

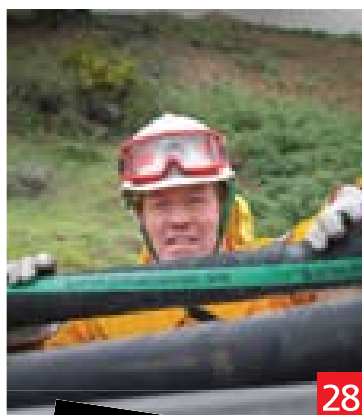
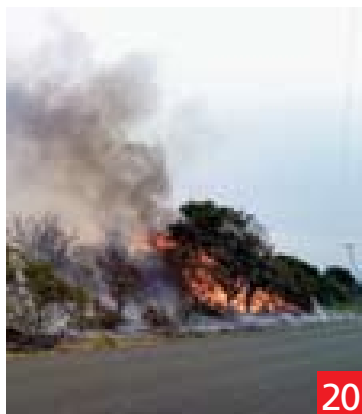
Fireground

summer 2009

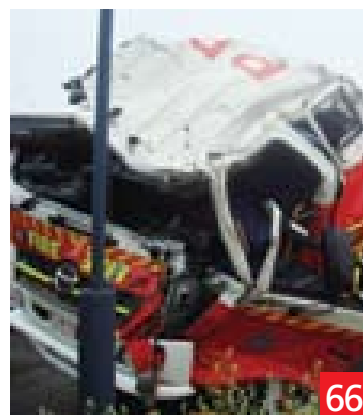


- **New Chief Officer appointed**
- **TFS Firefighter Championships**
- **Operational priorities**
- **Dolphin Sands fire**

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Cover photo Chief Officer Mike Brown receiving his epaulettes from Acting Deputy Chief Tony Davidson and Acting Regional Chief South Ken Burns

Official Journal of The Tasmania Fire Service

CHIEF OFFICER and CHAIRMAN of the STATE FIRE COMMISSION Mike Brown

COMMISSION MEMBERS Bruce Corbett, Jane Hyland, Lyndsay Suhr, Rod Sweetnam, Carmel Torenus

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From the Chief Officer



MICHAEL BROWN

The past 3 or 4 months have been extremely busy for us all as we progress toward the summer bushfire season. Our pre-season briefings were held prior to the public launch of the new summer bushfire campaign to ensure that as many members as possible understand the new fire danger ratings, the associated messages, and the other new programs and initiatives that are being implemented based on the learnings from the Black Saturday experience and the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission.

This year we held numerous briefings across the state with volunteers, career firefighters, FireComm and support staff. I estimate we met face to face with 1,000 or more members. Thanks to all those that participated. I think I can account for 20 or more presentations myself!

While our local conditions have generally been wetter than normal, we did experience a taste of things to (perhaps) come on Friday 20 November. Most of the state experienced strong winds and warm conditions that saw several fires spread very quickly. The most serious of these was at Dolphin Sands where several properties were burnt. Thankfully action by crews and residents contained the fire to 65 ha in a narrow strip alongside the road at about 2 km in length. There was clearly potential for the outcome to be much worse.

Our 12 new recruit firefighters complete their training this month and will soon be joining brigades at Burnie, Devonport, Hobart and Launceston. To all of our latest members I wish you all the best for a rewarding career!

In closing, I believe most are aware that I was appointed as Chief Officer in October following a long selection process. I am extremely proud to be leading such a professional and respected emergency management organisation. My predecessor John Gledhill set the foundations of a very effective organisation and I look forward to working with you all in the ongoing development of our Service.

I do hope you have a break through the festive season. All the best to you and your families for 2010.

Michael Brown
Chief Officer

Editorial

This edition's centrefolds, kindly provided by the Bushfire Co-operative Research Centre (CRC) are on Volunteer Work - Life Balance and Better Brigade Leadership.

This issue includes an interview with Mike Brown, articles on operational priorities and new acronyms; championships; the Dolphin Sands fire and many more.

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

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

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



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

Linda Lacy, Editor – Fireground
GPO Box 1526
HOBART TAS 7001
Phone: 6230 8633
Fax: 6234 6647
Email: fireground@fire.tas.gov.au

A photograph of four men in TFS uniforms standing in an office. From left to right: Acting Deputy Chief Tony Davidson in a dark uniform, Chief Officer Mike Brown in a light blue short-sleeved shirt and dark tie, Acting Regional Chief South Ken Burns in a dark uniform, and Acting Commissioner Darren Hine in a dark uniform with gold buttons. They are all smiling and standing in front of a large screen displaying the TFS logo and the text 'TFS Fire Service'.

Up Close and Personal with our New Chief Officer – Mike Brown

By Director Human Services, Robyn Pearce

Acting Deputy Chief Tony Davidson, Chief Officer Mike Brown, Acting Regional Chief South Ken Burns and Acting Commissioner Darren Hine

Mike Brown may have been working with TFS since he was 18, but how well do we really know him? We go up close and personal with Mike to explore his thoughts about his new role and reflect on his career to date.

So tell us Mike, why did you want to take on the job of Chief Officer?

Well I joined the organisation in 1977 with no idea that I could end up being the person at the top of the tree! Over time though, circumstances change. I took steps to work in other parts of TFS and all over the State. After working at different levels up to and including Regional Chief, I applied for the Deputy Chief Officer's job. When applying for it, I realised that I may be setting myself up to be the Chief Officer one day. Once I got that job, and after my first couple of years, John Gledhill gave me the opportunity to act as Chief Officer for 7 months. This did two things for me: it showed me that John had confidence in my ability to do the job, and I also found that the role wasn't as overwhelming as I first thought. TFS has very strong foundations with lots of support from very good people working in the organisation. We also have genuine support from government and the community. So when John announced that he was going to retire and the vacancy would be advertised, I thought "Well, why not!"

How does it feel to be taking over from someone who was in the job for 14 years?

Over John's time as Chief, he developed his own style and flavour. I was comfortable with his philosophies and style. I also knew, though, that I had other ideas and priorities that were different to John's. He recognised that I had my own ideas and gave me the room as his Deputy to try them out. By doing this, I was able to experiment with what can be achieved when we have the right levels of consultation and communication. For example, we went from having a zero capability for Road Crash Rescue, yet went in a very short time to develop a capability of very high standard. We are able to hold our heads up nationally with our approach to this work, in what can be understandably a stressful working environment.

What have been your best memories of your time to date in TFS?

In my 32 years, the best job I've had would have to be District Officer. I really enjoyed the independence and gained a lot of satisfaction from working with such a wide variety of people. In working with brigades whose members range through surgeons, farmers, retailers, tradespeople and engineers, I was able to watch brigades mature to become self sustaining

and independent. I also really enjoyed taking on a key role with junior development. I loved watching kids from small communities mix with others with common backgrounds. The programs were great for developing their capabilities as a person and created fantastic opportunities for their personal development and future career paths.

What do you feel are the biggest challenges facing TFS?

There are a number of major challenges facing us. First up would have to be the increased expectations that the public have of TFS. They not only expect us to be able to turn up to their house in the red truck whenever required, but also to provide accurate and up to date advice and information.

Then, I'd have to say that the legal framework that we operate in provide the next set of challenges! There is increased scrutiny from the legal fraternity, the community, and the media with the "blame game" that follows any serious incident. In recent years, we've seen incredible personal, organisational and financial costs within fire services nationally due to coronials, Royal Commissions, and other tribunals. While there is a need to review and learn from the way we handle incidents, the need of society for blame to be assigned creates new challenges for us to learn to manage for our members and the organisation.

Have you identified any significant changes that you would like to see made in TFS in the near future?

I don't see significant changes, but more ongoing improvement as we shift our approach to achieve our major priority of community safety. The key to achieving this priority is communication. We need to do all that we can to improve communication, understanding and trust – both within TFS as well as with the community and other organisations. As the drivers for change become more acute, the more that we need to be able to change to meet these needs. We can't institutionalise new ways to deliver community safety, though, without our members understanding and owning the reasons why we need to change and how we are going to change. Enhancing the existing flexibility and engagement is one of the key changes to be achieved in the near future, particularly as we learn to engage and inform the community in relation to "all risks" not just fire risks.

As part of communication, we need to continue to build effective relationships with unions and associations. Having formerly held an official role within a union, I have a lot of respect for unions and associations, and the important role that they can play in the healthy development of an organisation.

Another area that we need to continue to work on is our relationships with other organisations. There is a climate of greater collaboration with other agencies within Tasmania.

So when John announced that he was going to retire and the vacancy would be advertised, I thought "Well, why not!"

There is an expectation from the community that, with so much change, agencies that can be seen as isolated from each other, will work together closely to deliver their services. It can only benefit our communities if we actively work in partnership with organisations that deliver related services. We have already seen the benefits that we get from our close working relationships in Tasmania with Parks and Wildlife Service and Forestry Tasmania. At a national level, our work with the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Council, Bushfire Co-operative Research Centre, and National Aerial Firefighting Centre have created efficiencies and have significantly advanced the capability of our industry.

Finally, I'd like us to continue to build on our 'can do' approach that enables us to achieve outcomes. It never ceases to amaze me how we are able to deploy a team interstate or internationally at such short notice. It is a wonderful testament to our members that our firefighters and support people are able to come together to make a deployment happen successfully.

What would you like to have achieved 12 months from now?

Looking firstly at our service delivery, I'd like the community to have more understanding of what we need them to do in fire situations and why. It would be great to have good evidence that people are acting on our new bushfire community safety advice. By this, we would then know that our new messages have been embedded into the family home.

Within TFS, there is more to be done to instil an environment of trust, understanding and relationship building across the organisation. Work in this area will be spearheaded by the development of an organisation-wide leadership strategy. This strategy will be underpinned by re-addressing our discussion on TFS values. I really see that leadership is critically important to us moving forward in the future. **RP**

TFS Bushfire Awareness Campaign Launch – Prepare·Act·Survive

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

The TFS Bushfire Awareness Campaign, featuring new bushfire safety messages for the Tasmanian community, was officially launched on Monday 9 November by the Minister for Police and Emergency Management Jim Cox and TFS Chief Officer Mike Brown.

The campaign incorporates extensive television, print, Facebook and You Tube advertising and more than 185,000 newspaper inserts, and is designed to assist and advise Tasmanians to prepare for this year's bushfire season.

Minister Jim Cox said Tasmania had adopted a new nationally-agreed Fire Danger Rating (FDR) scale that warned of the level of bushfire threat on any given day based on the forecast weather conditions.

"New fire danger categories include Severe, and Catastrophic," he said. "The new scale is one of a number of initiatives to be implemented Australia-wide following the Victorian bushfires in February 2009 to help save lives and prevent property loss. "Other initiatives include a national emergency warning system, the identification of 'community fire refuges' and 'neighbourhood safer places', and the introduction of bushfire warning alert levels."

Chief Officer Mike Brown said traditionally fire danger had been rated from low to extreme on a scale of 1 to 100. "Under the revised FDR system, fires burning under Catastrophic conditions are rated at 100+," he said. "TFS strongly recommends that if a fire breaks out on a day of Catastrophic fire danger property owners likely to be impacted by the fire should immediately relocate to a safe place away from the fire regardless of any plan to stay and defend their properties. The same applies to fires on Extreme days unless homes have been designed and built to withstand fire and have adequate defendable space. This should be done many hours before the fire is likely to reach your property."

Under the new system, the Victorian Black Saturday fires earlier this year would have been rated Catastrophic as the fire danger index approached 200.

Chief Officer Mike Brown said most bushfires in Tasmania occurred during mild summer weather and were easily controlled by firefighters. "Days with Extreme or Catastrophic conditions have only occurred around 4 times in Tasmania in the past 90 years, though with climate change, the potential for such a day is increasing," he said.

Mr Cox said while the new FDR would provide the community with a better understanding of the level of bushfire threat on any given day, preparing a property against the threat of bushfire continued to be critically important, and can't be left to the last minute. "If you live in or near the bush, it is your responsibility to prepare your property so it can be defended against

a bushfire," he said. "Properly preparing a property against the threat of a bushfire gives you and your family the very best chance to survive." "With proper preparation, buildings can be successfully defended against most bushfires. However, if your home has not been properly prepared and is closely surrounded by flammable vegetation, there is a high probability that it will burn if threatened by an intense bushfire, even if firefighters are around to protect it. Firefighters will concentrate on saving houses that can be protected with minimum resources and without putting firefighter lives at risk. If your unprepared home is threatened, firefighters may choose not to defend it."

Mr Cox said residents should decide well in advance of a bushfire whether they would stay with their homes to defend them or leave if a bushfire threatened. "Fleeing at the last minute ahead of a bushfire is very dangerous," he said. "But if catastrophic conditions are forecast, the TFS recommends relocating early to a safe place if fire is likely to threaten your property, regardless of any plans you may have had to stay and defend your property."

Preparation works include:

- Clear a defendable space (at least 30 metres) around buildings.
- Remove all fire hazards from around buildings. Clear undergrowth and remove or burn off.
- Fill any gaps in the eaves, around windows and door frames.
- Protect large under-deck areas with non-flammable screens.
- Rake up bark, leaves and twigs.
- Ensure you have access to a good water supply and firefighting equipment.
- Ensure your property is accessible for fire trucks.

For detailed information on preparing homes and property for bushfire, or for a free copy of the DVD *Bushfire – Prepare to Survive*, visit www.fire.tas.gov.au or free call 1800 000 699.

The DVD is also available for loan from the State Library.

SB & CT



Redesigned/Updated Bushfire Safety Booklets and DVD

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

To supplement the new 2009/2010 Bushfire Awareness Campaign, Community Education has redesigned or updated its existing bushfire safety booklets and DVD.

These include;

Bushfire Prepare to Survive booklet

Redesigned with a new look and information updated to include the new Fire Danger Rating, Bushfire Warning Alert Levels, National Emergency Warning System and Community Fire Refuges and Neighbourhood Safer Place. Available December 2009

Please do not distribute previous versions



Bushfire Prepare to Survive DVD



Redesigned with a new look and new 4 minute chapter has been added to the beginning of the DVD which contains information about the new Fire Danger Rating, Bushfire Warning Alert Levels and National Emergency Warning System. *All other chapters are the same as previous years.* Available December 2009

Please do not distribute previous versions

Using Fire Outdoors

Redesigned with a slightly new look and additional information added about the New Fire Danger Rating System. Previous version can continue to be used.



Fire Retardant Garden Plants

The same as previous years.



Available from:

communityed@fire.tas.gov.au

www.fire.tas.gov.au/mysite/Show?pageId=colPublications

SB & CT

By Coordinator Volunteer Strategy, Lucas van Rijswijk

[illegible]

TFS knows that effective leadership is essential to carrying out our mission.

This Framework is based on research which identified the leadership needs of TFS volunteers. It was done by the La Trobe University as part of the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre.

The value of the *Framework* is that it will guide us in the development, testing, and implementation of leadership development initiatives.

- A set of guiding **principles** that help us to select the leadership initiatives;
- **Strategies** that will guide us to meet the leadership development needs of our people;

- ## Principles – a summary

Sustainable It is a framework that is sustained over a long period of time. It is flexible and innovative. It is sustained through ongoing improvement. It supports positive cultural change.

Mutual Respect and Engagement The framework is based on mutual respect and engagement. It enables individuals to take ownership and responsibility for their own leadership development and will build on the strengths that they already have.

Evidence Based Initiatives undertaken within the *Framework* will be selected and prioritised based on their demonstrated ability to meet the needs of TFS.

```

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    Goal([Goal  
To demonstrate improvement in  
reported displays of Leadership  
capabilities as measured by an  
annual survey])
    1([1 Support  
Leadership with a  
Sustainable  
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    2([2 Integrate  
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    3([3 Reward  
and Recognize  
Leadership])
    4([4 Develop  
Leaders])
    5([5 Connect  
Leaders])
    6([6 Support  
Leaders])
    7([7 Support  
Responsible  
Leadership])

    Goal --- 1
    Goal --- 2
    Goal --- 3
    Goal --- 4
    Goal --- 5
    Goal --- 6
    Goal --- 7
  
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Goal
To demonstrate improvement in reported displays of Leadership capabilities as measured by an annual survey

- 1 Support Leadership with a Sustainable Framework
- 2 Integrate Importance of Leadership
- 3 Reward and Recognize Leadership
- 4 Develop Leaders
- 5 Connect Leaders
- 6 Support Leaders
- 7 Support Responsible Leadership

Levels – at which leadership occurs

Leadership occurs, and needs to be supported and developed, at all levels in the organisation.

TFS needs to include initiatives that enable:

- individuals to develop themselves;
- leadership to develop and be supported within teams;
- organisational systems to better develop and support leadership.

Timeline of Influence – when support is needed



This timeline recognises that not all initiatives are appropriate for individuals at all stages of their career. It recognises that leadership can be formal and informal.

Initiatives – some ideas about what we might do

Examples of initiatives that may be implemented as a part of this *Framework*.

Strategy	Tool, Resource, Assistance, Idea	Key Principle	Level in Framework
1 Support Leadership with a Sustainable Framework	Implement the Volunteer Leadership Framework (Implementation project and reference groups established Oct-Nov 09)	All	All
2 Integrate Importance of Leadership	2.1. Induction to New Roles	Universal Access	Team
	2.2. Equip Trainers to Lead Implicitly and Explicitly	Values & Vision	Organisational
	2.3. Code of Conduct	Values & Vision	Organisational
	2.4. Annual Volunteer Leader Award	Universal Access	Organisational
	2.5. Annual Survey of Brigades	Values & Vision	Team
	2.6. Social Ideas List	Respect & Engage	Team
3 Reward & Recognise Leadership	3.1. Stories of leadership	Integrated	Organisational
	3.2. Publicise Leaders in Fireground	Respect & Engage	Organisational
	3.3. Senior Leaders to Personalise Appreciation of Leaders	Integrated	Organisational
	3.4. Creatively Support Leadership Message	Values & Vision	Organisational
4 Develop Leaders	4.1. Mentoring System	Universal Access	Individual
	4.2. Buddy System	Universal Access	Individual
	4.3. Personal Leadership Development Plan	Respect & Engage	Individual
	4.4. Small Bite Leadership Training	Respect & Engage	Team
	4.5. Leadership Scenarios	Universal Access	Team
	4.6. AFAC Volunteer Leaders Program	Respect & Engage	Individual
	4.7. Fireline Leadership Training	Sustainable	Team
	4.8. Leadership Scholarship Fund	Universal Access	Individual
5 Connect Leaders	5.1. Bi-Annual Leadership Conference	Sustainable	Organisation
	5.2. Group Level Meetings	Sustainable	Team
	5.3. Leaders Blog/Chat Room	Sustainable	Individual
6 Support Leaders	6.6. Leaders Page on TFS Web Site	Sustainable	Individual
	6.7. Coaching System	Integrated	Individual
	6.8. Brigade Business Manager	Integrated	Team
	6.9. Review Support to Brigades	Integrated	Organisational
	6.10. Goal Setting	Vision & Values	Team
7 Support Responsible Leadership	7.8. Leadership Skills Reference Sheets	Sustainable	Team
	7.9. Quick Reference Guides	Sustainable	Individual
	7.10. Election Ballot	Integrated	Team
	7.11. Briefings Prior to Elections	Integrated	Team
	7.12. Election Guidelines	Sustainable	Organisational
	7.13. Duty Statements	Sustainable	Organisational
	7.14. Leadership Self Rating	Respect & Engage	Individual

Volunteer Leadership Framework - an overview *continued*

Current initiatives

The Framework was formally adopted in July 2009.

Implementation activities and likely timelines include:

October - November 2009	Implementation Reference Group and Project Group set up
October - November 2009	<i>Leadership Self Rating Tool</i> sent to volunteer brigades
November – December 2009	<i>Supportive Brigade Practices</i> module developed and piloted
November 2009 – May 2010	<i>Small Bites</i> leadership development modules developed
February – June 2010	<i>Supportive Brigade Practices</i> module delivered to all brigades
Mid 2010	<i>Annual Leadership Survey</i> sent to brigades

For more information:

This is only a short summary of the Framework. While it provides a quick overview, it should not be used as a basis for making any decisions.

A complete copy of the Framework can be found in the Member's section of the TFS Intranet.

Go to <https://www.fire.tas.gov.au/mysite/Show?pagelid=displayDoc&docId=001998>

or type 'Leadership Framework' in the Search box.

or contact Lucas van Rijswijk, Coordinator Volunteer Strategy, on 6230 8682 or email lucasvr@fire.tas.gov.au **LvR**

Northern Region's new Deputy Regional Chief

By Regional Chief North, Andrew Comer

Gavin Freeman took up the position of Deputy Regional Chief North on 22nd September 2009. Gavin was promoted from the position of District Officer East Coast where he has been for just over two years. Prior to that Gavin, in his 11 years as a District Officer, held positions within Development & Learning, Brigade Operations and Hobart District as well as acting in a variety of relieving positions.

Gavin commenced with TFS as a firefighter with Hobart Fire Brigade in 1985 and progressed his way through the ranks as the opportunities arose. He was also a volunteer firefighter with Midway Point Brigade for almost ten years.

Gavin has twice been sent on International deployments to the United States, has a leading responsibility for TFS's CBRN Capability, is a Graduate of the Institution of Fire Engineers and recently completed a Masters Degree in Emergency Management through Charles Sturt University.

Gavin is no stranger to the Northern Region having grown up in the Fingal Valley, attended high school in Launceston, and acted in the Deputy Regional Chief position for 12 months in 2002. He brings a wealth of experience to the management team at Youngtown Headquarters and is keen to make a positive difference to many operational and support areas of activity. He said, "I am looking forward to the challenge of the new position and I am sure I will be able to renew a few old acquaintances as well as make some new ones."



I welcome Gavin to the Northern Region and say farewell and thanks also to Ken Burns who has transferred back to the other end of the island as Deputy Regional Chief – South

Well done Gavin and all the best for the future. **AC**

"Conquer the Isle"

Emergency Services Games February 2010

By Games Director, Mark Beech-Jones

How time has flown! After nearly 2 years of planning the 13th Australasian Police and Emergency Service Games (20-27 February 2010) are nearly upon us. Registrations have been open since 1st June and the entry rate is very encouraging, with entries closing on 1st February 2010. (www.apandesgames.com)

As previously mentioned career staff and volunteers from fire, and other emergency services and law enforcement agencies from Australia and New Zealand can compete.

Already the demand for accommodation during this week has exceeded our expectations and that's likely to continue as the number of registrations increases. At this stage we have received excellent support for our events from fire service members in Tasmania and other mainland states. We have entries of Fire Service teams from interstate in netball, hockey and soccer just for example.

Whilst the Games are a sporting event; with 46 sports being offered and 800 actual events conducted, they are also designed to build camaraderie between the different services and jurisdictions. Often when emergency services personnel come together it's under stressful conditions, however, during this week it will be a different story.

Most venues are licensed and have food available for competitors and spectators. After the formal proceedings of the opening ceremony being held at the Domain Athletic Centre on Saturday 20th February 2010 commencing at 4pm a BBQ

As previously mentioned career staff and volunteers from fire, and other emergency services and law enforcement agencies from Australia and New Zealand can compete.

will be held. This event will give everyone a chance to further socialise with friends and enjoy some refreshing Tasmanian beers and wines. On the final night Saturday 27th February 2010 the Games will conclude with a "New Zealand" theme band night at Wrest Point Hotel. Well known Tasmanian band *The Pumpkin Heads* will wrap up a great week and give a chance for competitors to celebrate and farewell our Games and look forward to 2012 in Christchurch.

So as you can see planning of the event is nearly complete with the hire and securing of the different venues, officials, first aid, purchase of over 4500 medals and other associated equipment, now all we need is you! Get on board, register now and be part of this historic event as it promises to be a fantastic week and all it needs is for you to get involved and "Conquer the Isle"! **MB-J**

CONQUER the isle

More information:

Web: www.apandesgames.com.au

Email: games2010@police.tas.gov.au

Games Head Office: Hobart City Police Station Level 2, 41 Liverpool Street, Hobart

Phone: (03) 6230 2376

Mark Beech-Jones

Games Director

Churchill Fellowship

The Balfour family has kindly funded a Churchill Fellowship in 2010 to honour the memory of David Balfour. Firefighter David Balfour who was tragically killed by a falling tree branch died repaying a debt of honour to Victorian colleagues. David distinguished himself during the 2003 Canberra firestorm with the help of volunteers from Victoria. His wife Celia revealed her brave husband of 20 years was driven by a sense of duty to return the favour. "He felt that his deployment to Victoria was repaying a debt of honour to those who had come to our community's aid after our experience with tragedy," she said. This fellowship will be available to anyone in Australia to apply for.

The Fellowship will be for *"Innovations and resourcefulness for firefighters and community safety in the fields of training or equipment developments or through interagency liaison and cooperation"*.

Additional information about this Fellowship, the application process and other sponsored fellowships can be downloaded at <http://www.churchilltrust.com.au/>

All firefighters are encouraged to apply for this opportunity and honour the memory of David. **MB**



To obtain more information and an application form contact:

The National Office
Email: churchilltrust@bigpond.com
Freecall: 1800 777 231
Telephone: (02) 6247 8333
Facsimile: (02) 6249 8944

Application and referee forms are available from 1 October each year and can be downloaded from www.churchilltrust.com.au

Key dates in relation to 2010 Churchill Fellowships are:

Applications open 1 November 2009

Applications close Friday 26 February 2010

Application interviews March – April 2010

Announcement of Fellows July 2010

Fellows travel from September 2010 – August 2011

Award night at Hadspen

By Field Officer Tamar District, Ben Wilson

On Wednesday 18th November an award night was held at the Hadspen Fire Station. The night involved presentation of service awards to around a dozen members.

The awards culminated with the presentation of a 35 year long service badge being awarded to Group Officer Quamby, Rod Sweetnam. Rod started his volunteer service with the CFA in 1972. After moving to Tasmania he has held nearly every position of rank within the Hadspen Brigade and currently serves on the Tamar Fire Management Area Committee. Congratulations to Rod and the other award recipients. **BW**

Rod Sweetnam receiving his 35 year badge from Field Officer Tamar District Ben Wilson



Tasmanian Mines Rescue Competition

By Instructor/Consultant TasFire Training, Eric Braithwaite

The Tasmanian Mines Rescue Competition was held at the MMG mine site at Rosebery on 6th and 7th November.

Teams from Rosebery, Bluestone, Fosterville Gold from Victoria, Grange Savage River, Beaconsfield Gold and CMT competed in the six events. These events consisted of theory, skills, first aid, underground rescue, roping and firefighting.

TasFire Training co-sponsored the theory event and trophies were presented to the Rosebery team as the winners.

Wayne Richards, Scott Clarke, Eric Braithwaite and Chris Brown were the adjudicators of the firefighting event. This event simulated a fire at the entry point of the Assay Laboratory with a person trapped inside in need of rescue. Adjudication was based on size-up, command and control of the incident by the Captain, hose and branch handling, use of breathing apparatus, search techniques and rescue and casualty treatment. The winning team for this event again was Rosebery, followed by Grange Savage River.

The overall winners of the competition for this year were Rosebery. In a tie for second place were Grange Savage River and Beaconsfield.

It is extremely pleasing to note that the top three place getters are trained in Emergency Response by TasFire Training staff. **EB**



TFS Adjudicators debriefing a team after their exercise



Part of the Bluestone Team suppressing the fire prior to entry

Operational Priorities

Many of you may recall that during the recent pre-season briefing a session was presented on Operational Priorities. We have recently undertaken work on them and the following updates are provided for you.

Community Warnings

One of the key issues arising from the Black Saturday fires was the broadcasting of timely and appropriate community warnings. TFS has identified that one of our priorities is to review our capacity to warn the community. We have established a project team to increase the capacity of the IMT's information unit and to enable the collection of relevant bushfire information, its analysis (observing current conditions, making predictions of potential fire area and identifying what is under threat) and the preparation and dissemination of community warnings through the TFS website and the mass media.

This project will include the definition of the roles of information unit members, identification of people and the training required for people to achieve the task. This may mean a refocussing of our resource allocation and operational priorities in some areas, it certainly means an even greater reliance on timely and accurate wordback from our frontline firefighters. There will be more information about this as the project team work through this important task. Watch this space!

Deputy Regional Chief North, Gavin Freeman

We have established a project team to increase the capacity of the IMT's information unit...

The adoption of new operational priorities when fires burn out of control requires that we identify in advance the locations where vulnerable people are likely to congregate, what assets the community want us to protect as a priority, and other threats that should be taken into account when protecting towns and villages when fires are burning out of control.

A standard Community Protection Plan Template which is to be used for this purpose has been designed to capture essential information in simple form that can be copied and handed to a crew at the staging area so they have the information they need to act independently to protect vulnerable people and assets in a prioritised way.

The idea is to keep the plans simple, focused on what's important, and to ensure brigades/crews, once assigned to a sector can operate to some extent independently and effectively.

The identification of vulnerable people and key community assets must be a cooperative effort between TFS brigades, Local Government and Tasmania Police who have specifically requested to be involved, and where appropriate, the local Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator.

We do not intend to add a map to the plan at this stage but rather identify points by six figure grid reference using the TasTowns Street Directory. Where map coverage is not provided by the TasTowns directory the default will be the TFS map book.

There is no expectation that all communities be completed prior to the coming fire season, however, district staff in consultation with brigades will consider past fire history and identify those communities more vulnerable than others and commence prioritising and in consultation with appropriate stakeholders begin developing plans for those communities.

Specific locations such as Neighbourhood Safer Places and Community Fire Refuges will be identified, explanation of these are covered in the following section in acronyms.

Acting Regional Chief South, Ken Burns
Acting Deputy Chief, Tony Davidson

The idea is to keep the plans simple, focused on what's important...

Not More Acronyms!

By Regional Chief North, Andrew Comer



(This article includes lots of jokes by the way - so if you don't read it you will miss out on a really good laugh)

If you are anything like me then there are three things that really test the old grey matter:

- Passwords (computer websites and internet banking)
- 4 Digit Codes (ATMs and security systems)
- Acronyms (everything else you are supposed to remember in your head)

As far as the first two items are concerned there is nothing worse than standing in front of one of those "holes in the wall" (absolutely poor excuse for a customer service officer – "bank teller" to older folk) with one of your credit cards in hand trying to recall 4 simple numbers between zero and nine in some specific order so you can get your much needed cash out of the machine, or staring blankly at a computer screen whilst it patiently and silently waits for you to type a few letters and numbers into a vacant cell before it will let you into your favourite website.

But every cloud has a silver lining and if we want to fix the "drink driving" problem then it's the perfect answer isn't it? – use a four digit code or password to start your car - guaranteed most of us would struggle to do that when we are sober; let alone if we had consumed a few drinks too many.

So our last remaining brain cells lead us to become pretty resourceful and we usually take to writing these important details down and storing them in some remote, secret location - then what happens, we can't remember where we put them; the place is so undisclosed WE don't even know where it is.

Anyway - enough of passwords and codes what about that third item?

What is it - IS IT A BIRD, IS IT A PLANE, NO - IT'S AN "ACRONYM".

It's bad enough that I am expected to remember passwords and digital codes but now as I leave home each morning and boldly go out to the final frontiers of space (otherwise known as the workplace – or by some as the "Valley of Death") I am bombarded with a whole collection of new concepts that someone has conveniently reduced to a few meagre alphabetical symbols – the "acronym".

Just to give you a taste here are some we use - IMT, ESR, VLAD, PIP, PDP, ICC, PSTP, EMT, TRVFA, BCM, CLAD, MEMC, FMAC, UFU, AFAC, VSCC, SCC, OMG, OH&S, OLDS, TVFBA, TFS, ORSC,

VBRC, SOP, SOG, EBA, TPG, - need I go on? And that's just a sprinkling!

Well I don't know how you cope with those, the mind boggles, but I figure I may as well be hung for a sheep as a lamb and am going to throw you three more to jam in amongst the rest. I do however **strongly suggest** that you keep these a little closer to the leading edge of your frontal lobe over the summer months because we may well need to refer to them from time to time. People might even ask you questions about them – aaaaargh!

Here they are, hold on tight:

- CFR
- NSP
- BRS

There that wasn't so bad was it? What's that you say – what do they all mean?

Are you serious, you really want to know? Well my good friend – read on and enlighten yourself!

CFR – stands for "Community Fire Refuge"

That's "Refuge" pronounced "ref" (as in the football personalities we all love to hate) and "uge" sounding like huge (as in very large). I say this because we don't want to mix it up with similar terms that refer to either **garbage** or **declining an offer** (that's "refuse" – spelt identically in both cases but one is a noun and the other a verb if you can recall your English grammar lessons).

And if you need to write it down then please use only one "e" at the end because if you add a second one it will mean you are referring to an unfortunate individual who has been displaced from their homeland and is currently seeking shelter in a foreign place (see "refugee").

In very simple terms a CFR is a safe place where people, who potentially need to leave their homes because of a bushfire threat, can relocate to and have their basic needs met.

There will be a number of these facilities nominated around the state and they will be well established public centres with the capacity to manage a relatively large number of people and offer shelter for a few hours at least. They will generally be sheltered buildings well outside the fire affected area, have basic amenities such as drinking water, toilets and parking available, and be set up to provide information to those on site about local fire conditions.

TFS will be encouraging people to relocate to family and friends



or other places in the first instance, but where potentially affected residents have nowhere else to go, then a CFR is an option. Importantly, it is expected that people will relocate to these centres well before the fire front impacts on their homes. Once the fire threat has passed, people may return to their homes, or seek alternative housing in the event their homes have been lost.

NSP – stands for “Neighbourhood Safer Place”

NSP is a new concept that has evolved out of the “Black Saturday” bush fires and is a place of last resort.

For those people who have not, for whatever reason, taken the early decision to relocate to the homes of family or friends, or a CFR, and as a result now find themselves unable to do so then we want them to go to their nearest NSP if it’s unsafe to stay at their home.

In very simple terms an NSP is a safer local area, typically a large open space, perhaps with a building or structure on it, that is situated within the community, usually just a short distance away from the person’s home, and will afford individuals or groups adequate life protection during the passage of a bushfire.

NSP’s still entail some risk, both in moving to them and while sheltering at them and therefore cannot be considered “bullet-proof”.

TFS are presently working with local government, some key stakeholders as well as our brigade members, to identify NSP’s in every community across the state and will be looking to have these various locations advertised locally and included in Community Protection Plans for use by us, and no doubt others, when fires or other emergencies threaten.

Places such as recreation grounds, golf courses, school yards, parks, beaches and large carparks may be used as NSP’s. People using these places should locate themselves as far as possible from any flammable vegetation and **shelter in their cars** or any available structure to protect themselves from radiant heat and burning embers.

Sheltering at an NSP will almost certainly be uncomfortable, basic amenities are likely to be non-existent, and whilst in some cases a firefighting crew may be available to protect people who have gathered at those places, it cannot be guaranteed.

And last but not least – what does BRS stand for?

BRS – stands for “Bushfire-ready Schools”

TFS and the various school governing bodies have been working collaboratively to assess and determine the likely defendability of every school in Tasmania should it be threatened by bushfire.

It is TFS’s position that if a school meets certain requirements then keeping staff and students in those facilities during a bushfire threat is a much better strategy than closing down the premises and sending the students home where there may, or may not, be appropriate adult care and supervision.

It’s bad enough that I am expected to remember passwords and digital codes but now as I leave home each morning and boldly go out to the final frontiers of space (otherwise known as the workplace – or by some as the “Valley of Death”) I am bombarded with a whole collection of new concepts that someone has conveniently reduced to a few meagre alphabetical symbols – the “acronym”.

In very simple terms a BRS is a school that will be safe for students and staff to remain in even when a bushfire threatens.

Schools will be notified of their likely defendability and school principals will be advised of what work, if any, needs to be undertaken to bring their facility up to a minimum standard. In general we will end up with three types of schools; those that are safe up to a fire danger index of Catastrophic 120, those that will be safe to that level once certain works have been undertaken, and those schools that will not be safe, except perhaps under a much lower fire danger rating.

Schools where work is still required to be undertaken, and those schools deemed not safe, will have to prepare appropriate emergency plans to relocate staff and students in the event of a bushfire threat.

Every effort will be made to ensure that any schools sheltering children when bushfires threaten will have sufficient fire crews assigned to protect the school, students and teachers.

Phew - are you are still with me?

“Did you hear the one about the actress, the bishop ...” no I won’t go there.

All jokes aside – this is a pretty serious issue at the end of the day so I hope you have at least developed an understanding of the new terms and the importance of having both our people and the public appreciating the need to be familiar with the terms and accepting responsibility for managing their own safety by relocating to CFR’s or NSP’s when the need arises.

If you have loved ones attending school at present be assured that TFS is addressing that issue with educational authorities and that together we are doing all we can to maintain the safest possible arrangements for all the staff and their students. **AC**



PROGRAM D

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VOLUNTEER WORK-LIFE BALANCE: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EMERGENCY SERVICE AGENCIES

S Cowlshaw,

School of Psychological Science, La Trobe University, VIC

L Evans, and J McLennan

School of Psychological Science, La Trobe University, VIC

OVERVIEW

This project examined the competing demands between volunteer work and family life, and the implications of such conflicts for emergency service volunteers and their partners. The research comprised (a) interviews with the managers of volunteers and (b) a survey of couples in which one partner was a volunteer. Results identified various impacts on family from volunteering, including household duties left to other family members and negative changes in behaviour after distressing incidents. It also indicated that conflicts between volunteering and family could result in adverse outcomes for volunteers, their partners and families. Effort must now be directed towards strategies that agencies *can use* to better support volunteers and their



RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) Provide information (e.g., about demands on families) to the partners of volunteers; such as through volunteer induction packages for families, and by including partners in training and induction procedures.
- 2) Develop local networks of families and help and materially assist these communities to devise their own support systems.
- 3) Encourage initiatives by the *managers* of volunteers or Regional personnel. Locally-based managers can identify volunteers who are overloaded with volunteering and work and family responsibilities, and assist them to achieve better work-life balance; for example, by providing a short-term leave of absence (and organising others to fill-in for their absence) or temporary shift to less demanding roles to address changing family demands.

CONCLUSIONS

Anecdotal evidence suggests that some senior personnel in emergency service agencies believe that volunteers' work-family difficulties are 'their own business'. They are reluctant to consider strategies for addressing these issues, despite evidence that such efforts could enhance retention. Although this research suggests strategies that agencies can and should use to support the families of volunteers, changes in organisational culture cannot come from *outside* agencies. It will be necessary for organisations to be alert to emerging work-family issues and proactively address these.



Better brigade leadership enhances retention of volunteers.

What is better leadership?

Adrian Birch, Ruth Beatson, Jim McLennan, Sean Cowlshaw

Bushfire CRC Volunteerism Project, La Trobe University, Victoria

Australia's volunteer-based fire agencies are concerned to ensure that they have adequate numbers of volunteer fire fighters now and in the future. They report turnover rates of 6-10% per annum, and about one third of volunteers have less than 5 years experience. Retaining existing volunteers for longer will increase overall numbers and improve the average length of experience of volunteers.

We explored the potential role of brigade leadership in keeping volunteers longer, and the views of volunteers, fire agency managers and current brigade leaders on what constitutes a good brigade leader.

The role of leadership in improving retention

Analyses of data from several of our studies suggest that volunteers who report higher levels of satisfaction with brigade life, also tend to report stronger intentions to remain a member for longer.

Structural Equation Modelling Analyses of data from a large survey of volunteers confirms that reported "satisfaction" is moderately associated with reported intention to remain with a brigade for longer. The analyses further show that higher perceptions of both (a) the quality of brigade leadership, and (b) the safety culture in a brigade, moderately determine "satisfaction". Conflict between volunteer-work and family life had a weak negative impact on reported intention to stay.

What volunteers think

Important skills

- Higher-rated
 - Promoting teamwork
 - Helping new members to mix with others
 - Keeping members informed
- Lower-rated
 - Disciplining members
 - Managing discontent and factionalism
 - Holding members accountable for their actions

Important behaviours

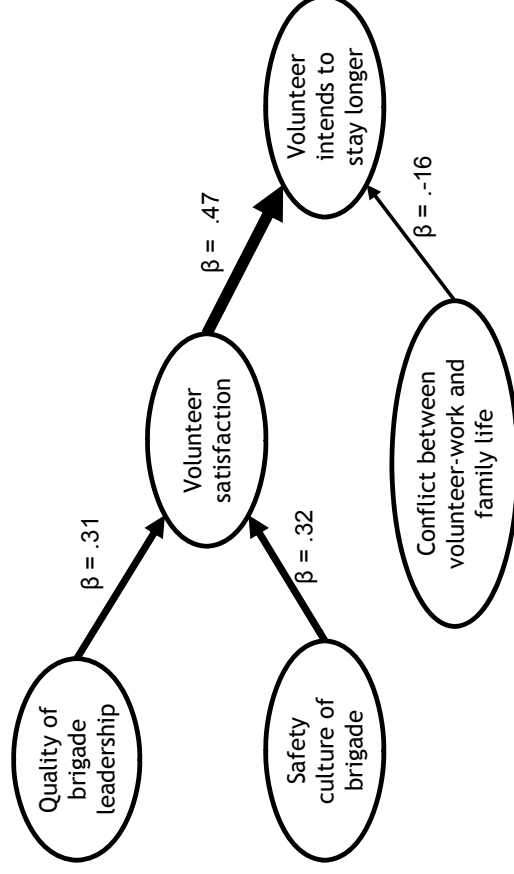
- Higher-rated
 - Honesty & trustworthiness
 - Fairness and equity
 - Leadership by example (“walk the walk”)
- Mid-rated
 - Keeping skills & knowledge up to date
 - Listening to people’s concerns
 - Balancing the demands on volunteers with family & work
- Lower-rated
 - Promoting brigade interests to Region or outside organisations
 - Developing a vision for the brigade

Conclusions

Volunteer-based fire agencies may be able to encourage many volunteers to remain for longer by enhancing satisfaction with the volunteering experience. Volunteers’ perceptions of the quality of brigade leadership and the sense of safety culture in the brigade and agency both contribute to a sense of satisfaction.

Brigade leaders report many different challenges in maintaining an effective brigade with adequate numbers of volunteers. They worry about colleagues who use popularity to maintain political support. They want help developing their own interpersonal communication skills and ready access to impartial mediators to help with conflict in brigades.

Volunteers prefer leaders who exercise good governance, promote the team aspects of a brigade, and maintain their fire fighting skills. They are less enthusiastic about regimentation.



What constitutes good brigade leadership?

What managerial career staff think

Good brigade leaders:

- Engage members
- Delegate tasks
- Act to resolve conflict early
- Have good interpersonal skills

Charismatic local identities rarely make good brigade leaders!

What current brigade leaders think

Volunteers are often hard to find or hard to keep. Some leaders find it challenging to maintain standards or manage conflict because they feel they cannot afford to upset anyone. They find the workload of managing people and managing paperwork burdensome.

They see fire fighting as “a serious business” and worry about people who seek leadership positions through popularity.

They want more training in communication and people skills and better access to impartial, skilled personnel to assist with conflict resolution when it cannot be managed locally.



State operations – managing air operations 2009/2010

By District Officer State Operations, Jeremy Smith

Photo courtesy Senior Firefighter Warren Frey

The effective and efficient management of helicopters can greatly assist on ground firefighting operations and in turn provide better protection of communities, assets and critical infrastructure. The use of helicopters is high cost and high interest both publicly and politically.

A great deal of work and organisation goes on behind the scenes across levels of government, fire, land management agencies and helicopter companies to ensure the correct capability is provided that supports the needs of our ground firefighting operations.

The state has access to approximately 20 helicopters for the 2009/2010 fire season. These helicopters are made available to firefighting operations and incident management under a variety of contractual and charter arrangements.

National Aerial Firefighting Centre (NAFC) contracted aircraft

NAFC facilitates the establishment of a fleet of highly specialised firefighting aircraft that are readily available for use by State and Territory emergency agencies across Australia. This national aircraft fleet complements aerial firefighting resources that are arranged directly by the States and Territories. The national fleet receives funding support from the Australian Government as well as State and Territory Governments.

With this national approach to helicopter resource sharing, the state has accessed an additional medium helicopter that will be based in the north of the state for the upcoming fire season. This aircraft will be of the same type and configuration that has been based in the south of the state for a number of years. The contract period for these aircraft is for an initial 12 weeks, however, this can be altered depending on the potential fire conditions within the state and fire activity on the mainland.

The primary role of these 2 medium water bombing aircraft is initial attack within the high risk interface areas of Hobart and

Launceston, thus incident information from the first responding brigades is critical for their effectiveness.

Contracted aerial firefighting services

Currently there are an additional 2 contracted light helicopters that are on standby for fire agencies during the peak fire period in the state. These aircraft, 1 north and 1 south are made available to TFS, Parks & Wildlife and Forestry Tasmania and deployed in collaboration using the interagency fire management protocol to determine priorities for their use.

Call when needed

These arrangements provide the greatest pool of helicopter resources within the state, and are made available to fire agencies under casual hire arrangements when nominated aircraft are not contracted or chartered for other work.

All approved firefighting helicopters within the state are capable of a variety of the following operations:

- Firebombing – the dropping of water, or foam in front of the fire, to reduce or halt the spread of the fire;
- Fire detection, reconnaissance and mapping;
- Command, communications and control;
- Transportation of firefighters and equipment;
- Aerial ignition – dropping of approved incendiary devices to ignite back burns or prescribed fuel reduction burns;
- Rapid delivery of firefighters to remote areas.

During the peak summer months helicopter deployments are managed through an Air Desk arrangement that is run by the TFS or Forestry Tasmania on a week by week basis. The Air Desk oversees statewide helicopter resources and deployments and reports back to the Multi Agency Coordination group. **JS**

Presentation of TFS Volunteer Medals

By Don Mackrill, Management Committee TVFFAF

Over the past months, commencing with the retirement of the previous Chief Officer John Gledhill, a number of members of the senior management team have been presented with the TFS Volunteer Medal by SFC Members, Bruce Corbett and Lyndsay Suhr.

The TVFFAF, who administer the TFS Volunteer Medal and Award, have considered for some time that members of senior management within the TFS, could be approved as recipients of the TFS Volunteer Medal on the basis of their commitment and service to volunteer members of the TFS.

Margaret Kean and Judy Jones (both from SHQ) were recipients of the TFS Volunteer Award some years ago on the basis of their service and commitment to the TFS Volunteers.

John Gledhill was presented with his Volunteer Medal at a function held in Hobart immediately before his retirement. Mike Brown, the newly appointed Chief Officer was presented recently at the 2009 State Competitions in Launceston. This presentation was made by Matthew Buck (representing the TRFFA) and Lyndsay Suhr (representing the TVFBA).

Andrew Comer, Regional Officer North became a recipient of the TFS Volunteer Medal at a function held in George Town in late November for his service and commitment to volunteers. The presentation was made by Don Mackrill (representing the TVFBA) and Andrew Taylor (representing the TRFFA).

Tony Davidson, Regional Officer South also became a recipient of the TFS Volunteer Medal at a more recent medal presentation in the Southern Region. Presenters were Don Jones (representing the TRFFA) and SFC Member Lyndsay Suhr (representing the TVFBA).

A further two members of TFS senior management are listed as recipients. At the time of this article they had not been presented. Watch the next Fireground for further information.

Nominations are currently being called for this year's recipients for the TFS Volunteer Medal – TFS Volunteer Award – TFS Youth (Tassie Devil) Award.



John Gledhill being presented with his medal by Bruce Corbett and Lyndsay Suhr



Mike Brown being presented with his medal by Matthew Buck and Lyndsay Suhr



Tony Davidson with Lyndsay Suhr and Don Jones



Andrew Comer being presented with his medal by Andrew Taylor and Don Mackrill

Dolphin Sands Fire

Is the community prepared for the summer ahead?

By District Officer East Coast, Paul Salter

While much of the state is green with lush spring growth the onset of the bushfire season hardly looked like starting before Christmas, however, along came Friday 20th November 2009. Forecast for the day was reasonably moderate although FDR was around very high 30 in some locations and as the day unfolded it became apparent the forecast was a little underdone as temperatures reached the low 30's and the wind speed increased prompting the need for a "hot day response" to be implemented.

Early in the afternoon a fire started at Dolphin Sands, a coastal settlement on the east coast near Swansea, and although several brigades were on the initial response as part of the hot day response, with temperatures reaching 32°, relative humidity dropping and north west winds gusting to 100 km/hr and the FDI in the severe range fire suppression was going to be difficult.

With the help of Tasmania Police and the State Emergency Service residents ahead of the fire were evacuated. Fire crews conducted triage to identify defensible properties and it soon became apparent that many were not safe for firefighters, lacking in defensible space, access roads narrow and overgrown with limited capacity for tankers to turn around. Asset protection was the only option until the fire intensity allowed containment at a control line.

The fire burnt 65 hectares and 3 houses, 12 sheds of assorted sizes, 1 caravan, 1 boat and 1 car were destroyed with many other structures suffering some damage. Crews working under extremely difficult conditions were able to save more properties than were destroyed and should be applauded for their efforts.

With images of the "Black Saturday" fires in Victoria still vivid in people's memories and the TFS summer campaign of "Prepare, Act, Survive" flooding the media, surely the community are prepared for the summer ... or are they? Take a look around your brigade area, is the community prepared for the summer? **PS**





Dolphin Sands Fire



Some properties are not ready for a bushfire situation



Firefighters saved many properties



Strong winds made firefighting difficult in Dolphin Sands



Houses without a defensible space had little chance



Photographers: Station Officer Hobart Brigade, Jason Vinen and Firefighter Swansea Brigade, Chelsea Brown



Ferntree Brigade members demonstrate the use of home firefighting pumps

Community Development pilot - the value of local brigades

By Community Development Officer, Kerry Sakariassen



Bagdad Brigade talking to residents at the Bagdad bushfire forum

Many brigades actively engage with their communities

"Community Development is not rocket science – it is much more difficult" (Professor Douglas Paton, Bushfire CRC Researcher)

Binalong Bay, Fern Tree, Huntingdon Tiers area, and the Snug Tiers area - different community profiles, diverse locations in Tasmania - what do they have in common?

They have all been identified as bushfire risk areas and chosen to pilot a community development bushfire preparedness project with the aim of supporting residents to become better prepared for bushfires.

Despite the current media campaigns alerting communities to bushfire risk, new warning systems, fire danger ratings etc, do people living in bushfire risk areas understand the level of risk they face and prepare to respond to that risk? If not, why not? Does informing people that there is a risk and providing general information on how to prepare for bushfires make communities more prepared? Research indicates this is not the case. Even if people recognise they live in a bushfire risk area, many underestimate their own personal risk. Providing a broad brush approach to bushfire preparedness information does not necessarily provide the impetus to change risk management behaviour.

Is community development a more effective way? The community development bushfire preparedness pilot is attempting to build on current level of awareness raised by the Victorian bushfires and support individuals and communities to develop local strategies to help make their communities more prepared. The project is being evaluated by Professor Douglas Paton, from the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre.

Seven months into the pilot project and Professor Douglas Paton's comment that community development is more difficult than rocket science rings true. How does someone not from a community engage with that community in a meaningful way? Local volunteer brigades and community leaders are obvious starting points.

Many brigades actively engage with their communities - providing information sessions, undertaking property and structural assessments and assisting with community events such as fundraising and Christmas Pageants. The value and effectiveness of this work by volunteer brigades has not necessarily been understood, properly resourced or appreciated. A recent bushfire social marketing survey of career and volunteer firefighters indicated that volunteers want more resources for community engagement activities.

Not all brigades have the same desire or capacity to do community engagement and education work. It is my hope that the community development pilot will highlight the need for more support and resources for local brigades to engage and educate their own communities on the value of bushfire preparedness. Having someone employed to facilitate and coordinate these activities is probably a good idea, but essentially community engagement for bushfire preparedness is best done by those who understand bushfire behaviour and who know the community best – locals.

To date forums have been held in all four identified communities, each supported by the local brigade and District Officer. As a result of these forums communities are seeking more specific information about their specific risk and ways that they as a community can mitigate the risk. **KS**



Anthony Woolley from Kingborough Council outlines community recovery processes to Snug Tiers residents



Coordinator of the community development pilot tells Binalong Bay residents about the bushfire preparedness project



Binalong Bay and St Helens Brigade members talk about bushfire safety



Terry Gill facilitated the forum which was attended by 120 Fern Tree residents

End of Michele's brave battle



Barry, Michele, Adam and Justin – on the day she received her MotoMed

Michele Wylie passed away on 31st October after battling a long illness. Michele, wife of Claremont volunteer firefighter Barry Wylie and mother of Justin and Adam, was left paralysed and blind after an allergic reaction to an antibiotic for a urinary tract infection in March 2005. After almost a year in hospital Michele was determined to return home and to regain her sight so she could see Justin and Adam grow up.

Barry's friends and colleagues at the TFS, employees at Norske Skog and members of the public helped to raise funds to assist with medical expenses and purchase items to assist in Michele's rehabilitation. Items included a pool which she enjoyed and a MotoMed which she loved to use and clock up many kilometres.

Michele's last wish was that remaining funds be used to help Tim Young. She was aware of Tim's struggle as Barry had read a Fireground article to her about him. Tim is the son of Justin Young (Manager TasFire Training) and has had some serious and complex health issues since he was diagnosed with a rare brain tumor (Craniopharyngioma) in October 1998 when he was 5 years old (Tim is now 16). Tim had surgery to remove the tumor at Calvary Hospital.

Unfortunately with tumors like this, patients are often left with obesity problems and Tim began gaining weight, and although not fully understood by the medical profession, it appears that in cases like this the body begins producing extreme levels of insulin combined with a decrease in the metabolic rate with no medication to address this situation.

Michele's wish will help with Tim's expenses into the future.

In addition \$10,000 has also been donated to the TFS Family Support Fund. This fund was set up to assist all members of the TFS in times of need.

Michele's last wish was that remaining funds be used to help Tim Young.

Michele's MotoMed (type of exercise bike) has been donated to the Royal Hobart Hospital. This can now be used for the rehabilitation of many patients.

Thank you to everyone who assisted in raising funds for Michele, the remaining funds are now assisting others.

Barry, Justin and Adam, words cannot express our sadness, please accept condolences and best wishes from your TFS family. **LL**



Linda Lacy, Barry Wylie, Dawn Simpson (Senior Physiotherapist – Rehabilitation, Royal Hobart Hospital) and Nurse Maureen Chapman (one of Michele's primary nurses when she was on Dwyer Ward)



Barry presenting a cheque to Director Corporate Services, Mike Gallagher



Barry presenting a framed picture to Acting Deputy Chief Tony Davidson



Barry with Tim and Justin Young



A Generous Gift to the Museum

By Tasmania Fire Museum Member, Terry Gill

Museum President Roland Hill, accepting Bob Butcher's long service medal from his grandson Terry Butcher, on behalf of the Butcher family



In life it might have been said that Bob Butcher was an ordinary bloke. On marrying his wife Ruby, they settled down to family life at 23 Ladbroke Street, Burnie. He worked nearby as a labourer at Cumming Bros. Marine Terrace timber mill, eventually rising to the position of foreman.

But like most volunteers in our service, he had a "double life", the other side of which was anything but ordinary.

In 1917 at the age of 34, George Robert Purton (Bob) Butcher joined the Burnie Brigade as a retained volunteer fireman. This was the start of a 29 year long career with the Brigade, serving under three successive Superintendents (Brigade Chief).

Apart from attending many fires in Burnie during the course of his fire brigade career, he was to be part of a number of technological advances in Brigade's operations and equipping. These included the 1926 progression from turning out to fires with a hand drawn hose reel cart, to the first motor fire engine, a *Chevrolet* hose – carriage and later from 1935, in a *Dodge* pumper. 1933 saw the introduction of brigade mobilisation using a system of telephones and house bells in members' homes. Before this, mobilisation was by someone raising the alarm by ringing the fire bell on a tower at the original Jones Street fire station. Bob Butcher would also have seen the 1930's rise in interest in inter-brigade "demonstrations", in which the Burnie Brigade became an active and long term competitor.

Against this backdrop, the Tasmania Fire Museum was recently honoured to accept the generous gifting by Bob Butcher's family, of his *Burnie Fire*

Brigade Long and Good Service Medal, which it is proposed to place on public display, accompanied by Bob's story.

Initiated by the Burnie Fire Brigade Board in 1933, it's probable that Bob Butcher was the first recipient of the medal in 1934, after 12 years service. This was followed by bars for 17, 22 and 27 year's service. It appears that only 4 other members of the Brigade were ever to receive the medal between 1933 and 1946. When its issue ceased, it was replaced by the *Fire Brigades Commission Long Service and Meritorious Conduct Medal*, in 1948.

For further detail on this era of the Burnie Fire Brigade, the reader is referred to "*With Skill and Dedication*", written by Roger McNeice, for the State Fire Commission in 1993. **TG**



Bob Butcher wearing his medal in 1944, in his Burnie Fire Brigade uniform



1935 BFB Dodge pumper, on which Bob Butcher would have turned out to fires.

Hobart District light tanker competition

By the Rokeby Brigade Organising Committee, Lewis van Bommel, Dave Shorthouse, Josh Mulcahy and Jess Brown

On Saturday 3 October 2009, seven brigades from the Hobart District converged on the Rokeby and Clarendon Vale area for the annual Hobart District light tanker competition hosted by Rokeby Brigade. Brigades undertook a number of stands involving, pumping, navigation, general knowledge, bushfire safety, driving, a novelty activity and many more. The day started out cold, but certainly warmed up as the competitions were in full swing.

The competitions were extremely well fought and scores were very close. The overall winner of the day was Fern Tree, followed very closely by Mount Nelson and Taroona. The day was certainly enjoyed by all. It would be great to see more teams entered in to next year's event.

On behalf of the Rokeby Brigade, the organising committee would like to extend a big thank you to all the members of other brigades that assisted with the running of the day, we couldn't have done it without you!

Photographer Lewis van Bommel





First place – Fern Tree




Second place – Mt Nelson



Third place – Taroona





Live fire training at Westbury

By Field Officer Tamar District Ben Wilson

On a quiet Sunday morning in early October 2009, Westbury Brigade had the opportunity to undertake some live for training, thanks to the donation of a house set for demolition.

Before lighting it up the house was filled with smoke from fire pots to refresh brigade members' search and rescue techniques, working in BA as a team and hydraulic ventilation using a branch.

I shadowed officers and crew leaders to ensure they were doing the following:

- Applying RECEO;
- Continually sizing up;
- Tasking crews with clear instruction;
- Passing timely sitreps to our mock Firecomm;
- Highlighting safety concerns and communicating them where necessary.

Once the live fire scenarios were started all BA wearers gained valuable experience and instruction from Senior Firefighter Michael Porter (career firefighter with Launceston as well as a volunteer at Westbury) and Westbury Brigade Chief Rodney Brewer. Under the watchful eye of these two gents the BA crews had about four different scenarios before the house was let go leaving just the two chimneys remaining.

Thanks to Rodney and all the members (nearly the whole brigade showed) for making it such a successful day. **BW**



Brigade Chief Westbury Rodney Brewer and FF David Nicholls from Deloraine delegate the work



James McMahon
from Westbury

Arctic Blast

By District Officer Jeff Knight

International Climate Research Organization
Climate Lab aka State Briefing Room



Saskia Hamplele (Zoe) with a couple of the backroom guys



Jenny, Saskia, Michael, Molly, Brian, Indiana and Jess in the "Lab"

In June this year, the TFS was approached by representatives of the makers of the movie *Arctic Blast* about using part of the TFS headquarters in the movie.

Deputy Chief Officer Mike Brown agreed in principle and planning began. The producers, director and many of his department heads visited the building and indicated that the State Briefing Room would make an excellent location for the movie's Climate Lab.

Late August we were contacted by the film crew regarding the availability of two fire appliances and crews to participate in a shipping disaster sequence to be filmed at Clifton Beach on the 1st September. Leon Smith assisted with two pumpers and Jeff Knight, Kym Manten, Giulia Russo, Grant Joyce, Mark Klop, Claudio Muench, Phil Smith and Haydn Fletcher became movie extras for the day. We appeared in about six scenes over the course of the day.

The week starting the 7 September saw filming start in the State Briefing Room. The art department arrived at 0730 hours on the Monday and left around 5 hours later after transforming the State Briefing Room into a state of the art Climate Lab.

The Director Brain Trench-Smith, directed *Hospitals Don't Burn Down* filmed in 1978, a movie seen by nearly every firefighter and hospital worker over the last 30 years.

The three main actors who were on set here at headquarters were Michael Shanks who plays Jack, a Maverick Meteorologist and is best known for his role as Daniel Jackson in the *Stargate* series; Saskia Hamplele as Zoe, Jack's assistant; and Indiana Evans as Naomi, Jack's daughter.

Having a film crew of up to 40 people in our building for nearly a week could have had a major effect of our daily business but



Cast and crew hard at work on the set



TFS was approached by representatives of the makers of the movie *Arctic Blast* about using part of the TFS headquarters in the movie.

due to their focus and professionalism some of our staff did not even know this was going on.

Michael Shanks' presence in the building did have an effect on some of our younger female staff with the number of autographs requested reaching epic proportions.

The film is due for release in mid 2010 and will have a Hobart launch. **JK**



Grant Joyce, Saskia, Kym Manten, Michael, Giulia Russo

Beyond the call of duty

By Anglicare Tasmania Inc

Val Ansett is not only saving lives whilst on the job as a firefighter with the Hobart Brigade, he is also empowering people to change their own lives in his spare time. Val is a mentor with Anglicare's COMPASS Youth Mentoring Program and talks to us about his journey as a mentor.

The COMPASS Youth Mentoring program, seeks to provide safe support for a young person who may be struggling to concentrate at school, or having difficulty fitting in socially. COMPASS is part of an early intervention program into youth homelessness.

Can you paint a picture of yourself?

I'm 38 years old, the father of two young boys. I lived in Sydney for most of my life, where I got caught up with spending a lot of my time chasing money and a career. I was brought up as a Buddhist, and although non religious, I see things through this upbringing. My first volunteer experience was in Sydney where I helped feed the homeless for a while and was amazed at the experience. I got to a stage where I realised there's more to this life than me, so my family and I decided to move to Tasmania because it seems more community, environmentally and family orientated.

If you could do any extreme activity what would it be?

Hmmm ... I'd like to be a gymnast, gee that sounds corny now I've said it! I've been in the Army, done parachuting, martial arts and other pretty extreme activities through that. I think it would be cool to be able to do back flips and somersaults.

What made you want to become a mentor?

My wife came home from an interview with COMPASS Youth Mentoring Program and mentioned the need for more male mentors. I had a mentor in my youth who taught me martial arts and helped me with some anger management issues and I thought I could give someone a similar experience. When I started I thought it would be nice and easy, that the young person would look up to me and ask me to teach them things. Obviously I hadn't spent much time with teenagers! There's more to it than that; it's an eye opener and a challenge.

What sort of barriers do you think the young person you are mentoring faces in daily life?

He's based in a community which seems to get through on a day to day basis; there doesn't seem to be a lot of goal setting. He's not very confident at reading or writing. I think there are some



Val Ansett with his wife Wajan and sons Ronan and Bodhi

The COMPASS Youth Mentoring program, seeks to provide safe support for a young person who may be struggling to concentrate at school, or having difficulty fitting in socially. COMPASS is part of an early intervention program into youth homelessness.

bullying issues due to a health condition. He gets put down by people in the neighbourhood and perhaps at home which doesn't help his already low self esteem; he feels he has nothing going for him. He is a really lovely guy with a heart of gold; one day he wants to buy houses outside that neighbourhood for him and his family (after he puts a V8 into his car!).

What activities do you do with the young person you are mentoring?

We have been preparing him to learn to drive. I helped him get his learner's licence by assisting him with the road rules and literacy needed to pass the test. We use the computers at

the local Neighbourhood House and Access Centre and sometimes meet his friends there. As a volunteer with the Ready Set Go learn to drive program, I also hope to teach him how to drive and help him get his hours up. Sometimes we just have a chat, and recently I took him to Rosny College for an orientation day.

Do you think you've made a difference to his life?

Yes I do.

How?

Certain people in the community do look out for him but I feel he expects people will just dump him after some time; he's happy that I've stuck with him and go that extra mile to call him. It's good to have someone outside his community to fall back on for support.

I feel our relationship has opened his eyes; that someone does care. I don't think he's exposed to many people that have a stable job, so it's good for him to see it's just a normal part of my life. He loves to hear about the Fire Service. I feel talking to him and his mates about it, acts as a sort of fire prevention strategy in regards to juvenile arson by putting a face to the Fire Service.

Do you think it's changed your outlook on the struggles some young people face?

Yes, initially I didn't realise how hard life could be for people. When I worked in Sydney as a Fire Investigator we would often go into lower socio-economic areas where there had been a fire and see the way some people there lived, but that's seeing from the outside. From working with this young person I've been able to gain an insider's perspective and understand what an intense struggle it can be to try and get out of that cycle. There often seems to be no motivation to change; they seem to just accept it as their destiny.

Has the mentoring experience changed who you are?

I don't think it has changed who I am, but it has certainly opened my eyes to a different way of life, and added some fulfilment. I try and just be myself when I am with him, we sometimes have difficulty communicating, so that is an area I need to work on.

I think anything that takes us away from just thinking about ourselves is a good thing. I have two small boys, I look at them and think how lucky they are; what they could be exposed to if things were different for us as a family.

What changes would you like to see in your lifetime?

I would love to see a government that respects the environment as much as the people do. If you have found Val's story inspiring and would like more information on mentoring, please contact Beth Lord at b.lord@anglicare-tas.org.au or Nicole Adams at n.adams2@anglicare-tas.org.au or free call on 1800 243 232.

Fire at the Pier Café

By Second Officer Swansea Brigade, Kelvin Jones

On Friday 17 July at 1.58 am the Swansea Brigade received a pager message to attend a structure fire at the Pier Café Swansea. Upon heading down the main street of Swansea flames could be seen coming from the rear of the building leaping high into the dark night sky. Upon arriving at the station a handful of brigade members had already arrived. The local SES were called to assist with lighting and the best ever arrival time was created, it took our 31 Hino tanker less than 30 seconds to arrive at the scene with a crew of one (the driver), the rest of those attending ran the 50 metres from the station to the incident. After an initial attack from the rear of the two storey building neighbouring crews from Triabunna and Bicheno arrived to bolster the effort.

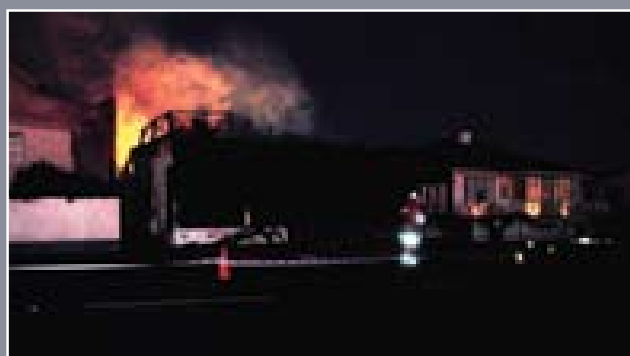
This was the first major structural fire for Swansea since 2005 when the Swan Inn burnt down. It was also the first major fire that many of our newer members had attended and they performed admirably. Neighbouring buildings, including the local town hall, received minor heat damage and the adjacent accommodation went unscathed.

Unfortunately the Pier Café was totally destroyed, but it is understood that building plans are already on the drawing boards.

Once the fire dwindled the night got colder and the frost settled, thanks to those who provided warm drinks and food throughout the incident.

The fire was extinguished by early morning with most of the day taken up with the usual process of investigation and overhaul.

Isn't it great when all that training comes to fruition? KJ



TFS Community Education 'Electronic' News

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

Community Education recently launched Issue No. 001 of Community Education News.

In producing this newsletter Community Education has reacted to strong feedback from volunteer, career and administrative staff statewide who indicated a need for simplified and timely electronic information about campaigns, initiatives, new resources etc.

Issue No. 001 outlined the TFS 2009-10 Bushfire Safety Campaign (9 November 2009 - March 2010).

Community Education News will be produced as the need arises but will include issues each year about the 'Bushfire Awareness Campaign', 'Winter Fire Safety Campaign' and the 'Change Your Clock Change Your Smoke Alarm Campaign at the End of Daylight Savings'.

Community Education News is distributed by e-mail and is also accessible via TFS Online. To ensure you receive a copy, please make sure your e-mail address is current. You can do this by going to www.fire.tas.gov.au/Member Login/My Records/Change Contact Details. If you do not have a member login click "Request Access to Member Area" and complete details. You can also email or phone your regional office with any changes.

Brigades and other workplaces are encouraged to display Community Education News on their noticeboards.

Feedback about Community Education News is also encouraged by emailing communityed@fire.tas.gov.au **CT & SB**

COMMUNITY EDUCATION NEWSLETTER
ISSUE NO. 001
5 November 2009

Welcome to the Community Education Newsletter Issue No. 001.

In producing this newsletter Community Education has reacted to strong feedback from Volunteer, Career & Administrative staff statewide who indicated a desire for simplified and timely information about campaigns, initiatives, new resources etc.

This issue outlines; the **TFS 2009-10 Bushfire Awareness Campaign** (9 Nov 2009 - March 2010)

Following the tragedy of the Victorian bushfires in February 2009 fire services Australia wide have developed a new set of measures in response to the findings of the Royal Commission to help save lives and prevent property loss.

The new guidelines are simple and to the point:

PREPARE ACT SURVIVE

bushfire
PREPARE ACT SURVIVE

If you live in or near the bush, it is your responsibility to prepare your home so it can be defended against a bushfire, and to give you and your family the very best chance to survive.

Fire Danger Rating

New Fire Danger Ratings

Are YOU bushfire ready?
What is the TFS doing this summer?

- Official launch 9 November 2009
- 4 new TV ads (Nov-2009 – Feb-2010 airing approx 1000 times WIN, Southern Cross, TDT, ABC) www.youtube.com/tasmaniafireservice
- New National Fire Danger Ratings
- 188,000 bushfire safety booklets inserted into newspapers (Nov-2009)
- Facebook advertising (Nov-2009 – Feb-2010)
- You Tube channel www.youtube.com/tasmaniafireservice
- Print advertising major & regional newspapers, RACT Motor News etc (Nov-2009)
- Updated Bushfire Prepare to Survive DVD (Dec-09)
- Updated Bushfire Prepare to Survive book (Dec-09)
- Updated TFS website www.fire.tas.gov.au
- Direct mail of information kit to Volunteer & Career Brigades to assist in carrying out bushfire safety activities in local communities (Dec 2009)
- Community Development Pilot in 4 identified communities (2009 - 2010)
- Stateline ABC TV 7.30pm Friday, 6 Nov 2009.

Are You Bushfire Ready?
Protect your family! Clear at least 30m around your home and develop a bushfire plan. Get detailed information from the TFS.
Like Craig Harding likes this.

Facebook Advertising

TASMANIA FIRE SERVICE
Contact: communityed@fire.tas.gov.au

The TFS and YouTube

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

YouTube is a video sharing website on which users can upload and share videos.

The TFS has created a YouTube channel www.youtube.com/tasmaniafireservice

Definition: A channel on YouTube is the home page for an account. It shows the account name, the account type, the public videos they've uploaded, and any user information they've entered.

You can customise the background and colour scheme of a channel along with controlling some of the information that appears on it.

YouTube channels can also display favourite videos from other users, activity streams, comments, subscribers, and other social networking features.

Currently the TFS YouTube channel contains the 4 television commercials (TVC's) for the 2009-2010 Bushfire Awareness Campaign. These TVC's will stay on the site until around the end of March where at that time they will be removed because of contractual obligations.

Future content of the TFS YouTube channel will be driven by organisational need and creativity. As we are relatively new to this medium we are learning and will continue to learn about what it can 'do' for us as an organisation. **SB&CT**



Redevelopment of selected sections of the TFS website

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

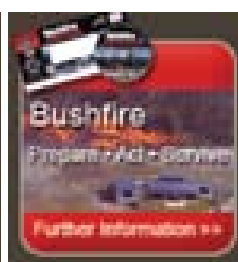
As part of the 2009-2010 Bushfire Awareness Campaign, Community Education along with Information Systems Branch is coordinating the redevelopment of selected sections of the TFS website including:

- Home page with new-look banners
- Changes and additions to Bushfire Safety Advice under "Fire Safety and You"
- Further refinement of "Fire Safety and You" pages including graphics and text changes

It is not possible to detail all the changes that will be occurring so please take the time to visit the TFS website at www.fire.tas.gov.au and make yourself familiar with the new changes and additions. **SB & CT**



Self explanatory



Link to detailed information about bushfire safety including new information about the New Fire Danger Rating System, Bushfire Warning Alert levels, National Emergency Warning System, Community Fire Refuges and Neighbourhood Safer Places



Self explanatory



TFS YouTube channel

"125 Years, Hobart Fire Brigade 1883-2008"

By A/Deputy Chief Officer Tony Davidson

In early 2008, planning started on how to mark the Hobart Fire Brigade's quasiquicentenary (125 years), due on 29 October 2008. This included asking Tasmania Fire Museum member Terry Gill if he would prepare a written and illustrated history of the Brigade to commemorate this event.

In accepting the challenge on a voluntary basis, it quickly became evident that this was going to be bigger task than was first imagined.

Over 18 months later, most of which involved full time work on the project by Terry, the end product of his research, editorial work, picture sourcing and image manipulation, saw the light of day. The book *125 Years, Hobart Fire Brigade 1883-2008* was launched by our Chief Officer, Mike Brown before nearly 100 guests, on Sunday 1 November 2009, in the gymnasium area of the 1925 extension to the Brigade's Argyle Street head station, known to many old hands as the "Baddington Court" above the "new station".

At the launch, the book was warmly received and Terry's work on the project was recognised by the Brigade's management team, by awarding him a *Hobart Fire Brigade Recognition of Loyalty and Commitment Medallion*. Awarding of this medallion is normally reserved for HFB members whose names appear on the Brigade's Roll of Honour.



TFS Museum members Terry Gill, Phil Mettam, Don Jones, Roland Hill, Leon Dewhurst, Bill Burke and Lionel Williams



Tony Davidson with Mary and Cynthia Olding, family of Superintendent John (Jack) Olding

Assisting Terry, were two other members of the project team who need special recognition; Linda Lacy and Kylie Harbottle. Their input was pivotal to production of the book. There were also others who contributed to the project and their input is acknowledged in the book itself.

The book is in a soft cover A4 format of 100 pages and contains just under 600 photographs and illustrations; more than half of which are in colour. Organised into 7 eras, it charts the chronological history of organised firefighting in Hobart:

- from earliest colonial times (1827), through the insurance company brigade period, to creation of the Hobart Fire Brigade as a statutory authority in 1883;
- from initial operation as the city's single retained volunteer brigade, to the first appointments of career staff in 1909/10;
- through two world wars, until the creation of a State agency to monitor the management of all Tasmania's urban brigades in 1945;
- through a period of post war expansion of Hobart and with it, the Brigade's response area and Hobart's worst ever bushfire event (1967), to an outside appointment as brigade chief in 1970;
- a short period of technological and cultural change and turmoil, culminating in plans being laid for amalgamating all the State's fire brigades into a single fire service (1979);
- a 13 year period to 1992 of re-organising the State's firefighting resources into two streams; urban and country; and
- finally, abandonment of the two streams, to create a fully integrated single fire service and covering events up to 2008.

All of this is recounted against a background of details on fires, people, stations and trucks.

The career and volunteer members of the Hobart Fire Brigade were the primary audience for the book, to give them an understanding of the Brigade's heritage. Even so other fire service members will find the book of interest. The book records in a more general way, how fire services have risen to meet the changes in risks to be covered, by the progressive adoption of new equipment, firefighting methods, forward planning and training. The experience of the Hobart Brigade senior officers was often sought in the past by the managers of the State's other urban brigades, by having them review and report on their operations. This resulted in those brigades following Hobart's lead.

I would like to thank Terry Gill, Linda Lacy and Kylie Harbottle for their dedication, commitment and enthusiasm in achieving what I believe is a fantastic insight into the Hobart Fire Brigade. To everyone else who contributed thank you very much. We hope to have the book converted to an electronic version in the near future, this will enable us to add appendices and additional information as it comes to hand.

The book is available from the TFS Museum at a cost of \$20.00 plus postage, by contacting the Southern Region Office on 6230 8400. **TD**



Tony Davidson with Anne Stowe, Gaele Mizzen, Jane O'Brien and John Skinner, grandchildren of Chief Officer Norman Skinner





TFS Firefighter Championships

– a burning success.

By Deputy Regional Chief – North, Gavin Freeman

Launceston certainly turned on the weather for the 2009 competitions, slip, slop, slap was the order of the day and guaranteed sunburn if you didn't.

The new venue at Inveresk Park was an outstanding success and feedback to date is in favour of maintaining this venue for the future. The central location for the State, the close proximity to the city centre and the fantastic facilities made it a dream venue, particularly from an organising perspective. Not having to worry about generators and the like was a relief. The Launceston City Council have been very supportive of the TFBCA and the TFS generally. Facilitating the installation of the water main and a range of other logistical issues made life much easier. While a small number of Brigades would like to see the event rotated each year we feel that this is not the best option.

Having said that it has not been decreed that the event will be held in Launceston forever and a day, it is simply better to give the venue another test run or two leading into the Australasian Firefighter Championships in 2013. The Executive is pleased to announce that the date for the 2010 Championships is the weekend commencing 13 November.

Many brigades have indicated they would prefer the event over 2 days, however, this will not be determined until we have an indication of the number of entries we have, this would allow for a mid morning start on the Saturday, a get together that night and an earlier finish Sunday. Cutting down the number of events is also an option we will consider. Incidentally, NSW and Victoria have already indicated they would send up to 4 teams each if we extend the invitation ... now that would be great for interstate





Kingston Seniors hard at work

relations! We are still to have a formal debrief and we are collating your feedback. The comments above are based on the initial indications from the feedback to date. More information on next year will be circulated soon, it is safe to say that the program and events will not change dramatically, this will allow for consistent training with equipment that is readily available to all brigades. We know not everyone has access to a 3-1P but the format of the event is the same regardless of the pump! There is a strong indication that brigades would like to see a sealed event reintroduced.

We will continue to support combined senior and junior competitions and it is hoped that we can attract more junior teams next year. One great suggestion (thanks Sandfly) is that brigades that compete adopt a 'buddy' brigade nearby and help

Our hard working judges and officials





them train for the competitions, what a simple way to double the number of entries! The TFBCA will make it our primary focus to engage with brigades that haven't historically participated. The message is that these events are fun and a great way to hone skills and build friendships with other brigades.

The 2009 Junior Champions were Gretna Brigade closely followed by Kingston Brigade. This result could have gone either way with very few points separating the teams at the end. Our juniors and cadets give their all and it is a shame that they can't all be declared winners ... in any case they are all "champions" in our view!

The Senior State Champions are Kingston Brigade, for those of you who were there on the day and are about to ring the editor about a printing mistake ... put the phone down. Unfortunately an error occurred in calculating the final results in the heat of the moment and Latrobe were incorrectly named winners on the day. Subsequently a recount was conducted (by 3 independent and separate people) this confirmed that in fact Kingston Brigade won by a narrow margin. The TFBCA Executive deeply regrets this mistake and accepts full responsibility for it. Our officials give freely of their time and at times are placed under enormous pressure, mistakes happen and all we can do is correct them and learn from them. The Association understands the heartache this has caused to all involved, in particular the Latrobe Brigade. The results were very close and either brigade would be deserving winners, however, there can be only one State Champion this year and congratulations to Kingston, our sincerest apologies to Latrobe and thank you for being so gallant throughout this. Kingston also won the coveted Senior and Junior combined aggregate.

Many thanks to our sponsors MBF Health, our hard working judges and officials and a huge thank you to District Officer Ian Cawthorn and his staff who contributed a massive amount toward the day. We know we haven't got it spot on yet, but we believe we are on the right track. Why not come along and see for yourself, it's not mysterious or for "athletes" only. The competitions reflect what you do every day in protecting your community ... you just don't have to worry about the fire!

See you in 2010. **GF**



Kingston



Claremont



Chief Officer Mike Brown with New Norfolk junior team

Different Paths, One Purpose

By Trainee Firefighter, Andrew Clarke



On 14th September, 12 people with various backgrounds came together to embark on a journey of both professional and personal development. The first thing that was apparent was the huge variety of backgrounds we all brought to our new career as firefighters; Ricky Barrett – Diesel Mechanic; Andrew Clarke – School Teacher; Matthew Davis – University Honours Student; Andrew Lancaster – Personal Trainer; Jason Fitzpatrick – Electrician; Nathan Foale – Landscaper; Luke Mellers – Chef; Shayne Mundy – Wildfire Management with Parks & Wildlife; Sandra McCann – FireComm; Ben Viney – Boilermaker/Welder; Emma Weitnauer – Professional Athlete; Jamie Masson – Customs Officer. It was this diversity that led to our recruit motto, “Different Paths, One Purpose”.

From day one, we knew that we were on a very steep learning curve. From learning to march to the huge range of subjects we had to become proficient in. We were in the deep end with the instructors holding our heads above the water! However, we all rose to the challenge, with different recruits excelling in different aspects of the course.

We completed a variety of courses, such as, Driver Training, BA, First Aid, Road Crash Rescue, Vertical Rescue, Respond to Urban Fire and Respond to Wildfire. At the end of all the courses, we were all on a real high after accomplishing our objectives. The whole experience has been amazing and we have developed some terrific friendships that will remain for life. We have had many laughs and found that through making mistakes we were able to learn so much more.

The whole experience has been amazing and we have developed some terrific friendships that will remain for life.

We were lucky enough to have four very competent instructors for our recruit course. They have instilled in us a sense of confidence with what we are doing. They had ensured that the course was challenging, well-planned and a great platform for us to begin our career in the TFS. They are very approachable and always ensured that we have a good understanding of what we were learning. We would like to acknowledge all the hard work of Shane Batt, David McGuinness, Andrew McGuinness and Kier Wilson. We also had the benefit of having a number of guest instructors who ensured we had the best knowledge available for their area of expertise. We would like to thank all of our guest instructors for their help.

We are now all eagerly anticipating our transition into shift work and are very excited about working with the talented and experienced firefighters of the TFS. Our hope for the future is that we can be good firefighters who serve the community to the best of our ability. **AC**

Tassie boy's smile for Smiddy

By Senior Firefighter Hobart Brigade, Tim McKay



Often great tragedy is the catalyst for inspirational stories of human endeavour. Nowhere is this more evident than the great annual event which is known as the Smiling for Smiddy Challenge. Named in honour of a truly inspirational young man named Adam Smiddy, the event aims to raise much needed funds for cancer research and education.

Although I was not fortunate enough to know him personally I cannot begin to tell this story without first offering the reader a glimpse into the life of Adam Smiddy. Having taken on this journey that simply drains a person of their emotional and physical reserves, I am now blessed to call Adam's closest mates and his immediate family close lifelong friends.

Adam Smiddy was an elite level triathlete and highly skilled physiotherapist. He was one of those guys who never had a bad word to say about anyone. A quiet and unassuming young man, he was a genuine, caring, talented guy who was loved by everyone who had the good fortune to meet him. Tragically, in the prime of his life, aged just 26 Adam was diagnosed with an aggressive melanoma. Although an extremely fit and otherwise healthy person, his illness struck with such aggression that it claimed his life in a matter of weeks from diagnosis.

His passing had a profound effect on all who knew him. Obviously words cannot capture the massive loss felt by Adam's parents David and Maria. I need to add here that David and Maria are two of the strongest and most inspirational people I have ever had the privilege to know. Adam's friends were also in deep mourning and none more so than Adam's coach and great mate Mark "Sharky" Smoothy. So devastated was Sharky at the loss of his close mate, and trying to come to terms with his own grief that he decided to pay tribute to Adam in a truly unique way. The Smiling for Smiddy Challenge was born.

All who know Sharky will tell you that he is a kind of quirky, eccentric fellow, who is so laid back that he seems to almost be in a coma. The very special thing about him though is that he has a heart the size of Phar Lap's, and he is proud to wear that massive heart of his on his sleeve. Fortunately Sharky is also the kind of guy who, when he sets his mind to something, gets it done. In recognition of Adam's wish to cycle from his training base in Brisbane to his parent's home in Home Hill some 1600 km away, Sharky and two of his best mates set out to cycle the journey in memory of Adam. And because it would be too easy or enjoyable to ride the coast road they decided to do it via an inland route. The adventure was to be known as the Smiling for Smiddy Challenge in recognition of the huge smile that Adam was known for. As well as being a therapeutic journey for Sharky, it was also to raise funds to find a cure for cancer. The three inaugural riders managed to raise \$26,000 in that first trip. That was four years ago, and it's fair to say that Sharky's embryo of an idea has now grown into a truly awesome event. The 2009 Bottlemart Smiling for Smiddy Challenge is proof of that. I don't have the vocabulary to describe what the 2009 ride meant to me and the boundaries beyond which it pushed me, but in keeping



Hobart Firefighters Jason Johnson and Tim McKay with fellow rider and Australian and Tour de France cycling legend Phil Anderson.

with a teary promise that this Firefighter made to Sharky at the finish line, "I'm gonna b#@@%y well try."

5:00 a.m on Saturday 4th September 2009 saw 50 riders and 10 support crew meet for a very emotional welcome and breakfast. A more diverse group of people you couldn't assemble if you tried. Included in the group was Olympic swimming gold medallist Duncan Armstrong, who owing to a poorly timed case of glandular fever was a late scratching from the ride. Also of note amongst the group was Australian cycling great Phil "Skippy" Anderson. To those in the cycling world Phil requires no introduction, but for those who haven't heard of him Phil was the first non-European to wear the yellow jersey at and win a stage of the Tour de France. You can imagine then two cycling mad firefighters from Hobart in Jason Johnson and myself feeling very chuffed to be invited to spend eight gruelling days in the saddle with such legends of Australian sport. Although the mix of people was eclectic and hailed from all over Australia we were all united in the belief that our children should not grow up in a world with cancer, and that is up to each and every one of us to do what little we can to help find that cure.

So here we were in Brisbane for roll out on day one. "Beautiful one day, perfect the next," or so the tourism slogan goes. Hardly, we were on the start line in pouring rain and facing a gruelling day of 210 km in the saddle. Our spiritual leader and head of the road crew Kevin "Kevy" Enchelmaier sent riders on our way with his ringing of the cowbell. It was a fitting start and all riders couldn't help but smile as a man who could be the identical twin to Santa Clause rang the bell with such enthusiasm. It's fair to say though that despite Kev's warm nature, incredible support as well as his hugs and handshakes, the ringing of that cowbell to signal the start of each day also became a signal that the pain was about to start all over again. Needless to say there were many suggestions as to where Kevy might like to put his cowbell by the time we crossed the finish line in Home Hill.

The following eight days were filled with such highs and lows that it is almost an injustice to attempt to sum up in words alone. Pedalling over 1600 km in just eight days in temperatures

around the 40 degree mark for a such a great cause and in honour of such a special person was always going to take a huge physical and emotional toll. Every day one was blessed to watch such special people grind through the pain and achieve things that should not be possible. The quiet box became the name for that feeling that at some stage would engulf every single rider. That feeling when all of a person's reserves were just depleted and the mind just checked out, but the body was obliged to continue. Where vision became dangerously blurry and strange hallucinations began to take place. Where every cell in your body was screaming at you to stop. You could see it in people. Their eyes would glaze over and their ability to speak would desert them. It was at this point that a fellow rider would be there with a gentle hand on the back or an encouraging word. Those words would mostly go without response, but the bond of the team meant that no one would fail to get to Home Hill.

I need to thank all of you who donated to our fundraising efforts this year. Jason and I have been overwhelmed with the support and generosity of all who have helped. The final total has been announced this week and I'm pleased to say that Smiling for Smiddy 2009 managed to raise just over \$540,000 towards melanoma research and patient support. Excitingly the success of the Queensland event is such that Jason and I have been asked to launch the event here in Tasmania. We have had some fantastic offers of support to launch the event here and 2010 will see the very first Smiling for Smiddy Tasmania event. On that note I need to make special mention of Green's Leader the Hon. Nick McKim MP, who not only made a significant personal donation towards our Queensland ride, but has thrown his support behind the Tasmanian concept. Thank you Nick, I look forward to working with you on this again in the future.

Another who has assisted greatly is Health Minister, Attorney General and Deputy Premier the Hon Lara Giddings MP who couldn't put her hand in her pocket quick enough to donate to the cause, her support didn't just end there however. Lara's office has already been hard at work on our behalf and identified many potential research partnerships with whom we are now holding talks with a view to supporting their research.

There is nothing that makes me more proud than the fact that I can now call myself a part of the Smiddy family. The ride has taken a massive toll on me physically and caused some on-going health concerns as a result of pushing my body beyond its limits, but it is just a huge pleasure to have been able to contribute to such an amazing cause. I've met people with whom I will share a bond for life. Both Jason and I have committed ourselves to return for the event next year.

So people please, if you see either Jason or myself rattling tins or organising functions to raise money for this wonderful charity please dig deep. After all, do we really need to accept that our children should grow up in a world with cancer? **TM**

Use of TFS Logo

By Director Corporate Services, Mike Gallagher



The TFS logo is a trademark of the Tasmania Fire Service and subject to these guidelines may only be used where prior approval has been obtained from the Chief Officer or a member of the Executive Management Team (Chief Officer, Deputy Chief Officer, Regional Chiefs or Directors).

The TFS logo is used on the letterhead of both the State Fire Commission and Tasmania Fire Service. The logo has been approved for use on certain TFS purchased clothing including operational and non-operational items of dress. Approval has also been extended to TFS vehicles and certain equipment.

Brigades may use the TFS logo along with their own name on their letterhead and on their internet site. The TFS is aware that at times brigades may write, semi formally, letters to organisations or individuals and TFS supports this providing the correspondence does not expose the Fire Service to criticism or to a financial obligation.

Care is requested in the use of the TFS logo and where any doubt exists as to whether it should or should not be used please consult with your Manager/District Officer in the first instance. **MG**

A season with B.C. Forestry initial attack fire crews Canada (mountain goat firefighting)

By Senior Firefighter Hobart Brigade, Simon Pilkington



It was the 27th July, a lazy, sunny Sunday afternoon that we were spending packing our VW Camper. We were to set off in two days for a not so small road trip to Costa Rica from Victoria, Vancouver Island, B.C.

I heard the phone ringing, and do you think I could find it? Not a hope. Frantically tearing the van apart looking for it, I grabbed it, panting slightly.

It was Rob Templeman from Errington fire base needing fires for a record fire season. He was offering work for both Kate and I, plus a hotel room.

Talk about throwing a curve ball! After clearing it through the leader of the opposition, and a phone call later we were headed to Errington. I was to start work the next day on an I.A. Helitack Crew and Kate was to take her position in Finance and Administration. It looked like the road trip was on the back burner for a while.

To explain a little about initial attack (I.A.) in B.C.- I.A. is an aircraft-mounted strike force utilised by the Forestry Service. Its primary role is rapid response to the incident, providing initial reconnaissance of the fire scene and commencing the fire attack. I.A. crews work under the motto "HIT HARD HIT FAST".

B.C. Forestry Initial Attack program is split into 3 response divisions, being:

- Helitack: (3 person crew on an intermediate helicopter capable of a deployment height of 6 - 10 feet)
- Rappattack: (3 person crew on a medium helicopter capable of a deployment height of approximately 100 feet)
- Smoke Jumpers: (2 x 3 person crews and a spotter on a fixed wing aircraft, deploying from approximately 5,000 feet)

This three prong approach to fire attack allows for fast response to wild land fire in any sort of terrain.

It was my first day, my first hour, and I was on my first fire call. We were in the helicopter and off. Kevin Cochrane (crew leader), Jenna Smith and myself, made up the fire crew, along with Preston Story, our pilot. Preston could drop a Bambi bucket in a teacup if you asked him. I guess 25 year's helicopter logging and flying everything from Skycranes and Siskorski S-61s to Hughes 500s will do that!

After about a 20 minute flight we arrived at an area about 20m x 10m burning slowly and not doing much. I looked up to see a Bell 204 medium and Jet Ranger circling overhead. Wow! I had never seen so many helicopters on a fire this size before. I later found out, at that time in the Province, there were around 240 helicopters on contract, and a vast majority of those were heavy and medium aircraft. Kevin said later, "That was a little overkill for that particular fire, and not a normal response. What would the response have been at home?" I replied "A 5-1 Landcruiser." This made both of us laugh.



About a week in, it was time to do hover exit refreshers. Now, at home we are used to toeing in to a hillside and getting out of the helicopter, no real drama. In B.C. you are required to hang at full extension from the bottom skid of the helicopter, between 10 – 30 feet in the air and then the helicopter will lower you into the drop spot. This in turn gives the helicopter at least an extra 6 – 10 feet clearance at the rotors from ground level, making it a lot more versatile and giving the crew a lot more options. Once grounded the crew starts making a helipad, either earth based, clearing trees etc, or raised, constructed from timber. With this type of insertion B.C. crews are able to drop off and work fires on steep slopes without having to hike up or down slopes a long way to action fires.

Over the coming weeks we had more fires and smoke chases. Generally lighting strikes on mountains and ridgelines. Talk about goat country, you could just about label some of it high angle!

I got swapped off the Helitack crew and onto a truck attack crew for a week, as crew leader to cover one of the other guys. Kevin sat down and went through a few things with me: the local area and response protocols etc. One of the most entertaining topics was resource requests, and what I could ask for, and get within an hour or so. They were:

- Firefighters – additional I.A. crews or 20 pack unit crews;
- Vehicles – from pumpers to tenders;
- Bulldozers and plant equipment;
- Helicopters – light, intermediate and a skycrane or S-61 if necessary;
- Water tankers (in Canada tankers fly and tenders are what carry water on the ground).

I was blown away. I could call in three water tankers and a Bird Dog (checks the run for tankers before they make the drop, just to be sure they can pull up) and have them there in one to one and a half hours. Kevin said "Pretty much the same as home, hey?" "Yeah pretty much!" I said, laughing a little.



Two weeks in and it was my crew's rotation out at Port Alberni, a mill town smack bang in the middle of Vancouver Island. We didn't have much in the way of fire, but we certainly explored the lakes and nightlife over the coming four days. We got a phone call on the fourth day, a Saturday, to say we were being deployed for two weeks to Bella Coola, inland, just on the border of the Cariboo. Bella Coola had an evacuation order earlier the same week. Now, I was going to get to see Canada!

The flight into Bella Coola was unbelievable. I had never seen mountains or lakes like these before. Once briefed, we started to work fires that had been going for the last couple of weeks. I flew, worked and walked some of the most amazing country I have ever seen. I had to laugh when it was said crews weren't allowed anywhere near a pub in a work vehicle or in uniform after a big fire, and I was asked how we got away with it? Kevin, my crew leader had been on a deployment to Australia as a Div Sup and had been amazed. I replied "It would be un-Australian if we didn't." On the flip side I said "How do you get away with putting a helicopter down on the Talchako River, pulling out the rod and landing half a dozen 15-20lbs Coho salmon?" Again, there was laughter about the differences between the service's perception on things.

I learnt so much in my time with B.C. Forestry, made some great mates and it was fantastic experience. Huge thanks go out to Kevin Cochrane (crew leader) and Rob Templeman (fire base manager at Errington) for giving me this opportunity, and all the boys and girls on the fire crews. Also a big thanks to Sunwest helicopter pilots, Brian and Preston for making the days at Errington that much more entertaining. **SP**



Volunteer Handbook Review – What do you think?

By Coordinator Volunteer Strategy, Lucas van Rijswijk

Here is a chance for you to have a say.

As you know, we are reviewing our Volunteer Handbook. Have you looked at your brigade's copy recently? It's packed full of useful information. It's the "must go" place to find out about how we do things in TFS.

The current version of the Volunteer Handbook was revised in 2005. It has served us well, however, many things have changed and it now needs to be reviewed.

A dedicated team of volunteers and staff have been meeting regularly. We started by looking at Section 3 – Joining a Brigade because this process will soon change. We have designed a new layout. More of the text will be set out in tables. This will cut down on the number of words. Hopefully, it will also make things easier to find.

What do you think?

Look at a picture of a sample page (below) or have a look at a draft of Section 3 – Joining a Brigade on the TFS members Intranet at:

<https://www.fire.tas.gov.au/mysite/Show?pageld=displayDoc&docId=003271>

Reviewing the Volunteer Handbook is quite a challenge. Many things have changed, and keep changing. Many people have a keen interest in what is in the Volunteer Handbook. The working group is trying hard to get your views. The group's members provide information to the volunteer associations as well as administration, corporate and field staff. You can also help by keeping an eye on the TFS Member's Intranet. Draft copies will be posted on the Intranet for your feedback and suggestions.

We are also thinking about other ways we can get this information to you. Some possible ideas include:

- Sending a copy on a CD-ROM/DVD to each member (with your copy of Fireground). This would be a cheap option and we could send you a new copy each year.
- Providing brigades with cue cards which could be hung up on hooks. These cue cards would "talk" you through important processes like helping a new member to join, or how to organise a brigade election, for example.
- Only providing the Volunteer Handbook on the TFS Member's Intranet. This would mean that people only had access to up-to-date information. It seems that more than 80% of our members already have Internet access at home. Most other members can access the Intranet at work or at local libraries or On-line Access Centres.

We would welcome your ideas and comments.

Please send them to me by phoning 6230 8682 or by email at lucasvr@fire.tas.gov.au

You can also talk to any one of the Working Group members.

Watch this space! **LvR**

CONSULTATION DRAFT

3. Application – to select the right roles for brigade and applicant

Purpose

To encourage the new person to make a commitment
To make a commitment to help her/him to be successful
To set expectations for the future by providing a high quality experience
To encourage welcoming, supportive and professional interactions with the existing members.

Process

Discuss Role and the Applicant's expectations	Each new person should have a discussion with at least one senior officer and one brigade member. The discussion is to <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ find out relevant information about the new person, and▪ discuss the role requirements in more detail <i>See page () for tips about this discussion</i>
Provide application forms and information	At the end of the brigade Introduction, ask the new person if they wish to make a formal application. If the answer is "Yes", the guide/mentor should give the person an Application Kit and explain the purpose of each document. <i>See page () for more information about this step</i>
Assess forms and information	Each completed application document must be checked by the Brigade Chief for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ completeness and accuracy; and▪ matching all relevant requirements Any important information that has not been provided must be obtained. Any character check, medical, or other issues of concern considered before making a decision.
Recommend Applicant	The Brigade Chief must decide whether to recommend that the application be accepted. This must be based on a fair and reasonable assessment of everything known about the applicant. If in doubt, discuss it with the District Officer.
(Continues)	The applicant can now begin on-station induction while the application is being processed.



Safety Week 2009

By OH&S Officer, Kelly Gordon

From massages to stress management, tai chi to entrapment training; this year's Safety Week had it all! As a result of an online health and wellbeing survey conducted earlier this year (by Healthy@Work project – a Tasmanian Government initiative), we decided to make this year's theme *"health and wellbeing"* where particular issues were targeted in Safety Week such as physical activity, stress and alcohol.

To refresh your memory, 22% (104) of TFS employees (divisional and operational) participated in the survey and some of the key results were:

- 67% of employees were assessed as being overweight or obese;
- 25% of employees are suffering from moderate psychological distress and 13% from high/ very high psychological distress; and
- 62% of employees have risky drinking habits

The presenters/ activities:

In order to target these results a series of presentations/ activities were conducted in the different regions of the state. Presentations/ activities that took place include:

Massage:

Various providers from around the state visited staff on site to conduct neck and shoulder massages in an attempt to help relieve stress.

Tai Chi:

Tai Chi took place in the north west and south and was conducted by Arthritis Tasmania. Staff received an introduction to Tai Chi and learnt some basic moves.

Yoga:

Yoga classes were conducted in the north and south offering staff the opportunity to try something new and to learn a couple of moves.

Beautiful weather provided the opportunity for staff to stretch their legs, get moving and go on a group walk together.

Stress Management:

Converge International (formally ITIM) introduced themselves to staff as our Employee Assistance Provider and reiterated that they offer a confidential service and can provide three sessions free of charge. Converge also spoke about stress management and techniques to handle it at work.

Safe Drinking:

The Salvation Army conducted a presentation in the three regions about alcohol and its effects, binge drinking, alcohol tolerance and dependence, and harm minimisation strategies.

Walk:

Beautiful weather provided the opportunity for staff to stretch their legs, get moving and go on a group walk together.



Station Officers Ben Wilson and Greg Hynes

A few observations from Safety week:

- Massages can be very relaxing – although for some they were a bit of a workout;
- Tai Chi is great for relaxation and looks very graceful;
- Yoga can make people look funny and fall asleep;
- You don't need to have many consecutive drinks to be considered a binge drinker.

Entrapment Training

Entrapment training was also launched during Safety week and will be delivered to all career and volunteer staff. This training comes as a result of a workshop that investigated Bellingham and similar turnover events.

Thanks

Thank you to all who showed support by participating in Safety Week. Special thanks goes to regional staff who helped facilitate the events.

Also thank you to those who participated in the Safety Week review surveys (attendance and non attendance). Your feedback is highly appreciated and critical for the planning of future Safety Weeks. Some of the suggestions for future Safety activities or improvements include:

- Health and fitness activities;
- Health checks;
- Activities for operational staff when rostered on shift;
- Activities that go for the whole of Safety Week;
- More promotion from managers to get staff to attend;
- Cycling event;
- Gym sessions;
- Lectures/ information on safety issues;
- Information about how identified safety issues and successful strategies will be followed up;
- Bushwalking;
- 365 day a year safety health and wellbeing program;
- Meditation;
- Laughter workshop.

KG



Safety tips for the festive season

By OH&S Officer, Kelly Gordon

Presents are under the tree, stockings are hanging from the mantelpiece, carols are playing – it's Christmas time! For many of us, Christmas is the most anticipated and busiest holiday of the year. It can also be one of the most dangerous times of year, therefore extra care needs to be taken to ensure that we all have a safe and happy holiday.



Tips to remember this holiday season:

- *If driving, drink responsibly - the potential consequence for you, your family or other innocent people is too great to take that risk.*
- *Drinking - most of us enjoy a drink, particularly over the festive season. It is important, however, to remember that a bit of planning is the key. Ensure you have a designated driver or catch a cab.*
- *Trying to steer a car while you are asleep behind the wheel isn't a safe (or smart) long term driving strategy, nor is it popular with police. Be aware of the dangers of driving long distances and fatigue.*
- *Check the weather conditions/forecast – if going away, pack for the conditions, which in Tassie means Antarctic survival gear, thongs and T shirt.*
- *If you go camping take insect repellent with you or you'll be slapping yourself silly. Try not to set your campsite on fire and create extra work for your colleagues.*
- *If going walkabout in Tassie's great outdoors and travelling alone, tell people (friends, family, accommodation provider etc) so our colleagues at the SES and Police won't have to look for you.*
- *If you decide to go to the beach remember to swim between the flags, the lifeguards are there for your safety (plus, we've all seen Baywatch).*
- *If you don't like stinging sunburns, looking like a lobster and scratchy skin, then remember the old SLIP SLOP SLAP!*
- *Hydration - you might spend hours going to the loo, but drinking plenty of water, especially on hot days, is a good idea. Aim for at least 2 litres a day.*
- *If you are flying long distances make sure you do some stretching along the way to avoid the risk of Deep Vein Thrombosis. Due to lack of space Yoga is not advisable.*
- *Don't turn Christmas lights into a fire hazard – Santa won't be impressed.*
- *Enjoy relaxing and doing nothing, but also try staying active. It'll help ward off spare tyres, love handles and a second (or third) chin.*
- *Balance is important, so aim to squeeze some healthy food in between the Christmas puds, pizza and pies.*
- *Have a great time!*

On behalf of the Human Services team, we hope you have a Safe and Merry Christmas. KG

Tasmania Day

By Brigade Chief Pyengana Brigade, Vaughan Oldham

With thanks to the Department of Premier & Cabinet and the TFS, the Pyengana community recently held Tasmania Day celebrations. This involved the Pyengana Brigade and also a wide cross section of the Pyengana community.

Fire extinguisher training started the day off which was then followed by a BBQ lunch. National Medals and Long Service badges were presented in the afternoon. The weather was very warm and a great time was had by all. **VO**



District Officer. John Hazzlewood and Brigade Chief Vaughan Oldham



Back (L-R): Lance Clifford, Gerald Nicklason, Brian Coombe, Michael Lefevre, Tony Cash, David Cowan, Gregory Oldham, Jason Rattray and Peter McMaster
Front (L-R): Kevin Rattray, Norman Rattray, District Officer John Hazzlewood and Vaughan Oldham

Station Officer Promotions – Northern Region

By District Officer Operations, Danny Richardson

After going through a rigorous application process there were a number of successful applicants appointed to Northern Region.

Two of the successful applicants Greg Hynes and Ben Wilson were made up and presented with their Station Officer 'pips' on November 24th at Launceston Station.

Greg has been a member of the TFS since 1994 starting out as a volunteer with the Sisters Beach Brigade. In 2000 Greg was successful in applying to become a trainee firefighter and was stationed at Launceston after completing recruit course 1/2000. Greg has had experience in the region with stints as Acting Field Officer positions and has also been a JFLIP practitioner. He also has a keen interest in Vertical Roping as an Instructor and is the current USAR Northern Coordinator. After completing his studies he attained the rank of Leading Firefighter in 2008. Greg will remain on C Platoon in Launceston as a Station Officer.

Ben joined the TFS in 1995 and as many would recall started as a Communications Technician in Hobart, during this period he was also a volunteer with Rokeby. Like Greg, Ben also had a career change in 2000. After completing recruit course 2/2000 Ben was stationed at Launceston where he became the shift Cat 2 USAR Instructor. After working away to complete the required



Station Officer Ben Wilson and Greg Hynes

competencies he also attained the rank of Leading Firefighter in 2008. Ben has been appointed as Field Officer Tamar District for the next two years.

Congratulations to you both and on behalf of all at TFS, and in particular the Northern Region we wish you well in your continuing careers. **DR**

Annual Launceston Brigade Reunion Night

By Field Officer Tamar District Ben Wilson on behalf of the Launceston Fire Brigade Social Club

In October 2009 the annual reunion night was held at the Launceston Fire Station. The night is all about celebrating with those who have retired in the past 12 months and invites former members to come and join us for a night of reflection and stories of the good old days.

Not only do the "old guard" enjoy coming back in to see how the fire brigade has grown since their retirement, the younger brigade members like to listen to how things were back in the last century but I think some of the stories may have grown over the years, I'm pretty sure there were no horses kept in the rear yard as late as the eighties, maybe a few donkeys though.

Once again the night proved to be a huge success with approximately 80 people attending, thoroughly enjoying the evening and applauding the present retirees who were all presented with gifts from the TFS and our Social Club.



John Bolton, Geoff Brown, Bruce Finger, Ian McLachlan and Phil Grant

The retirees this year were:

- SSO Bruce Finger 29 year's service
- SO Phil Grant 33 year's service
- SSO Ian McLachlan 33 year's service
- SFF John Bolton 33 year's service
- SFF Geoff Brown 39 year's service

Thanks to the LFB Social Club committee for again doing all the leg work to make the night what it was and to D-Platoon for hosting the evening.

BW

Mt Nelson Brigade visits HFB

By First Officer, Mt Nelson Brigade, Andrew Johns

On Tuesday 10th November 2009, Mt Nelson Brigade (MNB) paid a visit to "C" shift at HFB. The visit was hosted by Senior Station Officer Andrew Skelly. As Mt Nelson Brigade is a support brigade for HFB, a close working relationship is important, and this visit was designed to give MNB a feel for how the career shifts work, and why we see different crews turning out to calls with them.

Andrew also gave MNB a rundown on a Heavy Pumper (Hobart 1.2), showing equipment that is not on the MN3.1 such as battery operated spreader tool, high-rise pack, PPV fan, and BA sets incorporating radio communications.

Heavy Pumpers have a much higher output pump than that on MN3.1, and it was good for members to see the difference. The picture is one of Mt Nelson's Members, Al Cooke, seeing and feeling the difference up close.

Mt Nelson members were also given a look at the Hobart Snorkel unit, and were able to see just how high it can go. Given it was operated in the backyard of HFB, a demonstration of how manoeuvrable the platform is in a confined space was very impressive.

Members were then able to tour the Museum in the older part of the HFB station, which included a close look at the Metz ladder truck, which extends to around 125 feet. Andrew was



able to recount how, as part of their induction, they had to climb the ladder, and stand on a small platform, showing their heels over the side, and then jump off on a rope. Nothing like an initiation!

The last stop for the tour was to FireComm, where members were given a rundown on how radio calls, phone calls, 000 calls, and calls to other emergency services are dealt with. An overview of FIRM and the other software tools that FireComm operators have to assist them in their job was also provided.

Many thanks to Andrew and his on station crew, and the FireComm operators for an informative and enjoyable tour. **AJ**

New fire station for Upper Huon

By District Officer South West, Rod Sherrin

The local member for Franklin, Daniel Hulme MP officially opened the new Upper Huon fire station, South West District on Sunday 6th December 2009. Chief Officer Mike Brown was also in attendance along with a large representation of local brigade members accompanied by their families.

Located on Glen Huon Road at Judbury this purpose built station is strategically positioned to serve the greater community south west of Huonville.

The building features 2 engine bays, a large separate training area and increased storage facilities and office space.

The area comprises of a close knit community that is relatively isolated from the next largest brigade located at Huonville. The amalgamation of the Glen Huon and Judbury brigades back in 1991 to form the Upper Huon Brigade has seen volunteer membership in the area grow considerably.

The station has been designed to meet the response and training needs of all local emergency service volunteers well into the future. **RS**



Fire Speak



At a recent incident an officer placed a stop on the call then proceeded to give the registration of the vehicle. This is how the radio transmission went.

*FireComm this is Clarence 11,
Clarence 11 this is FireComm over,
FireComm stop on call - fire extinguished
registration number ECHO (silence)
"Um can't remember what G is" 6621
over.
Golf FireComm roger out.*

"Note the registration number is suppressed, the number is an example only"

Newly wed Clare Watling was ordering catering whilst working in the Southern Region office. She was asked to spell out her name for the caterer, Clare was overheard by her colleagues as saying:

*"Yes that's Clare Watling- C, L, A, R, E, D,
A, V - I mean- W, A, T, L, I, N, G"*

Not quite used to the name change it seems!

Numbers finally up for Northern Region

By Regional Chief North, Andrew Comer

November 26th 2009 saw one of the last of the Hino Pumper-Tankers commissioned in Northern Region with Scottsdale Brigade Chief Bob Barrett AFSM receiving the keys to the new appliance from Minister Michelle O'Byrne.

With only two more vehicles to formally commission after that, Rocherlea and Beaconsfield on the 4th and 8th December respectively, the allocation of 3.1Ps to Northern Region will have come to a close.

These appliances have been, and will continue to be, a highly valued asset and provide excellent features that every operational person really appreciates; more locker space, plenty of carrying capacity for water and firefighters and a level of comfort and safety that makes getting to and from emergency calls almost a pleasure. They are a very welcome sight around the entire state and really are a great complement to the rest of our fleet.

Northern Region has now received eleven of these vehicles and in addition to Beaconsfield, Scottsdale and Rocherlea the other eight have found quality homes in Launceston, Ravenswood, Prospect, Deloraine, George Town, Evandale, Campelltown and St Helens Brigades.

Northern Region would like to take this opportunity to thank Engineering Services, and the Fabrication Division in particular, for producing these vehicles and to acknowledge also the commitment of Leon Smith (Alfie) and all his staff - south, north and northwest - for their participation, follow up and support in actually getting these vehicles in to service. Building, testing and relocating the appliances is one thing but they also spent time with the various brigades helping the members get to know the trucks in some detail. Great work everyone. **AC**

Northern Region would like to take this opportunity to thank Engineering Services, and the Fabrication Division in particular.





Library News

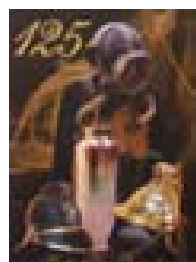
The TFS Library's catalogue is hosted by the State Library of Tasmania (SLT). Recently the SLT implemented a new system, which means the TFS has a shiny new library catalogue!

You can access the catalogue via TFS Online > Info Centre > Library > Library Catalogue, or directly at this address: <http://talis.education.tas.gov.au/uhtbin/fire/>

With the changeover to the new library system your login details have changed, so please contact the TFS Library for new ones.



New Books & Reports



125 years: Hobart Fire Brigade 1883-2008 by Terry Gill. Hobart : State Fire Commission, 2009.

AFAC position paper: climate change and the fire and emergency services sector. Melbourne : AFAC, 2009.

http://knowledgeweb.afac.com.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/28344/climate_change_position_paper.pdf

Burning under young eucalypts: a guide for prescribed burning and post-burn assessment. East Melbourne, Vic. : Bushfire CRC, 2009.

Field guide to smoke exposure management by Fabienne Reisen. East Melbourne : Bushfire CRC, 2009.

Final report on Queensland fire fighter's cancer incidence study. Melbourne : Monash University, June 2009.

This study was funded by Queensland Fire and Rescue Service and was undertaken because of a previous finding of an excess of brain tumours among fire fighters in the Atherton Fire Station. <http://www.fire.qld.gov.au/communitysafety/freesafetydownloads/pdf/Firefighter%20final%20report.pdf>

Firefighters turn off sprinklers during department store fire: Coroner criticises Tasmania Fire Service. NSW Fire Brigades Lessons Learned Centre Insight, no.2, October 2009.

This article, written by NSWFB Lessons Learned Centre, highlights a number of issues raised by the Coroner's report that NSWFB firefighters should consider when fighting fires in complex buildings.



Firestorm: Black Saturday's Tragedy, 7th February 2009. Lilydale : Glenvale School Lilydale at Lilydale Education Trust ; Bayswater : Dennis Jones & Associates, 2009.

This graphic pictorial record discusses the conditions prior to Black Saturday, the fires that destroyed bush and townships, the bravery of emergency services personnel and the tragic aftermath. Provides eyewitness accounts of the fire and attempts to survive.

GIS for dummies by Michael N. DeMers. Hoboken, NJ : Wiley Publishing, 2009.

A National systems approach to community warnings. Melbourne : AFAC, September 2009.

http://knowledgeweb.afac.com.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/27189/Comm_Warnings_Discussion_Paper_Edition1.0_FINAL.pdf

Planned burning in Tasmania: operational guidelines and review of current knowledge by Jon Marsden-Smedley for the Tasmanian Fire Research Fund. Hobart : Parks & Wildlife Service; Tasmania Fire Service ; Forestry Tasmania, 2009.

Small unit leadership: a commonsense approach by Col. Dandridge M. Malone. New York : Ballantine Books, 1983. Written as a leadership primer for US Army company commanders (front-line leaders), the leadership concepts are relevant for military and non-military leaders alike. Includes some riveting war stories that illustrate the benefits of developing your people and teams (<http://govleaders.org/books>)

Tactics, command, leadership edited by Stefan Svensson. Sweden : Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, 2005. http://www.msbmyndigheten.se/upload/Publikationer/0068-09_Tactics_command_leadership%20.pdf

New DVDs

California burning. Broadcast on Foreign Correspondent, ABC TV, 13 October 2009. 1 DVD (25 min).

Takes a look at California's emergency response to the mega fires that raged around Los Angeles this year. Also investigates authorities' change in perspective from encouraging owners to leave, to that of 'stay and defend or leave early'.

Firefight: the response to Australia's worst natural disaster. Dept. of Sustainability and Environment, Victoria, 2009. 1 DVD (30 min).

This DVD pays tribute to the Networked Emergency Organisation staff who, in partnership with the Country Fire Authority, worked tirelessly throughout the 2008-2009 fire season.

CONTACT US

Contact Enola in the Library to borrow any of these resources.
Ph: 6230 8679

Email: library@fire.tas.gov.au
or drop into the State Headquarters building,
Corner Argyle and Melville Streets, Hobart

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.

All profits from the sale of the book 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

Volunteer Leaders Program

By Manager, Organisational Learning Suzanne Bacon

Nominations are now open for current and emerging volunteer leaders to attend an internationally recognised residential leadership course in Sydney. Join the successful alumni of 2008 and 2009 - Dion Grace, Craig Hughes, Mark Lillico, Chris Neilson, Rob Dawes, Craig Woolford, Peter Harley, Matthew Buck. Ask them about their experiences! The program is open to all TFS volunteers.

What you will learn

The program, developed by the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council aims to develop the leadership potential of volunteers so that leaders and organisations are better prepared for future challenges and changes. It focuses on developing leadership capabilities covering leadership issues; different leadership styles and behaviour; personal effectiveness and workplace relationships; work/life balance and corporate governance roles and responsibilities. The learning will be achieved through lectures, listening to guest speakers, reflection, projects, networking, discussion and self-analysis.

Where and when

The Volunteer Leaders Program is a 5 day intensive program held at the Australian Institute of Police Management Manly, NSW. There are 2 residential programs next year:

Wednesday 14 April to Sunday 18 April 2010

Wednesday 28 April to Sunday 2 May 2009

You will need to state which program you can attend when you nominate.

Costs

The cost of your airfares, taxis, tuition, materials, accommodation and all meals will be met by TFS. Any other costs will be met by you.

How to nominate

Complete the nomination form which can be downloaded from http://knowledgeweb.afac.com.au/training/leadership/volunteer_leaders or sent to you by your Regional Office.

Nominations should be accompanied by a short statement written either by you or a referee that addresses the selection criteria i.e. the ability to share their learning with other members; the capacity to act as a TFS representative and a demonstrated commitment to the community and their brigade.

Where to send nominations

Send your nomination and short statement by email or letter to your Regional Office directly, or through your District Officer or association representative. Nominations will need to be at Regional Offices by 28th January 2010.

More information

Additional information or guidance can be obtained from your Regional Chiefs and District Officers or Volunteer Associations (TRVFA or TVFBA). You can also download a brochure from the AFAC website using this link http://knowledgeweb.afac.com.au/training/leadership/volunteer_leaders **SB**



Australasian Firefighter Championships

By Firefighter Devonport Brigade, Daniel Beamish



Claremont



... we started to watch the events and realised the equipment being demonstrated was very different to what we were used to

When asked by Gavin Freeman and the Tasmanian Fire Brigades Competition Association (TFBCA) to represent Tasmania at the next meeting of the Australasian Firefighter Championships Delegates on the 16th, 17th, and 18th of October I was honored and excited as I knew I was off to Rotorua New Zealand (NZ) where not only the Delegates were meeting but the 4th biannual and newly named Australasian Firefighter championships, formally the National Firefighter Championships, would be held also. I had competed at the last 3 Championships but this time I would be officiating, very different for me indeed.

Making the trip from Tasmania would be myself and 2 teams: Claremont who, after winning our state Championships in 2008 won the right to represent our State; and Latrobe who self funded their trip.

I decided to travel with Latrobe as they are literally next door to my home town. On October 15th we left Devonport at 0430 hours and thanks to a 6 hour delay in Melbourne we didn't get to Rotorua until 0200 hours on Friday morning. It was a long day and we had to be on the track to register in 6 hours time.

I awoke to the sun shining, but as I made my way to the track I found that had not been the case for the last few days as it was fairly muddy and people were already in gumboots. The forecast was for rain on and off for the rest of the weekend too. After meeting back up with the Latrobe boys it was off to register. A couple of weeks prior to leaving, one of the Latrobe boys had broken his wrist and was unable to make the trip so I was back in the game! After registering and being relieved of officiating for the events I was back in my comfort zone ... at least until we started to watch the events and realised the equipment being demonstrated was very different to what we were used to.

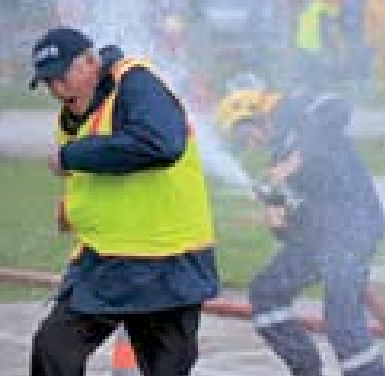
- The stand pipes are a 2 headed set up with a grab handle on top and thread on the bottom, no lugs and no spindle and handle.
- The water is turned on by a separate bar and key forming a T shape that fits in the hole over a valve cog next to the stand pipe and you use this to turn the water on and off.

- The couplings were instantaneous, similar to airport fire services here. They were all the same size so you could join the 70mm to the 45mm without the need for adaptors, they were great.
- The hose, as mentioned before, was on the larger side. It was 45mm or 70mm and only 25m long which made for some very entertaining moments on the branch line, just ask the Claremont boys, and the sheer volume of water being delivered played havoc with the timing gear as well.
- The pumps were rear mounted and very similar to our mid-mounted pumps the main difference was the manual throttle, it looked exactly the same as ours except it was electronic which meant for the user that the faster you spun it the slower the revs went up!
- The branches, monitors, etc whilst looking a little different were very similar in operation to our gear. To help us out with the learning process of the couple of new events on the program and the gear etc we were given what they termed a token Kiwi and told not to throw him off anything as Kiwis can't fly.

The evening function was at the Tamaki Maori Village, and to get there was a short bus ride from the city which was almost as entertaining as the village. On the bus ride we had to choose a chief who would represent our tribe (everyone on our bus) at the village. When we arrived we were taken into a small arena where about 300 firefighters and their families were gathered. Ten chiefs were lined up in the centre of the arena representing each of the buses that had arrived, and we were told not to make a sound during the welcoming ceremony which involved spoken word, song and dance (think Hakka but more moving around and the use of wooden clubs and spears).

Once the welcoming ceremony was over we moved in to the village through the main entrance where we were shown traditional houses and told all about Maori culture, it was certainly very interesting. It was also great to have all the competitors and officials in the one place as there were a lot of





familiar faces from past competitions to get reacquainted with. Then it was another bus ride back to the city full of songs and jokes.

Day 1 of competitions started in the rain, which came and went throughout the day making things very muddy, at 0800 hours was the first event the "Urban Pump Collector and Ladder". This event, which we run at our own state competitions, requires firefighters to use water from the standpipe via the pump to 2 x 45mm delivery hoses carried by 2 firefighters who ascend their ladders to the top of a 6.1m tower to strike the targets and stop the clock. This would have to be my favourite event, probably because I don't mind climbing a ladder, but that soon became my downfall. The rules in NZ are different and I managed to incur a penalty for ascending the ladder incorrectly. This consequently cost the Latrobe boys second place which I heard about for the rest of the weekend. Carterton NZ took the gold in 30.81 seconds, we would soon learn that these guys would be the team to beat.

The second event of the day was "Ground Monitor Twin Feed". As this was a NZ event it was new to everyone except, of course, the kiwis. Needless to say they fared well in this one! But what was great to see was the way everyone had a go at it and had different ideas on how they could do it better, so all teams were reaching the same goals but doing it in different ways with firefighters adapting to whatever situation they were in at the time and let's face it. that is what being a firefighter is all about!

The third event was another NZ event called "Hose & Breaching" which involved firefighters using water from the standpipe delivered via 1 x 70mm length of hose to the pump then relayed through the pump via 1 x 70mm delivery hose to knock down the first target. This hose then become obsolete and another 70mm hose was run out and connected to the pump with the breaching piece coupled to the other end and 2 x 45mm hose coupled to each outlet on this and run out to strike the last 2 targets and stopping the clock. It was no surprise to see the NZ teams do well in this one as well, but Melbourne did well to make it into the top 5.

The fourth and last event on day 1 was the "First Aid Reel & Pumper". This event was run at last year's State Championships. Firefighters first use tank water from the truck and the high pressure hose reel to strike the first target. While this is happening other firefighters will deliver water from the standpipe via 2 x 70mm lengths of hose to the pump and then use that water relayed through the pump and delivered via 1 x 45mm delivery hose to strike the second and last target to stop the clock. As this event had been run at the last 3 championships teams were a bit more familiar with it and managed to stop the NZ boys taking another clean sweep.

After the first day of competitions it was clear that the Carterton boys had come to play taking the gold in all but the one event

for the day. They would be the team to beat on the Sunday which was to be another 0800 start which meant an early night for most.

Day 2 of competitions and more rain then sun and then rain, cold and wet then warm and sunny felt just like being at home in Tassie! The first event on the program for the day was the "Collector Event". Firefighters used tank water relayed through the pump and delivered via 2 x 70mm hoses coupled together to the branch operator who struck the target with water and stopped the clock. The catch in this one is that water has to be delivered from the stand pipe to the pump via 1 x 70mm hose and also have a spare length laid out next to it. This length had to be coupled at the pump panel but not at the stand pipe, this had to be done with water reaching the pump panel within 40 seconds or you would receive a penalty of 10 seconds. This proved to be not so easy. The choice for firefighters was to either sacrifice time and people getting water into the truck in the required timeframe and recording a slower time at the target, or concentrate on hitting the target as quickly as you could and wearing the 10 second penalty and hope your time was still good enough. The teams that didn't get the penalties performed the best and the winners were Nowra NSW.

The second event for the day was a nice quick one, the "Hose, Hydrant & Extinguisher" with no pumpers being used for this one, all you used was an extinguisher, 2 x 70mm hoses, a branch and the stand pipe, bar and key. Firefighters drew straws for their positions meaning you had to know what was required in each position in the event. Due to the way the stand pipe was set up there was also a fourth person whose job it was to just put the stand pipe in and then step back, the actual stand pipe person's job was to take the plate off, put the bar and key together, then turn the water on and off as required. The event was fairly straight forward and only one team received a penalty.

Third event on the program for the day was another one without a pumper and also run at our State Competitions. The "Wet Hose Marshall" is hard to explain but once you know what's going on easy to run. Essentially a hose line is run direct from the hydrant, water strikes the disc and then the hose is replaced with another and the disc struck again. Once again the stand pipe configuration came into play as the way we had trained it was totally a one person operation, but here it was a 2 person deal for the first part anyway, which had most teams rethinking their strategy.

Next was the "Hose and Hydrant" the most basic run of the weekend. All gear was on the ground at the start line where started teams simply picked up the gear, shipped the stand pipe, bowled out the 2 x 70mm hose, coupled them together and put a branch on the end, water got delivered and the target was struck to stop the clock. Very simple and fast, and the NZ teams seemed to be faster than the rest again with Carterton taking the gold!

Day 2 of competitions and more rain then sun and then rain, cold and wet then warm and sunny felt just like being at home in Tassie!

"Hose Hydrant & Pumper" was the next one and with only one more event after this every one could start to taste the beer that was to come at the function that evening. The technical part of this event is the pump operation, the tank to pump can't be closed until the first target is hit, the feed hose valve can't be opened until water from the standpipe has been delivered and at the pump, and the second delivery can't be opened until the feed hose valve is opened, confused? Come to next year's state championships and see it in action.

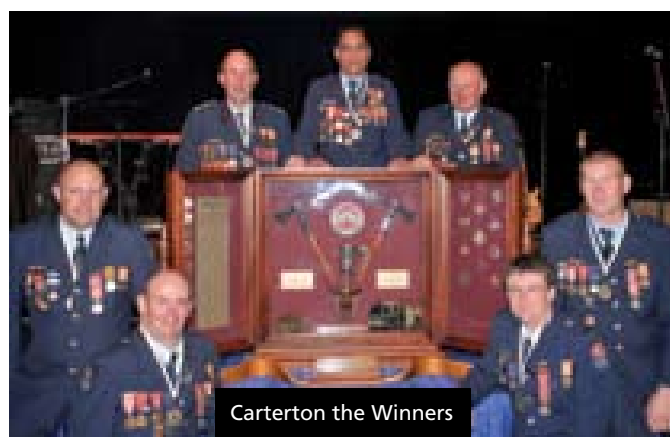
Now to the last event of the weekend, thank goodness! It was now extremely muddy on the track. The "Pump Suction" as the name suggests required firefighters to connect one end of a length of hard suction hose to the pump with the other end in a drum of water, prime the pump, and once they had lift or positive pressure on their delivery valve, open the delivery valves on the 2 x 45mm hoses to get water to the targets to stop the clock.

With all the events over teams were quickly making their way to their hotels to shower and warm themselves up again ready for the evening function. I, on the other hand, had a delegates meeting to attend which was held straight after the last event. With introductions out of the way it was down to business. Basically what came out of the meeting was that:

- 2011 Australasian Firefighter Championships would be held in Port Macquarie;
- Tasmania were given the opportunity to put a proposal forward to host the 2013 Championships;
- The possibility of juniors at future competitions was discussed;
- Rules to become more unified;
- Events manual to be finalised and ready for competing teams 12 months prior.

The general feel of the group was that everyone is very positive and happy with how things are going and that it is only going to get better which will be great for us if we get to host the 2013 Championships

With the meeting over it was time to get into dress uniform for the evening function and closing ceremony, and see the last event's trophies presented, the overall winners presented with their prize and the handing over of the flag to Port Macquarie, the host of the next Championships. It was a great night with us also being treated to all the NZ teams lining up and doing the Hakka for us. The overall winners of the weekend were Carterton who sat on top with 174 points miles ahead of anyone else. The runner up was Nowra NSW with 117 points. Latrobe took the honors over Claremont finishing in 24th and 28th positions respectively. Of course the Monday trip home was nothing but sunshine but that's always the way. **DB**



FIRESTORM

BLACK SATURDAY'S TRAGEDY

100% of the profits from sales of this book will be donated to individual CFA stations for essential equipment purchases

BLACK SATURDAY MEMENTO BOOK A FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY FOR TAS FIRE SERVICE!

THE FIRESTORM BOOK IS BEING OFFERED TO THE TAS FIRE SERVICE AT A SIGNIFICANTLY DISCOUNTED PRICE ENABLING BRIGADES TO EARN \$20.00 PER BOOK. TO REQUEST MORE INFORMATION PLEASE EMAIL ON THIS FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY PLEASE EMAIL:

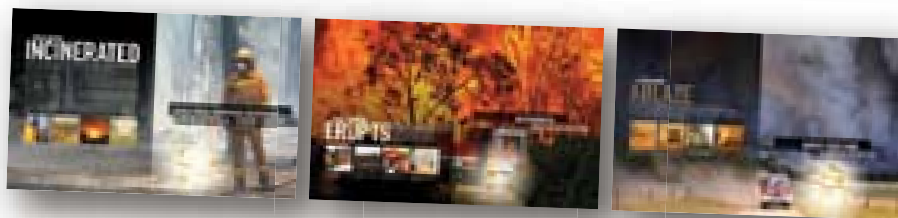
enquiries@blacksaturdaysfirestorm



FIRESTORM

- HARD COVER MEMENTO BOOK WITH DUST JACKET
- 240 COLOUR PAGES, LARGE FORMAT
- GRIPPING STORIES & FIRST HAND ACCOUNTS
- GRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHS
- PROFESSIONAL DESIGN, PROFESSIONAL PRINT
- COVERS ALL FIRES
- FASCINATING FEATURE PAGES
- INFORMATIVE STATISTICS

This remarkable new book entitled 'FIRESTORM' brings to you previously untold stories of heroism, duty, care, survival, selflessness, life and death decisions, and incredible photographs of Black Saturday, 7th of February 2009. It captures the catastrophic brutality of the fires, recognises the bravery of our firefighters and other emergency personnel, and the courage, endurance and compassion of ordinary Australians who gave everything to help fellow man survive, both during and after the onslaught. Firestorm shows the lead up to the day, the horrific fires that tore through both bush and townships almost without hindrance, and the tragic aftermath too terrible to witness. Amazing first-hand accounts by emergency personnel and survivors alike enable the reader to experience the horror and intensity of the day in dramatic reality.



A Fundraising Initiative of the Parents & Friends of Glenvale School (Lilydale & Berwick Campuses)
PO Box 909 Lilydale, Victoria 3140 | email: sales@blacksaturdaysfirestorm.com.au
www.blacksaturdaysfirestorm.com.au

Have you done yours yet?

By Coordinator Volunteer Strategy, Lucas van Rijswijk

Have you seen it? What did you think of it?
We sent it out to all volunteer brigades in November.

Confused?

I'm asking about our new *Leadership Self Rating Tool*. As the name suggests, you use it to track how your leadership skills are developing. In life, if it ain't grow'n it's probably slow'n.

Our volunteers have been asking for more leadership development opportunities. We all worked together to design our new *TFS Volunteer Leadership Development Framework*. The *Leadership Self Rating Tool* is our first step in implementing this *Framework*. It adds to the many things we are already doing to support leadership development.

Why have a leadership self rating tool? Because we all need it.

Self awareness is essential to being an effective leader or team member. We all need to know what effect we are having on the people in our team. If we consciously think about what we are doing then we may all find things to improve.

Effective leadership is vital for TFS. Your feedback has told us that supportive leadership leads to happier and more efficient brigades. It also leads to better organised on-station training and less conflict. These outcomes help us to recruit more volunteers and to keep them longer.

Your feedback told us that leadership in TFS is generally good. You have also told us you would like it to be even better. It seems that some leaders think they are a bit better leaders than how their team members might see them. Here's a chance for a quick private check.

Who should do it? Everyone – and especially TFS leaders! If you think you don't need to do it, it might suggest that you REALLY should. Anything each of us does will impact on the quality of leadership in our teams. This tool helps everyone to support more effective leadership in TFS.

The tool asks you to privately answer about 30 simple questions. It then suggests a way of analysing your answers. It helps you to rate yourself on the *Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Council's* leadership capabilities. These are particularly relevant for firefighters. The tool also suggests ways to further develop your leadership skills. Remember, it's all private – only you will see the results.

Ask your Brigade Chief for a copy. You can also access it on the TFS members Intranet at <https://www.fire.tas.gov.au/mysite/Show?pageld=displayDoc&docId=002390> or by typing "leadership self rating" in the Search box.

When are you going to do yours?

Look out – our first *Annual Brigade Leadership Survey* is coming next year. Stay tuned! **LvR**



Tasmania Fire Service



Brigade Leadership Self Rating Tool

(TFS Volunteer Leadership Framework Initiative no 7.7)

My Leadership Capabilities

The Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) has identified seven areas of leadership capability.

The AFAC Leadership Capabilities are:

- Self** Develops personal attributes and skills to enhance performance.
- Influence** Establishes organisational and group goals, direction and processes.
- Ethics** Models ethical behaviour and practices.
- Relationship** Builds sustainable internal and external relationships.
- Strategy** Constructs a plan including options and priorities for achieving defined goals.
- People** Builds individual and team capability and performance.
- Results** Achieves defined outcomes.

You can find out how you rate against these competencies by mapping your scores in the following tables.

1. For each AFAC Leadership Capability listed below, the numbers above the boxes relate to the numbers of the statements in the Self-Rating Tool on pages 4 and 5.
2. Look back at the scores you got for each of these numbered statements.
3. Then, in each box below, record your score for each statement.
4. When you have done this, add the scores on each bar to get a total.

Be aware that some statements will appear more than once.

Self

Record and then add together your scores for the following statements:

Statement No	1	5	8	9	16	17	19	24	25	32
Score										
Total for Self										

Influence

Record and then add together your scores for the following statements:

Statement No	2	10	18	20	26	29
Score						
Total for Influence						

FireComm facts

By the FireComm Team

On the top floor of the State Headquarters Building in Hobart, the FireComm team is busy serving the needs of our operational people and the Tasmanian community.

As well as the central role of facilitating TFS communication and emergency dispatch, they have numerous other responsibilities for data maintenance, alarm monitoring, operational support and providing community information. FireComm staff levels are adjusted throughout the year in response to seasonal needs. During the winter months FireComm operates with 1 Leading Communications Officer and 2 Communications Officers per shift, 24 hours a day. FireComm can “ramp” up to 6 operators for major incidents and days of high fire activity in the summer months.

Over the last 12 months FireComm have received:

- 15,380 “000” emergency calls
- 186,436 general telephone calls,
- 208,104 radio transmissions,
- 11,590 Incidents created, and
- Entered 4,794 burnoff registrations and permit burns into the database.

FireComm is the first point of call for all fire related emergencies in our state. These calls come in on various telephone lines, the obvious being via “000”. FireComm’s first call taking priority is always “000”. Callers reporting fires on other lines are encouraged to use the “000” system in future so FireComm staff can prioritise calls and quickly identify the caller’s identity and location, assisting with authenticating calls. If a Fire is reported on any number other than “000” it may delay a brigade response. Just like the general public, members of the TFS should also use “000” to report incidents.

Unfortunately the quality of information coming into FireComm is not always ideal. The most difficult calls are incidents reported by interstate travellers who have little idea where they are. While operators are trained to draw out the most important information from callers, the resulting dispatch may be less than desirable if the quality of information is poor to start with. FireComm will provide more information on incidents when it is available, but unfortunately they may only receive one call with little clarity.

FireComm staff prioritise all phone calls and radio transmissions and at times you may be asked to wait or standby as we need to action more important tasks or seek clarity on the information you require. As radio traffic increases communication needs to be short, clear and concise with regular SITREPS reported in a timely manner as there are a lot of people dependent on accurate information. The Chief Officer has requested that SITREPS be provided as early as possible with regular incident updates to follow quickly. Should you forget, FireComm will prompt you for more information so they can improve the information flow.



A general enquiry may end up down the list on a day of high activity. Due to the varying workload, requests outside of an operational nature may also be diverted or actioned much later. For example, FireComm may not have time to set off your pagers for brigade training reminders, whilst they are busy arranging crews and other resources for a remote area structure fire. While we do aim to help everyone, this is simply not possible all the time and we ask that you be mindful of the type and timing of your requests and consider if you really need to contact FireComm. Requests that do come into FireComm are often redirected to District Officers, Field Officers or regions. It might be quicker to contact your Regional staff for non operational requests.

It is also very important to establish communications with FireComm properly. FireComm may miss your radio transmission if all operators are busy on other calls or if you are using the wrong frequency. Remember to use a fireground frequency for local communication at an incident. Radio traffic **not** on fireground frequencies makes it difficult for Communications Officers to action more important requests for other incidents.

You need to remember yours is not the only frequency being monitored. We have a total of 30 frequencies statewide which we also share with the Tasmanian Ambulance Service (TAS). Our TFS radio traffic does impact on TAS’s ability to resource incidents – worth considering should they be attending to a member of your family or a fireground injury.

FireComm are always keen to meet brigades and will talk with them about their role in the TFS. Although access is restricted, a visit can be arranged simply by contacting the FireComm Supervisor on 6230 8437. They look forward to speaking with you soon, by whichever means that may be.

Back to basics – Progression to firefighter level 1

By Senior Station Officer Learning & Development, Neil McEachen

From 1st July 2009 the new training direction adopted by the TFS kicked off with each brigade taking an expanded role in the early development of all new members. Brigades now undertake the initial induction of new members into their brigade and provide the base level training necessary to enable new members that want to undertake a firefighting role in the brigade to respond under direct supervision. This is achieved through:

Training which is:

- ☐ Simple
- ☐ Clear
- ☐ Accessible, and
- ☐ Realistic
- ☐ Has safety as a primary focus
- ☐ Recognises previous learnt skills, and
- ☐ Is conducted locally by the brigades

Checklists are completed for both the induction and brigade basic training to identify that the information and training has been completed. This is **not** a formal assessment, simply verification that the new brigade member has completed and understood the training provided by the brigade.

What happens next?

Once the brigade delivered basic training is completed and trainee firefighters are responding with their brigades under direct supervision they should be encouraged to undertake Firefighter Level 1 training as soon as practical which will provide trainee firefighters with foundation skills in bush firefighting, structure and mobile property firefighting and pump operation.

Volunteer Firefighter Level 1

Firefighter Level 1 training is provided as the minimum skill set that all firefighters should obtain.

The training is conducted in three sessions and can be delivered at any suitable location across the state. The majority of this training is conducted practically with trainee firefighters learning "on the ground" under the instruction of Learning & Development staff.

Checklists are completed for both the induction and brigade basic training to identify that the information and training has been completed.

The bush firefighting training is conducted in a bush environment where trainees learn about fire behaviour, fire weather, fuels and fireground safety; use of hand tools; extinguishing techniques; mop-up and blackout procedures; and fire scene preservation.

Structure and mobile property firefighting introduces trainees to vehicle and building fires with the focus on identifying hazards and maintaining safety; understanding fire travel; identifying and reacting to fire behaviour; selecting and applying correct extinguishing techniques; fire scene preservation; and hazardous materials.

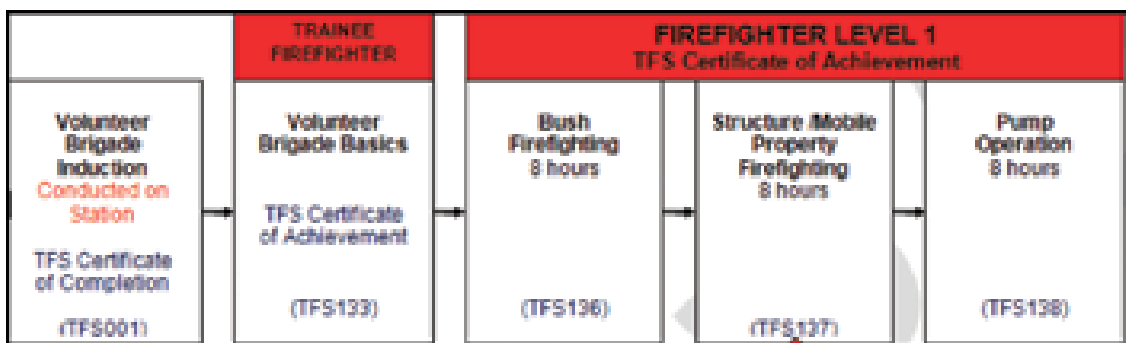
Pump operation expands on the training delivered by your brigade at brigade basics to enable the firefighter to understand how the pump operates and enable faults to be identified and rectified.

The chart below shows the progression in picture format through to completion of Level 1 Firefighter. The training will be programmed in this sequence however the sequence of course completion is not critical.

This training will provide firefighters with the knowledge and skills to respond to a range of incidents as a member of a crew under general supervision.

Your brigade should have copies of reference materials on your station to allow the Volunteer Brigade Induction and Volunteer Brigade Basics to be conducted for new brigade members.

For further explanation of all course content and attendance details, please refer to the TFS Volunteer Course Information 2010 booklet or contact your district staff in your region. **NMcE**



Responding fire appliance involved in a serious road crash

By District Officer OHS, John Green

What actually happened?

Whilst responding to a report of a motor vehicle accident the crew members of the Prospect pumper tanker realised they had turned onto the west bound lane of the Bass Highway and were travelling in the wrong direction. Once the opportunity arose, the driver of the appliance decided to u-turn across the merging carriageway to proceed to the accident scene to which they were called. The crew saw the east bound lane was clear of traffic but only the driver was aware of a semi-trailer following behind them on the west bound lane. Unfortunately the driver misjudged the distance at which the semi trailer was following and proceeded to conduct a u-turn. The semi-trailer driver applied heavy braking but slammed into the fire appliance, pushing it some 40 metres along and across the highway, eventually rolling it on its roof where it came to a stop against the Armco rail in the east bound lane. Both the Hino Pumper Tanker and the prime mover were significantly damaged, potentially written-off.



The Good News

The really fantastic news was that everyone amazingly came through the accident alive and without major injury. When you look at the photos of the cabin you wonder how they survived. Naturally everyone was pretty much shaken-up by the impact and all suffered minor to serious bruising, cuts and abrasions. One member sustained a broken collarbone and shoulder injuries. All are recovering well.



Lessons Learnt

So, what did save them from serious injury - was it a lot of luck or something else?

Well the following certainly helped:

Both drivers and all of the crew in the fire appliance were wearing properly adjusted seat belts so despite the horrific damage involved in the collision and rollover everyone was restrained in their seats, and importantly, not thrown about within the cabin or out of the cabin during impact, or when it rolled.

Second was the design features/ modifications built into the vehicle ie, replacement of the rear bench seats with bucket seats and full lap / sash seat belts and head restraints for all passengers; secure stowage for all standard equipment within the cab (torches, helmets, etc) and the equipment carried externally so there were very few missile hazards.

Finally the quality of the fabrication work by Engineering Services that ensured the whole structure of the appliance held together under very rigorous conditions. Here we are talking about the 3 tonne of water tank, the pump and lockers which didn't move at all under the serious impact; the fuel lines and electrical cable runs that all held together.

The survivors of this incident believe there are some really good lessons to share and that by doing so they hope they will help others avoid a similar experience. The key messages they have for us are:



Get clear directions – always endeavour to get good accurate information about the location of the incident, particularly where there is a vital decision just up the road (ie. to turn left or right). Sounds simple but I think many of us would acknowledge we have been urged into getting on the road without being clear of at least the general location.

Seat belts - always wear and adjust your seatbelt whenever you are in transit – it saved our lives, it WILL save yours.

Lights and sirens – are a means of warning the public that you are travelling to some emergency. Never assume that everyone will give way to “lights and sirens” – most drivers don’t see or at least don’t hear emergency signals until they are almost “level” with you.

Low risk driving - never assume the other vehicle (or a pedestrian for that matter) is aware of your approach or intended change of direction and will give way. On the contrary, we should always drive defensively and drive to allow for the other driver’s inattention or inability to give way. When you are driving, select the safest option (in terms of speed, changing direction and / or demanding right of way). Be conscious that other lives are in your hands.

Thanks guys – we really appreciate your comments here.

Perhaps there are a couple of other things to remember as well.

Tasmanian road rules – the law requires emergency drivers to obey all the road rules unless it is safe to depart from them. It specifically requires the driver to prove that it was safe to assume “right of way” over the travelling public.

Drive to arrive – don’t think we need to say any more. **JG**



Thank You

By FireComm Officer, Michelle Clarke

After the challenge set by Wynyard Brigade for retained brigades to direct debt \$10 per volunteer a quarter to the TFS Family Support Fund I am pleased to advise that members from Burnie Volunteers, Somerset and New Norfolk Brigades have taken up the challenge and are still appealing for more Brigades to join in.

Members of the fund would also like to thank Penguin, Campbell Town, Rokeby, Latrobe and Sheffield Brigades who have made donations to the fund in the last few months and TFS staff who have authorised direct debt donations each pay.

The fund has been set up to assist all TFS staff from operations, volunteers, communications, engineering, and administration, in fact anyone who is directly under the TFS structure. 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 and families who have benefited from your generosity would also like to thank you for your support.

The fund is dependent upon the generosity from Brigades, external organisations and staff to be able to assist these families in need. It does not take much to help assist fellow co-workers, just \$2.00 per pay to the fund would add up to \$52 per year.

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

**Please support the TFS Family Support Fund,
because life can take a cruel and unexpected turn
when you very least expect it.**

MC

STOP PRESS: Barry Wylie and his sons Justin and Adam have made a donation of \$10,000 to the Fund from the money raised for Michele. Michele recently passed away after a very long illness.

PHOTO GALLERY



House fire at Tonic Hill Court attended by Kingston Brigade. The two storey villa unit was insured and unoccupied - estimated damage \$260,000. Two appliances from Kingston and Hobart's 1.2 attended. Photos submitted by Brigade Chief Kingston Brigade, Faron Wall.



The incendiary used to light the car is still spilling flammable liquid from the can with the car burning in the background. The perpetrators obviously found the can a little too hot and threw it on the road and took off. Station Officer, George Auchterlonie advised "this is how we found it when we arrived!" Photo submitted by Station Officer, George Auchterlonie.



Jordon & Dulcote group exercise 9th August 2009. Photos submitted by Firefighter, Bagdad Brigade, Trevor Moore



Ride-on mower fire at Glenorchy. Photographer Leading Firefighter Stephen Benefield



Evandale's new 3.1 comes complete with re-vegetation supplies! Firefighter Katherine Milgate of Evandale Brigade took this picture at the Evandale Primary School's Twilight Fair held recently. The brigade bought the plants and couldn't put them in the cab, someone wandered by and commented on how good it was the TFS was now supplying plants lost in bush fires! Couldn't resist sending it in.



A recent thermostat fire.

Photo submitted by Station Officer Hobart Brigade, Pete Tavas



Fern Tree Brigade is the first volunteer brigade to have three AFSM recipients. L to R: Terry Gill, Don Jones and Garry Sullivan

2009 Community Achievement Awards

By Member Collinsvale Brigade, Lee Anderson

Collinsvale Brigade was a finalist in the Community Achievement Awards for Community of the Year. Although we did not win it was a great achievement to be one of the three finalists.

Collinsvale Rural Fire Brigade was registered on 20th January 1969. Over the last 40 years the volunteer members have been actively involved in the Collinsvale Community, not only with firefighting and fire education, but with many community organisations.

The current members have given in total 190 years of service to the local community, the city of Glenorchy and the state of Tasmania.

Some of the projects undertaken by the members of the brigade and for which the brigade was nominated for the award:

- Providing information on best practice conservation, vegetation and wildlife management, prior to hazard reduction burns;
- Knowledge of various species of fauna and flora (an ability to re-establish habitat and prevent habitat destruction), important issues for fire reduction burns and back burning;
- Monitoring the water quality of Sorell Creek and clearing the creek of debris and maintaining the access points of the creek;
- Organising Clean up Australia Day in the Collinsvale /Glenlusk area and also clearing the bush of dumped car bodies (over 100) in conjunction with the Tasmanian Conservation Trust;
- Helping develop the Myrtle Forest picnic area and walking tracks with consideration to the surface management, such as track planning, fire management, water catchment management and infrastructure development in conjunction with the Collinsvale/Glenlusk precinct and community associations;
- Recycling aluminium cans for community groups;
- Tree planting and also participating in National Tree Planting Day;



Firefighter Michael Rice, Leading Firefighter Elijah Marshall, Fourth Officer Rachel Anderson and Second Officer John Anderson with Kade Chappell representative from Kleenheat Gas

- Hazard reduction burns when required in the Collinsvale/ Glenlusk area, including clean up of the vacated Collinsvale Gun Club site;
- Community education especially in relation to the environment and bushfires, safety during bushfires and making properties as fire safe as possible;
- Conducting fire education programs at the Collinsvale school, showing the children over the fire shed, conducting fire drills, donating school prizes for fire education;
- Christmas Lolly Run.

Bush fire protection, sustainable management and care of the environment in the Collinsvale/Glenlusk area are the main objectives of the brigade in undertaking all the above projects. **LA**

65 and still going strong!

By Manager TasFire Equipment, Andrew Lyons

TFE Fire Equipment Officer Charlie Thuringer turned 65 in October. While Charlie admits that retirement isn't too far away, he has no immediate plans to retire. On his birthday Charlie's workmates in the south arranged a surprise morning tea for him.

Charlie has been working with TFE for over 27 years and is currently the longest serving member of the team. Charlie is very much "part of the furniture" around State Headquarters as well as around hundreds of businesses that he has been servicing in the Hobart CBD over the last 27 years.

Well done Charlie. Keep up the good work! **AL**

Happy birthday Charlie!



Be Brave and Shave World's Greatest Shave: 11 – 13 March 2010



Be brave and shave in 2010 and help raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation. Peter van de Kamp, FireComm Supervisor and his wife Jackie have registered for the World's Greatest Shave and have placed a bounty on their hair. If each raises \$5,000 their locks will be a thing of the past!

Peter has been with the TFS for over 20 years and has also been a part of the volunteer brigade in Kingston. Peter and Jackie, who works at MyState, are each planning to shave their heads on 13th March at a public shave at Parliament House Gardens in Hobart.

"Jackie made a statement that she would shave for \$5,000. I thought that if she can do it, I can do it too!" said Peter. "It is for a good cause and will help raise much needed funds for the Foundation to continue its work within Tasmania."

World's Greatest Shave is a fun way to get involved in a great cause and support the Leukaemia Foundation. Over 125,000 people are expected to shave or colour their hair in 2010.

Anyone who knows FireComm Operator Jade Gordey is aware that she has been having a love-affair with her hair for the past 28 years. It has been brown, blonde, blue (currently red), long, short and in between. Next year, she's shaving it all off to raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation's World's Greatest Shave.

Jade says "Over the past 2 years, I've made a conscious effort to grow my hair to make it all the more gut wrenching to watch it fall to the ground in clumps at the hands of an overzealous hairdresser armed with a pair of clippers. This will take place in March 2010 and I'm hoping to reach out to all the recipients of 'Fireground' over the ensuing months to request support in the form of sponsorship or people to join me in shaving for a cure. Keep this in mind as I continue to grow my mane and when the time comes, please be generous. The lives we help could be your own or someone you know and care for."

Are you as brave as Peter, Jackie and Jade? Visit www.worldsgreatestshave.com or call 1800 500 088 to register to shave or colour, or to sponsor them.

This year, it is projected that 9792 Australians will be diagnosed with leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma and blood cancer will be the second biggest cancer killer in Australia.

Help us make a difference and raise much needed money for cutting-edge research into treatments and cures for blood cancer. It will also fund Leukaemia Foundation support services for patients and families including transport to and from treatment centres, home-away-from-home accommodation close to hospital, education and practical assistance.

If you do not want to shave your head there are other ways you can become involved. You can also spray-colour your hair (this

will wash out), sponsor someone who is participating, or assist with fundraising. The opportunities are endless.

Jade hasn't set a target, but surely her long locks are worth as much as Peter's? Come on guys – we'd love to see our FireComm people without hair! Maybe the others will follow ... **Ed.**



Bridget van de Kamp from the Leukaemia Foundation with Peter and Jackie (rehearsing for the big day) and Brad van de Kamp



Peter van de Kamp (getting ready) with Jade Gordey and Chief Officer Mike Brown. Jade commented to the Chief "When I grow up I want to be just like you – hair and all!"

Runnymede Station opening

By Brigade Chief Runnymede Brigade, Rick Birch

Runnymede Fire Station was officially opened on Saturday 24th October 2009 by Ms Heather Butler MP. The opening was attended by approximately 60 community members and dignitaries including Regional Chief South Tony Davidson, Deputy Regional Chief South Ken Burns, Deputy Regional Chief North Gavin Freeman, and members of parliament Dick Adams MHA, Tanya Rattray-Wagner MLC, Rene Hiddings MP, and Mayor of Southern Midlands Tony Bisdee.

Runnymede have been fortunate to receive these new facilities after it was decided to purchase a block of ground away from the Tasman Highway and move approximately one kilometre up the Woodsdale Road. The new station consists of two engine bays, store room, disabled toilet, shower, uni-sex toilet, office, meeting room and kitchen area. This is a vast improvement on the previous station. In addition, on the week of the opening the brigade also took possession of a later model Hino 3-1 heavy tanker replacing their International 3-1 heavy tanker.

The Hon. Dick Adams also presented the brigade with an Australian flag to be used at the station. The new facilities will make it more convenient and comfortable for training, but also social functions for the brigade and the wider community. The station has already been used by community groups to conduct several meetings and training



courses. The station is also set up to enable IMT's to be run there if required.

The Runnymede Ladies (partners of the firefighters) provided the catering for the opening and a magnificent lunch was had by all, followed in the evening by a BBQ.

Since the opening of the new station Runnymede have signed up 4 new members who are currently working through their Brigade Basics.

Finally on behalf of the Runnymede Brigade and the surrounding district I would like to thank TFS for providing such first class facilities. **RB**



Farewell Ken from Northern Region

On 8 September 2009 Northern Region staff held an afternoon tea to farewell Ken Burns and wish him luck in his return to the Capital.

Ken took up his post as Deputy Regional Chief North on 24 July 2006 and experienced the biggest bushfire season during his time in the position, with the St Marys incident.

We wish Ken well in his new position as Deputy Regional Chief South and we are sure this is not the last we will see of him!



Regional Chief Andrew Comer bidding Ken farewell



New regional heavy rescue appliance

By Senior Station Officer Ian Bounds



Running boards to maximise equipment stowage and access

The new regional heavy rescue units have been in service at Launceston and Burnie for the past 12 months. The unit consists of an Isuzu chassis and a constructed demountable pod. The initial prototype was first put into service in Burnie with the pod being developed in Victoria based on a generic design and additional guidelines supplied by the TFS.

A consultative group of management, operational and engineering staff was formed to discuss and formalise outfitting needs to meet more specific TFS and regional requirements. These ideas were in turn, trialled, reviewed and passed by the group prior to Engineering Services completing the modifications.

The outcomes from these meetings have seen the unit evolve into an initial response vehicle for road accident rescue, heavy rescue, with intervention hazmat capabilities and technical rescue. Capable of carrying a crew of five it has been designed to be self sufficient for the majority of incidents and provide interim measures for larger type incidents with support from local resources or aided by additional specialised responses upon request once a size up has been completed by the officer.

Special attention has been given to the placement of rescue tools, which by nature are sizeable and of considerable weight, to meet OH&S requirements making "high use equipment" easier to access and deploy. Space saving measures to maximise locker space have included the use of running boards on heavy duty rollers, again to maximise access to ancillary equipment.

The unit has both fixed and portable lighting systems to provide adequate illumination for rescue operations. The portability of intervention rescue equipment has also been a major feature of the modified fit out.

Additional units for the North West and Southern Regions are nearing completion with rollout to be finalised early in the new year.

The consultative process between management, operations and engineering has resulted in a purpose built appliance to adequately provide an immediate and effective response to regional incidents of this nature and would not have been achievable without the assistance and input of dedicated staff. **IB**



Rear locker specifically designed for rapid intervention RAR



Launceston crews putting the heavy rescue unit through the paces at Youngtown Training Complex



Junior Development Day

By Fourth Officer Sandfly Brigade, Georgina Laing



Over 80 juniors/cadets participated in the day and over 30 seniors and parents helped to make the day possible. Thanks all.

The Southern District 2009 Junior Development Day was held on Saturday 29th August in the Margate/Sandfly areas.

The rains had come, but the early morning was mild but wet, that fine easterly rain that soaks you to the skin.

The organising committee for the Junior Development Day, Jim Mulder (Fourth Officer Margate), Anthony Atkins (Firefighter Margate), David Chopping (Second Officer Sandfly) and Georgina Laing (Fourth Officer Sandfly) decided that too much work had gone into the day to postpone it just because of a little rain. We made the right decision as just after 7.30am our first team arrived – New Norfolk. Very keen participants especially as they were not due until 8.30am!

Teams also arrived from Campania, Old Beach, Grove, Gretna, Claremont, Richmond and the local combined team of Margate/Sandfly. Each team filled out T cards for their vehicles and brigade event organisers, picked up their light lunch/snacks and waited for the briefings to start.

The first briefing was for the radio operators from Margate Brigade, consisting of Michael D'Alton, Bill Quinn and Nick Bradford. These people must be commended on their stamina, professionalism and tact with their communication skills. Just over 140 communications in approximately 5 hours! That's nearly one communication every two minutes! Next time you're talking to the New Norfolk Brigade Juniors ask them why they received the PTT Award! (press to talk)

The second briefings were for the brigade event organisers. Each brigade had prepared an event that would be overseen by their senior members. As there were eight brigades there were eight events to be completed by each competing brigade. These were

organised into a circuit and given grid references. Off went the brigade event organisers to set up.

Next briefing was for the juniors. The main aim for the day was to have a go, stay safe, learn some new skills, work as a team and most importantly, have fun! The juniors were given a map of the area and their first grid reference – they were off! Kingston's new juniors/cadets also turned up to observe the event just in time to join in with the map work. Well done to Brian Wylie for instigating this participation.

Much to the relief of the organisers the "circuit" worked well with all brigades moving to their next event as expected. Yay! Events included versions of firefighters' football, quick response, first aid and pumping exercises.

Over 80 juniors/cadets participated in the day and over 30 seniors and parents helped to make the day possible. Thanks all.

Acting Deputy Chief Officer Tony Davidson presented the awards and also providing some valuable assistance was Hayley Webster. Thank you both.

Congratulations go to the first place holders of Gretna Brigade (your turn to organise next year), second was New Norfolk, with third going to Margate/Sandfly.

The organising committee would like to thank the Margate and Sandfly Brigade members for not only helping on the day, but participating in some strange manoeuvres and requests on training nights – thanks gals and guys!

Thanks also go to South West and Hobart Districts for their support and provision of supplies. **GL**

Photographer Third Officer Sandfly Brigade, Ron Moss





North West Region 39th annual Family Fun Day

By Firecomm Officer, Michelle Clarke

On Sunday 11th October, North West Region held it's 39th annual Family Fun Day competitions at Ridgley Primary School. The day commenced with wonder over what the weather conditions were going to be like with an overcast sky, but luckily the rain held off for the day.

The year saw entries from both North and North West Regions totalling 7 senior teams and 5 junior teams competing against each other. The events are based on basic firefighting skills and is great practice for brigade members to hone their skills in preparation for this year's upcoming summer fire season.

Games began with the Firefighters Football event. This was followed by Siamese Valve Hose Drill, 38-25mm Hose Event and a Sealed Event.

The lunch break saw the Under 10 Bucket Brigade competing. followed with a welcoming address from Alderman John Munro and the official opening with words from Regional Chief John Streets and Ridgley Brigade Chief Mark Lillico. Then it was back into game mode for the final Sealed Event.

Trophy presentations and afternoon tea completed the competitions with the following winners:

Aggregate Winners Seniors:	Sassafras
Runners Up Seniors:	Chudleigh
Aggregate Winners Juniors:	Sassafras
Runners Up Juniors:	Chudleigh
Most Penalty Points Seniors:	Ridgley
Firefighters of the Future:	Ridgley

On behalf of the Competition Committee I would like to thank Ridgley Primary School for the use of their ground, the Boys and Girls Rally for catering for the event and St John Ambulance for their services. Thank you to all teams for their participation and good sportsmanship on the day, all committee members for their hard work to make the competitions a success and the Ridgley Brigade for hosting the competitions.

Also thank you to all the sponsors: Serve-Ag; Robert and Veronica Atkins; Graeme Jones; Mayor Mike Downie; TFS – NW Region; Mayor Mike Gaffney; Latrobe Council; Chas Kelly Transport; Alderman John Munro; SES – NW Region.

I would also like to thank everyone who made a donation to the TFS Family Support Fund on the day and raised \$140 for this worthy cause.

If your brigade is interested in finding out more information regarding competitions please call Robert Atkins on 0409 140 237. **MC**





Commonwealth and State grant funding

By Director Corporate Services, Mike Gallagher

As many brigades would be aware, the Commonwealth and State Governments occasionally offer volunteer grants. Over the years many TFS volunteer fire brigades have been successful in attracting grants for additional equipment or projects.

Recently the Chief Officer advised in WordBack that the TFS supported its brigades applying for Commonwealth grants but not State grants and questions have been raised as to why one form of grant is favoured over another.

The main reason for TFS supporting applications for Commonwealth grants is that the Commonwealth conducts very large national grant programs which the State cannot generally match. Applications are invited from volunteer organisations Australia-wide and the Commonwealth allocates grant moneys between various volunteer organisations, including volunteer brigades.

The State Government grant program is considerably smaller than the Commonwealth program and is only open to volunteer groups in Tasmania. Many of the volunteer organisations are small in nature and do not receive other forms of funding unlike TFS. Annually the State Government provides an allocation of \$3 million to TFS and in addition it covers the costs associated

with wildfire expenditure which in some years runs into millions of dollars. Unlike many other organisations the funding of the TFS is assured by the financial provisions of the **Fire Service Act 1979**. The Act enables the TFS to raise sufficient funds to enable it to purchase on a priority basis land, buildings, fire appliances, equipment and other resources necessary to ensure that the TFS meets its operational, financial and administrative obligations. These resources are then allocated to brigades on a priority basis. Many other organisations do not have the ability to raise such funds and in many cases State grants provide the necessary funding to ensure those volunteer organisations survive.

With regard to Commonwealth grant applications the TFS is committed to assisting brigades with their applications and assisting them acquire the grant moneys. Brigades are requested to complete the application form, seek approval in principle from their district staff and arrange for the application to be electronically forwarded to State Headquarters where all grants will be collated and submitted to the Commonwealth. Grant moneys will be received by the TFS and orders written to the value of the successful grant application. In this way GST is avoided and TFS can arrange for the purchase and receipt of the goods as well as the acquittal of the grant. **MG**

2009 AFAC / Isuzu Executive Command Forum

By Chief Officer, Mike Brown

For the first time in many years Australia and New Zealand's Chief Fire Officers and Land Management Chiefs met together at the 2009 AFAC / Isuzu Executive Command Forum near Canberra.

The Forum provided an opportunity to consider contemporary command systems, the industries' relationships and role in the National arena, and the need for and development of a national approach to both high level doctrine and command training.

The program featured presentations from senior ADF officers, the Attorney General, and the Deputy National Security Advisor.

The group (through AFAC) will soon be initiating a number of projects as an outcome of the Forum.

All participants agreed the Forum was an outstanding success and it is now intended that these will be held annually. **MB**



TFS Volunteers honoured

Elizabeth College students and faculty presented their Elizabethan Award to the TFS Volunteers for "Brave assistance during the Black Saturday fires in Victoria".

This is the second time in three years that this honour has been given to TFS. The College wished to thank the TFS for its service to the people of Victoria.

Brigade Chief of Lauderdale Brigade, Paul Baker accepted the award on behalf of all TFS volunteers, both taskforce members and all who stayed behind.

Paul spoke at the end of year assembly giving students some insights to his experiences of his time in Victoria, with both the fireground and campground playing a part in his talk.

Paul was an exceptional ambassador for the TFS in his humility, sensitivity and humour during his speech.



Victorian Bushfire fundraiser

By Leading Firefighter Kingston Brigade, Matt Davis

In the wake of the Victorian bushfire disaster members from the Snug, Kingston, Margate, Howden, Summerleas and Sandfly brigades held a fundraiser to support the victims of the tragedy. For two days firefighters and fire trucks lined the side of the Channel Highway with donation buckets while other firefighters either washed cars or cooked sausages in the Clennetts Mitre 10 carpark.

During the planning of the event the estimations for the fundraiser (although it was thought to be a bit ambitious) were in the area of \$10,000 to be raised over the entire weekend, however, it seems that we had underestimated how deeply the events of Black Saturday had affected the wider community.

By the end of the first day we had already surpassed the original estimation of \$10,000! With such an outpouring of support on the first day it was thought that the following day would not be quite as eventful, however, once again we were proven wrong by the community's generosity with the Sunday being an even bigger day.

It is hard to describe the sheer generosity of the wider community towards the cause, however, an example that can best illustrate this is when somebody simply drove up to a brigade member who was standing on the highway holding a donation bucket, dropped in a \$1,000 cheque and drove away! This is only one of a seemingly endless number of stories I was told by TFS members over the weekend.



By the end of the Sunday the event had raised in excess of \$28,000!

The generosity of the general public who donated and the firefighters who gladly gave up their weekend was truly inspiring. The money raised from the event was donated to the Red Cross appeal as well as a number of other worthy charities supporting the bushfire appeal.

Congratulations and thanks to all involved with this highly successful event, as well as a special thank you to the organisers: Brian Wylie, Brad van de Kamp, Faron Wall and Mick Driessen.

MD



Photo Competition Winner

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

The winning photo from this edition is:

Photo submitted by Firefighter Daniel Beamish, Devonport Brigade (\$100)



How to enter:

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

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

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

Photos may be of any TFS event or incident

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

Fireground
goes
far and
wide!

Fireground has a mailing list which covers all states of Australia as well as overseas, however, did you realise it gets read in so many interesting places?

If you can contribute some more interesting photos, please send them in to fireground@fire.tas.gov.au



Tom and Rhys Bending visiting the Aberdare Fire Brigade in South Wales TFS Museum member Phil Mettam regularly sends Fireground to family and friends in the UK

Northern Region



On Thursday, 12 November 2009 a get together was held for female staff at Northern Region to raise funds to help the Cancer Council in their quest to defeat women's cancers.

The staff brought in something to sleep on, ranging from camp mattresses to foam mattresses, and even a self inflating queen sized bed! Yes, it was camping under the stars ... 5 stars

The 'Pink' evening consisted of a BBQ, board games, nibbles and of course lots of laughter!

An extravagant breakfast was held the following morning and 23 Northern Region staff members paid for a feast of scrambled eggs, bacon, hash browns, mushrooms, sausages, tomatoes and toast.

In total \$405.05 was raised for the cancer council and such a fantastic result could not have been achieved without all the support from everyone who attended, donated and gave up their time to help out.



On the Move

A list of recent personnel changes within the TFS



The following Career personnel changes have occurred

Arrivals

Northern Region	Lynda Robins	Senior Clerical Officer	12th October 2009
FireComm	Jodie Lidden	Communications Officer	16th November 2009
Communications	Marcus McCarthy	Communications Technician	9th November 2009

Elevations

FireComm	Michelle Clarke	Communications Officer	29th October 2009
Northern Region	Greg Hynes	Station Officer	17th November 2009
Tamar District	Ben Wilson	Station Officer	17th November 2009
State Operations	John Holloway	Station Officer	18th November 2009
Learning & Development	Grant Joyce	Station Officer	19th November 2009
Learning & Development	John Ling	Station Officer	19th November 2009
Learning & Development	Don Seymour	Station Officer	21st November 2009
Planning & Capability	Michael Goldsmith	Station Officer	23rd November 2009
Southern Region	Stewart McKinlay	Station Officer	23rd November 2009
Learning & Development	Adam Meredith	Station Officer	23rd November 2009
Learning & Development	Kier Wilson	Station Officer	30th November 2009
North West Region	Shayne Andrews	Station Officer	21st December 2009
Planning & Capability	Glenn Greenland	Station Officer	21st December 2009
Northern Region	Rick Mahnken	Station Officer	4th January 2010
Northern Region	David Castellar	Station Officer	1st February 2010

Departures

Launceston Brigade	Phil Grant	Station Officer	10th October 2009
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The following Volunteer Brigade Officers have been elected by their Brigades

BRIGADE	OFFICER	APPOINTMENT	BRIGADE	OFFICER	APPOINTMENT
Blessington	Ronald Murphy	Brigade Chief	Kempton	Raymond Cooper	Second Officer
	Paul Rice	Second Officer		Mark Shearing	Third Officer
	David Phelps	Third Officer	Lebrina	Karl Robbers	Brigade Chief
	Dina Williams	Fourth Officer		Graeme Campbell	Second Officer
Cygnat	Hagen Bethell	Brigade Chief		Mark Wilson	Third Officer
Deep Bay	Justin Jones	Brigade Chief		Thomas Wilson	Fourth Officer
	Kai Juvakka	Second Officer	Melrose	Shane Buchwald	Brigade Chief
Eaglehawk Neck	Wayne Pearn	Third Officer		Simon Morris	Second Officer
	Robert Hawkins	Third Officer		Rodney Solomon	Third Officer
	Michael Clifford	Fourth Officer		Andrew Hingston	Fourth Officer
Ellendale	Patrick Ransley	Brigade Chief	Pipers River	Craig Ringsgwandl	Brigade Chief
	Nathan Ransley	Second Officer		David Ringsgwandl	Second Officer
	Lindsay Filliponi	Third Officer		Andrew Ringsgwandl	Third Officer
	James Featherstone	Fourth Officer		Kevin Byard	Fourth Officer
Glendevie	Dan Donehue	Brigade Chief	Stanley	Milton De Jong	Brigade Chief
	Ian Preston	Second Officer		Walter Worldon	Brigade Chief
Hillwood	Sharon Clarke	Fourth Officer		Paul Triffitt	Second Officer
Kempton	Richard Lang	Brigade Chief	Tunbridge	Damien Gibson	Third Officer



Awards



A list of recent awards presented within the TFS

Location/Brigade	Name	Award	Location/Brigade	Name	Award
Bagdad	Graham Adams	National Medal (25 years)	Fern Tree	Terry Gill	TFS Volunteer Medal (30 years)
	Trevor Moore	National Medal (25 years)		Chris Wagstaff	National Medal (15 years)
	James Clifton	National Medal (15 years)		Christopher Fishwick	National Medal (15 years)
	Allen Headlam	National Medal (15 years)		Brian Marriott	National Medal (15 years)
Bishopsbourne	Maxwell Taylor	Long Service (40 years)		Brian Marriott	TFS Volunteer Medal (10 years)
	Colin Lindsay	Long Service (30 years)		Chris Wagstaff	Long Service (15 years)
	Ian Thompson	Long Service (30 years)		Nick Barta	TFS Volunteer Medal (10 years)
	Bruce Goss	Long Service (20 years)		Elizabeth Jones	TFS Volunteer Award
	Kenneth Smith	Long Service (20 years)		Doreen Gill	TFS Volunteer Award
	Shayne Jones	National Medal (15 years)		Garry Sullivan	Life Member
Bothwell	Julian Wilding	National Medal (15 years)		Ken Fishwick	Life Member
Bradys Lake	Peter Paice	National Medal (25 years)		David van Geytenbeek	Life Member
Brighton	James Walker	National Medal (25 years)	Four Springs	Adrian Heazlewood	National Medal (35 years)
	Peter Butler	National Medal (15 years)		Michael Heazlewood	National Medal (35 years)
Bushy Park	John Brown	National Medal (25 years)		Gregor Johnston	National Medal (35 years)
	Gerard Wicks	National Medal (15 years)		Tim Eddington	National Medal (25 years)
Campania	Richard Colman	National Medal (15 years)	Franklin	Bruce Price	National Medal (25 years)
	Peter Hughes	National Medal (25 years)		David Johns	National Medal (25 years)
	Michael Groth	National Medal (25 years)	Glendevie	Ian Preston	National Medal (15 years)
Channel	Mark Goodwin	National Medal (15 years)		Kerry Johns	National Medal (15 years)
	Len Rogers	National Medal (15 years)	Grove	John Tyrrell	National Medal (35 years)
	Michael Munnings	National Medal (35 years)		Michael Hancock	National Medal (35 years)
Claremont	Liam Carroll	National Medal (15 years)		Andrew Fyfe	National Medal (25 years)
	Stephen James	National Medal (15 years)		Andrew Skelly	National Medal (25 years)
	Michael Hogue	Long Service (20 years)		Mark Cullen	National Medal (25 years)
Colebrook	Michael Munnings	Long Service (15 years)		Mark Suhr	National Medal (25 years)
	Stephen James	Long Service (15 years)		Nigel Hume	National Medal (25 years)
	Ian Wade	National Medal (25 years)		Michael Goldsmith	National Medal (15 years)
Collinsvale	Philip Duggan	National Medal (35 years)		Stewart McKinlay	National Medal (15 years)
	Terrance Griggs	National Medal (35 years)		Shane Batt	National Medal (15 years)
	James Jamieson	National Medal (25 years)		Giulia Russo	National Medal (15 years)
Cradoc	Kim Griggs	National Medal (25 years)		John Chivers	National Medal (15 years)
	Laurence Cowen	National Medal (15 years)		Tim McKay	National Medal (15 years)
	Luke Duggan	National Medal (15 years)		Hugh Jones	Long Service (30 years)
Cranbrook	Malcolm Sinclair	National Medal (35 years)		Steve Walkley	Long Service (30 years)
	Peter Howard	National Medal (15 years)		David Collins	Long Service (20 years)
Cygnet	Gavan Rainbird	National Medal (25 years)		Grant Joyce	Long Service (20 years)
	Jodie Wilson	National Medal (15 years)		Stuart Males	Long Service (20 years)
Dodges Ferry	Michael Clark	National Medal (25 years)		Scott Morgan	Long Service (20 years)
	Mark Baker	National Medal (15 years)		Tim McKay	Long Service (15 years)
Dover	Scott Johnston	National Medal (15 years)		Giulia Russo	Long Service (15 years)
	James Mison	National Medal (15 years)	Huonville	Ian Duggan	Long Service (50 years)
	Charles Holmstrom	National Medal (15 years)		Wayne Burdon	National Medal (25 years)
Edith Creek	Brian Porteus	Long Service (25 years)		James Chivers	National Medal (15 years)
	Nathan Ransley	National Medal (15 years)	Jericho	Lyall Collis	National Medal (25 years)
Ellendale	Adam Clark	Long Service (15 years)		Phillip Whelan	National Medal (25 years)
	David van Geytenbeek	TFS Volunteer Medal (30 years)		Stephen Whelan	National Medal (25 years)
	Don Jones	TFS Volunteer Medal (30 years)		Timothy Kirkwood	National Medal (15 years)



Ex BC of Upper Calder Norm Reeve was recognised for the years of service he has put into the Upper Calder brigade.



Fern Tree award recipients - L to R Don Jones, Elizabeth Jones, Lyndsay Suhr, Bruce Corbett, David van Geytenbeek, Brian Marriott, Nick Barta, Doreen Gill, Terry Gill

Location/Brigade	Name	Award	Location/Brigade	Name	Award
Kingston	Raymond Carter	National Medal (15 years)	Risdon Vale	Wade Stewart	National Medal (25 years)
	Brian Wylie	National Medal (15 years)		Chris Mc Inerney	National Medal (15 years)
	Peter Walker	Long Service (20 years)	Ross	Henry Chugg	Long Service (45 years)
	Malcolm Conway	Long Service (15 years)		Wayne Mayne	Long Service (15 years)
	Raymond Carter	Long Service (15 years)	Runnymede	Geoffery Cowle	National Medal (25 years)
Lachlan	Dallas Baker	National Medal (35 years)		Paul Tate	National Medal (25 years)
	David Gleeson	National Medal (25 years)		Neil Bellette	National Medal (25 years)
Lauderdale	David Cornish	National Medal (15 years)		Harrex Mc Connon	National Medal (15 years)
	Rodney Heather	National Medal (15 years)	Sandfly	Christopher Tate	Long Service (15 years)
Lenah Valley	Ian Stewart	National Medal (15 years)		Philip Gard	National Medal (25 years)
	Laurence Coppleman	National Medal (15 years)		Robert Jones	National Medal (25 years)
Magra	Bill Quinn	National Medal (25 years)	Sandford	Scott Fairbrother	National Medal (15 years)
	Craig Woolford	National Medal (15 years)		Scott Woolley	National Medal (15 years)
Marrawah	Rodney Blake	National Medal (15 years)	Sassafras	John Stalker	National Medal (15 years)
	Bruce Grey	Long Service (30 years)		Lloyd Marshall	Long Service (25 years)
Mayfield	Crispin Cotton	National Medal (35 years)		Andrew Perry	Long Service (20 years)
	Colin Walters	National Medal (35 years)	Snug	David Perry	Long Service (15 years)
	James Walters	National Medal (15 years)		Gary Clark	National Medal (25 years)
	James Searle	National Medal (15 years)		Geoffery Kemp	National Medal (25 years)
Midway Point	James Mollineaux	National Medal (35 years)		Glenn Hughes	National Medal (15 years)
	Andrew Smeal	National Medal (15 years)	South Arm	Glenn Hughes	Long Service (15 years)
Molesworth	Jane Bradshaw	National Medal (15 years)		Glynis Heather	National Medal (15 years)
	Keith Hammond	Long Service (15 years)		Rod Finlayson	Long Service (30 years)
Montagu	Paddy Buckley	Long Service (30 years)		Andrew Davis	Long Service (30 years)
	Stephen Bacon	National Medal (35 years)	Southport	Michael Spaulding	Long Service (30 years)
Montumana	Andrew Preece	National Medal (15 years)		Barrie Oakley	National Medal (25 years)
	David Briggs	National Medal (15 years)		Gerald Aulich	Long Service (45 years)
Mt Nelson	Maree Cooley	National Medal (25 years)		Michael Aulich	Long Service (20 years)
	Raymond Mansfield	National Medal (15 years)	St Marys	Grant Faulkner	Long Service (20 years)
New Norfolk	David Tatnell	National Medal (15 years)		Michael Spilsbury	Long Service (20 years)
	David Little	National Medal (15 years)		Andrew Thomas	Long Service (20 years)
	Shane Williams	National Medal (15 years)		Iain Lerner	Long Service (20 years)
	Philip Owen	National Medal (25 years)	State Headquarters	Phillip Mc Carthy	National Medal (15 years)
	Gil Clark	National Medal (25 years)		Kenneth Vout	National Medal (15 years)
	Graeme Gee	National Medal (25 years)	Summerleas	Paul Morris	National Medal (15 years)
	Peter Wylie	National Medal (15 years)		Carlo Lanci	Long Service (20 years)
	Todd Birch	National Medal (15 years)	Swansea	Faron Wall	Long Service (20 years)
	Matthew Pitt	National Medal (25 years)		John Mc Donald	Long Service (15 years)
	Shane Porter	National Medal (25 years)	TasFire Equipment	Nigel Reid	Long Service (30 years)
Ouse	Stephen Lincoln	National Medal (25 years)		Justin Young	Long Service (20 years)
	Gordon Clark	National Medal (15 years)	Tasfire Training	Noel Wilson	National Medal (35 years)
	Robert Clark	National Medal (15 years)		John van Loon	Long Service (35 years)
	Athol Bloomfield	National Medal (25 years)	Tea Tree	Maxwell Berry	National Medal (35 years)
	Michael Apted	National Medal (15 years)		Laurence Cowle	National Medal (35 years)
Primrose Sands	Brian Mathewson	National Medal (25 years)		William Sullivan	National Medal (35 years)
	Paul Mc Dermott	National Medal (25 years)		John Ashlin	National Medal (25 years)
Queenstown	Jason Clarke	Long Service (25 years)	Togari	Jason Gibson	National Medal (15 years)
	Daniel Kremmer	Long Service (25 years)		Leonard Byers	National Medal (45 years)
	Robert Butterfield	Long Service (15 years)		Tom Dempsey	National Medal (25 years)
	John Edwards	Long Service (15 years)		Aaron Skipworth	National Medal (15 years)
	Wayne Jones	Long Service (15 years)	Triabunna		
Rheban	Christopher Chesterman	National Medal (15 years)			

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

LETTERS

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

The next opportunity to participate will be as follows:

February 4 – Carlyle Hotel

April 1 – Horseshoe Inn, Cambridge

June 3 – Brighton Hotel

All former members welcome to attend.



To Hobart Fire Brigade,

Would you please thank the Fire Brigade men that answered my call at about 7.15pm on Wednesday 21st October at my home when the chimney got on fire. The fire alarm in our hall let me know something was wrong.

The firemen soon had it fixed up and put a couple of extra alarms in our bedrooms. I would like you to let them know how thankful I was when they arrived. I had a lot of smoke in the house.

We were surprised about the chimney getting alight as we had only cleaned it last year. But next day my husband & our son gave it another clean, a ledge not far up the chimney was the problem (built in 1955).
Once again, thank you
Betty (87) & Ted (82) - Harrison

To Everyone Concerned,
at the Tas Fire Service Volunteer Emergency.

We were recently involved in a car accident at Barratta, Margate, on the 8th October. We wish to thank each and everyone involved in helping us that night. Your help, at the time of need, your care and your kindness was outstanding.

It is difficult to put into words how much we appreciated, what was done for us that night, in your call of duty.

We wish you all a safe journey and thank you for being there for us.

Colleen, Peter & Malcolm Frost
Alicia Lampkins & Jackie Zeldi.



Outlands District High School
Church Street, Outlands Tasmania 7120
Ph (03)633 541110 Fax (03) 63341481
Email Outlands.District.High@education.tas.gov.au



18 November 2009

Chief Fire Officer
Mr Michael Brown
Hobart Fire Brigade
Angley Street
HOBART TAS 7000

Dear Mr Brown

As the Outlands School Careers Co-ordinator, I would like to thank you very sincerely for allowing one of our ex-students, Andrew Emery, to speak to our Gr.9/10 Careers Education Class about Careers in the Fire Service and his own training and experiences.

I was particularly impressed with the manner in which he included our female students in the presentation, encouraging them to consider the Tasmanian Fire Service as a Career. Andrew's talk was interesting, informative, but also very entertaining. He totally engaged all our students and was kept busy answering many questions after completing his presentation.

Andrew was accompanied by Kerry Manocy, a local businessman who is Officer in Charge of our local volunteer brigade. Kerry talked of the work of the volunteer brigades, in the Southern Midlands, encouraging our students to consider becoming involved.

I feel that the students gained a great deal from the session, and they were a very appreciative and attentive audience.

Andrew told us that his day at Outlands School was made possible through permission from the Fire Service.

We would therefore like to express our appreciation to you.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Janene Isles
Career Pathway Officer

Back Again!



Southern Region National medal recipients (details on Awards page)

LETTERS



Department of Health and Human Services
TASMANIAN AMBULANCE SERVICE

GPO Box 115, HOBART TAS 7501, Australia
Ph (03) 6231 8681 Fax (03) 6231 8671
Web: www.dhhs.tas.gov.au



Contact:
Phone: (03) 6231 8681
Facsimile: (03) 6231 8671
Email: delorah.davis@dhhs.tas.gov.au
File No:

Mr John Stevens
Tasmania Fire Service
15 Three Mile Lane Road
BURNIE TAS 7320

Dear Mr Stevens

Subject: Cardiac Arrest - Arthur River, 17th November 2009

I wish to pass on our sincere appreciation to both of your volunteers who reside at Arthur River:

Marice Zeissou
Keith Kingston

both of 28 Gardner Street, Arthur River.

On 17th November, our Communications Centre contacted Marice and Keith and asked them to respond to a suspected cardiac arrest at the Maruda Camping Ground, Arthur River. This response was requested as our nearest paramedic crew is based in Smithton.

Marice and Keith then attended the scene, assisted the family and performed CPR for an extended period until the paramedic arrived. The paramedic has stated that both did a great job in difficult circumstances.

I am under the belief that the Tasmania Fire Service has arranged CISM for them. Would you please check that this has occurred.

Please pass on our thanks to Marice and Keith.

Yours sincerely

Delorah Davis
Supervisor North West Region
Tasmanian Ambulance and Health Transport

24 November 2009



20/11/09

Dear Gary,

On behalf of the Weegena Hall Committee, I would like to thank you and the Tas Fire Service for your support for our "Weegena Bliss" information and social barbeque, held on the 11th of November, 2009. The afternoon received positive feedback from the local community, resulting in more interest in our local hall as well as giving local residents some sense of reassurance in the event of an emergency situation.

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

Thanking you once again
Regards,

Stuart Harvey
Stuart Harvey
Secretary of Weegena Hall Committee

From: Mick Marrs

Sent: Monday, 9 November 2009 2:56 PM

To: Taya Hill; Jennifer Lee

Subject: Att Taya Hill and Jennifer Lee

Hi Taya and Jennifer, I had a great time at the book launch/reunion. I met friends that I had not seen in over 13 years. I cannot accurately describe my feelings on the day. I felt a mixture of nostalgia, happiness/sadness, but mostly I felt very proud.

Proud because many of the young fire-fighters that I helped to train are now Senior Officers throughout the Tasmania Fire Service.

Proud that I was able to advance through my long career with the help of many of the people that I met at the reunion on Sunday.

Proud to be able to say that for a good part of my life I was part of the best group of people whose sole motivation was to serve the Tasmanian Community.

My heartfelt thanks go to everyone who had an input into making the day so special and to Tony Davidson and Lindsay Kingston who encouraged me to make the trip from Northern New South Wales.

Please forward this note to everyone involved including the on-duty staff at HFB on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday and to Phil Mettam who got me to the airport on time on Tuesday morning.

Kind regards and best wishes,
Mick (the Pom) Marrs (TFS 1974 -1997)

New trauma teddies for Hobart – thanks to Noreen Kurowski (does most of the knitting and stuffing) and Sue Spaulding (helps with the knitting and stuffing and gives them their smiley faces) pictured with Firefighter Will Russell, Leading Firefighter Aaron Blizzard, Senior Station Officer Andrew Skelly and Station Officer Pete Tavas



Thank you to the Seven Mile Beach Volunteer Fire

My husband and I would like to commend the volunteer fires at Seven Mile Beach who attended an emergency call to put out a fire in our chimney recently. The chimney was well alight with billows of smoke and I was home alone and very frightened. When I rang 000 I had no idea how long it would take for the fire brigade to come and had no idea that it would be the **Seven Mile Beach** volunteers. They arrived in a matter of minutes in two trucks - fully uniformed and equipped. Their professionalism was inspiring - they reassured me and very efficiently checked the problem and had the matter under control. Every care was taken to minimise any impact from the fire. Our property was left clean with no damage or mess. These men and woman are very important to our local community and need recognition and support. Please publish a note in your magazine on our behalf.

Many thanks

Anne Lamble & Martin Daly

Ladderdale Fire
Station

We Denis, George & Henry
would like to thank you for
professional, friendly and
courteous treatment of
Wendy's accident on South
Ave Road on Tuesday 6/6/09

Wendy is now in rehab at St
Johns Hospital with broken right
ankle, knee cap, femur and
left ribs, forearm
Thankfully no internal, spine
or head injuries

Once again many thanks from
a grateful family

Denis French



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www.fire.tas.gov.au

1800 000 699



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

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

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

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

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