

Fireground

winter/spring
2004



- ▶ TFS Annual Conference
- ▶ New Winter Fire Safety Strategy
- ▶ Introduction of the PSTP



Contents

From the Chief Officer	2
Australian Fire Service Medal	3
Award to Smithton Fire Brigade	3
Presentation to Chief Officer	3
From the Editor	3
TFS Annual Conference 2004	4
New Winter Fire Safety Strategy	6
K & D Wish Cottage	8
House Fires Declining in Tasmania	8
TFS Online	9
Obituaries	9
Engineering Services	
“What to expect in the future”	10
Motor Vehicle Accident Scenario	12
St Helens Holiday Units	13
Boat Harbour Brigade	13
Retirement of Regional Officer Roland Hill	14
Rodney James Read	15
Launceston Youth Recreation Partnership	16
No challenge is too big for Marcel!	16
Another future firie!	16
Staff Profile - Justin Young	17
South Arm Presentations	17
It's Shower Time!!	18
Introduction of the Public Safety Training Package in the TFS What is the PSTP?	19
Firefighter Exchange	20
Firefighter Exchange	21
Long Service Presentations at Hobart Fire Brigade	21
Car Fire at Berriedale	22
Fire at Mawson Station Antarctic	22
Bridgewater Service Station	23

WINTER/SPRING 2004

Official Journal of
The Tasmania Fire Service



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28



38



48



31

New Teddies for the TFS!	23
Hazard Reduction Burn	24
Fire at Atkinson's Sand & Loam Supplies	24
TVFFA Competition Dates 2005	24
TFBCA Competition Dates 2005	24
Training Services Youngtown - Open for Business	25
Targa Tasmania	26
Certificate of Commendation	27
Farewell from the North West - Welcome to Hobart!	27
Esperance Group 4x4 Competition	28
TFS Charity Event	30
Tasmania Fire Museum - Heritage Corner	31
Co-operation Between the TFS and Farming Communities During Bushfires	32
TFS Brigade Awards 2004	32
Photo Competition Winners	33
Gas Leak at Origin Energy	33
TFS Museum Brigade - North West	34

Training for the Future	36
East Coast Presentations	37
National Medals - East Coast	37
Hobart Fire Brigade Refurbishment	38
Goodbye and Goodluck Eddie!	39
And for the ladies ...	39
South Esk Exercise	40
Library News	42
Tasmania Fire Museum Launch of its Hobart Fire Brigade Campus	44
Thanks from the Solomon Islands	45
Visit from the USA	45
National Medals - Dunalley	46
New Leading Firefighters	46
Rowella Presentation Day	47
Photo Gallery	48
State Conference - Bronte Park	50
Fencing	51
Volunteer Profile - Jane Bradshaw	52
On The Move	53
AFAC Volunteer Leadership Program 1/2004	54
Thanks from Albuera Street	56

52



From the Chief Officer



Work has commenced on the fabrication of fifty new Toyota Light Tankers establishing a new record for the number of firefighting appliances built in one year. It will also mark the beginning of a five year program recently endorsed by the State Fire Commission that will dramatically upgrade our appliance fleet. We have been able to increase the flow of new appliances into service over the last couple of years by redirecting funds from the fire station building program as it moves close to completion.

The Commission has long recognised and aspired for the need to achieve a continuous and sustainable firefighting appliance replacement program. The five year plan commencing this year is only the beginning of a rolling program that will maintain a safe and operationally efficient and effective firefighting fleet throughout the State on an on-going basis into the future.

Our initial priorities are to retire as quickly as possible the least safe and least operationally effective vehicles taking into account vehicle age, maintenance viability and their configuration. Recent streamlining of the fabrication process has demonstrated large cost savings can be achieved by

mass production (just as Henry Ford found!). Therefore rather than building a mix of different appliance types, we will be undertaking production runs of single appliance types.

To ensure the design meets the needs of the users, reference groups have been established with strong representation from firefighters as the appliance users.

The new fire appliances now rolling out of the TFS Cambridge Workshop are a credit to our small vehicle fabrication team. The quality of workmanship and practical design is outstanding. Whilst it's going to be some time before all brigades receive upgrades the pace will pick up and there will be a cascading of newer appliances to many brigades as a consequence of the numbers of new trucks going into service. Regardless, there never will be enough new appliances to meet every brigade's immediate needs and some will have to wait, so please be patient.

Australian Fire Service Medal

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



Robin Howlett, Chief Officer John Gledhill, Ian Mitchell and Tony Davidson

The Governor, His Excellency Mr Richard Butler presented the Australian Fire Service Medal to Tony Davidson (Brigade Chief Hobart); Ian Mitchell (Brigade Chief Queenstown); and Robin Howlett (Group Officer Coal River).

From the Editor

Nice meeting so many of you at the conference recently. It was great putting faces to names and hearing about stories you all have for me - "one day".

I'd love to hear from your brigades, especially those of you who have never been in Fireground - tell us where your brigade is, I'll put in a map to point the locations out for "people like me". Include a photo of your members (and names) and a couple of lines about your brigade. That's all I want. If you can provide more, then that's great too!

Have you been to any interesting jobs, done anything out of the ordinary? Any recent presentations or fundraising events? Tell me all about them as they happen, don't wait for a deadline or worry about typing anything out, I can read most handwriting - just send a photo and a few words. I'll do the rest! If I want more, I'll ring you!

Working on Fireground is like "feast or famine", everything arrives just as I have given up all hope of ever getting a magazine together, then suddenly it all arrives at once, and I am sure you're all aware that the dates you are receiving Fireground are getting later and later.

It's your magazine - has your brigade been in it yet? It's up to you!

Award to Smithton Fire Brigade

During the TFS Annual Conference, John Gledhill awarded his Chief Officer's Award which is awarded "to a brigade that has been subject to unusual, difficult or demanding circumstances." This award is not awarded every year unless circumstances warrant it.

This year the award went to Smithton Fire Brigade "in recognition of their professionalism and compassion in responding to a tragic house fire at Scotchtown in April 2004."



Chief Officer John Gledhill, Leo Berechree and Trevor Kingston

Presentation to Chief Officer

During the TFS Annual Conference, the Minister for Health and Human Services, the Hon David Llewellyn MHA presented Chief Officer John Gledhill with a long service badge for 30 year's service. John was originally appointed as a lookout and firefighter in January 1974, working his way through the ranks until achieving the position of Chief Officer in 1995.



TFS Annual Conference 2004

The TFS Annual Conference was held over the weekend of 17th and 18th July 2004 with its theme being "Firefighting in the 21st Century". The Conference was opened by Minister for Health and Human Services, the Hon David Llewellyn.

The first day of the conference program included:

Launch of the Community Fire Safety Winter Program by the Hon David Llewellyn;

"A Peep into the Future" by Chief Officer John Gledhill;

"Innovations into Community Safety" by Director Community Fire Safety Damien Killalea;

"The New Face of Training (a Platform for Tomorrow)" by District Officers Training - Paul Salter and Greg Butters;

"Volunteer Recruitment and Retention - An International Perspective" by guest speaker Firefighter FESA Martin Aldridge;

"Recruiting Volunteers in the TFS" by Executive Officer Volunteer Support Gerald Kutzner, Secretary TVFBA Lyndy Smith and Secretary TRVFA Mathew Philpott;

"Fire Reporting" by Deputy Regional Officer Mike Brown and Office Supervisor Carol Davey;

"Pre Incident Planning, Technologies and Possibilities" by District Officer Chris Arrol;

"TFS Online - Untangling the Web" by Director Corporate Services Mike Gallagher;

"Progressive Permits" by District Officer Fire Management Ken Burns; and

Spotlights on: Our People - Old to New; Turnout; and Bushfire Fighting.

Conference sponsors this year were

Mills Tui Australia Pty Ltd;

Scania Australia Pty Ltd;

GAAM Emergency Projects;

Britax Automotive Equipment Pty;

BOC Gases;

Dowling McCarthy Tyres.

Displays were by Kidde Australia Pty Ltd and Draeger Australia.

Thank you all for your generous support.

On day two delegates undertook a tour of TFS Headquarters including the Hobart Fire Brigade, Communications Centre, Museum and Library before travelling to Engineering Services at Cambridge for a presentation by Manager Leon Smith entitled "Build for the Future".

The after dinner speaker at the Conference this year was Ronnie Burns. Ronnie and Maggie Burns run Appin Hall Children's Foundation located at Erriba in the North West of Tasmania. The Foundation is a safe haven and refuge for children, designed to protect the lives of children with serious



illness. Their mission is “to validate, respect, empower and bring balance to each child’s emotional wellbeing, by rebuilding their connection to mind, body and soul, this being achieved by lovingly reinforcing their safe connection to family, the greater community and the earth we inhabit. A mountain of hope for future generations”. Appin Hall was the recipient of funds raised at this year’s TFS charity event. Ronnie spoke of the enthusiasm of the runners and the generosity of the public. He showed pictures of Appin Hall and where some of the funds have been spent, he also showed photos of his future plans for Appin Hall.

We wish Ronnie and Maggie well and to all who offered assistance or had fundraising ideas, please contact Linda Lacy on 6230 8633 for Ronnie’s contact details.



New Winter Fire Safety Strategy

By Manager TasFire Training and Community Education, Teresa Banman and Community Education Consultant, Chris Tomes

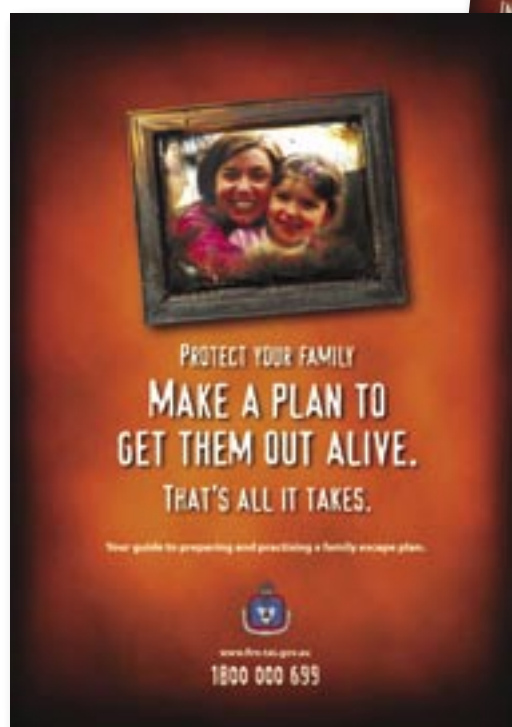
As we find ourselves in the middle of a cold winter, the TFS is again kept busy dealing with house fires. Although the community often regards the bushfire season as the busiest time for firefighters, here in Tasmania the winter often proves to be more dangerous, with significantly more house fires, and unfortunately, some fire-related deaths.

Recent tragedies, particularly a number of fire-related fatalities involving children, remind us that there is still much to be done to prevent fires in Tasmanian homes.

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

This strategy focuses on the parents of young children, and aims to increase their awareness of fire safety issues in the home and encourage them to take an active role in the development of awareness and fire-safe behaviour in their children.

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



The new strategy is supported by an advertising campaign that includes new television and radio advertisements, as well as advertising on buses, fire trucks and shopping trolleys. The television advertisements went to air on Sunday the 18th July and will end in mid-September.

These advertisements keep the issue of fire safety in the home in the forefront of people's minds during the winter months when the risks are greatest. Along with other strategies aimed at those most at risk from fire, they should help ensure that we continue to see a drop in the number of house fires in Tasmania.

It is vitally important that we are able to get a 'Free Home Fire Safety Pack', consisting of a 'Fire Safety at Home' booklet and an Escape Plan, to as many families as possible. In order to accomplish this we are working with the Department of Education and other agencies involved with families with children to assist us in the distribution of this information.

The advertising campaign is also encouraging people to contact us by calling 1800 000 699 or visiting our website at www.fire.tas.gov.au to request their free copy of the 'Fire Safety at Home' Booklet and 'Home Fire Escape Plan'.



House Fires Declining in Tasmania

By Director Community Fire Safety, Damien Killalea

The winter of 2004 was one of the coldest and wettest in recent years, and unfortunately brought with it the usual crop of house fires. Regrettably, some of these resulted in several tragic fatalities, including the deaths of six children in three fires.

TFS incident data (AIRS) shows a very strong link between the seasons and house fires, and it wouldn't surprise any to hear that there are far more house fires in our winter than in the summer. During the coldest part of winter, we average more than one house fire every day; during the summer, we average about one house fire every three days.

More fires are experienced in winter due mainly to the increased reliance on heating, and greater use of the stove-top for cooking warm meals. Heaters and stove-tops are the two most common sources of house fires in Tasmania.

Our winter days are longer and typically much colder than those experienced in mainland states. So it came as no surprise recently when Tasmania was described in the press by a national insurance company as 'the house fire capital of Australia'. We experience more fires per head of population than any other Australian state or territory.

Sadly too, Tasmania experiences around twice as many fire-related fatalities per head of population than the national average. This also is a reflection of our climate and some features of our population - it is older than most mainland states, and we have a higher proportion of households on low incomes. These factors all impact on the rate of house fires, and fire fatalities.

While the number of fatalities in Tasmania each year has varied widely over the last ten years, the average number of around five fatalities per year has remained about the same.

But the news isn't all bad. Due in part to the Service's efforts to increase community awareness about the causes of fire in the home and how to prevent them, in the ten years to 30 June 2003 we have experienced a 38% decrease in the rate of accidental house fires we have attended. The monthly average has dropped from around 30 fires per month to about 17 fires per month.

This very encouraging trend is expected to continue for at least the next few years, although we'll need to come up with some innovative ways to reinforce our fire safety messages. Hopefully too, we'll experience a decrease in fire fatalities.

K & D Wish Cottage

A very unlikely dwelling is about to become a highly sought after, prime piece of real estate in the heart of the Sandy Bay Shopping Centre.

Up to forty volunteers from the Hobart Fire Brigade are tackling a major renovation with support of K & D Warehouse Mitre 10 Home and Trade to provide funds for the Make a Wish Foundation.

The project is to totally renovate a small cottage in Princess Street Sandy Bay with volunteer labour from the TFS, and goods and services provided by K & D with support of their suppliers.

Volunteers from the TFS have offered their services in a range of trades - carpenters, bricklayers, joiners, plumbers and electricians to completely renovate the very run down weatherboard cottage.

Sylvia Rouleston, President of the Southern Branch of the Make a Wish Foundation said it was a wonderful gesture of the TFS to offer their services as volunteers on the project.



"We're overjoyed with having such wonderful support for the project - volunteer labour from the fireies and goods and services from K & D, with a number of their major suppliers coming on board as key supporters. It is the aim of the Make a Wish Foundation to make wishes come true for children under the age of 18 years with life threatening illnesses."

General Manager of K & D Mitre 10, Peter Geard said his company was very willing to offer their full support for such a worthy project. "We're proud of the role we can play allowing the Make a Wish Foundation to grant wishes for Tasmanian children. The granting of a wish brings a period of relief, magic and joy to the children and their families and friends who have to cope with the difficulties of living with a life threatening illness."

Once the cottage renovation is complete including all landscaping, it will then be put up for auction.

Obituaries

David Bartle

12 March 1945 to 5 June 2004



David joined the Dover Brigade in 1967 and was a member there for approximately thirty years before joining the Tarooma Brigade in 2000.

He received his National Medal at the opening of the new Tarooma Station, and in later years he received his 25 year clasp to the medal.

David was a respected and valued member of both Dover and Tarooma Brigades and will be sadly missed.

David passed away after a long illness on 5th June 2004 and members extend their condolences to his wife Heather and family.

Always remembered

Rodney James Read

16 July 1949 to 20 July 2004



Our valued friend and colleague sadly passed away last month following a nine month battle with cancer.

To his wife Colleen, daughter Christie and other family members, the Fire Service extend their sympathy and sincere condolences for your sad loss.

Rodney, we will miss you, rest in peace dear colleague and friend.

Please turn to page 15

TFS Online

By Chair TFS Online Steering Group, Mike Gallagher

As many members would be aware TFS Online which incorporates both the TFS Internet and the TFS Intranet was launched in December 2003. The crisp, clean look coupled with significant internet mapping functionality provided a major step forward for end users. The site also incorporates a very functional intranet facility and members, both career and volunteer, now have the ability to view their own personal records. The web address for the site is www.tfs.tas.gov.au.

Following the launch of TFS Online a total of 28 consultative meetings were held statewide. These meetings provided an opportunity for members to comment on the TFS internet development and more importantly to discuss and make suggestions regarding information they would like to access from the TFS intranet. Meetings commenced in mid February and finished in early April and well over 1,000 suggestions were recorded. To all TFS members who participated in the discussion groups a very big thank you for your input and hospitality.

The TFS Online working group met earlier in May along with some members of the steering group, to consider and rank these suggestions in terms of high, medium and low priority. A day was allocated and after eliminating duplicate suggestions a total of 134 remained. From this, 73 were ranked as high, 21 as medium and 40 as low priorities.

This information is in the process of being provided to the Country Fire Authority (CFA) of Victoria's IT consultants, who will provide details on costs and timings for each suggestion. This will ensure that those suggestions that can be quickly and easily implemented are actioned first.

Many of the concerns raised at these meetings have been reviewed and where necessary changes made. This includes changes to the web site to ensure the secure transfer of data for the members' login credentials (user id and password) and all the members' area. In addition, regional office supervisors are now advised automatically of changes made by members to their personal records. Firecomm based reports are now being re-written to ensure correct data reporting for Brigades and to comply with privacy concerns.

We are currently working on transferring our Public Folders information that contains policies, instructions and publications such as Standard Operating Procedures onto the TFS Intranet.

Members who have requested a username and password are now able through the TFS Intranet to view their own personal particulars as well as their training records. This is a major achievement and I urge all members who have not subscribed to either email, write or phone the TFS Online help desk so that we can get you started. The contact details are listed below. The Intranet is not just for Brigade Chiefs but for all TFS members, both operational and non-operational.

Thank you again for your participation in this project. As I mentioned at our statewide meetings and the TFS Conference this is a significant project that will greatly benefit us all but it will take a considerable amount of time and resources to fully implement.

If you would like access to the TFS Intranet please contact tfsonline@fire.tas.gov.au or phone Christine on 6230 8631.

Thank you again for your support

Engineering Services -

“What to expect in the future”

By Manager Engineering Services, Leon Smith



TFS Annual Conference

The hosting of the second day of the TFS Annual Conference 2004, created an opportunity for delegates to gain an overview of the appliance fabrication strategy, as well as an insight into the workshops and the staff that make up Engineering Services. The Southern Mechanical workshops were converted into a makeshift auditorium, comprising seating for 270 as well as a large screen and a projector for a DVD presentation. The presentation aligned to the theme of the conference was basically an overview of the history and evolution of the firefighting appliances that make up the TFS fleet. After much research by members of the Museum Brigade and Engineering Services, the completed DVD provided delegates a light hearted and in depth look at the evolution of appliances, including interviews with members that utilised and maintained the relevant appliances of the era. Titled 'Then and Now', the DVD presentation is available for purchase through the Museum Brigade.

Appliance Fabrication Update

2004 has seen the establishment and finalisation of the appliance design for both the tanker pumper, as well as the light tanker. June 2004 saw the final meeting of the established 'User Group' into the design of the new generation light tanker, the prototype of which has been fabricated and was presented for the first time at the Annual Conference. Basically, the new Toyota incorporates many changes to the established configuration, alleviating both manual handling and storage issues. The new generation light tanker incorporates a diesel powered pump, with fuel recirculation from the main supply, negating the need to carry

flammable fuels (petrol) on the rear deck, as well as issues associated with manual handling and re-fuelling using jerry cans. Although the diesel pump set is slightly heavier than the petrol, there are weight savings in the fact that there is no requirement to carry extra fuel. The pump exhaust has been reconfigured to reduce noise emissions as well as direct the diesel exhaust away from the operator area at the rear of the appliance and prevent accumulation of gases around the work area. The inlet and delivery manifolds (including ball valves) have been constructed from stainless steel, negating the need to replace components due to corrosion that has been more pronounced since the introduction of 'A' class foam. The rear deck has been configured to carry a 20 litre drum of 'A' class concentrate and has been designed for side loading, eliminating the manual handling issue associated with lifting into the holder. Although the suction hose storage is still on the top of the tank, the top frame has been hinged to allow side loading of the hose at a manageable height, once again negating the need to access the rear deck. Four individual lockers have been configured to stow a standard complement of equipment for a light tanker, also encompassing storage space for food and water. The hose locker has also been designed to allow any excess water to drain from the locker floor. The roll-over cage has been fitted with a search light as well as a broad beam work light for rear lighting, as well as red and blue strobe spinner emergency lighting for greater visibility. The front bull bar incorporates the latest in high intensity LED flashers for greater visibility and durability. Given the role of the light tanker, a tow bar will not be fitted and the rear bar incorporates LED tail lights.



The siren unit is a push button compact unit that incorporates the switching for the emergency lights and siren, as well as the work lighting. The equipment complement has been finalised, after defining the role of the appliance and the subsequent operational mass of the appliance with three crew is at an acceptable margin under the GVM. All appliances fabricated in the future, (including light tankers) will be fitted with a battery guard unit, that automatically senses battery voltage and isolates the batteries if the voltage drops below a desired level. The battery guard can be easily manually reset from within the cab when required, which will significantly reduce the occurrence of flat batteries in appliances. The battery guard unit also doubles as a manual battery isolator, if the necessity arises.

The mass production of the build of 55 Toyota light tankers has begun, it is envisaged that the project will be complete by June 30 2005. The commissioning of the 55 light tankers will see the decommissioning of all petrol land cruisers from the fleet.

Isuzu Tanker Pumper Update

The Conference also seen the release of the first of the Isuzu tanker pumper appliances that have been fabricated this year. The first of the 12 appliances was demonstrated, highlighting the major changes to the design of the appliance, once again driven by OH&S as well as efficiency on the fireground. The major changes to configuration include the removal of one seating position in the middle front to accommodate a console, housing all electrical components including siren, radio, in-cab tank level indicator etc. Damien Berry, Engineering Service's Diesel Technician, has spent a significant amount of time developing this design which will not only save time during fabrication, but ensure a more user friendly cabin layout for operators, as well as reduced downtime and cost associated with electrical fault finding and repair over the life of the appliance. The Isuzu steps have also been modified to allow easier access to the cab, given the increased height of the cab from the previous model. The manual handling issues addressed in the current generation include pantograph brackets for breathing apparatus, foam drum storage and concentrate pick up from below deck, as well as suction hose storage at waist height, accessed from the ground. The rear step has been designed so that the extension ladder can be safely accessed utilising grab handles on the rear of the appliance. Extendable work lights have been placed on both the rear panel as well as the front roll over behind the cab, providing increased lighting on the fireground. Both the front and rear of the appliance have been fitted with strobe emergency lighting for greater visibility, the roof has been fitted with 'Britax' warning lights. The appliance has been fitted with an aluminium 'Top Dog' ladder that meets the International Standard for rescue ladders.

The rear of the appliance has been fitted with high visibility reflective tape, maximising the visibility from the rear of the appliance, providing a safer environment for the pump operator.

Isuzu Tilt Tray

As part of the organisation's ability to deal with CBR incidents as well as in-house vehicle recovery, Engineering Services have taken delivery of an Isuzu tilt tray (fabricated by Norris Truck Trays). The vehicle will be used by Engineering Services personnel to transport containerised equipment statewide for both training and incident resourcing as well as vehicle recovery.





Motor Vehicle Accident Scenario

By Station Officer Hobart Fire Brigade, Andrew McGuinness

At the recent TFS Conference, 'B' Platoon Hobart Fire Brigade were presented with the award for the most efficient Career Brigade. The award was presented by the Deputy Chief Officer Peter Alexander. It was the culmination of a very successful and rewarding 12 months on 'B' shift.

Initially 'B' shift won the Hobart Fire Brigade award for the most efficient shift. We then represented HFB against platoons from Launceston, Burnie and Devonport.

On the day of the assessment we presented a complex scenario of a motor vehicle accident with a person trapped in the vehicle and requiring medical assistance. The scenario was further complicated by the crew being the first arriving emergency service on the scene and therefore having to perform a multitude of tasks, this mirrored a number of incidents that 'B' shift had attended in the last 12 months. The crew arriving at the incident were faced with a number of issues to deal with including safety and stabilisation of the vehicle, attending to the patient, freeing the trapped person as well as maintaining scene safety. The scenario displayed the wide variety of skills required to be a modern day firefighter and how multi-skilling is working within the TFS.

Mr Alexander was also shown how the Brigade had performed in line with all the key result areas of our corporate plan, including training, fire safety, emergency response, human resource management and other fire service related issues.

On a personal note I would like to thank all of my 'B' shift workmates for the fantastic team effort that everybody put in. It was a true team effort right from the junior person to the most senior and I think this is what may have shone out. A good work environment exists on 'B' shift and a great sense of camaraderie. I'd also like to thank the District Officers, Brigade Chief and Regional Officer for their support, it was a true team effort.



St Helens Holiday Units

By Senior Station Officer Hobart Fire Brigade, Rod Sherrin

Purchased around fourteen years ago by the TFS Sickness and Provident Fund, the units are located in an ideal setting at Akaroa, St Helens adjacent to George's Bay.

Obtained as an investment property, a considerable amount of time, effort and money has been spent in order to turn them into very comfortable holiday destination.

Each unit has received a new lounge room, bathroom and master bedroom along with new stoves, microwaves and fridges. A colourbond roof has been fitted and the external walls reclad. Recently "A" - shifter's Bill Coad, Mark Bryant and Adrian Petrie erected a pergola at the front of the units ready for summer.

I would point out that all work undertaken so far has been done by members at little cost to the fund and I wish to thank all those involved for their contribution.

The fund has given an undertaking to complete renovations on the units within the next eighteen months. This will include new kitchens, furnishings and exterior paint.



Boat Harbour Brigade

By Brigade Chief Boat Harbour Fire Brigade, Steve Gardiner

Boat Harbour Fire Brigade is a heavy tanker brigade situated at Dobson's Lane, Boat Harbour. We were relocated in 1996 from Boat Harbour Beach to Boat Harbour where we basically had to rebuild the membership.

The members come from a diverse range of careers including farmers, teachers, privately employed and self employed personnel. Our active membership is sixteen as we've just lost three members due to relocation. Of that number there is a proactive group of about twelve. Our aim is to assess a situation once, twice if necessary and deal with it once, as we recognise the value of time to employers and to those who are self employed.

Some of our members have been to fires in New South Wales, namely the Shoalhaven fires and also to King Island, and have been involved with major incidents within the state.

In 2003 we were presented with an Australia Day Community Award from the Waratah Wynyard Council for our commitment to the community.

We put the success of achieving the Vegetation / Bush Fire Award at the recent State Conference, to the training that is

delivered to the brigades by the IFS, and the willingness of our members to be a part of the training process.

These are the eight members who were available for the photo;



Back - Left to right: George Hoogendorp, Graeme Fairbrother, Brendan Flint, Ashley Reynolds. Front - Left to right: Josh Murfet, Amella Reynolds, Brigade Chief Steve Gardiner and Graham Reid.

Photo courtesy of Tony Cross and the Advocate Newspaper

Retirement of Regional Officer Roland Hill

By Deputy Chief Officer, Peter Alexander

Roland Hill has given 36 years of outstanding service to the Tasmania Fire Service. The majority of that time was spent with the Hobart Fire Brigade with the remainder of his service in Southern Regional Management.

Roland was highly regarded by one and all and recognised in particular for his high values, humility, good humour and dedication to his job as a fire officer. Often referred to as "the quiet achiever", he enthusiastically went about his work providing the leadership and direction in all areas that he undertook.

At his retirement afternoon tea held at the HFB Clubrooms he, true to form, arrived well prepared and addressed a large group of current and retired members of the TFS referring to the following notes which he'd spent a couple of days preparing. To his wife Lyn, and family we extend to him our best wishes for a long, healthy and happy retirement with his family and no doubt, his beloved cars.

Once again, all the best Roland and thank you for your contribution to our fire service.

Farewell from Roland Hill

I joined the Hobart Fire Brigade on the 22nd October 1968 when there was a strength increase after the 1967 bushfires. I started on "A Platoon" under Fourth Officer Hanacek who was like a father to us young fellows. It was a sad day for me when Tony passed away. When I think about those early days he was always a part of it.

Numbered at about eight on duty at Hobart Fire Brigade Headquarters, I undertook two days training on drills in the backyard and stayed with the platoon as it moved onto afternoon and night shifts, from memory I started attending fire calls on the first afternoon shift. I was one of four fairly recent recruits on that platoon, Eric Heron, Ken King, Nevil Forster and myself. We had only one first class firefighter, that was Hughie Cunneen, he was regarded as the "old man" on the platoon.

My ambition as a firefighter was to become a Station Officer. My ambition as a Station Officer was to become a Superintendent and to manage my own platoon, it turned out that I ended up with B Platoon (B for best as Tom Klug used to say). These were some of my most fulfilling operational days and I look back on them with a great deal of nostalgia. Many of my officers at that time were the product of my training when I was an officer, Tony Davidson, Eddie Burne, Michael Rossiter, are a few that I can recall.

On my last day on duty I went and stood in the "main station" in the same position that I occupied on my first day at muster. That station holds a lot of memories for me. I was introduced to the Hobart Fire Brigade as Recruit Firefighter Hill, and subsequently recognised as First Class Firefighter Hill, Station Officer Hill, Superintendent Hill and then Brigade Chief Hill.

I had no idea on day one what my future might be within the Hobart Fire Brigade.



Back: Peter Copleman; Eddie Wilson; Graham Newbury; Barry Jarvis; Ron Silver Middle: Ted Eaves; Tony Davidson; Tom Klug; Len Dodge; Steve McSherry
Front: Kerry Cornish; Brian Baker; Roland Hill; Dale Britten; Dave Doran; Peter Alexander

People have often remarked to me that they can't believe that anyone could stay in the same job for 36 years. In my instance I have been fortunate to have had a number of different jobs within the fire service during that period. These came about as a natural progression through the career structure, each one providing different challenges and changed work environment, so that helped.

I have to thank the Fire Service for providing me with personnel development opportunities throughout my career. Like many others of my generation I thought my education was completed when I left school, but life in the Fire Service has been a continual learning curve. I have been fortunate to participate in this process and experience the benefits and wisdom that education provides.

Having worked within the constraints of shift work for twenty or so years I guess that it was inevitable that the people that I worked with and their families also became our friends as well as my workmates. In some instances this has led to enduring friendships. In recent times I have been renewing friendships with some pre Fire Service mates, many of whom are also retired.

I would have to say that I have worked with a broad cross section of the community, particularly in recent years where as Regional Officer I was closely involved with the public and members of the volunteer component of the Service. In that capacity I had on occasions to participate in some unpleasant conflicts within communities and within Brigades. I always tried to be fair and impartial in the outcomes and I trust that those individuals involved recognised that endeavour.

Likewise I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you including Lyn and our family, for making my working life a happy and fulfilling one. I can honestly say that whenever I needed assistance in any way I only had to ask and it was provided, whether by the Southern Region Team or the Headquarters admin team it was inevitably provided with a smile, and for that I thank you one and all.

It has not been an easy decision to leave what has become in many ways an extended family. Lyn and I made some initial plans several years ago and have progressively worked towards fulfilling our ambition to embark upon retirement at a reasonable age and in good health. Since being on leave I have not missed attending night and weekend events at brigades which in later life can be a demanding component of the Regional Officer position.

I hope to maintain some contact with the Fire Service and its personnel through my involvement with the Museum Brigade, particularly at our recently completed facility at the Glenorchy Transport Museum site.

In conclusion I wish everyone well for the future, I am confident that I leave it in capable hands and I am sure that I will hear about the successes through the media.

Thank you,
Roland Hill

Rodney James Read

1949 - 2004

Our valued friend and colleague sadly passed away last month following a nine month battle with cancer.

Rodney's long association with the fire service commenced 32 years ago when he joined Ulverstone as a volunteer member.



Graham Otley pictured with Rodney Read

It was following this involvement that he decided to make a full time career as a firefighter, joining the Launceston Fire Brigade in 1979. It was from here that Rodney demonstrated his absolute loyalty, commitment and dedication to his chosen profession. Clearly he enjoyed the variety and challenges in the fire service and as such he progressed through the ranks achieving the management responsibilities as District Officer in 1993. His involvement in brigade and regional operations; recruitment and training; and fire investigation was always undertaken with great enthusiasm and diligence. As a trustee of the State Fire Commission Superannuation Fund he developed an intimate understanding of superannuation whereby he was recognised as the workplace expert providing many employees with guidance and explanation in this complex area.

In recent years as District Officer for his much cherished South Esk District, Rodney gave of himself untiringly whenever called upon by his brigades.

The universal respect for Rodney was demonstrated at his funeral where hundreds of his colleagues attended to show their last respects to a highly respected workmate and friend.

To his wife Colleen, daughter Christie and other family members, the Fire Service extend their sympathy and sincere condolences for your sad loss.

Rodney, we will miss you, rest in peace dear colleague and friend.



Launceston Youth Recreation Partnership

By Firefighter Launceston Fire Brigade, Jeremy Patterson

This article is regarding the involvement of Tasmania Fire Service personnel in the community based activities called the Launceston Youth Recreation Partnership.

This program targets the youth of Launceston and surrounding areas to be involved in various activities with local business leaders, Police, Tasmanian Ambulance personnel, leaders of Local Government, TFS firefighters, Community Youth Justice, volunteers of local charity organisations such as Missionbeat and a Northern Midlands special needs group. As you may well see, this is a diverse group, all with the youth and the community at mind.

The Launceston Youth Recreation Partnership was formed to foster a better understanding for the younger people of northern Tasmania to foster relationships with community leaders, so parties from both sides can strive to understand the needs, attitudes and expectations of each other, in a self disciplined environment.

This activity has enormously benefited the TFS, to promote fire safety through education in a one on one environment. This has been accomplished by individuals and Community Youth Justice approaching myself, to tackle some, up to now, minor problems, these were easily rectified. I have also found my training as a JFLIP practitioner has been invaluable.

The activities that TFS personnel are involved with are a monthly game of basketball and soon a monthly fishing trip to Beauty Point. The game of basketball is played at the Police Citizens Youth Club, which has standard public liability cover. This does not cover lost wages incurred if somebody is injured in this public area. The activities run by the Recreation Partnership are very well organised and are of great benefit to everybody involved. The TFS has had a great input into these activities with an average of five firefighters per game of basketball in attendance each month.



No challenge is too big for Marcel!

By Manager Engineering Services, Leon Smith

After undertaking extensive safety training in relation to the safe and effective use of precision engineering equipment, Executive Officer Assets, Marcel Legosz (obviously very proud of the task



he is undertaking) has been delegated responsibility by the Federal Office of Road Safety to dispose of supernumery corporate registration plates.

If only we were all as happy in our jobs as Marcel obviously is!

Another future fireie!

This is young Zac Doran, son of Senior Firefighter Adam Doran of the Hobart Fire Brigade. Zac is "learning to drive" the Glenorchy Scania. Keep off the roads!



Staff Profile - Justin Young

I began with the State Fire Commission in the Finance section when it was situated at 79 Melville Street, on 5th May 1988 as the Senior Clerk. In those days the finance system was very manual and desks were covered in paperwork (some things don't change) which had arrived from all corners of the state. I had come from (at the time) a fairly modern computerised system at Housing Tasmania and once I had settled in I started thinking of ways to improve the system and help my staff of two come to terms with the changes I wanted to make. As we all know people are not always open to someone walking in and wanting to review and make changes so those early days were quite a challenge to a young bloke trying to take the first positive steps of a new career.

Over the years my career with TFS has seen a lot of change with only a half dozen of the original administration staff still remaining. The organisation has grown as systems have become increasingly automated as we have embraced technological change and staff numbers have increased and become more diverse. I can still recall the excitement of the arrival of our first desktop PC's, chunky little Apple-Macs, we thought it was Christmas. Today practically all administration staff have a PC on their desk and we have become so reliant on technology that during downtime you are limited to what you can achieve.

In 1996 I decided to take on the challenge of external study as a mature age student at the University of Tasmania and whilst I recommend to anyone who is interested to do further study, I also say be prepared for the good and the



bad and don't let the setbacks that will occur distract you from the final goal. Being a mature age student amongst a melting pot of cultures, age groups and backgrounds to me was an advantage, I had been in the workforce for a number of years and could apply what I was being taught, this also provides you with a built in bulls**t detector. I graduated 16 December 2002 and it was truly a great feeling of accomplishment that could not have happened without the support of my wife Katrina and TFS both the organisation and the people.

I enjoy the camaraderie within the TFS whether that be defending my beloved Hawks from their current set backs and talking up their rebirth in coming years. I enjoy the challenge of bringing up my two sons in this ever changing environment. My youngest son Sam is at the age where it's school soccer on Saturdays and footy for the Sandy Bay Lions on Sundays with dad providing the taxi. My oldest Tim has had a few setbacks in his health but has just taken ownership of a set of golf clubs so I've been enlisted as the caddie, golf is not my strongpoint but I'm learning. I try and stay fit through regular exercise and although family commitments don't always allow I love getting in the odd surf at the beautiful surf breaks we have on offer in Tassie. I've got to admit the ageing bones don't like the 8 degree water temperature during mid winter and the wetsuit just doesn't do the same job as it did when I was 21.

I'm not sure what direction my career will take from here on but the experience gained through working within such a professional and in many ways a leading edge organisation such as TFS is, continues to be invaluable.

South Arm Presentations

By Third Officer South Arm Brigade, Barry Heather

A number of long service presentations were made to members of South Arm Brigade recently at their Annual General Meeting.

Brigade Chief Richard Calvert is pictured presenting ten year badges to Angela Calvert; Annalina Watchorn and Amanda Calvert.





It's Shower Time!!

By Senior Station Officer Hobart Fire Brigade, Rod Sherrin

In July 2004 the State received the final rollout of Commonwealth funded CBREP equipment.

CBREP stands for Chemical Biological Radiological Enhancement Program.

The program was instigated by the National Counter Terrorism Committee in order to enhance all States and Territories with the capability in the event of an act of terrorism.

Several people, myself included, undertook training with Emergency Management Australia (EMA) in the use of this gear and have since undertaken training sessions with other emergency response agencies throughout the State.

The equipment that has arrived so far includes special personal protective clothing, chemical warfare and radiation detectors and lightweight positive pressure respirators.

Some of the larger items include mass casualty decontamination showers. These showers are designed to cope with the removal of contaminants from a person or persons in the event of a chemical or biological release.

The showers are well constructed and capable of handling upwards of 150

people per hour. Privacy issues have been addressed with separate corridors for male, female and non-ambulatory casualties. The water to the showers is heated and a collection bund allows the runoff to be pumped via a sump pump to collection bladders.

A number of operational and administration staff had the opportunity to view the showers recently at Training Services. Although I had the water temperature set at a tropical 45 degrees Celsius, no one was game to try them out but rumour has it that our pay officer was tempted.



Introduction of the Public Safety Training Package in the TFS What is the PSTP?

By Deputy Chief Officer Peter Alexander

When reflecting on my time in the workplace, I think of changes like decimal currency and the metric system and the personal aggravation that I thought they brought into my life at that time. They were changes that are now a way of life to us all. How many of us when we completed our trades or gained our workplace qualifications thought that our formal training had ended, and all we had to do was to apply our skills at work and life would go on happily ever after. We now know that training, competence and safety are a mandatory requirement for all our working lives and maybe even beyond. The following article has been prepared by our District Officers (Volunteer Training) - Paul Salter and Greg Butters and provides the background and summary details of the Public Safety Training Package (PSTP). This article may assist those members of the service who have found the change "a little daunting", but recognise the importance of a training system that is nationally recognised, transportable and also incorporates the important safety prerequisites.

The PSTP is a set of nationally endorsed standards and qualifications that recognise and assess people's skills. The PSTP has been developed through extensive consultation with personnel from the public safety industry in each state and territory. The PSTP was designed to suit the needs of approximately 525,000 personnel within the public safety industry, of which approximately 457,000 are volunteers.

Qualifications within the Public Safety sectors have been developed to provide maximum recognition of prior learning, flexibility in training and assessment and portability of qualifications for persons employed full-time or in a volunteer capacity within the public safety industry.

The qualifications within the PSTP include sector specific (Fire Service) and industry wide qualifications. Some of the qualifications are only relevant to a Fire Service, for example "Respond to Urban Fire", however, there are qualifications that have a more industry wide context, such as "Trim and Cross Cut Felled Trees".

Why has it been introduced?

Occupational Health and Safety legislation determines the fireground as a workplace, regardless of the fact firefighters may be there in a voluntary capacity. Therefore, the training we provide our people needs to meet a recognised industry national standard.

Coronial enquiries such as Linton and Mt Kuring-gai have reinforced the need for firefighters to be trained and assessed to a standard. In addition, we are required to keep records of firefighters' competence. Furthermore, Workplace Standards have strongly recommended we adopt industry standards for training volunteer firefighters under a competency based training system.

Above all else, we would be negligent in our duty of care if we didn't provide the best training system available to our industry.

How has this changed training in the TFS?

The only significant change is that our training is more structured and our assessment processes are more focussed on competence. Basically, we need to be confident that our people can demonstrate their abilities to perform a task.

The TFS now delivers accredited competency based training to all our firefighting personnel. Following the successful completion of one of our accredited courses a Statement of Attainment is issued, however, with several of our courses there is a requirement for the collection of evidence "on-the-job" to support competence. This process ensures our people have the necessary knowledge and skills as well as giving them the opportunity of practising the practical skills at incidents or during Brigade training activities prior to being issued with a Statement of Attainment.

Most of the Public Safety Training delivered requires the 'application' of the knowledge and skills learnt during training. Therefore, for a trainee to prove competence in a particular role the application of this knowledge and skills must be demonstrated.

How have we made the change to the PSTP?

The TFS conducted face to face interviews with volunteer firefighters to formally recognise their knowledge and skills within the new system.

The TFS is able to utilise the recognition results to conduct a training needs analysis for each Brigade.

The TFS is able to conduct a risk analysis of each Brigade area combined with the Brigade membership and the training needs analysis to forecast training needs.

The TFS is able to identify and allow for succession planning within the Brigades.

What is the impact on volunteer firefighters?

New courses are available to volunteers such as "driving under operational conditions" and "lead, manage and develop teams".

Core firefighter skills are achieved in 45 hours instruction time (this includes 16 hours for the basic course).

Brigade Officers are provided with skills to manage incidents and their Brigade.

All previous skills have been recognised.

In closing, this change is critical for all fire agencies in Australia. Although terminology is different, the only real change is the requirement to practice the skills and keep record of it. The Public Safety Training Package works towards greater firefighter safety by ensuring that trained/competent firefighters are attending emergency incidents.

Further information on PSTP is contained in DO Greg Butters' article on page 36.

Firefighter Exchange

By Leading Firefighter Hobart Fire Brigade, Steve Percival

Hi everyone Steve Percival here in sunny Queensland, for those of you not familiar with me I am a Leading Firefighter with the Hobart Fire Brigade on a Firefighter Exchange with Senior Firefighter Paul Omanski. The exchange is for eight months and involves swapping jobs, home and vehicle.

I have been on shift for six weeks, prior to this I started my exchange on Paul's holiday block for four weeks. This gave me the opportunity to get familiarised with the Brisbane area and do some sight-seeing. Paul will have access to my holidays near the end of this exchange.

Although it is winter I am told by the locals that this year is unseasonably warmer, the opposite of what you have been experiencing. From mid May till now, the beginning of August, most days have been low to mid 20's with the nights down to about 4 Celsius at its coldest.

I started with a four day induction at No 2 Station, Roma Street. Brisbane has two city stations the other situated on the northern side of the Storey Bridge at Kemp Place. The induction was to identify and get me skilled in operational differences between our services, these included the use of Sabre BA, gas suits, radio procedures, electrical de-energisation, rank structure, terminology and appliances.

I have just completed six weeks at Camp Hill Station which is on the south side of Brisbane, the station has a 2002 Scania which is a composite truck with Road Accident Rescue (RAR) capabilities. During my time at Camp Hill I joined in with the recruit course that was in progress to complete a five day RAR Course.

I am now at Mt Gravatt Station only 7 kilometres from where I live, this



station has a 2004 Mercedes Ateco rear mounted composite pumper and a 2001 Ford F550 Emergency Tender (ET). The pumpers have the same manning as us and the ET has one Officer and one firefighter. The ET can respond anywhere on the south side of Brisbane and north if required even 70 kilometres south to the Gold Coast. Its main role is heavy RAR and as a control vehicle but has a multitude of other support features.

In the Brisbane area alone there are forty permanently manned stations. Mt Gravatt is an older style two-storey station but a replacement program is in place with Mt Gravatt to be relocated in the near future, what is lacking in some of the stations is made up by some first class modern equipment.

Paul Omanski, my exchange, is a local state and national competitor in RAR and recently competed in the National Championships in Melbourne. Paul is held in high regard by his peers for his skills and knowledge in this area.

Socially I have hit the surf with the Surf Board Riders Club. Firies from all over meet once a month on the coast for a competition, then a BBQ and a beer afterwards. They have both long and short board events. I have had a game of golf or two and the guys are quite prepared to let you know how bad you played. I am going in the 12 kilometre Bridge to City fun run on the 1st of August, luckily it starts at about 6.30 am, and of course, in between all of this I have enjoyed a few cold Queensland beers and rum, when in Rome you know. Well that's it for now, another six months to go and hopefully I will have more to tell in the next Fireground.

Firefighter Exchange

By Firefighter Hobart Fire Brigade, Paul Omanski



My name is Paul Omanski; I am 32 years of age, married with two children. I work for the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service as an operational firefighter and have been so for 11 years serving in fire stations around Queensland as far as Mt Isa. I am currently stationed in Brisbane assigned to City

East Command, which consists of four fire stations Kemp Place, Annerley, Camp Hill and Balmoral. Its area covers half the CBD, Valley, Gabba and Eastern inner city suburbs. Firefighters in the QFRS are multi skilled just as they are here. My main area of interest is road crash rescue, where I compete as part of a team consisting of firefighters and paramedics in regional, state and Australasian competitions.

I am currently studying the Diploma of Public Safety as part of the Station Officer Development program. A module of this program is to manage a project, candidate projects are used by the QFRS as invaluable research tools and to date countless projects have been adopted. To take part in an exchange with another fire service enables me to view different procedures and techniques, I am then able to determine areas where the QFRS can improve on and in course develop a project to be submitted on return to Queensland. At this point in time I haven't even thought of what to do but rather sit back and be a firefighter in the Tasmania Fire Service. I have mainly worked at Hobart

station on "C" and "B" shifts and spent shifts at Clarence and Glenorchy. If one thing that strikes me as odd is the unusually high number of car fires experienced by these stations. I have finally attended my first chimney fire, that is if I discount toilet vent pipes being struck by lightning and the methane catching on fire.

You may ask why on earth we came down here in winter, and that question crossed my mind when we left Sydney in May on Spirit of Tasmania, arriving six hours over arrival time and then travelling down a fog covered Midlands Highway at night. After taking a detour of the highway we entered Hobart via Richmond, where the car's fuel light decided to come on, I then remembered I hadn't filled up since north of Newcastle and now was receiving the "I told you so" look from my wife. We managed to make it to Steve Percival's house at Seven Mile Beach, Steve is the reciprocating firefighter on exchange in Queensland. The next day we got up and the wind was howling a gale which continued into the night, after that the weather, I won't say it is good, but has begun to get better. We have been venturing out around Hobart, Huon Valley, Port Arthur, and Triabunna areas, and hopefully we will cover the south of the state while we are in Hobart, and the north of the state we are leaving to the end of our time in Tassie.

I have to say the highlight, especially for the children, would have to be the snow up on Mt Wellington, though my wife does enjoy browsing through the trendy little boutiques and cafés.

As for firefighters interested in an exchange, I highly recommend it, not only for your career but as a way to experience how people live and work in other places.

Long Service Presentations at Hobart Fire Brigade

By Field Officer Andrew Skelly

Recently District Officer Gavin Freeman and Acting District Officer Barry Hogan presented long service badges to Hobart Fire Brigade personnel, Jim Stewart - 30 years; Andrew Fyfe and Chris Tomes - 20 years (Recruit Course 1/84).

In making the presentations DO Freeman said "Traditionally we recognise these milestones in people's careers and it is fitting that we are doing this today in the refurbished recreation room in Hobart Fire Brigade, which, in itself contains a lot of proud tradition. While many people are quick to point out that tradition is not all good, I believe that

there are some things we do that are important and need to continue, these presentations are one of those things."

Speaking about Jim Stewart's 30 years, DO Freeman said "One of my first duties ever as acting Brigade Chief was to present Jim with his 25 year badge and it was extremely nerve wracking. Now presenting him his 30 year award I should be a little more calm, but it is just as nerve wracking. It is an extremely humbling experience to present something to a person who I hold in such high regard and who taught me how to be a firefighter."

Fire at Mawson Station Antarctic

By Training Consultant TasFire Training, Chris Brown



Late last year a fire at Australia's Mawson Station in Antarctica, was brought under control without injury and little damage to equipment by Mawson Station's fire crew.

The fire broke out in the heritage listed Chippys Workshop storage facility which is part of the old Mawson Station complex. The fire was believed to have started due to an electrical problem with a heater.

The fire was extinguished and brought under control within an hour, the fire crew acted swiftly to ensure that damage was contained in a very small area. Fire is a big risk in Antarctica due the very dry atmosphere, strong winds and the fact the hoses freeze solid in winter.

The Station Leader Joan Russell reported that due to the swiftness of the fire crew's action in extinguishing the blaze there had not been any risk of danger to personnel.

Fire crew members at the Australian Antarctic Division's three station in Antarctic and one at Macquarie undergo extensive training with the Tasmania Fire Service (TasFire Training) at Cambridge.

TasFire Training (TFT) has been carrying out fire training for the division since 1988. Fire crews spend six days with the TFT instructors covering all aspects of firefighting, pumps, confined space rescue and fire investigation. Over the last few years several Fire Service staff have travelled down south to conduct on-site training at the stations.

Each of the three Antarctic stations have their own Fire Hagglunds (fire truck) equipped with hatz pump, hose, BA and firefighting and rescue equipment. One of these is used at Cambridge in the training of the fire crews.

Car Fire at Berriedale

By Leading Firefighter Hobart Fire Brigade, Ross Smith

A stolen car was left abandoned in Chardonnay Drive, Berriedale in early July, the crew was Station Officer Barry Bones, Leading Firefighter Ross Smith and Senior Firefighters Tracey Duggan and Shane Hutton from Glenorchy station.

The car was completely destroyed by the fire and was extinguished quickly using high pressure hose reels.



Bridgewater Service Station

By Leading Firefighter Hobart Fire Brigade, Stacey Peters

Hobart Fire Brigade were called to a service station fire at 33 Old Main Road Bridgewater on 16th June 2004. Five units from Bridgewater, Glenorchy and Hobart and 17 firefighters attended. Police (traffic control), Aurora, Boral representatives and a tow truck operator (to remove cylinders with crane) also attended the incident.

The fire was in an advanced stage upon arrival. Two crews were deployed into the building but were removed shortly after due to potential flashover. A combination of both internal and external attack was required due to the size, layout and intensity of the fire.

Three 210 kg LPG cylinders were protected and subsequently removed from the site. Flammable liquid, building collapse and many other hazards were a danger to crews. No injuries were sustained.

Power to the street was disconnected at one stage due to the potential for fire to spread to the front façade of the complex and possibly to overhead powerlines.

Attending crews did a fantastic job and worked for extended periods under harsh and dangerous conditions to control the lateral spread of fire. As a consequence the service station was saved from major structural damage.

The cause of the fire was found to be deliberate and damage was estimated to be well over \$1 million.



New Teddies for the TFS!

By Office Supervisor North West, Karen Williams



Ann Osborne has kindly donated over 20 Trauma Teddies that she alone has made. Ann has also made teddies for Tasmania Police.

Regional Officer John Streets and Office Supervisor Karen Williams gratefully received Ann's beautiful teddies.

Any brigades needing teddies, please contact John or Karen at North West Regional Headquarters.

Fire at Atkinson's Sand & Loam Supplies

By Leading Firefighter Hobart Fire Brigade, Grant Patterson

Two crews from Hobart and Glenorchy responded to a fire at Atkinson's Sand and Loam Supplies in Clydesdale Avenue during May. The building was fully involved upon arrival. Damage is estimated at approximately \$100,000.



Hazard Reduction Burn

By Firefighter Risdon Vale Fire Brigade, Chris McInerney

During late summer Risdon Vale Brigade conducted a hazard reduction of tree prunings and branches that had got too big for the owner to comfortably burn themselves. The property was in Downhams Road Risdon Vale. It was all pretty dry and burnt well as you can see.



TFBCA Competition Dates 2005

Round 1	5th February 2005	- Franklin
Round 2	6th February 2005	- Hobart
Open Championships	19th February 2005	- Devonport
Round 3	3rd March 2005	- Ulverstone
State Championships	19th March 2005	- Burnie

TVFFA Competition Dates 2005

12th November 2005 - venue to be announced

Training Services Youngtown - Open for Business

By District Officer Training Services, Greg Butters

Training Services now has a new District Officer responsible for the delivery of training in the North and North West Regions. This position is located at the Youngtown Training Complex and I am pleased to say I was fortunate enough to be offered this new position.

I don't usually like talking about myself but anyway I have been in the Fire Service for over 17 years, most of which was spent as an operational firefighter in the Hobart Fire Brigade. During this period of time I spent several years attached to Community Fire Safety and the Public Education Unit (JFLIP, School Fire Ed, etc), had involvement with three recruit courses and more recently, prior to my promotion, I was the Station Officer for Development and Learning (Hobart). These experiences have given me a fairly good grounding in an area I am quite passionate about, the development of our operational firefighters.

So the first day "on the job" in a new position and the training complex looked more like an urban search and rescue prop than a training centre. The partial re-development of our Northern Region Training Centre, the relocation of Northern Region Headquarters and Engineering Services to the Youngtown complex has certainly created the appearance of a rather large disaster area, however, the building works are progressing well and should be finished soon.

We have improved several of the existing training props and included some newer ones, which should enable us to achieve additional training and assessment outcomes. Additions have been made to the containers including a carport and lifting the height of the roof. The gas prop shed is in the process of being moved and we now have a purpose built drafting tank.

With the completion of the recognition process we now have some clear direction on where we need to be heading in relation to your training. Our training database can now identify individual training needs as well as brigade needs. This should improve the training efficiencies within the regions and provide valuable assistance to Brigade Chiefs and District Staff.

There is still some work to do over the next few years to ensure our people are provided with the best training available. Above all else we all need to stay safe and if



From left to right: Brett Fazackerley, Stephen Barnes, Greg Butters and Paul Catterall



Changes to our gas prop facility and additions to the structural firefighting prop.

training can help then we will all be winners. And, even through the continuing building works, "We're Still Open for Business".

If you have any questions in relation to your training please contact your District Staff or give us a call out here at Youngtown.

Remember - Competent Firefighters are Safe Firefighters

Targa Tasmania

By Leading Firefighter Burnie Fire Brigade, Shayne Andrews

Targa Tasmania celebrated its thirteenth birthday this year and it was twelve years now that the Tasmania Fire Service has been involved in the role of supplying both personnel and equipment mainly in the role of First Intervention Crews. This is made up of sixteen firefighters from around the state along with personnel from Firecomm and staff from Engineering Services and TasFire Equipment assisting before the event. Twelve years ago when we first became involved alongside Ambulance officers to offer a service that would respond to any accidents that may occur during the running of the event we had a total of six vehicles. Now the team boasts seventeen vehicles made up of eleven First Intervention Vehicles, five rescue equipped vehicles and a small bus to carry spares and luggage with all being manned by professional firefighters, ambulance paramedics and a doctor.

As is the case each year there is always a lot of interest in the positions on the team and once again we had to knock back several people but as in previous years they will be first on the list for next year's event, word of mouth has obviously got around regarding how good the week is. Those to get a berth this year were Adam Meredith, Garth Mackey, Shayne Andrews, Belinda Harvey, Alex Otten, Larry Monash, Bill St Leger, Greg Hynes, Peter Tavas, Shane Streets, Kate Murphy, John Carter, Grant Patterson, Brendan Burrige, Mark Suhr and Rob Pearson.

On the Ambulance side it is always harder to get people due to work commitments so as with the last five years there were



Paramedics from Victoria, New South Wales and the Northern Territory.

The week before the event all members were required to attend a training day conducted at the Baskerville Raceway, this included driver training, theory lessons, practical demonstrations of extinguishers for Ambulance personnel and medical demonstrations for fire personnel. Big thanks to Dave Pickrell from Training for arranging an old car for the practical exercise. As Targa Tasmania is an international motor sport event we are all required to have suitable qualifications to allow us to be part of the event.

Also leading up to "race day" there were seventeen cars that required detailing, this involved Fire and Medical equipment, radios being installed, decals being placed on all vehicles and many other minor and major tasks. Special thanks to TasFire Equipment, Engineering Services, Communications Section and all the Hobart based members of our team that gave up several days to assist in the setting up.

Day 1 of Targa arrived with the prologue being conducted at George Town, which is a shakedown for competitors to sort-out running order for the event proper, no dramas here. Day 2 was the first day of competitive stages conducted between Launceston and Devonport. As is often the case on this day there were a few "offs" during the course of



the day with a few competitors suffering minor injuries while their cars came off a lot worse!!

Day 3 and we head off to Hobart via the East Coast. This includes a blast through the Sideling near Scottsdale which was wet. Sideling + wet = prangs and this year was no different with several drivers choosing to have a closer look at the thick bush that is on both sides of this particular road, once again only minor injuries.

Once we cleared the North East the weather improved and the remaining stages to Hobart were fairly uneventful.

Day 4 and all stages were conducted in and around Hobart and the Huon region, Cygnet claimed its usual share of cars including an immaculate XU 1 Torana and a two year old Porsche that found the only tree in an otherwise empty paddock apart from a fair amount of cow "leftovers".

Day 5 dawned wet with the prospect of a long run up to Burnie including a long stage over Cethana followed by the infamous Riana and Natone. On the Gunns Plains stage we had our first major incident when a competitor failed to take a corner and rolled several times into a paddock. Our crew on this stage were on the scene quickly and attended to the crews' injuries until the arrival of an Ambulance. Both driver and navigator suffered injuries but both are now fully recovered.

Day 6 and the final day with the run to Hobart via the west coast with some of the heaviest rain seen for many years to boot! Considering the conditions, drivers behaved themselves very well. This was until the longest stage of the event, Mount Arrowsmith when the event suffered its most serious accident. A competitor travelling in the final ten cars of the stage lost control on a left hand bend and slammed into a bank before spinning around and hitting the bank again. Within six minutes a First Intervention Crew consisting of a firefighter and a doctor were on the scene along with a second First Intervention Vehicle (FIV) several minutes later and followed shortly afterwards by an Ambulance that was stationed at the start of that stage. The navigator was stabilised before being transported to Hobart where she has made a full recovery.

The only drama after that was the fact that it was now snowing heavily and it was looking like the FIV's that attended the accident were going to struggle to make it through to the other side of Tarraleah. Thankfully all made it through - just!! and travelled on to Hobart for the finish.

So after six days another event was over and everyone had a ball and already looking forward to next year. Special thanks also go to the staff of Firecomm especially Michael, Karina, Toby and Nick who gave their time to man the radio network for the entire event. Also thanks to Chief Officer John Gledhill who allows our involvement year in year out and also to the 2000 volunteer officials without whom we would not be able to have this week of motor sport around the island.

Certificate of Commendation

On the 1st July 2004 Police Commander Steve Bonde made a presentation to District Officer Rob Deverell. The presentation was the Police Commander's Certificate of Commendation which is normally reserved for members of the Police Force; however, as this incident was a combined operation between Police and TFS the Commander considered the presentation appropriate.

The Commendation read:

"Awarded to Robert Deverell TFS

In recognition of professionalism and devotion to duty under arduous and tragic circumstances resulting from a light aircraft crash on Trefoil Island on 14 March 2003"



Farewell from the North West - Welcome to Hobart!

By Regional Officer North West, John Streets

On Thursday 1st July the North West Region held a BBQ lunch to thank District Officer John Green for his efforts and friendship over the past three years while running the Mersey District.

John has transferred back to Hobart to take up a position as Project Officer with Human Services. Welcome back to Hobart John!



Esperance Group 4x4 Competition

By Group Officer Esperance, Brett Burgess

There sure seems to be a lot of talk and plenty written about Light Tanker Competitions lately and every time I talked to anyone from other districts who had participated in one, they all said how great they were and the question always put to me was, "When are you going to run one in the South West?"

I originally thought that it would be good to run a small scale comp as our Annual Group Exercise amongst the four brigades of the Esperance Group but later decided to invite our neighbours from the Huon Group to participate as well, not only to make things a bit more competitive but to increase the number of stands to nine or ten.

One other thing we did which was a little different was to run the whole day as a major incident, complete with an Incident Management Team, Divisions and Sectors, Safety Officer, you name it.

The day was conducted at Geeveston and the whole incident was divided into two divisions, Geeveston division and Port Huon division, each division was then made up of five to six sectors.

The day panned out like this-

Divisional and Sector Commanders arrived at 0800 hours and were briefed by the Operations Officer, then the participating crews were briefed at 0830 hours, given their incident action plans and moved to their respective divisional staging areas (half at Geeveston, half at Port Huon) where they were again briefed by their Divisional Commanders to iron out any last minute queries. They then moved to their first allocated stand, or in our case "sector" and completed the task set out for



ABOVE Hand-line Construction - Southport crew members David Hay and Garry Price

ABOVE LEFT Relay Pumping

them, then moved onto their next sector and so on until they had circumnavigated all sectors within that division. Whilst all this was going on in the Geeveston division (made up of sectors one to five), exactly the same thing was happening in the Port Huon division (made up of sectors six to eleven) and once all sectors had been completed they returned to their divisional staging areas and when given the OK by the Operations Officer they all moved off in convoy to the other division and started over again. So instead of crews rotating around one large circuit of sectors, they were rotating around two smaller circuits simultaneously and this was done not only to eliminate any chance of backing up of crews should any sector take longer to complete than others, but to give them a bit of exposure to what makes up an Incident Management Team and what they may expect if they attend any campaign fire.

The tasks that crews were expected to perform varied from hand-line and wet-line construction to draughting, relay





Group Officer Brett Burgess



Phillip Paul and Tony Heron try their luck with some local knowledge and history questions from Sector Commander Phil Cowmeadow watched by Incident Controller Hugh Jones.

pumping, chainsaws, map reading, driving and first aid etc, things which they could encounter whenever crewing a light tanker, also a couple of novelty events thrown in to break the day up a bit.

The scoring system was pretty simple, twenty points were available at all sectors with an extra five points up for grabs if they answered the bonus questions correctly. They were scored on how well they performed the tasks, marked down on mistakes and breaches of safety.

With all sectors completed by early afternoon the crews returned to the Geeveston Fire Station for the mandatory BBQ etc and await the scores and awards presentation. On adding up the scores it was Franklin who took the early lead largely thanks to veteran Third Officer Roger Grace who absolutely blitzed the Local Knowledge and History sector, but it was the boys from Grove Brigade who came home with a wet sail and took out the honours for the day. Not many points separated first and last.

The whole exercise pretty well got the thumbs up from everybody and all involved agreed that the day gave everyone a chance to demonstrate their skills in a less formal and more enjoyable way than annual inspections and are keen to participate in the next one.

I believe that the foundations have definitely been laid to run a bigger and better comp next year involving the other two groups in the district and who knows, maybe a regional challenge could be tried.

I must thank all those who took part in the day, particularly all Division and Sector Commanders, some who had spent considerable time preparing their sectors to make the day as successful and worthwhile as it was. Thanks also to the prize and trophy donors and district staff Hugh Jones and Mark Cullen.

Photos by Don Jones, Fern Tree Brigade.



Exercise “Flaming Sparrow”

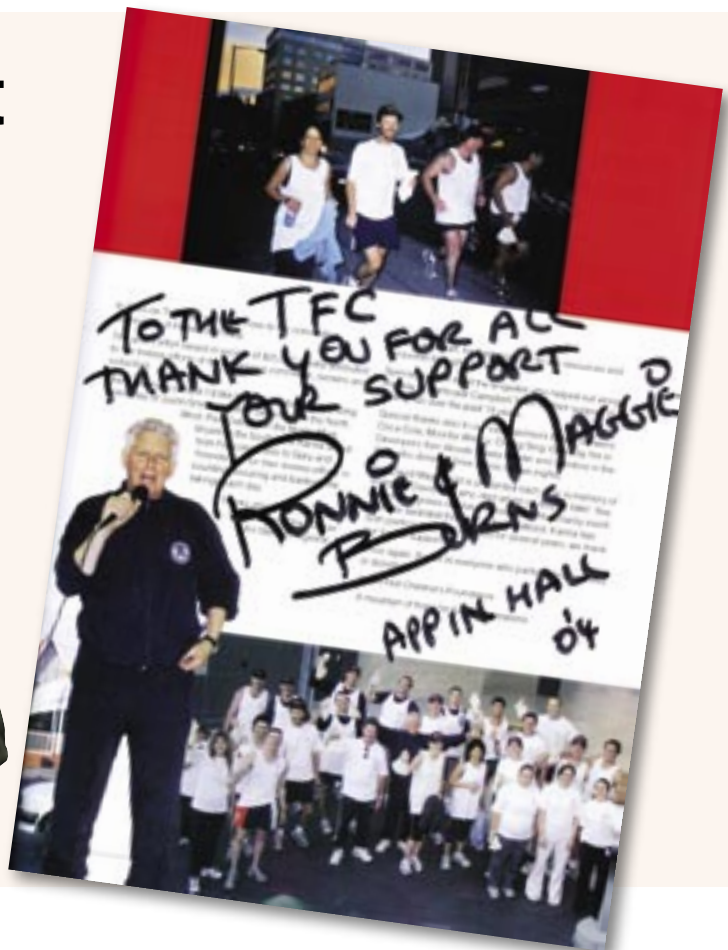
By Senior Station Officer, Andrew Skelly

Exercise Flaming Sparrow was a field exercise for a multi crew response (ground crews and air attack) to a bushfire in the urban interface on a day of high fire danger. The exercise involved Firebird 701 and Helitack 721, the fire management unit and remote area firefighters. The exercise aimed at improving the safety, effectiveness and efficiencies of air operations, testing response procedures, helibase setup, transportation of remote crews, slinging of equipment, the role of air attack officer in Helitack 721, co-ordinating water bombing, and the use of heli-bladders.



Back - left to right:
I Cawthorn, W Bremmer,
A Skelly, A Petrie,
C Chivers,
N Brooksbank, W Smart,
A Howe, A Baker, K Burns,
M Suhr
Front - left to right:
K Jessup, M Skelly,
B Burridge

TFS Charity Event



Tasmania Fire Museum - Heritage Corner

By Museum Brigade Member, Terry Gill

Following on from the last issue of Fireground here are some more snippets from the Museum's research, that I hope you will find of interest.

Did you know:

The title of the person leading individual fire brigades in Tasmania has changed a few times over the years, as follows:

Period	Title	Brigade type
pre 1883	Station Keeper	urban, insurance company
1884-1945	Superintendent	urban, career and retained
1946-1972	Chief Officer	urban, career and retained
1951-1967	First Officer	rural, volunteer
1967-1979	Captain	rural, volunteer
1972-1979	First Officer	urban, career and retained
1979-1991	Chief Officer	urban, career and retained
1979-1991	Captain	country, volunteer
1992-2004	Brigade Chief	all brigades

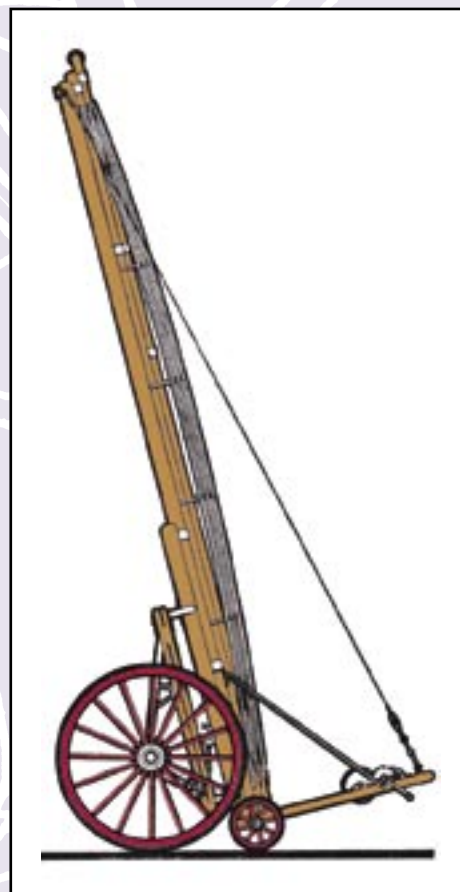
Well I'm glad we've sorted that out!!

Tasmania's first form of breathing apparatus was a device called a "smoke helmet", used by the Hobart and Launceston Brigades from the early 1900's. It comprised a leather or metal hood to cover the head of the wearer, with a leather extension for tucking into the collar of the firefighting coat to make it airtight. Fresh air was fed to the helmet by an airline attached to a bellows, pumped by foot by a colleague.

The heaviest and most massive item of equipment ever to be handled manually by Tasmanian firefighters between the late 19th Century and the present day was the wheeled escape ladder. As the name implies, escapes were designed primarily for external high level rescue work. They were introduced at a time in fire service history, when internal attack and use of self contained breathing apparatus were not as widely employed as they are today, instead, external attack and rescue methods were more the order of the day. The first recorded escape to see service in Tasmania was a 60 foot (18 metres) escape ordered from Shand, Mason & Co., London, England for the Hobart Fire Brigade, at a cost of £110, it arrived in 1892.

The illustration shows an escape unslipped from its appliance, with its two extensions housed within the main ladder. Housed, the escape was 6.8 metres long, with 1.5 metres in diameter carriage wheels. Over the years, escapes were also acquired for use at the Burnie, Devonport and Launceston Brigades. Escapes were gradually retired from service, with the progressive introduction of modern aerial appliances like turntable ladders, hydraulic platforms (snorkels) and tele-booms.

If you have some interesting fire service information from the past you would like to share with everyone else through this column, please e-mail your contributions to the author at ftfb@southcom.com.au



Co-operation Between the TFS and Farming Communities During Bushfires

The TFS has recently issued a new policy statement covering co-operation between the TFS and farming communities during bushfires, as follows:

The TFS acknowledges the legitimate right and responsibility of farmers and those in rural communities to protect their property. The TFS encourages these people to work in close co-operation with the TFS.

TFS brigades and all brigade members are protected from personal legal liability by the Fire Service Act 1979 provided they are acting in good faith.

In addition to this, TFS members are covered by TFS workers compensation insurance in the event of injury during a firefighting operation. This protection from personal legal liability as well as coverage under workers compensation can flow to those assisting the TFS provided certain conditions are met:

- A fire officially becomes an incident for the TFS from the time it is reported and logged (usually by Firecomm). Prior to notification and logging of the incident, the TFS bears no responsibility for the fire.
- Any individuals (whether they are members of the local volunteer brigade or not) who engage in firefighting operations prior to the fire being logged by the TFS are deemed not to be acting for or on behalf of the TFS.
- Members of the Public Assisting Brigades
- All individuals wanting to assist in fighting a fire must as soon as possible make contact with the TFS member in charge/ incident controller. This can be done in person, or where this is not practicable, by radio/ phone etc. It is then the decision of the TFS member in charge/ incident

controller (or Incident Management Team) to engage or not to engage the assistance of the individual.

- The TFS member in charge/ incident controller needs to confirm to the individual that their offer for assistance has been accepted. Normally this will be done verbally and preferably witnessed.
- Once the assistance of an individual has been sought or accepted by the TFS, that individual is protected from legal liability under the Fire Service Act 1979. For this protection to be maintained, the individual needs to continue to accept the authority and direction of the TFS over the incident. Individuals ignoring instructions or acting outside what they have been asked to do risk losing this legal protection.
- When allocating resources, the TFS reserves the right not to accept the assistance of any individual.
- All individuals offering their assistance in firefighting operations must be appropriately dressed. They must at least be wearing strong, covered footwear, long (cotton) trousers, a long sleeve (cotton) shirt and head protection (i.e. helmet). Where individuals are not appropriately attired, TFS may not accept their assistance.

Vehicles and Equipment

Normal practice for the TFS is to contract large plant and equipment on a requisition/hire basis. In these cases, any damage caused during firefighting operations still remains the responsibility of the owner of the equipment, unless requisitioned/hired, equipment is contributed on a donation basis.

The TFS does not accept legal liability for any damage caused to any privately owned vehicle/equipment used. Individuals using their own equipment do so at their own risk and expense. The TFS may consider compensation for damage where there are extenuating circumstances.

To operate on a public road in Tasmania, vehicles must be registered. The TFS cannot offer any exemption from these requirements nor accept any liability for individuals using their own unregistered vehicles on public roads.

All private equipment being used at the fireground should be in a safe condition and used in accordance with safe working practices and standards.

Communications/ Reporting

It is essential that TFS knows the location of everyone on the fireground.

The onus is on both parties to maintain two-way communication.

The means and frequency of communication should be established at the time of acceptance of assistance.

TFS Brigade Awards 2004

The recipients of the 2004 brigade awards were also announced at the TFS Annual Conference on 17th July 2004. The awards were as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Career Brigade | - Hobart Fire Brigade B Shift |
| Structural Brigade | - George Town Fire Brigade |
| Vegetation Brigade | - Boat Harbour |

Gas Leak at Origin Energy

By Acting Station Officer Launceston Fire Brigade, Paul Court

At around 9.20am on 19th June 2004 the Launceston Fire Brigade attended a gas leak at Origin Energy, Launceston.

A bulk storage tank with some residual LPG was being unloaded from a semi-trailer at Origin Headquarters, and the drain valve was accidentally dislodged. The remaining gas in the storage tank could not be prevented from escaping. The Launceston Fire Brigade was called to assist with making the scene safe, and dispersing the gas with high volume water spray.

To completely empty the bulk storage tank took more than one hour, Tasmania Police diverted traffic away from the area until firefighters and Origin Energy staff declared the situation safe.



Photo Competition Winners

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

The winning photos from this edition are:

1st place



Photo submitted by
Leading Firefighter Hobart
Fire Brigade Ross Smith
(\$100)

2nd place



Photo submitted by
Field Officer South West
Mark Cullen
(\$50)

How to enter:

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

Please ensure digital photos are of 3 megapixels and above, also ensure date stamp is off.

Photos may be of any TFS event or incident

May include TFS personnel in turnout gear or uniform

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

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

Post them in to:

Linda Lacy

Editor - Fireground

GPO Box 1526

HOBART TAS 7001

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



TFS Museum Brigade - North West

By Museum Chairman, Phil Peppiatt

In October 2002 the North West Branch of the Fire Service Museum was finally established following a couple of expression of interest meetings and information sessions with some of the Museum committee from the south. Basically the formation of the group was only a formality due to the fact that the North West has for several years had a great attitude towards the preservation of our region's history, not only with their appliances, but also the older equipment, uniforms and turn-out gear, its records and training manuals, which of course play a very important part in the preservation of our history.

This has come about largely due to the efforts of people such as our present Regional Officer John Streets, retired RO Mr John Munro; District Officers Wayne Richards and Rob Deverell and recently deceased Station Officer Mr Ted Burns, just to name a few, who have seen the importance of keeping, and in some cases restoring some of the abovementioned equipment for future generations to see and appreciate.

We are also lucky to have in our region, several private collectors (mainly volunteer firefighters) and several brigades who have also maintained older equipment for display. It is certainly not this group's intention to try and lay claim to any of that memorabilia, but we would certainly love to document it so as to piece together the history of the whole region eventually.



We currently have a strong membership of around fifteen people from all sorts of backgrounds, which is handy considering the various skills available to us.

At present we have in restored condition:

1935 Dodge Pumper (restored but undergoing an engine rebuild)

1968 Dennis Urban Pumper equipped with a Morris Wheeled Escape Ladder

1939 Ford Hose Carriage

1957 Ford F500

1928 Chev (restored about 12 years ago by the members of the Somerset Brigade

And unrestored:

1953 Ford F350

1948 Chev (about to return to the coast from the South)

In addition we have been able to source many items of vintage equipment to stock the trucks including mint condition Proto BA sets; old extinguishers; branches and associated tools plus early training and workshop manuals; some articles of clothing and turn-out gear. If anyone has other items of interest that they wish to loan for display, we can promise that any such article would be well looked after and catalogued as to who owns it, and very much appreciated.

It is our hope that in the not too distant future, this sort of memorabilia is displayed in a suitable permanent display for the whole community to benefit.

At present we are working out of a disused station kindly made available to us, and it is very much appreciated that we have somewhere to call home and work out of. It is our intention to continue on in the same way as we have been to date in regards to displaying and storing most of the trucks, that is, storing them around the region in available stations so that everyone gets to benefit from them.

Don't forget that they are available for every brigade's use for things like their Christmas parades and special functions, just let us know with some prior notice and we will ensure that they are available to you. The Museum Brigade has been quite active over the past year in an effort to gain public and Fire Service attention and have attended several outings usually by invitation or request and we are quite proud of what we have been able to achieve in a relatively short time. We would also welcome any interest and participation from new members and encourage prospective members to contact us, the more people participating, the stronger our chance of survival.

I would sincerely like to take this opportunity to thank the current committee for all their strong participation and enthusiasm, our regional staff and management for their willing support and assistance, and to Roland Hill and Frank Howe for their ongoing assistance and encouragement in starting the North West Group.



Training for the Future

By District Officer Training Services, Greg Butters

The options available to us for this year's conference must have been fairly limited considering the number of people that have to be catered for. The Hotel Grand Chancellor was chosen and I am sure everyone was more than comfortable. The Federation Hall is a large complex and it was a fairly daunting experience walking up onto the stage in front of so many people.

This year's conference had a definite yesterday - today - tomorrow theme and the Training Services presentation went along the same lines. Basically, the underlying message we wanted to deliver was a "game plan" of where we need to be in the future in relation to our training and how we want to get there.

There aren't too many people in our organisation who could tell me what it was like during the "early days" but I did manage to gain some excellent information from Regional Officer Graham Otley, District Officers Bill Burke (Midlands) and Gerald Crawford (East Coast) as well as Don Jones (Fern Tree) and Bob Barrett (Scottsdale). Without turning it into a history lesson it went something like this "back in my day, well before the introduction of competency based training and the Public Safety Training Package, the majority of training undertaken by our brigades was delivered very much by the Brigades themselves. There were exceptions to this like the fire schools, training opportunities with the Country Fire Authority in Victoria as well as the organised group and district training exercises at a more local level."

In the 1990's our training approach became more structured and the "grey folders" were developed. This was the first move toward training to outcomes. Later the Australian Fire Curriculum which was introduced into our career brigades. This was a significant move toward full competency based training and nationally accredited training packages. It was identified that career training officers couldn't provide all the face to face training required so the organisation introduced volunteer training instructors (VTI's). Brigade training became more de-centralised and wherever possible we started to deliver more structured training at brigade stations rather than our training complexes.

Early 2000 the Public Safety Training Package (PSTP) was introduced in volunteer brigades. This meant we had to conduct lengthy interviews with all of our volunteers to find out what competencies could be granted in relation to the PSTP, which was a large task to say the least. This was the first move toward competency based training for our volunteers and our training is still very much focussed on promoting firefighter safety.

So why does our training need to be competency based and from the PSTP?

The PSTP is for organisations who deal with public safety i.e. Police, Ambulance, State Emergency Services and Fire Services. The PSTP training and qualification system was implemented within the TFS following an industry review of

our previous competency based career training system. It was designed to suit the needs of approximately 525,000 personnel within the public safety industry, of which approximately 457,000 are volunteers. The entire package underwent extensive industry consultation prior to final endorsement.

Occupational Health and Safety legislation determines the fireground as a workplace, regardless of the fact firefighters may be there in a voluntary capacity. Therefore, the training we provide our people needs to meet a recognised industry national standard.

Coronial enquiries such as Linton and Mt Kuring-gai have reinforced the need for firefighters to be trained and assessed to a standard. In addition, we are required to keep records of firefighters' competence. Furthermore, Workplace Standards have strongly recommended we adopt industry standards for training volunteer firefighters under a competency based training system.

Above all else, we would be negligent in our duty of care if we didn't provide the best training system available to our industry.

It is paramount that our people can demonstrate their competence in relation to performing firefighting operations.

Once we completed the recognition of current competence process we were able to identify the training gaps within our volunteer brigades and start to develop a plan of how we are going to achieve our training goals.

The Plan

We aim to:

deliver approximately 414 courses per year for four years

deliver 320 competency maintenance courses (Breathing Apparatus and First Aid related units)

This means we need to deliver:

70 officer courses

268 firefighter core courses

76 elective unit courses

In reality we need to be delivering 21 courses a week statewide or 7 courses a week in each region to achieve our targets.

A Statewide Approach

To achieve our "Game Plan" we need bums on seats. This model should assist us with our course attendances.

District Staff and Brigade Chiefs identify needs:

Information from the training data base identifies who needs what training. Consideration needs to be given on what your Brigade requires, particularly from the identification of elective units.

East Coast Presentations

Nubeena

On 15th May 2004 Brian Rainbird representing the Tasmanian Volunteer Fire Brigades Association presented Brigade Chief Garry Cooper with the TFS Volunteer Medal.

There were a large number of guests at the presentation including representatives of the Volunteer Brigades

Association Leon and Allison King. Garry has been a member of Nubeena Fire Brigade since 1979, becoming Brigade Chief in 1983. Congratulations Garry!



Regional Meetings with Training Services:

This is where the identification of courses, dates, venues, training staff etc. will occur. This process will enable us to develop a yearly training calendar that will identify the courses available as well as district, group and regional exercises.

Brigade Chiefs identify individual candidates:

This will need some pre-planning. Check individual training records, identify when courses are on and nominate candidates.

Statewide mailing model:

This will be completed shortly and trialed in one of the districts prior to adopting statewide. Basically each region will be mailing information to both the brigade chiefs and individuals as the date gets closer for each course. Brigade Chiefs will receive a letter asking to confirm attendees and, once confirmed, individuals will receive a letter detailing the course information.

Training Services provide accreditation:

This finalises the participants' involvement in a particular course. Certificates and/or statements of attainment are issued by Training Services.

Mentoring and Skills Development:

District, group and regional exercises will be organised to assist with officer mentoring and allow opportunities for skills development, ultimately allowing firefighters and officers opportunities to gain skills, knowledge, and valuable experience. Exercises are also an excellent way of obtaining evidence for your skills development record books.

This last point highlights that we don't want you to change what you have been doing for years. The only real changes you will notice are the introduction of more structured courses and the overall delivery of these courses. So, please, continue to promote training within your brigades and remember "Competent Firefighters are Safe Firefighters"

National Medals - East Coast

Acting Regional Officer Tony Davidson presented a number of National Medals to members of the East Coast District at a combined function held at Barilla in June.

Members receiving National Medals were:

Ralph Tieman	Sandford
Cameron Calvert	South Arm
Maree Cooley	Nubeena
Todd Workman	Richmond
Roger Manton	Tea Tree
Charlie Kingston	Koonya
Kerry Shearing	formerly Richmond
Robert Manning	South Arm
Anthony Butler	Seven Mile Beach
Nicholas Longden	Coles Bay
Robert Brakey	Primrose Sands
Andrew Calvert	Lauderdale
Barry Harper	South Arm
Stephen Morrisby	Sandford
James Percival	Seven Mile Beach
Danny Reid	Midway Point
Athelstan Greenhill	Cranbrook
David Darby	Primrose Sands
Roger Larnar	Port Arthur

Hobart Fire Brigade Refurbishment

By A/Regional Officer Tony Davidson

You may have noticed that during the past twelve months that the Hobart Fire Station has had a facelift. Our historic building certainly looks magnificent after being painted. Work has also been completed on the Training Room, and TV and Billiard Rooms. We are particularly proud of our Billiard Room which has been faithfully restored to 1926 decor. It has been decided to use the Billiard Room for all future brigade promotional ceremonies and presentations.



The old and the new

As part of the 120th year anniversary activities, a photograph of all brigade members imposed on the painting of the old station was commissioned and hangs over the fire place in the Billiard Room.



Goodbye and Goodluck Eddie!

By Leading Firefighter Hobart Fire Brigade, Frank McGrath

Eddie Burne (Burne with an "e") recently retired after 30 year's diligent service with the HFB, spending recent years on B platoon, the majority of his service being at the HFB, and some time at Training Division and Fire Investigation.

At Eddie's farewell morning tea, Chief Officer John Gledhill made a presentation of a silver watch (to match Eddie's new silver goatee) before a large group of colleagues and friends.

One of Eddie's first calls was to the boiler explosion at Mount St Canice, a recent clip on TV showed Eddie as large as life standing on a pile of rubble surveying the scene just like an eagle - perhaps this is how he got that nickname!

Eddie "not being nasty" Burne, was once discovered wearing his Warrington Pro Boots on the wrong feet at a fire - something he was stirred about forever.

Eddie's interests include lawn bowls, motor bikes and old cars especially Morris' and Land Rovers. Hope he takes better care of his vehicles than he did with one particular Land Rover a few years ago. He parked it at the rear of his residence on Grass Tree Hill, alighted from the car with his dog, and the vehicle started rolling away. Eddie grabbed hold of the back bumper bar to try to halt its demise over the cliff, but he had to give up and lie there and listen to it go over, he couldn't bear to watch. He told everyone that



"the dog must have done it" (please note that Eddie was a pretty thorough driving instructor) - the dog did it!! ha!!

Frank McGrath, a long term colleague from B platoon spoke about Eddie's professionalism and the respect he has from all ranks, and what an example he was to the younger members of the platoon both on the fireground and on station, whether firefighting or training he was consistent in his performance, his integrity was beyond reproach. These sentiments were echoed by the senior officers present. He was known to back his men and support them to the end if he thought they were right. Eddie during his career also gave good service to the United Firefighters Union.

Eddie will be sorely missed by his friends and colleagues and they all wish him, Christina and the boys a great future. No doubt we haven't seen the last of Mr Burne!

And for the ladies ...

By Deputy Regional Officer Mike Brown

On several occasions it has been said that stationwear uniform and PPE items aren't available in sizes / shapes suitable for ladies. This is simply not true.

Trousers and shirts (blouses) are available in a wide range of ladies sizes (8, 10, 12, 14, and so on) through the TFS store. PPE and footwear is also available in sizes suitable for ladies.



South Esk Exercise

By Trainee Northern Region, Lisa Gilbert

Twelve brigades in the South Esk District were requested to participate in the 2004 South Esk Exercise that was to take place on the 17th and 18th of April. This exercise was to begin at Evandale Station on the Saturday morning and finish on the Sunday afternoon. The aim of this weekend was not to teach people a lot of a little but a little of a lot with various activities to test their logic and skill, and also try to win prizes at the end.

Brigades included Rossarden; Longford; St Helens; Fingal; Nile; St Marys; Relbia; Evandale; Campbell Town; Perth; Blessington and Mathinna. Everything was organised for the brigades to be at the Evandale station by 0830 hours for an early start and well I can at least say they were all there by 0930 hours. All brigades were teamed up with another and given their task list, their group name, and then they were off. The low humming of trucks could be heard heading in different directions as they left the station.

Throughout the day each brigade experienced a number of activities that took them over and around the South Esk District. The various activities that were set up included a motor vehicle accident at Longford, gas props at Youngtown, hazmat exercise at Relbia, pumping exercise at Blessington, chainsaw exercise at Blessington and a draughting exercise at Griffith Park, Mathinna. Griffith Park was our meeting place before we set off to St Helens for tea. Each brigade slowly came in until we were waiting on one group. This consisted of the Longford and Evandale brigades - three women and two men

- not to mention any names but they know who they are and I can picture a few of them grinning as they read this. An hour passed still no sign of them. The guys called them via radio and asked of their whereabouts? After a few directions were given an estimation of around twenty minutes was given, twenty minutes passed and the rumble of a truck nearing could be heard, this rumble went on for a further ten minutes until someone pointed out that they were actually close but unfortunately they had managed to get on the opposite of the creek as the rest of us and didn't know their way around. After another round of directions half an hour later they surfaced, the cheer among the other brigades was enormous and the red faces of the 'lost' group said it all.

At last it was time to head off, the sun was beginning to set and our stomachs were rumbling but something wasn't right, it felt like something was missing until, yep finally someone got a flat tyre. After that slight hiccup we were on our way again.

We reached St Helens around 2000 hours and were ready for a feast, thanks to a couple of gentlemen, Fred Hannam and Rodney Ferral all was ready for us.

The men had began to set up their stretchers at the St Helens Station so the ladies decided that it was time to head up to the Binalong Bay Fire Station and set up our own stretchers. As there were only six women in total we all had an alright nights sleep except for the uncomfortable stretchers. We felt sorry for the men - there were at least forty of them all at the one station.

We were up bright and early and ready for another action packed day, which we found out later that the men were not ready for. Due to some people snoring the guys had a restless sleep, Paul Hill was found camped up in one of the





trucks to try and avoid the noise. The day began in full swing and we were on our way again, first item on the agenda for today was an unplanned rally - Camry v Ford Courier and much to my dismay I had found myself in the navigator's seat, and of a Ford! But I did have people looking out for me that day (thanks for the radio call Janne, I think it pulled the driver back into gear). After our first activity it was off to Griffiths Park for a driving exercise, many people had their turn at driving while blindfolded, reversing a trailer, stopping and starting etc. After a few hours of driving frustration and tears, all the activities were over and we all had a quick bite for lunch before the winners were announced.

Rodney Springer jumped on the back of his vehicle to announce the winner and give out the trophies to the best group for the 2004 South Esk Exercise, and the winners were the Perth and St Mary's brigade group.

All the awards had been announced and the weekend had come to an end, it was time for us all to head home, we put the Evandale and Longford brigades in the middle of our convoy as to not to have a repeat of the past day's events. Once again something was missing something was forgotten but don't worry, not for long - thanks Paul, another flat tyre, it wouldn't be right without it. I must say that the whole weekend was an absolute success that would not have been possible without all the help we had, for this I would like to thank Sue Hill; David Young; Steve Gray; Steve Barnes and Danny Guy for giving up their time to help out with this exercise. I would also like to thank Rodney Ferral and Fred Hannam for being our chefs and cooking all of our lovely food. Also a big thank you to Eddie Freeman for not only giving up his time but also for making and donating the excellent trophies. Last of all a big thank you to Rodney Springer and all of the volunteers who attended for if it wasn't for them, none of this would have been possible.



Library News

Video Catalogue

A new video catalogue is now out! Printed copies were distributed to brigade members who attended the Library tour held during the TFS Annual Conference weekend. If your brigade missed out and you would like a copy, please contact the Library. Electronic copies are also available in the Members' Area of the TFS web site.

Fire on the Island

There has been some interest in the film *Fire on the Island* which was shown during the Annual Conference dinner. This is a compilation of footage of Tasmanian fires from the 1940s-1960s. Fires include the 1948 Ocean Pier fire and the 1967 Black Tuesday fires. You can borrow this film from the Library or purchase it from the Archives Office of Tasmania on DVD or video at a cost of \$21.90.

Contact the Archives Office on:

Ph: (03) 6233 7488 or (03) 6233 7490

Archives.Tasmania@education.tas.gov.au

Warning!

Some concern has been raised over information given in a publication titled *National Firefighters Safety Gazette*. The TFS has contacted the publisher on several occasions to correct information given in their articles that we believe is misleading and erroneous. This publication is distributed free throughout Australia, however, it is strongly recommended that you do not use it for training purposes and that you contact the Library for a more authoritative publication.

A number of other publications in a similar newspaper format, aimed at the emergency services sector, are being distributed by the same company. Readers should also be cautious of the information presented in these publications: *Intense Heat* and *National Emergency News*.

It has also been brought to our attention that advertising space in these publications is being sold by representatives stating in their sales pitch that the TFS subscribes to their publications. The TFS does not endorse or support their publications in any way.

Weblinks

Health & Wellness Guide for the Volunteer Fire Service, January 2004 / FEMA (U.S.)

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa-267.pdf>

National Emergency Services Memorial

Located by Lake Burley Griffin in Canberra, this memorial was unveiled on 12 July and is dedicated to the men and women who serve or have served in Australia's emergency management and services organisations.

<http://www.nationalcapital.gov.au/enhancing/nesm.htm>

USAR Training Resources

This section of the NZ Urban Search & Rescue web site provides free guides, manuals, forms and logbooks relevant to USAR operations.

http://www.usar.govt.nz/usarwebsite.nsf/wpg_URL/USAR-Training-Training-Resources-Index?OpenDocument

Tasmanian Legislation Online

This web site, which provides free public access to Tasmanian legislation, has just been redeveloped for the first time since its launch in 1998. Improvements have been made to the searching, viewing, printing and navigating features. Shortcuts to most frequently accessed legislation, new legislation and useful information are provided from the home page.

<http://www.thelaw.tas.gov.au/>

Wildland fires : Florida, 1988 / FEMA (U.S.)

Florida State was ravaged by a series of wildland and urban interface fires from May-July 1998. Almost 500,000 acres were burned, along with more than 150 structures and 86 vehicles, in more than 2200 individual fires. Local, state and federal resources were employed in what could possibly be the largest response effort in the U.S.

<http://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/tr-126.pdf>

Videos

Hazmat - CBR / Metropolitan Fire & Emergency Services Board. Melbourne, Vic. : MFEB, 2004 (61 min.)

Opens with news footage of a chemical explosion in a warehouse in Footscray, Melbourne. Proceeds to discuss flammable gases, liquids and solids; oxidizing agents and organic peroxides; poisons and infectious substances; radioactive materials; corrosives and other dangerous substances.

Ride through the Canberra firestorm / Dalley, Helen. Willoughby, N.S.W. : Nine Network, 2003.

Aired on the Nine Network's Sunday program, this documentary takes a close-up look at the Canberra bushfires of 2003 with interviews with residents, the ACT Fire Chief and District Officer and a CSIRO fire scientist. Award winning footage taken by cameraman Richard Moran during a ride through the fires with bushfire coordinator Darrell Thornthwaite shows the ferocity of the fires that destroyed around 300 homes

State Fire Competitions : Sandfly Brigade, 2003 / Ingles, Malcolm. Hobart, Tas. 2003 (60 min.)

Footage of the Sandfly Brigade's involvement in the 2003 competitions held in George Town. Great for showing juniors or adults interested in participating in the competitions.

Tasmania Fire Service Training : fire investigation training at Cambridge, ex ABC TV 26/05/2004
Hobart, Tas. : ABC, 2004 (40 min.)

Fire investigation exercise at the Cambridge training complex, where fires were started in the “dog boxes” (reconstructed bedroom, lounge room and workshop) and the cause of the fires had to be determined.

Zero Tolerance! : safety during training.
Fire & Emergency Training Network (US).

Carrollton, Tex. : FETN, 2003.

Safety on the training ground is as important as on the fireground. This program highlights incidents that have occurred during the last 20 years in the U.S. which have led to serious injuries and deaths.

New Books

ABC of resuscitation / Colquhoun, Michael.
London : BMJ, 2004.

Australian weather book / Colls, Keith.
Frenchs Forest, N.S.W. : New Holland, 2001.

The Campaign Fires : North East - East Gippsland Fires 2003 / Hunter, Lyndel. Mt. Waverley, Vic. : Country Fire Authority , 2003.

A day-by-day account of the events that unfolded during the Campaign Fires of 2003.

Exploring GPS : a GPS users guide / McElroy, Simon.
Bathurst, N.S.W. : GPSCO, 2001.

Fundamentals of firefighter skills / National Fire Protection Association. Sudbury, Mass. : Jones and Bartlett, 2003.

The greatest firefighter stories never told / Santangelo, Mike. Kansas City, Mo. : Andrews McMeel Pub., c2002.

Guide for meetings and organisations : guide for voluntary associations 7th ed. / Renton, N. E. Pyrmont, N.S.W. : LBC Information Services, 2000.

Improving learning through effective training

/ Pithers, R. T.
Katoomba, N.S.W. : Social Science Press, 1998.

Jane's chem-bio handbook 2nd ed. / Eldridge, John. Surrey, England : Jane's Information Group, c2003.
Includes chapters on pre-incident planning, on-scene procedures, and chemical and biological agents and treatments.

Rookie Year / NFPA. Quincy, Mass. : NFPA, c2003.
Twelve new paid and volunteer recruits in the US describe their experiences in their first year on the job.

Rural fire management handbook / National Rural Fire Authority (New Zealand).
[Wellington, N.Z.] : NRFA, 2002.

This pocket size handbook contains the following reference material: safety, initial attack, incident management, operational guidelines, fire behaviour, fire investigation and a glossary of terms.

Smokechasing / Pyne, Stephen. Tucson : University of Arizona Press, 2003.

A collection of essays on the subject of wildland fire and management.

Tasmanian Bushcare Toolkit : a guide to managing and conserving the bushland on your property / Kirkpatrick, J. B. Hobart, Tas. : Dept. of Primary Industries, Water and Environment, 1999.

Technical rescue for structural collapse / International Fire Service Training Association.
Stillwater, Okla. : Fire Protection Publications, Oklahoma State University, c2003.

Terrorism response : field guide for fire and EMS organizations / Maniscalco, Paul M.
Upper Saddle River, N.J. : Prentice Hall, c2003.

The theory and practice of training / Buckley, Roger.
London ; Sterling, VA : Kogan Page, 2004.
Volunteers : a guide for volunteers and their organisations / Woods, Mary. Christchurch, N.Z. : Hazard Press, 1998.

Writing and presenting reports / Eunson, Baden. Milton, Qld. : John Wiley & Sons, 1994.

Writing workplace documents / Harewood, Jocelyn.
Footscray, Vic. : Open Training Services, Western Metropolitan College of TAFE, c1996.

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,

Cnr Argyle & Melville Streets, Hobart

Tasmania Fire Museum Launch of its Hobart Fire Brigade Campus

By Terry Gill with pictures by Don Jones and Museum Brigade members

As part of the Sunday 16 July field day of the 2004 annual TFS Brigades Chiefs' Conference, the Tasmania Fire Museum launched its Hobart Fire Brigade campus.

Displays in the appliance room of HFB's 1912 federation style Argyle Street head station are:

- a range of appliances including an 1826 manual fire engine, a 1912 Leyland turntable ladder, a 1940 Ford pumper/hose carriage, a 1958 Dennis/Metz turntable ladder and a 1969 Dennis pumper/escape;
- examples of breathing apparatus used by HFB from the early 20th Century onwards;
- uniforms, small gear, communications equipment, rank markings and other insignia used by the Brigade; and
- a profile of each person appointed the head of the Brigade from 1884 to 1990.

The Museum Brigade acknowledges the co-operation and assistance of Acting Regional Officer, Tony Davidson and his brigade officers and members, in enabling the campus to be established.

To maintain ongoing interest, the aim is to further develop the displays and to rotate different appliances through the campus. So, "watch this space".

Access to the HFB Campus is currently by arrangement.



Thanks from the Solomon Islands

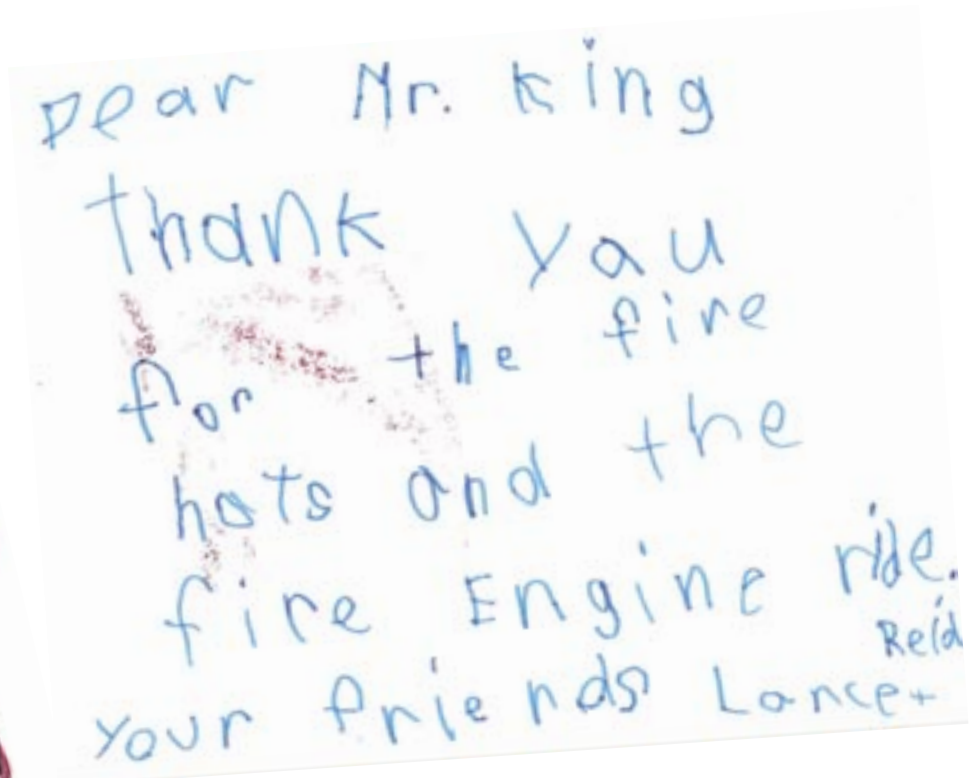
In early January the Tasmania Fire Service received an urgent request to render assistance in the form of PPE to the Honiara Fire Service in Guadalcanal, Henderson Field in the Solomon Islands (refer to article in last edition of Fireground).

The Solomon Islands Fire Service have extended their appreciation to all concerned and have sent a plaque expressing their thoughts, in addition to a number of hand made gifts.



Visit from the USA

In January Brigade Chief Tony King of Penguin Brigade gave some USA visitors a tour of the station as well as some memorabilia to take home. Recently Tony received this letter and photo in the mail.



New Leading Firefighters

By Senior Station Officer Rod Sherrin

On Friday 18th June eleven career Senior Firefighters successfully completed the 2004 Leading Firefighter assessment block.

During the two weeks spent at Training Services, Cambridge, the following subjects were covered:

- Fire and Incident Operations
- Fire Cause and Determination
- Information Presentations
- Fire Reporting Systems
- Community Safety and Education
- Station and Resource Management
- Conflict Resolution and Negotiation Skills

The eleven new Leading Firefighters are:

Northwest Region

Nick Rayner and Tyron Clark

Southern Region

Jock Crome, John Holloway, Neil Brooksbank, George Auchterlonie, Grant Joyce, Aaron Blizzard, Andrew McConnon, Glen Greenland and Wayne Smart.

I congratulate all those participants and wish you well with your future career within the organisation.

Thanks to all the support staff that once again assisted in making this annual assessment block a success.



Back - left to right - SSO Mike Netherton, Wayne Smart, Grant Joyce, George Auchterlonie, Neil Brooksbank, Jock Crome, Andrew McConnon, Nick Rayner, SO Jeremy Smith.
Front - left to right - SSO Danny Richardson, Glen Greenland, Aaron Blizzard, Tyron Clark, Michael Watkins, John Holloway, SSO Andrew Skelly, SSO Rod Sherrin

National Medals - Dunalley

Acting Regional Officer Tony Davidson presented National Medals to four members of the Dunalley Fire Brigade at a function held at the station during July.

The members were Bernard Campbell, Gerard Daley, Kevin Daley and Paul Spaulding. New Norfolk Brigade Chief Colin Triffett presented Bernard Campbell with the Volunteer Medal.

Gerald Crawford received a special presentation of a toy helmet by Aaron Millar who has just returned from a Rotary Club sponsored visit to Sweden, where Aaron visited several fire stations.



Rowella Presentation Day

By District Officer Tamar, Steve Lowe

The sun was shining brightly on the beautiful West Tamar township of Rowella for the Rowella Volunteer Fire Brigade's presentation day.

The TFS marquee was set up complete with a gourmet barbecue lunch prepared for the community members, juniors, cadets and firefighters in attendance, both past and present.

There were several presentations made on the day, none more popular than the Life Memberships presented to Donald Lockhart and Michael Brodie for their dedicated service to the local community which totalled in excess of 65 years. Congratulations to both Donald and Michael whose experience will be missed by the brigade and we wish them well in their retirement.

The day also showcased the enthusiasm and commitment of the Rowella junior and cadet members who are the future of the Rowella Brigade. The junior membership of Rowella is actively involved within the local community and should be proud of the professionalism they display when representing their brigade and the Tasmania Fire Service.

Shawn Barnett spoke very well on behalf of the Rowella juniors and cadets on the day. A copy of his speech has been reproduced here:

On behalf of the junior fire brigade, I would like to thank the Tasmania Fire Service for kitting us out with our PPE and accepting us as Tasmania Fire personnel; Sea Horse World for donating some polo tops as part of



our uniform; Blackburn for donating money which will be used for completion of our uniform and the rest of the fire brigade for letting us be part of the Rowella Volunteer Fire Brigade. Finally our thanks go to Stephani Taylor, Ron Mitchell and Greg Barnett for being our co-ordinators in which they train us up, maybe, to one day be active members of the brigade. Thank you to everyone who has supported us.

Congratulations to Bill Cox and all those involved who created a very successful day. Congratulations to the juniors of Rowella, on your professionalism and enthusiasm. Your continued commitment to the community and the TFS is to be commended and I am sure you will all become highly valued active members in the future.

.... and should be proud of the professionalism they display when representing their brigade and the Tasmania Fire Service

Photo Gallery



Scrub fire at Blessington

By Firefighter Evandale Fire Brigade, Sharee Smith



Fire at Grove

By Field Officer South West,
Mark Cullen



Power Pole Fire

By Firefighter Devonport Fire Brigade,
Dean Graue

A recent power pole fire in Torquay Road East Devonport. Firefighters in platform cage are Leading Firefighter Wayne Viney and Senior Firefighter Gary Smith.



Confined Space Course

By Station Officer Hobart Fire Brigade, Phil Smith



Confined Space Course

By Station Officer Hobart Fire Brigade, Phil Smith



Tumps Road Fire Glengarry

By District Officer
Tamar, Steve Lowe



Dominic Chapel Fire

By Senior Firefighter Hobart Fire
Brigade, Shane Gustas



Cranbrook Brigade's 'remote area access appliance'

By Field Officer East Coast, Steve Walkley



House fire at Upper Natone May 2004 attended by Burnie and Stowport/Natone Brigades

By Leading Firefighter Burnie, Shayne Andrews



House Fire Training at Ridgley

By Regional Officer John Streets



King Street Fire

By Firefighter Taroon Fire Brigade, Ross Morgan



House fire at Upper Natone May 2004 attended by Burnie and Stowport/Natone Brigades

By Leading Firefighter Burnie, Shayne Andrews



Selfs Point

By Senior Firefighter Hobart Fire Brigade, Shane Gustas

Exercise for the B Shift brigade inspections in 2003 - simulating a fuel spill at the wharf head - exercise to utilise two monitors situated at wharf head - normally a ship berthed at the end.

TasFire

EQUIPMENT



State Conference - Bronte Park

By Manager TasFire Equipment, Nik Masters

On the 29th and 30th of July 2004 TasFire Equipment staff met at Bronte Park to discuss the 2003 - 2004 financial year and to develop a strategic plan to focus the business' future activities. All 27 staff contributed to an excellent two days.

The Chief Officer addressed the group on Friday 30th and confirmed that TasFire Equipment was an integral part of the TFS and that he was extremely pleased that the unit was now in a strong financial position.

To further increase awareness of fire safety in the community, particularly the business community, it was agreed that TasFire Equipment would devote more resources this financial year to advertising building owners' responsibilities and the services TFE can offer the building owner / occupier to help meet those responsibilities.

Out of the 24,000 businesses in Tasmania indications are that around 10,000 businesses do not currently have any portable fire equipment or do not have their equipment regularly serviced. Tasmanian legislation requires all businesses to have regularly serviced portable fire protection equipment on site.

If you own or operate a business please don't hesitate to contact one of TasFire Equipment's branches in Hobart, Launceston, Devonport or Burnie for any information regarding what fire equipment you should have on site and when that equipment should be serviced. Also if you require an extinguisher, fire blanket or smoke alarm for your home, caravan or boat please give one of our offices a call.

Fencing

By Senior Station Officer Andrew Skelly

As a young firefighter, I used to see a fence as an obstacle preventing the fire truck from getting to the fire, and enjoyed attacking the fence with some enthusiasm and a set of wire cutters, never thinking why the obstacle (fence) was there in the first place or the damage I may be causing to the farmer.

As an organisation we need to be considerate of the farmers, who have invested a lot of money, (around \$6000 a kilometre, depending on materials), to either keep valuable stock (cattle, sheep, horses) in, or to protect valuable crops by keeping herbivores out.

If we do not show concern for the farming community needs, the organisation will continue to receive negative feedback. There have been a number of cases in recent years which do not make us look professional and in hindsight may be a bad case of candle moth syndrome.

Examples include, at one fire it looked like that every truck accessing a paddock cut a new hole in the one long fence line, by the end of the fire the fence did not exist, and worse, some openings were within a stones throw from each other.

At another incident, someone cut the wires of the fence, then moved about 3 metres and re-cut the fence leaving a 3 metre big hole in the fence, that could not be re-joined easily by the farmer.

What to do if you are obstructed by a wire fence at a fire, please consider:

Is there a gate that could be used?

Most paddocks have at least one gate. If you use a gate, the rule on the farm is to always leave the way you found it, so if you find a gate closed, make sure you shut it.

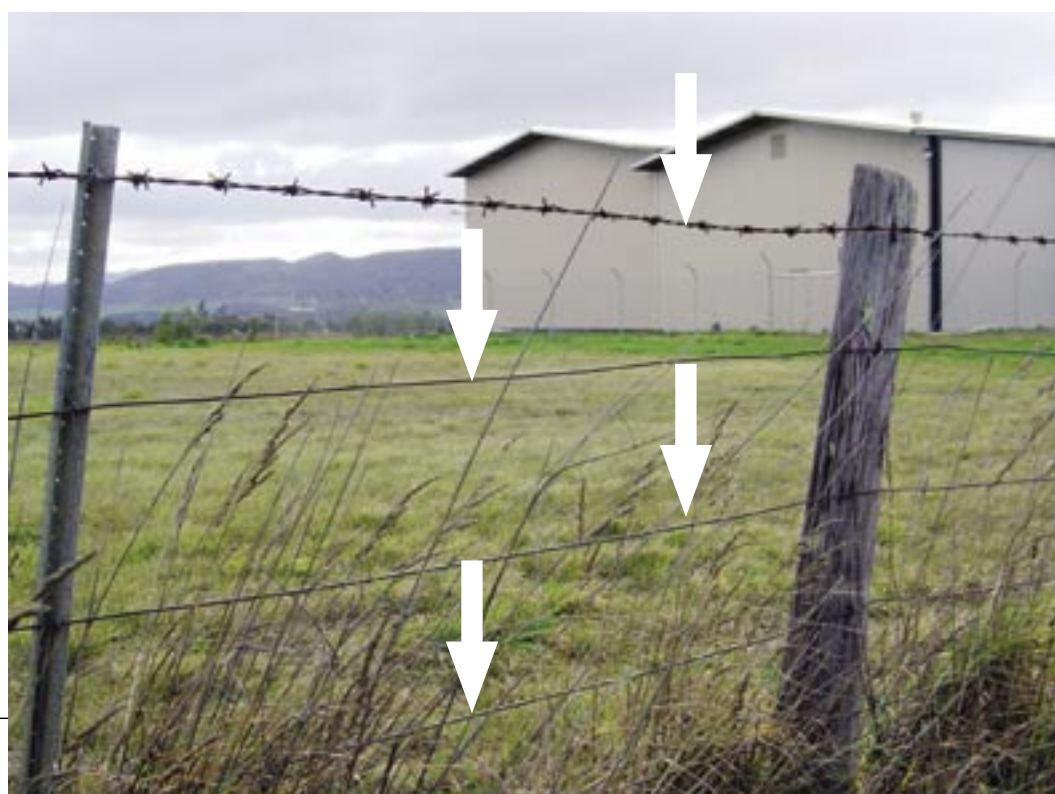
Could the fence be laid over?

Be careful as wire may get snagged, an accident occurred, when a wire caught under a vehicle, breaking under tension and whipping back hitting a firefighter in the leg, resulting in 60 stitches.

When the only option is to cut a fence:

Stagger the cuts, so that the fence can be retied maintaining integrity in the fence line. Also, let the farmer know that you have cut the fence, as soon as practical.

A tip from Terry White of Wattle Hill Brigade, before cutting, hammer the staples of the closest solid wooden posts, this will help keep the tension on the rest of the fence.



Volunteer Profile - Jane Bradshaw

I was born the sixth child in a family of six. Having four older brothers to tease me, I learned to take care of myself from a very early age!

We lived on a small dairy farm in the foothills of Mt Faulkner, overlooking Chigwell to the South and looking across the valley towards Goat Hills, Collins Bonnet and Collins Cap to the West.

Upon finishing school at Friends in 1971, I was offered a "studentship" at the University of Tasmania. I declined this offer, preferring to attend Teachers College instead. I had always thought that I would go into nursing but this was a golden opportunity to try something different!

Alas, six months into the course, I was faced with either signing up for the full three years or to quit without any financial penalties. At the time I had so many parties to go to and so many assignments to complete, that it seemed impossible to do both!

On the advice of a good friend, I decided "not to let my studies interfere with my education!" I resigned from the Education Department and spent the following six months working as a waitress at "Dirty Dick's Steakhouse" and partying to my heart's content until I could start nursing. A decision that I have never regretted!

On completion of my nursing training, I travelled to the U.K. and New Zealand prior to commencing my midwifery training in Melbourne for a further twelve months.

Having developed the "travel bug" I again headed overseas to the U.K., Europe, Russia and Scandinavia for an eight-month honeymoon.

From that time I have continued to work part-time as a midwife in Hobart, only pausing briefly to have two beautiful daughters.

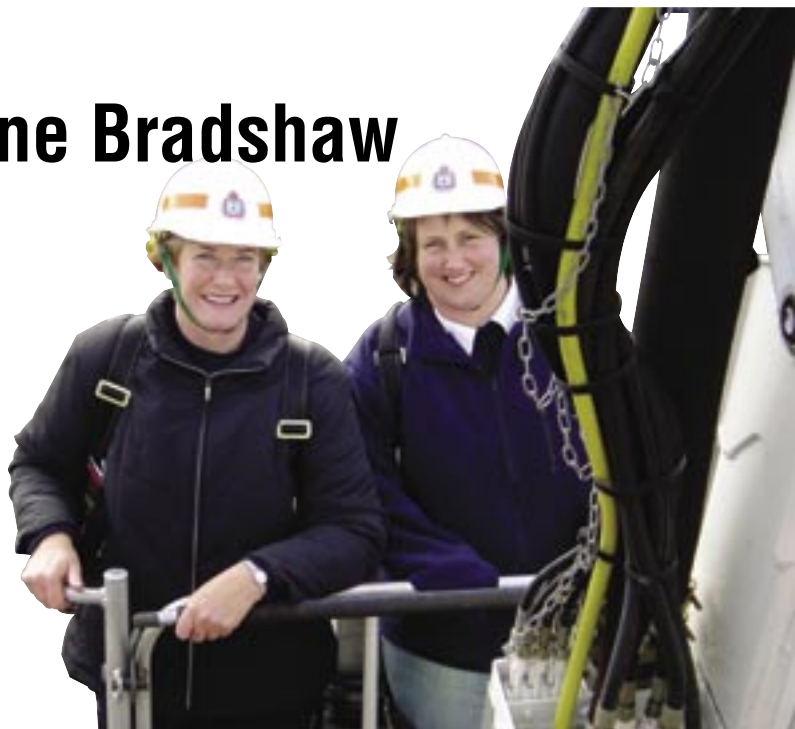
My firefighting skills have developed from a very early age having grown up in the days when there was virtually no rural firefighting service. Most summers would see us tackling a bushfire of varying intensity on our boundaries. Wet bags, soaked in the cattle troughs and garden rakes were our only available equipment in those days.

"Black Tuesday" on 7th February 1967 was the most terrifying experience of my childhood firefighting experience!

Having been treated to a day at the beach prior to returning to school on the Wednesday, we found ourselves driving through the burning bushland between Lauderdale and Rokeby (against Police advice), past burning houses in Main Road Berriedale through dense smoke to home. On arrival, there was an eerie atmosphere of dense smoke, and winds gusting in every direction!

We had no electricity but, before the phone lines went down, we were able to call our father and eldest brother home from work in town to assist.

When we finally saw the fire approaching the property on four fronts we decided that we would have to concentrate on



Jane pictured with TFS Library Assistant Rebecca Evans

protecting the house, sheds and livestock. What an induction to real firefighting! We lost many historic machinery sheds but managed to save the house, two sheds and all the livestock.

On settling in Molesworth, I was a part-time shift worker who could be available for firefighting when day workers were away, but as a woman, I met with constant resistance to joining the local brigade, however, I eventually broke through the barrier and officially joined the brigade in 1993 after waiting for my husband Bob, to return from the fireground on Mt Faulkner. I was frustrated with making sandwiches etc for the men, and not knowing how they were faring, so when I delivered the next load of refreshments to the station, I went dressed appropriately and said: "Here I am to help on the fireground! Take me on the next truck out!" They did and I have been with them ever since!

I immediately applied for my M/R truck licence and have been an active member, with subsequent election to Leading Firefighter and Third Officer with the Molesworth Brigade.

Working mostly with women, in an indoor setting, I have found a good balance to my life with TFS - working outdoors and alongside mostly men at meetings, training sessions and on the fire ground.

Other interests that keep me occupied in my busy day-to-day life are badminton, four wheel driving, bushwalking and travelling around Australia at every possible opportunity. I have also been an official at the Grande Prix (Melbourne), Targa Tasmania and Saxon/Subaru Safari for the past 10 years.



On The *Move*

A list of recent personnel changes within the Tasmania Fire Service

The following Career Personnel changes have been effected

Departures

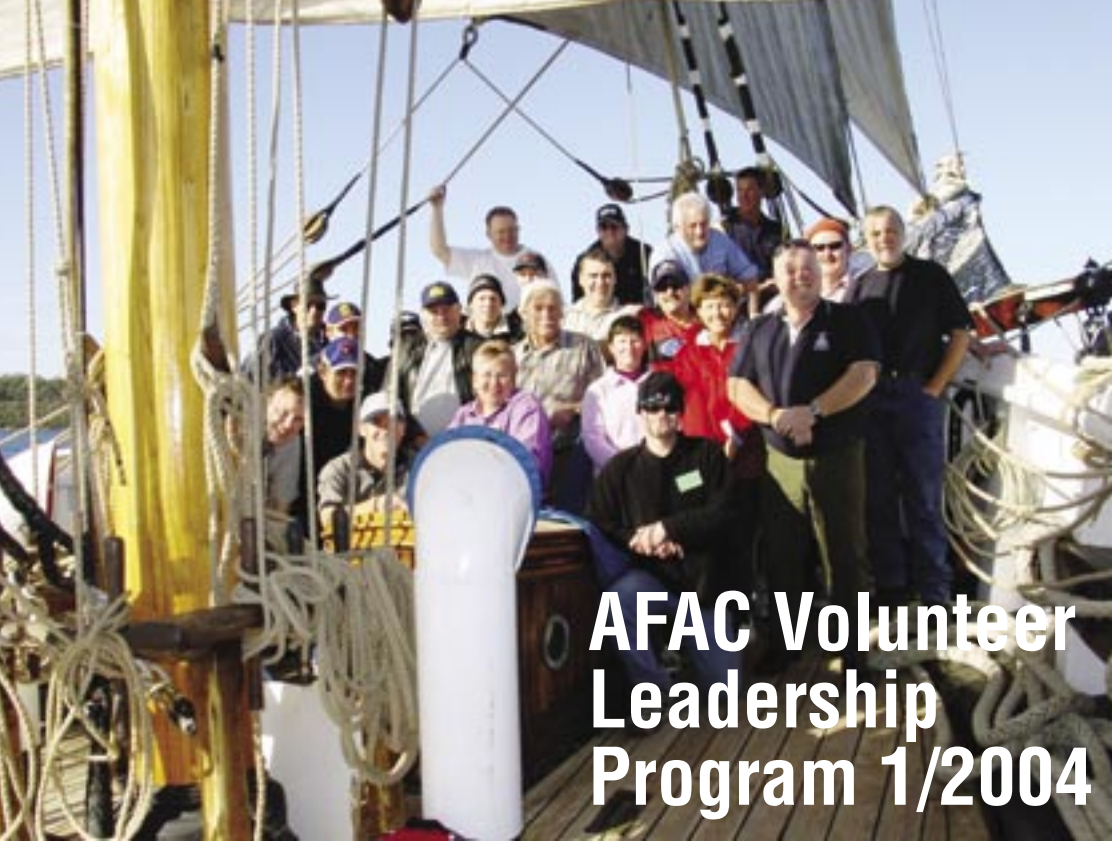
Southern Region	Hill, Roland	Regional Officer	1st July 2004
Hobart Fire Brigade	Burne, Eddie	Station Officer	9th August 2004

Elevations

North West Region	Townsend, Stephen	Field Officer	13th May 2004
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The following Volunteer Brigade Officers have been elected by their Brigades

BRIGADE	OFFICER	APPOINTMENT	BRIGADE	OFFICER	APPOINTMENT
Relbia	Edwin Chugg	Brigade Chief	Naracoopa	Carl Larsen	Brigade Chief
	Greg Wise	Second Officer		Neil Graham	Second Officer
	James Langdon	Third Officer		Denzil Ferguson	Third Officer
	Walter Bertram	Fourth Officer	Weymouth	Justin Widdowson	Brigade Chief
Wynyard	Bruce Corbett	Brigade Chief	Winkleigh	Tim Hooper	Brigade Chief
	Max Diprose	Second Officer		David Jarman	Second Officer
	Brian Willcox	Third Officer		Alan Broomby	Third Officer
	Trenton Poke	Fourth Officer		Michael Breen	Fourth Officer
Kingston	Faron Wall	Second Officer	North Motton	Robert Marshall	Brigade Chief
	Brian Wylie	Third Officer		Gregory Davies	Second Officer
	Nick Maxwell	Fourth Officer		Gary Gilling	Third Officer
Campania	Darren Grice	Brigade Chief		Peter Good	Fourth Officer
	Barry Mayne	Second Officer	Rossarden	Arthur Whitehead	Brigade Chief
	John Brown	Third Officer		Mark Carr	Second Officer
	Simon Tapp	Fourth Officer	Lenah Valley	Brendan Johnstone	First Officer
Barton	William Skerritt	Second Officer	Shepherd Dobson	Second Officer	
	Ken Arnold	Third Officer	Perth	Shane Thomson	Second Officer
Ulverstone	Noel Woodhouse	Brigade Chief		Steve O'Byrne	Fourth Officer
	Robert Cunningham	Second Officer	Maydena	Russell Lowery	Brigade Chief
	Phillip Hubbard	Third Officer		Todd Boxall	Second Officer
	Shannon Eade	Fourth Officer		Michael Apted	Third Officer
Lauderdale	Paul Baker	Third Officer	Ellendale	Patrick Ransley	Brigade Chief
	Nathan Woolley	Fourth Officer		Nathan Ransley	Second Officer
Rowella	Phillip Bassett-Cowen	Brigade Chief		Anthony Donaghy	Third Officer
	Ron Mitchell	Second Officer	Tullah	Ken French	Brigade Chief
	Greg Barnett	Third Officer		Alan Hennessy	Second Officer
	Douglas Fraser	Fourth Officer		Gregory Blake	Third Officer
St Marys	Michael Aulich	Brigade Chief		Huonville	Grant Woolley
	Harry Nolan	Second Officer	Collinsvale		Tim Douglas
	Michael Spilsbury	Third Officer		John Anderson	Fourth Officer
	Grant Faulkner	Fourth Officer			



AFAC Volunteer Leadership Program 1/2004

By State Secretary TRVFA, Firefighter Brighton Fire Brigade, Mathew Philpott

On the 11th of May I received an email along with other members of the TRVFA asking us to think about who we thought would be appropriate to send to Sydney for a Volunteer Leadership Program (VLP) sponsored by the Australasian Fire Authorities Council (AFAC) to be held at the Australian Institute of Police Management (AIPM) in Sydney. I read the nomination form and course outline and thought it would be a very challenging course for the right candidate, and to be perfectly honest I probably forgot about it after reading the very next email, as I sometimes do.

It wasn't until sometime at the beginning of July when I was preparing for our association's AGM that I re-read the email that I thought about it again. Our AGM was held on the 4th of July and Bruce Corbett spoke during the meeting about the VLP and it was then that I first got a glimpse as to how good the course was - the "promotional" material didn't, by my interpretation of Bruce's glowing account, do the course justice. Nominations for the TRVFA's representative were called for and I was honoured to be nominated.

The very next battle I faced was securing time off work as I have only just changed jobs - I presented the idea to my boss, the next day I had the required time off - thanks Boss!

4th August - Leon King and myself both flew out of Tassie on the respective "redeye puddle jumpers" for each end of the Island bound for Melbourne where we met up and had a brief time to get to know each other a bit better before jumping on the next plane to Sydney. Upon arrival we then jumped in a cab for the 40 odd minute drive to the AIPM in Manly.

We realised we had a very wide spread group of attendees some 23 volunteers from all states and one territory (ACT) representing 16 Fire and/or Emergency Services. At 1200hrs we had a welcome address from the Executive Director of AIPM Mr Jim Hann who went to great lengths to make us feel welcome, this was followed by Faculty Manager Somer Taylor

taking us through some house-keeping making sure all the i's were dotted and the t's crossed as far as the information which we were required to provide to the Institute prior to our arrival was accurate. Tom Rogers, Director of Professional Development (a very animated character) required us to do a questionnaire on ourselves relating to our perception of our character, which was forwarded to an outside organisation for assessment (more on this later). Next was lunch and what a lunch it was! There was a suggestion by Tom Rogers that the three-week Police courses that they conduct here are regarded as 4 kilo courses dubbed as the "Manly Experience" - I presume this to be an understatement, either that or they must exercise vigorously and regularly!

After lunch Tom Rogers took us through the course's objectives which included decision making skills; delegation skills; discovery of personal style; gaining of confidence; gaining of knowledge; goal setting; implementation of succession planning; leadership skills; networking; public relations; public speaking; and understanding of internal politics. Networking he added would be something we would do naturally as we got to know one another and was not to be underestimated as a future resource, having now completed the course I couldn't agree more.

At the conclusion of afternoon tea Shane Fitzsimmons AFSM a visiting AFAC Fellow (yes they do use this terminology) on secondment from the NSW RFS (he's actually one of the Assistant Commissioners) led us through introductions of the individuals where we had to in a minute describe who we were, where we are from, what we do for a living etc. Project briefs came next with the group being split into syndicate teams determined by the colour of the name badges provided, each syndicate was then told that we had to deliver a twenty minute presentation on Sunday morning on topics drawn from a hat including valuing individuals; conflict resolution; crew resource management; managing the gift

of time and others. At 1700hrs we had a briefing from Mr David Ruckert the Facilities Manager in regard to the layout of the facilities at AIPM and services provided including dry cleaning, laundry service, personal accounts accrued (i.e. bar tabs- for those who had time to drink in the magnificently appointed "Senior Common Room" - think "old boys club" complete with timber panelling, it looked like something out of an English spy movie!)

1730hrs bought about the pre-dinner drinks before the magnificent silver-service coat and tie formal dinner including a guest speaker namely Mr Mark Crowweller AFSM Assistant Commissioner NSW Rural Fire Service.

5th August - The day started off as what would become usual, an encouraged walk to see the sights starting at approx 0630hrs lasting for an hour to an hour and a half - then the reward, a fine cooked breakfast fit for a king! I was starting to think about 4 kilos in a week! At 0900 we had the start of what was to become another "usual", our reflections period where we would discuss a topic which generally took us back to the day's subject matter and also introduced a smaller topic/technique for consideration/conversation or implementation this was facilitated by Professional Development Consultant Mr Mark Wall.

After this we were taken through the subject of Media and Communication by a very jovial character by the name of Bill Dowsett, who has worked throughout the world in just about all forms of popular media. Bill had an amazing ability to entertain as well as teach you without you even knowing it. His main aim was to teach us techniques and the "tricks" of the media so as to help us when we as volunteers are "confronted" by the media often at the most inopportune time.

After lunch we went to the AIPM's library where we learnt how to access the research information we would require for our presentation on Sunday - a large thank you to the library ladies. The AIPM library's website (<http://library.aipm.gov.au/>) is a very handy resource full of search engines, government sites, fire service links etc.

Mr Todd France then took us through the IT resources available to us at the AIPM including something most of us had never seen before - MIMIO which is basically a scanner/handwriting tool for whiteboard information to be transferred directly onto a computer word recognition included.

At 1530hrs we were set loose to start our respective projects. 1800hrs bought about another formal dinner with Shane Fitzsimmons giving a speech on 'Leadership in Emergency Services'. Upon the conclusion of the dinner we were once again back at work on our projects, bedtime was quite late!

6th August - Friday started off very similar to Thursday, walk, breakfast, "reflections" although this time with Jim Hann. At 0900hrs we were introduced to Mr Stuart Ellis AM. Stuart was a high-ranking officer in the army including some time on the board of inquiry into the Blackhawk tragedy, and he is the immediate past CEO in South Australia. Stuart's style of presenting was very entertaining, extremely honest, and at times hilarious!

At 1315hrs we boarded a bus for a trip into the city, as with last year's course that Bruce Corbett and Ian Gabites attended we were about to do the Svanen, Shackleton at the IMAX, and China Town triple lasting some 8 hours of what might be confused as recreation time, but as with everything on this program there was of course a reason Saturday's "reflections".

7th August - you guessed it walk, breakfast and "reflections" this time focusing on the Shackleton documentary, his style confidence - some, myself included, would argue his foolhardiness, his unflappable optimism, and his courage (courage and stupidity there's a fine line sometimes). In Shackleton's defence he lived in a vastly different time, one where honour was gained by being the first to do something on a magnificent scale, it is also worth remembering he was beaten to the south pole by not one but two different parties so therefore his desperation to succeed would have been mighty strong.

At 0900hrs it was "Time Management Index" time when we got our results back from our self-assessment questionnaire I wouldn't like to give too much away to anyone who might have a chance to do this but what I will say is that it was an extremely rewarding experience to be able to see how other people perceive you, as Shane Fitzsimmons said of his assessment it was as though someone had been following him around for the last thirty years! The process itself was quite simple they gave you a questionnaire and you had to answer it honestly, with two possible answers both at opposite ends of the spectrum (white vs. black) where if you agreed with one strongly you gave it a value of 2 and the disagreed side you gave a value of 0, just to confuse you a bit more if you had a harder time differentiating between the two you could assign a value of 2 to 1 and with this information over some sixty questions they were believe it or not able to give in my particular case a very close snapshot of my personality, as scary as that may seem! The results came back in what could be best described as a publication quality booklet, which everyone agreed, would be good reading when we got a chance to.

1045hrs we once again were facilitated by Mr Mark Wall who gave us a brief introduction to the Blackhawk helicopter



disaster in which eighteen army personnel perished (both SAS and flight crew). We watched the award winning Four Corners episode that examined the tragedy and then we as a class had a group discussion on what went wrong (with the benefit of 20/20 hindsight). Needless to say the story was both intriguing and bone chilling at the same time.

1230hrs - lunch! - I don't want to think about kilos.

At 1330hrs we were introduced to the Visiting Military Fellow Lt. Col. Warwick Jones who led us through a theoretical look at decision-making.

1500hrs bought about a fun team building activity, done in our syndicate groups, we had several practical leadership tasks: - there was the "Acidic Manly River Crossing", the "blind as a bat tent erecting exercise", the "No challenge", the "priorities challenge/towel challenge" (the towel challenge in particular had the visiting Police Fellow from WA in stitches), and last but not least the "Observation Exercise" all incredibly good fun, laughs aplenty and of course lessons to be learnt.

Sometime after 1630hrs we broke for our syndicate presentation work again. 1800hrs - dinner served, after dinner it was back to the books or recreation time depending on which team you were in and whether you thought you could afford a night off.

8th August - final day. Walk, breakfast NO reflections it was back into the syndicate groups for last minute additions to the presentations, rehearsals etc

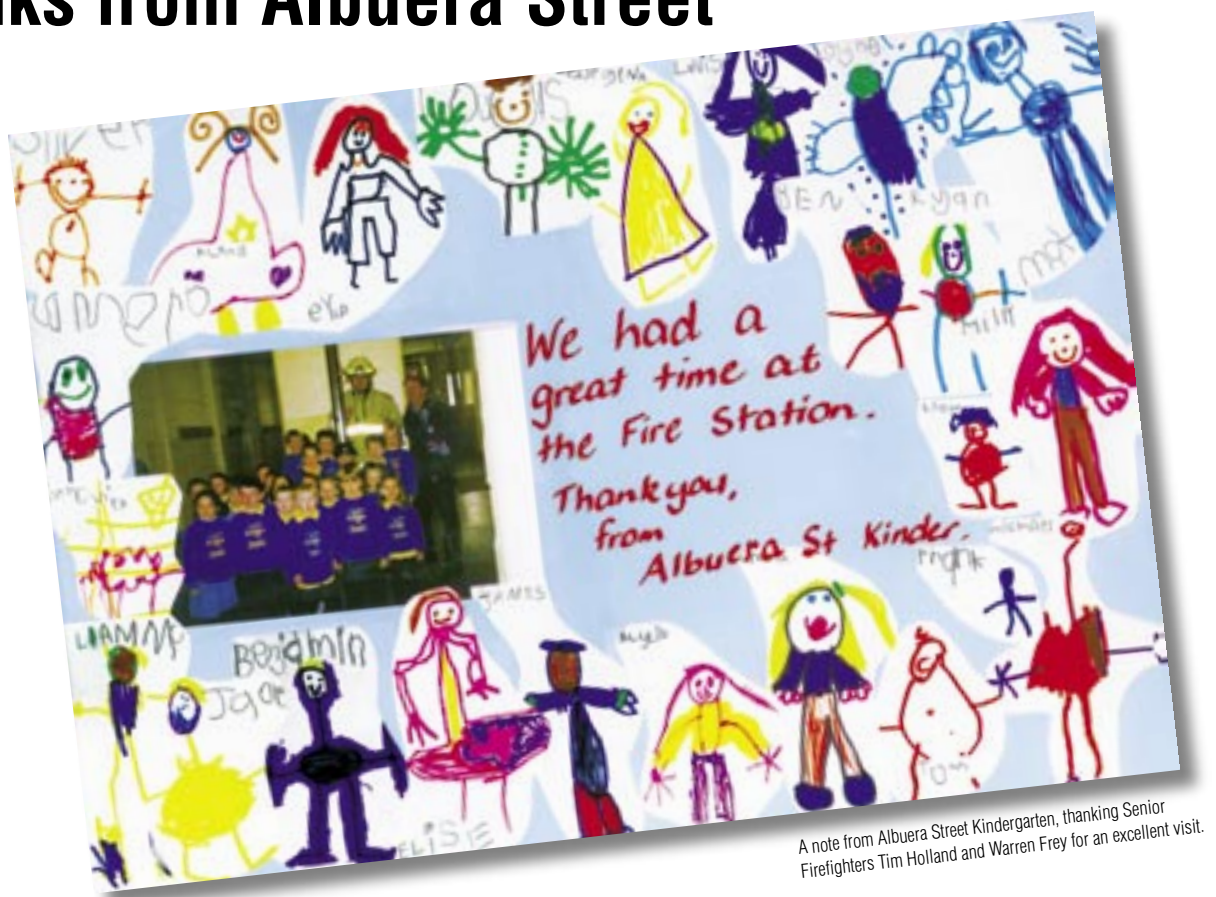
1000hrs - crunch time! Project presentations. Our syndicates were drawn from a hat to determine starting order (Team Blue - my team drew 4th out of 5 teams, nice result I thought) All presentations were of I believe an exceptional standard - given that we had a title only to build from. The course facilitators seemed to concur as they gave their reviews. The presentations varied from a "lecture" style format, information session, role play and PowerPoint presentation or a combination of the lot! There was plenty of humour thrown in for good measure as well.

1230hrs was to be a sad occasion when we realised it was to be our last in a long line of top quality meals provided by the fantastic staff in the AIPM's kitchens, thanks ladies and gents, only one problem how to shed the 4ish kilos! The BBQ was followed by certificate presentations by Mr Jim Hann.

1330hrs photos were taken, hugs were given, goodbyes said, promises to keep in touch were made.

In closing I would like to thank in no particular order: - the TRVFA for their faith in me, The State Fire Commission for the financing of the course, Chief Officer John Gledhill and Manager Human Resources Robyn Pearce for supporting my nomination, Margaret Kean for her as usual tireless efforts in ensuring it was as easy as possible to get to Sydney, Leon "Butch" King for being, well, entertaining! AFAC for having faith in such a program, and finally the facilitators, guest speakers, Shane Fitzsimmons for baby sitting us, and everyone at the AIPM for making us feel so completely at home during our stay.

Thanks from Albuera Street





NORTHERN SUBURBS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Owned and operated by Christian Schools Tasmania
ABN 53 009 481 485

PO Box 103
Bridgewater 7030
Phone: (03) 6263 4733
Fax: (03) 6263 4722
Email: nscs@cst.tas.edu.au

"We Serve a Risen Saviour."

20th July 2004

Teresa Banman
Tasmania Fire Service
GPO Box 1526
HOBART TAS 7001

Dear Teresa Banman

Thank you for sending Barry Blackwell to our school to speak to the students about the Fire Safety Awareness program. The children found the information brilliant and very challenging, which then got them thinking and discussing issues about fire safety.

Barry was good at balancing the stories, and it was done without cutting the students off. The fire awareness program was also helpful to parents and staff, where questions were answered correctly and efficiently. It was obvious that Barry believes and is dedicated in his work, and this was shown to the students, staff and parents.

I would like to suggest a feedback form with tick the boxes and a space to comment – as it is a quick way to respond to a great programme.

Enclosed are some pictures that the younger grades drew about a week after Barry was here, they still remembered what was said and put it into a picture for him.

Yours sincerely

Christine Woolley (Mrs)
Head of School

"HE HAS RISEN ... AS HE SAID" *Matthew 28:6*

Chief Officer
Tasmania Fire Service
Cnr Argyle and Melville St.
HOBART TAS 7000

Kingston Primary School
Church St.
KINGSTON TAS 7050

Dear Sir,

We are writing to thank you for allowing our children to visit the fire station. We would particularly like to thank Peter Dart and the other fire fighters who gave up their time to make this such a valuable learning experience for students involved. We felt the presentation was well suited to small children and was really enjoyed by all.

Our visit promoted much discussion at school and children were able to recall information, applying it to their work.

We thank you for supporting our educational program and helping our children understand more about community helpers.

Yours sincerely

Andrea Harrold and Melissa Wilson
Kindergarten Teachers



Steven Driessen
23 Knights Rd
Huonville
Tas, 7109
0417502899

Monday 19th April 2004

Nick Masters /Andrew Lyons
Tas. Fire Equipment
83 Argyle Street
7000

Dear Nick Masters, Andrew Lyons and the crew at Tas Fire Equipment,

I would like to thank you for providing me with work experience in your company. The staff were very helpful and took their time to help me understand what they do at Tas. Fire Equipment. I would really like to thank those who took me on the road and in the workshop and any one else who made me feel welcome, especially Daniel, Michael, Charlie and Andrew.

I learnt a great deal about fire extinguishers and the expectations required for the job. This has helped me sort out what particular area of work I would like to pursue as a career and the kind of company I would like to work for.

I would like to further my experience in this field and it would be a pleasure if you would consider me for any casual, weekend or holiday positions that may become available in the future. I enjoyed my time with your company and gained a great deal from your experience.

Yours sincerely,

Steven Driessen

Linda Lacy

From: Worthington, Alison, VF-AU [alison.worthington@vodafone.com.au]
Sent: Thursday, 13 May 2004 4:25 PM
To: fire
Subject: Many, many, many, many thanks! ATT: Chief Officer - Southern Region

Dear Sir or Madam,

Tonight will mark 1 month since a fire on my property in Blackmans Bay destroyed my shed in the early hours of the morning.

I am writing to express my extreme gratitude to Tasmania Fire Service for the timely response to my neighbours call to 000 for help when she first saw flames escaping the roof of the shed.

I'm not sure of the exact timing of events, but from the time I woke and also dialled 000 I was assured the fire crew was only minutes away. I was more than grateful when 2 firetrucks soon arrived because the fire was threatening my house and my neighbours shed.

The professionalism with which the firefighting crew then set to work was beyond fault. I had, thankfully, never before been witness to an out of control fire like this and it was a great relief to see your very competent colleagues get the fire under control while at the same time ensuring the safety of those around them.

It wasn't until some hours later that I realised the crew in attendance were volunteers! I just can't express in words how much I appreciate their generosity of time and dedication to the safety of the community by serving us in this way.

Could you please pass my thanks on to the crew that attended, who were from Kingston and lead, I believe, by Mal Conway and assure them that their efforts will not be forgotten.

Sincerely,
Alison Worthington



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GET THEM OUT ALIVE.**
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www.fire.tas.gov.au

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