

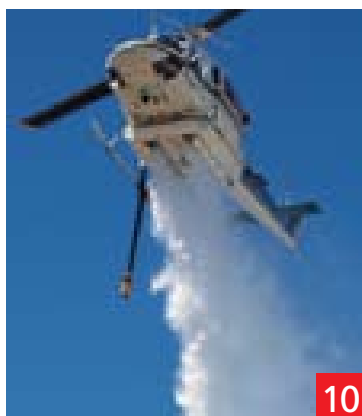
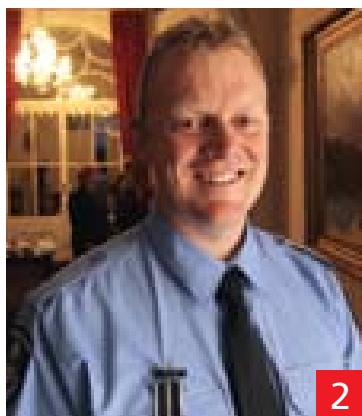
Fireground

A full-page background image showing a firefighter in silhouette, wearing a helmet and reflective gear, fighting a large fire in a forest at night. The firefighter is positioned in the lower center, facing away from the camera and slightly to the left, holding a hose. The fire is intense, with bright orange and yellow flames and thick smoke rising from the ground. Tall, thin trees are visible in the background, their trunks silhouetted against the fire. The overall scene is dramatic and captures the intensity of a bushfire response.

autumn/winter 2009

- Royal Humane Society Bravery Award
- Tasmanian Assistance to the Victorian Fires
- State Competitions

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Photographer Paul Black, Parks & Wildlife Service

Official Journal of The Tasmania Fire Service

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From the Chief Officer



JOHN GLEDHILL

As most of you would now know, I am retiring as Chief Officer effective from the end of August and so this is my last "From the Chief Officer". At this stage in my career I believe I am allowed to spend time reflecting and reminiscing. Over the last 35 years I have been part of an amazing journey of change and development in the fire service in Tasmania and Australia. I started work in a very different organisation to that which I am leaving. There has been a huge evolution in complexity and sophistication leading to an enormous increase in the capability of TFS.

Perhaps the most obvious changes have been in technology. Just a couple of examples, when I started one radio frequency served all brigades, knapsacks were the bushfire fighting tool of choice, PPE was optional - a helmet and overalls if you were lucky! Now we have 37 frequencies for TFS use, knapsacks are rare on appliances, many gathering dust in stations, PPE is mandatory and comprehensive.

During this period of change one thing has changed little and that is the commitment and enthusiasm of the people of the TFS.

It has been a privilege and an inspiration to work and associate with so many good people. I know there is a generally held view that volunteering is on the wain and from time to time we do have local difficulties. But overall the volunteer spirit and passion to help others in the community is alive and well in TFS. Perhaps one of the greatest changes in volunteer brigades has been the increased participation by women. 35 years ago the few women in brigades usually made the sandwiches, now women make up almost 17% of our volunteers operating in the full range of brigade roles.

While I know I'm leaving the organisation in great shape, there are many challenges looming. Victoria's Black Saturday so tragically demonstrated our powerlessness and vulnerability to bushfire. Quite bluntly, something similar could happen in Tasmania and climate change is likely to make these sort of weather driven events more likely and more extreme. We must continue to work with the community to be prepared and not allow complacency.

Finally, I take this opportunity to thank all TFS members for your contributions that make TFS the great organisation it is today. I know you will give the same loyalty and commitment to my successor. I especially thank my colleagues on the State Fire Commission and acknowledge their considerable but usually unseen input. I sincerely thank each member of the Executive Management Team for their loyalty, support and friendship.

In summary it has been a privilege and honour being your Chief Officer.

John Gledhill
Chief Officer

Editorial

Welcome to 2009's "new look" environmentally friendly Fireground. We recently went to tender attracting a large number of companies with various printing options and costs. The successful tenderer (once again) was the Print Centre using environmentally friendly vegetable ink on Spicer's Monza Satin recycled paper (55% recycled with 45% virgin fibre). We hope you enjoy the new style and content of Fireground.

I am sure that many of you have noticed that we missed the Autumn edition of Fireground. This was due to a number of reasons including my deployment to the Victorian fires, illness (chickenpox ☺) and other urgent work commitments. I apologise to those who look forward to receiving Fireground each quarter. This Autumn / Winter edition includes articles on operational preparedness, State competitions, AFAC Knowledge Web plus many more articles.

Closing date for next edition will be 1st August 2009, however, please don't wait for the closing date - send your articles as the

events occur - if they miss that edition, I'll carry them over to the next one!

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

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

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

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HOBART TAS 7001
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Email: fireground@fire.tas.gov.au

HFB firefighter awarded bronze medal for bravery



Senior Firefighter Scott Vinen

Recently His Excellency, the Honourable Peter Underwood AO Governor of Tasmania presented Senior Firefighter Scott Vinen with the Royal Humane Society of Australasia bronze medal for bravery, for responding to an emergency call for assistance from two fellow crew members trapped in the fire at Hobart's Myer store in September 2007.

Scott's courage and presence of mind were clearly demonstrated when he returned to the first floor of the store to locate and assist his fellow crew members to safety after they encountered thick smoke during fire operations, their BA air cylinder supply was at dangerously low levels and they were unable to find a way to safety.

When interviewed by the Mercury Scott advised that he acted on instinct, and wasn't thinking about the risks of his actions. "It's probably the last thing on your mind really, you just do what you've got to do while you're there and it's more or less instinctive, you don't even think about anything else".



Royal Humane Society of Australasia Bravery Awards to Members of the TFS

The *Royal Humane Society of Australasia* (RSHA) was formed in 1874 and has the following objectives:

1. to publicly recognise acts of bravery by giving awards to those who risk their own lives on saving or attempting to save the lives of others; and
 2. to assist through a relief fund, those award recipients who are disadvantaged or physically handicapped by their gallant actions.
- The assistance of the Society's office manager, Sue Cutler, in supplying information on Tasmanian firefighters' RSHA awards is appreciated.

Recipient rank & name	Brigade	RHSA Award	Incident date	Brave act recognised	Date RHSA Approved	Date presented & by whom
SFF Scott VINEN (39)	Hobart	Bronze Medal	22/09/2007	Going to the rescue of two firefighters trapped in the burning Myer department store, Hobart	28/07/2008	15/05/2009 by the Governor the Hon. Peter Underwood AO, at Government House, Hobart
FF Daryl John STREETS BM* (32)	Burnie	Silver Medal *Also awarded the Bravery Medal	08/11/1979	Rescuing a woman who had climbed to the top of a 25 metre jib crane at the Burnie port		1980 by the Governor the Hon. Sir Stanley Burbury, KCMG, KCVO, KBE, at Government House Hobart
SO Gerry Alec MARTIN (29), FF's Frederick John BRYAN (29) & Alwyn James DOBSON (27)	Devonport	Certificates of Merit	31/10/1976	Going to the rescue of children from a burning house at Latrobe		28/04/1978 by the Governor the Hon. Sir Stanley Burbury, KCMG, KCVO, KBE, at Government House Hobart
Fm. Charles Bonsell POWELL (28)	Hobart	Bronze Medal	13/02/1933	Rescuing a sleeping man from a burning house at Hobart	12/06/1933	10/1980 by the Governor Sir Earnest Clark GCMG, KCB, CBE on People's day at the Royal Hobart Show
Supt. Henry Edward TROUSSELOT	Hobart	Bronze Medal also awarded the Mt Lyell Gold Medal	12 to 15/10/1912	Participating in the rescue of 54 miners alive from a fire in the underground North Lyell copper mine, Queenstown	10/07/1913	12/12/1914 by Chief Secretary, the Hon. JE Ogden MHA at HFB head station

* The *Bravery Medal* is conferred by the Governor-General and is part of Australia's national honours and awards system.

Australian Fire Service Medal

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

His Excellency, the Honourable Peter Underwood AO Governor of Tasmania presented the Australian Fire Service Medal to Greg Williams, Volunteer Firefighter / Fire Education Officer; Gerald Aulich, Group Officer Golden Gate; and Garry Sullivan, Manager Communications.

Greg Williams joined the TFS as a volunteer firefighter with the Devonport Brigade in 1982. For 12 years Greg served in the role of First Officer at Devonport (from 1994 – 2006). Greg remains as a volunteer member at Devonport today. Since 2000 Greg has worked full time for the TFS as a Fire Education Officer. Greg is well known by school children throughout North West Tasmania. Feedback from teaching staff and parents has always been supportive of the school education programs and Greg's professional and enthusiastic approach. Greg also held a number of senior postings with the Aviation Fire Service from 1973 until 1992.

Gerald Aulich joined the St Marys Brigade in September 1960 and has maintained continuous active membership since that time. In 1998 he was appointed as permit officer. Gerald achieved the wider leadership role of Group Officer in 2005 when he was elected to the role by the brigades of the Golden Gate Group. Gerald's leadership and guidance during the 2006/2007 North East fires was exemplary. Since the fires he has also played a leading role in the St Marys community recovery process.



Greg Williams, Gerald Aulich and Garry Sullivan

Garry Sullivan joined the TFS as a volunteer firefighter with the Fern Tree Brigade in December 1980. In 1992 Garry commenced a full time career with the TFS as a Senior Communications Officer. Currently Garry leads TFS's Communications Division as Manager Communications and continues with his volunteer commitment at the Fern Tree Brigade where he is third officer and fire permit officer. Garry has made a significant contribution to establishing and maintaining a reliable and effective statewide communications network for Tasmania's 230 brigades. Garry also leads the project enabling TFS's 5,000 members to respond using alpha-numeric pagers.



Operational Preparedness:

Planning your fire attack the night before

By Deputy Regional Chief, Chris Arnol

Urban interface fire on Mt Nelson - Hobart October 2006 - photo courtesy of the Mercury

Most firefighters dread the prospect of defending hundreds of homes from a major bushfire running through them. These are complex, chaotic operations, quite different from the more routine bushfires we attend; they require a high concentration of resources to be quickly mobilised and organised. The TFS motto is 'Always Ready' but are we *really* ready?

How many times have you responded to a fire; and there you are chaffing at the bit; ready for action. It is 30 something degrees, a hot northerly blowing, you can see crown fires licking at the base of the dense smoke plume in the distance. You know the fire is threatening homes, and your mates on the radio want help yesterday; but there you are, in the staging area, simply hanging around waiting to be told what to do. Yep, all dressed up but nowhere to go! and the wait seems like an eternity. Frustration begins to creep in, as some say 'Here we go again; hurry up and wait!'

Why does this happen? After all, we *are* always ready. We do *mobilise* quickly. But getting to the incident is really only the start. It is what we do when we get there that counts. The problem is ... we don't *organise* quickly. We cannot expect

to just throw more firefighters at a fire and hope it will simply go out. That's a bit like running onto the football field but not knowing which way you are kicking. It takes a while to work out what is going on ... but after quarter time when the coach gives you a game plan you really start kicking some goals.

No matter what size the fire we must have a *plan of attack* and *coordinated* operations. The sooner that happens the better. When I think back to some of the large fires I have attended (structural or bushfire) it has often taken us a while to really get organised. So how can we get ahead of the curve?

Well, we can improve the way we are organised on arrival by:

- Anticipating bushfire conditions,
- Measured weight of response
- Containing newly reported fires quickly (if possible) and
- Using Strike Teams more regularly

This is particularly important in areas where urban interface fires can be expected.

Firefighting strategies link directly to the Forest Fire Danger

The TFS motto is 'Always Ready' but are we really ready?

Rating (refer FDR chart below). At the 'Very High' and 'Extreme' end of the spectrum, McArthur tells us that bushfires will spread quickly. In a fuel load of 15 tonnes/ha, with a FDR of 'Very High – 30' we can expect a bushfire to travel 510 metres per hour, 9.5 metre flame heights and spotting distances of 1.2 km.

A crude calculation indicates to me that in 30 minutes each flank could be around 250 metres long and the head fire could be 30% of that, say 60 metres across. While the fire hasn't yet reached potential, I don't think two tankers (our standard 'Hot Day' response) are going to cut the mustard. In this situation it is not unreasonable to expect a greater measure of response, i.e. a Strike Team of 5 Appliances. It is critical to have sufficient resources to overwhelm the fire. It is no good dribbling trucks in one at a time as you think you need them. This to my mind is one of the traps with ICS; the tendency to build up the resourcing to keep pace with the fire; and not to overwhelm it. At this top end of the (McArthur) scale, to have any chance of success, we need to increase our weight of response according to the anticipated or actual fire danger; which the weather man tells us.

The advantages of pre-formed Strike Teams are:

- rapid deployment of a larger firefighting force;
- fireground commanders are incorporated in its structure;
- safety through span of control, pre-set fireground operating frequency;
- there is less confusion, briefings are more efficient, the plan gets through quicker and actions are disciplined and decisive.

In short, it is easier to hit the ground running. We don't have to wait until everyone arrives to brief them en-mass or brief each crew individually as they turn up then send them off to join the others - listening to them crowd the radio waves as they try to find each other.

When conditions are 'Extreme' reality truly hits home. Firefighters can't get on top of things fast or the fire will be dictating the operating terms; not us. On these 'blow up' days we are unlikely to control the fire in any meaningful way if it decides to take a run in the hot afternoon. Sure we can work along the flanks but we must be prepared to go defensive and protect homes. Here again is where the Strike Team comes into its own; by making the coordination of a large firefighting workforce easier.

For organisation like ours urban interface fires are a defining moment. This is where our organisations is truly tested and where the community expects us to perform at our best. We have to ask a lot of ourselves. This year defensive tactics are being incorporated into our bushfire training programs. We are introducing additional preparedness levels and pre-forming strike teams within districts. We should plan to put enough

resources on the ground to get on top of any new fires. Good preparedness is more than just running out on the ground, the trick is being able to swing into action quickly. Our game plan is to have a measured response and use strike teams so we are virtually *organised on arrival* to win the day.

Fire Danger Rating	Fire Suppression Potential
0 to 5	Hand tools effective on head, flank and back fires
6 to 12	Machinery and/or water required for head fires Crews effective on back and most flank fires
13 to 24	Head attack requires wide fire breaks, helicopters, water and/or machinery Flank requires machinery and/or water Hand crews effective on back fires
25 to 50	Head attack not possible Indirect attack very difficult Flank and back fire suppression requires wide fire breaks along with helicopters, water and/or machinery Safety major concern
>50	Direct attack not possible. Indirect attack high risk and has high probability of failing

Forest Fire Danger Index	Fuel (t/ha)	Rate of Spread (km/hr)	Flame Height (metres)	Spotting Distance (km)
25 - Very High	15	0.43	8.0	1.2
30 - Very High	15	0.51	9.5	1.5
50 - Extreme	15	0.85	14.0	2.8
70 - Extreme	10	0.78	11.0	2.5
70 - Extreme	15	1.02	>14.0	3.2

Extract from chart of fire behaviour relationship on the back of McArthur's Forest Fire Danger Meter MkV (1973)



Ground breaking firefighting research

Videoring handline construction at the Three Thumbs fire

By Manager Fire Operations - Parks & Wildlife Service, Adrian Pyrke
Photos from Adrian Pyrke and Steve Summers (PWS)



Videoring mop-up at the Three Thumbs fire

For bushfires, what activities does a volunteer tanker-based firefighter do in an average day's work? How far do they walk? What kind of load or stress does the work place on the firefighter's body? How fit do they need to be to do these tasks? These are some of the questions that are the focus of the study being undertaken by researchers from Deakin University, ably assisted by the Tasmania Fire Service, Parks & Wildlife Service and Forestry Tasmania. The project is funded by the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre.

In October 2008, some volunteer firefighters from the TFS were "wired up" with a heart monitor and GPS tracker at the start of their work shifts on wildfires near Orford and Grove and a planned fire at Ansons Bay. The volunteers were also shadowed during their shift by a research assistant recording their every movement with a video camera. It must have made them feel a bit self conscious, however, the researchers were not there to spy on the volunteers' work quality. They wanted to categorise the work into defined tasks, for example, on the end of a branch, pump operation, rake hoeing, etc, and then relate heart rate and movement to these work tasks.

How far do they walk?
What kind of load or stress
does the work place on the
firefighter's body?
How fit do they need
to be to do these tasks?



Researcher Matthew Phillips from Deakin University briefing firefighters at the Ansons Bay Fire Station



Volunteer firefighters 'wired up' at the briefing



Lighting up the Ansons Bay fuel reduction burn



Measurement and preparation of volunteer subjects

This research is ground breaking work that will give a much better understanding of the physiological demands placed on volunteer firefighters. The unique part of the research is the linking of video footage with heart rate and movement data.

The project was a logistical challenge for the Tasmanian agencies. Coordinating researchers, firefighters and actual fires took some organising. The research assistants were mostly young undergraduate students with little or no bushfire experience and ensuring their safety was an issue. Senior Station Officer Neil Brooksbank provided them with basic fire training and undertook most of the coordinating tasks. See *Neil's article* on page 72.

Many thanks to all people that assisted with this important research, particularly the TFS volunteers and staff and the fire crew from the Parks & Wildlife Service. **AP**



Taking video of simulated firefighting at the Three Thumbs fire



Neil Brooksbank and Researcher Matthew Phillips planning the day



Taking video of pump operation at Basin Hill, Grove



Videoing handline construction at the Three Thumbs fire



Videoing mop-up at the Three Thumbs fire



Dr Kevin Netto and Deakin University researchers checking that all GPS and heart monitor data is working

Developing the Crew Leader

By District Officer Learning & Development, Steve Lowe

Following a review of leadership training offered to firefighters by Learning & Development, a need for crew leader development within the TFS was identified.

The course was developed throughout 2008 and delivered in the Northern Region to both experienced career and volunteer personnel with very positive comment received from all those who attended the courses.

The full day training covers a wide range of topics and details the responsibilities of the crew leader role which include:

- Making the transition from firefighter to leader;
- Leadership;
- Managing personnel;
- Empowerment and delegation;
- Improving performance;
- Briefing;
- Providing and receiving feedback;
- Maintaining discipline;
- Fireground responsibilities;
- Working with machinery and aircraft;
- Backburning;
- Triage.

The course was developed to enable experienced firefighters to take control of a crew in support of an Incident Controller

managing the emergency response. The responding officer (Incident Controller) is freed up to focus on the incident management responsibilities required to maintain command and control of the incident and delegate the supervision and tasking of each individual crew to trained crew leaders.

It is expected the crew leader role may assist with brigade officer succession through providing an opportunity for the experienced firefighters within brigades to take on some leadership responsibility and develop their leadership skills before transitioning to officer level within their brigade. The development of the skills required to take command of and control an emergency incident will now be managed in smaller steps and be less daunting for many firefighters with the introduction of crew leader development being undertaken before completing supervise response.

TFS management are currently discussing the possibility of the crew leader training becoming a requirement for election to officer level within brigades, with brigade officers completing supervise response once elected into an officer position.

Crew leader training will be delivered statewide from this year and requires those nominating to attend to have fireground experience and have completed suppress wildfire and ICS training. **SL**

Try out the new brigade recruitment toolkit

By Coordinator Volunteer Support, Lucas van Rijswijk

Does your brigade need more volunteers? Do you need ideas about how to get them? We may be able to help.

Last year the TFS and volunteer associations worked together to develop a *Volunteer Recruitment Toolkit*. This kit includes a manual, pamphlets, contact cards and posters. Colourful banners and flags were also made.

New volunteers can help to keep your brigade vibrant and active. Inducting new people can give you new ways of looking at what you do. They can also help to make your training more relevant. The trick is to recruit the right people!

The Toolkit asks your brigade to think carefully about what kind of volunteer it needs. For example, do you need volunteers mainly for callouts during the day? Or on the weekend? Do you need volunteers to help mainly with maintenance or administration? It is important to be very clear what you need.

The manual in the Toolkit talks your brigade members through these questions. It then helps you to plan a well organised campaign. The posters, pamphlets and contact cards make it easier. The manual is very clear and simple. If you follow the steps it will increase your chances of getting the volunteers you need.

Interested? If you'd like to try the kit and materials please contact your local District Officer. He will arrange a session on how to use the materials. What are you waiting for? **LvR**



Helicopter water bombing demonstration

By Senior Station Officer State Operations, Danny Reid



Pilot Dave Hauber in "the office"



721 filling – 1400 litres in 35 seconds

1.4 tonnes of water - keep clear of the drop zone!

On Tuesday 27th January a helicopter water bombing demonstration was held at the TFS Training complex at Cambridge. The purpose of the demonstration was to showcase the Bell 212 medium helicopter, Helitack 721 and its capability as a water bomber and to formally start the fire season contract for Firebird 701 a Eurocopter AS 355F-1 Squirrel from Helicopter Resources.

To start the proceedings Firebird 701 resplendent in its new red colour scheme flew in and landed in front of the museum shed. One of the members commented that if he had known it was coming in so close he would have opened the doors and let it come inside.

After the arrival of Minister Jim Cox, Helitack 721 flew in and filled up its 1400 litre belly tank from a 7500 litre floating collar dam set up in the Training Services carpark. It then hovered and dropped the water, circled around, filled up again and made a second drop along the edge of the carpark.

After the second drop 721 landed in the carpark where it was inspected by the Minister and media representatives while Dave Hauber the Canadian pilot explained the major features of the machine and its capabilities.

Acting Chief Officer Tony Davidson addressed the media and onlookers then handed over to the Minister who confirmed ongoing Government support for aircraft use at fires.

The focus then moved to Firebird 701 where Chief Pilot Simon Taylor explained the features of the machine and its capabilities to the Minister and his party.

As a timely and fitting end to the demonstration Helitack 721 was deployed to a fire in bushland behind Chigwell where it was able drop several loads of water and contain the fire until ground crews arrived.

As a timely and fitting end to the demonstration Helitack 721 was deployed to a fire in bushland behind Chigwell where it was able drop several loads of water and contain the fire until ground crews arrived.

Some of the major features of the two aircraft are listed below:

Helitack 721

- Bell 212 twin engine medium helicopter
- Endurance with full payload 2 hours 40 minutes
- Seating capacity 11 without long range fuel tanks
- Belly tank capacity 1400 litres
- Bucket capacity 1500 litres
- Lifting hook capacity 2250 kg
- Fuel consumption 400 litres per hour

Firebird 701

- Eurocopter AS355F-1 twin engine Squirrel
- Endurance with full payload 3 hours 36 minutes
- Seating capacity 5
- Bucket capacity 545 litres
- Lifting hook capacity 1100 kg
- Aerial incendiary capable

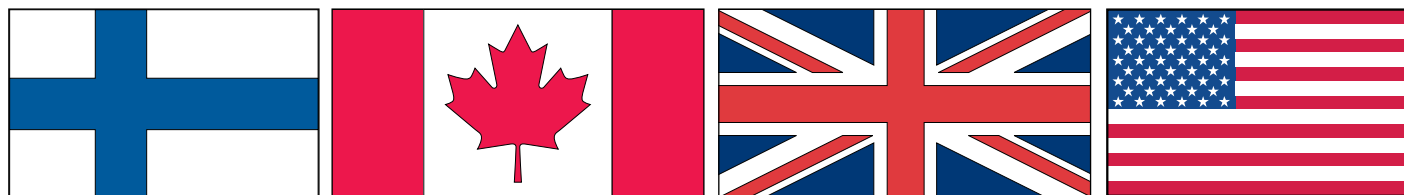
DR



701 in its new colour scheme

The International Firefighter Fellowship Exchange Program

By IFFEP State Coordinator, Chris Tomes



Recent exchange enquiries from Finland, Canada, UK, Scotland and America have prompted me to remind interested firefighters of the International Firefighter Fellowship Exchange Program (IFFEP).

The IFFEP has been running since 1992 with over 100 firefighters across Australia having the experience of spending time in an overseas fire service. In more recent years, the program has also been available for exchanges within Australia and New Zealand.

Returning firefighters always comment on the valuable experiences they have whilst on exchange. As the international and national fire service communities embrace exchanges as part of staff development, practices are being refined to make the programs run smoothly.

As valuable as the program is, applicants need to consider all aspects of the exchange before committing to the program. The application process is extensive and complex. In addition to the challenge of finding a suitable exchange partner, the TFS has a selection process to ensure you will represent them in a professional manner and also be able to add value to your role upon return, based on what you have learned for your experience.

Having said that, if you are dedicated, professional, flexible and lucky enough to be successful in your exchange application, the memories and experience gained from the exchange will remain with you for your lifetime.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for the exchange program, you will need to contact me, Chris Tomes the Tasmanian IFFEP Coordinator. As a general rule, to participate in the program, you will need to complete a comprehensive application form. This form will cover details such as your current role and previous experience, the accommodation you are offering for the exchange (including pictures) and general domestic/personal information such as accompanying family members.

A detailed assessment process determines whether an applicant is deemed suitable, under the IFFEP guidelines, to be endorsed by the TFS to proceed with an exchange. Please contact me if you require further details.

Often the most complex part of the IFFEP process is locating a suitable person to exchange with. Generally that will be the individual's responsibility, not the coordinator or the TFS, however, I often receive enquiries about potential exchanges from firefighters around the world. I am happy to pass this information onto interested TFS firefighters.

Once you have negotiated a potential exchange with an overseas counterpart, you will also need to complete an Exchange Deed, which secures your formal commitment to the exchange.

Please note this is a firefighter exchange only. If you are an officer, and the TFS agrees, it is possible to drop to the rank of firefighter for the period of the exchange to allow an exchange to occur, reverting to your original rank upon return to TFS.

To be eligible to apply for this program you need a minimum of 4 years career experience as a firefighter.

THE IFFEP STATE COORDINATOR

For the program to run smoothly and at minimum cost, it is important that the coordination of applicants is managed carefully. The most important people in keeping the show on the road are the coordinators in each Fire Service. They are the point of contact, who distribute information to their applicants and keep relevant people informed of the progress of exchanges. These people also offer valuable, ongoing support to exchange firefighters and their families during their stay.

The IFFEP State Coordinator is appointed by the Fire Service to manage the actual exchange throughout the course of the year. They are the point of contact for the other fire service to work through all aspects of the exchange processes required to facilitate the exchange.

Chris Tomes the Tasmanian IFFEP Coordinator is your point of contact for all IFFEP enquiries. (In the past the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) has had some involvement in coordinating exchanges. This no longer the case)

AFAC and the IFFEP State Coordinators are currently working on a national website for the exchange program. This will enable overseas firefighters to visit the website and be redirected to the state of choice. The site is not currently operating. **CT**

Have a question or query? Need an IFFEP information pack? Then contact:

Chris Tomes, IFFEP State Coordinator, Phone 6230 8443 or 0419 120 159 or email c.tomes@fire.tas.gov.au or visit the TFS web <http://www.fire.tas.gov.au/mysite/Show?pagelD=colViewIFF>

What are you worth?

By Coordinator Organisational Development, Steve Willing

TFS volunteers and staff have immense value to the organisation and the community.

But I have a question for you. **What is your net worth** to your brigade or section? Are you a contributor or a drain? (I cheated - that's 2 questions)

The majority of people in the TFS are very good at their tasks and great with other people. You can probably think of a few who are ordinary with tasks, or with people – or both.

In my role, I tend to come across many people who are good at their tasks ... but not so good at dealing with other people. The effect of that is destructive, de-motivating and drives people away.

Common traits I've observed in long running issues are:

- Defensiveness: "I haven't done anything wrong!" It's more effective to ask "why do you feel that way", and then really listen. You will learn something.
- Retaliation: "But look what they did!" Diversion tactics and smoke screens. Be accountable for your own actions.
- Not listening: The message you'll send is "I don't care". In this organisation it's your job to care about everyone, whether you're a volunteer or career member.
- Pride: "I'm not giving an inch because I don't want to give them the satisfaction of winning". I win, you lose - that's the approach of a small mind that is not really willing to resolve anything. Give a bit of ground – or a lot.
- Inflexibility: "There is only one way to do this right." There are usually many 'right ways'. Shutting them down stifles creativity and progress. Open your mind and accept other ways.

- Command and control (only): "Do what I say because I tell you". That works in emergency situations – that's when we need to know when to jump. But in day-to-day running of a brigade or workplace, using an authoritarian style reduces peoples' initiative, investment and responsibility. Tasks are done by people, so if you want tasks done well, relate to the people.

If you drag out small issues that could be resolved with an open conversation and a bit of give and take on both sides, you tie up resources. Those resources can be better used to build the organisation and tackle significant issues. I'm not talking about genuine significant grievances - everyone has a right to raise those and the organisation does take them seriously.

How many good workers are really worth 2 average workers? Not many! If you put just one person off their role (or the organisation), you'd better be worth more than 2! If you're not, you've cost the organisation more than you're worth.

You decide whether I'm talking about you; have a look at your own interactions and what you could change. Are you a magnet for trouble (even if it is always 'their' fault)?

Hear this: If you cost the organisation more in people issues than you are worth in technical ability, we cannot sustain you.

Have a look at the people around you – how can you recognise, value, assist, encourage and relate to them better? These actions are signs of mature relationships. I know that's what most of you do, and with roles as important as ours, that's what we need. We are worthy. **SW**

Greg Butters - Bachelor of Adult & Vocational Education

After starting his degree with the University of Tasmania in 2004 Greg has finally finished his Bachelor of Adult and Vocational Education (BAVE), graduating on 16 December 2008. Greg is currently working as the District Officer Learning and Development South and believes this particular degree will certainly complement his role within career and volunteer training.

Having this qualification will also provide Greg with the opportunity to enhance what really is adult education in a fire and emergency service context.

His course of study covered a diverse range of subjects (17 units) relevant to adult learning and teaching; including subjects on teaching in general, adult learning principles, issues and contexts, instructional design, literacy and numeracy, research practice and methods.

Greg said that the TFS was fantastic in supporting his studies and that on reflection it was worth all the hard work and long hours, however, he is pleased to be finished and looks forward to the "after work hours" being spent with his family and not having to worry too much about completing assignments. I think he has also re-joined the golf club!

Well done on your achievements Greg!



GREG BUTTERS



Learning the ropes – a visit to the NW

By Coordinator Volunteer Support, Lucas van Rijswijk

Forth Brigade

As a "newbie" to the TFS I have a lot to learn. I'm finding that though we all share a lot in common each brigade can be quite different.

To get my head around my job I'm trying to visit brigades in each region. With the help of District Officer Paul Hill I visited six brigades in the North West. What I saw was an inspiration.

Paul and I visited the brigades over two nights. Travelling with Paul made me aware of how important the role of the district officer is. Paul's obvious pride in the brigades and his knowledge of their work was encouraging. Many do not see the many kilometres district officers travel or the late hours they work.

On Monday night, our first stop was Forth Brigade. While small, it is very active and had 24 callouts in the last six months. In what was to be a pattern for the night we were made to feel very welcome. There was quiet talk about recent events and what the brigade was doing. The brigade is also very active in its local community. The brigade knows that its community links are important. It has supported the Forth Blues Festival, the school fair, Christmas parade and Ulverstone Band dinner, to name a few. I was impressed by their strong commitment to TFS and to their local community.

All too soon it was time to leave. Our next stop was Melrose Brigade.



Melrose Brigade



Latrobe Brigade

**You have to be impressed with the
friendliness, consideration
and commitment shown
by our volunteers.**

We were met at the station and taken to where the brigade was training. The members were burning off a large pile of timber in a pit. The brigade places a very strong emphasis on practical training. The size of the brigade and its mixture of ages show how practical training keeps members involved and skilled.

Melrose also puts a lot of energy into fuel reduction burns. Again this keeps people involved. Their work helps their local community to prevent fires by reducing hazards. I felt that Melrose was a great model for other brigades to consider. Practical training and hazard reduction are important elements of TFS work.

A quick chat, a few photos, and we were off again. It was getting quite late. Next stop – Latrobe.

Hmm ... how to describe Latrobe? I think "lively" fits well. When we arrived everybody was still at the brigade, despite it being so late. There was a lot of good-natured banter and rivalry. This was a bit confronting at first. It seems that the good-natured teasing is a feature of this brigade that has just celebrated its 125th year. It has also just recruited its first woman member – an important milestone for the brigade.

Latrobe is a large and enthusiastic brigade. It also has a strong commitment to its community. It has an emphasis on community fire safety, with school visits and involvement with the Scout movement. Another example is its involvement in the Henley on Mersey regatta.

Time for a quick drink and back to my hotel. I got in just before midnight. TFS volunteers certainly keep late hours.

The following night Paul and I visited three more brigades. We went to Sassafras Brigade first. Sassafras was delightfully informal. We were made to feel very welcome and everyone was clearly having a lot of fun. About half the members are women. As well, the great range in ages is evidence of how vibrant the brigade is.



Sassafras Brigade



Moriarty Brigade

It seems that Sassafras is also famous for its catering skills. There were too many examples for me to remember. Strong community links seem to be indicative of strong brigades. Also, the friendly nature of the brigade and the consideration members showed each other was inspirational.

It was time to leave. We were running late and Moriarty was next. The first impressions of Moriarty were its friendliness and how well organised it looked. The brigade is justly proud of its work and kit.

Moriarty is a very active brigade and is very family oriented. It has a number of husband and wife teams (or should I say partners?) There was a lot to learn and discuss. It was hard to



Ulverstone Brigade

leave and it was getting very late when we finally hit the road.

Ulverstone was our last visit for the night. Despite it being very late there were still many members at the station. The brigade had responded to two fires on the day. Despite the time already spent on the job, the members still attended training and carried out the usual maintenance tasks. It was good to be able to listen to what had happened at the day's callouts and to get a sense of the work involved. Talk also turned to broader issues, like TFS training.

It was close to midnight again when we left Ulverstone. As we left the lights were still on in the station. You have to be impressed with the friendliness, consideration and commitment shown by our volunteers. **LvR**

Guidelines for the reimbursement of lost/damaged personal belongings

By Director Corporate Services, Mike Gallagher

From time to time members of the TFS may unavoidably lose or damage their personal belongings at work. In certain circumstances the TFS will reimburse members who are financially disadvantaged by these occurrences.

The TFS now covers losses under its Industrial Special Risk Policy but the emphasis remains on an individual to prove the loss and verify the cost of the loss. Proof of the loss may be a witness statement verifying that they saw the individual with the item and proof of ownership could be a purchase receipt.

Guidelines are detailed below and individuals are requested to follow the guidelines and have their insurance claim approved prior to purchasing a replacement item and seeking reimbursement.

Reimbursement

TFS will reimburse members for those personal items that they are required to be worn by the member. Those personal items include prescription glasses, hearing aids and mobile phones. Personal items such as cameras and MP3 players along with other electronic equipment will generally not be covered,

however, where extenuating circumstances exist a decision will be made on a case by case basis.

Insurance

The current Industrial Special Risk Policy covers TFS Employees/Volunteers for personal property whilst on TFS premises to a maximum of \$10,000 per claim and with a limit of \$1,000 per member.

The current Motor Vehicle Policy covers the property of TFS members involved in an accident and incurring a personal loss. Property is covered up to \$1,000 for any one loss.

Action on Loss

When a member experiences a loss of personal belonging they are, as soon as practicable, to advise their supervisor and complete an insurance claim. The insurance claim is to be signed by the member experiencing the loss and then forward to their District Officer/Manager who will countersign and on forward to the Executive Office (Assets) (EO(A)) for processing. The EO(A) will liaise with the District Officer/Manager and TFS Insurance Brokers with regard to the claim. **MWG**

Tracey has a “Clean Conscience”

Firefighter Tracey Duggan has left the TFS to work full time in her business “Clean Conscience”. Clean Conscience is a small company run by Tracey along with Andrew Skelly, Cathy Craw, and Maria Gerathy. Tracey says the company aims to provide a true green cleaning product that is safe for families and the environment.

Tracey started work at the TFS as a Finance Clerk in January 1990 and was promoted to Team Leader in November 1993, a position she held until her appointment as a probationary firefighter on 20 June 1994.

Tracey was the TFS’s first career female firefighter and in many ways paved the way for females in career brigades.

She was the captain of the Tassie Islanders basketball team and this background in sports certainly helped her cope with the demands that were placed on her in those early days. She quickly gained the respect and admiration of all the firefighters and officers at the Hobart Brigade and was never known to shirk a task or a job, however, she did slow down one day after being bitten by a snake at a bushfire.

While she tried her best to avoid the limelight, Tracey was always willing to promote the TFS as a great career for females. She was regularly sought after for television promotions and newspaper articles.

Having Tracey in the Brigade caused a change in attitude over the years and looking back she and the other females who followed certainly had, and have, a very positive effect on the brigade as a whole.

After fourteen years as a firefighter and eighteen years in the TFS Tracey is now able to put her time and energy into her business. We wish her every success in her venture.

Go “Truck”!



Tracey on her first day in the job
Photo courtesy of The Mercury

If you'd like to contact Tracey you can get her at Clean Conscience on 6223 3391 or info@cleanconscience.com.au



Five year long service badge award

As a result of correspondence from volunteer representative groups and discussions with the Volunteer State Consultative Committee, it has been decided to extend TFS’s service award system to include a 5 year service award.

Whilst our volunteer numbers remain reasonably healthy it is noted that in today’s busy world there are changes in the ways volunteers commit to their roles. Many volunteers are providing service in shorter time frames with some leaving

for a few years and often returning later, therefore it is important to provide appropriate recognition.

The new 5 year badges will be issued for 1 July 2009 to those with more than 5 years (but less than 10 years) service. Members may proudly wear their service badges (the latest only) on their right breast with uniform or on their left lapel with civilian dress.

Recipients of 5 year long service awards will be not listed under ‘Awards’ in Fireground. (Ed)

TFS community development strategy: A new direction for bushfire preparedness in 2009

By Manager Community Education Sandra Barber & Consultant Chris Tomes

The Community Education Unit has employed a Community Development Officer (CDO) to further the work being done to address community safety in bushfires. This is a new direction for TFS, building on the success of the *Bushfire: prepare to survive* DVD and social marketing strategy.

CDO Kerry Sakariassen comes to us after spending the last six years as the community development manager for Tasman Council. Kerry recently led the development of a bushfire risk management kit developed primarily to help residents living along no-through roads in bushfire prone areas. Kerry worked with TFS staff and local firefighters, as well as residents, to develop the kit. The Council subsequently received a 'highly commended' award for this project at the 2008 National Safer Communities Awards ceremony in Canberra.

Our previous strategies have all been based on information provision: telling communities what we want them to do and how to do it. In addition to continuing this approach, Kerry will engage with identified communities to help them develop their own local strategies for bushfire safety. The aim is to increase community resilience and self-reliance, and reduce reliance on TFS.



Continuum of community participation

Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
Agency provides information to community that is accurate & reliable	Agency obtains community feedback	Agency works directly with the community to ensure their views are understood & considered	Agency partners with community in all aspects of the process	Community owns the process & the outcomes



What is community development?

Community development means empowering communities to take collective responsibility for their own development. This includes the development of ongoing structures and processes that communities can use to identify and address their own issues, needs and problems in their own way. The role of community development workers is to facilitate this development.

Community development is a new approach to bushfire safety for TFS. Our previous strategies have all been based on information provision (telling communities what we want them to do and how to do it). In addition to continuing this approach, the new Community Development Officer will engage with identified communities in developing their own local strategies for bushfire safety. The aim is to increase community resilience and self-reliance, and reduce reliance on TFS.

Why the change in approach?

Thanks to the three-year *Bushfire: prepare to survive* campaign, there is now a very high level of awareness of bushfire risk in Tasmania. The campaign effectively targeted at-risk areas with information and social marketing. Many households in bushfire-prone areas have increased their preparedness.

However, national Bushfire CRC and local campaign research shows that there are still households that are not prepared for bushfire, and could place their safety at risk by leaving at the last minute. The research also shows that different approaches may be needed to change the behaviour of those who have not responded to information provision strategies. Community development is an approach that has been shown to be successful in changing behaviour, by accessing existing community networks and resources and supporting communities to develop specific local strategies.

Thanks to the
three-year Bushfire:
prepare to survive
campaign, there is now
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awareness of bushfire risk
in Tasmania.

What will the Community Development Officer be doing?

- Working collaboratively with Bushfire CRC researchers;
- Consulting with TFS stakeholders;
- Working closely with a few (two to four) identified communities in bushfire-prone areas;
- Identifying existing networks and resources in the identified communities;
- Consulting and engaging with the identified communities regarding bushfire, risk, prevention and preparedness;
- Facilitating these communities' access to TFS and other resources;
- Facilitating these communities' development and implementation of specific local strategies for bushfire prevention, preparedness and resilience;
- Consulting and engaging with health and community service providers regarding home fire safety issues for their clients (*Project Wake Up!* evaluation); and
- Assisting with the development of collaborative home fire safety strategies for elderly people and people with disabilities living in the community (*Project Wake Up!* evaluation).

The CDO will be employed on a two year contract to undertake these activities, applying and contributing to Bushfire CRC research in community bushfire preparedness. If this strategy is successful, there may be potential for it to continue.

Other fire safety activities will continue in parallel to the community development initiative. The Community Education Unit will continue to run fire safety campaigns and produce and distribute fire safety resources. Firefighters and brigades will continue to play a vital role disseminating fire safety information through their networks and through community events and activities. **SB&CT**

Need more info? Have a question or query? Then contact Sandra Barber, Manager Community Education on 6230 8641 or sandra.barber@fire.tas.gov.au

Safety week activities – Stowport/Natone Brigade

By Brigade Chief Stowport/Natone Brigade, Fiona Tustian



Stowport/Natone – still smiling afterwards!

On Tuesday 21st October members of Stowport/Natone Brigade set out on a walk as part of the Safety Week Activities.

Things didn't look good at the start as drenching rain hit the station just as we were giving a safety brief and temperatures were already unseasonably low.

We steeled ourselves and headed out the door into the elements. Down the road we trudged, er, I mean set forth with vigour and enthusiasm with a 5.1 in the lead and our 3.1 taking up the rear to keep us a bit safer on our narrow country roads.

The rain actually stopped for us while we walked (someone obviously sent the right request upstairs).

It was a great opportunity to get out in our community and be seen doing something a little different. We certainly came across some very surprised locals along our way.

Despite the bad weather I can safely say a good time was had by all, even though the temperature dropped to below zero that night. We donated funds raised to the local primary school which was very appreciative. **FT**



TFS logs onto the AFAC Knowledge Web

By AFAC Communications Manager, Jay Gleeson

The AFAC Knowledge Web is the fire, land management and emergency service industry's new knowledge sharing website. Its creation is a joint project of AFAC and the Bushfire CRC with the support from key staff in each AFAC member agency, including the TFS.

The Knowledge Web contains research from the Bushfire CRC, Tropical Savannas CRC, Australian and New Zealand fire agencies, Australian SES operations, Australian and New Zealand land management agencies and international fire and land management research organisations. The site was launched in September 2008 and is now open for member registration.

As an AFAC member organisation, membership of the Knowledge Web is open to all staff and volunteers from TFS. While much of the latest research is publicly accessible on the site, the real power of the Knowledge Web comes from the information available only to members.

The member's area of the Knowledge Web has been set up to allow agencies to share their operational, administrative, community safety, community education, volunteer support, recruitment and strategic resources in a secure environment not accessible to the public. Members of the Knowledge Web are building a central repository of the industry's accumulated knowledge, to be accessible to everyone in the industry for review and re-use.

Imagine the possibilities, you are revising your agencies guidelines for building protection zones and you're interested in seeing what other agencies have produced. You can simply logon to the Knowledge Web and find guidelines for building protection zones from all AFAC agencies.

Perhaps you're trying to develop some new juvenile arson prevention programs. You will be able to reference what other agencies are doing on the Knowledge Web.

Maybe you're an urban firefighter who wants to learn more on new vehicle construction road rescue, once again the Knowledge Web can be your first port of call.

The applications are almost endless - codes of practice, standing orders, standing operating procedures, guidelines, specifications, community education

programs, policies, HR, OH&S, risk planning. When you begin to consider all the resources that support the business of fire service operations you can quickly begin to see the potential benefits of all agencies sharing this information on the Knowledge Web.

The Knowledge Web features a range of collaborative features such as forums, posting comments, document uploads, electronic alerts and e-newsletters. These features allow members to:

- upload documents to the site to share with other agencies;
- view and download material that other agencies choose to share;
- participate in forums and post comments on documents;
- subscribe to email and newsletter communications; and
- post events to the calendar.



As the Knowledge Web grows, online communities of interest will be created to allow members to discuss and share their knowledge and experiences in online forums. Video and audio applications will also become a key part of the site. AFAC will be able to engage with all levels of the sector, conduct industry polling and seek wider consultation on the issues that matter.

TFS representatives on AFAC Groups have already begun to use the Knowledge Web to progress their work in an online environment. Each AFAC Group has its own collaborative work space where they share documents, post comments and participate in forums and co-author papers.

While the AFAC Knowledge Web is in its infancy, there are already thousands of documents posted on the site and it is growing by day. As membership grows so too will the contributions from agencies, and the industry will soon have the central knowledge resource it has been striving for.

TFS staff and volunteers can sign up as members by visiting www.afac-kw.com and clicking the 'register here' link in the top right hand corner.

If you have a TFS email address, that is @fire.tas.gov.au then click on the "I have an email address – [join now](#)" link. Your membership should be approved within 24-48 hours.

If you are a volunteer without a TFS email address click the "I don't have an email address - [register here](#)" link. This will require you to fill out a form. AFAC will then check you're a registered TFS Volunteer with the TFS, your membership may take 1-2 weeks depending on how long it takes to verify with TFS.

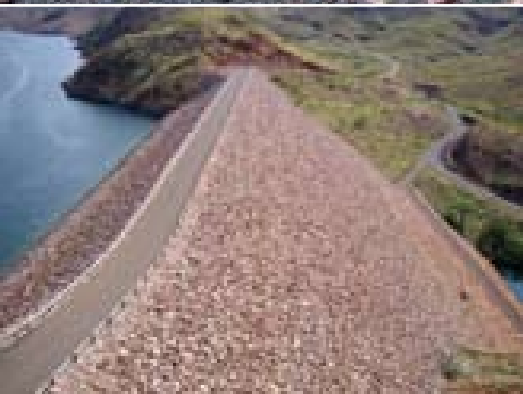
So visit www.afac-kw.com today and help support the Knowledge Web by becoming a member. **JG**

Maybe you're an urban firefighter who wants to learn more on new vehicle construction road rescue, once again the Knowledge Web can be your first port of call.



Top End *Fire Brigade*

By Member Lauderdale Brigade, John Brassington



Brigade Chief Andrew Ogilvie, John Brassington and Shayne McKinlay



Last October the Wunan Foundation offered me a three-month period of work with their building and construction arm to do estimating and job scheduling. The foundation provides work and training for the indigenous community in Kununurra.

Kununurra is the youngest town in Western Australia (1960) and was developed due to the Ord River Irrigation Scheme. Kununurra (population 6000) is in the top north east part of Western Australia known as the Kimberlys. The Ord River has a massive catchment area and during the wet season huge quantities of water flow and flood vast areas. The Argyle Dam was built to hold these flood waters so that an irrigation scheme could be developed. The dam now holds somewhere between 12 to 18 times the amount of water in Sydney Harbour. A hydro electric scheme has been built to supply electricity to Kununurra and Wyndham and 65% of the energy goes to the Argyle Diamond Mine which is located 200 km south of Kununurra.

The Argyle Diamond Mine is the largest diamond mine in the world. At present only 3% of the water is used for irrigation purposes and so 97% flows out to sea.

Whilst there I thought it would be a good opportunity to see how their volunteer fire brigade functioned. District Officer Gavin Freeman provided me with TFS T-shirts and of course a couple of DVD's. Armed with these gifts I visited the Kununurra Fire Station to see how they operated, what equipment they had, and more particularly what differences there were between them and the Tasmanian system.

The brigade has a membership of 12 dedicated volunteers both male and female. I was very impressed by the dedication of Brigade Chief Andrew Ogilvie and his crew. Every Saturday morning they spend two hours doing an equipment check and every Thursday evening they conduct training exercises. They also have a meeting once a month. Members attend the FESA academy in Perth for a weeks training.

The brigade is equipped with a 3.1 heavy tanker unit very similar to ours carrying 3000 litres of water. In Western Australia they are designated 3.4 units to denote they are 4-wheel drive. They also carry a letter U or R after the 3.4 to define whether the vehicle is equipped for urban or rural firefighting. The unit responds to all structural fires generally within a radius of 20 km from Kununurra and is also the only brigade available for any emergency at the busy regional airport. Their callout system is similar to the old "Mornington" system that some brigades had here.

The brigade is equipped with a 5.1 unit that can tow either of two trailers. One trailer is equipped for road rescue and the brigade's response area is to a distance of 200 km! The other trailer is equipped for confined space rescue and their response radius could be up to 900 km as their nearest neighbouring brigade with similar equipment is at Karratha some 1800 km away. The brigade is equipped with the most up-to-date breathing apparatus and has the new lightweight tanks. As the nearest BA refilling point is in Perth, 3000 km away the brigade is supplied with its own compressor. Each unit has a variety of radios, both short and long range.

Due to the massive distances between towns it is not feasible to move equipment around and members with their own PPE are flown to bushfires when required. Due to the close proximity of the Northern Territory (30 km away) there is an affiliation with their Authority and a very cooperative attitude exists.

The bushfire season in the Kimberlys is between May and October (the dry season) where the annual average rainfall is less than 2 mm per month. The daily average temperature is around 28 degrees. During October to December with the wet season approaching the daily temperature rises to between 38 to 43 degrees and peaked for me at 45 degrees. This is the time for massive thunderstorms, which bring the inevitable lightning strikes to start bushfires. All members are equipped with camelbacks and monitor each other for signs of heat exhaustion.

Bushfire meter signs abound in Kununurra and the local shire is responsible for their accuracy. In my time in Kununurra the meters only moved between "Very High" and "Extreme".

In trying to access the similarity or difference between their bushfires and ours I found that they do not suffer from the high winds that we do and the bush there does not have the same high fuel content. Spot-overs occur there just like here but from a very different source. Their vegetation does not have bark on the trees to form the "candles" as we know them. In the "Top End" bushfires attract large flocks of birds, kites that hover over the fires to feast on the many lizards injured by the fires. They often mistake a smouldering twig for a lizard and carry it out of the fire. When they realise their mistake they let it go and the twig can start a fire some distance from the main fire.

My sincere thanks to Brigade Chief Andrew Ogilvie for the time and information he gave me. It was most inspiring to know that there are dedicated volunteer firefighters throughout Australia the same as those we have in Tasmania. **JB**

Fire Speak



There have been some legendary statements made by some old smoke eating "urbies" over the years, some of you will recognise these:

"You are skating on thick ice matey"

"Alright men, drill time, form half a semi circle"

"This is a 12 metre Kennett Extension ladder, it's main feature is that it is intrinsically safe"

What about the wordback from the Brigade that attended an incident at Reynolds Neck which is essentially an island in Great Lake. The transmission to FireComm went:

"We have a category 1 vegetation fire and are having trouble getting water"

I knew the Lake was down a bit but surely not that much!

Ever wondered why fire calls always come at meal times? maybe if everyone stopped eating we could put Community Fire Safety out of business!

While we are on meal times ... hands up who has rushed out the door and then realised it was the microwave and not the pager?

You know a Firecomm operator is under the pump when they use the proword 'OVER' when they are talking to you on the telephone!

And to close this edition ...

Remember...the worst fire attack plan is no plan ... the next worst is two plans!

Gretna Brigade

By Field Officer Midlands, Paul Horne

Like many other country fire brigades throughout Tasmania the Gretna Brigade was formed following the disastrous 1967 fires in Southern Tasmania.

The brigade's first tanker was an ex Forestry Commission 3 speed 1966 four wheel drive Toyota issued to the brigade by the Rural Fires Board in 1970. Prior to the issue of the tanker, beaters, knapsacks, wet bags, gum bows and farm equipment was used to extinguish fires.

As there were insufficient funds in those times to build a Fire Station it was considered that the most appropriate place for the tanker to be located was at the late Kevin Cashion's property which was situated in central Gretna near the service station, shop and most importantly, the hotel.

This vehicle served its time until replaced by a two wheel drive International in 1990, followed by a FWD International in 1991 and their current tanker, a FWD Mercedes 911 in 1999.

In 1987 funding was allocated to build a two bay Colorbond fire station at Gretna with amenities added about four years later.

Over the last forty years Gretna Brigade has had four brigade chiefs of which two have also doubled up as Group Officers for the Hamilton and Upper Derwent Groups.

Membership of the brigade includes males, females and juniors and the brigade receives solid support from families, friends, local businesses and the local council.

Gretna Brigade was judged the best vegetation brigade in the State in 1996 and the Southern Region in 2000. A junior program was started in 1996 and has proved most successful with one junior, Bonnie Carver selected as one of twelve from Tasmania to go to Victoria and participate in the Junior/Cadet Development Program.

The brigade never misses group exercises and the Midlands District Light tanker competitions where it has been successful once and usually finishes in the top end of the competition.

The brigade supports the TVFBA and has two committee delegates in both the Southern Region and the State Council. These two delegates, Colin Cunningham and Trafford Harvey have both been awarded life memberships of the TVFBA.

Other events Gretna Brigade always takes part in are Project Wake Up, Clean up Australia, Anzac Day Parades, Charity Events, Christmas Lolly Runs, Senior Citizen Fire Safety Visits, State Regional and District Conferences and also has co-hosted State Competitions with Bushy Park.

Participation in the State Competitions by Gretna

started in 1994 and the teams have won medals in several events over the years. The junior team has participated in the last four State Competitions and have won their division the last two years.

At the recent Christmas function junior team members Dylan Hubbard, Nicholas Langford, Anthony Purton, Angus Denholm, Harley Hermans and Tyson Heath were presented with medals by Central Highlands Mayor, Deidre Flint, in recognition of their achievements at the recent State Competitions held at Devonport. Nicholas Langford was also presented with the inaugural junior/cadet of the year award.

Also at the recent Christmas function Midlands District Officer, Gerald Crawford presented Life Membership awards to Brigade Chief Colin Cunningham and Second Officer Trafford Harvey.

With funds raised by the Gretna Brigade and a donation from the Central Highlands Council, along with much research an honour board was put together and presented to the members by Brigade Chief Colin Cunningham at the function.

The honour board displays names of the four brigade chiefs, four secretary/treasurers, ten most dedicated active members and two life members of the Gretna Brigade. **PH**



Back L to R – Anthony Purton, Ross Johnstone, Mandy Butler, Celia Browning, Trafford Harvey, Colin Cunningham, Andrew Main
Front L to R – Tyson Neath, Terry Leeson, Angus Denholm, Nick Langford, Dylan Hubbard, Harley Hermans

Juniors following their win at 2008 State Competitions
Back L to R – Nick Langford, Dylan Hubbard, Anthony Purton
Front L to R – Angus Denholm, Tyson Neath, Harley Hermans



First appliance



Current appliance

What has changed on TFS Online?

By Director Corporate Services, Mike Gallagher

A number of enhancements have been made to TFS Online over the last few years and some minor ones which have been included of late may have missed your attention. These changes are part of the new look and feel of TFS Online and include a change in the look of the main screen. The first thing you will notice is the new colour scheme which will now be used in the majority of our publications.

A list of changes are detailed below and if you have any helpful suggestions please use the TFS Online Feedback menu as we are keen to continue to develop the site.

General

When a member logs onto TFS Online they now go direct to the TFS website regardless of whether they access TFS Online from a work computer or home computer.

The public and TFS member pages have now been merged. This should now make it easier for TFS members to access both public and TFS member pages. The public, however, will not be able to see or access TFS member pages.

Once a member logs onto the TFS website they need to click on the *Members* menu (Refer Caption 1) on the left hand side of the front screen to access the member's area. This will take them to the TFS intranet pages. The duplicate menus in the title bar have been removed whereas the menu access under the *Members* menu still remains. These were the Contact book, Info Centre, Operations and Home.

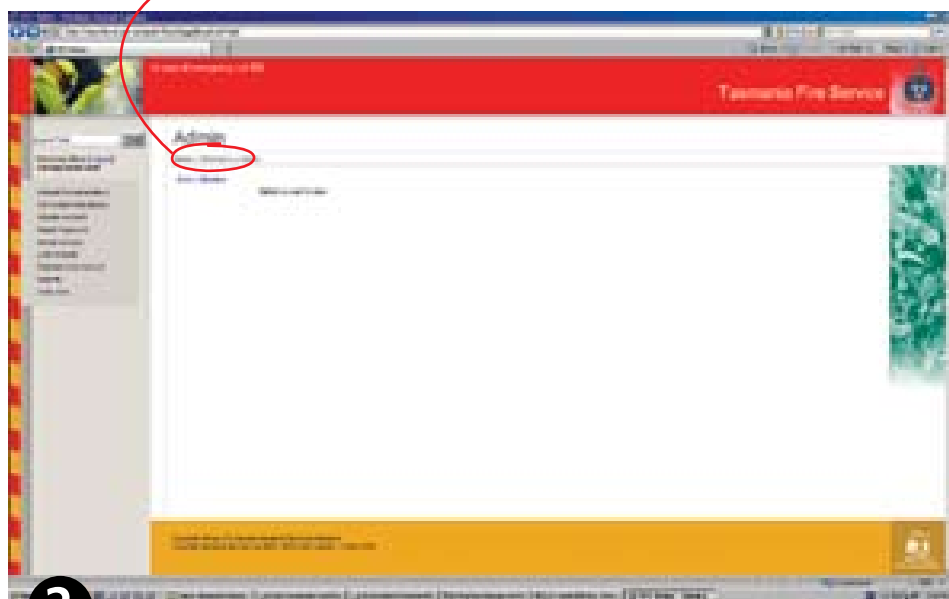
A breadcrumb menu (Refer Caption 2) has been added (eg: [Home](#) » [Members](#) » [My Records](#) » [Change Contact Details](#)) that shows the path you have taken to get to the current page. By clicking on a previous point in the path will take you back to that page.

The search function is now at the top of the main menu.



Members Menu

Breadcrumb Menu



Brigade Chief updating member's details

The method by which a Brigade Chief updates an individual member's record has changed. A Brigade Chief should select *Member Login* from the menu and log in; select *Members* then *Admin* and *Select Member*; Select the member whose details you want to change; Go back to members menu by clicking *Members* on breadcrumb menu ([Home](#)

» [Members](#) » [Admin](#)); select *My Records* from the menu; select *Change Contact Details* or *Change Emergency Details*.

Tip

Have you used the new "Quick Find" search engine? It's a major step forward and you will be surprised at the information that can now be accessed from TFS Online. **MWG**



State Competitions ... the blow by blow account!

By District Officer Gavin Freeman

 **mbf** health
Take a positive step

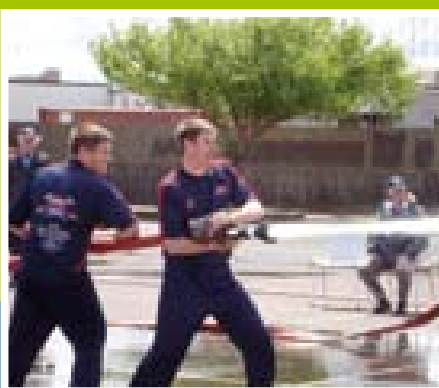


The inaugural combined firefighting competitions at Devonport in November started with a wet sail, or more accurately, a wet tent that impersonated a sail!

Willing hands descended on Byard Park on the Friday before the big day to set up the many tents, stands and trucks and mark out the tracks. Most of Friday provided drenching rain but all soldiered on regardless. By 1800 hours everything was in readiness. It was about 0300 on Saturday morning when the security on site contacted the Devonport duty crew and District Officer Mark Dobson ... the wind had taken a couple of tents and they were struggling to save the rest. Thanks to the Devonport fires and the security guards they managed to minimise the damage, however, it was still significant. I don't know what the wind speed was but one tent had 80 kg on each

corner and still went across the Mersey and one of the hi-tech western shelters that are supposed to be rated at 170 kmh was also destroyed.

The site of devastation that greeted Vice President Robert Atkins and myself at daylight was heart breaking, we were on the verge of cancelling the day's events when Robert said "oh well, most Brigades are here so lets have a go and we can call it off if it gets too bad later on." As it turned out, the resolve of firefighters came to the fore and the day went off well, albeit without the numerous displays that had been organised, although I am told the Hawthorn Football Club did a good trade and signed up more members than they did in three days at the Launceston show (as a Blues supporter I struggle to understand that, but anyway ...)



The morning events consisted of events that are tried and true in streams A & B, although over on the 'urban' track there were a few new events tried as well. The afternoon was fantastic, all 31 senior and junior teams came together to tackle stream C which consisted of events out of the National Firefighter Championships. Considering we had never conducted these events before they went extremely well, the band of track marshals headed by Station Officer Mark Bryant and Leading Firefighter Adam Meredith was fantastic in keeping things running smoothly. Naturally we learnt many ways to improve things and these will be discussed in the coming months.

To become inaugural State Champions brigades had to score the highest points tally out of selected events from stream A or B and all of stream C. The Junior State Champions for 2008 were Claremont Brigade, followed closely by Somerset. In the seniors the runners up were Kingston but the winners were Claremont, making it a clean sweep for that Brigade, a mighty effort and I believe a well deserved win as Claremont entered into the true spirit of competitions by entering two teams and having a go at all events on offer. This did not affect the outcome as only the points accumulated by the one team counted towards final placings. Well done Claremont Brigade!



An executive debrief was conducted and a wider forum was held in January, feedback from the questionnaires completed by Brigades on the day has also been analysed. Based on the positive feedback I think it is safe to say the concept of one competition style is here to stay. Naturally there will be things we can improve, based on what brigades are telling us we will make some changes to make the competition what you all want.

This year the Competitions have been confirmed for **Saturday November 7** in Launceston. Unlike last year where we spilt streams over two tracks, there will be one track (grass) and a

program that allows brigades to have a go at some or all events as they choose. A sub committee is working on finalising the program of events and some subtle rule changes to make all events consistent. As soon as the program and rules are signed off a copy will be sent to all brigade chiefs.

As a bonus MBF Health have indicated they will stay on as our major partner and intend to get involved even more with our competitions. **GSF**



La Trobe Bushfire CRC survey and our Volunteer Leadership Development Framework

By Coordinator Volunteer Strategy, Lucas van Rijswijk

The response of our volunteers to the research on leadership by Adrian Birch of the Bushfire CRC has been amazing. Over December and January more than 900 volunteers (22%) sent in their survey replies and many added comments. Latrobe researchers got your responses from all over the state with a really representative cross-section of our volunteers. Thank you all for taking the time. It has given us a very authoritative insight into what your views are.

Thanks too for volunteers, brigade officers and District staff for your input into the focus groups.

The draft research report has highlighted many important perceptions and suggestions. Some of the big messages were:

- Overall, respondents indicated that their experiences with the local brigade were rarely negative, and generally positive;
- Most volunteers said that officers' technical skills and capacity to maintain a safe workplace were very good;
- Dealing with troublesome behaviours and interpersonal skills were less likely to be rated as highly;
- There was some concern about the length of time that formal positions were occupied and some dissatisfaction with perceived brigade politics and factionalism;
- More than 75% of respondents strongly agreed that promoting teamwork, helping new members mix with others, and keeping members informed were important, and approximately 70% strongly agreed that mentoring and developing members to move into leadership roles were important;
- The most important behaviours related to being honest and trustworthy, being fair, and setting a good example. Also many strongly agreed that the following behaviours were important: acting in a manner consistent with one's proposed course of action, keeping skills and knowledge up to date, listening to people's concerns, keeping a sense of humour and balancing the members' work, family and brigade demands;
- There were many suggestions as to how people might be supported to further develop their leadership skills.



Volunteer Leadership Development Framework Reference Group

Back: Andrew Comer, Paul Hill, Steve Lowe, Ian McMahon, Craig Hughes, Phil Smith

Front: Ian Gabites, Steve Willing, Katherine Street, Veronica Atkins, Andrew Taylor, Lucas van Rijswijk

The challenge for TFS will be to respond to this information. We have made an immediate start on this by recruiting consultants IMC-Link to work on this. They are supported by a Reference Group whose members are: Andrew Comer (Chair), Veronica Atkins and Ian Gabites (with Lyndy Smith as proxy) for the TVFBA, Andrew Taylor and Craig Hughes for the TRVA, Steve Lowe, Phil Smith and Paul Hill for Regional staff, Steve Willing for Human Services, Lucas van Rijswijk for Volunteer Strategy, and Suzanne Bacon for Learning and Development.

The information from this research is now being used to help us to design our Volunteer Leadership Development Framework. Over 90 volunteers have also attended focus group with Katherine Street and Ian McMahon from IMC-Link; the consultants who are working with us on this project. IMC-Link has also consulted directly with District Officers and with EMT. The information from these groups will help us to tailor the Framework to the needs of our people. A key message has been that "one size does not fit all".

We are planning to complete this project, which is funded by the National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund, by the end of June. Full implementation will need to be by an evolution in the way that we work. The full impact of this work will take time, however, we have started the task and with your help and support we will be able to gradually implement the changes that we need.

Thanks again for your efforts and support. **LvR**

Introducing



Kelly Gordon

This is Kelly Gordon the new OH&S Officer in Human Services.

What did you do before joining TFS?

Kelly I completed a Bachelor of Business majoring in Human Resources whilst I was working at Jet Recruitment as a Recruitment Consultant and OH&S Coordinator. I was responsible for approximately 80 temporary employees and servicing various public/ private sector clients in regard to their HR/ OH&S requirements statewide.

Where is your office located?

Kelly I'm the ground floor of State Headquarters with the other OH&S team members. Drop in and visit or phone me on 6230 8453.

What do you like to do out of hours?

Kelly I enjoy dancing, walking my dog Lily, hanging out with friends, finding out the "goss" on Facebook, reading a good book, entertaining and having a glass of bubbles or two. I'm also hoping to learn how to ski this winter.

Tell me about Lily

Kelly Lily and I like to walk around Sandy Bay and Mount Nelson. My friends say she looks like a rat on stilts but I think she's gorgeous!

And about your dancing?

Kelly I have been doing Ballroom / Latin dancing for four years, and competed for one. I've recently started taking Salsa lessons which are heaps of fun.

Thanks Kelly – We're looking forward to seeing your dancing skills at the next TFS function!

This issue we are introducing some regional admin personnel.

The Northern Region admin team located at Hobart Road Youngtown consists of Carol Davey; Karina Lowe, Amanda Ross, Lauren Birtwistle, Lisa Gilbert, Shannon Airey and Jessica Ross.



Carol, Shannon, Lisa, Jessica and Lauren

Carol is the Office Supervisor and has been with the TFS for 27 years; Karina commenced as a Trainee in Records in Melville Street Hobart in 1994 and worked in various roles before moving to the Northern Region; and Amanda commenced as a temporary clerk in 2005 before being appointed a permanent Clerical Support Officer November 2008. Lauren is a Clerical Support Officer and has been with the TFS for just over 12 months. Lisa and Shannon both commenced as a Trainees prior to being permanently appointed, and Jessica, the current Trainee has been with the Northern Region since September and undertaking Business Certificate 3.



Karina and Amanda

The North West Admin staff located at Three Mile Line Burnie currently consists of Nardene Reeves, Debbie Jackson and Karen Williams.

Nardene has recently commenced her role as Office Supervisor for the North West and for the previous five years she was working with Parks & Wildlife Service. Nardene is "Western Australian born and bred", but has worked in Canberra as well. She is enjoying her new role working with such a good team and looking forward to meeting more people throughout the region and the state.



Nardene, Debbie and Karen of the North West Region

Debbie is working with the TFS temporarily and is enjoying the team work – she says "they are a great bunch to work with and we have had a lot of laughs if you don't know something all you have to do is ask and the other staff members are only too happy to help". Debbie is also a volunteer with Yolla.

Karen has been with the TFS working in a variety of roles for 15 years. Karen is kept busy working full time as well as looking after her "beautiful boy Liam".

Medal Protocol

By Second Officer Fern Tree Brigade, Terry Gill


Since the *Tasmania Fire Service Protocol Manual* was published in 1994, two things have occurred, which require our medal protocol to be updated, namely:

- creation of the Tasmania Fire Service Volunteer Medal in 2000; and
- the issue of medals by individual brigades to commemorate reaching a significant milestone in brigades' histories.

Before looking at these two events in detail, here are the broad rules of medal protocol that apply in Australia.

1. Decorations and medals fall into one of three broad categories, to recognise brave conduct, to mark diligent long service or to commemorate significant events.
2. Decorations and medals that are part of the National system, relating to either Australian Defence Force (ADF) or civilian activities, are worn centred above the left breast pocket top seam.
3. Decorations and medals that are part of a State or Territory system, relating mainly to uniformed public safety activities, are worn centred above the right breast pocket top seam.
4. The order of wearing on either breast is broadly determined by the position in relation to the heart as follows:-

Commemoration Service Bravery
State



Bravery Service Commemoration
National
5. Where more than one medal has been received for say a similar level of bravery, service or commemoration, say from another agency, the award that was received first, goes closest to the heart.
6. Unit Citation insignia, for bravery or service, are pinned in a row of their own, centrally above the row of medals or ribbon bar, on the appropriate breast; State or National, with the order from the heart following the same rules as above.

Now let's look at the situation in the Tasmania Fire Service in particular.

Left Breast National Awards

A formal order of precedence (wearing) for the many National awards and following the broad rules above, is set out in the *Australian Order of Precedence of Honours and Awards* as published from time to time in the *Australian Government Gazette*. This order may also be viewed at www.itsanhonour.gov.au/honours/awards/docs/order_of_wearing.pdf

The decorations that potentially could be worn by fire service personnel include the *Bravery Medal* and the *Australian Fire Service Medal* or the *National Medal* (each for service). Others from the National system, where a member has had ADF service, might include the *Australian Defence Medal* (service)

and the *Anniversary of National Service 1951-1972 Medal* (commemoration), to name just two. Here is a sample medal ribbon bar of National awards.



To nominate an operational brigade member for the *National Medal*, via your District Officer, go to the TFS Intranet site and follow this path "Info Centre / Book Shelf / Forms / Administrative ./ National Medal Application Form"

Right Breast State Awards

In the absence of a formal Tasmanian order of precedence, rules 3, 4 and 5 above apply.

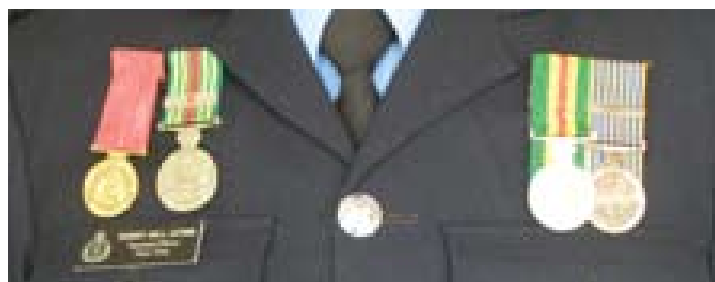
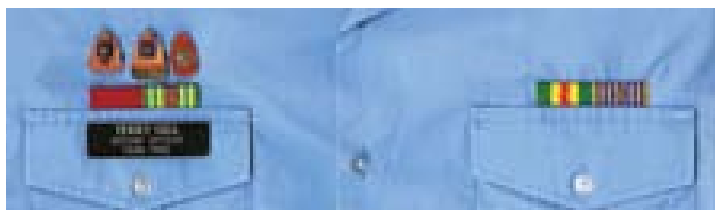
The decorations that potentially could be worn by fire service personnel, starting from the heart, could include the *Royal Humane Society Bronze Medal* (bravery), *Tasmania Fire Service Volunteer Medal* (service) or an individual brigade commutative medal. Here is a sample medal ribbon bar of fire service awards for Tasmania. Here is a sample medal ribbon bar of State awards.



To nominate an operational brigade member for the *TFS Volunteer Medal*, go to www.tvffaf.org.au/ to download an application form.

The *TFS Long Service* (only the one for the highest number of years), *TFS Life Member*, TRVFA, TVFBA or UFU badges when worn on TFS uniform, are pinned on the right breast, above the ribbon bar.

The position of the wearer's name badge, to accommodate the above, should now be worn centred on the uniform shirt or coat pocket flap, below the medal bar or full size medal(s). **TG**



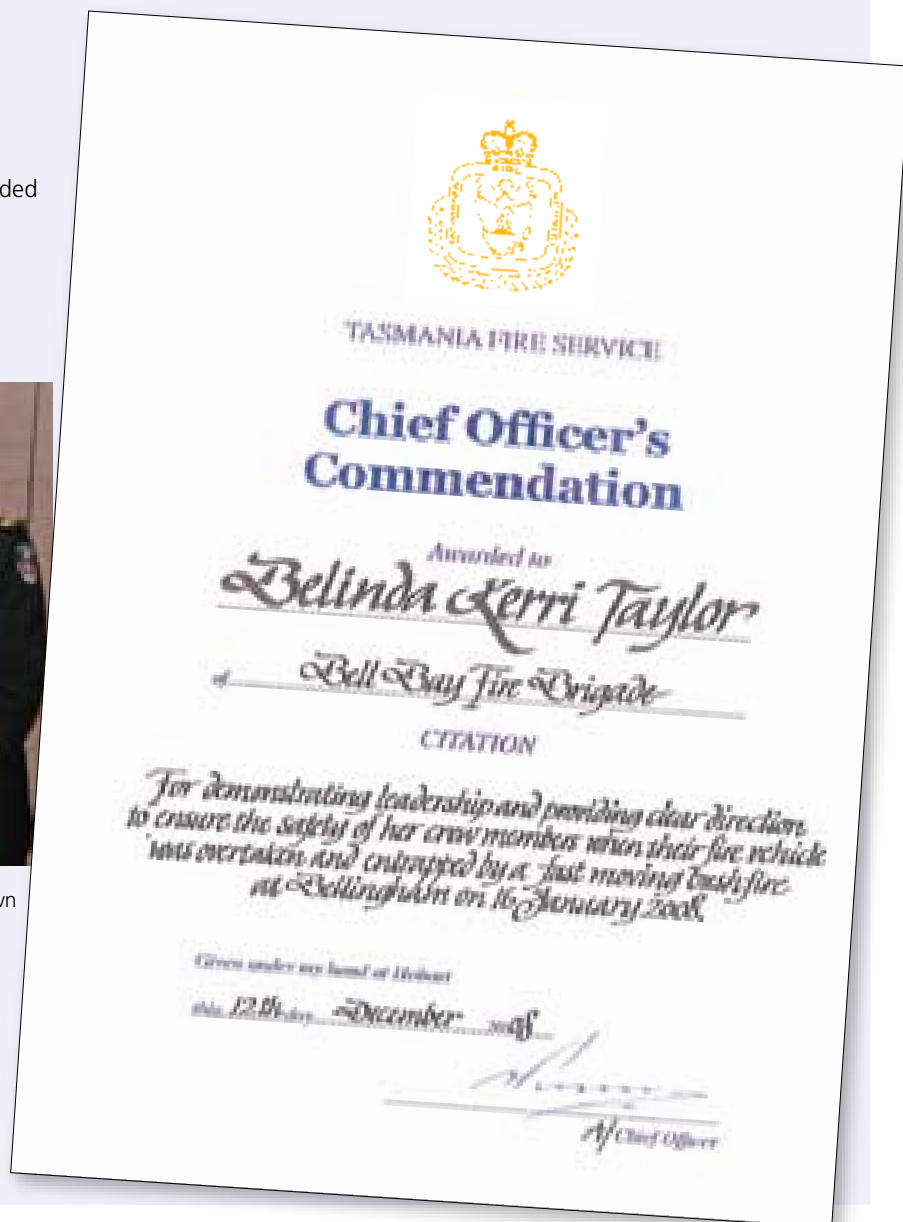
Chief Officer's Commendation

Bell Bay volunteer Belinda Taylor was awarded the Chief Officer's Commendation at the annual Georgetown "Dining In Evening" in December.

Congratulations Belinda!



Belinda Taylor with Acting Chief Officer Mike Brown



Attention cooks extraordinaire and extraordinary cooks!

By Library Technician, Rebecca Evans

Are you a "cook extraordinaire" or do you just love to fiddle around in the kitchen? Do you have recipes that are favourites with family, friends and colleagues? If so, we would love you to contribute them to the proposed TFS cookbook.

The recipes can be from individuals or brigades - volunteer or career! Maybe your brigade has a specialty - Binalong Bay Bugs, Chudleigh Chowder, Devonport Dumplings, FireComm Fondue, Glenorchy Goulash, Molesworth Mudcake, Ravenswood Roast or maybe Tea Tree Truffles?

Provide a brief background with the recipe or even a fire safety tip. If possible also include a fun photo of the culinary delight



with the "chef" or members of the brigade. These may be used in the publication.

We hope to have the cookbook available for Christmas 2009 and all money raised will go to charity. We're not sure what to call the book, but we are open to suggestions. You can send recipes, photos and safety tips to me at rebecca.evans@fire.tas.gov.au In the subject line put "TFS Cookbook" so I can separate the recipes from my official TFS duties. If you don't have email, please post them to me at TFS, GPO Box 1526, Hobart Tas 7001.

Looking forward to being inundated with recipes! **RE**

VIPs at Upper Huon Brigade

By District Officer Rod Sherrin

Recently the Minister for Police and Emergency Management, Jim Cox took the opportunity to visit the Upper Huon Brigade during a tour of the South West District. He was accompanied by the new member for Franklin Daniel Hulme. Whilst there the Minister spoke with members of the brigade including cadet Sheraleigh Berry. Sheraleigh along with a number of other cadets statewide had been chosen to attend a national volunteer junior and cadet workshop in Penrith NSW over the Easter break.

Mr Cox also inspected the site of the new Upper Huon fire station which is being constructed adjacent to the existing station. **RS**



New Upper Huon fire station under construction



Minister for Police and Emergency Management, Jim Cox with Sheraleigh Berry



Andrew Melton, MHA Daniel Hulme, Sheraleigh Berry and Brigade Chief Steve Woolley

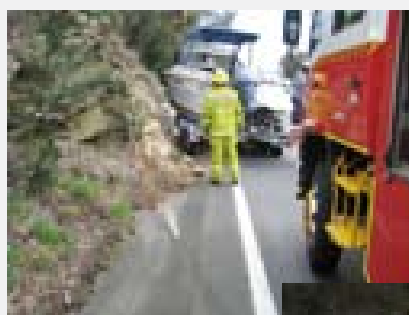
Gone fishing!

By Second Officer Cambridge Brigade, Mark Brazendale

On Saturday 9th May Cambridge Brigade received a call to an incident on the Tasman Highway, just past the entrance to the Tasmania Golf Club. On arrival we found a Landcruiser towing an 8 metre / 4 ton catamaran involved in a single vehicle accident which had hit and embedded into the side cutting.

The accident itself was interesting, given that the boat came off the trailer and landed on top of the Landcruiser, crushing the rear end, fortunately, there were only two persons in the vehicle with the front passenger sustaining only minor injuries.

The accident caused major disruption to traffic in both directions as the road was closed due to the vehicle and boat being lifted onto a low loader. **MB**



Prepare, Stay and Defend or Leave Early

By Manager Community
Education, Sandra Barber



Since 2006, TFS has endorsed the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) position on bushfires and community safety. At the heart of this position is advice to the community to “prepare, stay and defend or leave early”. With proper preparation, most buildings can be successfully defended from bushfire. People need to prepare their properties so that they can be defended when bushfire threatens. They need to plan to stay and defend them, or plan to leave early.

Since its development, this position has been supported by research evidence and practical experience. The Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre (Bushfire CRC) is currently releasing large volumes of research, and so the Community Safety Group (CSG) of AFAC has been reviewing these research findings, and where appropriate these will be incorporated into the AFAC position and advice to fire services. As part of the review process a national two day workshop was conducted in November.

Participants included representatives from around Australia from operations, community education/ engagement, built environment and media liaison units. The TFS was represented at the workshop by Damien Killalea (Director, Community Fire Safety), Chris Arnol (Deputy Regional Chief, Southern Region) and Sandra Barber (Manager, Community Education).

The workshop:

- Reviewed the “Stay or Go” position;
- Reviewed current activities and programs implemented by agencies;
- Considered the key findings of Bushfire CRC research and their implications;
- Reviewed the agency and state perspectives; and
- Made some recommendations to the CSG.

Themes arising from the workshop included:

- The need to define what “leave early” means;
- Further validation of the policy position, reinforcing agency understanding of the policy;
- The role of community development strategies in changing community behaviour;
- The use of community warning systems;
- Identifying the critical community messages;
- Using the media to assist us; and
- Discussion of innovative strategies being implemented by different fire services, including TFS’s triage policy.

Following on from this workshop, the CSG will advise AFAC about how AFAC position paper on bushfire and community safety can take into account the Bushfire CRC research and feedback from the workshop. *Fireground* will keep you informed of developments. **SB**

Tasmanian Assistance to the Victorian Fires

The tragic Victorian 7 February 2009 'Black Saturday' fires had a special meaning to many Tasmanians as it was a solemn reminder of our tragic circumstances on the same day 42 years ago.

Milder conditions in Tasmania meant that Tasmanian firefighters were asked to quickly respond and by Monday 9th February we had 93 firefighters in Victoria from TFS, Forestry Tasmania and Parks & Wildlife Service.

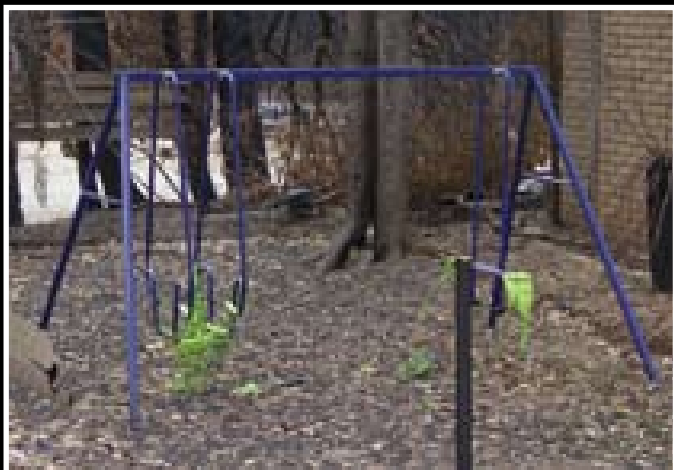
At the peak of our taskforce response we had 150 personnel in Victoria along with 31 light fire vehicles. More than 400 people movements occurred between Tasmania and Victoria over the 4 weeks following 'Black Saturday'. A huge and commendable effort.

Photos submitted by District Officer Gerald Crawford; Firefighter Risdon Vale Brigade, Peter Devine; and Leading Firefighter Rokeby Brigade, Peter Middleton; Brigade Chief Runnymede, Ricky Birch; Firefighter Rokeby Brigade, Simon Boucher; Fire Management Officer PWS, Paul Black; and Brigade Chief Campania, Robin Howlett





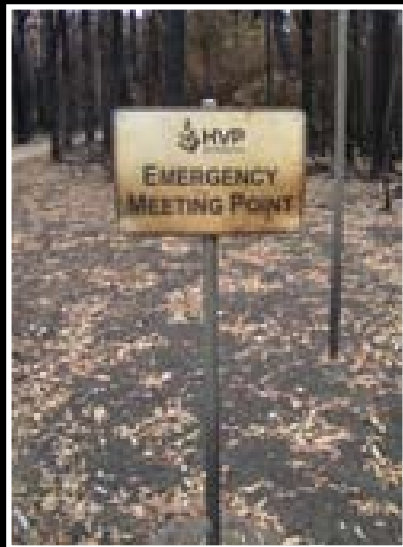
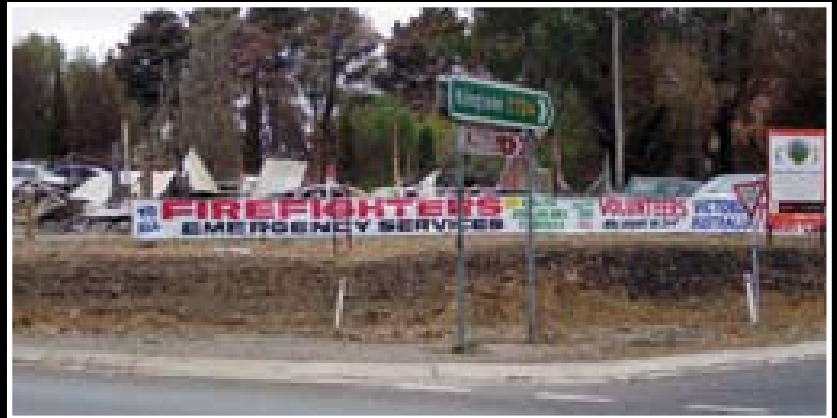
Tasmanian Assistance to the Victorian Fires





Tasmanian Assistance to the Victorian Fires





Tasmanian Assistance to the Victorian Fires





Victorian Deployment Taskforce 2

By Brigade Chief Lauderdale, Paul Baker

We departed Hobart Airport Thursday 12th February for a six day deployment at Wesburn in the Yarra Valley. The Taskforce included 45 TFS personnel made up of a mixture of career and volunteer firefighters, and 18 Forestry firefighters, District Officer Hugh Jones was taskforce leader.

I must make a quick mention of Rick Birch who was very talkative on departure talking about bird strikes and the like, this made for some very nervous travellers. As luck would happen on arrival to Melbourne we were just about to touch down and the pilot decided to take off again at full throttle because of a bird strike to the plane landing in front of us. Moral of the story, don't travel with Rick.

The first night was spent in Melbourne where we had a briefing to explain what was going to happen and what was expected of us. During deployment we were tasked to do 1 swing shift which was 2 pm to 2 am, then 4 night shifts starting at 6pm then returning the following day from 7 am onwards depending on deployment location.

We boarded the bus at 10 am sharp to arrive at Wesburn by noon, have a briefing, then out on the fireground by 2 pm. We were met at camp by 12 members of taskforce 1 who were staying over to make up the numbers with our arrival, also staying over was District Officer Gerald Crawford task force 1 leader.

TFS personnel were deployed to the staging area in 5 strike teams, 4 were made up of 10 firefighters and one of 12 firefighters. The first swing shift where I was in strike team 3 was tasked to do asset protection at Healesville; crew leader was Station Officer Heath Bracey from LFB.

Healesville had come under a major ember attack earlier that day so when a strike team of 5 TFS 5:1's rolled up you could see the relief of the residents' faces that we would be maintaining a presence in the area until early morning. Numerous people commented that they would try to get a full night's sleep as we would be monitoring the area, this would be the first night sleep for many people since the fires started a week previously.

Sadly we came across many undefendable structures where the occupants had already vacated the properties days before, you could see where they left in a hurry as the windows were left open.

The following night was a full night shift where we were deployed to an area of state forest about 12 kilometres from Marysville to patrol a backburn that was lit up during the day. I had been reallocated to a newly formed strike team for night shifts, this was strike team 1 led by crew leader Rick Birch (Boss Hogg).

Driving up the mountain towards Marysville you could see the intensity and speed in which the fire travelled. Steel posts which held up road signs had wilted in the heat. There was a very sombre mood amongst everyone being so close to where a lot of people lost their lives.



The next three night shifts were out at Noogee which was the staging area for the Bunyip fire. Again there were properties under threat at Naree which was a farming community that borders private forests. Backburning and blacking out were the tasks that were required so that we could get good containment lines in for protection if the weather deteriorated. The CFA, DSE and TFS were tasked to this on our sector, which proved very interesting working with different agencies with different protocols.

During deployment at the Bunyip fire we also used DSE vehicles for two night shifts running, these were called pigs (flat tray land cruisers) or dual cab hilux's which were known as piglets because they only carried half the water, I estimated they carried about 250 litres.

On the fireground everyone was aware that the trees seemed to have a regular occurrence of falling over unexpectedly. You could get two decent sized power poles out of most trees. There were also unsurveyed mineshafts on our sector, where we were lucky enough to find 2 shafts and cordon the area off.

The Victorians we met were very appreciative of the time and effort the Tasmanian crews were putting in on the fires. Also there many friendships formed between career and volunteer crews whilst on deployment

The experience people gained working in such heavily timbered and steep forests will be excellent preparation for Tassie conditions in the future.

I would also like to thank Gerald Crawford and Hugh Jones for their efforts in organising everything whilst on deployment and looking after TFS personnel. Their efforts were not only directed towards the wellbeing of firefighters but also meals for everyone, sleeping arrangements, bus pickups and drop offs, and a vast range of other logistical nightmares. **PB**

Victoria Fire Relief Appeal 48 Hour Challenge

By Senior Station Officer Hobart Brigade, Andrew Skelly

The 48 hour charity relay was held in March with all money raised going to the Victoria Fire Relief Appeal. Once again Larry Monash and Andrew Skelly ran legs in the dark as part of the 48 hour relay.

On Sunday morning firefighters from HFB battled out the 5km firefighter challenge. The 'A' platoon team of Adrian Petrie, Matt Lowe and Lee Hodgman raced the 'B' platoon team of Shaun Skelly, Alison Wigston and Jason McSherry. The race started with a cracking pace with Adrian Petrie and Shaun Skelly out in front of the group, by the halfway mark they had started to stretch a lead, followed by a battle for third between Jason McSherry, Alison Wigston, Matt Lowe and Lee Hodgman.

Adrian and Shaun went stride for stride all race with a big sprint finish, both recording the same time, with Shaun winning by the slightest of margins over Adrian. Third place went to Lee Hodgman who ran a strategic race, picking the pace up over the final laps to grind the rest of the group down. After tallying the times, the 'A' platoon team won by a slight margin.

The organiser Nigel Hyland thanked the runners and TFS for their commitment in helping to raise money (over \$376,000) for various charities over the past 21 years. HFB teams raised \$20,000 with the State Government matching \$ for \$ giving them a grand total of \$40,000! **AS**



Start of the 5km firefighters challenge (L to R) runners, Alison Wigston, Lee Hodgman, Jason McSherry, Shaun Skelly, Adrian Petrie, Matt Lowe and the starter Andrew Skelly

Victorian Bushfire Fundraiser

By Leading Firefighter Campbell Town, Warren Barr

The Campbell Town Brigade conducted a fundraiser for the Victorian Bushfire Appeal on Friday 13th February 2009 in Valentines Park, located in the centre of Campbell Town.

A donation of \$1,000 from the Brigade was made to start the appeal. The Brigade challenged the community to match or better the figure. Signs were erected in the main street and a whiteboard was used to update the tally. Five firefighters assisted all day raising \$4,903.65.

The Brigade would like to thank the local community and the travelling public for their generosity and advise that a total of \$5,903.65 has been donated to the Premier's Bushfire Relief Fund through the CBA Bank. **WB**



Leading Firefighter Warren Barr (Appeal Coordinator), Firefighter Mel Rowlands, Leading Firefighter David Oakley and Firefighter Ben Foot



Firefighter Michael Liston

Victorian Bushfires Fundraising

By Brigade Chief Richmond Brigade, Peter Hemelrijk

Richmond Brigade took up the invite from Trevor, the proprietor of ZooDoo, to spend a day at the park to raise funds for the Victorian Bushfire victims.

Ten members enjoyed a day at ZooDoo checking out the native and many exotic animals whilst chatting with guests and staff at the park. Several auctions were conducted for people to have the opportunity to feed the lions - for this novelty people were prepared to pay between \$100 and \$185 each!

At the end of the day all takings from the gate and the two souvenir shops were handed to the brigade and generously rounded up, this also included donation boxes and the wishing well at the gate. The total raised on the day was \$10,401. This figure was matched dollar for dollar by the state government, effectively making the funds raised for the day over \$20,000!

Thanks to Trevor who also provided a BBQ and drinks and to the staff at ZooDoo who all donated their time. Thank you for your support and very generous donation. **PH**



Richmond Brigade members at ZooDoo



Presentation of the cheque for \$10,401 by Trevor from ZooDoo



Todd Workman- "up close and personal"

Former HFB personnel get together

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

The next opportunity to participate will be 6th August at the Carlyle Hotel, Derwent Park; and the 3rd October meeting will be

at the Claremont Hotel, Main Road, Claremont. All commencing at 12.30.

The 3rd December meeting comprises a traditional Christmas lunch at the hotel which was extensively damaged by fire a few years ago in Campbell Town. This is attended by retired personnel from Hobart, Launceston, Devonport and Burnie Brigades. Transport can be arranged.

All former members welcome to attend.

Roland Hill

TFS Family Support Fund

By Communications Officer Michelle Clarke

In 2007 Campbell Town Brigade, in conjunction with the South Esk District Officer, set up the TFS Family Support Fund to assist all TFS volunteers and staff during special circumstances.

The fund was established following a vehicle accident involving a volunteer member's 18 year old daughter who was severely injured and admitted to Austin Hospital, Melbourne. To support the family at this time the fund assisted with accommodation and travel expenses.

There are defined parameters as to who will be assisted and at this stage it is envisaged that only direct family dependants of TFS personnel will be those who will be given assistance (wife, husband, partner, children). The fund has been setup to assist all TFS staff from operations, volunteers, communications, engineering and administration; in fact anyone who is directly under the TFS structure.

The fund relies on donations from Brigades, external organisations and staff to be able to assist these families in need. To date the fund has been able to assist several families and individuals with finances, vouchers and other significant business donations of materials and services. It is administered by a group of nominated/elected persons who will delegate the funds dependent upon circumstances and need.

In the past month the fund has assisted two TFS families:

- Senior Firefighter Lee Hodgman (HFB), his wife Kathryn and their two young daughters. Recently Kathryn was diagnosed with a brain tumour and in the near future Kathryn and Lee will travel to Sydney for treatment.
- A respected volunteer firefighter in the North West passed away suddenly and the fund was able to donate to assist with immediate financial burdens.

To date we had pledges in excess of \$3,000 from volunteer brigades and statewide businesses who have jumped at the opportunity to help a fire in need, but the future of this fund is dependent upon

Greetings everyone. For those who don't know me, I'm Lee Hodgman. I've been a firefighter at HFB on "A" platoon for nearly 20 years as well as a volunteer at Glenorchy/Wellington Brigade for nearly 24 years. TFS has been a way of life for me since I was 17 years old.

Initially my wife Kathryn suffered a headache on Good Friday 2009 and as one tends to do with such situations, we dismissed it as stress related and got on with life. Over the next couple of weeks, Kathryn experienced numbness down the right side of her face and tingling lips, as the headaches worsened considerably. She booked herself into the GP as I headed off to work as normal. Several hours later I received the sort of phone call that we all dread, I was to stop what I was doing immediately and head straight to Glenorchy Medical Centre.

A CT scan had revealed a bleed at the base of Kathryn's brain. An MRI scan was then organised to try and find what had caused the bleed, and this revealed a malignant tumour which had sprung up from previous malignant skin cancers. The tumour and bleed are located in an extremely sensitive part of the brain known as the pons. All the most basic of human functions are controlled from there including breathing!

We were told that operating wasn't an option and that Kathryn only has a matter of months to live. Obviously we weren't content with such a prognosis, and as news of her condition spread, we heard of Sydney surgeon Dr Charles Teo through a family friend. Family friend Kay was only given 3 months to live but after an operation in Sydney is still going strong 12 months later. Numerous phone calls, emails and faxes followed, and we'll be in Sydney before the end of this month. Initially the treatment is to be a single very high dose of radiation that is unavailable here in Tassie. An operation may follow, but only as a last resort due to the extremely fragile location of the tumour.

My family and I have been overwhelmed with the kindness and compassion shown to us in this time of need and it will be impossible to thank every single person and organisation that has helped us out. We expect our medical and travelling expenses to be considerable as Kathryn's treatment continues. A huge thank you is extended to the Cygnet Football Club and the Cygnet community. Kathryn hails from Cygnet and the support from the town has been enormous.

Where I'm concerned, apart from my immediate family, my other family is the fire service, and what a great family it is. People from right around TFS have been supportive in so many varied ways and I'll never be able to thank each individual personally. I was barely aware of the TFS Family Support Fund until crisis hit my own family and as a family we're extremely thankful for its existence. Thanks so much. Please support the TFS Family Support Fund, because as I've so recently found out, life can take a cruel and unexpected turn when you very least expect it.

If each employee and volunteer donated \$1 to the Fund this would be over \$5,000!

community generosity and each of us making donations to ensure we can help ourselves in the event of a need arising.

It does not take much to assist our colleagues in special circumstances. If each employee and volunteer donated \$1 to the Fund this would be over \$5,000! Imagine if everyone gave \$1 each fortnight!

I would like to thank the Lions Club of Hobart Town for the donation of electrical goods to the value of \$3,000. A raffle or some other form of fundraising will be conducted in the near future utilising these goods.

I encourage everyone to consider supporting this worthwhile cause as the assistance this fund can provide to struggling families is overwhelming. For further information on the Fund, or to donate or request assistance from the Fund please contact your Regional Headquarters. **MC**

32nd Scania Australasian Fire Brigades Golf Championships



Ian Painting, Greg Homan, Shaun Skelly, Royce Brougham, Steve Heathcote and Mark Wilkie

The 32nd Scania Australasian Fire Brigades Golf Championships were held in Canberra from 2 to 7 November where a great week was had by golfers and partners.

Sunday's welcoming night was held at Gungahlin Golf Club where it was great to catch up with old and new friends from all over Australia and New Zealand. Monday's golf was held at Royal Canberra one of the best courses in Australia where the 4BBB competition was held. Tuesday was the golf free day as well as Melbourne Cup day where many people attended the races in Canberra or the function held at Eastlakes Football Club. Wednesday saw us move to Gungahlin for a practice round before the championships started. Thursday and Friday saw state teams and individuals battle it out for the state teams title and the individual stroke event which are the main two events on offer. Our 2009 state team was represented Mark Wilkie, Ian Painting, Royce Brougham, Steve Heathcote, Shaun Skelly and Greg Homan. The course was enjoyable and very challenging with strong winds to contend with (oh that's right 14 of the 18 holes also had water hazards to contend with.)

Trips were organised daily for the non-golfers who visited some of Canberra's famous attractions such as cool climate wineries and lake cruises as well as enjoying the relaxed atmosphere that the Canberra region had to offer.

Friday evening's presentation was held at the Australian War Memorial ANZAC hall where all major trophies were presented

and to have that final catch up and beer with all our golfing buddies for the year.

A great time was had by all who came to Canberra and everyone is looking forward to 2009's 33rd Australasian Championships in Perth Western Australia.

Thank you Members Equity for supplying our state shirts and for being such a great sponsor, also thanks to Boags Nathan Lion for their continued sponsorship.

Scores

This year saw a very tight battle for the teams' event which eventually saw the home state ACT take out the 36 hole teams event net. Tasmania finished a pretty respectable 4th place.

Tasmania had two golfers who did well bringing home some very good trophies

between them. Ian Painting had a fantastic week - runner up on Monday's 4BBB at Royal Canberra with a very good score of 49 points; won on Wednesday with A grade stableford with 42 points; 3rd place on Friday's stableford event with a score of 38 points. He also won the 54 hole PBI individual stableford event winning the perpetual cup for 2009. Ian also won a place on the Australasian team for 2009. This is a great honour and very well deserved as you can see from his great scores he produced all week.

Ron Patmore won the 2009 36 hole B grade net award and also the 36 hole individual veterans champion - stableford event winning a trophy cup for both.

Congratulations to both Ian and Ron on fantastic performances.

Life Membership

Congratulations to Ron Patmore on becoming the fourth Tasmanian to receive life membership from the Australasian Fire Brigades Golf Club. This is the biggest achievement given to anyone involved with the Club. Ron now joins Bob Graf, Ian McLachlan and William Brown as the only Tasmanians to have received this award. On behalf of the Tasmanian Fire Brigade Golf Club we would like to congratulate Ron on this fantastic award and for all he has done in previous years.

Golf is the excuse, friendship is the reason.

Our qualifying rounds for 2009 begin in January with one game each month spread all over the state where visitors are welcome to come along and have a game. If you are interested in having a game please don't hesitate to contact either Shaun Skelly - South - 0419 002 643 or Greg Homan - North - 0400 471 829



Fire Truck Pull – Festival of the Tamar

By Dalrymple Group Officer, Don Mackrill

Bell Bay Fire Truck Pull Team 2008 – 1st Place – 75 metre pull – 42.89 seconds. Members: Jason Mackrill, Danny Johnson, Richard Jaram, Chris Maher, Driver Norm Smith

During the Festival on the Tamar a new fire services participation event occurred.

Over previous years as part of George Town on Show, a number of the local fire brigades from within the Dalrymple Group have challenged for the Hospital Bed Race. This required a number of members to push/pull a hospital bed (with a patient on board) over a prescribed distance. Many challenges occurred over those years with both Bell Bay and Hillwood Brigades competing against each other as well as other teams from within the community. Sad part is the beds were sold – so no more race!

This year after finding out that a “fire truck pulling event” had occurred previously in Launceston as part of the annual Duck Race conducted by Rotary, we decided to give it a

go during George Town on Show. Well it proved to be a winner. Five teams competed, Bell Bay, Hillwood, Dilston, Karoola and a composite ladies team from within the Group appropriately named the “Dalrymple Ladies”. The object was to physically pull a 4.1 unit over a prescribed distance (in our case 75 metres) and then use a 9 litre water extinguisher to close the timing of the event via an electronic target. Rob Atkins from the Competitions Committee assisted us with this.

A great spectator event, with the onlookers cheering the teams on. PPE was worn so they were easily recognisable. Safety was our main aim and the event went off without a hitch. Sponsorship was provided by BP George Town and was very much appreciated. Bell Bay won the event after a second

A \$10 entry fee was levied with proceeds going to National Breast Cancer Research



Ladies 1 – Third Officer Karoola Brigade - Allison King- at target

challenge from one of the other teams to beat their time. 75 metres in 42.89 seconds – a great effort.

2009 George Town on Show should offer this event again, some brigades already in practice to “knock off Bell Bay”. A \$10 entry fee was levied with proceeds going to National Breast Cancer Research. Thank you to the brigades who participated – you made our day.

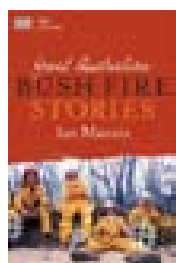
Details of the event are readily available. It would be great to see some other brigades from the Northern Region entering the challenge in 2009. Some talk also of a second event – more spectator satisfaction! **DM**



Library News

B-shifter / Brunacini, Nick. Phoenix, AZ : bshifter.com, 2008. B-Shifter is Nick Brunacini's first hand account of life in the fire service. The book details what it was like growing up as a second generation firefighter. Nick vividly describes fire station life, the joy of crawling through burning buildings and the fascinating details of delivering emergency services to a diverse community. Shift wars, exploding corpses, flashovers, the unique personalities of firefighters and assorted human tragedies make this book unlike any other.

Grassfires: fuel, weather and fire behaviour, 2nd ed. / Cheney, Phil. Collingwood, Vic.: CSIRO Publishing, 2008.



Great Australian bushfire stories / Mannix, Ian. Sydney, NSW.: ABC Books for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, 2008. Stories filled with courage, tenacity, sorrow and humour as Australian farmers, firefighters, city and country dwellers recount their experiences of the bushfires that have ravaged our continent to ABC journalist Ian Mannix.

Holmatro's emergency shoring & lifting techniques / Morris, Brendon. The Netherlands: Holmatro Rescue Equipment, 2008.

Designed to be used by any department that has shoring equipment, the graphics and diagrams cover all aspects of the shoring system as well as situation-specific step-by-step rescue procedures. Whether your department will be using shoring primarily for vehicle stabilisation, collapse rescue or trench rescue, all of the latest techniques are covered in detail.

How to do research: a practical guide to designing and managing research projects, 3rd ed. / Moore, Nick. London: Facet Publishing, 2006.

This book offers a wealth of invaluable guidance to both new and experienced researchers, presented in a clear, simple style. It is ideal for professionals undertaking research and the evaluation of services; for undergraduate and postgraduate students undertaking dissertations and other research projects; and as an introductory text on research methods courses in any social science discipline.

Incident management for the street-smart fire officer, 2nd ed. / Coleman, John. Tulsa, Okla.: PennWell/Fire Engineering, 2008.

Contents: 1. The Incident Management System - 2. The Essence of Command - 3. Establishing Command - 4. Command Posts - 5. Staging - 6. Sectoring - 7. Running Incidents-How it Works in the Real World - 8. Mission Statements - 9. The Mission of Command - 10. The Mission of Attack - 11. The Mission

of Search - 12. The Mission of Backup - 13. The Mission of Ventilation - 14. The Mission of Exposure - 15. The Mission of Extension - 16. The Mission of Overhaul and Salvage - 17. The Mission of Rapid Intervention Teams - 18. Benchmarks.

Out of the frying pan and into the fire: recipes and fire survival tips from the Smiths Road Community NSW / Page, Carolyn. Via Tharwa: Smiths Road Community NSW, 2008. Members of the Smiths Road Community share their favourite recipes and a range of advice on preparing for bushfires and storms.



The phoenix of natural disasters: community resilience / Gow, Kathryn. New York: Nova Science Publishers, c2008.

This book encompasses discussions between Kathryn Gow and Douglas Paton, both psychologists who have researched stress, burnout, trauma, and recovery in natural disasters. They suggest that few books have been written for health professionals, and

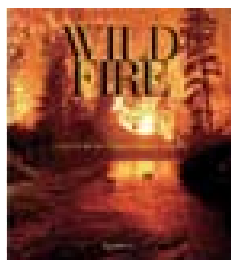
persons directly involved with leading and managing emergency teams on what constitutes resilience in individuals and groups in communities, and how they differ in response and recovery. The outcome is a three part book with contributors from the field, research institutions, emergency service sectors, support agencies and the media. Its main purpose is to focus on the resilience of people and communities following natural disasters and to educate the sectors already involved in natural disasters.

Report of the Natural Resources Committee on the inquiry into the impact of public land management practices on bushfires in Victoria / Victoria. Parliament. Environment and Natural Resources Committee. Melbourne: Government Printer, 2008.

Ten commitments: reshaping the lucky country's environment / Lindenmayer, David. Collingwood, Vic.: CSIRO Publishing, 2008.

Leading environmental thinkers in Australia have written provocative chapters on environmental issues facing the country. It is organised into three sections: by ecosystem (deserts, rangelands), by sector (fisheries, forestry); and cross-sector and cross-ecosystem themes. Each chapter addresses the question: What are the 10 key things that must be urgently addressed to improve Australia's environment? Readily accessible using straightforward language, this is a must-read for anyone interested in the environment.

What to do when you become the boss: how new managers become successful managers / Selden, Bob. Denver, Colo.: Outskirts Press, 2008.



The wildfire reader: a century of failed forest policy / Wuerthner, George. Washington, DC: Island Press, c2006.

Covers the topic of wildfire from ecological, economic and social/political perspectives while also documenting how past forest policies have hindered natural processes, creating a tinderbox of

problems that we are faced with today. More than 25 leading thinkers in the field of fire ecology provide in-depth analyses, critiques, and compelling solutions for how we live with fire in our society.

NEW VIDEOS/DVDS



Firefighter 1 knots. Middlebury, Conn.: Knightlite Software, 2008. 1 DVD (55 min.). Contents: Parts of the rope and knot - Overhand knot - Half hitch - Clove hitch - Figure 8 - Figure 8 follow-through - Figure 8 on a bight - Bowline - Sheet bend - Raising an axe - Raising a pike pole - Uncharged hoseline - Charged hoseline - Raising a ladder.

Forests & fire a Victorian story / Murphy, Sarah. [Melbourne]: Department of Sustainability and Environment, c2003. 1 video (11 min.)

Highlights ways in which the Department of Sustainability and Environment prepares for each fire season and outlines a number of the specialised techniques that have been developed. Also highlights key roles played by related organisations such as the Country Fire Authority, the Bureau of Meteorology and Victoria Police.

An introduction to flash hoods. [Brisbane]: Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, 2003. 1 video (5 min.)

Flash hoods are made of specially treated knitted fabric, designed to snugly fit over the head to protect the face and neck area. They are issued by QFRS to firefighters to wear during training exercises and are recommended for use in structural firefighting, wildfire and grassfire operations, and in situations of potential flashover and vapour explosion. This film demonstrates correct procedures for donning and doffing flash hoods in conjunction with other personal protective clothing and equipment. Instructions for storage, laundering, inspection and disposal of flash hoods are given.

Shiftwork safety essentials. Camberwell, Vic.: Vocam Worldwide Pub., 2007. 1 DVD (18 min.)

Causes of fatigue - Fatigue management - Fatigue and performance - Health management - Your body check - Family and social life.

State fire brigade competitions, 8 November 2008, Devonport: news footage ex Southern Cross. 2008. 1 DVD (1:40 min.)

WEBLINKS

CAMEO Chemicals

An online database of hazardous chemicals
<http://www.cameochemicals.noaa.gov/>

Fire: the Australian experience / NSW Rural Fire Service.
http://www.bushfire.nsw.gov.au/file_system/attachments/State08/Attachment_20050308_44889DFD.pdf

Firefighter fatalities and injuries: the role of heat stress and PPE / University of Illinois Fire Service Institute, July 2008.
<https://www.ideals.uiuc.edu/bitstream/2142/9137/2/FirefighterFatalitiesandInjuries.pdf>

It's an honour – wearing honours awards
<http://www.itsanhonour.gov.au/honours/awards/wearing.cfm>

National code of practice for the prevention of musculoskeletal disorders from performing manual tasks at work, August 2007.
http://www.ascc.gov.au/NR/rdonlyres/65298783-6262-4D0D-A41D-13296040703D/0/ASCC_ManualTasks_COP.pdf

A regional economy: a case study of Tasmania / Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport, and Regional Economies, October 2008.

After a long period of economic underperformance, in the last decade Tasmania has experienced a period of substantial economic growth, and a number of economic indicators have improved. This development in the state's economy provides a unique opportunity to investigate the drivers of this change. This motivated to research Tasmania's economic performance to analyse the key drivers of this change and to find out if there are lessons for regional policy.

<http://www.bitre.gov.au/publications/86/Files/report116.pdf>

CONTACT US

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

Ph: 6230 8679 or 6230 8681

Email: library@fire.tas.gov.au

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

On the Move

A list of recent personnel changes within the TFS



The following Career personnel changes have occurred

Arrivals

Southern Region	Hayley Webster	Clerical Support Officer	27th October 2008
Southern Region	Jennifer Lee	Clerical Support Officer	27th October 2008
North West Region	Nardine Reeves	Office Supervisor	17th November 2008
Human Services	Kelly Gordon	OH&S Officer	2nd February 2009
North West Region	Garry Howard	Firefighter	2nd March 2009
North West Region	Paul Dowling	Firefighter	2nd March 2009
Northern Region	Val Ansett	Firefighter	2nd March 2009

Elevations

Launceston Brigade	Mark Ciantar	Station Officer	3rd December 2008
Launceston Brigade	Paul Beechey	Station Officer	5th January 2009
Arthur District	Jodi Armstrong	District Officer	9th April 2009

Departures

Hobart Brigade	Tracey Duggan	Senior Firefighter	6th November 2008
Information Services	Chris Peters	Computer Systems Officer	21st November 2008
Southern Region	Kelly Taylor	Clerical Support Officer	21st November 2008
Burnie Brigade	Lindsay Wilson	Senior Firefighter	10th January 2008
Training Services North	Jock Crome	Station Officer	29th January 2009
Burnie Brigade	Kevin Saward	Senior Firefighter	5th March 2009
TasFire Training	Phil Mackrill	Senior Consultant	5th March 2009
Southern Region	Georgia Mackey	Office Supervisor	17th March 2009
FireComm	Phil Stewart	Communications Officer	22nd March 2009
Hobart Brigade	Kerry Jones	Senior Firefighter	31st March 2009

The following Volunteer Brigade Officers have been elected by their Brigades

BRIGADE	OFFICER	APPOINTMENT	BRIGADE	OFFICER	APPOINTMENT
Barton	Ewan Taylor	Second Officer	Burnie	Ricky Barrett	Third Officer
	Gilbert Taylor	Third Officer		Aaron White	Fourth Officer
Bicheno	Colin Lord	Second Officer	Claremont	Andrew Alexander	Second Officer
	Laurence Jones	Brigade Chief		Gregory Barrett	Third Officer
Bothwell	James Whittaker	Second Officer		Chris Murtagh	Fourth Officer
	Shayne Jones	Third Officer	Cranbrook	Adam Greenhill	Second Officer
Bracknell	Colin Cripps	Fourth Officer		Thomas Lyle	Fourth Officer
	Steve Bye	Brigade Chief	Cygnet	Chris Burdon	Second Officer
	Alan Holmes	Second Officer		Malcolm Merchant	Group Officer
	Ross Strickland	Third Officer	D'entrecasteaux	Bradley Westcott	Brigade Chief
Bridport	Christine Scott	Fourth Officer		Andrew Daly	Second Officer
	Noel Howard	Brigade Chief	Dunalley	Glenn Skromanis	Third Officer
	Derek Arnold	Second Officer		Paul Bird	Fourth Officer
	Andrew Arnold	Third Officer	Four Springs	Michael Heazlewood	Brigade Chief
Buckland	Jason Heazlewood	Fourth Officer		Michael Souto	Second Officer
	Nick Hall	Brigade Chief	Geeveston	Timothy Ryan	Second Officer
	Larry Gibson	Second Officer		Ali Nielander	Brigade Chief
			Golden Valley		

BRIGADE	OFFICER	APPOINTMENT	BRIGADE	OFFICER	APPOINTMENT
Golden Valley	Ian McLachlan	Second Officer	Parattah	Mark Wilson	Third Officer
	Erik Bierens	Third Officer		Lance Bailey	Fourth Officer
Gravelly Beach	Geoff Goss	Brigade Chief	Pardoe	Robert Atkins	Group Officer
	Trudy Cooke	Second Officer	Perth	Luke Rockcliffe	Second Officer
	Rob Henderson	Third Officer		Peter Wheeldon	Third Officer
	Allan Hamilton	Fourth Officer	Port Arthur	Christopher Richards	Second Officer
Hadspen	Pat Crimmins	Brigade Chief		Darren McGinniss	Third Officer
	Wayne Preston	Second Officer	Rokeby	Hayden Williams	Second Officer
	Ian Gabites	Third Officer	Sandford	Andy Smith	Third Officer
	Geoff Rollins	Fourth Officer		Gary Pursell	Fourth Officer
Jericho	Adam Jones	Brigade Chief	Sisters Beach	Bob Demeyer	Brigade Chief
	James Dare	Second Officer		Lucas Bryan	Second Officer
	Dianne Mathews	Third Officer	Snug	Peter Archer	Third Officer
	Timothy McConnon	Fourth Officer	Tarleton	Terry Connelly	Brigade Chief
Karoola	Shane Coleman	Fourth Officer		Ivan Dolbey	Second Officer
Margate	Michael D'alton	Brigade Chief		Ian Buck	Third Officer
Naracoopa	Jan van Ruiswyk	Brigade Chief		Robin Buck	Fourth Officer
	Eva Finzel	Second Officer	Ulverstone	Steven Yaxley	Second Officer
	John Cross	Third Officer		Paul Gilley	Third Officer
New Norfolk	Colin Triffitt	Brigade Chief		Craig Yaxley	Fourth Officer
	Mark Lusted	Fourth Officer	Whitemore	Mathew Dent	Brigade Chief
North King Island	Boyd Hoare	Brigade Chief		Andrew Spencer	Second Officer
	Robert Payne	Second Officer		Richard Johns	Third Officer
Parattah	Gavin Wagner	Brigade Chief		Barry Pearn	Fourth Officer
	Shane Porter	Second Officer	Wynyard	Bruce Corbett	Brigade Chief



Paul Beechey accepting his Station Officer epaulettes from A/Regional Chief Ken Burns. Congratulations Paul.



Regional Chief John Streets, District Officer Mersey Paul Hill, District Officer Arthur Jodi Armstrong and District Officer Learning & Development Wayne Richards. Congratulations Jodi on your promotion to District Officer Arthur.

Awards



A list of recent awards presented within the TFS

Location/Brigade	Name	Award	Location/Brigade	Name	Award
Arthurs Lake	Peter Lee	Long Service (15 years)	Channel	Robert Greenwood	Long Service (30 years)
Bagdad	Craig Harback	National Medal (15 years)	Claremont	Todd Bennetto	National Medal (15 years)
	Andrew Clifton	Long Service (10 years)		Scott Munday	Long Service (20 years)
	Anita Headlam	Long Service (10 years)		Todd Bennetto	Long Service (15 years)
Bothwell	Brian Beard	Long Service (10 years)	Communications	Greg Harwood	Long Service (15 years)
Bradys Lake	Julian Wilding	Long Service (15 years)		Paul Lewis	Long Service (10 years)
	Maree Nichols	Long Service (10 years)	Com. Fire Safety	Phil Oakley	Long Service (25 years)
	Bernard Lockwood	Long Service (10 years)	Cradoc	Philip Duggan	Long Service (35 years)
	Laurence Sweeney	Long Service (10 years)		Terrance Griggs	Long Service (35 years)
Bridgewater	Paul Williams	National Medal (25 years)		Luke Duggan	Long Service (20 years)
	Paul Williams	Long Service (25 years)		Rodney Duggan	Long Service (20 years)
	Rob Howard	Long Service (10 years)		Owen Goodwin	Long Service (10 years)
	Glenn Cliffe	Long Service (10 years)	Cygnat	Tony Jacobs	National Medal (45 years)
Brighton	Dean Plummer	Long Service (25 years)		Leon Doyle	National Medal (25 years)
	Phillip Curtain	Long Service (10 years)		Martin Clifford	National Medal (15 years)
	Andrew Geard	Long Service (10 years)		Rodney Murray	National Medal (15 years)
	Brian Zielinski	Long Service (10 years)		Dennis Coulson	Long Service (30 years)
Bushy Park	Gavin Branch	Long Service (10 years)		Peter Howard	Long Service (15 years)
Cambridge	Kevin Hibberd	National Medal (25 years)	Dunnalley	Robert Rainey	National Medal (25 years)
	Geoffrey Kent	National Medal (15 years)	Eaglehawk Neck	Charlie Holmstrom	Long Service (15 years)
	Arthur Edwards	National Medal (15 years)		Gary Linnell	Long Service (20 years)
	Mark Brazendale	Life Member		Patricia Connolly	Long Service (10 years)
	Arthur Edwards	Life Member		Mark Linfoot	Long Service (10 years)
	Matt Fenton	Life Member		Kai Linfoot	Long Service (10 years)
	John Tyrrell	Long Service (35 years)	Fern Tree	Chris Salmon	Long Service (20 years)
	Greg Dare	Long Service (30 years)		Damien Jones	Long Service (15 years)
	Scott Massie	Long Service (10 years)	Geeveston	William Chapman	National Medal (25 years)
	Mark Brazendale	TFS Volunteer Medal	Glendevie	Graeme Hankin	National Medal (15 years)
	Matt Fenton	TFS Volunteer Medal	Gretna	Mandy Butler	Long Service (15 years)
	Geoffrey Kent	TFS Volunteer Medal	Grove	Neil Lovell	National Medal (15 years)
Channel	Edward Domeney	National Medal (25 years)	Hobart	Mike Hancock	Long Service (35 years)



Fern Tree Brigade Leading Firefighter Chris Salmon with Brigade Chief Don Jones



Fern Tree Brigade Firefighter Damien Jones with Brigade Chief Don Jones



Cambridge Brigade Life Members Kevin Hibberd, Greg Dare, Arthur Edwards, Mark Brazendale, Matt Fenton and John Tyrrell

Location/Brigade	Name	Award	Location/Brigade	Name	Award
Hobart	Andrew Baker	Long Service (30 years)	Kempton	Phillip Whelan	Long Service (25 years)
	Frank McGrath	Long Service (30 years)		Stephen Whelan	Long Service (25 years)
	Wayne Huxley	Long Service (30 years)		Phillip Jones	Long Service (10 years)
	Wayne Seabrook	Long Service (30 years)	Kingston	Carlo Lanci	National Medal (15 years)
	Mike Netherton	Long Service (20 years)		John Price	Long Service (40 years)
	Rod Cuthbert	Long Service (20 years)	Koonja	Andrew Mackey	Long Service (10 years)
	Stewart Iles	Long Service (20 years)		Andrew Davis	Long Service (30 years)
	Colin Sattler	Long Service (20 years)		Rod Finlayson	Long Service (30 years)
	Haydn Fletcher	Long Service (20 years)	Lauderdale	Michael Spaulding	Long Service (30 years)
	Barry Bones	Long Service (20 years)		Wayne Marshall	National Medal (25 years)
	Mark Klop	Long Service (20 years)		Michael D'alton	National Medal (15 years)
	Mark O'Donnell	Long Service (20 years)	Logistics	Simon Roland	National Medal (15 years)
	Jason Johnson	Long Service (20 years)		Jim Mulder	Long Service (20 years)
	Jason McSherry	Long Service (20 years)		Allan Behrens	National Medal (15 years)
	Craig Chivers	Long Service (20 years)	Magra	Nigel Reid	National Medal (25 years)
	Marty Sloane	Long Service (20 years)		Vern Elphinstone	National Medal (30 years)
	Peter Tavas	Long Service (15 years)		Vern Elphinstone	Long Service (30 years)
	Michael Goldsmith	Long Service (15 years)	Margate	Don Hawley	Long Service (20 years)
	Shane Batt	Long Service (15 years)		Peter Moore	Long Service (15 years)
	Richard Norris	Long Service (10 years)		Stephen Bacon	Long Service (35 years)
	Shane Hutton	Long Service (10 years)	Mt Nelson	Gary Loh	Long Service (20 years)
	John Ling	Long Service (10 years)		Simon U'ren	Long Service (10 years)
	Nancy Gear	Long Service (25 years)		Chris Collins	Long Service (10 years)
Howden	Bruce Moran	Long Service (15 years)	New Norfolk	Colin Triffitt	Long Service (35 years)
	Lisa Shelverton	Long Service (10 years)		Shane Tassell	Long Service (10 years)
	Andrew Shelverton	Long Service (10 years)	Nubeena	Douglas McNeill	Long Service (10 years)
Human Services	Ian Johnston	Long Service (10 years)		Phillip Lusted	Long Service (10 years)
	Fran Ferraro	Long Service (15 years)		Garry Cooper	Long Service (30 years)
Huonville	Robert Hill	National Medal (15 years)		Maree Cooley	Long Service (25 years)
Jericho	James Chivers	Long Service (15 years)		Raymond Mansfield	Long Service (15 years)
Kempton	Richard Lang	Long Service (40 years)		David Tatnell	Long Service (15 years)



Bruce Corbett and Don Mackrill with TFS Volunteer Medal recipients Mark Brazendale, Geoff Kent and Matt Fenton



Hugh Jones and Chris Arnol with National Medal recipients Arthur Edwards and Geoff Kent



Hugh Jones and Chris Arnol with TFS Long Service Badge recipients John Tyrrell, Greg Dare, Geoff Kent and Scott Massie

Awards

Location/Brigade	Name	Award	Location/Brigade	Name	Award
Nubeena	Shane Williams	Long Service (15 years)	Taroona	David Lees	Long Service (25 years)
Ouse	Tom Shoobridge	Long Service (10 years)		Mike Byrn	Long Service (15 years)
Orielton	Wayne McDonald	National Medal (15 years)		Neil Cripps	Long Service (10 years)
Parattah	Gavin Wagner	Long Service (40 years)	Tea Tree	Peter Daft	National Medal (35 years)
	Shane Porter	Long Service (25 years)	Training Services	David Bryan	Long Service (30 years)
	Stephen Lincoln	Long Service (25 years)	Triabunna	William Sullivan	Long Service (35 years)
	Robert Clark	Long Service (15 years)		Max Berry	Long Service (35 years)
	Gordon Clark	Long Service (15 years)		Laurence Cowle	Long Service (35 years)
Queenstown	Brian Mathewson	TFS Volunteer Medal		Charles Hill	Long Service (35 years)
	Jason Clarke	TFS Volunteer Medal		Ian Izzard	Long Service (30 years)
	Jimmy Smith	TFS Volunteer Medal		John Ashlin	Long Service (25 years)
Richmond	Stuart Bailey	National Medal (25 years)		Jason Gibson	Long Service (15 years)
Rokeby	Peter Francis	National Medal (15 years)		William Sullivan	Life Member
Runnymede	Ricky Birch	National Medal (15 years)		John Ashlin	Life Member
Sandfly	Shane Lidster	National Medal (15 years)		Clare Sullivan	TFS Volunteer Medal
	Scott Fairbrother	Long Service (10 years)		Peggy Berry	TFS Volunteer Medal
	Georgina Laing	Long Service (10 years)		Kathleen Webster	TFS Volunteer Medal
	Michael Laing	Long Service (10 years)		Douglas Scott (Dec)	National Medal (35 years)
Snug	Barry Duggan	National Medal (15 years)		Leonard Byers	Long Service (45 years)
	Iain Freeman	Long Service (40 years)		Raymond Miller	Long Service (15 years)
	Garry Clark	Long Service (25 years)	Upper Huon	Bain Talbot	National Medal (25 years)
Southport	Garry Price	National Medal (15 years)	Wattle Hill	Terrence White	National Medal (25 years)
	Garry Price	Long Service (15 years)	Wellington	Michael Hill	National Medal (15 years)
	Charles Staudacker	Long Service (10 years)	Westerway	Stefan Frazik	National Medal (15 years)
	David Hay	Long Service (10 years)	Woodsdale	Wayne Montgomery	National Medal (25 years)
	Wren Fraser	Long Service (10 years)			
State Operations	Danny Reid	Long Service (30 years)			
Summerleas	Scott Finlayson	National Medal (15 years)			
	Anthony Woolley	Long Service (20 years)			



Three Queenstown members were presented with the Volunteer Service Medal at their annual dinner recently. Paddy Buckley and Mathew Buck made the presentation on behalf of the association. Paddy Buckley, Brian Mathewson, Jason Clarke, Jimmy Smith and Mathew Buck



Ian Izzard, Kathleen Webster, Bill Sullivan, Clare Sullivan, Max Berry, Peggy Berry, John Ashlin and Charlie Hill

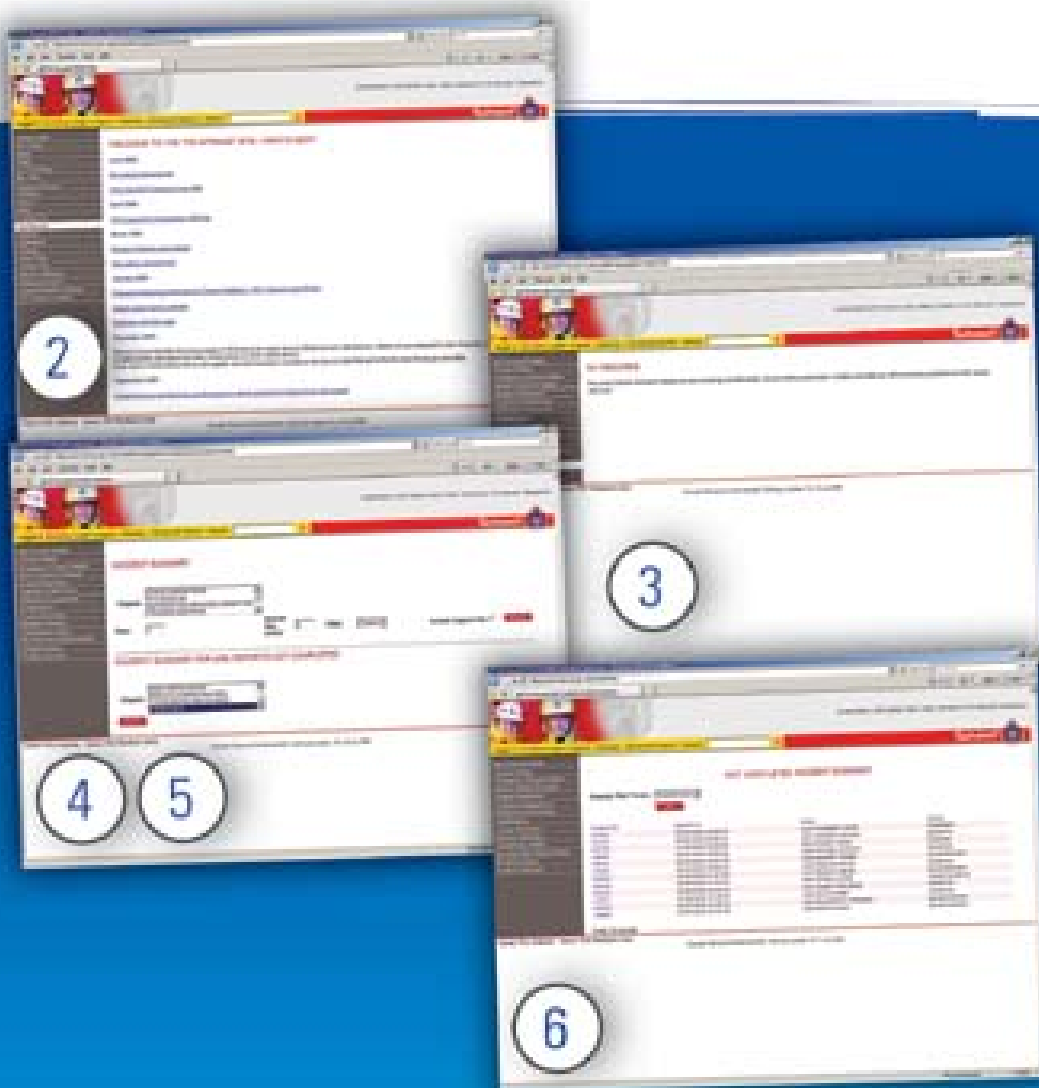


District Officer Gerald Crawford congratulating Firefighter Craig Harback of Bagdad Brigade after presentation of his National Medal



Tasmania Fire Service

TFS ONLINE INCOMPLETE AIRS REPORTS



1. Login to TFS Online using your Username and Password
2. Click on the "My Records" link from menu on the left
3. Click on the "Incident Summary" link from menu on the left
4. Select your brigade name from the list
5. Hit the Search Button, incomplete AIRS reports will be displayed
6. Click any of the incident numbers in blue to see the call log, which can be printed from your browser.

PHOTO GALLERY



Members of New Norfolk (Third Officer Neville Rushworth, Firefighters James Cooper and James Wakefield) assisted Midlands Field Works Officer Paul Horne at a scrub fire at Lake Sorell in January. Photo shows Paul doing some hard manual labour whilst on the beach area at Lake Sorell after the Helicopter dropped several loads of water onto the fire to prevent its spread.

New Norfolk members conducted relay pumping from the lake to the fire area and found that after some pumping that the appliance was bogged and needed to be retrieved using the shovel.

Submitted by Brigade Chief New Norfolk Brigade, Colin Triffitt



"Dare" by name – "dare" by nature! Brigade Chief Andrew Dare of Midway Point trying out a new fire truck!
Photo submitted by Brigade Chief Campania, Robin Howlett



Engineering Service's Quality Assurance Officer Frank Howe playing the bagpipes with the Police Pipe Band at Hobart's 2008 Christmas Pageant

Photo submitted by Senior Firefighter David van Geytenbeek



"The People's Choice Award" at Hobart's 2008 Christmas Pageant
Photo submitted by Senior Firefighter David van Geytenbeek



CPR training – you're never too young to learn! Submitted by Station Officer Devonport Brigade, Ken Russell



Rescue of a different kind! Senior Firefighter David Moir rescuing a dog from the banks of the Tamar River



Can you name these TFS Charity Run participants?
Submitted by TFS Museum Member, Phil Mettam



The historic Oast House on the Lyell Highway just north of New Norfolk. Photographer Firefighter Magra Brigade, Paul McMaster



Grass Tree Hill fire – October 2008
Submitted by Simon Harmsen



Prospect Brigade member James Smith says "a fire would be welcome!"



This group of Amateur Radio operators undertook IMT communications training at Cambridge in December. This was arranged with TFS by WICEN Tasmania (South) Inc. (the amateur radio public service communications group in the south of the state). The purpose of the training was to familiarise the already licensed operators with TFS protocols, systems and procedures.



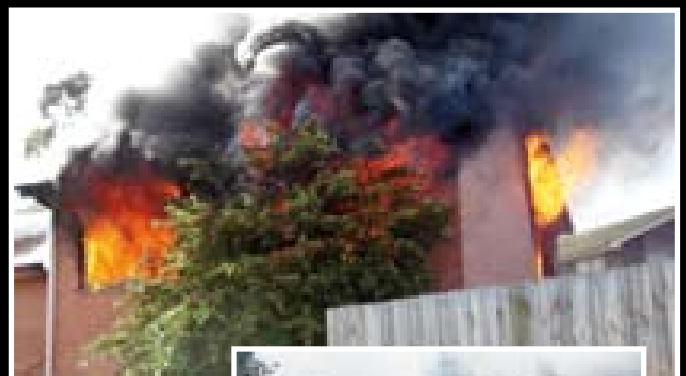
A recent HAZMAT on the Burnie wharf. Driving the forklift is SFF Heath Batten with and SFF Brent Machen. Submitted by Leading Firefighter Burnie Brigade, Shayne Andrews.



Car fire attended by Penguin Brigade. Firefighter Scott Peachey in attendance. Photographer Firefighter Chris Bugeja



Deville Saddle fire at Zeehan mid December was caused by embers from burning wind rows. The fire burnt freely in 3 tenures, State Forest, Private Property and Crown Land at Tikawoppa Plateau. Parks and Forestry worked on the fire from the 22nd until 26th December, and on 27th 4 heavy tankers, 3.1 tankers and a 5.1 unit attended and worked all day extinguishing hot spots. It was a very good effort from all 3 agencies. Submitted by Senior Station Officer Burnie, Rob Deverell



House fire at Gagebrook. Submitted by Station Officer Hobart Brigade, Shane Batt



Unseen commitment

By Coordinator Volunteer Strategy, Lucas van Rijswijk



Back (L-R) Ian McLachlan – Golden Valley, Jason Chilcott - Meander, Kevin Robertson - FO Tamar District
Middle (L-R) Ali Nielander – Golden Valley, Ian Cawthorn DO Tamar District, Ian Payne - Meander, Allan Crosswell - Meander, Erik Bierens – Golden Valley.
Front (L-R) Julie McGregor - Chudleigh, Errol Gleeson Western Tiers Group Officer, Allan Robins – Mole Creek

It was getting dark as we came to Golden Valley. I was travelling with Ian and Kevin to attend my first Group meeting. I was keen to learn more about the work of TFS volunteers and did not know quite what to expect.

In the fading light I could see the beauty of the increasingly rugged landscape. It was not hard to see that fighting a fire in this terrain could be difficult.

We arrived at the Golden Valley Brigade just after the sunset. We got there a little late and copped some good-natured ribbing for it. Errol Gleeson started Western Tiers Group meeting almost straight away. I was struck by the commitment shown by the members. This is one side of the work of the TFS that most people do not see, however, it is vital for the TFS to work effectively.

The agenda was full and detailed. As a 'newbie' I appreciated getting a little insight into the issues that were discussed. It was also good to see the honesty shown when concerns were raised. Issues were discussed with consideration and fairness enabling matters to be resolved quickly.

When the meeting was over I had a chance to chat. It was good to be able to discuss the upcoming NSW Fire Cadet Championships with Julie and Errol. They and Kevin would be supporting the northern team of six young cadets.

The professionalism shown by the brigades in completing their allotted tasks inspired confidence in their abilities.

Members of the Golden Valley Brigade had organised great food and drinks. A special treat for me was meeting three other members of Dutch heritage. It has been a challenge for the TFS to recruit people from more diverse backgrounds, however, Golden Valley is clearly an exception.

It was getting late when the group broke up. Driving back to Launceston on winding roads was interesting. Some wallabies seemed to have suicidal instincts. We discussed what we had learned at the meeting and what needed to be done to follow-up the decisions. Ian and Kevin remarked at how impressed they had been with the work of the brigades in the group during past fires. The professionalism shown by the brigades in completing their allotted tasks inspired confidence in their abilities.

We arrived back in Launceston at about 10.30 pm after a long day on the road. It had been a good day and I had learned a lot about the work and commitment of TFS members. **LvR**



Our cadets shine

By Coordinator Volunteer Strategy, Lucas van Rijswijk

It was finally happening. At last we were waiting at the airport to fly to Sydney. Months of planning, training and anticipation were coming to an end. Would everyone turn up on time? Would anything go wrong?

Turn the clock back to late 2008. We had received an invitation from the Rural Fire Service in New South Wales to send three teams of young people to the 2009 National Fire Cadet Championships. How would the TFS respond to the request? Our Junior and Cadet people were enthusiastic. Fortunately this enthusiasm was matched by our TFS leadership. While cautious about the cost everyone agreed that this would be a wonderful opportunity to challenge and develop our cadets.

Soon approval had been given and Paul Hill, Kevin Robertson and David McGuinness were appointed as regional team managers. Recruitment could now begin. In their written applications, young people had to respond to five criteria. Their answers, and the views of people who knew them, guided the selection of the regional team members. Many excellent applications were received and it was really hard to select only a few.

The young members who represented the TFS and their regions were:

North-West Region	Northern Region	Southern Region
Jessica Bengé	Justin Barnett	Joshua Arnold
David Charleston	Sarah Casey	Sheraleigh Berry
Anthony Franklin	Amy Cash	Georga Brennan
Cullen Mc Grail	Bradley Du Sautoy	Tyla Cantlay
Lauren Maney	David Monson	Katie Hill
Emma Richards	Joshua Wright	Nicholas Langford

Once team members were selected the work started in earnest. Tania Parry in the North West, Errol Gleeson and Julie McGregor in the North, and Kellie Willits in the South also worked with their teams to organise practices and training events. As you would expect there were uniforms to organise, kit to be sourced, flights to be arranged and a myriad of other things to do. Our people responded to all the challenges and made it all happen.

Now the day was finally here. Our cadets were taking it all in their stride. We all had a great time in NSW. Despite the unfamiliar NSW equipment, each team worked well together and performed well in the events. These events included a range of firefighting activities and well as challenging leadership and problem-solving activities.

It was great to watch our young people working together. Despite the often hot and unfamiliar conditions they remembered to talk to each other and to help other team members. In the events, the team



Delegation of tasks and providing support when needed are both hallmarks of effective leadership.

Leaders were marked up or down depending on how well they delegated their tasks and provided support where needed. Delegation of tasks and providing support when needed are both hallmarks of effective leadership. People from other states commented favourably on the leadership and team skills displayed by our members.

At the presentation ceremony the cadets each received a medal for their involvement in the events.

Cadets also went ten-pin bowling and visited the Fire Museum. Some also went sight seeing including the harbour bridge and the Sydney Opera House.

Everyone had a great time and learned a lot about themselves and each other. The TFS is very proud of how our cadets represented their state and the way they performed in the events. **LVR**





Ulverstone Brigade celebrates 100 years

By District Officer Paul Hill

This year the Ulverstone Fire Brigade is celebrating its 100th birthday. In recognition of this the Apex Club of Ulverstone dedicated the Christmas Parade to the brigade. The Apex Club, organisers of the annual parade, also encouraged other floats and entries to promote the profile of the fire service and deliver fire safety messages which most organisations and clubs did.

Approximately 36 fire appliances and 100 fire service related people were on parade coming from brigades along the North West coast from Burnie to Sassafras and as far inland as Wilmot and Kimberly along with three museum trucks (there were far too many brigades to list them all). Two interesting trucks were two snorkels. One was the first one ever commissioned in the southern hemisphere and the other possibly the newest in the southern hemisphere.

The Apex Club also created a new prize for the best presented fire truck especially for the occasion. I would hate to have been the judge. It was obvious that the brigades had applied gallons of polish to the trucks (approximately 4.5 litres to the gallon for our younger members). The way the trucks were presented with extra effort from some with unique styles of Christmas decorations were a credit to the brigades. The winning truck judged by Apex was an entry from the Museum Brigade being the 1968 Dennis originally allocated to Burnie Brigade. The weather on the day was atrocious with the Devonport Parade being postponed. But that did not dampen the spirits of the Ulverstone community who turned out in droves to be stunned by the spectacle of the main street completely full of fire trucks from the clock down to the river. This was a magnificent display of unity and strength within our fire service.

Congratulations to the Ulverstone Brigade and many thanks to the numerous brigades that participated.



One night with the Howden Brigade – elections and training

By Coordinator Volunteer Strategy, Lucas van Rijswijk

When District Officer Rod Sherrin suggested that I visit a brigade with him I leapt at the chance. In my role I help to develop policies and tools to support volunteer brigades. I'd already visited a number of brigades in the north of the state and this visit would give me a chance to learn a bit more. Importantly, the Howden Brigade was holding elections on the night and I would learn a lot by seeing this for myself.

When we arrived most of the members were already doing small tasks around the station. There was a slight air of nervous expectation. It was not a usual night and it was a little unsettling.

After introductions by the Brigade Chief, Rod was asked to take over the meeting and to act as Returning Officer. It was sobering to see the seriousness with which people reflected on their choices. It was also good to see the confidence and seriousness with which Rod carried out his role on behalf of the brigade. The honesty and fairness in which the elections were carried out would potentially have a great impact on the perceived integrity of the formal leadership of the brigade.

In a surprisingly short space of time the elections were over, the position declared, the previous officers thanked and the newly elected officers congratulated. The business of the brigade could continue.



It was good to see the confidence with which the tasks were accomplished and how team members reminded each other of potential safety risks.

The new Brigade Chief and Officers worked with their members to set a range of tasks. I went with a small group to practice drafting by pumping water from one domestic water tank to another. It was good to see the confidence with which the tasks were accomplished and how team members reminded each other of potential safety risks.

The session was soon over. The brigade had some new members in its formal leadership roles but it was still carrying out 'business as usual'. The effectiveness of the brigade is clearly also dependent on the skills with which brigade members carry out their roles, how they communicate and how well they work together.

I went home with an even greater appreciation of the commitment of our people. **LvR**

Leadership training for TFS volunteers

By AFAC Manager Communications, Jay Gleeson

TFS volunteers Mark Lillico and Craig Hughes have recently completed a National Volunteer Leaders Program at the Australian Institute of Police Management (AIPM) in Manly NSW.

The Volunteer Leaders Program is a five day intensive program developed by the AFAC, which aims to develop the leadership potential within the volunteer services so that leaders and organisations are better prepared for future challenges and changes.

This program is designed for current and emerging leaders of Volunteer Emergency Services and Associations and focuses on developing leadership capabilities, extending industry knowledge and forming strategic alliances.

This is achieved through a range of activities which includes examining leadership issues and leadership styles, exploring corporate governance roles and responsibilities, studying different personality profiles, strengthening personal effectiveness and building professional networks.

Through a range of activities including team building exercises, role plays, class room exercises and practical examples, participants learn not just how to be more effective leaders but how to be better team members.

Mark and Craig's position in the program was sponsored by funds raised by the Dulux and Bunnings paint promotion that ran in Bunnings stores nationally through January and February. **JG**



National Volunteer Leaders Program Team Members



For more information on the Leadership Program contact Jay Gleeson, AFAC Manager Communications
Phone: 03 9419 2388 Email: jay.gleeson@afac.com.au

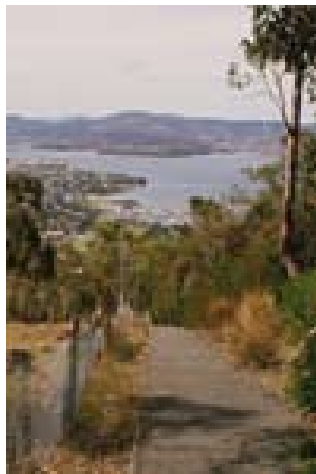
CONQUER the isle

The 2010 Australasian Police and Emergency Services Games schedule is now complete. Every endeavour has been made to ensure that participants can get full value during the games, in their chosen sport. For example, Soccer (Indoor) leads into Soccer (Field) later in the week. The shooting related disciplines fire over the full seven days. The triathlon and running sports have all allowed for a period of recovery between the events so that you can cross the finish line in full stride. The 2010 Games team is also acutely aware of the expense of attending and has made every effort to ensure that the entry fee is the same as at the 2008 Games and we can advise that in over a quarter of all the events offered the fee is less than charged in 2008.

If the schedule and the cost still has not fired your starting pistol, the festival feel, comfortable starting times and social calendar just might. Starting with the opening ceremony, one of Tasmania's premier event organisers is preparing a proposal which should make it a night to remember for all and concluding with the closing band night at Wrest Point featuring Tassie's best local band the "Pumpkin Heads".

All venues are competitor, family and spectator friendly. The majority of venues are licensed and have seated and shaded viewing areas or are located near beaches and parks. The opportunity exists to get along and support your mates during down times and also see some of Hobart at the same time. If you study the schedule closely you will notice a number of sports have been grouped together to create an exciting and competitive atmosphere.

Wrest Point Casino has recently opened their new Onyx Bar, or the 'Games Bar'. Relax in the most exciting and contemporary



Mt Nelson Stairs being the site of the "Stair Race"

surroundings with spectacular views overlooking the Derwent River. The bar is the perfect fit for after-games, pre-or post-dinner drinks or simply a relaxed night out with other competitors. All results will be displayed electronically at this venue.

The Games organisers and social committee are also meeting regularly to ensure your evenings are filled with sports and social events. Visit www.apandesgames.com regularly to keep up to date with the games social scene.

Some of the more festive type of sporting events will include, Indoor Rowing on the social calendar? You bet. Four Concept II rowing machines linked via a USB hub to a big screen. Four boats are pictured on the screen with competitors in four lanes rowing over 1000m.

Cheer your mates over the line at Wrest Point with a private bar. This event takes place Thursday evening at 6pm.

'Tug of War on the Green', Friday 26th February, will take place at the Police Academy, Rokeby. State against state, agency against agency with bragging rights and gold up for grabs. This will be one event not to be missed, with transport to and from the venue available from the city. A great social afternoon for participants and spectators alike is planned.

So as you can see things are starting to take shape so get on-line, register and be part of the largest multi sporting event ever to be held in Tasmania and 'Conquer the Isle' at the Australasian Police & Emergency Services Games in Hobart between 20-27 February 2010.

Mark Beech-Jones
Games Director

Cambridge Family Day

By Second Officer, Mark Brazendale

On Sunday 22nd March, the Cambridge Brigade held its annual Presentation and Family Day followed by a well catered lunch. The event was very well attended by brigade members along with family, friends and invited guests Deputy Regional Chief Chris Arnol, District Officer Hugh Jones and Field Officer Mark Klop as well as Bruce Corbett and Don Mackrill from the Tasmanian Retained Volunteer Firefighters Association.

The main purpose of the event was to make numerous presentations to seven Brigade members, being formal awards and Brigade life membership.

- National Medal – 15 years service: Arthur Edwards and Geoff Kent
- TFS Volunteer Medal: awarded to Geoff Kent, Mark Brazendale and Matthew Fenton
- 35 year TFS Long Service Badge: awarded to John Tyrell
- 30 year TFS Long Service Badge: awarded to Greg Dare
- 10 year TFS Long Service Badge: awarded to Scott Massie
- Cambridge Brigade Life Membership: awarded to Mark Brazendale, Matthew Fenton and Arthur Edwards

Thank you to all guests for giving up their personal time on a Sunday to attend this special event, it is greatly appreciated. **MB** See photos on Awards page (Ed.)

Roland Group adopts the Volunteer Recruitment Toolkit

By Coordinator Volunteer Strategy, Lucas van Rijswijk



It was a warm night in February when District Officer Paul Hill and I arrived at Sheffield Brigade for a gathering of representatives from the brigades in the Roland Group.

As always I was impressed by the commitment shown by our volunteers to make the time available for these meetings. After the usual round of greetings and a bit of good-natured 'joshing' the meeting got underway.

I'd been invited to help to 'unpack' the workings of the new Volunteer Recruitment Toolkit.

As always, you get the best results if you know how to use a tool properly. This 'Toolkit' is no different. It can help brigades to better understand their recruitment needs and to plan more effective recruitment campaigns. The toolkit has been built from the experience of successful brigades. It pays to build on the work of successful teams.

The Volunteer Recruitment Toolkit has a number of sections that 'talk' the brigade members through the steps needed for effective recruitment. It helps you to identify the kind of volunteers you need by looking beyond what you currently do and thinking about a variety of places you can get more recruits.

Importantly, the kit encourages a brigade to plan its campaign carefully. Recruitment drives, like any other campaigns will fail if the purpose is not clear, the tasks are not well planned and people do not know what they are expected to do.

During the session we looked at how the kit worked and the resources that came with it. The large banner and flags looked impressive. The posters, pamphlets and contact cards will help to make your recruitment look professional and 'stand out' from the crowd.

The Group's brigade representatives shared their experiences and looked at ways of working together. It was agreed that recruitment would be far more effective if brigades in the group helped each other.

All too soon the meeting was over and it was time to head off. It was pleasing to see how the shared experiences of the brigade members helped them to see so many new ways in which the toolkit could be used.

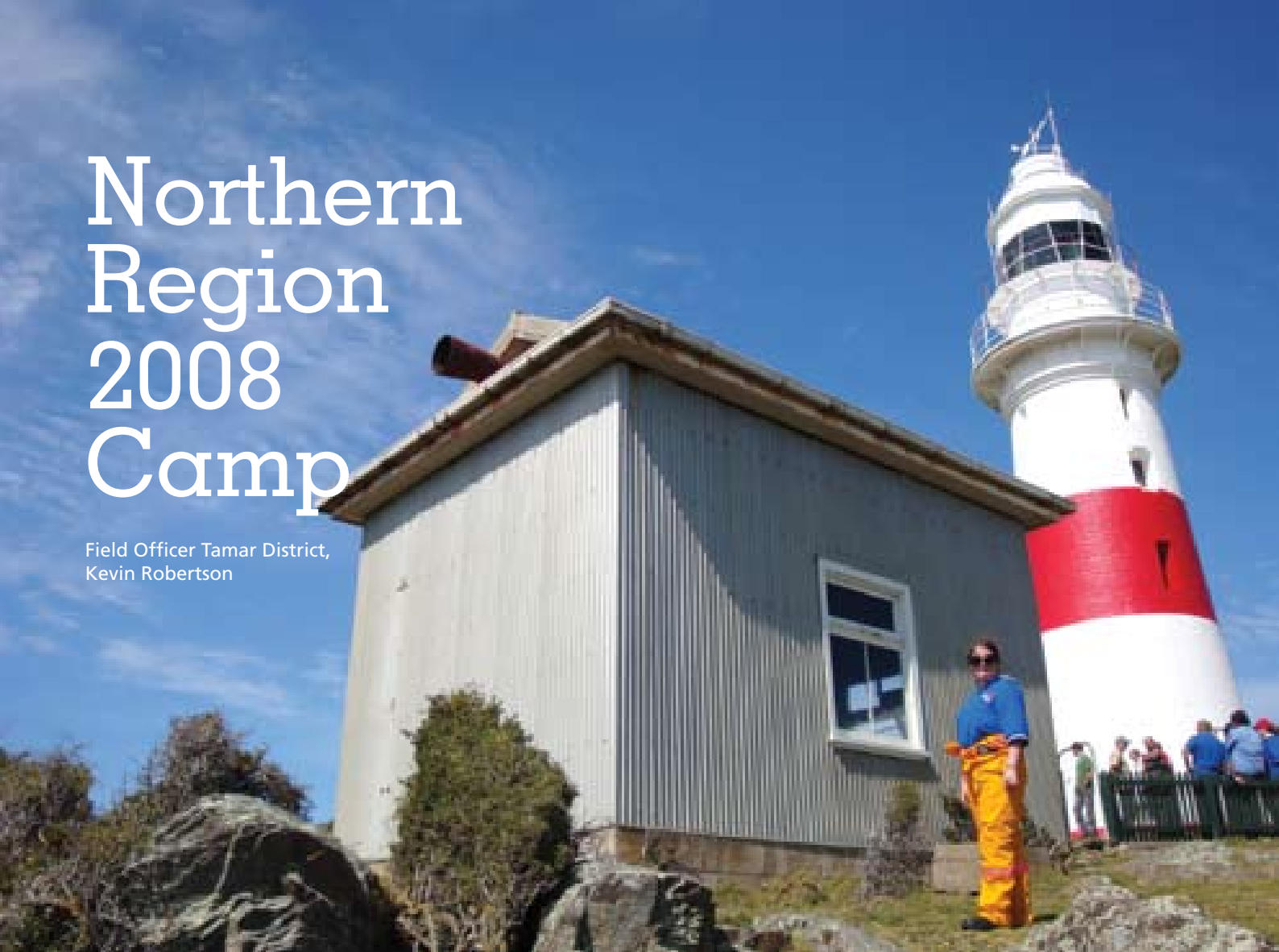
Have you used your Volunteer Recruitment Toolkit yet? If not, why not contact your District Officer and arrange for your Group to be introduced to the Toolkit too? **LvR**

Have you used your Volunteer Recruitment Toolkit yet?

If not, why not contact your District Officer and arrange for your Group to be introduced to the Toolkit too?

Northern Region 2008 Camp

Field Officer Tamar District,
Kevin Robertson



The 2008 Northern Region Junior Firefighters Weekend Development Camp was held over the weekend of 11th and 12th October.

Forty junior firefighters and fourteen adult leaders assembled at the Northern Region Headquarters at Youngtown at 0830 hours on Saturday 11th October. After registration and a briefing the juniors were loaded into nine TFS Canters and were on the road by 0900 hours.

The first stop of a very full and busy weekend was the Launceston Brigade where 'C' shift were on duty. They had organised a series of interesting demonstrations for the juniors. Some of the 'very lucky' juniors were harnessed into the cage of the snorkel and given a short ride. 'A Day in the Life of a Firefighter' was the theme of an information session given in the lecture room while a comprehensive 'show and tell' talk was given on the heavy pumpers and the various rescue gear that is carried on them in the appliance room.

After handing out morning tea packs it was back into the Canters and off to Bell Bay. We arrived a little late at the Bell Bay Power Station due to the road works on the East Tamar Highway and also due to limited female toilet facilities at Launceston Brigade.

Barry Benfell had organised his staff to provide a very informative and interesting tour through the Bell Bay Power station. The station was previously run on oil but has now been

converted and is now fired by gas. We left the power station and headed to the George Town Fire Station where the volunteer firefighters had our BBQ lunch cooked and ready for us.

After refuelling on food we returned to Bell Bay and went to the Australian Maritime College Fire Training Centre. Here we were met by two well known ex TFS Station Officers, Gary Baylis and Steve Barnes. The juniors were given an excellent demonstration on fat fires, gas fires and foam production. This was the highlight of the weekend for many of the juniors with them coming away with a lot of knowledge on what to expect when confronted by these types of fires.

We arrived at Stoney Head Army Camp mid afternoon and after settling in and briefing everyone on the camp rules it was off to a nearby paddock for a cricket match. The juniors were split into four teams with the two winners playing off in a final.

What is always seen by many as one of the great moments of past junior camps is when they all sit down to a huge roast meal for dinner followed by a sumptuous dessert. This year it was no different!

At night the juniors stayed in their truck groupings and were given a range of team building and fun activities to complete. A magnificent supper was served at the completion of these activities then it was off to bed – for some at least!

Sunday dawned a little foggy but unusually hot for the time of year. After a hot cooked breakfast, cleaning out the sleeping



'A Day in the Life of a Firefighter' was the theme of an information session given

quarters and packing the bags it was off to the training area. There were five different exercises set up with the five groups rotating through them over a period of 3 ½ hours. They included pumping / relay pumping, obstacle course water relay, firefighter's football, novelty golf game and an area that was to be burnt off – this was a theory event only with the groups walking the ground and coming up with the solution of how they would tackle it.

We departed Stoney Head Army Camp at 1400 hours and drove via Beechford to Low Head where we had a tour and demonstration of the Low Head Lighthouse Fog Horn. Due to time constraints we had to bypass the tour and head back to Youngtown where we arrived right on time.

I would really like to thank the adults who gave up their weekend to help make the camp the success it was. A very special thank you goes to the Ager family for organising and doing all of the cooking for the weekend – thanks just doesn't seem enough for what they did. **KR**



Bushfire CRC - "Fit for duty"

Project: Work demands for tanker based bushfire suppression

By TFS Project Coordinator, Station Officer Neil Brooksbank

Overview:

The Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) brings together researchers from universities, CSIRO, other government organisations and private industry or public sector agencies in long-term collaborative arrangements that support research and development and education activities to achieve real outcomes of national economic and social significance.

The program emphasises the importance of developing collaborative arrangements between researchers and research users in the private and public sector.

The Bushfire CRC proposes conducting research into the work patterns of Tasmanian Firefighters during simulated fire ground scenarios.

In early September I found myself in the wrong place at the wrong time and was caught by the Acting Deputy Chief Tony Davidson and was asked if I would be interested in undertaking a small project, sure boss I will have to move a few things around and alter my diary but I think I can fit it in. After some initial briefings and information gathering sessions I was soon up to speed with what was required, a group researchers from Deakin University Dr Brad Aisbett, Dr Kevin Netto and PHD students Mathew Phillips and Jenni Rains along with other students would like to come to Tasmania and undertake research on behalf of the CRC, how hard could this be to coordinate well, approximately 60 TFS, Parks and Forestry personnel ranging from operations, field staff, fire suppression crews, remote area teams, training, admin and 40 appliances from all over the State were involved at various stages in the capture of research along with 20 personnel from Deakin University who were undertaking the research on behalf of the CRC project.

To enable this to occur suitable dates and venues were selected in October 2008 that would allow the CRC research team to fly into Tasmania and undertake the research, as we are all aware we have no control over the weather, some butterflies and as a result dates had to be adjusted and crews stood up and down at short notice, thanks for the flexibility.

Fire crews acting as strike teams working from heavy, medium and light tankers were fitted with monitors that will measure heart rate, core temperature, location etc, once established they received work assignments similar to those received whilst conducting fire suppression activities at campaign fires, crews were briefed and then deployed to the fire ground and were expected to complete a five hour shift.

Due to luck and good management, or the fact that we were exposed to a couple of fires at Thumbs Creek Buckland and Fourteen Turn Creek Road Grove and a hazard reduction at Anson's Bay near St Helens we were able to capture research data from the crews involved undertaking real time fire suppression activities and simulations were kept to a minimum, this excited the CRC team as the majority of them had not been exposed to this type of activity.

Project objectives:

Evaluating the physical exertion experienced whilst conducting specific fire ground tasks will assist AFAC agencies in developing minimum firefighter fitness levels required for each task and help them staying fit for duty. Measure the physical exertion required to perform:

- Construction of a mineral earth handline;
- Knocking down a fire edge;
- Blackening out a fire edge;
- Securing a safe area;
- Working from support appliances;
- Patrolling and mopping up;
- Emergency burn over procedures.

The specifics of each scenario were dependent on the topography of the area, the resources available, the level of input from selected personnel and most importantly the weather conditions.

Project Scope:

- Selecting suitable venues from each region that will reflect similar conditions to ones found at a campaign fire;
- Selecting suitable crews will to commit to the project over weekends and five hours of fire suppression;
- Providing suitable appliances and equipment;
- Ensuring all logistics requirements of the research team are met;
- Provide the financial support for the research to occur in Tasmania.

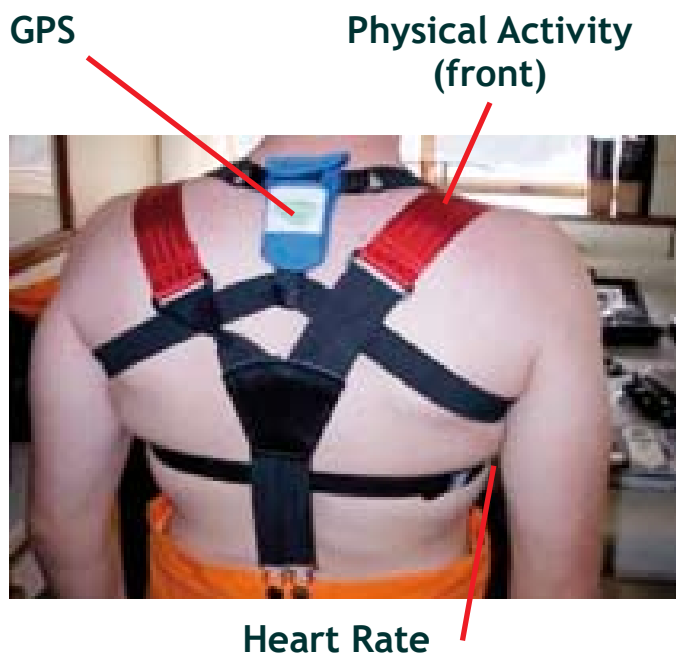
Measurements:

- Anthropometric (weight, height, age, gender, rank and firefighting experience)
- Video analysis
- Heart rate
- Activity/net movement
- Global positioning system, speed and distance
- Core/skin temperature

Process:

Selecting suitable candidates and fitting them with monitors similar to what is used by AFL players that capture the above, this is supported by documentation that is used to capture how the candidate feels, how much exertion was applied to the task and capturing video imagery of each task.

The success of this project is not due to the hard work of myself it is due to the commitment of the crews who were flexible and able to commit their valuable time to undertaking the research, the



support crews who undertook the roles of mentors and safety observers, information gatherers, logistics support and the ability of all personnel from TFS, Parks and Forestry (MAC Group) to work together and achieve the task set at a high standard.

I would like to thank all involved especially those who offered their time in the initial stages, however, were stood up and down and the support given to me by all in undertaking the role of TFS project coordinator. **NB**

Regional Conferences 2009

North West

27 June 2009 Burnie Civic Centre

North

28 June 2009 Inveresk Tramsheds

South

11 July 2009 Citywide Baptist Church

Attendance is open to all members!

The Australasian Fire Brigade Bowls Championships

The Australasian Fire Brigade Bowls Championships will be held at the Warilla Bowls Club NSW from 1st November 2009 to 7th November 2009. Teams from Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and New Zealand will be competing.

So far there are 39 members going to compete in the Fours, Pairs and Singles Championships. The program for the Carnival is as follows:

Welcome Dinner on Sunday 1st November

Start bowling on Monday 2nd November with the Fours

Tuesday is a lay day due to the Melbourne Cup (Party Day)

Wednesday 4th November is Pairs

Thursday 5th November is Singles

You can enter one or all of these events

They will also be holding a Ladies Bowling day for any Ladies interested

If you are lucky enough to make the finals they are on Friday 6th November (Semi Finals) and Saturday 7th November is the Grand Final

Followed by Closing Dinner

Cost - Carnival Fees \$200 for Men and \$150 for Ladies

Plus airfares and accommodation

To become a member of the Tasmania Fire Service Bowls Club is \$10

Anybody and their partners can join

Volunteer or permanent Members of the TFS are more than welcome to attend both the Carnival and our AGM at the Franklin Bowls Club on 28th June starting at 1.00 pm.

If you would like to attend either of these events please contact me for more info.

David Johns

Secretary - TFS Bowls Club

Email: djohns@stepstas.com.au

Mobile: 0427663357

3427 Huon Highway

Franklin TAS 7113

Movember Madness!

By Firefighter Old Beach Brigade, Phil Owen

The Movember Foundation is a national, not for profit, charitable organisation that runs the Movember event each year.

The Movember event raises awareness around men's health issues and funds for carefully selected beneficiary partners that are also charitable organisations, with a focus on prostate cancer and depression in men.

Since its inception as a formal charity in 2004 Movember has raised over \$30 million globally, significantly increased awareness of prostate cancer and depression in the community, and is continuously working to change the attitude men have about their health.

It has been a big month and I managed to raise \$1031.55. That is to be matched by my employer Dexux Property Group, therefore that's over 2 grand. Thanks to the generosity of many and fortunately I had a few "brushes with fame" (part of the Movember hype) along the way. Boony obliged with a photo opportunity as did Lord Mayor of Hobart, Rob Valentine. This all helped me keep the fund raising effort alive through the month with updates (sending out begging emails doesn't work).

The dunking machine at the Old Beach fun day tipped in \$110 which was good. The proof is attached. Old Beach Brigade also participated in the Old Beach Fun Day, besides a display, we were able to organise the generous loan of the Rotor Lift helicopter simulator (with pilots) as an attraction and fundraiser for the juniors. **PO**



Who could resist dunking Phil?

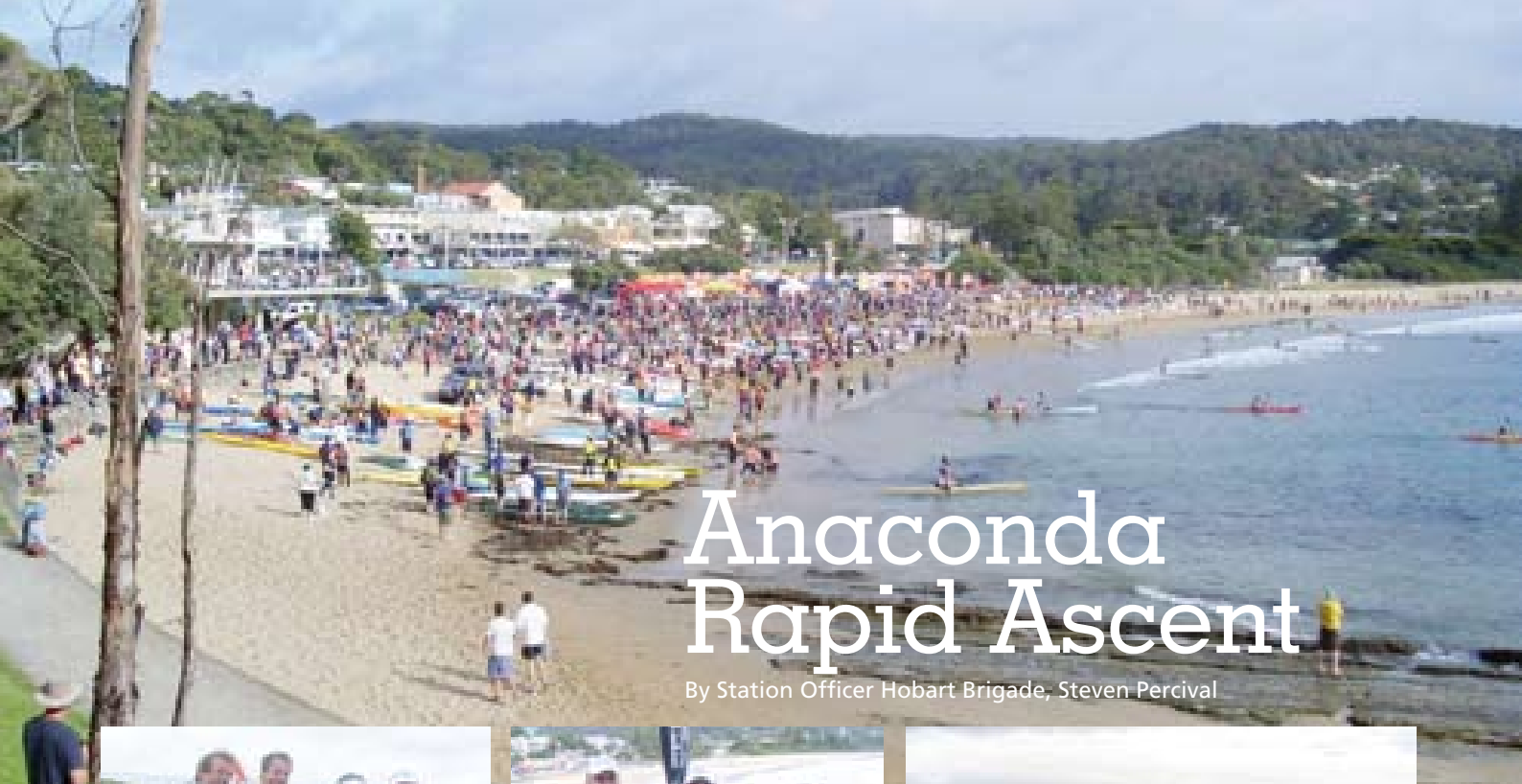


Sorry Phil - Boony's moey is bigger than yours!



... and so is Rob Valentine's!





Anaconda Rapid Ascent

By Station Officer Hobart Brigade, Steven Percival



On 7th December three HFB firefighters from "A" shift competed at Lorne in Victoria in the Anaconda Rapid Ascent.

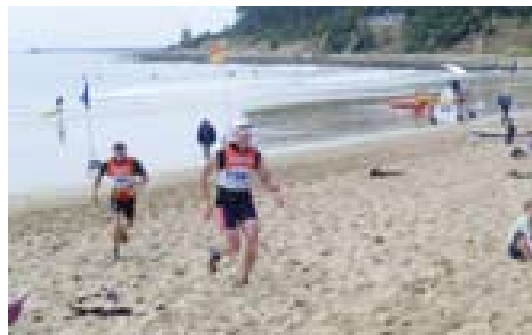
The event was over five legs 1.9 km swim, 14 km ocean paddle, 14 km bush run, 24 km mountain bike and then a final 1.5 km team beach run to the finish line all this in under five hours.

HFB was represented by Adrian Petrie (swim and paddle) and Sean Mennitz (run and bike) who competed in the two person open section, Steve Percival (run and bike) teamed with Don Marsh local surf icon (swim and paddle) and entered the over 40 veteran section.

The race had 1100 competitors made up of 433 teams and individuals compared to Freycinet with 131, so it was a very big field compared to local events and a great way to test our competitive nature.

Whilst we were competing in our relevant categories there was our own HFB race for bragging rights, after the swim Don had a 90 second lead over Ace but he wore this lead down and turned the tables to come off the ski leg with just under four minutes to spare. The ski leg was a triangular course where paddlers had to contend with the surf after the first lap and round a flag just a few metres off shore this caused many to flip over.

Sean had a strong run and was not sighted until the last kilometres on the beach where we finished within three seconds of each other, the run was tough with the first and last 3 kms on beach and rocks, at the end of the beach section was a 20 metre river swim this had to be done also on the return leg with such a close finish in the run we both left transition only seconds apart.



The mountain bike climbed into the Otways National Park and had some scary descents none worse than the last which was a short extremely steep section that saw a number of riders crash, the last few kms were along the beach and again a number had difficulty with the soft sand and slippery rocks, after a quick racking of the bikes we ran the beach to the finish line.

After four hours and forty five minutes we had held on for a two and a half minute win, we achieved 20th and 22nd outright and 2nd and 6th in our divisions. It was only after the race that we found we were knocked out of first place by a four person team.

The times we produced would have seen us achieve second in the corporate section so maybe next year we can send one or more teams to compete. All TFS competitors competed in our new TFS sportswear, this certainly catches the eye and is great publicity for our service and those that are proud to represent it. This summer we have others competing in triathlons, mountain bike races and the summer survival so get out there and be active. **SP**



Securing the Future of Small Museums

By Museum Manager, Sue Atkinson

"Mr June" presenting a cheque to nurses of the Royal Hobart Hospitals Burns Unit

The old Woodsdale School belongs to the TFS and in 2005 The Levendale and Woodsdale History Rooms group applied and received a 20 year lease to turn the old school into a museum.

In 2008 our group was successful in acquiring a grant of \$44,250 from the Tasmanian Community Fund to establish a Sheep Shearing Interpretation Shed and a Men's/Farm Shed out at the Woodsdale Museum property. This idea came about when our history group were looking at ways to secure the future of the museum, as many of the members were aged 60 and over and we needed younger members to come on board.

Woodsdale and Levendale is smack bang in the middle of sheep and cattle country between the Tasman Highway and Oatlands in Tasmania. The closest shop is 35 kms, no public transport and a small primary school with a population of 15 students, two churches, two halls and the old Woodsdale School which is now the museum that opened its doors in November 2006.

The younger farmers are passionate about their farms and especially their sheep. So an idea was born to approach these young farmers about coming on board to promote their wool industry through the museum. This then brought in four new members in their 30s and as they set to work on designing a Sheep Shearing Interpretation Shed I applied for another grant through the Tasmanian Community Fund as we had already

received a previous grant from them for \$33,000 in 2005 to restore the old Woodsdale School.

The sheds were built late last year and during the Christmas holidays the museum was a height of activity with history members and volunteers of the areas coming together to fit out the sheds ready for the official opening on 8th February 2009. While all this was happening there was a buzz of excitement in the air as more volunteers came along to lend a hand not only in the shearing shed but also in the Men's/Farm shed. New objects were being donated and stories were being told.

These new members also came up with an idea to raise money to establish the sheds with a shearer's calendar called "Bare Bellies, Butts & All". So the local shearers got their clothes off for a good cause to not only raise money for the museum but for the Royal Hobart Hospitals Burns Unit. "Mr June" was able to hand over a cheque on the opening day to the nurses. This was also great publicity for our museum and to highlight the wool industry.

This venture not only brought in new younger members but also the retired men of the area wanting to be part of the new developments. Our membership when the history group was formed in 2004 was 12 and before the sheds were built we had 20 members, now we can boast that we have 38 members and our youngest is a 22 year old who is currently doing a TAFE wool classing certificate and is passionate about the wool industry.

The 1860 part of the shearing shed



These new members also came up with an idea to raise money to establish the sheds with a shearer's calendar called "Bare Bellies, Butts & All".

The opening of the sheds was a great success with a range of activities happening throughout the day including shearing demonstrations with blades and machines, dog trials, billy tea and damper making, cross cut saw challenges, woollen clothing fashion parade, post and rail fencing and wool handling demonstrations. The Southern Midlands Mayor opened the sheds and one federal and five local politicians, National Trust, Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery, Heritage Tasmania, Arts Tasmania employees and just over 300 visitors attended. The Sheep Shearing Interpretation Shed shows the history of the shearing industry from the 1860s complete with the Ghost of Woodsdale in the old section to the present day with video footage of a local shearing shed, to hands on activities for the children.

These new developments have not only brought in new younger members and locals, but has changed the whole dynamics of the museum into three areas which complement each other. The new members have been busy including their shed's activities into the School Group Program that we also run through the museum. Our Sheep Shearing Interpretation Shed is the only one in Tasmania. So for a small volunteer-run museum in the middle of the country we have managed to increase our numbers, secure the museum's future and highlight the wonderful skills of this small community of approximately 150 people. **SA**



Obituary



Thomas Edward (Ted) Hinds 8 July 1946 – 21 December 2008

Ted Hinds joined Hobart Brigade as a firefighter on 20th December 1967 and reached the rank of Senior Station Officer.

During his TFS career Ted performed many roles including aerial appliance instructor, fire investigator, recruit course manager, breathing apparatus instructor, and driving instructor.

After fifteen years Ted left the TFS and moved to Queensland for a short period, returning in 1983 working in Southern Region Country and Training Division. In 1992 Ted transferred to Fire Safety as it was then known, and remained there until his resignation.

Ted certainly enjoyed a bit of fun both at work and off duty. He played both indoor and outdoor cricket, golf, billiards, snooker and badminton. He had quick hands and a great eye, taking great delight in catching the unwary when playing eight ball, cleaning up the table without missing a ball especially after he had let his opponent get to the black.

Ted loved music. He was also a member of a "Firies Band" and one of his favourite songs Billy Field's "Bad habits" was chosen for his service.

On behalf of his former TFS colleagues we are proud to say that Ted was a mentor, friend and team mate and we miss him.

Deepest sympathy to Margaret and all the family.



Barry Bones organised a wonderful Fire & Ambulance Christmas party held at Glenorchy Station. The weather was great and it was a beautiful day.

Santa made a visit much to the delight of approximately 200 adults and children.

The go karts, mini golf, merry go round, swings and jumping castle were a hit, as was the face painting! "Make Believe Children's Entertainment" patiently and painstakingly painted the faces of many happy children. Thanks Barry and crew – it was a fantastic day!



Christmas around the State

Photographer Senior Firefighter Warren Frey



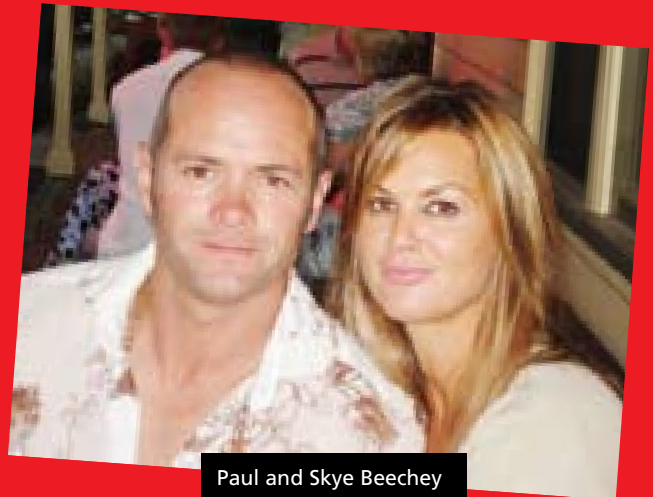


Christmas around the State

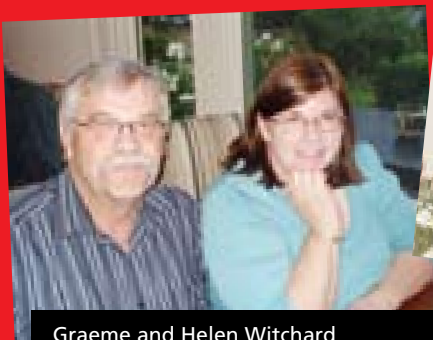
Northern region staff and partners went to Joseph Croney's vineyard for a lovely evening on Saturday 20 December 2008. It was a very enjoyable night considering an hour before it started there was a very large thunder storm.



Karina Lowe and Shannon Airey



Paul and Skye Beechey



Graeme and Helen Witchard



Cindy and Andrew Comer



John and Sandra Hazzlewood

The Northern Region Christmas Function was held on Tuesday 23 December, commencing with 22 staff participating in bacon & eggs and caramelised chipolates (secret recipe from Lauren). During the morning everyone chipped in and assisted Carol with the preparation of a hot traditional style luncheon, there were carrot cutters, potato peelers, turkey slicers, you name it Carol told her little helpers to do it.

At 1230 44 Northern Region staff members, including SES staff sat down to seafood cocktail or beef stroganoff for entrée, followed by main course of turkey, pork and ham, with all the trimmings. Dessert was plum pudding and custard, pavlova and fresh fruit salad.

Santa visited all participants and gave everyone a pressie – they must have been good all year!

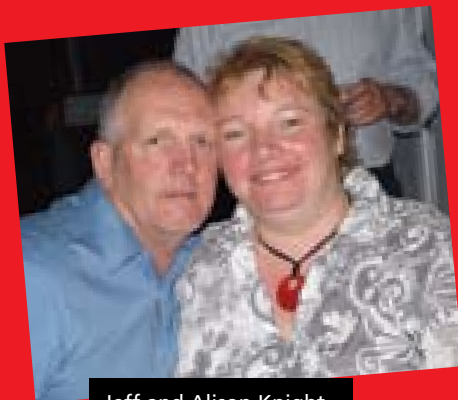


Jess (Santa's helper) and Santa of course was Paul Beechey (Training Officer)



Carol (leader of the pack)

TFS Headquarters' Christmas function was at Woodstock in South Hobart and was well attended by southern staff.



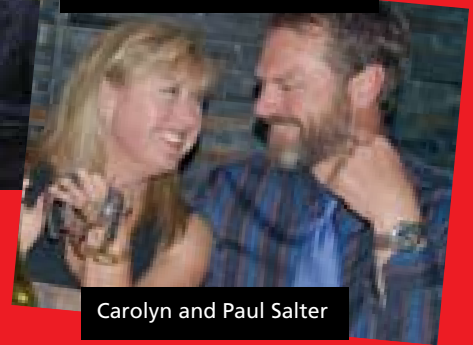
Jeff and Alison Knight



Jess Brown, Linda Lacy, Joanne van Geytenbeek and Cathy JohnsonKnight



Gemma Locke and Kylie Slyp



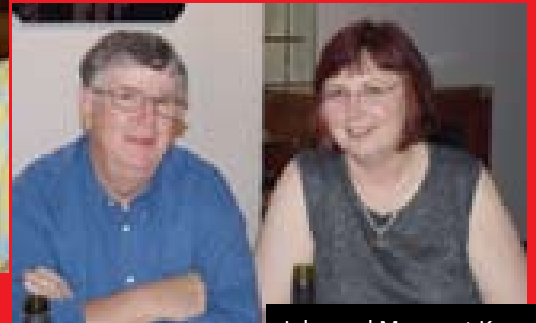
Carolyn and Paul Salter



Joanne and David van Geytenbeek



Suzanne and Richard Bacon



John and Margaret Kean

Last working day before Christmas at TFS Headquarters called for a BBQ lunch.



Enjoying the sunshine!

District Officers Hugh Jones and Gerald Crawford going "Solo"



Phil Oakley, Janine Maney and Kylie Slyp



Elisa Lang and Enola Johnson



Chefs Extraordinaire! Denis Hoggett and Tony Davidson



Rebecca Evans, Linda Lacy, Pilot Ben Brolewicz, Engineer Taylor Atkinson and Jess Brown

Photographer Senior Firefighter David van Geytenbeek

ABC Giving Tree

Consistent with other years, TFS didn't send Christmas Cards, instead the amount that may have been spent across the organisation on cards and postage was presented to the ABC for the Giving Tree; an established charity helping Tasmanian families with gifts, food and other essentials.

Andy Muirhead of the ABC receiving the TFS donation from Acting Chief Officer Mike Brown



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:

Photographer Field Officer Kevin Robertson (\$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

Ravenswood celebrations

By Member Ravenswood, Megan Mineall

On Saturday 29th November the members and families of Ravenswood Brigade came together for a BBQ to celebrate another successful year for the juniors and cadets. 2008 saw twelve juniors/cadets further develop their skills in not only fire skills and drills but also communication and community spirit. This year also saw two members graduate from the junior program and move into the senior brigade, Samantha Barnett and Thomas Payne. Both cadets have completed seven years in the junior program and they will now join previous junior members Steven Jarman, Matthew Elphinstone and Michael Reeves in the senior ranks. Ravenswood Brigade has successfully retained a large number of their juniors for senior enrolment with several other previous junior members now in brigades throughout the state.

During the evening members received new uniforms that were purchased with the support of local Government Member Michelle O'Byrne and the juniors are grateful for her support. Acting Regional Chief Ken Burns and District Officer Steven Richardson were on hand to help present the juniors with medals congratulating them on their attendance for the year. Corey Ranger and Justin Barnett both were presented with the most improved junior (Corey) and cadet (Justin). Both of these members had shown great improvement and dedication for the entire year and well deserved this award. The perpetual Kathryn



Hay award for most valuable junior and cadet was also awarded. This award is voted on by the juniors themselves and takes special place in the evening for this reason. This year's winners were Samantha Barnett and Brandon Muir who tied for cadet of the year and Corey Ranger junior of the year.

Acting Regional Chief Ken Burns finished the official part of the evening by passing on his gratitude to the senior members who have given up their time and passed on their expertise to the juniors throughout the year. I, along with every other parent agree with this praise which is well deserved. **MM**

Gravelly Beach "get walking"

By Firefighter Gravelly Beach Brigade, Sue Goss

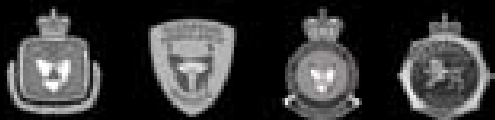
In conjunction with safety Week at the TFS members of the Gravelly Beach Brigade got involved in "Get Walking".

Approximately 20 brigade members, their families and their four-legged friends meet at the Exeter Hotel, walking through the main street with a few of the keener members walking back to the station.

The local residents and passers by were wondering what the local brigade were doing without their "BRT" but they were reassured that our units were parked at the hotel – it would have been a mad dash to the truck had the pagers gone off!

The evening finished with a BBQ at the station. **SG**





Gala Ball

HOTEL GRAND CHANCELLOR
13 JUNE 2009

RISE OF THE PHOENIX



VICTORIAN BUSHFIRES APPEAL



John Gledhill Chief Officer TFS



Master of Ceremonies Tim Cox with Peter Hudson



Ewan Waller Chief Fire Officer Department of Sustainability & Environment



Greg Butters District Officer Development & Learning



Darren Hine Acting Commissioner Tasmania Police



Emergency Services Charity Ball

In support of the "Victorian Bushfire Appeal" an Emergency Services Charity Ball was held at the Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart. The "Phoenix Ball" was held on Saturday 13 June 2009 to raise funds for those affected by the Victorian bushfires. All money raised will be donated to the "Victorian Bushfire Rehabilitation and Recovery Efforts" through the office of Christine Nixon.

The event was open to all Emergency Services personnel and 340 guests from Tasmania Fire Service, Tasmania Police, Tasmanian Ambulance and State Emergency Service attended. Other guests included Senator Stephen Parry, the Premier David Bartlett, members of the Australian Federal Police, Forestry Tasmania, Parks & Wildlife and Aviation Fire & Rescue.

The night included a number of fundraising events such as silent auctions, lucky door prizes and raffles.

Master of Ceremonies was Tim Cox of the ABC who, as always, did a fantastic job! Speakers included John Gledhill Chief Officer TFS; Darren Hine Acting Commissioner Tasmania Police; Ewan Waller Chief Fire Officer Department of Sustainability & Environment; Peter Hudson representing MBF and the Hawthorn Football Club; and Greg Butters District Officer Development & Learning. The Ambassador of the event, Christine Nixon who is the head of the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction & Recovery Authority sent a message by DVD.

The event would not have been possible without the support of our sponsors who included:

J Boag & Son
RBF
Hotel Grand Chancellor
Heath Pickett Designs
Scene Change
Display Works
Helping Hand Group



Gala Ball

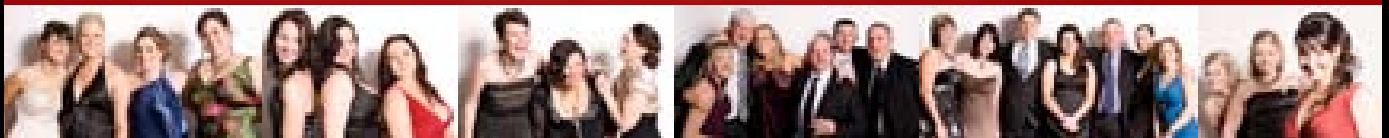
HOTEL GRAND CHANCELLOR
13 JUNE 2009

VICTORIAN BUSHFIRES APPEAL





Photobooth
TASMANIA



Jonathan Wherrett

jonathan@photoboothtasmania.com

0400 462 437

photoboothtasmania.com

CORPORATE FUNCTIONS • PARTIES • FUNDRAISERS • WEDDINGS • GALA EVENTS

LETTERS



The TFS would like to thank Noreen Kurowski of West Moonah who knitted and donated a number of teddies to be placed in the trucks and given to children involved in incidents. Thanks Noreen, they are greatly appreciated!

THANK YOU FOR DONATION

I am writing on behalf of the Goulburn Street Primary School Association to thank you for your generous donation towards our raffle for our school's inaugural School Fair in November of this year.

Our Fair was a great success both as a wonderful community event and fundraiser. We raised approximately \$10,000 of which \$1500.00 was raised from our raffles.

Once again, thank you. Your support of our school and our children is very appreciated.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you, your family and your staff a very happy and safe Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]



To all those volunteers who worked on the recent fire between Duck Creek & Paul's Hill at Murrumbidgee, thank you.

As a neighbour close to the fire that was lit on the eighteenth of February I witnessed the effort put in by all the brigades attending. We were blessed by gentle weather conditions. But considering the time of the year and the dryness of the soil if we had got a hot dry and windy day we recognise things could have been very different. Likewise, if all you volunteers weren't there we could have been in trouble. I have talked to other neighbours with properties around the fire, all have let me know how much they appreciate your effort.

While we are feeling safe from that fire now we all recognise that we need to be prepared for a fire and be vigilant about reducing the fire risk on our properties especially around the house.

Once again we appreciate the time and effort, and skill that you showed us, thank you.

Pat & Debra Dewar.

Here's to a brave bunch of firemen,
My how us folks do admire 'em.

They do polish and shine to make things right,
To put out the fires through day and night.

They wrap their lean bodies around a big pole;
To save peoples' lives is their biggest goal.

Start up the engines and go with the sirens,
From Back of Burke and up to Byron.

In uniform, hard hat and coat,
They do the job and never gloat.



Working fearlessly, close to all kinds of danger;
Our firemen do all this for a total stranger.

At last we can give them a great big cheer,
All of us girls are really glad they're here.

Without them our day would be rotten;
Let's all clap and look at their bottoms.

So thank you all and your fireman's rope;
Seeing you in uniform has given us hope.

For being here for us today,
We're like to say, "Hip, Hip, Hooray!"



The Rokeby fire crew, Leading Firefighter Barry Bones, Senior Firefighter Eugene Banasik, Firefighter Martin Grubb and Senior Station Officer Andrew Skelly, helped out at a bushfire fundraiser at the Queen Victoria Nursing Home where they passed a helmet around and spoke to the seniors. The staff read out this poem and presented the crew with a copy.

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 499088
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

