the lucky door prize \$50 and a bottle of red. He'll be back next year no doubt.

Donations on the night are going towards purchasing our defibrillator so we are getting closer!

Many new members and their families gave the night the thumbs up, having had a great time to the wee hours of the morning and now waiting anxiously for the Christmas party!



Peter Brazendale and Neville Rushworth - Neville is receiving the Station's RSPCA award for his efforts in rescuing an injured kangaroo and taking it to the vet



Colin Triffitt and Peter Brazendale - Peter is receiving an award in recognition of his efforts in drenching the juniors during their carwash fundraiser

4 x 4 Competition

By Cadet New Norfolk Brigade, Tennille Pilgrim

During June 2008 New Norfolk firefighters and cadets, along with a number of other brigades, participated in the Midlands District Field Day Competition hosted by Magra Fire Station.

At the start of the day each brigade was given a sheet listing a number of grid references. At each grid reference there was a task to be completed, each task was fun and some more than others.

To me the day was not only fun but a great learning experience and a enormous benefit to our training. With a few

tasks I found that I had to trust my crew more than I thought I already did or could! Overall the day was challenging but we got through it mud and all. I'm sure everyone gained a lot of experience and improved on their talents.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Magra Brigade for such a well organised day, also to Brigade Chief Colin Triffitt for giving me the opportunity to attend.



South West District fire trails maintenance and rehabilitation project - Snug Tiers Road to Blue Gate Road

By Acting Field Officer South West District, William Coad

The Snug Tiers Fire Trails maintenance program was the creation of numerous meetings, involving local volunteer brigades, landowners and the District Officers at South West District which identified the need for easier access to this remote area. Over a period of 4 weeks the managed budget was approximately \$25000 for the project, with the purchasing of equipment and their installation, liaised and supervised private contractors that were employed on the project and mediated with landowners to achieve an amicable outcome for all parties involved. The trail encompassed varying types of terrain from stream crossings to steep rocky terrain. With the assistance of experienced machine operators and my experience in this field, the track was constructed to a standard for TFS vehicles to traverse along its entirety safely.

The important outcome, of this project was to reduce the time to reach remote points in this local area, which were only accessible by public roads. These roads in question are the ones where the new track now intersects with them.

Rather than having to drive from the top of Snug Tiers Road, down to the township of Margate and then navigate up Van Morey Road, which is the nearest entry point to the intersection of Old Bernie's Road - New Track Intersection, which takes approximately 35 minutes, it now takes approximately 10 minutes by travelling along the new track. The time saving is significant and in the majority of incidents can reduce the response time by 30 minutes to 40 minutes.



Introduce a maintenance schedule to upgrade these trails for easier and safer access by the local volunteer and career brigades during wildfire operations and easier access to remote areas in this local area.



Access Gate at the junction of Van Morey Road and Track Boom Gate which allows access north to Old Bernies Road.

To plot and identify important locations as the trail works its way from Snug Tiers Road to North of Blue Gate Road where it ends. The locations identified would be locked boundary gates, water points, where trails intersect with public roads and safety zones. This information will give the local brigades a much faster and pro active response to wild fires in these remote locations and also assist career personnel with relevant information when assisting these brigades.



This is one of many water points located along the newly constructed access track. These points have been logged onto maps and these maps given to the relevant brigades for them to refer to for the location of these water points, boundary gates and safety zones.

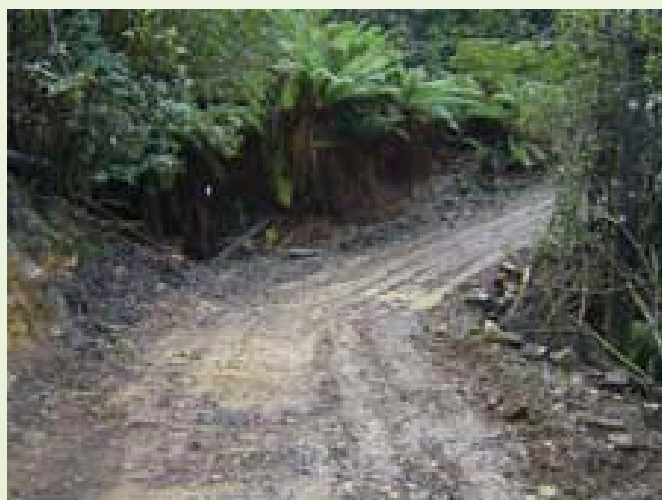
The installation of boundary gates, where the trails crossed over boundary lines, an initiative was undertaken to give security back to the landowners over their property and at the same time give the TFS access through their land. This was a way to reduce the time required for the TFS to respond to these same areas by public roads.



This is one of three boundary gates that were installed as work was being undertaken along the constructed track. These gates are secured with heavy duty chain and have been locked with a TFS lock, which the local brigade has a key and South West District personnel also having a master key to allow access. The owners of the adjoining properties were supplied a lock each so they too would be able to utilise and access this trail.

The upgrade commenced on 23rd June with the employment of "O'Donnell Contracting" who supplied and operated a 5.5 tonne excavator. The tracks were cleared of fallen debris, graded to a satisfactory standard and in places excavated to reduce side slope. Water crossings were improved by the placement of large rocks to act as foundations to prevent erosion from free flowing streams. Large pipes were also installed where gullies intersected the track to prevent further track erosion and reduce hazardous deviations. The gates were placed on owners' boundaries with a TFS lock and the land owner's lock so access was available to both parties all year round.

The work was completed on 2nd July with positive feedback from all parties involved. The plotted track has been transferred onto maps that have been placed on local volunteer appliances for a quick and accurate location of this trail and relevant information along its entirety.



Wynyard Brigade chips in

By Brigade Chief Wynyard Brigade, Bruce Corbett

Members of the Wynyard Brigade recently undertook a project to build a large barbecue shelter for the 13 residents of Cape Country Accommodation, a St Vincent de Paul project.

The Manager, Sharon Latham, said the residents are all people with intellectual disabilities, with most of them working at Vincent Industries. They live independently with minimal support. There is also a training unit attached to the manager's residence.

The shelter will provide a much needed facility to enable residents and their families to mix in a social environment all year round, which is something Mrs Latham has tried to promote since taking over the manager's job.

The project was organised by Wynyard firefighter Athol McNeair, whose daughter Sharon lives in one of the units, and was managed by Jarrod Wade with the assistance of Brian Randall who are both builders.

The building work took place over several weekend working bees and the workers enjoyed delicious morning and afternoon teas and lunches provided by the residents and committee.

The project was originally kicked off by a \$3,000 grant from the Ross Divet Foundation. Ross was the Deputy CEO of Centrelink when it was first established in 1997. In 2001 he died of an asbestos related cancer. Ross was a strong believer in community strength and public service values and was respected for his honesty, integrity and determination. The foundation is an avenue by which Centrelink staff and others can honour his memory by contributing to relevant community and charitable programs.

Word spread in the community. Two mothers of residents were chatting at their weight watchers group and another member later told her husband, a Lodge member, of the project. To the delight of the residents and the fire brigade, further funds were provided. Wynyard Weight Control Club donated \$200 and the North West Coast Masonic Lodge sent a cheque for \$3,000. It is hoped the project will be completed for a total cost of



Residents of Cape Country Accommodation with the members of the brigade in front of the partially completed shelter



The almost completed project with Firefighters Brian Randall, Jarrod Wade and Athol McNeair who were responsible for the project

around \$6,500. This will also include heavy duty tinted plastic roller blinds, shade sails, lighting and seating.

If everything goes to plan the building will be completed by late September in time for summer activities.

Calendar of events

TFBCA State Competitions

Saturday 8 November 2008

Byard Park, Devonport

North West 38th Regional Competitions

Hosted by Kimberley and Railton Brigades

Sunday 12 October 2008

Goliath Park, Crockers Street, Railton

All welcome - come along and support your team!

New Juvenile Firelighter Intervention Program (JFLIP) brochure

By Manager Community Education Sandra Barber and Consultant Chris Tomes

Community Education has re-designed the JFLIP brochure. We have worked with designers to develop a look that we think should work. We have considered:

Front cover artwork - includes dynamic and attention-getting colours and designs, with images of children and families. The top page of the cover incorporates the 'look' that appears on all other Community Education publications. When placed in a brochure stand the name of the booklet and the TFS logo are clearly visible.

Content - is organised in a logical step by step manner:

- Why do children light fires?
- What can you do?
- Who is JFLIP for?
- Does it work?
- What happens in the program?
- What is JFLIP?
- How can I enrol my child in the program?

A thorough consultation process was undertaken with JFLIP practitioners throughout Tasmania. We would like to thank all involved for your valuable feedback and support. We have endeavoured to incorporate all suggestions into the final design.

For further information or copies of the booklet please call Community Education on 6230 8485 or email communityed@fire.tas.gov.au Also available on the TFS website www.fire.tas.gov.au under publications.

Community Education will be mailing copies of the new brochure to identified organisations, including schools, Tasmania Police, child care centres and Community Health Centres. A new JFLIP webpage is also under development. It will provide parents and service providers with additional information about the program.

New JFLIP free call number - 1800 182 341

This is a dedicated JFLIP number only. All calls are directed to Community Education where we endeavour to answer in a timely manner.

If not answered the call is diverted to a dedicated JFLIP-only answering machine where we once again endeavour to call back in a timely manner.



Annual Leading Firefighter assessment block

By Leading Firefighter Launceston Brigade, Ben Wilson

The annual Leading Firefighter assessment block for career staff was conducted at Youngtown between 7th and 10th July.

This year, five candidates, all from Launceston, having completed up to two years of studies, qualified to attend. An interesting fact is that they all did their respective recruit courses in 2000.

Promotion to Leading Firefighter in the career structure provides more opportunities for you within the organisation. Operationally it also allows you to act as a Station Officer if required.

The assessment block required the candidates to show competence in the following:

- Single pumper response incident
- Two pumper response incident
- Conduct two drills
- Bushfire table top exercise
- Challenge Test/Interview
- Daily station administration duties

The block was certainly a challenge for all of the candidates, with a few sleepless nights involved over the duration of the block.

At the end of the block Senior Firefighters Greg Hynes and Ben Wilson were successful in achieving a satisfactory result and consequently promoted to the rank of Leading Firefighter by Regional Chief North Andrew Comer at a dual function held at LFB with both respective shift colleagues in attendance. Thanks again to all involved who assisted in making the block run as smooth as possible for the candidates.



Leading Firefighter Ben Wilson (centre) with Regional Chief Andrew Comer and District Officer Danny Richardson



Leading Firefighter Greg Hynes (centre) with Regional Chief Andrew Comer and District Officer Danny Richardson

Introducing Mike Strange

I'm Mike Strange, and I started work with the TFS in June.

I've been involved with purchasing and stores for approximately 25 years. I worked at the Royal Derwent Hospital for approximately 8 years in various warehousing and procurement rolls and then transferred to Risdon Prison where I worked in their store and custodial roles for a further 8 years. After that I spent 3 years at the Port Arthur Historical Site as Warehousing and Purchasing Officer.

My wife Donna and I live at Dodges Ferry and we are owner / builders of our home. I have a keen interest in outdoor activities especially cycling. Being the romantic I am, on Valentines Day I took my wife cycling from Kellevie through the Wielangta Forest to Orford. Some 6 hours and 15 minutes later we reached our destination. My wife informs me that she's going to decide how to celebrate next Valentines Day, although I don't see what her problem is.

In summer time I like to take a more relaxing pace by kayaking around Primrose Sands and Dunalley.



Where is my Sector Commander?

By Station Officer Launceston Brigade, Heath Bracey

Over the past three fire seasons I have been given the opportunity to work at several campaign fires as a Sector Commander, Divisional Commander and Safety Advisor. There have been many occasions when I've pulled up in my shiny red ute and read the lips of our firefighters and those of other agencies - "who the hell is this bloke".

The TFS vehicles used at campaign fires for command vehicles are usually very similar, red ones. This was the case at a recent fire in the north where four Toyota Hilux's were on the fireground at the same time, the vehicles were identical other than district/division names on the doors. Not only does this make it difficult for crews on the ground to know what command role that vehicle has been assigned but it is impossible from the air to identify command vehicles.

The TFS is currently trialling a form of identification signage for command vehicles to complement current Incident Control System tabards before next fire season. The final outcome must result in signage that is easily transferable from vehicle to vehicle and include identification of Sector Commander, Divisional Commander, Safety Advisor and Operations Officer that is clearly visible to both the troops on the ground and from the air.

There will be no question about what role the person in each command vehicle has been assigned to complete and allow instant identification both within and across agencies which in the past has sometimes relied on a familiar face or voice from a previous fire. The simple presence of a vehicle with the word Safety Advisor on its side prompts crews to continually think about PPC and OH&S issues. The signage will help crews recognise the officer responsible for their tasking, welfare and safety and the chain of command in place at that fire. This will make it much easier for all of us on the fireground at the next job!



Australasian Road Rescue Challenge 2008



By Station Officer Hobart Brigade, Steve Percival

At the age of seventeen I was involved in a single motor vehicle accident on Gordons Hill Road Lindisfarne. The station wagon I was driving ended wedged between a bank and a telegraph pole. My memory of the accident ceased some minutes before impact and I was only awoken by an incredibly loud noise and sparks, this was to be the Tasmanian Ambulance Road Rescue crew cutting the roof of the car in half to try and get me out.

That was 30 years ago and it is still predominantly young people that are getting into difficult situations behind the wheel of ever increasing powerful vehicles. The car I was driving was an EH Holden. Safety systems such as air bags, seat belt pretensioners, roll over protection, safety cells, crumple zones and stronger steel were still many years into the future. These safety features make today's cars safer for the occupants but add to the complexity and hazards for the rescue crew.

The Australasian Road Rescue Organisation (ARRO) conducts an annual skills challenge in which representatives from all agencies involved in road rescue response in Australia and New Zealand come together to learn, exchange ideas and participate in the spirit of friendship.

This year the challenge was held on the Gold Coast and for the first time the TFS sent a representative team to compete, the team of Crew Leader David Collins (Didge); Technical Crew Adrian Petrie (Ace), David Conceicao (Couta), Craig Mackinnon (Whiskers), Simon Pilkington (Pilkyl); and

paramedic from Tasmanian Ambulance Service Kevin Daly (Kev) competed against 22 teams from SES, Mines Rescue and Rural and Urban Fire Services from within Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia and Hong Kong.

The TFS team was from "A" shift Hobart Brigade and had been regularly training three to four hours each first day shift for twelve weeks leading up to the competitions.

The Challenge is based on three scenarios over three days, each team's crew leader and paramedic have an assessor scoring them on technical aspects and another assessor for the crew.

The aim is to effectively get the mannequin or live patient out of the vehicle in a set time using a variety of recognised extrication and disentanglement methods. The vehicle can



present on its wheels, roof or side and the added props like telegraph poles, traffic lights, concrete blocks other cars, guard rails and motorcycles all add to the complexity of each scenario. The three scenarios were:

- Immediate 15 minutes, live time critical casualty encapsulated in vehicle unresponsive and not manageable in car;
- Controlled 25 minutes, live conscious casualty with significant injuries encapsulated in car;
- Entrapped 30 minutes, mannequin (simulated live) severe entrapment by car.

Each team is given 10 minutes in the equipment pit to choose between Lukas and Holmatro hydraulic tools and set up the pit as required. They are then taken to a secure room while the scenario is set, the first they see of their accident scenario is while walking into the action circle - the clock is started upon entry.

The event's major sponsor is Holden who provided the majority of the 80 vehicles with a street value of about three million dollars. The cars come from Holden's Victorian testing ground which evaluates prototype, pre-production and current production vehicles on the proving ground's varied road system - some of these cars had less than 100 kilometres on them.

Additional to the scenarios was a learning symposium which was held on the first day, this year's guests spoke on the latest patient care and extrication methods and heavy vehicle accidents. This was followed by an afternoon of heavy vehicle training, two scenarios were concurrently run and we had the opportunity for two of our team to participate.

With only eighteen months of operational exposure to RAR the team had a very satisfying result of 9th overall. The team had a blend of experience and youth with Didge 20 years service, Ace 10, Pilky 5, Couta 2 and Whiskers just over 18 months.

The team was pumped for the last day's event and from the onset the guys showed enthusiasm and urgency that obviously impressed the judges. It was not until the presentations that evening when the boys from Tassie were called up on stage to receive individual and team plaques for achieving third place for the last event.

There was some light hearted rivalry between us and the Cairns team which Ian (Ernie) Fulton ex HFB was a member. Ernie still gets his copy of Fireground so well done on your team's effort, Cairns also had a third place and we just nudged them out of the top ten.

There was plenty of pressure and stress but many good laughs, Pilky received the BOB award (Best on Board) from the Virgin flight attendants on the way up - BOB is for the best eye candy on a flight. Pilky was chosen by a male flight attendant.

The team did an ARRO interview and were told by the crew that they had been voted the best buffed team by the ladies at the comps. This is just another one of the many dangers that fires face every day. There are many more memorable stories but these will be recalled over a few beers.

Thanks must go to the Huonville SES team that supported us throughout the event and in particular their crew leader Mark Dance who gave his time to assist us with our training. Mark has competed for the last two years and this year was the overall best team leader.

Thanks to Garry Muldoon for his sponsorship that helped us look like a team, Adrian Petrie for our T shirts and kit bags which were a favourite with the others, to Paul Salter and Gavin Freeman who helped with logistical support and a special thank you to Kevin Daly our paramedic whose knowledge and skills helped raise our scores to keep us competitive.

Station Officer Steve Percival,
Crew Leader David Collins
(Didge), Tas Ambulance
Paramedic Kevin Daly
(Kev), Technical Crew Craig
Mackinnon (Whiskers),
David Conceicao (Couta),
Simon Pilkington (Pilky) and
Adrian Petrie (Ace)



Building work in progress

By Regional Chief Andrew Comer

The St Marys community has spent the last month watching progress on the new Fire and Emergency Service complex being constructed in the main street of the town by Innis Tasmania.

The building which will house TFS, SES and TAS personnel and equipment is quickly taking shape and the Tasmanian Government held a media launch at the site on 8th August, hosted by Hon. David Llewellyn, to draw attention to the facility itself and also the co-operation of all three Emergency Services and Break O Day Council in having the foresight and commitment to build the centre.

Volunteers from SES, TAS and TFS have been involved throughout the project and there is a growing sense of achievement amongst the membership as the bricks and framework finally work their way skyward.

The building will essentially be a six bay "station" with office space and storage for each agency along with a modern kitchen and training room that will cater for the needs of all three partners. It is a significant improvement on current facilities and has the added benefit of being able to be made available for community use where needed.

The official opening will take place later in the year.



The old (current) St Marys station



Group Officer Gerald Aulich, Minister David Llewellyn and Acting Chief Officer Mike Brown

National Medal presentations at Launceston

By District Officer Launceston Brigade, Mark Dobson

Deputy Chief Officer Mike Brown was welcomed to the Launceston Station on 26th June by 60 career and volunteer staff and their families for a National Medal and TFS Long Service Award function. Regional Chief Andrew Comer and Deputy Regional Chief Ken Burns also attended the presentation evening along with District Officer Mark Dobson who undertook the role of Master of Ceremonies.

National Medals were presented to Station Officers Peter Flett, Ian Bounds and Dale Lapham, Leading Firefighter Matthew Grant and Ravenswood Second Officer Anthony Beckett.

30 year long service awards were presented to District Officer Mark Dobson, Senior Station Officer Robert Featherstone and Senior Firefighters Greg Atkins and Greg

Homan. A 25 year award was presented to Senior Firefighter Darren Cook.

15 year award recipients were Station Officer Dale Lapham and Leading Firefighter Matthew Grant and, 10 year awards were presented to Senior Firefighter Belinda Harvey, Rocherlea First Officer Colin Buller and Volunteer Leading Firefighter Michael Ling along with Ravenswood Second Officer Anthony Beckett and Volunteer Firefighter Chris Payne.

A great night was had by all and as tradition would have it, the formal part of the evening was followed by a light supper and 'refreshments'! Congratulations to all staff and volunteers who were presented with awards.

Public Sector Management Program graduation

On 25th July at a ceremony held at Parliament House, Senior Station Officer Rod Sherrin and District Officer Jeff Harper received their graduation certificates in Public Sector Management (PSM).

Rod and Jeff were amongst twenty seven other graduates from a variety of government agencies who were acknowledged by the Acting Premier Lara Giddings on their achievements and contributions to the State.

Acting Chief Officer Mike Brown and Regional Chief Officer Andrew Comer were also in attendance.

The PSM Program is a unique national management program. A joint venture between Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments, the PSM program is a national strategy to deliver first-class public sector management training.

The program provides the skills to successfully administer financial management, human resource management, team management, knowledge management, project management and their interactions.

Industry controlled and focused, the program combines tertiary study with experiential learning. It focuses on the strategic direction for the public sector, an integrated view of business planning and public accountability and the ability to lead. Common themes include accountability, ethics and relationship management.

Upon completion of the program, participants are awarded a tertiary post-graduate qualification at the Graduate Certificate level from one of four leading Australian universities. The program can also provide credit or advanced standing into further post-graduate programs at the Graduate Diploma, Masters (Honours) and Doctorate level. The program equips



District Officer Jeff Harper, Regional Chief Andrew Comer, Acting Chief Officer Mike Brown and Senior Station Officer Rod Sherrin

middle to senior managers to meet contemporary and future challenges within their organisations.

The completion of the program involved the submission of a work based project. Rod's project was based on a federally funded CBR decontamination unit and the issues involved in bringing the unit up to Australian compliance standards. Jeff's project focused on the trialling of an alternative model for Fire Management Area Committees.

Both Rod and Jeff acknowledged that academic study outside of the Fire Service was at times difficult but in the end rewarding. It gave them the opportunity to associate with others within the public sector environment whilst enhancing their own managerial knowledge and experiences.

We wish them all the best for their future endeavours within the TFS.

Moving on

Recently Jacqueline Fisher Executive Officer Volunteer Support left us to take on a new role with the Defence Service. Prior to her leaving Jacqui completed and rolled out the Junior and Cadet Toolkits and the Volunteer Recruitment Kits. We'll still see Jacqui from time to time as she is a volunteer firefighter at Fern Tree Brigade.

We wish Major (AAC) Fisher all the best in her new career.



New OH&S poster campaign

By Senior Projects Officer, John Green

TFS members fortunate enough to attend the TFS Conference in July 2008, at the Launceston Country Club, would have seen the first draft of a new poster campaign that the OH&S team are developing. The campaign is aimed at encouraging operational members to be more mindful of the very real toxic hazard that remains in a burnt-out structure. Our previous poster "No Gear - No Go" was aimed at ensuring you put your PPE on before you tackle any fire. The latest poster focuses on retaining that protection until the hazard is completely cleared.

We all know and have been taught about the hazards that are produced through a fire in a modern structure but extensive research through the Melbourne Metropolitan Fire & Rescue Service (Fire Investigation Unit) and the Bushfire CRC is both confirming and increasing existing knowledge of the range of products that are released not only throughout the combustion process but also in the post combustion period. The testing has identified that the quantity and duration of gaseous release is much greater than we first suspected. Even the smoke from many natural products produces small quantities of toxic substances most of which are readily released, absorbed or diffused into the atmosphere.

We are also learning more about invisible micro particles that become airborne through both the combustion process and the subsequent clean-up and can readily get into our lungs. Some of these particles can be toxic/ carcinogenic or in other ways harmful to your lungs and/or health.

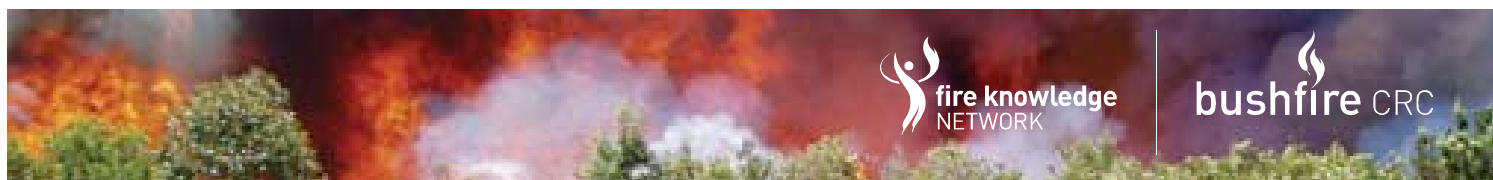
Some of the chemicals that can be found (eg. carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide) are definite hazards with known potential symptoms from headache through asphyxiation to death. Others, (eg. acrolein and hydrogen cyanide), usually in lesser quantities, are scientifically under (current) threshold levels but the scientific community are not 100% sure what the long term effect they are having on our health.

We have reviewed most of the relevant training courses and updated the SOP's on Breathing Apparatus, Incident - Structural Fire, Entering Suspect Atmosphere and Atmospheric Monitoring. Brigade Officers should ensure members are familiar with and comply with the current SOPs. They are available via TFS-Online or from Regional Admin if you don't have internet connections. (We are working on a significant amendment to SOPs which will ensure your manuals are up to date, but more on that as it develops).

Ongoing research will eventually give us more definitive answers but for now we really have to start acting as if our lives depended on us not breathing in those toxic fumes and dangerous airborne particles that we know are still present even after the flames and smoke have gone.

Feedback from the conference suggested that we had hit the issue square on the jaw with our poster so we are moving towards getting them out to all Brigades and all workplaces. So watchout for the post-out for your brigade in the near future. Better still, bring the poster, the SOPs and particularly the whole toxic atmosphere issue to your next brigade meeting and discuss how you can help to maintain your future health.





Exploring the impacts of emergency service volunteering on volunteer families

Sean Cowlshaw

School of Psychological Science, La Trobe University, Victoria

Dr Lynette Evans, Dr Jim McLennan

School of Psychological Science, La Trobe University, Victoria

Introduction

Evidence suggests that emergency service work may conflict with family and place pressure on partners and children. For example, irregular shift-work and time away from family have been described as sources of strain on the families of emergency responders (Regehr, Dimitropoulos, Bright, George & Henderson, 2005). **Notwithstanding that the bulk of fire protection to Australian communities is provided by volunteers, almost all the scant evidence available has come from investigating career (employed) emergency services personnel.** This is despite emerging signs that volunteer families may also experience negative outcomes (Cowlshaw & McLennan, 2006), and the fact that volunteers typically volunteer *in addition* to paid work commitments. As such, the experiences and needs of these volunteer families remains uncertain.



Design

As the first stage of a program of research on volunteer families, semi-structured interviews were conducted with 20 volunteer managers from Victoria's CFA. These volunteer



managers have duties characterised by personal contact with volunteer firefighters and familiarity with volunteer issues, and interviews were intended to provide an organisational perspective on family issues. Data were analysed for recurring themes using a thematic analysis procedure.

Findings

The following themes were identified across most interviews:

- Many volunteers consistently prioritise brigade demands ahead of family responsibilities. The experience of being in second place to the fire-brigade often generates resentment from some family members.
- The routine demands of training and attending meetings limits the time available for volunteers to meet both physical and emotional family demands.
- Both generalised fatigue following operational activities and trauma exposure can lead to changes in the volunteers' behaviour (eg. withdrawal) at home. This may be a source of strain on families who are not informed about or equipped to deal with such behaviours.
- There are also positive experiences for some families from having an enhanced social network. This may be advantageous for families who are new to a geographic area or live in

impersonal urban communities.

- Other themes occurred less frequently. For example: families experiencing financial difficulties when the volunteer takes time from work to attend emergencies; and partners experiencing anxiety about the volunteers safety during incidents.

Future Directions

As a second stage of research, emergency service volunteers **and** their partners will be invited to complete survey questionnaires about their well-being and how emergency service volunteering impacts on families.

Couples interested in assisting with the research will be invited to obtain questionnaires by either (a) inquiring through a free-call 1800 service (surveys would be posted by mail); or (b) downloading questionnaires from an internet site. Participating would be entirely anonymous and voluntary.

The anticipated outcomes of the project will include reports to agencies detailing the experiences of families of volunteers, their needs, and ways in which organisations might support families of volunteers more effectively.

Queries about participating and requests for a summary report of the interview study can be directed to Sean Cowlshaw s.cowlshaw@latrobe.edu.au

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Acknowledgements

Photos taken by (left) Meeka Bailey of NSW RFS (RFS) and (above) by NSW SES. Permission for reproduction granted by NSW RFS and NSW SES (www.ses.nsw.gov.au).

Structural Personal Protective Clothing Review Working Party

By District Officer Support Services, Hugh Jones

In 2006, the Structural Personal Protective Clothing (PPC) Review Working Party was established with Deputy Chief Officer Mike Brown as chair and representation from both career and volunteer brigades, the United Firefighters Union (UFU), the Tasmanian Volunteer Fire Brigades Association (TVFBA) and the Tasmanian Retained Volunteer Firefighters Association (TRVFA).

The aim of the review was defined as being: "To explore new generation PPC and to trial, evaluate and make recommendations to the Operational Resources and Services Committee (ORSC) for future protective clothing issues".

It is worth noting that the current issue of structural PPC still complies fully with the Australian Standard and that the TFS is not being forced to replace any of the structural clothing.

The Working Party agreed that a trial and evaluation be conducted primarily to establish the preference and performance of moisture barriers versus non-moisture barriers; and Nomex 3D 240 grams per square metre (gsm) vs PBI Gold 215 gsm materials. In addition, based on feedback from firefighters, the Working Party amended the trial PPC in relation to 17 design features and new clothing was manufactured to the upgraded specifications.

Four sets of clothing were produced: two sets of clothing made from PBI Gold, one with a moisture barrier and one without; and two sets of Nomex clothing, again one with a moisture barrier and one without.

The different sets of Structural clothing were issued to selected firefighters from both volunteer and career brigades, so that they could be worn 'in action' at everyday emergency incidents. After a period of time



Nomex structural clothing



PBI Gold structural clothing

the wearers exchanged the clothing and commenced wearing a different set for another period of time.

This arrangement, called the Field trials, has continued until the present time. Over and above these Field trials the Working Party also wanted to have a more scientific approach to the evaluation. As such the University of Tasmania (UTAS) was contacted with a view to them offering a set of assessments to test the 'wearability' and functionality of each of the garments. In a nutshell, the Working Party wanted to see which of the new PPC was the most comfortable and practical to wear, from the wearer's point of view.

A 'Scoping document' has been drawn up by TFS to give the UTAS researchers some idea of what type of trials the TFS would like to see performed. The researchers have been undertaking some background study as to what information is available from other academic and scientific institutions with a view to 'Tasmanianising' the trials to better suit our environmental conditions.

To complicate things a bit (or a lot if you look at it from the Working Party's point of view) new PPC materials and designs have come on to the market since the review commenced. Other fire services within Australia have been undertaking their own trials (notably the CFA and Melbourne Fire Brigade combined; Queensland Fire Service and the ACT Fire Service to name a few) and I have got samples of three different garments from these Services sitting in my office at the moment!

Coupled with these new materials and designs there is also some information coming from the Australian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council that an upgraded Australian Standard covering daytime and night-time visibility of garments will be issued in the next twelve months.

This new Standard is expected to detail the specifications required for garments to be considered compliant for day-time and night-time visibility. Requirements for night-time visibility are easily catered for by the use of reflective tape. For day-time the fabric itself is the major factor, with the brighter the clothing the better it is seen. Our current clothing can be reasonably expected to satisfy the day time visibility factor, but some of the new, darker materials may not. One of the trial garments has a darker colour that may need further scrutiny in this regard.

So, irrespective of the issue above, the UTAS team is busily beaver away compiling a string of

assessments to test the new clothing. We hope to have a project document from them in the near future at which time the Working Party will reconvene and set a date for the scientific trials to take place.

The Working Party will call for expressions of interest from firefighters to take part in these trials at a later date. We will be looking for both male and female members for the trials and these firefighters will also be of different shapes and sizes (but not too many different shapes). This may present some challenges given the limited number of trial garments available at the moment but that's what makes human beings so wonderful - we are all different and we aim to cater for everyone!

Smorgon Steel Great Scrap Roundup Campaign Success

The Smorgon Steel Great Scrap Roundup Campaign has proven to be highly successful. AFAC have advised that brigades/agencies/AFAC have collectively received in excess of \$2,385,000 since the program was launched. Well in excess of 100,000 tonnes of scrap steel has been collected from Australian properties during this time.

The campaign has now ceased, however, One Steel (formerly Smorgon Steel) have advised that brigades or individuals who are interested in collecting scrap for their brigade should contact One Steel directly on phone number 13 METAL. AFAC will no longer play a role in collecting or distributing funds from any further scrap sales.

AFAC would like to thank you for your support and co-operations during this campaign.

Safety sessions for recent arrivals

By Manager Community Education Sandra Barber and Consultant Chris Tomes

Over three Wednesdays in July, the TFS has taken part in an inter-agency initiative to familiarise recently arrived communities with emergency services in Tasmania. Michael Goldsmith, Matthew Pope and Grant Joyce have done a great job delivering home fire safety information to recently arrived communities from Afghanistan, the Congo, Burundi, and other African countries. They presented the sessions through interpreters, and used pictures and real life props such as an electric clothes dryer complete with lint, an electric stove, pots, smoke alarms and a fire blanket to communicate the fire safety messages. The presentations were very visual and tailored to suit audiences that had limited English language skills.

This inter-agency project has been managed by the Migrant Resource Centre Southern Tasmania (MRC), and representatives from a range of agencies have been involved in planning and delivering the workshops including:

- Tasmania Fire Service
- Tasmania Police
- State Emergency Service
- Department of Premier and Cabinet, Office of Security and Emergency Management

- Department of Health and Human Services (Tasmanian Ambulance Services, Acute Services (RHH) and Community Recovery Tasmania)

This is part of a national series of Action Learning projects funded by the Attorney General's Department.

The project's aim is to assist the broader culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities to prepare for, respond to and recover from incidents, crises and other emergencies in Southern Tasmania by education, awareness-raising and capacity-building measures. In particular the project objectives are:

- To inform the CALD communities about the roles and responsibilities of emergency services;
- To promote inclusion of the CALD community members in Tasmanian EM arrangements;
- To promote preparedness and response readiness, for emergencies;
- To develop closer links between the MRC, Department of Health and Human Services, Tasmania Fire Service, State Emergency Services and Tasmania Police in the promotion of inclusive emergency management practices for all CALD communities in Tasmania



The project has been a great success in meeting all of these objectives. The feedback from the communities that attended the sessions has been very positive, and the operational staff appreciated the opportunity to get to know some of our recent arrivals. As well as having learnt about home fire safety, they have learnt that emergency services are there to help them. It has been a great opportunity for emergency services in Tasmania to work together to support our new communities, and we look forward to continuing the collaboration.

These workshops also provided professional development opportunities for the firefighters involved, as well as positive outcomes for recently arrived migrant and refugee communities.

The Community Education Unit is pleased that we could offer assistance to Matthew Pope with the Paypoint 6 operational competencies Provide training instruction and demonstration of work skills (TAADEL301B) and Plan and organise group-based delivery (TAADEL401B).

His development and delivery of these sessions was under the skilled mentoring of Michael Goldsmith, who has varied experience in community education and training, including a collaborative project on home fire safety for the Ethiopian community.

Special mention should be made of Matthew's effort on the 'Showcase Day'. He undertook his fire safety presentation to a packed training room of more than 50 people that included CALD community members, VIP guests and the media. Matthew's experience of delivering a professional and engaging session under these circumstances is something that is sure to be useful in his future career.

Michael Goldsmith, Matthew Pope and Grant Joyce are to be congratulated on the high quality of the home fire safety information sessions for recently arrived communities from Afghanistan, the Congo, Burundi, and other African countries.



Agfest



Mersey Field Officer Gary Johnson presenting Taylah Ling with her Agfest prize package.

The weather for the first two days kept the crowds down at Agfest this year but this didn't deter the steady stream of visitors coming into the TFS Fire Station in South Street.

One of the main drawcards for the site this year was the 'guess the jellybeans' competition.

The prize was a fire safety package consisting of a smoke alarm, fire blanket and a dry chemical extinguisher. There were well over a thousand entries which kept Sunday's fire crew busy sorting through them to find the winner.

Miss Taylah Ling of Penquin was the winner with her guess of 1186 being one short of the actual number in the jar. Taylah was overjoyed with her win as not only did she get the fire safety package but she also got to keep the jelly beans.

Taylah told Mersey Field Officer, Gary Johnson, when he delivered her prize she would give the smoke alarm and fire extinguisher to her grandmother as she didn't have either of them.

Hobart's Firies dressing for success

By Senior Firefighter Hobart Brigade, Tim McKay

Many of Hobart's firefighters are well known for high level sporting achievements in all manner of sports. In fact over the years many have performed with distinction at a local, state, national and even international level.

Given the huge participation amongst HFB staff in sport, and with the Australasian Police & Emergency Services Games to be held in Hobart in 2010, brigade management felt that it would be an opportune time to get serious in designing HFB sporting uniforms to be worn by HFB staff when competing. The idea is not a new one; I remember having a conversation years ago with Deputy Regional Chief Chris Arnol, who suggested we ought to get something done. Now it's about to happen.

Senior Firefighter Greg Pollard was approached several months ago to get the idea off the ground. Greg sought my assistance, and we have since formed a 2 man design and negotiating team in order to turn concept into reality. Given that our brief is to cater for many different sports, our first task has been to gain input from many different end users and discuss their requirements. Secondly it was finding an Australian company who specialises in top quality sportswear manufacture, in this case Body Torque Australia. Thirdly we had to get the project funded. We have on this basis committed a huge amount of time securing corporate sponsorship.

It would be an understatement to say that we have both gained an insight into the frustrations of dealing with the corporate world when seeking sponsorship of this kind. Broken promises are too numerous to mention, nevertheless, thanks to a couple of very supportive people and organisations, we are just about to begin manufacture.



HFB Senior Firefighters Greg Pollard and Tim McKay accepting sponsors cheque from Phil Claxton of RBF

The support of these organisations will mean that we are able to offer the best quality sportswear, at heavily subsidised prices. This means that when our athletes chose to represent the HFB, they will be wearing the best quality gear while being able to be outfitted for exceptionally little cost.

It would not be appropriate to write an article of this kind without thanking those organisations which have been so



Mockup of cycling gear

generous. Firstly, Greg and I would like to sincerely thank our major sponsor RBF, and in particular their rep Phil Claxton. Career firefighters in Tassie are well aware of the relationship we share with RBF. We are very fortunate that Phil and the Board of RBF have once again chosen to get behind Tassie's firefighters and ensure that our project gets off the ground. It's fair to say that without the financial help of RBF as our major sponsor, we would have given up long ago, and this project would have died a natural death. As well as their financial help, they have been the first to assist with advice, and have been great to deal with.

Ex Hobart fire and now owner of Hobart's leading cycling store "Bike Ride" Mark Bowden has also chipped in and thrown his support and considerable knowledge behind the project, both by way of financial assistance and expert advice. Mark is, as many would know a cyclist of considerable talent, who still competes at an international level. This makes his advice extremely helpful to both Greg and myself. Thanks Mark.

John Brierley of Brierley Hose and Handling was another who was keen to come on board and show his support. John, who is a keen sportsman himself, couldn't wait to help out, and without hesitation put his hand in his pocket and has contributed a sizable amount of money in order to see this project proceed.

We must also acknowledge the assistance provided by the TFS through our dealings with Chris Arnol and Gavin Freeman. Both Chris and Gavin have given great support and input into the design and helped offset some of the establishment costs through the brigade budget.

As well as these major sponsors we have a number of other companies who have jumped on board with financial assistance. We are therefore delighted to announce that we will be including all of our sponsors logos on our uniforms. They look good, and are a reminder of their support in helping outfit our athletes at subsidised prices. Our new gear simply wouldn't happen without the great support of the businesses above, so please support those who support us.

Included is a sneak preview of the new uniform as it will apply to cycling. Bear in mind that although the uniform shown is a cycling uniform, we have also ordered uniforms specific to other sports, such as running, triathlon and basketball. Importantly, please keep in mind we are able to provide the gear for any other sporting application you may require. Should athletes from other brigades require sporting apparel, we are also able to adapt logo wording etc to cater for you.

Thanks again to all involved and remember if you have requirements for sporting apparel in which to represent yourself or the brigade, don't hesitate to contact either myself or Greg Pollard at the HFB.

Websites you might like to check out:

www.apandesgames.com.au
www.rbf.com.au
www.bikeride.com.au
www.bodytorque.com.au
www.brierleyhose.com.au

Family Fun Day

Brigades are invited to compete or spectate at

North West 38th Regional Competitions

Hosted by Kimberley and Railton Fire Brigades

Goliath Park, Crockers Street, Railton

Sunday 12th October 2008

9.30am - 4.00pm

EVENTS

Firefighters Football	Seniors, Juniors
GP Pumper	Juniors, Seniors
Sealed Event	Seniors, Juniors
Siamese Valve	Juniors, Seniors
Sealed Event	Seniors Only

The Under 10's Bucket Brigade

For more information contact Michelle Clarke on
m.clarke@fire.tas.gov.au

For more information on accommodation and tourist attractions in the Railton area please contact the Visitor Information Centre on 6491 1036 or
www.sheffieldcradleinfo.com.au



Midlands District Field Day

By Brigade Chief Magra Brigade, Kevin Hardwick

On 1st June seven Brigades, with twelve teams and a mixture of heavy, medium and light tankers competed in a competition with eight events comprising of:

- Chainsaw operations
- First Aid (CPR and snake bite)
- Drafting practical
- 4WD course
- Novelty event (water transport)
- Hose drills

- TFS general knowledge
- Grid references and questions (from Map Book)

After a challenging and enjoyable day and with only 5 points difference between the top 4 teams, Bagdad 5.2 was 1st place, Gretna 3.1 2nd, Lachlan 4.1 3rd and Ellendale 3.1 4th.

All personnel then enjoyed a BBQ to round up the day.

Thank you to Second Officer Randal Garwood who programmed the day and to all the stand operators and others who assisted in making it a successful event.



Bagdad members competing in the drafting/dam building event under the watchful eye of judge Kevin Hardwick and junior Thomas Patterson



Lachlan 4-1 member Victor Kaiser competing blindfolded in the water transport event using the navigation skills of Peter Evans



Magra Brigade Firefighter Paul McMaster giving Brady's Lake 5-1 directions in the water transport event

Photographer Second Officer Magra Brigade, Randal Garwood



Magra Brigade Chief Kevin Hardwick presenting Bagdad 5-2 members Craig Harback and Jim Clifton with their 1st place trophies

Photo Competition Winner

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

The winning photo from this edition is:

1st place



Submitted by Station Officer HFB Steve Percival (\$100)

How to enter:

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

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

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

Photos may be of any TFS event or incident

May include TFS personnel in turnout gear or uniform

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

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

Post them in to:

Linda Lacy

Editor - Fireground

GPO Box 1526

HOBART TAS 7001

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

Fireground goes far and wide!

Fireground has a mailing list which covers all states of Australia as well as overseas, however, did you realise it gets read in so many interesting places? If you can contribute some more interesting photos, please send them in to fireground@fire.tas.gov.au



Jacqui Fisher
(Firefighter Fern Tree Brigade)
on holidays at
Erakor Island Resort,
Vanuatu

Technical Rescue Training

By Station Officer Hobart Brigade, Steve Percival



From December 2006 the responsibility for Road Accident Rescue was transferred to the TFS in all urban areas, along with this transfer was the added responsibility for Domestic, Industrial, Heavy Rescue and Rail. These four categories collectively make Technical Rescue.

From the 30th June to the 2nd July seven participants from the south and three from the North West undertook an Instructors Training Course conducted at Cambridge. The aim was to up-skill these instructors so that they can deliver the package to operational crews.

The first half of day one was dedicated to site visits to MTT, Redline Coaches, Pacific National Rail and Motors Truck

department. These visits gave us the opportunity to speak to experts at these locations and identify hazards associated with heavy vehicle construction, safety features and access points.

The second half of that day was allocated to domestic rescue, this could involve releasing an incapacitated elderly person or a young child trapped in a house, the main focus, however, was on hand and finger entrapments. A real incident occurred at Bridgewater Station about six months ago when the Ambos brought in a lady with a single handcuff firmly attached to her wrist. The time was 4am and after some unsuccessful attempts to remove it using manipulation techniques and then a hacksaw it was decided to take her to the HFB where we had our limb entrapment kit. The kit has a variety of hand and electric tools that gives us many options to assist with the release of an injured or trapped person. The handcuff was removed with the use of an electric dremel tool, copious amounts of cooling water and a red face, since then we have had two other similar incidents so be prepared, you could find us at your door when things go wrong.

These types of incidents are another small step in the evolution of the TFS and can very challenging, we have also been called to a child with a hand stuck in an ATM but the ambos managed the release before our arrival. Other entrapments practiced have been head and feet, fingers trapped in plug holes, bottles and other similar strange places.



The last two days allowed us to show the North West guys some fantastic Hobart winter snow and rain, during these days we conducted seven scenarios using a bus, container truck, simulated tipper, 30 tonne excavator and an entrapment with power poles stacked on the ground.

Possibly the most technically challenging scenario was a car positioned against the container truck, the car was vertically positioned engine down. The task was to conduct a controlled lowering of the car utilising winches and roping techniques. This was achieved without any issues and was a great team effort.

The main focus of the Heavy Rescue training was scene assessment, hazard identification, stabilisation and controlled lifts or relocations. To achieve this we used electric and hand winches, low and high pressure air bags and modified acro props.

In the last eighteen months there have been about five rail incidents in the Hobart area involving motor vehicles so this training is essential for the first responding crews in the urban environment.

About 40% of this package was sourced from New South Wales Fire & Rescue where we were invited to attend part



of their rescue training and Queensland Fire & Rescue who included us in a four day heavy rescue workshop.

The equipment used will all be initially located on the 8-1 rescue appliances.

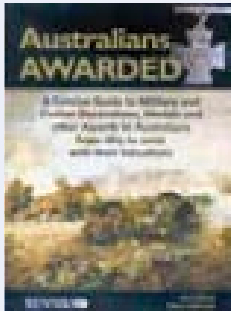


Library News

NEW VIDEO/DVD LIST

A new video/DVD list is now available! You can request a print copy from the Library or download it from TFS Online > Info Centre > Library > Videos/DVDs.

NEW BOOKS

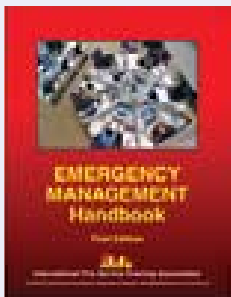


Australians awarded: a concise guide to military and civilian decorations, medals and other awards to Australians from 1815 to 2007 with their valuations / Johnson, Clive Francis.

Banksmeadow, NSW: Renniks, 2008.
Contents: Imperial decorations and gallantry awards - Australian gallantry awards - Early campaign medals - World War I medals and awards -

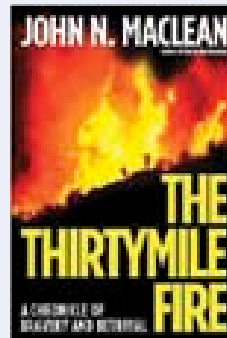
General service medals post 1915 - World War II medals and awards - Post 1945 campaign medals issued to Australians - United Nations medals - Miscellaneous medals - Jubilee and coronation medals - Medals and awards of Papua New Guinea - Long and meritorious service medals - Current Australian long service medals - Citations, commendations and other tri-service awards - State awards - Police - Fire brigade - Ambulance - Prison and corrective services - Emergency services.

Can cigarette butts start (bush) fires? / Jennifer Dainer, Honours Project Thesis, UTS, 2003.



Emergency management handbook / International Fire Service Training Association. Stillwater, OK: Fire Protection Publications, 2007.

Field incident guide. Queensland Fire and Rescue Service. Brisbane, Qld.: QFRS, 2008.



The Thirtymile fire : a chronicle of bravery and betrayal /

Maclean, John N. New York: Henry Holt, 2007.

The Thirtymile fire in the remote North Cascade range near the Canadian border in Washington began as a simple mop-up operation. In a few hours, a series of catastrophic errors led to the entrapment and deaths of four members of the fire crew - two teenage girls and two young men.

A whole new mind: moving from the information age to the conceptual age / Pink, Daniel H. Crows Nest, NSW: Allen and Unwin, 2005.

Daniel H Pink moves us from the Information Age to the Conceptual Age as he defends his argument that the era of "left brain" dominance is giving way to a new world in which "right brain" qualities - inventiveness, meaning, empathy - predominate. Pink offers a fresh look at what it takes for individuals and organisations to excel.

Writing good English: a concise guide to keeping it simple and getting it right / Kleu, Tony. Sydney, NSW: John Fairfax Publications, c2006.

NEW DVDs

Compartment fires, tactical ventilation, positive pressure ventilation / Aitken, Paul. London: Dept for Community and Local Government, 1999. 1 DVD (63 min.)

Contents: Fire growth and flashover - Backdraught - Tactical ventilation of fires - Positive pressure ventilation.

Flashover a safety and survival on the fireground program / Dunn, Vincent. Saddle Brook, NJ: Fire Engineering, 2006. 1 DVD (20 min.)

This is a reproduction of Dunn's classic video.

Positive pressure ventilation research videos & reports, 2008 / Kerber, Stephen. [Gaithersburg, MD]: National Institute of Standards and Technology, 2008. 2 DVDs

This DVD set includes a presentation video that explains Positive Pressure Ventilation (PPV), examines the results of NIST's PPV research, and closes with a focus on the use of PPV tactics in high-rise buildings. All of the NIST PPV reports referenced in the presentation are included on Disc 1. All of the videos from the high-rise fire experiments are also provided with a user-friendly, graphic menu that can be used on a PC or a DVD player.

Responding to ethanol incidents / Renewable Fuels Association. [Washington, DC: Texas Digital Studios Video Production, 2007?]. 1 DVD (20 min.)

The film is a technical document that is directed primarily at ethanol plant operators and first responders such as fire marshals. It documents Ethanol Firefighting Foam test results and educates viewers on how to deal with ethanol-related spills and fires.

Tolmie thanks you! a compilation of images taken during the Tolmie fires 2007. [Melbourne?]: CFA, [2007?]. 1 DVD (40 min.)

The state's longest-running fire, the Great Divide Complex burnt 1.1 million hectares of public and private land. It was started by lightning strikes on 1 December 2006 and was declared contained at 7 am 8 February 2007. Fires were to last 69 days, rain was to provide some relief when it arrived on the night of 20 January 2007. More than 14,500 CFA members fought the fires.

WEB LINKS

Emerging health and safety issues in the volunteer fire service

http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa_317.pdf

Fighting fire with fire: how bushfire suppression can impact on firefighters' health / Brad Aisbett

This article outlines how the key fireground stressors of work intensity and duration, heat (from the weather, the fire, and the firefighter's own exertion) and smoke impact on the health of firefighters.

<http://www.racgp.org.au/Content/NavigationMenu/Publications/AustralianFamilyPhys/2007issues/afp200712/200712Aisbett.pdf>

Volunteer Management Resource Library

<http://energizeinc.com/art.html>

CONTACT US

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

Ph: 6230 8679 or 6230 8681

Email: library@fire.tas.gov.au

or drop into the State Headquarters building,
Corner Argyle and Melville Streets, Hobart

TFS tiptoeing towards greenhouse gas emission reporting

By Graduate Accountant, Michael Stringer

You may have noticed lately that the global economy has focussed its attention on greenhouse gas emission reporting and in particular the calculation of an organisation's "carbon footprint" with the aim of making carbon credits a tradeable commodity.

I had heard of "carbon trading" and reporting on "greenhouse gas emissions" a lot in the news but hadn't really thought too much about it until June of this year when I was asked to gather information on the TFS's energy usage. The aim of gathering this information was to produce a report on our total Greenhouse Gas Inventory for the past financial year.

As daunting as that first sounded and I did take a moment to think where I was going to start, the Senior Environmental Scientist, Larissa Brisbane at Parsons Brinckenorff was very helpful by breaking down our activities by energy usage type.

Types of energy use include: electricity, heating, travel (fuel for land, sea and air travel) and waste (including human, general and recyclable).

Using this as a starting point I was then able to contact our various suppliers of energy, for example Aurora and the various fuel and gas suppliers and waste removalist companies who were able to supply me with information such as kilowatts used at all fire service buildings, litres bought of the various fuel types, metres/kilograms of waste removed.

I also supplied Larissa with a list of helicopter hours flown by helicopter type and a list of air flights taken with departure and destination ports included (to estimate aviation fuel used) as well as shipping costs.

The completed report gave a good estimate of our energy usage and I'm sure we will be able to get it more accurate in the future, however, there are some difficult hurdles to overcome if the TFS is ever required to participate in the world of carbon trading.

Kempton Fire and SES Station

By Field Officer Midlands, Paul Horne

Kempton Fire and SES station was officially opened by Southern Midlands Mayor, Mr Tony Bisdee on a perfect spring day on October 20th 2007.

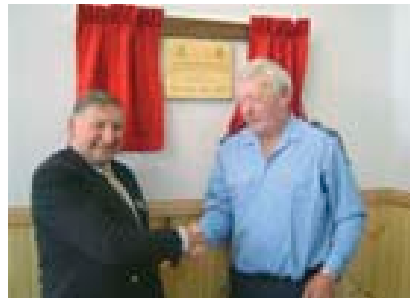
Although now some time since the opening it was decided to hold back on an article until all the bugs were sorted out with the new station and to gauge how the Kempton crews were finding life in a superior facility.

The first Kempton Fire Station was built on the same site as the new station back in the early seventies using Federal Government Red Scheme funding. An addition of a meeting room / come office was built some time in the eighties. The red trucks got longer and higher in the nineties so the brigade had to add on a section to the back of one engine bay to fit their single cab Isuzu Appliance.

In 2005 it was decided that it was Kempton's turn for a new station and funding from the TFS and the Tasmania Community Fund was secured in 2006 to build a complex that would accommodate Kempton Brigade's heavy and light tankers and one of the Southern Midlands SES units, as well as all the associated facilities. Previously the SES unit was accommodated at the Kempton Police Station.

About half of the Kempton Brigade's fifteen active members also double up as SES volunteers and Brigade Chief Richie Lang believes this system is working well.

The Kempton Brigade and Southern Midlands SES unit are both very satisfied with the new Kempton Fire and SES Station.



Southern Midlands Mayor Tony Bisdee with Richard Lang at the opening



Back L-R - Tim Kirkwood, Jamie Daniels, John Lang, Mervyn Lang, John Smith, Shaun Collis, Mark Shearing, Paul Lang, Paul Horne
Front L-R - Dale Foster, Phil Whelan, Ray Cooper, Rod Ratcliffe, Richard Lang, Bill Burke, Lyell Collis, Phil Jones, Stephan Whelan

Kempton's new station

National Medals at Kimberley

On Saturday 14th June at Kimberley Station a community casserole night was held, there was a good attendance from both the brigade and the community. The function was used to present National Medals to Brigade Chief Alvyn Parker for 15 years service, Pat Parker for 15 years service and John

McCormack with his 25 year clasp, and Robert Gaffney was presented with his 15 years TFS Long Service badge.

Anne McCormack on behalf of the Kimberly Brigade presented Brigade Chief Alvyn Parker with life membership of the Kimberly Brigade.



Robert Gaffney, John McCormack, Pat Parker, Anne McCormack, Alvyn Parker and John Streets



Current Brigade members

On The *Move*

A list of recent personnel changes within the Tasmania Fire Service

The following Career personnel changes have occurred

Arrivals

Northern Region	Damien Wilson	Maintenance Officer	14th April 2008
Corporate Services	Lyn Rainbird	Customer Services Officer	6th May 2008
TasFire Equipment	Greg Doherty	Trainee FEO	19th May 2008
Corporate Services	Olivia Bennetts	Clerical Support Officer	19th May 2008
Corporate Services	Natalie Burnie	Clerical Support Officer	19th May 2008
Corporate Services	Michael Strange	Purchasing Officer	16th June 2008

Departures

Hobart Brigade	Bill Burke	District Officer	21st July 2008
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The following Volunteer Brigade Officers have been elected by their Brigades

BRIGADE	OFFICER	APPOINTMENT	BRIGADE	OFFICER	APPOINTMENT
Beaconsfield	Tim Williams	Brigade Chief	Lauderdale	Michael Riley	Second Officer
	Kelvin Beams	Second Officer		Stephen Hickie	Third Officer
	Jason Miller	Third Officer		Alan Vidler	Fourth Officer
	Justin Miller	Fourth Officer	Mt Nelson	Roger Brown	Third Officer
Bell Bay	Jason Mackrill	Fourth Officer		Tom Shoobridge	Brigade Chief
Broadmarsh	Robert Mc Kenzie	Brigade Chief	Ouse	Craig Farrow	Second Officer
	Richard Mizzen	Fourth Officer		Luke Rockliffe	Third Officer
Cambridge	Chris Mayne	Third Officer		Mark Jones	Fourth Officer
	Matthew Fenton	Fourth Officer	Pipers Brook	Peter Harley	Brigade Chief
Colebrook	Craig Roberts	Fourth Officer		Chris Hinds	Second Officer
Fern Tree	Terry Gill	Second Officer		Bradley Taylor	Third Officer
Geeveston	Anthony Fitzpatrick	Second Officer	Sprent	Ian Sauer	Fourth Officer
Gravelly Beach	Teena Knott	Third Officer		Glenn Clark	Brigade Chief
	Trudy Cooke	Fourth Officer		Alan Whelan	Second Officer
Great Lake	Mark Hines	Brigade Chief	Taroona	Mark Hingston	Third Officer
	Kelvin Reynolds	Second Officer		Simon Enman	Third Officer
	Wayne Martin	Third Officer		Grant Joseph	Brigade Chief
	Byron Thompson	Fourth Officer	Westerway	Simon Adams	Third Officer
Howden	Peter Lucas	Brigade Chief		Russell Matthews	Brigade Chief
	Rocco Mangione	Second Officer		Scott Evans	Second Officer
	Leigh Bowden	Third Officer			
	Darren Dare	Fourth Officer			

Awards

A list of recent awards presented within the Tasmania Fire Service

LOCATION/ BRIGADE	NAME	AWARD	LOCATION/ BRIGADE	NAME	AWARD
Bagdad	Greg Clifton	Long Service (10 years)	Lachlan	Peter Evans	Long Service (10 years)
	Kirstie Martin-Henry	Long Service (10 years)	Lauderdale	David Chambers	Long Service (35 years)
Boat Harbour	Trevor Duniam	TFS Volunteer Medal		Rodney Heather	Long Service (15 years)
	Steve Gardiner	Long Service (35 years)		Robert Rushton	Long Service (10 years)
	Brendon Flint	Long Service (10 years)		Ken Chapman	Long Service (10 years)
Collinsvale	John Anderson	Life Member	Launceston	Peter Flett	National Medal (15 years)
Corporate Services	Michael Davis	Long Service (10 years)		Ian Bounds	National Medal (15 years)
Dover	Michael Clark	Long Service (25 years)		Dale Lapham	National Medal (15 years)
	Byron Casey	Long Service (20 years)		Matthew Grant	National Medal (15 years)
Human Services	John Green	Long Service (30 years)		Mark Dobson	Long Service (30 years)
Kimberley	John McCormack	National Medal (25 years)		Robert Featherstone	Long Service (30 years)
	Alvyn Parker	National Medal (15 years)		Greg Atkins	Long Service (30 years)
	Pat Parker	National Medal (15 years)		Greg Homan	Long Service (30 years)
	Robert Gaffney	Long Service (15 years)		Darren Cook	Long Service (25 years)
	Alvyn Parker	Life Member		Dale Lapham	Long Service (15 years)
Kingston	Dylan Harper	Long Service (10 years)		Matthew Grant	Long Service (15 years)
Lachlan	Trevor Mapley	Long Service (10 years)		Belinda Harvey	Long Service (10 years)
	Tony Atkinson	Long Service (10 years)	Margate	Michael D'Alton	TFS Volunteer Medal
	Linda Evans	Long Service (10 years)		Craig Woolford	TFS Volunteer Medal



National Medal recipients: Brigade Chief Shane Buchwald and Third Officer Rodney Solomon, presented by Regional Chief John Streets



Service Badge recipients - Second Officer Simon Morris, Fourth Officer Barney Morris, Brigade Chief Shane Buchwald and Third Officer Rodney Solomon, presented by Regional Chief John Streets and District Officer Paul Hill.



John Green, Deb Manten and Michael Davis with Chief Officer John Gledhill



Bruce Corbett, Steve Gardner, Trevor Duniam, Brendan Flint and Robert Atkins



Bagdad Brigade Chief Barrie Martin-Henry presenting 10 year Long Service award to Kirstie Martin-Henry



Bagdad Brigade Chief Barrie Martin-Henry presenting 10 year Long Service award to Greg Clifton

LOCATION/ BRIGADE	NAME	AWARD	LOCATION/ BRIGADE	NAME	AWARD
Melrose	Shane Buchwald	National Medal (15 years)	St Helens	Glen Bailey	National Medal (25 years)
	Rodney Solomon	National Medal (15 years)		Dale Richards	National Medal (25 years)
	Barney Morris	Long Service (30 years)		Tim Watson	National Medal (15 years)
	Simon Morris	Long Service (25 years)		Dale Richards	Long Service (30 years)
	Shane Buchwald	Long Service (15 years)		Glen Bailey	Long Service (25 years)
	Rodney Solomon	Long Service (15 years)		Don Mc Kellar	Long Service (10 years)
Ravenswood	Anthony Beckett	National Medal (15 years)	Taroona	Mike Byrn	Long Service (10 years)
	Anthony Beckett	Long Service (10 years)	TasFire Equipment	Debra Manten	Long Service (20 years)
	Chris Payne	Long Service (10 years)	TFS Museum	Michael Sherrin	Long Service (25 years)
Rocherlea	Colin Buller	Long Service (10 years)	Ulverstone	Robert Cunningham	National Medal (15 years)
	Michael Ling	Long Service (10 years)		David Haigh	Long Service (40 years)
Rokeby	Hayden Williams	Long Service (10 years)	Wattle Grove	Phillip Hubbard	Long Service (15 years)
	Shane Dyson	Long Service (10 years)		David Ryan	Long Service (15 years)
	Simon Boucher	Long Service (10 years)		David Dow	Long Service (20 years)
	Andrew Webster	Long Service (10 years)		Kellie Eaves	Long Service (15 years)
Sandfly	Bob Jones	Long Service (25 years)	Westerway	Grant Joseph	Long Service (15 years)
	Phil Gard	Long Service (25 years)		David Taaffe	Long Service (10 years)
	Ron Moss	Long Service (10 years)			
	Arthur Reid	Long Service (10 years)			



Robert Gaffney, John McCormack, Pat Parker, Anne McCormack, Alwyn Parker and John Streets



Second Officer John Anderson - granted Life Membership of Collinsvale Brigade. John is the longest serving member of the Brigade, since joining in February 1977.



Linda Evans and District Officer Gerald Crawford



Rod Heather of Lauderdale Brigade with A/Field Officer Michael Goldsmith



David Chambers of Lauderdale Brigade with A/Field Officer Michael Goldsmith



Robert Rushton of Lauderdale Brigade with A/Field Officer Michael Goldsmith



Ken Chapman of Lauderdale Brigade with A/Field Officer Michael Goldsmith

Tasmanian Ambulance Service Student Training

By Station Officer Hobart Brigade, Steve Percival

For the last two years we have been providing Tasmanian Ambulance Service (TAS) students a half day familiarisation on Road Accident Rescue equipment.

The second course was held at Cambridge on 3rd July with a similar course conducted in Launceston.

This type of training gives both organisations the opportunity to discuss our relative needs and how we can be time effective in the care and release of entrapped casualties.

Hobart had seven students participate and Launceston eight, both centres ran scenarios in the afternoon. The Hobart exercise was a vehicle into a tree with a second car situated on the boot area, the ambos put a student in each car as casualties and the remainder undertook normal patient care roles.

An operational crew did the disentanglement in consultation with a paramedic who identified the triage plan.

On occasions TAS arrive at an incident before our rescue crew and they can be confronted with non deployed Supplementary Restraining Systems such as air bags, seat belt pretensioners and roll over protection or a vehicle that may be carrying dangerous goods or is in an unstable position.

A standard course of hazard identification assists these officers to safely commence patient stabilisation and injury management until such time that we arrive.

The workload of the ambos has also seen us arrive prior to the paramedics and some collaborative training can also enhance our basic first aid injury identification until their arrival.



Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

By Clerical Support Officer, Lauren Birtwistle

With one in two Tasmanians affected by cancer Northern Region Headquarters made "every cup count" at our Australia's Biggest Morning Tea held on 22nd May.

Whilst enjoying a cuppa and piece of cake we raised \$173.40 and were one of 1119 other hosts in the State to help reach the Cancer Council's target of \$245,000. The funds raised will stay in Tasmania to fund research projects that minimise the impact of cancer. What more incentive do we need for next year!



Hazmat Technicians Course Melbourne

By Senior Firefighter Hobart Brigade, Scott Vinen and Leading Firefighter Launceston Brigade David Casteller

To increase our operational preparedness to respond to hazardous materials incidents and keep up to date with the latest training in hazmat the TFS recently sent Scott Vinen and David Casteller on a 2 week hazmat technicians course with the Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB).

Melbourne MFB maintain 3 hazmat trained stations at South Melbourne, Port Melbourne and Windsor. These stations attend all fire calls in their designated areas and also have the responsibility and equipment to deal with all hazmat incidents in the Melbourne MFB area. With 47 permanent stations and a large risk involving hazardous materials the Melbourne MFB also employ 3 full time scientific officers with one on-call at all times and also have a specialised hazmat training unit.

Three years ago the MFB decided to evaluate all hazmat procedures after analysing incidents and investigating any accidents or near misses. During this time they realised that hazmat procedures had not evolved with time and needed revising. By developing the Hazmat Technicians Course and introducing a few simple steps into their procedures they have up-skilled their personnel and improved their approach to hazmat, reducing the chance of injury or illness to their members.

The course we attended is for firefighters and officers from the 3 hazmat trained stations and was a mix of hazmat theory, hazmat practical, visits to major hazard facilities in the Melbourne MFB area and in the later half of week two, a full scale hazmat exercise. The training on the course was conducted by hazmat training unit staff and MFB scientific officers.

Some of the key points learned from the course were:

- More practical use and understanding of photo ionisation detector (PID) used by initial hazmat crews to detect if area is contaminated and to ensure decontamination was effective;
- High priority given to decontamination of hazmat crews and 3 stage decontamination corridors with the introduction of scrub down areas before shower;
- MFB use a detailed information board for hazmat crews entering the hot zone to write down important information in designated areas on the board, saves confusion and easy to use.

The structure of the course was very professional and covered all aspects of hazmat and all participants finished the course with an excellent grasp on responding to hazardous materials incidents. MFB scientific officers are a valuable resource in advising firefighting personnel in chemical properties, safe handling, mitigation and control of the hazard.

With our procedures and equipment very similar to that of the MFB the experience gained on this course was invaluable with some hazmat procedures and training the MFB use easily adaptable to the TFS.



Photo Gallery

This is what happens when two P platers have a bingle, thanks to the power of SMS there were young people at the scene in their droves within minutes!
Submitted by Leading Firefighter Burnie Brigade, Shayne Andrews



Recent car fire attended by Magra Brigade
Photographer Second Officer Magra Brigade, Randal Garwood



Origin Energy Exercise - July 2008
Submitted by Senior Station Officer HFB, Andrew Fyfe



"The hardest day's work I've done since Bothwell!" says TFS Museum member Bill Burke. Bill is pictured with Leon Dewhurst, Peter Carson and Roland Hill
Photographer TFS Museum member Phil Mettam



TFS Museum Members Roland Hill and Graham Newbury going for a test drive!
Photographer TFS Museum member Phil Mettam



Trench rescue

By Brigade Chief Lauderdale Brigade, Paul Baker

Trench Rescue can be a time consuming task that requires shoring and stabilisation techniques to make the scene safe for the rescuers and the casualty, sometimes however the situation requires swift action and an element of risk, Thursday 10th July was such an occasion.

At around lunch time the Lauderdale Brigade was called to a trench collapse at the Lauderdale football oval when an employee of the council was trapped from his knees down after a partial collapse.

Lauderdale 2.1 was first on the scene and after an initial size up I relayed a Sitrep to Firecomm that this person may have sustained fractures to his right leg which was pinned against a 100mm water pipe. The cause of the entrapment was a combination of sand, mud and water resulting in suction to both the casualty's legs preventing release. The casualty was in severe pain and the option of a quick extrication without pain relief was not an option, so the crew on hand made the site safe and offered plenty of reassurance to the casualty and his work colleagues and waited for the arrival of the Ambulance and the first responding career brigade.

Back up was initiated from Hobart who responded with three crews and a specialist rescue truck.

Rokeby 5.1 arrived and Steve Percival assumed the role as Incident Controller and quickly devised a plan of attack, initial stabilisation was to use on-site machinery to secure any further collapse - this was done with the bucket of a back hoe.

The extrication plan was to manually dig around and under the casualty's left leg and manually move this to get access to the injured right leg. His left leg was so severely stuck that the gum boot was cut so that the leg could be pulled out of the boot. Whilst this was happening the spine board off Hobart 8-1 was used to support the patient, all the time digging and water displacement was happening to help achieve the goal.



The casualty had a positive and light hearted attitude which help the scene remain calm and the paramedic was constantly monitoring and administering pain relief throughout.

Once the casualty's left leg was released the right leg was slowly lifted, this was a time consuming rescue and since the start of the incident his right arm had also become stuck in the mud, this was manually released and the person removed onto the spine board to the waiting ambulance.

On-site assistance was offered by council and all fire units worked as a team to reach a satisfying release.

A few minutes after completion further under laying collapse occurred to the trench.

Commissioning of new pumper tankers

Since 2003 the TFS has manufactured 85 vehicles at its Cambridge complex, resulting in savings of up to \$100,000 per vehicle. Leon Smith, Manager Engineering Services advised that the latest heavy tanker, costing \$200,000, looks like your average urban firefighting truck, however, its unique axle load balance, low weight, fire proof additions and 4wd capability, enables it to take on even the biggest blazes off the beaten track, in addition it can carry a crew of five and has breathing apparatus.

The new vehicle was designed through consultation with Tasmanian firefighters. A total of 30 vehicles are currently being fabricated at the TFS Engineering Workshops at Cambridge.

Recent handovers have been made to Smithton, Prospect, Kingston, Cambridge, Port Sorell and Latrobe brigades.

Smithton

On 9th July the Hon Bryan Green MP on behalf of the Minister for Police and Emergency Management handed over the keys for Tasmania's latest firefighting vehicle to the firefighters of the Smithton Brigade. The handover was well attended and included a number of members from the surrounding Brigades.

"Fire services around the country have shown keen interest in this vehicle, with the versatility to respond

effectively to both structural and bushfire risk being its main feature" Mr. Green said. He added that "Tasmania was in a unique situation of being able to produce its own fire appliances at considerable cost savings. This is brought about by the planned way in which the TFS replaces its ageing fire appliance fleet rather than waiting until vehicles break down completely and then required to be replaced in a reactive way."



Firefighters inspecting the new vehicle

Brigade Chief Trevor Kingston proudly showing off the keys to their new vehicle
- photo courtesy of Stuart Wilson, the Advocate Newspaper

Prospect

The Hon Jim Cox MP, Minister for Police and Emergency Management officially handed over the keys to Prospect's new 31P Pumper-Tanker on 4 June 2008. This is the first of the new 31P appliances to be delivered to the Northern Region and has resulted in significant flow-on effects for other brigades in the Region.

Regional Chief Andrew Comer, Deputy Regional Chief Ken Burns and District Officer Mark Dobson were joined by First Officer Steve Gray and a large contingent of members at the Prospect Station to mark this significant occasion.

Volunteer members from Rocherlea and Ravenswood Brigades were also in attendance and were noticed drooling at the sight of the flashy new appliance! They won't have to wait too long as 31P's have been earmarked for both stations in the coming months.

The event was followed by a light afternoon tea and a tour of the station and grounds. A BIG thank you to all Prospect members for ensuring the station was 'spick and span'!



Deputy Regional Chief Ken Burns, Regional Chief Andrew Comer, the Hon Jim Cox MP Minister for Police and Emergency Management and First Officer Steve Gray



Deputy Regional Chief Ken Burns with the Hon Jim Cox MP Minister for Police and Emergency Management



Brigade Chief Faron Wall with Minister for Police and Emergency Services Jim Cox
Photographer Leading Firefighter Kingston Brigade, Matt Davis

Kingston

On Tuesday 12th August 2008 Minister for Police and Emergency Services Jim Cox handed over the new 3.1P unit to the Kingston Brigade.

The appliance has been well received with positive feed back from the members of the brigade and those involved. It was not long before the appliance was run through its paces, as the following day it attended a large shed fire in Margate and performed well.





Latrobe

On Friday 15th August 2008 Labor Member for Braddon Steve Kons MP handed over the new 3.1P unit to the Latrobe Brigade.

Brigade Chief Graeme Brown, Second Officer Chris Hinds, Labor Member for Braddon Steve Kons MP, Firefighter Ben Dick, Mayor Latrobe Council Mike Gaffney

Port Sorell

On Monday 18th August 2008 Labor Member for Braddon, Brenton Best MP handed over the new 3.1P unit to the Port Sorell Brigade.

Back - Brigade Chief Steven Brazendale, Labor Member for Braddon Brenton Best MP, Regional Chief John Streets, Acting Deputy Chief Officer Tony Davidson
Front - District Officer Paul Hill and Mayor Latrobe Council Mike Gaffney



Cambridge

The Labor Member for Pembroke, Allison Ritchie MP handed over the keys for Tasmania's latest firefighting vehicle to the firefighters of the Cambridge Brigade on Monday 18th August 2008.

Labor Member for Pembroke, Allison Ritchie at the wheel with Brigade Chief Geoffrey Kent

Obituary

Rodney Johnston

3 May 1934 - 20 June 2008



Sadly passed away on 20th June 2008 after a gallant fight with cancer.

Rodney, or Tack as he was more commonly and affectionately known, joined the Hobart Fire Brigade in 1961. In his previous life he had been a tram conductor and trolley bus driver. He quickly rose through the ranks to become a Station Officer, and in 1979 was promoted to Superintendent serving both at the HFB and State Headquarters as Staff Officer to the Chief Officer for a period before returning to the HFB until he retired in 1994.

Tack took a very keen interest in industrial relations and was a UFU stalwart for many years serving in various key roles. He is credited with being the driving force behind the UFU (Tasmanian Branch) receiving federal registration.

Tack made many friends within the fire industry both across the state and nationally. He was a fierce advocate for the rank and file members and had the ability to see the good side of everybody no matter what they had done.

Outside the job, and perhaps occasionally when at work, Tack was an avid collector and was well known for his bottle collecting exploits. He also collected bricks for "the shed" to house his collection of stamps, cigarette cards and bottles.

Tack was a gentle giant who enjoyed social intercourse and always had time to have a chat or yarn. He will be sadly missed by all his friends and workmates. A true legend of the Hobart Fire Brigade.

13th Australasian Police and Emergency Services Games 2010

Welcome to the first of a series of articles that will be included within Fireground leading up to the Australasian Police & Emergency Services Games to be held from 20-27 February 2010 in Hobart. For those not aware of the history of the Games, they are held every two years; however, this will be the first time that the Games have been held in Tasmania.

The purpose of these articles is to provide information to all members of the TFS with a view to encouraging your participation in this most significant event. The Games are open to career and volunteer firefighters; retired firefighters, those who served in excess of ten years before resigning and unsworn members.

With forty-six sports being offered there will be in excess of 800 actual events catering for participants of all ages and ability. Further, a games "festival" meeting place will be created allowing competitors to mingle and enjoy the success and company of other athletes.

The 2010 Games Project Team currently consists of Mark Beech-Jones and Frank Boonstra from Tasmania Police who both can be contacted on the generic e-mail address games2010@police.tas.gov.au or 6230 2376 or visit the website apandesgames.com.au

I look forward to being involved with you in this positive and worthwhile event and will continue to keep you updated so you can 'Conquer the Isle', at the 2010 Australasian Police & Emergency Services Games.

Mark Beech-Jones

Games Director

CONQUER the isle

Fireline Leadership Course

By Senior Training Officer Learning & Development, Robert Featherstone

It was a spur of the moment thing when asked by District Officer Stephen Lowe whether I would go to Fiskville (CFA, Vic) for a week long course titled Fireline Leadership. I immediately thought no, and said yes.

I thought 'no' because of various beliefs such as, it's not my turn, someone else may appreciate the benefits more than I, and it can be a cold and windy place in winter.

The yes came with realisation that any leadership training is a good thing, and that if this course has values suited to the TFS then it is best attended as a participant rather than reading someone else's opinion or website sales pitch.

The Fiskville training centre is the largest and most comprehensive of CFA's field training grounds which is utilised by many companies or private industry for specialised training and conferences. It consists of an accommodation precinct with 'live in' units, dining and visitor facilities, a large and diverse training pad, a teaching centre with auditorium and syndicate rooms, and a commercial and industry training precinct. Fiskville is located off the Western Freeway about 80km from Melbourne toward Ballarat.

The Fireline Leadership program has been developed by Mission-Centered Solutions (MCS) and delivered extensively across the USA. It is the most tested and refined leadership development program available in the industry today. CFA and MCS have worked closely over the past two years to ensure the program is tailored to meet needs. Many of the programs have been run as multi-agency courses with other emergency service providers. This has helped to strengthen the links between the organisations and added to the learning experience.

The course content focused on many things including the art of leadership, decision making, building and training the team, feedback and listening techniques, ethics, and building a plan of action for leadership at one's individual level, crew / brigade level and organisation level. The target audience is aimed at brigade officers, management teams and group officers, whereby the pre-course reading of *"Into Thin Air"* by John Krakauer becomes a course reference, the course itself consisting of 40 hours of training and exercises, and then recommends optional post course activities.

With any course it is often the participation of those attending and

a story base to put realism into the exercises, Acting District Officer Phil Smith also attended and was called upon at times to expand on concepts worthy of sharing. A broad range of experiences were also shared by the other participants from the CFA, Parks Vic, Department of Sustainability & Environment Vic, SES, Emergency Management Australia, Correctional Services Vic, and Council employees. With all having leadership roles in their work there were many opportunities for sharing differing experiences.

During the course the principles and techniques for building, preparing, and leading effective fire crews were considered. It is a belief that all operational people in the TFS at all levels need the things offered by a course of this nature, and as time goes on we also need to revise and evaluate ones own performance as well as those in the team to maintain or explore new skills for improving services.

For me it was fortunate that I did say yes to attending, it has given me additional skills and motivation. In my critique for the course I suggested that the title be akin to 'Lifeline Leadership' because of what may be drawn to enhance decision making day to day, and the course's key messages to strengthen teams. This course is one where the quote, "What we learn with pleasure we never forget" by Alfred Mercier exists.

Leadership

"To lead the people, walk behind them.

As for the best leaders, people do not notice their existence.

The next best, the people honour and praise,

The next, people fear.

And the next, people hate.

When the best leader's work is done, the people say

"We did it ourselves."

Lao-Tse (Ancient Chinese philosopher)



Fireline Leadership Course participants

Emergency Services Field Day

Ann-Maree Thomas of St Marys forwarded these photos taken at the Emergency Services Field Day at St Helens recently. In the TFS demonstration two cars collided, ambulance was called and two occupants had to be removed. One car had a gas tank installed which had to be kept from exploding.



Camp Quality Mud Run

By Firefighter Lenah Valley Brigade, Rohan Thurstans

On 13th April Lenah Valley Brigade and the Southern Off Road Racing Association again joined forces to provide a fun day for families associated with Camp Quality. Weather conditions were much drier than last year and attendance was up. Maybe this was an unfortunate sign of the large number of children diagnosed with cancer in the last twelve months.

Southern Off Road brought along ten buggies and gave all the kids rides around the mud run track and over jumps.

Lenah Valley Brigade provided food, chocolate and ice creams and the ever popular rides in the heavy and light tankers. Children young and old were entertained with rides in various off road vehicles. Thanks to Old Beach Brigade for the loan of their 3.1 tanker. Special thanks go to the Southern Off Road Racing Association for running the kids around the track almost constantly throughout the day and to Bernard and Maria Woolley and family for providing the track and facilities.



Some of Lenah Valley's newer members
Domenic, Chris, Evan and Michele

Not everything
went to plan



Domenic and Ilana Allocca

Boys will be boys



A creature from the bog?
Photographer Rohan Thurstans, Lenah Valley Brigade

Kimberley Brigade - part-time caterers!

By Firefighter Kimberley Brigade, Pat Parker

It all began with a phone call - "would Kimberley Brigade be able to cater for a cycle ride to be held in the Kimberley area on Sunday 13th April?" The answer of course, was yes!

Cycle ride? It was actually stage 3 of the Senior Tour and Under 19 national Road Selections and counted towards Olympic selection. Stages 1 and 2 were held at Forth and Sheffield respectively on the previous two days.

The men rode 130 kms from Kimberley through Dunorlan, Red Hills, Chudleigh, Mole Creek, Paradise, Sheffield, Railton, Kimberley, Weegen a then back through Dunorlan and Moltema to finish at Kimberley.

The women rode 84 kms from Kimberley to Railton and back, then Weegen a, Dunorlan, Moltema, Kimberley, Weegen a, Dunorlan, Moltema and back to Kimberley.

Overall there were 150 riders. Kimberley has never seen so much traffic at one time!

Weegen a Hill is a test for many vehicles, so you can imagine our amazement at seeing how easy the cyclists made it look - yes - we do realise they are elite athletes!

Apparently Heartbreak Hill is in Sheffield area, which leaves us wondering about the name now given to Weegen a Hill.

As for the volunteers at Kimberley, we began early with the tea / coffee and the egg & bacon rolls being on the must-have list at that time on a cool morning. Egg & bacon rolls for breakfast only? They were popular all day!

The catering side of things went off rather smoothly with a tidy sum to add to our coffers.

There is usually a gremlin about on such days, and this time it was the toilets - with so many people about, the gravity fed cisterns could not fill quickly enough for the next flush. One of

our members had the sense to go on "toilet duty" by manually filling the cistern - it certainly helped!

Everyone enjoyed the day, thanks to all who assisted.



6th PASCAL International Conference

By Firefighter St Marys Brigade, Hannah Rubenach

On 26th May I headed overseas for 10 days. I was invited to attend the 6th PASCAL International Conference held in Limerick, Ireland as a community representative for the presentation of a paper titled, "Arts, Health, Community Resilience and Healing after a Natural Disaster". This paper, written and presented by Dr Rosa McManamey of the University of Tasmania, featured the 2006 East Coast Bushfires and the subsequent community-driven recovery initiatives of the Regene8 book and Art & Craft Exhibition. The community of St Marys and surrounding areas (including St Marys Brigade and St Marys Lions Club) had raised enough funds in less than a week to pay for airfares, accommodation and conference fees, as it was felt that a community representative who experienced the fires and contributed to the book and exhibition should be sent along. I was extremely privileged to be chosen as the representative.

PASCAL is an international observatory which promotes the exchange of information, ideas, research and policies about social capital, learning, place management, regeneration and community development. PASCAL has members from universities, business, policy-makers and national, regional and local public authorities. They have regular international gatherings with representatives from all over the world attending. The conference held at the University of Limerick had around 100 delegates from 33 nations in attendance. Website (<http://www.obs-pascal.com/>).

The presentation of the paper on the Regener8 project was a huge success. Many of the delegates attending this session claimed it was the best and most interesting session at the entire conference and that the stories really touched them. Much time was spent answering their questions and sharing stories from the book.

So, stories about the East Coast Bushfires have gone all over the world, with many attendees saying they will use our book and art and craft exhibition projects as a model for their own countries for existing or future tragedies. For example, one delegate from the University of Illinois in USA told us about their University shootings and how the community wanted to have their own recovery projects rather than simply accepting the government's offers of huge amounts of money and to bulldoze the building. He has taken a copy of the Regener8 book back with him to use as an example of successful community-driven recovery projects. Also, a lady from Norway, who is very concerned that Norway will experience severe flooding in the future, due to global warming, has the Regener8 book and Art and Craft Exhibition ideas in mind as ways to assist community recovery for future natural disasters that may occur in her own country. It's a great way to put Tasmania on the map - being used as a model around the world!

While in Ireland, I also visited the Limerick City Fire & Rescue Service and presented them with the Regener8 book as well



Presentation of the paper at the University of Limerick



Presentation to Limerick Fire Brigade

as a plaque and t-shirts, stickers, etc from TFS and the State Emergency Service. They gave me shirts, etc in return, as well as my favourite item I brought back from Ireland - a pink t-shirt with Limerick City Fire & Rescue Service printed on it. They took me on a tour through their station to see their fire trucks and equipment. They were very welcoming, friendly and helpful and I had a wonderful visit.

The Limerick City Fire & Rescue Service performs firefighting operations as well as rescue services, such as road crash rescue and flooding response. They work in closely with other services, such as police and ambulance. They are based in Mulgrave Street in Limerick and cover an area of 419 sq kms and attend to a population of more than 100,000 within Limerick and in the adjoining areas in counties Clare and Limerick. Fire services have been provided in Limerick for about 130 years. Website www.limerickcity.ie/emergency/LimerickCityFireandRescueService

There are 222 fire stations throughout Ireland, and the fire services are managed through the 37 local government authorities, with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government having an advisory, policy-making and legislative role. Two-thirds of the national total firefighters

are retained part-time in the rural areas, while the others are full-time firefighters in the cities and large towns. Fire services are funded through the government, which gives the funds to the local councils to operate the fire services. Funding is also received through council rates from commercial premises and some councils have additional fees on fire service functions, such as shed or chimney fires. Training occurs at the local level around the country. New full-time recruits train for 13 weeks. Limerick Fire Service has recently had seven new recruits, trained in Ireland for the first time in 20 years, by both Limerick and Dublin Fire Services. Website http://www.citizensinformation.ie/categories/consumer-affairs/emergency-services/fire_services

And by the way, if they go a week without rain in Ireland, they start to get concerned they might be in a drought!



Limerick Fire Brigade's Rescue Vehicle



My pink fire t-shirt from Limerick Fire Brigade

World Youth Day

By District Officer Launceston Brigade,
Danny Richardson

When the World Youth Day cross came to Launceston, LFB received a request from St Patrick's Catholic School for assistance in taking some overhead photos of a display the students were undertaking.



Tasmania Fire Museum is not all BRTs!

A big thank you to all readers who responded to the above article in the last issue of Fireground. The information provided will go a long way to properly documenting the history of the appliances brought into service by the Rural Fires Board in the 1970's.

Thanks again, Terry Gill - 6239 1124

Where Have All the Old Bells Gone?

Asks Tasmania Fire Museum Member, Terry Gill

Like in fire services the world over, Tasmania's early fire brigades, found the need to rely on bells for brigade mobilisation and for clearing the way en route to an incident.

Let's set the early local Van Diemen's Land/Tasmanian scene.

From the 1840's until 1883 organising, funding and equipping of fire brigades was a responsibility largely accepted by the private fire insurance companies of the day. In doing this they were adopting a practice followed across all other Australian colonies and much of the English speaking world then. Naturally there was a degree of self interest on the part of the insurance companies in doing so. By supporting their volunteer brigades, company payouts against claims could be reduced and in some cases, kept at a minimum. In this period insurance company brigades were operating in Hobart and Launceston.

By the 1870's the fire insurance companies have had enough. Across all Australian colonies, they had started to apply public and private pressure on all colonial Governments to step in.

What they wanted was a system where the cost of firefighting was more equitably shared across the community, rather than leaving it to policy holders alone to foot the bill through their insurance premiums. In Tasmania the pressure paid off on 26 October 1883, when the Colonial Parliament passed the Fire Brigades Act 1883. This created two statutory Fire Brigade Boards; one for Hobart and one for Launceston, each funded equally by the Colonial Government, the Municipal Council and the collective insurance companies.

Tower Bells

The earliest use of bells by Tasmanian fire brigades can be traced back to 1857 when Launceston's combined insurance companies came together to erect a fire bell in January of that year.

As Launceston grew, so did the number of fire bells.

From the book "*Men of Fire*", written for the State Fire Commission by Roger McNeice in 1987, there is a montage of pictures of the Launceston Fire Brigade fire bell towers, as they were in 1911:

1. Paterson Street, city centre,
2. Wellington Road, Sandhill; and
3. Inveresk

An item of further interest in picture 1 is the brick building in the left hand background. It is the 1883 seven storey fire bell and watch tower, of the former Launceston United Fire Brigade, in Brisbane Street.

In Hobart there was ever only one fire bell tower. From 1859, it was located in Bathurst Street, opposite the northern end of Watchorn Street.

By the 1880's Hobart's tower had become dilapidated. As a result Hobart's daily newspaper "The Mercury" of Saturday 14th July 1883, was able to report to its readers:

"A new fire bell tower and an engine house have been erected in Bathurst Street by the corporation (Hobart City Council, Ed). The tower is a substantial wooden structure, and has an elevation of 56 ft. above the level of the street, giving a full view to the city. It is connected by telephone with the police offices."

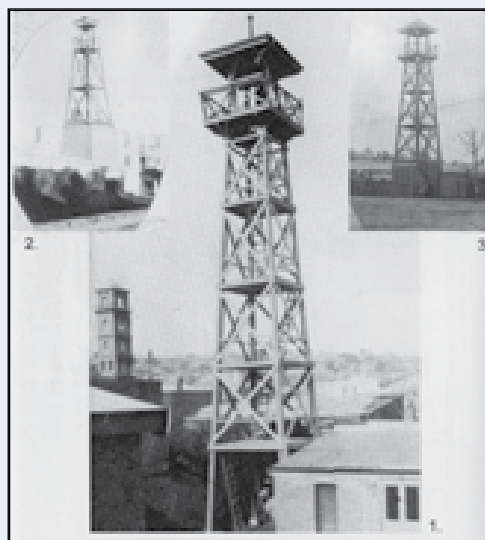
This re-building was done not long before the handover of former insurance company fire brigade equipment and assets to the new statutory Fire Brigade Boards in March 1884. As a result the Hobart Board negotiated a 10 year lease of the site from the corporation at 1/- (10 cents) per annum. This was later extended until the 1926 Bathurst Street station closure.

These bell towers, and others to follow, were erected at a time when brigades had a core number of regular members and once at a fire, onlookers could be co-opted to assist with operating the manual pumps etc. So as well as mustering the brigade, the fire bells also summoned all and sundry.

In the case of Launceston and Hobart, their bell towers also doubled as watch towers, staffed by a watchman to detect any outbreak of fire, particularly at night.

With the passing of the *Fire Brigades Act 1900*, the way was opened for other towns to petition the Governor, to create statutory Fire Brigade Boards for their communities. It is from here on that we see that other towns join Launceston* and Hobart* in the use of fire bells.

As far as can be determined, eventually fire bells were also erected to mobilise brigades in Burnie*, Devonport*, Gormanston, Latrobe, Longford, Penguin, Queenstown*, Ulverstone, Wynyard*, Scottsdale, New Norfolk (Council bell) Oatlands (Town Hall bell), Sheffield and Zeehan*.



Needless to say, fire alarm bells eventually out lived their usefulness. This was brought about with the gradual uptake of that new-fangled late 19th century invention, the telephone and also by the steady increase in ambient background noise in the towns from growing traffic levels. But in their day they served their purpose well. As mentioned above, not only did they muster the brigade to respond, but when their knells rang out, they also alerted the bystanders. The latter could always be kept out of trouble by being supervised to operate the manual pumps. This freed up most of the firefighters to get on with the real business of "putting the wet stuff on the red stuff".

Appliance Bells

Bells and gongs were also attached to fire appliances, to gain clear passage through traffic by brigades on the way to fires. These bells were initially used on some of the early brigade hand and horse drawn hose reel carts and manual fire engines.

Before the availability of appliance sirens from around the 1930's, the use of appliance bells carried over into the time when brigades started to employ motor driven appliances to get to fires. Their bells were usually hung to allow the person riding in the officer's seat beside the driver could reach them. One unusual variant of this, was the HFB's 1912 Leyland pumper/hose carriage, it had a foot operated gong mounted above the running board on the officer's side, a bit like a tram driver's warning bell.



The last appliance to enter service with bells, was the 1955 F8 Dennis urban pumper, imported from the UK by the Launceston Fire Brigade Board. After its retirement from the LFB it served for a few years at Westbury Brigade.

Even so, there have been some other appliances equipped with bells, that arrived in Tasmania more recently than this.

In the early 1970's the then new Rural Fires Board embarked on a program of importing 23 ex British civil defence Auxiliary Fire Service RLHZ Bedford heavy pumper fire appliances for

village protection. On their arrival, the RLHZ's still had their AFS "green goddess" dark green livery, looking like this.



They also still had a classic British fire service bell on the cab roof above the officer's seat. The bell was rung by the officer, by way of a lanyard attached to the bell's clapper, which passed through a slot in the cab roof.

As part of their preparation for deployment with Tasmanian rural fire brigades, the bells were removed by the Rural Fires Board before the appliances entered service

So where have all the bells gone?

Apart from the ones on the F8 Dennis, currently your Museum does not have a fire bell in its collection. We would like to enlist you help in finding out what has become of all the others to at least start an inventory of their locations if they are still in existence, either brigade hands or elsewhere.

Please contact Terry Gill on 6239 1124 or at museum@fire.tas.gov.au

- if your brigade did have a mounted fire bell and it is not listed above;
- if the tower type bell is still in your brigade's possession;
- if you know to where the tower bell was disposed;
- if you have an ex appliance bell or gong in your station as say a trophy or other display;
- if you know what happened to the foot operated gong on the Leyland turntable ladder; or
- if you know what did happen those 23 ex "green goddess" bells.

We look forward to hearing from you. Thank you.

Michele Wylie update



Hi all,

Michele on her trip to Singapore in January was diagnosed with glaucoma, which is a pressure problem of the eye. Glaucoma has resulted in causing serious optic nerve damage to Mickey's eyes, which if not treated can result in permanent blindness.

Thankfully it was found very early and although she has lost some peripheral vision to her eye, it is being treated with medication and drops that she will receive for the rest of her life so that she can maintain reasonable sight to the reconstructed eye.

After again returning to Singapore in April for a five-day turn around she has now received the all clear until the next trip in November of this year (trip number ten).

Michele still struggles to handle her life, and still finds herself in emotional turmoil especially when it comes to the love for her children, where she would like to embrace them as much as any mother would, and share in their good and bad times which they endure throughout their lives, but now this privilege has been stripped away from her.

Michele now once again attends Rehabilitation in Davey Street where they are working on her hands. Hopefully more movement will return and we may be able to purchase a motorised wheelchair as a result of all your hard work and donations.

Mickey is now residing at the Gardens from Monday to Friday and receives full 24 hour care. The Gardens is situated up near Cadburys in Claremont and 5 minutes from the family home, and she struggles to accept this massive change in her life. She is picked up on a Saturday morning by the family and occasionally my dear mum.

Thanks to all

Regards Barry and family

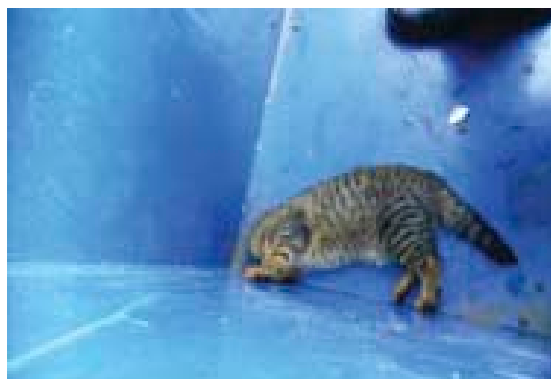
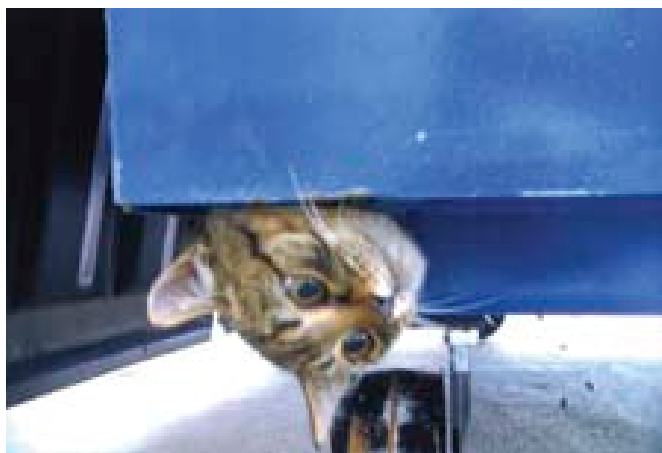
A rescue with a difference!

By Station Officer Hobart Brigade, Peter Tavaszi

The attempted escape from an industrial bin proved more difficult than first thought by an unwilling cat. We received a call from a business at Cambridge reporting that a cat had its head stuck in a hole. On arrival we discovered that two young cats had been dumped in an industrial bin, and while trying to escape through the only opening (a small unplugged

drainage hole) the cat managed to squeeze its head through and got stuck.

The very distressed cat's ordeal wasn't over yet. After pondering alternatives the appropriate PPC (structural gloves) were donned and liquid soap was lathered over its head, and with some pulling and pushing, the cat finally popped out. Both cats, unharmed, were taken away by the RSPCA.



TFS Corporate Health Plan now extended to all TFS Volunteers

The TFS has partnered with TFS Volunteers. MBF are proud supporters of our local communities and supporting people to take a positive step to improve health and wellbeing.

The TFS Corporate Health Plan goes purely beyond health benefits and provides participating members with practical tools to enjoy the benefits of good health.

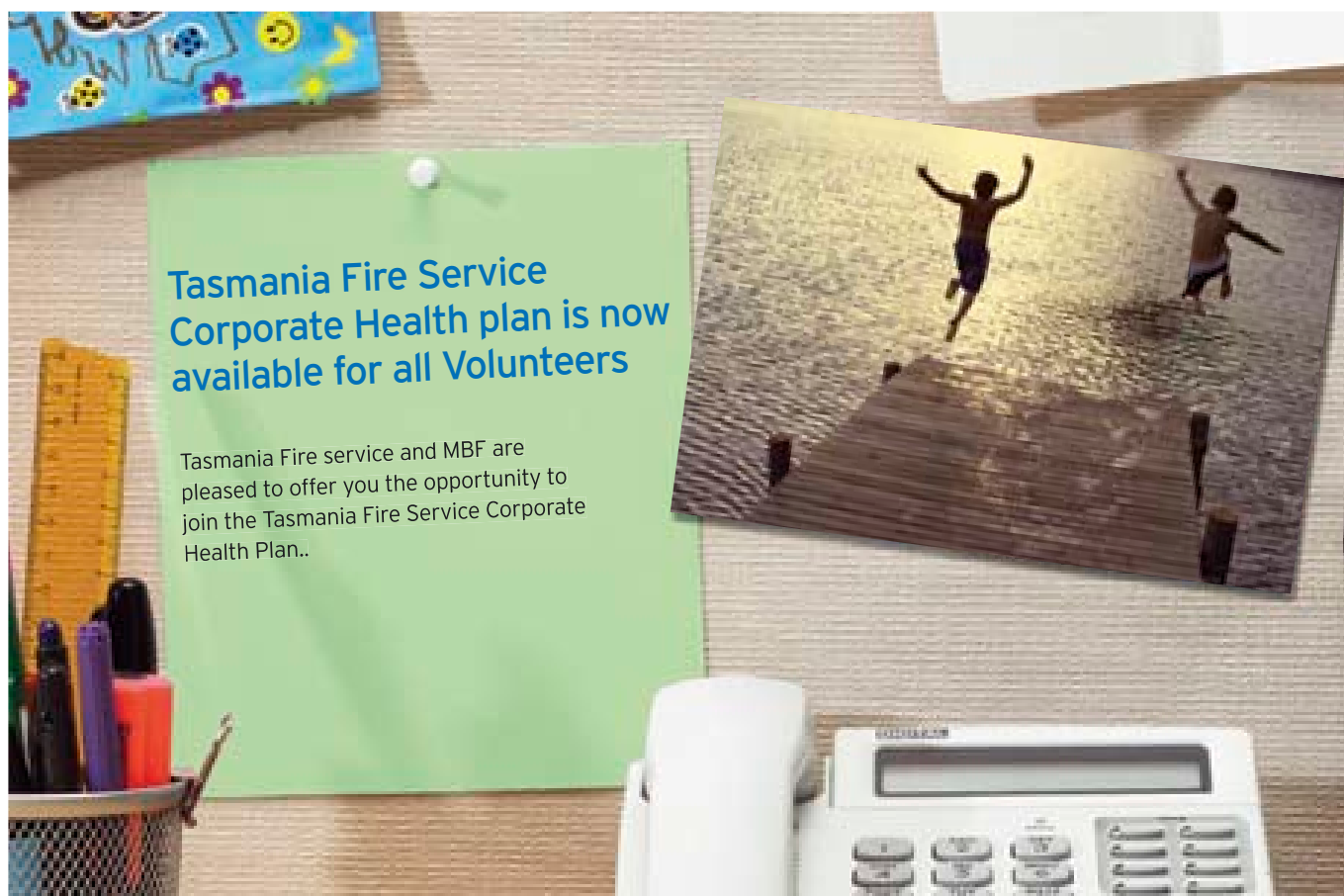
Volunteers will now have access to affordable hospital and extras cover to suit their lifestyle, stage of life and budget.

For more information please contact:

North: Allison Boyd on 6334 9099
Email: allison.boyd@mbf.com.au

South: Sandra Ling on 0438 276 852
Email: sandra.ling@mbf.com.au

Or alternatively you can visit your local MBF Member Centres located in Launceston, Burnie, Hobart, Glenorchy or Eastlands.



Let MBF help you take a positive step.

- Call 1300 653 525
- Visit your MBF Centre
- Or mbf.com.au/corporate and enter username: **tasfire** & password: **healthplan**

We recommend you read the product brochure together with the MBF Policy Terms & Conditions before joining. Your corporate plan is brought to you by MBF Australia Pty Ltd ABN 81 000 057 590

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Take a positive step

MBFHC0383

LETTERS

JIREH HOUSE Assoc. Inc.

Accommodation & Support Services for Women & Children

16th May 2008

Kingston Fire Brigade
Po Box
Kingston Tas 7051

Dear Fires,

On behalf of the Board and Staff of Jireh House, we would like to express our appreciation and gratitude for your response and skilled work in extinguishing the fire at the house on Sat.22nd of March. Words fall short of conveying how grateful we were as in our shocked state we watched you fight the fire in a courageous and professional manner.

Many times in the past weeks we have relived and discussed those hours remembering your kind and sensitive dealing with us...We especially appreciated how you helped and safely guided us to retrieve important items from our office area. This enabled us to continue to serve our clients in the best manner possible considering the circumstances. In the midst of such trauma, small acts can mean so much, like the caring fireman who brought out a cherished pet fish in its tank bringing great joy to a stressed child of one of our clients.

Your time and effort were even more meaningful to us as no doubt all of you sacrificed special time on that Easter holiday weekend. We can only express a heartfelt thank you again.

In the days ahead as we deal with the results of the fire and work to re-establish our service we will remember all your kindness to us. We will especially pray for your safety as you continue to serve our community in such a vital way.

Sincerely Thank You!

On behalf of the Board: Mary Lou Weller, President

On behalf of the Staff: Sandra Nichols, Manager

Dear Fire Brigade members,

The Tasmanian Land Conservancy wishes to thank all of those fire fighters involved in putting out the fire on our land at Backmount Road, Ellendale, on 22nd March. Without your quick response & persistent efforts, this fire could have resulted in extensive damage to the neighbouring Conservation Area.

As managers of land with significant conservation values (including the Ellendale property, known as Eider Peppercorn Reserve) we are well aware of the ecological & safety need to burn native vegetation, and will be developing a fire management plan for this estate soon. We look forward to working with you in the future (although hopefully not in an emergency situation such as this one).

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

Warm regards

Sandra Nichols
Deborah Williams
Reserves Manager

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
47 Liverpool Street Hobart
GPO Box 300
HOBART TAS 7001
Phone: 03-4290 2111
Fax: 03-4290 2117

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

Enquiries:

ASBESTOS ADVISORY

GLH BK

Tasmania
POLICE

2 June 2008

John Gledhill
Deputy Officer
Tasmania Fire Service
Melville and Argyle Streets
HART TAS 7000

STATE FIRE COMMISSION	
10 JUN 2008	
Information & Records	
File No.	100-1530
File Name	2008-2009
File Type	MS
File Status	CO
File Location	
File Size	
File Date	
File Time	
File User	
File Group	
File Permissions	
File Comments	

Dear John

TASMANIAN FIRE SERVICE TEAM - NATIONAL ROAD RESCUE COMPETITION

I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the Tasmania Fire Service Team who competed so well during the National Road Rescue Competition on the Gold Coast recently. I note that the competition had contingents from as far as New Zealand, Malaysia and Hong Kong. The team obviously performed exceptionally well, as I have been informed that they won the 'Controlled Rescue' class and were rated 13th overall out of 22 teams. This is certainly a great effort and clearly shows the standard of training that each team member undergoes during the course of their career.

You are no doubt pleased with their achievement and I personally wish the whole team well with their future endeavours.

Yours sincerely

D. L. HINE

Deputy Commissioner of Police
Chair, State Road Rescue Committee

Well done!

A/SCO Please pass on

Ys 20/6/08

DO. State Rd. F41 v action.
Grant to get his knife of feedback
Thank 20/6/08

12 SHANSTONE PL.
MONTROSE
7010

WE THANK YOU TONY DAVIDSON FOR YOUR
HELP & ORGANIZATION TO MAKE ROBNEY'S
TACKS FUNERAL SERVICE SO MEMORABLE
AND TO ALL FIREFIGHTERS IN ATTENDANCE
YOU DID US PROUD

THANK YOU
PATSY JOHNSTON
AND FAMILY



Havenview Primary School

Harris Street, Burnie TAS 7330
Ph (08) 4431 1995 Fax (08) 4431 9340
Email havenviewprimary@education.tas.gov.au



4th August 2008

Greg Williams
CJ. Manager, Community Education
Tasmania Fire Service
PO Box 1536
HOBART TAS 7001

Dear Greg,

I wanted to take this opportunity to formally thank you for the terrific Fire Education program you ran for our school between the 21st-25th July.

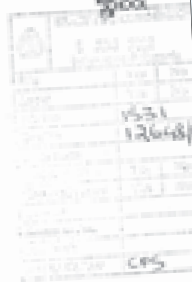
You do a fantastic job and most importantly deliver really important messages to our students.

I had several comments from parents about how they had been 'lectured, taught or instructed' following the program so it's great to know that the students take on board your messages and put them into action.

I wish you well for the rest of the year and I look forward to seeing you again in the future.

Sincerely,

Simon Dent
Principal



TasFire Training
1040 Cambridge Rd.
Cambridge
Tasmania, 7170

Joshua Mathewson
1 Sandy Point Ave.
Dodges Ferry
Tasmania, 7173

To Whom It May Concern:

Friday 30th May 2008

My name is Josh Mathewson and I have recently joined the Tasmanian Fire Service as a volunteer in the Dodges Ferry Brigade. On the 17th and 18th of May this year I participated in a Basic Training Course conducted at the Cambridge Complex.

I am writing to commend the efforts of Phil Sansom (Fern Tree Brigade), Anke Workman (Richmond Brigade) and Gary Linnell (Eaglehawk Neck Brigade). These people really helped me get a better understanding of the service, plus we all had a good time, and I made new mates and was reunited with a few old ones.

So thank you again for your work and please pass on my thanks to these people, and to everyone else who assists in these training courses.

Yours Sincerely,

Josh Mathewson

Thank you! from Team Kinder

Dear Firemen,

Thank you for letting us visit your fire station. We had so much fun and learnt lots of important things.

From Team Kinder, Brooklyn Primary

My favourite part was

going through the tunnel when they turned the lights off
going into the tunnel turning the lights off
climbing through the fire truck
crawling through the tunnel when the lights went off
spraying the hose
going in the tunnel when the lights went out
going into the fire truck
crawling through the tunnel
going into the tunnel looking at the fire trucks
climbing through the tunnel
walking into the fire station
going into the tunnel when the lights went off
crawling into the tunnel
going into the fire station
going through the tunnel when the firemen was putting the clothes on

going through the tunnel when they turned the lights off
going into the tunnel turning the lights off
climbing through the fire truck
crawling through the tunnel when the lights went off
spraying the hose
going in the tunnel when the lights went out
going into the fire truck
crawling through the tunnel
going into the tunnel looking at the fire trucks
climbing through the tunnel
walking into the fire station
going into the tunnel when the lights went off
crawling into the tunnel
going into the fire station
going through the tunnel when the firemen was putting the clothes on



Lady Gowrie Preschool
4 Washington Street
South Hobart 7004

7th July 2008

Dear Fire Service Brigade

Thank you for visiting our Preschool on Monday 7th July. Your visit was most welcomed and appreciated. Your ability to talk to such a young age group was outstanding. The children listened closely and gained important information and knowledge.

Thank you again on behalf of all the Preschool children and staff.

Yours truly,

Christine Burnett
Preschool Teacher