

SUMMER 2006

Official Journal of The Tasmania Fire Service



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Fireground

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Cover: Eastern Shore Bushfires October 2006 courtesy of lan Stewart







Contents

| From the Acting Chief Officer | 2 |
|----------------------------------------|----|
| Changes to Fire Permit Books | 3 |
| Seasonal Bushfire Assessment | ۷ |
| Work At Height (WAH) | 6 |
| Safety Week 2006 | 8 |
| Hobart's Eastern Shore Fires | 10 |
| TFS Charity Event | 12 |
| ICMEX | 14 |
| Fuel Reduction Burning | 16 |
| People Management | 18 |
| Managers' Workshop | 19 |
| Pilot's Lucky Escape | 20 |
| USA Deployment 2006 | 21 |
| Just Getting There! | 22 |
| AFAC Fire Industry Study Tour | 24 |
| Playground rescue | 25 |
| Big Week at Frankford | 25 |
| Competition Fun Day | 26 |
| Worth putting in the long hard hours! | 26 |
| Communications Services | 27 |
| 36th Annual Competitions | 28 |
| Secondment to NUTA | 30 |
| Fire Safety | 31 |
| Risdon Vale Brigade's 25th anniversary | 31 |
| A new appliance for Collinsvale | 32 |
| Introducing | 36 |
| Remembering September 11 | 36 |
| TFS vehicle stolen | 37 |
| Road Accident Rescue | 38 |





| OSRICS Exercise Van Dieman | 40 |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Standardisation of hose couplings | 42 |
| New firefighters | 43 |
| Barley stubble burn | 44 |
| Photo Competition Winner | 44 |
| Levendale Fire | 45 |
| PHOTO GALLERY | 46 |
| Library News | 48 |
| Community Education Targets Arson | 49 |
| On The Move | 50 |
| Awards | 51 |
| Bridgewater Primary School | 51 |
| Seeing both sides of the story! | 52 |
| East Coast 4x4 Competition | 54 |
| The Elizabethan Award | 55 |
| Daylight Savings | 55 |
| TFS Launches free Bushfire Safety DVD | 56 |
| Bushfire Prepare to Survive DVD FAQs | 58 |
| Putting our brigades on the map! | 59 |
| ABC Radio Bushfire Awareness | 59 |
| TFBCA DATES | 59 |
| Project Wake Up!! | 60 |
| New Banking Arrangements | 61 |
| Today's changing roles | 62 |
| Farewell for South West District | 65 |
| LETTERS | 66 |
| Fun and Games! | 68 |









From the **Acting Chief Officer**



It has been an unusual and busy period for TFS. At the time of writing we have had snow down to 300 metres and frost damage to orchards and yet only three weeks ago we experienced the most extreme fire weather of the past forty years - in mid October! A record dry winter in many locations, followed by some warm weather saw September produce an unusually high number of fires in bushland areas. As a result we commenced the permit period declarations in the first week of October. The early commencement was well timed as only one week later we bore the brunt of winds exceeding 80 kph, relative humidities in the single figures and temperatures in the thirties causing extreme fire danger across the east and south of the state.

On October 11 a fire broke out adjacent to the Hobart Southern Outlet and with the high winds, was approaching Mt Nelson within minutes. It was only the fast action of local crews that prevented the fire from becoming more serious as the weather conditions did not abate for at least another 24 hours. On the following day a fire that started at Risdon Vale burned through almost 900 hectares to Mt Rumney within a matter of hours. Losses were limited to a few motor vehicles, outbuildings and a greenhouse. Tasmania made national and international news, particularly with the fire being so spectacular as the whole eastern shore of Hobart looked to be alight that evening. Once again the value of the policies of AFAC and TFS in encouraging people to prepare their properties and to stay and defend their homes was demonstrated by the minimal losses.

Whilst the weather outside the east and southeast was not as severe, the rest of the State was also kept busy with serious fires occurring on the Bass Strait Islands and in other areas of the North and North West. I extend my congratulations and thanks to everyone right across the State for a fantastic effort and great results under particularly difficult conditions. With the long term climate outlook for the summer predicting continuing dry and warm conditions, the fire season looks ominous. Come what may I have complete confidence in TFS doing whatever needs to be done.

On December 1, the TFS formally undertakes the road accident rescue role in the areas previously serviced by the Tasmanian Ambulance Service. The path to undertake this role has been hectic in terms of preparation and training. Road accident rescue co-ordinators and other staff have been working 7 days a week including evenings to ensure we are ready. A number of our rescue trucks and pumpers have been modified to facilitate new road accident rescue equipment. Protocols and SOPs have been developed to facilitate timely and appropriate responses. While it's early days yet, I have every confidence that our service in this area will be of an extremely professional standard that optimises outcomes for trapped victims.

In closing, in spite of this being an extremely busy period, I think it is important that we all find time to relax a little and enjoy some Christmas cheer with our fellow TFS members and families. I sincerely wish you all the best for a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.



Editorial

By Editor Linda Lacy

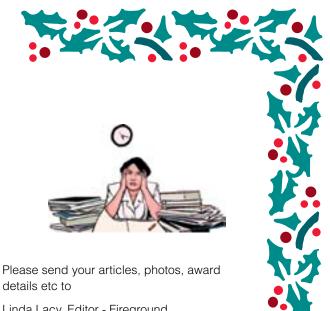
This edition's centrefold, kindly provided by the Bushfire Co-operative Research Centre (CRC) is on "Maximising (inter)agency team effectiveness" by Dr Christine Owen.

This issue includes articles on the recent bushfires, ICMEX, OSRICS Exercise Van Dieman Michelle Wylie fundraising, and the sad passing of Group Officer Eldon Griffiths.

Special thanks to Ian Stewart for allowing us to use his spectacular photo on the cover of this edition.

Closing date for next edition will be 15th January 2007, however, don't wait for the closing date - send your articles as the events occur - if they miss that edition, I'll carry them over to the next one!

Wishing you all a happy and safe Christmas and New Year! Looking forward to receiving your "festive" articles in January!



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Changes to Fire Permit Books

By Senior Station Officer Fire Management Unit, Danny Reid

At the end of the last fire permit period the Fire Management Unit surveyed a cross section of Permit Officers and frequent permit holders to obtain some feedback on the permit form itself.

As a result of that feedback some subtle changes have been made to the new permit books which have been distributed to all Permit Officers.

A summary of the changes is outlined below:

- Size of the fire in hectares or cubic metres rather than square metres. This will give a better appreciation of the size of piles or heaps;
- Provision for the Permit Officer's phone number. This will provide the permit holder with a quick reference should they need to contact the Permit Officer;

- The permit holder now receives the yellow copy which has a checklist on the reverse side. This checklist will assist the permit holder to plan the burn so reducing the fire escaping;
- Inside the front cover of the book there are notes to assist the Permit Officer:
- There is a summary sheet on the divider page which the Permit Officer can use as a quick reference.

At the end of the current permit period we will be seeking feedback on the changes to enable us to gauge how effective they have been.

For the permit to be effective it is important that all the details be completed when it is being filled out and that the permit holder is aware of their obligations, in particular registering the permit by calling the free call 1800 000 699 and complying with the conditions on the permit.





FIRE NOTE

ISSUE 5 SEPTEMBER 2006

Reprinted courtesy of the Bushfire CRC

SEASONAL BUSHFIRE ASSESSMENT 2006-2007

AUSTRALIAN FIRE SEASON OUTLOOK - SEPTEMBER 2006

Above-normal fire potential is predicted for much of Australia for the upcoming fire season, according to expert assessments from climatologists, meteorologists and state based fire-agency personnel. Also expected is an early start to the fire season in southern and eastern Australia. These conclusions were reached during the inaugural Seasonal Bushffre Assessment Workshop, held in June at the Bureau of Meteorology Head Office. Fire potential is the likelihood of bushfire events influenced by factors including fuel conditions, weather, climate and fire-fighting resource capability. This report updates the initial findings of the workshop, utilising the latest climate and weather information.

A map created at the workshop (see right) highlights the fire potential outlook for the 2006-7 fire season. The map reflects the outlook through to February 2007. The fire potential conditions indicated are expected to eventuate over the course of the season, but will not necessarily be valid for the entire outlook period. Rather, the map indicates the fire potential during the active part of the coming fire season for a given region.

CRITICAL FACTORS

Above-normal fire potential is expected across much of Australia for the up coming fire season. The interior of the continent is an exception, with below normal fire potential for much of the centre. Critical factors in this decision making process include:

INCREASED FUEL LOADS

Early 2006 featured an active tropical cyclone season in northern and western Australia, with signifficantly above normal precipitation observed over much of the region. This heavy rainfall has enhanced grass growth and vegetation in normally vegetation sparse areas. The enhancement of fuel suggests above normal fire potential.

DROUGHT

Over the January-August 2006 period, drought conditions have been observed over much of southern Australia, particularly the coastal regions of WA and the southeast from the Eyre Peninsula to southeast QLD. These conditions ready the forest fuels for burning and are consistent with enhanced fire potential in those regions.

CLIMATE OUTLOOKS

In recent months, the El- Niño/Southern Oscillation has been moving towards weak El Niño conditions, suggesting warm and dry conditions are more likely over eastern and northern Australia. Only small El Niño effects are usually seen in the southwest, but the serious rainfall deflicits suggest the continuation of above normal flire potential there.

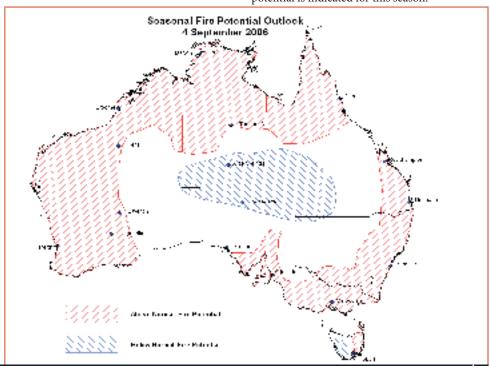
REGIONAL SUMMARIES

NORTHERN AUSTRALIA

Including the northern and central Northern Territory, northern Queensland and northwestern Western Australia: Fire potential is likely to be above normal. The long wet season and enhance produced heavy grass fuel loads in many areas and inhibited early season fuel reduction burns. The monsoon extended south into central Northern Territory this year, allowing higher than normal grass fuel loads in those regions. The long wet season produced a late start to the fire season, although it is well underway now.

CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

Including southern Northern Territory northern South Australia and western Queensland: The low observed rainfall has resulted in lighter than normal grass fuel loads. These regions usually only experience large fires after an extended wet period, when fuels become more continuous. Hence, low fire potential is indicated for this season.



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SOUTHEAST AUSTRALIA

Including southern South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory and southeastern Queensland: Above normal fire potential is indicated, as well as an early start to the season. This is a result of the extended drought priming the forest fuels, leading to a higher fuel load in those regions. Normal rainfall will allow grass to grow and increase fuel loads in the grasslands of those regions.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Including southern and central Western Australia: Fire potential is expected to be above normal over much of the area. A variety of factors are contributing to this. While fuel loads are generally low in the wheatbelt region, remnant native vegetation and dry conditions will interact to enhance the flre potential, particularly in the uncropped areas. For the western regions, above-normal potential is due to the extremely dry winter which was observed over most of the area, priming the forest fuels and accelerating the curing of the grass fuels. In the interior, earlier rains from tropical cyclones have led to above normal grass growth. Tee dry winter will allow this grass to cure early, and produce an above normal flre potential.

TASMANIA

For the eastern portion of Tasmania, above normal fire potential and an early start to the fire season are expected. The extended drought has primed forest fuels, resulting in a heavy fuel load. Without significant spring rain, the situation will worsen into summer. In the west, abundant rain has increased soil moisture and resulted in low-to-normal fire potential.

EL NIÑO SCENARIO

Recent months have seen a tendency towards weak El Niño conditions later in the year. This could exacerbate the fire potential in many areas. Historically, El Niño brings strong drought conditions to much of eastern and southern Australia, and a late onset to the wet season in the tropics. Southwest Australia is relatively unaffected. Continued drought would worsen water shortages and further prime fuels in the Southeast, creating more fire potential. In the tropics, a late wet season onset could extend the fire season later in the year.

VALUE OF THE WORKSHOP

This assessment is designed to provide information to assist for authorities in making strategic decisions such as resource planning and prescribed for management and to reduce the negative impacts of bushfore in Australia. This report represents a consensus opinion reached by representatives from the participating institutions. It is based on the latest information available at the time of the workshop. Given the uncertainty associated with seasonal climate outlooks, updates will be issued as required. This was the forth Seasonal Bushfore Assessment Workshop held in Australia. It was organised under the auspices of the Bushfore CRC. The workshop was modelled on the successful National Seasonal Assessment Workshops held annually in the United States since 2003.

A copy of the entire report can be obtained from the Bushire CRC web site for access by Bushf re CRC members only. For inquiries on the project contact Dr Chris Lucas, Climate Forecasting Group, Bureau of Meteorology, Phone (03) 9669-4783 Email: c.lucas@bom.gov.au

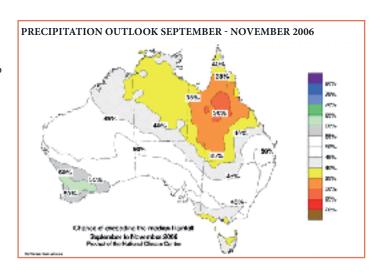
Fire Note is published by the Bushflre Cooperative Research Centre (Bushflre CRC). This Fire Note is an outcome of the Fire Weather Research Project A 2.1.

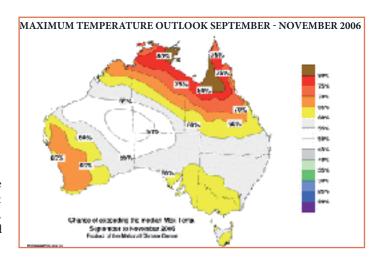
Bushfire CRC is a national research centre part of the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) program, formed in partnership with fire and land management agencies in 2003 to undertake end-user focused research

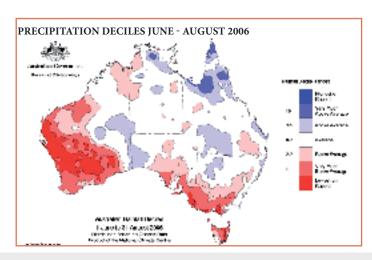
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Participating Organisations

- Australasian Fire Authorities Council
- Bushfire CRC
- Bureau of Meteorology
- Bushfires Council NT
- Conservation and Land Management
- Cape York Fire Management Project
- Country Fire Authority
- Country Fire Service
- Department of Environment and Heritage
- Desert Research Institute
- Department of Sustainability and Environment
- Fire and Emergency Services Authority
- Forest NSW
- NSW Fire Brigades
- NSW Rural Fire Service
- Queensland Fire and Rescue
- Tasmania Fire Service

Work At Height (WAH)

By Senior Project Officer OH&S, John Green

Work at Heights Procedure is now in place and working across the Fire Service. The key to this procedure is knowing the parameters for WAH (see below) and where you can get support and/or advice.

WAH seems complicated because it involves other systems (ie. Risk Assessment and High Risk Work Procedures and High Risk Work Permits, etc). There are also many different requirements for each specific piece of WAH equipment in use.

Fortunately, involvement in WAH is fairly infrequent for the majority of individual members. And for those in operations it needs to be said up-front that there are no...! repeat, no changes to current operational WAH requirements.





So, what is Work at Height?

Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) Act and Regulations broadly suggest WAH as being 'anywhere you are working in an elevated position'. The Tasmanian WHS legislation is 'performance based'. That is, it gives broad directions and leaves each employer to develop "prescriptive" codes of practice or guidelines relative to their workplace. Therefore, we have developed the following TFS parameters for WAH based on state and national codes of practice:

- Work undertaken at or over 2.4 metres above normal ground/ floor level (measured from the ground or floor level to your feet);
- Working within 2 metres of a live edge (a live edge is anywhere you can fall 2 metres or more);
- Working on a roof angle of 15 degrees or greater (includes most domestic dwellings);
- Working on a scaffold higher than 2 metres high.

So if you are to work within those parameters you are 'working at height' (WAH) and need to comply with TFS requirements for WAH. These are:

- Develop a Risk Assessment of the task (to identify and mitigate the hazards involved);
- Obtain a High Risk Work Permit (records the controls used to mitigate the hazards, who is responsible for the controls and who authorises the planned activity);
- Be trained and currently competent to undertake that task or use the WAH equipment,

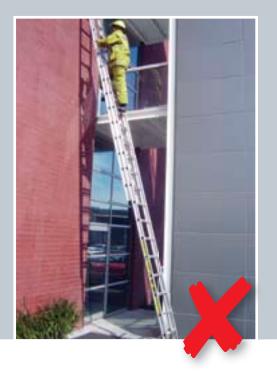
Note: If and when you are required to WAH you will be given specific training and support.

Where you do not have the above requirements you must not undertake WAH unless you meet the exemptions spelt out

So, where does the Work at Height requirements not apply?

The exemptions and the rational are:

- 1. Operational Incidents the Fire Service Act requires us to take all reasonable action to save life or property. These actions are often beyond the normal safe workplace limits and require extensive competency based training and fairly prescriptive guidelines, therefore:
 - No formal requirements for WAH other than existing competency based training and all relevant Standard Operating Procedures still apply.
- 2. Standard Training Venues All fixed and portable training props are risk assessed and Safe Working Procedures (SWP) are developed (or are being developed) before training is undertaken. Additionally, Training Officers or Volunteer Training Instructors (VTI's) are given specific training prior to conducting any training.
 - The requirements for WAH are relaxed to comply with the Safe Working Procedures (SWP).
- 3. A qualified TFS tradesperson will need the flexibility to undertake frequent tasks without repetitive or time consuming regulation and without compromising safety. Generic Risk assessments and specialist WAH equipment







have been supplied along with specific WAH training. Permits are not required where a SWP is in place. (Non-TFS tradespersons or contractors must comply with the requirements for WAH.

The requirements for WAH are spelt out in the SWP for each task. Where no SWP exists full work at height requirements (listed above) must be followed.

So where do we get TFS Work at Height equipment?

Over the last year or two we have been re-developing standards for ladders and other equipment for use in WAH. The following applies:

- All new ladders will be purchased to meet the new rescue standard for operations and the Australian Standards (industrial standard work platforms) for non-operations.
- All ladders still in service met the relevant standard when supplied and provided they pass a visual inspection they can continue to be used safely.
- All ladders should be inspected after every use and periodically (during workplace inspections). An inspection checklist is available through your District Officer or on TFS-Online).
- Work platforms (ie. scissor lift and scaffolds) have been purchased within each region for internal users in WAH.
- Height Safety packs are being developed for brigade use in non-urgent operational tasks at height. Full training and information will be provided with the height safety equipment if there is a requirement for you to use it.

Does that mean we are going to be restricted in what we can do at fires?

No! Definitely not - as stated above, operations incidents are exempt from formal WAH requirements (ie. where life or property are at risk). Naturally, where no risks to life or property exist we need to assess each situation on its merit and ensure our people are as safe as reasonably practical.

Do the work at heights requirements apply to me?

Yes! The WAH requirements have been adopted by the TFS and must be adhered to by every member of the Fire Service.

Operational members and those whose role requires them to work at height (building maintenance, painters, Comms personnel, etc.) have already been trained and assessed as competent undertake job related tasks at height. Further training and equipment will be supplied to all volunteer structural brigades in the near future.

Where do we get more information?

The WAH procedures and supporting documentation are available on TFS-Online. If you or your brigade members are unable to access that you can obtain copies through your District or Regional Administration Offices. All relevant information will be handed out as and when training in Height Safety packs is rolled out.

Where can I get practical support?

Your Brigade Officers, District staff and/or the OH&S Helpdesk are able to provide assistance should you need it.

Safety Week 2006

By Manager Organisational Health & Employee Services, Andrew Newell

Between 16 and 20 October TFS held its first ever Safety Week.

The Chief Officer initially came up with the idea during the middle of last year's fire season. At the time the Chief thought it would be a good idea if the whole organisation "downed tools" and focussed its efforts entirely towards knocking over the large amount of safety programs and projects still being either drafted or implemented. It soon became clear, however, that doing safety and only safety work (other than emergency response) for a week was going to be difficult to resource and manage.

So, in order to come-up with an event that would still raise safety awareness and address as many of our main safety priorities as possible, a steering committee was assembled (yes, another TFS committee). The committee was madeup of representatives from Volunteer Associations, UFU, management, career firefighters and divisional members. Their difficult task was to select what topics were going to get a run and which topics were to get dropped.

In making these selections the steering group also had to factor in that it was already going to be a busy time for career fire fighters due to Road Accident Rescue training requirements. To make matters slightly trickier Mother Nature (or a few arsonists) decided to set fire to large patches of the state in the week or two preceeding potentially throwing into disarray all the planning and scheduling.

Fortunately the weather turned and we were able to stick to the program and offer the following activities:

| Session | Topic | Delivered by |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Driving Information Sessions | Low risk driving techniques | TFS members |
| Volunteer OH&S | An update on what the key OH&S issues currently are for volunteers | Volunteer Training Instructors |
| Pitstop Program | Free health check | External providers |
| Ergonomic Session | Injury prevention | External provider |
| General OH&S Sessions | An overview on key TFS OH&S risks | OH&S members |
| Contractor Inductions | External contractors introduced (inducted) to TFS OH&S systems | Management & OH&S members |

So, how did it go?

Well, how do you measure the success (or not) of such an event?

Do you measure it based on numbers or by how far and wide sessions were made available? As we had almost 850 people attend the various sessions across all major centres and districts (we even got a session delivered on King Island) we would see this as a positive indicator as to its success.

Although "bums on seats" is essential for these types of activities we feel the real measure of success has been with the number of questions and issues the various sessions provoked from the audience. It shows a great deal of increased awareness or interest in safety that will help to eliminate or reduce the number of accidents or hazards we all may come across in our working or personal lives.

At the time of writing this article we have been pulling the questions together in order to send out to Managers, Brigade Chiefs, Employee Safety Representatives and Regional Management a summary of the questions and wherever possible answers to your questions. If you haven't already seen a copy, please see one of the above persons or let us know through the OH&S Help Line (0409 998 463) and we will quickly shoot you out a copy.

We were also pleased to hear that some of the Districts have asked for the Volunteer OH&S presentation to be made available to all brigades in their area as they feel the information should be passed to all members not just those that attended - that is great news.

We are also currently conducting a random survey of attendees in order to get their feedback on what they found worked this year, what could be done better next time and what issues did they feel should have been included or excluded. This will assist us in putting together an even better version of Safety Week next time.

A lot of people have asked the question in relation to the next Safety Week "Will there be one next year?" Over the next few months a decision will be made. It may be every year or possibly every two years, the format and the content will also be reviewed.

In closing, the OH&S team would like to thank all those that assisted, be it through helping with presentations, helping with organising the venues or simply just by turning up ready to participate. We hope it proved to be a rewarding experience.













Hobart's Eastern Shore Fires - October 2006

On the 12th October 2006 a fire that started at Risdon Vale burned through almost 900 hectares to Mt Rumney within a matter of hours. Losses were limited to a few motor vehicles, outbuildings and a greenhouse. Tasmania made national and international news, particularly with the fire being so spectacular as the whole eastern shore of Hobart

looked to be alight that evening. Once again the value of the policies of AFAC and TFS in encouraging people to prepare their properties and to stay and defend their homes was demonstrated by the minimal losses.

Article next issue. Photos courtesy of Ian Stewart.







TFS Charity Event - Michelle Wylie fundraising

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

Special surgery is required for Michelle to regain her sight. During September Michelle travelled to Singapore where she had the first stage of her eye surgery where a canine tooth was removed and shaved down to receive an optical PMMA cylinder, this was then implanted under her cheek muscle. Over the next 3 months it will grow a fibrous capsule, there is a blood supply, and the tooth will recover within this living tissue in the cheek.

At the end of the first procedure, a large piece of buccal mucosal tissue will be removed from the cheek, the surface of the eye denuded, and the buccal mucosal tissue used to create the front part of the eye.

During the second part of the surgery, which is likely to be in December, the tooth will be removed from her cheek and checked for viability and good blood flow.

The cornea will be exposed, a hole drilled in the cornea, removal of the iris, the lens and the vitreous. The front of the eye will be cored out to make space for the tooth, and then implanted into the cornea. Glaucoma and vitreoretinal procedures will also be performed as necessary. The toothcylinder complex will then be sutured in place and the buccal mucosal flap stitched back in place. A hole will be cut in the mucosa, through which the PMMA optic can protrude.

Hopefully after the December trip Michelle will have some sight.

Overwhelming brigade response

The response by brigades to the fundraising for Michelle has been incredible! Brigades from all around Tasmania have been extremely generous with their donations. Brigade

members have told their friends and workmates of Michelle's ordeal and they have come together to raise funds for Michelle. One example was Norske Skog Boyer Mill who have two TFS members employed there, Colin Triffitt and Colin Cunningham. Norske Skog Boyer Mill donated \$10,000 from their "no accident fund", and employees arranged a Dutch Auction raising a further \$7,500!

The North West Bay Group of Brigades got together with the Rotary Club of Kingborough to hold a Barn Dance and Auction raising around \$8,000.

A further \$10,000 was raised by the North West Bay Group at a Spit Roast and Auction held at Margate's "Firey Den".



The North West Region held a head shave with NW brigades raising funds to see their beloved District Officer Paul Hill lose his hair and moustache! Steve Townsend's moustache was shaved, as well as Ian McLachlan's hair! Over \$4,000 was raised at this event!

Australian Bulk Minerals donated \$2,000 to the brigades who fought the Savage River Mines fires, however, brigades requested that this money be given to the fundraising.

At the time of writing the fundraising had reached an incredible \$60,000!! There is still further fundraising planned, Golf Days, Dutch Auctions, "Shaves", etc. I am sure we will reach our target of \$70,000 to assist in Michelle's rehabilitation.

Thank you all for your generosity - Michelle, Barry and family are overwhelmed.



| | | \$ |
|---|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| | Newlans Coachbuilders | 1,000.00 |
| | Dutch Auction | 4,437.50 |
| | Claremont Brigade | 500.00 |
| | New Norfolk Brigade | 1,000.00 |
| | Anonymous | 200.00 200.00 |
| | Anonymous Binalong Bay Brigade | 100.00 |
| | South Arm Brigade | 150.00 |
| | Railton Brigade | 100.00 |
| | Cambridge Brigade | 200.00 |
| | Risdon Vale Brigade | 200.00 |
| | Gretna Brigade | 100.00 |
| | Home Hill Wines Anonymous | 50.00 100.00 |
| | Brighton Brigade | 2,000.00 |
| | Norske Skog Boyer Mill "No Accident Fund" | 10,000.00 |
| | Norske Skog Boyer Mill - employees' Dutch Auction | 7,500.00 |
| | Colebrook Brigade | 200.00 |
| | Winnaleah Brigade | 1,000.00 |
| | Westbury Brigade | 500.00 |
| | Carrick Brigade Dept.Economic Development | 200.00 203.50 |
| | Waratah Wynyard Council | 155.00 |
| | Cambridge Complex | 148.20 |
| | Anonymous | 150.00 |
| | Devonport Brigade | 800.00 |
| | HQ Free Dress | 474.55 |
| | NW Region Head Shave Sandra Smith | 4,408.60 100.00 |
| | NW Bay Group Auction | 10,401.96 |
| | E-bay Bids | 70.00 |
| | United Firefighters Union | 200.00 |
| | Moriarty Brigade | 150.00 |
| | Dunalley Brigade | 500.00 |
| | Australian Bulk Minerals Michael Dayov, Hoelth Core | 2,000.00 100.00 |
| | Michael Davey - Health Care NW Bay Kettering Function | 7.861.24 |
| | J & C Plumbing | 200.00 |
| ١ | Lauderdale Brigade | 100.00 |
| | Collinsvale Brigade | 200.00 |
| | Winkleigh Brigade | 500.00 |
| | Mathinna Community Group | 20.00 100.00 |
| | Ulverstone Brigade Social Club Kingston Brigade | 500.00 |
| | Bushy Park Brigade | 100.00 |
| | Falmouth Brigade | 100.00 |
| | Blessington Brigade | 50.00 |
| | Lenah Valley Brigade | 100.00 |
| | Koonya Brigade | 200.00 |
| | Four Springs Brigade Golden Valley Brigade | 100.00 100.00 |
| | Lebrina Brigade | 100.00 |
| | Arthur River Brigade | 300.00 |
| | Bridport Brigade | 100.00 |
| | Channel Brigade | 200.00 |
| | Port Arthur Brigade | 500.00 |
| | Brady's Lake Brigade | 1,000.00 |
| | Claremont West Neighbourhood Watch | 50.00 |
| | | |
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Sponsors

Special thanks to Todd Russell for autographing the framed Beaconsfield Mine Rescue photo which raised over \$4,000 at our Dutch Auction

Country Club Resort - Deluxe Suite accommodation, breakfast and champagne for 2

Wayne Turale - Brady's Lake Brigade - fishing reel

Michael D'Alton - Firecomm (Michael won the reel, which was then resold and funds donated)

TFS Museum - 2 TFS publications

USA fire department T Shirts - Regional Chief Tony Davidson

Ladies gift pack and bottle of Port - Lucy Thl

TFS "Taz" polo top - District Officer Gavin Freeman

Thanks to all at the TFS Conference who gave so generously at the Dutch Auction!

Donations of goods

Lyndy and Gerry Smith - Rosebery Brigade -Christmas Reindeers and Sleigh

Kerry Mancey - Oatlands Brigade - King Size Woollen

GN Electrical Hobart

EMS (Emergency Management Solutions) Leatherman

Lions Club of Hobart Town - raffle prizes for statewide

Print Centre - printing and supply of raffle tickets

Nicole Moore of Firecomm - polo tops, t shirts, caps, puzzles etc from Edmonton Canada

Other donations/gestures

Appin Hall - Ronnie and Maggie Burns - have invited Michelle and Barry to stay with them

Thanks to you all - every contribution is appreciated and is a further step towards Michelle's recovery

For further information go to TFS Charity Event on www.fire.tas.gov.au

Michele, Barry and Family wish to extend their gratitude for the well wishes, support and dedicated devotion shown by the Tasmanian Fire Service as a whole out side your normal line of duty towards Michele in what one would say a tragic

It is your constant support that has enabled Michele to flourish and conquer her debilitating illness, and to progress into illness that has plague her since March 2005 what now is a purposeful reason for living (just knowing) that people do care and are opening their hearts up to someone that many haven't even met is just the greatest feeling in the world.

The financial support given to us, by all of you, has encourage Michele to attain personal autonomy and independence within the family unit and through this the family has been able to adapt to the changes that has occurred, with normal growth and developed to cope with highs and lows that every day brings to us all.

Michele's illness has been a long road in which her families and friends have travelled working hard, to get Michele to this stage flourishing and thriving, along with a new zest for life.

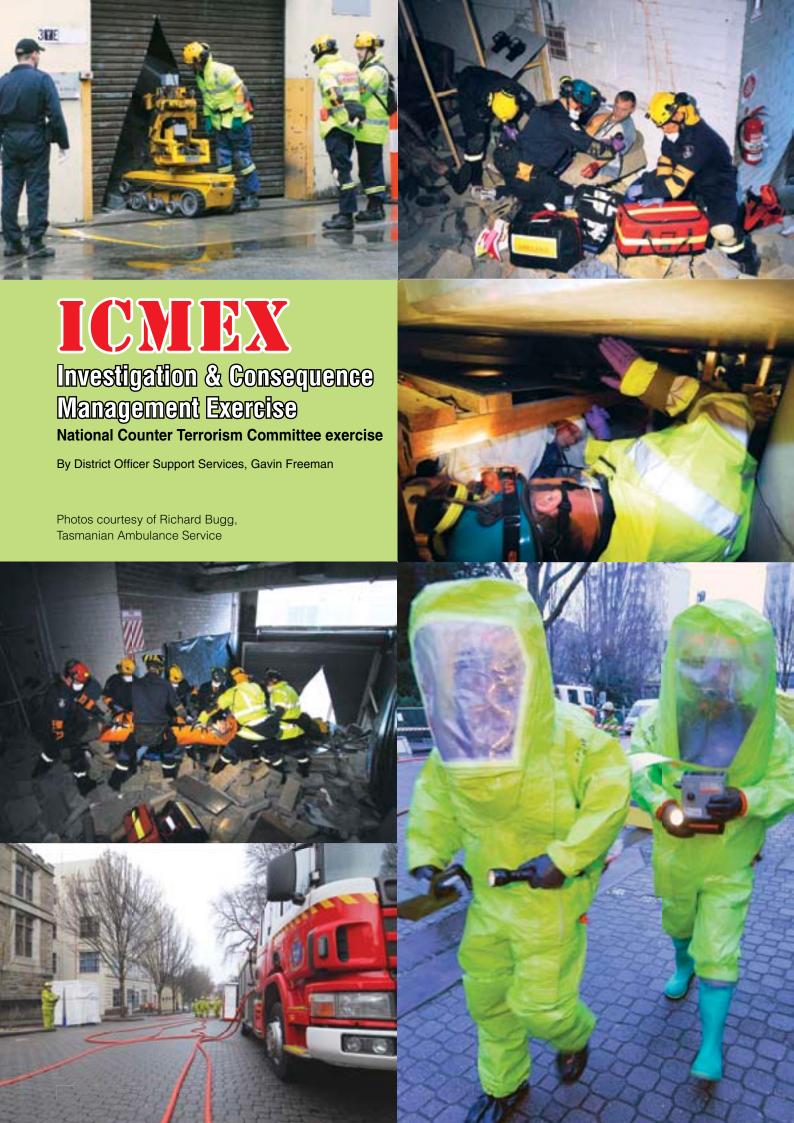
We, as the Wylie family, cannot thank you enough for your caring, kindness and support over the last 19 months and along with the wall we have climbed over she may still see a

xmas, a dream I have pursued since last year Thank you, all for being a great pillow of support

Yours Fraternally

Barry Wylie Leading Fire Fighter Claremont Fire Brigade







As briefly mentioned in the last issue, during July 2006 the TFS, along with many other Tasmanian Government agencies participated in an Investigation & Consequence Management exercise (ICMEX) called "Southern Impact". These exercises are run on a National basis and are shared around the States and Territories over a period of years. 2006 was our turn.

The exercise had some broad aims, which were:

- To validate National Counter-Terrorism Arrangements and relevant Australian Government and State/Agency specific plans, and;
- Enhance Tasmania's investigation and consequence management capabilities and arrangements in the context of a terrorist incident.

"Southern Impact" had several components, including:

- Discussion exercise to evaluate the operation of the State Crisis Centre:
- Discussion exercise on Counter terrorism investigations and intelligence;
- Major deployment exercise;
- Post incident discussion exercise on Disaster Victim Identification (DVI), and;
- Post incident discussion exercise focussed on community recovery.

TFS played a part in all of these and a significant role in the major deployment exercise which had a couple of scenarios:

Scenario 1 involved a simulated explosion and subsequent collapse of an apartment building resulting in 22 people being trapped. Tasmania's Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team consisting of firefighters and paramedics worked for two continuous operational periods on the 'pile' rescuing 'casualties'.

The collapse site was cleverly constructed by Station Officer Neil Brooksbank and Leading Firefighter Mark Bryant underneath the Government Printing Office in Salamanca Place. This was as close to the real thing as you would ever hope for and all participating rescuers gained valuable

experience. The "victims" were very realistic, the moulage (make up in the form of injuries) was undertaken by the same company that worked on the movie "Matrix" and the willing casualties came from the combined ranks of TFS volunteers, SES Volunteers and Tasmania Police recruits.

Scenario 2 involved a deliberate chemical release (CBR Incident) in a city building. This affected 105 people (again role players from the agencies mentioned above) who all had to be put through the decontamination showers, not an attractive proposition on a July evening in downtown Hobart.

The opportunity to practice decontamination protocols and utilise equipment on real people was invaluable. We certainly learned that our pre and post decontamination casualty handling needs revision. In real time the process took much longer than anticipated and resulted in those being rescued left exposed to the elements for far longer than is acceptable. Combined agencies have met since the exercise and are working hard to ensure this doesn't occur in the future. On the positive side, the multi- agency training on our Commonwealth supplied equipment is paying dividends, all responders displayed a high level of competence and cooperation.

The incident was managed by Tasmania Police, however, as TFS had such significant resources deployed, a fire incident management team was integrated into Police Forward Command. This provided a fantastic opportunity for the respective agencies to learn about each others needs in terms of incident command, at the conclusion of the exercise it was agreed that our needs are not that much different and it wouldn't take too much work to adopt a common and unified command system.

In general the deployment phase of "Southern Impact' has been invaluable through reinforcement of newly developed practices and the identification of areas we still need to work on. The multi agency approach to this type of exercise / incident has many positive outcomes, especially the maximisation of resources and provision of the best possible service. The interoperability developed flows on to the day to day incidents that respective agencies are responsible for, meaning a win all round for the Tasmanian community!

Notice of Responsibility for Fuel Reduction Burning

By Senior Station Officer Fire Management Unit, Danny Reid

To enable brigades who are assisting property owners with fuel reduction burns, the TFS recognised a need for a document which would limit the liability of the State Fire Commission and members of the TFS for injury or damage caused as a consequence of the burn.

There was also a need to list any action to be undertaken by the property owner after the brigade had handed back burning operations to the property owner.

To address both of these issues the TFS introduced a Notice of Responsibility which is in a book similar to the Fire Permit book and was mailed out to all brigades, both career and volunteer.

The notice is a single page form divided into two parts. The top part is to be completed prior to any work being undertaken and the bottom part to be completed before the TFS leaves the property.

NOTICE OF RESPONSIBILITY - NOTES FOR BRIGADES

What is the Notice for?

The Notice of Responsibility is intended to inform land owners that the State Fire Commission and members of the TFS have a general protection from liability for any damage or injury suffered as the result of brigade activities on their land. This protection ONLY covers brigade activities that are genuinely undertaken for the specific purpose of:

- 1. extinguishing or preventing the spread of fire;
- 2. reducing the risk of a fire occurring; or
- 3. training for either of the above operations.

When should a brigade not conduct burning operations?

Prior to accepting a request to undertake burning operations the brigade officer responsible

- Will the work genuinely reduce a fire hazard?
 - YES / NO
- Is the work part of a planned training exercise?

If you can not answer "YES" to at least one of the above questions, the brigade must not undertake the activity. If such work is undertaken individual members may be liable for

If "burning off" is not genuinely undertaken for the purpose of reducing a fire hazard and ourning on is not genumely undertaken for the purpose of reducing a fire nazarity and is done simply to assist a land owner who wants his land burned, that work would NOT be is done simply to assist a land owner who wants his land burned, that work would <u>NOT</u> be considered to be a genuine fire hazard reduction operation and individual members may be held liable for any damage that results from that activity.

Similarly, if the work to be undertaken is not part of a planned training program of the Similarly, it the work to be undertaken is not part of a planned training program of the brigade, it is <u>NOT</u> a training operation for the purposes of the *Fire Service Act.* Merely assisting a land owner or undertaking work on their behalf, is <u>NOT</u> training unless it has been designated as a planned training exercise.

If in doubt the Brigade Chief or officer in charge should contact their District Officer to

It is important that as much information as possible be recorded on the Notice of It is important that as much information as possible be recorded on the Notice of Responsibility in the spaces provided. In particular, it is in your interest to carefully note any instructions you give to the land owner or occupier when you hand over the responsibility of monitoring a fire to him or her. At every operation the landowner should be advised to monitor the area and the box ticked to reflect this.

During a fire permit period the landowner must apply for a permit in his or her name. A permit should not be written out in the name of a brigade or brigade member.

RESPONSIBILITY r to any work being undertaken)

07256

specified below, have requested that the Tasmania Fire property. I understand that the Fire Service Act 1979 and members of the Tasmania Fire Service for any f these operations

occupier) (Signature)

1ember) (Signature)

ITY RECORD fore the TFS leaves the property)

(Address/property name)

tions to landowner:

Tick) Details:

(Tick)

Activity Record is correct in every respect.

Signed by brigade member

Signed by tanaownerroccupier

Date:/20.....

Inside the front cover there are notes for brigades. These notes are extremely important as they cover what the notice is for and when a brigade should not conduct burning operations.

Please take the time to read the notes and if you have any questions contact your District Officer.

A summary of some of the more important points is listed below.

The protection from liability afforded by the notice only covers brigade activities that are genuinely undertaken for the specific purpose of:

- Extinguishing or preventing the spread of fire;
- Reducing the risk of a fire occurring; or
- Training for either of the above operations.

Prior to accepting a request to undertake burning operations the brigade officer responsible for the work must ask:

- Will the work genuinely reduce a fire hazard YES/NO
- Is the work part of a planned training exercise YES/NO

If you cannot answer "YES" to at least one of the above questions, the brigade must not undertake the activity.

If the work is undertaken without at least one yes answer individual members may be liable for any damage that might result.

If in doubt the Brigade Chief or officer in charge should contact their District Officer for advice.

During a fire permit period the property owner or their representative must apply for a permit in his or her name. A permit should not be written out in the name of a brigade or brigade member.

If the area to be burnt is greater than two hectares a burning plan must be approved by the Fire Permit Officer even though the brigade may be assisting with the burn.

The Notice of Responsibility is not there to restrict you in any way but to provide protection from liability for you, your brigade, the TFS and the property owner. For it to be effective all sections must be completed, the form signed and the conditions complied with.

If you are in need of additional Notice of Responsibility books please contact your District Officer.

Obituary

Eldon Griffiths

24 February 1938 -6 October 2006

On 6 October 2006, the TFS lost a dedicated and respected member

in Eldon Griffiths. The following is an excerpt from David Wright's eulogy:

"I feel very honoured to have been asked to share with you just some of Eldon's achievements during his time with the TFS as Brigade Chief and member of Legana Fire Brigade and Group Officer of the West Tamar Group of Brigades.

Eldon was a founding member of the Legana Fire Brigade in 1969 ... he held the position of Brigade Chief from January 1969 to September 1999, a period of 30 years during which time he was a very keen and enthusiastic Brigade Chief.

He was also Chairperson of the Fire Management Area Committee, a Permit Officer, and part of Task Force Tiger which was sent to NSW, where he acted as Logistics Officer.

Eldon has been recognised with a National Medal, 25 year clasp and 35 year clasp and numerous service badges. In January 1989 he was awarded the very highly regarded Australian Fire Service Medal. In February 2003 Eldon was made a Life Member of the Legana Brigade and the Tasmanian Volunteer Fire Brigades Association.

Eldon treated the TFS as a club in which he invested a lot of time and thought. He was a forward thinker and endorsed changes for the improvement of the service, with Group Officer workshops and input into the Corporate Plan. He was instrumental in the location of the Legana Fire Station as it sits today.

The West Tamar Group could not have had a better leader in Eldon. He never asked anyone to do what he would not do himself, and he was a great mentor to Michael Clifford and myself in our respective roles."

District Officer Tamar, Jeff Harper said that Eldon's passion and enthusiasm was not contained to Legana and the West Tamar. Eldon could regularly be found at Regional Headquarters discussing issues that had much wider implications for the fire service as a whole. His availability to assist wherever required and his local knowledge and assistance was always appreciated by District Officers across the north. Eldon will be sadly missed by all in the Northern Region.

Eldon's friends and colleagues at the TFS express their sincere condolences to Kaye and family.

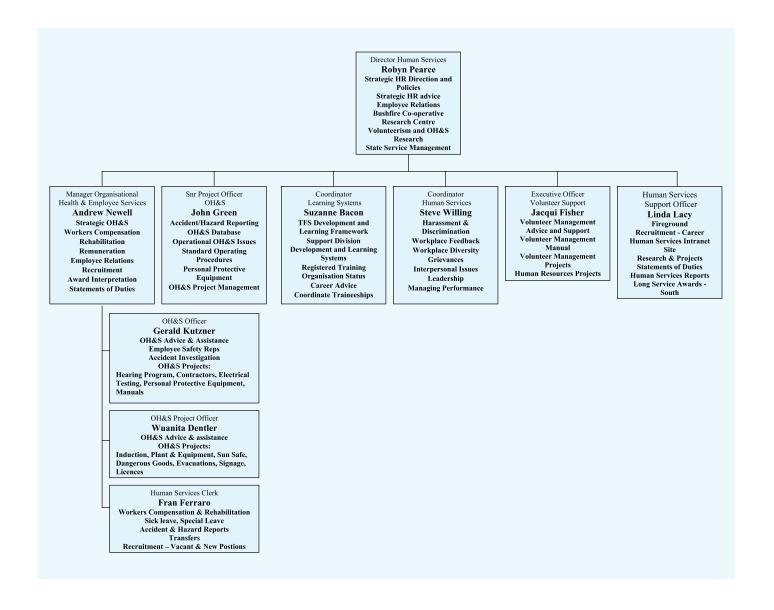
People Management - where do you go for assistance?

The TFS has around 4,700 people working to deliver our services to the community. With this many people, we need to make sure we are able to manage our people properly so that our services run smoothly. From time to time, TFS managers and members need help to deal with "people management" issues. Sometimes these are referred to as personnel or human resource management issues, such as recruitment, leave arrangements, behaviour or performance issues, award interpretation and safety.

So what should you do if you need some advice on how to deal with an issue involving people? Well, in the first instance, you should seek assistance from your immediate supervisor or manager. Often he or she will be able to provide you with the information you're seeking. If your supervisor is not able to give you the information you need, either you or your supervisor can contact Human Services for

assistance. Human Service provides people management services and support to all managers and members across the TFS. Typically this involves spending a great deal of time working on projects, with management and members, to develop new and better ways of managing our people. For example, in recent years we have seen the introduction of new tools designed to help with health and safety, volunteer management and conflict resolution. Another important service is providing advice on how to deal with people management matters, which could arise from policies, procedures or workplace issues.

As members may only need help with a people management issue on occasions, it is only natural to be a bit unsure about who to approach for assistance in which areas. The chart below tries to give guidance about where to go for support on a particular issue:



East Coaster: Managers' Workshop 3 - 4 October 2006

By Executive Officer Policy and Research, Bonnie Butler,

If TFS managers did not previously know what "petrichor" means, they learned at the managers' workshop trivia night that it is the pleasant smell that accompanies the first rain after a dry spell.

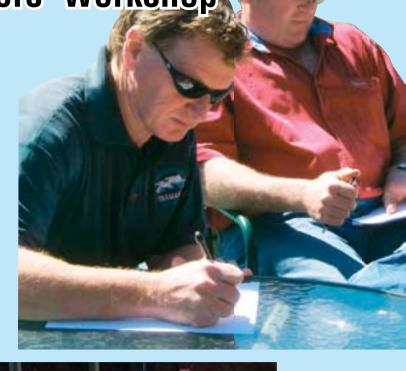
For two sunny spring days in October, TFS managers met at the East Coaster Resort to work through strategic issues, these included organisational values, internal communication, and the implementation of the corporate plan. Simon Fishwick of the University of Tasmania attended to discuss the evaluation of TFS' Workplace Feedback System, which has been trialled in several work groups and will soon be implemented across all career brigades and divisions. It will provide managers and team members with the opportunity to provide each other with timely, confidential and constructive feedback.

Jeff Harper presented a summary of his ten day whirlwind study tour of the fire services around the country. He was happy to report that the united approach of the TFS is admired by the urban and country fire services across Australia.

Despite concern that the warm and windy conditions on the second day of the workshop may result in managers being called to incidents, the program was completed. The Fire Permit Period was declared at midnight on 3rd October. The somewhat early, but necessary introduction of permits attracted media attention. Deputy Chief Mike Brown appeared "Hot and Bothered" on the front page of the Mercury.

Feedback on the workshop was very positive. It was a fantastic way for new employees such as Sandra Barber and myself to be introduced to colleagues and workplace issues. Thank you for such a warm welcome.











On AFL Grand Final Day Saturday 30 September, Cambridge, Clarence and Midway Point Brigades attended their second light aircraft crash in six months. The call came at 1.35 p.m., just as the AFL telecast was building up before the main event.

The aircraft, a single-engine Aeromacchi is a familiar sight in the district as it is used regularly for skydiving groups. Following an uneventful morning of dropping parachutists, the 22-year old male pilot attempted to land again at Cambridge Airport.

It is not clear precisely what happened next, but it seems likely that a freak wind shear pushed the aircraft down rapidly as the pilot struggled to maintain altitude in order to reach the runway.

The aircraft briefly touched down in a paddock in front of the airfield, taking out a fence. It regained enough height to clear the elevated end of the runway before touching down again heavily to one side of the runway. The force of the impact tore the plane's nose wheel from its housing after which it skidded to a halt.

An Australian Aviation Rescue and Fire tender from Hobart Airport was the first firefighting appliance on scene. By the time Cambridge arrived, followed closely by Clarence and Midway Point, the AARF guys had laid a foam blanket under the aircraft and rendered safe a small fuel leak from a vent on the port side wing fuel tank.

The aircraft was relatively undamaged and still structurally intact other than the obvious damage to the propeller, engine nacelle and nose wheel landing gear.

The pilot and his passenger were shaken but uninjured by the heavy landing. Ambulance paramedics examined them before leaving the scene.

The runway remained closed for some time, until CASA and the ATSB gave permission to move the aircraft.





Although the crash scene appeared benign upon the arrival of TFS crews, there was more to this incident than meets the eye. After inspecting the scene and talking to witnesses it is apparent that the pilot and his passenger were very lucky indeed to walk away from a heavy landing that could easily have been a much more serious crash.

USA Deployment 2006

By District Officer East Coast, Gerald Crawford

The wildfire season in the USA has been one of the worst on record with fires over many of the north west states. As a result of this a call was sent out for personnel from other countries to assist with the firefighting effort. Personnel were needed for managing crews and resources.

As a result there were four personnel sent from Tasmania in the first contingent, three in the second contingent and two in the third contingent. A total of approximately 125 personnel were sent from Australia and New Zealand. The second Tasmanian contingent consisted of Mark Cullen, Dave Robson (Forestry Tasmania) and I. After rushing to get organised, within three days we on our way. After an overnight stay in Sydney it was a thirteen hour flight to Los Angeles then three hours to Portland, Oregon and the final flight of two hours to Boise in Idaho.

After arriving at 2300 hours at Boise it was into bed for a 0800 hour start for two days of orientation into the way fires are run and fought in the USA. There were 42 personnel in the second contingent from New Zealand, Western Australia, New South Wales, Victoria, Australian Capital Territory plus Tasmania. After our orientation we were selected for several fires in Idaho. Oregon and Washington State, Mark. Dave and I, along with fifteen others, were selected to go to the Columbia fire in Washington State. This fire was near Waitsburg in Walla Walla County in south east Washington State.

After a five hour bus trip we were dropped at the Pascoe airport near the mighty Columbia River. It was here that we had a sudden introduction to driving on the "wrong side" of the road. There were 18 vehicles and 18 of us so we all had to take one each for a one hour drive to Waitsburg. Driving





Sack Lunch American Style



Torching on the Columbia Fire



Snow on the last day on the line at Godman(7500 feet) Columbia Fire

in the USA is certainly different and interesting until you get the hang of it, it takes a while to stop getting in the wrong side of the vehicle to drive; our excuse was that we were getting something from the passenger's seat.

The Fire Camp was set up at the Waitsburg Fair Ground and at the peak of this fire the camp had 1700 personnel in it. Camp routine is generally up at 0500 hours, briefing between 0600 - 0700 hours then out on the fireline until anywhere between 1800 - 2100 hours then back to camp, eat and try to sleep. The work period is 14 days straight then two days rest and recreation then back for another 14 days.

Our tasks varied from supervising crews, engines, dozers, scouting, weather observations and any other duties as required. The fire was started by lightning in mid August and ended up burning 48,700 hectares. The perimeter was some 466 kilometres long and it was taking up to 90 minutes to drive to some of the divisions. The country was extremely steep and broken with the vegetation type mainly softwoods (pines). The fire originally started in the wheat fields near Waitsburg and Dayton.

The very last day we were there we had a blizzard with snow, wind, hail etc. A lot of wildlife was seen by various people, but I still haven't seen a bear in two trips there.

It was an honour and a privilege to be able to help with these fires and I would like to thank the TFS for giving me the opportunity on two occasions to go to the USA and help out. For those that would like a more detailed description of the deployment I will be doing a presentation at a later date.

Australian and New Zealand Deployment to USA 2 (ANZ 2) **Just Getting There!**

By Field Officer South West District, Mark Cullen

It all started two weeks prior, Acting District Officer Rob Ratcliffe received a phone call at the Huonville office with the news that his name had been put forward to go on a deployment to the USA to assist with wildfires that had stretched the resources of the locals. That was the last I saw of him, (come to think of it I still haven't seen him). Invoke green eyed monster, of course.

Well, two weeks later I received the same phone call, need to make a decision quickly, phone call to family and the decision was made. I was going to miss my own farewell from the District, organised by the Margate Brigade (it still went ahead anyway), my daughter's birthday and a very good chance my son's 18th and my 50th birthdays on the same day.

I had two days to get a passport, have a medical, do an arduous pack test, pack gear and be on a plane to Sydney to meet the rest of the ANZ 2 deployment, sounds simple!

The passport:

Pick up application at Huonville Post Office, have photo taken at local photo shop, have Brigade Chief Huonville Michael Direen (fine up-standing citizen) go witness to passport application, drive to Hobart and lodge application, (too easy I thought). Will return to passport later.

The Medical:

Try getting a doctor's appointment for a longer than usual consultation at very short notice! Nowhere in Kingston, most replies were "not till next week". Hobart was the answer and with the medical out of the way all I needed to do was the 'pack test' and then USA here I come. (Life is not that simple).

Urgent message on mobile, "contact passport office". It seemed that the esteemed Brigade Chief did not appear on the electoral role, back to passport office and check, need a new application, time is wasting, and with new application and another witness a second application is submitted.

The Pack Test:

4.5 kms with a pack full of water weighing 21 kgs in a time of less than 45 minutes, the prize - a trip to the USA, I passed!

Phone message from passport office, passport is ready to collect, thanks Mick!

Two day after first notice, District Officer Gerald Crawford and I winged our way for an overnight stay in Sydney. We met some members of the deployment from the CFA and DSE Victoria.



DO Crawford at Pascoe Airport pondering the thought of driving on the wrong side of the road



A view into "Xray Division", not as steep as some areas



Map of the fire area, note the name of the Batch Plant (Tasmanian Batch Plant)

Friday morning arrived, on a Qantas flight non stop to Los Angeles, 13 plus hours, (if you don't like flying this is not a flight for you). Arrived Los Angeles Friday morning! We picked up a day, but had a 10 hour stop over. Two options, 1. stay at airport and try to catch up on some sleep or 2. hire a bus and see the sights of LA (and sleep).

We chose the latter and walked down Hollywood Boulevard and Rodeo Drive, drove into the Hollywood Hills, through bleary eyes and through the smog saw the Hollywood sign and the sprawling metropolis of Los Angeles.

Finally, a three hour flight to Portland, Oregon, another delay and then a two hour flight to Boise, Idaho arriving some time Friday night, by this stage it was about 40 hours with no sleep, a bed awaited!

Saturday morning arrived and it was in the Training Room of the National Interagency Fire Centre (NIFC) for orientation (how it is done in the USA). Driving lesson! (I remember Gerald Crawford saying, "there is no way I will drive!")

Map reading, fire behaviour etc, Sunday was much the same, more local knowledge.

Monday, on a bus for six hours to Pascoe Airport, Washington State. Eighteen of the deployment were assigned to the same fire and were at the airport to pick up eighteen rental cars, it was "drive the car or go home Gerald!"

Finally, after some delays in getting rentals we arrived at Waitsburg, Washington State showgrounds to be met by a tent city.

It had taken only four days from the time we left Tasmania to arrive. Jet lag seem to stay with us for quite a while but we had other things on our minds, "a wildfire".

The whole experience was excellent and the knowledge gained was invaluable. Thanks to the TFS for the great opportunity. I met a lot of people and made some lifelong friendships. Some day they may visit our fair State.

Thanks to the weather I arrived home two days before my birthday and the party that was going ahead with or without me, I was paying anyway!

By the way the flight home is longer!



Back at Hobart Airport after about 36 hours without sleep.



Just one of the choppers picking up fire retardant



Australian and New Zealand crew on the Columbia Complex Fire



You think we get unpredictable weather! Note elevation on hut (6180ft). Mt Wellington is approx 4000 feet.

AFAC Fire Industry Study Tour September 2006

By District Officer Tamar, Jeff Harper

From September 3-13 I was lucky enough to attend a study tour of fire agencies throughout Australia.

The tour included:

- 13 participants from eight agencies: MFB, NTFRS, NPWS NSW, FESA, CFS, TFS, DSE, QFRS;
- Seniority of participants varied from Assistant Chief Officer to Leading Firefighter qualified for Station Officer;
- 27 site/agency visits in 10 days over 6 states and 1 territory.



The aim of the tour was to visit a wide variety of fire agencies and fire related sites to gain an appreciation of the successes and challenges facing the industry, with considerable analysis and discussion taking place after each visit.

The tour provided an opportunity to see how other states and agencies deliver their services to the community in comparison to Tasmania. We always hear how well we are doing things in comparison to other states but to actually see in person how well our operational capabilities / procedures stack up was encouraging.

Visits:

A number of Chief Officers. Commissioners or Assistant Commissioners made themselves available while other venues provided the opportunity to talk and associate with those on the ground at both career and volunteer stations.

The tour took in the latest and greatest from the Metropolitan brigades, the average rural volunteer brigade through to land management issues.

What was evident throughout the tour was that many of the issues we are facing such as volunteer training; volunteer



Mt Stromlo observatory following Canberra fires



EMA Emergency Co-ordination centre

retention; an aging volunteer base; community education; and building in bushfire prone areas are much the same as the majority of the mainland agencies.

At the end of the day all participants agreed that although we are the smallest state Tasmania is setting a very high standard.

The fact we are "One Fire Service" with the many benefits this provides, the production of our firefighting appliances and our interagency agreements with Parks and Forestry are all aspects that each tour participant picked as stand-outs over the ten days.

In the end, what I originally thought was going to be a very rushed look at Australian fire agencies, turned out to be a very fast paced but interesting and enlightening introduction to the firefighting industries in Australia and just how well we do things here.



Mt Stromlo. University building following Canberra fires

Westbury Brigade and Smorgon Steel help playground rescue

By District Officer Tamar, Jeff Harper

The Westbury Brigade, thanks to Smorgon Steel, donated \$2,000 towards the rebuilding of the playground attached to the Launceston General Hospital Children's Ward.

Following some hard work, coordination and the generosity of the people of Westbury, the brigade gathered 204 tonnes of scrap metal under

the Smorgon Steel's Cash for Scrap promotion. The total far exceeded the expectations of both the brigade and Smorgon Steel who subsequently advised the brigade that their total of 204 tonnes easily set an Australian record. Given the extraordinary amount raised, the brigade generously decided to support the efforts of the Playground Rescue Committee.



Playground Rescue is a committee made up of members of the TFS, Hydro Tasmania and volunteer members from ward 4K at the Launceston General Hospital. The aim of the committee is to rebuild the playground at the hospital, which has been condemned for some 10 -12 years, into an all-weather play and rehabilitation area for sick children and their siblings. The benefits of natural play for children with long term illnesses and their families is well documented and immeasurable,

however, it won't come cheap with the committee having to raise approximately \$250-\$300,000 to complete the project. Thanks to the generosity of Westbury Brigade and Smorgon Steel's Cash for Scrap Project the playground is now \$2,000 closer to reality and we hear that the industrious brigade hasn't stopped yet with the collection process still ongoing.

Big Week at Frankford

By Field Officer Tamar, Kevin Robertson

Many people would say that not much usually happens in the quiet town of Frankford in the Tamar District but all that has changed in the last seven days.

On 16th August Frankford took delivery of their new Urban Dual Cab Canter when Engineering Services Northern Foreman, Lino Sciulli, handed the keys over to Brigade Chief John Penny. The Dual Cab Canter replaces the Single Cab Isuzu medium tanker that the brigade was given as a second hand unit many years ago. The Isuzu was originally a milk truck before being converted by Engineering Services into a 4:1 unit. The odometer now reads 290,300.

On Tuesday 22nd August there was much excitement when the Frankford Brigade Juniors were presented with their uniforms. The five juniors have been meeting and training for the last six months under the guidance of Frankford Firefighters Trudi Petersen and Peter Ward. The juniors couldn't wait till 2nd September when they got to wear their new uniforms and represent the Frankford Brigade at the Northern Region Fun Day Competitions being held just down the road at Exeter.

When the Frankford juniors formed they became the 15th brigade in the Tamar District to have either junior or cadet members. This is an outstanding effort when there are only 21 brigades in the Tamar District.



Harley Reynolds-Myers, Tyler Petersen, Zennan Myers, Olivia Fisher, Brendon Morice



Back row - Trudi Petersen, Zennan Myers, Olivia Fisher, Peter Ward Front row - Tyler Petersen, Harley Reynolds-Myers, Brendon Morice

Competition Fun Day

By Field Officer Tamar, Kevin Robertson

With this year's TVFBA State Competitions being held on October 28th at the Exeter Showground Complex it was decided that the Northern Region would hold a pre competition fun day so that all interested brigades could have a trial run without all of the pressures associated with the real event.

Third Officer Chris Hjort of the Gravelly Beach Brigade approached Regional Chief Andrew Comer with the initial plan to obtain the necessary support and backing from the Northern Region. With this given, Chris and the members of the Gravelly Beach Brigade got right behind the day with the organisation of equipment, catering and sending out the all important invitations to Northern Region Brigades.

On Saturday 2nd September around 130 volunteers, juniors, cadets and their families turned up to the Exeter Showgrounds for the day's fun and to improve their skills. Brigades from Kelso, Gravelly Beach, Legana, Frankford, Glengarry, Chudleigh, Meander, Ravenswood, Pipers River and Evandale attended.



Abbie Wright, Shannon Ager, Jaquie Gleeson and Dominique Pennell



John Wright, Kaitlin Berne, Brendon Gleeson, Dominique Pennell and Jaquie Gleeson

Three main events were held over the course of the day, the Tanker Rescue, Dutch Roll and the Siamese Valve event. There were two divisions, one for seniors and one for juniors. As it was a fun day there were no official times kept and no prizes awarded but all involved still put in their best efforts. Some of the brigade's juniors have never been involved in competitions before but that didn't stop them from getting in and having a go while still enjoying themselves.

Special thanks go to Robert and Veronica Atkins from the North West Region who delivered the TVFBA trailer with all the necessary competition equipment. Huge thanks also go to the wonderful catering staff who kept the hot food and drinks coming throughout the day. \$150 was raised from donations at the food stall all of which is to be donated to the TFS Charity Event - Michelle Wylie Fundraising.

At the completion of the day the Ravenswood Brigade gave a short demonstration of the retained brigades' competition style.

Worth putting in the long hard hours!

By Field Officer Midlands District, Paul Horne

Most people would consider the life of a shearer as being one of long hard days dragging out between 140 to 200 sheep and shearing them over eight solid hours.

Matthew Haney is one such person who mixes the tough life as a shearer along with carrying out the duties as Bothwell Brigade Chief.

Matthew is also a shearing contractor and volunteers what other spare time he has to the Melton Mowbray Rodeo Committee, Central Hawks Football Club and Bothwell Anglers Club.

Recently, Matthew was featured in a documentary which was taken at shearing shed on the property Thorpe about two kilometres north of Bothwell by an Italian film crew. As you can see by the photo taken on the day it is sometimes worth putting in the long hard hours.



Communications Services - Talking about the batteries on your portable radios

By Assistant Manager Communications Services, Paul Lewis

Believe it or not, there are over 500 of the current model Simoco/Philips PRP73 portable radios in service in the TFS. These radios use a nickel cadmium or NiCad type battery which comes in two sizes. The sizes are indicative of their capacity. These two sizes are 1200 mAh and 1700 mAh. The difference in size shows in the thickness of the battery; the 1700 mAh being thicker than the 1200 mAh battery. The other dimensions of the battery are the same.

These types of batteries have a service life of about five or six years at which time, due to chemical changes inside the battery, their capacity decreases to a point where they cannot hold a useful charge which will keep the radio working for a reasonable time.

The Communications Services workshop in Hobart has the equipment to test and assess these batteries and to measure their capacity and even rejuvenate them to some extent.

We have been testing, assessing and replacing these batteries where necessary for some time but I wanted to spread the message that we provide this service as wide as possible and suggest a few tips for people trying to determine if their batteries have reached the point where they may need checking or replacement.

Here is how to decide if the batteries have a problem:

These PRP73 batteries are charged in a two-bay charger in most stations or in a six-bay charger in some of the larger stations. These chargers indicate a red light when they are charging the battery and a green light when the battery is charged and it is just trickle charging.

The first thing to notice is if the red light fails to eventually go green. The next step is to determine if it is the battery or the charger that is faulty. This can be done by putting any other PRP73 batteries in the same bay in the charger and seeing if it charges to a point where the light goes green. This may take a few hours. If it does, then the first battery is probably faulty. If it does not, then either the charger is faulty or both the batteries are faulty.

At this point the single faulty battery or the bundle of batteries together with the charger should be sent to your District Officer or Field Works Officer to be forwarded to Communications Services in Hobart.

We at Communications Services are very aware that most brigades have very few portable radios and that sending a battery or multiple batteries and the charger to us will leave the brigade without portable communications. For this reason we treat any batteries and chargers that arrive with top priority and can usually turn them around within 24 hours.

For some time now we have been numbering the replacement batteries as we issue them. We are currently up to about number 1800. This allows for another rule-ofthumb indication of the age of the battery and if it may need replacement. If the battery has a number much before 1000 it is probably in need of replacement.

The only size battery that we now have available is the larger 1700 mAh battery. This may create a minor problem with radios that have a belt clip on the back. The metal belt clip sits snugly over the battery when it is in place but, if the smaller battery is replaced with a larger battery; the belt clip will need modification (bending) to make it fit around the larger battery.

With regard to the PRP73 portable radios themselves; there is a MKI and a MKII version but they are essentially identical apart from a slight difference in their appearance. They have proved to be extremely reliable over the years and we have had very few with any problems, however, if you have any doubt about the radio at the same time as you are having problems with the battery and/or the charger, bundle the lot up together and send them through your District Officer or Field Works Officer to Communications Services where we will test, assess, replace or repair as necessary and have them back to you as soon as possible.





On Sunday 1st October, North West Region held its 36th Annual Competitions at Penguin Primary School. The day commenced with wonder over what the weather conditions were going to be like with an overcast sky, but luckily fine weather held out until after all had headed home. The day saw entries from both North and North West Regions totalling 9 senior teams and 11 junior teams competing, one of the largest amount of entries for some time.

Competition was set to begin at 0930 hours but was a little late due to one team forgetting to change their clocks for daylight saving, which just happened to be the team bringing along the hoses to use for the events. Once they arrived the games began with the 38 mm Siamese Valve Hose Drill. This was followed by the 38 mm Canvas Hose, Dutch Rolled and Tanker Rescue until time to break at lunch.

The lunch break saw the Under 10 Bucket Brigade competing. This was followed with a welcoming address from Mayor Mike Downie and the official opening of the competitions. Then it was back into competition mode with Firefighter's Football and the Sealed Event.

Trophy presentations and afternoon tea completed the competitions with the following winners:

Aggregate Winners - Seniors: Wesley Vale Runners Up - Seniors: Sassafras Aggregate Winners - Juniors: Wesley Vale Runners Up - Juniors: Meander Most Penalty Points - Seniors: Sassafras Firefighters of the Future: Meander

During the day Ridgley Brigade walked the grounds with a donation tin collecting money for Graeme Jones to shave his hair with the money donated to the TFS Charity Event - Michelle Wylie Fundraising, therefore the last "event" of the day was for Graeme to get a haircut. Norma Jamieson MLC was more than happy to help out with this task armed with the hair clippers.

The day was a great success and it was quoted to me by a "senior member" that it was one of the most enjoyable competition days he had seen. On behalf of the Competition Committee I would like to thank Penguin Primary School for the use of their ground and for catering the event, and St John Ambulance for their service. Thank you to all teams for their participation and good sportsmanship on the day, all committee members for their hard work to make the competitions a success and the Penguin Brigade for hosting the competitions.



Also a huge thank you to all the sponsors: Gunns Limited, Tasmanian Helicopters, Serve-Ag, Robert and Veronica Atkins, Graeme Jones Esq., TFS - NW Region, Chas Kelly Transport, Ricky Singline, Norma Jamieson MLC, Latrobe Council, Mayor Mike Gaffney, Burnie Brigade and Port Sorell Brigade

If your brigade is interested in finding out more information regarding competitions please call Robert Atkins on 0409 140 237.





Secondment to NUTA

By District Officer Mark Dobson, State Urban Search and Rescue Coordinator

In March this year I was approached by the Assistant Director, Urban Search and Rescue for Emergency Management Australia (EMA) in Canberra, to participate in a part time secondment working in the role of the National Urban Search and Rescue Technical Advisor (NUTA for short). Some of you who know me may think that an appropriate acronym, others decided to put a slightly different pronunciation on it, somewhat akin to de-sexing a pet!

I discussed the opportunity with a number of TFS senior managers who were very supportive and following some negotiation with EMA, the deal was struck and I was to become one of the Feds! Well for a little while at least.

The terms of the secondment were to work two weeks per month in my normal TFS role as District Officer, Development and Learning North and the other two weeks as the NUTA, with some level of flexibility thrown in depending upon the priorities in each workplace.

I officially flapped my wings to commence with EMA in Canberra in April 2006. I completed an induction program and had a workstation, computer and desk phone assigned for my use in the first day along with all the necessary security passes, identification cards, log-ins, passwords and other sundry items. I finally settled in at my desk and logged on to the computer system to begin navigating my way around all the documentation that had been developed by the previous secondees.

Well what a shock to the system! The whole first day experience was like starting in a brand new job. I had been removed from the relative tranquillity of my nice sunny office at the Launceston Fire Station and found myself working in an open-plan environment with another 30 people, phones ringing, keyboards being rattled and general chatter going on all around me... My concentration levels were pretty close to zero and I started to wonder what I'd gotten myself in for!

Thankfully I got over the shock factor pretty quickly and settled in to my 'new job'. I was assigned two main tasks to complete - the coordination of a major exercise and the review of the EMA Emergency Manual, Urban Search and Rescue - Capability Guidelines for Structural Collapse. Unfortunately I have to admit that I failed on both counts, but all due to a range of issues that were completely beyond the control of myself and the organisation. I guess I had to leave something for the next lucky secondee to do!

I was able to complete a large amount of work on both projects however. Exercise Passport was initially designed to simulate two International USAR Taskforces entering Australia through Sydney International Airport, to assist in the combat of a major structural collapse incident in the Sydney central business district. The planning phase for the exercise was extensive and involved representation from a range of Australian Government Agencies:

- Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C)
- Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA)
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)
- Australian Customs Service (ACS)
- Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS)
- Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF)
- New South Wales Fire Brigades (NSWFB)
- National Emergency Management Coordination Centre (NEMCC)

The exercise was scheduled to run over three days - 18, 19 & 20 September - at Sydney International Airport and was to incorporate a discussion exercise in the NEMCC located in Canberra. Unfortunately, another major counter-terrorism exercise was also planned for Sydney Airport at exactly the same time which took precedence. Exercise Passport is now scheduled for May 2007.

The EMA USAR Manual was first published in 2004 and like other EMA Manuals, is to be reviewed every two years to ensure its currency. The Manual is a general guide for jurisdictions in developing a capability to combat structural collapse incidents and includes information relating to the different levels of training, team structure, activity phases, internationally recognised marking systems, OH&S and equipment caches. Because of the dynamic nature and rapid evolution of Australia's USAR capability in recent times, there was simply not enough time to perform a comprehensive review and re-write of the Manual in the time I spent with EMA.

I was, however, heavily involved in a range of different facets of the USAR Capability Development Project. This is a four year, \$30M cost share project between the Federal and State/Territory Governments, that will dramatically enhance Australia's capacity to combat a major structural collapse event anywhere in the country. Tasmania's share of funding from this project will be in the order of \$2M in specialised equipment and training and will be completed in 2008.

I am extremely thankful that I was given the opportunity to participate in this secondment. It certainly opened my eyes up to what actually goes on behind the scenes in the Federal system and has expanded my knowledge of USAR operations no end. I was able to establish a terrific network of professional people who are involved in USAR from across the country and importantly, from outside of a fire agency context. A USAR incident requires a true multi-agency response from not only emergency response agencies but a whole range of Government Departments at all levels, non-Government agencies and other professional associations such as engineers and dog handlers.

Fire Safety for the Ahmaric Ethiopian Commu

By Consultant Community Education, Chris Tomes

A fire safety day for Hobart's Ahmaric Ethiopian community has been organised in conjunction with the Migrant Resource Centre, to be held on 25th November at Cambridge.

There will be separate educational activities for adults and children, with bicultural workers and interpreters present to assist with language and cultural issues.

This follows the provision of Australian Government funds through Emergency Management Australia, arranged by the State Emergency Service, to improve safety in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities in Australia.

The consultation that has occurred in the lead up to this event has been fascinating and has really given us an insight into another culture. It also gave us the opportunity to identify fire risks specific to the Ahmaric Ethiopian community. One such fire risk involves a coffee making ceremony where members of the household gather around a charcoal cooker to prepare coffee. This occurs inside the



home. As you could imagine the risks of fire or asphyxiation are high. There have been reported incidents in Ethiopia of families dying from asphyxiation due to the build up of carbon monoxide from the charcoal cookers as well as deaths and injuries resulting from fire.

The training day will consist of:

- · Fire Safety in the Home
- Electrical Safety (Aurora)
- · Hazards in the Home
- Extinguisher/Fire Blanket Demonstration and Training (TasFire Training)

We have arranged to finish the day at lunch time by gathering everyone together for a communal lunch cooked by the Ahmaric Ethiopian community.

Risdon Vale Brigade's 25th anniversary

By First Officer Risdon Vale Brigade, Glenn Doherty

The Risdon Vale Brigade was established in 1981 and in September year celebrated 25 years of service to the community of Risdon Vale.

The Risdon Vale Brigade members train every Monday night between 7.00 p.m. and 9.00 p.m., except on public holidays when we have a break. On average we train for eight hours per month and around 90 hours a year, however, this doesn't include TFS courses regularly undertaken.

The brigade is also involved with Project Wake Up, a government project to supply and fit smoke alarms to the elderly and health care recipients free of charge. To date we have installed around 80 alarms in our community.

On average we respond to around 100 - 120 calls per year, from vegetation fires, structure fires and motor vehicle accidents. We have also received two new firefighting vehicles over the past two years.

We have a steady membership of fourteen of which five are fully qualified female firefighters. We have members who have completed from 2 years service to 24 years service; our longest serving member is our Third Officer Wade Stewart with 24 years. First Officer Glenn Doherty has 18 years service, with 10 other members serving 10 years or more.

A brigade first was when Leanne Doherty was elected to the position of Fourth Officer, being the first female to become an Officer of the Risdon Vale Brigade.



Alison Ritchie MHR, Lara Giddings MHA, Mayor City of Clarence Mr. Jock Campbell, and Senator Carol Brown

Medals and Awards:

National Service Medal awarded to Third Officer Wade Stewart (first in the brigade to receive this honour) and second member honoured was First Officer Glenn Doherty.

Volunteer Firefighters Award was bestowed on First Officer Glenn Doherty (first in the brigade to receive this award) also awarded this honour was Third Officer Wade Stewart, these two members have also been granted Life Membership of the Risdon Vale Brigade.

In 2005 four female members received the TFS 10 year service badge.



.. a new appliance for Collinsvale

Out with the old and in with the new .

By Collinsvale Brigade members, Leading Firefighter Elijah Marshall and Fourth Officer Rachel Anderson

Twenty years ago, firefighting was a completely different game. Techniques such as helicopters, infra-red cameras and task force tip branches were yet to come. Knapsacks, rake hoes and beaters were common firefighting tools.

Twenty years ago, Collinsvale received a new appliance, an International Acco 610C heavy tanker. This new vehicle could carry six firefighters (three in the cab and three outside in a crew haven), 3000 litres of water and being four wheel drive, it could access all areas of Collinsvale.

Come forward about 20 odd years and things change. Firefighting today is a completely different game to the one when Collinsvale received its original 3.1 unit.

On a bright, sunny 5th August, Collinsvale bid a fond (and sometimes not-so-fond) farewell to its old 3.1 unit and embraced a new Mitsubishi Canter 4.1 unit.

This unit, like its predecessor, solved a few problems that Collinsvale was encountering, both on and off the fireground. Being turbo-diesel instead of petrol, the new vehicle is a lot faster in the hilly terrain of Collinsvale, being just as

quick as our 5.1 unit. Fuel supplies are now much easier to handle as the old 3.1 ran on super. It can also carry six firefighters, however, these lucky few are carried comfortably in a crew cab instead of sitting out in the snow. Apart from preventing hypothermia and smoke inhalation, the briefing of crew before arrival at an incident is now possible. Modern advances are being felt and enjoyed, such as power steering, synchromesh and an engine brake.

A Ruggerini diesel pump makes short work of the water capacity on board, however, as we can now get to the fire four times as fast, we don't need four times the water. The pump also allows us the luxury of the pressure to run a TFT.

Communication has also been augmented, with the new vehicle having a CB radio along with the standard TFS radio. This lets us to communicate with farmers in the district, along with our firefighters on scene with handheld CBs.

Gone are the days of the cat-strangler siren. The residents of Collinsvale will breathe a sign of relief as they are no longer subjected to the sounds of feline torture.

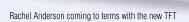
Crew safety is a focus of the TFS and this shows in our new appliance. From the spray bar on the front to the driver alert system, this new appliance will serve the needs of Collinsvale well for many years to come.

We will miss our old truck, and we wish its new owners the same amount of fun firefighting in it that we've had. Please excuse us ... we're going to play with our new truck.

32 Fireground Summer 2006

Second Officer John Anderson, Brigade Chief Ian Wade, Fourth Officer Rachel Anderson, Leading Firefighter Elijah Marshall, and Firefighters Colin Wright and Jason McSherry welcome our new 4.1 structural canter







John Anderson and Peter Johnstone comparing water pressure Photos by Fourth Officer Rachel Anderson and Second Officer John Anderson



Elijah Marshall helps Tim Bunge to adjust water patterns



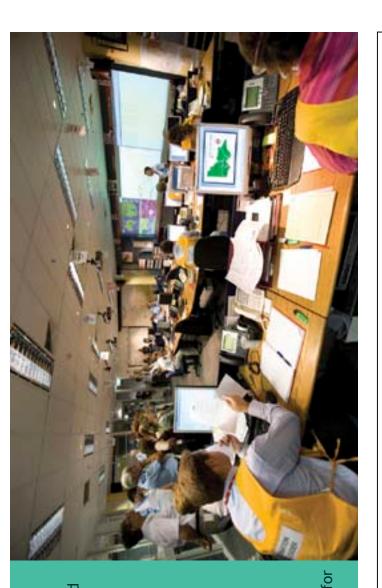
Maximising (inter)agency team effectiveness

Dr. Christine Owen

Education Faculty, University of Tasmania

Project Aims

- > To work with stakeholders to improve teamwork effectiveness and subsequent organisational (and cross-organisational) learning.
- > What (individual and collective) practices can be identified that enhance effective communication, collaboration and shared understanding between operators involved in ICS/IMT performance?
- ➤ What structures and cultures can be identified within emergency management agencies and how do these enhance and inhibit effective ICS/IMT work performance?
- ➤ How might ICS/IMT work performance be optimised through development of new practices (e.g., protocols, training) developed for localised and specific needs?



What have we learned from James Reason's Organisational Accident Model?

Interactions with local events

→ Defences inadequate Individual overloaded



• 60-80% accidents and near misses due to human error;

Majority of cases information known and available somewhere in the system but either not transferred or transferred incorrectly;

Key problem area: the interface within and between groups;

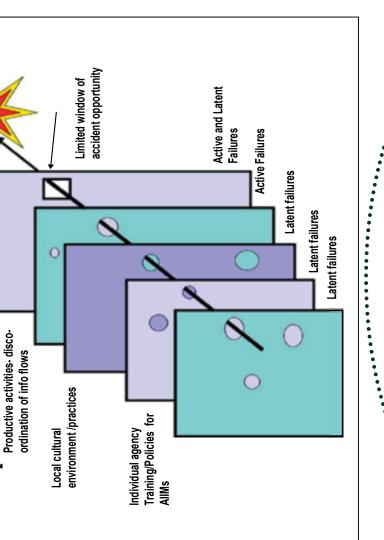
➤ In complex systems "problem" rarely resolved, just moved into another part of the system.

Majority of time people do well and recover, even though near misses occur

➤ How do we support and enhance resilience and overcome vulnerability? ii. Crew resource management (team/cross-team training)

i. Develop appropriate tools to support collective work

iii. Develop a culture of conscious inquiry



Project Phases

- Literature review and bushfire reports and inquiries;
- Interviews with key personnel;
- Observations of IMT/ICS;
- Stakeholder workshops to evaluate the data;

4.

- Collaboration with agencies to address specific agency needs; 5.
- Evaluation of strategies developed with stakeholders.

6.

Picture credit: courtesy CFA, Photographer: Tony Owczarek

Want to know more?

If you would like to access outputs or find out more about this project, visit the website: http://www.bushfirecrc.com/research/program/imt.html

or contact the researcher:

Christine Owen (03) 6226 2555

This project would not be possible without the following collaborators:











Introducing

The TFS welcomes new personnel to State Headquarters - we would like to introduce them to you. They are Janine Maney, Bonnie Butler, Sandra Barber and Jacqueline Fisher.

Janine Maney

Janine Maney was appointed to the position of Executive Officer Finance in August 2006. She is responsible for providing supervision and support to the Finance team, financial reporting, treasury and taxation issues.

Janine brings significant corporate accounting experience to the TFS, having spent the past ten years working across a broad range of industries. She has held accounting positions with North Forest Products Triabunna, Webster Ltd, Hydro Tasmania and the Flight Centre Brisbane.

Janine is enjoying her work and is very impressed with the friendliness and helpfulness of the people in the TFS. She has been involved with various tasks to date, the largest being the preparation of the annual financial statements.

Although Janine has only worked at the TFS for a short period of time, she has already donned the yellow overalls when volunteering to assist in the recent fires on the Eastern Shore. She was given first hand experience of what goes on at the fireground during a serious bushfire.



Janine pictured after an early morning bushwalk in the snow or



Bonnie and the Chief at the recent Managers Workshop on the East Coast

Bonnie Butler

Bonnie Butler has been appointed as Executive Officer Policy and Research. Working for the Chief Officer, Bonnie will be responsible for undertaking policy development, providing executive support for committees and project teams, and preparing correspondence and documentation.

Holding trivia nights is not strictly part of the statement of duties but is one of the skills that Bonnie has put to use at the recent Managers Workshop on the East Coast.

Bonnie has degrees in Arts (Political Science) and Law. Prior to her appointment Bonnie worked with the Department of Economic Development and as an Organiser for the National Tertiary Education Union.

In her spare time, Bonnie enjoys exploring the outdoors, travelling and white water rafting.

Remembering September 11

Amanda Innes from Primrose Sands, with her children Bradley and Natalie Smith have been coming in to the TFS every year to bring flowers to our firefighters in remembrance of those who died on September 11 in the Twin Towers. Young Bradley felt so saddened that he wanted to do something for those who died and believes that the day is extremely significant and should be remembered.



Jacqueline Fisher

Jacqueline commenced employment in October 2006 in the role of Executive Officer Volunteer Support.

Jacqueline's role is to develop systems and provide advice to help TFS, regional, district and volunteer support with the management of volunteers. This will include undertaking projects, providing advice to managers, reporting and undertaking research, as well as working with volunteer managers and volunteers on a wide range of committees and issues.

Jacqueline has transferred from the State Emergency Service (SES) to join the team at TFS. During her time with SES, Jacqueline fulfilled the role of Learning and Information Officer and maintained the SES website. Jacqueline believes her previous role has provided valuable experience working with volunteers in the emergency service sector. Jacqueline notes that "I have a lot of TFS volunteer members to meet, however, I expect to see some familiar faces".

Jacqueline will continue to undertake part-time studies in the completion of a Bachelor of Natural Environment through the University of Tasmania. Although juggling work and study can be time consuming Jacqueline explains "I really enjoy the field of environmental management and try to integrate my studies into my workplace where I can".



Sandra Barber

Sandra is originally from Tasmania, and moved back here at the beginning of this year. She has been living in Canberra for a few years, where she taught counselling and community studies at the University of Canberra. Sandra became very aware of the human cost of bushfires in 2003, through the impact of the fires on her colleagues, students and the ACT community.

Before Sandra joined the TFS she worked as a policy advisor in Mental Health Services, but most of her working life has been spent in the community sector. She has been a community educator for many years, mostly working with communities on health and legal issues. Sandra originally trained as a psychologist, and has also worked in services providing counselling and support for people who have experienced trauma.

The TFS Community Education Program is well-respected in the community, and legendary amongst school-age children. As the new manager, Sandra hopes that her experience in different areas of community work will complement the specialist expertise within the team.

TFS vehicle stolen

A four wheel drive light tanker was stolen from the Clarence Fire Station car park. The vehicle had been crashed into a school fence in Walker Street Sorell. The vehicle wasn't badly damaged, but more than \$1,000 worth of vital UHF and VHF communications equipment was stolen.

This vehicle was extensively used in firefighting efforts on the Eastern Shore in protecting property and the community.

Incident Controller Jeremy Smith said "for this to have occurred at any time is disappointing, but at the beginning of a busy fire season we can ill afford to lose any firefighting resources."

Transition to Road Accident Rescue

In June 2006, Lara Giddings, Minister for Health and Human Services announced that Urban Road Accident Rescue responsibilities along with domestic, industrial and rail rescue would be transferred from the Tasmanian Ambulance Service (TAS) to the TFS. Rural and remote road accident rescue responsibilities remain with the State Emergency Service (SES).

From 1 December 2006 the TFS is responsible for undertaking the mechanical aspects of extricating people trapped as a result of road accidents in urban Tasmania, specifically in the Hobart, Launceston, Burnie and Devonport areas.

The responsibilities of TFS Road Accident Rescue brigades include:

- Stabilisation of vehicles(s);
- Gaining access to the interior of the vehicle;
- Disentanglement and extrication of persons trapped in a motor vehicle;
- Fire suppression;

- Hazardous material containment;
- Safety of the incident site;
- Evacuation information and advice;
- Assist with first aid.

The role of TFS volunteer brigades does not change with the transition of RAR responsibilities and will continue to include the following:

- Liaise with other services in attendance:
- Fire Suppression;
- Hazard control and containment;
- Support to other emergency services;
- Safety of the incident site;
- · Assist with first aid.

In all cases Ambulance Officers have full responsibility for patient care which will control the priorities and methodology required for the rescue. Police remain the responsible agency for road accident scenes.

Road Accident Rescue Training

By District Officer Development and Learning, Paul Salter

To facilitate RAR the training we need to obtain a number of cars/vehicles that are suitable to be cut up during road accident rescue training and crushed for scrap on completion.

If anyone has, or knows of a suitable car/vehicle that can be collected for road accident rescue training, please contact the number indicated below for your Region during the hours of 0900 - 1700 Monday to Friday and provide the following information:

Phone contacts:

North / North West 6336 5632 6214 8810 South

Details required:

- Caller's name and contact number
- Name of owner of the car/vehicle
- Address/location of the car/vehicle and access to the car
- Make and year of the car
- Condition of car (preferably wheels on, some glass intact, smashed/damaged body is OK no burnt cars)

One of the road accident rescue co-ordinators will be in contact with you to assess the car for suitability and make further arrangements.

For any additional information, please contact myself, Steve Lowe or Steve Percival.

Road Accident Rescue Course

By Station Officer Hobart Brigade, Steve Percival

Road Accident Rescue Training is well underway with 17 TFS shift instructors and 1 SES regional instructor recently completing a 40 hour (five day) Undertake Road Accident Rescue Course. The officers were then given an additional four days of various practical skills training. All the training was delivered by the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service who sent down three of their most experienced officers.

A combination of Holmatro and Lukas hydraulic tools have been purchased and these tools have proved more than adequate in gaining access to the broad range of old and new car technology vehicles.

General Motors Holden supplied us with a V8 Ute and an Adventra station wagon, both these vehicles were only a few years old and had been used at their proving ground in Victoria. Access to this vehicle allowed the instructors to practice the more complex issues that are associated with new car technology such as airbag location and management, stronger lighter steels and strengthened doors. The driver's, passenger and side impact airbags were activated in a controlled demonstration and this proved very impressive. These vehicles are now to be crushed for scrap metal much to the delight of every Ford fan.

The critical area of patient care was supervised by Greg Edsall from the Tasmanian Ambulance Service (TAS). Greg shared his first hand experience in patient care and extrication techniques. This role will remain with TAS as it has in the past.

Statewide shift training has commenced and will continue every day and night until Christmas. Aviation Rescue and Fire Fighting have selected seven of their officers to join in over the next few months to gain the RAR qualification.

Thank you to those that have already donated vehicles, my Toyota Camry has been one of those vehicles to suffer at the hands of our crews. Others who have assisted with vehicles are AAMI, RACT, CUG, Smorgon Steel, Tasmania Police Garage and Southern Rocycling at Rocherlea.



Greg Edsall (TAS)



Crews performing a dash roll on damaged TFS ACCO Pumper



QFRS Instructors TAS and Chief Officer John Gledhill



Holden Adventra



Greg Edsall (TAS) passing information to instructors



Chief Officer John Gledhill making a presentation to A/Area Director Daryl Rush of the OFRS

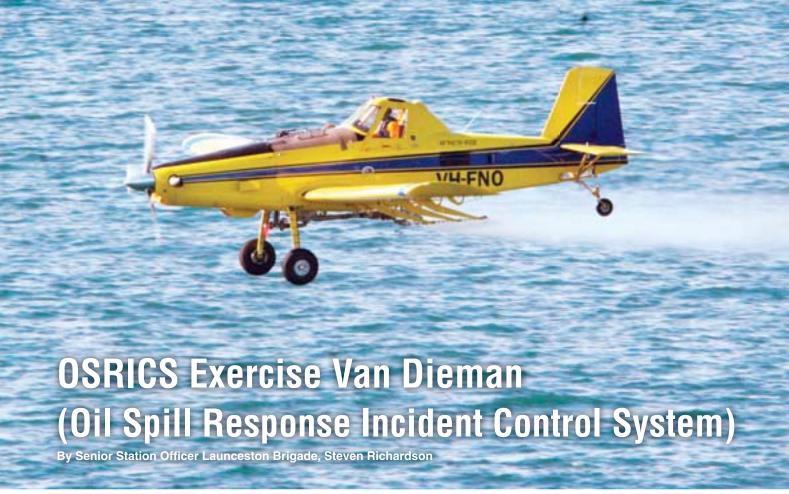


Photo courtesy of Karleen Williams of the Advocate Newspaper

The Mersey River at Devonport was the scene for a major exercise co-ordinated by the Department of Tourism, Arts and the Environment (DTAE) to test their capabilities in handling an oil spill from ship groundings or other such incident.

Umpires for the exercise were provided by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) and observers came from various departments including our own Paul Hill, Acting Regional Chief, North West.

This exercise is a biannual event, similar to our own "Southern Impact" that is held in different states to test their response capabilities.

The responsibility for handling oil spills lays with the Parks and Wildlife Service, who now come under the umbrella of DTAE, a recent change from the Department of Primary Industry, Water and (no longer) the Environment. Confused yet? Just as a side note, our readers should be aware that any incidents that may impact on the environment, including waterways, will require the notification of DTAE not DPIW. This department can be contacted through Firecomm. Still with me I hope?

Initially, we (TFS) were approached by DTAE to manage the airbase and co-ordinate the slinging of the aerial spraying equipment used beneath Tasmanian Helicopters' "B2" Squirrel and to assist filling the Air Tractor that was brought over from South Australia for the exercise, which, if you haven't seen one, before is quite an impressive machine capable of storing 2,000 litres of water in the nose and dispersed through booms on the rear of the wings.

A large portion of our aircraft trained personnel had a glimpse at the equipment earlier this year when we conducted a training day at the George Town airport which highlighted the need for some improvements if the actual exercise was to run smoothly.

I am very happy to say that from all accounts, our own staff performed to such a high level that one umpire stated that he would "employ our personnel right now to assist in managing an oil spill anywhere in Australia". Testament to the professionalism of all TFS personnel, even when they find themselves in a role that is perhaps a little alien to them.

I must congratulate Station Officers Paul Catterall and Dale Lapham and Leading Firefighter Ken Russell for their effort in Exercise Van Dieman. I even heard that Paul put life and limb on the line by throwing himself in front of one of the portable pumps to protect his colleagues from a "dipper".

For my own part, I played the role of Aviation Co-ordinator, sitting in the IMT located nearby at the Devonport Wharf. Coincidently, the IMT was made up of personnel from various departments within DTAE and numbered around forty. Factor in one not so large room and almost everyone operating from a laptop, PC and mobile phone and you begin to get an idea of how hard it was for the IMT to perform their jobs and meet the necessary outcomes of the objectives for the exercise.

Why such a large IMT you ask? I often thought this myself but perhaps being a little ignorant of the special needs of the local fairy penguins and southern right whales I had to find the answer to this question by chatting to a neighbour at my table. Not only did the IMT have to manage the oil spill with all its complications, but do you know how many experts are required to help prevent further damage to the environment and then co-ordinate the recovery of all flora and fauna

within 50 kilometres of Devonport? There were co-ordinators for waste management (what do you think I am supposed to do with this gooey black stuff now?), the wildlife, aquaculture, marine environment, the shoreline, and the media. I haven't even begun to talk about managing the personnel involved in the clean up but you get the idea. Give me a wildfire any day please!

All in all, the day was a huge success and Tasmania has once again proven its capability to handle emergencies whether they are on land, in the sea or a combination of both. Perhaps the largest contributing factor for the successful outcome of Exercise Van Dieman was the ability of all agencies involved to work together in managing the vast pool of resources required for such an event.

Exercises such as this one and "Southern Impact" can only strengthen the professional working relationship between the TFS and other agencies and I look forward to the opportunity to once again work with them and perhaps some of our readers.

Photo courtesy of AMSA





TFS moves towards standardisation of hose couplings across the service

By Regional Chief Tony Davidson

Funding had recently been approved for the purchase of over 1000 sets of 25 mm and 1000 sets 38 mm guarter turn flat faced couplings. This will see all 25 mm and 38 mm hoses issued to Brigades fitted with the new couplings.

These lightweight alloy couplings which have been used by Forestry Tasmania and Parks & Wildlife Service for many years and have been progressively introduced into the TFS. These couplings are also in use in several mainland states. In fact a recommendation has recently been made for AFAC member agencies to adopt these couplings as the Australian Standard for 25 mm and 38 mm hoses.

The main advantages of these couplings are:

- Lightweight
- Quick and easy to connect
- No hose keys required to tighten
- Compatibility with other Tasmanian agencies (standardised across the State)
- Either end of hose can be coupled to pump or branch (no male or female end)
- No bandit clamps (sharp edges)
- 38 mm and 25 mm hoses can be coupled together (same size)

All Brigades will be supplied with these couplings over the next few months. Brigades will be provided with details of the rollout on a district by district basis. It is proposed to continue with the upgrading to 38 mm extruded hoses (Duraline type) during the 2007/08 financial year.









Career Brigades welcome new firefighters

By District Officer Wayne Richards

On 7th August 2006, six operational firefighters commenced an intensive two week induction program to further their careers with the TFS.

Following an extensive selection process, similar but more rigorous than that required for trainee firefighter positions, the successful applicants were appointed as Lateral Entry Firefighters, that is, their previous experience and their nationally portable qualifications were recognised to enable them to commence service within a career brigade after a short induction to introduce them to the protocols and specialised equipment within the TFS.

Two firefighters have been appointed to each of the Regions and commenced their duties at the career brigades after completing the two week course under the guidance and direction of

District Officers Wayne Richards and Danny Richardson. A number of Launceston Brigade Officers and crews assisted with the training program, however, a special thanks is deserving for the contributions made by Station Officers Danny O'Donnell, Phil Grant and Michael Watkins.

The two weeks was a rapid paced program to ensure that the new firefighters were well versed in the organisational structure of the TFS, State Service and TFS administrative policies and procedure, OH&S responsibilities and protocols.

Whilst they were all qualified and competent operators with their previous employers, practical components of the program included an introduction to our Draeger PSS100 Breathing Apparatus, with numerous live fire drills to ensure their competence as wearers under pressure situations, hose and ladder drills, introduction to our urban pumpers with the Darley mid-mounted high pressure pumps, our fully encapsulated gas suits and the myriad of specialist equipment for deployment at hazardous chemical incidents. The program was designed to ensure their state of operational readiness upon joining their platoons at each brigade.

Firefighters Marc Herbert and John Stevenson have been posted to the North West Region.

Marc was previously employed as a Firefighter in the Royal Australian Air Force at Richmond Air Base, New South Wales. Originally from Queensland, he spent time as an Auxiliary Firefighter with Queensland Fire Rescue Authority before joining the Defence Department.

John was previously employed as a Leading Aviation Firefighter with Air Services Australia at Launceston Airport. Originally from the Sheffield area, he commenced his firefighting career in 1999 with the Royal Australian Air Force at Williamtown Air Base, before transferring to Aviation Rescue Fire Fighting Service, working at Newcastle, Darwin and Hobart Airports. He transferred to Launceston Airport in 2004.



From left to right: John Stevenson, Bill Hilston, Marc Herbert, Steven Johnson, Clynt Allen and Paul Symington

Clynt Allen and Steven Johnson have been posted to the Launceston Brigade, Northern Region

Clynt originally commenced his career with TFS as a Firefighter at the Launceston Brigade in the late 1980's. After a number of years, he left the job to pursue some other challenges in life, returning to TFS as a Fire Equipment Officer in 2003.

Steve was previously employed as a Leading Aviation Firefighter with Air Services Australia at Launceston Airport. He migrated from the UK to Australia in 1998, working at Port Douglas, before gaining employment with Aviation Rescue Fire Fighting Service at Sydney Airport. He transferred to Launceston in 2004.

William (Bill) Hilston and Paul Symington have been posted to the Hobart Brigade, Southern Region.

Bill was previously employed for seventeen years as a Firefighter in the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service. During this time, he was involved with a large number of public education programs, responsible for the development and mentoring of many junior firefighters and acted as the officer on occasions.

Paul was previously employed as a Firefighter in the NSW Fire Brigade, commencing his full-time employment in 1998 after eight years volunteer service with NSW Rural Fire Service. During his time with the NSW Fire Brigade he has also spent a period of time at Bushfire/Natural Hazards Training Section.

Upon commencement of duty with their brigades, they will pick up their training for additional competency acquisition and maintain a skills refresher program as part of the ongoing commitment to development within the TFS.

We wish them well as they embark on a new pathway in pursuit of their chosen careers as permanent firefighters.

Barley stubble burn



The stubble burn was conducted by the Elizabeth Town Brigade on a property at Red Hills in March 2006. The area burnt was about 100 acres over several paddocks, all being done in around 2 1/2 hours.

The three members pictured are Firefighter Brodie Elmer, Fourth Officer Fiona Angus and Second Officer Richard Bennett. Photographer Brigade Chief Elizabeth Town, Darryl Walker

Photo Competition Winner

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

The winning photo from this edition is:



Photographer Ian Stewart

How to enter:

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

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

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

Photos may be of any TFS event or incident

May include TFS personnel in turnout gear or uniform

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

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

Post them in to: Linda Lacy Editor - Fireground **GPO Box 1526 HOBART TAS 7001**

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

Levendale Fire

By Brigade Chief Runnymede Brigade, Rick Birch



On 19th May 2006 we received a pager call at 0645 hours to a house fire at Woodsdale Road, Levendale. On arrival we were confronted with a residential dwelling fully involved with fire.

The house was approximately 120 years old and was plastic weatherboards over old wooden weatherboards. The interior was also timber lining, possibly baltic pine. The exterior roof cladding was pressed tin tiles over old shingles and it also had raised ceilings.

With all the above ingredients and lack of water supply it was pretty evident we were going to be fighting a losing battle. To add to this the two old sandstone chimneys were exploding with heat and power lines were coming down across the road. The two occupants had been asleep inside and the nine year old son was awoken by the heat and tried to gain access to the lounge room but was confronted by the flames. His only escape was through his bedroom window and around to the back of the house to wake his mother who suffered singed hair. It was still unsure whether smoke alarms were fitted.

The only thing the attending brigades Runnymede, Buckland and Woodsdale could do was protect the several exposures (sheds and corrugated water tanks). Within 50 minutes the house was totally destroyed and flattened.

It is understood that the fire was caused by a small electric fan heater being left on overnight.

PHOTO GALLERY



The photo was taken at Lower and Upper Derwent Group Exercise at Gretna. Photographer Firefighter New Norfolk Brigade, Peter Roy-Smith



When I received this photo I wasn't sure if it was for the Photo Gallery or the Awards page - Building Safety Consultant Leon Carr pictured with Her Royal Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.





Tree fire near the Midlands Highway at Pontville Photographer Firefighter Brighton Brigade, Simon Geard



Collinsvale Brigade participating in Cleaning Up Australia Day! Photographer Fourth Officer Collinsvale Brigade, Rachel Anderson



Top of Goat Hills Photographer Fourth Officer Collinsvale Brigade, Rachel Anderson





Hobart District 4 x 4 Competitions Photographer Fourth Officer Collinsvale Brigade, Rachel Anderson



Car fire attended by Hobart Brigade, Leading Firefighter Frank McGrath pictured. Photographer Senior Firefighter Warren Frey

Library News

New Books

Harvard business review on managing projects /

Harvard Business School. Boston: Harvard Business School Pub. Corp., 2005.

Introduction to fire protection / Klinoff, Robert W. Clifton Park, NY: Thomson Delmar, 2006.

Just doing my job: everyday Australians with extraordinary stories / Knight, James. Sydney: Hachette Livre Australia, c2006.

Tells the stories of the unsung heroes of our emergency services. Those who are just doing their job, protecting us, saving us, and serving us. Everyday there is a possibility of being shot at, spat on, pinched, verbally abused or hugged and cheered.

Liquid hydrocarbon storage tank fires: prevention and response / BP International Ltd. Rugby, U.K.: Institution of Chemical Engineers; BP International Ltd., c2005.

Quiet leadership: six steps to transforming performance at work: help people think betterdon't tell them what to do! / Rock, David. New York: Collins c2006.

RCDs: a switch to safety: being safe with electricity / Workplace Standards Tasmania. Hobart, Tas.: Workplace Standards Tasmania, 2004.

Responding to utility emergencies: a street smart approach to understanding and handling electrical and utility gas emergencies / Callan, Michael. Chester, Md.: Lightworks Photography and Design, 2004.

Scene savers: communicating for safety at a fire scene: trainer's notes / Swinburne University of Technology. Workplace Skills Unit. Wantirna South, Vic.: Swinburne University of Technology TAFE, c2005. 1 CD-ROM Scenario 1. Motor vehicle accident (Victoria) - Scenario 2. Grassfire (South Australia) - Scenario 3. Remote structure fire (Queensland) - Scenario 4. Hazardous materials fire (Tasmania).

The science of bushfire risk management / O'Bryan, Denis. Melbourne, Vic.: Red Eagle Bushfire Protection Services, 2006.

This book documents the science and principles of bushfire risk management, which comprises the disciplines of bushfire defence and suppression. It considers management of heat related damage due to predictable elements of flame behaviour. It excludes reference to mechanical damage and damage caused by smoke and air turbulence. The author believes that most losses and damage in a severe bushfire are caused by heat related damage, and that if these are

minimised or eliminated, losses and damage due to other causes will also be minimised.

NEW VIDEOS/DVDs

The day the flames came: Dwellingup 1961 /

Fahy, Moira. Perth, W.A.: Dept. Conservation and Land Management, 2006. 1 DVD, 30 min.

The town of Dwellingup which is about 100 kilometres south of Perth, was almost destroyed by bushfire on 24 January 24 1961. This film, developed by the Western Australia Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM), Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia (FESA), and the Bushfire CRC, is the story of that day as told by members of the Dwellingup community and Forest Department staff. We see images and hear harrowing descriptions about their experiences of the fire and their survival on the day the flames came.

Fire in your home / Today Tonight in partnership with FESA. Perth, W.A.: FESA, 2006. 1 DVD, 7 min. On Friday 28 July 2006 Today Tonight aired footage of Perth firefighters conducting a series of experiments to show how easily you can lose everything. These experiments are conducted in various rooms - the kitchen with an oil fire; the bedroom with an electric blanket fire; and the lounge room with a blanket left too close to a heater.

Prepared and protected: infection control and personal protective equipment for respiratory

diseases. Canberra, A.C.T.: Dept. of Health and Ageing; producer: Grey Worldwide, 2005. 1 DVD.

This film deals with infectious respiratory diseases with practical information on how to reduce their spread. It is intended for people working in areas likely to come into contact with infected people during a pandemic, such as international border workers, health care workers and medical receptionists. It also will be useful as a refresher for people trained in infection control, such as international border staff, ambulance paramedics, nurses and GPs.

Prescribed burning: planned, effective and safe: an introduction to the practice of prescribed

burning / Victoria. Dept. of Sustainability and Environment, 2004. 1 DVD, 29 min.

Fire is a vital part of the Australian landscape. Wildfire is generally treated as an enemy to be defeated, however, prescribed fire, skilfully managed, is a powerful and effective management tool. This video focuses on the planned, effective and safe conduct of prescribed burning.

Road accident rescue / Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority. Brisbane, Qld.: QFRA, [200-?]. 2 videocassettes, 100 min.

Tape 1. Introduction - Section 1. General - 1. Systematic approach - 2. Tool usage - 3. Battery disconnections and airbag safety - 4. Car fires and airbags - 5. Glass management and protection - Section 2. Stabilisation - 1. Standard equipment - 2. Vehicle on wheels - 3. Vehicle on side - 4. Vehicle on roof - 5. Vehicle override/underride - 5. [sic] Airbags for lifting. Tape 2. Introduction - Section 3. Disentanglement - 1. Cross ramming - 2. B Pillar Rip - 3. Roof flap forward - 4. Roof flap down - 5. Seat rolllups - 6. Moving dash and steering wheel - 6. [sic] Third door conversion - Section 4. Extrication - 1. Collar and KED - 2. Extrication board - 3. Side removal with extrication board - 4. Vertical removal with extrication board.

Super flu race against a killer / Moore, Steffan. [Australia]: MMV Film Finance Corporation, [200?]. 1 DVD, ca.52 min.

Documentary which examines Australia's ability to deal with threats from viruses such as H5N1.

WEBLINKS

AFAC position on smoke alarms in residential accommodation, effective 1 June 2006.

http://www.afac.com.au/awsv2/publications/documents/ AFACSmokeAlarmposition1June2006.pdf

National action plan for human influenza pandemic / Dept. of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

This plan outlines how Commonwealth, state, territory and local governments will work together to protect Australia against the threat of an influenza pandemic and support the Australian community should one occur.

http://www.dpmc.gov.au/publications/pandemic/index. htm#about

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

Ph: 6230 8679 or 6230 8681 Email: library@fire.tas.gov.au or drop into the State Headquarters building, Corner Argyle and Melville Streets, Hobart

Community Education Targets Arson

By Consultant Community Education, Chris Tomes

With the bushfire season fast approaching, Community Education in partnership with Tasmania Police, targeted 13 schools in areas with a history of a large number of deliberately lit grass and bushfires. By being proactive and approaching the schools in those areas before the bushfire season we are hoping this season will see a reduction in the number of deliberately lit fires.

Leading Firefighter Michael Goldsmith, temporarily seconded to Community Education, created a 45 minute information session based around the consequences to the community and the individual of deliberately lit fires.

Over a period of six weeks, Michael with the assistance of Constables Tony Gough, Alison Kay and Ann Edge, delivered the information session to 13 schools in the Bridgewater, Brighton, Rokeby & Clarendon Vale areas.

Michael and his police colleagues were very well received at all of the schools

The schools were:

Bridgewater Primary

Bridgewater High

Greenpoint Primary

Gagebrook Primary

Herdsman Cove Primary

Brighton Primary

St Paul's Primary

John Paul 2 Primary

Rokeby High

Rokeby Primary

Clarendon Vale Primary

Risdon Vale Primary

Geilston Bay High

On The Move

A list of recent personnel changes within the TFS

The following Career personnel changes have occurred

| Arrivals | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Devonport Brigade | John Stevenson | Firefighter | 7th August 2006 |
| Devonport Brigade | Marc Herbert | Firefighter | 7th August 2006 |
| Launceston Brigade | Steven Johnson | Firefighter | 7th August 2006 |
| Hobart Brigade | Paul Symington | Firefighter | 7th August 2006 |
| Hobart Brigade | Bill Hilston | Firefighter | 7th August 2006 |
| Corporate Services | Janine Maney | Executive Officer Finance | 7th August 2006 |
| Executive Support | Bonnie Butler | Executive Officer Policy & Research | 4th September 2006 |
| TasFire Equipment | J Stride | Fire Equipment Officer South | 4th September 2006 |
| TasFire Equipment | R Armstrong | Fire Equipment Officer North | 4th September 2006 |
| Community Education | Sandra Barber | Manager | 27th September 2006 |
| Human Services | Jacqueline Fisher | Executive Officer Volunteer Support | 2nd October 2006 |
| | | | |
| Elevations | | | |
| Launceston Brigade | Clynt Allen | Firefighter | 7th August 2006 |
| Departures | | | |
| TasFire Equipment | S Clarke | Fire Equipment Officer | 1st September 2006 |
| Southern Region | Rebekah Tunks | Customer Service Officer | 22nd September 2006 |

The following Volunteer Brigade Officers have been elected by their Brigades

| BRIGADE | OFFICER | APPOINTMENT | BRIGADE | OFFICER | APPOINTMENT |
|--------------|---------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Bagdad | Barrie Martin-Henry | Brigade Chief | Great Lake | Wayne Martin | Third Officer |
| | Jim Clifton | Second Officer | | Byron Thompson | Fourth Officer |
| | Craig Harback | Third Officer | Kelso | Steven Masters | Fourth Officer |
| | Andrew Clifton | Fourth Officer | Lachlan | David Gleeson | Brigade Chief |
| Boat Harbour | Dean Watts | Brigade Chief | | Dallas Baker | Second Officer |
| | Ashley Reynolds | Second Officer | | Tony Atkinson | Third Officer |
| | Brendan Flint | Third Officer | Port Sorell | Steven Brazendale | Brigade Chief |
| | Trevor Duniam | Fourth Officer | | David Stott | Second Officer |
| Chudleigh | Julie McGregor | Brigade Chief | | Amanda Brazendale | Third Officer |
| | Terry Pickett | Second Officer | | Matthew Niekamp | Fourth Officer |
| | Peter Crowden | Third Officer | Runnymede | Rick Birch | Brigade Chief |
| | Paul Ager | Fourth Officer | | Paul Fergusson | Second Officer |
| Claremont | Troy Bedelph | Third Officer | | Harrex Mc Connon | Third Officer |
| | Todd Bennetto | Fourth Officer | | Christopher Tate | Fourth Officer |
| Derby | Jonathan Burley | Brigade Chief | Seven Mile Beach | Matthew Butler | Third Officer |
| | Bernard Johnson | Second Officer | Sheffield | Mark Furley | Brigade Chief |
| | Craig Wheeler | Third Officer | | Shaune Jones | Second Officer |
| | Gayle Scott | Fourth Officer | | Liam Harrex | Third Officer |
| Great Lake | Rodney Martin | Brigade Chief | | Luke Davey-Baldock | Fourth Officer |
| | Jason Glare | Second Officer | Ulverstone | Paul Gilley | Fourth Officer |

Awards

A list of recent awards presented within the TFS

| LOCATION/ BRIGADE | NAME | AWARD | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|---------------------------|--|--|--|
| Fern Tree | Garry Sullivan | National Medal (25 years) | | | |
| | Ken Fishwick | National Medal (25 years) | | | |
| | Chris Salmon | National Medal (15 years) | | | |
| | Matthew Fishwick | TFS Volunteer Medal | | | |
| Engineering | Leon Smith | National Medal (15 years) | | | |
| | Frank Howe | Long Service (20 years) | | | |
| | Andrew Triffett | Long Service (20 years) | | | |
| | Bill Lyne | Long Service (15 years) | | | |
| Wellington | Cameron Suhr | Long Service (20 years) | | | |
| | Adam Smith | Long Service (15 years) | | | |
| | Jason Smith | Long Service (15 years) | | | |
| | Richard Leaman | Long Service (10 years) | | | |







Morning Tea at Bridgewater Primary School

By Station Officer Hobart Brigade, Andrew Baker

As a result of a deliberately lit fire at the school on the 24th August 2006, the students and teachers of the Bridgewater Primary School invited the crews from Bridgewater and Glenorchy Stations to a morning tea to thank them for attending and extinguishing the fire. One classroom of the school sustained severe fire damage, the rest of the school sustained heat and smoke damage.

The students had worked very hard organising the morning

tea and presented brigade members with letters of thanks, drawings of firefighters and fire trucks and a "thank you" card signed by all the students of the class room damaged in the fire.

The Bridgewater Community is suffering from adverse media attention due to the number of fires in the area, and this show of support for the Fire Service was greatly appreciated and enjoyed by all who attended. Thank you to all the students and staff involved.

Seeing both sides of the story!

By Editor Fireground, Linda Lacy

We moved to Geilston Bay on the eastern shore just over two years ago. We had been burgled at our previous house - "they'll come back to steal your new items" we were told - very reassuring - time to move house!

We bought the house that had "everything we never knew we wanted" - high on the hill on an internal block, overlooking Government and Natone Hills with a glimpse of Mt Nelson through the gap. Bush on the bottom side of the road with a few houses nestled there on the hillside, bush across the road on the topside, vacant blocks below us and vacant land at the end of the unfinished road. If you kept walking from the end of the street you would end up on Sugarloaf Hill. Wallabies, birds, trees, peace and quiet - all just 10 minutes from Hobart and in the heart of suburbia - heaven!

Well - it was - until Thursday 12th October 2006!

I received a call at work from my husband Tony saying "I heard that there are fires on Sugarloaf Road".

I checked the TFS website - "no problem, everything is OK" I assured him.

Ten minutes later I received a frantic call from my son Adam who had decided to go home for lunch "there's



The fire coming along the gully





fire at the end of the street". I can't recall exactly what happened after that apart from ringing Tony and telling him "go home!"

Tony rang me a short while later to let me know that the fire had passed, it had come up from Sugarloaf through the vacant land to the top of our street, went around the neighbour's house on the top side, then a spotfire right behind our back fence, another one in the bottom side neighbour's backyard and into the gully. Several TFS vehicles and firefighters were there, all was OK. Then suddenly he said "I've got to go" in a frantic voice. This was when I panicked and raced home. The smoke was thick and I wondered if I would actually get through. Clinton Road was blocked off by police vehicles and they were only letting residents into the street.

When I arrived home firefighters were resting under a tree at the bottom of the street and looked exhausted. I then discovered that when the fire had crossed the road to the gully that it had then spread rapidly with flames right up into the trees, and up into the hillside.

Sitting here now looking out at the blackened hillside, I realise what a close call we all had and that due to homeowners defending their property and the presence of the firefighters that we were extremely lucky. Ironically I was a member of the Incident Management Team on the 14th - I had seen both sides of the story!



Still smouldering hours later



Houses under threat

Photographer: Adam Lacy

East Coast 4x4 Competition

By Fourth Officer Richmond Brigade, Anke Workman

On Sunday 10th September the Richmond Brigade hosted the inaugural 4x4 competition for the East Coast District. Six brigades (Dunalley, Lauderdale, Midway Point, Orielton, Richmond and Triabunna) attended and competed in ten events in the Richmond/Campania area.

All teams were put through their paces as they encountered a chainsaw accident, a 'burning' vehicle with injured occupant, a house under threat with the need to try and evacuate a belligerent property owner, and a crashed vehicle carrying dangerous goods. Other skill testers included chainsaw knowledge, drafting, navigation exercises, a hole in one, team building exercise and a mad minute questionnaire.

The day concluded with a barbecue at Richmond station after which Orielton the winning team was awarded a magnificent trophy. The trophy, a highly polished brass 64 mm branch was donated by Triabunna Brigade and mounted on a timber stand and backboard by Richmond Brigade member David Moult. Second place was secured by Richmond Brigade and the third placing awarded to Triabunna Brigade. Coal River Group Officer Robin Howlett generously donated the medals awarded to the top three place getters. A wooden spoon was also awarded to the team with the least points and we are hoping to start a tradition that the team in question will return to the event next year and hopefully pass this on to the team unfortunate to be last on the tally board.

As winners of the 2006 event Orielton has been handed the honour of running the competition next year for which planning is already underway. It is proposed the event will be held in early September 2007 with even more challenging events to be undertaken.









The Elizabethan **Award**

The Elizabethan Award is presented by Elizabeth College to publicly recognise an individual, organisation or group, preferably from Tasmania, whom the College students and staff consider has made a significant contribution to the community. This year the award was presented to our Tasmanian Volunteer Firefighters.

Previous recipients include:

State Emergency Service (following Port Arthur)

CANTEEN

(work with teenage cancer victims)

Ronald McDonald House

Australian Defence Forces in East Timor

RSPCA

Colin Dean (community work and entertainment)



Change the batteries in your smoke alarm at the END, not the beginning, of Daylight Savings

By Consultant Community Education, Chris Tomes

Tasmanian householders are reminded they should change batteries in their home's smoke alarms at the END, not the beginning of Daylight Saving.

It is important people are not confused by various retail marketing campaigns suggesting when the batteries need to be changed.

The TFS run the 'Change Your Clock, Change Your Smoke Alarm Battery' campaign each year in March to coincide with the end of daylight savings in preparation for the winter

Of course, it doesn't matter what time of the year you change the battery as long as it gets changed once a year, however,

there is increased fire risk in homes during winter due to factors such as the use of heaters and indoor cooking, and that is why we run the campaign leading up to the colder months.

TFS Community Education advised that people who changed the batteries in their smoke alarms at the end of daylight saving this year, as they were asked to do in the Change Your Clock, Change Your Smoke Alarm Battery campaign, do NOT need to replace the batteries again until the end of daylight saving in March 2007.

The annual Change Your Clock, Change Your Smoke Alarm Battery campaign is supported by Duracell.

Enquiries: Chris Tomes, Phone: (03) 6230 8443

TFS Launches free Bushfire Safety DVD

By Consultant Community Education, Chris Tomes

On Monday 6th November the Honourable David Llewellyn MHA Minister for Police & Emergency Management launched the TFS Bushfire Safety DVD, Bushfire - Prepare to Survive, & Communications Campaign.

This DVD and communications campaign will directly target householders who live in areas at risk from bushfire and was mailed to 39,000 Tasmanian households. The DVD is available free from all TFS Regional Offices. Direct all public enquiries to Regional Offices, TFS website or 1800 000 699

Key Messages

It features very important, detailed information about how to prepare your home to survive a bushfire, including a checklist to assist in preparing your home for the bushfire threat.

It also features information on whether to stay and defend your property or relocate, how bushfires behave and a graphic explanation of what to expect when a bushfire is burning towards your property.

TFS Chief John Gledhill says, the recent experience in October of many southern Tasmanian home owners who prepared their properties for the threat of bushfire and then stayed to protect them provides no better example of why people should follow the advice of the TFS.

This fact was a critical factor in successfully dealing with the bush fires that threatened so many homes.

The key message from this recent experience, and one of the key messages in the DVD, is that fires started by windblown

embers, one of the biggest threats to your home during a bushfire, can be very easily extinguished if a property is properly prepared.

As the DVD explains, there is overwhelming evidence that a well prepared home will protect people who stay to defend it.

But the TFS position, which is also explained in the DVD, states if you are unwell or have doubts about your capacity to cope as the bushfire passes, or you are caring for elderly people, children or other dependents, you should consider re-locating.

Leaving early means leaving many hours before the bushfire reaches your property.

Sadly, TFS research shows that most people who die in a bushfire are caught in the open, either in their car or on foot, while fleeing at the last minute.

The DVD was funded by:

- Natural Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP) grant matched funding from Australian Government Department of Transport and Regional Services (69K) and the Tasmanian Government (69K)
- TFS contribution (99K)
- Total Tasmanian Government contribution = \$168K (out of total government grants of \$237K)

Sponsorship:

- Sponsorship from CGU Insurance Australia (\$29K) for promotion TV advertising of the video.
- DVD Communications Campaign
- Radio, television, print & competition

Statewide radio, print and television was used to promote both the impending arrival of the DVD, building awareness of the need to watch and act on its advice, and also promote the competition.

The Launch competition was designed to providing a prize incentive to encourage DVD recipients to watch the DVD - acting as an effective approach to drive viewing and create a 'buzz' around the DVD launch





Entry was available through press coupons in local papers and also on line at TFS website fire.tas.gov.au The competition closed on Nov 22, 2006 and was not open to TFS employees, volunteers or extended families.

1st Prize was \$1000 cash from CGU Insurance and 2nd prize was \$500 worth of bush firefighting equipment of your choice.

Radio

Consisted of approximately 700 advertisements statewide SEA FM Hobart

Heart 107.3

7LA Launceston

SEA FM Burnie

SEA FM Devonport

7XS Queenstown

7SD Scottsdale

Print

full colour advertisements in the lead up to the bushfire season and over the summer

Advocate - 3 ads

Examiner - 3 ads

Mercury - 3 ads

Tasmanian Country - 2 ads

30 second commercial - two versions one advising the DVD will be arriving (aired in first week) - all other placements advising it has arrived.

980 advertisements

WIN

Southern Cross

TDT

ABC TV (Community Service Announcements)

TFS Website

Homepage to advertise DVD & competition

Link to bushfire safety advice

Link to current bushfires & road closures

Link to competition

Link to bushfire publications

Link to request DVD

Further information available from Chris Tomes

6230 8443

0419 120 159

c.tomes@fire.tas.gov.au



Successful launch of bushfire safety DVD

By Director Community Fire Safety, Damien Killalea



Community Education Consultant Chris Tomes

The DVD and associated marketing campaign was produced in Hobart by the TFS in conjunction with Digital Ink, Corporate Communications and Southern Cross Television.

The job of leading the project team to complete the challenging and complex task of producing, distributing and marketing the DVD was assigned to TFS Community Education Consultant Chris Tomes. Much of the credit for the final result rests with Chris, who worked tirelessly for many months with a wide range of people to deliver an excellent result.

The TFS can be proud of this product, which is a key component in our strategy to ensure Tasmanians are prepared for bushfires whenever and wherever they strike. The impact the DVD has on community preparedness will be assessed in March 2007.

Bushfire Prepare to Survive DVD FAQs

| What is the "Bushfire Prepare to Survive" DVD all about? Will I be receiving a copy of the "Bushfire Prepare to Survive" DVD? | The DVD provides important information about preparing yourself and your property for a bushfire. This information is particularly important if you live in or within 100 metres of the bush. Approximately 39,000 free copies of the DVD are being mailed out commencing the week November 06th. If you have not received a copy by November 15th, please feel free to request a copy (see answer to next question). |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| I would like a copy of the free DVD "Bushfire Prepare to Survive"? | Direct enquiries to the website fire.tas.gov.au where a request form needs to be completed and submitted Free call 1800 000 699 (regional office staff are collating a spreadsheet of requests, that are forwarded to Community Education at the end of every week for distribution of DVDs. Regional Offices have copies available for free distribution |
| Other Government Agency or Community Organisation requests multiple copies of the "Bushfire Prepare to Survive" DVD. | Direct enquires to Administrative Assistant, CFSD on 8485. |
| Is the "Bushfire Prepare to Survive" DVD available in another format i.e. VHS. tape etc. | No. If you do not own a DVD we can send you a free copy of the booklet "Bushfire Prepare to Survive" which contains the same information as the DVD. |
| I do not have a DVD player, how can I play the "Bush-fire Prepare to Survive" DVD? | DVD's can be played on some computers, XBOX or play station. |
| Do you have any other bushfire information? | We have a range of bushfire safety publications available including - • Bushfire Prepare to Survive • Using Fires Outdoors • Fire Retardant Garden Plants for Rural and Urban Fringe Areas • Guidelines for Development in Bushfire Prone Areas of Tasmania |

Putting our brigades on the map! **Montumana Brigade**

Montumana is an area on the North West Coast roughly half way between Burnie and Smithton. It takes in from the top of Sisters Hills to Detention River and inland for about fifteen kilometres (borders Mawbanna). The area has the Rocky Cape National Park, a couple of road houses, a tavern, holiday shacks, farms and about one hundred houses. It also has the notorious section of the Bass Highway (due to be upgraded) that has many motor vehicle accidents.

The Brigade was formed in the Sixties and operated out of the barn of the Warden at the time. Wardens of the past include Arch Hogarth, Senator Eric Bessel (both deceased), and Glenn French. When TFS amalgamated the brigade still worked from a barn with the added luxury of a tanker trailer.

In later years we had, under the captaincy of David Hogarth, first a light tanker then a station, then a heavy tanker and now a Canter. During this period the rationalisation of brigades saw us take Rocky Cape Beach into our operational area and the name of the brigade was changed from Rocky Cape to

Montumana is a small brigade in numbers, but is very active, having quite a few major bushfires over time and a number of motor vehicle accidents.



Recent house fire at Detention River attended by Montumana

ABC Radio Bushfire **Awareness Radio Advertisements**

By Consultant Community Education, Chris Tomes

As part of the Prime Ministers \$6M Bushfire Awareness and Preparedness Program, ABC Radio has been working with representatives from each Australian Fire Agency and Emergency Management Australia (EMA) to develop a series of 14 x 3-4 minutes radio clips for broadcast in each state during this year's fire season.

The TV advert run last summer as part of the program will air again this summer.

TFBCA DATES

Round one - Juniors Only

20th January 2007 Burnie

Rounds two / three

3rd & 4th February 2007 Ulverstone /Devonport

Open / State

17th & 18th February 2007 Hobart

Project Wake Up!! Smoke Alarms for the Deaf & Hearing Impaired

By Consultant Community Education, Chris Tomes

What advice about smoke alarms should you be giving to a person who is deaf or hearing impaired?

Specific information about Smoke Alarms for the Deaf & Hearing Impaired can be found on the inside front cover of the Project Wake Up!! audit book (see below) or by contacting Community Education.

If the occupant is deaf or hearing impaired, an alarm specifically designed for Deaf or Hearing Impaired persons should be recommended for installation. An alarm such as the "Vibracon Smoke Alarm System" is fitted with a bright flashing light and a vibrating pad for placement under the persons' pillow which operates when the smoke alarm is activated.

This alarm is available through

the Tasmanian Deaf Society (6249 5144) and retails for approximately \$450. The TFS is not able to provide them free through Project Wake Up!.



Please note that a brochure for the Vibracon Photo Electric Smoke Alarm for the Deaf & Hearing Impaired is available from Community Education for distribution to clients. Please call Kelly Marriott-Smith on 6230 8485.

Now that's a fish!

Senior Firefighter Launceston Brigade, John Bolton

In June my wife Donna and I hitched the caravan and headed to Western Australia for a touring holiday. After driving for some twenty odd days we landed in Kalbari which is in the far north of the state. After we settled into the caravan park, Donna and I headed for a ride on our bikes to the local river mouth where we saw locals fishing, seeing this stirred the appetite of the old fisherman within and I decided to purchase a cheap \$20 rod thinking that fresh fish for tea would be bonza.

After around ten minutes I finally got a bite, well not really, it was a gulp! Zing went my fishing reel and I knew that all of my dreams had come true, this was my once in a life time whopper.

Fifteen minutes went by, pacing up and down the beach chasing my fish. Donna had to follow, cooling the reel with cold water, and then finally I landed it. A 24kg mulloway, the biggest the locals had ever seen.



Photo courtesy of the Kalbari Times

It was one of the proudest moments I had ever experienced fishing especially with the accolades I received walking back up the beach through the crowd.

Big Benefits from New Banking Arrangements

By Director Corporate Services, Mike Gallagher

The TFS and Bendigo Bank recently signed a three year banking agreement that will not only benefit both parties but more importantly TFS members. As part of the negotiations Bendigo Bank offered some very attractive benefits to all TFS members as well as providing the best and most cost effective solution to the TFS.

Bendigo Bank along with Tasmanian Perpetual Trustees makes up Tasmanian Banking Services and together they have branches in Devonport, Burnie, Ulverstone, Launceston, Glenorchy, Rosny, Kingston and Hobart. Bendigo Community Banks have also been established at Geeveston, Dover, Deloraine and soon Swansea and Bicheno. Their goal is to provide Tasmanians with a complete range of financial products, together with professional, personal service.

Benefits offered to TFS members include:

Bendigo Home Loan & Bendigo Equity Loan

Nil application fee on Bendigo Home Loan & Bendigo Equity Loan

Discount lending investment rate applied - regardless of loan amount (a 0.25% p.a. discount on standard Bendigo Variable Rate up to \$150,000 and 0.50% discount over \$150,000)

Available for residential and residential investment purposes

Nil valuation fee

Mortgage Saver Account

Fee free Mortgage Offset Account attached to Bendigo Home

Balance held in Mortgage Saver Account offset against Bendigo Home Loan

Personal Loan

Nil application fee

The package comprises any combination of the following accounts and services

Bendigo Home Loan *

Bendigo Equity Loan *

Mortgage Saver *

Personal Loan *

Margin Loan *

Visa Red Credit Card Facility *

Wills and Estate Planning

Financial Planning

* All banking products described are issued by Bendigo Bank Limited



Chief Officer John Gledhill and Chief Executive Officer Mark Scanlon formalising the banking arrangements

An Equal Partnership between Bendigo Bank and Tasmanian Perpetual Trustees

The Bendigo Bank group operates more than 290 branches throughout Australia, including more than 160 Community Bank branches, operated by local communities. It is the only Australian bank with headquarters based outside a capital city. The Bank is determined to help improve the future of the communities in which it is based. Bendigo Bank's long term success is based on its commitment to meet customers' needs with innovative banking products and financial services. The Bank's commitment to personal service and the needs of individual customers has created successful customers and a successful bank.

Established in 1887, Tasmanian Perpetual Trustees is a major Tasmanian based provider of financial products and trustee services. Tasmanian Perpetual Trustees manages over \$1.3 billion of funds on behalf of personal, business and wholesale investors in Tasmania, and over \$750 million of trust assets. Tasmanian Perpetual Trustees' clients benefit from the breadth of financial knowledge of our experienced, professional staff that includes qualified financial planners. We also offer rural and commercial lending services and estate planning. Tasmanian Perpetual Trustees has been looking after Tasmanians with trust, integrity and personal service for over 118 years. The Bendigo Bank group and its subsidiaries offer a wide range of banking and financial services for individuals, businesses, farmers and not-for-profit groups.



Photos by Field Officer North East, Ian Bounds

Being a Monday, the Northern Region staff found themselves in the major incident room being instructed on the latest technology to improve efficiency and reduce time spent travelling - video conferencing. Sitting back discussing the possibilities for training and meetings once we are able to access other areas as more TFS properties come online, I found myself being beckoned from the room by a wagging index finger. The owner of the finger asked if I would be available to travel to Cape Barren Island early the next day and be able to stay for two or three days due to a large fire burning over most of the island and the need to relieve personnel that had been there for much of the past week.

Early Tuesday morning I was off, travelling with Peter Flett, one of our Training Officers from the North, heading to Bridport to catch a flight on the mail plane on a day that was obviously going to be quite warm, possibly enabling the fire to flare up once again. Considering I would be the sole responsible officer for the IMT and all its roles, I knew I would be busy.

Given the conditions of the day, the flight was uneventful although very scenic as we had time to fly around the island to see the extent of the fire area, some 42,000 hectares. Shortly after arriving on the island I was briefed by District Officer John Hazzlewood, the outgoing IMT (again just the one person for all roles) and began sifting through all the paperwork to see what had been set out in the Incident Action Plan (IAP) for the day and reading sitreps.

I spent a considerable amount of time with John sorting out problems due to not having the right maps to use Fireplotter, connecting printers and transferring files with USB drives and then connecting to the internet by using the telephone line in the local health centre where I had set up. This made my role as planner and Incident Controller much easier as I was able to email sitreps directly to Firecomm and receive up to date information regarding the weather in a timely manner. The wonders of modern technology, how did the last generation ever get by without it? I'm sure that 'in their day', the postman drove through snow and fierce storms to get the information through on time and had little effect on being able to perform their jobs (so my grandmother used to tell me) and I'm sure those storms got worse each time I heard about it.

After being briefed and setting up my lap top, I found I had enough time to go for a drive to appreciate the complexities of this fire prior to the expected changing winds the next day and to gather essential data for the IAP.

If you haven't been to Cape Barren Island before (this was my first visit) you probably can't appreciate the unique qualities of the vegetation and their ability to sustain several fire fronts moving through at different times. The scrub is extremely thick, made up of tea tree, gums, peat, natives and She-Oaks and the last fire to go through was at least 15 or 20 years ago.

From a planning point of view, this made my job a little harder as it appeared that even though the burnt areas had been blackened out and posed no threat, a change in weather conditions and direction could mean that the fire could once again pass through and take out another layer of the vegetation. To explain this in detail would take more time than we have now but imagine the first fire front going through and taking out the ground cover and some of the trees but leaving many more, just drying them out to a point where they can easily ignite the next time. A second fire front can then come through and take out many of the remaining trees but still leave some pockets of vegetation that could possibly burn with a third fire front.

This behaviour is a bit unique to the island and takes some time to get your head around; perhaps there is a similar type of vegetation in your local area?

Time to get back to the office and begin on my IAP for Wednesday and prepare the afternoon sitrep along with bringing the Fireplotter map up to date so the information can be added to the TFS website for public reference. No pressure here, just the Tasmanian media and public relying on the accurateness of my information to get an idea of what is happening on the island.

Remember back on Monday when I mentioned the training for video conferencing? After sending my sitreps and IAP, I had a look around my impromptu office and noticed that there was an identical video conferencing set-up to what we have in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie. My mind began to think of the possibilities of being able to talk directly to the MAC group or other interested parties and being able to relay information face to face via the video link. I'm sure the day will come when we will be able to utilise these facilities to impart certain types of training where we would have in the past flown someone over to present a power point display, the possibilities are endless.

Time to refocus back on the task at hand as we were coming to the close of a day that didn't cause too many dramas. After locating shacks that we only found out about a day or so earlier and ensuring adequate protection lines, it was time to take stock of our resources and see who we could release for some well earned rest.

It was then that we found that we needed fuel soon or we would be going back to beaters and knapsacks (considering the vegetation type this really did not sound at all attractive) and some repairs were required on pumps and appliances. It was during an assessment on one of the shacks that I found a cylinder head from an old lawn mower with the pull cord attached and remembered that the pump on the back of 5.1 would not start with the key and the pull cord was broken. A short time later, and after some ingenious repairs by one of our new firefighters, 5.1 was back in action and the barge was approaching the island with fuel.

Time to start rotating crews back to the centre for a well earned hot meal and a bit of rest.

Changing weather conditions and wind direction late in the afternoon slowed down a few inaccessible hot spots that were causing some concern as they approached the shacks that Peter and his crews had put so much effort into saving. A few late inspections proved that the control lines and back burning had worked very well and our record of not losing any homes was still intact.

By ten o'clock, it was time to put the feet up and get some rest for the next day.

Wednesday saw some rain during the night, only enough to



tease us and the early morning cloud cover soon burnt off to show another warm day. We didn't have to worry about the heat for too long though as the 50 kmh wind from the west soon cooled everyone down but thankfully did not have too much of an effect on the fire other than flaring up some of the hotspots that were within previously burnt areas.

Back to the office to prepare and send off sitreps and maps to Firecomm and allay a few concerns of the local residents.

By mid afternoon it became apparent that we were winning and that I would be able to return to Launceston and back into my role as A/DO for Operations. Peter was staying an additional day to ensure there were no late concerns and I began to pack up and get ready for my flight home.

Here is where we find the drawbacks of modern technology, you have a lot of delicate equipment to pack up and try to load into a small plane. The locals ensured me that Peter (another Peter, not our TO) had been flying for 30 years and was an instructor from Launceston and knew his job well. After watching the plane touch down (perhaps that should be slide in sideways - remember the 50kmh wind) and hearing the disembarking passengers talk about only dropping a few hundred feet a few times I was not so sure.

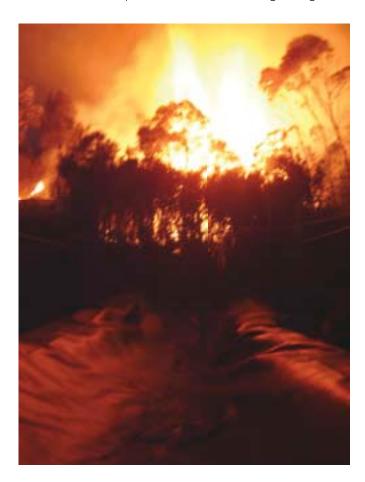
I think the Cessna was only just big enough to hold my lap top, printer, portable radio base and two bags of gear and squeeze our other passenger up front.

Time to go. Taxiing out onto the runway I thought 'no problem, piece of cake'. Peter Flett was not so sure, he told me later that he thought we were not going to get off the ground. Anyway, we did get off the ground and rose to about 3,000 feet, still no real turbulence and I began to think those last

passengers were telling a few fibs or 'a bit soft', this was easy.

Pretty uneventful flight, until we went over land at Bridport and then things got interesting. Let's just say that I now know what a puppet feels like on the end of the strings being made to dance up and down and left to right continuously for about 20 minutes at 3,000 feet. I had no idea a plane could fly sideways!

Arriving in Launceston, lunch intact (if you know what I mean), I was glad to see my car and thought I deserved a nice cold drink to replace the sweat I lost during the flight





and I was sure the feeling would come back to my hand soon, if only I could let go of the door handle I pulled out of the plane (sorry Peter).

OK, everything loaded into the car and time to head home, it was about 5.30 pm and the end of my day, or so I thought. A quick call to Firecomm to let them know I was back in area and resume being the on-call DO only to hear crews responding to a structure fire in a large warehouse in Prospect with smoke visible en-route. It appeared that my day was not quite finished so off I headed towards Prospect, listening to the radio and confirmed sightings of smoke and Craig Maxwell (DO South Esk) stating he had complete (Material Safety Data Sheet) MSDS for the site. Well at least that would make the task at hand a little easier and the fact that we were able to provide extra crews due to those just completing their road accident rescue (RAR) training in Youngtown. Coincidentally, RAR training just happens to be another task of the DO Operations, managing personnel to cover vacancies and co-ordinating personnel for each course. No small feat considering it affects all personnel in the North from Launceston, Devonport and Burnie, I'm glad to have had the invaluable assistance of my counterparts from the North West on this one.

Prior to my arrival, I was informed that the structure was not a warehouse but the club rooms for one of the local motor sporting clubs. Quick actions of all crews resulted in a rapid knock down shortly after arrival but the damage was still estimated at around \$50,000. Consultation with the responding officers ensured they did not require any action from me and I headed off home once again.

So, what can a District Officer expect during the course of their working day in today's fire service? Not only are they required to manage the day to day affairs of their district but they may also find themselves in various working groups, instructing in or being instructed on new technologies arriving in the workplace. They may also be involved in managing fires as part of an IMT or individually using a vast array of technological aids from scanners and lap tops to printers, data storage devices and searching the internet for up to date weather information. Perhaps the term 'bush mechanic' could also be used to find quick and safe solutions to break downs in emergencies while waiting for engineering services to attend.

Other responsibilities of a District Officer may involve assisting local councils and communities to develop fire management plans incorporating structural and site assessments to reduce the potential of losing properties during bushfires. They may also be called upon at any time to manage incidents during their time on-call or meet with the media to relate information about an incident in their region.

As you can tell, a District Officer's role has changed to meet the demanding needs of managing a district with a large pool of resources whether they are human, mechanical or physical. Even though this is just a brief look at a few days in my role, I can thoroughly recommend that any Senior Station Officer take the opportunity to step into this role and experience it first hand. Perhaps you may be surprised at how complex it can be but I am sure you will rise to the challenge and find it as rewarding as I have.

Farewell for South West District Field Officer, Mark Cullen

By Firefighter Margate Brigade, Michael D'Alton

We were advised at the district BBQ earlier this vear that Mark Cullen's tenure as Field Works Officer was up and he was due to head back to Hobart Brigade on or around the start of September. The Margate brigade social club decided to hold a farewell function, celebration of departure or wake some may ask?

Well Mark has been excellent to the brigades in the district and our brigade has found his support to be over and above the call of duty. He is always happy to offer assistance or advice from the end of his phone!

the bubbly stuff!

When I attended the TFS conference this year I became aware of the "Michelle Wylie" TFS Charity Event. Well the cogs started to churn and I phoned Craig Woolford our Fourth Officer and president of the social club, I said "Hey grinner interested in combining Mark's farewell with a charity auction to raise some money?" Well yes was the answer and it went full steam ahead. We organised a meeting with reps from the brigades in our group, Margate, Summerleas, Snug, Howden and Kingston. We got the sponsors for auction goods, the meat for the spit roast (thanks to Acting District Officer Ratcliffe) and the licence for

On the morning of about the 22nd August my phone rings and it's Craig! He starts by saying "Do you want the good news or the bad news" I said "Well give it to me it's always good to start with the bad." He said "Mark Cullen is too scared to ring you, but he has been offered a spot to go to the USA on the task force to the fires over there." I said "that would be awesome but why won't he ring me"? Craig replied "It's this week and that's means he won't be here for his farewell". I replied "its OK so much work has been done for the charity auction it's to late to cancel."

So off the phone from Craig I started writing a text message to Mark's mobile. They were not nice words but they were in jest of course!! Problem was his wife Janine picked up his phone and read the message to him. My phone soon rang and we had a good laugh and I told Mark, "take the chance of a life time and enjoy yourself working hard while we sit back and relax."

Well the night was getting closer, things were coming together well and we got to the Friday morning of the 1st September. 0700 hours the pager goes off, vegetation fire Meredith's Road. I thought great, what a start to the day. We turn up to the station, get to the fire, extinguish, I turn around to Craig and say "We are now two hours behind"!

Listening to the radio while we were at the call every brigade in the group was out except for Snug and Howden! Was not



A wheel barrow full of gifts from the Margate Brigade Social Club "The Firey Den".

looking good, we can't afford to go to any more calls, got the gala event to setup. For those of you who remember the 1st of September, down south we had strong wind gusts with rain all day.

We had a good laugh putting up the five TFS marquees, lucky we had sand bags and tape. Food was on, people started to arrive and away we went with just over \$10,000 raised for the night and Mark was there in spirit but that's another story.

Mark got home in the last week of September so we decided to invite him down to our brigade social night on Friday the 6th October. It was a little gathering with the crew from Margate and the three normal ring ins from Kingston (Faron, Brian and Heath). We fired up the BBQ and had a few beers and the speaker himself Craig Woolford told everyone to be quiet. He actually said some nice things about Mark, and Mark a little red faced was presented with a wheel barrow full of goodies from beers to wine and Glen Fidich Scotch, not to forget the port and golfing equipment.

What we did not know, he threw us on the back foot and presented us with a heap of great patches from the USA.

We ended up having a great night and Mark actually needed a new wheel barrow much to our surprise.

On behalf of the Margate Brigade members and social club we would like to thank Mark for his support while he was in the District Thank you again Mark.

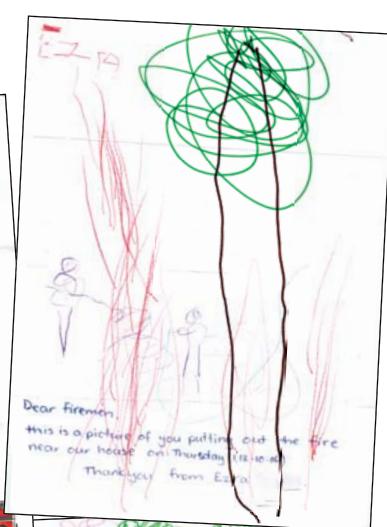
We would also like to welcome Phil Smith to the District who has taken on Mark's role. He has some big shoes to fill but then again Phil in stature over shadows Mark!!! For those of you who know Phil will know what I mean.

LETTERS

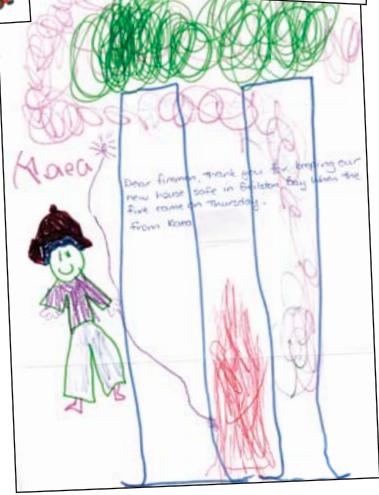
Dear Tasmanian Fire Service

Our school decided to have a RED DAY for your service on helping us with safety, and help us to be safe around electricity and other dangerous things. We did this fundraiser by dressing in red to raise money for your firer service program. We hope you accept this money from our fundraiser it was a pleasure to do this for you. We raised \$83.05 and we hope you appreciate this money.

Yours sincerely Hannah, Brett, Thanalert, Melissa, Walter, Jayden, Tyler-Jane and Sheridan (Student council member on behalf of Montello Primary School)







DEPARTMENT of POLICE and PUBLIC SAFETY

New York



Tasmania

18 October 2006

Mr John Gledhall Chief Fire Officer Tissmania Fins Service Corner of Argyle and Melville Streets HOBART Tas 7000

Dear John

I am writing to congratulate all those members of the Tasmania Five Service, both full-time and volunteers, who were involved in fighting last week's fires in several regions of Tasmania. It was largely due to their efforts that disaster was averted.

The professionalism of those members was clearly evident and the community can be transful that the men and women of the Taemania Fire Service demonstrated their high state of readiness and skill in an emergency situation.

Congretalistions also to you and your management team for coordinating and managing the response to what was a potentially disastrous combination of circumstances.

Yours sincerely

Richard McCreade

COMMISSIONER OF POLICE SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF POLICE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CHAIR, STATE DRASTER COMMITTEE

The Chief Fire Officer Tasmania Fire Service Corner: Argyle and Melville Streets Hobart, Tas. 7004

Dear Sir

I write to express our appreciation for the efforts of your staff, and those of the Police and SES during the eastern shore fire emergency last Toursday.

I was alose at home that day, my wife being interestate. I am well prepared for fire emergencies but was not taking any particular action until a pelicewoman called at about 4.30pm to check that someone was home and warn that we might be in the firepath. I then started preparing for possible evacuation, with frequent telephone queries to and from my wife.

An hour or so later an SES officer called and offered general precautionary advice. The power blacket from 3.55gm to c.1.30gm did not help with radio news.

I could see billowing smoke to the north which never looked locally threatening but, being on my www, I was reloctant to go on a reconnoitring drive to investigate.

Some Acton friends called about 8.30pm to offer support, and they later (9.30pm) drove me down to the junction of our road and Cambridge Road. The sight of the flames on the Meahan Range was incredible.

Thanks again to all of your staff. No reply required.

Yours sincerely

Wannet Dunt

Copy: SES, 47 Liverpool Street Police, 37 Liverpool Street

STATE FIRE CONSUME 17-182,106 KB. CO 200 RCS

17/10/06

I am a resident from Walam Street in Gellston Bay and would much like to extend my thanks to the many fireflighters who risked thier lives and with much courage butfield the fires and defended houses in my arca. I am impired to now join as a volunteer fire flighter. Thank you so much.

Subjects Thanks for all you did last week!

Thank you all so much for all you have been doing round Mt. Runney. Your caring presence, courage and professionalism were all a great comfort and encouragement for us to try to be something similar, instead of

Chris and John



Fun and Games!

Many thanks to Fire Education Officer Alison Wigston for creating the puzzles!

ACROSS

- A fire fighters most important job (6)
- 2 Water pressure is measured in (3)
- 3 A tool used to help open fire plugs (7)
- A tool used to remove fuses (10) 4
- The most common branch used (3) 5
- The hose used to draught is called a (7) hose 6
- 7 Fuel used in the trucks (6)

DOWN

- A tool used to remove plaster board from the ceilings (12) 1
- The coupling is too big to fit the pump panel, you need a? (7)
- A brass tool used to get water from a fire plug (9) 3



CROSSWORD (2 3 4 6

JE FIND A WORD

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Water Pike pole Fire Cylinders Radio Torch Reducers B.A

Ladder Fire fighter Heat tracer Hose key **Adaptors** Extinguisher Hot Tool kit Siren P.P.V "000" Fuse puller **KPA**



