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Cover photo: Southern Region Conference. Photographer: Senior Firefighter Warren Frey.
As I write it’s the week prior to Christmas and we are just about to declare our fire permit period. The weather conditions have been (in most areas) a little wetter than normal but the Bureau of Meteorology is predicting a warmer than average period through until March. Who really knows what that will mean for our bushfire season? Perhaps the risk will be ‘relatively average’, but let’s put that into context.

Tasmania (in fact all of south-eastern Australia) rates as one of the most fire prone areas on earth. We have experienced major bushfire events throughout history with records showing 1832, 1854, 1897, 1967 and 2006 as being particularly ‘bad’ years and involving, in some cases, the loss of multiple lives and properties.

We also need to remember that even in the ‘relatively average’ years, we can still experience bad fire weather conditions and declare two or three days of total fire ban.

When we talk of a ‘relatively average’ season we need to also be mindful that bushfire losses don’t generally occur over the duration of a summer season or over the breadth of the entire Tasmanian landscape. The major losses occur over just a few hours on the Black Saturday, Ash Wednesday or Black Tuesday type extreme weather fire event.

Even on the ‘relatively average’ outlook years we always need to be ready for the big event as those few hours will be when our training, planning, interagency arrangements and operational systems will be tested.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your presence and keen participation at both the Regional Conferences and the District Pre-Season Briefings. In all honesty both the Deputy Chief Officer and I really enjoy these opportunities for catching-up with all members across the State.

I look forward to seeing and working with you through 2012.

Michael Brown
Chief Officer

This issue of Fireground includes several stories on significant operational incidents that occurred in 2011; summaries of the regional conferences; information from Human Services on the revised and recently formalised TFS Values; the roll-out of the enthusiastically received Fireline Leadership course and brigade stories on comprehensive training exercises held over 2011. Also included is a story from Communications on using the GPS data on the new radios; a wrap-up on the State Championships; and stories on award and medal presentations.

Many articles were received for this issue on recent charity and fundraising work performed by our members. It has been extremely heart-warming to read of the compassionate and committed spirit in which our members have volunteered their time and rolled-up their sleeves to help those in need!

Also included in this issue is a Next of Kin Emergency Contact Line Card with a phone number for family members to call should a TFS member be injured on duty. This provides a mechanism for family members to be kept informed of the situation involving their loved one in a timely manner.

Please continue to send in your articles and photos for Fireground as events occur. Please remember that photos must be high resolution for publishing, so avoid compressing them or embedding them in Word documents. If you have a large quantity of photos, please consider burning them to disc and posting them in.

We would also like your feedback on Fireground. Are we covering the topics you want to read? Do you have any special requests?

Please send your suggestions, comments, articles, photos, award details, etc. to:

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Email: fireground@fire.tas.gov.au
Recently the ‘A shift’ crew from Rocherlea were paged to a hazmat fuel spill involving the chemical trichloroethylene at the ACL Bearing Plant. Trichloroethylene is primarily used as a solvent to remove grease from metal parts. It is a central nervous system depressant and has been used in the past as an anaesthetic for surgery, therefore inhalation by our firefighters is best avoided.

A great tool to utilise when responding to this call was the Dangerous Goods – Initial Emergency Response Guide. Here’s how we applied the Six Steps to Emergency Response at ACL Bearing.

**Raise the alarm**
Hazmat jobs by their very nature cannot be rushed however initially this one seemed to happen at an extremely fast pace. By the time Rocherlea booked on to say ‘Responding’ it was time to give the arrival message (the ACL plant is basically opposite the Rocherlea Station) only to be met by an extremely efficient FireComm asking if we were ready to receive the Hag codes.

The crew jumped out of the truck to be met by the manufacturing manager who informed us that a tank containing 1200 litres of trichloroethylene had a hole in the heater element casing and was leaking. At this point a decision was made to activate a Launceston crew and seek some specialist advice namely an industrial chemist.

**Secure the area**
An isolation zone was set up and an evacuation point had already been established with its location being ideal – upwind and uphill.

Hazmat jobs by their very nature cannot be rushed however initially this one seemed to happen at an extremely fast pace.
Approach with care
Further information gathering revealed that the leak was unlikely to be capped or plugged. The run-off was going into an open drain inside the building and then into an underground drain eventually leading to a 10,000 litre pit which was approximately two thirds full. Because one of the main hazards was the chemical’s explosive nature when mixed with air, a judgement was made to cut-off the electricity.

Identify products
The ramifications of cutting off the electricity meant that the ventilation would cease to the building. This became an issue as some hydrochloric acid baths needed to have their lids replaced if the ventilation system was to be closed down.

Assess the situation
After receiving information from FireComm that an industrial chemist was not available, we managed to talk to a representative from the Environmental Protection Authority. Dry decontamination was the best method to decontaminate however the intricacy of the building meant it was almost impossible to gather up sand/soil again. Because the run-off was contained we decided to decontaminate using water (again based on information from specialist contacts that although this is not the preferred method, it was still acceptable).

Respond
Finally two firefighters wearing breathing apparatus and chemical splash suits entered the building where they replaced the lids to the hydrochloric baths and wet decontaminated the chemical. Workplace Standards was notified and they oversaw an aeration process of the pit to eventually decontaminate it.

Operational analysis
One of the outcomes and lessons learnt from this incident was that support in the way of specialist advice was limited. As a result, a formalised relationship in regards to this area is being explored with the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board (MFB – Melbourne). If formalised it is hoped that this can be disseminated statewide.

Another lesson learnt from this incident was that the latest chemical data was not readily accessible. Given this, a recommendation has been made to research alternate methods for accessing and storing hazmat information so that it can be accessed on-site and the TFS continues to move forward in this area.

During a post incident debrief with ACL management we were informed that the heater element had shorted causing it to break and drop down onto the metal casing. This sequence consequently caused the element to act like a welder and blow a hole in the casing. Believing this was a rare phenomenon, imagine the surprise when, about a week later, the pager went off for ‘A shift’ Rocherlea to respond to a hazmat fuel spill involving the chemical trichloroethylene at the ACL Bearing plant! This second call was due to a malfunction in the recommissioning of the system after repairs had been carried out but the spill was of a much less quantity and was dealt with quickly and efficiently by ACL staff and the responding crews. RM

State Fire Commission Annual Report
By Executive Officer Policy and Research, Jess Brown

The 2010-11 State Fire Commission Annual Report is now available to be downloaded from the TFS website (Publications>Annual Reports). Previous versions of the Annual Report dating back to 1999-00 are also available.

This year’s Annual Report continues on the similar theme, layout and presentation as previous years however this is our first annual report that meets our new corporate style guide requirements (for font used and revised logo).

Last year we reported that we were no longer going to provide hard copies of the Annual Report to our members due to the costs involved. Supply was therefore most likely going to be in a CD format. However the tendering process revealed that by the time we produce hard copies for Parliament and the National Library of Australia in order to meet our statutory requirements, it was just as cost effective to include hard copies for our members.

For those who are seeking to read the Annual Report and do not have access to the internet, please contact your Regional Office and they will be able to provide you with a printed copy.
What a Blast in Queenstown!
By Fourth Officer Queenstown Brigade, Robert Butterfield

On 19 April 2011, Queenstown residents awoke to the aftermath of one of the largest blazes in the town for many years. Firefighters from brigades all over the West Coast had been battling a blaze that they were alerted to at around 2 am. A fire believed to be deliberately lit was burning furiously out of control at the site of Beswick Mechanical, formerly the BP service station in McNamara Street.

There was a huge explosion shortly after the brigade’s initial arrival. The blast sent out a huge shockwave causing windows to break in the Empire Hotel.

Queenstown Brigade Chief Bill Tiddy was one of many residents awoken by the sound of things going bang in the night before the pager was activated; the fire had taken a massive hold before the brigade was alerted to it.

Appliances and firefighters from Queenstown, Strahan, Zeehan, Rosebery, Tullah and Burnie turned up to help fight the blaze. The fire appliance from Copper Mines of Tasmania was also provided to assist in the early stages while trucks and crews were arriving from other towns.

There was a huge explosion shortly after the brigade’s initial arrival. The blast sent out a huge shockwave causing windows to break in the Empire Hotel, Mount Lyell Motor Inn and Gumley’s store, covering the footpaths in glass and anyone that was in the way. Glasses and bottles also rattled off the shelves at the Empire Hotel.

After a huge effort from all involved, the blaze was eventually brought under control and extinguished. The damage caused by the fire was extensive but if it wasn’t for the skill and dedication of the firefighters, the damage could have been many times worse, possibly losing up to a quarter of the buildings in the main street. Todd Beswick Mechanical and Patrick Dixons Hose Doctor premises were totally destroyed, and the Miners Crib Room was extensively damaged along with the clothes shop next door. The Queenstown Pharmacy suffered damage caused by smoke, water and the fire, Queenstown Gifts and Souvenirs suffered the total loss of a timber shed and workshop close to the rear of BP and their shop in Orr Street suffered major smoke damage.

Crews from Queenstown State Emergency Service (SES), Ambulance Tasmania and Tasmania Police were also on the scene. SES crews provided traffic control and lighting to the scene and much appreciated coffee and biscuits.

Queenstown Brigade would like to thank all West Coast brigades for their quick response and much needed assistance, and especially “A” shift from Burnie Brigade (Nick, Graeme, John and especially Dean for his 1hr50 driving skills). RB
What Have We Done?
Last year we surveyed all members to get your views on the TFS Values – thanks for your responses! We have listened to you and chosen these TFS Values based on your suggestions:

**SERVICE**

**PROFESSIONALISM**

**INTEGRITY**

**CONSIDERATION**

The words on their own are open to all sorts of meanings, so we’ve also created a few short statements (based on your responses) to explain what they mean to TFS.

We’ve sought feedback on those statements from representatives from all areas of TFS. Now it’s time for you to work out *what they mean to you*.

So What?
Values are the *beliefs and attitudes* that guide ‘what we do’ and ‘how we do it’.

It’s important for TFS to have a set of values because:

- TFS Values determine our *culture*.
- TFS Values clarify what we are expected to *stand for* as members.
- TFS Values set general principles for *behaviours* without being too prescriptive.
- TFS Values set the *image* we want to portray to the community.
- TFS Values allow you to decide whether *your values fit* the organisation’s.
- TFS Values set the foundations for the *TFS Leadership Framework*.

TFS will not try to tell you what your own personal values should be, but you need to assess whether yours match the organisation’s and you can work with them. You are expected to demonstrate the TFS Values through your actions whenever you are operating as a TFS member.

Adopting the TFS Values will contribute to an organisation where you are treated well, feel safe and are proud to be a member.

Now What?
The new values will not be hidden in a dusty drawer – you will see them all over the place. They’ll be spread through posters, articles, presentations, workshops and the intranet. They will be incorporated into our policies, procedures and systems such as recruitment, operations, resolution, training and development.

We’ll run workshops and focus groups to discuss and agree on what these values mean in terms of actions and behaviours in your TFS workplaces. That is: what will we do (and what won’t we do) to put the TFS Values into practice?

As the TFS Values spread, we all need to be prepared to be (reasonably) held accountable to them in any forum. Then we’ll know they’re working! SW

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### TFS VALUES

#### Service

**We value:**

- Serving the Tasmanian community
- Being responsive to community needs
- Being progressive and delivering quality services

#### Professionalism

**We value:**

- Dedication and pride in our organisation
- Being skilled, efficient, committed and innovative
- Using our collective capabilities to deliver an excellent service
- Being accountable for our actions

#### Integrity

**We value:**

- Being trustworthy and ethical
- Treating each other fairly and honestly
- Having the courage to do the right thing

#### Consideration

**We value:**

- Each other
- Working together to achieve our goals
- Treating each other with respect and understanding
- Being supportive, compassionate and helping each other

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By Coordinator Organisational Development, Steve Willing
“I’ve been on a lot of leadership courses, and that’s the best scenario I’ve ever seen”, said Gavin with a wry smile.

Our Deputy Chief Officer participated in TFS’s first Fireline Leadership program and is convinced that it has enormous benefit for our people and the organisation. Chief Officer Mike Brown attended the second program and echoed Gavin’s thoughts.

We’ve run seven Fireline Leadership programs since April and the feedback has been excellent (with some good suggestions for refining it). Comments from participants include:

- “… by far one of the best and ENERGISED courses I’ve attended in a very long time.”
- “Awesome course. The instructors set the course up for me, made me sit up and listen, they really know what they’re saying and have done the doing.”
- “Content excellent. Just the right pitch for the level it is aimed at.”
- “… excellent, credible instructors…”
- “Great training and fantastic to see the investment in leadership for the TFS.”
- “Brilliant – learned lots and can’t wait to use the new knowledge.”
- “A fantastic course, keeps you interested and thinking. Puts you outside the box and out of your comfort zone. Excellent.”
- “… beneficial for any job, and life in general.”

Fireline Leadership Takes Off!

By Coordinator Organisational Development, Steve Willing

“…beneficial for any job, and life in general.”

The Fireline Leadership program is a life skills course set in an emergency service context. It was chosen to support our volunteer and career leadership development as it tackles leadership in the workplace and on the fireground (and in our personal lives). We plan to roll it out over the next few years.
It is the most tested and refined leadership development program available in the industry today. It’s been delivered widely across the USA and Australian fire agencies.

The whole program is immersed in one long scenario in an imaginary country (“Costa Ricardo”) which involves you and brings the content into reality. There are no assessments.

It’s presented by full-time instructors who have lead teams in high-risk operations. They’re supported by experienced TFS staff on each program.

The Fireline Leadership program is targeted at:

- Volunteer Brigade Officers,
- Station Officers and
- Supervisors.

District Officers, managers and senior managers will also attend so they can support your learnings back in your brigade/workplace. Attending with other leaders from your work group will also support your learning.

We’ve offered a number of formats – 5 days straight, consecutive weekends, alternate weekends. While this is a big commitment, participants reckon it’s worthwhile. In some areas, word has got around and people are lining up (as they do in CFA and other agencies).

I also attended the first course and agree with Gavin. It was valuable, relevant and engaging – we had a blast!

We’ve come to the end of our first season, but more programs will be run next winter – talk to your DO/manager about booking a place.

Hasta la vista - see you in ‘Costa Ricardo’. SW
Fire Safety for the Hearing Impaired and a Sustainable Fire Truck Replacement program were presented with the prestigious Industry Award at Australasia’s Premier Emergency Management Conference in Sydney. Quinlan Webster and Leon Smith were each presented with the prestigious Laurie Lavelle Achiever of the Year Award at the joint Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) and Bushfire CRC conference New World, New Thinking in Sydney, 29 August - 1 September 2011.

Quinlan, Senior Station Officer for the New Zealand Fire Service, was presented the award in recognition of his outstanding achievements in advocating and improving fire safety and awareness for the Deaf and hearing impaired through programs and projects in these communities. Of significance has been Quinlan’s development of the Emergency ‘111’ Deaf Text Service, providing the Deaf and hearing impaired community access to the emergency services. Quinlan has appeared on the Deaf Aotearoa’s website promoting the ‘111’ Deaf Text Service, written articles for online print and magazines, and conducted workshops for deaf people and deaf people with other disabilities, providing them with practical fire safety advice.

The New Zealand Fire Service has been publicly acknowledged for Quinlan’s work with two major awards; the ‘Public Service Award’ from the Deaf Aotearoa and the ‘Excellence in Working Together’ award at the 2011 Institute of Public Administration Excellence Awards.

Leon, Manager Engineering Services at TFS, has been recognised for his pivotal role in the development of the TFS’s rolling and sustainable quality fire truck replacement program, resulting in other member agencies seeking Leon and TFS’s assistance in the design and building of fire trucks.

The Laurie Lavelle Achiever of the Year Award was introduced in 1997 to recognise individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to emergency services. The award was named after Laurie Lavelle, OAM, a long-standing former Chief Fire Officer of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board and inaugural CEO of AFAC, in recognition of his lifelong commitment to emergency services in Australasia.

Alan McDougall, State Emergency Management Training Officer with the South Australian State Emergency Service, was also honoured the Highly Commended Award for his central role in the training of hundreds of South Australians in the key principles of emergency management, including emergency risk management.

Congratulations again to Quinlan, Leon and Alan for their outstanding service and commitment to the emergency services.

AFAC’s annual conference was held at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour, Australia. The next conference will be in Perth, Australia 28-31 August 2012 http://www.afac2012.org/
Noelene Watt was recently promoted to Leading Communications Officer in FireComm effective from 30 September 2011.

Noelene started with the Rural Fire Service in late 1980 at Cambridge as an administration clerk and assisted in the Rural Fire Service’s control room during summer when Southern Region operated from there.

Leon Carr tells us that Noelene quickly took to the radio like a duck to water and the experience she had in aviation (she was a licenced pilot) and living in remote areas of Australia clearly showed through in the natural and amiable radio manner she still possesses today.

Noelene moved from the Southern Region to the Hobart Fire Brigade control room prior to moving to the newly established statewide call taking and dispatch centre, FireComm, as an inaugural member in 1995.

Since that time, Noelene has established herself as an invaluable member of the FireComm team. She has contributed to FireComm and TFS generally through:

- the development and maintenance of the Communications Handbook, which is a valuable reference and training resource not only for FireComm but for the entire TFS;
- assisting in GIS and other mapping systems development;
- the development and maintenance of many of the FireComm redundancy systems;
- working as a Critical Incident Stress Management Contact Officer; and
- representing TFS on a number of committees such as the Uniform Committee, State Consultative Committee and Women in Uniform Services.

In October 2010 the Chief Officer also presented Noelene with a 30 year Long Service Award.

Noelene is a well-respected member of the operational team in TFS, often providing volunteer and career officers with a stable and reassuring voice when they are under pressure. We look forward to Noelene continuing to provide excellent service to TFS and all our stakeholders into the future.

In addition to Noelene’s promotion, State Operations and FireComm staff welcome as permanent employees Tiffany Freeman and Clare Davis. FireComm also welcomes a new face, Michael Jones who is ex-RAAF and is scheduled to start in early November.

After nearly 24 years of service, current South Esk Field Officer, Brett Fazackerley was promoted to the rank of Senior Station Officer. Brett was successful on the recent 2011 Senior Station Officer assessment block held in September at Cambridge.

As a result of that success Brett also fulfilled the requirements under the PSTP to be awarded the Diploma of Public Safety (Fire Fighting Management). Brett will continue in his current role in the South Esk District. From all at TFS, congratulations Brett on your promotion and recent achievements.
The Southern Region Conference was held at the Tasmania Police Academy at Rokeby on Saturday 30 July 2011 with a strong turnout from all brigades.

The conference was held at a time when TFS had experienced, over the previous 12 months, unprecedented levels of activity in responding to, and assisting the community to recover from a number of disastrous events across Queensland, Western Australia and New Zealand which included major floods, cyclones, bushfires and earthquakes.

The conference program was used for the sharing of knowledge and lessons learnt from the deployment of TFS staff, with reports indicating that these were valuable opportunities for everyone that volunteered.

This year, in addition to the normal format, “breakout sessions” were conducted to inform brigades of some of the impending changes that were currently driving the TFS. It appeared that the major interest from brigades was in the sessions ‘Update of Finances’ and the ‘Responsible Use of Alcohol in Brigades’. There were a lot of positives to come out of the discussions in these breakout sessions with encouraging feedback being provided by all participants.

One of the most interesting presentations of the day was ‘Road Accident Scene Management’ presented by Sergeant Rod Carrick.

Photographer: Senior Firefighter Warren Frey.
from the accident investigation unit of the Department of Police and Emergency Management. This topic is of increasing interest to TFS members as our role in Road Crash Rescue continues to expand.

The conference, even though held on the one day, was attended by 230 TFS members, included 18 keynote presentations and three breakout sessions, and provided a Road Crash Rescue display involving Hobart Fire Brigade, Ambulance Tasmania and Tasmania Police.

I’m sure everyone walked away from the conference much the wiser. Congratulations to Rod Sherrin and Kylie Harbottle and their staff on organising such a comprehensive event. SB
Northern Region’s biennial conference was held on Sunday 24 July 2011 at the ‘Boat House’ in Launceston; a modern function centre on the banks of the Tamar River operated by the North Esk Rowing Club.

The conference was attended by over 200 Firefighters and Officers representing some 50 brigades in the Region. As always, it proved a great success in bringing our people together to exchange their ideas and experiences, discuss the many and varied issues that are having, or will have, an influence on our organisation and of course, enjoy the usual level of social interaction.

The conference was opened by Regional Chief Andrew Comer and with our Librarian Helen Richardson chairing the first session, the morning unfolded with an address from Chief Officer Mike Brown followed by a series of presentations by Coordinator Organisational Development Steve Willing, District Officer Mark Dobson and Deputy Regional Chief Jeff Harper respectively on the topical areas of FireLine Leadership, the State Championships and the Interstate/International deployments undertaken by TFS staff this year to Queensland, Western Australia and New Zealand.

This year, for the first time, “Break Out” Sessions were introduced into the program. This pre-lunch activity saw delegates organised into three groups, gather separately in different areas of the venue and participate in facilitated discussion forums. The three topics under discussion were: Finances and Brigades, Alcohol and Brigades, and Flexibility and Brigades. Corporate Services Director Mike Gallagher and Regional Chief Tony Davidson looked after the first two and the third forum was facilitated by a team involving Coordinator Volunteer Strategy Lucas van Rijswijk, Community Development Officer Kerry Sakariassen and Deputy Regional Chief Jeff Harper.

A Plenary Session, guided by Deputy Chief Officer Gavin Freeman, brought together all the ideas and feedback received from these forums, and the information was captured for referencing and informing current and future decision-making. The breakout sessions proved quite popular and there were a lot of positive messages being made by many of the attendees.
As well as the presentations, participants had the opportunity, during the breaks, to browse the many indoor and outdoor displays. Outside stalls included displays of equipment such as Sector Commander and Group Officer Kits, the new breathing apparatus sets, the new road signage, items of interest on show courtesy of the Fire Investigation Unit and the always welcome array of latest fire trucks from Engineering Services – thanks again Alfy. Indoor stalls made information available on the revised Volunteer Handbook, FireLine Leadership, and the TFS Library, as well as providing an opportunity for delegates to update their ID tags and RMS photos.

The afternoon session was chaired by Firefighter Laura Smith of Rocherlea Brigade and she did a fantastic job of introducing speakers and keeping the program on time. The sessions involved a number of aspects of Community Fire Safety and Project Wake Up, Building Fire Safety and Community Protection Planning.

The day finished with an opportunity for question time and the regime for the last few years has been to encourage delegates to write down their queries, place them in the ‘question box’ made available and an Executive Member panel would assemble on stage and respond to those enquiries. A number of questions were posed and, whilst most were answered, there is always one or two issues raised that need to be followed up. Again the commitment is that the matters will be addressed as soon as is reasonably possible.

District Officer Danny Richardson rounded off a very successful day for all participants by conducting the first ever Conference Quiz. A series of questions were asked in order to gauge how well those attending the displays had listened to the stall holders’ comments. If one was attentive to the commentary one would also be able to answer the questions posed by the Master of Ceremonies Danny Richardson. Just a bit of fun of course and, whilst most questions were answered, there was one or two that posed a bit more of a challenge. The audience was divided into four groups, each group holding a different coloured card. The person correctly answering scored a point for their coloured card and the colour with the most points at the end earned a chocolate for everyone in that group. The very last activity was a barbecue on the balcony and with the sun slowly sinking in the west it was a fitting end to a very successful day.

A big thank you to all those who attended, to those who presented and to the very many hands that worked hard behind the scenes to provide the administration required, establish the displays and keep the conference wheels rotating and moving in the right direction. I trust that the day brought its own rewards to each of you. AC

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**International Firefighters’ Day**

By Greg Barnett, IFFD – Australasia

We at International Firefighters’ Day (IFFD) thought it was time to give a bit of a report on what’s been happening. To everyone that has tried accessing the old website and found us selling watches or other products we apologise. An enterprising off-shore company purchased the IFFD address as it was such a heavily visited site. The new website address to bookmark and visit is www.firefightersday.org. All this happened at the same time as the state and federal governments were discussing with the Australian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) supporting the memorial day. Then throw in a new Federal Government, state elections and department head changes and you can see why you may not have heard much on the subject.

But now with AFAC and government supporting the nationally recognised day they only need to consider how to coordinate the recognition/memorial day through Australian fire agencies. The first Sunday in May would be the most convenient for firefighters and is the day of recognition in other countries that have joined us worldwide. May 4th is St Florian’s Day (patron saint of firefighters). The benefit of it being on the first Sunday in May is the ease of getting work colleagues, brigade members and families together for a midday service, seeing that IFFD is not totally a remembrance day for fallen firefighters alone but a day of recognition for all fireies, a time to just say thanks.

Since volunteering my time to IFFD in 1999 my family and I have been involved not only with organising thousands of ribbons to be hand sewn but helping with some events, not all that successful because of numbers, but totally enjoyable and memorable. Over the years, brigades such as Rowella, St Patricks River, Frankford, Karoola, and Bell Bay have given my family and me the honour of joining their Memorial Day services (some of these brigades losing members since said events). Many other Tasmanian brigades have held noon services and still do, however small or large. Some of these services may have only consisted of a couple of members heading to the station and doing the thirty second sound-off followed by a minute’s silence at noon. Others involved truck convoys, barbecues, live music and other entertainment.

No longer being a member of TFS, I personally can still see the importance of the day because as I talk to brigade members and mates I often hear the following: “Did you hear that (so and so) passed away, they’ve been a member here since 1940 before Tas Fire took over” or “Bit a bad luck about (so and so) only twenty something, but a big helper with our brigade and juniors, killed in an accident”. These are the people behind all fire brigades that we need to remember and thank along with, of course, the career fireies themselves. As numbers go, Australasia does not lose many firefighters in action compared to other countries or areas around the world. Overseas the active death numbers are phenomenal through natural disasters, war, public uprising and now terrorism.

If you have any questions, would like more information, or wish to show your support beyond the firefightersday.org website, go to Facebook and add us as a friend or follow us on Twitter. Don’t forget to attach the free IFFD banners or ribbons to your emails and print the 2012 calendar.

My contact details are: Greg (Barney) Barnett IFFD-Australasia, mobile: 0458 697 974, email: Barnett12@optusnet.com.au (subject IFFD). GB
The sequence of natural disasters that unfolded across Queensland from late last year through January and into February is unprecedented within the State’s history. At one stage more than 60 per cent of Queensland was affected by flooding and dozens of lives were lost when a flash flood caused by a storm over Toowoomba swept through the Lockyer Valley, devastating communities such as Murphy’s Creek and Grantham.

The scale of the disaster was huge, roads were cut and bridges and causeways submerged, leaving many towns completely isolated for days and sometimes weeks. For the first time ever, entire communities had to be evacuated as floodwaters took over their streets and homes. Emergency services staff and volunteers and the wider community scarcely had time to take a breath before moving from one location to another.

The township of Murphy’s Creek lies at the bottom of the Toowoomba ranges and on 19 January flooding began between 1.45 pm and 2 pm. A witness who lived at Upper Lockyer, near the townships said that at about 1.47 pm he saw a huge wave of water in the creek breaking in the distance; the force of the approaching water was ripping out trees, submerging cars and flattening homes in its path. The level of the creek rose about 12 metres in 12 minutes. By 2.51 pm, the water level had receded significantly and left a path of destruction and devastation in its wake.

On 19 January, emergency service workers all over Australia watched with horror and trepidation as huge walls of water smashed through Murphy’s Creek, Grantham and other smaller communities within the Lockyer Valley. We were all touched by the sheer volume of devastation and resulting trauma and loss of lives, homes and livelihoods. The volunteer brigades and firefighters in those communities were affected by such losses. Many lost loved ones and brigade members, and their ability to provide support to the communities they serve was impacted by the loss of fire stations, appliances and equipment in the aftermath of the disaster.

In the days that followed the flood in the Lockyer Valley, the size, scale and the impact of the disaster became apparent to firefighters across the country, none more so than the New Norfolk and Relbia Tasmanian fire brigades who had taken it upon themselves to offer a significant donation to a volunteer fire brigade within the Lockyer Valley.

Both New Norfolk and Relbia brigades approached TFS regional management to seek a suitable contact within the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) to determine a brigade that would most benefit from the donation. Deputy Chief Officer Gavin Freeman contacted me and I liaised with the Rural Area Officer of the affected region and determined that Murphy’s Creek Volunteer Fire Brigade would benefit the most from the donations as they lost their fire station, appliances and equipment.

On Saturday 28 May, I (representing New Norfolk and Relbia brigades and Chief Officer Mike Brown) travelled from Townsville to Gatton near Ipswich to attend the South East Region Firefighter Competitions, this is a big event within the region with 20 teams, families and spectators, together with state politicians attending this two day event. During the event, national medals were presented by QFRS Commissioner Lee Johnson together with the generous donations of $1000 from each of the TFS brigades to the Murphy’s Creek Volunteer Fire Brigade.

The Murphy’s Creek members were deeply touched by the donations and asked that I give their sincere thanks and gratitude to the members of both brigades for their support and for thinking of them during their time of need. On behalf of the Murphy’s Creek Volunteer Fire Brigade members and QFRS Commissioner Lee Johnson, I would like to say a sincere and heartfelt thank you to the members of the New Norfolk and Relbia brigades for your tremendous donation and I know that the Murphy’s Creek Fire Brigade will be erecting a thank you plaque to remember your kindness, generosity, thoughtfulness and support.
After seeing and reading about the floods in Queensland, the New Norfolk Brigade members decided to donate some money towards a fellow brigade/unit to enable them to purchase some equipment.

The brigade members wanted to ensure the money was directed to the brigade and not to the Queensland Premier’s appeal. We wanted the money to be given to members of Murphy’s Creek itself and after advising Deputy Chief Gavin Freeman, we were given Queensland Fire and Rescue Service’s (QFRS) Chief Superintendent Steve Barber’s contact details and after many emails it was finally arranged for Steve to personally present the cheque at a competition event similar to our competitions. It was also a time when Isuzu donated a fire appliance to Murphy’s Creek members.

The New Norfolk Brigade members were pleased to be able to donate $1000 towards equipment and PPC which Murphy’s Creek will be able to use as they lost everything in the floods including their station building.

We would also like to thank Chief Officer Mike Brown, Deputy Chief Officer Gavin Freeman and Deputy Regional Chief South Ken Burns for assistance in making this donation and presentation possible. We also thank Chief Superintendent Steve Barber for the countless emails and work to ensure our money was donated to the Murphy’s Creek Brigade at the appropriate time. CT

Members of Murphy’s Creek Brigade being presented with the $1000 donations from New Norfolk and Relbia brigades by Chief Superintendent Steve Barber.
Earlier this year, Senior Firefighter Richard Norris of Hobart Brigade was diagnosed with a rare form of stomach cancer. Richard has been a member of TFS for over 14 years, both as a volunteer and a career firefighter.

Although we could in no way alleviate the physical or emotional stress, his colleagues and friends from both “C” and “B” platoons rallied together to organise some fundraising activities in order to ease some of the financial burden which Richard and his family would no doubt face.

The support we received from not only members of TFS but local businesses and the general public, some of whom have no affinity with Richard or the Fire Service, was overwhelming.

All those people who supported our efforts by attending our quiz night or by donating goods, services or money, please accept our heartfelt thanks.

In September we were able to present Richard and his family with a cheque for $24,000 to help ease the financial strain and allow them to concentrate on beating this illness.

Through changing times it is nice to know that the Fire Service camaraderie is still resilient, and the rallying together to help a mate when he is down is stronger than ever.

Below is a list of individuals and businesses which helped support the fundraising efforts. Please take the time to support them as they have supported us. Although we tried our hardest to keep track of everybody, the support we received was overwhelming and we apologise if we have missed anyone.

AE, SP & DP

Thank you to:

James Boag
Bendigo Bank
King Towbars and Trailers
Freyicent Lodge
The Old Woolstore Apartment Hotel
Prime Industrial Supplies
Hanson Construction Materials Pty Ltd
BWS Rosny
Cricket Australia
Clean Conscience – Tracey Duggan
Pennicott Wilderness Journeys
Vantage Group 911
West Point Tasmania
W.T. House Retravision, Smithton
Hobart Changers
TasFire Equipment
Dowling McCarthy Tyeright
Praties – Jason Johnson
Warren Frey Photography
Clennetts Mitre 10, Kingston
Rebecca Low Photography
Frogmore Creek Tasmania
Coroma
Tradelink
Rheem
Wursthaus
K&D Warehouse
Snowgum
George Auchterlonie Electrical
Clipsal by Schneider Electric
Amare Safety
Quickfire Emergency Management
Kraft Foods
Wicked Weasel
D&W Electrical
Hotel Collins, Hobart
Hotel Charles, Launceston
Adam and Julie Doran
National Australia Bank
WEE R Portable Loos – Adam Meredith
Desire Nails – Nikk Meredith
Drunken Admiral
Geilston Bay Boat Club
Ocean Child Inn
New Sydney Hotel
Office Max
Brighton Hotel Bottleshop
Venon Cricket
911 Brooker
Springvale Wines
Rexel Mornington
Josef Crome Wines
Rexel Mornington
Dymocks
Just Frames, Moonah
Hawthorn Football Club
Geeelong Football Club
Darts Jewellers
Spring Vale Wines
Launceston Fire Brigade
Hobart Fire Brigade
Andrew Colrain
Jarrod Read
Adam Salter
Eddie Ockenden
Mike Brown
Colin Attrill
Richard Onn
Suzanne Bacon
Learning & Development Staff
TFS State Headquarters Staff

25th September 2011
Tasmania Fire Service
Cnr Argyle and Melville Streets
HOBART TAS 7000

Dear Tasmania Fire Service and family,

Please accept our heartfelt thanks for your gift donation. We can’t begin to express what this means to us. The money is most definitely helpful and will go to extremely good use, but more than the monetary value, we so greatly appreciate the thought behind the gift and taking time out of your busy lives to support us in this way. For that especially, we thank you.

We so appreciate your concern, understanding and assistance which gives us the strength to focus on getting through the emotional and physical effects of such an illness like cancer, the lengthy hospital stays, surgery, radiation, ongoing chemotherapy, doctors appointments and tests. This time has been extremely difficult, but knowing we have the support of large-hearted people like you all certainly helps.

We wish to thank everyone who has worked on our house and garden, sent cards and messages of encouragement, went out of their way to visit the hospital and our home.

Please know we will never forget your kind gesture.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,
Richard, Pennie, Imogen and Jess Norris

Offering a Helping Hand
By Senior Firefighter Andrew Emery, Station Officer Stacey Peters and Systems Coordinator Organisational Learning, Debra Pope
Definition - Support means to provide comfort, encouragement or financial assistance to someone (verb).

1. An example of support is listening to a friend in need.
2. An example of support is lending money to a sibling.

I think the above definitions of support pretty well sum up what the TFS Family Support Fund is all about!!

The TFS Family Support Fund can assist all TFS volunteers and staff and their direct family dependants (wife, husband, partner, children) in times of financial hardship due to unforeseen illness or injury. Some examples of when money/vouchers/items from the fund have been utilised to assist are:

- medical expenses for treatment of long term sickness;
- travel expenses to access treatment or be with family members who are receiving treatment;
- funeral expenses;
- trust funds; and
- alterations to homes or purchase of equipment for long term disability/illness.

The future of this fund is dependent on community generosity and each of us making donations to ensure we can help members of the TFS family in the event of a need arising. We have recently received donations from the following groups and individuals – to whom we sincerely thank:

- Rokeby Volunteers: $200
- Hobart Lions Club: $1250
- SHQ fundraising: $80.20
- Rosebery Volunteers: $425
- Carrick Volunteers: $100
- Sisters Beach Volunteers: $300
- Numerous staff and retained volunteers who direct debt.

If you know of someone in your Brigade, Group, District or Region who may be able to benefit from the fund please contact your Regional Staff so they can notify a committee member immediately.

Please support the TFS Family Support Fund, because life can take a cruel and unexpected turn when you very least expect it. MC
In July 2011, five Tasmanians deployed to East Timor to donate equipment and deliver training in road accident rescue (RAR) to East Timor’s fire brigade. The team from Operation Rescue Assist Timor-Leste consists of Senior Firefighter Andrew Pitt, Senior Constable Damon Smith, paramedic Matthew Buck (also a volunteer firefighter with Prospect Brigade), SES Regional Officer Oliver Breeze (also a volunteer firefighter with Relbia Brigade) and interpreter Betty Goncalves, an East Timorese nursing student.

These individuals got together and formed the charity Operation Rescue Assist Timor-Leste in 2010. The inspiration and motivation came from Smith and Breeze’s experiences in East Timor when on stabilization deployments with the Australian Defence Force and Police. There they witnessed the hazardous road and driving conditions and the demands on road accident rescue crews who only had crowbars, wrenches and rope to work with. East Timor is one of our closest neighbours and a very poor country still recovering from 25 years of occupation. The East Timorese lost tens of thousands of civilians while assisting Australian soldiers in World War II and the team decided it was time to give back to this struggling country.

With the kind and generous support from local businesses and Rotary and Lions clubs, the charity managed to donate $50,000 worth of road accident rescue equipment to the Dili Fire Brigade. The equipment included Lukas ‘Jaws of Life’ equipment, an ARB Tirfor stabilisation kit, chainsaws, trauma packs, medical equipment and protective clothing for the firefighters. The firefighters receiving the equipment were all career officers earning less than US$20 a month, and they were very appreciative of the contribution to their brigade.

The Tassie team also provided an intensive five-day course for the firefighters that included a large theory component, a mid-week assessment and three and a half days of hands-on rescue training that put the crew through a variety of rescue scenarios.

Operation Rescue Assist Timor-Leste is very grateful for the assistance and support from all our sponsors. Our commitment to supporting the East Timorese fire brigade continues and we plan to return again in 2012, this time to donate a dual cab four-wheel drive with more rescue equipment.

If you would like to know more about Operation Rescue Assist Timor-Leste or are interested in assisting in fundraising or donating please contact Oliver Breeze on 0418 121 845 or email oliver.breeze@ses.tas.gov.au OB
Who would have believed that this voluntary Wood Chop for Appin Hall Children’s Foundation (in the North West) would still be going seven years after the initial idea was put forth by, then Leading Firefighter, Oliver Breeze. It was 2005, when Oliver and Matthew Buck first approached Appin Hall wanting to lend a hand to help young people disadvantaged by serious illness in Tasmania.

The plan was for approximately 12 to 14 firies (men and women) to come to our facility for a weekend in May, sleepover and put in a full day’s work cutting, splitting and stacking enough wood for the following year’s wood supply. Throughout the winter months visiting children and their families, plus large camps of children disadvantaged by serious illness, need a huge supply of dry wood to keep the home fires burning. Because we have five open fires and a ducted wood furnace set-up, the wood gathering task had become too much for one person to manage. And so, at the right time, Prospect Brigade announced that a large group of volunteers would like to put the time into replenishing our wood supply – while at the same time using the event as a bonding opportunity for their team with soft drinks and potato chips of course!

Seven years on and many tons of dry wood later, the mission has been accomplished annually to (a) get the job done to keep the kids warm (b) enable chainsaw supervision for new members to understand handling technique and responsibility and (c) have a lot of fun in such a pristine environment. It has also built a lot of camaraderie and good will.

My wife Maggie and I look forward to this calendar event because we get an enormous amount of wood chopped, plus we enjoy the fact that most of the team have been regulars throughout this entire seven-year itch. They are wonderful people and we have become friends and shared many memorable moments. I am so grateful that Prospect Brigade has chosen to come back year after year, not because of my bacon and eggs, but because their efforts maintain and look after that simple component that ensures visitors to Appin Hall are warm and respected. We could not have done it without their support, because it really is about teamwork.

In addition, this June TFS, through Chief Officer Mike Brown and staff, decided to donate a fully fledged ACCO crew cab pumper appliance to be used in the event of a firefighting emergency (pumping water from a water supply to sprinkler systems on various buildings) but also as an attraction for young kiddies to sit in and experience the delights of being inside a real fire engine! Of course the siren and flashing lights get a workout and the children are able to put on some oversized firefighting uniforms to look the real deal and have a lot of fun.

Thank you Prospect Brigade – for you have all done a mighty job and we are so grateful for your care and attention to this vital aspect of our day-to-day needs. I must mention that you knocked-off two of our trusty log splitters in 2010 (by accident) but it was worth waiting 12 months to get ‘em back again! Thanks guys! RB
On 5 March 2011, Latrobe was the scene of mass chaos. Very organised mass chaos that is. As luck would have it a school bus carrying 12 students was involved in an MVA with another vehicle causing it to plummet down a vertical embankment trapping several students in the carnage below. What was to transpire over the next three hours was the largest multi-agency rescue exercise that had been held on the North West Coast for many years, involving almost 70 people. Much planning had taken place in the previous four months involving representatives of Latrobe Brigade, Mersey District staff, Ambulance Tasmania (AT), Tasmania Police (TasPol) including Police Search and Rescue, TFS Engineering Services and Latrobe Council.

Latrobe Brigade had, over the past 18 months, conducted several joint training exercises with the career staff from Devonport. These involved providing assistance at RAR, confined space rescue and vertical rescue incidents. After the success of these previous exercises and the obvious benefits to our members, it was suggested we increase the tempo of our training and strive for something that had never been done in Latrobe before. The consensus of the Latrobe officers was to consolidate the new skills we had learnt in a much more technical exercise.

After sounding out various contacts at AT and TasPol about the prospect of a large joint exercise, we found that finding very enthusiastic participants was no problem at all! I guess you could say the logistics involved were a little more complicated than we originally thought. You would not believe how hard it is to acquire an old passenger bus to wreck then cut up! But thanks to the kind generosity of the folks at Manion’s Coaches at Beaconsfield, we were able to secure the largest piece of the puzzle.

Next we set about planning the scenario and location for the exercise. Those familiar with River Road in Latrobe will note that it is a very winding narrow road with steep banks that fall to the
After sounding out various contacts at AT and TasPol about the prospect of a large joint exercise, we found that finding very enthusiastic participants was no problem at all!

river below. Fortunately there is a perfect clearing at the base of a vertical embankment that is accessible by road. This gave us the opportunity to place the bus with a tilt tray at the clearing and then restrict access for the responding crews to using the main road above, meaning all equipment, personnel and patients would have to be moved by vertical rescue techniques.

So after several meetings and a lot of hard work by the organising committee the stage was set. After a very early start placing the bus into position and setting up the scene, the initial call was placed to the TasPol radio room. What was to follow was a very timely response by all agencies.

The first crews on scene were met with screams of help from the mangled wreck below from our very realistic role players from the Ulverstone Repertory Society. These talented teenagers had been engaged by AT for the exercise and had undergone a fabulous makeover by make-up artist Melanie Cooper. Her gory creations had even the most experienced operators looking twice to make sure the injuries weren’t real.

The crews then commenced a thorough size-up and then requested extra resources as it became evident that it was going to be a long morning. AT set up a mass casualty incident response drawing on many units across the coast. TasPol also ran the exercise as a major incident and called on senior personnel as required. Early on in the planning process we were approached by Police Search and Rescue who wanted to be involved to evaluate RAR equipment for use in removing protesters from machinery, etc. In the interest of team spirit they were written into the scenario and as it turned out their expertise and many extra hands were of great benefit on the day.

Once the career crew on Devonport 8-1 arrived they began the difficult process of transferring many items of equipment down the access route that Latrobe volunteers had already provided prior to their arrival. AT set up a triage area at the crash site and at the road above where each patient would eventually be moved to prior to transport to hospital. As the crew from 8-1 started to cut their way into the bus, the Latrobe members were very active in providing assistance to the career crew by already being familiar with the equipment and techniques learnt from previous exercises. And thanks must be given to the career members who were very willing to let the Latrobe members get a lot of hands on time throughout the rescue.

Once access was made for AT to continue treatment, the next task was designing a system to evacuate all the patients to the waiting ambulances above. This was achieved via a standard vertical rescue rig for the first most seriously injured patients then a large human chain for the remaining patients up a gully.

Prior to the exercise we had invited all media outlets to attend and cover the exercise if they so wished and we were quite
surprised by the very positive media exposure we received on both Southern Cross and WIN TV as well as a two page spread in the Advocate and Sunday Examiner. Interestingly we also scribed a media release that ran in the Advocate prior to the exercise informing the general public of what would be happening and to not be alarmed by the sight of so many emergency vehicles responding. But as predicted social media websites ran hot with rumour of many different disasters unfolding in many different parts of town!

I must say the cooperation of all rescue personnel involved was very impressive to see. Of particular interest was the human chain consisting of TFS career and volunteer, Police Search and Rescue and AT that carefully moved its precious cargo carefully hand over hand up the steep gully. A true indication of just how lucky we are in Tasmania to have such dedicated and professional people to draw on when needed.

As the last patient was retrieved a quick look at the watch noted that a very complicated technical rescue involving the extrication and retrieval of 12 patients was completed in a remarkable time of less than 3 hours. After all equipment was re-stowed it was back to the Latrobe Fire Station for a well deserved barbecue and some adult cordials where all participants were thanked for giving up their time to make a small idea become the most successful exercise in many years.

Special thanks needs to go to the following people who made the day possible: Brigade Chief Graeme Brown, Second Officer Chris Hinds, Third Officer Mick Parker, Fourth Officer Michael Clarke (all of the Latrobe Brigade); District Officer Mersey District Paul Hill; Phil Gardner, TFS Engineering Services for his expert use of the TFS tilt tray truck; Clinical Support Officer AT John Richardson; Sergeant Rockie Lee, Latrobe Police; Constable Dean Wotherspoon, Police Search and Rescue; make-up artist Melanie Cooper; the Ulverstone Repertory Society for providing the role players; Peter Dawson, Latrobe Council, Manion’s Coaches Beaconsfield; and SES Central Coast for providing road closures.

Following agency debriefs on the exercise, committee members met to discuss the feedback and all considered it to be a huge success and a terrific learning opportunity for all involved. The only problem we have encountered is how do we possibly top this?! For those who are interested we have posted a large picture gallery of the exercise on the Latrobe Brigade Facebook page. **MC**
Our adventure began with an early morning start and a picturesque drive to the Dunalley Station for the annual East Coast 4x4 Field Day which was held on 21 August. Following a briefing, all teams were given the grid references for their first event and the fun began!

Eleven teams participated in 11 events on a course that started in Dunalley and took us to Carlton River, Murdunna and Bream Creek and ended back in Dunalley. It was a scenic route as we navigated via supplied grid references to each event. I don’t think anyone got terribly lost although distraction would have been understandable given the awesome views as we travelled the area.

The events covered driving, pumping, fire extinguishers, burn-over, ladders, first aid, hazmat, Q&A, MVA and teamwork, and there was a novelty event. All events challenged our knowledge and skills as well as our capacity to problem solve as a team. At every event there was judge who displayed all the skills and support of an excellent training instructor. As a result the whole day was a fun and supportive learning experience.

Back at Dunalley Station we shared a barbecue and presentations were made. Congratulations to Wattle Hill Brigade who came first! Second and third places went to Campania and Richmond respectively.

On our return journey we started reflecting on the day, the themes in our reflection were on how much fun we had had, skill areas we needed to brush up on, and ideas for our station training calendar. We all agreed that the day was like attending an intensive refresher course on the skills we need when our pager goes off, as the broad range of events covered all areas of our required skill set. And it was fun as well! Participants had the opportunity to catch up with colleagues from other brigades and meet and get to know others. It was a networking opportunity that will prove invaluable when we next meet on the fireground.

Congratulations and thanks must go to Dunalley Brigade for hosting the event and to the organising committee, as it is not a small task to coordinate so many brigades and so many events across such a large geographic area. The day ran to time and the support crews on the radio, at the events, in the field and at the station were organised and professional. It is a testament to their dedication to the ongoing training and development of volunteer brigades on the East Coast.

Campania is looking forward to the opportunity to host the event next year. KG
Saturday 15 May saw six brigades with nine teams arrive at Magra Station for the running of the 2011 Field Day. The day started early for some with events being set-up on day break. Teams started arriving at 0800hrs and after a short briefing on the day’s events and rules we were away by 0900hrs.

This year’s events differed to previous years as it was 90 per cent off-road and held over three local properties not accessible without a four-wheel drive. The events included drafting, hose handling, first aid, chainsaw knowledge, quiz questions, a driving course and the mandatory novelty events. A new event this year was a test of burn-over procedure knowledge in whatever vehicle they were driving at the time. With burn-overs an ever present danger during the bushfire season, knowledge on procedures needs to be 100 per cent with every team learning something on the day.

A slight hiccup during the morning’s events saw Gretna Brigade having to attend an MVA at Gretna but on returning continued the event with all brigades being finished by 1330hrs with a barbecue at Magra Station. With the scores tallied, Gretna 3-1 crew emerged in first place followed closely by Brighton, Gretna 51 and New Norfolk.

Planning and organising field days takes considerable time and effort, and without assistance from all the members of Magra Brigade and especially Brigade Secretary Paul McMaster who organised all the event documentation and scoring on the day, these events would not eventuate. RG
Derwent Group Exercise
By Group Officer Derwent, Lyndsay Suhr

The Derwent Group held an exercise on Sunday 16 October, which covered the fringe of Glenorchy, the Lyell Highway, Molesworth, Collins Cap, Collinsvale and the Goat Hills (due to weather conditions this had to be altered three times), and culminated in a barbecue at Wellington Station.

The purpose of the exercise was to familiarise brigades with the area, access points to fire trails, map reading, observation and the use of the GPS fitted to the radios. A considerable number of brigade personnel had never traversed this area before. They were required to complete a questionnaire covering grid references, landmarks and general observations, and a plaque was awarded to the brigade who produced the most correct answers. The result was a draw between Fern Tree and Mount Nelson.

Sixteen vehicles took part, covering type 3, 4, 5, 7 units and sixty-seven personnel. Apart from the weather it was a successful day, with brigades going away knowing what skills they needed to brush-up on.

Thanks to all those who participated and to District Officer Hugh Jones and Acting Field Officer Peter Tavasz for the barbecue. LS

Northern Region Safety Month
By Senior Clerical Officer Northern Region, Lynda Robins

Over the month of October, Northern Region staff got involved in varied Safety Month activities. The first of these were various WorkCover Tasmania events and presentations, including ‘Conducting Workplace Audits’, ‘Why Exercise in the Workplace’ and ‘Office Ergonomics’, just to list a few.

Other activities on offer included a meditation session where we learnt relaxation techniques and the provision of massages, after which everyone came out feeling all refreshed.

The final week of safety month included a walk around the picturesque streets of Youngtown followed by a healthy lunch. LR
Tamar District Exercise

By Field Officer Tamar District, Greg Hynes
On 8 October 2011 another successful Tamar District exercise was held at Quercus Park (Agfest site), near Carrick. The Quercus Park site enables us to conduct a variety of exercises along with being centrally located within the district.

Despite falling on Launceston Show and Bathurst weekend, the majority of brigades from the district were represented with only a few brigades unable to attend due to member commitments elsewhere.

As with previous years, the intention of the day was to expose our newer members to the structure they can expect at a campaign fire. With coordination of the event undertaken by an Incident Management Team operating from the Agfest Fire Station, this year also allowed for brigade officers to be mentored in various IMT roles.

Having arrived on-site members checked into the IMT with T-Cards, before being fed a hearty breakfast by Legana Brigade Chief Mick Clifford, then briefed and dispatched to one of the training stations scattered around the site.

Training activities included:

- LNG tanker familiarisation;
- A motor vehicle accident;
- Four-wheel driving;
- New heavy tanker familiarisation;
- Trim and crosscut;
- First aid;
- Team building;
- A boat fire; and
- A roving Media Liaison with ABC Radio.

Lunchtime provided crews with a chance to socialise, and listen to an informative presentation about the importance of quality SITREPS from Station Officer John Holloway from State Operations.

Despite a solid rain shower around lunchtime the day went off without a hitch. Hopefully a good day was had by all and we thank all members for their enthusiasm and commitment. Feedback from the instructors indicated that all crews benefited from the refresher training provided. With a view to achieving a stronger turnout, consideration is being given to staging next year’s event at an earlier date.

Thank you to our Group Officers Rod Sweetnam, David Wright and Errol Gleeson for assisting in organising the day. A big thank you also to those brigade members, Volunteer Training Instructors and TFS staff who helped out organising and running each of the training scenarios. Finally a special thank you to Jodie Lowe, the roving reporter from ABC, who kindly gave up her day off to support us in developing and refreshing our skills in liaising with the media. GH
On the weekend starting 7 October 2011, I attended a Southern Region juniors and cadets training camp at Gumleaves in Little Swanport. The purpose of the weekend was to improve teamwork and to have fun. All the activities were based around working in teams and they were all very difficult. Some of the activities involved boat races, getting through a web without touching wires, and working your way through tyres without pushing yourself off the ground. The weekend concluded with an early morning bushwalk and a visit to Triabunna Station for an RCR demonstration and a barbecue.

I would like to thank everyone involved in making the weekend a great one, particularly Triabunna Brigade for the RCR demonstration. TS
On the weekend of 7-9 October, Cadets from Claremont, Campania, Bagdad, Rokeby, Richmond, Gretna and Old Beach went to Gumleaves for a team building weekend. We assembled at Cambridge to start our activities, where we were met by Shane Batt and Paul Coad and were split into two groups. One group was shown around the complex while the other group did an activity in the BA containers where we had to find the letters to spell out PRIMARY SEARCH. After completing the activity Paul lit a fire in their “house”.

At Gumleaves we socialised with other brigades and got ourselves settled in, picked our cabins and continued socialising. Cadets from Claremont and Campania brigades prepared tea for the members; it was beautifully done with lovely grated parmesan. Then we had some free time during which we had a go on the flying fox and socialised some more. The next morning Claremont was woken at 6.15 am by A. Nonymous, we had some free time and then it was breakfast and time for the activities.

We were split into four groups for the activities. One activity involved swinging onto a log that had to have six people on it, another one involved getting through the middle of some tyres without touching the ground. There was also a stage of team exercises which involved getting across ropes and getting through a spider web. The other one was just socialising and going on the flying fox. We also had an event on the lake which involved rowing races. The overall winner was team three.

Tea followed the activities, once again prepared by the cadets and seniors. After tea we had a red faces contest and a ‘keep a straight face’ game that the instructors got involved in which was very funny. After that a campfire was lit and marshmallows were toasted. Cadets spent the remainder of the evening socialising and getting to know other brigade members. All cadet members slept soundly that night due to the tiresome activities undertaken throughout the day.

On Sunday morning we all woke up fairly early so we could have as much time together before we had to leave. We went on a really long bushwalk up a huge steep hill, while most of us wanted to give up we were pushed to keep going. When we reached the top the view was amazing and everyone was glad they suffered the walk. When we got back to camp everyone was sad to be packing up and saying goodbye to all the new friends we had made.

On behalf of Angus, Acacia and Gretna Brigade, we would like to thank all the volunteer and career firefighters who made this weekend such a success! TB

On 7-9 October, 24 cadets from all around the southern region of Tasmania went on a camp at Gumleaves. Before we set-off for Gumleaves, we all met at the Cambridge training complex where we split into two groups and were shown around the complex and did some exercises. In the BA training containers we were shown what a house fire would look like from the inside and how fast a bedroom could burn.

When we got to Gumleaves we chose our cabins and had a look around. While dinner was cooking most of us went on the flying fox and the huge hammock before it got dark. After dinner we all had a late night and got to know each other a little better.

On Saturday morning we were split-up into four groups and did some exercises that required thinking, agility and teamwork. We were all thrown in the deep end and we were out of our comfort zones. On Saturday afternoon we all walked down the road to a flying fox that went across a dam and we also raced row boats around a lake roughly the size of an AFL football oval. At the end of the day everybody knew each other and we were all getting along really well.

On Sunday we all woke up fairly early so we could have as much time together before we had to leave. We went on a really long bushwalk up a huge steep hill, while most of us wanted to give up we were pushed to keep going. When we reached the top the view was amazing and everyone was glad they suffered the walk. When we got back to camp everyone was sad to be packing up and saying goodbye to all the new friends we had made.

On behalf of Angus, Acacia and Gretna Brigade, we would like to thank all the volunteer and career firefighters who made this weekend such a success! AF
Early 2011 the University of Tasmania (UTAS) - School of Computing and Information Systems (CIS) contacted TFS to see if we had any projects suitable for University students doing an Information and Communications Technology (ICT) project course. The students would complete the project for free, however TFS had to guarantee at least 20 hours of time spread over the year for regular meetings. The project could be in any ICT area, but couldn’t be mission critical as success wasn’t guaranteed. The students undertake the projects to get some real world experience before graduation.

After consideration the TFS submitted a project titled “AirDesk”. This project was designed to streamline the current procedures performed by TFS, Parks & Wildlife Service (PWS), and Forestry Tasmania (FT).

The students were provided with this brief description:

"AirDesk – A web-based booking/resource system for air resources (helicopters). Allowing external companies to login and set resource availability and providing TFS State Operations with an overview and multiple reports”.

Late February, TFS was informed that a team of students had selected our project. The AirDesk team consisted of 8 students: Jack Scott, Lian Zheng, Luke Woodward, Bozhong Lu (Mick), Nigel Chigwida, Rick Herbert, Weiheng Zhang (Rock) and Chris Jacques.

After a few meetings the students knew what we were after.

The projected started with paper drawings and what resulted is a professional web-based system.

The students completed the project in late October and TFS will continue to fine tune the system over the summer.

We thank the students for selecting our project and for providing us with such a professional system and wish them well in the future. Additional information on the student project can be found at: http://www.cis.utas.edu.au/student-proj-sby/airdesk/

Once operational the new AirDesk system will enable TFS, PWS or FT to better manage availability and booking of air resources. The system allows aviation companies to enter and update information on their aircraft and availability directly into the system at any time via the internet.

When requested the system will display a list of aircraft best fitting the entered requirements allowing the Airdesk operators to quickly select the most appropriate aircraft so it can be quickly mobilised. AO
Bushfire Awareness Training

The bushfire season is fast approaching and TFS has been preparing both its operational and non-operational staff for the challenges the summer period often brings.

Recently Learning and Development has been conducting one-day Bushfire Awareness training courses aimed at broadening the knowledge base of its non-operational employees.

These training days have involved both theory and practical elements focusing on:

- Basic bushfire knowledge with a strong focus on bushfire safety;
- Increased community messaging arising from the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission;
- Burn-over awareness;
- Home fire safety including a fat fire and extinguisher training; and
- Awareness of backdraught and flashover.

This training has been embraced by participants who have enjoyed the chance to learn more about fire and the roles they personally can play in the work environment. In addition, the training increases staff members’ understanding of the organisation’s priority to community welfare during bushfires.

Please don’t hesitate to contact Learning and Development for more information.

Next of Kin Emergency Contact Line
By Project Officer OH&S, John Green

Over recent years we have had accidents where there was a high potential for serious injury and some members’ next of kin were unsure of whom to ring to get more information. Other families have reported problems with getting timely information even when they did speak with TFS representatives. For this reason we are making a 1800 number available so family members are able to speak to a TFS representative straight away. That person may not immediately have all the answers next of kin are seeking, but they will organise the information to be provided as soon as possible.

The 1800 number will be for emergency use only and a card (similar to that pictured) has been included for you to keep for future use. If for some reason you lose it, another can be requested from your District or Regional staff.

In previous articles and newsletters we have indicated the need to maintain an accurate record of your emergency contact (or next of kin) details. This is very important because TFS is only able to release emergency/accident information to the person you have nominated as your next of kin. Updating your details can be done through TFS Online (if you have access) or via your District/Regional Staff. JG
Improvements to Tasmania’s Fire Weather Forecasts and Warnings
By Regional Manager Severe Weather Section Bureau of Meteorology, Paul Fox-Hughes

The Bureau of Meteorology is upgrading its forecast and warning system, and as a result there will be improvements to the services provided to Tasmanian fire managers in June 2011.

The Bureau has introduced the “Next Generation Forecast and Warning System” – a completely new method of forecasting, using layers of weather forecast information. The upgrade greatly increases the amount of data and detail that the Bureau can provide.

The main changes for the fire services are:

**Fire Weather Forecast**
There will be major changes to the Bureau’s fire weather forecasts. There will still be forecasts for individual locations, as with the current system, and a number of new locations have been added. The biggest change will be the addition of spatial forecasts for weather districts – for each district, a representative Forest Fire Danger Rating will be provided, together with a district peak FFDI value, as well as information on the timing and duration for critical fire danger ranges.

**Spot Fire Forecast**
The layout of the spot fire forecast has changed to improve readability. Detailed forecast information is available for up to 30 hours, with outlooks for the following few days. The forecast now includes 3 hour wind forecasts at 1000 metres above ground level.

The improvements are:
- New easy to read structure;
- Forecasts of 1000m winds available every 3 hours; and
- Space provided for your on-site weather observations, so you can provide ground intelligence back to the forecasters.

**Fire Weather Outlook**
Fire weather outlooks consisting of district summaries will be produced twice a day for the following three outlook days. In addition, maps showing fire danger levels and expected threat duration will be produced twice daily using the latest forecasts prepared by meteorologists.

The Bureau is introducing the Fire Forecast Explorer – an interactive map-based tool that can be used in addition to the Bureau forecasts and warnings.

This map-based tool has a “loop tool” where you can watch the weather conditions for the next four days and allows you to click anywhere on that map to zoom in to a 6x6 km square to display a multi-day forecast for that specific location. There will be maps available for a wide variety of weather elements.

The Fire Forecast Explorer can enhance the understanding of the weather situation by providing additional spatial and temporal data.

It will display **4 day forecasts** for parameters including:
- Temperature;
- Wind;
- Chance of rain; and
- Fire danger.

**Fire Weather Warning**
The decision on when to warn will now be based on weather conditions expected across the whole weather district, taking into account the percentage of the district area affected by warning-level weather.

The improvements are:
- The Summary page provides a one-stop shop for fire danger ratings across Tasmania.
- The Area average FDI utilises the gridded data now available.
- The Detailed Area Forecasts provide useful new information such as duration and commencement time for high end ratings.
- The Location Forecasts will still be provided but are no longer used in the Warning decision process.

**Total Fire Ban Advice**
The Bureau will disseminate a Total Fire Ban Advice product, containing Fire Ban information as advised by TFS. PFH

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**Obituary**

**Leonard Morgan Patrick Quinn**  
13 February 1918 – 21 May 2011

Leonard was originally a member of the New Norfolk Brigade. Upon relocating to Latrobe in the 1960s to work as a plumber on the construction of a sewage service for the municipality, he joined up with the Latrobe Brigade and the SES.

Leonard became Brigade Chief of Latrobe Brigade on 2 October 1968 and continued to serve the community until he resigned from the brigade in February 1974.

Leonard was also known for his involvement in the Latrobe Speedway with his sons. Leonard was a local character and was well respected by everyone who knew him.

TFS colleagues and friends extend their heartfelt condolences to Leonard’s family.
Over the past six months new radios have been progressively installed in fleets across the State. Fleet installations have been completed in Southern and North West regions, with the Northern Region being in progress and due for completion in January 2012.

The GPS is an added feature that will display your location as a 13 figure easting and northing grid reference (datum GDA94); we have had a number of queries about interpreting that information. Your first reference should be the TFS Tasmanian Map Book carried in each vehicle; page three of the Map Book, has a section titled “GPS Use” which describes the use of the 13 figure grid reference. For general radio operation please refer to the user guides that were distributed with the radios and can also be viewed on TFS Online: Members Area>Info Centre>Operations>Communications Equipment>User Guides. Note that this information is only applicable to TFS radio SRM 9030 or SRM 9022 with software version TFS7.1 GPS. The version is displayed on the screen at power up.

So with both the TFS Map Book and the radio user guide as references, I provide the following information:

1. GPS Position Location. To display your location grid reference using the key pad of the radio, press the following four key sequence *56#.

   Remember that the vehicle needs to be outside of the station to receive the satellite information. If you have just turned the radio on it will take a few minutes to find the satellites, until it has it will indicate zeros and “GPS Data Bad”. Once it has locked on to the satellites your location grid reference will be displayed and “GPS Good”.

   Using our Brisbane Street workshop as an example the radio display grid reference is 526615E 5252721N. This is the full 13 figure grid reference and can be used to report your position or incident location for fire reports, so it would be good practice to note it down on your notes before leaving the incident. To remove the position information from the screen, press *56# again and the standard radio display returns.

   Note that the radio transmits and receives normally while the grid reference is displayed, so as you travel you can see the location reference change. This is handy if you are out of area attending major incidents and being transported to your sector, you can note down grid references of roads or intersections and plot them later. You can also quickly reference dangerous trees, water points etc.

   So the addition of the radio GPS is a useful tool for crews, it provides accurate location data for fire reports and incident information and I know of one brigade that has used it, with the appropriate map, to locate buried fire plugs.

2. Six Figure Grid Reference. Information on using your 13 figure GPS grid reference to obtain a 6 figure grid reference for ease of plotting on paper maps is found in the TFS Map Book on page 3.

   To obtain the familiar 6 figure easting and northing the last two digits of each of the easting and northing are ignored and then the last 3 digits are used, e.g.

   Full 13 figure grid reference to 6 figure grid reference:

   **Eastings 526615 Northing 5252721**

   Step 1. Ignore the last 2 figures for both:

   Easting 5266 Northing 52527

   Step 2. Retain the last 3 figures for both:

   Easting 266 Northing 527

   Step 3. Final 6 figure grid reference is 266527.

GS

Obituary

Peter Coppleman
17 October 1947 – 2 May 2011

Peter Coppleman is fondly remembered as a long serving, well-liked and respected officer of TFS. Peter joined the Hobart Fire Brigade on 21 May 1974 where, during his nine years of service, he became a Station Officer before transferring to the Training Division. Peter spent three years as a Training Officer before returning to the brigade where he found his niche in fire investigation.

Peter was appointed Fire Investigation Officer in November 1986 and went on to become a widely recognised expert in the field. He held key positions in the coordination and delivery of the Fire Investigation Course conducted by the Australian Assembly of Fire Authorities, and the National Police Arson Course held at the Tasmania Police Academy.

In 1990 Peter was sent to the United States to study fire investigation where, on completion of the course, he worked as an Operational Fire Investigator with Fire Departments in Fairfax County, Virginia; Baltimore City, Maryland and the Los Angeles City Fire Department.

During Peter’s service he was awarded the National Medal and 1st Clasp. Peter retired in August 1995 and later moved to Queensland.

TFS colleagues and friends extend their heartfelt condolences to Peter’s family.
How Time ‘Fires’ Oops ‘Flies’
By Team Leader Northern Region, Carol Davey

1981 – August – I commenced with TFS and the first ever Fireground was printed.

For those of us that remember:

- The Editor was Wayne Ripper.
- The Minister was Harry Holgate.
- The Commissioner was Gayle Paltridge.

Some articles were:

- Northern Region was given its very own radio frequency!
- We had some messages to the “Firemen’s” wives on how to be a better wife – like to see the reaction if that went in again!
- The female staff in the Southern Region formed a netball team called ‘Fireballs’!

1982 – We had a nice shiny cover.

- Firefighter John Streets who is now Regional Chief North West (and yes he did start from there), was awarded the Australian Bravery Medal and the Royal Humane Society’s Silver Medal.
- An article on the NR Country HQ at Cypress Street, Launceston – I was called the ‘office girl’ and I made the cups of tea and coffee!
- We had Country Fire Officers – now they are District Officers!

1983 – Frankford/Birralee raised $$$$ to build their own truck – wonder where that is now!

1984 – We asked for subscriptions to Fireground – 4 editions for $6.00. Perhaps we could do this now and save some TFS $$!

1984 – Margaret Kean was the Editor’s Assistant!

1985 – Bob Barrett was left speechless when he received the National Medal – he was BC then and he still is, appointed back on 1 January 1978.

1989 – We started spreading the news on brigades working to provide fire stations and/or fire appliances on a subsidy basis where the TFS provided 50% of the required funds. We could do this now and save some TFS $$!

- A poem was written titled ‘the creation of a policy’ – interesting one!
- The late Rod French was in charge of the Tamar District – and in 1988/89 he assisted some of his brigades to realise their dreams in the ‘Building Programme’.
- We introduced a new filing system – the cartoon said it all ‘try to look at it this way – return the file and you have nothing to worry about!’
- We held the Fireman’s Dance – yes we had a committee and we still have a committee. This was an interesting article with some interesting photos! So don’t go back to the Library and look at those!

1990 – The 1st World Firefighters Games were held in Auckland.

1993 – We had the 25th Tasmanian Volunteer Fire Brigades Association State Competitions.

- Mike Brown as BC Devonport greeted the ‘Spirit of Tasmania’ arriving in Devonport.
- The firies escorted entrants in the Miss Tasmania Quest – Chris Tomes was the lucky escort of the crowned Miss Tasmania.
- Wayne (Ernie from Burnie) was appointed Training Officer North West – what a photo!

Anyway, I think that you should all find some time to look at any of these older issues of Fireground and see how things have changed.

Well done to all the editors! CD
History of Brigades to be Depicted on Medallions

By Roger McNeice

Tasmania’s fire brigades are rich in history, this unique history will be depicted on a series of limited edition commemorative medallions. The series of medallions will depict colonial firefighting machines right up to modern day vehicles, along with brief brigade histories. The first of the medallions featuring the Hobart Fire Brigade Head Station (for its centenary) and the 1913 Leyland fire engine has already been released.

The medallions will be struck in bronze (51mm in diameter) and the features will be in enamel colour. The number of medallions will be limited to 200 each release.

Research, design and production of the medallions are being undertaken by Roger McNeice OAM, former Taroona Brigade First Officer for many years and ex-Group Captain of the Kingborough Group. Roger also wrote several books on the history of Tasmanian fire brigades.

The issue of a series of medallions commemorating the history of brigades is rather unique and has not been attempted before. All retained brigades will be covered and it is anticipated that interested rural brigades will also be included. It is expected that at least three medallions will be released each month once designs and approvals have been completed. At the conclusion of the releases a special album will be produced to house the medallions and cater for those firefighters who wish to collect the whole series. Brigades who wish to be included (retained and volunteer rural) are invited to contact Roger McNeice at rvm@eftel.net.au. Part of the proceeds from the production of the medallions will be donated to the Tasmania Fire Museum and the Volunteer Associations. It is anticipated that the medallions will cost $9.00 each.

Member Benefits Program

By Executive Officer Policy and Research, Jess Brown

Some time ago the volunteer associations approached TFS asking to look at what sort of incentives can be made available to help maintain and grow the volunteer workforce. The ‘memberlink’ program that is available to CFA members in Victoria was suggested as a type of program that may work for TFS members. TFS reviewed it and agreed that a similar type program should be made available to all of our members here in Tasmania.

In recent times the United Firefighters Union (UFU), the Tasmanian Volunteer Fire Brigades Association (TVFBA), and the Tasmanian Retained Volunteer Firefighters Association (TRVFA) with the assistance of TFS have established a member benefits program. The program is open to all members of TFS. Members simply need to show their TFS photo identification card at the time of purchase to receive the discount offered. If you do not have a TFS photo identification card, please visit your regional headquarters.

You can view the list of participating businesses, what they are offering (in terms of a discount or similar) and any conditions on the following sites:

- UFU website http://www.ufutas.asn.au
- TRVFA website http://www.trvfa.org.au

In order for this program to be a success it is not only up to you to use the services, it is also important that you provide us with feedback. In particular, please notify TFS:

- If you know of any businesses that are not listed that provide a benefit and would like to be involved;
- If a business does not provide the offer as stated; or
- You have any suggestions that may improve the program.

If you have any questions about the program, require further information, or would like to provide feedback about the program please contact Jess Brown on (03) 6230 8610 or at jess.brown@fire.tas.gov.au
I was approached recently by my dear mum about entering a crew of firefighters in her dragon boat club’s (Dragons Abreast Tas) annual corporate race day. The club consists of breast cancer survivors and provides both a support network and a great competitive outlet for this group of amazing people. The corporate day serves as a fundraiser for the purchasing and upkeep of equipment (boats costing around $5000 to put on the water) and also to send teams to competitions both interstate and internationally.

The idea of a TFS crew had been thrown around in previous years, however other commitments and my serious lack of organisational skills had prevented this from occurring. When the call went out for a crew I wasn’t sure what sort of response I would receive and what I got was somewhat unsettling. But we were in, and the Habitual Line Steppers was formed.

Entry for the event was $30 per person and this included a practice session to get us sorted out and mould us into some form of cohesive group. The session went well with plenty of banter and a little heckling of the other crews. The plan being to unsettle our competition early, and with the likes of Tim “Who’s April” McKay on board we were off to a solid start.

Race day arrived with pretty much perfect conditions. The line-up of the crew had changed somewhat since our practice day. We had lost one of the Dragon ladies favourites and chief comedian Tim McKay to his professional coaching role and also Todd Sargison due to family commitments. But we managed to secure some late crew members which looked to make-up for at least some of our massive loss.

Even with the new additions we were still under crewed with only 15 seats filled of a total of 18 available, but the team showed no concern and were of the belief that the opposition were about to receive lesson 101 in Dragon Boating.

Race one and it was a flurry of blades and the crew encouraging the person in front to keep the water out of the boat. With the majority of us receiving a good drenching and even with Couta (David Conceicao) barely reaching the brine we were first over the line in a healthy time of 55.27 seconds for the 200 metre sprint.

Race two and we were burdened with the heaviest boat in the fleet. No-one was phased by this small fact until the gun went and we had to get the boat up to race speed. Which took pretty much the entire course and even with plenty of banter we were found short by just over a second, with a time of 54.57 seconds.

Some soul searching was done in the break, and new motivation was found in the form of coffee. Soon the pain of the loss was forgotten and focus was now on the Grand Final, which we had booked a place in with our fast time in race one.

The crews we were up against were the UTAS Boat Rockers and Motley Crew. With the UTAS Boat Rockers out of contention with a steering problem early in the race it was the Line Steppers and the Motley Crew left to fight it out for the honour of being the 2011 champions.

After a close tussle for the first half of the race we managed to shake off Motley Crew. They were sorely lacking depth, with the likes of Nikki Sixx, Tommy Lee, Mick Mars and Vince Neil missing in action and the Line Steppers prevailed in a time of 52.32 seconds. The winning margin around 2.5 seconds.

A big thank you to the crew, your support for this event was greatly appreciated, and helping get my dear mother over the line first will be a memory both she and I will treasure for a long time. Not to mention her comments at the presentation. SM
On the weekend of 19-20 March, the 48 hour relay was run to raise funds for the Queensland flood relief appeal.

In the early hours of Sunday morning Larry Monash (at 2 am) and Andrew Skelly (at 4 am) were busy running laps in the dark at the Domain Athletic Centre. At 9 am the firefighters 5km challenge was conducted, this involved a close three way tussle with Mark Bryant, Matthew Lowe and Sean Mennitz swapping the lead for 12 laps before Sean Mennitz made a big move with 300 metres to go and held on for a win.

Thank You from the Organiser

Sorry to be late thanking and acknowledging you for your great effort with the relay. The event was an undoubted success, you played a major part in the Moonah Rotary Club contributing $22,000 to the flood relief appeal.

Your contribution in staying on the track for well over 700 laps was very much appreciated.

Thanks also to the runners who helped in the administration of the ‘48 Hour Charity Relay Run Inc’, those who did the extra bit around the track, and those who made a personal contribution to the purse.

Best wishes and stay in good shape.

Barry Titmus
Moonah Rotary Club

Firefighters Help Raise $22,000 for the Queensland Flood Relief Appeal

Hadspen Brigade Donates Blood

By Brigade Chief Hadspen Brigade, Wayne Preston

On Saturday 2 July, Hadspen Brigade went into the Red Cross in Launceston and donated blood. Seven members went along for the day and all had a great time as well as doing that little bit extra to help save lives. I would like to encourage other brigades to participate in this worthy cause, if they haven’t already. It doesn’t take that long and even better you get a milkshake when it’s all over! WP

Back: Peter Hynes, Wayne Preston, Geoff Rollins, Terry Heier and Tom Marik.
Front: Trevor Parker and Scott Aalbregt.
Emergency Services Charity Ball
By Senior Clerical Officer, Lynda Robins

The 2011 Emergency Services Charity Ball was held at the Launceston Grand Chancellor on Saturday, 13 August 2011. This year’s theme was “Magical Fantasy” with all funds raised being donated to Giant Steps Tasmania.

The evening attracted over 120 people and commenced with pre-dinner drinks in the foyer followed by a night of fun and frivolity. The events on the night included a silent auction, a live auction, various raffles and lucky door prizes as well as the wonderful band “Well Strung” (who kindly donated their fee).

Thanks to the support of our sponsors $17,000 was raised for this worthy cause.
A big thank you to our major sponsors James Boag, Dr Lewinns, The Examiner, Southern Cross, Kings Carpet Choice and Bendigo Bank.

The night could not have been possible without the very dedicated group of committee members consisting of John Hazzlewood (Chair), Jeff Harper, Lisa Gilbert, Lynda Robins, Ian Cawthorn, Alison Rutherford (TasPol), Andrew Keane (TasPol), Angela Hodgeson (Ambulance) and Vanessa Bate (Ambulance).

Also a big thank you to everyone from TFS, and family and friends who contributed to making this a fantastic night out!

Giant Steps
The Giant Steps Centre is located in Deloraine and is Tasmania’s only specialist school for students with an Autism Spectrum Disorder. In fact, Giant Steps Tasmania was the first specialist school for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders in Australia.

The school was started in 1995 by a dedicated group of parents and hardworking community supporters.

The facility currently has a number of areas which require specific funding; one of these is the refurbishment of the Early Intervention Room. The very small Early Intervention Room currently being used accommodates four children and two staff at any one time. Once extensions are finalised Giant Steps will have the capacity to quadruple their numbers.

On 25 August 2011 the Ball Committee donated a $17,000 cheque to Giant Steps which will allow the school to purchase the equipment to furnish the Early Intervention Room.

For more information about Giant Steps please contact them on (03) 6362 2522. LR

Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea

On Wednesday 25 May 2011, Northern Region held their Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea to help raise money in support of people with cancer and cancer research.

The morning kicked off with people supplying masses of wonderful food fit for kings and queens. A variety of fundraising games were played to assist with raising money resulting in some happy winners. There was a mixture of current and past members all attending to make the day a success.

With everyone generously emptying their pockets to donate to such a worthy cause, in excess of $350 was raised.

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the organising of this event and we look forward to seeing you all here again next year!
Sleeping Out for the Salvos
By Deputy Chief Officer, Gavin Freeman

On 4 August I chose to sleep under the stars to raise funds for homeless people in our State. Many of you contributed generously to this cause and we managed to raise $4,500 out of the total of $125,130 raised.

As you can see from the pictures it wasn’t all that rough for us, although I can assure you it started raining at 0329 precisely, raindrops feel very big when you are sleeping under them!

I did learn a little about homelessness on the night as well, it is staggering to know just how real and how big an issue it is in Tasmania. We are not just talking about the obvious ones that sleep on the street every night but also people who have nowhere to call home and ‘couch surf’ between friends. Many of the stories that were shared with us during the night made me realise that it doesn’t take very much to go wrong in life to render someone in need of help.

The heartening thing is that there is hope and it seems that Tasmania is in a position where we can actually make an impact on the homelessness issue. Many thanks to all of you who supported this worthy cause.

GF

Photos courtesy of Stu Harris Photography.

Farewell Station Officer Darren “Chuck” Berry
By District Officer Learning and Development, Danny Richardson

Station Officer Darren Berry is leaving TFS to work as a Training Officer with Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) in Townsville. Darren had his last working day with TFS on 16 December before officially resigning from TFS on 27 January 2012.

Darren has a history with the Australian Defence Force and seven years previous service with QFRS. He started with TFS as a lateral entry firefighter some eight years ago and worked his way up to the rank of Station Officer in December 2010. During his time with TFS, Darren spent around four years in Operations, worked in Building Fire Safety and TasFire Training, and finished his time as a Training Officer in Learning and Development.

From all at TFS, we wish Chuck and Tracey and their family all the best with their new adventures in the sun! Well done Chuck and good luck for the future! DR
The 2011 Tasmanian Fire Brigades Competitions Association (TFBCA) State Firefighter Championships were held in perfect weather at Launceston’s Invermay Park over the weekend of 5-6 November. A total of 14 senior teams (including one from New South Wales) and 11 junior teams contested 10 different events (6 for the juniors), and spectators witnessed some very close competition over the two days.

The overall senior section winner was Claremont 1 and in the junior section Sassafras was victorious. Congratulations to Russell Armstrong and Tony Perry and their respective teams on being crowned State Champions for 2011! The awards for best presented brigade went to Hadspen in the seniors and Longford in the juniors.

Although the Championships were well attended by both brigades and ‘helpers’, the Association Executive and indeed the TFS really want to grow the competitions into the future. I know there are many brigades out there who have competed in various competitions in the past but for a range of reasons may be a little reluctant to participate, particularly since the ‘new style’ events have been introduced.

Almost all of the brigades who competed in this year’s Championships are more than willing and most certainly able to help other brigades become familiar with, and train for the events. In addition, members of the Association Executive are also available to provide advice and guidance as well.

Planning will be underway for next year’s event in the near future and as soon as the dates have been confirmed they will be posted on the TFS website under the Championships button on the home page.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank everyone who was involved in staging the 2011 Championships, particularly the competitors for making it such a success. We secured some fantastic support from our corporate partners this year and I would like to sincerely thank MBF Health, FRM Toyota, BP Australia, Draeger Safety, OfficeMax and Country Club Tasmania.

As I have mentioned the TFS website has a button dedicated to information about the Championships on the home page and you can email the Association Executive at championships@fire.tas.gov.au if you have any queries. And for those of you who have a Facebook account, check out our TFBCA Facebook page.

MD
Sassafras Juniors being presented with their Junior State Champions 2011 trophy by Robert and Veronica Atkins.

Claremont 1 receiving their Senior State Champions 2011 trophy from Deputy Chief Officer Gavin Freeman.
On Saturday 15 October, North West Region held its 41st annual Family Fun Day competitions at Penguin High School. The day commenced with wonder over what the weather conditions were going to be like with some showers already falling while setting up, but luckily the rain held off for most of the day.

A total of seven senior and seven junior teams from the North and North West regions competed against each other in events based on basic firefighting skills. Competitions are great practice for brigade members to hone their skills in preparation for the upcoming summer fire season and State Competitions held in November. They also provide a great opportunity for brigade members to meet and socialise with other members in their region.

The day’s events were opened with a welcoming address from Regional Chief John Streets. Then it was into game mode with the Firefighters Football event. This was followed by Siamese Valve Hose Drill, Tanker Rescue and two sealed events. A break between events saw the under-10s Bucket Brigade competing.

Trophy presentations and a barbecue completed the competitions with the following winners:

- Aggregate Winners Seniors: Sassafras
- Runners-up Seniors: Ulverstone
- Aggregate Winners Juniors: Sassafras
- Runners-up Juniors: Chudleigh
- Most Penalty Points Seniors: Mole Creek
- Firefighters of the Future: Chudleigh

The Competition Committee would like to thank Penguin High School for the use of their ground, Parents and Friends for catering for the event and St John Ambulance for their services. Thank you to all teams for their participation and good sportsmanship on the day and all committee members for all their hard work to make the competitions a success.

Also a huge thank you to all the sponsors: Serve-Ag, Robert and Veronica Atkins, Graeme Jones, TFS – NW Region, Mayor Mike Gaffney, Latrobe Council, Chas Kelly Transport, Alderman John Munro, SES – NW Region, Kentish Council, Mayor Lynn Laycock and Somerset Brigade.

If your brigade is interested in finding out more about the competitions please call Robert Atkins on 0409 140 237. MC
The Parks and Wildlife Service has a new weapon in its arsenal of firefighting tools for the coming fire season, a state of the art four-wheel drive fire truck.

The Isuzu FTS 800 has been enthusiastically welcomed by the PWS Fire Crew into the stable at Lutana, where staff are looking forward to putting it into service.

The truck replaces a 16 year old model and it was purpose-designed by PWS in conjunction with the manufacturers, the TFS Fabrication Division, which produces all of the TFS vehicles for Tasmania.

Fire Crew Manager, John Duggan, said the truck has all the gear for firefighting in the 21st century.

"It’s been designed with crew safety and ease of operation in mind. For example, all of the equipment is operated either from the vehicle’s cab or from the ground at the back of the vehicle. This means crews are not climbing up and down off the vehicle, which was an activity that has caused injuries in the past,” John said.

The two hose reels are electrically powered for speed and ease of retrieval.

Among its main features are a 3,000 litre water tank, in comparison to a slip-on unit’s 460 litre capacity. It cruises comfortably at 100 kilometres per hour which means that it’s able to respond very quickly anywhere in the State.

John said this is a big step up from the old truck, which travelled at a ‘walking pace’ up any hill.

Among the significant safety features are roll-down reflective curtains in the cab which will offer significant protection for crews in the event of a burn-over. The curtains attach to the cab’s frame with Velcro in order to minimise radiant heat leakage into the cab. Illuminated tabs assist with quick deployment in the poor light of thick smoke or night-time operations.

Lighting is one of the vehicle’s strong features. The reading light on the passenger side of the cab will no doubt be appreciated by a crew member struggling to read a map. Powerful side lights will assist the driver when backing and lights at the rear of the vehicle illuminate the controls for the pumps.

Crews working from the back of the truck can be seen by the driver through a rear vision camera display in the cab and there’s a driver alert button for emergencies.

The truck is protected by a safety spray system that includes undercarriage sprays to protect the tyres and brake linings and sprays on two sides of the vehicle’s front cabin. This system offers significant protection from grass fires and it has sufficient force to wet down vegetation about 15 metres into track-side bushland.

“This feature would really help slow down a fire and provide a better fire break along a track,” John said.

Substantial storage compartments on either side of the tray provide secure storage for crew gear, hoses, extra fuel and tools. The lockable compartments cut down the risk of theft and exposure to embers. LW
Exercise Boss Lift
By Lieutenant Colonel Army Reserve & Firefighter Lachlan Brigade, Phil Pyke

Fire Service has been given a unique opportunity to see first hand the contribution their volunteer and career members are making to the Army Reserves. In March 2011, Chief Officer Mike Brown travelled with a group of Tasmanian and South Australian based employers to the Solomon Islands as part of ‘Exercise Boss Lift’ – a Defence program which provides employers with an insight into the work performed by Australian Defence Force (ADF) Reservists. The group visited their employees who are currently deployed in the Solomon Islands and gained a useful insight into the commitment and challenges their employees face as Reservists.

The Reservist employees form part of Combined Task Force 635 (CTF 635) which is made-up of Australian Defence Force and Federal Police members, and Defence and police officers from other Pacific nations including New Zealand. CTF 635 provides direct support to the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI).

Exercise Boss Lift is led by the Cadet, Reserve and Employer Support Division (CRES), Department of Defence. CRES is responsible for facilitating employer and industry support for Australia’s Defence Reservists. “Exercise Boss Lift is something that I became interested in about 18 months ago,” said Mike Brown. “I said I’d be interested in attending and received the call-up from Defence prior to Christmas.”

Mike said TFS, due to the diversity of its employees and volunteers, didn’t maintain a record of its active Reservists. “This is not the kind of information we collect, especially at recruit entry level, but in reflection I think it should be – especially after seeing the skills and attributes our Reservists have,” he said. “There would be value in collecting that information so we, as an organisation, would be aware of the additional capability potentially available to us.”

For Mike, some of the highlights of Exercise Boss Lift were the range activities, viewing a public order control demonstration, touring where Australian police and Defence members are based and visiting the US War Memorial. It was also a moving time for Boss Lift participants as they attended the opening of the Private Jamie Clark Memorial Kindergarten at the Gifu Primary School. PTE Clark, from the 3rd Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment, died when he fell down a sinkhole in 2005.

During his time at Exercise Boss Lift, Mike had the opportunity to catch up with two TFS volunteers from the Lachlan Brigade, Lieutenant Colonel Phil Pyke, and Protective Services Officer Victor Kaiser. LTCOL Pyke is the regular media escort officer into the Solomon Islands for Exercise Boss Lift, while Protective Services Officer Victor Kaiser is heading towards the completion of an 18-month deployment with the International Deployment Group of the Federal Police.

Mike said Exercise Boss Lift provided employers with an impressive opportunity to experience life as a Reservist. “If Defence wants employers to be cooperative and be able to release their employees for Reserve operations, the opportunity needs to be there for employers to understand the importance of Reserve service. Exercise Boss Lift certainly achieves that.”

During the four-day tour, Mike found the Reservists to be well briefed and engaging. “Even when we’ve be waiting around, there’s been the opportunity to talk with Reservists, find out about their civilian lives and the pros and cons of being a Reservist”. “I’ve enjoyed seeing what the Reservists do on operations, being out at the firing range, looking at their tactics for handling public order responses and some of the cultural aspects have also been great to see too.”

Mike said that now he had this insight into Defence, he was keen to capture information on Reserve service and qualifications so when Fire Service staff did apply for Reserve leave, support is provided in the right way. “As an employer, we have very little to do with the preparation of Reservists before they deploy and very little understanding about how they assimilate back into the workplace”. “We can now take steps to ensure the appropriate support is in place.”
When something is done over and over again it can tend to become monotonous or boring, so this year we decided to take the Hobart Fire Brigade Children’s Christmas Party to Tolosa Park in Glenorchy. The idea was to get the kids involved in some sporty stuff instead of rides. Alison Wigston (my wife) is full of great ideas so she got the job of coordinating the sporty stuff and I made the fairy floss (already heard all the jokes) and snow cones. The idea was to fill the kids full of sugar and then burn it off!

Some old favourites came out: the three-legged race, running relay, beanbag race, a sack race was planned but the sacks were too small (whoops), and what firefighters’ Christmas party would be complete without a gumboot throwing competition?! There were gold medals being handed out left, right and centre. Well done to all competitors – big and small!

Cheryl Symington did the face painting – wow! How good is she? Amazing job Cheryl well done! We did a “Dunk your Dad”, only one dad got dunked though and I think it took about 200 throws to get him (machine a bit dodgy). Well done Shane Mundy!

Of course the Big Guy was there handing out stockings to all the good children. Well done again to our Bill Bourke, he always makes the show!

By all accounts a great day was had by all. As with all events there needs to be support behind the scenes to ensure things happen. I would like to thank “A” Platoon for the awesome work preparing and cooking the barbecue, New Town Primary School for supplying sporting goods, Trendy Cut Meats New Town Plaza (very good meat!!), Kmart New Town Plaza for supplying Christmas stockings and all the parents who helped during the day.

Look forward to next year! BB
The Northern Region once again put on a spread for its Christmas breakfast and lunch. It was held on Friday 9 December 2011 starting with bacon, eggs, sausages, hash browns and toast. We got Chef Micky Clifford in to cook our three course luncheon – we gave staff the year off from lunch cooking duties this time. The menu included prawn cocktail and sweet and sour chicken for entrée; roast pork and turkey with vegies for mains; and homemade plum pudding with brandy custard and apple crumble for dessert. We were full as googs, but think we all deserved it!

Sparra started with coffee and the paper!

But he could have helped Danny cook breakfast!

All smiles but only one with a Christmas hat!!

We all sat down to our catered Christmas lunch – yummy!

Santa arrived...

and the Chief got a present.

Can I have a pay rise Boss? Looks like he’s thinking about it Lynda!
Christmas was celebrated at TFS State Headquarters on Friday 23 December, commencing with a visit from Santa and followed by a barbecue lunch. Chief Officer Mike Brown, Deputy Chief Officer Gavin Freeman and Deputy Regional Chief South Ken Burns cooked up a storm on the barbecue which was complemented with plenty of salads and side dishes.
Emergency Services Volunteer Award Winners for 2011
By Ron Jones, Sprent Brigade

The winners of the 2011 Emergency Services Volunteer Award are:

7AD/SeaFM Devonport: Brigade Chief Latrobe Brigade, Graeme Brown, for over 35 years as Brigade Chief and his commitment to the brigade and community.

7BU/SeaFM Burnie: Frank Lawes of the Wynyard SES Unit, for over 30 years of commitment to SES and the community.

7XS West Coast: Greg Whittington for his tireless work as a volunteer with Ambulance Tasmania in Queenstown.

In the south, the winners of the Emergency Services Volunteer Award were Fourth Officer Fern Tree Brigade, Terry Gill and Group Officer Derwent, Lyndsay Suhr. Both Terry and Lyndsay are long serving members with a true dedication to the Fire Service and their communities.

All five award winners subsequently became nominees for the Australian Institute of Emergency Services Tasmanian Branch PJ Parssey Award, with Greg Whittington receiving the award. For the first time in the 21 year history of the PJ Parssey Award, a runner-up award was presented and that went to Brigade Chief Latrobe Brigade, Graeme Brown.

Congratulations to all – well deserved! RJ

On Saturday 2 November, members from Rocherlea, Ravenswood and Prospect brigades gathered at Northern Region Headquarters for an awards presentation and barbecue.

National Medals were presented to: First Officer Ravenswood Stan Jarman and Leading Firefighter Rocherlea Peter Smith.

Long Service Awards were presented to: Third Officer Ravenswood Steve Jarman (15 years), Firefighter Ravenswood Tom Payne (5 years), Firefighter Ravenswood Michael Reeves (10 years), Leading Firefighter Prospect Nick Dahl (5 years), Third Officer Prospect Glen McAdam (10 years) and Malcolm Pollard (Rocherlea, 30 years).
Northern Region Award Presentations
By Trainee Northern Region, Sophie Dickenson

The Northern Region held their award presentations on Wednesday, 12 October 2011.

Although the event was formal, we all still had a laugh with Zack pretending to give Andrew a kiss when he was presented with his medal. A few seemed to think the morning was all about Shannon with her name being called out over and over to receive two certificates and a Long Service Award. People who weren’t being presented with a certificate/medal were kept occupied with the mass of tasty food provided.

Overall, the morning was a great way to recognise the many achievements of our people, with Long Service Awards, National Medals and course certificates being presented. Special congratulations to Shannon who completed her Certificate 4 in Business. SD

Queenstown Brigade Celebrates
By Fourth Officer Queenstown Brigade, Robert Butterfield

The Queenstown Brigade held its annual dinner and award presentation on Saturday, 8 October 2011 at the Railway Hotel. The dinner was well supported with nearly all brigade members being able to attend and a good turn out from invited guests. All attending had an excellent night with the Railway Hotel once again putting on a top quality plentiful carvery meal for all to enjoy.

Awards were presented to: Paul Bugg, National Medal 2nd clasp for 35 years of service; Garry Kremmer, 30 year long service award (collected by his son Daniel); and John Paul, 5 year long service award. The Ian Mitchell Memorial Award was presented to Apparatus Officer Daniel Kremmer for his service to the brigade in maintaining the vehicles and equipment. Daniel has also achieved 100 per cent attendance at training nights for the past six years running, this alone is an outstanding commitment and shows Daniel’s dedication to the Queenstown Brigade.

Brigade Chief Bill Tiddy, Daniel Kremmer (winner of the Ian Mitchell Memorial Award) and Senior Station Officer Rob Deverell.
Somerset Brigade recently held their annual dinner at the Burnie Greens, with approximately 80 people in attendance. Among the attendees were Chief Officer Mike Brown; District Officer Jodi Armstrong; Tasmanian Volunteer Fire Fighter Awards Framework (TVFFAF) representatives Bruce Corbett and Robert Atkins; and Somerset Brigade life members Dan and Helen Kerr, Ron Grave, Philip Wilkinson, Dale Atkinson, Colin Atkinson, Robert Dawes and Heyden Blizzard.

Brigade Chief Robert Dawes welcomed everyone to the dinner before Mike Brown and Jodi Armstrong presented 5 year long service badges to Jordyn Blizzard and Emma Richards. They also presented Ron Grave with his 30 year long service badge.

Bruce Corbett and Robert Atkins representing the TVFFAF Management Committee presented Tanya Stokes and Lyn Richards with their TVFFA awards. These awards are presented for over 10 years service in a supporting role to TFS.

Brigade Chief Robert Dawes presented Jess Smith with a Tassie Devil Medal; this medal is for two years TFS service as a junior cadet, followed by one year of service in the senior brigade continuously.

Robert Dawes and Dale Atkinson then farewelled one of the brigade members, Dean Stokes, who has retired from the brigade after 19 years of service. The first six years of Dean’s service was completed at the Rosebery Brigade before he joined the Somerset Brigade. Dean is renowned for his ability to bog the 3.1 fire truck. The photo of 3.1 bogged is now used in TFS training.

The award is generously sponsored by former District Officer Arthur Region Rob Deverell.

The Queenstown Brigade marked its 110th birthday the following day, a toast was made to the brigade by former Brigade Chief Robert Hales; Bob was Brigade Chief for 23 years. Some of the guests attending were: Deputy Chief Officer Gavin Freeman and his partner Julie, Acting Regional Chief North West Jeremy Smith and his partner Kim, Rob Deverell and his wife Sandy, and West Coast Mayor Darryl Gerrity.

Queenstown Brigade 1901-2011

Queenstown Brigade was formed on 9 October 1901 and was located in a small shed next to the public toilets in Stitcht Street. It successfully functioned under the Queenstown Fire Brigade Board from 1901 until 1976. It was the first board in Tasmania to request the Chief Officer to attend meetings to explain at request, fires of importance that involved insurance companies and also the activities of the brigade; these meetings were held quarterly. In 1918 the fire station was relocated to Bowes Street. In 1929 the Board purchased a 1929 Chevrolet cab and chassis, the brigade members designed a hose box and ladder rack, and the Mount Lyell Mining and Railway Company kindly built it. In 1949 a new Chevrolet was purchased. Over the years the brigade’s involvement in the Demonstrations and Competitions saw a very high success rate within Tasmania and Victoria.

In 1994 TFS decided to amalgamate the Queenstown Country Brigade with the Queenstown Urban Brigade, although there was some trepidation it worked out very successfully. A brand new station was built and opened in 1995 thanks to the effort of the Chief Officer at the time Gerry Lowe, whose regard and respect for our brigade has ensured that we’ve continued to be well supported with new equipment and appliances (which we meticulously maintain and look after).

The brigade is very active, competent and highly regarded in the community which is evident in the support and contributions given by business establishments for the annual Christmas raffle, which has been held for the last 60 years. The brigade has a very proud record wholly due to the long list of members over the last 110 years. With that, will you please be upstanding and drink a toast with me to the Queenstown Brigade!
On Monday 21 March 2011, Risdon Vale Brigade held a function to present three of its members with life membership: Tanya Clifford, Ann Harrison and Robyn Leahy.

The evening was attended by Premier Lara Giddings, Senator Carol Brown, Group Officer Lyndsay Suhr, Senior Field Works Officer Shane Batt, State Secretary TRVFA Mathew Philpott and members of the Risdon Vale Brigade.

Tanya, Ann and Robyn all joined the brigade on 29 June 1995 as a result of a home fire safety program run by the Neighbourhood Centre. They all progressed through their probation period, learning the basics and developing their skills and progressed to become BA operators. All three were presented with their 10 year long service badges in 2005, and 15 year badges in 2010.

Tanya, Ann and Robyn have been very enthusiastic and active brigade members. They have been very keen members of our competition teams, competing at numerous competitions around the State. They have participated in fundraising efforts, enthusiastically promoted the brigade, and provided assistance to new members and continued to offer mentoring.

Tanya retired from the brigade on the 31 December 2010. Ann continues to be involved in Project Wake-Up and holds the position of brigade secretary, a position she has occupied since 1998. Robyn became the second female to be elected to the position of officer in the brigade when elected to the position of Third Officer in 2007, a position she still holds today. WS

Quite a large group gathered on 29 July 2011 at the Devonport Station Social Room for the presentation of service badges and medals to both permanent and volunteer members. It was a great night attended by District Officer Paul Hill, Robert Atkins and Bruce Corbett on behalf of the Volunteer Associations, Group Officer Neville Bingham and the Mayor of Devonport, Alderman Lyn Laycock.

Firefighter Greg Kershaw was laden down with medals, after being awarded a 15 year service badge, a National Medal and a Volunteer Medal.

Congratulations to all recipients for your achievements, commitment and dedication to TFS. GK
The Launceston Fire Brigade held a medal presentation evening in October to present National Medals and Long Service Awards to members for diligent service and commitment to the community and TFS over some quite distinguished and lengthy careers. Many of the recipients had started as volunteers prior to joining the career ranks, with some continuing to support their local communities with ongoing volunteer membership.

Long Service Awards were presented to: Craig Maxwell (30 years), Adrian Gill (15 years), Ben Wilson (15 years), Rob Nimmo (5 years) and Danny O’Donnell (35 years). Other LSA recipients not able to attend the evening were: Anthony Goss (10 years), David Casteller (20 years) and Craig Burrows (25 years).

National Medals were awarded to: Russell Kerr (1st Clasp), Paul Catterall, Jason Luck, Darren Berry (1st Clasp), Chris Hammersley (1st Clasp) and Danny O’Donnell (2nd Clasp). Other National Medal recipients not able to attend included Michael Porter, Mark Wilkie, Andrew Pitt and Roger Whittle.

As many readers would be aware, the 1st Clasp represents an additional 10 years of service over the first 15 when the National Medal is first received. The 2nd Clasp is for the next 10 years, so many medal recipients have 25 years or more of diligent service and SSO Danny O’Donnell received his 2nd Clasp for 35 years diligent service!

The evening was presided over by Regional Chief Andrew Comer with Deputy Regional Chief Jeff Harper and District Officers John Hazzlewood and Steven Richardson also in attendance.

National Medal recipients: Russell Kerr, Paul Catterall, Jason Luck (front), Darren Berry, Chris Hammersley and Danny O’Donnell.

Long Service Award recipients: Craig Maxwell, Adrian Gill, Ben Wilson, Rob Nimmo and Danny O’Donnell.

Deep Bay Brigade Presentations

By Brigade Chief Deep Bay, Pam Evans

The Volunteer Medal for 30 years service was presented to Malcolm Merchant at a ceremony held on 11 July at the Deep Bay Station. Tasmanian Volunteer Fire Brigades Association representatives Lyndsay Suhr and Craig Hughes presented Malcolm with the medal along with a citation of his achievements during his service. South West District Officer Rod Sherrin and Field Officer Andrew Fyfe also attended the ceremony along with members of the Deep Bay Brigade.

After the AGM on 5 September, long service badges were presented by Acting District Officer Andrew Fyfe to Fourth Officer Nick Direen (10 years), Second Officer Christopher Petterd (15 years) and Group Officer Malcolm Merchant (35 years).

During the AGM, Andrew Fyfe made special mention of the generous donation made in June by the brigade of $1000 to Give Me Five For Kids. Funds raised go toward buying much needed medical equipment for local children’s wards.

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A list of recent awards presented within the TFS

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<th>Location/Brigade</th>
<th>Name</th>
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Awards
NEW ARRIVALS IN THE LIBRARY

Firefighter survival techniques: from prevention to intervention [DVD] 45 mins
Frank Ricci, 2008

Vehicle extrication [3-DVD set]
1: Vehicle technology: alternative fuel and safety systems; 2: Scene management; 3: Evolutions
David Dalrymple, 2011

Into thin air: a personal account of the Mt. Everest disaster [audio book]
Jon Krakauer
Required reading for the Fireline Leadership course.
No time to read? Listen to the author read the book on this 7-CD set.

Building resilience at work
Kathryn McEwen.
Australian Academic Press, 2011

Burning issues: sustainability and management of Australia’s southern forests
Mark Adams, Peter Attiwill
CSIRO, 2011
“Following the tragic Victorian Black Saturday fires in 2009 a much greater urgency now confronts policy makers, land and fire managers and communities living in bushfire areas”.

Overall fuel hazard assessment guide
Francis Hines, Kevin Tolhurst, Andrew Wilson and Gregory McCarthy
DSE Vic, 2010

Fire fighting for non firefighting women: be prepared and have a plan: a survival guide for you and your family
Jennifer and Peter Filmer. NSW, 2009
“A concise, comprehensive book developed to benefit non firefighting women and men.”

Kinglake-350
Adrian Hyland

Worst of days
Karen Kissane

Personal accounts of the Black Saturday firestorm

Warriors in fire boots: a tribute to the valour of firefighters
Arthur Lockyear, 2011

REPORTS ON THE INTERNET...
(also available from the library)

Engaging young people in volunteering: what works in Tasmania?
Lindsey Moffatt, 2011

Making a difference: women in the NSW Rural Fire Service, 2011

A shared responsibility: the report of the Perth Hills Bushfire Review
[Keelty report] 2011

Achievements of the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre 2003-2010
http://www.bushfirecrc.com/managed/1102_bcrc_ar_p01-60_final.pdf

Did you know...
Many of our journals and magazines are available online via the TFS intranet. Just go to: Members Area » Info Centre » Library » Journals and explore!

CONTACT US
For books, DVDs, assistance with information and research please phone Helen in the Library on 6230 8679 or email library@fire.tas.gov.au. Items can be sent to TFS personnel around the State. The library is located in the TFS SHQ building, corner of Argyle and Melville Streets Hobart. Visitors are welcome, but please phone or email first to check daily opening hours.
PHOTO GALLERY

Vehicle fire attended by Risdon Vale Brigade. Photographer: First Officer Wade Stewart, Risdon Vale Brigade.

Tractor fire attended by Montumana Brigade. Courtesy of Firefighter David Elphinstone, Montumana Brigade.

TasFire Training Instructor Eric Braithwaite using the BullEx training system to show members of the public how to use an extinguisher at Agfest, May 2011. Courtesy of The Launceston Examiner.

Firefighter Hadspen Brigade Tom Marik enjoying some juice and a book while donating blood. Courtesy of Brigade Chief Wayne Preston, Hadspen Brigade.

Firefighter Marc Herbert of Devonport Brigade in the snorkel attending a fire in an industrial area in East Devonport. The inferno involved 5,000 wooden potato crates. Photographer: Volunteer Firefighter Ben Phipps, Devonport Brigade.

Stanley Brigade training exercise with rainbow over the Nut. Courtesy of Arthur District Field Works Officer, Shayne Andrews.

The new 3.1P prototype for Rokeby. Photographer: Claudia Rosas-Gutierrez, Rokeby Brigade.
When photos are received for Fireground, they are not necessarily submitted by the photographer. In these instances the names we have received will be published and the prize money will be split between the person submitting the photo and the actual photographer. Remember, please advise the name of the photographer for each photo submitted.

The winning photo from this edition is:

![Photo Competition Winner](image)

1st place photo submitted by Volunteer Firefighter Ben Phipps, Devonport Brigade ($100).

**How to enter:**

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

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

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

Photos may be of any TFS event or incident, and 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 given to the photographer.

Post them in to:
Editor – Fireground
GPO Box 1526
HOBART TAS 7001

or email them to:
fireground@fire.tas.gov.au
The following Career personnel changes have occurred

**Arrivals**

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<th>Department</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>FireComm</td>
<td>Tiffany Freeman</td>
<td>Communications Officer</td>
<td>12th October 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Protection</td>
<td>Andrew Cox</td>
<td>Planning Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>FireComm</td>
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**Departures**

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<td>22nd June 2011</td>
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<td>Communications</td>
<td>Paul Lewis</td>
<td>Assistant Manager</td>
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<td>Southern Region</td>
<td>Hayley Webster</td>
<td>Clerical Officer</td>
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<td>Corporate Services</td>
<td>Nicole Webster</td>
<td>Clerical Support Officer</td>
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<td>Community Protection</td>
<td>Jo Tubb</td>
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<td>16th September 2011</td>
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<td>Judy Jones</td>
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<td>Hobart Fire Brigade</td>
<td>Robert Ratcliffe</td>
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<td>TasFire Equipment</td>
<td>Adam Lewtas</td>
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**Elevations**

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<td>Noelene Watt</td>
<td>Leading Communications Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engineering Services</td>
<td>Mathew Sheen</td>
<td>Workshop Supervisor</td>
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The following Volunteer Brigade Officers have been elected by their Brigades

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<tr>
<th>BRIGADE</th>
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<th>APPOINTMENT</th>
<th>APPOINTMENT</th>
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<td>Trevor Moore</td>
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<td>Kirstie Martin-Henry</td>
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<td>Bell Bay</td>
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<td>Jason Mackrill</td>
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<td>Mathew Philpott</td>
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<td>Brian Phillips</td>
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<td>David Lamb</td>
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<td>Damien Ager</td>
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58  FIREGROUND SUMMER 2011
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<td>Stephen Johnston</td>
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</table>
Hi Peter

Thanks to you and Andrew for delivering another fun and informative session on Emergency and Fire Extinguishers to our new Youth Workers.

The new equipment that Andrew used for the extinguisher and fire blanket training was a very clean, safe and efficient way to demonstrate the various types of fires and how to put them out. The students were able to experience several different types of fires and get an accurate assessment of their ability to put out a fire in a timely and effective way. The whole set up also impressed me in terms of increased safety and minimal mess at our site.

It is always a pleasure to work with you guys. Your trainers, training set up and presentation are extremely well organised.

cheers

Susan Beaumont
Training Coordinator
Ashley Youth Detention Centre
As a courtesy Fireground now offers contact details for members’ representative organisations.

United Firefighters Union
State Secretary - Vincent Males
Email: ufutas@ufutas.com
Address: PO Box 20, North Hobart 7002
Phone: 6234 9331
Website: www.ufutas.asn.au

Tasmanian Retained Volunteer Firefighters Association
State Secretary - Mathew Philpott
Email: secretary@trvfa.org.au
Mobile: 0417 499 088
Website: www.trvfa.org.au

Tasmanian Volunteer Fire Brigades Association
State Secretary - Lyndy Smith
Phone: 6473 3169
Mobile: 0408 577 576
Email: gerald.smith3@bigpond.com
Website: www.tvfba.org.au

CPSU (SPSFT) inc
General Secretary - Tom Lynch
Email: cpsu@tas.cpsu.com.au
Address: GPO Box 54, Hobart 7001
Phone: 6234 1708
Website: www.cpsu.com.au
TFS Values

Service
We value Serving the Tasmanian community
Being responsive to community needs
Being progressive and delivering quality services

Professionalism
We value Dedication and pride in our organisation
Being skilled, efficient, committed and innovative
Using our collective capabilities to deliver an excellent service
Being accountable for our actions

Integrity
We value Being trustworthy and ethical
Treating each other fairly and honestly
Having the courage to do the right thing

Consideration
We value Each other
Working together to achieve our goals
Treating each other with respect and understanding
Being supportive, compassionate and helping each other

Do my actions reflect these values?