



Fireground

winter 2008



- ▶ Strategic Fuel Reduction
- ▶ Special Operations Appliances
- ▶ Opening of Campania Station

WINTER 2008

Official Journal of
The Tasmania Fire Service



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The opinions expressed in
FIREGROUND are not
necessarily those of the
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Fireground!

Published by
Tasmania Fire Service

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

Front Cover: Piper's Brook fire
Photographer: Jackie Smith



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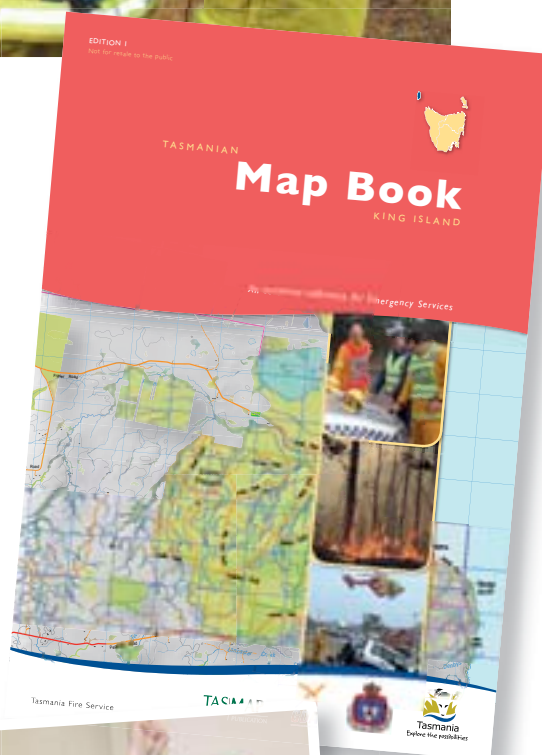
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From the Chief Officer



Climate change is arguably the greatest risk now facing mankind and in fact, all life on our planet. Whilst some scepticism remains as to its cause, there are fast growing numbers of people who accept that it is happening. What may just seem a small increase in global temperature, is now causing quite dramatic effects right around the world. The frequency of extreme weather events appears to be increasing and we are told that this is just the beginning! So what does it mean for TFS?

Although scientific modelling has been undertaken to try to predict what the changes in Australia are likely to be, the predictions are not conclusive. For Tasmania, with its climate influenced by terrain, the surrounding oceans, as well as the Australian continent, the predictions are even more uncertain. But continuing drought over most of eastern and central Tasmania is now becoming a very ominous sign that global climate change may make much of the island drier. In Tasmania we have experienced a fair number of unusual weather events in the last 5 years. It seems that I am forever

writing in this column about weather records, of drought, low humidity, strong winds and high temperatures. Even lightning as a starter of fires appears to be on the increase in Tasmania. Like much of the rest of Australia all of this is likely to mean greater numbers of fires and greater numbers of severe fires. So how do we manage this scenario?

Despite our increasingly sophisticated equipment and communications technology and expertise, our ability to control fires burning under extreme weather is not improving. While we are becoming increasingly effective at managing fires generally, fires burning under extreme conditions produce huge energy releases that overwhelm our toy-like technology and dictate defensive tactics. We can't manipulate the weather but we can manipulate fuel. Strategic fuel reduction burning can assist in reducing fire intensity. This must be tempered with the practicality of doing it, as the challenges in terms of cost and the availability of resources, expertise and safe opportunities are likely to continue. Added to those are growing concerns over smoke on health and greenhouse gases created by burning. Somehow we will have to strike a balance. The recent government funded strategic fuel reduction burning program being undertaken cooperatively by P&WS, FT and TFS is a very positive step in the right direction.

If as I believe, that severe fires are inevitable and become more frequent, we need to learn to live with them. I believe encouraging those who live at risk from bushfires to take greater responsibility for their own safety is a very positive strategy. We know at times we can't have a fire truck at every house under risk. Encouraging home owners to prepare their properties and stay and defend them (or leave early) is a very effective way of improving safety and property protection. With more severe fires likely to invade the urban interface, this strategy will assist far more than having more big red trucks and more firefighting aircraft.

John Gledhill

Editorial

By Editor Linda Lacy

This edition's centrefold, kindly provided by the Bushfire Co-operative Research Centre (CRC) is on "Improving risk communication by understanding the factors that influence the decision to prepare for bushfire".

This issue includes articles on the Aurora Stadium fire, global climate change, strategic fuel reduction, fire permit period, plus many more.

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

Please send me your photos, they don't have to be for the competition or with an article - but tell me where they

were taken and the event, I'll contact you if I need more information. I'd also like your feedback on Fireground. Are we covering the topics you want to read? Do you have any special requests? Please send your suggestions, comments, articles, photos, award details etc to:

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Australian Fire Service Medal Investiture

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

His Excellency, the Honourable Peter Underwood presented the Australian Fire Service Medal to Gerald Crawford District Officer Capability & Planning; Michael Munnings Brigade Chief Colebrook; and Tony Gee Firefighter Avoca Brigade.



Gerald Crawford, Michael Munnings and Tony Gee

Master of Public Administration (Management)

On 16th April 2008 Paul Salter graduated from the Faculty of Social Sciences at Flinders University with the degree of Master of Public Administration (Management). Paul, like many TFS personnel seeking further education was inspired when completing the Public Sector Management Course several years ago and has continued studies as an external student through Flinders University. The Master of Public Administration (Management) aims to develop critical awareness, skills and knowledge in public administration, public policy, management and decision-making.

While the workload of study when working full time (especially during peak fire periods) has been taxing and somewhat difficult through external studies, not to mention impacting on family life, Paul acknowledges the benefits of the extensive research and study which has been extremely valuable in developing a broader appreciation of the public sector and management practices suited to the fire service. However, if anyone is looking for Paul now he is spending time with his family and making up on lost fishing time.



Campania Fire Station opening

The new Campania Fire Station was officially opened on 10th May 2008 by the Hon Michael Polley MP on behalf of our new the Minister for Police and Emergency Management Jim Cox who was unable to attend.

The history of the Campania Brigade typifies the true spirit of rural Tasmania and was formed after the bushfires of 1967. Some 40 years later, the Brigade is still providing an essential service to the community and the juniors will ensure the sustainability of the Brigade into the future.

The Campania Brigade, along with its neighbouring brigades at Richmond and Colebrook, not only provide a first-line response to fires within the Coal River Valley, but also regularly respond to incidents outside the Valley.

The station is purpose built with fire appliance bays, a meeting room, office and modern amenities providing the brigade with a practical and comfortable environment for the members to meet, practice and socialise as well as house their appliance and equipment. It's a vast improvement on the old station which only provided the very basics of a fire shed and meeting room come office with sparse amenities.



The Hon Michael Polley MP with Brigade Chief Robin Howlett



Dick Adams MHR, Chief Officer John Gledhill, Mayor of Southern Midlands Council - Tony Bisdee and the Hon Michael Polley MP with Campania juniors who were invited to assist with officially unveiling the plaque

State Fire Commission tours West Coast



Commission members at Cradle Mountain

The State Fire Commission undertook a tour of the West Coast in late April. This trip, like many others before, was an important activity in the Commission's calendar. Its purpose was to give the Commission members a first hand view of TFS infrastructure, resources and local issues. Additionally, Commission members have the opportunity to meet and talk with brigade volunteers. Unfortunately time availability usually limits these opportunities to only a few people.

The Commission's prime role is to oversee, guide and approve the strategic direction of TFS. Tours such as the recent one to the West Coast provide a realistic perspective of some of the issues TFS manage and a better understanding of local priorities. All of this assists the Commission in its decision making in relation to strategic issues and priorities.



At Queenstown



At Zeehan



Commission members Leon Dewhurst, Richard Bowden with Director Corporate Services, Mike Gallagher



The legendary west coast hospitality - courtesy of Strahan Brigade



Global Climate Change - Implications for Australian Fire Managers

By Chief Officer, John Gledhill

In November 2006 I was invited to speak at an International Fire Ecology Conference in San Diego USA in a plenary forum to give an Australian fire manager's view on the implications of climate change. The following is a slightly edited version of my presentation.

Since the Millennium much of Australia has experienced almost continuous drought or at least significant rainfall deficiencies. The current widespread drought in Australia touted as a 1 in 1000 year event is now being widely interpreted as a strong sign of impending climate change. Whether it is or isn't linked to climate change, the recent and continuing dry climatic conditions over much of Australia are giving many Australians a taste of what to expect in the future as the climate changes. Accompanying these dry periods have been a higher than average number of extreme weather events which have driven major bushfires causing a rapidly increasing belief among Australian fire agencies that this also is a taste of things to come. Again this summer all indicators are pointing at a really challenging fire season.

During October 2006 Tasmania experienced two very unseasonal consecutive days of extreme fire danger fuelled by extreme weather - temperatures in the low 30's, relative humidities below 10 (and as low as 4%), accompanied by a wind gusting to 100km/hr. The two fires in the urban interface of Hobart that we had to deal with certainly focussed the community on the bushfire danger, given that this weather event occurred 3 months before our traditional fire season.

The predicted changes for the climate to become hotter and drier will extend the bushfire prone areas of the continent particularly into the now sub tropical area. From a fire manager's perspective that's ringing alarm bells as much of these areas coincide with the most densely populated parts of the country where there's expanding urban interfaces.

The increase in frequency of major fires is not being matched by an increase in our capability to control them. Whilst our communications and information technologies have improved actual firefighting technology has changed little. Despite an increasing use of firefighting aircraft in Australia fires remain

just as difficult to control as ever. With weather extremes causing increases in fire severity and frequency, greater expectations will be imposed on fire managers to reduce their impact.

The old adage of practice making perfect may mean that the increased frequency of large or difficult fires causes improvement in our ability to deal with them. On the other hand, if we do things the way we always did, we will get things that we always got!

Australia, as the driest inhabited continent, is getting drier. Water shortage is now a major problem facing much of Australia both for people and agriculture. Climate change will only exacerbate an already critical problem. Fire managers have concerns about water availability for firefighting. But there are some other less direct water shortage implications. Most Australian cities and populated areas now regularly need to restrict the use of water. Gardens are one of the greatest uses of domestic water. To minimise the use of water, gardens are being planted out with drought tolerant, but usually very flammable, native species, lawns being replaced by woodchip mulched gardens. Gardens traditionally barriers to fire, are becoming very flammable.

Bushfires in the past only affected properties on the urban fringe of the interface up to 100 metres from the edge of bushland. But with the change in garden flammability I suggest we can expect fires to penetrate much further into the suburbs. The 2003 fire in Canberra is testament to this new phenomenon. In Canberra large fires burning under extreme conditions burned through pine plantations adjacent to the city. A shower of embers was thrown into the gardens on the edge of the suburbs. The drought affected gardens that had been denied water through restrictions, caught alight transmitting fires to the houses directly and by embers. Woodchip mulches caught alight and spread fresh embers in the gale force winds. Gardens, wooden fences and houses themselves transmitted the fire through suburban areas. Firefighting resources were totally overwhelmed. Very quickly 486 houses were lost, along with four lives, after fires spread



Photographer Ian Stewart

over 300 metres from the urban interface into suburban areas, deeper than previously experienced in Australia.

Australian fire agencies have adopted a position that advocates that people living in places at-risk from bushfires should prepare their home and either leave well ahead of a fire's arrival or stay and defend it. This position is underpinned by considerable Australian research that concludes that:

- most people who have died in bushfires died escaping;
- properly prepared houses with adequate defendable space are safe to shelter in and are defendable; and
- most houses lost are ignited by small fires started by wind-borne embers. These fires, which can easily be extinguished by residents, can occur before and well after the fire front has passed.

We know that on occasions we can never have sufficient fire trucks to protect all exposed houses particularly when ember attack may last several hours. So it makes really good sense and better use of firefighting resources to leave the defence of homes from ember attack to the residents, freeing up the firefighting crews and their trucks to concentrate on controlling or at least providing protection from the fire front. Used tactically, this change in thinking will dramatically improve our ability to reduce the impact of interface fires. In TFS we have been using this approach since 1998, and as recently as October 2006, with outstanding success.

Educating and empowering those at risk continues as a significant challenge. TFS has produced a 20 minute video that's been distributed to 39,000 households potentially at risk from bushfires. The DVD shows people how to prepare their properties, what to expect when a fire happens, how to behave and what to do to take care of their safety and how to defend their homes.

Essentially Australian fire managers accept fire as an inevitable, natural and important part of our environment and people in that environment need to find sustainable ways

of living safely with fire. On the basis that climate change will exacerbate interface fire problems, creating better ways of living safely with fire is even more important. More big red trucks and firefighting aircraft are not the solution. I believe that encouraging those at risk to accept greater responsibility for their own safety is a powerful and practical way of counteracting the adverse consequences on people and their assets of increased fire as a response to climate change.

I have focussed on the effect of climate change on fires affecting the urban interface but obviously its impact will extend over the landscape in a range of more natural environments altering their fire regimes. Will some become less flammable perhaps through decreased water availability producing less biomass and ultimately less fuel? Or will drier conditions result in greater fuel accumulation through decreased composition? I suspect that both of the above will occur in different situations and climatic regimes. Fuel reduction burning will remain an important fire management strategy despite probably increased pressures acting against doing it. On the positive side there may be greater and safer opportunities for fuel reduction burning in cooler times of the year which previously were too wet.

My final comment does not relate directly to climate change, but it is an issue that I feel needs to be resolved if we are to be able to effectively manage our future increased fire regimes. Australian fire managers are increasingly concerned about their legal exposures in just doing their job. It seems that once the smoke clears following a big fire we've got to find someone to blame! Accountability after fires for management and operational decision making occur is becoming more demanding. More frequent fires and more severe fires will bring greater public and media scrutiny. Litigation seeking damage compensation by those affected by fires is sharply increasing. Without greater legislated protection this may well translate into greater difficulty in recruiting fire managers.

The whole of government effort to increase strategic fuel reduction

By Fire Management Planning Officer, Mark Chladil

By now most TFS members will be aware that the Government has thrown its support behind efforts to increase strategic fuel reduction burns in some parts of the State. Some of you may be wondering how these burns have come about and why.

As part of the range of responses to the fires of season 2006-07, the State Government committed \$625,000 to support broad scale strategic fuel reduction activities. It was important to use the first available weather window and so a suitable "obvious candidate" burn was needed. The area centred on the Douglas-Apsley National Park was identified during discussions between TFS, Forestry Tasmania (FT) and the Parks & Wildlife Service (PWS). It had strategic advantage for the protection of Bicheno together with meeting biodiversity and protection needs within the National Park as well as having the potential to become a strategic fuel break within the forests of the Eastern Tiers.

In late winter 2007 the Douglas-Apsley burn went ahead. It was a joint effort of the PWS, FT and TFS. PWS and FT accelerated the necessary planning and preparation and when the day came, the joint resources of TFS, FT and PWS worked together to burn out about 9000 Ha.

Deliberately there were a range of intensities: from where the fire burnt well through to patches where there was no fire at all. There was also some unexpected minor damage to park assets and some slop over. But, all in all there is now a large fuel reduced area in the middle of the East Coast to be the anchor for a regional strategic plan.

While the first burn was being planned, staff were already looking at the whole State for areas which would give similarly strategic results. The approach was to look for areas between 2000 and 10000 Ha in size, located strategically for asset

protection and with fuel types suitable for fuel reduction burning. These places were then ranked by the security of their boundaries, the number of owners and the difficulty of getting all the approvals needed for a burn to go ahead. By this process, a series of large scale strategic burns have been identified for the next three years and beyond. The general burn areas and intent have been handed back to local agency staff to be turned into detailed burning plans (backed up with the whole of government funding!).





Burns for the 2008 program as shown in the brochure

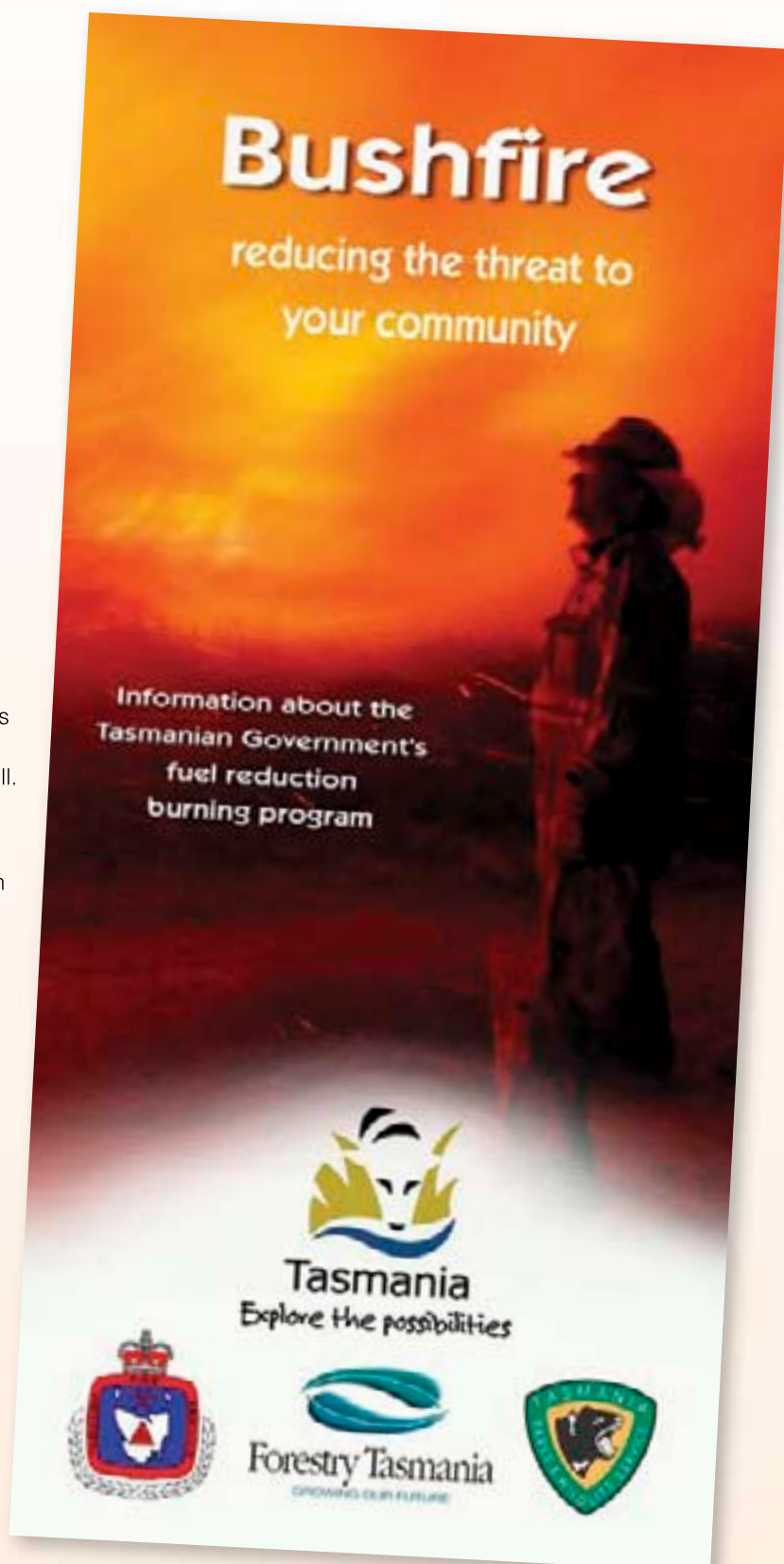
These burns are additional and different to the local scale close-in-strategic-advantage burns which Brigades are already doing. It is very important that the community understands that they still need to abate their hazards and provide their homes with defensible space. Local areas both large and small still require fuel management too. These burns are about landscape scale events and effects and are intended to increase the resilience of the landscape at that scale. The mainland experience of very large fires shows the need to have large fuel reduced areas for tactical use. Such areas reduce catchment and erosion damage and are useful for biodiversity as well.

The program for 2008-09 is heavily weighted to the northern half of the State. The rolling three year program is more balanced but the identified southern burns will take more work and time to organise and so are not on this year's program.

Much of Tasmania continues to suffer the effects of drought. Rainfall deficits are so bad in places that it is going to take significant and prolonged rains to recharge soil moisture reserves and wet up heavy fuels. This is not likely to occur in the short term. Further, in the face of global climate change it may be that uncommon low rainfalls become the new normal for Tasmania. A strategic approach to landscape scale fuel reduction will go a long way towards increasing the resilience of the landscape and the community in the face of potentially increasing fire danger ratings and drier fuels.

The Government has produced an informative brochure about the program. Follow the link to download a copy:

<http://www.forestrytas.com.au/news/2008/03/2008-fuel-reduction-burn-program-launched>



Air Ops - Summer 2007 - 2008

By Leading Firefighter Hobart Brigade, Claudio Muench

During the fire season of 2007 - 2008 air operations played a vital role in assisting the TFS, Parks & Wildlife Service and Forestry Tasmania in the management and suppression of fires throughout the State. Aircraft were deployed to many incidents including some major fires such as Packers Spur, Bellingham, Glenmark Road, Coningham, Tarraleah and Tunbridge Tier. Tasking included crew deployment, reconnaissance, water bombing, mapping and infra red scanning.

This year marked the development and application of new management systems within air operations including the inter agency air desk. These systems together with existing protocols and procedures proved effective, enabling us to better manage aircraft where there were various fires involving multiple agencies. It also highlighted areas needing improvement for the next fire season to make our air operations safer, more effective and efficient.

During the 2007 - 2008 fire season there were up to nineteen helicopters available throughout the State. Two helicopters

were contracted to the TFS during the peak of the fire season, one based in the south and the other in the north of the state. There were two medium helicopters (HeliAust / Wildcat, Bell 212) from the National Aerial Firefighting Centre and the other fifteen were available on the "call when needed register". Companies involved included Helicopter Resources, Rotorlift Helicopters, Tasmanian Helicopters, Osbourne Aviation and Aeropower.

The end of the fire season proved to be a highlight for me personally, not because it had ended but that I was given the opportunity travel with Dave Hauber at the stick on the return flight to Sydney in Helitack 721 (Bell 212). Flying at low altitude enabled me to take in some excellent views of Tasmania and the mainland.

The experience, whilst nerve racking, was fantastic. I bid farewell to my family and we departed Cambridge Aerodrome flying on a direct route to Flinders Island to re-fuel. Then the daunting trip which I had in a way dreaded, flying across



Bass Strait. I can't explain it but there was something about crashing a chopper in the water, I thought crashing on land was a better option. The weather took a turn for the worse and so did my nerves. Reassuring comments from Dave enabled me to relax, such as "this is the largest area of water I have ever flown across!" and "I hope we make it". Dave managed to manoeuvre the helicopter around the bad weather providing me with relatively good views of the many islands that dot Bass Strait. We spotted a cruise ship that had left Hobart the evening before our flight, the ship helped me breathe easy as I thought if we ended up in the water they could come and get us. I was determined to make good use of my Helicopter Underwater Escape Training.

Our next stop for fuel was Latrobe Valley, Victoria. Flying into Latrobe Valley also proved to be a bit of an adrenalin rush. Once again we encountered bad weather and for a brief

moment we couldn't see anything in front of us and before I knew it Dave had done a complete 180 degree turn, flying back to clearer weather to look for an alternate route. This manoeuvre, whilst rather rapid, made me feel much better.

After departing Latrobe Valley we flew directly to Canberra, refuelled and on to Sydney. This part of the flight was very relaxing as the weather was perfect and due to our relatively low altitude there was lots of incredible scenery to look at that you would not normally see on a domestic flight. I did offer to fly a couple of times but Dave said I was only there to pass and fold maps, take photos and keep him awake. I must say I was pretty good at it because we got to our destination. I stayed overnight in Bankstown to return the next day back to Hobart on a boring old domestic flight.

Claudio's worst nightmare - flying over water - although the "rescue ship" was in sight



West Coast 7XS Emergency Services Worker of the Year

Queenstown Brigade Chief Bill Tiddy was recently awarded the West Coast 7XS Emergency Services Worker of the Year Award. Bill became a member of the brigade in 1965.

Minister for Police and Emergency Management Jim Cox MHA said "Mr Tiddy was a shining example of the commitment of people on the West Coast to their emergency services ... he is just as passionate about his emergency services work today as he was back then".

Congratulations Bill on a well deserved award!



Minister for Police and Emergency Management Jim Cox MHA, Bill Tiddy and Helen Gamble (7XS Radio Host)

This won't hurt one little bit

By OH&S Officer, Gerald Kutzner

During December, career firefighters from Hobart Brigade began a reinvigorated program of vaccination to protect themselves against the Hepatitis B virus. The Hep B vaccinations are advisable to everyone who physically gets involved with road accident victims and is available to all other operational personnel (contact your District Officer if you would like to have Hep B protection - see Infectious Diseases Management Program on the TFS Intranet).

For most HFB firefighters who had prior vaccination with the TFS, this will simply mean receiving a booster and blood test, but for others they will undertake the standard schedule of three injections over 6 months.

In most situations the risk of exposure to this particular blood borne virus is relatively low, however, with the TFS becoming responsible for road accident rescue, the need for vaccination and follow-up has increased. In response, the OH&S unit consulted with the Department of Health and Human Services and investigated a range of options. Fortunately, Tasmania Police had in place a well-established vaccination



Senior Firefighter Richard Onn actually seems to be enjoying the prospect of getting a jab from Tasmanian Ambulance Service paramedic Peter Berry. I wonder how he responds to acupuncture?

program which they agreed to make available to the TFS.

So if you happen to spot some firefighters rubbing their arms you'll know why.

Bi-cultural community health program - Getting to Know Good Health

By Manager Community Education, Sandra Barber & Consultant Community Education Chris Tomes

The TFS Community Education Unit was recently invited to deliver two home fire safety information sessions to newly resettled individuals and communities in the North of the state. This was in partnership with:

- TAFE Tasmania Languages North & North West;
- The Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS); and
- The Bi-Cultural Community Health Program (BCHP), under the auspices of the Australian Red Cross.

Background

This was as part of a project called Getting to Know Good Health, that aims to increase the health literacy of newly resettled individuals and communities. The Program aims to assist agencies to increase their cultural awareness and cultural competency in order to provide effective services to migrants and refugees who may be unfamiliar with the Tasmanian health and community service systems. The Program also helps new arrivals to Tasmania to better understand and access health services and expressly targets refugee/humanitarian entrant communities who are resettling.

Encouraging individuals to self-manage their health and wellbeing, and encouraging new and emerging communities to build their capacity for leadership and facilitation in these areas are also key aims of the Program. The Program employs a .6FTE Program Officer in Launceston and 16 workers on a sessional basis to pursue its objectives. Workers have resettled in Tasmania from Ethiopia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Sudan and the Philippines.

TFS was invited to be involved because the issue of home fire safety is an important health and safety concern for recently arrived communities. Many of these communities have experienced considerable hardship and trauma before coming to Australia, often living in very basic conditions in refugee camps for extended periods. Cooking, heating and housing arrangements in Australia are often very different to their previous experiences, and this places them at increased risk of home fires.

It is also very important for their health and safety that these communities get to know TFS and other uniformed personnel as service providers who are there to assist them. Their previous experiences with police and military personnel has often left them with a well-founded fear of people in uniform when they arrive in Australia.

The fire safety sessions

Sheryl Griffiths and Jeremy Patterson from the Launceston Brigade delivered the fire safety information sessions to the new arrivals. Both have many years of experience and involvement with the TFS Juvenile Firefighter Intervention Program to draw on. Sheryl also has experience in delivering



Previous migrant training day at Cambridge

the School Fire Education Program, and has taken part in an International Firefighter Fellowship Exchange to the UK

Sheryl and Jeremy delivered two one hour sessions, one to a beginners' English class and the other to an advanced class. Each class consisted of 20 to 30 new arrivals from many different countries and language groups, including a number of African nations.

Sheryl and Jeremy used a range of teaching strategies and resources to engage and inform the students. They modelled turn-out gear; and used photos, melted appliances and smoke alarms to get the message across to the group. They were assisted by interpreters in the beginners' class, where participants spoke very little English. In both classes the teachers had prepared for their visit by teaching the students some useful fire-related terms.

The sessions have been evaluated by the project manager from DHHS and judged to be a great success. Students have retained and applied their new fire safety knowledge. They also see firefighters as trusted helpers.

Based on the success of these sessions, the Community Education Unit is looking forward to continuing as a partner in this project. We hope to make home fire safety and the friendly face of TFS part of settlement of new arrivals around the state.

LFB confined space technical rescue exercises

By Station Officer Special Operations Launceston Brigade, Dale Lapham

The Launceston Brigade recently conducted training exercises in the technical rescue discipline of confined space rescue.

The training exercises were primarily designed to test the current response capabilities of the Launceston Brigade at this type of Incident.

Four scenarios were developed and delivered over a one month period to all operational personnel.

The exercises were conducted at various Launceston City Council sewerage and storm water pumping stations. These sites were selected as the Brigade and the Launceston City Council have recently established a Memorandum of Understanding, which now enables the Brigade to conduct both qualifying and refresher technical rescue training within their buildings and other infrastructure.

All four exercises varied in complexity which enabled the management group at the Brigade to ascertain the level of operational readiness.

The scenarios dealt with the following issues:

- Current standard operating procedures
- Launceston District emergency response plans
- Risk assessments and high risk work permits
- Confined space entry permits

- Atmospheric monitoring
- Vertical rescue techniques
- Vertical access -utilising a confined space rescue tripod and system
- First aid and patient care
- Patient removal
- Ventilation techniques
- Hazmat considerations
- Breathing apparatus
- Communications
- Scene security
- Specialist chemical / substance advice

At the completion of each exercise an operational analysis was conducted to establish what changes were necessary to enhance the current knowledge of all rescue principles and specialist equipment that would be utilised at this type of rescue incident.

The next phase of response capability testing will be conducted over the months of June and July and will concentrate solely on vertical rescue techniques within both the urban and rural environments.





New TFS “Special Operations” vehicles

By Deputy Chief Officer, Mike Brown

The Special Operations appliances are so named as they have been developed to undertake a broad range of functions within the Regions. Traditionally, the Salvage / Hazmat appliances that the career brigades have utilised differ in construction and spec, with varied items of equipment and all have limitations from a statewide service delivery perspective. The fact that the TFS was required to undertake a broader range of responsibilities in line with road accident rescue and National direction required the development of a new style appliance to equip the regions with a level of resources to undertake the roles of:

- Road Accident Rescue (RAR), heavy rescue, road and rail (full capacity);
- Chemical, biological and radiological (CBR) detection, containment and decontamination);
- Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) structural collapse;
- Other technical rescue roles (vertical, confined space).

The 4 new appliances are crew cab, providing the ability for a crew to respond in one appliance (the old appliances are single cab, requiring additional response and crew splitting). The are 13 tonne GVM, with an estimated operational tare mass of 9000Kg giving an excellent power to weight ratio, well inside the recommended 17Kw/tonne laden mass fire industry standard. The bigger chassis also provides the opportunity for increased levels of equipment in the future if required.

The role and function of these appliances has been developed to accommodate a standard level of equipment for several reasons:

- Provide all regions with an equivalent capability. RAR (Heavy road and rail), USAR, CBR, and decontamination;
- Rope rescue, vertical, confined space;
- Standardised response within the regions, supported by statewide resources in the form of modules if the incident escalates;
- Standard fit out to alleviate the potential for overloading and creation of manual handling issues, but more importantly, establishment of standard equipment levels for consistent capability.

The appliances have been developed in consultation with specialists within the TFS from respective technical areas, other fire agencies and specialist appliance manufacturers. The specification and determined role and functionality of the Special Operations appliances has been recognised as being “state of the art” within the industry Nationally in that it encompasses a very broad functionality and stands alone as a rescue appliance encompassing the full range of equipment to undertake heavy rescue, road and rail.

The old appliances were not capable of carrying the same level of equipment.

Although the appliance carries equipment to combat a range of incidents, it is capable of transport and “drop off” at incidents if required. All equipment, including the hydraulic equipment has been plumbed for rapid deployment on board to work within a range of 30 metres of the sited appliance, however all equipment can be removed providing full capability within a matter of minutes. This element in the design allows for flexibility in resourcing remote incidents requiring 4x4 access, as well as removal at a long term scene (unlikely) when other equipment on board the appliance is required. Likewise, all other equipment can be removed easily for transport.

In summing up, this is the first time in the history of the TFS that we have identical resources on a regional basis to undertake the full range of responsibilities in a consistent manner.



Regional Chief John Streets with Minister for Police and Emergency Management Jim Cox MHA.

Aviation fire & rescue training

By Senior Firefighter Hobart Brigade, Warren Frey

Attempting to replicate the real life challenges of structural firefighting into a training environment is never an easy task. As much fun as it used to be, lighting up a room stacked full of furniture and sending thick clouds of black smoke into the atmosphere is no longer appropriate, however, there are still plenty of skills that can be practiced as well as fire suppression including ventilation and search and rescue techniques. This was the challenge for the B shift crew at Mornington Station as one of our newer members required some refresher training before their next pay point. We were fortunate to have the opportunity to spend some time training at the Aviation Fire and Rescue facilities at Hobart Airport.

A crew from Hobart and Mornington ventured down to a warm welcome by our aviation colleagues who were keen to show us about the station and then set up some scenarios at the fire house. On the drive down to the training area amongst the pines the off-road capabilities of the aviation appliances were evident to both HFB crews by the obvious size and tread of their wheels. Unfortunately one member of HFB was not paying much attention to this and shortly after had a slight mishap manouvering an appliance close to some soft sand. After a close call an embarrassed crew finally caught up much to the amusement of the aviation firefighters and the more attentive Mornington crew. The airport training props are very impressive, not surprisingly they have a large plane structure which they use to train for a variety of aircraft

incidents including engine, fuselage and landing gear fires and rescue. They also have a two storey building used for structural firefighting which we were there to try out.

One of the reasons we were so keen to spend some time in the facility was because of the unfamiliarity it provided to the crews taking part in the training. The building has two internal floors with a staircase and an upper outside landing plus roof top area accessed by external ladders. The internal walls were movable and the aviation firefighters could quickly re-arrange the internal layout for each scenario. The participants found this quite challenging after becoming familiar with a completely different floor plan only a short time before. The ability to make these changes and the lack of windows for ventilation made for a pitch black and very difficult structure to navigate through. The situation was perfect for using the thermal imaging camera to search for the hidden rescue mannequins and then to find the way back out. A smoke machine was used to quickly fill the structure with artificial smoke to add to that created by the different fires set within. Between different scenarios the smoke can be removed just as quickly by extractor fans incorporated into the building allowing personnel to re-enter the structure and set up for the next scenario. The day was a great chance to practice search techniques in a different environment with firefighters from another agency and next time we are looking forward to returning the favor at our own training facilities.





Aurora Stadium fire

By Senior Firefighter Launceston Brigade, John Carter

I was hoping for a quiet night, I had been busy working till late on my leading firefighter development assignments. The next day was my daughter's first birthday party, "you're not allowed to miss it" my wife said "otherwise you'll be in trouble". I had also been recently training to do my leading firefighter advancement, this meant sitting in the front of the truck, directing crews, making the calls, learning, all under the watchful eye of Senior Station Officer Russell Kerr, my on-shift mentor, who gives me feedback and advice when I need it. I had gone to a few calls and was gaining some good experience, mainly alarm calls then a few different calls thrown in for good measure but this was one I wasn't expecting.

At just past 3 am on Sunday morning 30th March the alarms went off in the station, "structure fire, Aurora Stadium", FireComm said, "a toilet block on fire". As we were getting in the truck I was already working out what to say and ask on the radio. I was thinking "it's not going to be much, only a toilet block, shouldn't be anyone in it at this time of the day". On the way I requested Police, Aurora disconnect crew and an ambulance on standby.

One of the crew said he could see smoke as we turned on to Tamar Street bridge, hmm - might be something! As we are travelling down Invermay Road the amount of police cars in the vicinity of the main vehicle entrance tells me where the best access might be, I then tell one of the crew to be ready with the bolt cutters when we pull up so we can gain access through the cyclone gates which I remembered being there. As we pulled up at the gates I got a good look at what was actually on fire, not the toilet block, but the Old Northern Stand. I call FireComm, "have arrived", and then a brief arrival message of what I could see. I dived out of the truck to help gain access, cutting the chain on the gates.

A quick word to the driver of where I wanted the truck and I am then running with Russell towards the stand. The first thing I notice is a car parked near the stand with a bag on top of the boot, "could be someone around" I thought. At this stage flames were leaping out from a room underneath the stand up to the roof area, fully involving one entire end of the stand. The roof beams and posts on this heritage listed building were burning well with some of the roof starting to already collapse. I could feel the heat on my face as

we ran around the front of the stand and had to tilt my helmet so as not to get burnt ears. Back down a runway in the middle of the stand checking doors as we went, we found an access door open for the BA crews to enter underneath. We then proceeded through a roller door out to near where the appliance was parked.

The plan of attack was now formulating in my head - send one crew in to search and extinguish the area underneath and send another crew around the front to stop the flames from spreading further along the roof area. I detailed the BA crew to go in through the access door, be very careful as the power was still on to the building, there may be someone in there, then push the fire toward the other end of the room. Russell meanwhile was detailing the other crew to attack the fire from the front, putting out the wooden sections of roof.

Power was a concern, as there were no switchboards in the vicinity and no easy way of getting the power off, I call for an ETA on the disconnect crew - around 10 minutes FireComm tell me. But if needed Aurora can cut the power off on the whole grid, I double checked with Peter Flett the other officer at the call and within one minute the street lights around the area go out.

I pass on the information to the crew inside, that the power is off, they tell me they've found no-one in the rooms but will do a secondary search as they fully extinguish remaining pockets. Smoke was clearing well from the structure so a fan wasn't needed, this crew was doing well as was the crew around the front who had managed to knock down the fire on most of the upper structure. At this stage this crew repositioned to another area of the stand to attack it from a different angle, re-running hoses and adding lengths.

It took around 40 minutes before I could say it was knocked down, with only a few pockets of fire remaining. The BA crew was out safely and the overhead structure was now reduced to a steaming mess of roofing iron and timber beams precariously hanging with sheets of iron swinging in the breeze. This now posed a safety issue so I tell the crews to stay away from this area until we can address the sheets of iron, luckily it wasn't windy!

The spare crew from Rocherlea had brought the salvage vehicle around for us so we could now set up some lighting around the place, including inside the building, making it easier for the crew inside to fully extinguish the remaining pockets of fire.

At this time we notice large holes in the concrete ceiling above the change rooms, the order was given not to proceed underneath the concrete, as now there were questions about the stability of the concrete which forms the ceiling and the floor of the stand! Luckily the pockets of fire remaining were accessible from areas away from danger.

It was now time to send wet and tired crews back which gave me time to have a preliminary look at what may have

started this fire. "V" patterns within the room underneath pointed towards an area in the corner but going near it was impossible until we get an engineer to look at the concrete above this room. I set FireComm the task of getting an engineer at 4.30 am on a Sunday morning, no mean feat, and any delay meant taking longer to investigate and to have council crews start to clean up and make safe the remaining stand.

FireComm are now on the phone to me, ABC national radio want an interview, looks like I'm it, it will be a good chance to bowl another module, liaise with media, I was thinking to myself!

The next hour or so flowed quickly as now I had to secure the scene, liaise with the Launceston City Council in removing the offending roofing iron and cleaning up, making sure it didn't interfere with investigations!

It was now time for me to go back to station and get changed, have a cuppa and something to eat and head back to bowl another module, fire investigation, where I still needed to carry out another investigation!

At first light some good fire indicators started revealing themselves in the daylight, overhead damage and "V" patterns. The full extent of damage was revealed with almost half of the structure burned.

An inspection by the engineer revealed that the upper structure would have to be knocked down as it was unstable, but the concrete underneath was declared quite safe although the steel supporting beams had been very hot and were showing signs of distortion! Time to start digging for clues!

The first television crew was there early, time for more media liaison, the reporter commented that she had slept in because the power went off in the middle of the night and her clock radio had lost the time. She only lives one block from the stadium!

Time for the night shift guys to go home but Adrian Gill a firefighter decided to stay on and help with the investigation as he is in the same boat as me and needed to do a fire investigation for his leading firefighter advancement.

Under the command of Station Officer Danny Guy, Adrian and I looked at different possible causes of this fire, after considering the location of power circuits, an inspection by the Aurora inspector coupled with several interviews of the last people in the room and also looking at "V" patterns, we concluded that this fire had been deliberately lit.

As for the car parked near the stand, the guy came about 10.30, he had left it there after a big night in the bar and couldn't work out where his bag was.

I got home that day at five minutes to two in the afternoon, just in time for my daughter's birthday party. I wasn't going to miss that!

Competitions, an exciting new concept!

By TFBCA President, Gavin Freeman

No, we are not changing the world as you know it just yet, but we are expanding the options so that brigades that currently compete can try something new and more importantly, those brigades that aren't that excited by existing formats can try their hand at something else.

The competitions associations, in conjunction with the TFS have undertaken an extensive review of our fire brigade competitions and have arrived at a new strategic direction to maximise these events for both the community and the brigades.

A new constitution has been drawn up and endorsed and an executive committee has been elected, the Tasmanian Fire Brigades Competition Association executive is as follows:

President:	Gavin Freeman
Vice President:	Robert Atkins
Secretary:	Daniel Beamish
Treasurer:	Brian Rainbird
Committee:	David Haigh and Richard Cosstick

It is proposed that we will conduct one main Tasmanian Fire Brigades Competition for the State per year. This will be open to all 230 brigades across the State with a view to inviting other States to participate after 2008. It is envisaged that not only will we have a common type of competition where all brigades can foster camaraderie, hone and demonstrate their skills, in a friendly rivalry, but we also see this as an opportunity to showcase other areas of the TFS within local communities. We intend to have community safety displays, volunteerism information, recruitment, special operations, trade and a range of other displays and information booths.

This year's state competitions are scheduled for the 8th November 2008. The success of our first event of this type is pivotal to the future of this new direction, it is with this in mind that we have, after much deliberation, selected Devonport as our preferred venue for 2008. Not only does this fantastic facility at Byard Park provide enough space to conduct competitions on both the grassed area and the existing competition track but also ample space for the abovementioned interactive displays and public safety sessions.

It is intended to conduct 3 streams of events including one (Stream C) that we hope will become core events as time goes by, this will allow us to start the transition this year and provide additional options for interested Brigades. Junior participation is important to us and vital for the future of competitions and brigades in general, all streams provide for junior events and there is no reason why this will not grow accordingly with the level of participation.

Stream A - The events that were previously known as "volunteer competitions" will be run in their existing format at Devonport, the senior events will be:

Siamese Valve	(5 competitors)
Dutch Roll	(5 competitors)
GP Pumper	(4 competitors)
Replacement Hose Event	(4 competitors)
Sealed Event	

Junior events will also run as they have previously and are:

Siamese Valve
Dutch Roll
GP Pumper

This simply means that brigades who wish to undertake those events as they have in previous years can. Dress for these events will be as in the past.

Stream B - The events that were previously known as "urban competitions" have been reviewed and modified in line with contemporary firefighting and safety guidelines and will consist of the following senior events:

Y Coupling	4 competitors
Champion Four	4 competitors (opposite direction flaked hose)
Ladder Race	1 competitor
Urban Pump & Ladder	4 competitors (Event 1 Nationals)
First Aid Reel & Pumper	4 competitors (Event 4 Nationals)
Hose Hydrant & Extinguisher	3 competitors (Event 6 Nationals)

Junior events in this stream will be:

Y coupling	4 competitors (one entry)
Marshall	2 competitors (two entries)
Marshall	1 competitor (one entry)
Wet Hose Practice	2 competitors (two entries)
Wet Hose Practice	4 competitors 1 disc (one entry)
Replacement Wet Hose	4 competitors 1 disc (one entry)

Dress for these events will be as for the "urban" style competitions in the past, however, brigades that have not competed in these before may compete in bushfire overtrousers, boots / sandshoes and bushfire jacket or T Shirt (if opting for T-shirts the team must all wear the same style and colour).



Stream C - this stream of events is based on the Australasian Firefighter Championship events. These will likely be:

Hose and Hydrant	4 competitors
Wet Hose Marshall	4 competitors
Collector Event	4 competitors
Hose, Hydrant & Pumper	4 competitors
Suction Event	4 competitors

Junior Events

Hose, Hydrant & Pumper	4 competitors
Wet Hose Marshall	4 competitors

Brigades are encouraged to have a go at these events as this is the only way we can test them out and modify if required.

Dress for Stream C events will be bushfire overtrousers, boots / sandals and bushfire jacket or T Shirt (if opting for T-shirts the team must all wear the same style and colour). Junior competitors may wear overalls in lieu of bushfire PPE. Helmets are not required for Stream C.

In summary; for this year brigades can stick with the type of events they have always competed in or they can have a go at a combination of events. To encourage all round participation and to be eligible to be crowned the Champion Brigade in Tasmania you will need to undertake two events (one for juniors) from either Stream A or Stream B, and all

of the Stream C events, further explanation of this will be included on entry forms. To facilitate this we will run the Stream A and B events concurrently followed on by Stream C. I can see some wise old heads saying time will not permit this, however, we are aware of this challenge and are confident we can make it happen.

All the equipment needed to run these events will be supplied on the day so any brigade can just turn up and have a go, we particularly encourage brigades that haven't competed in the past to come along and enjoy themselves, after all, for the newer style events, everyone will be on equal footing!

There is obviously still some fine tuning to do and there are no doubt many questions. The new executive will be in attendance at the State Conference, and in the near future information along with entry forms will be mailed out to all brigades via Brigades Chiefs. We are also having a DVD compiled demonstrating new events. The DVD and other general advertising and information material will be circulated to brigades as soon as it is available. There are two workshops scheduled for officials on the 3rd and 10th August at Cambridge and Youngtown respectively. Brigades intending to compete can send a representative along. Southern participants should contact Brian Rainbird on 0439 635 490, Northern participants please contact Robert Atkins on 0409 140 237 to confirm your participation.

The Tasmania Fire Museum is not all BRT's

By Tasmania Fire Museum member, Terry Gill

You may have an impression that your Museum is only about BRT's (big red trucks), 2½" hose, brass, leather and other stuff that was used back in the mists of time; when the main fire brigade effort was focused around firefighting in urban areas.

Nothing could be further from the truth!

One of our stated aims is to "conserve all aspects of Tasmania's fire service heritage, through acquisition, restoration and interpretation of fire service artefacts".

As a demonstration of this, a growing part of our collection involves BWT's (big white trucks), 1½" hose, beaters, knapsack pumps and other equipment and records from Tasmania's proud history of firefighting in smaller country towns, the rural countryside and the bush.

Our projects not only involve physical conservation and restoration, but also documenting what an appliance or artefact is, how it works, when and where it was used and so on. This is needed to provide information, for interested members of the civilian population who visit our sites or see parts of our collection on display elsewhere.

It's in the area of gathering information on BWT's, that we currently need your help.

From the early 1970's, the newly re-constituted Rural Fires Board (RFB) embarked on a strong program of 4x4 appliance acquisition for the growing number of rural fire brigades that were being formed by Municipal Councils, in the wake of the 7 February 1967 south eastern Tasmania bushfires.

1. Bedford RLHZ 4x4 Heavy Pumpers (ex the UK Auxiliary Fire Service)

Following the acquisition of a single *Bedford RLHZ* appliance for the Lauderdale Rural Fire Brigade in 1971, two batches of second hand *RLHZ* appliances were imported from the United Kingdom; 1972 - 9x for RFB & 5x for Forestry Commission, 1974 - 10x for RFB and later in 1978 - RFB purchased 3x ex Forestry units. With a 300 gallon (1,364l.) tank, they each had a 900gpm (4,092 l./min) *Sigmund FN4* centrifugal pump.

In all, 23 *Bedford RLHZ* units eventually entered service with the RFB and continued on into the TFS era. The East Coast Brigade's unit is now in the Museum's collection.

We understand that these units were allocated to Municipal Councils with the following 26 rural fire brigades.

Bothwell	Bracknell	Bridgewater	Brighton
Deloraine Council	Devonport	East Coast (Bowen)	Fern Tree HSFA
Forth	George Town Council	Hamilton	Kentish Council
Kingston Central	Lauderdale	Magra	Maydena
Norfolk/Huon SFA	Port Sorell	Ringarooma	Ross
Seven Mile Beach	Sulphur Creek	Swansea	Tas. Govt. Railways
Waratah	Winnaleah		

But there must have been other brigades apart from these, given that 23 units were used by the RFB and a number saw service with more than one brigade.

Questions:

Did your brigade ever have one of these?

If so, roughly when?

Is the listing of your brigade above, correct?



2. More on the Bedford RLHZ's

When these units were imported from the UK, they came fully equipped with hose, branches, standpipes, etc., all with British style alloy instantaneous couplings like this

Thus adaptors were needed, to connect with anything else being used in Tasmania at the time.



3. Bedford RLHC 4x4 Heavy Tankers

The RFB equipping programme included the fabrication of 800 gallon (3,636 l.) capacity heavy tankers, based on a *Bedford RLHC* cab/chassis. Probably around 15 *Bedford RLHC* units eventually entered service with the RFB and continued on into the TFS era. The Richmond and Port Arthur Brigades' unit is now in the Museum's collection.

We understand that these units were allocated to some Special Fire Areas (SFA's) and Municipal Councils, with the following 15 rural fire brigades.

Bridgenorth	Claremont	Coles Bay	East Risdon (Bowen)
Fern Tree HSFA	Glenorchy Central	Golden Valley	HCC Mt. Park HSFA
Latrobe	Longford	Maydena	Port Arthur
Richmond	St Leonards Council	Triabunna	

But there must have been other brigades apart from these, given that probably 15 units were fabricated and a number saw service with more than one brigade.

Questions:

Did your brigade ever have one of these?

If so, roughly when?

Is the listing of your brigade above, correct?



4. International D1310 or D1410 4x4 Medium Tankers

By the mid 1970's, the RFB re-equipping programme included fabrication of 450 gallon (2,046 l.) capacity medium tankers, based on either *International D1310* or *D1410* cab/chassis.

We are not sure exactly how many *D1310* or *D1410* units eventually entered service with the RFB and continued on into the TFS era. The Margate Brigade's *D1410* unit is now in the Museum's collection.

We understand that *D1310* & *D1410* units were allocated to Municipal Councils with the following 49 rural fire brigades, plus a couple to urban brigades:

Arthur River	Bagdad	Barton #	Bridgewater#
Brighton Central	Broadmarsh	Buckland	Cambridge
Channel	Collinsvale	Cradoc	Cygnat Central
Dover	Falmouth #	Geeveston u	Glengarry #
Glenorchy Central#	Great Lake	Howden	Karoola
Kelso	Kingston Central#	Koonya	Lackrana #
Longley #	Margate #	Mayfield	Midway Point u
Memana	Molesworth	Montagu	Nubeena
Old Beach #	Orielton	Parattah	Pawtella #
Queenstown	Ridgley	Runnymede	Sandford
Sidmouth/Rowella	Snug	Southport	Summerleas
Taroona HSFA	Tea Tree	Tomahawk	Wattle Grove
Wattle Hill	Westbury	Winkleigh	u = urban

The above is not necessarily a complete list of brigades, given that a number of units saw service with more than one brigade.

Questions:

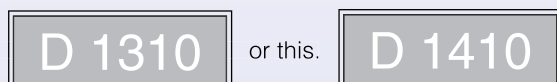
Did your brigade ever have one of these?

If so, roughly when?

Is the listing of your brigade above, correct?

There were also other similar looking *Internationals*, including *AB160*, *C1300* and *D1610* models. All these and the *D1310* and *D1410* model cab/chassis have very similar body shapes and as can be seen from the pictures opposite, there were a variety of layouts on the rear tray.

The conclusive identifier is a rectangular chrome model badge, fixed to each side of the bonnet at its rear edge near the door, looking like this,



So if you have information to help us to answer the above questions or you know someone else who might be able to help, please contact Terry Gill on either 6239 1122 or museum@fire.tas.gov.au Thank you.



UFUA Women's Network National Conference

By Senior Firefighter Launceston Brigade, Belinda Harvey

On 29th April 2008 I attended the UFUA Women's Network National Conference in Perth WA. This was after coming back from the FBU national women's school help in the UK! We had a number of amazing women speak they were :

- Acting Senior Sergeant Jane Higgins of the WA Police Service representing the Women's Advisory Network (WAN);
- Superintendent Kellie Properjohn, Principle of WA Police Academy;
- Dr Renu Burr, Organisation Management and Leadership Specialist University of WA; and
- Susan Maushart, columnist, author and social commentator

All of these ladies had struggled and eventually became successful women in their own right in their chosen field. Their stories were incredibly inspiring and courageous.

Then it was on to normal business and the election of office bearers and branch reports being presented.

Day two topics included:

- 10 things you should know about the UFU by Lee Anderson, Industrial Officer WA UFU;



Conference delegates

- FBU women's school in the UK, by three delegates who recently attended;
- Physical training and injury prevention for the female firefighter by Chris Beeck FESA fitness officer.

It was an interesting time had by all and looking forward to catching up again next year.

Happy retirement Max!

Max Howard started at the TFS way before the days of SOP's and SOD's!

Max's brother was a Rural Brigade Fire Captain so Max got an unofficial guernsey to a few fires! One day the South Esk District Officer happened to mention to Max that they were looking for someone to man Millers Bluff Lookout on the Great Western Tiers, and Max replied "look no further", and that was the beginning of Max's big adventure!

Max spent 9 years at Millers Bluff. The lookout was 12.5 kilometres off the beaten track and a strenuous 35 minute hike straight up! Not a job for the faint hearted. The days were sometimes long, but the view made it all worthwhile. Max saw sights that the townies would never get to see



- eagles soaring, beautiful sunrises reflecting on the mountains and seas of cloud swirling way below him. Visitors (though few) were amazed.

When not fire-spotting, Max was able to use his skills as a qualified builder to do casual maintenance for TFS. This later became his full time position and Max spent 14 years as a TFS Maintenance Officer.

Officially, Max is retiring. But he's a long way from taking the tools off his truck! I'm sure his daughter and granddaughter will be happy to benefit from his skills and spare time!

Max will be missed by his many friends at TFS. We wish him a long and happy retirement. All the best Max.

New volunteer learning and development reference group facilitates training feedback

By Manager Organisational Learning, Suzanne Bacon

Those of us with a little silver in our hair were once told that there are 3 golden rules for trainers firstly **tell them what you are going to tell them**, then tell them and then to finish, **tell them what you have told them**.

Now, all trainers and facilitators know that there is a fourth golden rule, **ask them to tell us**, about their training experience.

Why?

The TFS constantly monitors whether the training you receive is “fit for purpose” and that you are prepared for incidents with the right level of skills, knowledge and practical experience.

In short we need to ensure that you are both capable and safe firefighters by continuously improving the quality of training you receive and one of the ways we can achieve this is by getting feedback from you.

The Volunteer Learning and Development Reference Group

The newly established Volunteer Learning and Development Reference Group is a great way for you to give your views about your training experience and to ensure that it reaches the ears of TFS management. The group meets every two months and is your forum to raise matters relating to

volunteer learning and development. The group includes your association representatives, field officers, learning and development district officers, Manager Organisational Learning and is chaired by Regional Chief North West, John Streets.

As your representatives, the role of the group is to comment and provide your feedback on issues such as:

- gaps, barriers and inconsistencies in respect to operational training and assessment;
- options for resolution of learning and development issues, difficulties and problems;
- Volunteer Firefighting Skills Matrix, training plans and other documentation;
- systems and processes.

The group will discuss your feedback, improvement suggestions, or new training ideas (while retaining your anonymity if you wish), see if other representatives have had the same issues raised in their areas, and then channel your feedback to TFS management.

So if you have a grumble, feel things could be done a little better, or have experienced some great training which should be recognised, contact one of the reference group members listed below.

Name	Region	Representative	Email contact
Don Mackrill	North	Volunteer Assoc (TVFBA)	donmackrill@dodo.com.au
Errol Gleeson	North	Retained Assoc (TRVFA)	egleeson@vision.net.au
Don Jones	South	Retained Assoc (TRVFA)	lisdon@bigpond.com
Ian Gabites	North	Volunteer Assoc (TVFBA)	ian.gabites@aph.gov.au
John Banks	South	Volunteer Assoc (TVFBA)	suejon@netspace.net.au
Lyndy Smith	North West	Volunteer Assoc (TVFBA)	gerald.smith3@bigpond.com
Mathew Philpott	South	Retained Assoc (TRVFA)	secretary@trvfa.org.au

How else can I provide feedback on learning and development?

Some people find that because their name is on their course workbooks, they are reluctant to provide feedback on the form at the back. An email account has been set up to enable you to directly email your feedback. Send it to organisationallearning@fire.tas.gov.au. Your feedback will be kept confidential and will be referred to the volunteer learning and development reference group on your request.

Remember, that some issues or problems can be fixed at a local level, quickly, by contacting your regional learning and development officers.



PROGRAM C

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Improving risk communication by understanding the factors that influence the decision to prepare for bushfire

T. Prior and Prof. D. Paton

School of Psychology, University of Tasmania

Dr. A. Cottrell

School of Tropical Environmental Science and Geography

James Cook University, QLD



What is risk communication?

Risk communication is a targeted exchange of information aimed at increasing an individual's ability to cope with the effects of some form of threatening event.

Risk communicators target those people most likely to suffer as a result of the threat. By providing this information, risk communicators attempt to encourage people to prepare in order to minimise the effects of the event, or speed up their recovery after the event. However, each individual makes the decision to prepare based on a huge number of factors.

Methodology

- Survey data collected from 482 residents living in peri-urban locations around Hobart
- Stepwise multiple regression analyses used to identify predictors of preparedness
- Semi-structured interviews conducted with 20 householders provided qualitative data to compliment the regression analyses

Why do we need to understand how people make decisions?

For risk communication information to be effective in encouraging preparation it must focus on those factors that most influence the decision to prepare.

Knowing the factors that most influence the decision to prepare will help to develop risk communication information that is both meaningful (that is easily interpreted) and understandable (that it can be easily acted upon).

Some important factors that influence the decision to prepare

Increase preparedness

intention to prepare

0.302

"I have everything ready to go. All the towels are out, all my clothing is assembled, all the ladders, the sprinkler system is ready to go... and that's how I live most of the year". **Rosemary**

positive outcome expectancy

0.149

"...it makes you shit-scared, but at the same time if you're prepared I believe you can minimise the risk of harm to yourself and to your property". **Cameron**

sense of community

0.147

"...if it wasn't for them I don't think we would have been nearly as proactive, like we probably wouldn't have done anything about it..." **Robyn**

$R^2 = 0.4$



n=482

Decrease preparedness

the cost, time, knowledge to prepare

-0.251

"I'm always complaining that I don't have the time for these things, but I guess you should have time for important stuff like that". **Matt**

having the right resources to prepare

-0.119

"... good, practical how-to information about preparing I suppose. Maybe instances where you hear those stories of houses that were successfully defended, like what happened, what preparation had been done..." **Sonia**

negative outcome expectancy

-0.116

"...we've got two 30 metre trees, and to be honest, if they caught fire, you know and they started throwing stuff everywhere I don't think I'd want to stay and try and defend it". **Ian**

End of an era at Burnie Brigade

By Shift Colleagues Steve Townsend, Shayne Andrews, Heath Batten, Nick Rayner and Kevin Saward

On 13th April 2008, Denis McDonald Munro retired after almost 50 years of service with Burnie Brigade. Finally he will be able to buy the 4wd and caravan and head off into the sunset as we have all heard about for the past 10 years.

Denis commenced as a Volunteer in 1959, then relieved as Station Officer progressing to a Permanent Station Officer in 1968.

Denis was a dedicated member of the Tasmania Fire Brigades Competition Association. He spent many years participating and coaching senior and junior teams for State and Mainland competitions. He held the State record in the Senior Ladder Race for a number of years and competed very well in 1 and 2 Man Marshall Events. His fellow officials for competitions remember him as an "incorruptible judge and track master whose decision was final and no correspondence would be entered into". An example of this was at a Queenstown Round when the day was overcast, cold, snowing, haling and the ground was spongy underfoot and Denis, as trackmaster, was adamant that the "show would go on" and it did!

On reflection of Denis' time with Burnie Brigade a few "incidents" came to mind. One in particular was a telephone call received at Burnie Station, Denis answered and was informed by the caller that a power pole was on fire. The caller identified himself as Roy Rogers. Denis, ever aware of a hoax call, asked the caller to repeat himself, as he knew of the cowboy character. After the caller repeated "Roy Rogers", Denis replied "Yeah good one, is Trigger tied to the pole?" Denis decided that he better respond and low and behold there was a pole on fire at Roy Rogers' house. After attending the fire, Denis and crew returned to the station to find a water



Denis Munro with Senior Firefighter Kevin Saward

trough, bail of hay and make believe horse tied up to the hose tower.

North West Region held a farewell function for Denis on Friday 28th March 2008 where Chief Officer John Gledhill presented him with a gold watch recognising that the Munro family had contributed to a century of service with the TFS.

The TFS, in particular Burnie Brigade, will miss Denis and his contribution to the Fire Service as he has been one of the longest serving firefighters in Tasmania and known to have a unique personality.

To Denis and his wife Jane we wish them the best of health, happiness and good fortune in their retirement.

Former HFB personnel get together

By Retired Regional Chief, Roland Hill

Former members of the Hobart Brigade meet on the first Thursday of the week every second month for lunch. This informal meeting of mostly retired operational people has become a tradition in recent years and represents an opportunity to catch up with former friends and work colleagues.

The venues for the meeting are chosen by those in attendance and offer an opportunity to sample the delights of Hobart's many eating outlets.

The next opportunity to participate will be 7th August at "The Willows Tavern" East Risdon, and the 2nd October meeting at the Carlyle Hotel, Derwent Park. The December meeting comprises a traditional Christmas Lunch at the Hotel which was extensively damaged by fire a few years ago in Campbell Town. This is attended by retired personnel from Hobart, Launceston, Devonport and Burnie Brigades.

All former members welcome to attend.

The 90% solution!

By Senior Firefighter Launceston Brigade, John Carter



The "crew"

I once told my high school maths teacher that I would never ever use physics in my workplace. How wrong I was!

On 4th April Station Officer Brett Fazackerly and I were sent to Adelaide to do an intensive 7 day course on rope rescue. This course was a rope instructors' course and was tagged as the 90% solution with an emphasis on why, not how we do things. Specialist equipment was also discouraged making us think more on how we could achieve a goal using basic gear!

The course participants consisted of people from various parts of Australia and also included four from Malaysia, one from New Zealand and one from Italy. Most of the participants were from emergency services including mines rescue, alpine rescue (including swift water rescue), a helicopter paramedic and firefighters. The four from Malaysia did industrial rope access in Malaysia and surrounding countries and seeing photos of some of the jobs they do really showed us that they were true professionals.

The first three days consisted of starting from the basics, analysing what a rescue system should consist of, what load forces could be applied to any part of a rescue system and then rigging accordingly. This is where some basic physics came in and after applying it, it all made sense. Looking at why some systems fail when a seemingly similar system will succeed every time really kept

us thinking. You just have to apply basic physics to see why. Added into this were simple, compound and complex pulley systems which caused some debate amongst participants working out mechanical advantages, after the application of basic physics and some easy maths equations we were all on the same page.

Four days in the field exposed us to rigging things like focused floating anchors, sideways "A" frames, gin poles, tag lines and high directionals, always challenging us with something new, developing a new way of thinking, encouraging teamwork and encouraging discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of any piece of equipment

An international counterpart from New Zealand "enjoying" a rainy and cold day overlooking Adelaide!





"Zac" Brett Fazackerley ready for action

or method of rigging. This way of objectively thinking about rigging methods has given me a solid grounding in why we do things, if it will work, or is there a better way to do it?

All this is possible thanks to a man called Len Batley, from a company called Ropes That Rescue, who several years ago completed a Churchill Fellowship on rope rescue, this took him all over the world looking at different systems, seeing the good and the bad and then developing a system that is safe, easy to use and still uses basic equipment to achieve the seemingly impossible! If anyone ever gets the chance to attend one of his courses, jump at it, the knowledge that he has is phenomenal.

A pulley and anchor system we "chucked together"



Learning and improving from our experiences

By Deputy Chief Officer, Mike Brown

To improve our performance in the future we should occasionally reflect upon our past experiences and ensure we use those experiences as an opportunity to learn and to implement the necessary changes. This process is true for sports teams, businesses and indeed emergency services such as TFS.

TFS decided to use the Tasmanian 2006/07 fire season and the Eyre Peninsula fires as the two major recent experiences that we can analyse and use to develop our organisational priorities and strategies.

The Eyre Peninsula fires were subject to a full coronial enquiry. The Coroner's recommendations were distilled and clarified so that we could examine our (TFS's) current position or needs in regard to the recommendations.

The Tasmanian 2006/07 fire season was our most challenging and extended in recent history. The season was continuously dry and featured several extreme weather events as well as lightning strikes. Major fire operations commenced in early October and continued through to April.

As is common practice, many operational debriefs were held, however, given the severity and extended nature of the season, there was clearly a unique opportunity for the TFS to learn from and build upon this experience and the feedback.

Rather than conduct our own review, TFS was keen to engage an external and independent firm to examine the outcomes and provide recommendations. Expressions of Interest were advertised in June inviting companies with suitable experience to identify and consolidate the major issues and lessons learnt, and to prepare a report for the Chief Officer.

The final report has been received and work is now underway to group the issues, priorities, responsibilities and timeframes to progress work on the recommendations. This is being done for both the TFS 2006/07 Lessons Learnt Report and the Eyre Peninsular Coroners Report.

Detail on the recommendations and a summary on our progress to date will be presented at the TFS Conference in July.

Those interested in looking through the Lessons Learnt Report can see it on the intranet at: <https://www.fire.tas.gov.au/mysite/library/TFS%20lessons%20learned%20bushfire%20season%2006-07.pdf>

The Eyre Peninsula Report may be found at https://www.fire.tas.gov.au/mysite/library/Wangary_Fires_Inquest.pdf

Himalayan Heights motorcycle safari

By Retired Regional Chief, Roland Hill

In July 2007 my brother Tim and I flew to Delhi in India to participate along with 25 others, in a motorcycle safari through the districts of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu Kashmir, covering a distance of 2,500 kilometres.

Part of the attraction for me was to ride a single cylinder 500cc motorcycle originally manufactured by the Royal Enfield Motorcycle Company of Redditch, Worcestershire. Production of these motorcycles ceased in Great Britain in the mid 1950's. The Indian subsidiary acquired the production line, transferred operations to Madras and simply continued to build Enfield Bullets without bothering to change any original design specifications. To this day they continue to churn out brand new 50 year old bikes!

Travelling from Delhi to Chandigarh by train we were introduced to our mounts in the station car park, much to the fascination of the locals who were most impressed with our riding apparel, helmets, etc. The footbrakes and gearchange controls are all on the opposite side of the machine when compared to more modern motorcycles, which made for some interesting riding over the first few days. The traffic was unbelievable, consisting of everything from horsedrawn carts, pushbikes, farm tractors with trailers, lots of locally made scooters and small Japanese motorcycles (usually carrying 3 to 4 adults), 3 wheeled scooter based Tuk Tuks through to locally produced Tata trucks. Road rules as we know them don't exist and traffic lights don't appear to mean much either.

Our group stayed at hotels at the end of each day's ride, some were reasonably modern and well appointed others were at the opposite end of the scale. The Indian diet did not appeal to me much, with the majority of our trip covering vegetarian districts of the country. In many instances the Indian cuisine that was served to us bore only a passing resemblance of what we regard as standard Indian fare in Australia. Because of this and the exertion of riding up to ten hours a day in full riding kit in mid thirties temperatures, I came home a stone (6.3 kgs) lighter.

During our first couple of days in the saddle the roads were not too bad but the traffic was extremely heavy. We overtook endless convoys of Tata trucks, all overloaded, all belching black diesel fumes, and all striving to get ahead of the truck in front. Confronted with these conditions on narrow poorly maintained roads, we took risks when overtaking that I don't care to think about now that I am safely home. It is the custom in India to vigorously sound the horn to alert the driver about to be overtaken of your intentions. When overtaking on blind curves you learned to watch the driver who would mostly signal you to proceed or not as his judgement indicated. I can tell you that they didn't always make the correct call. Most of the Tata trucks were of a crew cab construction and decorated a lot like the "Jeepnees" that you commonly see in the Philippines. By law they carry a co-driver who keeps an eye on what is happening on the left hand side of the truck. These appeared to be mostly teenage boys who provided the same signals to the overtaker as the driver did on his side. After we got used to this system it was often more convenient to overtake on the left hand side of the truck.

From what I observed, most breakdowns were repaired on the roadside where they happened. Generally a row of stones were set from the curb to the centre of the roadway guiding you around the broken down truck, this appeared to be the accepted warning system. It was quite common to see motors dismantled in these situations with the engine parts on the roadway.

Some of the major towns we visited were Shimla, Mandi, Manali, Keylong, Sarchu, Leh, Kargil, Srinagar, Patnitop, McLeodganj (home of the Dalai Lama), Parwanoo, and then back to New Delhi. And of course no trip to India would be complete unless you visited the Taj Mahal and the Agra Red Fort.

The people that worked in the hotels mostly understood English and were extremely polite and obliging. The tipping system flourishes and you frequently find a number of individuals performing what we would regard as the work

Tim and I at Khardung La, 18,380 feet - the highest driveable road in the world.

Tata fire appliances at Manali. Apparently the old fire station had been demolished to make way for the new one under construction in the background.





Getting up close and personal with the Enfield Bullet in the railway station car park at Chandigarh.



Landslide during beginning of monsoons held us up for four hours - mud was waist deep at its worst - had to wait for a machine to arrive to clear it.

of one person. While staying on the houseboats at Dal Lake at Srinagar in Cashmere we had a resident team of people catering to our needs, were visited by a tailor wanting to fit us all out in safari suits and our landing jetty was frequented by what can only be described as floating supermarkets.

The roads in the Himalayas were under constant repair as many are impassable throughout the winter months due to heavy snowfalls. Some were in excellent condition with bitumen surfaces, others were so bad that our bikes were in low and second gear for kilometres, all served as the major arteries for the areas, with Tata trucks carrying the goods. Bridges in the rural areas were almost exclusively of "Bailey" design and often of single lane construction.

Our path took us through several high mountain passes, including Rohtang La (3978m between Manali and Keylong), Baralacha La (4830m between Keylong and Sarchu), Taglang La (5328m between Sarchu and Leh) and Khardung La (5602m which is the highest driveable road in the world). The scenery was absolutely breathtaking.

As our trip progressed we experienced the beginnings of the monsoon season which played havoc with the roads and our motorcycles. Mudslides closing roads were commonplace and on one occasion prevented our group from reaching our designated stopover for the night. These road blockages were often able to be negotiated on a motorcycle where it was not possible for cars or trucks to pass. This invariably

resulted in traffic jams kilometres in length where not just one side of the roadway was filled with vehicles but both the left and right lanes jammed solid. Negotiating these tested our patience, our riding skills, and our old design oilbath clutches which often became so hot that they refused to disengage.

Three of our group were hospitalised after accidents, two involving other vehicles, one of which failed to stop. Of our group there were probably half a dozen who could claim not to have come off their motorcycles at some point during the trip. I had a sore ankle and nasty limp for a few days after applying too much front brake in loose gravel on a concrete bridge. The Enfields proved to be tough old bikes which were repaired in rapid order by our mechanical support team.

Our Himalayan Heights Motorcycle Safari, was for me, the opportunity to ride a vintage bike all day, every day, for three weeks, in some of the most beautiful country you could ever find, experience a culture very different from Australia, and come out the other side in one piece. In short it is not a trip for the inexperienced motorcyclist or the faint hearted. In the words of the tour leader Mike Ferris "India is not everyone's 'cup of tea'. It can be an extreme assault on the senses. In order to fully appreciate India's true beauty you will need to leave western values behind and turn a blind eye to some of the harsher aspects of life in a developing nation. If you are the type of person who prefers lounging by the poolside with a dry martini, then perhaps this motorcycle safari is not for you".

Some of the scenery that we experienced in the Himalayas.



This is Dal Lake in Cashmere - we stayed on some of these houseboats.



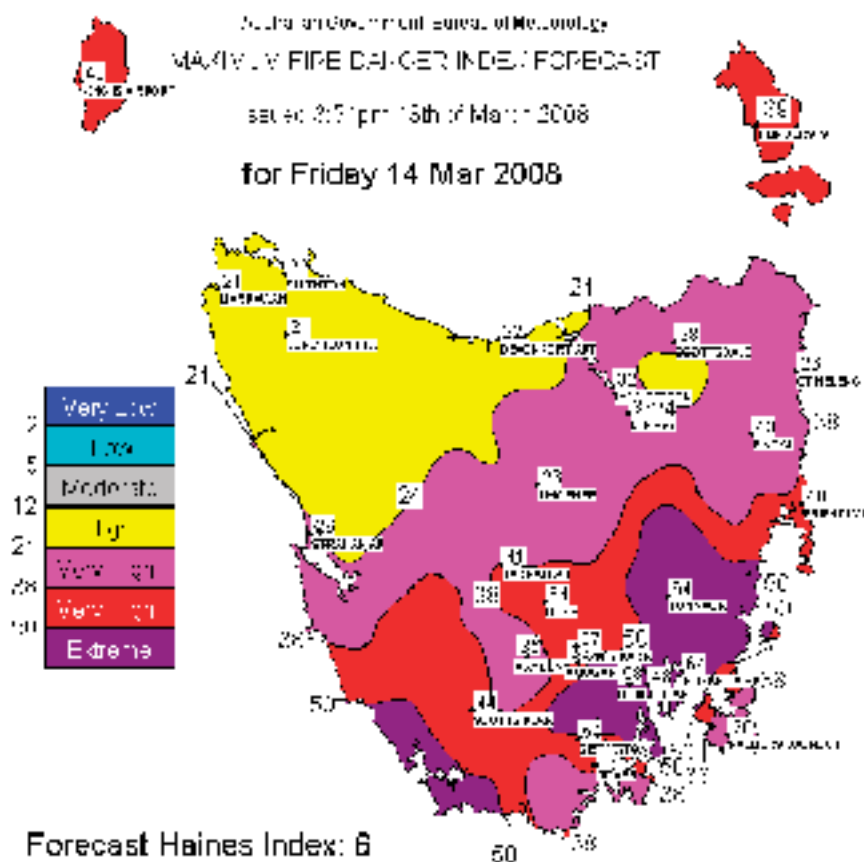
2007-2008 Summer at a Glance

By District Officer State Operations, Paul Salter

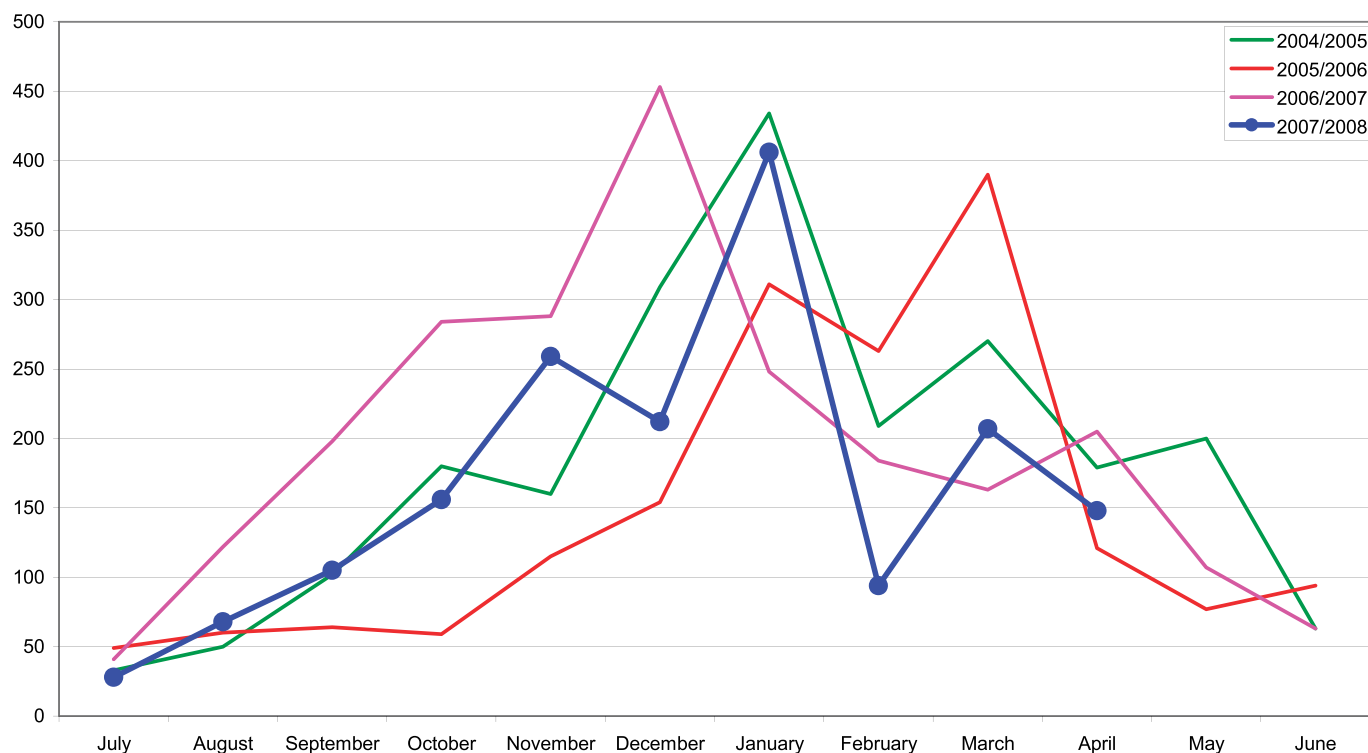
Although some areas had spring growth, much of the state remained extremely dry, especially the East Coast, Central Highlands and Derwent Valley. This led to yet again an early start (and a late ending) to bushfire activity. The ongoing dry and a steady increase in the number of bushfire incidents prompted the introduction of fire permits for the southern and northern regions on the 27th October 2007 followed by the north west region on the 1st December 2007.

Environmental Management and Pollution Control Regulations 2007 were subject to changes to regulations 10 and 11 which include controls for outside burning. The intent of the new environmental regulations (and the existing local council by-laws) is to limit or restrict backyard burning in suburban backyards in order to minimise pollution and public nuisance by smoke. Further information is available on the TFS web site www.fire.tas.gov.au or by viewing the environmental regulations at <http://www.environment.tas.gov.au/> and the Local Government Bylaws web site at <http://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/>

Other changes that impacted on the fire permit system permits occurred when the Fire Service



Bushfires fires per month 2004-05 - 2007-08



Total Fire Bans were declared on five occasions prompted by FDI figures such as that of 14th March 2008.

Introducing ...

(Miscellaneous) Regulations 1996 were repealed and replaced with the Miscellaneous Regulations 2007 that came into effect as from 1st January 2008. Regulation 18 covering the requirement for notification of neighbours was removed, however, all permit officers have been advised to recommend appropriate notification of neighbours as a condition of the permit when the permit burn may have a direct impact on surrounding neighbours.

The fire permit period was revoked at midnight on the 9th April 2008. During the permit period 1,814 permits were issued compared to 2,543 for 2006-2007.

One issue of concern over the summer was the number of fires resulting from re-ignition of log heaps and windrows. This may be attributed to inefficiency in the construction of the heaps or burning when too green. Care must be taken when burning log heaps to ensure they don't become an ignition source on days of high fire danger.

During the 2007-2008 summer 1,683 bushfires incidents occurred burning a total of 25,345 hectares.

Helicopters once again proved an effective tool in supporting firefighting operations with early attack allowing ground crews to extinguish fires on the urban interface as well as insertion of crews in remote areas. Due to wet conditions in some other areas of Australia an additional medium helicopter was relocated from ACT to Launceston during January.

Strategies to minimise bushfire risk include the Tasmanian Government Fuel Reduction Burning Program involving Forestry Tasmania, the TFS and the Parks & Wildlife Service combining their expertise to reducing fuel loads around the state. The Fuel Reduction Burning Program aims to create corridors of low fuel loads to help prevent large wildfires. See the TFS website for further information.

In addition funding is available for the Bushfire Mitigation Program which provides funds for construction and maintenance of fire trails, signage, water holes etc that contribute to safer sustainable communities. Applications for the 2008-2009 Bushfire Mitigation Program close on the 30th June 2008, details can be obtained on the TFS web site or on the Emergency Management Australia web site at <http://www.ema.gov.au/>



Cecily Parker and Sharon Newlands

Cecily Parker

Hi, I'm Cecily Parker - Marcel's new replacement for Executive Officer Assets. I commenced employment with TFS early January in a temporary role to take up the slack while personnel were on leave, and through a course of events I applied for Marcel's position and my application proved successful.

I have been involved with assets for most of my career and in my most recent employment with P&O Maritime Services our big ticket assets were ships. One of the vessels owned by P&O Maritime Services the Aurora Australis was contracted by another Government agency for scientific voyages and also to transport personnel and equipment to the Antarctic. Seeing a photo of this ship hanging on a wall at State Headquarters makes me feel as though I never left.

I came to Tasmania nineteen years ago from the "Mother Country" for a three week holiday and to visit family after working nineteen years with a Chartered Accountant, met a middle age bloke and have stayed ever since! I'm enjoying the ruggedness and there are places still to be explored.

Sharon Newlands

I'm Sharon Newlands, I've been employed by the TFS for 12 months in the Finance Section in Accounts Payable where I work a 4 day week. The Finance team have been very welcoming and are a pleasure to work with. Before joining the TFS my previous experience was in accounts payable roles at Medco Medical Supplies, Tote Tasmania, Medicare Australia and Computerland.

I have 2 children and I have lived in Tasmania all of my life in a house by the sea.

48 hour charity relay

By Senior Station Officer Hobart Brigade, Andrew Skelly

On the 28th to 30th March the 20th anniversary of the "48 hour charity relay" was run at the Domain Athletic Centre raising money for Variety the children's charity. A number of runners from the Hobart Brigade were involved in the following:

48 hour relay runners - Larry Monash and Andrew Skelly

5 km Furies Challenge - Steve Percival; Heath Peppin; Shaun Skelly; Adrian Petrie; Peter Tavas; Bill Coad; Matt Lowe and Chris Arnol

Lap scorer - Tracey Duggan

4 km fun run - Warren Frey

The event organiser Nigel Hyland greatly appreciates the continued support and involvement from the firefighters to help raise money for Tasmanian charities and presented the runners with a great huon pine trophy.

Julie Kent from Variety is looking forward to putting the funds to great use helping Tassie kids. Last year Variety granted appeals for wheelchairs; vehicle modifications; shower hoists; leg splints; playground equipment (swings for wheelchairs); speech output devices and computers - just to name a few.

This year's event has raised around \$13,000 adding to \$316,000 that has been raised during the past 20 years.

For anyone interested in making a donation to Variety you can check out their website at <http://www.varietytas.org.au> or phone 03 62231886, donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Heath Peppin, Steve Percival and Shaun Skelly with the Variety huon pine trophy



5 km Furies Challenge - Shaun Skelly, Heath Peppin, Bill Coad, Peter Tavas, Chris Arnol, Steve Percival, Matt Lowe and Adrian Petrie



Supporters and competitors - Peter Reason, Simon Pilkington, Adrian Petrie and Bill Coad



Standing - Chris Arnol and Steve Percival Back: Shaun Skelly and Heath Peppin Front: Adrian Petrie, Bill Coad; Matt Lowe, Peter Tavas and Andrew Skelly

Fireground goes far and wide!

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



This is Paul Jager who is currently based at Davis Station in Antarctica.



One of our Fijian AFAC Conference delegates in beautiful Fiji - photo sent in by Ravneet Naicker

Well, I did say it gets read in interesting places! This is young Kaden Adams, apparently he is a big fan and is first to read it when it comes in the mail! Kaden is the son of Firefighter Adrian Adams of LFB.



Photo Competition Winner

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

The winning photo from this edition is:

1st place



Photographer Jackie Smith (\$100)

How to enter:

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

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

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

Photos may be of any TFS event or incident

May include TFS personnel in turnout gear or uniform

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

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

Post them in to:

Linda Lacy

Editor - Fireground

GPO Box 1526

HOBART TAS 7001

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



FBU Women's school in the UK

By Senior Firefighter Launceston Brigade, Belinda Harvey

Conference delegates outside Wortley Hall

Late last year I applied to the UFUA via our women's network for a trip to the Fire Brigade Union (FBU) Women's school in the UK. I was advised that I had a spot only 3 weeks before leaving and would be attending with two other women Shelly Breda (permanent firefighter) and Marina Findeis (retained firefighter) NSW Fire Brigade. The FBU sponsored our registration for the school, the flights by the union magazine's publishing company, and accommodation by the state branches. The School was at Wortley Hall which is owned by the Union.

The first day started on 7th March at lunch time - how civilised, allowing women to come from all over the UK. There were 60 women who attended from operations and control (which we would call FireComm), also 30 children on location with full child care facilities - what a great set up.

There were some very inspirational speakers including Sam Samuels who was the only black woman in a UK fire brigade for 12 years. She stressed that we needed to stand up for the respect of yourself and others. She was followed by Mary Davis who spoke on equal pay. I had very little knowledge on this area and the struggles that women had trying to get decent working conditions, that is when they were actually allowed to work! Thanks goodness we have good OH&S standards now! Without these strikes occurring conditions and wages would have never improved.

Other speakers on day two included Matt Wrack their FBU general secretary, and Dr Shatha Besarani who founded the Women's organisation called Iraqi Women for Peace and Democracy.

There were workshops on the following:

- Workplace Bullying- identify it and challenge it!
- How the vote for women was won - the significance of the suffragette
- Women and the women's movement today
- Finding your voice - feeling more confident to speak up at meetings etc
- Women's health and safety
- Women in the fire service



Speaker - Sam Samuels



The LFB (London Fire Brigade women) working on strategies

- Depression and post-natal depression
- Do women have a "best before..." date?

The last day consisted of working on Equality and Diversity Strategy- FBU Women working together and a quiz on what we had learnt over the two days previously.

The saying that I thought most significant while I was there was "we are all different but all equal".

TFS training is invaluable!

By Firefighter Eaglehawk Neck Brigade, Kylie Linnell

Many of you may have read in the newspaper or seen on the news about the diving accident that occurred at Eaglehawk Neck in February 2008.

I would like to share my role in this incident and also make a couple of points that I have found invaluable since the dust has cleared and I have had time to think.

Both my dad and I are volunteer firefighters with the Eaglehawk Neck Brigade, dad is also a TFS volunteer training instructor and a volunteer ambulance officer.

I was at the Tuna Club of Tasmania helping out as I usually do at this time of the year. Dad arrived in response to an ambulance call of a diver with cardiac problems. I grabbed a pair of gloves so I was ready to assist in any way I could.

Approximately 10 minutes later the boat arrived, the patient on the floor of the boat with two fellow divers performing CPR. With no pulse present dad started bagging and I took over compressions. After about 10 minutes the patient had a faint pulse and while still receiving a little help was breathing by herself. The rescue helicopter arrived shortly after and we assisted the paramedics to get the patient ready for transport and into the helicopter.

Now I have told the story I come to the points I would like to make. The first being that the training we receive as volunteers with TFS does work. When I first jumped on that boat I really thought we were fighting a losing battle. Then the adrenalin kicks in and everything you have been taught comes flooding back, to be totally honest in this case I did not think it was going to work, but it did and I would like to thank the TFS, as I am sure the patient would, for providing me with the opportunity to learn these life saving skills.

My second point is that CISM, and in particular Darren in my case, are worth their weight in gold. Saturday night was a sleepless night for me. As soon as the helicopter had taken off and the adrenalin rush was gone I struggled with the enormity of what had happened and what I had just done. I kept second-guessing myself, did I do it right, did I do anything wrong. I went over and over it in my head. The other point I struggled with was that while I knew I had done the right thing by performing CPR and we had given this lady another chance at life, what sort of a life had we bought her back to as I really did not think she would recover given the timeframe she was without a pulse and oxygen. Don't get me wrong I would not hesitate to do it again but these were all the things that constantly went through my head. That was until dad made contact with CISM and Darren called me. After quite a long conversation and a lot of reassurance that everything I was feeling was "normal" in this situation I started to think differently. While the next 48 hours was one of the most difficult times I have faced it was made easier by talking about it and knowing what I was feeling was normal. Thank you Darren.

The 31 year old Irish tourist we saved that day is now surrounded by family who flew in from Ireland and a week and a half later was nearly fully recovered. With only a little weakness down one side of her body and a few memory problems she is expected to make a full recovery. Her family have told her she is never leaving Ireland again and can only have half a bathtub of water in future!

My last point is that while this is the scariest thing I have ever done it was only after the fact that I realised how freaked out I was, while it might not always work it is always worth a try and if I can do it anyone can, especially with the training we are lucky enough to receive.

Calendar of events

TFS State Conference

19 and 20 July 2008

Country Club Resort, Prospect

TFBCA State Competitions Workshops

3 August 2008 - Cambridge

Southern Brigade representatives please contact Brian Rainbird on 0439 635 490 to confirm your participation

10 August 2008 - Youngtown

Northern Brigade representatives please contact Robert Atkins on 0409 140 237 to confirm your participation

TFBCA State Competitions

8 November 2008

Byard Park, Devonport

All welcome - come along and support your team!

Structural firefighting & breathing apparatus training - Great Western Tiers Group

By Second Officer Mole Creek Brigade, Haydn Stedman

Rushing into burning buildings, saving helpless women and small children and wrestling hoses as they jet streams of water onto raging flames is the stuff of movies, newsreels and wild imaginations and, if truth be told, part of our motivation for the job of firefighting.

Out in the peaceful rural countryside that is Mole Creek and Chudleigh, opportunities to experience even a taste of such activities is limited to exercises such as that organised by our Group Officer Errol Gleeson and Field Officer Kevin Robertson.

After a long dry summer, the morning of our exercise began with driving rain and a chill wind, just the conditions that get people thinking about warm fires and hot cups of tea but for eight enthusiastic firefighters there was more smoke than

flame to start the day. A derelict house at Lemana became the scene for a number of rescue and fire scenarios as crews donned breathing apparatus and ventured into the unknown.

We were instilled with a sense of urgency in the first scenarios where the lives of two people were at stake, though the incentive was not so much to save the dummies as to not exceed the ten minute limit that marked success or failure. With each exercise the gear became more familiar and routines of low pressure tests, harness adjustment and checking each other's helmet tilt became second nature. As one team came out, another team were geared up and ready to go in, keeping Julie McGregor busy at the BA board and giving Errol little time to come up with devious variations on repeating situations.

Adding live fire to the search and rescue mix tested our ability to assess situations and apply suitable suppression methods while prioritising tasks. It also gave us a chance to supervise response and direct strategy from a wider perspective. I learnt that the red stuff isn't always easy to see in the smoke and that torches can often be a hindrance rather than a help (especially when what you expect to be a stove fire is burning in the bath tub) and though the carpet may have been ruined by over enthusiastic use of the hose, we brought the baby out safely every time.

It doesn't quite seem right to celebrate successful fire training by burning the house down but this was the grand finale of the day. It is a worthwhile and sobering exercise to see just how quickly a building can succumb with fire rapidly progressing from a small ignition point to full involvement within fifteen minutes. As speculative estimates of time to roof collapse were suggested (and modified) we experienced





the transition from black smoke seeping out from the eaves to roaring flame as windows exploded and various combustibles added their chemical cocktail to the colour of smoke and flame.

Within fifty minutes, a structure that represented the skill and effort of builders, shelter and warmth to families and the last resting place of more than one sheep (not to mention a haven for brush tailed possums) was reduced to charred wood and twisted pipes. Like typical firefighters, we lost interest once the flames had died down but went home satisfied that we had put a little more edge on skills that will help us prevent such scenes of devastation in our local area.

Thanks to Robbo and Errol, our ever enthusiastic mentors, for the opportunity to be heroes for the day.



TFS Map Books produced, delivered and used!

By Deputy Chief Officer, Mike Brown

On 18 December 2007 our former Minister the Hon David Llewellyn officially launched the Tasmanian Map Books for Emergency Services. The books were rolled out to Brigades around Christmas and went into active service straight away.

Initial responses have been positive and complimentary. Some agencies outside TFS were also part of the initial print run and the books are set to become the standard incident management map in Tasmania. The primary function of the Map Books was to provide appropriate and up to date mapping for first response across the whole State. With a Map Book in every TFS appliance together with the Street Atlas we have achieved this significant milestone.

To date some errors have been found in the base data used to generate the pages and these have been corrected. Physically, the print quality is high and the paper should be fairly resistant to tearing in everyday use, however, the strength of the binding system could have been increased and so all users are urged to be gentle with their Map Books. They are very expensive and expected to last at least 5 years!

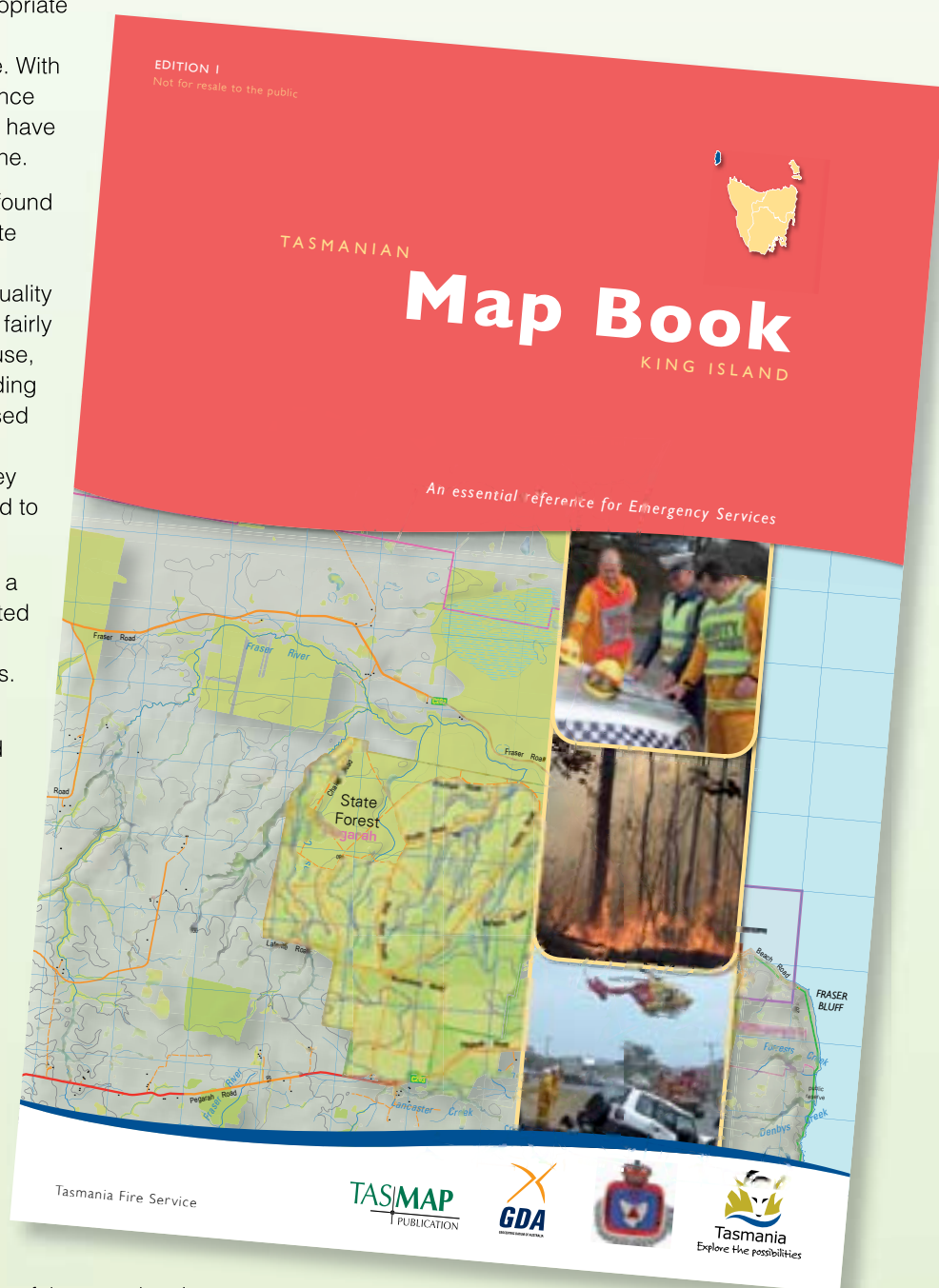
The Map Books have stimulated a review of several other map related activities both inside TFS and between TFS and other agencies. So, where to from here?

The next steps already identified are:

1. TFS training materials are to be revised to include the new Map Books in the navigation and other operational units. The navigation material review is underway and other units will be updated when their periodic reviews occur.
2. TFS mapping software is to be updated to use the electronic version of the Map Books. The software is already capable of using the data and its rollout is underway. Some cosmetic adjustments will be made to increase the ease of use of the new data in our

software package. All regions now have new A3 laser colour printers available for map printing.

3. TFS intends to provide all computer users with a free, standalone grid reference converter tool which allows users to convert locations between the Map Books, the Street Atlas, the old AGD grid and the new GDA grid. This software is being developed by the team at DPIW who worked on the Map Book. A beta-version has been trialled and Version 1.0

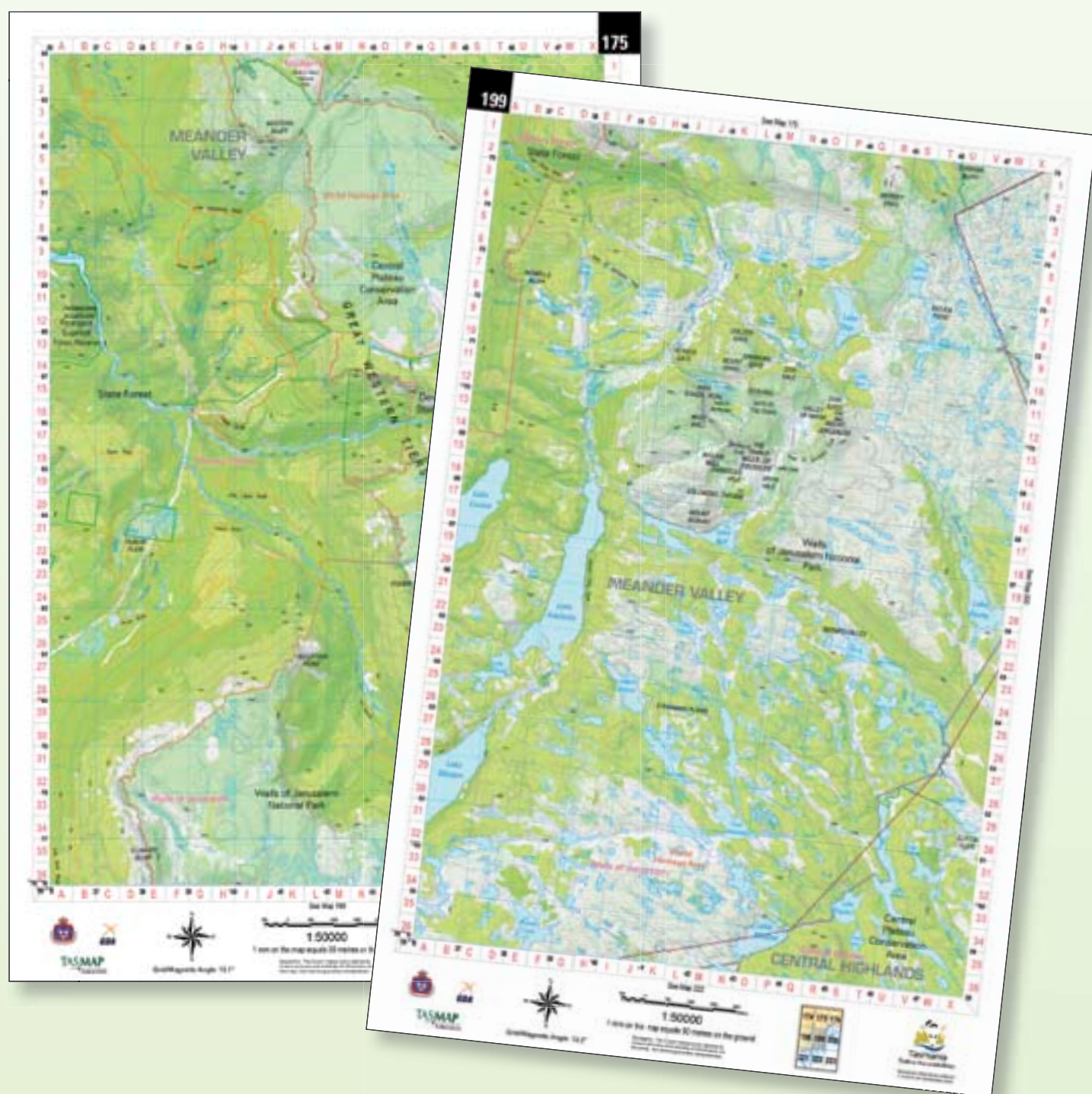


should be available for fire season 2008-09. This will allow old information to be translated for use with new maps and for new information to be translated for use on old maps. This should be helpful for a range of tasks during incidents and when issuing fire permits.

4. An electronic catalogue of standard map styles and formats for operations and planning will be developed. The

catalogue project has begun with an interim catalogue to be released in spring.

The Map Book project team is eagerly waiting for users to provide comments, ideas, suggestions, complaints, errors and corrections. If you have access to email then please contact: mapbook@fire.tas.gov.au. Otherwise, please contact your District Officer who will happily pass your message on.



Library News

NEW BOOKS

Essential bushfire safety tips / Webster, Joan Katherine. Collingwood, Vic.: CSIRO Publishing, 2008.

Field guide: fuel assessment and fire behaviour prediction in dry eucalypt forest / Gould, J. S. Canberra: Ensis-CSIRO, 2007.

Firefighting operations on the Urban Interface / Arnol, Chris. [Canberra, ACT] : Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, 2008.

In 2007 Chris Arnol, Deputy Regional Chief South, was awarded the Lord Mayor's Bushfire Appeal Churchill Fellowship to examine contemporary methods for managing bushfires that directly threaten the urban environment in USA, Spain, France, Italy and Greece - this is his report.

Fireline handbook. National Wildfire Coordinating Group (US). Incident Operations Standards Working Team. Boise, Idaho: National Wildfire Coordinating Group, 2004.

Fireline handbook: Appendix B: Fire behaviour. National Wildfire Coordinating Group (US). Boise, Idaho: National Wildfire Coordinating Group, 2006.

Giving presentations / Billingham, Jo. Oxford, [England]: Oxford University Press, c2003.

Hard facts, dangerous half-truths, and total nonsense: profiting from evidence-based management / Pfeffer, Jeffrey. Boston, Mass.: Harvard Business School Press, c2006.

Hazard mitigation and preparedness: building resilient communities / Schwab, Anna K. Hoboken, NJ: J. Wiley, c2007.

Leadership for the disillusioned: moving beyond myths and heroes to leading that liberates / Sinclair, Amanda. Crows Nest, NSW: Allen & Unwin, 2007.

Playing with fire / Barry, Anne Elizabeth. Christchurch, NZ: Hazard Press, 2007. The exciting life and career of New Zealand's first female firefighter.

Post traumatic stress disorder in firefighters: the calls that stick with you / Antonellis, Paul J. Ellicott City, M : Chevron, 2005.

Recovering from the 2003 Canberra bushfire: a work in progress / Camilleri, Peter. [Canberra : Peter Camilleri ... [et. al.], 2007.

NEW DVDs

In the line of fire / Hilton, Chris. Sydney, NSW: Essential Viewing; Firelight Productions, 2007. 1 DVD (120 min.) Broadcast on Channel Nine in December 2007, this compilation of four 30 minute episodes goes behind the scenes of the largest volunteer firefighting organisation in the world - the NSW Rural Fire Service.

Revelation. Episode 5 2006 Bells Creek wildfire. Brisbane, Qld.: Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, [2006]. 1 DVD (50 min.)

Revelation is a series of operational case studies produced to communicate the key learnings from selected incidents responded to by QFRS. In this episode the key lessons of an iZone wildfire incident that occurred in North Coast Region during November 2006 are discussed and communicated by operational personnel involved in the incident, and other specialists within QFRS.

Road crash rescue. Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia. Perth, WA: FESA, 2005. 1DVD +1 CD-ROM.

DVD & CD ROM contents: introduction, personal protection equipment, scene appreciation, safety systems, stabilisation, casualty care, extrication techniques - B pillar tear, roof fold, footwell exposure, dash lift / roll, oyster / roof flap.

Taking the heat the first women firefighters of New York City. [New York]: Anjali Films, 2005. 1 DVD (54 min.)

This film tells the story of Brenda Berkman and the small group of women who dared to want a man's job. Through one-on-one interviews, filmmaker Bann Roy exposes the loneliness, violence and even sexual abuse these women endured to serve their communities.

Typical! Who represents a typical volunteer firefighter? Tasmania Fire Service. Hobart, Tas.: TFS, 2008. 1 DVD (7 min.)

WEB LINKS

AFAC Position Papers

http://www.afac.com.au/awsv2/publications/position_papers.htm

The following new position papers are now available on the AFAC website:

- Use of Lookouts, Awareness, Communications, Escape Routes, Safety Zones (LACES) System for Wildfire Firefighters Safety on the Fireground;
- Use of Personal Fire Shelters in Wildfires;
- AFAC Information Exchange Standards Common Alerting Protocol and Inter-CAD Messaging;
- Fire Risks from the Management of Gamba Grass in Northern Australia.

Extrication from cars during road traffic accidents / Swedish Rescue Services Agency, 2007.

<http://www.raddningsverket.se/Shopping/pdf/23419.pdf>

Firebreak

<http://www.firebreak.com.au/>

The ACT Volunteer Bushfire Brigades' Association maintains this website which has some interesting information under Information for Bushfire Fighters. It also provides computerised McArthur fire danger meters.

Morevolunteers

<http://www.morevolunteers.com/>

Dr Judy Esmond, a leading international expert on volunteering, is offering the e-book Volunteer: more ideas to recruit, retain and recognise more volunteers freely via her website.



The psychological effect of bushfire: preparing mind and body

<http://www.abc.net.au/victoria/stories/s2078323.htm>

Provides a link to an audio interview with clinical psychologist Rob Gordon, who specialises in the management of people's emotional response to disasters.

CONTACT US

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

Ph: 6230 8679 or 6230 8681

Email: library@fire.tas.gov.au

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

Obituary

Dennis Michael Deveril

28 February 1938 - 3 January 2008



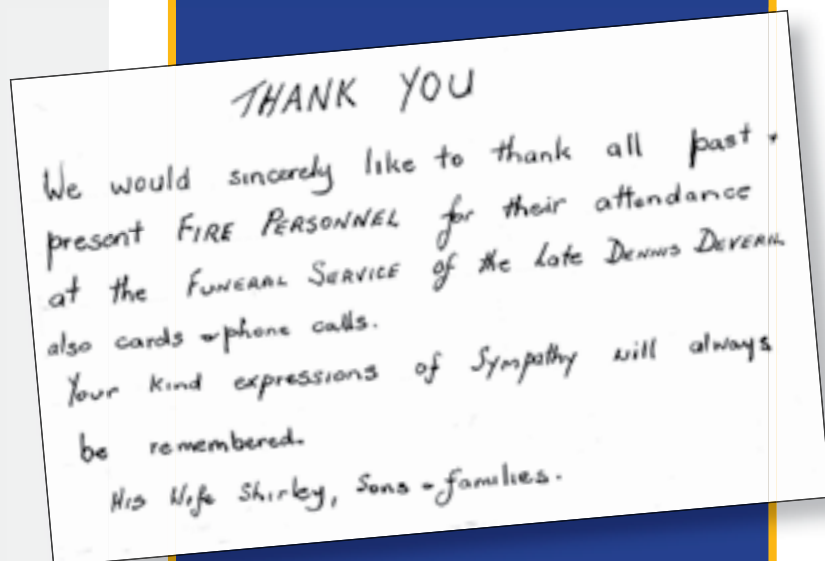
Dennis was a well respected, long serving firefighter with the Hobart Fire Brigade having served some 26 years, from 1966 until 1992.

He spent most of his career at the Hobart and Eastern Shore Stations on both C and D Shifts, especially after the Tasman Bridge collapse. He was acknowledged as a very competent Aerial Appliance Operator and a first rate driver.

Dennis was an excellent baddington player who, with his fine touch and deft speed around the court, made him a partner of choice by his fellow shift members.

He retired in 1992 due to ill health.

Sadly missed by his former colleagues and friends.



We will remember them

By Station Officer Launceston Brigade, Danny Guy

Launceston "A" shift decided to get spruced up in our dress uniform, complete with tunics, to attend the ANZAC dawn, yes, dawn service to show our respect for those who had paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

A few of us that had been keeping our tunics in storage "found" a few things during the dress rehearsal.

We "found" we'd gain a few extra kilos

We "found" we couldn't do up the buttons

And we also "found" that we shouldn't make bets that our tunics would still fit!

Never the less, thanks to Graham Witchard's surplus supply of tunics, the entire Launceston crew was successfully fitted out. Not only did we feel proud to be showing our respect on behalf of the Launceston Brigade but to do so, all dressed the same in full dress uniform, was an even more honourable feeling.

Thankfully the Rocherlea crew stationed themselves in at Launceston Station to cover any call outs, and as it

happened, Murphy's Law prevailed with them responding to an alarm call just before the service start time of 6 am.

Unfortunately we couldn't indulge in a few shots of rum after the service but thanks to Deputy Regional Chief Ken Burns, who had attended the service alongside his "troops", a shout of a "cook up" of eggs and bacon for breakfast was the next best thing!

In true ANZAC spirit, old stories were shared around the mess room and suggestions of the soldiers at the service donning their "flap" jackets in fear that our tunic buttons posed a shrapnel threat or that some of the crew should be nominated to the Guinness Book of Records for holding their breath (stomach in) the longest, continued on until change of shift.

I'm sure that with a little pre-planning, next year we could increase our presence and dress the many off duty personnel who regularly attend, in full dress uniform also.



Back - Senior Firefighter John Kroczewski, Senior Firefighter Andrew Pitt, Firefighter Andrew Lowe, Station Officer Craig Burrows, Senior Firefighter Sheryl Griffiths, Senior Station Officer Danny O'Donnell
Front - Senior Firefighter Rick Mahnken, Firefighter Brendan Plummer, Senior Firefighter Mark Wilkie, Leading Firefighter Stephen Smart, Station Officer Danny Guy, Deputy Regional Chief North Ken Burns

On The *Move*

A list of recent personnel changes within the Tasmania Fire Service

The following Career personnel changes have occurred

Arrivals

Engineering Services	Matthew Sheen	Appliance Fabrication Technician	21st February 2008
Engineering Services	Alex Godman	Appliance Fabrication Technician	21st February 2008
Northern Region	Jock Crome	Station Officer	3rd March 2008
Finance	Cecily Parker	Executive Officer Assets	20th March 2008

Elevations

Northern Region	Ian Cawthorn	District Officer Tamar	11th March 2008
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Departures

FireComm	Lochie Brown	Communications Officer	28th March 2008
North West Region	Denis Munro	Station Officer	13th April 2008
Information Systems	Andrew Lindner	Computer Systems Officer	13th May 2008

The following Volunteer Brigade Officers have been elected by their Brigades

BRIGADE	OFFICER	APPOINTMENT	BRIGADE	OFFICER	APPOINTMENT
Bagdad	Chris Millington	Fourth Officer	Port Sorell	Michael Connell	Third Officer
Bell Bay	Jason Mackrill	Second Officer		Adrian Singline	Fourth Officer
Binalong Bay	Michael Hill	Brigade Chief	Railton	Stephen Niaura	Brigade Chief
	James Challis	Second Officer		Robert Gaffney	Second Officer
	Anne Harper	Third Officer		Dwayne Jones	Third Officer
	Ian Jones	Fourth Officer		Wendy Gaffney	Fourth Officer
Hamilton	Ross Johnstone	Second Officer	Weymouth	Duncan Hogarth	Brigade Chief
	John Hall	Fourth Officer		Zich Zichy-Woinarski	Second Officer
Huonville	Aaron Jones	Second Officer		Alan Tuff	Third Officer
Legana	Wim Vaessen	Second Officer		David Perry	Fourth Officer

Awards

A list of recent awards presented within the Tasmania Fire Service

LOCATION/ BRIGADE	NAME	AWARD
Arthurs Lake	Teresa Nichols	Long Service (10 years)
	Ricky Triffitt	Long Service (10 years)
Brighton	Peter Paice	Long Service (25 years)
	Andrew Zielinski	Long Service (15 years)
Burnie	Danny Dunn	National Medal (35 years)
	Leon Norton-Smith	National Medal (35 years)
	Steve Townsend	National Medal (25 years)
	Tony Smith	National Medal (25 years)
	Craig Machen	National Medal (15 years)
	Leon Norton-Smith	Long Service (35 years)
	Danny Dunn	Long Service (35 years)
	Kevin Saward	Long Service (30 years)
	Steve Townsend	Long Service (30 years)
	Rodney White	Long Service (30 years)
	John Hardstaff	Long Service (25 years)
	Scott Clarke	Long Service (25 years)
	Tony Smith	Long Service (25 years)
	Craig Machen	Long Service (20 years)
	Jon Bakker	Long Service (15 years)
	Ricky Barrett	Long Service (10 years)
	Daniel Fletcher	Long Service (10 years)
Cambridge	Matthew Fenton	Long Service (20 years)

LOCATION/ BRIGADE	NAME	AWARD
Cambridge	Scott Downham	Long Service (10 years)
	Michael Dare	Long Service (10 years)
Cressy	Leon Robson	Long Service (30 years)
	Leonard Williams	Long Service (30 years)
	Rex Dykstra	Long Service (25 years)
	David Green	Long Service (25 years)
Fern Tree	Brian Marriott	Long Service (10 years)
	Matthew Shepperd	Long Service (10 years)
	Ken Fishwick	Long Service (30 years)
Forth	Graham Bennell	Long Service (30 years)
	Wendy Bennell	Long Service (25 years)
	Graham Duval	Long Service (10 years)
	John Newman	Long Service (10 years)
	John Wyatt	Long Service (10 years)
Gladstone	Jacqui Moore	National Medal (15 years)
	Tania Thompson	National Medal (15 years)
	Jill Probert	National Medal (15 years)
	Jacqui Moore	Long Service (15 years)
	Bernard O'Neil	Long Service (15 years)
	Tania Thompson	Long Service (15 years)
	Robert Wallace	Long Service (15 years)
	Jill Probert	Long Service (15 years)



Cressy and Lake River Brigades award recipients and presenters -
 Back - Rex Dykstra, Chris Cashion, Leon Robson, Gordon Bayles, David Green, Ian Morrison, Peter Goss, Allan Rigney, Michael Green
 Front - Craig Maxwell, Leonard Williams, Dean Stokell, Rodney Springer, David Button



Back - Tim Binns, Jacqui Moore, Terry Binns, Bernard O'Neil, Tania Thompson, Robert Wallace
 Front - Heather Venn, Jill Probert, Veronica O'Neil

LOCATION/ BRIGADE	NAME	AWARD
Gladstone	Veronica O'Neil	Long Service (15 years)
Hamilton	Tammy Stewart	Long Service (10 years)
Human Services	Linda Lacy	Long Service (15 years)
Kempton	Raymond Cooper	Long Service (25 years)
Kingston	Stephen Palmer	Long Service (20 years)
Lake River	Michael Green	National Medal (45 years)
	Gordon Bayles	National Medal (30 years)
	Michael Green	Long Service (45 years)
	Allan Rigney	Long Service (40 years)
	Peter Goss	Long Service (25 years)
	David Button	Long Service (20 years)
	Dean Stokell	Long Service (15 years)
Latrobe	Chris Hinds	National Medal (25 years)
	Chris Hawkins	National Medal (15 years)
	Graham Stott	Long Service (30 years)
	Chris Hinds	Long Service (25 years)
	Dennis Michajlow	Long Service (20 years)
	Michael Clarke	Long Service (15 years)
	Greg Turner	Long Service (15 years)
	David Fidler	Long Service (10 years)
	Stuart Loone	Long Service (10 years)
Magra	Murray Coppleman	Long Service (10 years)

LOCATION/ BRIGADE	NAME	AWARD
Margate	Michael D'Alton	TFS Volunteer Award
	Craig Woolford	TFS Volunteer Award
	Bill Quinn	Long Service (25 years)
	Stewart Quinn	Long Service (10 years)
	Chris Nielson-Beck	Long Service (10 years)
Moriarty	Ian Hortle	National Medal (25 years)
	Peter Dawson	National Medal (25 years)
	Jennie Dawson	National Medal (15 years)
	Jan Johnson	National Medal (15 years)
	Greville Johnson	National Medal (15 years)
	Malcolm Murdoch	Long Service (40 years)
Risdon Vale	Melanie Upton	Long Service (15 years)
SHQ	Margaret Kean	Long Service (30 years)
Snug	Thomas Holmes	Long Service (40 years)
State Operations	Paul Salter	Long Service (20 years)
Tomahawk	Terry Binns	National Medal (15 years)
	Terry Binns	Long Service (15 years)
	Tim Binns	Long Service (10 years)
	Heather Venn	Long Service (10 years)



Chris Neilson-Beck, Stuart Quinn, Bill Quinn, Michael D'Alton and Craig Woolford



Steve Townsend, Danny Dunn, Craig Machen, Leon Norton-Smith

The World's Greatest Shave at Risdon Vale!

By Firefighter Risdon Vale Brigade, Peter Devine

During a training night in January 2008, brigade member Kelsey Wigg, called for volunteers to participate in the Worlds Greatest Shave in support of The Leukaemia Foundation.

Kelsey received a positive response from members and coordinated the event. Ten of our eighteen members committed to have their hair either coloured or shaved and set about raising much needed funds. Some family and friends also became involved. Kathleen McNerney held a morning tea at her workplace to raise funds and Teresa Atkins not only donated her time taking photographs on the night, but she also volunteered to have her hair shaved.

The night of the shave was St Patrick's Day, Monday 17th March. Those who were to have their locks shaved were fortunate to have a warm barmy night. Christie Sweeting and Elizabeth Virtue from the "Worlds Greatest Shave" team were in attendance, along with Mandy and Jessica from "Hair Do I Do", the local hairdressing salon, who had the appropriate skill matrix, equipment and PPE for the shave.

First up for a shave (for some it was more like a hazard reduction) were Kelsey and Allan followed by Keith, Rob, Chris and Wade. Despite strong and raucous encouragement Wade could not let his mo go. Teresa was the last to lose her locks happily collecting the last \$30 from Harry Quick's pocket.

All smoking and naked flames had to be extinguished whilst Mandy and Jessica began shaking the cans of brightly coloured spray paint. Ann, Robyn, Tanya and myself were coated in bright green, yellow, blue, purple and pink. Being last in the queue I was left with a thick purple base with white polkadots resembling a native quoll on a night out. When I saw myself in the mirror my first thought was my wife had asked me to buy some milk on the way home.

With the support of Teresa, Mandy and Jessica, family, friends and colleagues, the Risdon Vale Brigade raised just over \$1,973, which also included a \$25 donation per shave or colour from brigade patron Julie Collins MHR. Our contribution helps the Leukaemia Foundation to provide a "home away from home" close to hospitals during treatment, transport of patients to appointments and provision of other practical assistance as well as emotional support all free of charge to families affected.

Thanks Kelsey for organising a productive and enjoyable night. I would recommend any brigade thinking of participating to have a go in 2009.



Before ...



.... And after!



Firefighter Kelsey Wigg
losing his locks!



Firefighter Keith McPherson - I'm sure
that's a style he'll choose to keep!

The World's Greatest Shave at Kingston!

All six Brigades in the North West Bay Group joined forces by participating in the Worlds Greatest Shave on Friday, 28 March.

This was the second major fundraising event that the group has participated in recently, the first being a fundraiser for Michele Wylie. This year the brigades chose to support the Leukaemia Foundation World's Greatest Shave and raised approximately \$6,500 with money still coming in.

Many thanks to hairdressers Mariza Stott, and Katie and Katherine of Lush in Kingston for their assistance on the night! Thanks also to Tammie of Chickenfeed Sandy Bay for the spray-on colours.

Four Brigade Chiefs nominated for a shave/ colour, as well as ten firefighters, two Firecomm operators and TFS Computer Systems Officer Andrew Lindner!

Kingston Brigade Chief Faron Wall who lost his beloved mullet said "most people I know will be happy to see me bald and I am sure that losing my hair was very entertaining for all attending. I hope that losing my hair will help those who have no choice about being bald as a result of the treatment to hopefully rid them of their disease."

The Worlds Greatest Shave is the Leukaemia Foundation largest Fundraising event and the money raised goes towards supporting the 30,000 Australians living with leukaemia, lymphomas, myeloma and related blood disorders. "The support the Foundation is receiving from the North West Bay Group is fantastic. The event they organised not only raised much needed funds but also helped create awareness of the Foundation in this community", said Christie Sweeting, Events and Fundraising Co-ordinator for the Leukaemia Foundation in Tasmania.



Hairdressers Katie and Mariza with Peter Lucas of Howden Brigade

Adam Meredith of HFB and Faron Wall of Kingston Brigade - it's too late to turn back now!



Yeah! We did it!



Some might say it is his "best side"!



Fresh haircuts and colours!

Heybridge exercise

By Clerical Support Officer North West, Michelle Clarke

Late last year District Officer Paul Hill was contacted by the Public Trustee regarding an old house which required demolition and was located on Crown Land on the edge of the highway at Heybridge. After some discussion it was decided that Mersey District could use the house for training in Respond to Isolate/ Remote Fire and Respond to Urban Fire.

On Saturday 24th November Heybridge, Riana, Penguin and Burnie Volunteers met at Heybridge Station with Field Officer Gary Johnson. Shortly after arrival Gary disappeared and then a call came across the UHF that a house on the Bass Highway was on fire. On arrival the training crews found a small fire burning within the structure. The fire was located and extinguished in a timely manner allowing for more fires to be lit inside.

Whilst focusing on extinguishing the fire the crews were required to pump water from a tank to another appliance for water supply, give consideration to hazards around the structure and vegetation which was close to the house. The crews and team leaders rotated throughout the morning until eventually the house was left to burn down.

Afterwards a BBQ at Heybridge Station provided time for debrief and the outcome was that it was an exciting and enjoyable day for all involved.



Taroona a little cleaner

By Leading Firefighter Taroona Brigade, David McCambridge

On 2nd March members from the Taroona Brigade took part in the annual Clean up Australia Day. Equipped with gloves and bags the team set off from Truganini Reserve at around 10 am, slowly making its way to the centre of Taroona collecting roadside rubbish along the Channel Highway. The local Baptist Church was also involved in the event, cleaning up the Taroona Reserve and beach front area.

The day was concluded at the Station where parents and children alike were able to look around, and with assistance from Second Officer Byrn and Third Officer Enman use 38mm TFT branches. Some very enthusiastic children expressed their interest in becoming volunteer firefighters in coming years. The day was declared a success with new relationships created within the community and the area becoming a little cleaner. We look forward to taking part again in 2009.



Knot tying session at Castra

By District Officer Mersey, Paul Hill

On 9th February I attended a knot tying session for two members of the Castra Brigade. Second Officer Ray Oliver and Firefighter Cathy Hutton became Mr and Mrs Oliver beside the Leven River in Ulverstone.

The weather was great and the flies annoying as we waited for the bride to arrive after a short delay to collect forgotten flowers. This wait was entertaining watching the groom displaying very visible signs of excitement, anticipation and nervousness while listening to the sultry tones of a single saxophone playing light bluesy numbers. The ceremony was wonderful with heartfelt vows exchanged.

The reception at the Kindred Hall was fantastic with a real atmosphere of celebration for the newly weds with family and friends attending from interstate.

Congratulations to Ray and Cathy you both deserve a long and happy marriage.



Moriarty Brigade - forty years on ...

By Firefighter Moriarty Brigade, Jan Johnson

At our annual Christmas BBQ celebrating the Brigade's 40th anniversary Lindsay Addison presented the brigade with a framed photo of volunteers who went to Hobart to repair burnt fences after the 1967 fires.

Approximately 120 past and present members and locals from the community helped celebrate this occasion and an enjoyable evening was had by all.



Moriarty Brigade members

Hobart Fire Brigade

125th Anniversary

Plans are underway to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Hobart Fire Brigade in October this year.

One element of this project will be production of an updated history of the Brigade. We are looking for contributions from present and former brigade members. Contributions could include, personal stories, anecdotes, photos, HFB related artefacts, records and so on. Some of the artefacts we are endeavouring to track down include:

- Bell from Bathurst Street Fire Bell Tower;
- 1899 Tell-tail clock from Bathurst Street Fire Bell Tower station;
- 1899 Telephone switchboard from Bathurst Street Fire Bell Tower station; and
- 1911 Silver Trowel and Blackwood Mallet presented Board Chairman, T.W. Evans, at 16 May, 1911 foundation stone laying ceremony.

If you can help, please contact Project Co-ordinator, Gerald Crawford, on 6230 8456 or g.crawford@fire.tas.gov.au

Hard luck for ex firie!

By Field Works Officer East Coast District, Stacey Peters

I received a phone call that a fire needed investigation and headed down to Lewisham. En route District Officer Gavin Freeman rang to inform me that it was Merky's (Mark Bowden) place. Mark, Sandi and Luke Bowden lost all their possessions in an extraordinary bit of bad luck, with a grass fire extending from about 30 metres away to their lovely cedar house and all but destroying it and its contents. Mark, Sandi and Luke were still in shock when I arrived and trying to deal with this confronting situation of nowhere to go and no clothes etc.

Dodges Ferry and Primrose Sands Brigades had attended the fire and did a great job.

I decided it would be a great gesture if we could help out in some way and raise some money to assist them. Fundraising commenced which included a firewood raffle where \$700+ raised (thanks to Sparra, Gerald, Jezza, Batty, Weasal and others for cutting the wood on such a miserable day) also thanks to the guys for going around all work areas to sell raffle tickets for this worthy cause. Also sports tickets were sold at the recent Hobart Fire Brigade Rec Club leavers function. In total, with a donation from the HFB Rec Club, \$1000 was raised.

The cheque was presented to a very emotional Mark and Sandi at their shop, Bike Ride in Liverpool Street Hobart, by myself and a "D" Platoon crew (Mark's old shift). Mark



Sandi and Mark Bowden

and Sandi wanted to sincerely thank everyone involved and advised that the donation would come in very handy in rebuilding their lives.

Please feel free to call in and say hi to Mark. Remember, if you're looking at buying a bike or bike products he will look after you.

Savage River fire

By Acting Manager TasFire Training, Andrew Lyons

In December 2006 Australian Bulk Minerals (ABM) at Savage River suffered a multi-million dollar fire that almost caused the closure of the mill.

Since this fire TasFire Training has been conducting an intensive training program for ABM's Emergency Response Team. This year TFT Instructors have been at Savage River for one day a week conducting a training program that will culminate in four weeks of intensive live fire training at Three Mile Line in May.

In February the program included Bushfire Safety and Firefighting. Shortly after this, a major wildfire occurred in the Savage River area. The day that the fire was at its worst happened to coincide with a scheduled ERT training day that was being conducted by Rob Whiteway and Nigel Reid.

Nigel introduced ABM's Emergency Services Coordinator Kevin Morris to Parks & Wildlife staff who weren't aware

that ABM had an ERT and were prepared to make their employees available to assist in the wildfire operations. This resulted in the ABM guys being used to assist with back burning operations. This resulted in a win win situation as it provided Parks with an additional resource and also provided the ABM guys with practical experience under the eyes of experienced personnel. Parks are now aware of the resource and have added it to their database. Thanks to Nigel for making this happen.

In the future this may be extremely valuable as the ABM ERT is initially responsible for the township of Savage River as well as the mine site.

Once again this demonstrates how TasFire Training is working to assist business to create and maintain Fire Safe Workplaces.

Photo Gallery



Hazard reduction burn at Taroona High School - Taroona and Mt Nelson Brigades
Photographer Leading Firefighter Taroona Brigade, David McCambridge





Rosebery Brigade on Mount Reid as part of a training exercise. Submitted by Firefighter Rosebery Brigade, Lyndy Smith



Devonport "flying the flag" on Australia Day
Submitted by "A" Shift, Devonport Brigade



Glenmark Road Bothwell fire on flare up day Sunday 16th March 2008
Submitted by Field Officer East Coast, Stacey Peters



Another robbery, another car fire, another victim of crime
Photographer Senior Station Officer Rod Sherrin



Sun setting through smoke from vegetation fire - Erickson Road Goshen - January 2008.
Photographer Firefighter Binalong Bay Brigade, Elizabeth Challis



Second Officer Gordon Patchin at a recent burn off in Penguin
Submitted by Fourth Officer Penguin Brigade, Michelle Clarke



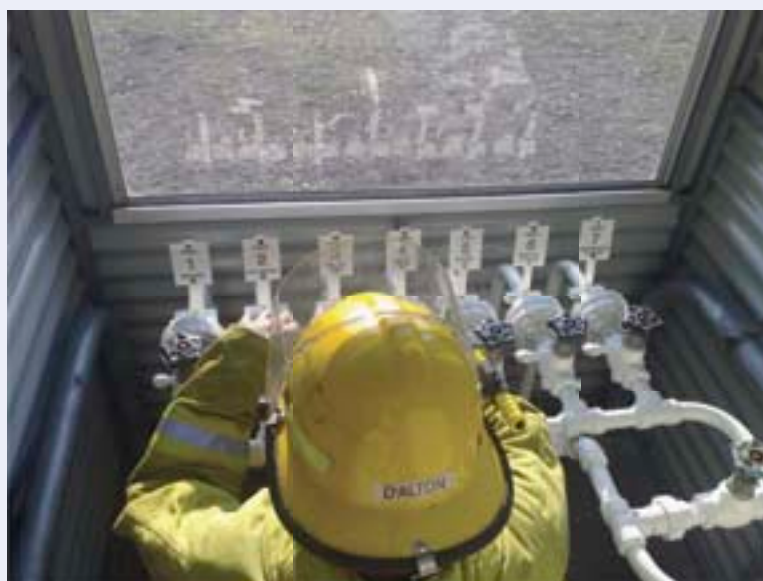
Recent vehicle fire in Kingston - the firefighter is Pete Walker of Kingston Brigade
Photographer Leading Firefighter Kingston Brigade, Matt Davis

Photo Gallery

Recent house fire at Kingston. Photographer Terry Lane.



The water (whirlpool) at the front of the truck was a manhole cover the lifted up so the truck was positioned near it to avoid accidents
Submitted by Senior Firefighter Launceston Brigade, David Moir



Leading Firefighter Michael D'Alton of Margate Brigade using the gas prop at Cambridge
Submitted by Leading Firefighter Margate Brigade, Michael D'Alton

Wingaroo

The fire started on a farm call Wingaroo in the north of Flinders Island on Sunday 20th April. It spread into Wingaroo Nature Reserve and was attended by PW&S and Emita Brigade, along with other Flinders Island Brigades.

Photos and information provided by Margaret Wheatley of Flinders Island



Waiting for the fire to get there - Wayne Warren (PWS), Jude Cazaly, Martin Walker and Maryanne Roberts (Emita Brigade)



The fire from Palana road
24/04/08



Taken from the top of Mt Tanner looking towards Wingaroo on the day the fire started

Piper's Brook

On 16 January 2008 Queensland visitor Jackie Smith was witness to a bush fire that was burning around and on part of her brother, Bob Smith's property at Piper's Brook. Jackie advised "I was very impressed with the TFS and its volunteers, by their efficiency, professionalism, and especially their concern for other people and their property". Jackie provided the following photos.





Bellingham



Photographer Leading
Firefighter Pipers River
Brigade, Andrew Ringsgwandl





Fire approaching Gees Marsh Road 2200 hours



2215 hours - Gees
Marsh Road

Note the flame shape!



Taranna house fire

By Second Officer Eaglehawk Neck, Mark Linfoot

By the time we arrived at the fire, the house was 80% involved. Our objective was to save the adjoining house which was done effectively with Dunalley doing a water relay to keep us full and a portable pump set at the rear of the adjoining house.

The next problem was the fire in the paddock that was attempting to escape up the gully and into the bush. This was solved by the arrival of Port Arthur 3.1 and 5.1 who contained then blacked it out. Many thanks to all who attended.



LETTERS

To whom it may concern

I am writing to express my thanks and appreciation to the Tasmanian Fire service and volunteers that attended a recent fire which was partly on my property at Interlaken in central Tasmania.

I spent some time with the fire fighting and backup personnel over 3 days and not only was I extremely grateful for their work, I was also impressed by the dedicated and competent manner in which it was carried out.

The thoroughness and professionalism displayed by all concerned was outstanding. I also appreciated the concern and care that the crews displayed to me personally and to other shack owners in the area.

I would also like to acknowledge the work done by the coordinator of operations, Jock Cromes. He was outstandingly impressive in his role, displaying exceptional leadership qualities and personnel management skills. He was thorough and professional in all of his undertakings, always including me in operational briefings and providing me with much appreciated service and support.

Please pass on my sincere thanks to your brigades, personnel and backup crews for their work in effectively addressing what had the potential to be a volatile and dangerous situation.

Yours sincerely



Jack Bennett

0427774757

almatierjack@hotmail.com

To whom it may concern
c/o Phil Smith
Volunteer Fire Brigades,
Cnr. Argyle & Melville Sts.
Hobart,
Tas. 7000.

Re Recent Coningham Bush Fire

I should have written sooner but was not sure how many units were involved or to whom I should write so that everyone involved gets the message.

I just wanted to thank you all for the marvellous job you did that terrible day in January, saving all the houses and making sure the fire did not get out of control and destroy an even bigger area.

As a nearby householder and anxious spectator I was very impressed with the teamwork and discipline displayed by all involved, including the helicopter crew and all the ground crews. Without such cooperation the result could have been far worse.

I am very grateful to you all and hope this message reaches all involved.

Yours sincerely,

Janie Ely.

LETTERS

1531-0092 Jenny Lowe
8 Lila Drive
Procopet, T'ron

4th April, 2008

RC + 0098

To whom it may concern

On behalf of myself and my family I am writing to say a "big" Thankyou to all the fire men who responded so quickly and brilliantly to the fire in Lila Drive on Wednesday night. I arrived home from work about 10.30 to chaos in the street and thought with the height of the flames and embers flying that other properties might be in great danger, including my own. I cannot Thankyou enough. For the second time this year you have come to our rescue. We had a fire in the reserve, at the back of our property, on New years day but that wasn't as scary as Wednesday night. I am sure your quick response and actions were responsible for keeping neighbouring houses out of danger the other night.

My elderly neighbour who lives next door to the scene of the fire, was terrified by the noise and size of the fire but was greatly reassured to know that the fire men were checking her back yard and fence throughout the night and a couple of them went and spoke to her on Thursday morning and she really appreciated that, so a big Thankyou from her as well.

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NO. 780

To the Bracknell Fire Brigade

Just a note to thank the Bracknell Fire Brigade for their prompt and professional action during and following the fire at Myrtle Creek Rd on Wednesday 16th Jan. Without their swift intervention and outstanding leadership our home would certainly be lost, and many others potentially threatened, included in the list would be our home, vineyard & market garden.

Once again - Thank you.

Sincerely
Jan & Nigel Cairns



TFBCA STATE COMPETITIONS

Junior, cadet and adult
firefighters from across
Tasmania



Competing in the 2008
State Fire Brigade
Competitions



Combining all
3 streams
Volunteer, Urban
and National



Entry forms
and details
are with your
Brigade Chief

8 November 2008
Byard Park
DEVONPORT

This event is hosted by the Tasmanian Fire Brigade Competition Association (TFBCA)
For more information go to www.fire.tas.gov.au

