

Fireground

autumn 2010



- **New Deputy Chief Officer**
- **Summer Bushfires**
- **Winter Fire Safety Campaign**

Contents **AUTUMN 2010**



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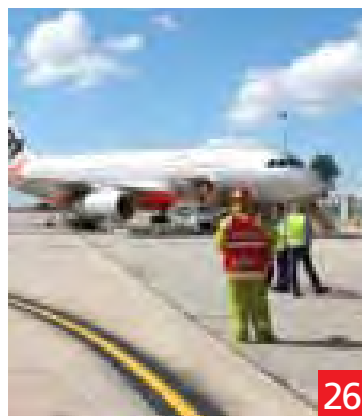


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Official Journal of The Tasmania Fire Service

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From the Chief Officer



MICHAEL BROWN

Who are we? What do we do? How do we best attract and retain the right people? What are our standards and expectations for leading and managing into the future? How do we best shape and measure our workforce and performance?

These are all important questions for TFS - in fact for any organisation. The world's leading organisations have developed and are guided by organisational values. TFS developed a set of values several years ago, but for various reasons they had not been widely discussed, developed or promoted.

Hopefully by now, many of you would have read about our values project in Word Back and had your input by completing the values survey. Having our very own set of values should provide TFS with some new underpinning principles that will have a significant influence on 'the way we do things around here'. They will also provide the foundations for the development and roll out of our leadership strategy.

I thank all those that have had input to date. You'll be hearing a great deal more about our values into the future.

Most of you would also be aware that our new Deputy Chief Officer, Gavin Freeman has started work on the top floor. Gavin is settling in very well. As I mentioned in Word Back, you are assured of hearing and seeing more of Gavin in the near future.

As I write, Tasmania has received some rain in most areas. This has enabled us to have a temporary, at least, break from fire activity. Just as well as we have had a number of our people competing in the Police & Emergency Services Games.

Well done to all those that have competed. While we still have three days to go, TFS members have already won several medals in athletics, small bore rifle shooting, cross country, cycling, triathlon and weight lifting. I look forward to seeing articles and photos of the events in the next issue.

Take care

Michael Brown
Chief Officer

Editorial

This edition's centrefold, kindly provided by the Bushfire Co-operative Research Centre (CRC) is on "Seeing the future earlier".

This issue includes articles on the 2010 Annual Winter Fire Safety Campaign, Station Officer Steve Percival's upcoming "Tour of Duty Run" across the USA, recent fires plus many more.

Closing date for next edition will be 1st April 2010, please don't wait for the closing date - send your articles as the events occur - if they miss that edition, I'll carry them over to the next one!

Please send me your photos, they don't have to be for the competition or with an article - but tell me where they were taken and the event, I'll contact you if I need more information.

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

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

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Email: fireground@fire.tas.gov.au



Farewell from Jim Cox MP

As most of you would be aware, I will not be contesting the 2010 State Election and I would like to make this final contribution to Fireground.

I have had the pleasure of being the Minister for Police and Emergency Management for the past two years and I have been constantly impressed by the performance of TFS staff, career and volunteer firefighters in striving to keep all Tasmanians safe.

In my time as Minister we have witnessed the “Black Friday” Victorian bushfires. A large number of Tasmanian career and volunteer firefighters and emergency personnel put their lives on hold to provide much needed assistance to our interstate colleagues.

The devastation of this event and its aftermath will have longstanding effects on how fire management and community fire information is handled in Australia. We have witnessed the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission and the outcomes of it to date. A great deal of work has been undertaken by many to review and examine how we do things. I note that TFS has:

- Actively participated in Bushfire CRC research into fires;
- Represented Australian fire agencies at the Royal Commission in relation to the national position on “stay or go” and Australian Standard AS 3959 Building in Bushfire Prone Areas;
- Collaborated, through the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC), in the drafting of revised fire danger ratings and associated bushfire advice and warnings;
- Formulated a new set of operational priorities; and
- Participated in the National Bushfire Warnings Taskforce to complete the work commenced by AFAC.

I know the work undertaken had enabled TFS to keep abreast of emerging lessons learned from the bushfires, and be able to respond in a timely way to recommendations in the Royal Commission Interim Report.

I am particularly proud of a number of our recent achievements, including:

- The addition of the new medium fire fighting helicopter based in Launceston;
- Completion of the \$600,000 St Marys Emergency Services Complex to benefit all three emergency services and the local communities;
- Installation by TFS, in collaboration with the Tasmanian Deaf Society, of \$47,000 worth of specialised smoke alarms for the deaf or hard of hearing;
- The completion of the “Review of Emergency Response Arrangements” and the implementation of many of its recommendations;
- The increased and ongoing financial and “in kind” support for the Bushfire CRC to enable valuable bushfire research to be conducted;
- The successful “Fire Service Contribution Review” will, amongst other things, result in a fairer method of calculating fire service contributions;
- The development of Community Protection Plans and identification of community refuges and safe places including the appointment of three new co-ordinator positions with additional funding of approximately \$1.6 million being provided over three years;

I thank the volunteers and career firefighters for your great dedication and commitment and for the work you do to help make Tasmania a safer place.

- The roll-out of \$790,000 worth of new firefighting equipment for brigades to enhance firefighter safety;

It is recognised that TFS is a well resourced fire service with the necessary people, resources and equipment to carry out your roles properly.

TFS has allocated in excess of \$8 million for the fabrication of 60+ appliances over the period 2007-08 to 2009-10. I have enjoyed visiting Engineering Services at Cambridge on many occasions over the past two years and the construction of the vehicles in-house is a credit to all involved.

In the near future you can look forward to the upgrade of three stations – Brady's Lake, St Patrick's River and Tunbridge. I am sure the new facilities will be warmly welcomed and help the volunteers to serve their communities for many years to come. Those based on the North West Coast will enjoy the \$300,000 upgrade to TFS Engineering Services Workshop at Burnie. These upgrades will provide better efficiency, as well as increasing the safety and functioning of the workshop.

TFS has witnessed some significant organisational changes in recent times with the appointment of Chief Officer, Mike Brown on 1 October 2009. More recently, Gavin Freeman has commenced as Deputy Chief Officer and I congratulate Gavin on his recent appointment. The recent and increased collaboration across emergency and land management agencies will benefit all into the future. I feel confident that TFS is in excellent shape and has some outstanding personnel to take it into the future.

I commend the nearly 5,400 volunteers and career staff of the TFS who work together, side by side, to not only deliver an outstanding fire service but also importantly to provide fire prevention, safety education and training to the community.

I thank the volunteers and career firefighters for your great dedication and commitment and for the work you do to help make Tasmania a safer place.

I would like to thank all those at Tasmania Fire Service for your support during my time as Minister, and I wish you all the best negotiating the challenges that lie ahead. **JC**

TFS Website "Pushed to the Limit"

By Director Corporate Services, Mike Gallagher

Significant demand on the TFS website in January saw its response time slow considerably and it was not until early February we were able to provide a workable solution to the problems being encountered.

As many users would appreciate, TFS has over the years made many significant enhancements to its website and the improved look and feel has attracted many more users and viewers than was ever imagined.

There is no doubt that the problems recently encountered with the website were due to its popularity and an unprecedented number of hits that it received. Back on 12 October 2006 with the fire in the Meehan Range on the eastern shore of Hobart there were a massive (for then) 738,980 hits for the day. This is very small in comparison to 11 January 2010 this year where there were 2,865,567 hits for the day and over 254,000 hits per hour at times. On a normal summer day the site gets around 300,000 – 400,000 hits per day.

Following 11 January 2010 changes to the web server environment were immediately initiated to enable the site to take a higher load; however, the most effective change could not be fully implemented, due to the technical complexity of this change, until 3 February. Unfortunately another period of very high load, over 322,000 hits per hour, was experienced on 31 January, before the change could be implemented, and the website again struggled to cope.

With the proposed changes made in early February we have been able to undertake load testing of the site and confirm its viability. The results have been very positive and indicate that the website is now able to serve a demand of greater than 880,000 hits per hour which is almost 3 times the highest load previously measured.

The website will continue to be reviewed with greater emphasis now placed on response time. Medium to long term planning has commenced with the objective of creating a website that can handle significant hits and continue to refresh its contents without compromising response time. **MWG**

Gavin Freeman - New Deputy Chief Officer



Deputy Chief Officer Gavin Freeman with Chief Officer Mike Brown

Gavin Freeman has an impressive record of achievements through his 25 years of service to TFS.

As our new Deputy Chief Officer, Gavin Freeman has an impressive record of achievements through his 25 years of service to TFS.

Starting as a Recruit in 1985 he knuckled down to learning his trade, taking advice from his mentors at the Hobart Fire Brigade whilst also studying towards his Associate Diploma of Applied Science (Fire Technology).

After 6 years he was promoted to Station Officer. During his time at the SO level Gavin worked mostly at the Hobart Brigade and for a while at Launceston and Learning & Development. He was also a key driver in the development of TFS's High Angle Rescue capability.

He was promoted to District Officer in 1998 and worked in Brigade Operations, Learning & Development, Field Operations and on many occasions (totalling more than 3 years) acted in senior regional management positions both in the South and in the North.

In 2009 he was promoted to Deputy Regional Chief North and on 17th February 2010 he was formally appointed as Deputy Chief Officer.

His key performances and achievements include:

- USA deployments in 2000 and 2003 undertaking strategic command of hundreds of multi agency personnel and working in a leadership role with large scale IMT's;
- Victorian and NSW deployments as both Task Force Leader and Incident Controller;
- High level state and international representation on CBRN forums;
- Incident Controller of Myer store fire. He also presented as an expert witness at the Coronial enquiry;
- Introduction of vertical rescue to TFS;
- A major influence on the introduction of nationally recognised operational training to Tasmania;
- His operational experience is supported by his formal tertiary qualifications in Emergency Management, Executive Leadership, Firefighting Management and Fire Service.

Congratulations Gavin!

Real time – real maps

By Senior Firefighter State Operations, David van Geytenbeek

One of the key issues facing incident management teams is the ability to gather information on the location and extent of bushfires in a timely way. The issue has been addressed by using a number of existing technologies to provide a cost effective solution.

Combining a GPS receiver, a small notebook computer, a NextG modem and some software written in house by TFS staff, a fire can be flown by aircraft or driven in a vehicle and the results sent instantly back to headquarters.

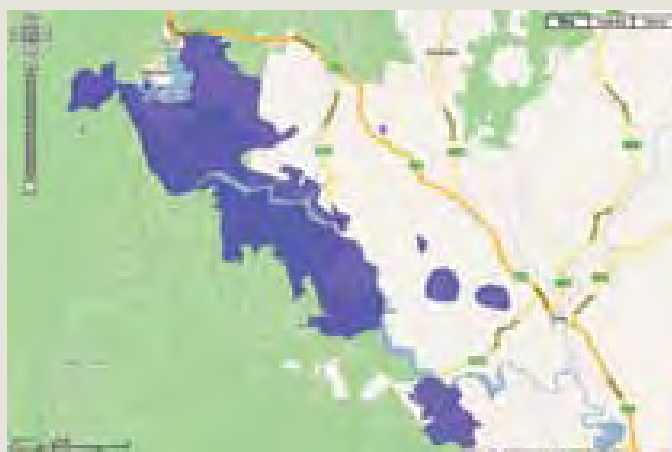
The speed at which the information can be sent back means not only that the incident management team can make a rapid assessment of the fire, but the information can also be used on the TFS website to provide information to the public and media outlets.

The system has been designed with ease of use in mind, operator training can be done in less than 15 minutes and operation in an aircraft is very easy.

When one of these units have been deployed the results have been excellent. In a recent example, when used at an incident the location and extent was known back at headquarters within 10 minutes of the arrival of the aircraft on scene.

A number of units have been rolled out across the state for deployment in the very early stages of a bushfire. It is critical for the first arriving officer to provide an accurate "sitrep" so that this capability can be made available at the appropriate incidents.

Congratulations must go to the staff of Information Services and State Operations whose efforts have produced an easy to use, accurate, speedy and very cost effective solution to an age old problem. **DvG**



Example of final fire boundary displayed on the public website.



Main screen of the application

2010 Annual Winter Fire Safety Campaign

By Manager Community Education Sandra Barber and Senior Station Officer Chris Tomes

With winter and the associated cold weather fast approaching the TFS is again gearing up for an increase in the risk of house fires across the state. The Annual TFS Winter Fire Safety Campaign for 2010 will again have 2 phases.

Phase 1

Change Your Clock, Change Your Smoke Alarm Battery on Sunday 4 April 2010

The TFS and Duracell have again teamed up to run a campaign, in March/April, to urge all Tasmanians to "Change Your Clock, Change Your Smoke Alarm Battery" (CYC) on Sunday April 4. The campaign aims to link the practice of changing your clock at the **end of daylight savings** with replacing the battery in your smoke alarm to ensure they are kept in working order.

Phase 2

Home Fire Safety Awareness

The second phase of the winter fire safety campaign strategy, in May, June and July, focuses on parents/ carers of children and elderly people and aims to increase their awareness of fire safety issues in the home and encourage them to take an active role in the development of awareness and fire-safe behaviour.

Key messages

- You should install a smoke alarm in each room where people sleep and in all paths of travel to exits, such as the hallway and the living area.
- The TFS and Duracell urge all Tasmanians to "Change Your Clock, Change Your Smoke Alarm Battery" on Sunday April 4.
- For around \$5, a battery for your smoke alarm is the cheapest life-saving investment you can make to protect your home and family.
- The most important battery operated device in your house is your smoke alarm and the TFS encourages the use of a long-lasting alkaline batteries to ensure the effectiveness of your smoke alarms until the end of daylight saving next year.
- Only working smoke alarms can save lives.
- Every home should have smoke alarms installed.
- They provide an early warning of fire, giving people more time to get out and potentially saving thousands of dollars in property damage.
- We also advise people to develop a home fire escape plan to ensure that all members of the household know the best way to get out in an emergency.
- Adults are responsible for alerting and evacuating children.
- If you have deadlocked doors, leave a key in the lock so you can escape quickly.
- The campaign is proudly supported by Duracell.
- There are a few common danger zones for fire around the home: misuse of heaters; the kitchen; faulty electrical goods;

and people being careless with smoking materials or candles.

- In the kitchen never leave cooking unattended.
- Electrical appliances or leads can also spark fires and one of the keys to fire safety is maintenance.
- Have older appliances inspected by an electrician, replace any damaged leads and avoid overloading power points by using power boards rather than double adaptors.
- People should also have a look around their homes and make sure any cigarette lighters or matches are kept well out of reach of children.
- This is a fire safety message from Tasmania's firefighters.

Getting the message out there

Paid advertising – Duracell and the TFS is funding a TV advertising campaign that will air for the two weeks leading up to and including April 4. Print advertisements will appear in mainstream, local and regional newspapers. Radio commercials will also be aired throughout the State.

TFS is funding a series of television commercials (TVCs) during the months of May, June and July that promote:

- the importance of working smoke alarms; and
- preparing and practicing a home fire escape plan.

Airing on WIN, Southern Cross and TDT the TVCs are designed to keep the issue of fire safety in the home at the forefront of people's minds during the winter months when the risks are greatest. Print advertisements will appear in mainstream, local and regional newspapers. Radio commercials will also be aired throughout the State.

No cost media opportunities will also be sought through mainstream and local/regional press and radio outlets. This will include community newspapers, talkback radio, community service announcements and mainstream newspapers.

In-store retail promotions CYC – Duracell have negotiated promotional opportunities with both Coles supermarkets and Bunnings hardware stores nationally to promote the campaign where Duracell batteries are sold.

Direct marketing activities include:

- Batteries are available for use in *Project Wake Up!*
- Prize promotions on radio and in local newspapers.
- Newsletter articles sent to primary schools.

Other strategies aimed at those most at risk from fire include:

- School Fire Education Program
- Advertising and editorial in 'Community Chat' Housing Tasmania newsletter
- Project Wake Up!

- Advertising on fire trucks and School Education vehicles
- Mobile Display Trailers north and south
- TFS website www.fire.tas.gov.au
- Free call 1800 000 699
- Brochures and booklets
- Home fire safety resources available by contacting Community Education Admin Assistant on 6230 8485 or email communityed@fire.tas.gov.au

Support materials

Duracell batteries - Are available for promotional activities or **Project Wake Up!!**

CYC Poster - Extra copies of the CYC poster are available should you wish to promote the message through your local networks.

CYC stickers, tattoos and fridge magnets - Supplied by Duracell, these are ideal as giveaways for local initiatives. They promote a generic message about changing smoke alarm batteries annually.

Brochures and Booklets - TFS booklets & brochures are available if you wish to provide residents with further information on home fire safety.

TFS website - www.fire.tas.gov.au will have a link from the home page to information about the campaign, smoke alarms, evacuation planning and to the CYC campaign website www.changeyourbattery.com.au

These strategies should help ensure that we continue to see a drop in the number of house fires in Tasmania. **SB & CT**



Only working smoke alarms save lives...
Change your clock, change your smoke alarm battery on Sunday April 4th.





A community safety message from
DURACELL

www.changeyourbattery.com.au
www.fire.tas.gov.au

Need more info? Have a question or query?

Then contact Community Education on 6230 8485 or email communityed@fire.tas.gov.au

or Chris Tomes, Community Education 6230 8443 or 0419 120 159 or email c.tomes@fire.tas.gov.au

New general fire safety giveaways for children from Community Education

By Manager Community Education Sandra Barber and Senior Station Officer Chris Tomes

Reacting to feedback from volunteer, career and support staff, Community Education is pleased to announce the availability of new general fire safety giveaways for children.

For some time staff statewide had been indicating the stickers, balloons and colouring books available as giveaways were a bit lame. We agreed.

So for the last year we have been redesigning the general fire safety giveaways to be more vibrant and engaging for the children that receive them and for the staff that give them away. The new resources include:

- Fire truck money box
- '000' sticker
- Smoke alarm sticker
- Colouring book

All of the giveaways incorporate the new School Fire Education characters. This is to allow a natural flow and recognition across our range of fire safety resources for children. **SB & CT**





Need some giveaways for your station/workplace?
Then forward your name, delivery address and
quantity of resource needed to:
Community Education on 6230 8485 or email
communityed@fire.tas.gov.au

George Town Combined Emergency Services dinner

By members of the Dalrymple Group



Leading Firefighter Richard Rees

The annual George Town Combined Emergency Services dinner was held at the George Town RSL on 20th November 2009. In attendance were emergency service personnel from the George Town Municipality and brigades from the Dalrymple Group. Also in attendance were the George Town Mayor Doug Burt and Mrs Burt, Ivan Dean and Mrs Dean, Sue Napier, Regional Chief Andrew Comer, District Officer John Hazzlewood and Dalrymple Group Officer Don Mackrill.

The dinner was organised by a committee comprising of Don Mackrill (as advisor), Peter Harley (Brigade Chief of Pipers Brook Brigade, who was also the Dining President), Belinda Taylor, Danny Johnson, Debbie Smith and Elaine Burn. The dinner is held at the same time each year as part of the George Town on Show festival which is proudly sponsored by the George Town Council. It is a unique dinner which follows the formal traditions of a Military mess dinner, with the serving of 3 courses and followed by the "passing of the Port" with formal toasts to the (reigning monarch) the Queen, the George Town Emergency Services, the visitors, followed by formal speeches and responses as well as the presentation of any honours and awards to emergency service personnel.

The meal was enjoyed by all who attended, and a big thank you was given to the Ladies Auxiliary of the George Town RSL and the RSL staff who assisted in making the night a great success.

Leading Firefighter Richard Rees from St Patrick's River Brigade was awarded the National Medal for 15 years combined service with the NSW Bush Fire Brigades and the TFS. The Award also coincided with the St Patrick's River Brigades' 40th Anniversary (1969 - 2009).

The TFS Volunteer Medal was presented to Regional Chief Andrew Comer by District Officer John Hazzlewood.



Tour of Duty Run 2010

By Station Officer Hobart Brigade, Steve Percival

It was around June 2009 when an expression of interest was called for persons interested in participating in a relay team to run across the USA in 2010. Each state was asked for one representative. From the TFS there were four applicants who had to address an extensive selection criteria, I was fortunate to be the successful applicant from Tasmania.

The run is a remembrance event organised by a small team of enthusiastic Melbourne Fire Brigade firefighters to pay respect to the 411 emergency workers that perished on September 11th 2001. The run is known as the "Tour of Duty". The following is a section from the official website which better explains the run.

"With the passing of time and with the ever changing world events dominating our collective consciousness, the self-sacrifice and calamity of that fateful day may fade. The Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade, on the back of the successful Gallipoli to London run, intends to run, with our American colleagues, from LA to the World Trade Centre in New York, finishing at 8:46 on September 11, 2010, nine years to the minute since the first plane hit tower one.

The run will be a living embodiment of the values and attributes that those brave emergency workers displayed on that fateful morning. Their self sacrifice must never be forgotten, and the run will in some small way ensure that even with the passage of time, the debt we owe those brave men and women has not diminished. Australian and US firefighters running the breadth of America together encapsulates the shared struggles that both nations faced in the 20th century, and in no small way reflects our shared destiny in confronting evil in this century.

Goals & Objectives

In 2010 the Melbourne Fire Brigade, in conjunction with the Australian Fire Services, will run from Los Angeles to New York, finishing at the World Trade Centre site to commemorate 9/11. The route will pass through Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Arizona, Albuquerque, Oklahoma, Houston, New Orleans, Mississippi,

Memphis, Charlottesville, Washington, Baltimore, Pennsylvania and New York. Each dawn of the 30-day journey will be dedicated to the individuals whose lives were tragically taken in their tour of duty.

Funds raised will be donated to charities nominated by the Firefighters and Emergency Services of America. This run is a statement of hope for the future of a world consumed by financial gloom and terrorist alerts. This run reflects the better values of humanity, mateship, camaraderie and self-sacrifice.

Participants & Training

- 16 runners/firefighters
- 5 support crew
- 3 crew

The participants are professional firefighters drawn from every state in Australia who in addition to their firefighting duties have been training for this event for over 18 months. They will be running across the breadth of the US in 30 days in concert with their American brothers and sisters. It is by their exertions that the runners will pay homage and honour the memory of those brave souls who gave up everything so others could enjoy the beauty of the day. The run will be escorted by an American Pierce fire engine from LA to NYC, with American firefighters joining the run as it passes through each state."

The run was launched on the 11th September 2009 when the runners converged on Melbourne to meet for the first time. The runners were joined in Melbourne by Battalion Chief Jay Jonas, Jay who was a Captain at the time along with his crew of five were a group of only twenty that survived when the twin towers collapsed.

On our first morning in Melbourne we met with the US Consulate General and held a remembrance ceremony, the team then appeared with Jay live on the Channel Seven show "Sunrise" and the following evening we did a lap of honour around the MCG just before one of the finals' games.

While in Melbourne we attended the Melbourne Firefighters Ball where we met the patron of the event ex Prime Minister John Howard. Kevin Rudd has also endorsed the run and keen supporters Hugh Jackman and Pat Rafter appeared via video message. Hugh has even committed to run the last leg with us across the Brooklyn Bridge.

On Friday 5th February we did a second media event running over the Sydney Harbour Bridge and finishing at the Channel Seven studios. The run was only a short four kilometre jog but it was 30 degrees with 90% humidity and done in full structural turn out pants and jacket. The run was televised live on the "Sunrise" morning show and with the aid of the US media liaison officer distributed to the major US television networks.

Some other facts that have been confirmed at this time are:

- Channel 7 is on board as a sponsor and paying our Australian Airfares.
- Fosters Brewery has donated \$100,000.
- Pierce Fire Engines will supply a new truck to follow us across the USA they will also supply all the RV's and a food van. These vehicles will be driven by US firefighters.
- Glen Wheatley will be producing a concert featuring John Farnham with proceeds going towards the tour.
- "Skins" thermal clothing is now a sponsor.
- We are communicating with each other weekly using Skype conferencing.

In the early stages of the run we will need to cross Death Valley where the temperatures in August will reach 45C during the day and 30C of an evening. The total distance to run is 7,435k. This

The ex boss with yours truly at the Melbourne Firefighters Ball



The team with the US Consulate General at his Melbourne office.

will be done by three teams of 5 running six hour legs in relay, 24 hours a day. It is hoped that a similar number of our fellow American Firefighters will join us in the journey. The Tour of Duty website is www.tourofduty.com.au

All money that is raised in Australia will be donated to Australian charities and money raised in the US will be donated to US firefighters' charities. We are still after sponsors within Tasmania so if you would like more information or have some major business contacts that would like to get involved then please email me at s.percival@fire.tas.gov.au. **SP**



Bushy Park fire

By District Officer, Gerald Crawford

This fire was reported at 1130 hours on Monday 11 January 2010. The day was a Total Fire Ban with the fire danger rating forecast for Severe at Bushy Park.

Bushy Park 3.1 and 5.1, Westerway 4.1 and New Norfolk 4.1, 5.1 and 7.1 all responded to Glenora Road, Bushy Park where they found a vegetation fire on the top side of the road burning in very steep terrain. They endeavoured to stop the spread of the fire at the head and the flanks but because of the terrain this was not successful.

This fire had the potential to run all the way to the top of Kinvarra Hill and directly threaten Skög's pine plantations as well as posing a threat to the settlements of Uxbridge, Moogara and Feilton.

Skög provided dozers to work along the top edge as well as trying to contain the flanks. The vegetation ranged from grassland near the origin of the fire progressively moving into grassy understory dry sclerophyll.

Helicopter support was requested to try and contain the fire until control lines could be established. Helitack 721 and 723 provided water bombing missions throughout the day and without this support the fire would have been a lot larger and more difficult to contain.

The next day was also a Total Fire Ban so five crews were tasked to work on the fire all night until they were relieved by the following day shift.



By mid morning on the 12th the control lines were all completed and mop up and patrol commenced. Because of the forecast Helitack 721 was put on standby at Bushy Park and several missions were undertaken around midday.

A little after 1300 hours the 80kmh wind that had been forecast hit the fireground. All the containment lines held.

Excellent work was carried out by all the brigades who attended this fire both local and non local crews.

Total area burnt was approximately 200 hectares with the only damage being to some fencing.

The area where this fire started has had numerous fires illegally lit over the years. **GC**

A busy time in the North

By Clerical Officer Northern Region, Lisa Gilbert

On Friday 5 February 2010 Carol Davey and Lynda Robins cooked scones to raise money and awareness for Ronald McDonald Day. Not only was it a good get together for such an occasion raising over \$90, there were also a few extra things happening around the region.

It was farewell to Gavin Freeman who was promoted to Deputy Chief Officer returning to Hobart; Jessica Ross completed her traineeship (Certificate III) with the TFS and was going to have some "R&R" before commencing with Cash & Carry; Amanda Ross disappears for 4 months for a change of scenery at State Emergency Service.

It was also an opportunity to welcome Neil Eadie, Maintenance Officer for the North. **LG**



Back – Jessica Ross, Andrew Comer
Front – Amanda Ross, Neil Eadie and Gavin Freeman

Resolutions Made Simple

By Coordinator Organisational Development, Steve Willing

The Resolution Procedure was developed to help members resolve issues that affect workplace relationships and performance. It has now been streamlined and made simpler. Many people found the old format overwhelming. Our aim is to create a simple tool that will help you resolve issues quickly, fairly and locally without getting tied up in red tape. We consulted with volunteers, employees and other agencies to create a user friendly and effective process.

The new procedure is a much smaller document with:

- The essential information;
- A simple layout;
- One format for all members;

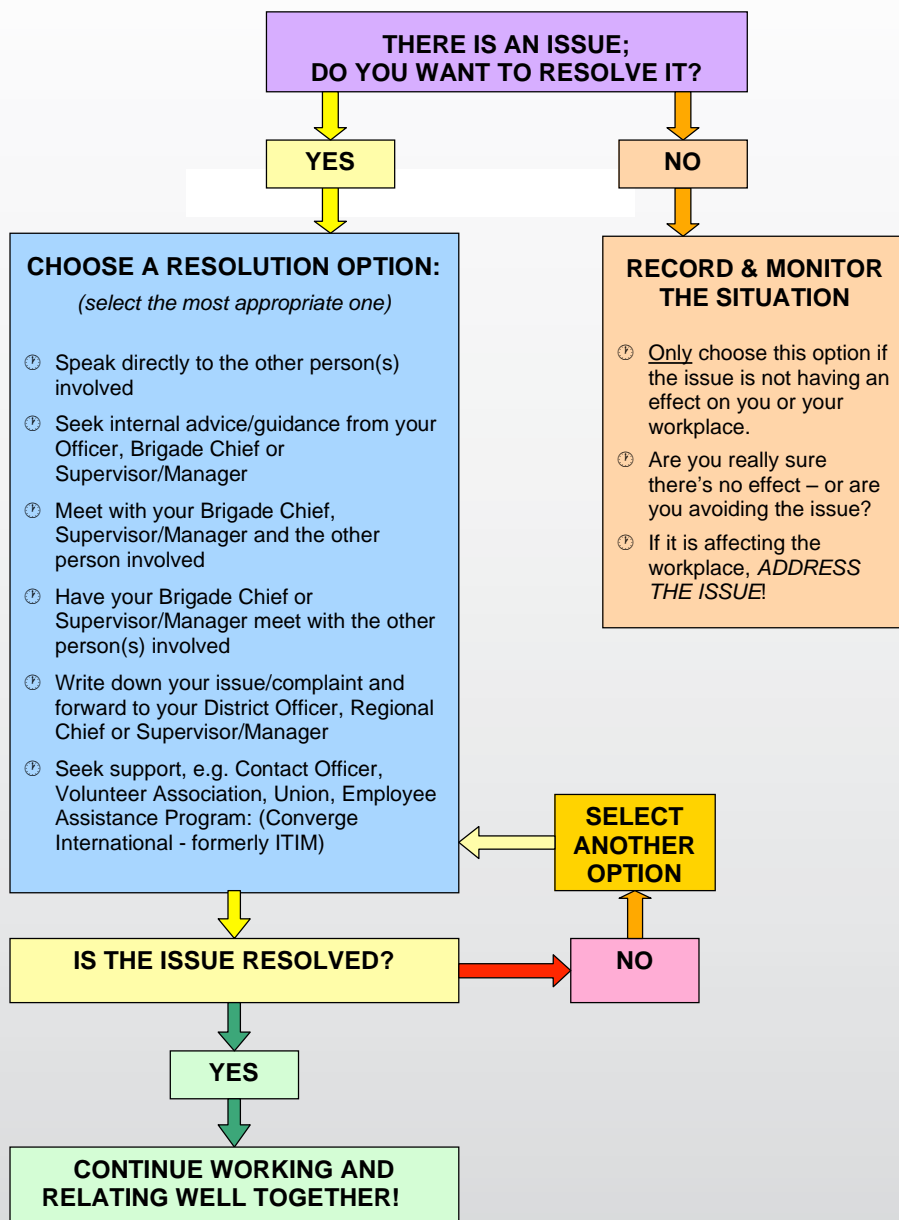
- Clear steps for each party;
- Links to extra resources and information.

You'll still need to have the uncomfortable conversations – but that's just part of working with others.

The new Resolution Procedure is in the members' area of the intranet (search for "Resolution"). Have a quick look so you know what's available. You'll notice that the old "Formal Resolution Process" is gone. That will become part of an internal investigation process.

We welcome your thoughts and suggestions on the new procedure!

Call Steve on 6230 8665 or email s.willing@fire.tas.gov.au. **SW**



"Birthday Surprise"

By Regional Chief South, Tony Davidson

On Friday 15th January I received a phone call from Lyn at reception advising me that there was a visitor at the front desk and that she was the daughter of Norman Skinner (a former Chief Officer of the Hobart Fire Brigade).

When I arrived at reception I was introduced to Moira Willes (nee Skinner) and her friend Mrs Nessie Kinder. Moira proudly told me that she was born at the Hobart Fire Brigade 97 years ago (1913) and yesterday was her birthday and wondered if any of the old station still existed. I took the time to show Moira and Nessie through the old HFB. Moira quickly recognised former officers and firefighters from the old photographs and enquired "where is the Leyland, I was here when it first arrived, and I can still remember the horses backing up to the cart by themselves when the bells rang."

Despite being 97 and recently having a hip replacement Moira was able to climb the stairs to the recreation area and have her photograph taken in front of the Roll of Honour. She took great delight in telling me that her father, the Deputy Chief at the time, got permission to hold her 18th birthday party in the Recreation Hall (Badminton Court) and they had champagne but she was not allowed to have any.

During her tour of the building she told me that her bedroom used to be above the watchroom and she would hear the calls come in before her father whose bedroom was further away. She also recalled having a grand piano in the lounge room next to the front of the building. She asked if she could have a look over the balcony into Argyle Street, as she remembered as a child, looking through the balustrade at the activities below and the beautiful sandstone cottages which were opposite.

With a little assistance she was able to climb the 22 steps of the staircase at No 79 Argyle Street which was her home for many years.

At the end of her stay Moira told me that she was very surprised and delighted that so much of the old station had survived and all being well she would like to come back for the 100th Anniversary of the HFB main station in 2011.

"where is the Leyland, I was here when it first arrived, and I can still remember the horses backing up to the cart by themselves when the bells rang."



Moira Willes (nee Skinner) at the front door of her childhood home (79 Argyle Street)

Here's hoping Moira's health is good and she can come over from Melbourne as our very special guest for the 100th Anniversary. **TD**

Brigade development workshops

By Coordinator Volunteer Strategy, Lucas van Rijswijk

We've been very busy. In July last year we adopted our new Volunteer Leadership Development Framework.

This framework was in response to your requests for more leadership development. Its design was based on what you told us, through focus groups, workshops and a survey. You may remember that these consultations were done with La Trobe University and IMC-Link. This Leadership Framework is our roadmap. It will guide us over the next few years.

We are now implementing this Framework. As a first step we sent the Leadership Self-Rating Tool to every brigade in November. It's for everyone. Have you had a go at it yet?

We have also been busy developing two new workshop programs. These workshops will complement the work already being done by Learning and Development. The key points are that these workshops will be delivered on station and are for all members of our brigades.

Our Supporting Brigades workshop is being rolled out around the state. By June, it will have been delivered to about 75 brigades by facilitators from IMC-Link (of J&C Toolkit fame).

The Supporting Brigade workshop was piloted in Youngtown in early February. It will support brigades to look at how its members are working together. It will also help members to identify what is working well and perhaps some things they may want to work on. In particular, it will support our members to better prevent any harassment or discrimination.

We have also been developing and piloting a series of four workshops in our Leading Brigades (formerly called Small Bites) series. We are hoping that the design of these workshops will be completed by the end of June.

As its name suggests, workshops in the Leading Brigades series are all about developing leadership. Generally, leadership is best developed as a team. This allows everyone have a shared language to discuss leadership issues. It also means that everyone can understand what leaders in their brigades are trying to do.

The Leading Brigades workshops will be for all members of each brigade to do on-station together. They will be offered on an "opt-in" basis. Brigades will be able to ask to take part in some, or all four, of the workshops. And don't forget, we will hold the first of our annual leadership surveys later this year, probably in July.

As you can see TFS has a strong commitment to its people. These programs will help many of our people to enhance their leadership and other interpersonal skills.

We aim to support you to have the most rewarding and effective brigades you can. You all deserve this and together, we can achieve it. **LvR**



Jeffrey's Track fire

By District Officer, Gerald Crawford

At approximately 1315 hours on Tuesday 12th January 2010 a grass fire was reported at Jeffrey's Track, Lachlan. This area is heavily forested, very steep slopes and has a narrow gravel road as the main access. Block sizes vary with most people working away from the area during the day.

This day was also a day of Total Fire Ban.

Lachlan 4.1 and New Norfolk 4.1 responded and upon Lachlan's arrival they found a vegetation fire in progress. The fire had initially started in grass but had progressed to some bracken and light scrub.

There were 6 houses under direct threat and at this very moment the wind change came through, suddenly increasing the wind strength to some 80kmh. Spotting was occurring over Jeffrey's Track.

Aerial support was requested and Helitack 721, who was working on the Bushy Park fire, was redirected to Jeffrey's Track. At the same time more resources were responded to the incident as well as Helitack 723.

After some 3 hours of solid work a Stop was put on the call. The fire burnt approximately 10 hectares with no damage to any of the buildings. Some fencing and ancillary material around the buildings were lost.

Observations

A total of 14 firefighting appliances, 2 medium helicopters and one light helicopter were used on this incident.

The aerial support was paramount to the success of this operation; Helitack was able to hit any hot spots or spot fires that were inaccessible to the crews. Later crews were able to get to these spots and then completely extinguish them.

A Command platform or Reconnaissance platform is vital in this type of incident. To be able to locate spots and critical areas is not always possible from the ground and to have the "eye in the sky" makes it easier for the on ground commander to make informed decisions.

Time and space is one of the critical factors in this type of "urban interface" firefight. It was very fortunate that we had Helitack 721 at Bushy Park which was only some 5 minutes flying time to Jeffrey's Track and Firebird 701 was also in the area. It is also imperative that the District Officer, who has the local knowledge, is on scene as soon as possible to coordinate the operation in this type of situation.

Defendable space around dwellings allowing the brigades to stand and fight is one of the reasons no houses were lost at this incident. It is this type of fire which suddenly occurs under extreme weather conditions which is one of our major concerns.

The work performed by the brigades at this fire is to be commended. All the training and knowledge that has been accumulated by the brigades came to the fore at this incident. **GC**

TVFFAF Youth Award (Tassie Devil Award) A call for nominations

By TVFFAF Management Committee member, Don Mackrill

This is just a reminder to the Brigade Chiefs and Secretaries out there, regarding the nomination of your members that are entitled to this award administered by the Tasmanian Volunteer Firefighters Awards Framework (TVFFAF).

The Youth Award was introduced just over two years ago to provide some recognition for Junior/Cadet members who moved onto full time service as a member of the brigade as a senior. Many brigades survive on juniors that move from their initial brigade membership to the senior ranks. In fact there would be some brigade chiefs that started their time as a junior or cadet member of a brigade.

So come on, if you have members that have recently moved into your senior ranks from that of junior membership, provide them with the award they rightfully deserve and would no doubt be privileged to wear. Yes there is a little paper work to complete, a nomination form which can be found on the TVFFAF webpage at <http://www.tvffaf.org.au> (search under nomination forms). The presentation is made by the relevant Brigade Chief at a brigade function – so aren't they worth it – I call on you to do your bit and nominate your members who meet the prerequisites. **DM**



The first recipients of this award at George Town in 2005. Two of the members in this photo – Gary Reynolds and Jason Mackrill are now Fourth Officers in their brigades which supports the concept that juniors and cadets can move onto management positions in brigades.

Don Pulls the Plug

By Brigade Chief Fern Tree Brigade, Garry Sullivan

After a volunteer career spanning 38 years with the TFS, of which 34 years was spent as Brigade Chief, Fern Tree (which has to be some sort of record in itself), Don Jones retired from operational service on 6 December 2009.

Don commenced as a firefighter at Fern Tree in 1971 when Fern Tree was a volunteer sub-station of the Hobart Fire Brigade. Other HFB volunteer sub-stations at the time were at Kingston and Midway Point.

In 1973 Don was promoted to Deputy District Officer (Second Officer), and then to District Officer (Brigade Chief) in 1975, coinciding with Fern Tree becoming a retained volunteer station.

When the TFS came into existence in late 1979, Fern Tree, Kingston and Midway Point were split off from HFB, to become brigades in their own right, each with a gazetted fire district. At this point Don assumed the title of Chief Officer (Brigade Chief).

During his 34 years as Chief, Don guided his brigade through the early processes of bringing together the former rural and urban brigades to form the new single fire service. He was an active participant in the statewide quarterly meetings of urban brigade chiefs convened by the initial Director of Urban Brigades, Gerry Lowe. He was a foundation committee member of the Tasmanian Retained Volunteer Firefighters Association (TRVFA) when it formed in 1976. His association with the TRVFA continues, having been its treasurer for more years than he can remember.

Don was also involved in a number of fire service activities beyond just his brigade. These included membership of the Hobart Special Fire Area Committee (including a few years as its chairman), the TFS Clothing Committee, the Volunteer Training Advisory Committee and the Wellington Park Trust Maintenance Co-ordinating Committee.

Somehow he also found time to be a VTI, an IMT member, a foundation member of the Tasmania Fire Museum and to be one of the first Tasmanian volunteers to gain the Associate Diploma of Applied Science (Fire Technology), leading the grant of a Graduate Diploma by the Institution of Fire Engineers. He also squeezed in a career as a high school teacher.

In 1992 he was awarded an AFSM by the Governor-General.

At a dinner in the Fern Tree Fire Station mess on 5 December 2009, brigade members farewelled Don by presenting him with some gifts and a framed and signed testimonial; the latter summarising the highlights of his fire service career and at least one thing he might not want to remember.

Best wishes for the future Don, and hurry up and learn how to use your new espresso coffee machine, so we can invite



"Under new management" - handover to the new Fern Tree Brigade management team. L to R: Fourth Officer Ken Fishwick, Third Officer Phil Sansom, Second Officer David van Geytenbeek and Brigade Chief Garry Sullivan.

ourselves around for a short black, a skinny latté and other coffee or chocolate delights.

As a consequence of Don's retirement as Brigade Chief, all Brigade officer positions became vacant. An election was held, the outcome of which has been approved by the Chief Officer.

Although former Second Officer Terry Gill, with over 30 years experience as a brigade officer was unsuccessful in being elected to an officer position, I am pleased he has agreed to remain active in the Brigade as a leading firefighter. He will be taking on the additional role of co-ordinating our community engagement activities. Our Brigade has always considered interaction with our local community to be an important part of promoting community fire safety awareness. Terry's role will fit in well with the activities of TFS Community Development Officer, Kerry Sakariassen, as outlined in the Autumn/Winter 2009 issue of Fireground. **GS**

Bell Bay Brigade – retained their winning position, gaining first place in 36.92 seconds, a reduction of 6 seconds on their 2008 record



George Town on Show – Fire Truck Pull

By Group Officer Dalrymple Group, Don Mackrill

It was unfortunate, but the Fire Truck Pull scheduled to be held on Sunday 22nd November had to be postponed due to inclement weather. The event requires a team of four firefighters to “pull” a medium fire unit. The road was still wet from the rain (and subsequently unsafe) in November, so it was postponed until Sunday 13th December.

The first competition occurred during George Town on Show in December 2008. In 2008 Bell Bay Brigade Team won that year with a time of 42.09 seconds – not a bad effort for “pulling” a fire truck over a distance of 75 metres and then one member running another 10 metres and firing a 9 litre water extinguisher at a target (the water has to go through a small orifice) to earth out the electronic timing gear.

Sunday 13th was a glorious day for the event, plenty of warm weather and a wonderful dry Anne Street in George Town.

This year’s event was once again sponsored by the BP Service Station in George Town – we thank them for their continuing support, it is always appreciated.

Five brigade teams from within the Dalrymple Group of Brigades lined up to compete against each other and yes, the Dalrymple Ladies, (a composite team from Bell Bay and Karoola) made a return venture and put in a stirring demonstration “pulling” a small fire unit. A top effort– well done ladies!

Brigades completing this year were Bell Bay Brigade - Team 1, Bell Bay Brigade - Team 2, Hillwood Brigade, Karoola Brigade,

Lilydale Brigade. All teams were out to topple Bell Bay’s 2008 record of 42.09 seconds. The draw occurred with each team being allocated their starting slot. Bell Bay Team 1 started and achieved their first result of 40.97 seconds beating their previous year’s result. Not to be beaten, other brigades took up the challenge with the following results. Bell Bay Team 2 - 41.08 seconds; Hillwood 38.4 seconds; Karoola 38.18 seconds; Lilydale 41.15 seconds. This put Karoola into the lead, with their time to be challenged. All teams except Bell Bay Team 2, took up the challenge and finished with the following times. Bell Bay Team 1 – 36.09 seconds; Hillwood 38.63 seconds; Lilydale 38.23 seconds. After the second “pull” this left Bell Bay Team 1 with the best time and the opportunity for Karoola to have a chance to reduce their time, their second “pull” was 38.23 seconds.

The final results were Bell Bay Team 1 - first place 36.09 seconds (a reduction of 6 seconds off their previous time in 2008); Karoola - second place 37.21 seconds; Lilydale - third place 38.23 seconds. It should be noted that Hillwood finished in fourth place, only .4 of a second behind Lilydale. Certificates of appreciation and medals for the first three places were presented by Councillor Roger Broomhall Chairman of the George Town on Show Committee. The Dalrymple Ladies also received a medal for their ongoing support.

A great day was had by all and a BBQ was held at Bell Bay Station to “chew the fat” and enjoy each other’s company. **DM**

Retirement of a different kind

By District Officer Steven Richardson

Many of our readers may be aware that last year several people in the career stream of the fire service called it a day. Whilst some decided to enjoy their retirement either relaxing at home or at their holiday shacks, something I'm sure we are all looking forward to, Phil Grant feels he is still young enough at heart to be an active contributing member of the Legana Brigade in the Northern Region.

Phil started his career as a volunteer with the White Hills Brigade in 1973 before being appointed as a Country Fire Officer a few years later with Northern Regional Management. Phil has also been a member of the Tomahawk Brigade and worked in a number of different roles in the Northern Region.

It is through these many roles that Phil has gained a considerable amount of knowledge and understanding of what is required of today's firefighters and I'm sure the members of the Legana Brigade are looking forward to continuing to work with Phil and learning as much as they can from him while he continues to enjoy both the social interaction and professional working ethics of being a volunteer with the TFS.

I guess there would be some sense of satisfaction from starting as a volunteer so many years ago and to now be able to put something back into the service and helping the new members strive to be all they can in any brigade, not just Legana.

Keep up the good work Phil and we all look forward to seeing you out on the fireground over the coming seasons. **SR**



Firefighter Legana Brigade, Phil Grant

Royal Commission Update

By AFAC Manager Communications, Jay Gleeson

The Royal Commission has begun hearing testimony as part of hearing block five. The hearing block opened with Council assisting introducing its findings into the causes of, and response to, the Kilmore East, Beechworth, Coleraine, Pomborneit and Horsham, Murrindindi, Redesdale, Bendigo, Churchill, Delburn, Bunyip, Narre Warren and Upper Ferntree Gully fires. The State Government (on behalf of CFA, DSE, and Parks Victoria), PowerCore and SP Ausnet disagreed with significant parts of Council Assisting's findings and recommendations.

Hearing block five will continue to look at the causes and circumstances of deaths and also examine the issues of planning (including defendable space) and fuel management and roadside clearing.

The Commission is running "Expert Conferences" to examine the issues of land use planning and land and fuel management. These conferences are for a panel of experts to identify areas of agreement and areas of disagreement in relation to the particular issues.

The panel discussions of these conferences were webcast through the Royal Commission website. Mark Chadil, TFS participated in the Land Use Planning Conference. Mark appeared before the Commission as an AFAC expert witness on the Building Standard AS3959, and more recently appeared as an expert as part of the Land Use Planning Panel.

Importantly for AFAC the Commission is set to re-examine the "Stay or Go" policy on the 27-28 March. It is believed "Stay or Go" will be examined in reference to the physical evidence from the February fires. An opportunity to provide submission on the revisiting of "Stay or Go" evidence will occur in May.

The Commission is expected to complete hearing evidence on May 26, with the final report due on July 2010.

Keep up to date with the Royal Commission by subscribing to the KW Newsletter via the AFAC Knowledge Web www.afac-kw.com **JG**



Burn-over procedure roll-out

By Senior Station Officer, Phil Douglas

Photo courtesy Jackie Smith

Development of the burn-over procedure learning material and DVD is now complete, a minor delay due to the recent bushfire activity around the state.

Burn-over procedure training has commenced for career and volunteer firefighters to ensure you are as safe as possible when fighting fires burning under extreme conditions, however, it must be clearly understood that the level of protection provided by firefighting vehicles does have significant limitations, influenced by the intensity of the fire.

Every brigade will receive a copy of the DVD and scenario exercise, enabling you to practice these drills, as well as enhancing your driving and bushfire fighting knowledge and skills.

On completion of the roll-out, a full resource kit will be available upon request from District Officers, Learning & Development and the TFS Library to assist with supporting future training. This information will form an integral part of all future Basics and Bushfire Fighting training courses.



Remember: Taking refuge is the last resort. Your highest priority is to avoid being placed in a life threatening situation, ensuring you take all necessary actions you have learnt during your bushfire training. These drills will provide you with the knowledge to take actions to improve your chance of survival, if for reasons out of your control, you find yourself in a critical situation. PD

ProWords

By the FireComm Team

TFS have a series of agreed ProWords for use when using the TFS Radio Network. The use of these ProWords with normal radio protocols enable quick and easily understandable communications. By the correct use of ProWords FireComm staff can input your information into the right areas of FIRM quickly.

REMEMBER: Always ensure you establish communication with FireComm before sending any information. FireComm staff may be busy dealing with other incidents and miss your message. It is not unusual to have 2 or 3 radio channels activate at the same time.

ProWords for vehicle movements are:

Mobile: Only to be used when responding to an incident.

e.g. FireComm this is Devonport one one, mobile to DBA at C-Max Cinemas, Best Street Devonport, officer in charge SO Smith

Arrived: To be used when you get to the incident and establish the Control.

e.g. FireComm, Devonport one one arrived, establishing Best Street control. (provide a mini wordback at this time, e.g. no visible signs // structure going well // small grass fire etc)

Returning: to be used when leaving an incident and returning to station.

e.g. FireComm this is Devonport one one, returning in service / out of service.

Stationed: Used when the vehicle and crew are back at station.
e.g. FireComm this is Devonport one one stationed.

As you can see, we need to avoid using two similar Pro Words in the one call, if FireComm only hear one of them they may mistake the intention of the call and record incorrect vehicle movements or may need to clarify the information by asking you to "Say Again".

For example, not:

FireComm this is Devonport one one, returning to **station** or

FireComm this is Devonport one one, **returned** to station

Other Vehicle movement related ProWords are:

In Service: Still on scene but available for other incidents if required;

Unserviceable: Vehicle or crew are no longer able to respond, e.g out of water, mechanical issue etc. (let FireComm know the reason that you are out of service);

Out in area: Vehicle is out of station yet in the local area and available to respond;

Out of area: Vehicle is out of station and not remaining in the brigade response area, vehicle may not be able to respond immediately.

Please use Incident ProWords at the beginning of all messages back to FireComm.

Information back from the fire ground:

Wordback: Information regarding the status of an incident, used in conjunction with:

Investigating: Determining the status of an incident;

Under control: Incident contained;

Not under control: Incident not contained;

Stop: No further assistance required, but vehicles already mobile may continue at the discretion of the officer-in-charge of the incident, these vehicles should continue under normal road conditions (code orange);

Sitrep: Ongoing information regarding an incident that has no effect on a status change. Sitreps could include some or all of the following:

- Exact location of the fire (grid reference or street address);
- What's on fire (type, size, fire behaviour);
- Plan of action (what have you done, what do you intend to do);
- Other assets threatened or at risk;
- Additional resources required (both TFS and other agencies);
- Estimated time to control/complete the incident.

e.g. FireComm this is Lake Leake Road control, Sitrep over

Lake Leake Road Control, this is FireComm send over

FireComm this is Lake Leake Road control Sitrep, we have approximately 4 hectares of grass lands on fire, grid reference 779 // 473, we are extinguishing with light tankers, no properties under threat, will require additional heavy tankers for water. Will be approximately a few hours on scene.

Roger Lake Leake Road control, FireComm out



New appliance roll-out



State of the art appliances for Hobart

By A/District Officer, Steve Walkley

On 5th February the Premier, the Honourable David Bartlett MP commissioned and handed over the keys of the new Scania heavy urban pumper and Isuzu road accident and heavy rescue appliances to the officers and firefighters of the Hobart Brigade.

The two “state of the art” appliances are the end result of extensive research and consultation with manufacturers, other fire agencies, TFS officers and firefighters. The combined cost of the two vehicles was in the vicinity of \$1 million, to which approximately half was contributed to by the State Government.

The Scania urban heavy pumper will be the first response firefighting appliance from the Hobart Brigade and is the third vehicle of its type to be purchased for the brigade over the past 6 years. This will allow the replacement of an 18 year old series 2 Scania as well as the decommissioning of the older 1987 International heavy pumper. It is the first Scania crew-cab fire appliance to be commissioned in Australasia with the new Euro 5 emission standard 5 cylinder engine, meeting the new reduced emission standards that come into effect in 2011. In addition to the new technology engine and in recognising the benefits and need for occupant safety, the TFS have chosen to have integrated into the vehicle, a drivers airbag and seat belt pre-tensioner which is another first for this type of vehicle. Prior experience with Scania products which have stood the test of time in the past, suggest that the life expectancy of this new appliance will be in the vicinity of 20 years with the TFS.

The Isuzu road accident and heavy rescue appliance is the third of four identical vehicles fabricated and placed into service over

The two “state of the art” appliances are the end result of extensive research and consultation with manufacturers

the past 12 months following the commissioning of appliances in Launceston and Burnie prior to Christmas last year. The new Isuzu crew-cab chassis seats a crew of five firefighters, replacing the original single cab appliance which had seating for only two, requiring additional transport for the remaining crew members. The concept of this vehicle is based on extensive research into rescue service delivery on a national basis in addition to consultation with those TFS officers and firefighters “at the coal face”. This appliance has been designed to enhance user safety and efficiency both from a response perspective as well as its functionality and “on scene” capability. The 15 tonne chassis is powered by a 275 horsepower turbo diesel engine which has an excellent performance and power-to-weight ratio. The introduction of this vehicle and those in other areas of the state provides the TFS with a capability never before available on one appliance and although this appliance will be stationed in Hobart, it will be a resource that can be called upon for TFS rescue operations or as a support to the SES across the southern region of Tasmania.

The provision of these two appliances that are equipped with the latest technology matched to the specific needs of the organisation further enhances the delivery of an efficient and successful service to the Tasmanian public. **SW**

Isuzu heavy rescue appliance for Devonport

By District Officer Paul Hill

Mr Brenton Best MP on behalf of the Minister for Police and Emergency Management and Local Government, Jim Cox handed over the keys for Tasmania's newest emergency response vehicle to the officers and firefighters of the Devonport Brigade.

The "Isuzu" road accident and heavy rescue appliance is the fourth of its type to be commissioned into the fleet of the TFS's emergency response appliances (following commissioning of these vehicles into Launceston, Hobart and Burnie Brigades).

This appliance will be stationed in Devonport, but it will be a resource that can be called upon for rescue operations or as a support to the SES across the North West Region. **PH**



Left to right: Acting Station Officer Shirley Berger, Senior Firefighter Damien Hopkins, Mr Brenton Best MP (at truck window), District Officer Paul Hill and Senior Firefighter Rob Bushell (in the driver's seat)

New pumper rescue tanker for Triabunna

By Fourth Officer Triabunna Brigade, Max Berry

On 8th November Heather Butler MHA presented Second Officer William Sullivan with the keys to their new 3.1PR fire and rescue tanker.

After the presentation, brigade members put on a display of the new tanker's capabilities by removing the side of a vehicle with the rescue equipment and the capacity of which it could pump water onto a fire.

On behalf of members of the Triabunna Brigade I would like to pass on our congratulations to Engineering Services staff for the work and design of such a great unit which we are proud to have. **MB**



Heather Butler MHA with Second Officer William Sullivan





Getting out from behind the desk

By FireComm Communications Officer (and now probationary firefighter Margate Brigade), Alistair Barber

I don't think I will forget the night of December 15th for a while.

I started the evening as one of over 100 local residents attending a Community Information night at the Margate Community Hall. We were there to learn about the changes being put in following the fires in Victoria during February 2009.

The Margate Brigade Chief (and FireComm workmate) Michael D'Alton hosted the evening with assistance from District Officer South West Rod Sherrin, Field Officer Andrew Fyfe, and the Margate Fire Brigade crew.

The presentation was excellent, including power point presentations, and a slide show from the Victoria Fires. A "Question and Answer" session followed the main presentation during which District Officer Sherrin answered all questions put forward.

I was invited back to the station for refreshments after the community meeting wrapped up, however before any refreshments could be had DO Sherrin's pager went off - "Structure fire, Howden Road, Howden", a second later another 15 pagers activated.

Margate 4.1 responded with a crew of 5. Those left at the station decided to wander outside and have a look in the direction of Howden. Sure enough you could see there was a structure on fire. A decision was made to send Margate 4.2 as backup in case water was required. I was invited to come along and observe the incident as a member of FireComm.

The following day I made arrangements to join Margate as a volunteer

I quickly proceeded to my vehicle to follow Margate 4.2. Of course I soon lost them as I was driving under normal road conditions. I arrived at the incident shortly after Margate 4.2 and arrangements were made for me to proceed to the fresh air base with my camera.

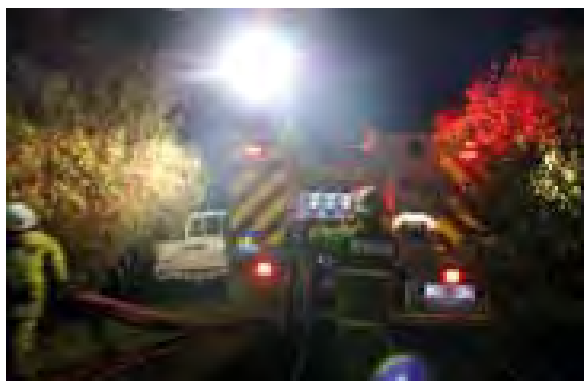
I was a little stunned at first, I was looking at a house with smoke billowing from the eaves and a glow coming from the far side of the roof, this fire only had been going for 20 minutes. The occupants were out and looking on, in shock.

Howden and Margate crews were conducting both an internal and external attack, with the BA control operator busy readying the next BA crew. Water quickly became an issue and crews from Margate and Kingston set up a portable pump to feed into Kingston 3.1 from the dam on the property. The fire was under control within an hour, unfortunately the house was destroyed.

Crews from Howden, Kingston and Margate attended the incident and I experienced first-hand the commitment and

teamwork of these brigades. The following day I made arrangements to join Margate as a volunteer (I now look forward to the North West Bay Group winter challenge).

I look forward to "getting out from behind the desk" more often now by attending training courses and brigade training nights to prepare myself for any future incidents. **AB**



I ntroducing



David Watson – Information Services

My name is Dave Watson and I started with the TFS in December 2009 as the Manager Infrastructure – Windows. I'm really enjoying my new job, and everyone has been very welcoming and friendly.

Before starting here I spent seven years working for the University of Tasmania, with the last five of those as the senior Windows Server administrator for the central IT Resources Department. Before that I spent about five years working for one of the larger local IT companies learning my trade.

Outside of work, I'm currently enjoying spending as much time as I can with my family, as I have a seven month old daughter who is keeping my wife and I very busy.



Lynda Robins - Northern Region Headquarters

Lynda Robins commenced her employment with TFS as Senior Clerical Officer Northern Region HQ on 12 October 2009.

Prior to joining TFS she was employed with Statewide Independent Wholesalers for 16 years. A mighty changed from "food" to "fires" but with a busy admin office she has taken on her role with great enthusiasm.

Her interests and hobbies include martial arts, fishing, running, reading and spending time with her family and friends. She has recently learnt to surf and enjoys the outdoors and sunshine.

Lynda is keen to promote fitness within the Northern Region admin team and has us out there walking already.



Neil Eadie - Northern Region Headquarters

Neil Eade has recently commenced employment with TFS as the Maintenance Officer for Northern Region HQ.

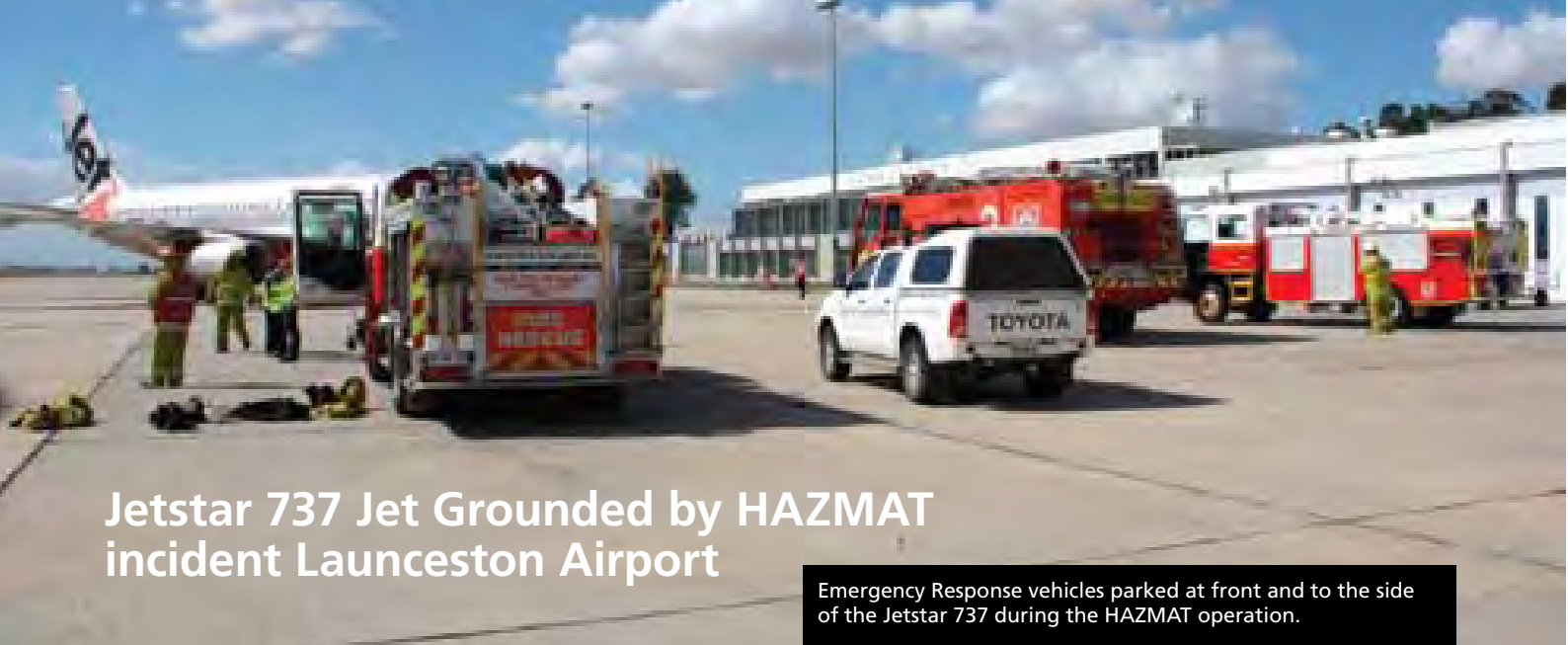
Neil grew up in Launceston but has resided in Perth for the past 29 years with his wife Vicki. He has two adult children Nicole and Byron and also has two dogs, a Border Collie and a West Highland White Terrier pup.

Neil's hobbies include golf which he plays most weekends at the Poatina Golf Club with a handicap of 13, and is a keen freshwater and saltwater fisherman.



Ryan Parry - Burnie

Burnie's exchange firefighter from Surrey Fire Department in Vancouver Canada, Ryan Parry with his first ever Tassie brown trout. We are sure to find out more about Ryan in a future edition of Fireground.



Jetstar 737 Jet Grounded by HAZMAT incident Launceston Airport

Emergency Response vehicles parked at front and to the side of the Jetstar 737 during the HAZMAT operation.

At approximately 0920 hours on 14 January 2010 an inbound Jetstar flight from Melbourne radioed Launceston control tower to make them aware of a possible problem that they were encountering prior to landing.

Several passengers in the forward section of the passenger compartment complained to flight attendants of a very strong solvent type smell and they were having respiratory difficulties.

When the aircraft landed and completed its taxi to the terminal, all passengers and crew were quickly evacuated by the awaiting Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting Services (ARFFS) crews. The passenger compartment was quickly checked with gas detection equipment which returned safe level readings. The cargo manifest was located and a suspect container/package within the forward cargo hold was thought to be the source of the problem.

The suspect material was a container of approximately 6 litres of hydrochloric acid and as ARFFS do not have HAZMAT capability, both Evandale and Launceston was called as back-up.

On arrival at gate No.1 Brigade Chief Evandale and Group Officer for Ben Lomond Ian Hogget liaised with the on-scene OIC from ARFFS. Brigade Chief Grant Rigby was tasked with the evaluation of the evacuated passengers and crew. Oxygen therapy and auto defibrillators were taken into the terminal to assess and treat any passengers who may have been suffering from breathing difficulties or chest pains prior to the arrival of Tasmanian Ambulance Service crews.

Launceston crews arrived and developed a plan in conjunction with the Jetstar Captain, ARFFS Commander, and airport management. The suspect cargo igloo located in the forward hold was to be removed to a safe work location downwind downslope from the forward command post but within an area that could be easily accessed by the HAZMAT combat crews by foot.

Launceston 1.1 crew set up a breathing apparatus fresh air base with a designated BA Officer who administered both TFS and ARFFS BA movements during the HAZMAT operation.

As the chemical was in a small quantity and relatively low risk to attack crews the specified PPE was chemical splash suits with breathing apparatus. The initial attack was to remove the rear cargo igloos to prevent the aircraft from overbalancing and



BA Officer Andrew Hogget from Evandale brigade oversees the operations within the forward cargo hold of the Jetstar 737.

resting on its tail. These containers were removed to the freight terminal after being checked visually. The suspect igloo was then removed to the designated hot zone remote from the aircraft where Firefighters Adrian Adams and Jason Buchanan were tasked with the careful removal and identification of the suspect package.

Initially the package was very hard to locate and identify as the labelling was very small and no visible leaks or damage to any packages were evident. The package containing the hydrochloric acid was finally located during a secondary search and was found to be intact and not the cause of the alleged contaminant.

As per the initial emergency response guide Dangerous Goods book the possibility of hydrogen gas (flammable gas) was also eliminated from within the aircrafts cargo hold by ventilating with the positive pressure fan and secondary checks with gas detection equipment was conducted within the cargo hold and passenger compartment and both areas were declared safe.

The final outcome of the incident was that the most likely scenario was that a bottle of concentrated perfume had possibly leaked due to the pressurisation of the passenger cabin during flight. This high concentration within a localised area had therefore unduly affected close proximity passengers. All passengers were cleared and briefed prior to them departing the terminal.

The entire operation only disrupted the Jetstar 737 and its crew from its return flight to Sydney for 2 hours 15 minutes, which under the circumstances was minimal compared to the Virgin incident at Tullamarine in recent times. This quick response and the cooperation between all emergency responders is a testament to the pre incident planning and the Airport Emergency Response Plans that are in place to cater for these types of incidents.



Firefighters Adrian Adams and Jason Buchanan assisted by Firefighter Jamie Masson in donning BA and splash suits.



The suspect cargo container being unpacked by Firefighters Adams and Buchanan.



Photo Competition Winner

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

The winning photo from this edition is:



Photo submitted by Firefighter Fred Miley, Taroona 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

May include TFS personnel in turnout gear or uniform

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

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

Post them in to:

Linda Lacy, Editor – Fireground
GPO Box 1526, HOBART TAS 7001

or email them to:

fireground@fire.tas.gov.au

PHOTO GALLERY



Museum Handcart from the Hobart Christmas Parade. Roland Hill is at the front left with Terry Gill on his right – pushing at the rear are Bill Burke (left) and Don Jones (right). Photographer Matthew Fishwick of Fern Tree Brigade.



And we complain about the cold! Rob Yeats in Canada (previous exchange firefighter with Hobart)



Some of you may remember the Tanker Trailer, submitted by James Smith of Prospect Brigade



Fire at Hudson's Plumbing in Launceston. Submitted by Senior Firefighter Adrian Adams

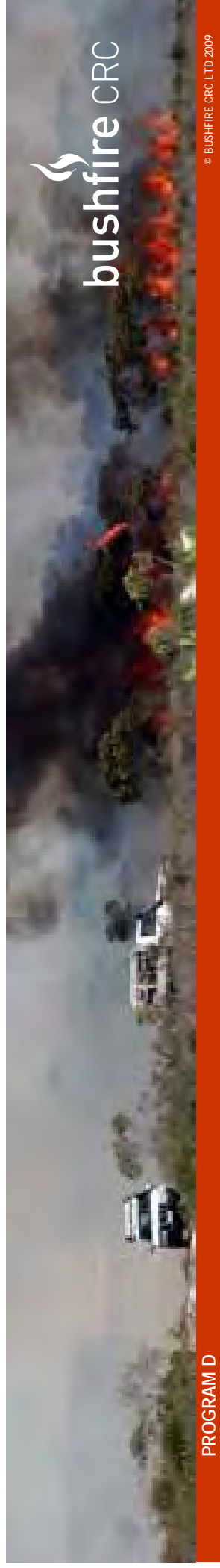
Wayatinah / Ouse bushfire -
Midway Point 4.1 and Claremont
5.1 at the rear of the fish farm
watching for spot fires and making
sure the fire doesn't spread
- Photographer Ben Morgan,
Midway Point Brigade



Fire right next to the fish farm

Midway
Point's 4.1





How expert bushfire incident managers anticipate worst case scenarios: Seeing the future earlier

C. Johnson and G. Cumming

School of Psychological Science, La Trobe University, Victoria

What are worst case scenarios?

- Low-probability high-consequence events that can be underestimated because they are rare
- Different scenarios to different people - depends on the context and the role being carried out

Examples of barriers that can interrupt considering or delay acting on worst case scenarios

- Cognitive overload
- Lack of awareness of the big picture
- Personal attitude to risk
- Feelings of failure/helplessness
- Believed implications of 'crying wolf'
- Fear of losing control of incident to 'outsiders'
- Perceived community criticism for scaremongering

Research methodology

Thirty interviews about a



What can happen when worst case scenarios are not anticipated?

- The risks of the fire may be underestimated
- Signs that the situation is deteriorating may not be detected
- There may be a lack of planning for extreme events
- This could lead to unacceptable incident outcomes

How do you anticipate if this will develop into this?





past problematic or challenging incident were conducted with highly experienced decision makers in incident management roles.

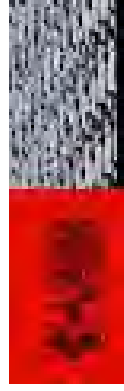
Major Findings

- Majority of experts considered anticipation of worst case scenarios a critical aspect of incident management
- Often a range of scenarios was considered: best case – most likely – worst case
- Scenarios varied with respect to role, responsibilities and past experiences
- Experts often had a number of back up plans to deal with a range of eventualities
- Worst cases helped to keep the big picture in mind
- Challenges to anticipating the worst:
 - Dynamic uncertain conditions
 - Time pressure can influence the quality of options analysis
 - Difficulty of forward planning
 - Focus on 12 or 24 hour timeframes



Examples of interview quotes

- “There’s two major areas of **bad outcomes**... one was the fire breaking out of the park and threatening private property so that was something we looked at each day... and fortunately and **due to good management** we were able to catch it when that break out did occur and the planning and operations were very firmly in place to deal with that **eventuality**.”
- “So it’s almost like trying to encourage them to think past that next shift... **to think forward**... this is sort of “**what if?**” **scenario based**, where do we think we’re going to stop this fire? or where do you think the best chance of pulling it up?”
- “When a fire was as destructive as that and took a run that it did and took out 1000+ hectares in an afternoon, people then want to say well we need to stop it in the shortest possible time so we’ll put this control line in here, but you’re never going to stop it there, the **time and space** to construct it and establish a break just isn’t there and so you should be looking well I’ve got this, this, this one and this one, **that’s worst case scenario** and that’s a third of the state...”
- “If you start throwing things in that are a little bit too far out, that’s when you sometimes get the glazed look and the question of “are you serious? But that’s still a day and a half away.” Well yeah, **a day and a half’s not very long** because we only going to be here for one part of that, then the other part I’m going to be asleep and then I’m going to be back so it’s not very far for me.”



New Station Officers at Launceston Brigade

By A/District Officer Launceston Brigade, Russell Kerr

Launceston Brigade welcomes three new Station Officer to its ranks. One an old face but two new ones. Glenn Greenland, David Casteller and David Klug were all successful in their application for promotion to Station Officer.

Glenn was employed as an experienced firefighter in 1998 with Hobart. Prior to his appointment he was a retained firefighter for NSWFB at 84 Rescue Station for 4 years. Glenn completed his Leading Firefighter course in 2004. Over the years he has taken a special interest in Technical Rescue and Road Accident Rescue. Glenn is currently Station Officer on B Platoon.

David Casteller started with the TFS as a volunteer with Prospect in 1991 and was then successful in becoming a Trainee Firefighter in 1995. David worked a short period in Hobart and then transferred to Launceston in 1997. David completed his Leading Firefighter promotion in 2001. David has been appointed to the position of Station Officer Operations.

David Klug started with the TFS as a Recruit Firefighter in 1989 and was attached to the Hobart Brigade. David achieved the rank of Leading Firefighter in 2003. He was then successful in his application for promotion in 2010 to the position of Station Officer Planning and Capability attached with the Launceston Brigade.

On behalf of the Launceston Brigade and Northern Region I would to congratulate these three gentlemen and hope their time as Station Officers attached with LFB is both enjoyable fulfilling. **RK**



David Casteller



David Klug



Glenn Greenland with Deputy Regional Chief Ken Burns

Structure Fire Kent Beach Road Dover

By Station Officer Learning & Development, Adam Meredith

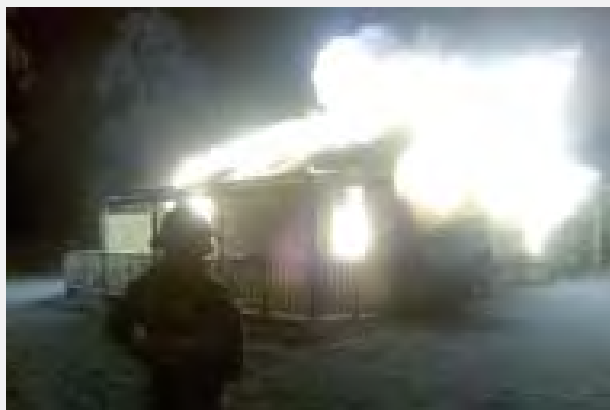
After a full week of fighting a wildfire in and around Dover, along with fatigued firefighters returning home well after midnight to lay their heads down for a well earned rest, the familiar sound of pagers activating again was heard.

The time was shortly after 3.30 a.m. on the 7th January 2010, Dover and Geeveston were paged to a house fire in Kent Beach Road Dover.

After a quick response from Dover Brigade we arrived to find the house fully involved with flames venting from windows to the rear of the property and flames issuing out of the corrugated iron roof.

An initial size up was conducted and an external attack was put in place concentrating on saving the nearby bungalow. Due to the lack of water available and the travel distance for backup brigade, firefighting operations were concentrated on protecting the bungalow which was a successful tactic, however, the house was severely damaged.

It was very pleasing to see the professionalism and excellent skills mix that was shown from the Dover and Geeveston Brigades. **AM**



What should we VALUE?

- To help us deliver quality services to Tasmanians, we want to develop key statements that reflect what TFS stands for
- These will reflect our identity, what is important in our work and how we should serve the people of Tasmania
- We are collecting ideas from volunteers and employees
- Revised values will be announced and will influence all aspects of TFS

*We want your opinion on
the most important values
that will underpin the way
we do things in the TFS*

Tell us what you think!

The survey is open
15 – 26 March

1. From the TFS website, select "Links to Other Websites"
2. Select "Members' Survey"
3. Enter the username: "tfs" and password: "values2"
4. Select & suggest

Thanks!

Yorktown/Beaconsfield fires

By Second Officer Glengarry Brigade, Liam Cox

After the fire had jumped containment lines during the Yorktown / Beaconsfield fires, Glengarry 4.1 were assigned to undertake property protection (a house and a large shed). They were backed up by various crews, including Launceston 5.1 and Gravelly Beach 5.1. These units were coming and going, as there were numerous properties under threat at the same time. We were lucky enough to have a dam right next to the house, so we had the portable pump with a 25mm line coming off that, as well as a 38mm that was feeding our 4.1, which then had a further 38mm and 2 hose reels. All of these lines were strategically placed around the buildings. This worked very well, and we were even able to keep the 5.1's topped up, which also had various lines out! We advised the property owners that it was time to leave, and no more than 15 minutes later, a spot fire was racing towards our location. A nearby dozer quickly pushed a line around the side of the shed, thus possibly saving the shed from extensive damage. With the high temperatures, the low RH and the gusting winds, the fire behaviour was very intense. We managed to save the 2 buildings (and the property next door), with no damage. Thanks to all the crews there on that day. **LC**



Black Saturday mail survey results released

By Communications Manager, Bushfire CRC David Bruce

A survey designed to help better understand residents' actions in the 7 February 2009 Victorian bushfires has been completed by the Bushfire CRC as part of more extensive research project on the Black Saturday fires.

The Bushfire CRC Research Task Force was established in the immediate aftermath of Black Saturday by the Bushfire CRC on behalf of fire and land management agencies, as well as fire researchers both in Australia and internationally.

The Task Force was funded by the Victorian Government and attracted substantial in-kind resources from other states, and researchers and small businesses to look at a range of issues including fire behaviour, building and planning, and human behaviour and community safety issues. In addition to more than 600 interviews with residents in fire affected areas, the Task Force mailed a survey to more than 6000 households in October 2009.

The survey explored how the 7 February bushfires affected people and their property - from how information and warnings were received and understood, to the level of householder planning, preparation and response to the bushfires, as well as general information about each household.

Notable findings include:

- Respondents most commonly became aware of the presence of fire in their neighbourhood through sensory cues in the environment such as smoke, embers or flames, etc, a warning from a family member, friend or neighbour, or a radio announcement.
- 72% of respondents indicated that they expected to receive an official warning (from authorities such as the CFA, police, other emergency services, or ABC Radio) if there was a bushfire in their town or suburb, however, 63% reported that they did not receive an official warning. (Two thirds of respondents who did receive a warning reported that it arrived in enough time respond safely.)
- Contrary to anecdotal reports of insurance levels within fire affected areas, the majority of survey respondents (84%) reported having house and contents insurance. Only 4% said they had no insurance at all.
- An overwhelming 99% of respondents were aware that 7 February was a day of Total Fire Ban, however, the earlier interviews with residents found there was little connection between awareness and appropriate action.
- Respondents recognised temperature, wind and luck as some of the most important factors influencing how their home/ property was affected by the fires.
- In the 12 months prior to the 7 February bushfires, the CFA "Living in the Bush" workbooks, ABC Radio, CFA Community meetings, and television emerged as the major sources of information about what to do during a bushfire, and how to prepare households for bushfire.



Bushfire CRC Research Taskforce in the field. Second from right is Mark Chladil from TFS.

- Respondents consistently indicated they would adopt a similar course of action in a future bushfire attack. (77% of respondents who left their homes before the fire arrived stated that they would leave again if there was a similar fire, while 78% of those who stayed to defend their properties declared they would stay and protect their home from a similar fire in the future.)

"This research further informs communities and fire and land management agencies about what happened, and why, on an extraordinary and tragic day in this country's history," said Professor John Handmer survey author and Bushfire CRC Program Leader at RMIT University. "The information gathered will help agencies better work with communities for bushfire, ultimately saving property and lives."

Professor Handmer said the dataset from the survey needs to be read in conjunction with the qualitative work conducted immediately after Black Saturday. For instance, the majority of respondents (69%) claimed to have had a firm plan about what to do if a bushfire occurred on 7 February, but interviews with residents found considerable variation in the quality of people's plans, and that a considerable amount of "last-minute" planning and preparation occurred on the day itself.

"This is only part of the story," said Professor Handmer, "but this information from both the survey and the face-to-face interviews provides us with a solid foundation upon which future scientific analysis can be based on how communities face the threat of a bushfire."

This research was funded by the Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment, the Country Fire Authority and the Office of the Emergency Services Commissioner. The survey was conducted independently by the Bushfire CRC

To read the Report on Human Behaviour & Community Safety visit www.bushfirecrc.com/news/resident_survey.html **DB**



Operation Supply

By Field Officer Mersey District, Gil Graham

The Mersey District was invited by 44 Transport Company Devonport to participate in a joint exercise at Lake Barrington in November. The theme of the exercise was Defence Aid to the Civilian Community (DACC) to work together with our respective capabilities when requiring resources of a different nature.

It is interesting that the Army now have a representative at local Regional Emergency Management Committee meetings.

The army bivouacked at Lake Barrington for six days with permanent personnel and reservists from around the state totalling over 110.

Their resources ranged from health assets (doctors and medico's), workshop (mechanics, welders, electricians), supply company (tents, mess facilities, beds), transport (water tankers, off road vehicles) and several Zodiac assault craft.

On our side we had a total of 8 brigades from the Barrington and Roland Group, 13 vehicles with 50 personnel involved.

Various training scenarios were set up by Group Officer Neville Bingham assisted by Field Officer Gil Graham with several onsite inspections with Army's liaison Warrant Officer Phil De Bomford to iron out any glitches that might occur.



The army bivouacked at Lake Barrington for six days with permanent personnel and reservists from around the state totalling over 110.



Brigades were only given grid references to proceed from their home brigades to the staging area some 6 km from Lake Barrington where T Cards were issued and work assigned.

The scenario setup involved:

- Truck recovery with one of our 3.1 units being inadvertently being backed over a bank using the army's really big recovery unit.
- A hazmat exercise, under the watchful eye of District Officer Wayne Richards, involved hazardous materials being spilt with brigades having to identify, and the proper procedures that follow.
- First aid with Training Officer David Meldrum.
- A medical emergency involving one of our own which required army medical response via water ferry.
- Two hazard reduction burns, one the northern side of the lake handled by Melrose Brigade, and another burn on the Western side of the lake, with Acting District Officer Gary Johnson coordinating. Due to the moisture on the ground the fires were somewhat disappointing but brigades got some valuable hands on training with water relaying and draughting from the lake. The army transported water from the lake with their impressive 14,000 litre water tanker to supplement our own 3.1's and light tankers.

As the army were conducting water training for the week four Zodiac assault craft were used to ferry foam, water and medical personnel to their camp 9 km away to either side of the lake.

The exercise finished in darkness with an informal debrief and the army supplying all with some of their moreish thick soup again ferried down from the camp by Zodiacs. **GG**



Christmas at Circular Head

On 28th November the Marrawah/Redpa Brigade hosted the annual Circular Head combined Christmas dinner. In attendance were Chief Officer Mike Brown, Regional Chief John Streets, District Officer Jodi Armstrong, and their partners, volunteers from Stanley, Montagu, Smithton, Forest, Irishtown, Togari, Edith Creek, Arthur River and Montumana. With 114 volunteers with partners and families from across the Circular Head region, there was much opportunity for members from different brigades to build relationships which may help on the fireground someday.

A bus was provided to deliver guests to the Marrawah Hall where they were greeted by local Iarrikin firefighters Cindy Tatlow and Sheree Grey. The night was full of fun and frivolities with ex-Marrawah publican Peter Benson in fine form as MC for the night. Mr Benson provided great entertainment in commentating the games that guests were invited to participate in.

A traditional Christmas roast meal was provided by Redpa Primary School and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

There were some important presentations on the night for Long Service. A National Medal Clasp was presented to Jacky Marshall and a National Medal to Rodney Blake; 35 years long service to John Van Loon (Togari), 30 years to Bruce Grey (Marrawah) and Paddy Buckley (Montumana); 25 years to Brian Porteus (Edith Creek); 10 years to Adam Grey and Anthony Grey (Marrawah); Andrew Blizzard, John Hammond and Paul Wilson (Montagu); 5 years to Ashley Popowski and Sue Popowski (Arthur River); Bill Gale (Marrawah); Philip Wilson and Scott Arnold (Montagu); and Andrew Gourley, Chris Gray and Glen Ralston (Smithton).

On behalf of the TFS, Trevor Kingston, presented an award to Mrs Margaret Radford in recognition of the service her late husband Bill provided to the fire brigade and wider community over many years.

There was a major raffle held that night with some great prizes including accommodation at Peppers Seaport Hotel in Launceston; White Sands Resort at Ironhouse Point; The Old Woolstore Apartment Hotel and Hobart Macquarie Leisure Inn. There were also other prizes kindly donated by local businesses.

After the formalities guests were able to enjoy entertainment from "Whiskey Rose".

A great night was had by all and the Marrawah/Redpa Brigade would like to acknowledge and thank the



Back - B Grey, P Buckley, C Gray,
B Porteus, A Popowski, R Blake
Front - B Gale, M Radford, S Popowski, J Marshall



Back - Medal recipients G Ralston, Anthony
Grey, S Arnold, A Blizzard, J Hammond
Front - P Wilson, Adam Grey, A Gourley

following businesses who helped make the night such a success; Peppers Seaport Hotel; White Sands Resort; The Old Woolstore Apartment Hotel; Hobart Macquarie Leisure Inn; Impact; Merial (Ivomec Eprinex); Incitec Pivot; Roberts; Bradley Watson; Ann Bay Cabins; MK Haulage; Oysters and More; Marrawah Hotel; GC Airey P/L; Elders; Greenhams; Johnson Gourmet Meats; Kozani Cuts; Abalone Tas; Bridge Hotel; Smithton Scouts; PFD Food Services Pty Ltd.

Christmas in the Northern Region

By Senior Clerical Officer Northern Region, Lynda Robins

Northern Region held their Christmas breakfast and lunch on Thursday 17th December at the Youngtown complex.

The day started with a BBQ breakfast at SES setting the tone for the day with everyone wandering back to their desks thinking how are we going to fit in lunch?

Carol, as always, had everything organised for lunch with her team of helpers busily peeling spuds, carrots, slicing the turkey, ham and ensuring everything was organised. By 1230 everyone was seated and poised ready for the massive three course lunch which included prawn cocktail, roast turkey, ham & pork with vegies followed by pavlova and Christmas pudding

With lunch over and done with and with just about everyone too full to move Santa arrived. He took great enjoyment handing out his pressies; we must have all been extremely good during the year as each person received present!

The 2009 Northern Region Christmas Party was held at the Northern Club on Saturday, 19 December.

Throughout the year \$480 was raised to go towards the evening and it could not have been successful without the support from staff throughout the year!

The food, drinks, company and evening made for a great party that was enjoyed by all! Thank you to Lauren and Shannon for their hard work in fundraising during the year and organising the night! LR



Santa with Gavin Freeman
(What was Santa trying to tell us?
"This is our New Deputy Chief" Ed)



Santa with
Lynda Robins



ABC Giving Tree

TFS continued its tradition of not sending out Christmas cards but instead estimated what may have been spent on card purchases, printing and postage, and donated this amount to the ABC Giving Tree.



Chief Officer Mike Brown presenting the donation to Louise Saunders (presenter of 936's Drive program), with firefighters "bearing gifts" – Gary Loh, Colin Attrill, Peter Dart and Matthew Pope

Glenorchy Christmas Party



Santa with his helpers – Firefighter David Conceicao, Leading Firefighter Barry Bones, Firefighter Mark McCarthy and Senior Firefighter Sean Mennitz

The annual Christmas party for Hobart Brigade and Ambulance children was held on 28th November at Glenorchy Station where the weather was damp, although the spirit of the children who attended was not. No matter what the weather the big jolly man always manages to put a smile on the children's faces.

Special thanks to A platoon who did a stellar job on the BBQ, and 'Make Believe Children's Entertainment' for the wonderful face painting.

Emergency Services Volunteer Award

By Regional Chief North West, John Streets

The Emergency Services Volunteer Award came about through the initiative of Ron Jones, who at the time was a member of the Tullah Brigade and the West Coast State Emergency Service. In 1993 Ron was awarded the Parssey Award which is presented by the Australian Institute of Emergency Services in recognition of service to the community in responding to and handling emergencies.

Ron identified that there were a lot of quiet achievers in all emergency services providing a service without recognition. He approached the West Coast Radio station 7XS and they supported and sponsored an Emergency Services Volunteer Award for the West Coast, which is still running today.

In recent years Ron and his family moved to the North West Coast and he became a member of the Sprent Brigade. In 2008 Ron approached the 7BU, 7AD and Sea FM radio stations that now support and sponsor an Emergency Services Volunteer Award for the North West Coast.

The Emergency Service Volunteer Award was presented to Brigade Chief John (Jack) and Avis White of the Heybridge Brigade for their dedicated to the Heybridge Community and the TFS. JS



Front Brigade Chief John (Jack) and Avis White
Back: Regional Chief John Streets, Norrie Hayes –
Tasmanian Ambulance Service, Lauchie Avery –
Tasmania Police

Tasmania's Tidiest Town

By Brigade Chief Richmond, Peter Hemelrijk

Richmond has been judged to be Tasmania's Tidy Town and the brigade's input within the community has played a significant role in the judges' decision. Nowadays the appearance of the town has a less significant role in the outcome, but the community input and activity within it has taken centre stage.

The Richmond Brigade was considered to have contributed significantly and received an Excellence award as well as an award for the junior team.

Our brigade is no different from most other brigades in Tasmania when it comes to community contribution, it's nice to get recognition at times but that is not why we volunteer. PH



Victoria's DC-10 trial

By the Bushfire CRC

A DC-10 air tanker brought into Victoria to help with bushfire operations this summer is being evaluated by researchers at the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Bushfire CRC, Mr Gary Morgan, said the trial of the air tanker will add to the limited knowledge in this area. "We need to know what this aircraft can do and what it can't do in Australian conditions. This type of aircraft has not been used for firefighting in Australia and is quite different to anything in the current fleet of aircraft and helicopters. It is important that we take the time to fully understand its capabilities and its limitations under Australian conditions".

The scientific evaluation will aim to assess the effectiveness of this type of very large aircraft in a range of situations (remote fires, interface fires, forest fuels, grass fuels, flat terrain, hilly terrain) and with a range of payloads (water, retardant). To date, this class of aircraft has not been tested in all of these conditions, and in particular, not in interface areas.

The Bushfire CRC has experience in evaluating the effectiveness of aerial suppression. In recent years the Bushfire CRC has worked closely with firefighting agencies around Australia and internationally and with the National Aerial Fire Fighting Centre on a range of bushfire suppression projects involving both air and ground resources.

"The Bushfire CRC will bring its broad expertise to the trial of this very large aircraft and will share the outcomes with firefighting agencies around Australia and internationally," said Mr Morgan.

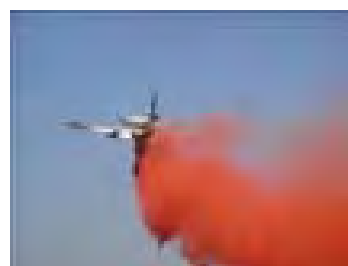
The Bushfire CRC researchers are from the CSIRO and from Australian fire fighting agencies, who will work closely with the US aircraft crews.

In addition, an S76 helicopter from Canada will accompany the researchers in their task. "This helicopter is a vital part of the trial because it has the speed and responsiveness to keep pace with the DC-10 and it is equipped with all the necessary monitoring equipment to ensure that each aerial drop can be properly assessed," he said.

The trial is funded by the Victorian Government through the state's fire fighting agencies, the CFA and the Department of Sustainability and Environment.



Bushfire CRC Project Leader for the DC10 evaluation, John Gledhill, looking at the retardant drop in the Wombat State Forest



The DC10 swoops low over the Wombat State Forest before dropping retardant.

Emergency Services and the law

By District Officer Greg Butters

Recently the TFS had the opportunity to have a facilitated professional development workshop focussed on Emergency Services and the Law. The facilitator was Dr Michael Eburn, a Senior Lecturer at the School of Law – University of New England in NSW.

Michael's research interests are in the area of the emergency services and emergency response. He is the author of *Emergency Law* (3rd edition at press, The Federation Press) as well as numerous articles and conference papers on legal issues facing the emergency services. His recently completed PhD was on Australia's legal arrangements for sending and receiving international disaster assistance.

Michael is a regular presenter on legal issues and the emergency services and has delivered training presentations for NSW State Emergency Service, Victoria State Emergency Service, Country Fire Authority, the Office of the Emergency Services Commissioner, the West Australian and Northern Territory Local Government Associations and the Emergency Management Institute, Mt Macedon.



Dr Michael Eburn

The key topics covered during the workshop included:

- Emergency Services and the Law in a Tasmanian context;
- The role and process of litigation;
- Duty of Care;
- Vicarious liability; and,
- The role of courts and inquiries (Coronial Inquiries, Royal Commissions etc.)

As you could expect with anything to do with Law, there was a considerable amount of time devoted to certain Sections of the Fire Service Act 1976 (Tas) and, to a lesser degree, the Emergency Management Act 2006 (Tas). Michael also included several case studies of where legal precedent had been set, in an emergency services context.

The afternoon sessions included an introduction to some key legal concepts and legal reasoning. This was presented in a scenario based exercise where we were the lawyers in a mock court. This provided an interesting insight into how the courts operate, which also created some amusing arguments amongst the groups.

Overall, the feedback was very positive and the day was well received by the TFS officers and Police who attended. Michael is an excellent facilitator and I hope we have the opportunity to invite him back. **GB**

The end of an era

By Firefighter Blessington Brigade, Lyndal Kimpton

Due to the TFS phase out of petrol appliances, the Blessington Brigade said goodbye to its Bedford truck which has served the brigade since its arrival in 2001.

Of the numerous fire exercises organised by Rodney Springer and the TFS the Bedford attended every one and never let us down, even though it may have been the slowest truck (much to the annoyance of those following).

The old Bedford has been a favourite for all members who have served on it and has outlasted many volunteers. As we bid farewell to the old girl we look to the future with our new (to us) Merc.

There is nothing like a baptism of fire to become familiar with your equipment. As fate would dictate, some lovely person decided to dump a car up Ben Lomond road and watch it burn the day after the Merc was delivered (the day before full training was conducted). The volunteers who attended the fire were able to operate the truck and extinguish the fire without an issue. **LK**



Out with the old



In with the new

Molesworth Station Opening

By Firefighter Molesworth Brigade, Rosemary Evenhuis



The Molesworth Fire Station was designed after much consultation between TFS and the Molesworth Community Hall Committee, chaired by TFS volunteer Bob Bradshaw. It does not look like a standard TFS station, it is dark red Colorbond (not the regulation green), has a steep gabled roof and a picture window above the engine bay that looks to the back of Mount Wellington. The rec room looks like a chalet, nestled beside the engine bay.

The design of the station reflects the architecture of the Community Hall. Both buildings sit on a river flat that was previously a hop garden beside Sorell Creek. The tall poplars that created a wind break still line the boundary of the recreation ground and cricket ground. With Molesworth School and Environment Centre slightly uphill, this is becoming the centre of the Molesworth community.

On 6th December 2009, the brigade officially opened the new station. It had taken quite an effort to completely clear the old station and transfer ten years' of accumulated gear to the new one.

District Officer Hugh Jones introduced the afternoon, Chief Officer Mike Brown welcomed everyone and the Hon. Michael Polley MP gave an address. Molesworth Brigade's two juniors, Toby Roat and Huon Davis unveiled the official plaque. We hope this will be a life-long memory for Toby and Huon. Mayor of

The design of the station reflects the architecture of the Community Hall. Both buildings sit on a river flat that was previously a hop garden beside Sorell Creek.

New Norfolk, Martyn Evans, was in attendance, as were former Brigade Chiefs Leon Glover and Peter Eaton, and members of the New Norfolk and Magra brigades. Brigade Chief Terry Root, spoke about the history of the Molesworth Brigade which was officially opened in 1970 under the Rural Fires Act.

One of the brigade's original members, Jim Mollineaux, was presented with a national medal for 35 years, Bob Bradshaw 25 years, Jane Bradshaw 15 years and Angela Bradshaw awarded a 15 year long service badge. Brigade members put on a typical country spread for lunch including scones, sandwiches and cakes.

The Molesworth Brigade would like to thank TFS, Derwent Valley Council, Molesworth Hall Committee and Malunna for their assistance in the successful opening of our new station. **RE**

Community Alerts: Bushfire Warning Messages

By Senior Station Officer, Phil Douglas

Arising from the 2008/09 fire season debriefs and the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission, Community Information and Warnings were developed to improve the level of information flow to communities during emergency events.

The broad key message to the community is **prepare, act, survive**, as it embodies the key principles of community safety and bushfire preparedness.

When fires threaten suddenly and without warning, communities are most vulnerable and it is important that fire agencies aim to provide as much information as is possible through a wide range of mechanisms to help people make safe choices. People require different types and levels of information for various reasons during an incident, these messages provide specific things people should be doing and are designed to help people to take appropriate action.

TFS will use three levels of messaging templates, posted on the TFS website and broadcast on radio, to help people make the right safety choices.

Emergency Warnings – “Bushfire Emergency Warning”

- you are in danger and need to take action immediately. You will be impacted by fire. This message may be preceded by an emergency warning signal (a siren sound).

Watch and Act – “Bushfire Watch and Act” message - represents a heightened level of threat. Conditions are changing; you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family.

Advice – “Bushfire Advice” message - a fire has started or is being scaled down – there is no immediate danger; general information to keep up to date with developments.

Communities should not solely rely on receiving an official message and should always be aware of local conditions and be ready to act on the basis they may not receive an emergency warning.

Accurate and regular information from first responders is critical for the Information Unit to be able to provide current, relevant alert messages to communities. The information should reflect what members of the community need to know and not focused on operation tactics or resources. Timely information gathering,



The broad key message to the community is prepare, act, survive, as it embodies the key principles of community safety and bushfire preparedness.

screening and dissemination are essential to minimise impact on the community from bushfires. Achievement of this depends on several factors including regular situation reports from the first responders on the scene, back to the Incident Controller/Incident Management Team. These should consider:

- What is the threat: i.e. large, fast running, spotting bushfire?
- Where is it heading: who is it likely to impact, what assets are at risk?
- When are they likely to be threatened?
- What do they need to know to make safe choices?

The Community Warning Templates and community alerts process, will be utilised in their current form, and reviewed at the end of the 2009/2010 fire season. Watch for a following article, on the implementation of the Community Alerts over this fire season, in the next edition of Fireground. **PD**



Wayatinah fire

By District Officer Midlands, Gerald Crawford

The Wayatinah fire started on 31st January 2010 and was handed back to the relevant agencies on 12th February. During this time the fire burnt some 6400 hectares and involved TFS, Forestry Tasmania, Parks & Wildlife, Skög, Gunns and some other private timber companies in trying to contain it. A full report will be in the next edition of Fireground. **GC**

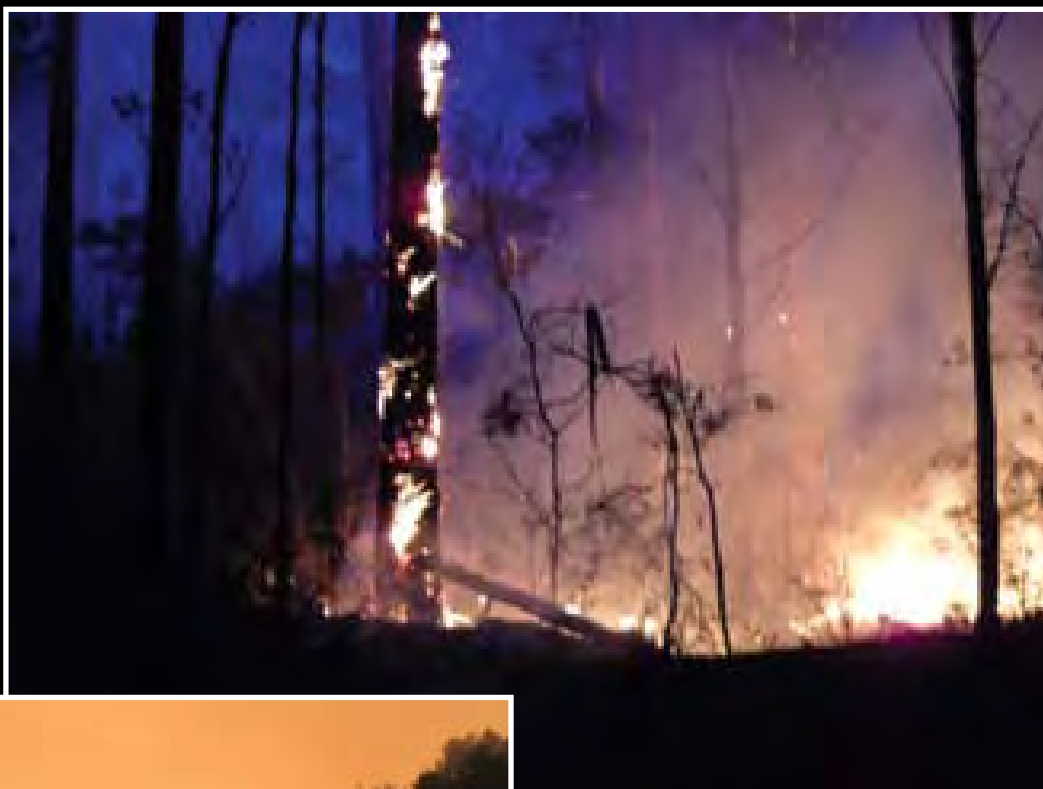


Photographer District Officer Gerald Crawford

Wayatinah fire



Photographer District
Officer Gerald Crawford



Back burning going really well
 Photographer Second Officer
 South Arm Brigade,
 Barry Heather



Photographer
 Firefighter Taroona
 Brigade, Fred Miley



Back burning operation at Mt Thunderbolt
 Photographer Second Officer South Arm
 Brigade, Barry Heather

Burning Lessons

By Senior Station Officer Learning & Development, Robert Featherstone

Conducting a fuel reduction burn has many variables to consider, like weather, fuel arrangement, lighting patterns, unsightly scorch height, and skill levels of personnel conducting a burn that impact on the outcomes at the end of the day. The perceived risks as viewed by some may outweigh the potential benefits, and subsequently the fuel loads will then remain until the next wildfire.

A burn plan includes the relevant details referring to the site and ownership, a lighting plan, and is drafted with referencing a checklist. By being thorough in the planning stage there will be a reduced chance of risk and unexpected events happening. Fuel reduction burns are risky and it is by having a plan and going through the checklist that it will reduce those risks. The planned control of a fire on a site will have less risk for crew members than responding to a wildfire on that site under emergency conditions.

In many instances the windows of opportunity to conduct a fuel reduction burn are limited to when it equates to the availability of resources rather than when it is best for the environment. The frequency and intensity of fire in some vegetation types may result in changes that impact on the survivability of those existing species being replaced by unwanted species adapted to changes for that different fire regime. This is becoming apparent with grassland understorey being more prevalent, such as those found on the eastern shore of the Derwent where Risdon peppermints are declining with the increasing wildfires in those dry forests.

Along with the changed fire regimes are the subsequent spread of intrusive weeds through Tasmania's native forests such as gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), which has an ability to rapidly regenerate following a fire to displace the native vegetation. Where gorse is not controlled it creates an impenetrable mass of highly flammable vegetation over large areas and one of the most effective (cheapest) ways of reducing it is by burning, in combination with other control measures. A request from a property owner at Cressy to help remove gorse was received by the District staff in winter last year. To facilitate the request a fuel reduction burning course was held on Saturday 1st August



Igniting gorse from an internal control line under the influence of a strong wind is easy.



Backburning gorse against a strong wind may be difficult to light and uncomfortable for crews.

2009, where local Brigades could be involved in the theory, and then practical components of the course all on the one day. A strategic benefit was also apparent with an adjoining property being a nature reserve with a young pine plantation nearby.

It was important for the property owner to have the gorse removed at that time to enable follow up works to reduce

The frequency and intensity of fire in some vegetation types may result in changes that impact on the survivability of those existing species being replaced by unwanted species adapted to changes for that different fire regime.

regrowth by spot spraying and intensive grazing by cattle. The weather conditions on the day included snow and sleet showers in the morning, a temperature less than 14c, relative humidity over 50%, wind gusts over 50km/hr, and the approximate forest fire danger rating of low 4. These conditions are outside of the prescribed conditions for fuel reduction burning which are, a temperature less than 20c, relative humidity between 40-60%, and wind less than 15 km/hr. There were 14 people from 4 local brigades attending the training course, and during that cold windy morning there was an element of doubt as to whether the planned afternoon practical burn would go ahead. Gorse has a tendency to burn a bit like coastal heath (hard to put out or hard to light), and given the weather conditions the burn plan was then revised to suit those conditions for that time.

The photos here show how wind plays a part in pushing a fire through the area with great intensity, and how difficult it is to put in a clean backburn to strengthen a control line.

A recommendation for conducting a fuel reduction burn is to draw a burn plan, go through the checklist, and review the course material. Following the burn there may be lessons that should be passed onto others to prevent any recurrence.

The TFS fuel reduction burn course is being reviewed to encompass those factors that will improve outcomes, and reduce risks recurring from those experienced elsewhere. The lessons learned from the course at Cressy may be worthy to note as they include, drip torch fuel at 15c will burn with less volatility than what it would on hotter days, due to a higher soil moisture content when fuel reduction burns are done there may be a likelihood that vehicles will get bogged, and compacting flashy fuel layers (especially along control lines) will make them easier to light a backburn. **RF**

TFS Logo

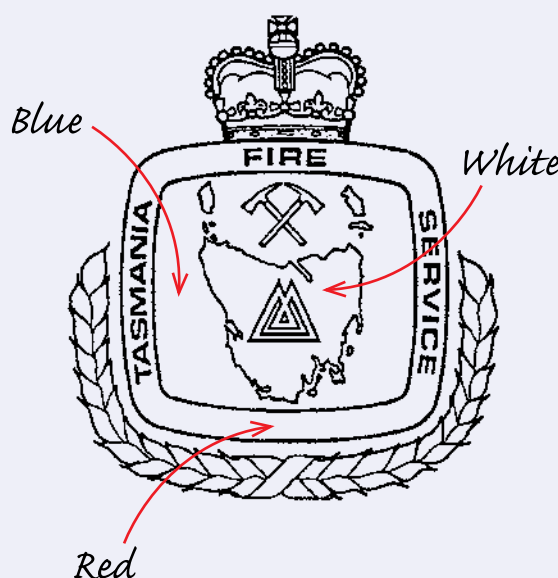
By Editor Fireground, Linda Lacy

Whilst on a recent holiday in Tasmania, Western Australian visitor Tony Pross was surprised to see "his logo" whizzing by on the side of a TFS truck.

Tony visited state headquarters and advised me that he had created the logo in response to a television competition conducted by "Coco's Corner" on Channel 6 in 1970. He recalled drawing it in black lead pencil with arrows indicating the colours to be used.

He drew the rough outline of Tasmania, added the triangles to signify fire, then the hatchets, words, border and crown. Finally he added the wreath, his idea for this was from his mother's Escort cigarette packet.

Tony won the competition and his prize was \$10, which was probably a decent sum for a 10 year old boy in 1970! **LL**



Tony Pross



Library News

New Resources in the TFS Library

Living in bushfire-prone areas: HB 330-2009 / Standards Australia 2009.

A guide to reducing the threat and impact of bushfire attack and an explanation of the basis of AS 3959.

Accessible via our Standards Online database, print copies at SHQ and LFB libraries.



Future in flames / Danielle Clode.
Melbourne University Press, 2010.

No other continent on earth is as prone to bushfires, over such a large area, as Australia. Fires are a constant and ongoing part of our history, our ecology and our culture. Yet despite repeated disasters, across all states throughout the last two centuries, we seem to be no better at surviving bushfires today

than we were when fires burnt through the first European settlements. What is it about Australia that makes it so prone to fires? Have humans made things worse, or better? Is it possible to live in the Australian bush, yet still be safe from fire? This book is a personal journey of discovery that attempts to answer some of these questions and understand why, after so many years, people are still dying in bushfires.

Available at SHQ library



Chainsaw operator's manual: chainsaw safety, maintenance and cross-cutting techniques, updated edition / Bernard R. Kestel. Collingwood, Vic: CSIRO Publishing, 2009.

Available at SHQ and LFB libraries

In the line of fire: Catalyst bushfire special, 29/10/09. ABC, 2009. 1 DVD (27 min.).

It is predicted that bushfires will become more frequent and even more severe than the Black Saturday firestorms that ravaged parts of Victoria last February. This special edition of Catalyst investigates the science of fire prevention and survival from three very different angles.

Available at SHQ library

Atmosphere testing: confined space. Camberwell, Vic: Vocam, 2008. 1 DVD (15 min).

Contents: Atmosphere Testing - Oxygen Levels, Flammability and Toxicity - Lower Explosive Limits - Workplace Exposure Limits - Common Testing Problems - Testing Procedures.

Available at SHQ library

Confined space safety essentials. Camberwell, Vic: Vocam, 2009. 1 DVD (28 min).

Contents: Confined spaces - Entry permit system - Confined space hazards - Safe work procedures - Atmosphere testing - Purging & ventilation - PPE - Respiratory protective equipment.

Available at SHQ library

CONTACT US

Contact Enola in the Library to borrow any of these resources.

Ph: 6230 8679

Email: library@fire.tas.gov.au

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

TFS State Conference 2010 Calendar Reminder

Please note that the TFS State Conference is being held in Launceston on 10 and 11 July 2010. It is anticipated that registration forms will be sent out late March/early April 2010.

"Young Citizens of the Year"

By Second Officer Gretna Brigade, Trafford Harvey

The Gretna Brigade's Christmas and Awards function held in early December was an occasion to celebrate the festive season and to recognise the achievements of crews and individuals in the brigade. Over forty members, their families and invited guests enjoyed an evening of chat and refreshments. The formal part of the function included an overview of the brigade's achievements during the previous twelve months, and a special welcome to the brigade for new senior members Andrew Main, Colin Barrington, Ricky Bowerman and Jarod Rainbird, followed by the award presentations.

The junior/cadet team once again did extremely well at the TFS State Championships in Launceston in November by winning the overall junior trophy for the third successive year.

Brigade Chief Colin Cunningham presented Dylan Hubbard with the prestigious Junior/Cadet of the Year Award, for his efforts throughout the year.

Long time members of the brigade Colin Cunningham and Trafford Harvey were both awarded the TFS Volunteer Medal, well deserved recognition for almost twenty five years of service, most of this time as officers - training and coaching senior and junior members.

Central Highlands Council Mayor, Deirdre Flint presented junior/cadet members Dylan Hubbard, Nicholas Langford, Harley Hermans, Angus Denholm and Anthony Purton with certificates of commendation in recognition of their achievements throughout the year, however, the most important announcement by Mayor Flint was to confirm that the junior/cadet group were to receive an award in the Australia Day Awards 2010, hosted by the Central Highlands Council. This



Back: Training Officers Trafford Harvey and Colin Cunningham
Front: Anthony Purton, Angus Denholm, Nicholas Langford
Absent: Dylan Hubbard, Harley Hermans



Junior/Cadet team after winning the State Firefighter Championships in Launceston last November. The team is from left: Angus Denholm, Harley Hermans, Nicholas Langford, Dylan Hubbard, Anthony Purton.

award, "Young Citizens of the Year" was officially presented to the junior members at the recent Australia Day celebrations held at the newly established Croakers Alley Park at Bothwell. As a further tribute to Colin Cunningham and Trafford Harvey for the time and dedication devoted to the Gretna Brigade, in particular the Junior Development Program, they were officially thanked by the Mayor at the Australia Day celebrations. **TH**

Latrobe Brigade competes in New Zealand

By Firefighter Latrobe Brigade, Ben Dick

Back in October 2009 the Latrobe Brigade participated in the 2010 Australasian Firefighting Championships held in Rotorua, New Zealand. The trip was made possible due to our key sponsors. Irrigation Tasmania, Tasmania Helicopters, Tas Gas, Fire Pac Australia and Tasmanian Fire Doors, thank you for your kind and generous support. Thank you to companies that provided us with great prizes in the raffle we held to raise extra funds and to the people who bought tickets and ate our sausages. Also a special mention to Wesley Vale, Ulverstone, and Latrobe Brigades whose support provided us with our competition uniforms. **BD**





Putting the brakes on rolling away!

By Manager Engineering Services, Leon Smith

The establishment of a role and functionality matrix allows the TFS to design appliances, matched to specific applications, considering levels of equipment, axle masses, clearances and terrain in which the appliance can operate / successfully negotiate. In doing so, there is a high level of assessment undertaken of the initial prototype appliance to determine its actual ability to perform in the role that has been established (on a needs basis).

In smaller GVM appliances (3.5 tonne to 6.5 tonne), the tare mass (operational mass) of the completed appliance, although under GVM, is close to the maximum legal mass. Given this, the appliances are in the upper category of mass and run (with full crew) close to full GVM. From a design perspective, the appliances are proportionally balanced, providing the best handling characteristics and on and off road performance, in line with the defined role and functionality. From a user's perspective, the appliance has been designed to deliver excellent crew safety and functionality, both from a performance (response) perspective, as well as a firefighting resource on the fire ground.

Irrespective of the appliance type, there are parameters in regard to the safe and efficient use that relate to both on and off road (in the instance of 4X4s) performance and capability and a major part of the ability to successfully utilise appliances is the understanding of their configuration and peculiarities associated with their use. In layman's terms, a fire appliance

platform (cab chassis) has not been designed, nor is specifically mass produced for fire application, instead, the chassis has been chosen for the application given the needs and requirements of the finished resource as a whole. In many instances, the cab chassis type is very well suited to the application, however, there are peculiarities from an engineering and technical perspective that must be considered when utilising the appliance on a day to day basis, both under routine and operational use.

Several events over the recent past have highlighted what appears to be a lack of understanding pertaining to appliance configuration and capability in certain circumstances, leading to damage and in some instances a total loss of the resource due to significant damage. There have been several instances of appliances rolling away on slopes, as well as instances of appliances having damage sustained to the drivelines and park brake mechanisms due to activation of the park brakes prior to becoming stationary.

Appliance cab chassis are designed by the manufacturer to be loaded with a mass (either permanently or periodically) up to the plated GVM of the cab chassis, as indicated earlier, the TFS engineers the appliance to have an operational tare mass below the rated overall mass. The cab chassis is compliant from an ADR (Australian Design Rule) perspective in that its braking ability, park brake efficiency, axle masses etc are rated to the chassis components, providing a safe and efficient platform for any type of application. From a TFS perspective, understanding the

Report any instances of brake / park brake poor performance in a timely manner so an assessment and rectification can be undertaken as a priority. Contact your District Officer in the first instance. If anyone has any other queries about the configuration of their appliance, or requires any additional information, please contact you regional Engineering Services staff.

configuration of these systems is crucial in ensuring the safe and effective use of the respective resource/s.

To sell cab chassis within Australia, manufacturers must meet the requirements of the Australian Design Rules (ADR's) in that the park braking systems must be capable of a certain amount of holding power on certain gradients and surface. From a TFS perspective, it is crucial that the systems are understood and put into context as far as the use of the appliance under the full range of environments and conditions for which the vehicle was designed. Several recent instances of vehicles rolling away have highlighted a need to emphasise the procedure for securing and stabilising appliances during both routine and emergency operations.

The ADR's make reference to an ability for the vehicle's park brake system to hold the vehicle on a gradient of 8 degrees slope (on a surface, the equivalent of dry bitumen) for a period of 5 minutes. In a couple of instances, appliances have been left unattended on a slope of twice the gradient on dry grass (with a coefficient of friction of 0.1, rather than the 0.8 of dry bitumen) and have rolled away, causing significant damage and near misses for crews. From a safety perspective, it is crucial that drivers of TFS appliances have a thorough understanding of the gradients and terrain in which they are operating and have a procedure for stabilising and securing the appliance safely and effectively given the circumstances at the time.

The park brake is designed to hold the vehicle stationary for a period of time on a slope with a good surface, however, it is unreasonable to expect the park brake to perform under all circumstances, even if it is adjusted correctly (which should always be the case with TFS appliances).

Operators / drivers are reminded that correct shut down procedures are crucial and conscious decisions must be made when siting appliances, both during routine and emergency situations. In a manual vehicle, the park brake should be applied and checked, then the vehicle shut down and placed into gear, matched to the slope, ie if facing uphill, 1st gear selected, if facing nose downhill, reverse selected, this in turn locks up the driveline to minimise the chances of the vehicle rolling. If in an area of significant slope (up to a maximum recommended 15 degrees) the options are to stabilise the vehicle on the slope in gear as mentioned, with the steering on lock to reduce the distance it runs down slope in the event of a failure, with wheels chocked, or if it is not feasible to shut the vehicle down and the slope is excessive, ideally a driver must stay in the vehicle to secure it on the hand and foot brake, maximising stability.

Most appliances are now fitted with a battery guard system and we are progressively fitting LED emergency

and scene lighting, negating the need for appliance engines to be running during use. With secondary LED's for prominence and LED or HID scene lighting running, the draw is below 5 amps, which is negligible and should not cause discharge issues, appliances fitted with battery guard protection systems will manage their draw and protect themselves from becoming flat with the engine off.

Due to the fact that our appliances are generally laden to, or very close to the GVM, it is essential that drivers consider the process of stabilising the appliance given the conditions.

The configuration of park brake varies between types and models of appliance, but are either drum on the rear axle, or drum on the tailshaft, European cab chassis have park apply on the drive and steer axles for maximum traction and holding power in adverse conditions. The application of the park brake should only be undertaken when the vehicle has become stationary, especially in appliances fitted with tail shaft park brakes, as application whilst moving can shear the backing plates and immobilise the appliance. Over the past two months, there have been several appliances damaged significantly and immobilised due to activation of the park brake on an appliance fitted with tailshaft park brakes.

Report any instances of brake / park brake poor performance in a timely manner so an assessment and rectification can be undertaken as a priority. Contact your District Officer in the first instance. If anyone has any other queries about the configuration of their appliance, or requires any additional information, please contact you regional Engineering Services staff. **LS**



On the Move

A list of recent personnel changes within the TFS



The following Career personnel changes have occurred

Arrivals

Information Services	David Watson	Manager Infrastructure - Windows	14th December 2009
Northern Region	Neil Eadie	Maintenance Officer	1st February 2010

Elevations

State Headquarters	Gavin Freeman	Deputy Chief Officer	17th February 2010
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The following Volunteer Brigade Officers have been elected by their Brigades

BRIGADE	OFFICER	APPOINTMENT	BRIGADE	OFFICER	APPOINTMENT
Arthurs Lake	Ricky Triffitt	Brigade Chief	Elizabeth Town	Luke Padman	Fourth Officer
	Wayne Jones	Second Officer	Fern Tree	Garry Sullivan	Brigade Chief
Bridgewater	Robert Pearce	First Officer		David Van Geytenbeek	Second Officer
	Nathan Clark	Second Officer		Phillip Sansom	Third Officer
	Dave Lamb	Third Officer		Kenneth Fishwick	Fourth Officer
Broadmarsh	Murray Knight	Brigade Chief	Mole Creek	Richard Johnston	Brigade Chief
	Mark Butterworth	Second Officer		Grant Walker	Second Officer
	Jason McKenzie	Third Officer		Haydn Stedman	Third Officer
Campbell Town	Zane Darke	Brigade Chief		Roy Thomas	Fourth Officer
	Michael Liston	Second Officer	Ross	Henry Chugg	Brigade Chief
	Andrew Grey	Third Officer		Ray Goss	Second Officer
	Ben Foote	Fourth Officer		Richard Dowling	Third Officer
Dorset Group	Lloyd Haywood	Group Officer		Wayne Mayne	Fourth Officer
Eaglehawk Neck	James Mison	Brigade Chief	Wattle Hill	Terry White	Brigade Chief
	Mark Linfoot	Second Officer		Andrew Palfreyman	Second Officer
Elizabeth Town	Richard Bennett	Brigade Chief		Michael De Courcy	Third Officer
	Darryl Walker	Second Officer		Bob Madsen	Fourth Officer
	Fiona Bennett	Third Officer			



Shayne Andrews Burnie Brigade being promoted to Station Officer. Shayne has taken up the position of Station Officer Operations in the North West Region. From left to right: Leading Firefighter Nick Johnstone, Senior Firefighter Heath Batten, Station Officer Shayne Andrews and Leading Firefighter Greg Pilkington.



Jason Johnson being promoted to Station Officer, Jason was from Hobart Brigade and transferred to the NW Region as Station Officer Operational Support. From left to right: Team Leader NW Region Nardene Reeves, Station Officer Shayne Andrews, Station Officer Jason Johnson and Senior Station Officer Gary Johnson.



Don Seymour Burnie Brigade being promoted to Station Officer, Don has taken up the position of Building Safety in the NW Region. From left to right: District Officer Wayne Richards, Station Officer Don Seymour and Regional Chief John Streets.

Awards



A list of recent awards presented within the TFS

Location/Brigade	Name	Award	Location/Brigade	Name	Award
Branxholm	Ivan Burr	National Medal (25 years)	Mayfield	Colin Walters	Long Service (35 years)
	Kenneth Naylor	National Medal (25 years)		Crispin Cotton	Long Service (35 years)
	Suzanne Naylor	National Medal (25 years)		Julian Cotton	Long Service (30 years)
	Ivan Burr	Long Service (25 years)		Bruce Dunbabin	Long Service (25 years)
	Kenneth Naylor	Long Service (25 years)	Memana	Bruno Perry	National Medal (35 years)
	Suzanne Naylor	Long Service (25 years)		Robert Bradshaw	Long Service (25 years)
	Sam Tyler	Long Service (15 years)	Molesworth	Jane Bradshaw	Long Service (20 years)
				Angela Bradshaw	Long Service (15 years)
Campbell Town	David Oakley	National Medal (45 years)		Keith Hammond	Long Service (15 years)
	David Oakley	Long Service (45 years)	Montagu	Paddy Buckley	Long Service (30 years)
	Warren Barr	Long Service (40 years)		Brian Morse	Long Service (35 years)
	Gordon Maxfield	Long Service (35 years)	Penguin	Gary Smith	Long Service (25 years)
	Graeme Mc Gee	Long Service (30 years)		Tony King	Long Service (20 years)
	Andrew Grey	Long Service (15 years)		Joel Seymour	Long Service (20 years)
	Michael Liston	Long Service (15 years)		Wayne Mayne	National Medal (15 years)
Community Fire Safety	Phil Oakley	National Medal (25 years)	Ross	Lloyd Marshall	Long Service (25 years)
Cradoc	Kim Griggs	National Medal (35 years)	Sassafras	Andrew Perry	Long Service (20 years)
	Terrance Griggs	National Medal (35 years)		David Perry	Long Service (15 years)
Edith Creek	Brian Porteus	Long Service (25 years)		Dale Atkinson	Long Service (25 years)
Elizabeth Town	Paul Bennett	National Medal (15 years)	Somerset	Michael Spilsbury	National Medal (15 years)
Emita	Alan Wheatley	National Medal (15 years)		Richard Rees	National Medal (15 years)
	Alan Wheatley	Long Service (15 years)	St Marys	Ric Rees	National Medal (15 years)
Glendevie	Ian Preston	Long Service (15 years)		John Van Loon	Long Service (35 years)
	Barry Hogan	Long Service (35 years)	St Patricks River	Kym Coombes	Long Service (15 years)
Hobart	David Klug	Long Service (20 years)		Adrian Lees	National Medal (35 years)
	Ian Duggan	Long Service (50 years)	Whitemark	Cameron Suna	National Medal (25 years)
Kempton	Gerard McShane	Long Service (25 years)		Craig Charleston	National Medal (15 years)
	Jim Grace	Long Service (30 years)	Wilmot	Tony Loone	National Medal (15 years)
Lackrana	David Klug	Long Service (50 years)		Graeme Charleston	Long Service (20 years)
Launceston	Richard Blackwell	Long Service (20 years)		Tony Loone	Long Service (20 years)
Lenah Valley	Leon Richardson	National Medal (25 years)		Gary Mantje	Long Service (15 years)
	Jock Bryan	Long Service (40 years)		Robert Hood	Long Service (30 years)
	Ron Denne	Long Service (15 years)		Robert Casey	Long Service (25 years)
	Leon Richardson	Long Service (15 years)	Woolmers	George Mills	Long Service (25 years)
Marrawah	Jacky Marshall	National Medal (25 years)		Tony Love	Long Service (20 years)
	Rodney Blake	National Medal (15 years)		Keith Gatenby	Long Service (15 years)
	Bruce Grey	Long Service (30 years)			

Please note that only awards of 15 years and greater are printed due to the great number (Ed.)

LETTERS



Weegee Hall Committee
44 Dynans Bridge Road
Weegee 7304

Contact: Stuart Harvey
Phone: 6368 1197
Facsimile: - - - -
Email: swamharvey@bigpond.com.au

30/11/09

Dear Allyn and Pat,

On behalf of the Weegee Hall Committee, I would like to thank you and the Tas Fire Service for your support for our "Weegee Bliss" information and social barbeque, held on the 21st of November, 2009. The afternoon received positive feedback from the local community, resulting in more interest in our local hall as well as giving local residents some sense of reassurance in the event of an emergency situation.

Our hall fits most of the criteria for a "safe haven" so the Committee is presently working on plans to make the hall and grounds available as a support base for any future crisis. No doubt, if we need to, we will seek assistance from you and your department from time to time in the future in regards to this and other matters.

Thanking you once again
Regards,

Stuart Harvey

Stuart Harvey
Secretary of Weegee Hall Committee

Telstra

TASMANIA POLICE
Charity
TRUST

8 December 2009

Mr Greg Butters
Tasmania Fire Service
GPO Box 1526
HOBART TAS 7001

Mr M HARRIS

TASMANIA POLICE CHARITY TRUST GOLF DAY

Thank you for entering your team in the Golf Day which the Charity Trust, sponsored with the Country Wine, held at the Tasmania Golf Club, Merula Bay, on Friday, 26 November 2009.

Many fine teams from national corporations, local businesses, government agencies and local clubs participated in the event with fantastic prizes on offer at the conclusion of the day for the four top teams. Even the worst score was rewarded with a voucher for golfing lessons from the club professional.

A fundraising auction at the conclusion of the competition saw keen interest and generous bidding for items on offer including sporting memorabilia, lunch for ten with the Acting Commissioner of Police and intensive travel opportunities.

In excess of \$6000 was contributed from the auction bringing the total raised for the day to approximately \$14000. This is an excellent result, during a time when all businesses and government agencies have faced tough budgetary decisions and cutbacks.

We look forward to your support of this event again in 2011.

Please find attached your team photo as a pleasant reminder to you of your achievement on the day.

Yours sincerely

Darren Hill

Darren Hill
Acting Commissioner of Police and
Acting Chair, Tasmania Police Charity Trust

Former members of the Hobart Brigade meet on the first Thursday of the week every second month for lunch (commencing at 12.30 pm). This informal meeting of mostly retired operational people has become a tradition in recent years and represents an opportunity to catch up with former friends and work colleagues. The venues for the meeting are chosen by those in attendance and offer an opportunity to sample the delights of Hobart's many eating outlets.

The next opportunity to participate will be as follows:

August 5 – Crescent Hotel, North Hobart

October 7 – Willows Tavern, Risdon Vale

December 2 – Ross Hotel, Ross

All former members welcome to attend.



Department of Police and Emergency Management
1818 (Tasmania) 0000

Government House, Hobart TAS 7000
200 Launceston Way, Launceston
PO Box 1000, Launceston TAS 7250
Telephone: 03 6332 5400
Fax: 03 6332 5401



Emergency Management

11 November 2010

Mr Andy Paine
Brigade Chief
Tasmania Fire Service
20 Morrison St
Hobart TAS 7000

Dear Andy

SEARCH FOR MISSING MOTHER AND BART AT 11 NOVEMBER 2010

I wish to personally thank you for your assistance in the Search and Rescue Operations on 10 & 11 November 2010. Your generosity and hospitality going to help find missing people was very much appreciated. The generosity of the community and your Brigade members to cater for such a large operation was substantial. Your Brigade's kindness and support in the Department of Police and Emergency Management, Fire Emergency Services is to be commended.

The search was very difficult due to the weather and the fact that the searchers had to be out for a significant amount of time. I want to acknowledge the personal support of the community and the fact that they were there throughout the operation.

Always please pass on to all of your members my sincere thanks for their assistance and contribution towards making this rescue successful.

Thank you very much

DAVID BRIGGS
SES Regional Officer (Tasmania)

1111 Launceston Way, Launceston TAS 7250
1111 Launceston Way, Launceston TAS 7250
1111 Launceston Way, Launceston TAS 7250



Department of Health and Human Services

1818 (Tasmania) 0000

Government House, Hobart TAS 7000

200 Launceston Way, Launceston

PO Box 1000, Launceston TAS 7250

Telephone: 03 6332 5400

Fax: 03 6332 5401

Community Relations Unit
Telephone: 03 6332 5404
Email: community@health.tas.gov.au

12 January 2010

Ms Linda Lacey
Human Services Support Officer
Tasmanian Fire Service
Coronation and Argyle Street
HOBART TAS 7000

Dear Linda

I am writing to thank the Tasmanian Fire Service (TFS) for donating along with volunteer firefighter Barry Wylie, the MoxiFit exercise machine, originally purchased for Barry's wife Michelle.

Our physiotherapists and patients are absolutely thrilled to have this machine donated to our rehabilitation. The MoxiFit provides an opportunity for active exercise (leg or arm cycling) for more able patients, or more assistance to exercise for those patients with significant weakness. This is particularly beneficial for very weak patients as the equipment can be adjusted to perform more or less movement for the patient to allow them to regain strength and fitness.

Patients on Dwyer frequently need to restrain very weak muscles following brain injury, stroke and paralysis following brain tumours. The MoxiFit not only allows us to strengthen muscles it also provides purposeful movement which psychologically benefits the patient greatly. For our very disadvantaged patients who may have had a prolonged hospital stay, or an admission to ICU it allows more active opportunities to exercise to allow them to regain their general strength and fitness.

Many patients will benefit from this using this machine over time and I understand that the patients who have used it have all been very impressed with it and have been very happy to use it frequently. The generosity of both TFS and Barry is most appreciated by the RHD.

Yours sincerely

Paula Graham
Director
Community Relations Unit

LETTERS

January 21st 2010

Mr J Harper
Divisional Commander
Tasmanian Fire Service
339 Hobart Road
YOUNGTOWN TAS 7249

Dear Jeff

RE: **FIRE PREPAREDNESS SESSIONS**

On behalf of Council I offer our thanks for our support of the three fire preparedness sessions held at Avoca, Ross and Perth this week.

These were well attended (25 at Avoca, 21 at Ross, 12 at Perth) and generated discussion and many questions. The participating community members acquired a clear understanding of the issues to address when preparing their properties for fire, and the strategies for addressing these issues. I'm certain the majority of these participants will be sharing their learnings with others in their families and communities, thus getting the word out to a broader section of the community.

Our thanks in particular for the role your officer Cheryl Griffith played in the sessions. She has a good understanding of people living in rural areas on properties at high risk. Her presentation generated many questions and we received good feedback on her session.

Council is considering holding these sessions in Poatina and Devon Hills. I will be in contact when we have decided whether to proceed with these sessions.

Thank again for your support and for your commitment to reducing fire risk in the Northern Midlands.

Yours sincerely


Adam Wilson
ACTING GENERAL MANAGER



Greetings from Canada



TASMANIA FIRE SERVICE PROSPECT FIRE BRIGADE

25th January 2010

Dear Colleagues

The purpose of this letter is to allow the Prospect Fire Brigade to express our most sincere thanks to all for the support received since the accident in November which resulted in five of our brigade members being injured.

Of the five members involved, three have recovered from their injuries and returned to active duty while the remaining two continue to receive medical treatment and will hopefully be ready to return by the time these words are read. Within hours of the accident, messages of support began to flow in and that continues more than two months later.

In particular we would like to express our sincere gratitude to Chief Officer Mike Brown, Northern Regional Officer Andrew Comer, District Officers Danny Richardson and Steve Richardson and the LFB and Carrick crews that responded to the incident for their initial and ongoing support. In addition we would like to thank the TRVFA (in particular Matthew Philpot who travelled from Hobart to offer support in person), the TVFBA and the many brigades and individuals that offered their support in the ensuing days and weeks.

To list everyone would take far more room than we have, but to all we have mentioned and those we have not, thank you for your kind words and support, it has been greatly appreciated by all.

Stay Safe

From all at the Prospect Fire Brigade

Greetings from Canada

Greetings from
Maple Ridge BC
Canada! Just settling
into the Canadian way
of life (dealing with the
bears, snow and cold) it hasn't
been too bad at all. No joke we
did have a BEAR at the back door
just before Christmas!
Conrad Cooper (on exchange from Burnie)



Our Ref: H1
Your Ref:
Enquiries: Diane Sheppard
Phone: (03) 6323 9300

11 January 2010

Mr Jell Harper
District Officer, South Esk
Tasmania Fire Service
339 Hobart Road
KINGS MEADOWS TAS 7249

Dear Jell

With the York Town fire now contained, it is an appropriate time for me to write and express the appreciation of the West Tamar community for the great result you and your colleagues achieved in fighting this fire.

Council acknowledges the expertise and professionalism of both the permanent and volunteer members of the brigades involved in fighting this very difficult event. There is no doubt that the combined efforts of the team in planning and on the ground work had the desired outcome and you are to be congratulated that you were able to prevent the situation becoming a great deal worse.

With the weather as it is and the many fires that have started around the state I trust that the Tasmanian Fire Service will not experience any major outbreaks. With the Victorian fires still very much in our minds and the publicity given to the Tasmanian community, we are surely much more aware of the dangers of fire and will act more responsibly.

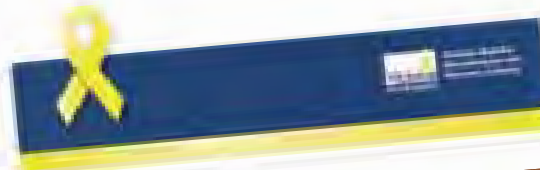
Again thank you for your efforts, the West Tamar community is very appreciative.

Yours sincerely

Barry M Easther OAM
MAYOR

STATE FIRE COMMISSION		
12 JAN 2010		
Northern Region		
Fire	Yes	No
Alarm	Yes	No
Fire No.		
Fire No.		
Cops memo		
Fire No. Dec	Yes	No
Fire No. Dec	Yes	No
Fire No. Dec	Yes	No

Tasmanian Fire Service



As a courtesy Fireground now offers contact details for members' representative organisations.

United Firefighters Union
State Secretary -
Richard Warwick
Email:
ufutas@southcom.com.au
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



Only working smoke alarms save lives...

Change your clock, change your smoke alarm battery on Sunday April 4th.



A community safety message from
DURACELL®

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www.fire.tas.gov.au