



Fireground

winter 2005

- ▶ Community Award
- ▶ New Regional Chiefs Appointed

WINTER 2005

Official Journal of
The Tasmania Fire Service



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The opinions expressed in
FIREGROUND are not
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Fireground!

Published by
Tasmania Fire Service

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

Cover: Award winner Ally Creedon.
Article on page 4.
Photo courtesy of The Mercury Newspaper.



4



6



8

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| From the Chief Officer | 2 |
| Australian Fire Service Medal | 3 |
| Cambridge Training Complex | 3 |
| Community Award Fire Safety | 4 |
| Winter Fire Safety Campaign | 5 |
| The End of an Era | 6 |
| Taroona High All Fired Up Over Science | 7 |
| Fire Permit Review | 7 |
| City Mission Fire | 8 |
| Safety Messages on Fire Appliances | 10 |
| Grand Day Out! | 11 |
| New Regional Chief South Appointed | 12 |
| New Norfolk Autumn Festival | 13 |
| International Firefighters Day | 13 |
| New Regional Chief North Appointed | 14 |
| Authorised Activities | 15 |
| Coles Northgate Fire | 16 |
| RACT Insurance Fire Safety Initiative | 17 |
| Obituaries | 18 |



12



14

| | |
|--|----|
| National Medal and Long Service Badges | 20 |
| Editorial | 20 |
| Presentation of Perth's Isuzu Tanker Plus | 21 |
| Pre-Incident Planning Worth the Effort | 22 |
| Photo Competition Winners | 24 |
| Agfest 2005 | 25 |
| Bridport Juniors | 25 |
| History of the St Patrick's Brigade | 26 |
| Cadet and Junior Awards at Ravenswood | 27 |
| Joint Aerial Suppression Experiments | 28 |
| Volunteer Fire Brigades Association | 29 |
| National Emergency Management Volunteers Summit | 30 |
| Thanks Lions Club of Hobart Town! | 31 |
| Insider Training | 32 |
| The Phenomenon of Lightning | 33 |
| Hazard Reports - who needs them? | 34 |
| Howden Presentations | 35 |
| A Visit to the Station | 35 |
| Photo Gallery | 36 |
| Group Exercise | 38 |
| Library News | 40 |
| New Bushy Park Station | 41 |



23



39



42



52

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| APM Callout | 41 |
| Camp Quality Annual Fun Day | 42 |
| JAFBA | 43 |
| News from Edmonton City | 44 |
| Prospect Brigade bring in the Wood | 45 |
| Thanks to a Quiet Achiever | 46 |
| Girl Guide Visit | 46 |
| On The Move | 47 |
| We Need Your Blood! | 48 |
| Community Fire Safety Presentations | 48 |
| TVFBA | 49 |
| Hello from the UK! | 50 |
| Workplace Feedback Trial | 51 |
| Presentations at State Headquarters | 51 |
| Fuel Reduction Burn | 52 |
| Walking the Beat | 54 |
| Operation Hydra Follow up | 54 |

From the Chief Officer



From time to time concerns are raised about declining volunteer firefighter numbers. Whilst I believe TFS has experienced a decline which may continue in future, I don't believe it's a crisis issue. It does, however, warrant our attention. Unfortunately our past records were not sufficiently accurate for us to draw reliable conclusions about the rate of or reasons for the decline in numbers.

We know that we have an ageing population and that time pressures on people from work, family and other interests often act to make being a volunteer firefighter increasingly more difficult. We need to find out more about our volunteers, how to attract them and how to keep them. A working party to investigate volunteer recruitment issues was established about 18 months ago and includes volunteer representation through the volunteer Associations. This working party has made a number of recommendations that have been endorsed and are now being implemented. Nationally, research is underway through the Bushfire CRC to find out more about volunteer issues. Perhaps not surprisingly, many of the issues that we have identified are common to other fire services and so there are benefits in fire services working co-operatively.

Recruitment of volunteer firefighters has been a local issue managed by brigades. In most cases brigades have no formal recruitment strategies and most often people join through word of mouth. There is no intention to change from this approach where it's working but if recruiting sufficient people over time becomes difficult we hope to develop tools and strategies to assist brigades in attracting new volunteers.

Once recruited, it's very important that we keep our volunteers for as long as possible. Fewer people leaving eases pressures on recruitment and of course training. Experienced and well trained volunteers are not easy to

replace so doing things to encourage them to stay (or discourage them from leaving) is important, but first we need to find out more about why people leave.

How many volunteers do we need in a brigade? It's not a case of "the more the merrier". The logistical and financial difficulties of training, equipping and managing too many are fairly obvious. During large fire events we probably can never have enough. I also know of the frustrations in people who join up, train, practice and then are not called out to incidents. In the near future we will be working closely with every brigade to identify how many volunteers is optimal. This will assist in identifying where recruitment issues exist and also to help in planning such things as training requirements.

On the urban fringes even brigades with healthy memberships often experience difficulty in having sufficient members to respond during the day on weekdays. Naturally most of the community are away at work. In these situations it's either recruit more people who are available at these times, which may not be possible or support those available by a response from a neighbouring brigade. Yes nothing new, but I believe that there is potential for career brigades to respond further in the urban fringe areas to assist, when volunteer brigades don't have sufficient firefighters available. We have many times demonstrated the effectiveness of co-operative resourcing over long distances during major bushfires. Increasing co-operative arrangements on a more local scale may ease some of the problems with weekday response

Fundamentally I don't believe the will of people to volunteer has changed, but we may have to be more proactive and creative in recruiting, retaining and utilising volunteers in future.

Australian Fire Service Medal

This year's Australian Fire Service Medal recipients were invested with their awards by the Governor in April.

The Governor, the Honourable William Cox presented the Australian Fire Service Medal to Andrew Taylor Brigade Chief George Town; Ross Stokman Brigade Chief Richmond and Michael Brown Regional Chief North.



Cambridge Training Complex Nears Completion

The upgrading of the Cambridge Complex which houses Training Services, TasFire Training, Cambridge Fire Brigade and the East Coast District Offices is now well on the way to completion. Although there have been some delays due to bad weather and some technical changes the complex is expected to be ready for occupancy in June 2005.

This state of the art facility will not only have a total of five training rooms to meet the demands of TFS members and TasFire Training clients these will incorporate the latest in training technology and are complemented by a large dining and ablution areas.

The design of the front entrance and car park, training yard and the fire house is currently with our architect and engineer for approval.

A full pictorial update will be a feature in the next edition of Fireground.

Office Supervisor Joanne Spencer discussing plans with Construction Foreman Geoff Phillips.



Community Award for Initiative in Fire Safety

By Consultants Community Education, Chris Tomes and George Auchterlonie

Ally Creedon, an 8 year old New Town girl, has received the Tasmania Fire Service's Community Award for Initiative in Fire Safety from the Chief Officer John Gledhill. Ally showed initiative and presence of mind when fire broke out in her home on Monday 4th April this year.

In the early hours of the morning Ally Creedon was awakened by the sounds of a developing fire in the laundry located next to her bedroom. She immediately got out of bed and onto her hands and knees. A thick blanket of smoke from the fire was spreading rapidly through their home emanating from the laundry. Aware that her mother Narelle Creedon and Narelle's partner Stephan Jeager; brother Flynn; cousins Ethan Whelan 6; Georgia Whelan 2; and aunt Rebecca Murray were in danger, Ally crawled on her hands and knees and woke Stephan. Stephan assisted Ally in alerting the family, and together they followed the family's pre-planned evacuation procedure. Although placing herself in personal danger, Ally practiced appropriate safety procedures. She stayed low, thus avoiding inhalation of the poisonous smoke, alerted her family to the danger, followed their evacuation plan and once outside, stayed outside.

Fire investigators believe a heat pad on a fish tank containing the family's pet hermit crab sparked the blaze.

Mr Jaegar said "the family were extremely grateful for Ally's quick thinking. We couldn't see anything, there was just thick black smoke everywhere, it was like a bad dream, but Ally was quite intuitive and very calm."

He praised the Tasmania Fire Service for its School Fire Education Program.

Ally said "I was very scared, but once we got outside everyone said I was brave and I felt brave too. I remembered a lot that I learned at school last year and stayed calm."

The early warning also provided the opportunity for the fire to be extinguished quickly, thus reducing the extent of damage to their home.

The family was extremely lucky to survive this fire. They did not have a smoke alarm in the house and has since made a point of acknowledging that fact and have used their time with the media to urge everybody to have a working smoke alarm in their home. I am certain that their home, when repaired, will be equipped with smoke alarms.

The Community Award for Initiative in Fire Safety acknowledges the actions of a member of the community that results in the saving of lives or property. The recipient must have displayed personal initiative, and undertaken effective and appropriate action under adverse circumstances.



Photo courtesy of The Mercury Newspaper

The actions Ally took to alert her family had been learned when she participated in the Tasmania Fire Service School Fire Education Program. The procedures followed by Ally are to be commended, and are fine examples of how to respond when fire breaks out at home. Ally used correct fire safety procedures and undoubtedly saved the lives of members of her family.

Winter Fire Safety Campaign

By Consultant Community Education, Chris Tomes

With winter fast approaching Community Education is again gearing up for its statewide Winter Fire Safety Campaign.

Many will remember, in response to a spate of house fires and fatalities last year, the Minister David Llewellyn announced at the 2004 Annual Fire Service Conference that a strategy has been developed, in partnership between the Tasmania Fire Service, Our Kids Bureau and Housing Tasmania, to address the fire safety needs of young children.

The main feature of this strategy was the new Free Home Fire Safety Pack consisting of a "Fire Safety at Home" booklet, which includes information parents need to make sure their homes, and their children, are safe from fire. It also includes advice on what parents should do to help their children if fire breaks out, and is accompanied by a home fire escape plan for families to work on together.

During 2004, Free Home Fire Safety Packs were distributed to:

- Primary School children statewide, approximately 38,300 families
- Housing Tasmania tenants, approximately 11,000 families
- Family Day Care Centres, In Home Care, Long Day Care, Neighbourhood/Play Centres, approximately 6,000 families
- Home Schooling students statewide, approximately 200 families

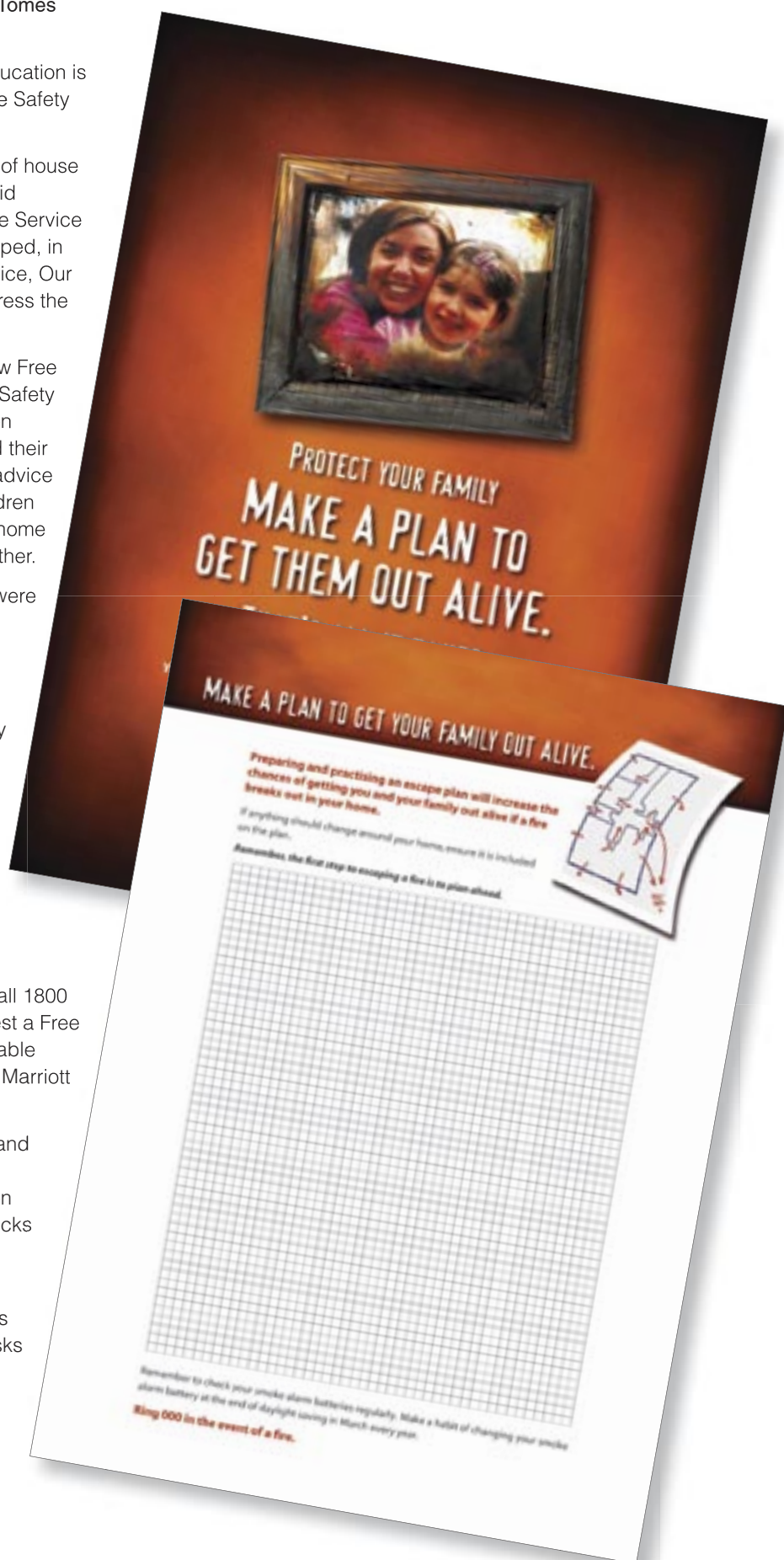
Total approximately 55,000.

Members of the public are encouraged to call 1800 000 699 or visit www.fire.tas.gov.au to request a Free Home Fire Safety Pack. The packs are available from all regional offices and by calling Kelly Marriott on 6230 8485.

This strategy will continue again this winter and will be supported by an intensive statewide advertising campaign that includes television advertising, as well as advertising on fire trucks and shopping trolleys.

These advertisements keep the issue of fire safety in the home in the forefront of people's minds during the winter months when the risks are greatest.

Along with other strategies aimed at those most at risk from fire, they should help ensure that we continue to see a drop in the number of house fires in Tasmania.



The End of an Era

9th February 2005 - the end of an era as Graham Otley retired from the Tasmania Fire Service after 43 years of service.

Originally from Wales, Graham's family migrated to Australia and lived in Victoria where his father worked in the shipyards. The family later moved to Tasmania and decided to stay. Graham was educated in George Town and Launceston, however, a "run-in" with school authorities saw his high school days cut short.

Following a wonderful application, Graham was accepted into the TFS as a recruit firefighter on the 2nd August 1962. A big change from his regular routine of lazy days spent at home.

After commencing with the TFS, Graham spent 10 years working through the firefighter ranks until he was appointed as a Station Officer on the 5th September 1972. Under the guidance of former Chief Officer Gerry Lowe, Graham continued to progress up the ladder, becoming a District Officer in March 1982. He was appointed Deputy Regional Officer / Brigade Chief in April 1991 and also spent short



Graham and his two Carol's
Carol Davey Office Supervisor North on the left, and his wife Carol on the right.

periods of time acting as Brigade Chief in Burnie and Hobart. His final promotion to the position of Regional Officer, now known as Regional Chief, occurred on the 4th July 1995.

Graham was awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal in 1998.

With his loud voice and imposing build, Graham was perceived by many as a figure of authority, and there is many a tale to be heard from people who experienced such encounters with him. His office staff always believed that his bark was far worse than his bite but this did little to ease the nerves of those unfortunate enough to be summoned to his office.

Throughout his career Graham attended numerous large fires and incidents, but no particular incident stands out in his memory. He has also formed many friendships that are sure to continue long into retirement.

In retirement the open road is sure to beckon for Graham and his wife Carol. In 2004 they packed up the Landcruiser and travelled to the Northern Territory and with the boat firmly strapped to the roof racks, more trips are sure to eventuate, and will no doubt impact on the barramundi stocks.

There will also be time to perfect the already perfect vegetable garden and hone the clay target shooting and trout fishing skills. Most importantly there will be more time to spend with his sons Andrew and Gareth.

The TFS has benefited enormously from the knowledge and wisdom of Graham Otley and his legend will long remain with many of those lucky enough to know him.

The TFS wishes Graham a healthy and happy retirement.



Taroona High Students All Fired Up Over Science

Grade 9 science students have been experiencing a different style of science education at Hobart's Taroona High School. The introduction of the Department of Education's new Essential Learning has freed up the curriculum and enabled teachers to explore different ways to bring real and meaningful science to the classroom.

Taroona High science teacher and firefighter, Philip Sansom has this year been trialling a module of work on the science of fire with Grade 9 students studying science. With many students living in suburbs close to the urban / bushland interface, the course provides relevant and meaningful learning experiences for the students.

Traditional topics within science have not been neglected as students have been exposed to aspects of the chemistry and physics of fire through the study of combustion and heat transfer through convection and radiation. Students were required to become familiar with the different classes of fires and the types of fire extinguishers that can be used on them. To support these investigations students were treated to seeing the effectiveness of a dry chemical extinguisher on a Class B fire.

Other outdoor practical activities have included seeing how water from a static supply can be delivered onto a fire via a portable fire pump; visiting an area of local bushland



Photos by Prue Quarmby

and calculating the fuel load; and observing how a fire blanket can be used to extinguish a cooking oil fire. An excursion is also planned to the Taroona Fire Station where local volunteers will demonstrate the capabilities of their appliances and the use of the equipment carried on them.

Studies on types of vegetation communities and their relationship to fire behaviour will broaden the students' understanding of biology as well as giving them an insight as to how the vegetation pattern of Australia has evolved over the last 60 million years, particularly in response to fire.

Students will also be studying aspects of meteorology to gain an understanding of the weather conditions that favour the spread of wildfires. This will be supported by researching the weather conditions existing at the time of some of Australia's recent disastrous bushfires.

By the end of this course, it is hoped the students will have a much better appreciation of the nature of fire and will be able to make informed decisions in the future as to where they might live and what precautions they may need to make to ensure the best chance of their home's and their family's survival.

If the interest and engagement of the students with their learning is any indication, it is possible that in the future some of these students will end up serving with the Tasmania Fire Service either as volunteers or even as career firefighters.

Fire Permit Review

By District Officer Fire Management Unit, Ken Burns

A number of changes were introduced to the fire permit system leading up to last fire season. When those changes were introduced we gave an undertaking to:

- Continue to review the impact of those changes and where necessary modify them with a view toward continuous improvement; and
- To provide feedback to permit officers and other stakeholders regarding the way in which the permit system is being managed.

As this issue of fireground goes to the printer the permit period has just been revoked.

During the permit period which commenced mid October in the Northern and Southern Regions and early December in the North West and lasting through until 18th April statewide, 3455 permits were issued.

When permit holders register their permits via the 1800 number that detail is retained and collated at the end of the permit period for analysis.

It is our intention to not only undertake an analysis of that data but also get feedback from as many stakeholders during coming months as possible to further consolidate and refine the changes we have made.

We will use Fireground to keep readers updated.

City Mission Fire

By Station Officer
Launceston Fire Brigade,
Shane Streets



Photos: Steve Dixon



At midnight on 21st January 2005 the Tasmania Fire Service was alerted by multiple "000" calls to a fire at the City Mission Shop in Hobart Road, Youngtown.

Two crews from the Launceston Fire Brigade responded and arrived to find the building heavily engulfed in fire. The fire was fanned by strong NW winds of around 20 to 30 kph. As the fire had started in the NW corner the flames were pushed through the building with no possibility of direct attack. Back up crews from Rocherlea and Prospect also attended and set up position at four corners of the 1000 sqm building.

At the height of the fire, residents in Alma Street had to be evacuated due to the wind blowing dense black smoke into nearby houses.

At the height of the fire Launceston 1.1, 1.2, 8.2; Rocherlea 1.1, and Prospect were committed to fighting the fire. The new Simon snorkel was also deployed.

It is believed that the fire was lit by youths setting fire to lounge suites placed at the front of the building. The building was extensively damaged, with building loss standing at approximately \$1.5 million, with stock at \$500,000, the building and half the stock was insured.



Promoting Fire Safety Messages on Fire Appliances

By Consultant Community Education, Chris Tomes

Recently we have completed placing signage on fire appliances in selected areas to promote fire safety messages consistent with current TFS campaigns.

The full colour decaling is made from a long life vinyl that is fade resistant and washable. The same product is used on bus advertising. The vinyl has an adhesive backing and is easily removed from the vehicle, without damage, when necessary.

Fire safety banners were affixed to fire appliances in key urban areas, with an emphasis on those operating in suburbs having significant numbers of families on low incomes.

Northern Region

Launceston - Scania
Rocherlea - Scania

North West Region

Burnie - Freightliner
Devonport - Freightliner

Southern Region

Brigewater - Isuzu
Rokeby - Isuzu
Glenorchy - Scania
Clarence - Scania
Hobart - Scania
Hobart - Freightliner

Several fire safety messages aligned with the School Fire Education Program and current fire safety campaigns are displayed on the vehicles including:

‘Protect Your Family’;

‘Make Sure Your Smoke Alarms Work’;

‘Make A Plan To Get Them Out Alive’; and

‘That’s All It Takes’, the TFS tag line.

Members of the public are encouraged to call 1800 000 699 or visit www.fire.tas.gov.au to request a Free Home Fire Safety Pack consisting of a ‘Fire Safety at Home’ booklet, which includes information parents need to make sure their homes, and their children, are safe from fire. It also includes advice on what parents should do to help their children if fire breaks out, and is accompanied by a home fire escape plan for families to work on together.



Grand Day Out!

By Firefighter Frankford / Birralee, Trudi Petersen

We were off to a good start on the group training day at Winkleigh, it was a beautiful day, the sun was shining and we were all eager to get going. Once we had been allocated to our groups we set off.

Our first exercise was to make a firebreak, for some of us it was our first time on the tools (rake hoe, axe, slasher) and that was, well, interesting. Once we had cleared a one metre break we then foamed the area around the firebreak, and then came the fun part - the fire!

Once lit, the fire moved very quickly and I think it surprised a few of the newer brigade members. It was good to see that our firebreak was working, the difference one metre makes, very good to know.

Next it was off to "Dummyville". After some confusion we arrived to find a poor farm worker had fallen from a tractor and had apparently lost both legs. Fortunately the paramedics stabilised him and all we had to do was stretcher him to a waiting careflight chopper. We tied the poor soul to a ladder and headed off. Armed with a broken GPS, a map and a sense of humour and off we went. The going started to get a bit rough, there were all sorts of hazards, tree branches, blackberries, logs, fences, not to mention trying to negotiate a ten foot ladder through narrow openings, but we made it and were really happy to see Robbo and his red ute, even happier to see the OJ and muesli bars. Robbo apologised for the rough going and explained the course had been mapped out two years ago and the flora had - well - grown - a lot!

The pumping exercise involved using an appliance to draft



water from a dam uphill to a remote reservoir, from there to another remote reservoir, and from there to a dam that we had to construct from a tarp and ropes. Quite a challenge, but a good chance to get used to the pumps and different appliances.

I think days like this are a great way to put our training to use, without the worry of a real fire / accident, it also gives newer members a chance to meet the other firefighters in the area and a chance to get to know the area around their brigade. We really enjoyed ourselves and the pumping practice came in handy as soon after getting home we were paged to a small fire at Brushy Lagoon. We didn't get home until very late, so it turned out to be a very long, but enjoyable day!



New Regional Chief South Appointed



In February this year Chris Arnol was appointed Deputy Regional Chief South. As such Chris is primarily responsible for the capability development and sustainability of firefighting operations in the Southern Region and otherwise supports the newly appointed Regional Chief, Tony Davidson. (see article last fireground).

When asked about his promotion Chris said "I can't wait to get my teeth into this new position. From an operational standpoint it is important we match our preparedness with the changing environment. If you look at what's changed lately with terrorism, on-shore gas pipelines, more passenger ships than ever, and continual expansion of the urban interface we have some catching up to do."

When asked about his career, Chris paused for a moment and said "... I feel so lucky to have found the TFS as a place to work. I am almost looking forward to having grand children in the hope they will ask me 'what was the fire service like Poppy? I think it will be fun to tell of my experiences. I started as a firefighter in Hobart almost 20 years ago. Of course, then structural fires were the main game and most of our best work was done in the early hours of the

morning. Sure I had my share of rescues and sticky moments and although we had some large jobs back then I know we do it a lot better today. For me it's a joy to see structural firefighters strutting their stuff in state of the art PPE and using high pressure hose reels, BA communicators, PPV, thermal imaging cameras and defibrillators as front line equipment. They leave gumboots and a bluey for dead.

After six or seven years as a firefighter I became pretty handy with a hose so they let me teach a few things and I must say I got tremendous satisfaction from training firefighters and officers. Yep ... I felt like I was ready to leap over tall buildings. Then quite unexpectedly I was offered the opportunity to introduce



Another step in the progression of Chris' career

High Angle Rescue Techniques (HART) to TFS ... probably the most exciting single activity I was ever involved with. So after a month with my bum hanging out of windows in Melbourne I returned to Hobart and started putting everyone on edge to show them the ropes, so to speak. Nowadays firefighters have a whole range of special rescue disciplines up their sleeves; how much we have advanced over the past decade.

It was around this time I started to get a crack at bush firefighting in earnest, and really bushfires provide us with the best opportunity to develop broader command skills. Before you knew it, I was packing my bags for NSW; our first interstate task force deployment in 1994. I could not believe how adventurous life in the fire service was. Going to the US in 2000 was a real career highlight for me. From these two events TFS realised how much it could achieve. Interstate deployments are no longer a rarity and we have become leaders in interagency incident management. Our mainland counterparts are starting to realise special things happen in Tasmania."

When asked if he misses the trucks Chris responded ... "Well, I don't think you ever quite get firefighting out of your blood. I always seem to have been fighting fires in one way or another. By this I mean; as a firie I used hoses to put the fires out, as Station Officer, firefighters became my tools, as a District Officer it was the brigades, now with a responsibility for regional operations I simply ensure we are properly resourced to combat our community fire problems. I see all these things as important firefighting functions.

So although I only get to smell the interior of a new fire truck these days, I know how important it is to have people with their heart in the job that keeps the wheels turning. I am so looking forward to the future - with new light weight BA, balaclavas as standard PPE, quick-coupling no-fuss hose, modern multi-purpose appliances, compartment fire behaviour training, and state of the art training facilities all around the corner, how can we miss? But if there is one thing that holds the key to tomorrow's success it is undoubtedly our people.

How I see it, most of our truck, station and communication issues are behind us now but our people have the potential to set us apart from all the others. Sure health and safety are the main agenda for any organisation, and rightly so, but I also think it is important we concentrate on things like organisation leadership, communications, making our work interesting and rewarding, having a training system that complements operations and preserving our depth of operational experience for successive generations. After all, the things we have been discussing today are firefighters operating as teams, commanders managing their people, and organisational leaders having the foresight to keep us ahead of the game."

New Norfolk Autumn Festival

By Firefighter New Norfolk Brigade, Neville Rushworth

In August, New Norfolk held its annual autumn festival. This year members of the New Norfolk Brigade set up the TFS Community Fire Education Unit Trailer on the Esplanade.

It was a great chance to meet people and answer any questions on fire safety. Many people took up the offer of brochures and watched the fire safety video which was running during the day.

A competition was held which invited people to answer a questionnaire on fire safety; those answering all the questions correctly (with some help from brigade members) were placed in the draw for a fire safety package which included a smoke alarm, fire blanket and fire extinguisher. The winner of the package was Mrs Margaret Walker-Nichols of Derwent View Rosegarland.



LFF Neville Rushworth presenting the winner with her prize at the New Norfolk Station

International Firefighters Day

To all firefighters that helped make International Firefighters Day such a great success, thank you on behalf of the Tasmanian Volunteer Fire Brigades Association and the organiser. A full report will be included in the September Edition of Fireground.

Greg Barnett

TVFBA State Council

Third Officer Rowella

New Regional Chief North Appointed

In the wake of Regional Chief Graham Otley's retirement in February, Michael Brown has now officially been appointed as Regional Chief for the Northern Region. The new structure sees the Regional Chief undertaking the role of Regional Officer North as well as incorporating that of the Brigade Chief Launceston. At the time of going to press, arrangements are well on the way for the selection process to appoint the Deputy Regional Chief North.

"The input of this new structure should assist greatly in enhancing career/volunteer and training cohesion and co-operation. While we have moved ahead in leaps and bounds in recent times, there are still some system barriers we need to overcome. I truly believe the new approach to regional management will improve opportunities and operations throughout the state" explained Mike.

Following an education at Clarence High and then Rosny College, Mike left school in 1976. Dreading the notion of being confined inside in an office job, he applied for field positions with Forestry Commission; Agricultural Department; National Parks and the Rural Fires Board. As a fallback position he also enrolled at a technical college to qualify as a wool classer.

Following the interviews he was surprised to be offered trainee positions in the Rural Fires Board, Forestry and Parks. After much thought and deliberation, the Fire Service pathway was chosen. "I somehow now find myself spending a lot more time in the office, but I have absolutely no regrets about my decision" said Mike.

Early days in his career were exciting and educational. Mike was attached to headquarters (the Cambridge complex); East Coast District (based at Sorell); the North West (from the Ulverstone office); and North (William Street Launceston). Highlights included fire trail construction and fuel reduction burning on the East Coast. Firefighting (occasionally at the fires we lit only the day prior!), brigade field days or weekends at such locations as Bruny Island, Snug and Richmond, trying to sleep in the Swansea caravan with Kevin Doyle and Joe Tunks, and the fantastic camaraderie shared with fellow trainees at the time - Ken Burns, Jeff Knight and Mike (Flash) Gordon. Mike also fondly recalls many other colleagues who played a part in his earlier career, many of whom have since left.

In 1978 Phil Gable (RFB State Fire Controller) sent Mike, along with the other RFB trainees, to the Country Fire Authority's six week officer qualifying course at Fiskville Victoria. Mike recalls long days and nights in the classroom and on the drill ground. "The discipline was strict and the pace was tough, but all RFB attendees graduated with distinction" Mike recalls.

Once qualified, Mike was appointed to the position of Country Fire Officer - East Coast District and then, following the formation of the Tasmania Fire Service, moved to



the newly established Training Division under the guidance of Alex Thompson and later Alan Shaw. As a Training Officer he later spent two years attached to the Australian Maritime College preparing training materials and training maritime officers during the week and volunteer groups at weekends.

From Training, Mike moved back to operations in 1985 at Devonport. "This was an exciting period in time with the amalgamation of the Service. I had ten years at Devonport eventually attaining the dual role position of District Officer and Brigade Chief".

"In 1995 I was promoted to the Deputy Regional Officer / Brigade Chief position at Launceston where I have enjoyed leading the integration of the career brigade with the greater region and seeing the Launceston Brigade demonstrate best practice specialist and incident management skills".

Other highlights recalled include:

- Being at NSW RFS on Boxing Day 2001 to represent Tasmania's fire agencies (leading significant and long duration responses from Tasmanian IMT, remote area and firefighting resources)
- Attending the Thredbo landslide.
- Introducing a USAR capability to TFS with the training of hundreds of personnel to cat 1 level.
- Being elected as UFU vice president in the 80's and actively participating in achieving a single award and promotion system.
- Undertaking (after much coercion) formal tertiary studies through Charles Sturt University - Bachelor of Social Science (Emergency Management).
- Leading the committees, working groups and other research and consultative arrangements to achieving new, completely standards compliant PPC ensembles for TFS.
- Successfully applying for an AFAC scholarship to attend the Executive Fire Officer Program at the US National Fire Academy in Maryland USA (2000-2001) graduating with EFO certification in 2003.
- Being awarded the AFSM in 2005.

When able to briefly escape the demands of work, wife, son's sport and homework, and renovating his home, he likes to venture offshore for a days fishing on the boat. "When I finally hook a marlin, I promise to let Fireground have the exclusive rights to the story!"

Authorised Activities

From time to time questions arise in the TFS community about what activities TFS brigades are "allowed" to do and when their members will be "covered" against any injury. It is therefore worth clarifying what coverage TFS members receive under the Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 and when this coverage occurs.

The Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 aims to ensure the health and wellbeing of individuals at work. The Act does this by ensuring "employers" pay for all health costs when an "employee" injures themselves while "at work".

TFS volunteers are classified as employees under this Act even though most volunteers do not receive any payment.

TFS workers compensation insurance therefore covers all volunteer members as well as career members if they are injured while "working" for the TFS. This means that medical costs and compensation for loss of income because of an injury will be met by TFS.

TFS work includes;

- all operational activities such as attending fires, preparing and maintaining TFS equipment and TFS stations etc
- community fire safety activities such as installing smoke alarms and batteries through Project Wake Up or school visits etc
- all training activities
- planned hazard reduction burns
- assisting other agencies with official activities - such as helping SES with searches etc

TFS encourages all brigades and members to enjoy a wide range of social activities and brigade fundraising, however, many of these cannot be regarded as "TFS work" and therefore won't be covered by workers compensation insurance.

This does not prevent brigades from undertaking these activities - however TFS will not be responsible for any injury that occurs during these activities.

If you are unsure as to whether an activity your brigade wishes to undertake will be covered by the Act, feel free to call your District Officer for advice. Where an activity is borderline, a brigade can apply to the TFS to have the activity "authorised" and therefore covered by workers compensation insurance.

The TFS continues to encourage TFS brigades to enjoy a wide range of activities with their members and the wider community.

Coles Northgate Fire

By Station Officer Hobart Fire Brigade, Stacey Peters

On the evening of 2nd April 2005, C platoon responded to a Direct Brigade Alarm at Northgate Shopping Centre. After "coming on air" we received a message from Firecomm that a passer-by had seen smoke coming from the Coles roof area of the shopping complex. Back up was requested from Hobart Station. Police, Aurora and also the after hours contact were requested to attend the building.

Smoke was seen in the area of the new "BIG W" supermarket when we turned off Elwick Road and we thought they may have seen smoke from the wrong complex! Once we neared Northgate travelling along King George V Avenue, smoke could be seen issuing from the roof area and we were confronted with Coles employees standing in the car park at the Peltro Street end of the building, among them one person waving frantically, this person being the worried Night Fill Manager. Upon questioning him, it was confirmed there

confirmed that the sprinkler system had activated in the plant room only and that the fire had been extinguished. The backup appliance was sent to the fire control room to allow for sprinkler shut down, to limit the water damage.

The on site maintenance person was utilised to assist Station Officer Dale Rayner in utilising the mechanical venting and air handling equipment to successfully clear the store of smoke.

Coles had been undergoing a major refurbishment and replacing their refrigeration units had been started as well as works on the dairy area and grocery layouts. During the subsequent fire investigation three sprinkler heads (93 degrees Celsius) had been found that had activated in the plant room that had successfully put the fire out. The water damage from these was quite large and one of the biggest problems that was that the overflow from the plant room had



Most severe overhead damage (Plant Room)

was a fire which was believed to be in the plant room on a mezzanine level in the storeroom area of Coles. He could not open the roller doors due to the amount of smoke in the storeroom.

Glenorchy 1.1 was positioned by Firefighter Doran at the loading bay end of the store, as this was the closest access point to the plant room and where the fire was supposedly located and provided good access. Firefighters Adam Meredith and Gary Loh donned BA took the Thermal Imaging Camera and 9kg DCP and headed to the Peltro Street end of the building. As we made our way along the undercover car park the overflow water from the sprinkler system was already coming thought the concrete slab.

Upon entering the supermarket, smoke could be seen in the building and had spread across approximately half the store. This smoke was greyish and visibility wasn't too bad. The Duty Manager's knowledge and the floor plans were utilised to allow quick investigation. They went through the donning procedure and proceeded to the plant room area to investigate, making their way through the storeroom and the area of the plant room



View of compressor bank - point of origin last unit on left hand side

made its way to the store's main electrical switchboard. The Aurora Inspector decided to close this down, therefore we had to finish the investigation with back up lighting.

The damage from the fire and following water damage ruined all compressor and refrigeration equipment for the whole store which included approximately \$500,000 worth of new switchboards and refrigeration equipment that had been recently installed.

Coles estimated the amount of meat, frozen, dairy products as well as fresh produce lost to be in the vicinity of about \$250,000. The refrigeration equipment was estimated to be offline for at least a month, but management have indicated they are well on the way to be fully operational before that time. The loss of trade as well as the inconvenience to staff members who had to be relocated to other stores was also taken into account and the total loss overall was put at approximately \$1 3/4 million dollars.

The cause of the fire was deemed to be an electrical fault with the compressor.

RACT Insurance Fire Safety Initiative - 'The Bug' is back on the Streets

By Consultants Community Education, Chris Tomes and George Auchterlonie



RACT Insurance has purchased a new Volkswagen Beetle to help promote fire safety in Tasmania. It follows a successful trial where the Bug is credited with helping to lessen the incidence of deliberately lit with malicious intent fires over the 2003-2004 summer period.

The Chief Officer of the TFS, Mr John Gledhill said "the RACT Firebug played an important role in a Tasmania Fire Service strategy which dramatically reduced the number of maliciously lit fires over the summer in 2003-2004. The Firebug was a big hit with kids wherever it went, and we're glad to see it back, and thank RACT Insurance for their initiative".

Tasmania Fire Service statistics for southern Tasmania, where the Firebug operated, confirmed the incidence of maliciously lit fires more than halved, from 470 in 2002-2003 to 203 in 2003-2004.

The Manager of RACT Insurance, Mr Peter Eaton, said the success of the strategy last financial year was a strong motivation for the insurance company to permanently bring the Firebug back to Tasmania.

"Initially, the Firebug was a trial, but it exceeded our wildest expectations" he said. "The Fire Service told me that the Bug provided a real drawcard for young people as it travelled the streets, and attended education and awareness programs at schools and community centres. So we're very pleased to have purchased a new VW Bug, and are in a position to lend it to the Tasmania Fire Service to assist in its ongoing work."

Mr Gledhill said that the Bug was now a welcome addition to the highly successful Tasmania Fire Service School Fire Education program.

"Now in its thirteenth year, this program teaches children all about fire safety. Our fire officers are continually visiting schools to teach primary school students about such issues as the need for an escape plan in case of a fire at home; what to do if your clothes catch fire; and awareness about making sure your smoke alarms at home are in working condition" said Mr Gledhill.

Chris Tomes from Community Education said "We see this initiative as enhancing current fire awareness campaigns and programs by providing a high profile platform to display fire safety messages and promote the TFS tag line 'That's All It Takes'. By the time you read this article the Firebug will be re-vamped with a new livery to reflect the winter campaign home fire safety messages being promoted by the Tasmania Fire Service."



Obituaries



Lindsay Burt

Ex Brigade Chief George Town Brigade

Lindsay first started fire service activities with the Selby Fire Brigade in Victoria in 1948. After moving to George Town in 1952 and commencing employment at Comalco, he continued brigade activities when George Town Brigade was officially formed in 1957. At the same time in George Town, Lindsay and many others from the brigade were "ambulance drivers" as they were known in those days, serving the community until the early 70's.

Lindsay was elected as Brigade Chief in 1985 after the passing of former Chief Jack Kennett. Until Lindsay's death George Town had only ever had three Brigade Chiefs. Lindsay also held the National Medal with 3 bars.

He was a life member of the George Town Cycling Club, played football, cricket and golf for George Town. Lindsay was member of the Uniting Church, Probus Club, Neighbourhood Watch and the Pensioners Union.

Lindsay's style of leadership was one of a fatherly type figure. He very rarely raised his voice, but rest assured the members knew when he was not impressed. He was a very compassionate man, in every aspect of his community life.

Although illness affected Lindsay in his retirement, he always had time for his beloved community, and that smile was ever present.

The George Town Brigade is a much better brigade due to the involvement of Lindsay.

Lindsay will certainly be missed by his wife Glenn, his four sons and members of the George Town community.

The Tasmania Fire Service extends its sympathy to Lindsay's family for their sad loss.



Darren pictured with his wife Jodi, daughter Danielle and son Samuel

Darren Robert Brown

21/01/1971 to 05/03/2005

Wattle Grove Brigade

It is with much sadness we report the passing of Darren (Clarrie) Brown on 5th March 2005 aged 34.

Darren joined the Fire Service at Deep Bay Brigade in August 1998 but later transferred to Wattle Grove Brigade in late 2000. Darren rose through the ranks to the role of Brigade Chief in mid 2002 until his illness forced him to step down to firefighter in January 2005.

Darren was diagnosed with a terminal illness but despite this maintained his enthusiasm, sense of humour and dedication to the brigade.

Darren was a keen sportsman and played cricket and football with Cygnet.

"Clarrie" is best remembered for his antics while having a few drinks, he would not only have the members in tears of laughter but also himself. His friends recall the story of the time he bought three sheep from a fellow member but after picking them up it was reported that there were an extra three missing, a minor altercation ensued, but after a recount the matter was resolved amicably.

Darren is survived by his partner Jodi and children Danielle and Samuel.

Darren was an inspiration to everyone who knew him and his loss will be felt for a long time in the Wattle Grove - Cygnet area.

The Tasmania Fire Service extends its sympathy to Jodi, Danielle, Samuel and the members of the Wattle Grove Brigade for their sad loss.



Kevin Littlejohn

**19/4/1943 to
26/12/2004**

Perth Brigade

Kevin Littlejohn, ex Brigade Chief Perth fulfilled many roles in his time with the Fire Service - member; mentor;

chief; leader; trainer ... the guy who wore the red hat, but always supporting, assuring and giving of himself. The presence at his service, was evidence enough of the many lasting and endearing friendships that had been established over his life.

Kevin enjoyed a long and rewarding membership of the Fire Service. Over thirty years of service in the brigade, he had been an instrumental component of its development and success over the course of that time.

It was Kevin's persistence at ensuring the ongoing development of the brigade that saw it move from a single ageing truck housed in a small one room station not bigger than a garage, into the facility we have today. The number of fundraising schemes, late night calls to the Regional or District Officers of the Fire Service, and the persuasive knack he had of convincing others, stand as evidence of his service to the community.

Over a decade, Kevin successfully petitioned the Fire Service for a myriad of equipment and fire trucks, and the brigade stood proudly when the new station was completed.

In great part, the community of Perth has benefited immeasurably from Kevin's contribution. The brigade has become an important part of not just the local Perth community, but the surrounding communities and the South Esk District.

As Brigade Chief, he also had some interesting views on the assets of the community and the performance of the brigade when turned out. Soon after, he took up a role of officer in the brigade; he focused attention on the turnout

performance, and readiness of the brigade. Whilst turnout benchmarks are an important part of any emergency service, Kevin was always adamant that our performance should be better than "average." After a quiet word one afternoon, he explained this interesting view that he had. "Well, every asset at a fire scene is important. Our job is to save life first, then save and protect the physical assets. It is important that we respond well to Eskleigh Hospital, but we must benchmark every turnout out 'ON could we have saved the PUB.' Let's hope it never happens, but we must make sure that we are ready for a fire at the pub." That was then the benchmark, which refined turnout performance for many years to come.

On another occasion, a station inspection from the Regional Chief Officer of the time, Mike Moore. The brigade turned out in full turnout gear, the station inspection went well and we moved onto the drill inspections. We were instructed on our drill and the crew went to work. Now, remember these inspections are a big part of the performance and management of the brigade, and consequently all the crew members were on edge. Needless to say, the drill was a disaster! Wrong people in the wrong place, hoses back to front, wrong nozzle, couldn't get the standpipe in, lost our water, disappointed and upset we made up the truck and waited for the "harsh judgement" from Mr Moore and saying "Well it could have been worse Mike". Mike responded with: "Oh yes, how is that Kevin?" "Well it could have been the PUB on fire!" This seemed to ease the tension, and Kevin managed to get another chance at the drill, a successful one.

A particular interest to Kevin over the decades has been the introduction of new recruits, auxiliary members, family and juniors into the brigade, the fun and excitement of the brigade and the equally important social and community activities advocated by Kevin to new recruits. He took particular interest in the juniors. Many of the brigade members were recruitments and juniors and are testament to his kind, and gentle mentoring.

It has been a privilege to work and serve the community alongside Kevin. We now honour and respect him for his life and time as a leader, a mentor, a colleague, a mate, but most of all a friend. Rest in peace Kanka.

John Malcom Gittus

15/10/1956 to 13/04/2005

New Norfolk Brigade



John joined New Norfolk Brigade in January 1981 and was awarded his National Medal on 24th February 1996.

John, although short in stature was tall in regard to effort and enthusiasm with his willingness to assist others around him and was very community minded.

Whilst a member of the New Norfolk Brigade, John attended many fires and was always a willing participant in brigade activities.

As well as being a member of the New Norfolk Brigade, John was also a member of the New Norfolk

Lions Club, Derwent Valley Truck Show and New Norfolk Truck Expo Organising Committees. He also assisted with the Derwent Valley Australia Day Celebrations at New Norfolk.

John left the Brigade in June 2003 after 22 years service.

He was well respected by everyone who knew him and will be missed for a long time in the New Norfolk area.

The Tasmania Fire Service extends its sympathy to John's family for their sad loss.

John (centre front) pictured with members of the New Norfolk Brigade

National Medal and Long Service Badge Presentations

By District Officer East Coast, Gerald Crawford

A function was held for the Glamorgan Group at Cranbrook Station on Sunday 17th April 2005 to present some National Medals and Long Service Badges.

This group consists of Bicheno; Coles Bay; Cranbrook; Swansea; and Mayfield Brigades.

The medals and badges were presented by District Officer Gerald Crawford with assistance from Acting District Officer Midlands, Steve Walkley.

At the conclusion of the ceremony a barbecue tea was held for all those who attended.



National Medals were presented to the following:

Bob Greenhill, Cranbrook - second clasp

Dale Kempnich, Coles Bay - National Medal

Tony Marriott, Coles Bay - National Medal

Glen Jackson, Mayfield - National Medal

Long Service Badges were presented to the following:

Rod Kschammer, Bicheno - 10 years

David Amos, Cranbrook - 35 years

Adam Greenhill, Cranbrook - 15 years

Dale Kempnich, Coles Bay - 15 years

Tony Marriott, Coles Bay - 15 years

Glen Jackson, Mayfield - 15 years

Bruce Dunbabin, Mayfield - 15 years

Paul Morris, Swansea - 10 years

Editorial

By Editor Linda Lacy

Thanks for your articles, however, I'd really love to see them coming in as events occur. Please don't wait until you think I need the article before you put pen to paper. It's either feast or famine with Fireground - no articles until I'm just about ready to go to the printer - then in they all come! Help me keep my sanity (or what I have left) and send them as the event occurs. Keep sending those photos in - but remember to let me know what the photo is about - a paragraph may be enough, although I can't promise I won't ask for more! Also tell me who the people are so we can put in captions. Ensure they are the best quality you can send me. Thanks for all your support.



Presentation of Perth's Isuzu Tanker Plus

By District Officer South Esk, Craig Maxwell

On 22nd March 2005 Perth Brigade were presented with their new 3.1 Tanker Plus Isuzu. The new tanker replaces a single cab Isuzu 4.1 which is to be relocated within the Northern Region. The new heavy tanker will complement the strategic response role that Perth Brigade has within the South Esk District. The new truck with its 3000 litre larger pump and crew cab will have a range of additional response roles for Perth Brigade to undertake. Assistance and support to surrounding brigades (Evandale; Longford; Cressy; Symmons Plains; Barton; Woolmers; Epping; Relbia; Hadspen; and Carrick) with added water and crewing capacity, highway response on the major arterial roads / highways will also be better resourced.

Perth Brigade Chief Dennis Woods and South Esk field staff have campaigned long and hard for this addition to the South Esk fleet. Many thanks must go to all mechanical services crew that fitted and engineered the truck and provide us all with such great equipment to fulfil our emergency response role. At times I'm sure that Dennis was a little worried that his "new baby" would never arrive, hence the weekly phone calls to Leon (Alfie) Smith, but the tyre prints are now firmly entrenched in the concrete at Perth Station. Dennis has stated that the vehicle will have a tendency to only work on bitumen surfaces and it will want to be a darn big fire before we go on the gravel.



The Perth Canter along side the new Isuzu 3.1 Tanker Plus



An excited group of juniors -these are faces of the future for Perth Brigade



Leon Smith gives the Perth Brigade an overview of the new tanker.



Pre-Incident Planning Worth the Effort

By District Officer South Esk, Craig Maxwell

Photo courtesy of guest at the Hotel on the morning of the fire

A recent fire at St Helens which destroyed a landmark building in the main street of St Helens was fought with the aid of pre-incident planning. The Top Pub as it was known to locals was constructed in the mid 1800's of solid brick and sawn hardwood materials and lined with a multitude of combustible materials.

Significant factors for the pre-incident planning of this complex was that it was continually under renovation works and it had changed hands several times over a five to seven year period. The team from Building Safety had conducted an extensive overview of the premises and detailed recommendations within their report. The St Helens Brigade Chief Glen Bailey and his officers decided that the Pub had the potential to be a large rapid spreading fire due to its size and inaccessible areas. The accommodation wings were located on opposing sides of the site and access and egress into these areas was strategically documented during the planning stage of the operational plan. The large capacity LPG storage facility was highlighted as a priority potential exposure and needed to be dealt with by a designated crew whilst other firefighting activities were being undertaken.

The location of hydrants and street access for vehicles from St Helens, Binalong Bay, Scamander and St Marys were all factored into the plan and included estimation of when support would arrive. Brigade Chief Bailey had designated himself or the OIC to an area on the corner of Cecilia and Quail Streets which would be a formalised forward command

point and all vehicle and personnel movements would therefore be overseen by the OIC and each appliance and crew would be assigned a sector and area of responsibility.

A key factor in the smooth administration of this process during the initial stages of the size up when the fire occurred was that BC Bailey had Firecomm page the brigades en route and detail to them in a message stating where he required them to respond to thus saving any second guessing or confusion.

When on site all tasks would be assigned and the OIC would delegate sectors to responding officers from other brigades. Their responsibilities would be to administer their sector in regard to firefighting operations.

At the actual fire, Second Officer Jeff Coulson became a sector commander and also oversaw the operational firefighting assisting BC Bailey. Jeff assigned a safety adviser role to Dale Richards, this role was then passed onto Field Works Officer Rodney Springer.

As an overview of the events that transpired the fire dictated the attack strategy (RECEO) and the favourable weather conditions were all deciding factors relevant to the pre-incident planning. The pre-incident plan process from its conception by District Officer Rodney Read, Regional Officer Graham Otley and Brigade Chief Glen Bailey proved what a valuable tool this is when implemented and followed during an incident.



The initial stages of the fire looking from the rear accommodation block



The extreme heat of the fire cracked 17 individual windows on adjacent properties at the height of the blaze but no other direct fire/flame damage was reported to any other property



Glen Bailey and Jeff Coulson discuss their intended plan of command and control



St Helens firefighter Rodney Ferrall assists investigators with the debris removal

The Debrief

What can be learnt from this fire is that we must factor in all aspects of our firefighting role, during and after the fire, the recovery, are all key components of a pre incident plan which may/will encompass other organisational requirements and local government. The overall containment, scene security and handover are all factors that must be continually assessed through to the conclusion of the incident, which in this case took over a week.

During the debrief several points were discussed in regard to scene security, unauthorised access to the site, airborne contaminants (asbestos dust) which were all relevant to the fire and the pre and post fire planning process.

The debrief highlighted to the brigade members the need to continually assess the risks and the persons who need access to the site. Due to the vast area that needed constant monitoring it becomes apparent that assistance from Police and SES can be very beneficial when TFS personnel are hard to come by.

The risks that we inevitably confront with a building of this age are that there may be the possibility of chemical / biological contaminants which must be considered. In this instance there was asbestos present in minimal quantities, but no matter how little, it has the potential to affect all those who are on the fireground or in its close proximity. This is also dependent upon the prevailing weather conditions.

In the wash up of this fire it became apparent that the fire predicted the way in which it could be fought due to its size and intensity when the brigades arrived. The overall scene control was as per the pre-incident plan and scene command managed by sectors and overseen by the OIC Glen Bailey. The resources for the incident firefighting were adequate but after the fire was controlled and in overhaul the lack of manpower became an issue, for scene security. The hazmat component of the incident regarding the asbestos was taken into account although the information during the firefighting and into the investigation was unreliable, a full account of the amount of material may never be known.

The cause of the fire was found to have been accidental. This fire is another classic example of severe fire damage still revealing the facts. Accurate information from attack fire crews and the eye witnesses are an invaluable source of information for the investigating officer to ascertain a possible area of origin. The final determination can then be made from the finer points of evidence available, fire language and associated indicators will in most cases give the investigator enough evidence to enable them to make an accurate determination of the probable cause.



A thirsty St Helens Brigade volunteer sitting at what remains of the bar!

Photo Competition Winners

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

1st place



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

2nd place



Photo taken by Firefighter Wesley Vale Brigade, Geoff Mills
(\$50)

How to enter:

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

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

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

Photos may be of any TFS event or incident

May include TFS personnel in turnout gear or uniform

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

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

Post them in to:

Linda Lacy

Editor - Fireground

GPO Box 1526

HOBART TAS 7001

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

Agfest 2005

By District Officer Tamar Steve Lowe

Agfest was held at the Quercus Park site from 5th to 7th May 2005. The TFS provided on site fire coverage for the three public exhibition days of Agfest as well as the day before and the day after the event. This was achieved through the provision of two fully operational fire appliances stationed at the Agfest fire station site for the duration of the event and manned by both career and volunteer personnel from 0730 each morning until approximately 1730 each evening.

Each year we attempt to improve on the previous year by increasing our profile at the Agfest site. The event provides some excellent opportunities for the TFS to provide information and increase awareness to the public on the range of services we provide.

This year our site included commercial training advice from TasFire Training, display and sales area for the TFS Museum Brigade, a static display from Community Fire Safety and an information area to promote volunteering and recruitment of new members. Whilst the primary role for the fire crews on site each day is responding to incidents that may occur, each member had an active role on these stands. It is intended to further enhance the site at next year's event through the involvement of the Fire Management Unit on site.



For the third year TasFire Equipment operated a dedicated site at Agfest. Located at the Agfest fire station TFE staff from around the state manned the site throughout the three day event.

With close to 80,000 people attending the event TFE staff had an opportunity to talk with people from both the business and private communities about fire safety and the benefits of maintaining appropriate fire protection equipment.

TasFire Training staff and volunteer firefighters delivered regular fire blanket demonstrations with TFE staff selling equipment and answering many follow up questions from patrons.

Agfest offers a significant opportunity for TFE staff to answer questions from the community with regard to fire protection as well as sell the full range of equipment.

Thank you to all the firefighters and officers who expressed an interest in this crewing year's event, unfortunately due to the overwhelming number of responses it was not possible to incorporate everybody into the operational roster. It is extremely pleasing to see the level of interest from brigade members in representing the TFS at Agfest each year and we look forward to your continued support into the future.

Bridport Juniors

These photos are of the Bridport Brigade Juniors completing the practical part of their Basic Firefighting exam. They all passed and all involved were very enthusiastic.



Fall In Group from left: Fourth Officer Jason Heazlewood, Mathew Hartley, Nat Barnett, Josh Williams, Trevor Finger, Brent Heazlewood, James Nichols, Front Daniel Hartley



History of the St Patrick's River Valley Country Fire Brigade - the first 35 years

11th November 1969 to 11th November 2004 - 35 years of diligent service

By Second Officer St Patrick's River Brigade, Richard Rees

This is the final of a series of articles on the St Patrick's River Brigade

Current Brigade Members

The following is a list of current brigade officers, firefighters and members as at 2004 - They are Scott Mills (Brigade Chief); Richard Rees (Second Officer); Murray Galloway (Third Officer); Paul Mills (Fourth Officer); Angela Mills (Secretary); Victor Mills; Tamara Mills; Neville Calvert; Nigel Calvert; Ken Harrison; Wayne Harrison; Brian Medcraft Snr; Brian Medcraft Jnr; Christine Medcraft; Ken Harrison; John Verhulst; Denise Verhulst; David Hayne; Fleur Hayne; Michael Rigby; Tanya & Clarissa Upston and Bruce & Jason Tole.

Vale

The following past members of the St Patrick's River Brigade have died in recent years.

Fred Denham

- Brigade Deputy Captain from 1989 to 1992

John Tole

- member of the brigade for 21 years. (1981 - 2002)

Wallace Imlach

- member of the brigade for 16 years. (1977 - 1993)

Glad Imlach

- member of the brigade for 16 years. (1977 - 1993)

Honours and Awards

Jim Imlach - In 1992 awarded the National Medal and the TFS long service badge. Jim served for 24 years in the brigade from 1977 - 2001.

Brenda Imlach - In 1997 awarded the National Medal and the TFS long service badge. Brenda served for 22 years in the brigade from 1979 - 2001.

John Tole - In 1997 awarded the National Medal and the TFS long service badge. John served for 21 years in the Brigade from 1981 - 2002.

Over the last 35 years, there have been numerous people from the local community of Targa; Patersonia; Nunamara; Camden; Diddleum Plains; Myrtle Bank; Myrtle Park; Tayene and St Leonards areas that have served in the St Patrick's River Brigade. They are too numerous to list within this brief history as many may be left out or have been forgotten over the years, however, we as a local community would like to thank them for the efforts they have made in keeping us safe from fires, no matter how small.

Brigade Honour Board

The following table lists the Brigade Chiefs, Officers and Secretary over the last 35 years.

| Brigade Captain/Chief | Brigade Deputy Captain/ Second Officer | Brigade Third Officer | Brigade Fourth Officer | Brigade Secretary |
|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Bevan Broadhurst 1969 -1977 | | | Jim Imlach 1977 - 1979 | Brenda Imlach 1979 - 2001 |
| Eric Gutwein 1977 -1979 | Brad Saunders 1978 -1982 | Neville Calvert 1978 -1982 | Peter McMurray 1985 - 1986 | |
| Jim Imlach 1979 - 2001 | Brenda Imlach 1982 -1989 | Neville Calvert 1985 - 1986 | Neville Calvert 1987 -1990 | |
| | Fred Denholm 1989 -1992 | Stephen Caswell 1987 - 1990 | | |
| | Brett Arkless 1992 -2002 | | | |
| Scott Mills 2001 - | Richard Rees 2002 - | Murray Galloway 2001 - | Paul Mills 2001 - | Angie Mills 2001 - |

Annual Cadet and Junior Awards at Ravenswood

By Second Officer Ravenswood Brigade, Anthony Beckett

On Saturday 12th March 2005 the Ravenswood Fire Brigade held its Annual Cadet and Junior Award Presentation Dinner at their Station.

43 members and invited guests attended, enjoying not only the evening, but the valued company of young firefighters.

Senior Brigade Patron Frank Madill and Junior Brigade Patron Michelle O'Byrne were very much involved in some of the presentations along with the other VIP's - Hon Ivan Dean MLC; Peter Gutwein MHA and Launceston City Council Alderman Jodie Campbell. Kathryn Hay MHA and the Launceston City Council Mayor Janie Dickenson were unable to attend as they normally do but forwarded their apologies.

A tremendous meal in the form of a smorgasbord dinner was provided, and thanks go to Lyn Muir for her assistance in this area. Appreciation was also expressed to Ivan Dean for his staff in providing the printing and laminating for the various certificates.

The Cadets and Juniors present were:

Graham Miller; Jessica Whitton; Mathew Elphinstone; Michael (Raptor) Reeves; Naomi Munro; Samantha Barnett; Justin Barnett; Brandon Muir; Rebecca Muir; Aaron Dennis; Scott Jones and Charles Gordon.

The following awards were presented:

Kathryn Hay Awards:

Most Valuable Cadet - Michael Reeves

Most Valuable Junior - Justin Barnett

Notably these awards are voted on solely by the Cadets and Junior themselves and not by the officers or leaders. This means the recipients were given the honours they received by their peers - a very important point indeed.

Cadet Graduation Certificates

- Cadets moving up into the Senior Brigade

Jessica Whitton

Mathew Elphinstone

Also a Brigade Appreciation Award was presented by the entire membership to Michelle O'Byrne for her contribution to the Ravenswood Brigade. Thanks Michelle.

Most importantly, the night would not have gone ahead without the assistance and organisational skills of Megan Mineall and everyone who attended joins together in expressing their heartfelt thanks for effort she put in, not only making the night a great success, but also her work into the Cadet/Junior program as a whole.



TFS & Bushfire CRC in Joint Aerial Suppression Experiments

By District Officer Fire Management Unit, Ken Burns



Fire researchers observe the effect of a single drop on a spot fire

In the last issue of fireground, I discussed the role helicopters play in supporting bushfire fighting in Tasmania.

Given the increased availability and use of helicopters at fires, combined with their high profile, it is appropriate we make the most of every opportunity to review their performance and evaluate their effectiveness.

The Bushfire Co-operative Research Centre (CRC) was established to provide a forum to research and enhance the management of bushfire risks to the community in an economically and ecologically sustainable way. (More info on the CRC is available at <http://www.bushfirecrc.com>)

As part of that research TFS participated with the CRC in an aerial suppression experiment over three days at Cambridge during February. The aim of the experiment was to evaluate the effectiveness of drops on fire behaviour in stubble fuels and to assist the CRC to develop a field method for further experiments.

Part of the experiments involved using the medium helicopter to collect data to determine the distribution of water dropped from the helicopter over a given area to better appreciate the extent of the length and width of the drop and importantly the depth or coverage of the water.

Following the drop pattern tests the helicopter was then used to attack a number fires using both bellytank and bucket delivery systems and evaluate the effectiveness of both.

There were two phases to this experiment, initially a number of small fires were lit to determine the maximum fire size a single drop could deal with, followed by a number of fires which were lit and allowed to develop before the helicopter was tasked to extinguish them.

This latter part of the experiment represented more challenging scenarios for the air crews. Although not large in area, typical fire behaviour for the stubble fuels was a forward rate of spread of about 2km/hr, flame heights of approximately 1.5 metres and fire intensity of about 3.5 MW per metre of fireline. The helicopter in bellytank mode effectively extinguished fires which had developed perimeters up to 170 metres with four loads of water.

The experiments were conducted under relatively moderate conditions and with no canopy to deflect or limit the amount of water reaching the fire the researchers now have some good baseline data and suitable methodology upon which they can base future experiments in heavier fuels and more severe weather conditions. To this end TFS and the CRC will continue the evaluation next summer in dry forest fuels which is probably more realistic of the types of fire we deploy the helicopter to.

The experiments could not have been conducted without the valuable assistance provided by members of Hobart and Cambridge Brigades in establishing boundaries for the fires and helping with some mopping up, and similarly Forestry Tasmania, the University of Tasmania Farm for making the

land and stubble available and our air crew in both the medium helicopter (Helicorp/Hevilift) and locally based Helicopter Resources for other air support.

The comparison of bellytank v bucket is a topical issue within aerial firefighting circles and one on which I will provide some background in the next issue of Fireground.



Water/foam coverage after bellytank attack



Helitack 721 with bellytank attacking a spot fire in stubble

Tasmanian Volunteer Fire Brigades Association

By State Secretary, Lyndy Smith

The TVFBA have representatives on TFS Consultative Committees and several working parties. Current working parties are Hearing Awareness; Working Hours at Major Incidents; Recruitment; Brigade Forms and Safety Alerts. One of the aims of State Council is to invite volunteers who are not State Council delegates to participate in future working parties. If you are interested please make contact with Lyndy Smith.

The last meeting of State Council was held on 20th March 2005 at Youngtown and it was decided that the TVFBA will investigate developing a Volunteer Charter. The charter will be an agreement between the Government, TFS and volunteers. Wide consultation will take place with volunteers before the process is started.

Two representatives attended the Volunteer Summit which was held in Canberra. Meeting volunteers from other emergency services from throughout Australia was a valuable experience.

Our first newsletter has been distributed to brigades along with TVFBA stickers, if you would like additional stickers please contact us.

Visit the TVFBA web page tvfba.org.au for more information about State Council and Regional Branches. The webpage will be updated in the future, it is our aim to make the webpage 'a one stop shop' for volunteer firefighters throughout Tasmania.

If you would like to have input or be kept up to date on projects that the TVFBA are involved in please provide us with your email address so that we can contact you directly. You can be included on the list by sending your name, brigade and email address to llsmith5@optusnet.com.au. The list is open to all volunteers regardless of rank.

Contact details for the State Secretary are 6473 3160 or 0408 577 576 or email llsmith5@optusnet.com.au. Like many volunteers I have a paid job so if I don't answer please leave a message and I will get back to you.

TFS Volunteers Attend National Emergency Management Volunteers Summit

By Executive Officer Volunteer Support, Gerald Kutzner



Tasmanian TFS and SES representatives

David Stott - Second Officer Port Sorell; Alison King - Third Officer Karoola; Colin Triffett - Brigade Chief New Norfolk; Mike Brown - Regional Chief North; Lyndy Smith - Volunteer Firefighter Rosebery; Michael Armstrong - Brigade Chief Longford; Andrew Taylor - Brigade Chief George Town; Gerald Kutzner - Executive Officer Volunteer Support; Bob Barrett - Brigade Chief Scottsdale.

Five TFS volunteers and employees, and more than 400 representatives of Emergency Management volunteer organisations from across Australia, participated in the 2005 Emergency Management Volunteers Summit held at the National Convention Centre, Canberra from 5 -7 April 2005.

On the first evening the TFS delegates set out to visit the National Emergency Services Memorial with a large contingent of volunteers from other emergency service organisations. This involved travelling by bus in one direction for ten minutes, going through a roundabout and heading back in the same direction we came from to finish up only short stroll from where we left (so much for Canberra being an expertly planned city). The Memorial was an impressive site featuring a very large sculpture depicting emergency services in action.

The Summit was officially opened by the Hon John Landy AC, MBE, Administrator of the Commonwealth of Australia. Attorney-General, the Hon Philip Ruddock, provided an opening address in which he said Australia was fortunate to be served by more than 500,000 Emergency Management volunteers with exceptional skills and outstanding abilities.

He paid tribute to the vital contribution of emergency volunteers to keeping communities safer and more secure.

Major General Hori Howard, Chair of the Australian Emergency Management Volunteer Forum (AEMVF), delivered the keynote address entitled "Where we have been and where we are going." He traced the developments among the volunteer organisations which are involved in managing emergencies, from 2001 to the present day, and outlined what the future may hold.

During the Summit it was fascinating to see all the different uniforms, which organisations were represented and what issues were concerning volunteers. Through the workshopping that formed a major part of the Summit, it was apparent that the issues which are confronting the TFS are common to most volunteer organisations. These included: demographics (eg ageing population), participation constraints (eg work, family), resourcing (eg workload) and community expectations (eg demanding higher standards of service, however, many of us came away with the impression that, comparatively, things aren't too bad in the TFS. A lot of other organisations still appear to be grappling with issues

like having to raise their own funds to buy uniforms and equipment.

On the second day we were all treated to a nice early morning emergency evacuation from our hotel, which had absolutely nothing to do with a certain Brigade Chief from Scottsdale (who shall remain nameless) leaving his bathroom door open even though the sign on the door warned that leaving it open could set off the alarm when having a shower. Apparently, the perpetrator (who definitely is not a TFS volunteer) was quick to hide any form of ID before the responders arrived.

Dr Fiona Wood AM, Australian of the Year 2004, gave an inspirational talk as the presenter of Theme One - Drivers for Change. In her speech, Dr Wood said "Australia is a unique blend of individuals, with the concept of 'giving a hand' embedded in our culture, especially in the remote and rural areas where there is an acute awareness of vulnerability. But as society evolves there is a need to maintain and enhance such a culture within all communities."

Mr Len Foster AO, CEO of the Australasian Fire Authorities Council, was the presenter of Theme Two to the Summit; Mr Foster stated that successful volunteers have to be connected to their local community. "Volunteers are the 'glue' of the community." He added that there are several factors that facilitate the formulation of linkages for example:

- Volunteers have local identities, they are known and trusted
- They know the local scene and what is needed.

Mr Foster also stated that "while it is imperative to enhance the local community, it is equally important to develop the corporate - that is the organisational - structure to support the local units".

On our last night in Canberra we decided to venture out for a meal and have a quiet drink. So as we headed down the road in a maxi taxi anticipating a good night out, we certainly got more than we bargained for when a simple request to turn on the music resulted in a large multi-coloured disco light spinning around in the back of the taxi with some very loud music blaring out. Naturally we all thought this was pretty funny, but not as funny as our cab driver Bob seemed to find it, as he started laughing louder than anyone else and kept on laughing like a lunatic long after we'd stopped. Strangely around this time we started to drive through a hilly bush area and I couldn't help thinking that maybe our cab driver was an escaped axe murder. Thankfully that didn't turn out to be the case, but if you're ever in Canberra and want an entertaining cab ride be sure to ask for Bob's maxi taxi.

In closing, the Summit provided a great opportunity for volunteers from across Australia to learn from each other and contribute their ideas and experiences about the issues affecting them. Our thanks go to Emergency Management Australia for hosting the Summit and to Margaret Kean for organising all our travel arrangements.

Thanks Lions Club of Hobart Town!

Once again we thank the Lions Club of Hobart Town for their generous support to our volunteer brigades. This time they have exceeded themselves and donated several prizes for three separate regional raffles - with prizes totalling \$1500 overall!

Brigades eagerly sold the tickets, and all funds raised were retained by them to purchase items for their members. Polo tops for their juniors was the case in one brigade.

The raffles in each region were drawn on Thursday 31st March 2005



Raffle winners for the Northern Region - Stewart Bayles, Pam Williamson, Brandie Strickland (Pam's niece) and Gloria Bricknell.

The prizes and winners were as follows:

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1st prize | Sundance Four Burner Barbeque - Retail value \$169 |
| 2nd prize | Kambrook Vacuum Cleaner - Retail value \$122 |
| 3rd prize | Russell Hobbs Cottage Lane Pack - Retail value \$109 |
| 4th prize | Sunbeam Harmony Single Electric Blanket - Retail value \$89 |

Southern Region

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 1st prize | Zac Foster of Taroona - Ticket No 1031 |
| 2nd prize | D Hean of Bronte Park- Ticket No 0820 |
| 3rd prize | P Pohl of Primrose Sands - Ticket No 0119 |
| 4th prize | Dot Foster of Parattah - Ticket No 0277 |

Northern Region

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1st prize | P Williamson of Bracknell - Ticket No 0159 |
| 2nd prize | S Bayles of Perth - Ticket No 2187 |
| 3rd prize | G Bricknell of Bracknell - Ticket No 0086 |
| 4th prize | S Bricknell of Bracknell - Ticket No 2336 |

North West Region

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1st prize | C Mathews of Yolla - Ticket No 0559 |
| 2nd prize | A Neilson of Wynyard - Ticket No 0359 |
| 3rd prize | T King of Penguin - Ticket No 0476 |
| 4th prize | E Youd of Wesley Vale - 1049 |

Thanks Lions Club of Hobart Town - we really appreciate your support!

Insider Training

Welcome to 'Insider Training', the first of many exciting issues, to keep you up to date on training events occurring statewide and informative articles from Training Services.

Theme

This is an opportunity for brigades and their members to share interesting and valuable training experiences with other members across the state.

If your brigade has participated in a training exercise, attended a significant incident or individuals have achieved personal goals, send lots of photos and a short narrative of the event to your local Training Officers and share it with your fellow members so others may learn and be inspired by your experience.

Training Services will also use this article to keep members informed about training issues.

Lookout for this regular spot in future Fireground editions!

Live Fire Compartment Firefighting at Bell Bay

Training Services now have the capability of conducting live fire training without the strict environmental considerations imposed at our Youngtown training complex. We have placed three containers, in a "U" shape configuration, at the rear of the Bell Bay Fire Station. The "structure" has been partitioned internally, complete with furniture etc. and was designed to resemble (as close as possible) what you may find in reality.

Environmental considerations will still be a priority during live fire training and guidelines on what types of fire can be lit, as well as the type of fuel to be used, have been developed,

however, this new training prop will give us greater flexibility in achieving the variables required of our training and assessment without causing concerns for nearby residents; Bell Bay Fire Station is located within an industrial area.

One of the containers has been fitted out with steel partitions. This is the only container that will have live fires lit within the structure. This allows us to maintain the furniture that has been placed in rooms throughout the remaining two containers as well as preventing the likelihood of fires developing to an unacceptable level during training activities.

Brigades within close proximity, from the North and North West Regions, could all benefit from this facility. It may be easier for some brigades in the Tamar, North East and even Mersey Districts to travel to Bell Bay for the practical components of structural firefighting rather than another training facility in their Districts. Brigades will need to discuss this option with their District staff.

Training course attendance

The development of our training calendars has given us the ability to identify, in advance, when a particular training course will occur, however, some of our training courses are being conducted without being filled to capacity. Your training, and more importantly, your safety is important to us and every effort to attend training should be made when committing to a particular course. We need your help to fill our courses.

If you have any questions or suggestions about the training courses we are delivering please drop us a note.



The Phenomenon of Lightning

By Field Officer East Coast, Steve Walkley

Lightning is a natural force that produces a spectacular light show, however, can, and often does cause bushfires. This is true, and consequently quite a few of the incidents that we attend are attributed to lightning and therefore we might consider the phenomenon to be not much more than an inconvenience. If you are one of the many of this opinion, then the following may be of interest to you.

With around 16 million thunderstorms occurring around the earth every year, the amount of damage caused worldwide by lightning is enormous, whether it be the loss of life caused by electrocution, the billions of dollars of damage caused to buildings and equipment or the millions of hectares of bush or forest that are burned as a result of lightning strikes. But did you know that without lightning, our planet would not be as it is today and we would not exist? Without lightning, plant life (on which we depend) would be non-existent. This is because nitrogen, an essential food for plants, comprises around 80% of the earth's atmosphere, but in this form it is insoluble and plants cannot absorb it. Before plants can absorb the nitrogen, it must first undergo a series of chemical reactions. This is initiated by lightning. When lightning strikes, the surrounding air is heated to temperatures in the vicinity of 30,000°C (this sudden heating is what creates the sound of thunder). This intense heat enables the nitrogen to combine with oxygen, thereby creating nitrogen oxides that are soluble in water, the rain that usually accompanies lightning and thunderstorms then carries the oxides to earth as diluted nitric acid. The nitric acid then reacts with minerals in the earth's crust to become nitrates or fertilisers that the plants can now feed on!

Did you know that lightning travels upward from the earth and not downward from the clouds? Lightning is an enormous electrical arc, created by positive and negative electrical charges coming into contact with each other. The top of a cloud carries a positive charge, the bottom a negative charge and the earth's surface a positive charge. When the negative and positive charges of a cloud come together they create sheet lightning. When the negative charge of a cloud comes into contact with the positive charge of the earth, forked lightning is created. In this instance, a thin white arm known as a leader 'reaches' down from the base or negative side of the cloud. This is caused by gases reacting to electricity and attracts electrons in the cloud to gather in the leader. The activity of the positive particles on the earth's surface is also increasing to a stage where 'streamers' (positive electrons - the opposite of leaders) are leaping upwards from high points in the area. When a streamer reaches a leader the contact between positive and negative charges is made and



lightning is created. The speed at which this union is created is in the vicinity of 37,000 km per second and what seems to be a spear of light travelling downward is actually an optical illusion that occurs when speeds are too great for the naked eye to follow.

Lightning and Bushfires

Lightning usually strikes at one of the higher points in any given area and this high point is often a tree. The current flows through or around the tree via the path of least resistance which is often the moist bark on the exterior of the tree. In this instance very little, if any damage occurs, however, if the bark is reasonably dry, then the current travels inside the bark in the sap or via what may be a moist, pithy core. The moisture is then superheated and turned to steam instantaneously, and expands so quickly that the tree might split open. The small splinters and dried fuels in combination with the extreme temperature can then initiate a fire that under the right conditions may evolve to a large scale bushfire. So next time you hear the thunder and see the forks of lightning through your lounge room window, stand by, your pager could soon be activated!

Hazard Reports - who needs them?

By Human Services Co-ordinator, Andrew Newell

Firstly in answer to the title - we all do!! The following article seeks to raise the profile of hazard reporting and the benefits for individuals and the organisation from using this proven safety tool.

Background:

The number of Hazard Reports being filled-out across the state has dropped alarmingly over the last few years. Three years ago we averaged eight hazard reports per month but this has slowly declined, now we receive less than four reports per month. Four reports is simply not enough when you consider the number of members we have (around 5,000), the number of locations (in excess of 240), the range and types of equipment we use and just as importantly the type of work the majority of us are engaged in.

Our concern is that the low numbers (as above) suggest that we have a safe workplace whilst both our accident records and observation around the state indicate that we don't always have a safe workplace. It is difficult to guess why the number of reports has reduced, is it people aren't recognising enough of the hazards, or is it they are choosing to not report them? For whatever the reason we certainly would like to remind members of the worth of these forms.

Whether fighting fires, training, servicing equipment, building stations, building and/or repairing appliances or simply performing your daily office work (no jokes please re paper cuts) - there exists a number of natural and man made hazards in our work environments that we need to be aware of in order to stay safe at work.



The table below provides an insight into some of our more common Hazard Reports as well as what solutions were implemented. Hopefully you can see how effective these reports can be:

| Hazard Identified | Possible Injuries / Outcomes | Solution |
|--|---|---|
| Hose Tower: rusted bolts, sheared bolts, surface cracks around the base | Hose tower at risk of collapsing or falling, crush injury | Old hose tower removed from use and replaced with new tower |
| Insufficient or poor storage areas in TFE vans | Manual handling, hit by missile, damaged material | New vehicles and / or storage compartments |
| BA storage in appliance lockers | Manual handling or jammed fingers when accessing | Sliding shelves installed to hold the BA |
| Appliance pump switch placed next to the exhaust | Burns to arms and hands whilst operating the pump | Switch moved, or guarded |
| BA training prop - heavy lid for access, no guardrails around the prop, gravel pathway leading to and from | Manual handling, fall from height, slips trips and falls | Lightweight lid, installed fencing around the prop and sealed the pathway |
| Having to climb up onto the back of an appliance in order to check the water level | Fall from height | Installed new visual sight gauge to tank which is accessible from ground |
| Slippery and rain exposed stairwell | Fall from height, slips trips and falls | Coated with slip-resistant material and a roof installed |

Let's quickly revisit what constitutes a hazard:

A hazard is a situation, object or act with the potential to harm people. It is commonly regarded as an accident waiting to happen. We are therefore being pro-active in raising Hazard Reports and hopefully saving someone else from being involved in an accident.

On the other hand an Accident Report means generally that we were too late to spot the hazard and prevent someone from being injured. Accident Reports are very much reactive.

Hazard reporting in its simplest form is made-up of:

- Recognising a hazard (as per attached photo);
- Considering how to eliminate or reduce the risk associated with the hazard;
- Developing safety controls and implementing them.

In the photo example hopefully you all recognised the hazard of blocking the access to an emergency eye-wash station - if this was an ongoing issue we would need to look at how to eliminate the hazard eg storing the hoses elsewhere, build storage shelves etc.

We have had well over one hundred different hazards identified from virtually all points of the state. Appliance related hazards seem to get the biggest run in terms of number reported, followed by slippery surfaces and manual handling.

Many of the hazards can be minimised locally (eg. ensuring clear access to safety equipment as in the example) and where further action is still required a Hazard Report should be completed and forwarded to your District Officer or Manager for actioning.

All stations and work areas should already have access to the reports and supporting documentation in the Brigade OH&S Folder, if not please contact your District Officer or Divisional Manager.

Please remember that we will ALL be better off if these forms are used to prevent accidents and injuries.

Howden Presentations

At a recent general meeting, brigade members voted for the re-election of brigade officers.

Bruce Moran was declared First Officer; Peter Lucas - Second Officer and Kent Harbutt - Third Officer.

Long service badges were awarded to Kent Harbutt for 15 years service, and to Peter Lucas for 10 years.



South West District Officer Hugh Jones congratulating Kent Harbutt for his 15 years of service



Newly elected Brigade Chief Bruce Moran congratulating brigade member Peter Lucas for his 10 years of service

A Visit to the Station

By Senior Station Officer Hobart Fire Brigade, Andrew Skelly

Samuel, Phoebe and Jacob found a TFS pager whilst riding their bikes and returned it to the TFS. In appreciation for their actions Tony Davidson invited them to visit a fire station with their parents.

Their visit at Glenorchy station coincided with Pheobe's birthday. The family went for a ride in the fire truck and then Pheobe tried on the firefighters turnout gear. Before leaving the fire station they were presented with stickers, colouring books and a t-shirt each.



Photo Gallery



Hazard reduction burn at Greens Beach showing volunteer firefighter Edmund Ten Berge dousing a hot spot to keep the burn under control. Photo submitted by Firefighter Kelso Brigade, Felix Staub



The happiest firefighter I've ever seen even though he is quite black - taken at Eastern Gog fire behind Elizabeth Town December 2004. Photographer - Tony Perry, Sassafras Brigade - submitted by Firefighter Stephen Douce



Taken at same fire as above. Photographer - Tony Perry, Sassafras Brigade - submitted by Firefighter Stephen Douce

Waterhouse fire January 2005. Photos submitted by Dave Frelek, Parks & Wildlife Service



"Reflections" - Taken at Rubicon River in March 2005, mopping up after flare-up at Smith & Others Road fire at Sassafras which started on Easter Sunday. Photographer - Firefighter Stephen Douce, Sassafras Brigade



What a fantastic trophy to be in the running for! It's named the "Promises, Oversights & Mistakes Award!" proudly presented each year to a lucky Lauderdale Brigade recipient.

Fire at Dixon Road
Smithton February 2005
Submitted by District
Officer Arthur, Rob
Deverell



Hevi Lift (PNG) Limited joined the 2004 - 2005 Tasmanian fire season with great success. Pilots Alan Dodds, John Rocks and Engineer Roger (Rabbit) Mathysen enjoyed their time in Tassie working with a very dedicated team of firefighters. Photos submitted by Alan Dodds, Hevi Lift.

B shift had a structure fire on top of the hill and in the middle of the bush at George Street in early February. Gaining access with the Freightliner and no reticulated water supply proved a challenge. Submitted by Leading Firefighter Burnie Fire Brigade, Don Seymour

Group Exercise - Fuel Reduction/Ecological Burn - Henry Somerset Reserve

By Pardoe Group Officer Robert Atkins

On 12th March 2005 a group burn was organised by District Officer Paul Hill, Field Works Officer David Meldrum and Group Officer Robert Atkins.

The objective was to have a hot burn to stimulate the germination of orchids in this area (approximately 90 acres). It was encouraged and sanctioned by the Devonport Orchid Society.

Brigades taking part were Rubicon, Port Sorell, Wesley Vale, Moriarty, Latrobe, Sassafras and Tarleton.

Meeting at the Reserve at 10 am on Railton Road, members were briefed and allocated their duties. The light up crew were given instructions under the control of Dave Meldrum.

Mersey District Officer Paul Hill arrived and took the necessary readings, i.e mapping, wind conditions, soil dryness tests from around the area then duly set up a chair, computer, camera and GPS (boys and their toys).

Vehicles were positioned at strategic points around the burn commencing at 11 am. Everything was progressing well until the fire started spotting and a call out to a separate incident across the river. This took away two units from the scene. A crew from Devonport was called in to assist.

The light up was suspended until these were brought under control. The burn was recommenced and completed by about 3 pm, after mopping up and securing edges we left the burn about 5 pm to journey to Latrobe Station for a debrief and BBQ.



The exercise proved very successful with crew members enjoying the challenge put to them and their ability to adapt to whatever task that they were given. Although the day went longer than anticipated, it showed the willingness by the members to finish the job. The area was patrolled the following day with some mopping up done.

This area needs to be burnt about every seven years for the orchids to survive.

Finally a big thank you to all from the organisers, well done!

Thank you also to Latrobe for their facilities and to head chef Dicko.





Five members of the Sassafras Brigade, Tony and Andrew Perry, Tony Maney, Stephen Douce and Mick Stevenson, took part in a group exercise at the Henry Somerset Reserve, Railton Road, Dulverton. The weather was fine and mild with patchy fog and on arrival members were greeted by Group Officer Robert Atkins, Field Works Officer David Meldrum and District Officer Paul Hill before being sent off to place road safety signs. Back to the control point and the filling out of T-cards, the collection of ration packs and water and then the briefing. A light-up crew, including one Sassafras member, conducted a test burn before brigade units were placed in position and the light-up crew began their task.



Brigade Chief Latrobe -
Graeme Brown

With the light-up crews being 15 metres apart, the burn progressed nicely before the outside crews began their light-up on the outer edges. At about the same time the Sassafras pagers went off calling them to a vegetation fire, but being committed to the burn off, another brigade was redirected. With the reserve being bordered on two sides by plantations, spot fires were of a concern and it wasn't long before it became a reality, with the fire jumping well into the plantation in an area that was inaccessible by fire appliances. At this point the light-up crew was stood down enabling a quick response by the Sassafras Brigade, and others, using knapsacks and rake hoes before a 5:1 unit could cut a track in to extinguish the fire.

With the fire back under control, the light-up recommenced operations. Sassafras members were to maintain the fire edge on the eastern side by blacking out the edges but were paged again to a vegetation fire in the same area as the previous message, with District Officer Paul Hill taking control of this situation while Sassafras were committed to the current burn-off. Further up the slash track two corners of fire had converged together with an almighty "whoosh". Many spot fires jumped across the track and brigades responded swiftly, extinguishing the fires and regaining control. The burn-off was completed successfully before brigades refilled and headed back to the Latrobe Station for debriefing and a BBQ.

Many thanks to District Officer Paul Hill, Field Works Officer David Meldrum and Group Officer Robert Atkins for a well organised group exercise. The members of the Sassafras Brigade found the exercise to be a team building one between brigades of the Pardoe Group and enjoyed working with their brigade members.

By members of the Sassafras Brigade

Library News

Staff changes

Grace is back and Enola is taking up a new challenge elsewhere for a couple of months. Grace has been working with the Department of Justice on their web redevelopments and returned to Fire shortly after Easter. Enola is off to the Australian Institute of Police Management Library for four months to experience online e-learning first hand. We hope she will bring back plenty of new ideas to share!

New books

Report to Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia on minimum aerobic fitness standards for firefighters and the development of a task-specific functional fitness test for new recruits / Brian Dawson. Nedlands, W.A. : University of Western Australia, 2000.

Stanley Fire Brigade : celebrating 50 years of service / Stanley Fire Brigade (Tas.). Stanley, Tas. : The Brigade, [2004].

Valley of volunteers : 40 years of the Richmond Fire Brigade, 1964-2004 / Dianne Snowden. Richmond, Tas. : Dianne Snowden, 2004.

Volunteer management : an essential guide / Joy Noble. Adelaide : Volunteering S.A., 2003.

The way ahead : development of effective recruitment and retention strategies for volunteer fire services / Martin Aldridge. Perth, W.A. : Martin Aldridge, 2003.

Web links

What you wouldn't believe ... : the January 2003 bushfires in the ACT as seen by bushfire and emergency service personnel. [Canberra] : ACT Volunteer Brigades Association, 2003.

This e-book provides a pictorial and narrative record of the fires in the Brindabella Ranges from the perspective of the front line firefighters.

<http://www.esb.act.gov.au/firebreak/jan2003.html>

World Wind is a FREE piece of software (Windows only) from NASA that allows you to easily search and manipulate many terabytes of satellite images, aerial images, and topographical maps from various sources including Terraserver.

World Wind lets you zoom from satellite altitude into any place on Earth. Leveraging Landsat satellite imagery and Shuttle Radar Topography Mission data, *World Wind* lets you experience Earth terrain in visually rich 3D, just as if you were really there. Major landmarks around the globe can be marked on images. In fact, icons are clickable and link to a Wikipedia entry about the landmark.

<http://worldwind.arc.nasa.gov>

Videos

After the fires. Australia : Australian Broadcasting Corporation, 2003. (60 min)

A portrait of a community building a future after the disaster of losing its past. After the worst bush fires in Canberra's history early this year, four families were given digital video cameras to record their lives after the fires.

Contact Grace or Rebecca in the Library for more information or to borrow these items.

Phone: 6230 8679 or 6230 8681

Email: library@fire.tas.gov.au

Or drop into the State Headquarters building on the corner of Argyle and Melville Streets, Hobart.

Can you help?

We need help identifying the people and place in this photo:



New Bushy Park Station

By Field Officer Midlands, Paul Horne



Brigade Chief George Rumley and Chief Officer John Gledhill

Saturday afternoon 19th March 2004 on a perfect autumn day the new Bushy Park Fire Station was officially opened by Chief Officer John Gledhill.

In his address Mr Gledhill spoke of the days some twenty five years ago when he was District Officer in the Derwent District and was lobbied by the Bushy Park Brigade to secure funds to build a shed to house the appliance commonly known in the community the Quickstrike.

As land was difficult to obtain, the original fire shed was built over an irrigation canal opposite the Bushy Park Police residence on land rented from Australian Hop Marketers. This shed is still standing and temporarily housing fire appliances belonging to the Tasmania Fire Service Museum.

Mr Gledhill went on to say that the Tasmania Fire Service no longer build sheds just to house fire appliances but now build fire stations which have combined meeting, social and training rooms, incident operations room, offices, kitchen and bathroom facilities. This type of building provides a more comfortable venue for volunteers as well as doubling up as a centre to manage major incidents.

The new Bushy Park Station is located on the opposite side of the road just past the Glenora School with the well manicured lawns and gardens a credit to the Bushy Park Fire Brigade members.

APM Callout

By Senior Firefighter Burnie Fire Brigade, Alex Otten



Burnie Fire Brigade's A shift responded to a regular alarm call to the Australian Paper Mill in South Burnie, the alarm had activated in the control room from the No 2 Power House. Upon arrival we were met by a staff member and found the control room full of smoke.

After the power had been turned off we found there had been an explosion in one of the 11,000 volt circuit breakers, and the force of the explosion was that strong that it blew off the rear inspection panel that was bolted on with 10 1/4 x 1" bolts.

After further inspection it was found that a rat had shorted out the high voltage contacts was responsible for the explosion. The fried rodent can be seen lying between the contacts in the photo.

Camp Quality Annual Fun Day

By Firefighter Lenah Valley Brigade, Vic Howells

The Lenah Valley Brigade joined with the Southern Off Road Racing Association to once again provide a family day for those families involved with Camp Quality. This annual family day was held on Sunday 3rd April at Kellevie. This year was a resounding success as measured by the fun the children had.

Despite the inclement weather the children's spirits were not dampened, in fact I would have to say that the kids actually had more fun. The rain created a very wet and muddy course for the racing buggies. The speed and skill with which these vehicles were driven covered all who dared to ride in them with large quantities of mud. The children had fun comparing their mud-caked clothes with the others who were brave enough to participate. Those parents experienced with the day knew a change of warm, dry, clean clothes is required for such an occasion.

For those children too young, and not daring enough to brave the conditions and the vehicles; the heavy and light tankers provided excellent entertainment. We were able to provide rides around the course in warm, comfortable, and dry vehicles. No wonder we were popular. We also passed on the basics of good communication skills to the kids. By the



end of the day, the skills on the radio by some of the children was excellent, even though some of the comments were not complimentary. The children produced unbelievable noises from the sirens on the appliances, a variety of sounds which they were never intended to make!

Firefighter Steven Bomford showed his skill and talent in navigating a light tanker around a very muddy course. Next





year Steven, can you assist with the task of washing the vehicles that you so kindly and expertly caked with mud.

The Brigade would like to extend its deepest gratitude to the Off Road Racing Association for once again enabling our Brigade to participate on this day.

Thanks are extended to the brigades involved. The Lenah Valley Brigade for supplying the meat, and ensuring this was cooked to perfection on the barbeque. A big thanks to brigade members Richard Blackwell and Colin Quon for supplying those essential ingredients for such a day - the chocolates and ice-creams. To the Old Beach Brigade, a special thanks for once again allowing us to borrow your heavy tanker. Also a big thank you to all the brigade members who attended and assisted on the day. Without all of the above, occasions such as this can never happen; or be as successful as they are.



Jafa

(Junior Award for Firefighter Awareness)

Members of the Boat Harbour Brigade were very concerned over recent deaths of children in house fires. To run a fire awareness course for children was suggested to them, which they embraced with much enthusiasm. TFS in Burnie gave approval and so the wheels of motion began.

Local primary schools were contacted outlining a planned course using the "Fire Safety at Home" book. Officers and firefighters were allotted different aspects of fire safety to explain and demonstrate to the children using the book as a guide.

The first thing was to show the children the fire truck and let them climb through it - this they did with great excitement. Field Officer Steve Townsend from Burnie joined us for "kitchen safety" where the children had hands on experience using fire extinguishers and a fire blanket, and shown how smoke alarms work.

Other nights had them finding electrical faults in cables and appliances; seeing how different materials burn, scorch and melt; using fire hoses; and learning which liquids are flammable in "electrical safety and heaters" and "flammable materials".

One night was given to first aid when a nursing sister and first aid lecturer spoke about burns, scalds, what to use, and procedures to follow if someone is burned. The children then had to treat a "victim".

Another night was spent discussing how you would get out of a burning building. The children were given grids to take home and draw their home with the escape route, meeting place, position of smoke alarms etc. The standard of these was commendable and well thought out.

A difficult topic to cover was "pets can usually save themselves" - especially when budgies and goldfish were mentioned! Our wonderful crew handled that one quite well.

All through the course there were games that reinforced survival. They all loved "stop, drop, rock and roll", when the music stopped they had to stop and drop either onto their front or back and rock and roll with their hands over their face. Last one down was out until we had a winner. Another activity was crawling low along the ground and climbing out a window. We also did this with the lights out so they had to feel for objects. They excelled in the quizzes and were rewarded each night with a special supper. On the last night they were treated to a ride in the fire truck!

Comments made by the parents - "Our children picked us up on safety issues that we had been inclined to overlook" and "They are keeping us on our toes".

News from Edmonton City



By Leading Firefighter Hobart Fire Brigade, Stewart McKinlay (currently in Canada)

Edmonton is located four hours east of the Rockies and is the capital of the Canadian province Alberta. Its population stands at approximately 800,000 and includes four surrounding cities. Spruce Grove situated to the West, St Albert in the North, Sherwood Park to the East and Beaumont to the South. The Edmonton Fire Department has approximately 900 permanent firefighters and 23 stations in the city with the surrounding cities fostering separate emergency service departments.

Each of the twenty three stations has a pump staffed by a captain and three firefighters and supporting units would be housed depending on the location of the station. These supporting units can be tankers, rescues or aerials and are staffed completely separate from the pumps. There are five rescue halls in the city all staffed by a full crew of a rescue captain and three firefighters along with eleven aerial halls staffed with a lieutenant and one firefighter.

the department as it's responsible for all the varied technical rescue incidents across the city along with the normal fire attack/suppression, reconnaissance and search and rescue duties. The rescue disciplines that everyone stationed here is proficient in are:

Trench rescue

Confined space rescue

Vertical rescue

Urban search and rescue

Ice rescue

The Edmonton Fire Department also dedicates a station to dangerous goods and is a regional response for the northern part of the province with Calgary dedicated to the southern region of the province.



The department has been moving ahead over the last five years and is continuing this trend at present. During the last six months I have worked at seven different stations with the majority of time spent at station 7 and 3. I have been exposed to many different working environments along with various conditions and am enjoying the department's outlook on progressing to be one of the leading fire departments in the country.

Station 7 is located in the heart of Beverly, just east of the city centre, which is a low socio economic community with an aging population. The station houses a pump, aerial light tanker and an EMS unit. As is the case across the city the pump is manned with a captain and three firefighters and the aerial manned with a lieutenant and one firefighter. The pump in conjunction with the EMS unit attends many of the medical calls in the area ranging from domestics to stabbings and suicides. During my stay at station 7 I have experienced many medical calls varying from acute breathing disorders to serious car accidents and an alarming suicide rate.

Station 3 is situated on the south side of the city, and is a dedicated technical rescue station housing a pump and rescue appliance. Working at this station has been a privilege to some extent as there is a large interest of people wanting to be stationed here. It has been good to have the opportunity to maintain my skills in this area and to see different techniques along with new perspectives. Station 3 as with all rescue units in the city is fully manned with a Rescue Captain and three firefighters, attending all vehicle accidents and extrications. This station, however, is unique to

The department is proactive in organising structured training along with a multi million dollar facility which allows the instructors to create life like scenarios in a variety of challenging environments. Eight instructors are seconded from shift for a year purely for the purpose of providing training to the shifts, implementing worthwhile programs with positive outcomes reflected in firefighters' attitudes.

The work here has been fantastic and we had one of the biggest building fires seen here in many years last week. This building was the oldest in Edmonton and was being renovated with most of the work already completed but it's now destined for demolition.

They call their fires either first, second or third alarms. First alarm being five trucks, if any more resources are needed then it becomes a second alarm, then a third alarm is when they recall guys on overtime. This fire was a five story apartment fire which very quickly progressed to most of the floors being involved and on arrival four occupants were trapped on the fourth floor. I was lucky enough to have my camera with me and got some pretty good shots through the progression of the fire.

The exchange has been a great experience and I have got a lot more out of the work side here than I ever thought I would. The department here has been very supportive of anything I have wanted to do and have given me access to a host of information and training opportunities. Having the opportunity to represent my brigade has been a well worthwhile experience and I feel fortunate for having gained so much.

Prospect Brigade bring in the Winter Wood

By Leading Firefighter Prospect Brigade, Oliver Breeze

As you may remember Appin Hall Children's Foundation run by Ronnie and Maggie Burns was 2004 chosen charity for the annual Burnie to Hobart Charity Event. I first met Ronnie while running somewhere between Launceston and Campbelltown. While travelling down the Midlands, Ronnie told how the children's foundation was developed and his future plans to expand. I then later caught up with Ronnie at the TFS annual conference in Hobart.

Around Christmas time I received a letter from Ronnie through the Army, as I am a member of the Army Reserves. Ronnie was interested if the Army could possibly assist in some woodcutting. As I am attached to a medical unit, there was little chance of chainsaws and woodcutting assistance, so I asked Prospect Brigade to assist. As usual we had a number of people interested in helping out. We planned a weekend away and with the assistance of Rodney Springer we were able to combine a charity woodcutting event as well as Trim and Cross Cut Course. On the 16th April, Rodney and five volunteers from Prospect arrived at Appin Hall Erriba where we received a very warm welcome from Ronnie and Maggie. After a brief tour we started work with four chainsaws; a dozer; tractor and trailers, we were into our woodcutting operation.

During the course of the morning Rodney Springer conducted assessments on most of the members gaining their competencies, while Ronnie demonstrated that as well as being a star performer on the stage he was also a star performer with his chainsaw and tractor skills.

After a brief lunch break we were in a systematic work pattern of cutting splitting and stacking when we noticed the dozer had been taken over by the very enthusiastic Rodney Springer who demonstrated that as well as being an accomplished chainsaw operator, he was an advanced operator of the big yellow rake/hoe (dozer). Around 4.30 we had cut an immense amount of firewood and the light had begun to fade so we retired to Appin Lodge for a BBQ. Maggie and Ruth had prepared a smorgasbord of home cooking and we were treated to a fantastic night in front of a log fire.

Over the day and half we had managed to fill all Appin Hall's woodsheds ensuring that there was enough to warm the lodge over the winter period. After helping the Appin Hall Children's Foundation we left with great memories and a promise to return to help out again. I would like to sincerely thank Rodney Springer for giving up his time to help out as well as Andrew Comer and Mark Dobson for their assistance.



Thanks to a Quiet Achiever

By Group Officer Circular Head, Leo Berechree

Recently a working bee was conducted at Montagu Station followed by a BBQ and refreshments. Afterwards a surprised Noel Gourley was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from the TFS. Group Officer Leo Berechree made the presentation and thanked Noel for his dedication to the Brigade particularly upon joining in 1991 when the Brigade was in the process of rebuilding ranks.

Brigade Chief John Grey paid tribute to Noel as a “quiet achiever, always around when needed”. He said “Noel was so valuable to the Brigade as we grew from a tanker trailer hidden in a shed, to today with this modern 4WD appliance sitting here in our Station”.

With the influx of some young blood into the Brigade during the past 18 months, Noel decided to resign from the service, and give way to the new generation of firefighters.

Noel has insisted he will be about to help the Brigade socially as he lives close to the station and would be available during large fires to assist with logistics if required, (we think he meant cut sandwiches and fill the fridge!).

Thanks Noel from all in the Circular Head Group.



Noel Gourley being presented with his Certificate of Appreciation by Group Officer Leo Berechree as Montagu Brigade Chief John Grey looks on

Girl Guide Visit

By Firefighter New Norfolk Brigade, Neville Rushworth

New Norfolk Brigade had a visit during August from the New Norfolk Girl Guides. They were shown a video on fire safety, then shown the station and equipment. At the end of the night they presented the brigade with a donation.

The photo shows the girl guides together with brigade members being presented with the donation.



On The *Move*

A list of recent personnel changes within the Tasmania Fire Service

The following Career Personnel changes have been effected

Arrivals

| | | | |
|------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| North | Todd Edsall | Senior Fire Equipment Officer | 10th January 2005 |
| North West | M Ivory | Comms Tech, Burnie | 7th February 2005 |

Departures

| | | | |
|-------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| North | Frances Jeeves | Clerk, Youngtown | 31st January 2005 |
|-------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|

Elevations

| | | | |
|------------|---------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| South | Steve Davison | Consultant, Building Safety | 24th January 2005 |
| North West | Wayne Viney | Consultant, Building Safety | 24th January 2005 |
| South | Chris Arnol | Deputy Regional Chief South | 16th February 2005 |
| North | Mike Brown | Deputy Regional Chief North | 11th April 2005 |

The following Volunteer Brigade Officers have been elected by their Brigades

| BRIGADE | OFFICER | APPOINTMENT | BRIGADE | OFFICER | APPOINTMENT |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Preolenna | Keith Smith | Brigade Chief | Bell Bay | Clive Watson | Second Officer |
| | Stephen Shepperd | Second Officer | | Belinda Taylor | Third Officer |
| | Peter Barker | Third Officer | | Mick Brodie | Fourth Officer |
| | Alan Hird | Fourth Officer | Castra | Chris Williams | Brigade Chief |
| Beaumaris Group | Glenn Bailey | Group Officer | | Raymond Oliver | Second Officer |
| | Glen Doherty | First Officer | | Peter Williams | Third Officer |
| | Mark Stocks | Second Officer | | Alan McAllister | Fourth Officer |
| Wattle Grove | Leanne Doherty | Fourth Officer | Cranbrook | Robert Elliott | Brigade Chief |
| | Robin Dance | Brigade Chief | | Kevin Amos | Second Officer |
| | Stephen Walter | Second Officer | | Alan Johnston | Third Officer |
| | Justin Jarrett | Third Officer | | Michael Dunbabin | Fourth Officer |
| Campania | Barry Mayne | Brigade Chief | Dodges Ferry | Chris Wilson | Brigade Chief |
| | John Brown | Second Officer | | Grant Hawkes | Second Officer |
| | Simon Tapp | Third Officer | | Adam Hall | Third Officer |
| | Alan Wiles | Fourth Officer | | Chris Suckling | Fourth Officer |
| Avoca | Max Rak | Brigade Chief | Southern Logistics | Andrew Davis | First Officer |
| | Bob Gee | Fourth Officer | | Robert Klingsporn | Second Officer |
| Western Tiers | Errol Gleeson | Group Officer | | Matthew Fishwick | Third Officer |
| | Phillip Barrett | Brigade Chief | | Rod Finlayson | Fourth Officer |
| Deloraine | Andrew Sherriff | Second Officer | Mount Nelson | Gary Shaw | Second Officer |
| | Errol Gleeson | Third Officer | | Wayne Wise | Brigade Chief |
| | Shane Swain | Fourth Officer | | Geoff Goss | Second Officer |
| | John Grey | Brigade Chief | | Chris Hjort | Third Officer |
| Montagu | Phillip Wilson | Second Officer | Gravelly Beach | Mathew McLean | Fourth Officer |
| | Scott Clark | Third Officer | | Todd Heaver | Third Officer |
| | Len Bartlett | Third Officer | | Michael Dickson | Brigade Chief |
| | Trevor Gale | Brigade Chief | | Richard Webb | Second Officer |
| Forth Forest | Brian Johns | Second Officer | Rocherlea | Tim Redpath | Third Officer |
| | Jeff Burgess | Third Officer | | Jamie Bunn | Fourth Officer |
| | Rick Kirkland | Fourth Officer | | Helmut Rechberger | Brigade Chief |
| | Jillian Probert | Second Officer | | Kelvin Blazely | Second Officer |
| Gladstone | Tania Thompson | Third Officer | Kelso | Russell Pursell | Third Officer |
| | Dennyse Groves | Fourth Officer | | Maree Millier | Fourth Officer |
| | Bruce Moran | Brigade Chief | | Rod Williams | Brigade Chief |
| | Peter Lucas | Second Officer | | John Jamieson | Second Officer |
| Howden | Kent Harbutt | Third Officer | Falmouth | Michael Schier | Third Officer |
| | David Bonney | Brigade Chief | | Stephen Ritchie | Fourth Officer |
| | Robert Reid | Second Officer | | Tony Walker | Brigade Chief |
| | Jane Reid | Third Officer | | Mark Van Geest | Second Officer |
| Gunns Plains | Byron Lee | Fourth Officer | Binalong Bay | Anne Harper | Third Officer |
| | Steven Clear | Brigade Chief | | Iain Jones | Fourth Officer |
| | Leanne Whish Wilson | Second Officer | | | |
| | Bob Demeyer | Third Officer | | | |
| Sisters Beach | Adam Garrad | Fourth Officer | | | |
| | | | | | |

We Need Your Blood!

By Editor Fireground, Linda Lacy

We need your blood! Well, actually the Australian Red Cross do!

Recently Senior Fire Equipment Officer John McDonald gave blood for the first time and dared / encouraged other staff members to participate. Somehow I got involved through Fireground to help with a recruitment drive and ended up "on the couch" needle in arm etc - so to speak!

Nearly everyone I have spoken to has said "it's something I'd like to do, but haven't got around to" - well now is your chance!

During the last few weeks six TFS staff members attended for the very first time - we're now all brave enough to take one of you with us next time we go. Then you can take somebody next time you go! Sounds like we need a hand to hold doesn't it? - Honestly it was easy! The longest part of the whole process was completing the forms, the actual donation only took a few minutes. Join us next time!

I have since discovered there are already many blood donors amongst us - pictures of whom are on the wall - some giving their 100th donation! Well done guys!



Rebecca Evans - on the couch - with "old hand" Rod Woodward looking on!

Remember John; Faron; Martin, Jenny and Rebecca - one down, only 99 to go before our pictures go on the wall!

Community Fire Safety Presentations



Sandra Heddle and Debbie Manten

On Thursday 7th April 2005 the Chief Officer presented Debbie Manten and Sandra Heddle with their respective Certificate 1V in Business. The Certificates involved working through a structured training program with challenging assessment projects that were designed to value add to the workplace as well as provide an opportunity for Debbie and Sandra to illustrate their competence in specific areas.

Both Sandra and Debbie demonstrated a significant commitment to continuous improvement and learning and the successful completion of the Certificates formed a key part of TasFire Equipment's ongoing commitment to staff development.

If anyone would like more information on training and development options please contact Suzanne Bacon 6230 8453.

The Chief Officer presented Faron Wall with a 15 year long service badge. Faron has been an active operational member of TasFire Equipment for 15 years. Faron joined Kingston Brigade in 1989 and during his time at this extremely busy volunteer brigade has moved through the ranks to become Second Officer in 2004.

He is also an active volunteer training instructor.



Faron Wall - 15 years service

Tasmanian Volunteer Fire Brigades Association (TVFBA)

State Competitions

Saturday 12th November 2005

Hosted by the Moriarty, Sassafras and Wesley Vale Brigades
at Pipers Park, Wesley Vale

***Come along and watch firefighters compete in
senior and junior events***

Why not enter your brigade? Give it a go!

A BBQ will be held at the completion of events and presentations

From the Brigade Competition Handbook the following events will be conducted:

| | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Event 3 | Hydrant Hose Event | Seniors |
| Event 5 | 38 mm Canvas Hose Dutch Rolled | Seniors & Juniors |
| Event 7 | Siamese Valve | Seniors & Juniors |
| Event 14 | Firefighters Football | Seniors & Juniors |
| Sealed Event | | Seniors |

A judges and competitors workshop will be held on:

7th August 2005 at Training Complex Cambridge; and

14th August 2005 at Training Complex Youngtown

commencing at 9.30 a.m. until approximately 1.00 p.m.

A light luncheon will be provided, however, for catering purposes, RSVPs are required prior to 29th July 2005 to committee delegates as named above.



For more information contact committee delegates:

South - Brian Rainbird on 6265 5260 or John Banks on 0407 298 241

North West - Robert Atkins on 0409 140 237 or
David Haigh on 6425 2239

Hello from the UK!

By Senior Firefighter Launceston Fire Brigade, Rick Mahnken (currently on exchange in the UK)

During my exchange to the United Kingdom I have experienced a wide variety of calls but three have stood out. It has been good to finally get some decent burns since starting with the Devon Fire and Rescue Service.

I have jelled with the rest of my watch extremely well but starting at a new brigade in a different country is like starting your first day of school all over again. It is not until you play in the sand pit, or in this case, attend that first good fire that you truly fit in with your mates. Unfortunately, for me to feel like I am part of this team came at the cost of some minor burns, heat exhaustion and a night in hospital to a fellow firefighter. Not to mention the huge financial and emotional devastation that the property owners suffered. It was only last week that two firefighters in Hertfordshire (near London) died in a 17-storey high-rise fire.



Fire No 1

I have just finished the busiest shift of my career, which involved a small laundry fire, loads of alarm calls and two huge multi storey pub fires. The first pub fire started on our initial night shift and is thought to be a result of arson. We arrived at about midnight and the fire was venting through the roof with flame heights that you would expect to see in bushfires. This puppy was really going! I got to go in and knock down part of the fire, which was fantastic because it is the first real burn I've had since arriving. The fireground was a real hive of activity with eight pumps, a hydraulic platform and an incident support unit not to mention the fifty firefighters who were also there. Some of these included the incident command team. I didn't get to sleep that night as it turned out to be an all night affair.

Fire No 2

Again, a multi storey and going well. This time I got to break down the front door where my fellow BA wearer (female) and I proceeded to go to the fire, which was in the kitchen and had spread to three other rooms. The fire was hot with wires etc everywhere. Another BA team entered via the back and was also knocking down the fire when one of them suffered from heat stress and we had to carry him out. He was rushed off to hospital and suffered some minor burns but is okay. We then re-entered to finish knocking down the fire and search upstairs for the publican who was reported missing. After smashing in two more doors that were locked, one being a main bedroom door and completing an extensive search we concluded it wasn't going to be the day that we became national heroes. Little did I know that a rescue would not be far away.

Rescue No 1

Recently we were doing some water rescue training on one of our night shifts when ironically we got a shout for "cows trapped in a slurry pit." As we proceeded to our destination many things quietly went through my mind. The first being, please tell me that a slurry pit isn't the Australian equivalent to s#@t pit! Upon arrival the stench confirmed my worst fears. This slurry pit was over 100 metres long, fifty metres wide and three metres deep. Seven cows were trapped, one unfortunately dead upon our arrival and the other six stranded near the middle of this slurry pit.

Since joining the Devon Fire and Rescue Service I have adopted the principle of two ears one mouth. Initially I have been content to listen more than I have spoken. I have been rigid with this philosophy even when copping a bit of lighthearted banter. Upon feeling a bit more settled I am now giving as good as I get when it comes to the banter. This I feel went against me when tasks were allocated for the cattle rescue from the slurry pit.

I was ordered into a dry suit where I was deployed over a mud mat (which is basically a big lilo, inflated and rolled out across the slurry pit). The aim was to get a rope harness over the cow's head and a strop around its hindquarters. This was then rigged to a tirlor winch and the cows were dragged to the side where two veterinarians were on standby. It worked incredibly well except for the fact that I was covered in mess from head to toe. After triaging the scene all cows were successfully rescued. It was a thoroughly interesting and rewarding job and I am having a fantastic time on this exchange and am gaining some great experience.

Hello to everyone back home.

Workplace Feedback Trial

By Co-ordinator Human Services, Steve Willing

The Workplace Feedback Trial is on track. Ten work groups (over 100 people) have agreed to participate in the trial. Most of them have attended the training workshops to reinforce skills and to set up consistent expectations.

The training included people from ALL levels of the organisation, from trainees to the Chief. As expected, some were enthusiastic, while others were cautious or cynical, but almost all got more out of it than they expected to.

The next step is for each work group (e.g. Launceston Fire Brigade, Engineering Services, Communications) to adapt the model to fit their situation. By now they'll be using the system and letting the Steering Committee know what's working and what's not, so we can create formats that work for the TFS.

Thanks to all who have invested time and energy into this trial! The outcomes will benefit us all.



Presentations at State Headquarters

On Wednesday 20th April a number of presentations were made to officers for long and dedicated service to the TFS.

Chief Officer John Gledhill presented national medals and clasps to:

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Damien Killalea | Director Community Fire Safety |
| Jeff Knight | District Officer Building Safety |
| Leon Carr | Consultant Building Safety |
| Ken Burns | District Officer Fire Management Unit |
| Haydn Fletcher | Consultant Building Safety |

Long service badges were awarded to Pay Officer Judy McGuffie for 30 years service, and to Consultant Building Safety Peter Plummer for 25 years service.





East Coast District Fuel Reduction Burn and Training Exercises

Buckland Military Training Area

By Field Officer East Coast, Steve Walkley

On 2nd April 2005, several brigades and district staff from the East Coast District undertook a fuel reduction burn that also entailed multiple training exercises. These activities took place at the Buckland Military Training area and involved a low intensity burning of 218 hectares (540 acres). The planning and co-ordination of the burn-off was managed by District Officer Gerald Crawford in conjunction with Defence Force personnel, while personnel and appliances from the following brigades carried out the various tasks that eventuated in a very successful day:

Midway Point, Campania, Orielton, Dodges Ferry, Triabunna, Swansea, Seven Mile Beach, Buckland, Richmond, Swansea and Bicheno. In all approximately 50 personnel were involved.

In addition to achieving all the required outcomes for a low intensity burn, TFS firefighters and officers made the most of the opportunity to practice and hone their skills in such disciplines as off-road driving; fuel reduction burning; bushfire behaviour; radio procedures; chainsaw skills; map reading and navigation; pump operations; mop-up and patrol; and management and leadership skills.

It is envisaged that this exercise was just one of more to come, as the Defence Force is enthusiastic to maintain the co-operation that was shown between themselves and the TFS, and to continue these activities on a rotational basis over the coming years.





Walking the Beat

By Firefighter Hobart Fire Brigade, Warren Frey



On Australia Day career and volunteer firefighters from Rokeby Station joined Tasmania Police for doorknock Operation Hydra. The aim was to try and reduce an alarming increase in vegetation and car fires occurring in the area. On a warm morning both services hit the streets for an information distribution and gathering exercise. Firefighters advised residents on steps they could take to protect their properties from the dangers of fire and the Police took details and information provided by locals that could be helpful in

the identification of arsonists. The reception received towards those involved was very encouraging.

Since then there has been a significant decrease in the amount of calls in the Rokeby area. Recently one of the residents Mrs J Sallans presented the station with an oil painting pictured here to show her appreciation of the difference she felt the project had made.

Operation Hydra Follow up

By Consultant Community Education, George Auchterlonie

In the last edition of Fireground I reported on a new strategy involving the TFS and Tasmania Police. Fire and Police Officers doorknocked certain areas in the suburb of Clarendon Vale where a lot of fires had been occurring, with the intention of heightening the awareness of the residents, and from the police perspective, gaining some information that may have led to apprehension of possible offenders.

Prior to Operation Hydra, 47 suspected maliciously lit vegetation fires were attended by the TFS in the period 26th

November 2004 to 26th January 2005.

Well over two months have passed since Operation Hydra was implemented and I am pleased to report a huge decline in the number of vegetation fires attended by us. From its inception on Australia Day until 26th March only 7 vegetation fires were reported.


The TFS and Tasmania Police are considering similar strategies for the 2005/2006 fire season in other "hot" spot areas.



PREMIER

30 MAR 2005

Mr John Gledhill
Chief Officer
Tasmania Fire Service
PO Box 1526
HOBART TAS 7001


Dear Mr Gledhill

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the State Fire Commission for its contribution to the recent tsunami relief operation involving the shipment of donated aid supplies to Indonesia. Your donation of a Bedford tanker, portable water storage unit and pump will greatly assist in the emergency and reconstruction phases of the relief effort in Indonesia. In particular, I would like to thank Leon Smith and his team at Cambridge for going out of their way to deliver the fire truck and to construct the slip on unit.

I am pleased to report that on Sunday January 31, the InCat built catamaran *Normandie Express*, offloaded over 100 tonnes of aid cargo, including the Bedford tanker and portable unit, in Jakarta on the way to its new owner, Brittany Ferries-France. The much-needed aid supplies are being transported to affected communities in the province of Aceh.

For your information, the Tasmanian Government has committed a total of \$1 million of aid to the relief effort and is working closely with AusAID and other appropriate aid agencies to ensure a strategic and coordinated response.

Yours sincerely



Paul Lennon
Premier



**Brighton
Council**

March 7, 2005

Tony Davidson
Regional Chief
Tasmanian Fire Service
GPO Box 1526
Hobart 7001

Dear Mr. Davidson

I would like to say thank you on behalf of the Brighton Family Day carers and their children.

We visited your city fire station on Tuesday, March 1st with 35 young children all under the age of five. This age can be very challenging when trying to get an important message across. Your firemen on shift 'C' were able to handle this very well. We found them to be approachable, friendly and professional. When they were abruptly called out to a fire (which they had warned us may happen) other staff were able to take over with ease, making the entire visit very worthwhile.

I have followed the visit up with an evaluation from the family day carers and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

Yours sincerely

Denise Bassett
Field Officer
Brighton Council Family Day Care



CRUISING YACHT CLUB OF TASMANIA INC.

MARINERS COTTAGE
42-44 HARPLETON STREET
BATTERY POINT, TASMANIA 7004

PO BOX 605
SANDY BAY, TASMANIA, 7005

Mr John Gledhill
Chief Officer
Tasmania Fire Service
cnr Argyle and Melville Streets
HOBART TAS 7000

Dear John,

The Commodore, committee and members of the Cruising Yacht Club of Tasmania would like to thank officers from Tasfire Training and Tasfire Equipment for providing training and demonstrations to club members, conducted at the Tasfire Training facility at Cambridge.

The Marine Fire Safety Training information session was professionally conducted by Phil Douglas of Training Services and David Bryan and Faron Wall of Tasmania Fire Equipment.

The training and demonstrations were clearly enlightening to club members. Many members were not aware of the limitations of the fire fighting appliance normally held on boats nor aware of the importance of regular servicing of appliances.

Those club members attending the training express their thanks and commend the Tasmania Fire Service for making the training available.

Thank you very much.

Yours sincerely

Milton Cunningham
Secretary

2 April 2005



**St. Mary's
College**
INC.

ABN 15 116 286 640

Conducted by
The Presentation Sisters

Certificate of Appreciation

Tasmanian Fire Service

**For their recent support of our
2005 School Fair. Your
generosity is greatly
appreciated.**

Thank You

(Fair Secretary)

100 Hargrave Street
Hobart, Tasmania
7000
Telephone:
03 6234 6300
Facsimile:
03 6234 6300
Email:
www.wkc.tas.gov.au

Tas Fire Service
339 Hobart Road
Youngtown Tas 7249

22 February 2005

Attn Steve Lowe

Dear Steve

Support in recent wind storm event...

Following the recent windstorms I provided an information report to West Tamar Council outlining the response that was required, particularly over Wednesday night, 3rd February and Thursday 4th February this year, to this event.

The support offered by the fire service, particularly the volunteer brigades in the West Tamar area was invaluable and much needed during this event and was really appreciated by council and its employees who worked through this period.

Could you please, on behalf on council and myself, pass on our thanks to all the brigade members for the effort they put in during this period. It was one of those occasions where a real community effort was required to address the issues that we all faced and it was really pleasing to see how well everyone co-operated to get on with what needed to be done.

Thank you all.

Yours sincerely

David Gibbins
Works Manager
SES Local Co-ordinator

P.O.Box 59, West Street, Beaconsfield, Tasmania 7220
Telephone: 6383 6350 Facsimile: 6383 6384
Email: wkc@wkc.tas.gov.au
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Bid for your own Goddess

International
Express
22/2/05



SALE: Green Goddesses

THE famous Green Goddess fire engines have reached the end of the road after 50 years of service.

Forty of the Bedford self-propelled pumps – as they are officially known – are to be auctioned as government surplus. If the sale is successful, the other 960, based in Marchington, Staffs, could go the same way.

The Green Goddesses date back to the Fifties but they are best remembered for their role during the firefighters' strikes of 1977 and 2002-03, when they were manned by the armed forces.

Fire service minister Nick Raynsford said starting to dispose

of the fleet was part of a review of contingency arrangements. In the event of future strikes, military crews should have access to a reserve of modern red fire engines.

He said: "This is about making the public safer and delivering on our commitment to modernise the Fire and Rescue Service."

The Green Goddesses were built to equip the Auxiliary Fire Service, a civilian volunteer force created to fight fires and pump water in the event of a nuclear attack on Britain. When the AFS was disbanded in 1968, they were put into storage for use in emergencies such as flooding or strikes.

New engines make firemen sick

Express
(UK)
5/05

FIREMEN say their state-of-the-art engines are making them travel-sick and leaving them too ill to tackle blazes.

Racing to emergencies in the £160,000 Scania appliances is leaving crews too dizzy and disorientated to jump out immediately and fight fires.

And they say flashes from the blue lights – which shine into the engines, creating a "disco" effect – make them nauseous. Now union leaders are lobbying bosses for action. Rich Palmer,

of the Fire Brigades Union, said: "We have got to sort the problems out. By the time we arrive at a job there are men who are unfit to fight blazes."

"There is also a strobe effect, especially when you are sitting backwards. It is like being in a disco."

Firemen blame the bumpy ride on the engines' advanced brakes and suspension, which allow for fierce deceleration because the Scania appliances was originally set up for much heavier loads.



Kirsty Franklin
4 Mace Street
Prospect
Tas, 7250.

22 March 2005

Dear Steve, Rob and Dave,

On behalf of Prospect Playgroup, I would like to thank you for the wonderful experience you provided our children, parents and carers on Wednesday 16th March, when we visited your fire station. We received great comments on how the children were in awe of being so close to a 'real fire truck' and 'real firemen'. They particularly enjoyed aiming the fire hose and were thrilled to take home some mementos of their visit.

Thankyou for taking the time to have us.

Yours sincerely

Kirsty Franklin
Prospect Playgroup.



Tasmania

DEPARTMENT of
TOURISM, PARKS, HERITAGE and the ARTS

PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Enquiries: Donna Stanley
Phone: 6256 7080
Facsimile: 6256 7090
Email: Donna.Stanley@dtpha.tas.gov.au
Our ref: Homestead Rd Fire Inc 108632
Date: 04 February 2005

John Gledhill
Chief Officer
Tasmania Fire Service
Melville Street
HOBART 7000

Dear Mr Gledhill,

On behalf of the Parks and Wildlife Service, I would like to pass on our sincere thanks to the volunteer brigades listed below, for their assistance during the recent 'Homestead Road Fire' incident number 108632 at Waterhouse Conservation Area. The dedication, enthusiasm and professionalism of crews was greatly appreciated.

Crews were provided from the following Brigades:

Bridport
Pipers Brook
Scottsdale
Tomahawk
Waterhouse
Winnaleah

Once again, thank you.

David Barker
District Manager
NE District



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