

Fireground

summer 2005



- Islamic Study Centre Fire
- Recruits 1/2005

SUMMER 2005

Official Journal of
The Tasmania Fire Service



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The opinions expressed in
FIREGROUND are not
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Fireground!

Published by
Tasmania Fire Service

Printed by The Print Centre
12-16 Bathurst Street, HOBART
ISSN 0727-6087

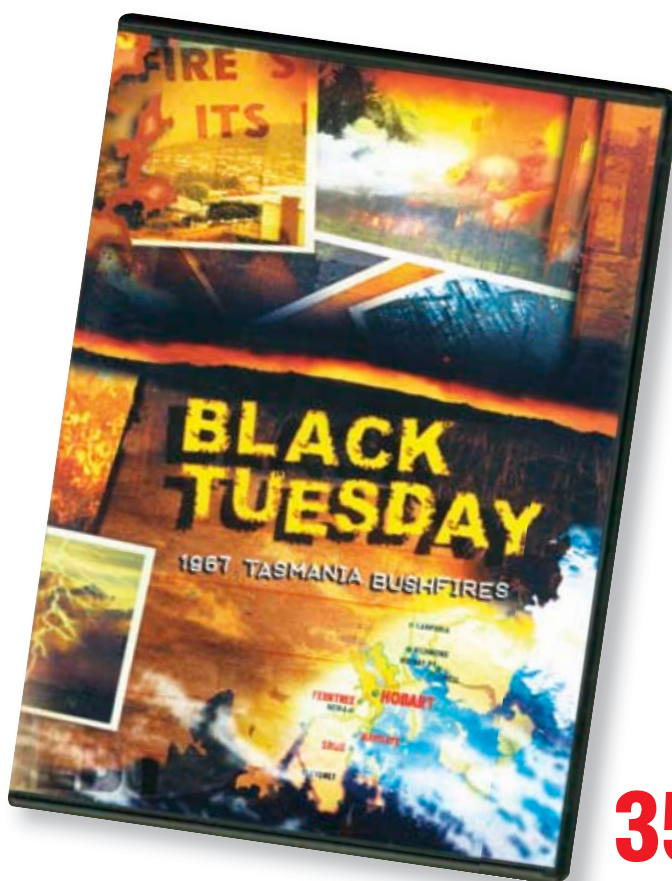
Cover: Islamic Study Centre fire
Photo courtesy of Mark Franklin,
Tasmania Police



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From the Chief Officer



As I write heavy spring rains are continuing to fall across Tasmania. It's now obvious that there will be abundant grass in the pasture areas of the State. This can be the pre-cursor of difficult fire conditions if the wet spring is followed by a dry summer. This in fact was the case in 1967 when dry heavy spring growth was a significant contributing factor to the February fire disaster.

However we should not hastily jump to the conclusion that a wet spring necessarily results in a bad fire season. A dry spring can result in heavier than usual forest fuels. In dry conditions some plants, in particular eucalypts, shed many of their leaves as a

drought survival mechanism, resulting in a rapid build up of additional fuels. Additionally, dry spring conditions often result in slower decomposition of dead plant materials meaning more fuels.

So what does all this mean? A wet spring can produce lots of grass fuels and a dry spring can produce an increase in bush fuels. It's a case of swings and roundabouts. Regardless of what the spring conditions are, there will always be sufficient quantities of available fuel to burn. Fuel availability and quantity is just one factor. Periods of dry summer weather without significant rain for more than three weeks can produce difficult bushfires when bad fire weather occurs. Speculating on the future is interesting and we need to anticipate and plan, but we should expect to respond to bushfires every summer.

Regardless of the amount of spring fuel growth we need to remind people especially those living in or near areas of bush of the need to prepare their properties prior to the onset of dry conditions. Fuel removal around houses and other buildings to create a defensible space is critical to their survival in a bushfire.

Let's hope our services are not often needed this summer. I take this opportunity to wish TFS members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Editorial

By Editor Linda Lacy

Commencing this issue, as a centrefold we will be printing bushfire research posters kindly provided by the Bushfire Co-operative Research Centre (CRC). The first poster is on the aerial and ground suppression evaluation project. As part of that research the TFS participated with the CRC in an aerial suppression experiment over three days at Cambridge during February 2005 (see photos at bottom of poster). The aim of the experiment was to evaluate the effectiveness of drops on fire behaviour in stubble fuels and to assist the CRC to develop a field method for further experiments (article Fireground Winter 2005).

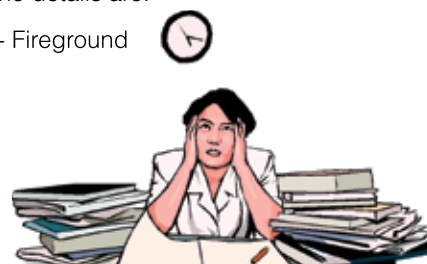
Another new addition to Fireground is the "Awards" page where long service badges, national medals, volunteer medals etc will be listed with group photos if provided. Send in details of presentations advising who, when and what the award was.

I now have another Fireground email address, so please send your articles, photos, award details etc to fireground@fire.tas.gov.au

Closing date for next edition will be 15th January 2006. Don't wait for the closing date - send your articles as the events occur - if they miss that edition, I'll carry them over to the next one!

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Recruits 1/2005

"Forged In Fire Tempered By Unity"

Friday 30th September was graduation day for the 12 new recruits and the completion of 13 weeks of training. During those 13 weeks the trainees were exposed to a large amount of initial training that is to be built on whilst on shift, some of which will not be completed until 36 months of service.

Just to name a few:

- Respond to and suppress urban fire
- Respond to and suppress wildfire
- Hose drills
- Participate in rescue operations
- Emergency care
- Navigation
- Drive vehicles under operational conditions
- Operate breathing apparatus
- Hazardous materials

On a deployment to the Buckland Military Training Area the trainees were exposed to handline construction, relay pumping, wildfire suppression, navigation, off road driving techniques and team building challenges.

The final day of recruit training came around so quickly and after 13 weeks of intense training it was time to put it out there for all to see. Various scenarios were looked at by the training team and then put to the trainees for the final decision, "let's keep it small and simple" was the plan of the training team, however, the trainees had their own ideas.



Keep it small - what a joke - the scenario was a vehicle accident into an LPG bullet with a casualty, incorporating the use of Training 1.1 relay pumping to a 64mm exposure line, Training 2.1 supplying a 64mm exposure line and two 38mm attack lines - "let's keep it small and simple guys" - and to make things interesting the guys also wanted to include an aerial appliance so why not? Hobart 6.1 can supply an exposure line to protect the house and observation platform for some very important trainees - I think they just wanted a free ride! The day went well and the audience was impressed as it showed with the applause at the end of the exercise.

I am sure that the 12 trainee firefighters who came from a wide range of backgrounds and locations throughout the

country were a little apprehensive as to what they would be exposed to on the course and over the next 13 weeks, but they now know why they built a house out of straw on their second day.

It's great to see the guys out there working as probationary firefighters on shift and exposed to a range of incidents and taking it all in their stride.

Guys, we hope your career with the Tasmania Fire Service is long, enjoyable and successful. Remember "bring it on"; "I think I have this sorted"; "I just did it with the most style"; and "apparently if you rub your pager enough it will eventually go off!"

Cheers

Recruit Training Team 1/2005

The hard work is not over yet!



Photo left - Left to right: Charlie Watson (LFB), Adrian Adams (LFB), Mark McCarthy (HFB), David Ransome (LFB), Daniel Beamish (DFB), Andrew Emery (HFB), Simon U'Ren (LFB), Vaughn Thompson (LFB), Brent Machen (LFB), Chris Collins (HFB), Tim Crellin (HFB) and David Conceicao (HFB)

Co-operation between TFS brigades and farming communities during bushfires

By Executive Officer Policy & Support, Felicity Poulter

Members of rural communities regularly provide invaluable assistance to TFS brigades and their neighbours during fires and other emergencies. The TFS acknowledges and appreciates the skills, experience and local knowledge that these individuals contribute. Several years ago, the State Fire Commission recommended the creation of a working party to enhance this co-operation between TFS brigades and members of farming and rural communities.

The working party was created, inviting representatives from the TFGA as well as representatives of TFS management, district staff, the UFU, TVFBA and TRVFA. Since its inception, the working party has developed a number of ways to enhance co-operation. The working party has already begun to implement these ideas.

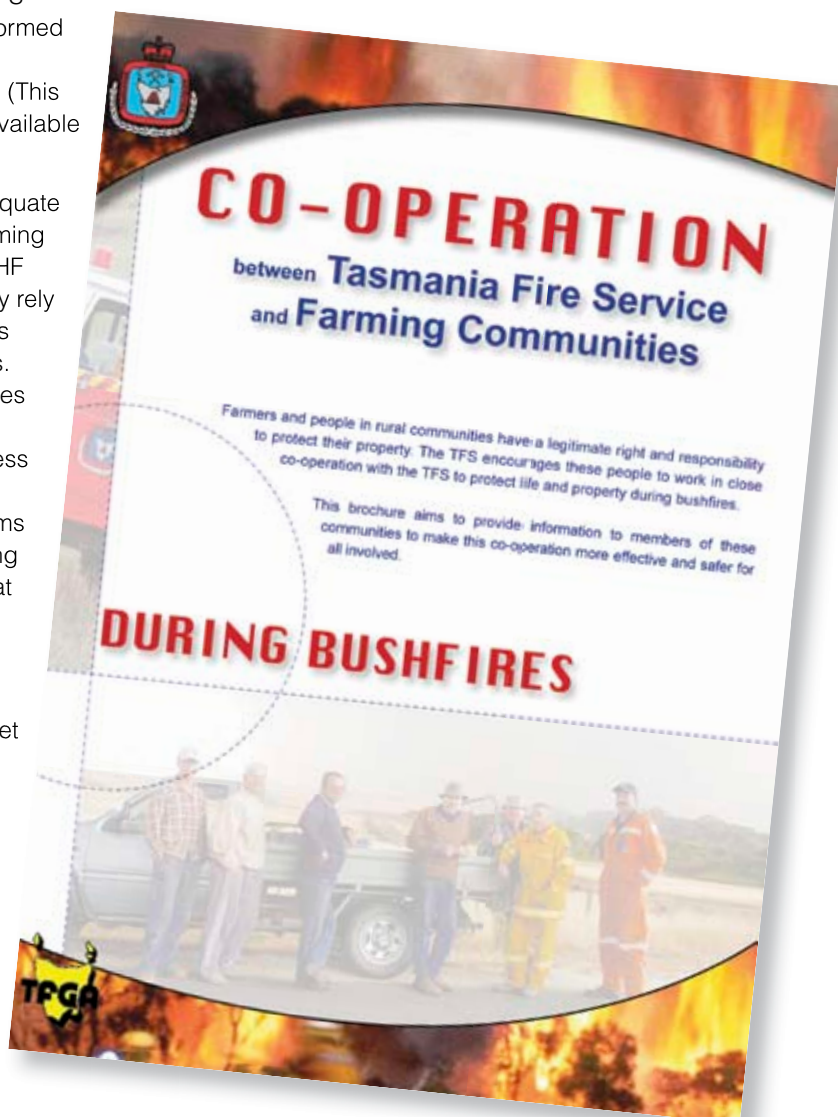
Firstly, in response to concerns from farmers and other individuals about the liability they faced if they assisted at a fire, the TFS sought legal clarification from the Solicitor-General on the legal liability of individuals assisting TFS brigades. The advice from the Solicitor-General has formed the basis of a TFS policy, "Co-operation between TFS brigades and farming communities during bushfires". (This policy was discussed in Fireground last year and is available on the TFS intranet site.)

The working party members also identified that inadequate / ineffective communication between the TFS and farming communities was an issue. Farmers rely largely on UHF radios to communicate, whereas TFS brigades usually rely on VHF. TFS management recognised that UHF radios would be beneficial for TFS brigades in farming areas. Research revealed that a large number of TFS brigades in these areas already carried UHF radios. TFS then undertook to ensure brigades in such areas had access to UHF radios. Engineering Services has helped take this process a step further by installing the wiring looms and housing for UHF radios in all new vehicles, making it easier and more cost effective to install a UHF unit at some later time as the need arises.

The provision of UHF radios was one issue; however, the procedure for using them during bushfires was recognised as equally important. The working party set up a trial of UHF radios in the Midlands District, with specific channels to be used during a fire. This trial ran during the fire season 2004-2005, however, due to the quiet nature of the season, the UHF procedure was not rigorously tested. The feedback so far on the UHF channels used has been positive and TFS has printed a large number of laminated cards and stickers listing the procedure for use of UHF radios between TFS and rural communities during fires.

To improve general understanding of TFS procedures and obligations, the working party developed a brochure which provides a summary of the legal liability information, the use of UHF during fires as well as important information regarding health and safety at fires. This brochure has been printed and has been included in the latest edition of the TFGA publication "Primary Focus". The brochure also contains a copy of the laminated UHF radio procedures for people to keep in their car or by the phone and radio at home. Copies of the brochure and card are also available at the three regional headquarters or by contacting your District Officer. It is hoped that the brochure will increase understanding of how to help brigades safely at fires.

This working party is proving to be a valuable forum for discussion between TFS representatives and farmers and will therefore continue to meet several times a year to look at other initiatives that will benefit both the TFS and farming communities.



“After the Fire” booklet - What to do in the hours and days after fire strikes

By Consultant Community Education, Chris Tomes

“The unthinkable has happened; your home has been damaged or destroyed by fire”

A new booklet has been developed by Community Education to assist firefighters statewide to help victims of house fires through this difficult time.

The new booklet, “After the Fire”, contains information to assist victims of house fires to begin rebuilding their life.

Topics covered include:

- Step 1** - Secure and protect your property
- Step 2** - Safety
- Step 3** - Insurance
- Step 4** - Leaving your home
- Step 5** - After the fire - salvage hints
- Step 6** - Keeping a record

A contact list of organisations that may be able to help is also included.

“After the Fire” is expected to be ready soon and will be available from all District Offices or by calling Community Education on 6230 8485.

Thanks to Jarrod Read from the Hobart Fire Brigade for his excellent contribution to this project.



News from Triabunna Brigade

By Firefighter Triabunna Brigade, Max Berry

New Crash Road Rescue Team Leaders at Triabunna

Four members of Triabunna Brigade recently attended road crash rescue team leader evaluations at SES training at Mornington.

Danny Sullivan, Max Berry, David Wells and Jason Gibson all passed and are now qualified team leaders.

AGM at Triabunna

On 26th August the Triabunna Brigade held its Annual General Meeting. It was also time for election of officers.

Brigade Chief Robert Bloomfield opened the meeting welcoming Brigade members and District Officer Gerald Crawford.

Robert declared all positions vacant and asked Gerald to take the chair.

Ian Izzard was elected Brigade Chief; William Sullivan Second Officer; John Ashlin Third Officer; and David Wells Fourth Officer.

Members of the Brigade take this opportunity to thank Robert for his leadership and contribution to the Brigade and wish him the best for the future.



Islamic Study Centre Fire

By Senior Station Officer Hobart Fire Brigade, Rob Ratcliffe

Photo courtesy of Fourth Officer Sandfly Brigade, Ron Moss

On the morning of 25th August 2005, B Platoon members were preparing to go off duty when a pager message was received to a structure fire at 55 Liverpool Street Hobart. As usual for this type of call two pumpers responded with a total of ten personnel.

As we turned into Liverpool Street from Campbell Street black smoke was quite visible. On arrival smoke and flames could be seen coming from an upper floor window.

After a quick size-up, an extension ladder was erected to facilitate any rescue of persons trapped on the first floor. A number of other things were happening at the same time. Firefighters were donning breathing apparatus sets, hoses run out, pumps engaged, and the usual chaos that ensues at a going fire. I remember glancing up at the windows on the right hand side of the shop that was involved in fire and seeing a face pushed up against the glass. As a result four people were evacuated from a flat. On the other side of the fire another 25 people were evacuated from the accommodation floor of a hotel as a precautionary measure. The firefighters at this stage had entered the building via the front windows on the first floor.

Progress in knocking the fire down and searching the affected area for occupants progressed quite quickly. Everything was going according to plan when I noticed smoke coming

from the roof area. At this stage a backup crew had arrived in the hydraulic platform (Snorkel). One of the firefighters remembers seeing a pin prick of light coming from the ceiling. What was seemingly a straight forward job was starting to get complicated.

As the fire progressed in the ceiling space large sheets of pressed tin started falling down as well as other fire debris. As a precaution the crews were evacuated from the building. Our tactics now changed from an interior fire attack to a defensive attack.

To gain an overview of the incident from a different angle the hydraulic platform was used. Word back from the operator confirmed the fire had taken hold in the roof area and was spreading quite quickly. The decision was made to make a ventilation opening in the roof of the building from the hydraulic platform as a means of reducing the spread of fire. Our ultimate aim was to prevent the fire from spreading to adjoining buildings.

When I mentioned that this fire becoming complicated - this was an understatement.

Due its location there was a lot of interest in the fire. Smoke was clearly visible over the Hobart CBD skyline. Traffic flows at peak hour were severely disrupted. Workers in nearby commercial premises were restricted from entering the

immediate area, delivery vans and trucks as well as taxis were also diverted. The general public were interested because it was about the time when most workers in the CBD were arriving for work and Liverpool Street is their normal route. The media had also arrived in force. The police had a media liaison officer present, barricades had been erected by the City Council, Aurora had arrived to confirm the disconnection of the power, reinforcements had arrived in the form of the 1/2005 Recruit Course.

As a result of the fire damage to the 99 year old building the investigation into the cause took all day to complete. A number of Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) qualified personnel also assisted in the overhaul because of the building integrity.

At the end of the day the fire was determined to be accidental, no one was injured, the fire was confined to the structure of origin and a number of valuable lessons were learnt.



Photo by Fire Investigator Mark Klop

My thanks to the B Platoon firefighters and officers present on that day and also to the relieving crews for their efforts.



Photo courtesy of Mark Franklin, Tasmania Police



Photo courtesy of Mark Franklin, Tasmania Police

“Interview with a Deputy - an old face in a new position”

By Editor Fireground, Linda Lacy

I took some time recently to speak with Andrew Comer - the newly appointed Deputy Regional Chief in the north of the state - to find out a bit more about him, his views on the TFS, the world and everything. Following are some highlights from our conversation.

LL Andrew, how do you feel about your recent appointment to Deputy Regional Chief?

AC Privileged really. I started off from humble beginnings and just tried to be good at whatever I did. I never really intended moving up the so called 'corporate ladder' and still don't see myself as ambitious - it just went hand in glove with my desire to help others and make TFS a great place to work. Every job has its challenges, times when we get frustrated and things don't go our way, but I make every effort to focus on more positive aspects; the things that go right and the successes we achieve. I certainly don't want to go home every day feeling like I want to kick the dog - actually I don't have a dog, just cats - so my strategy is to look back on each day and just count up the improvements that have occurred since the day before. I was with a group of CEO's recently and asked them what kept them awake at night - if I summarise their collective response they basically said "nothing - if things keep you awake at night then perhaps you are in the wrong job" - this was an unexpected answer and it had quite an impact on me. Being Deputy is not key to me, what is key is being able to have an impact on others and improve things for everyone. By the way - who says I have an old face, what do you mean everyone - come back here and explain yourself young lady..."

LL You have been in the TFS for over 25 years, how did it all start, what have you been involved with and what are some of your most treasured moments in the Service?

AC Started by an attack of appendicitis actually - long story there but ended up in Launceston Fire Brigade as a firefighter in 1980. I started with Rodney Patterson, Curly Homan and Gary Baylis - just Curls and I left in the Service now. I have very fond memories of the early years and Curls and I only recently were reminiscing about those days and what has changed since then. I did five years as a firefighter, enjoyed a wide range of experiences, became a Leading Firefighter for a year and was promoted to Station Officer in late 1986. I moved to Training Services in 1989 and spent eight years there with a promotion to District Officer occurring in 1995. I transferred to Tamar District in 1997, took a move to LFB as District Officer Operations in 2003 and have worked between there and my current position over the last few years. It has been 25 years that have flown by so quickly but they have been great.



My most treasured moments! - well where does one start? As I said I had great times at LFB in the early days, lots of fun and a very strong sense of team, I liked being a station officer but there were a lot more restrictions back then and I needed more challenges, spent eight of the best years of my life in Training Services, went everywhere and did everything, loved being out in Tamar District and in seven years there developed some really close personal friendships, they were like family and it was a difficult decision to give that job away. Last couple of years has been different - not better or worse - just different. I'm older, maybe a little wiser and certainly more experienced and I have watched as my normal circle of co-workers have moved on, Graham Otley, Graham Campbell, Ron Patmore, Bruce Dineen, Rodney Read, David Peck, Gary Baylis have all left the TFS one way or another - this has an impact on you even if you don't think it does and I see myself now as a mentor and guide to the new guard of DO's and Officers that are filtering through. I still have fire in the belly but it's more likely to be wind or indigestion now than the vigour of youth.

I have a funny sense of humour, my kids have inherited it from me also which is interesting, and it may sound kind of corny but I guess the moments I have treasured the most are when I have made someone else really laugh - even if they were laughing at me (usually the case).

LL What do you like best about your work?

AC People - good people really - and by good I mean those who are prepared to have a go even at the risk of failing. Underachievers and whingers are really difficult people to be around - they tend to drag everyone around them down and generally make life miserable - but we have lots of individuals with enormous talent and capacity and I really love it when we can throw off the shackles and give those people an opportunity to get their teeth into something - they lift, the people around them lift and the entire outlook for everyone becomes brighter and more positive.

LL If you could stand on a soap box and talk about anything at all - what would it be?

AC I would be talking about how I could get down off the soap box - I am an introvert by nature, which probably surprises most people, but I like being on my own. My habit of being outspoken and having my say is a learned craft - not natural to me and I have to actually work at it. I am only like it because I think that some things need to be said and if others, who are much more articulate than me, don't say them - I do. I would much rather speak in a one on one situation - so I do lots of that.

LL What does the future hold for you and the TFS?

AC Difficult to judge really - I sort of consider that I am on the way out which may sound a bit funny being only 47 years old but it is not so much about age but more about thinking. I am a hare, not a tortoise - my role now I believe is to invest in those who will take over from me, to give them sound principles as well as skills knowledge and experiences that will kit them out to fulfil their respective roles and to then get out of their way and let them get on with it. I have some plans for the future but I let each day unfold as it does and will know when the time is right to move on. As for the TFS, I think the future is very bright and that it will go from strength to strength with or without me. I do have a sneaking suspicion though that its role will change to one more focused on general emergency management rather than solely on fire - I see that as an opportunity not a threat.

LL You seem to be a fairly private person - tell us a bit about the real you.

AC Fat chance, I am a private person and I like it that way - I don't consider "Andrew Comer - the person", is all that important, my name will no doubt appear on a headstone somewhere in the future, but if people remember me for having helped them at some point of time then I will have done my job. I don't want to sound morbid with that statement I just keep my private life private otherwise it will be lost - and I value it too much to let that happen. I have a wife of 27 years, that is I have been married to her for 27 years, she is not 27 years old (could say more here but she might read this...), three kids aged 17 - 25 who I love to death, (love my wife too of course just mention loving the kids in case they read this also...), kind of play golf, do some fishing, read a lot, sleep when I can, eat fine foods, travel occasionally, hate gardening, watch my 'Yes Minister' DVDs, want to do lots of other things but always run out of time and. - that's all I am prepared to say other than my name is Andrew Comer and my number is 78.

LL Have you any final words or thoughts you want to say - sounds like we're about to execute you, doesn't it?

AC "Yes it does - are you...? about to execute me I mean!" Wondered if that was a gun in your pocket!! No - I have said a fair bit anyway and people don't want to listen to me prattle on - but maybe just a final tip - "be good to your mother" - thanks Linda, thanks everyone - "did you hear the one about the actress and the bishop"

Obituary

Gregory Raymond Birch

17 September 1954 to 24 August 2005

Orielton Brigade

Greg Birch (Birchy) passed away on Wednesday 24th August 2005 from a secondary cancer.

Greg was an Officer, Chief and Firefighter of Orielton Brigade for 15 years.

When on the fireground or at the station, Greg's first priority was his crew and their families. When at an incident he would always ensure that family of the members were informed that they were safe and sound.

Greg was a bit of a character and loved to 'have a chat', he knew just about everyone, no matter which brigade. On arrival at a fire scene where other brigades were working he would be first out of the truck - hand out to introduce himself.

Greg was very community minded and often helped with Fire Brigade Information Days at the station, the Orielton juniors, the Sorell RSL and many other groups.

His most memorable event was having his 'moey' shaved off to raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation. He raised \$964. The trademark 'Merv' moey never returned.

Greg would have been very proud that his last ride on a TFS appliance was to his final resting place at Richmond.

The family would like to thank John Gledhill, Gerald Crawford, the truck crew and all permanent and volunteer brigade members and office staff who attended Greg's funeral, formed the Guard of Honour, carried his coffin, and assisted on that day.

It was lovely to see everyone at his wake sharing 'Birchy's last shout'.



Three generations of 'Birchs'

Recruit Course 1/85

“Twenty Years of Blood, Sweat & Tears”

(not to mention job satisfaction and a whole lot of fun)

By District Officer Support Services, Gavin Freeman



Back Row: Mark Cullen, Larry Monash, Mark Bowden, Ian Cawthorn, Jeff Harper, Chris Arnol, Andrew Adams, Gavin Freeman, Bill St Leger
Front Row: Jeff Knight, Mike Brown, Gerald Crawford, Ted Hinds, Peter Coppleman.

On Sunday night the 15th September 1985 a bunch of nervous and raw recruit firefighters gathered at Cambridge for an introductory BBQ. This is a snap shot of memories and observations by one of these firefighters.

I remember being picked up at Conara Junction by Regional Officer North, Mike Moore. I wasn't sure whether to call him 'Sir', 'Your Honour' or 'God' so I elected not to say much and let fellow recruit Jeff Harper do the talking, he seemed to know what he was on about. We travelled at warp speed to Richmond where Mr Moore observed we were a bit early so we went into the Richmond Arms to check the footy score, I was warming to this job already!

From there we skipped over the hill to the Cambridge Fire Training Centre or 'The College of Knowledge' as the seasoned veteran firies called it every time we met them over the next twelve weeks, I think that is all they said, it was hard to catch the conversation as they snickered behind their hands.

We were introduced to each other and more importantly to the men who were given the task of shaping us into firefighters, DCTO Gerald Crawford, TO Peter Coppleman, TO Ted Hinds, TO Jeff Knight and TO Mike Brown, and of course no recruit course was complete in those times without

Warrant Officer Hawkes, aka Utility Officer, aka Gopher but definitely also known as the Ferret.

After a snag and a chat we were bundled into a bus and driven to the Rokeby Police Academy which was our home for the next three months. Every day we would be picked up and returned via the same bus, there was, however, about eight clutches involved in this process due to the Ferret's unique driving technique, nevertheless we were never late and we always arrived at work in one piece.

Day one - we arrived at Cambridge and it was all a bit of a blur, uniform issue consisted of a trip to the Store to get cotton drill uniform (which would become starched to death over the coming weeks) and our firefighting kit which consisted of a Topguard helmet, a pair of gumboots and a woollen bluey coat, a long way from the state of the art structural and vegetation kits we have now, I often wonder what we will be wearing in twenty years time, it seems to be constantly changing yet the nature of our core business stays the same!

Next we met the CTO Alan Shaw who put us all straight out of our comfort zone by sitting on a chair smack bang in the middle of the room, as opposed to assuming a position at the lectern like everyone else, a man certainly not afraid

to embrace contemporary ideas we all concluded. Alan outlined the broad range of opportunities in front of us, we probably didn't think too much about it at the time, we just wanted to get on a fire truck, but looking back now he was right, whatever you want to achieve you can, all of the young men sitting in that room recalled his advice at some time or another over the next twenty years and continue to do so.

We didn't really know we had joined a Fire Service in the midst of change, while it seems simple now, having two TO's from the urban side and two from the country side was something pretty new, and to complicate it further they were presided over by a country officer that could match it with anyone when it came to the somewhat militant, autocratic leadership style that was still fairly prevalent in career brigades. The 'Urbies' taught us about city firefighting and life in the brigade, the 'Fern Flickers' taught us about bushfires and fuel reduction, they even crossed over a bit from time to time, which again seems logical, but must have been tough for all of them at the time. Although we were not really aware of it, this recruit course was another few steps along the road to the fully integrated fire service we enjoy today.

To say the entire twelve weeks was a steep learning curve is probably the understatement of the century! It was almost vertical for me, and I am sure most of the others felt the same. What sort of world can you imagine where you:

- Go looking for an appliance only to find a big red thing that looks more like a truck than a toaster;
- Grab a branch - with no tree for miles,
- Don and doff something instead of putting it on and off;
- Use a plug to get water out of and strangest of all;
- Learn to enjoy running into situations your parents had spent your entire upbringing telling you to stay away from!

There were many highlights during our course, in looking back even the low points have become fond memories. Not many of our firefighters believe us these days when we tell them we actually had to wear the antiquated Proto sets that hang in the museum. We came to know them intimately and endured hours of darkness, high temperatures and hard work with the threat of the sack if we didn't make it, still, as Station Officers Dewhurst and Newbury told us, it was character building! Does that mean if you wear positive pressure SCBA you don't have a character? ... probably not, I wish we had cool clean air back then!

I will never forget learning to drive the old international 'round back' fire appliances with their rear mounted pumps, no modern mid-mounted pumpers around then, nor will I forget working at hazard reduction burns with the cumbersome mark 3 tankers, oh for an Isuzu or Canter with all their luxuries! Maybe if we had PPV's and thermal imaging cameras to take into the firehouse we wouldn't have had to crawl aimlessly around on our stomachs in heat and smoke for so long before we found our 'casualty' I am certain we would have felt a bit more comfortable if we could have had some reassurance from our Officers through BA Communications, as it was the SO had to rely on yelling from a doorway and risking a chronic case of smoke inhalation in the process.

There is no doubt we learnt essential skills during our recruit course and we all developed attitudes and beliefs that have stayed with us, however, I do have a bone to pick with Messrs Coppleman, Brown, Hinds and Knight: "OK you blokes, how come you never told us about USAR? What's the caper with crawling through collapsed and collapsing buildings and swinging on ropes?", and what about all this public education stuff, you touched on it, but the way we are going now we will 'prevent' ourselves out of work! Hey, when you mentioned "RATS" we thought you meant rodents not fighting fires over the hills and far away, and how about working shoulder to shoulder with volunteer brigades, Forestry and Parks & Wildlife? Forget to mention that one too? Oh yeah, almost forgot Counter terrorism, keeping that for a surprise were you fellas? Undoubtedly your piece de resistance is neglecting to tell us that all that training you gave us would one day be recognised across Australia and overseas, meaning that we would have to go on task forces, exchanges and training courses in all manner of foreign places, anyway I had a quick word to the blokes and we forgive you!!"

Twenty years on, all of the graduating recruits are in leadership roles, probably something wrong there with the selection process if you think about it, too many chiefs kind of thing! Anyway our training staff must have done something right:

Andrew 'AJ' Adams is Leading Firefighter Community Education

Chris 'Arny' Arnol is Deputy Regional Chief South

Mark 'Murky' Bowden reached Station Officer rank prior to resigning to pursue his own business venture

Ian 'Sparra' Cawthorn is Senior Station Officer Hobart

Mark 'the experienced recruit' Cullen is Station Officer South West District

Gavin 'Sam' Freeman is District Officer Hobart District

Jeff 'Harps' Harper is Senior Station Officer North East District

Larry 'Lazarus' Monash is Station Officer Hobart

Bill 'Billy' St Leger is Leading Firefighter Hobart

Look at where these people are today and weigh in the fact that in addition they have collectively worked in Training, Community Fire Safety, Fire Investigation, fire agencies nationally and internationally, land management agencies, on top of experiencing every conceivable operational situation either in anger or in training. It is really no wonder that they have 'survived' so long in the one career. The good news is that this is not something unique to Recruit Course 1/85!!

It has been a fantastic journey; it doesn't seem like twenty years, I for one, hope to do another twenty. I do wonder what the Service will look like in 2025, to go from what we thought was pretty good anyway in 1985 to being part of a fully integrated fire service with increased responsibilities, state of the art equipment and good facilities is amazing, it is almost scary what we as an organisation might achieve in the future!

The Making of a Community Fire Safety Television Commercial

By Consultant Community Education, Chris Tomes

Last year, as part of the Winter Fire Safety Campaign, Community Education commissioned the production of a series of television commercials.

The commercials were shot at the Cambridge Training Centre at the old (now demolished) fire house.

Several firefighters attended an audition. Firefighters Alison Bones and Michael Goldsmith were chosen by the advertising agency as the most appropriate faces for the 'feel' of the commercial.

Prior to the shooting of the campaign the following occurred:

- Story pitched by advertising agency
- Commercials approved, look, script etc.
- Two sites located for shooting of commercial (Hean Street, South Hobart and Cambridge)

- Talent located
- Sites modified for shooting ie painting of walls, installation of heater etc.
- Shooting schedule finalised

The shooting of the commercial took several hours with a multitude of people in attendance from a make up artist, director, production assistant to a camera person.

Many more hours were spent in post production editing, adding closed captioning, music etc.

The finished product has been aired over the last two winters, 2004 and 2005 and is part of an award winning Community Fire Awareness Campaign.



Brochure pack for fire appliances

By Consultant Community Education, Chris Tomes

I am pleased to announce that after consultation with operational firefighters, Community Education has put together a brochure pack, containing current TFS Fire Safety brochures, for placement on fire appliances.

Firefighter recommendations have led to a pack that is:

- Reasonably small, A4 size only.
- Robust enough to be able to handle a little bit of rough treatment
- Contains two copies of all current brochures
- Gear check card including laminated digital photo of contents

The advantages of this are:

- The latest fire safety information is able to be distributed upon request or need, i.e. JFLIP etc.
- All material will be in a small pouch which will prevent damage to the brochures.
- Able to be accessed easily
- Can be part of the gear check of the appliance.

Over 550 of the brochure packs have been compiled and will be distributed to all Brigades, volunteer and career, in the coming months.

We suggest the packs be placed on all appliances.

Additional brochure packs are available from Community Education by calling 6230 8485.

The contents of this package include:

- | | |
|------|--|
| 2 x | Home Fire Safety packs (includes booklet and evacuation plan) |
| 2 x | Will You Survive brochures |
| 2 x | Using Fire Outdoors brochures |
| 2 x | Colouring books |
| 2 x | Project Wake Up! brochures |
| 2 x | Smoke Alarm Maintenance brochures |
| 2 x | Fire Retardant Garden Plants for the Urban and Rural Areas brochures |
| 2 x | Juvenile Fire Lighter Intervention Program brochures |
| 2 x | Preventing and Surviving a House Fire booklets |
| 2 x | TFS Career brochures |
| 2 x | Join the Team brochures |
| 1 x | Duracell 9 volt battery |
| 20 x | 'OOO' stickers |
| 20 x | Smoke Alarms Save Lives stickers |



Recruiting, retaining and recognising volunteers

By Executive Officer Volunteer Support, Gerald Kutzner

In late August, TFS regional management and volunteer representatives from across the State attended a one day workshop conducted in Hobart by Dr Judy Esmond. Along with about 60 participants from other volunteer organisations, the TFS group benefited from the insights and knowledge offered by Dr Esmond, who is a leading Australian expert on volunteerism.

The following are just a few of the learnings and observations which some of our people took away from the workshop and would like to share with all TFS members:

Generally

There was confirmation from an independent source that many of the things we do are on the right track, but we need to work at some things a bit harder and in a more targeted way.

Recruiting

The importance of understanding what we need as an organisation and then being very specific on targeting those in the community who we think will meet our needs. Avoid the “shotgun approach” on recruitment, as was used in the media recently in conjunction with the announcement of the new light tanker roll-out.

The importance of understanding why people volunteer and being able to initially market what we can give them, i.e. “What’s in it for you as a volunteer”, not “What we will expect from you as a volunteer”.

Use the national Public Safety Training Package competencies we offer as part of the attraction; particularly the recognition of some across all industries (i.e. of interest the volunteers’ employers).

Work harder with employers on supporting the release of their employees as volunteers, i.e., not taking work release for granted.

Always have a positive follow up process after the initial contact with a potential volunteer.

Target those with the skills we require, i.e. public relations, secretary, computer skills etc.

Word of mouth is a crucial way of recruiting that needs planning and appropriately skilled and motivated people.

Retention

Don’t let boredom set in. Keep providing challenges and goals through operations, training and social activities.

Foster the pride of involvement through team building and social sides of volunteer brigade life.

Ensure that volunteers and career staff are treated equally by management.

The “baby boomer” generation and their offspring, who are our potential sources of volunteers, are intelligent, well educated and technology savvy. They will not stand for being “dumbed down” to the lowest common denominator.

Streamline the paperwork, while still meeting the organisation’s needs to meet its legal, OH&S information gathering and reporting obligations.

Recognition

Aside from our length of service recognition systems (Long Service badges, National Medals etc.), have recognition initiatives that are spontaneous and specific to the person being recognised.

When recognising and rewarding volunteers, it is vital to ensure it is done, and seen to be done, in a way that is sincere and honest, consistent and equal, timely and specific, continuous and frequent, customised and personal.

Perhaps one of the key messages from the workshop is that most volunteer organisations face similar challenges when it comes to recruiting, retaining and recognising volunteers, but these challenges can be met if, at all levels, we are prepared to question what we do, strive to better understand our people’s needs (potential and current), and try out new ways of doing things if the old ones are no longer effective.

Trial Workplace Feedback is Positive

By Co-ordinator Human Services, Steve Willing

The TFS has been working towards a Workplace Feedback System for career and divisional staff for a few years now, but no-one has had time to keep the project moving. Legislation says we have to have one - it's up to us to determine what form it takes.

Certain work groups were asked to trial the system. They are: four career brigade platoons spread across Devonport (A), Burnie (B), Hobart (C) and Launceston (D) Fire Brigades; TasFire Equipment (Hobart); Communications; Northern Regional Office; Cambridge Complex and Finance.

We are starting to get outcomes from the trial of the TFS Workplace Feedback System (see Fireground Autumn 2005).

The trial will run from July 2005 to February 2006 and its purpose is to create a performance feedback system that is effective for TFS and will have enough flexibility to cope with the different types of work we do (i.e. operations, office, education, engineering, sales, regulation).

Most trial groups have created their own version and run their first round of Feedback Summary meetings. The Steering Committee has compared their experiences and ideas for improvement.

Most people have been positive about the trial - Gerard McCarthy of Burnie Brigade said, "The feedback trial on our shift has been well received and it has certainly been of benefit to all members. What I believe has been the most important part ... was the workshops we attended ... it enabled all members to understand what it was about and what was expected from each individual ..."

He also commented, "I learnt a lot about myself in running the feedback meetings with my crew."

Leon 'Alfy' Smith of Engineering Services wrote, "Pale faces, sweaty palms and looks of apprehension were present ... in the early stages of the individual meetings, however, the atmosphere soon relaxed when they ... progressed in a very positive manner. The meetings were a learning curve for the foremen, tradesmen and manager ... it created an opportunity to sit down and discuss issues in an open, honest and positive environment. The first round of meetings was very positive from everyone's aspect ... I look forward to continuing the trial and reaping the rewards ..."

Other comments were:

"There were no barriers - confidentiality was well respected"

"The meetings were constructive and interesting"

"Many employees wanted to keep talking to their supervisors for over an hour"

"It helped sort existing problems between people"

"It brought up things that were meant to happen, but haven't"

There's still plenty of work to do on paperwork templates, communication of information, confidential systems and the involvement of managers. The trial groups will play around with their systems and paperwork to keep improving them, and their best ideas will form the Workplace Feedback System that will be rolled out for TFS career members starting late 2006.

You can find more information on the TFS Intranet site at <Info Centre/ Corporate Information/ Feedback Trial>. If you have any comments or questions, contact Steve Willing on 6230 8665.

Marketing award for fire safety awareness campaign

By Consultant Community Education, Chris Tones

Community Education is delighted with the recent win, in the category of Marketing Communications, by Corporate Communications and Digital Ink in the state section of the Australian Marketing Institute awards for Marketing Excellence.

The award was for the Tasmania-wide Fire Safety Awareness Campaign for the TFS. What is significant about the winning of this award is competition included the Department of Justice "Safe at Home" campaign and the Road Safety Task Force campaign.

The TFS campaign was instituted to try to arrest an unprecedented increase in the number of preventable house fire fatalities over a two-month period in 2004.

Corporate Communications, Digital Ink and Community Education developed a range of marketing strategies aimed at reducing the number of preventable house fires, reducing child fatalities and injuries, minimising the impact of fires that occur in the home and raising awareness of fire safety issues

The post-campaign results clearly showed a significant rise in awareness of the need for fire safety, along with a noticeable change in behaviour of all of the target groups, particularly parents, about the need for fire safety in the home.

Structural Firefighting Balaclavas

By Consultant Community Education, Chris Tomes and Senior Project Officer OH&S, John Green

In recent years there has been growing interest within the TFS in the use of balaclava style fire hoods.

Some possible reasons why this interest has been sparked include:

- The increased awareness by TFS staff of the number of fire departments worldwide that include firefighting balaclavas as part of their standard turnout gear;
- The increase in the number of personnel within the TFS who have practical knowledge and experience of wearing firefighting balaclavas, usually through exchanges with other fire departments; and
- Surveys of injuries to Tasmanian firefighters, recorded since 1998, indicated that 38.70% of all burn injuries have been to the neck and lower face area. The main area of firefighters' bodies sustaining burn injuries are those areas of the head and neck not otherwise covered by their helmets, BA face mask, and tunic collar. This would appear to provide a strong justification for the widespread introduction of firefighting balaclavas.

With this in mind, Chris Tomes, with the assistance of Station Officer Dale Rayner, proceeded to investigate and write a report on "The Effectiveness & Safety of Structural Firefighting Balaclavas".

They searched British, European and American literature databases and articles in "trade" journals. Most of the information gathered was from the Institute of Occupational Medicine Ltd, Edinburgh, the report into the Effectiveness and Safety of Fire Hoods.

Part of the TFS report included evaluating the wearability of the firefighting balaclavas in terms of fit and effect on freedom of movement together with the compatibility of the firefighting balaclava with other items of protective equipment such as the helmet and BA mask. This was considered essential. Nine candidates, consisting of six Hobart Career members, one Burnie Career, one Launceston Career and one Rokeby Volunteer, participated in the trial.

Please note all 9 candidates used 'comms equipped BA sets' during the trial with no problems encountered.



All trial firefighting balaclavas met NFPA 1971, Standard on Protective Ensemble for Structural Firefighting, 2000 Edition. At the time of evaluation no Australian Standard for structural firefighting balaclavas existed.

With all the sample balaclavas having the NFPA Standard it was considered a pointless exercise in having the working party conduct live fire testing on the products. This has already been done under strict guidelines and conditions for the balaclava to have met the standard.

Once the report was completed the following occurred:

- Operational Resource and Services Committee (ORSC) endorsed the full report and all recommendations;
- A risk assessment was completed (available on the website);
- An interim Standard Operating Procedure was developed (copies will be made available to brigades with the issue);
- A distribution plan and information package developed.

So what does this mean for career and volunteer firefighters out there? Well the distribution plan calls for key staff around the state to deliver the information package to all members prior to issuing the balaclavas.

The Information Package is available on the TFS website www.fire.tas.gov.au

- Issue: Initial issue and information session will be aimed at 'High Frequency' BA wearing brigades with the intention of a roll out to all other BA equipped brigades in the near future;
- Standard Operating Procedures - Firehood (balaclava);
- Cleaning & Maintenance: a handout to explain;
- Frequently Asked Questions: a handout;
- Warning, Do's & Don'ts: a handout;
- Donning & Doffing instructions.

MAC Update

By Regional Chief South, Tony Davidson

The Multi Agency Co-ordination Group (MAC) is the name given to the senior operational officers from Forestry Tasmania, Parks & Wildlife Service and the Tasmania Fire Service who are responsible for co-ordinating large fires on multi tenure lands.

The MAC is alive and well and things have been happening in the background.

The most significant of these are the changes to the agency representatives.

Alen Slijepcevic has left Forestry Tasmania and is now working for the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) in Victoria. Having worked closely with Alen (Slipper) over the past five years, I am sure he will be an asset to DSE and a loss to Forestry Tasmania. We wish him well in new endeavours.

Tony Blanks has left Parks & Wildlife Service after 22 years and is the new Manager Fire Management at Forestry Tasmania, replacing Alen. This move will further cement the co-operative relations between Forestry Tasmania, Parks & Wildlife and the Tasmania Fire Service. We also wish Tony well in his career change.

Tony's replacement at P&WS is Adrian Pyrke who returns to the Parks' Fire Management Section after a brief stint at the Department of Primary Industries, Water & Environment where he was undertaking a project on biological monitoring for the Private Forest Reserve Program.

Safety Advisors

A new multi agency safety advisors workshop has been held and the attendees will be delivering training sessions to career and volunteer members over the coming months. This short course will provide experienced officers the knowledge and tools to undertake the role of safety advisor as all types of incidents, both in an urban



Alen Slijepcevic - left (middle row) in NSW



Tony Blanks, Dick Chuter, and Tony Davidson

and rural environment. District management will keep you advised of the roll out of this training.

All agencies are considering the option of having Incident Management Teams manage more than one fire at a time this fire season. This is commonly called managing a complex of fires based on their geographical location.

The benefits of this are:

- the more effective use of experienced personnel;
- a reduction in the competition for resources;
- economies of scale;
- reduces the potential for the unnecessary over-resourcing of IMTs;
- greater mentoring opportunities.

Dennis Fire Pump

Specifications

600 cc water cooled single cylinder JAP engine built in middle to late 1920's. Pump outlet gives up to 150 gallons per minute @ 60 lbs pressure, colour brewster green as ordered. Lettering on each side of tank is gold leaf.

This pump was one of four which was ordered for Tasmania by Agent General for Tasmania, Australia House, Aldwych, London, WC2.

Date ordered 7 November 1936 Order no. 36846

The cost of this trailer pump in 1936 was 1,300 pounds less 10%, with London Docks fee 4 pounds for handling.

During World War II light trailer pump units were used with private cars and other light vehicles for cheapness and manoeuvrability and ideal for air raid precaution use, because it could be coupled to virtually any motor vehicle, it was of greater use than the fire pumpers.



It wasn't until World War II that the trailer pump really came into its own. Fire pumpers delivered during the war did not have portable pumps, instead trailer pumps outnumbered fire pumpers by 3 to 1. Trailer pumps could be deployed where necessary and were not restricted by heaps of rubble or gaping creators resulting from earlier enemy action. There were both light and heavy trailer pumps; and were powered by anything from motorcycle to heavy truck engines.

This Dennis Fire Pump is owned by District Officer Rob Deverell and was proudly restored by Dale Atkinson Second Officer Somerset Brigade.

Insider Training

Compartment Fire Behaviour Training Seminar

By Station Officer Training Services. David McGuinness

On Friday 16th September SSO Stuart Males and I attended the 2005 Compartment Fire Behaviour Training (CFBT) Seminar at the CFS Training Facility at Brukunga South Australia.

There was representation from all Australian Fire Services with the exception of NSWFB and QFRS.

The seminar focused on where each fire service was currently positioned with the delivery of CFBT and any associated problems that were being experienced.

From the TFS point of view, we are at the lower end of the scale with our delivery but from discussions and observations from other fire services we are not lagging too far behind.

Amongst issues discussed were environmental concerns, accreditation of suitable trainers and numbers of trainees requiring training.

In all, the seminar, from a TFS point of view, was extremely worthwhile by providing us with ongoing support, training ideas and future development.

A more in depth report is currently being compiled and will be distributed when completed.



Practicing wet skills prior to entry of containers



TFS current CFB container located at Cambridge



Entrance to shed which houses the two 40' CFB shipping containers



TFS training prior to Recruit Course 1/2005

Training Services

By Training Officer Training Services, Jock Crome

In an effort to help put a 'face to a name', we have decided to use the Fireground magazine over the next few editions to introduce the Training Services 'team'.

To get the ball rolling, I would like to introduce Mark Suhr and Joanne Spencer.

Station Officer Mark Suhr



Do you have a "nickname"?

Lips, and how I got it stays a secret for those who don't know.

What's your rank, and how long have you been in the service?

I've been in the job for 21 years and this is my first year as a Station Officer. I've been at Training Services for just over a year, before then I was in "A" Platoon at Hobart Station.

What do you like doing when you're not at work?

Golf and fishing are high priorities. I don't mind a good steak on the BBQ either should the opportunity arise.

What's your most embarrassing moment in the job?

This is a hard one; there have been so many! I guess one that's right up there was kicking in the front door to a unit fire in Hobart and once inside, I realised it was the wrong unit! However, there have been many rewarding moments such as going to assist in NSW in 2002. It was quite challenging having to operate in unfamiliar surroundings with different equipment and firefighting operations.

If I was to ask you to choose one part of the job you enjoy most, what would it be?

Being part of the Helitack Team. It's an opportunity to do something different, and being able to utilise my skills under a different situation.

I notice you have a cut on your forehead. Did you get that from saving someone's life? Perhaps preventing a multi-million dollar fire?

Nope! Skateboarding with my kids - it's not as easy as it looks!

Office Supervisor Joanne Spencer



Do you have a 'nickname'?

Jo or Josephine, it is a name which has just occurred over time but I think my mum had something to do with it.

I can't help but notice a little accent. Where are you from?

I'm Australian - now! Do you want to see my papers? I'm originally from Riverton, Invercargill in New Zealand. Having a New Zealand accent has always been challenging and sometimes embarrassing when attempting to pronounce certain words! I'll let your imagination work out which words I'm talking about!

(At least I now know what 'Fush & Chups are!)

How long have you been in the service?

I have been in the TFS for 14 years, 10 of them at Training Services. In 1991, I started as a 'temp' and was made full-time by Christmas. I then spent two years at Headquarters and then spent the next 6 months in the North-West. I then migrated back down south to Building Safety for a further 6 months prior to finding my new home at Training Services.

What do you like doing when you're not at work?

Spending time with my family and reading. I also love camping (but only during the summer months!)

What has been the most rewarding moment in the job?

Two spring to mind, the first being promoted to Office Supervisor; the second is working with such a great team at Training Services, we've achieved so much together. It's extremely rewarding when we see the end result being reflected through the performances of our operational firefighters, both volunteer and career. I enjoy being able to work with such a diverse range of people. Being gregarious by nature does help!

Top Ten Frequently Asked Volunteer Training Questions

1

What time do courses start and finish?

Evening Courses: Courses start at 7.00 pm sharp and finish around 10.00 pm unless otherwise stated or arranged in advance.

Weekend Courses: Courses always start at 8.30 am and finish around 5.00 pm.

Course times are also reiterated in the course 'Confirmation & Information' letter sent to all successful participants.

Note: Finishing times are a guide and must remain flexible to enable successful completion to the required assessment level.

2

How do I nominate for a course?

All course nomination should be directed through your relevant district staff. NOT through Training Services.

3

How do I know if I'm on a course?

All successful course nominees will be notified in writing. This letter will include information pertaining to the course venue, start time, date and any special requirements. (e.g. PPE) Should a 'last minute' cancellation occur on a course, a replacement will be sought from the waiting list. This person will be contacted by telephone in an effort to give as much notice as possible.

Note: If you are unsuccessful in nominating for a course, you will automatically be placed on a waiting list for that particular course.

4

What happens if I need to cancel my attendance at a course?

All course cancellations must be directed through the relevant district staff.

5

What gear do I need to take on a course?

All requirements of a course are stipulated in the Volunteer Course Guide and in the 'Confirmation & Information' letter sent to all successful participants.

6

Skills Development Record Books. What are they? How do I fill them out properly? Who do I return them to?

The purpose of the Skills Development Record Book is to record a candidate's progress (evidence gathering) towards achieving a 'Statement of Attainment' for courses they have attended.

7

What if I've lost my Skills Development Record Book?

Contact your relevant district staff and request a replacement book. Then all you have to do is ask your mentor to re-validate your evidence.

8

Course Prerequisites. What are they and why are they there?

Some courses have a requirement of candidates having certain skills and knowledge prior to the commencement of the course.

For example, you can't undertake 'Respond to Urban Fire' without having the prerequisite 'Operate Breathing Apparatus'.

Prerequisites are the building blocks that help you perform your role in a safe manner and they also help you achieve an eventual higher skill level.

9

How do I access my training records?

You have a couple of choices - access TFS on line, or if you contact Training Services, a copy can be sent to you via the mail.

10

I have a general enquiry regarding training. Who do I ask?

Your first 'port of call' should be your district staff.

Assistance Rendered to Interstate Colleague

By District Officer South Esk, Craig Maxwell

A recent call for help from the New South Wales Fire Brigade to assist a firefighter who was on holidays in Tassie was taken care of by the South Esk District staff. What had transpired was that the young gentleman had been admitted to the Launceston General Hospital after being transferred from Fingal by Tas Ambulance. Consequently all his belongings and his beautiful Ducati ST3 were left at Fingal so a call for help was sent out.

As always, within moments of being asked to go and retrieve the gear, the resourceful Rodney Springer had a purpose built trailer and all associated recovery equipment organised.

From the time of the call for help to the bike being secured at Youngtown, the whole event only took four hours - who said we're not flexible! In that time Rodney also delivered a new hot water cylinder to Fingal Station, delivered three sets of gear and did a work place inspection on one of the stations in the midlands.



The motto to this story is that firefighters whoever and wherever they may be, are one big family and whenever we need help our mates are always there!

Latest news is that our NSW fire is responding well to treatment and will be discharged from hospital soon.

Freecall 1800 000 699

By Executive Officer Policy & Support, Felicity Poulter

The TFS now has a single contact number for all its non-emergency services.

The new 1800 number provides a "one-stop shop" for information and assistance for both TFS members and members of the public.

Dialling 1800 000 699 will connect you to a menu offering three different options:

- fire permit information and registration;
- information on current fires; and
- general information and community fire safety information.

This system will automatically put you through to the Regional Headquarters of the region you are calling from e.g. if you are calling from the 63 telephone area your call will go through to Launceston, 64 to Burnie and 62 to Hobart.

The TFS is able to include additional options when there are serious long running fires or specific community fire safety campaigns.

We have taken care to ensure the system is not complicated and will not require a caller to make any more than two choices before talking to a TFS staff member.

This system will:

- provide a simple way to contact the TFS on any issue;
- ensure that people are put through to the best person to handle their request or query;
- decrease the amount of time callers spend on hold or being transferred;
- decrease the number of calls made directly to FireComm for non-emergency or non-dispatch related matters.

FireComm handles approximately 1,000 "000" calls per month as well as other emergency related calls. This system will assist in limiting the number of non-emergency calls to them.

The number for emergencies continues to be 000.

Awards

A list of recent awards presented within the Tasmania Fire Service

Location/Brigade	Name	Award
Bothwell	Max Stewart	National Medal (45 years)
Bradys Lake	David Hean	National Medal (25 years)
Bradys Lake	John Jago	National Medal (15 years)
Brighton	Nigel Geard	National Medal (25 years)
Broadmarsh	Adrian McShane	National Medal (25 years)
Bushy Park	George Rumley	Volunteer Medal
Bushy Park	Phillip Krause	National Medal (15 years)
Colebrook	Norman Iles	Long Service (20 years)
Colebrook	Michael Hogue	Long Service (15 years)
Colebrook	Brendan Carroll	Long Service (10 years)
Colebrook	Leanne Iles	Long Service (10 years)
Colebrook	Mandy Nicolle	Long Service (10 years)
Colebrook	Marion Carroll	Long Service (10 years)
Colebrook	Mary-Anne Munnings	Long Service (10 years)
Colebrook	Shirley Hogue	Long Service (10 years)
Communications	Shane Smith	Long Service (10 years)
Eaglehawk Neck	Bob Clifford	Long Service (15 years)
Eaglehawk Neck	Michael Clifford	Long Service (15 years)
Gretna	Colin Cunningham	National Medal (15 years)
Hamilton	Murray Stewart	National Medal (15 years)
Hamilton	Richard Downie	National Medal (15 years)
Hobart Fire Brigade	Barry Hogan	National Medal (25 years)
Hobart Fire Brigade	Andrew McGuinness	National Medal (15 years)
Hobart Fire Brigade	David Klug	National Medal (15 years)
Hobart Fire Brigade	Grant Joyce	National Medal (15 years)
Hobart Fire Brigade	Marcus Skelly	National Medal (15 years)
Hobart Fire Brigade	Peter Tavas	National Medal (15 years)
Hobart Fire Brigade	Stacey Peters	National Medal (15 years)
Hobart Fire Brigade	Steve Percival	National Medal (15 years)
Hobart Fire Brigade	Leon Dewhurst	Long Service (30 years)
Hobart Fire Brigade	Robert Ratcliffe	Long Service (20 years)
Kempton	Richard Lang	Volunteer Medal
Kempton	Dale Foster	National Medal (15 years)
Lachlan	Mark Datlen	National Medal (15 years)
Lachlan	Rocky Watson	National Medal (15 years)
Lachlan	Steve Townsend	National Medal (15 years)
Midway Point	Andrew Dare	Long Service (15 years)
Midway Point	Mathew Blazely	Long Service (10 years)
Nubeena	Garry Cooper	Long Service (25 years)
Ouse	Scott Ashton-Jones	National Medal (25 years)
Parattah	Peter Meaburn	National Medal (25 years)
Parattah	Tim Wilson	National Medal (15 years)
Pipers River	Andrew Frankcombe	National Medal (15 years)
Pipers River	Craig Ringsgwandl	National Medal (15 years)
Pipers River	Andrew Frankcombe	Long Service (15 years)
Richmond	Andrew Luttrell	Long Service (15 years)
State Headquarters	John Thomson	Long Service (25 years)
TasFire Equipment	Malcolm McKendrick	Long Service (25 years)
TasFire Equipment	Steve Heathcote	Long Service (25 years)
Tea Tree	Chris Manton	Long Service (15 years)
Tunnack	Robert Scott	National Medal (35 years)
Tunnack	John Summers	National Medal (25 years)
Wattle Hill	Bob Madsen	Long Service (25 years)



Hobart Fire Brigade recipients pictured with Deputy Chief Officer Peter Alexander



East Coast District recipients pictured with District Officer Gerald Crawford and Chief Officer John Gledhill



Midlands District recipients

Easing the Burden of Paperwork for Volunteer Brigades

Recently the Chief Officer endorsed a set of recommendations that should make the administrative paperwork for most brigades easier.

Background:

Through discussion and comments made at Volunteer State Consultative Committee (VSCC) meetings, and feedback from volunteers in other forums, it was recognised there was a need to review the forms used by volunteer brigades to ensure they are user-friendly and meet the needs of the brigades and TFS management. Consequently a project team of volunteer and retained representatives was put together by the VSCC in February 2005 to conduct a review.

Objectives:

The main objectives of the Review were:

- To ensure the forms used by brigades and the TFS meet their needs;
- To minimise the number of forms used by brigades;
- To simplify the forms used by brigades;
- To identify and recommend improvements to forms used by brigades.

Recommendations:

At the August 2005 meeting of the VSCC, the Brigade Forms Project Team submitted a report which contained the following main recommendations:

- 5 forms are deleted/removed;
- 7 forms used for recruitment and probation are combined to create only 3 forms to fulfil the same purpose in non BA brigades, and only 2 forms in BA brigades;

- 6 forms are modified with either improved design or instruction;
- 4 forms are referred to Training Services for possible updating.

It was noted that if the recommendations were adopted, they would result in a 23% reduction in the overall number of volunteer brigade management forms.

The report and all its recommendations were subsequently endorsed by the VSCC and referred to the Chief Officer for consideration.

Implementation:

Now that the Chief Officer has given the go ahead, implementing these changes will involve a 5 step process, as outlined below:

- Consulting with the Associations about the implementation process
- Briefing the Regional Office Supervisors
- Conducting presentations for Regional and Deputy Regional Chiefs, District Officers and Field Officers
- Updating the forms held in TFS Online
- Sending all brigades an info pack

We are aiming to have all of these steps completed before the end of this year.

My thanks to Bruce Corbett, Brett Burgess, Carol Davey, Ian Gabites and Alison King, for the time they gave to the project and their excellent contribution.

Fire Service Museum

By Museum Member, Phil Mettam

Bridget Snell (4) and sister Louisa (10) enjoy “dressing up” at the Fire Service Museum located within the Transport Museum complex in Anfield Street Glenorchy.

Opening times of the Fire Service Museum are between 1300 and 1600 hours on the first and third Sundays in the month.

Bridget and Louisa are the grand daughters of Anne and Peter Snell. Peter was a former control room operator in Hobart. He passed away in September last year.



Launceston Fire Brigade 2005 Reunion - Farewell Function

Many an old war story was told at the Launceston Fire Station last Friday evening.

More than 100 members of the Launceston Brigade gathered at the Clubrooms for what has now become the annual event of the LFB Social Calendar.

Past members gathered around photo albums and past memorabilia on display. Social Club President Colin Lockhart welcomed all fires past and present and Regional Chief Mike Brown spoke of the changes and highlights of the past 12 months including the exchange program that involved swaps of staff to both the UK and Canada; a welcome for new recruits; the influx of new fire appliances; and the changing nature of operations to cater for the consequences of CBR and USAR events.

Rodney Springer, Steve Smart and Andrew Comer presented humorous accounts of the departing members David (Sam) Tomkinson, John (Bully) Adams and Graham Otley. Unfortunately, departed Station Officer Jock Brian could not make it as he was in the Northern Territory.

The success of the night ensured that this will be an annual event for the LFB. Members should ensure to keep the 2nd Friday night in October free. A special mention should be made of the LFB Social Club executive Colin Lockhart, Darren Cook and Belinda Harvey for their achievement.



Mike Brown with David (Sam) Tomkinson



Pipers River Station Opening

By Brigade Chief Pipers Brook, Andrew Frankcombe

Saturday 28th May 2005, saw the official opening of the Pipers River Station. Although the station had been in use for some time the "official" opening had not been performed.

A brief overview shows the original Brigade was formed around 1958. The appliance was of course the ubiquitous tanker trailer with it being housed at various members' residences.

Around 1974 a shed to house the trailer was built very near the Pipers River Shop on the Bridport Highway. The trailer was replaced with a Toyota 5.1 circa 1978. The shed was prone to vandalism and theft of gear. A more secure single bay station was built next to the Pipers River Hall in 1996 to house the brigade equipment.

With the increasing population in the area and the Brigade growing in strength it was identified that better facilities were required. The then, Regional Officer Graham Otley and District Officer Bruce Dineen, both now retired, viewed the location of the station as having some strategic advantages with the site. The siting of the station allows the Brigade to offer support to many neighbouring brigades. Backup can be provided, north to Weymouth, south to Karoola, east Pipers Brook and west to Bell Bay and George Town.

District Officer John Hazzlewood got the day underway with the introduction and Brigade Chief Andrew Frankcombe welcomed guests. They included Michael Fergusson MP,



Third Officer Jacko Hurst, Second Officer Craig Ringsgwand, Regional Chief Mike Brown, Brigade Chief Andrew Frankcombe

Peter Gutwien MHA, Bruce Dineen and founding Brigade Chief of Pipers River, Frank Hammond. The Station was opened by Regional Chief Mike Brown.

There were also some medal presentations made on the day including National Medals to Second Officer Craig Ringsgwandl and Brigade Chief Andrew Frankcombe. The Anniversary of National Service Medal was presented to Third Officer John (Jacko) Hurst by Michael Fergusson representing the Federal Government.

All who attended enjoyed some light refreshments to complete the day.



Fourth Officer David Ringsgwandl, Firefighter Mark Selby, Leading Firefighter Kevin Byard, Firefighter Scott Jones, Firefighter Jonathon Frankcombe, Brigade Chief Andrew Frankcombe, Firefighter Lynn Semmens, Third Officer Jacko Hurst, Second Officer Craig Ringsgwandl, Firefighter Andrew Ringsgwandl, Firefighter Martin Bird, (absent Firefighter Brian Baxter and Junior Member Will Baxter)

Aerial and Ground Suppression Evaluation Project

Matt Plucinski¹, Jim Gould¹, Greg McCarthy²

¹CSIRO Forestry and Forest Products, ²School of Forest and Ecosystem Science, University of Melbourne



Introduction

Fire fighting aircraft have received considerable media attention during the last few years, as they have been the most conspicuous fire fighting appliance in use on fires near populated areas. Their heavy usage during recent busy seasons has expressed concerns of their rising cost and effectiveness.

The objective of this project is to optimise the effectiveness and efficiency of aircraft use during fire fighting operations. This objective will be achieved through the production of guidelines that identify the most effective combination of suppression resources for minimising the impacts of wildfires. These guidelines will be based on data collected during the research phase of the project, which commenced during the 2004/05 fire season.



The research team have produced a project brochure (left) which has been distributed amongst fire fighters and managers. They have also undergone specialist training to gain a better understanding of fire aviation procedures.



Operational Studies

Field observation

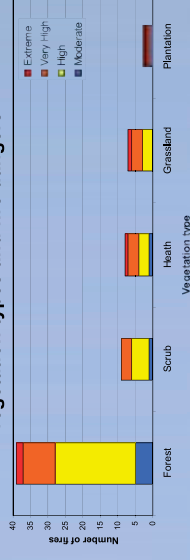
The research team have been making field observations and measurements of fire bombing effectiveness. They have made ground observations during suppression operations at four fires (all Victoria). They have collected information on the location and timing of drops, drop coverage, fuel, fire behaviour, weather, and ground suppression efforts. The research team have also made observations of suppression operations from a distance during two fires (New Zealand during project FuSE experiments) and have made post fire measurements of suppression activities on seven fire sites (6 Victoria, 1 NSW).



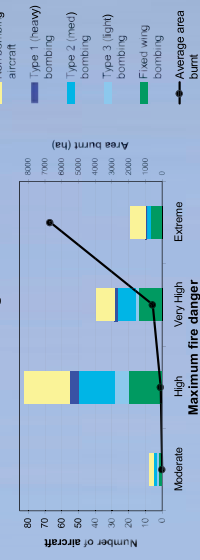
Interviews and Surveys

The research team have been surveying and interviewing fire fighters who have been involved in suppression operations that featured aircraft. This method has been used to collect information in situations when the research team cannot get to the fire ground. Ground personnel have been interviewed to gather information on the effectiveness of aerial suppression during 41 fires (23 Vic, 10 NSW, 6 Tasmania, 1 Queensland, 1 New Zealand) during the 2004/05 season. Surveys on water bombing effectiveness have been completed by Air Attack Supervisors and are currently being collected for analysis.

Number of fires in ground personnel data for vegetation types and fire dangers



Number of aircraft used and average area burnt in fire danger classes



Experimental Studies

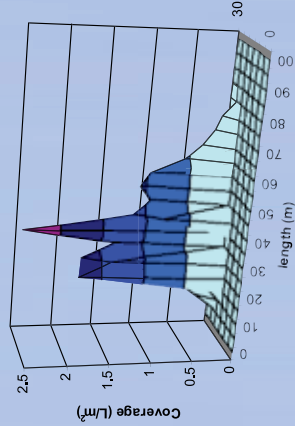
Tasmania 21-23 February 2005

Aims: determine the effects of suppression drops on fire behaviour in stubble fuels and develop a field method for further experiments

Components:

1) Drop pattern tests (6)

Determining ground distribution from delivery systems used



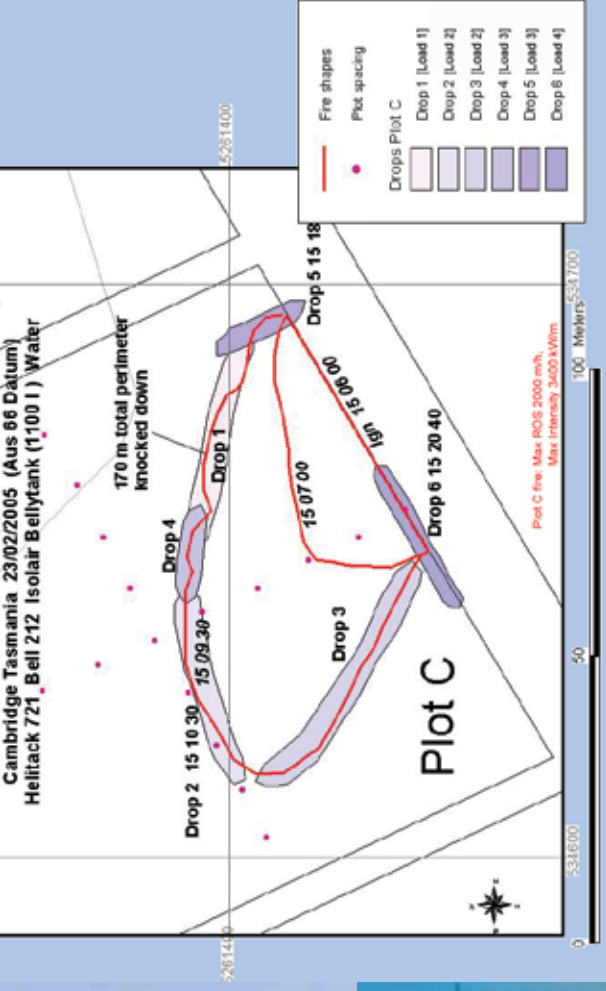
Quick facts:

- Site: Uni of Tasmania farm
- Fuel: barley stubble (3.4 t/ha)
- Max flame height 1.4 m
- Max ROS 2 km/h
- Max Intensity 4000 kW/m
- Type 2 helicopter (Bell 212)
- Bellytank & bucket, water & foam
- 120m of active fire perimeter extinguished in 6 drops/ 3 loads (4600 L water)

with 2 doors & foam mix

Determine ground distribution from delivery systems used

- 2) Head fire drop (8)
Test effectiveness of drops on the most intense fire we could give it under the fuel and weather conditions
- 3) Line length (12)
Determine maximum fire size a single drop can deal with
- 4) Multiple drop (3)
Assess effectiveness of repeated unsupported drops on fire perimeter



Outcomes

- Helicopter tested performs well in mild weather (GFDI <8) and light fuels
- There was no significant difference between the effectiveness of water and foam in these conditions
- Aircraft are unlikely to be deployed in these conditions
- We have an experimental design to evaluate aerial suppression in stubble fuels and can use this as a basis for developing a methodology in more complex fuel types
- Cooperation essential for experimental studies (Tasmania Fire Service, Forestry Tasmania, University of Tasmania)

Future work

- Operational data collection will continue over the next two fire seasons
- Field experiments may continue if suitable field sites can be obtained
- Research into resource optimisation modelling
- Extend into evaluation of ground crews
- Integration with Program C to investigate the economics of aerial fire fighting



TasFire Equipment Presentations

By Manager TasFire Equipment, Nik Masters

On Tuesday 9th August TasFire Equipment held their regular six monthly statewide meeting at Campbell Town. An important part of the meeting was the presentation to TasFire Equipment staff of their Certificate 3 in Asset Maintenance (Fire Protection Equipment).

TFS operational staff have been involved in competency based training for some time. Over recent years the TFS has worked on developing appropriate competency based training for staff in other areas including Community Fire Safety.

The introduction of competency based training, in conjunction with the Permit system, has been a significant development for TasFire Equipment and the fire protection industry. The benefits of competency based training for both the industry and TFE are many and include:

- More consistent work practices
- Appropriate training for people new to the industry
- More formalised on the job training

Fire Equipment Officers and Senior Fire Equipment Officers at TFE were one of the first industry groups in Australia to begin significant competency based training. Training and assessment was provided by TAFE Tasmania and began in late 2002. TasFire Equipment staff are some of the few participants in the industry that have actually completed the Certificate 3 in Asset Maintenance (Fire Protection



Equipment). TFE staff undertook a significant number of additional technical competency units over and above those required for the Certificate and as such the group is leading the way in the industry in terms of achieving formal technical competencies.

The Certificate 3 in Asset Maintenance (Fire Protection Equipment) is not specifically required by the TFS for Fire Equipment Officers, however, based on the units of competency required by the TFS the requirements for the Certificate have also been met.

Director of Community Fire Safety Damien Killalea and John Williams from TAFE Tasmania presented recipients with their Certificates.

Give Me 5 For Kids

By Trainee Cambridge Complex, Nikki Reid

At one stage in their child's life, many parents are likely to utilise the children's ward at their local hospital whether it be for a scratch, broken bone or an injury more serious.

"Give Me 5 for Kids" is a huge community based fundraiser, where for the month of September, radio station Magic 107.3 is completely focused on the raising of money for the children's ward at the Royal Hobart Hospital.

It was with this in mind that it was decided by the Cambridge Complex staff to organise some sort of fund raising effort. It was decided to hold a BBQ and organise raffles for hampers, with donations coming from staff members and drawn at the BBQ. It since grew and State Headquarters also came on board. Both BBQ's were held on Friday 23rd September. Thanks to the cooks at both events, Debbie White for organising the State Headquarters event, Jock Crome for organising supplies, and Gerald Crawford for the donation

of refreshments. The afternoon proved to be a great success with the total money raised at \$1,124.65 - a fantastic effort! Thank you to all involved.



Quamby & Western Tiers Group Exercise

By Field Officer Tamar District, Kevin Robertson

The area around the Four Springs Recreational Reserve and Lake was buzzing with action on Saturday 15th October and it wasn't only the fly lines of the fishermen zipping through the air.

The Quamby and Western Tiers Groups of brigades were holding their annual Group Exercise. It was decided that this year the two groups would combine to hold their exercise. The 80 participating volunteer firefighters represented the townships of Hadspen, Carrick, Westbury, Bracknell, Four Springs, Frankford, Deloraine, Elizabeth Town, Chudleigh, Mole Creek, Meander and Golden Valley.

On the day the firefighters were split into seven teams. To take them out of their comfort zone they were all assigned to different teams as well as being put in different appliances. The aim of the day was to have them hone and develop their skills and to learn some new ones in the process. There were the usual standard exercises covering relay pumping, chainsaw operations, 4x4 wheel driving, emergency care and handline construction.

To add to the experience of the day the Hazardous Materials appliance from the Launceston Fire Brigade was in attendance. Training Officer Al Williams, the state Hazardous Materials and CBR (Chemical, Biological and Radiation) specialist demonstrated and explained the complex range of equipment it carries for hazardous material and chemical incidents it may attend anywhere within the Northern Region.



With the onset of the bushfire season the exercise also had the use of a helicopter for the day. The major aim of this was to give the firefighters an up-close look at a helicopter and to learn the safety requirements and procedures when working on the fireground around aircraft. There was an aerial water bombing demonstration for the crews on the ground after the luncheon adjournment. Special thanks to Field Officer North East Ian Bounds for coming across for the day to help the pilot Bruce Colwell from Tasmanian Helicopters in this display.

The specially designed 'hot fire' training container was also on site for the day. This gave crews with BA valuable training in structural firefighting tactics while the non BA wearers were kept busy outside doing exposure protection and water supply tasks. Training Officer David Casteller and Volunteer Training Instructor Patrick Crimmins were in charge of this exercise.

The hungry firefighters were fed by the Hadspen South Esk Lions Club who volunteered their services for the day to man the BBQ's.

The day would not have been the huge success it was if it wasn't for the input and manning of all the sites by the co-ordinators and their assistants and for this we thank them sincerely. Special mention must be paid to the following organising committee for all their time spent getting the show on the road - Rod Sweetnam, Errol Gleeson, Boyd Galloway, Jason Chilcott, Wayne Johnston, Gil Walker, Greg Cain and Brendon Blazley - thank you.

Library News

Video

Video Catalogue: The new up-to-date video catalogue is now available so keep a look out for these in your mailbox, and let us know if you need additional copies.

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

NEW TITLES AVAILABLE FROM THE LIBRARY

I love a firefighter: what the family needs to know / Kirschman, Ellen.

Summary: "I Love a Firefighter is the first self-help book written to address the questions and concerns of today's firefighter families." "Dr Ellen Kirschman has gathered stories from veterans, new recruits, and family members in dozens of career and volunteer departments across the country. These families share the truth about their rewarding yet often stressful way of life - from banter at the stationhouse to a four-alarm blaze, from a harrowing ride with paramedics to the arduous recovery process from on-the-job injuries. Dr Kirschman discusses essential topics that are rarely talked about, including the effects of shift work on a marriage and the emotional side of physical injuries and trauma". "Bringing together information, anecdotes, and supportive advice, Dr Kirschman has assembled a guide to issues that no one in the fire service community can afford to ignore. This book is a resource that you'll turn to again and again. Read on to see what you can do to help yourself, your mate, and your children navigate the highs and lows of "the best job in the world."-- 363.37019 KIR

Assessing and selecting high performing fire service recruits of the future / New Zealand Fire Service Commission. 363.37092 CER

Fire safety in small tourist accommodation businesses: working towards developing best practice models / Lamm, Felicity. 363.3770993 FIR

Firefighter's complete juvenile firesetter handbook / Cole, Robert E., 1946-. 364.164 FIR

Climate and severe fire seasons / Heydenrych, Clive. 551.6593 HEY

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

Summary: "This much-needed new book, based on the author's original research and clinical experience, describes the consequences of trauma exposure on police officers, firefighters, and paramedics. Weaving data collected in large-scale quantitative studies with the personal stories of responders shared in qualitative interviews, this account explores the personal, organisational, and societal factors that can ameliorate or exacerbate traumatic response." "Stress theory, organisational theory, crisis theory, and trauma theory provide a framework for understanding trauma responses and guiding intervention strategies. Using an ecological

perspective, the authors explore interventions spanning prevention, disaster response, and follow-up, on individual, family, group, organisational, and community levels. They provide specific suggestions for planning intervention programs, developing trauma response teams, training emergency service responders and mental health professionals, and evaluating the effectiveness of services provided."

616.8521 REG

New South Wales Rural Fire Service

The NSW Rural Fire Service has updated their website and it is worth a look. You can find it at: <http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/>

Unwanted fire magazines

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

Contact 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 & Melville Streets, Hobart.

Other News

In July whilst on a visit to the USA to visit family, Rebecca attended the InFire Conference that was held in Boston Massachusetts. The conference included a visit to NFPA headquarters and FM Global's Research Campus. The campus handles most of FM Global's research and testing operations. The main section of the campus is the Fire Technology Laboratory which is approximately 2 acres in size. It is large enough to replicate a fire in some of the large warehouses. It also has an intermediate and small-scale lab. They also have the facility to be able to simulate various scenarios to meet industry needs.

Rebecca was also shown through the nature hazards lab that is used to duplicate almost anything Mother Nature can throw at a building from Category 5 hurricanes, winds and wind-driven rain to extremes in freezing and thawing. There is also an outside lab (bunker) to test various dust and gas explosions and the damage they can cause to facilities.



The NFPA Library at Quincy Massachusetts

Admin support with a difference!

By Senior Station Officer Hobart Fire Brigade, Rob Ratcliffe

Recently Hobart Fire Brigade's B Platoon conducted a Hazardous Materials/ Chemical, Biological and Radiological (Hazmat/CBR) exercise. The aim of the exercise was practice for platoon members in managing this type of incident.

The scenario was based around information from the police of a small amount of a suspected biological agent (anthrax) being found in an envelope in the lower carpark at the Hobart Fire Brigade.

The management of this incident involved setting up of the mass casualty decontamination facility. This facility, as well as other equipment to support the operation, was supplied by the Federal government in response to the likelihood of a terrorist attack in Australia.

To enhance the scenario, volunteers to role play as casualties were called for from the administration staff at State Headquarters. The response to the request was pleasing, with members from Finance, Information and Records and Southern Region Administration volunteering to act as casualties.

After a pre-exercise briefing the casualties were positioned in the carpark, seated on chairs with a cold bottle of water, and asked



Admin Staff after the decontamination phase

to wait for the incident to unfold - tough job being an exercise casualty!

As with this type of incident there is a lot of behind the scenes work going on before casualties are processed through the decontamination unit. Eventually though the casualties were escorted through the facility where their contaminated clothing was removed, bagged and tagged, and then each casualty received a 3 minute warm shower in their respective male or female area. The stretcher cases were placed on the roller assembly and escorted by "zone operators" through the decontamination phase. Eventually they appeared at the entrance to the clean area dressed in their "fashionable" gowns before being escorted away for a check up.

Overall the exercise was deemed a success with many valuable lessons learnt. The feedback from the casualties in relation to how they were treated was good, however, there were a couple of areas where we could improve our management of the casualties. Many thanks go to the exercise casualties who volunteered their time and to the supervisors who supported them.



FIREFIT

By Senior Firefighter Hobart Fire Brigade, Richard Onn

Statistics sourced from the Heart Foundation (May 2005) state:

- 1 Australian dies every 10 minutes from Cardiovascular Disease (CVD)
- 50,292 died of CVD in 2004
- 2004 60% of CVD deaths were below the average age expectancy
- 1 in 6 Aussies (3.2 million) are affected by CVD
- Causes - cholesterol, inactivity, overweight, obesity, diabetes
- Half the population over the age of 25 have high blood cholesterol
- 60% of adults over the age of 25 are overweight
- Diabetes is the fastest growing chronic disease
- 1 in 3 cancer deaths is preventable
- Some causes are smoking, sun exposure, poor diet, alcohol, inadequate exercise, being overweight

Cardiovascular Disease is preventable

What is Firefit?

We were alarmed by the statistics from the Heart Foundation so earlier this year a small group of like-minded HFB firefighters, with a general interest in health and fitness issues, had a series of meetings. From those meetings and with the backing of management the team Firefit was established with the vision to implement better health strategies to all firefighters and employees of the TFS and their families.

Our aims:

To keep firefighters fit, healthy and on the job longer.

Assist firefighters, staff, and their families by fostering awareness of health, nutrition and wellness issues.

We are firefighters looking after firefighters and envisage our role would be to provide information; education sessions; and wellness activities.

Firefit is not just about getting fit but looking at your health and wellbeing holistically.

The group came up with a whole list of wellness issues and how we could get everyone involved. To date we have used the Hobart Fire Brigade to trial and evaluate some of the initiatives.

What has happened so far?

So far within the Hobart Fire Brigade:

Nutrition and food preparation sessions for firefighters - as seen in the last issue of Fireground and in the 'Mercury'. The program's aim was to give firefighters an understanding of the current basic guidelines to healthy eating and some practical skills to assist them in preparing easy, fast and healthy foods safely whilst on duty.

Course Objectives:

Prepare and enjoy healthy, sustaining meals, as a group on duty.

Develop an understanding of how to store food safely (using current issue cooler bag).

Develop an understanding of the importance of proper nutrition and the importance of eating low GI food to keep up energy levels during prolonged physical activity.

Wellness Website

A website has been set up to provide quick electronic access to information relating to health and wellness. This site can be accessed via the TFS website after your member log in. The website also contains the following information:

- Links to health organisations associated with all the topics of health and wellness
- Nutrition, including monthly healthy recipes
- Mind and body
- Calendar of up-coming sporting activities and community events
- Parenting and relationships
- TFS teams, including TFBCA news and results
- Health facts
- Firefit multi-sport challenge (details in further article this issue)
- The recruitment of more fitness leaders at HFB for the benefit of on-shift personnel. Their functions within the brigade are:
- Developing, implementing and evaluating fitness programs for individuals.
- Organise and co-ordinate group activities for on shift personnel during times of low workload. These may be sporting games or lateral thinking exercises to foster teamwork and morale.
- Assist members in individual rehabilitation programs.
- Assist Firefit members in co-ordinating organised visits from health and lifestyle professionals and health organisation representatives.
- Ideas and Help

We want to encourage every brigade to think Firefit. Let us know if you want to form a group in your brigade or work area.

Do you have any ideas for programs that may assist in improving the way your family and workmates view their health?

Contact Richard Onn - email: richard.onn@fire.tas.gov.au or at the HFB by phone.

TFS Firefit Multi-Sport Challenge

By Leading Firefighter Hobart Fire Brigade, Grant Joyce

As part of the TFS Firefit Program, the Hobart Fire Brigade is running a Multi-Sport Challenge involving headquarters staff, an event that's designed to promote physical fitness in the workplace and promote positive lifestyle changes.

The HFB Multi-Sport Challenge commenced on 3rd October and will finish on Friday 23rd December. The event is run over a three month period and consists of two 20 minute workouts involving four disciplines, RUN, RIDE, ROW and STAIR CLIMB. The participant is to complete five minutes on each discipline in any order they choose. It is preferable that one work station is completed straight after the other. Distances are to be recorded on completion of each activity.

Trained Fitness Leaders on each shift are able to provide participants with a fitness program that suits their needs and also to answer any queries about the gym equipment.

Participants will be able to gauge their level of fitness after their first workout in October and set a personal challenge to better themselves by December. Records of personal performances are retained by participants to check their progress.

An award for the Most Improved participant, judged by the Hobart Fitness Leaders will be made at the HFB Christmas Lunch.

So if you are a regular gym user, someone who wants to get fit, or just keen to get in shape for summer, then this is a great opportunity to get moving in the right direction.

*'No time for your health today,
will result in no health for your
time tomorrow.'* (Irish Proverb)

Hard Work Pays Off

By District Officer Training Services, Steve Lowe

On 2nd August 2005 Training Officer Jodi Armstrong was the centre of attention at the North West Regional Headquarters. Staff from the North West Regional Headquarters and Burnie Fire Brigade gathered for a morning tea in recognition of Jodi's promotion to Senior Station Officer. Following some congratulatory comments from Training Services District Officer Steve Lowe and Regional Chief John Streets, Jodi was presented with his Senior Station Officer epaulettes. This is a significant achievement in any officer's career, and Jodi has put in many hours of hard work and study to achieve the competencies and complete the assessments required for promotion. Well done Jodi and I am sure that with the same level of commitment shown, you will successfully manage the future challenges that come with this position.



District Officer Steve Lowe, Senior Station Officer Jodi Armstrong and Regional Chief John Streets

Whole of Government Radio Project

Article courtesy of the "Whole of Government Radio Project Team"

The objective of the project is to deliver whole of government radio communication services that will meet the Government's strategic objectives for whole of government radio communications and will meet the business needs of participating government entities.

The Government's strategic objectives for whole of government radio communications include:

- Interoperability and compatibility in radio communications between inter and intra-state police and emergency services.
- Improved service delivery by Tasmania Police and the Emergency Services through improved coverage and voice quality in remote and rural areas.
- The availability of a broader range of radio communication features for government users of the digital trunk network such as encryption and local and wide area talkgroups.

In June 2005, Cabinet approved the development of a Whole of Government Radio Network and endorsed the Department of Police and Public Safety as the lead agency for the project. The Radio Project Team reports to the Radio Inter-Agency Steering Committee (Radio IASC), which is the Steering Committee for the project. The Radio IASC is made up of senior management representatives of the participating

Agencies and Government Business Enterprises (GBEs) that will use the Whole of Government Radio Network.

The participating Agencies and GBEs are:

- The Parks and Wildlife Service (Department of Tourism, Parks, Heritage and the Arts);
- Tasmania Fire Service (Department of Health and Human Services);
- Tasmania Police and the State Emergency Service (Department of Police and Public Safety);
- Tasmanian Ambulance Service (Department of Health and Human Services); and
- Forestry Tasmania.

The Radio Project Team is making arrangements to secure a supplier that will provide mobile radio communication services on a whole of government basis and is developing processes to ensure that the project is undertaken in accordance with the Government's project management framework.

The Radio Project Team is also developing a Government Radio Network website that will include information on all aspects of the Radio Project.

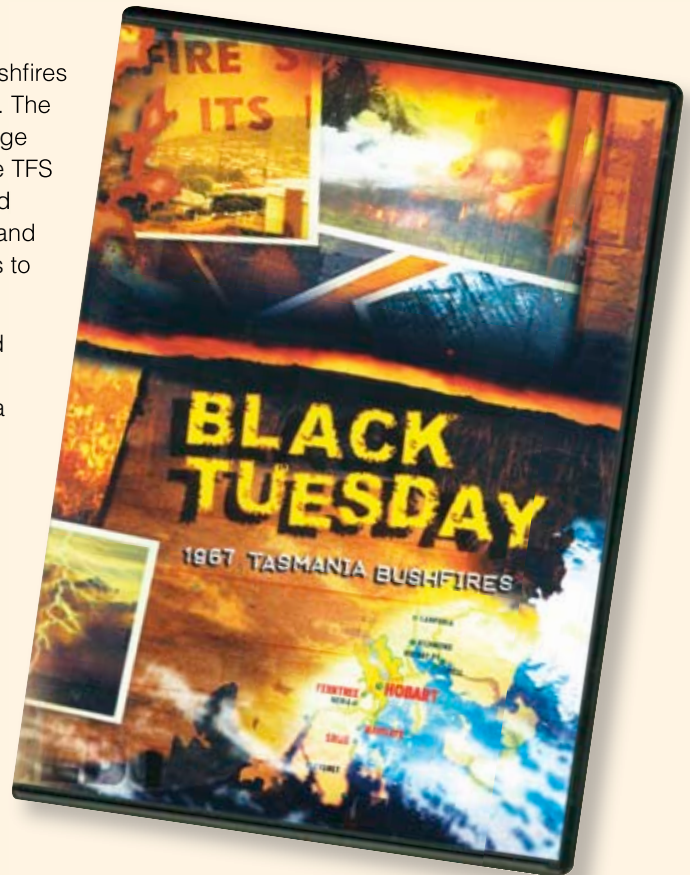
Black Tuesday - 1967 Tasmania Bushfires

Recently an evening function was held in Hobart for the premiere screening of a documentary film *Black Tuesday - 1967 Tasmania Bushfires* recently made for the Bushfire Co-operative Research Centre (CRC). The function hosted by the TFS, was to launch the film and to acknowledge and thank the people who participated in it along with those from the TFS who provided support and assistance. The film's writer, producer and director Moira Fahy was congratulated for her creativity, perception and enthusiasm which produced such an excellent result. Special thanks to 'Production Manager' Danny Reid for his valuable assistance.

The Bushfire CRC commissioned Moira to make a film that portrayed the effect of a bushfire disaster on a community and its people. Although there have been a number of bushfire disasters in Australia since 1967, Black Tuesday remains arguably the worst. The film tells the story of the 1967 bushfires through the personal reflections of a number of people including Colebrook Brigade Chief Michael Munnings and Chief Officer John Gledhill. Phil Cheney a CSIRO bushfire scientist who took part in the fire investigation in 1967 is interviewed in the film and compares conditions then and now.

The film reinforces some of the lessons learnt but also very powerfully portrays the personal trauma that remains with the people some 38 years later.

If your brigade would like to view this film, copies of the DVD are available for loan from District or Regional offices. Negotiations are currently underway to have the film screened nationally on free to air TV in the near future.



Back Row: Phil Cheney, Moira Fahy, Chief Officer John Gledhill, Michael Munnings
Front Row: Neville and Joy Schofield



Kevin O'Loughlin and Moira Fahy



Danny Reid and Syd Lovell

What is Crime Stoppers?

By Manager Community Education, Teresa Banman

Understanding what Crime Stoppers is and how it works are vital parts of the Youth Challenge. Crime Stoppers is a program that is designed to solve crime in our community. It is a dedicated 24 hour telephone line for receiving information about crime and criminal activity. It allows people to make anonymous, confidential calls to police with information about any unsolved crime.

By calling the toll free number of 1800 005 555, anyone can provide information anonymously. If their information leads to an arrest or drugs are seized or stolen property recovered, callers may be eligible for rewards of up to \$2000. It overcomes many of the reasons which prevent people from reporting crime.

The Crime Stoppers Youth Challenge

The Crime Stoppers Youth Challenge is an award-winning education program examining crime in the community and the impact and motivations of those who commit it. The program is an inquiry-based competition for students in grades 5 to 10 in all Tasmanian schools. Students were invited to work in groups to explore their connections with the community, their own beliefs, the motivations of others, and to design practical solutions to assist in reducing crime.

The program is designed to explore a different Tasmanian crime trend each year. The theme for this year's Crime Stoppers Youth Challenge was arson and related offences. This topic generated tremendous interest with the school and students, with a total of 87 entries received, which is a new record for the Crime Stoppers Youth Challenge.

Why this topic?

Tasmania has had a long and dramatic history with fire. Incidents of arson attract sensational media attention, particularly when lives and property are threatened. The cost to the community is substantial. By studying the problem area of arson and related offences, students will enhance their understanding of this type of crime and its effect on the community.

The Youth Challenge is consistent with inquiry-based learning practices and may assist students in attaining outcomes related to the Essential Learnings. The Youth Challenge is open to all students within the following categories:

Upper Primary (Grades 5-6)

Lower Secondary (Grades 7-8)

Upper Secondary (Grades 9-10)

The 2005 Youth Challenge encouraged students to use a team approach when undertaking their inquiry, and to consult with their local community using a range of Student Research Partners, like the Tasmania Fire Service and other community resources. The TFS visited 13 schools statewide to provide information sessions on the topic of arson and related offences. Many schools also took up an invitation to visit their local fire station.



The Challenge was for students to carry out an investigation into arson and related offences in order to gain an understanding of the following goals:

- the nature and extent of arson and related offences
- the motivation of individuals who commit arson and related offences
- the impact on, and consequences for, individuals who commit arson and related offences
- the impact on victims and cost to the community of arson and related offences
- the processes for investigating and solving arson and related offences
- the prevention and reduction of arson and related offences

Judging

The judging panel consisted of representatives from Tasmania Police, Crime Stoppers Tasmania, the Tasmania Fire Service and the Department of Education.

Winners were announced at the awards presentation on November 2nd 2005 at Moorilla Estate, Berriedale.

The judging panel had the pleasure of reviewing a range of pieces of work of a very high standard. It was evident that a tremendous amount of work went into the submissions and that the students appeared to really enjoy researching this important issue. The submissions included: stories, poetry, booklets, pamphlets, posters, reports, multi-media presentations, victim stories, newspaper articles, scripts for radio or television productions, talks, debates, performances and games. Many of the schools also attracted local media attention with their research and/or activities.

The Board of Directors of Crime Stoppers Tasmania presented the winning groups in each category with a framed certificate (gold, silver or bronze) for the school to keep, and unframed certificates for each student involved in the winning teams.



Gold, silver and bronze cash prizes (Gold - \$400, Silver - \$200, Bronze - \$100) were also presented in each of the three categories as follows:

Upper Secondary

Rosetta High School - Gold
 Reece High School - Gold
 St Brendan-Shaw College - Silver
 Rose Bay High School - Silver
 Brooks High School - Bronze
 Dominic College - Highly Commended
 Riverside High School x 3 Entries - Highly Commended
 Kingston High School - Highly Commended

Lower Secondary

Scottsdale High School - Gold
 Brooks High School - Silver
 Deloraine High School - Silver
 Oatlands District High School - Bronze
 Riverside High School - Highly Commended
 Rose Bay 7E x 2 Entries - Honourable Mention
 Riverside High School - Commissioner's Award

Upper Primary

Cambridge Primary School - Gold
 Mount Carmel College - Silver
 St Bridgid's Primary School - Silver
 Cambridge Primary School - Bronze
 East Ulverstone Primary School - Highly Commended
 Sheffield High School - Honourable Mention
 The Tasmania Fire Service also presented an award for excellence to Reece High School for their professional, unique and educational DVD.

Devonport leads the way in blood donations!

By Firefighter Devonport Brigade, Martin Agatyn

Volunteer firefighters from the Devonport Brigade have led the response to a call from the Australian Red Cross Blood Bank for donations of blood to help boost a shortfall in reserves.

A group of 10 volunteers made a mass donation at the Devonport branch of the blood bank in June, attracting considerable media interest from newspapers, radio and TV. Some of the volunteers were first time donors, but with the encouragement of Red Cross staff and fellow volunteers who have been regular donors for a number of years, it is hoped a number of them will become regular donors too.

Devonport has the highest number of blood donors per capita in Australia and the Devonport volunteers were determined to do their bit to ensure their city stays on top.

Under the watchful eye of Red Cross staff and several fellow volunteers who are regular blood donors, the "rookies" rolled up their sleeves to give for a worthy cause.

The promotion had the desired effect with the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association, the Burnie Dockers Football Club and Tasmania Police Academy cadets all publicly donating blood as media events within a few days of publicity generated by the DFB donation.

Volunteer firefighter Simon Quilliam, who organised the group donation said it presented another opportunity for volunteer firefighters to help the community. "I saw the recent publicity calling for more blood donors and the first people I thought of was our volunteers, who are always generous with their time for community events," he said.

Red Cross Operation Lifeblood is seeking 40,000 new blood donors nationwide, including more than 200 on the North West Coast. Blood supplies are not as plentiful in winter with donors falling victim to colds and the flu and staying warm indoors and not donating.

"When suggested our volunteers donate, the response was good, despite the fact one or two may not be too keen on needles," Simon said. 'It just shows they are prepared to go the extra distance required when it matters most.'



Red Cross Staff member with Martin Agatyn, Damien Hopkins, Simon Quilliam & Stephen O'Neill
 Front Row: Dale Brown (seated), Greg Kelly & Kristy Rootes
 Photo courtesy of the Advocate

Fuel Reduction Burning Program Spring 2005

By Station Officer Launceston Fire Brigade, Shane Streets

This fuel reduction burn program has been developed to better prepare the Launceston Fire Management Area for serious fire threat in and around built up areas, creating buffer zones between bush vegetation and residential areas.

The locations for those reduction burns have been identified to assist in firefighting strategies when faced with extreme fire conditions during the summer fire season and complement a similar program being conducted by Launceston City Council, West Tamar Council and Department of Parks and Recreation. All hazard reduction burns are to be conducted in accordance with TFS Standard Operating Procedures (Hazard Reduction Planning / Hazard Reduction Burning).

A secondary benefit for these fuel reduction burns is training for our crews (volunteer and career) with particular attention placed on up and coming Leading Firefighters as they

oversee these burns following the PSTP guidelines for hazard reduction planning and conduct hazard reduction burns, thus gathering these competencies for their future career development.

The photos are of a two day reduction burn carried out at Allison Avenue in Riverside, Launceston on the 15th and 16th October. The land used for these burns was privately owned and provided a good opportunity for inter agency relations between West Tamar Council, local volunteers and the private land holders.

This fuel reduction burn was undertaken as a low intensity burn to minimise damage to the environment and wildlife in this greenbelt corridor (between farmland and residential properties).



New booklet - TFS Incident Notes

A new incident booklet is currently being implemented statewide and issued by district staff.

The booklet has been designed to replace both the Supplementary Fire Investigation and the Field Note booklets. Fire investigation guidelines are provided on the inside cover of the new Incident Notes booklet.

The new booklet which is red in colour, not green as per the old booklets, is colour coded for easy use. The first white page consists of a generic form to be utilised for all fire investigation activities and incident information. This is to be completed for all fire incidents by the responding officer or field staff and forwarded to the relevant regional fire investigator.

The yellow sheet is for fire watch information, blue for vehicle fire information including a sketch page for other fire types, green for obtaining information from witnesses, and finally an extract of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Tasmania Police and the TFS explaining protocols and responsibilities from each agency at all types of incidents. Also included is the process for the release of information to media and other interested parties.

All old Supplementary Fire Investigation booklets and Field Note booklets (green covers) are to be removed from service and the new booklets used immediately.

Any questions in relation to the above can be referred to your district staff or regional fire investigator.

Urban Search and Rescue - Capability Development Project

By District Officer Development & Learning, (State USAR Coordinator) Mark Dobson

In November 2004 the Australasian Fire Authorities Council (AFAC) convened a meeting in Adelaide to discuss a Federal Government proposal to provide funding to address jurisdictional capability gaps, particularly in the area of Urban Search and Rescue (USAR).

It was announced that up to \$15M would be made available to the States and Territories on a \$ for \$ cost share basis. This proposal would provide up to \$30M nationally, to address capability gaps with half the funds being spent on specialised equipment and the other half on training and development. The project will run over four years.

So what is USAR? Essentially it is the rescue of trapped people from a collapsed structure. Lately there has been quite a deal of footage in the media where USAR teams have been deployed around the world, the Indonesian Tsunami, hurricane Katrina in New Orleans and of course the recent Pakistani earthquake are just a few examples.

Tasmania has a small USAR capability already, with a number of career staff trained at the various levels, Category 1, 2 and 3. Category 1 equips our staff with the skills to identify and mark hazards, rescue people who may be lightly trapped on the surface of a collapsed building and provide general support to USAR operations.

Category 2 is the technical specialist level where people are trained in shoring techniques, cutting and breaching concrete, tunnelling and rescuing people who may be trapped below the surface of a collapse site. It takes three weeks to train a Category 2 operator.

Category 3 training deals with the incident management skills required by our more senior officers, with a particular spotlight on USAR.

The main thrust of the Capability Development Project (CDP)

is to build a better level of USAR operational readiness in Tasmania, South Australia, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. Other larger jurisdictions won't miss out altogether and their capabilities will also be enhanced.

What does all this mean for the TFS? We will gain a very large injection of specialist technical search and rescue equipment including search cameras, hydraulic cutting and breaching tools, PPE and some new equipment pods (containers) to store and transport it all. This will total almost \$1.5M, a very significant amount!

In holding up our end of the bargain we will conduct a 3 week Category 2 training course for 24 career staff, including Tasmanian Ambulance Service paramedics and State Emergency Service regional officers. This course will occur in the first part of next year. This will effectively increase our numbers to 54 in total.

Once this has occurred our priority will shift to Category 1 training for TFS volunteers. This training will initially be made available to brigades that are attached to a career station like Bridgewater, Rocherlea and Devonport or located in a career brigade district such as Mount Nelson and Prospect.

It is hoped that this training will eventually be rolled out to other brigades in the larger towns like Kingston, George Town and Ulverstone and also to some SES volunteer units.

Competency maintenance (refreshers) will be ongoing for the life of the project and beyond.

It is a very busy time in the world of USAR at the moment with many hours being spent by our senior USAR people in meetings, discussing our specific requirements. The end result will be a very significant boost in our current response capability, an important point considering our unique island status.



What is missing from this photograph?

What is missing from this photograph? Answer: The Station!

State Fire Commission members and senior officers toured parts of the Northern Region in September. The group was somewhat concerned when they visited the Waterhouse Brigade to find an enthusiastic group of volunteers, a fire truck, but no station. The Brigade has been "based" at Brigade Chief Paul Casey's property for some time; however, plans are now (finally) in hand to construct a station. This time next year the Waterhouse volunteers should be comfortably meeting and training in their new "home".

The “Make A Wish Cottage”

It's all over! The house has been sold, and a function held to thank all the people who so generously donated their time.

It could not have been done without the contribution of all the firefighters from the Hobart Fire Brigade who gave so much of their own time and effort to the Make a Wish Cottage Project over the past 15 months.

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

Congratulations to Station Officer Mike Westacott whose desire and determination, along with the energy and enthusiasm of the volunteers was a recipe for success.

Special thanks to Kim Barrett of Kim Barrett Home Designs who selected the colour scheme, and did the interior design turning the cottage into a beautiful modern home equal to any in the glossy home decorator magazines!

Congratulations to all those involved in the Make a Wish Cottage project on a fantastic job.

Mike Westacott	Mark Bryant	Don Bryant
Jock Crome	David Shorthouse	Richard Onn
Denis Hoggett	Kim Barrett	Jeremy Smith
Marcus Skelly	Adam Meredith	George Auchterlonie
Robert Ratcliffe	Shane Batt	Rod Cuthbert
Adam Salter	Andrew Lindner	Brendon Burridge
Suzanne Bacon	Richard Bacon	Brendon Wass
Claudio Muench	Leigh Richardson	Dale Rayner
Darren Gye	David Collins	David McGuinness
Faron Wall	Garry Sullivan	Grant Patterson
Greg Pollard	Jarrold Read	Jason McSherry
John Hall	John Tyrrell	Justin Lownds
Justin Park	Kate Murphy	Lee Hodgman
Leon O'Brien	Leon Smith	Mark Klop
Linda Lacy	Matt Childs	Matthew Lowe
Matthew Turner	Matthew Wiggins	Maurice Childs
Michael Goldsmith	Murray Garity	Neil Brooksbank
Paul Cooper	Peter Reason	Phil Oakley
Phil Smith	Phil Douglas	Robert Henry
Scott Vinen	Steve Benefield	Steve Percival
Stewart Iles	Tim Holland	Tony Davidson
Wayne Huxley	William Coad	Kelly Taylor
Southern Region Admin staff		

Please accept our apologies if your name has been missed. The outstanding results could not have been achieved without your help.



Margate Brigade Open Day

By Brigade Chief Margate Brigade, Bill Quinn

On Saturday 1st October 2005 Margate Brigade held their second successful Open Day on the grounds surrounding the fire station. The main aim of the day was to reinforce the ongoing community education regarding all facets of fire safety. The day also provided an opportunity for the public to get to know the members of their brigade and to gain some idea of what it means to be a volunteer 'firie'.

Opening to the public at 11 a.m. the area quickly filled with people keen to see the demonstration on how a call to a vehicle fire is handled. The Huonville SES using the "Jaws of Life" to simulate removing victims from a car accident followed this.

Next the exciting but very educational kitchen fire demonstration - the mock kitchen, complete with stove and smoke alarm, was used to show the correct way to extinguish a fat fire. Firstly the public was advised to prevent fat fires by **TURN OFF BEFORE YOU TURN AWAY**. The correct use of fire blankets and extinguishers was then shown. The incorrect use of water on this type of fire was dramatically displayed causing many ooohs and aaahs from the spectators. Many people commented that they had no idea how volatile water on a fat fire could be.

The public were also given the opportunity to use different types of fire extinguishers on real fires, again many commented that they had read about their use, but had never actually used an extinguisher.

An audio visual presentation on Bushfire Preparedness for those living in fire prone areas was also shown

The Juniors and Cadets gave a polished hose drill exhibition showing how easy it is for those who are prepared to set a pump and hose around their home.



All these displays featured at regular times during the day along with the TFS Community Education Trailer, several vehicles from the TFS Museum, a Remote Area Team vehicle and equipment, plus a Special Equipment Vehicle from Hobart.



National Approaches to Community Safety during Bushfires

New national bushfire safety position and supporting booklet

By Director Community Fire Safety, Damien Killalea

The Tasmania Fire Service and other Australian fire services have been working together through the Australasian Fire Authorities Council (AFAC) to develop a nationally consistent position on community safety during bushfires. While AFAC has had a published position for some years, significant bushfire losses in NSW, Victoria, South Australia and the ACT in recent years has driven the need for an updated and more comprehensive position.

The position, which details measures householders can and should take to prepare and defend their homes against bushfire attack, is likely to be approved by AFAC in the coming weeks. It's based on experience in Australia over many years indicating that many houses don't burn down until several hours after a bushfire has passed. Had householders been present to defend their homes against the bushfire, it's likely that most of these houses would have been saved, and the residents would have been safe.

A new booklet to replace TFS's Will You Survive? brochure is planned for release late in 2005. The booklet will be consistent with the new national position, and will detail the steps householders living in or near bushland should take to prepare themselves and their homes for bushfire. The information in the booklet will reflect AFAC's position that people should prepare their homes, then stay and defend them or relocate early to a place away from an approaching fire.

Once the new booklet has been released, TFS brigade members will be encouraged to read it and share the information with people in their communities whenever opportunities arise.

Preparing a 'defendable space' around a home will make it easier for householders to defend their homes. A properly prepared home will also provide a safe haven for householders if a bushfire's radiant heat drives them inside, and a defendable space will make it much easier for firefighters to defend a home if householders have decided to relocate to a place away from the fire.

TFS's advice is that if you plan to leave your home rather than defend it, leave early. Sadly, many people who have fled their homes at the last minute, including several in the Eyre Peninsula fire last summer, have perished when they crashed in thick smoke, or were over-run by the fire.

For travellers who inadvertently encounter a bushfire, AFAC has just approved a position paper containing useful information to minimise the risks if trapped in a vehicle. This paper will be used to develop information for distribution to Tasmanian travellers.

New national advertising campaign

Supporting TFS's efforts to raise awareness in the community about the dangers posed by bushfires, a new national TV campaign commenced screening in Tasmania on Sunday 23 October. The campaign encourages people living in bushfire-prone areas to contact their local fire service for detailed information about how to prepare for bushfire.

For Tasmania, viewers are encouraged to ring our freecall number 1800 000 699 for a free copy of Will You Survive? When the new bushfire safety booklet is available, it will be available free of charge to callers, as well as through local government offices and Service Tasmania outlets.

The campaign runs for three weeks in October/November, then for two weeks in early December, and two weeks in early January. It runs during different periods in the other states and territories depending on when their bushfire seasons are.

The TV advertising is funded by the Australian Government, as the major part of the three-year \$6M 'Bushfire Awareness and Preparedness Campaign' announced by the Prime Minister in September 2004.

The campaign is managed nationally by Emergency Management Australia, with the co-operation of fire services in all Australian states and territories.

TFBCA Competition Dates

Sunday 4th December 2005	- Hobart
28th and 29th January 2006	- Burnie / Devonport
18th February 2006	- Ulverstone (Open)
4th March 2006	- Franklin (State)

Heat Sensitive Clothing

By Senior Project Officer OH&S, John Green

When the new Personal Protective Clothing (PPC) and stationwear was issued a Chief Officer's Safety Instruction together with changes to the Uniform and Protective Clothing Standard Operating Procedure were sent out to all Brigades in September 2000. They both contained clear instructions to **NOT wear stationwear under any structural or bushfire PPC**.

In recognition of lingering concerns and with the knowledge that many members were using heat sensitive undergarments (including polyester track pants, lycra gym shorts and a range of synthetic shirts / trousers) the issue of heat sensitive clothing being worn under PPC was raised with all brigades and members through Safety Alert No 5/2001. This also had clear instructions on where stationwear is and is not to be worn. Prior to and since that period of change in uniform material, no incidence of burns involving heat resistant clothing under PPC have been reported. We have had some minor burns reported (mainly involving necks, cheeks and wrists) and while unlikely, it is possible that had those individuals been wearing heat sensitive clothing their burns may have been more serious or complicated.

The safe wearing instructions referred to the small chance that the heat sensitivity of stationwear clothing may cause a safety problem in circumstances where the instructions cannot be practically applied. For example if brigade members are undertaking an evacuation practice at a nursing home and they receive a pager message to respond they may not be in a position to take their stationwear off and don their PPE before responding.

With these situations in mind a number of career firefighters raised the issue at a recent Central Health and Safety Committee meeting. As a result the Chair of the Committee recommended to the Chief Officer to initiate a review of under garment requirements.

As the TFS was about to provide career firefighters with an annual issue of the current polyester/cotton stationwear clothing it was decided to halt this issue while the need for non flammable clothing under PPC is investigated. A one off issue of 100% cotton stationwear (of a similar design and colour of the existing issue) is being provided. As most volunteers and non-rostered shiftwork members either do not wear stationwear through their normal work day or are usually in a position to be able to change at the station before responding, their stationwear requirements will remain unchanged until the results of the review are completed and approved.

A working party through the Operational Resources and Services Committee (ORSC) has been meeting over several months to look at the next generation of structural PPC; ie, looking at the new materials made available since our last issue was approved and reviewing the design and functionality of the current structural PPC.

Both ORSC and the Clothing Committee met in October this year and agreed to jointly appoint a sub committee to develop a draft PPE system. Precise terms of reference have yet to be developed but everyone at both meetings was enthused with the prospect of a fully compatible system in place in the not too distant future.

Hobart District Light Tanker Competition

By Field Officer Hobart, Peter Tavas



This year's competition was organised by Bowen Brigade and was keenly contested by all those who attended. The competition which is in its 20th year, gives the crews the opportunity to practice their knowledge and skills and to familiarise themselves with another Brigade's area. The activities ranged from basic firefighting knowledge to map reading, pumping and off road four wheel driving skills. The winning team this year was from Rokeby Brigade with Claremont and Fern Tree Brigades following close behind.



On The *Move*

A list of recent personnel changes within the Tasmania Fire Service

The following Career Personnel changes have been effected

Arrivals

North West	Aaron Tammens	Appliance Technician	10th October 2005
South	Lochie Brown	Communications Officer	10th October 2005
South	Emma McGrath	Communications Officer	10th October 2005
South	Sandra Smith	Communications Officer	17th October 2005
South	Roy Leeman	Executive Officer Finance	24th October 2005

Departures

North	Philip Keam	Instructor TasFire Training	30th September 2005
South	Sandy Fisk	Leading Firefighter	5th October 2005
South	Shane Smith	Tech Support Officer	5th October 2005

Elevations

North West	Tyron Clark	Training Officer	26th September 2005
South	Paul Lewis	Assistant Manager Communications	21st October 2005

Transfers

South	Jade Wright	Communications Officer	10th October 2005
South	Martin Grubb	Communications Officer	17th October 2005

The following Volunteer Brigade Officers have been elected by their Brigades

BRIGADE	OFFICER	APPOINTMENT	BRIGADE	OFFICER	APPOINTMENT
Bagdad	Jim Clifton	Third Officer	Queenstown	Paul Bugg	Second Officer
Bagdad	Craig Harback	Fourth Officer	Queenstown	Jason Clarke	Third Officer
Barrington	Neville Bingham	Group Officer	Queenstown	Robert Butterfield	Fourth Officer
Claremont	Scott Munday	First Officer	Richmond	Peter Hemelrijk	Brigade Chief
Claremont	Russell Armstrong	Second Officer	Richmond	Andrew Luttrell	Second Officer
Claremont	Linda Walker	Third Officer	Richmond	John Knibbe	Third Officer
Claremont	Troy Bedelph	Fourth Officer	Richmond	Anke Workman	Fourth Officer
Collinsvale	Ian Wade	Brigade Chief	Roland	Mark Furley	Group Officer
Gretna	Trafford Harvey	Second Officer	Somerset	Robert Dawes	Third Officer
Gretna	Mandy Butler	Third Officer	Somerset	Craig Stirling	Fourth Officer
Gretna	Ross Johnstone	Fourth Officer	Southport	Barrie Oakley	Fourth Officer
Heybridge	John White	Brigade Chief	St Marys	Michael Spilsbury	Second Officer
Heybridge	Michelle Hudson	Second Officer	St Marys	Grant Faulkner	Third Officer
Heybridge	Michael Smith	Third Officer	St Marys	Jason McGiveron	Fourth Officer
Heybridge	Georgina Cross	Fourth Officer	Strahan	Kerry Hamer	Brigade Chief
Jordan	Anthony Kenner	Group Officer	Strahan	Liz Hamer	Second Officer
King Island	Rod McGarvie	Group Officer	Strahan	Mark McDermott	Third Officer
Lebrina	Mark Wilson	Brigade Chief	Strahan	Phillip Thompson	Fourth Officer
Lebrina	Graeme Campbell	Second Officer	Summerleas	Anthony Woolley	Brigade Chief
Lebrina	Karl Robbers	Third Officer	Summerleas	Russell Lawrence	Second Officer
Lebrina	Denis Smith	Fourth Officer	Summerleas	Andrew Cashion	Third Officer
Leven	Tony King	Group Officer	Summerleas	Jeffrey Bremner	Fourth Officer
Lower Derwent	Andrew Pegg	Group Officer	Triabunna	Ian Izzard	Brigade Chief
Molesworth	Peter Eaton	Brigade Chief	Triabunna	William Sullivan	Second Officer
Molesworth	Andrew Smeal	Second Officer	Triabunna	John Ashlin	Third Officer
Molesworth	Jane Bradshaw	Third Officer	Triabunna	David Wells	Fourth Officer
Molesworth	Matthew Ames	Fourth Officer	Upper Derwent	Colin Cunningham	Group Officer
Nile	Garry Rigby	Brigade Chief	West Tamar	David Wright	Group Officer
Nile	Michael Morrison	Second Officer	White Hills	Nigel Hodges	Brigade Chief
Nile	Leon Rigby	Third Officer	White Hills	Michael Johnstone	Second Officer
Queenstown	Bill Tiddy	Brigade Chief	White Hills	Greg Chugg	Third Officer

Photo Competition Winners

The winning photos from this edition are:

1st place



Photo taken by Fourth Officer Sandfly Brigade, Ron Moss (\$100)

2nd place



Photo submitted by Brigade Chief Gladstone, Rodney Moore (\$50)

Photo Gallery



Barn fire at Rushy Lagoon - January 2004

Photo submitted by Brigade Chief Gladstone, Rodney Moore



Fire on the Hill

Photo submitted by Field Officer Hobart, Peter Tavas



Tip-toe through the tulips! George Auchterlonie took this shot along Hollow Tree Road. The mass of colour was impressive, a nice background for the new Hilux!

Photo submitted by George Auchterlonie



Have a little faith! This photo was taken at the TFS Conference recently held at the City Gate Convention Centre, Mornington.

Photo submitted by Fourth Officer Sandfly Brigade, Ron Moss



Like father, like daughter!
Apparently she can't wait to join
- this is little Maya Bakowski of
Gowrie Park.

Photo submitted by Firefighter
Claude Road Brigade, Mark
Bakowski



Live fire training exercise - the two firefighters in the structure are Simon Quilliam and Kristy Rootes (on the branch) of the Devonport Brigade.

Photo submitted by Firefighter Devonport Brigade, Simon Quilliam

Photographer Fire Investigator Mark Brownrigg



Goat Hills fire

Photos submitted by Firefighter Claremont Brigade, Todd Bennetto



2005 TVFBA Competitions at Ridgley

Photos submitted by Firefighter Wesley Vale Brigade, Ross Morgan



Staff on exchange!



News from Canada

By Senior Station Officer Gary Johnson

I have been on exchange for around six months of my eleven month exchange in Canada now, and finding it very interesting and quite rewarding.

I am located in Edmonton, the capital of the province (state) of Alberta, an oil and gas rich province of Canada.

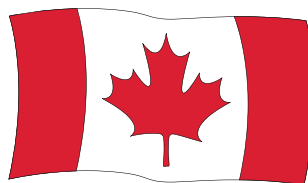
Edmonton is a dynamic city with a rapidly expanding population of just under 1 million people. I am stationed at a relatively quiet Station 20 on the southern edge of the city, averaging around 5 calls per day. While a majority of the calls are medical or false alarms, I have attended two 3rd alarm fires, a Level 3 Hazmat Incident, a couple of house fires, and numerous car accidents.

Station 20 is manned by two Captains and four firefighters, and has a pumper, tanker, two boats and an ATV mule. While responding to the above types of calls, this station has an Ice Rescue responsibility to which I did some training on some frozen lakes when I first arrived.

Edmonton Fire Department is as dynamic as the city, with future expansions in both personnel and stations planned and budgeted for. Two new stations start construction in Spring 2006 and plans for two more as subdivisions develop, along with the employment of an additional 100 firefighters over the next two years. The department heads continually seek greater funding from both local and provincial governments and were recently granted an additional \$51 Million for upgrading of trucks, equipment, stations and personnel.

Newer pumpers and rescue vehicles are now equipped with on board computer and GPS systems which not only provide up to the minute incident information, but city maps, hydrant locations, other vehicle positions and complex (building) information. These touch screen computers calculate and show the best route to the incident, any road closures and vehicle position, updated every few seconds.

Canada is a beautiful country full of diversity and culture, with interesting people and places to visit. This exchange is giving me the opportunity to experience life in a different country and to experience things that are not available in Australia. I have found the people here very friendly and prepared to go out of their way to do anything for you. My work colleagues are excellent and have made me feel a very welcome member of the team.



Tasmania-Powell River Exchange

By Senior Firefighter James Newstead

Since arriving here in January I have been lucky enough to be involved in several major incidents. One of them "Tanner Avenue" was while I was on shift with C crew. The others, I have been called back into. Because of low manning numbers a callback system is utilised for the career staff whereby the crew knocking off carries a pager between shifts and therefore is on call for their 4 day shift.

We got the call to Tanner Avenue at around 11:30 and on arrival it was a large house fire going from end to end. I was driving with Vern Mantoani as my captain and Carl Jones as the other firefighter. We had a little difficulty finding the house as it was called in by someone who lived over two kms away and reported a red glow in the sky somewhere behind Cranberry Lake. As we rounded the corner of Joyce and Manson we could see what they meant, there was a huge glow in the sky!!

The closest hydrant was nearly 3000 feet away and downhill which made it useless to us, so to start with all we could do was to empty our 500 gallons onto it and wait for Engine 1 with its 1000 gallon supply to arrive. A few minutes seems like an eternity when you are waiting for water! On the arrival of Engine 1 we commenced relay pumping between the two appliances, Engine 2 from Wildwood was the next on scene and joined in the ferrying of water between the hydrant on the street and the top of the driveway where Rescue 1 was stationed. Over the next hour or so we fought for the control of the fire which had us beat from the get go and 15,000 gallons later it was over, the only thing left standing was the stone work of the once grand chimney that stood in the centre of the house. As it turned out the house had been sold previous to the fire and the settlement was at midnight on the eve of the fire, luckily for the new owners the fire had started prior to settlement so subsequently the sale fell through. The cause was determined to be ashes cleaned out from the wood fire and left atop of the wood pile in the basement. The owner had only finished moving that day.

This exchange has been an awesome experience and I would recommend it to anyone who has the chance. On that note I would like to thank all of the people who have made it possible for me to take part in it.



Firefighting in the UK!

By Senior Firefighter Sheryl Griffiths

Already being well-versed in the general principals of structure firefighting, my first port of call when I started at Devon Fire and Rescue, was the Marine Firefighting Branch. The Marine Firefighting Course is designed to ensure firefighters can demonstrate a theoretical and practical knowledge of firefighting procedures to be adopted on board vessels both at sea or in the harbour. It covers ship construction and terminology, ship firefighting tactics, safety on board and sea survival, search and rescue techniques, tutoring on ship stability, as well as familiarisation with ship firefighting equipment and installations.

A large proportion of the course is practical, with exercises being conducted in the on-site steel ship training structure and at the local public swimming pool. The pool exercises were definitely a highlight of my Devon Fire and Rescue training experience! I discovered that it is exceptionally difficult to get yourself out of water in your full turnout gear! Furthermore, it is a darn-site harder to get yourself into a floating life raft already jam-packed with numerous other drenched marshmallow men! I also had the pleasure of jumping off an eight metre diving platform with full turnout gear and donned breathing apparatusand yes ... you do float quite nicely!

Red Watch have welcomed me most amicably into their midst, and have been a wealth of knowledge, enjoyment and friendship since I started working with them in March this year. Being the "baby of the watch" (in terms of duration in the job, and age!) by quite a long stretch, the experience and confidence exuded by the crew is almost inspirational. Not a question left unanswered, not a query left unexplained. Red Watch are truly a pleasure to be working with, and I will eventually leave them with regret.

Weekday Volunteer Training has arrived

(Training between 0800 hrs and 1700hrs)

Does your occupation revolve around a shift work timetable?

Courses can be planned on your rostered days off

Value your weekends and nights with family?

Your family is number one, training while the kids are at school may be a better option for you.

Are you a primary producer who finds it hard to attend TFS training due to farm activities?

Courses can be provided between morning and evening milking or other important farm activities.

If you answered YES to any of the above then weekday training is for you!

Training Services is exploring the idea of trialling weekday training in 2006. Its success is dependant on you. HOW?

Like any service that is provided, there needs to be a demand. Training Services and your District staff would like to know if you or your brigade would attend weekday training if it were provided.

Please contact your District staff and inform them if you or your brigade would like to take advantage of this trial.

Courses can then be formulated to best suit the training needs of you, your brigade and your District.

For more information about this initiative please contact your District staff or the Training Officers in your region.

Training Services:

Southern Region: 6214 8811

Northern Region: 6336 5666

North West Region: 6434 6781

Linda Lacy

From: Tim [theloser@tassie.net.au]
Sent: Monday, 17 October 2005 11:33 AM
To: linda.lacey@fire.tas.gov.au
Subject: Fireground contribution.

Hello Linda,

I understand you are the Editor for Fireground. I just had a day of training at Cambridge and had such a good time that I can't resist blabbing about it. I thought I'd pass on my reaction incase it can find a place in Fireground. I thought you may like some feedback from the troops (actually just from me).

--

I got a pager message that Training Division wanted crews for the Supervise Response course to be held next Sunday. (that course is to train officers to handle a crew well at an incident) I thought "Being one of the crew should be a bit of fun" so I went to be supervised as we responded to structural incidents.

Training Division had 10 incidents to turn out to and of course they were all completely different and well set up.

Well, I'm an old bugger and gadding about all day in structural turnout gear was just exhausting, especially when it came to thumping around in Breathing Apparatus. I must have consumed a tank of air in several minutes. I really showed my age and lack of physical fitness - and also how "rusty" my structural training had become. Basically the training was pretty comprehensive and intense.

What made it so much fun was that we had all sorts of equipment to play with and all sorts of tasks ... and most important of all, the support and personality of everyone there. That seems to happen whenever a lot of fireys get together. In fact, the other crew were experienced and so it was they who trained me with new equipment and put me straight when I fumbled about.

I had so many opportunities to display my skills at being a dumb old fool that it turned the day into a really valuable training session. Basically I got both plenty of training and plenty of fun. What a fantastic day!

If you ever come across a request for crews needed at Training Division then go! Don't think, don't worry about not having a complete crew, or anything else ... just go!

--

See you,
Tim. <http://members.iinet.net.au/~timdoug1/>



-----Original Message-----

From: Rooster and Jack [mailto:rcuthbertson@vtown.com.au]
Sent: Monday, 24 October 2005 12:45 PM
To: fire
Subject: Emailing: Picture 044, Picture 045, Picture 046, Picture 047

To whom it may concern,

I am sending a sequence of photos of the Tasman group, with men from Nubeena, Port Arthur and Koonya brigades, including my husband from the Nubeena brigade, digging in there heels for a game of Tug of War. After a few near misses they won gracefully, unfortunately I didn't get the photos of them pulling the SES boys to the ground!! All this was in lieu of the Tas Bash cars coming down to the Tasman Peninsula for a free day of fun for the kids 23/10/2005. We all certainly enjoyed watching the boys flex a few muscles!!!

Yours Sincerely,

Jacqui Cuthbertson,

-----Original Message-----

From: Peter Copleman [mailto:copleman@southcom.com.au]

Sent: Monday, 24 October 2005 3:16 PM

To: fire

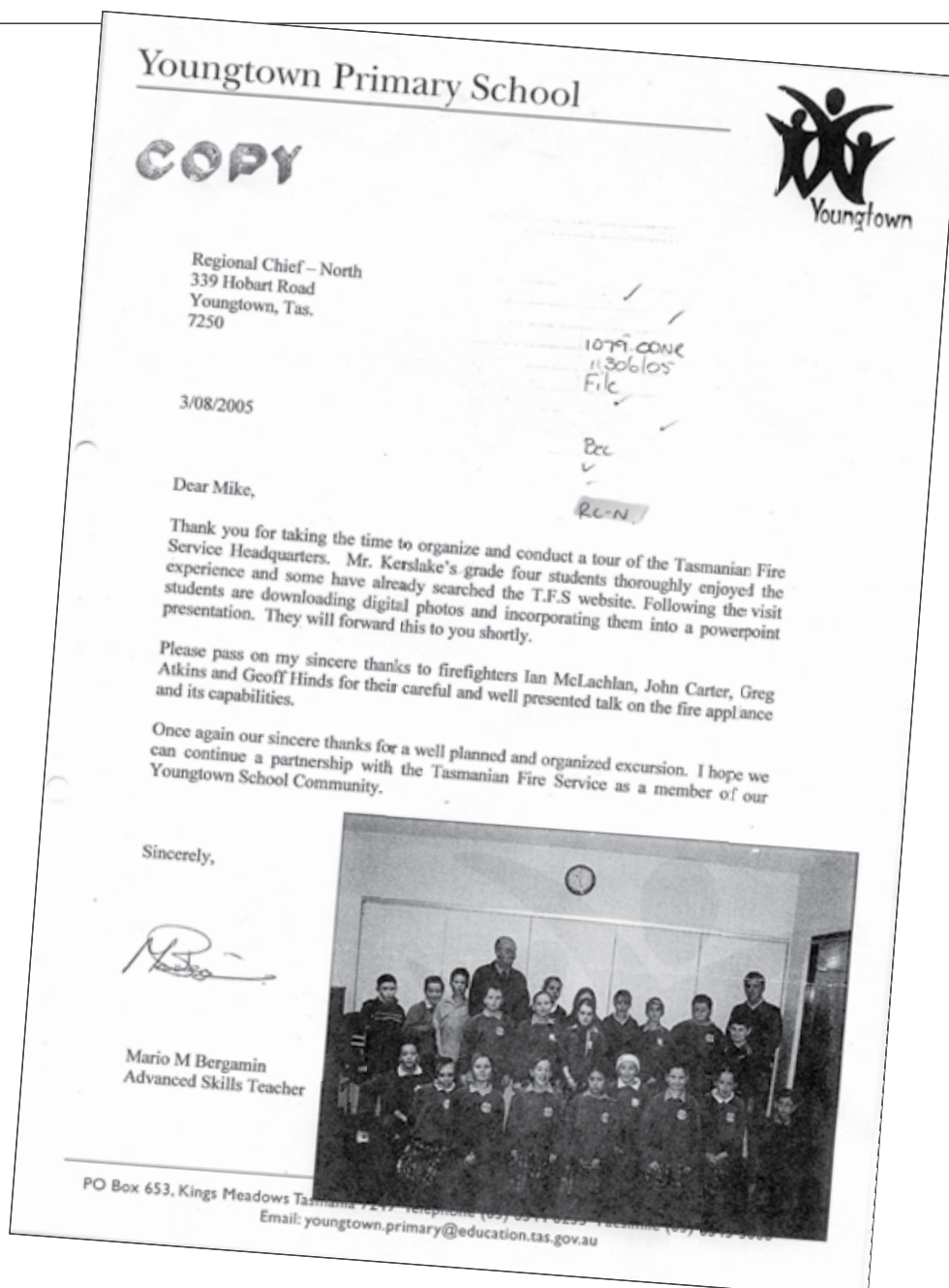
Subject: The Butt Box

Linda,

Once again enjoyed the latest edition of FIREGROUND, Was glad to see that the Butt Box has been located, in days gone by it held more influence than the Chief, Good News. The other tin (butt Box) I seem to recall this being in the old Control Room for many years, Smoking was not permitted in the Control Room but there was always the ever smell of tobacco and the can would appear from various hiding spots especially night shift. I am sure I have seen it on the console, when a butt was supposedly extinguished in it, had the ability to smoke like a Webber BBQ. Not sure but it may have been the property of the Late Doug Mulvany, Watch Room Operator. Further enquires may assist via Barry Joyce

Peter Copleman

copleman@southcom.com.au





MAY QUEEN PTY LTD

12 September 2005

ACN 089 595 755 - ABN 36 089 595 755

Mr John Gledhill
Chief Fire Officer
Tasmanian Fire Service
Cent Regyle & Melville Sts,
Hobart Tas 7000

Dear John,

I concluded my letter of Thanks of 4 November 2005 with the somewhat prophetic words - "Thankyou also in advance of possibly being able to call for assistance in the future".

On behalf of us all associated with the SV May Queen Project, I write to thank you and your officers, in particular Grant Joyce and Rob Rideliffe, for the assistance in helping to erect mast rigging blocks, straighten the rigging and replace the golden cocks on the masthead whilst SV May Queen was on the Domain Slip last week.

This continuing help has been invaluable

Yours Sincerely

Sharon Kemp
Chair

A NON-PROFIT ORGANISATION WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF -
THE PRESERVATION, MAINTENANCE AND INTERPRETATION OF THE HISTORIC KETCH 'MAY QUEEN' 1867

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GPO BOX 202
HOBART TAS 7001

TEL. +613 6235 1015
MOBILE 0418 211 327
FAX +613 6224 0692

INTERNET: www.svmayqueen.org



-----Original Message-----

From: Martin Rosemann [mailto:martin.r@bigpond.net.au]

Sent: Tuesday, 16 August 2005 3:01 PM

To: John Gledhill

Cc: Judy Munting; Tony.Blanks@parks.tas.gov.au

Subject: thankyou from the Scout Guide Regatta

Mr John Gledhill
Chief Officer
Tasmania Fire Service

On behalf of the 1131 participants in the annual Scout Guide Regatta held at St Helens on 12 -14 March this year, I would like to thank you and your officers for the voluntary support of the St Helens Brigade and for the loan of the transportable collar tank which we were able to use for the very popular greasy pole event. It proved ideal for the task and provided a safer solution compared to the equipment we have used in the past. I understand from Tony Blanks that you are happy for it to be used again for future Regatta's and this is greatly appreciated.

I have attached 2 photos of the greasy pole event in action which you may wish to use in your newsletter or in other communication.

The Regatta is the major event on the Scout and Guide calendars in Tasmania and plays a significant role in the development of young people with participants from around the state along with many hundreds of parents and spectators.

The Regatta Committee works hard to ensure we continue to provide our participants with a fun, exciting and safe activity that remains affordable for families. The ongoing support of the Tasmanian Fire Service plays an important part in achieving these goals.

regards
Martin

Martin Rosemann
Regatta Chairman



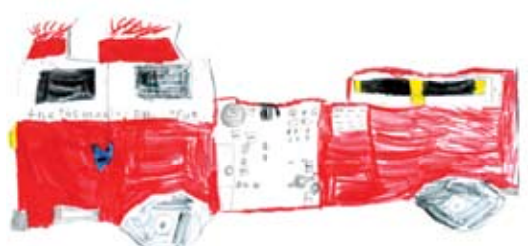
Project Wake Up!

Hello Kelly,

Quite often we don't see the other side of our work, so Kelly for your part, just know we were very fortunate, on this installation, to have met the reason behind it, an incredible little person, really not well, but greeted us with open arms, a full curiosity and a friendly touch.

Thanks for this program, we know who got the most out of it.

Regards
[Signature]





Islamic Study Centre Fire

Top & Bottom Photos courtesy of Mark Franklin, Tasmania Police, Centre Photo by Fire Investigator Mark Klop