

Fireground

spring 2010



- **TFS Conference**
- **Emergency Service Charity Ball**

Contents SPRING 2010



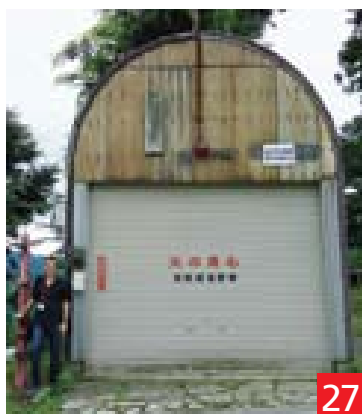
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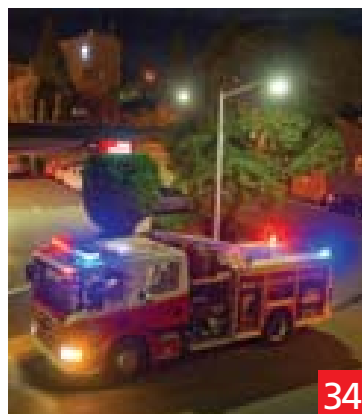


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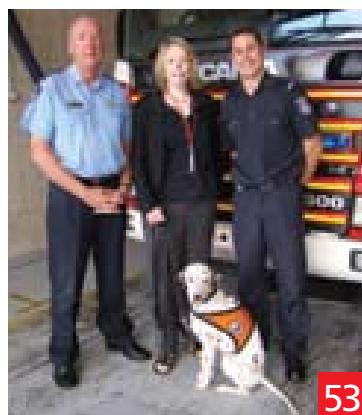
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Cover photo Penguin Christmas Parade - Penguin Junior Matt Langham, followed by Asha Connelly (left) and Zac Smith (right). Photographer: Anthony Smith. Article page 11

Official Journal of The Tasmania Fire Service

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From the Chief Officer



MICHAEL BROWN

The Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission has handed its final report and recommendations to the Victorian Government who in turn immediately made all reports available to the public.

The interim recommendations, delivered last August, included many recommendations regarding the need to review fire danger ratings and improve and clarify community warnings arrangements. These recommendations were accepted by TFS and all other Australian Fire Services and new ratings, warnings and community education materials were prepared and promoted ready for the last fire season.

TFS and other government (and non-government agencies) are now in the process of considering the latest 67 recommendations. As this work develops we will be consulting with, and advising all those impacted by the recommendations.

This year's '**Pre-Season Briefings**' (note: I believe it will be best to stop using the old 'District Conference' terminology) will be a key forum to explain and discuss the implications for us and Tasmania generally.

The **Pre-Season Briefings** will be held for all Districts, Regions and Career Brigades during the period; late September to early November.

At this point I have not read all the VBRC report however I have reviewed all of the recommendations. While some of the recommendations are less relevant in the Tasmanian context I do believe it's a well considered report and we will need to integrate many of the recommendations into our arrangements here in Tasmania.

Those interested in reading the recommendations (or indeed the entire report) can access it at www.royalcommission.vic.gov.au;

In closing I wish to thank all those involved in organising, presenting and attending our State Conference in July. It was a truly outstanding Conference and you should all be very proud of your contribution and professionalism.

Michael Brown
Chief Officer

Editorial

It was lovely to meet up with so many of you at the TFS Conference in July. I am sure you would agree that this was a great conference. Alex Jerrim's presentation on risk taking behaviour was an "eye opener" for many – his advice on "speaking up" seemed so simple – but I am sure many of us don't. Alex played a commercial which you may want to share – the web address is www.embracethis.co.uk

James Wood confirmed that one moment of inattention or risky behaviour can change your life forever. Please spread the word on risk behaviour and safety with your friends and colleagues, you may save their lives by doing so.

All speakers provided valuable advice covering emerging issues, Victorian bushfires, community protection planning, bushfire ready communities, values and leadership. "Maude" attended as well, I didn't get to meet her, but I've been told we are very much alike. I'm glad she decided to stay on with her brigade after attending the Supportive Brigades Workshop. She is learning to speak up when she is uncomfortable with behaviour, as well as appreciating her colleagues for who they are and understanding that we are all different.

Thank you to all the speakers, Regional Chief John Streets and his committee, Margaret Kean, and to everyone involved.

Closing date for next edition will be 15 October 2010, please don't wait for the closing date - send your articles as the events occur – if they miss that edition, I'll carry them over to the next one!

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

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

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

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Chief Officer's Special Awards

This award is made to a brigade that has been subject to unusual, difficult or demanding circumstances. There were two awards presented at the State Conference in Launceston this year.

The first Award was:

"Presented to all members of the TFS for their outstanding commitment, service, compassion and understanding to the tragic "Black Saturday" fires in Victoria. In recognition of your efforts in firefighting, incident management, research and assistance to the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission."



Station Officer Claudio Muench, on behalf of his TFS colleagues, accepting the Chief Officer's Special Award from Chief Officer Mike Brown

under the close scrutiny of the media. This was a period of intense pressure for all associated with the website and the outages were highly visible to the public and critically discussed in the media. While everyone put in a huge effort there are a couple of people that need to be mentioned.

Glen Kelly was exceptional in the time and effort he dedicated to increasing the performance of the website and deserves special commendation. David Watson had only just started at TFS and his efforts under very difficult conditions were excellent.

Tasmanians responded at an instant to the needs of our Victorian neighbours. As the sad news unfolded of the tragic losses TFS, FT and PWS leaders met with the Premier to discuss our capabilities to assist Victoria. Within 48 hours we had nearly 100 people and 40 fire vehicles on their way to Victoria.

Over the next few weeks we had our members working in a broad range of roles including supporting the post fire research undertaken by the Bushfire CRC.

The impact and ramifications of 'Black Saturday' have had a major impact on TFS and the Australian fire industry in general. TFS have made an outstanding contribution into the research, revised warnings, community education and operational aspects that have, understandably, been subject to much scrutiny.

It was difficult to identify any particular brigade, unit or division. All at TFS rightly deserve this award.

The second award was:

"Presented to the TFS Information Services Branch in recognition of their commitment, professionalism and resilience in their response to the unpredicted demand on the TFS website and the resultant media attention and debate."

This award was in recognition of the hard work the whole branch did to increase the performance of the TFS website while

There were also other people that need to be recognised as part of this award. Tony Miller and Harry Lin of Eighty Options did excellent work on website coding. Tony's first child was born during this period and despite this special time he dedicated a large part of his time making changes to the website.

Andrew Johns and Andrew Preece, First Officer and Second Officer Mt Nelson Brigade in their positions at Telstra also were an enormous help and a thank you letter from the Chief Officer to the CEO Telstra was sent in recognition of their support.



Tony Miller and Harry Lin of Eighty Options



Chief Officer Mike Brown with Iain Larner, Jack Liu, Ty Mitchell, David Watson, Michael Davis, Andrew Orange, Glenn Kelly, Brendan Pilcher and Stuart Parker

New Deputy Regional Chief North

The Northern Region has a new Deputy Regional Chief, Jeff Harper. Jeff started with the TFS in 1985 as a recruit before learning his trade with the Launceston Brigade and being promoted to Station Officer 6 years later.

Jeff gained extensive experience over 14 years as a Station Officer and spent time in Building Safety, Fire Investigation, TasFire Training and in the district as the Field Officer North East where he was extensively involved with the brigades and community of Flinders Island following the Darling Range fires.

Jeff was promoted to District Officer Field Operations in 2005 and was closely involved with the recovery of brigades and communities following the Christmas 2006 fires and the restructuring of Fire Management Area Committees (FMACs) in the Northern Region.

Since joining the TFS Jeff's key achievements include:

- Victorian and NSW deployments at both operational and management levels;
- Incident Controller for the Christmas 2006 fire on the east coast;
- Major influence in the review of FMAC's in Tasmania;



Newly appointed Deputy Regional Chief Jeff Harper

- Completion of a graduate diploma in Public Service Management.

Congratulations Jeff, your colleagues wish you all the best for the future.

Regional Chief awarded

On the 10th anniversary of the introduction of the Fire Service Volunteer Medal, the Awards Framework Committee determined that efforts above and beyond the call of duty of fire service personnel, other than volunteer firefighters, should be recognised by the awarding of a volunteer medal. The first of these medals was awarded to John Gledhill upon his retirement, closely followed by Deputy Chief Officer Mike Brown; Regional Chiefs Andrew Comer and Tony Davidson; and Director Corporate Services Mike Gallagher.

The last of these awards was presented at the TFS Conference when the Presidents of the Volunteer Associations on the North West Coast, and incidentally both members of the Awards Framework, presented a medal to Regional Chief John Streets recognising his commitment to volunteers, both in that region and also throughout the State. John has been in his present role for 12 years and with the TFS since 1969.



Robert Atkins, John Streets and Bruce Corbett



TFS State Conference 2010

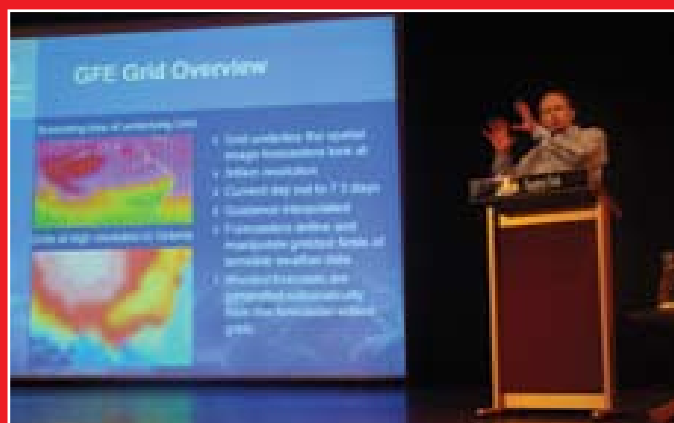
The TFS Bi-Annual State Conference was held in July 2010 at the Country Club Resort Launceston and was the first conference officiated by Mike Brown as Chief Officer. Lin Thorp, Minister for Police and Emergency Management opened the Conference and Naomi Brown, Chief Executive Officer of the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) was a guest speaker.

The conference program included: safety with Alex Jerrim of Driver Safety Services and James Wood from CNB SAFE; CISM with Charles Blizzard; the impact on the TFS of the Royal Commission into the Victorian fires; leadership within the organisation; bushfire-ready communities with Kerry Sakariassen; case studies of recent Tasmanian fires;

introduction of new medium fire tanker with Leon (Alfy) Smith; alternative power supplies with Tony Millhouse of Workplace Standards; FireComm and Operations working together; Andrew Orange spoke about TFS's advancement in technology including GPS mapping, automatic vehicle location, operations communications; use of aircraft by TFS; understanding fire weather conditions with Paul Fox-Hughes; and various demonstrations and information displays.

Thank you to John Streets and the organising Committee who did an excellent job, and of course a big thank you to Margaret Kean for organising the venue, accommodation, food, satchels, etc. A fantastic job!









State Fire Commission - Capital Program 2010-11

By Director Corporate Services, Mike Gallagher

The State Fire Commission has allocated \$5.6M for its capital program for the 2010-11 financial year. The allocation is slightly lower than the 2009-10 allocation of \$5.8M. The allocation includes \$2.9M for fire appliances, \$0.8M for passenger vehicle replacements, \$0.64M for land and buildings and \$1.22M for plant and equipment.

A breakdown of the major capital items is detailed below:

Fire Appliances

- Fourteen heavy four wheel drive heavy crew cab vehicles, and one crew cab urban heavy pumper will be purchased in 2010-11 at a total cost of \$2.9M. The 14 four wheel drive vehicles will be used to replace existing single cab heavy tankers. The replacements will involve the refurbishment of the existing fire body module, removing it from the single cab and remounting it to the new heavy cab chassis. The upgrade will boost the vehicles' capabilities as fire fighting appliances and deliver significant benefits from a safety point of view. The new vehicles will offer improved functionality, and, importantly, provide in-cab seating for a crew of five, negating the need for crew to be seated on the rear of the appliance.
- The heavy urban pumper will be commissioned at the Launceston Fire Brigade, replacing a 20 year old heavy pumper. The 1990 appliance will become the operational spare, allowing the decommissioning of a 23 year old truck. The cost of the new pumper is estimated at \$0.6M.

Passenger Vehicles

- An allocation of \$0.8M has been provided for passenger vehicle replacements in 2010-11. Passenger vehicles are usually replaced when they reach an age of three years and they have accumulated 60,000 kilometres. The allocation will allow approximately 24 vehicles to be replaced in 2010-11.

Land and Buildings

- A total of \$0.64M has been allocated for land and buildings in 2010-11. The fire station build program continues to be an important priority for the State Fire Commission. Major works for 2010-11 include new stations to be constructed at Barton and Pyengana at an estimated cost of \$100,000 each. The two brigades respond to emergency incidents, including structural and bush fires and motor vehicle accidents. The new stations will be built from steel framed colorbond. Each will be a single bay station complete with meeting room, toilets, kitchenette

The allocation includes \$2.9M for fire appliances, \$0.8M for passenger vehicle replacements, \$0.64M for land and buildings and \$1.22M for plant and equipment.

and storage and office facilities. A concrete hardstand at the front of each station will also be provided.

Plant and Equipment

- The plant and equipment allocation of \$1.22M includes communications equipment, computer hardware and software, and other plant and equipment.
- The total cost for computer and communications equipment for 2010-11 is \$0.92M. The communications equipment budget of \$0.59M has been allocated to enable communications infrastructure at TFS State Headquarters Call and Dispatch Centre (FireComm) to be upgraded. In partnership with Ambulance Tasmania the communications infrastructure systems used for allocating resources, dispatching brigades, and recording fire incidents will be upgraded. The replacement of the ageing paging system infrastructure (paging transmitters and associated links) will be upgraded as the equipment is at the end of its life cycle. This is the start of a five year project. Replacement of all vehicle radios enabling the installation of automatic vehicle location hardware and the replacement of radio base system (mountain top repeaters) will also commence in 2010-11 with the latter being the start of the five year project. An allocation of \$0.33M for computers has been provided in 2010-11 to enable the Commission to replace a number of its file servers, desktop personal computers and laptop computers. Provision has also been made for additional file servers as part of the Commission's business continuity planning project. The replacement program is ongoing and reflected in the forward estimates program.
- A budget of \$0.2M has been provided for firefighting equipment and \$0.1M for workshop and office equipment.

MWG

State Government Funding Initiatives - 2009-10 to 2012-13

By Director Corporate Services, Mike Gallagher

In December 2009 the Premier announced additional funding for the bushfire season and the State Fire Commission were provided with a one off allocation of \$790,000 for equipment and funding of \$1,575,000 over three years for community coordinators (\$1,275,000) and education and awareness materials (\$300,000).

The current situation in regard to equipment purchases is:

Automatic Vehicle Locators – 384 radios have been ordered at a cost of approximately \$0.6M with delivery expected late June early July 2010.

Fire Retardant Blankets – 1,650 personal protective blankets have been ordered with delivery expected in early October. \$ for \$ funding has been provided with the State Government and the Commission both providing \$127,500 each.

Chainsaw Pants – 230 pairs have been ordered, received and

distributed to brigades at a total cost of \$44,850.

Personal Headlamps – 3,000 have been ordered and received at a total cost of \$70,980 with 2,292 being delivered to brigades.

The current situation in regard to Planning Officers and Educational and Awareness Materials is:

- **Planning Officers** - The senior planning officer has been appointed and is expected to commence in August. The other two planners are expected to be selected sometime after this appointment.
- **Education and Awareness Materials** - Production of education and awareness materials will be developed by the three planners in consultation with relevant stakeholders and TFS's Community Education Unit.

MWG

Put another firefighter on your team

By Technical Leader WireAlert, William Godwin

Did you know that the CablePI device, distributed to all Tasmanian households and small businesses in 2009, can help stop house fires?

Not only does CablePI detect broken or defective neutral connections (an electrical fault, which can cause tingles on taps and can even result in electrocution), it also alarms when it senses "hot joints", which if left undetected can lead to electrical house fires.

Already, across Tasmania, the device has detected 1,671 faults within customer's homes and on Aurora's distribution network. 519 of these faults had the potential to start a house fire.

Like the smoke alarm, the CablePI is an important life-saving device, helping to make Tasmanian homes safer.

As cables are subject to general wear and tear, weather influences, accidental damage and corrosion, dangerous faults can occur anytime. This is why the CablePI should be left plugged in to do its job 24/7.

If you notice the CablePI is alarming, please call the Aurora Energy number on the device immediately and notify anybody who is in the house.



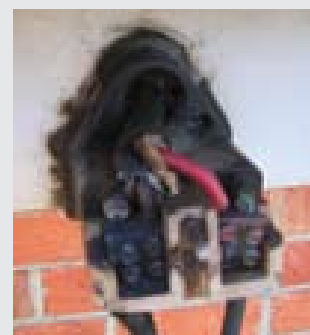
Heat damage behind a powerpoint



Heat damage to a powerpoint



Main switchboard with heat damage to a circuit fuse



Heat damage at customer's mains box

Please help us get the word about the great work the CablePI is doing out there.

It can save lives and can help you do your job by preventing fires - but only if it is plugged in! **WG**

New Radios for the Operational Fleet

By Manager Communications Services, Garry Sullivan



The Government has provide one-off funding to enable the acceleration of the TFS radio upgrade program so that the implementation of vehicle location technology can be of a more immediate benefit for the safety of crews and the TFS. TFS has around 100 vehicles already fitted with new radios as over the past four years all new vehicles put into service have GPS ready radios. This new funding will allow TFS to replace our existing vehicle radios over the coming twelve months.

Apart from the benefits of replacing radios that have seen ten years service, the new technology will improve the safety of crews and increase our operational effectiveness with improved management through tracking the location of all operational vehicles at incidents. Another feature is that the radio will be able to show its location as a grid reference (GDA94) on its display screen so the crew with the aid of their TFS map book, also know their location. The radios will also enable the use of status messaging and the ability to send SMS type messages, radio to radio or radio to Incident Management Teams.

Communications will also be replacing old brigade base radios (FM92) which are 20+ years old by installing or reusing the replaced vehicle radio (PRM 8040). The channel plan will be restricted to local channels only.

Some members may have also noticed that the radio frequency channel plan has been updated and the new version is TFS

2009 V7. These are minor changes and the reprogramming of radios has been implemented over the past ten months and as at 30 June 2010 there are still some brigades and vehicles to be completed. The frequency plan changes included an additional four portable repeater channels two for TFS (Ch40 & Ch41) and two for Forestry (Ch42 & Ch43) to keep the repeater channels together we had to move the Ambulance Tasmania channels to Ch93-94-95. We have also added three new TFS channels, F91 Mt Koonya (East Coast) December 2009 and F92 Bradys SL (Midlands) January 2010. We also are about to complete the installation of F17 Gardners Ridge (Tamar) once we have final approvals from the Government Radio Project Team at Tasmania Police. This has taken a little longer than expected. These new channels are to overcome some coverage issues experienced since taking over the role of road crash rescue but also enhance the TFS overall coverage footprint for radio communications.

The existing vehicle radios have a channel capacity of 200 channels dependent on programming requirements ie vote groups etc. The new radios have a 1,000 channel capacity so where we now have a regional plan for each region to cater for local council channels, the next radio plan should be a single statewide plan. Please note that all existing radios have a common plan for the first 100 channels it is only the extra council channels above channel 120 that differ between each region. **GS**

Volunteers National Photographic Competition winner

Matt Langham was the subject of a winning photograph by photographer Anthony Smith which was entered in the National Emergency Management Volunteers Photographic Competition. The competition showcased the capability and commitment of emergency management volunteers in Australia and photographs were displayed in the foyer of the High Court of Australia in the ACT.



Anthony Smith receiving his award from Chief Officer Mike Brown

The photo of Matt was the winner of the Individual Category in the National awards, as well as being Highly Commended in the State / Territory awards. Photographer Anthony Smith was presented with his award by Chief Officer Mike Brown, Federal Attorney-General, the Hon Robert McClelland MP and Senator the Hon Ursula Stephens MP.

You can view this photo and other award winners at http://www.ema.gov.au/www/emaweb/emaweb.nsf/Page/EmergencyManagement_Volunteers_VolunteersNationalPhotographicCompetition2010

Eleven year old Penguin Brigade Junior Matt Langham had spent two weeks in hospital receiving treatment for Cystic Fibrosis. Although quite ill but determined, Matt pleaded with doctors and his parents Anne and Marcus, who agreed to allow him out to participate in Penguin's Christmas Parade. Leaving the IV drip behind, he marched with his brigade. After the parade Matt was returned to hospital. The proud look on his face tells the whole story.



Matt, the quiet achiever



HKFS Control Room

Interschutz 2010 & other places...

By Chief Officer Mike Brown

In June I was fortunate to be able to attend Interschutz in the city of Leipzig Germany. Interschutz is easily the world's largest international exhibition for rescue, fire prevention, disaster relief, safety and security with more than 1,100 exhibitors from across the world providing a comprehensive overview of brand new products and the latest trends.

The presence of so many manufacturers, exporters and leaders from all over the world meant we could discuss our needs and requirements on a face to face basis and see the latest products at various demonstration and presentations. I was just one of more than 100,000 people who visited Leipzig for the exhibition.

Many months before Interschutz, I and several other AFAC members teamed up to arrange the Interschutz trip and to plan some other side trips on our way to and from Germany.

The Hong Kong Fire Service has a strong relationship with AFAC and Australian fire services in general. Their Director Gregory Lo



Chief Officer Mike Brown and the AFAC contingent with HKFS Director Lo and his Chiefs and Directors



They read this everywhere!



A motorcycle CAFS fire appliance



A 'tinny' fire appliance



The modern airport crash appliance (the future is now)



Another airport crash appliance



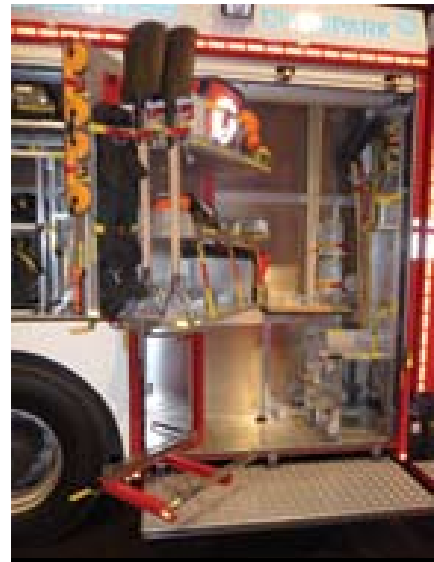
A 6x6 Mercedes for the bush!



Even a hover appliance



The smallest appliance



Innovative storage solutions on the Euro appliances

has visited Tasmania on several occasions including holidaying with his family. We visited Hong Kong on the way and were treated to the very best hospitality as well as visiting and seeing demonstrations at the fire service control centre, the diving and water rescue base, the rescue training centre and visited a large operational station Tsim Sha Tsui Fire Station. We certainly left Hong Kong in no doubt that it was a highly professional and effective organisation.

Interschutz was simply huge and the city of Leipzig hosted and managed with the extra 100,000 + people very well, in fact with

typical German efficiency. Rather than say too much more I'll let the pictures tell the rest.

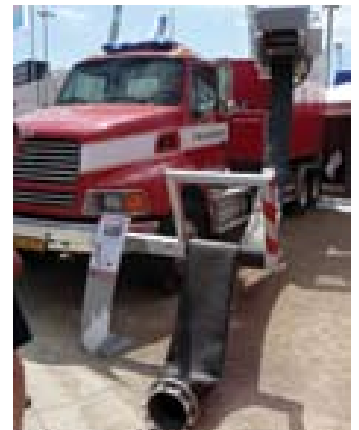
On our way home we stopped for several days in the United Kingdom (UK) and visited Firebuy, London Fire Brigade, British Textiles Testing Group (BTTG) and a major UK protective clothing manufacturer. Firebuy is a UK body established about 5 years ago to drive and negotiate national contract arrangements and to lead research and development, testing and acceptance functions. AFAC and Australian fire agencies have already achieved substantial savings and efficiencies



An amazing bushfire appliance



An amazing bush appliance from Japan



For those BIG hose lays

through its 'collaborative purchasing' program, however, it was most beneficial to talk with the Firebuy people to learn from their experience and to examine the opportunities for further improving our local acquisition arrangements.

We spent half a day talking with senior personnel from the London Fire Brigade. The British economy has suffered over recent years and it has impacted on UK fire services. Interestingly the London Brigade has outsourced much of its operational resources so that they now essentially 'lease' most equipment (including their PPE, appliances, and small equipment).

It was a short drive up to Manchester where we met Ralph and Sophie at the BTTG Fire Technology Services laboratory and offices. BTTG have been involved in evaluating heat and flame protective clothing using heat sensing manikin since 1989. Ralph is the original male shaped manikin. He was joined by

Sophie, a female shaped manikin in 2006. BTTG have a very solid reputation internationally for providing reliable fire clothing testing data and indeed have been used by many organisations in many countries to conduct their PPE fire testing with a wide range of international test standards. Last year, older samples of TFS's own structural PPC was tested against AS/NZ 4869 at BTTG.

A highlight for me was to actually see a burn test on Ralph. I must say that flame testing is way more than the reality of an actual flashover, but it is reassuring to know that our gear goes through such a test environment.

The Interschutz experience was certainly a memorable experience and I have already had discussions with others about some of the technologies and innovations I see as being relevant for us in Tasmania. As I said before, the pictures tell the story best. **MWB**

The Interschutz experience was certainly a memorable experience and I have already had discussions with others about some of the technologies and innovations I see as being relevant for us in Tasmania



Great innovations in pod concepts



The world's biggest aerial 115 metres!



Plastic appliances



Portable hot fire training facilities



Plastic appliances



I'll find a use for this somewhere ...



The view below from my 60M ladder appliance (I meant to tell Mike Gallagher I bought that)



Yes it goes on rail as well



From Russia with love. The idea is it inducts water into a jet stream for mine or large warehouse fires. I'm thinking - I hope it has a good park brake.



Yes its Gregory Lo, Director HKFS - once again what are they all reading?



The Australian Crew at London Fire Brigade HQ



The Crew and Ralph at BTTG Manchester - just prior to the burn test.



Corporate Services Division - Information Systems Branch

By Manager Information Systems, Iain Larner

Michael and Stuart

In a nutshell the Information Systems Branch looks after the computers at the TFS. That sounds easy enough – isn't that just the PC (or laptop) on the desk? While it is the PC on the desk there are also considerable behind the scenes systems that support the functionality of the frontend PC.

While the PC or Laptop is the main frontend method for providing computing (we have 350), other devices are now becoming important methods of access. These include 20 Blackberries and 9 Netbooks. We also provide access to work email, through webmail, for employees who wish to keep in touch during their days off or are travelling.

To support the functionality of these frontend devices there is a significant amount of backend infrastructure. There are a variety of servers (a server is any computer that shares a resource to one or more clients) for file storage and print services (12), web security (2), database management systems (4), email (5), backup (2), website (4), records management (1), computer aided dispatch (2), operational applications (4), faxing (1), system management (4); login security (13) and test systems (7). We currently have 69 servers; however, because of virtualisation we only have 32 physical servers. Some of the servers are for redundancy; if one server fails the other(s) will take over.

There are also a variety of other bits and pieces that tie everything together to make it work or allow it to communicate.

A good example of that is the computer network, which is made of switches or wireless access points to which each computer or server is connected. The switches are connected together to form Local Area Networks (LANs) and these are connected using routers to form a Wide Area Network (WAN) and these are protected from others and the internet using firewalls.

It is all too confusing! What is important is that we keep it working and secure and hopefully invisible to the users of the systems because all that most people want is for the system to work when they want to use it.

The people that keep it all going are dedicated, hardworking and highly trained. They are:

The Helpdesk is normally your first point of call for any computer or infrastructure related problems that occur in the TFS as well as specialising in looking after the PCs, laptops and the systems that run on them. They are:

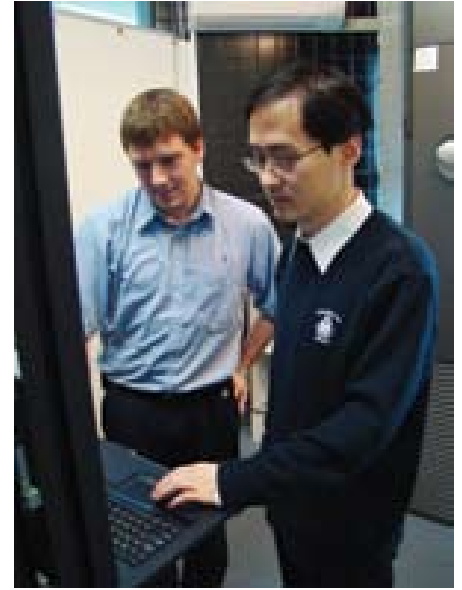
- Michael Davis, Computer Support Consultant, has been with the TFS for 12 years he has a Bachelor of Commerce, a Bachelor of Computing with Honours and an MCP qualification in Vista.
- Stuart Parker, Computer Support Consultant, has been with the TFS for 6 years and in the industry for 36 years (before it was an industry) he has lived the history of computing.



Brendan and Ty



Glenn and David



Andrew and Jack

- Ty Mitchell, Computer Support Officer, has been with TFS for 2 years and in the industry for 15 years. He has a trade certificate in electronics and is currently doing his Advanced Diploma in Computing, has MCP in Vista, Server 2003 Network infrastructure and Server 2003 Active Directory Infrastructure.
- Brendan Pilcher, Trainee, has been with TFS for 6 months. He already has his Certificates 2 and 3 in Information Technology and is currently doing his Certificate IV.
- Glen Kelly, Manager Infrastructure UNIX, has been with the TFS for 3.5 years and in the industry for 10 years. He has a Bachelor of Science majoring in Computer Science and Bachelor of Law. He is responsible for the servers that enable the website, FIRM, RMS, AIRS and Train to work.
- David Watson, Manager Infrastructure Windows, has been with the TFS for 6 months and in the industry for 12 years. He has a Graduate Certificate in Information Systems, and multiple industry qualifications from Microsoft, Hewlett Packard and many others. He is responsible for most of the back-end infrastructure that keeps the desktops working; including file and print servers, authentication systems, email, internet access and security, the backup system and virtual infrastructure. If it runs on a Microsoft platform he's probably looking after it.

The development and application support area write computer programs, create new systems and make changes to corporate applications. They are:

- Andrew Orange, Acting Manager Infrastructure Development, has been with the TFS for 1 year and in the industry for 6 years. He has a Bachelor of Computing with Honours. He currently manages all ongoing development projects.
- Jack Liu, Computer Systems Developer, has been with the TFS for 1 year and has been working in the industry for 11 years. He has a Bachelor of Computing. He is responsible for



Iain

developing the FIRM application and many other in-house applications.

- Iain Larnar, Manager Information Systems, has been with the TFS for 21 years and in the industry for 27 years. He has a Bachelor of Science with Honours majoring in Information Systems and Zoology.

IL

Pacific Island Fire Service Association (PIFSA) Executive Forum – Papua New Guinea

By Regional Chief South, Tony Davidson



Group photo at PNG Fire Service Headquarters

Over the week of 21 to 25 June 2010 I had the privilege of attending the PIFSA Executive Forum which was held in Port Moresby and Madang in Papua New Guinea as the Liaison Officer with our Partner Country Nauru. The theme of the Forum Proactive Partnership in Disaster Risk Management reflected the intentions of PIFSA and its membership to work closely with other stakeholders including NDMO and playing a larger role in natural disaster mitigation through preparedness, response and recovery in an all hazards basis not just fire.

The Forum was hosted by the PNG Government and the PNG Fire Service and sponsored by AusAid. AFAC provides executive management and administrative support for PIFSA.

At the opening ceremony in Port Moresby, after receiving our leis, we were welcomed by the Hon Same Abal PNG Minister for Foreign Affairs before witnessing a parade by local firefighters and a crash rescue demonstration. We were also afforded a tour of the PNG fire headquarters building which is shared with other government departments.

During the Forum strategic issues and challenges were workshopped and during discussions it was evident that all participating countries had common priority needs.

The top priority issues are:

- The strengthening of legislation pertaining to the service they provide and the authority to act and enforce specific legislation;
- The need for a common training framework specific to the Pacific Islands.



Tony Davidson with Nauru Chief Link Uera and Asael Billeam



Madang fire station - note brand new fire truck but no station doors



We were also fortunate to have guest speakers Martin Mose - Director National Disaster Centre; David McLachlan - Karr United Nations Co-ordinator; and Jock Paul - Office for the Co-ordination of Human Affairs who shared an overview and understanding of the work of the United Nations relating to Disaster Planning and Response.

The forum provided opportunities for the Pacific Island countries to share ideas and issues with their partner countries on a face to face basis and also the chance to network and socialise. The workshop forums began quietly and seriously but by the end of our last day the level of communication and interaction between the different countries' delegates had become much more vocal and less reserved. Our partners from Nauru, Chief Fire Officer, Link Uear and his co delegate Asael Billeam were no exceptions as they shared their challenges and visions for the future with the group.



Asael Billeam, Tony Davidson and Link Uera at forum in shirts presented to all delegates by PNG Fire Service



Highlights of the trip were the overwhelming hospitality of the PNG Fire Service and in particular our host Chief Officer Isaac Silas and his members. They certainly went out of their way to ensure that we were treated as special guests.

Upon our arrival in Madang we received a very colourful and moving traditional welcome by local Papuans. The participants ranged from elders to young children all of whom participated energetically and enthusiastically.

Whilst in Madang we stayed at the Madang Resort which is of worldwide standard and is renowned for its underwater diving sites. The view from the restaurant where we had lunch was magnificent.

We were also treated to a harbour cruise on the resort owner's "ship" which I can only describe as being truly fantastic. Everything you could want from Heli Pad, jet ski, 16 seat dining table, chef with restaurant style kitchen, lounge room, bar etc.

Upon reflection it was a most rewarding week with positive outcomes from the Executive Forum and the creation of new friendships and networking with other liaison officers.

I will have lasting memories of the wonderful hospitality and generosity of our hosts, however, this is tempered by the real challenges PNG faces as it moves forward into its highly resource based future. **TD**



Delegates hard at work
- Asael Billeam and Link Uera at bottom left



New Volunteer Firefighter Learning Model - 12 months on...

By Senior Training Officer, Rob Ratcliffe

It's been 12 months since the introduction of the new Volunteer Firefighter Learning Model. First a bit of revision (must be the trainer in me), as you may recall the intent of changing the course names and the delivery mode from the regional training centres to the brigade was to enable a new member to become an operational firefighter as soon as possible therefore enabling them to respond to incidents as part of the crew under direct supervision in a more timely manner. Direct supervision is where the trainee firefighter is within the line of sight of an experienced firefighter. This on station training helps maintain that initial contact with the new member and keeping their interest in becoming a TFS volunteer.

After completing this basic training on station (Volunteer Brigade Induction & Basics) the trainee firefighter is encouraged to move on to the Volunteer Firefighter Level 1 courses. These courses are generally presented at the regional training centres due to the live fire component, however, after saying that, the pump operation and volunteer bush firefighting courses have been conducted away from the regional centres in a location that suited the brigades. There have been questions asked whether the volunteer Firefighter Level 1 courses have to be completed in the sequence outlined in the Volunteer Course Information guide. Whilst this is the preferred sequence it does not really matter in what sequence they are completed. After completing the Volunteer Firefighter Level 1 training a firefighter is able to work at an incident under general supervision. This level of supervision would be determined by the Crew Leader/ Brigade Officer and will depend on the person's experience and abilities.

For the volunteer firefighters and officers that have come through in the old system (the public safety training package units of competence) the mapping over has been completed in all three regions. By mapping over I mean the courses you attended previously have been aligned to the new course names. This information is then entered on to the members training record. This can be accessed through the intranet. See example.

The Volunteer Course Information guide describes each course name and contents. If you are still unsure whether you need to complete a course in order to advance from Volunteer Firefighter Level 1 through

to the more advanced courses and then on to the Leadership/ Officer courses then please contact your District Staff in the first instance.

Feedback from the new courses so far has generally been positive in that the participants have enjoyed the more hands-on and practical approach to the training. There has been a shift away from death by PowerPoint and the focus has been on getting out of the confines of the training room and getting more hands on with the gear. The assessments have been conducted verbally, again in an attempt to get away from the training room. In the more advanced courses such as Crew Leader it's about the trainer facilitating and guiding the participants through the course material and having more group discussions and sharing ideas and experiences.

By now most brigades in the Southern Region have completed the Vehicle Burnover training sessions and the North and North West regions have been given all the course materials to conduct the training at their brigades.

Overall, I believe that most people are satisfied with the new direction of volunteer training where the course content has been tailored to meet the needs of the TFS. **RR**



CODE	COMPETENCY	ASSESSMENT DATE
TF0001	VOLUNTEER BRIGADE INDUCTION	01/01/2000
PUA00001A	PROVIDE EMERGENCY CARE	10/04/2000
PUA00001B	ADMINISTER OXYGEN IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION	01/10/2000
PUA00001A	DRIVE VEHICLES UNDER OPERATIONAL CONDITIONS	11/04/2000
PUA00002A	OPERATE BREATHING APPARATUS OPEN CIRCUIT	10/09/2000
PUA00002A	OPERATE PUMPS	10/09/2000
PUA00002A	RESPOND TO WILDFIRE	10/09/2000
PUA00002A	SUPERVISOR RESPONSE	10/09/2000
PUA00002A	TRIM AND CROSS CUT Felled TREES	10/09/2000
PUA00002A	SUPPRESS WILDFIRE	10/09/2000
PUA00002A	SUPPRESS URBAN FIRE	10/09/2000
PUA00002A	LEAD, MANAGE AND DEVELOP TEAMS	10/09/2000
PUA00002A	CONDUCT PRESCRIBED BURNING	10/09/2000
BU0000A	TRAIN SMALL GROUPS	07/03/2000
TF0003	SECTION COMMANDER	20/10/2000
PUA00001A	PROTECT AND PRESERVE INCIDENT SCENE	07/03/2000
PUA00001A	OPERATE BREATHING APPARATUS OPEN CIRCUIT	02/07/2000
PUA00001B	PROVIDE EMERGENCY CARE	11/09/2000
PUA00001B	ADMINISTER OXYGEN IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION	11/09/2000
TF0003	VOLUNTEER BRIGADE BASICS	15/09/2000
TF0003	VOLUNTEER BUSH FIREFIGHTING	15/09/2000
TF0007	VOLUNTEER STRUCTURE/MOBILE PROPERTY FIREFIGHTING	10/01/2000
TF0008	VOLUNTEER PUMP OPERATOR	10/01/2000
TF0002	CONDUCT FUEL REDUCTION OPERATIONS	10/09/2000
TF0008	VOLUNTEER ADVANCED BUSH FIREFIGHTING	27/03/2000
TF0008	VOLUNTEER URBAN FIREFIGHTING	27/03/2000
TF0008	VOLUNTEER ADVANCED URBAN FIREFIGHTING	27/03/2000
TF0008	VOLUNTEER BRIGADE ADMINISTRATION	10/09/2000
TF0008	VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER LEVEL 1	10/09/2000
TF0007	DRIVE OPERATIONAL VEHICLES	10/09/2000
TF0002	FIRE AND	10/09/2000

Community Fire Refuges and Bushfire Ready Schools

By Regional Chief North, Andrew Comer

With day temperatures barely reaching double figures in Tassie at present it is perhaps hard to turn one's thoughts to bushfires and related matters, however, with the final report from the Royal Commission looking into the events of Black Saturday hot off the press, we cannot rest on our laurels and head into the next fire season without thinking and reflecting on what we have learnt, or achieved, from our experiences over the last summer.

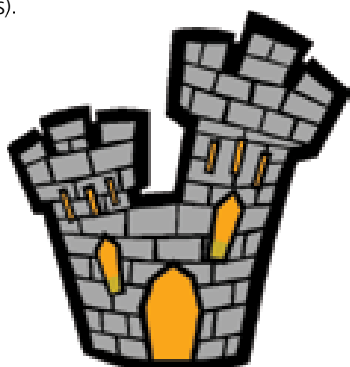
Two particular aspects that perhaps warrant a revisit are Community Fire Refuges (CFRs) and Bushfire Ready Schools (BRSs). They were certainly two projects that consumed a lot of time for a lot of people late last year and I would like to particularly commend all those involved in those endeavours for their effort and commitment at completing the initial work in such a timely fashion.

Community Fire Refuges

You may recollect from the old "Prepare, Stay and Defend or Leave Early" policy (now "**Prepare, Act, Survive**") that if people, likely to be threatened by fire, chose to leave early, perhaps because their properties weren't prepared or they felt unsafe to stay, that they would be encouraged to relocate to family, friends or other non-affected areas in the first instance. However, in the event that they had no one or nowhere else to go to then a CFR might be identified or established that would provide at least a minimum level of safety and shelter for them in those critical few hours when they may have otherwise been exposed to the passing fire front.

Whilst it may have appeared all very simple to achieve it was not without its challenges. What has been delivered thus far is:

- A draft State Plan that continues to be subject to ongoing discussion and development that operates by means of a collaborative relationship between TFS, SES and Local Government through their various Recovery Committees.
- A comprehensive list of facilities (approximately 40) that can be utilised as CFRs in times of need. These are located right around the state and appeared on the TFS website throughout the summer period. Some are large centres with a wide range of services (e.g. Derwent Entertainment Centre) whilst others were smaller, more local facilities with limited amenities that catered for short duration demand (typically sporting complexes or town halls).



87% of schools in Tasmania met, or exceeded, the default distances and could be loosely termed "bushfire ready"

Whilst there has been a lot good work done to this point of time there are still a few issues that need further work before we can say we are entirely comfortable:

- Bedding down and formalising the activation and management arrangements;
- Recording and mapping the facilities for operational purposes;
- Promulgating relevant advice on the centres for stakeholders and communities;
- Establishing an auditing process to ensure the on-going viability of all CFRs;
- Considering alternative approaches to the current model.

Therefore this project will remain on the TFS radar for some time yet.

Bushfire Ready Schools

Also prior to last summer TFS personnel undertook a comprehensive survey of all schools in Tasmania. Two hundred and ninety five schools were assessed by our staff by way of desktop audits or field visits to ascertain if those facilities met or exceeded the nationally prescribed default distances for safer places.



Individual assessment reports were furnished back to the Department of Education on the outcomes. The Department of Education also acted as a liaison between TFS and both the Independent and Catholic schools in Tasmania and the **“one-stop shop”** proved of enormous value in maintaining communication throughout the project.

The end result was that 87% of schools in Tasmania met, or exceeded, the default distances and could be loosely termed “bushfire ready”. Essentially this means that the buildings are sufficient distance from vegetation such that the radiant heat from a fire is not likely to cause that structure to ignite. These 257 schools were deemed Category 1 facilities and for the most part will remain open and operating as a school during high fire danger periods as they will provide adequate levels of safety to occupants.

There were, however, 31 schools (11%) that did not adequately meet the default distances required and therefore specific mitigation work will need to be undertaken before they would comply. These works were outlined in the assessment report and left with the school to deal with.

Finally there were 5 schools (2%) where the need to relocate students/staff and others in the event of a fire occurring and impacting on the facility was considered the most appropriate action. These schools were deemed Category 3 facilities and a place where TFS does not consider it safe for staff, students and others to remain should a bushfire threaten.

Again there remains a body of work to complete before next summer, not the least of which is to return to the Category 2 schools and re-assess the works undertaken and determine if they are now suitable for Category 1 inclusion.

In addition other follow-up activities will also be required:

- Ensuring that no deterioration of the default distances have occurred in Category 1 schools;
- Confirming that Category 3 schools have completed their relocation plans;
- Testing the notification arrangements to and from schools during days of high fire danger;
- Assessing non-school, educational facilities also used by staff and students that might present a risk should they be threatened by a bushfire; eg. school campsites etc.

I would encourage all brigades with schools in their response area to undertake a familiarisation of the property and surrounds of the facility before next summer so in the event of a bushfire threatening you will have an appreciation of what the focus will be for those staff and students. **AC**

Redevelopment of TFS Online

By Manager Information Services, Iain Larnar

TFS Online is currently undergoing a major system upgrade which will be completed by the start of the fire season. The upgrade will replace the underlying infrastructure, which is expected to be able to support demand for the next 3 years. The look of the website is not changing as part of this upgrade.

The upgrade was planned for this financial year and was commenced before the start of the last fire season. Unfortunately the upgrade had been delayed by a number of significant changes which were required to the existing website. The first major change was the introduction of the community warnings; these were implemented to be consistent with the recommendations from the Victorian Black Saturday Royal Commission. The second major change was, in some ways, caused by the first change and that was changes necessary to allow the website to cope with the unprecedented increase in the demand on the website.

To put that increased demand in perspective our previous maximum was back on 12 October 2006 with the fire in the Meehan Range on the eastern shore of Hobart there were a massive (for then) 738,980 hits for the day. This is very small in comparison to 11 January 2010 this year where there were 2,865,567 hits for the day and over 254,000 hits per hour at times. On a normal summer day the site gets around 300,000 – 400,000 hits per day.

While we speak of the website as a single entity it is really made up of numerous systems that have to work together perfectly. The upgrade is to a number of these systems. ***Warning the following contains technical speak and is not for the faint hearted!***

- The TFS Online computers that the website is hosted on will be replaced with new computers. The new servers have 12 processing cores running at 1.165 Gigahertz and 16 Gigabytes of memory compared to 2 processing cores running at 0.9 Gigahertz and 2 Gigabytes of memory.
- The application servers are the part of the website that runs the computer code which creates and sends the web pages to users. This has been upgraded with newer, faster and more efficient software. It is capable of handling significantly more connections than the old version.
- The computer program code that gives the website its functionality has been upgraded to a newer version and framework. This has reduced the size of the code and also increasing the robustness and speed of the website.
- The database management system is where the information for the website is stored and has been upgraded to the latest version.
- The computers and their systems that sit in front of the website will also be replaced and upgraded. These computers are very important as they do the website load balancing (proportioning website traffic across the backend computers), failover (swapping traffic from the failed computer to the working computer), security (helps protect the backend computers from cyber attack) and caching (keeping copies of frequently used content to speed up access).

The project is proceeding well and is on track to be completed by October. **IL**

Wind Turbine coup for TasFire Equipment

By Manager TasFire Equipment, Andrew Lyons



Kits for waterloo wind turbine system

Also competing for the contract to supply the fire suppression systems was the designer of the wind turbine itself; Vestas, a Danish firm.

Recently, a number of expensive wind turbines around the world have been lost to fire. The fires are inherently difficult to fight as the turbines sit about 90 metres off the ground.

In 2009 TasFire Equipment, who already serviced portable fire protection equipment at the Woolnorth wind farm, was asked by Roaring 40s Renewable Energy to help with the design of a fire suppression system suitable for protecting all areas in their Vestas V90 turbines susceptible to fire. TasFire Equipment's Regional Supervisor Adam Lewtas' previous experience with Vestas during the construction of the turbines at Woolnorth proved invaluable.

Also competing for the contract to supply the fire suppression systems was the designer of the wind turbine itself; Vestas, a Danish firm.

Roaring 40s needed to have fire suppression systems fitted to all turbines at its proposed wind farm at Waterloo in South Australia's Clare Valley. The main reason for this was to prevent the outbreak of bushfire if a fire occurred in a turbine in this hot and windy location. The secondary reason was the protection of the expensive asset itself.

TasFire Equipment engaged a mainland-based fire protection company that specialises in the design and installation of fire suppression systems for special hazards. Delta Fire, along with Firetrace Australia and TasFire Equipment, went about designing

a system suitable for the extreme operating conditions in the turbines. After significant research into the causes of fires in wind turbines, two significant risk areas were determined. The main areas needing protecting were the high voltage 2100Kva transformer area and the control cabinets.

Following several trips to Woolnorth wind farm, enough data was gathered for Firetrace in the US to design and engineer a system specifically for this model turbine and the Southern Australian climate. Factors for consideration were:

- Volume of the areas to be protected;
- Limited room for installation of cylinders/nozzles;
- Range of operating temperatures (-5C – +80C);
- Turbine ventilation and its impact on the performance of a fire suppression system;
- Ease of serviceability.

With this in mind, a system using Firetrace detection tubing and Novec 1230 protection fluid as the extinguishing agent, a series of discharge nozzles along with pressure switches to interface with the wind turbines control systems was chosen. The system was designed to shut down the turbine and the turbine's ventilation in the event of a fire, to enable a calculated concentration of suppression agent to extinguish a fire.



Back top transformer detection



In November 2009 a prototype system was installed at Woolnorth wind farm. After assessment by Roaring 40s engineers, the system was deemed suitable and an order was placed for 74 fire suppression systems (2 in each turbine) for the 37 turbines being installed in South Australia.

In early 2010, TasFire Equipment ordered all the necessary components to put complete kits together for fitting to the turbines located at the wharf in Port Adelaide. This included sourcing the Firetrace components from the US, having mounting brackets fabricated locally and sourcing other hardware items suitable for the extreme operating environment in turbines. All the kits were installed by Delta Fire, who will carry out final commissioning once the turbines are erected and

ready for operation later this year.

All in all, TasFire Equipment's involvement in such a large project has been a real learning experience. Given the very tight timeframe from inception to the delivery of the final product, it has also demonstrated our capacity to carry out a large amount of work in a short period of time and to respond to the needs of our clients. TasFire Equipment is proud to have been part of such a significant project and we would like to thank all those involved in helping us make this happen.

Note: the red tubing in the photos is the detection tubing which ruptures in the event of a fire and activates the suppression system. **AL**



Japan Foundation Study Tour

By Station Officer Launceston Brigade, Heath Bracey

On 20 June I travelled to Japan to participate in the two week Jenesys East Asia Future Leaders Program. The focus of this study tour was "Disaster Prevention and People: Working Toward the Creation of a Stronger Society". Twenty participants from 15 countries were invited to attend from a variety of backgrounds. This was one of the many Jenesys programs which are fully funded by the Japanese government. Most people worked for non government organisations such as the United Nations; Red Cross; Plan International; Save the Children; and Care International, while others worked as school teachers and researchers. Almost all people had strong backgrounds in disaster management and prevention.

The countries involved in this study tour included Brunei; Cambodia; China; India; Indonesia; South Korea; Laos; Malaysia; Myanmar (Burma); New Zealand; Philippines; Thailand; Vietnam; Japan and of course Australia.

On our first day each participant was required to complete a 15 minute presentation about their home country in relation to their occupation, disaster prevention measures / strategies and what they hoped to achieve from the study tour.

I gained a new appreciation for the Donald Horne phrase "The Lucky Country" when I listened to presentation after presentation which described the enormous losses and challenges that my colleagues faced. Many of the countries not only suffer from large scale frequent natural disasters but were also up against military dictatorships, political corruption, poverty and human rights issues.

The next day we began our non-stop tour of Japanese communities and government departments.

In Tokyo we visited an area where 2.5 million people live below sea level. This has occurred due to excessive ground water pumping (mostly industry) which resulted in land subsidence of up to 5 metres in some areas. Enormous engineering measures have been taken to protect the people but the Katsushika City Community Association are a unique volunteer group which has educated, promoted and prepared the community for a large scale disaster.

"If you are liked in the community you will be rescued first; if you are disliked in the community people will still remember you and will come looking for you; if you are invisible in the community people will not miss you and will not come to help when you are in trouble".

We travelled to Kobe via Bullet Train to learn about the massive earthquake that hit the city in the winter of 1995 killing 6,434 people. As a result many fires burnt out of control in the city for days destroying over 7,000 buildings. The reticulated water supply was destroyed, many streets were only 3 metres wide and the high density neighbourhoods were mostly of timber construction.

Mr Ikeda, an inspirational community leader from Biwa in Kobe, explained that the biggest mistake post-disaster was the decision to give emergency housing priority to the elderly and disabled. He went on to explain that by doing so the social links were lost, many of these people could not function by themselves physically or emotionally and therefore a lot of these people lost the will to live and subsequently many died prematurely. He was very proud to learn that the New Orleans recovery (Hurricane Katrina) knew of this tragedy and kept whole communities together when allocating emergency housing.

We visited Maiko High School in Kobe where year 11-12 students can undertake a Disaster Mitigation curriculum. This was the first school in the world to develop and offer this type of subject and the much sought-after positions allow students to travel to many parts of the world as volunteers. Part of their training involves staying 3 days / 2 nights at the Kobe Firefighting Academy where they are woken several times during the night to put out fires. The Australian firefighter proved quite a novelty.

We travelled to Niigata and witnessed the recovery of Yamakoshi, a rural community, which had massive floods after the 2004 earthquake. A group of senior community ladies



An example of the narrow fire trucks used in Kobe. Some streets in Kobe are only 3 metres wide.



Some of the houses left in a flooded river bed in Niigata



Volunteer fire station in Yamakoshi, Niigata



The Japanese have vending machines for everything. This one is also a warning system for earthquakes.

started a community restaurant using local organic produce which they grow. This has formed the cornerstone for a large part of this community's recovery. Remarkably Niigata is the home of the world's largest nuclear power station and has hundreds of recorded earthquakes.

There are far too many positive stories to mention, however, the key message that came from all of the community visits was clear. In order to build resilience in our communities against disaster regardless of type, nationality or socio economics, people must be socially linked to their community. When I asked Community Elder Mr Kawai from Kobe how he motivated community members to get involved he answered with a grin.

"If you are liked in the community you will be rescued first; if you are disliked in the community people will still remember you and will come looking for you; if you are invisible in the community people will not miss you and will not come to help when you are in trouble".

I have learnt a great deal from this wonderful opportunity and hope to implement some of these elements. I am truly grateful to the Japanese Government, the Japan Foundation, the Jenesys Program and the TFS for allowing me to participate. Thank you. **HB**



Year 12 Maiko High School students studying Environmental Disaster Mitigation. Standard young Japanese pose - 2 fingers.

Tasmanian Fire Brigades Competitions Association (TFBCA) State Firefighter Championships

By President TFBCA / District Officer Mark Dobson

Many readers will know that TFS have supported firefighter competitions for many years in various formats. Those of you who may have read TFS WordBack 022 in March of this year will also know that Deputy Chief Officer Gavin Freeman has handed the reins of the competitions committee to yours truly it must have been an unusually vulnerable point in my life! Just kidding ☺

I received a "pep talk" from the DCO and considering the strong support from TFS and the Executive Committee, I gladly accepted the position of President, my wife Kate must now be "the first lady" I guess?

Having been involved with urban firefighter competitions since 1977 I very quickly realised that I had BIG shoes to fill, particularly given the recent amalgamation of the previous two associations into one, consolidated group.

I'm pleased to report that planning is well underway in preparation for this year's State Championships, to be held on the weekend of 6 - 7 November in sunny Launceston. The actual venue is Invermay Park in the Inveresk Precinct which is where Aurora Stadium (York Park) is located. I prefer to call it "Hawk Park" being a mad Hawks supporter!

The format for this year's event is significantly different to previous Championships in that it will be conducted over two days. There are a range of reasons this decision has been made and it is largely in response to feedback gained from past year's events.

It is planned to commence the events slightly later than normal on the Saturday, to allow for brigades to travel to the venue at a more respectable time and then finish earlier on the Sunday for similar reasons. More details will be circulated closer to the date.


Free entertainment will be provided on the Saturday evening and limited camping will be available at the venue, to assist brigades in lowering the overall cost in attending. In addition, a new rules manual has recently been produced that includes detailed descriptions of each new event, including individual diagrams of track layout and how each event is conducted.

The Executive Committee would also like to support a "Buddy System" where brigades who have experience in competitions


assist less experienced brigades in learning the new events. I wish to encourage brigades to make contact with other brigades in their local area with a view to fostering a relationship such as this.

In other news, the TFS website is undergoing changes and an area is being set up specifically for competition information. Here you will be able to download the rules manual, enrolment forms and other documents as they become available, as well as check out photos and competition results.

If you require further information and have access to email drop us a line at championships@fire.tas.gov.au or call 6230 8400. I look forward to seeing everyone in Launceston on 6 - 7 November 2010 for a great weekend of competitions! **MD**

 **STATE FIREFIGHTER CHAMPIONSHIPS**

SATURDAY 6 & SUNDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2010
Inveresk Park, Launceston




Junior, cadet and adult firefighters from across Tasmania

Family activities, games etc.

All Brigades eligible to enter a team/s

Camping available at Inveresk

Function & live entertainment on Saturday evening at the venue

 This event is proudly hosted by the Tasmanian Fire Brigades Competitions Association (TFBCA)
For more information go to www.fire.tas.gov.au or email championships@fire.tas.gov.au

Bringing our Volunteer Handbook up-to-date

By Coordinator Volunteer Strategy, Lucas van Rijswijk

Our *Volunteer Handbook* is an important brigade management tool. It gives all our members the information needed to fully take part in brigade activities.

Do you know where to find your brigade's copy? Do you use it?

It is a useful tool and it needs to be updated. Many members, including field staff and volunteer associations, have asked TFS to produce an up-to-date version as soon as possible. In response, TFS has decided to appoint a dedicated, full time Project Officer for 6 months.

It's with pleasure that I'm letting you know that Carol Davey has been appointed to the position of Project Officer Volunteer Handbook. Carol will be working with me on this important project. Carol brings a great degree of experience and skill to this role. She has a great interest in the Volunteer Handbook and administrative processes generally. She is particularly well placed to appreciate and incorporate the views of the various Regions into our work.

Carol will continue to be based in Youngtown and her contact details will remain unchanged, however, she will also be working out of the Hobart office from time-to-time.

Carol will be supported by the *Volunteer Handbook Working Group*. The members of this group include representatives of volunteer associations, District Officers, Regional Administration and Human Services.

Our first priority will be to revise *Section 3 Joining a Brigade*. This is to document the decisions that TFS made in November last year. This will enable us to fully implement our new volunteer joining processes. It will be the only section that will see really significant changes. These will be necessary to give brigades up-to-date information about *Induction* and *Brigade Basics* for both new members and brigade leaders. The other sections will then be addressed.



Carol Davey, Project Officer Volunteer Handbook

Other than Section 3, this revision is limited solely to bringing the Volunteer Handbook up-to-date with current practices and any relevant decisions or instructions. Where differences are found we will need to adopt more consistent processes around the state. This will result in some changes to the way we do things. The amount of change you experience will generally depend on how closely what you are currently doing conforms to relevant TFS guidelines.

We will also need to manage our own expectations. This project is not about a complete re-design of all our processes, however, where members suggest new approaches we will record these ideas for future consideration. Unfortunately, we will not be able to incorporate these suggestions until the whole *Volunteer Handbook* has been brought up-to-date. When this task has been completed (in about 6 month's time) we will be able to fully review our processes one section at a time. **LvR**

Volunteer Handbook Working Group. The members of this group include representatives of volunteer associations, District Officers, Regional Administration and Human Services.



Lilydale – Supportive Brigade

By Coordinator Volunteer Strategy, Lucas van Rijswijk

It was a cold and wet winter’s night. It started as it usually does. Leave a warm cosy room to get into a cold car. Drive to the station on almost deserted roads keeping a sharp eye out for any panicking wallabies. The only sounds are the swish of the tyres and windscreen wipers competing with the earnest voice of the news reader.

When you think about it, it’s impressive that our volunteers turn out for training nights so regularly.

I was heading for the Lilydale Brigade to sit in on a presentation of a *Supportive Brigades* workshop. As project manager I was keen to see how the workshop was received by our members. I arrived about 30 minutes early. Vaughan Smith the facilitator from IMC-Link was not far behind. Third Officer David Dornauf arrived very soon after and opened the station.

Vaughan started to set up his equipment for the workshop. As he worked he chatted quietly with David. I also listened and asked some questions trying to get a better understanding of how volunteer brigades worked.

What makes me feel good about our brigade?

Thanks and appreciation	Good communication	We respect everyone	Sense of belonging	Community service
Good teamwork	We all take responsibility	Effective leadership	Welcoming	Honesty
Clear expectations	Well organised	Getting the job done	Consideration	Bullying
We are all accountable	We include everyone	Fairness	Negativity or gossip	Discrimination
Social activities	Commitment	Undermining	Harassment	Unresolved conflict

Tasmania Fire Service © 2010

Before long the other members started to arrive and things got pretty lively. It was good to see the friendly camaraderie amongst the volunteers. Tonight 8 volunteers turned up; a fairly average turnout I’m told.

There was some confusion as to what the workshop was about. It’s been really hard to get the message out. I know that the workshop is very important. I also feel that we need to get good





value for the money TFS is spending to support our volunteers. It's so important to get information to all of our members.

Before long Vaughan gets the workshop underway. The members are soon right into it. Everyone gets involved in the activities and the discussions. Before you know it, the two hours are over and it's time for a cuppa and to pack up. The conversations go over some of the things raised in the workshop. Everyone agrees that it's been a good night. Vaughan had done a great job in keeping the 'action' moving at just the right pace.

Supportive Brigades is a 2-hour interactive workshop that you can do on-station. It's a great way for your brigade to see what 'people' things are working well and how things can be improved. After all, it's no good how skilled you are if you can't work together effectively.

Supportive Brigades helps you to look at the needs of the people of your brigade. It's practical and fun activities explore your brigade's strengths and diversity. No dry facts, no PowerPoint, no travel, minimum fuss and lots of good conversations.

It was great to be on Lilydale station to see the workshop unfold. It was good to see how trust is so important in a brigade. Trust on the fireground is important for our physical safety. Trust on-station is also vital as lack of it undermines the relationships in the brigade. Lilydale members worked as a team and were able to handle some of the more 'difficult' conversations respectfully.

Soon everything was packed away and it was time to head home. I came away impressed by the commitment that Lilydale members had shown by turning out on another cold winter's night. I was also pleased with the respect that they had for each other and for each person's views.

When it's your brigade's turn to do the **Supportive Brigades** workshop I hope you be able to match the standards set by brigades like Lilydale. **LvR**

Regional Chief North is an "Ace"

By District Officer Operations Launceston Brigade, Danny Richardson



All those who know Regional Chief North Andrew Comer, would also know how passionate he is about his job and the TFS.

You may or may not also know that he is a very passionate golfer and tries to play as much as

possible when his free weekend time allows.

Andrew had the opportunity to play in his beloved Launceston Golf Club's Saturday competition on 26th June. Travelling along nicely he came to the 13th hole, an extremely challenging par three. With his trusty 7 iron in hand he played his shot to the green, it not only felt good off the club face but it looked very good in the air as it travelled towards the flagstick. He saw the ball land and that was it until he also saw the group on the next tee waving as if to say "well done, good shot". It was not until he reached the green and could not see his ball that he thought he should check inside the cup. He found his ball and realised he had achieved a hole in one! In golfing terms this is a very rare feat and one that not many golfers achieve throughout their playing days.

Andrew can prove that this was no fluke, he achieved a hole in one on a TFS golf club trip to Queensland some years ago (very clever)!

On behalf of all TFS "golf nuts" I would like to congratulate Andrew on his achievement and look forward to the day I can say "it's an easy game this golf". **DR**

The last pilot – at Campbell Town

By Coordinator Volunteer Strategy,
Lucas van Rijswijk



The first six months of this year have flown by. It has been very busy indeed.

An important part of our work has been the development and trialling of four new two-hour workshops that will make up our new *Leading Brigades* series. These workshops are being developed in response to feedback from volunteers asking for more leadership development opportunities.

On 20 June it was time to pilot the fourth and last of the workshops. Once again Campbell Town Brigade was the considerate host to fourteen people from around the state. These volunteers came together to act as a 'brigade' to trial the



It was obvious that many of the activities hit the mark, however, the feedback from the volunteers was insightful and useful. Their generous contribution of time and ideas will mean that we will all have an even more effective workshop.

workshop and to help us to find out what worked, and what needed a bit of 'tweaking'.

It was time to put the workshop to the test. Twelve volunteers, including two VTIs, acted as willing 'guinea pigs'. It was obvious that many of the activities hit the mark, however, the feedback from the volunteers was insightful and useful. Their generous contribution of time and ideas will mean that we will all have an even more effective workshop.

The workshops in the *Leading Brigades* series have been designed by Katherine Street from *People Flourishing*. She has been supported in this task by members of the Reference Group.

They have represented your views during the development process.

The four *Leading Brigades* workshops focus on practical approaches to:

- Leading people (members of your brigade);
- Leading teams (like your brigade);
- Leadership responsibilities (what to do to support team members), and
- Managing a brigade (conflict management and resolution, mentoring, leadership styles).

Each 2-hour workshop will be delivered on-station and is designed to involve everyone; not only officers. It is an opt-in program. Each brigade can choose which workshop it would like to have provided.

We have now completed the initial design phase of these workshops. We will have to review them to ensure that they are consistent. It's hoped that this final phase will be completed by the end of this year. If things go to plan, brigades will be able to ask for these workshops by the end of 2010.

Thank you to everyone who has been so generous with time and suggestions. We could not have come this far without you. Thanks too to the members of Campbell Town Brigade. Your kindness in 'lending' us the station made it much easier to bring together people from around the state. It is greatly appreciated.

LvR



PHOTO GALLERY



Claremont 3.1 attending a vegetation fire, Main Road Austin's Ferry 4 June 2010 – Photographer: Firefighter Thomas van Geytenbeek, Claremont Brigade



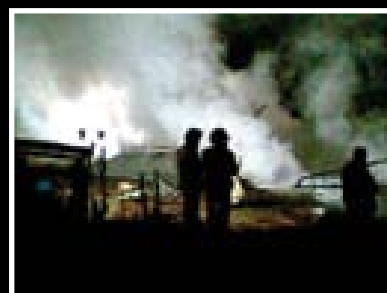
View from Fountainside Motor Inn – Hobart. Photographer: Andrew Orange



Brigade Chief Gerry Smith and District Officer Jodi Armstrong looking at the West Coast terrain from the top of Mt Read. Photographer: Firefighter Lyndy Smith, Rosebery Brigade



Trauma teddies temporary living in Southern Region Administration until they were collected and distributed to the regions. Generously knitted and donated by Noreen Kurowski and Sue Spaulding



House fire at Margate on 17 June 2010 - Photographer Fourth Officer Stephen Palmer, Kingston Brigade



PWS burn off near
Granville Highway
Zeehan on 13 April
2010. Photographer:
Firefighter Nardia
Reader, Zeehan Brigade



Truck fire in Negara Crescent, Goodwood. Firefighter Andrew
Emery in foreground. Photographer: Station Officer Stewart
McKinlay



Leslie Vale fire – Photographer: Firefighter Summerleas Brigade,
Brendan Pilcher

Variety Challenge

By OH&S Officer, Kelly Gordon

Ever wanted to walk from Mozambique to Fiji? It sounds like a long way doesn't it - in fact it's only 1906 km's which equates to 2,521,165 steps.

Earlier this year 13 TFS teams put on their pedometers and decided to participate in the Variety Challenge. The Challenge is a 7-10 week event that involves teams of four entering their steps into the computer daily and virtually walking around the world. For those of us who don't like walking, there were over 40 different activities we could do that counted towards the challenge. Not only is the challenge designed to increase a person's fitness levels, but it also encourages participants to fundraise for sick and disadvantaged children in the community.

This event was endorsed and subsidised by TFS and the Healthy@Work project (a Tasmanian Government initiative), and ties into the upcoming health and wellness program. The health and wellness program is well into the planning stage and the Variety Challenge is just one of the many initiatives that the program will encompass.

Some of the fantastic fundraising efforts put in by the teams involved included:

- Team "Club South" held "guess how many lollies are in the jar" competitions and has raised over \$300;
- Team "Walky Talky Four" raised over \$500 by holding a photo



competition, providing morning tea and coffee and receiving cash donations;

- Team "Infernos" held a football tipping competition and raised over \$1,000;
- Team "Bombers" raised \$1,500 through donations;
- Team "Smoke Eaters" organised a golf day and have received \$300 in donations;
- Team "TFS All Fired Up" sold fruit with proceeds going to the Variety.

So that everyone competed on a level playing field, there was an Open Division

for people who are currently inactive, but seeking to improve their activity levels and an Advanced Division for those already active. Participants in the Open Division were required to walk over 9,000 steps per day and those in the Advanced Division needed to walk over 12,500 steps per day.

An incredible effort was put in by teams and special mention goes to:

- Team "Walky Talky Four" in the South for finishing in second place out of 41 teams in the Advanced Division. Team members walked an average of 19,644 steps per day.
- Team "Smoke Eaters" in the North who finished equal second place out of 347 teams in the Open Division. Team members walked an average of 15,465 steps per day.

Now that the challenge is over - what's next? With the implementation of the upcoming health and wellness program more initiatives will be heading your way soon! **KG**

"Club South" walking your way

By Trainee Southern Region, Hayley Jones

"Club South" participated in the 2010 Variety Challenge, doing a "virtual walk" around the world. The aim is to complete all 12 stages of the Challenge within 10 weeks and raise money for sick, disabled and disadvantaged Aussie kids.

As I write this, I have my fellow team members, Clare Watling, Molly Baxter and Taya Dineley are in the office, a team filled with ingredients of perseverance, determination and support, you could say we are a team of champions! We four girls may not seem like the sporty types, however, since undertaking this challenge and having pedometers on our belts, we have really made an effort to get active.

We started the virtual challenge in Mozambique and chose to celebrate at Mexican restaurant, Amigos in North Hobart - we walked there of course - enjoyed a nice meal, and discussed our game plan.

Now the challenge is over, we have walked all the way to Fiji. This really opened our eyes to how much exercise we do each day, so if you see a flash of colour, or hear a stomping high heel, it may be Club South walking your way! **HJ**



Open Doors

By Senior Firefighter State Operations, David van Geytenbeek

Since 2008 the Heritage Tasmania's Open Doors program has been highly successful with an opportunity to experience places never experienced before through an open day or guided tour.

A key feature of this program is its community focus, the program involves members of community groups sharing something they are passionate about, that has heritage values, with the rest of the community and is run each year by Heritage Tasmania as part of Heritage Week.

This year members of the Tasmania Fire Museum were invited to participate by conducting guided tours of the old Hobart Fire Station, Argyle Street Hobart.

Built in 1911 and added to in 1925, the Hobart fire station has been in continuous use, although it now houses the Tasmania Fire Museum. Built of red brick and stucco over two levels, the building has an imposing presence in the streetscape.

With the tours all but fully booked, around 85 guests enjoyed the tours conducted by ex Hobart Fire Brigade Officers and Firefighters.

This year the TFS was honoured by having the launch of the program conducted in the Argyle Street Station. Invited guests, including some museum members were addressed by the Minister of Environment, Parks and Heritage, David O'Bryne.

Members of the Tasmania Fire Museum would like to acknowledge the great ongoing support for the museum and its aim of maintaining the heritage of the state. **DvG**



TVFFAF Award

By State Co-Ordinator TVFFAF, Robert Atkins

On 19 June 2010 a Volunteer Medal presentation was held at the Ulverstone Fire Station. Cedric Banfield was recognised for 50+ years service to the TFS. Cedric joined the Ulverstone brigade in 1956 and has held the position of both Second and Third Officer. He was also the recipient of the Australian Fire Service Medal in 2000.

The TVFFAF has changed the design of the medal bars and rondels to depict the period of time that the recipients have been a member. Also a gold bar has been included to recognise 50 years membership.

Cedric Banfield is the first in the State to receive this recognition. Congratulations Cedric - a well deserved award. **RA**



Bruce Corbett with Cedric Banfield receiving his 50 year volunteer award

A visit by Kingston juniors and cadets

By Firefighter Kingston Brigade, Sara Jacobs

Talk about an exciting adventure the Kingston Brigade juniors experienced recently at the Hobart Fire Station! With trainers keeping a close eye on them they were divided into groups and provided with a C shift firefighter to do a gear check on the four vehicles on station. The juniors assisted by making sure all equipment was in its place and in working order. On finishing they assisted with flushing out the pumps on the trucks, then had a short drive around the block in the truck!

The juniors were yet to know it, but the highlight of the night was yet to come. All harnessed up they took it in turns to go 27 metres in the air in the snorkel. On returning to the ground the smiles showed their excitement and thrill of being able to admire the view of Hobart. The trainers also took to the sky to see the Hobart lights! With all juniors and trainers back on the ground they continued their tour of the Hobart Fire Station and the museum. Juniors and trainers would like to pass on their appreciation and thanks to the C shift firefighters who gave up their time. **SJ**

Kingston juniors and cadets



Somerset callout

By Leading Firefighter Somerset Brigade, Damien Gale

At 1:54 am on 1 April (no April Fools here) Somerset Brigade received a call to a DBA at Somerset Primary School. On arrival, following Standing Operating Procedures, we went straight to the FIP. The panel directed us to the kindergarten, which is a separate building.

We opened the door and found the room filling up with smoke. Upon investigation we found a fish tank that had some baby

chickens all huddled into one corner, the heat lamp had fallen down into the tank and the newspaper covering the base had caught fire. After ventilating the building and removing the tank from the room, there were the usual chicken jokes being made. When replacing the chicks to their rightful place, we noticed the newspaper headlines! **DG**



"Fire survivors!" Somerset Brigade Firefighters Damien Gale, Craig Stirling, Heyden Blizzard and Philip Wilkinson

Over 200 years of service

By A/District Officer South Esk, Ian Bounds

A combined presentation night for the Relbia and Evandale members was held at the Relbia station recently. The night saw an excellent turnout from members of both brigades in acknowledgement of some outstanding achievements of fellow members.

Newly appointed Deputy Regional Chief Jeff Harper was on hand to present the National Medals and Service Awards together with Commission members Lyndsay Suhr and Bruce Corbett representing the Volunteer Association to present the Volunteer Medal to three well deserving recipients: James Langdon, Greg Wise and Edwin Chugg, all from Relbia Brigade.

Also of note was the combination of five members from Relbia: Greg Wise, John Gee, James Langdon, Edwin Chugg along with Rodney Springer (Field Officer South Esk) receiving their 40 year service badges totalling in excess of 200 years of service and Ian Hoggett from Evandale receiving the 45 year clasp for the National Medal.

Congratulations to all recipients and attendees for making it a great social event.

Thanks to Mario Bergamin (Relbia Brigade Chief) and Grant Rigby (Evandale Brigade Chief) for organising the event, and to Lyndsay and Bruce for travelling some distance to attend the presentation. **IB**



Lyndsay Suhr, James Langdon, Greg Wise, Edwin Chugg and Bruce Corbett



40 year Long Service badge recipients - Rodney Springer, Greg Wise, John Gee, James Langdon and Edwin Chugg

A fond farewell!

By Brigade Chief New Norfolk, Colin Triffett

Late last year New Norfolk Brigade was asked by Engineering Division Manager Leon "Alfy" Smith to consider releasing their much loved Isuzu medium pumper in exchange for a new 3-1P heavy tanker so that the Trainee Firefighters could use this appliance for the remainder of their course.

With the decision made and information available that this appliance would be going to either Lauderdale or Fern Tree Brigade, Brigade Chief Colin Triffitt and Second Officer Peter Brazendale said a final farewell to the Isuzu medium pumper. Colin and Peter were pleased to hear that the appliance would be going to a Brigade who would care for this appliance the way New Norfolk cared for it during the Brigade's 15 years with it.

Colin is proud of the way brigade members look after the appliances enabling them to be returned to other brigades for use.

I am sure that Brigade Chief Paul Baker and Mark O'Donnell are pleased to be able to receive this appliance for their brigade's use. **CT**

Brigade Chief Colin Triffett and Second Officer Peter Brazendale say a final, and somewhat tearful farewell to their Isuzu medium pumper.



Emergency Traffic Management Points Access Levels

By District Officer Greg Butters

The tragic fires that occurred in Victoria last year highlighted the need to manage traffic in and out of emergency incidents, particularly during large bushfires impacting on our urban interfaces.

Earlier this year TFS and Tasmania Police developed a set of guidelines designed to assist and clarify how we manage traffic during emergency incidents. While they were instigated from issues resulting from large bushfires, the Tasmanian guidelines provide guidance for all hazards – all emergency services.

Tasmania Police are responsible for the establishment of Traffic Management Points (TMP) and restriction of access by road and pedestrian traffic. In that role, Tasmania Police may be supported by authorised personnel, i.e. State Emergency Service (SES) personnel.

TMP's are sites where prohibition or restriction of vehicular/pedestrian traffic (traffic) is managed as a result of an emergency incident.

Implementation of TMP's and determination of appropriate access levels is at the discretion of the response Management Authority (MA) and/or Tasmania Police. Relaxation of access levels or reopening of roads requires the approval of the responsible MA.

These guidelines do not limit the independent discretion of Tasmania Police to exercise their duties in the interest of public safety.

Level 1: Emergency Service Access Only (Authorised by response MA)

- Emergency service personnel engaged in response and mitigation activities

At this level, access is to be refused to all traffic, except emergency personnel in emergency vehicles.

Level 2: Essential Services Access (Authorised by response MA)

- Contractors delivering equipment and / or providing services;
- Public Safety Assessment Teams (PSAT);
- Essential services – restoration of power, water, communications, gas, animal welfare, etc.



Inspector Robert Bonde of Tasmania Police providing information on traffic management points for bushfires at the TFS Conference

Earlier this year TFS and Tasmania Police developed a set of guidelines designed to assist and clarify how we manage traffic during emergency incidents.

In addition to emergency services personnel the Incident Controller may allow access to non-emergency services assisting with mitigation or recovery efforts. If in doubt contact should be made with the Incident Controller to seek clarification / approval. Where circumstances allow, details of such movements at TMP's are to be transmitted to incident control.

'Accredited' media may be permitted access at this level, however, approval must be granted by the Incident Controller and an escort provided.

Level 3: Authorised Access (Authorised by response MA)

- Recovery agencies, residents, media access

In addition to emergency and essential services, this level permits access to recovery and / or aid agencies, residents returning to their homes, media and any other people approved by the Incident Controller. At this level, where circumstances allow, a log is to be kept recording details of persons and vehicles moving through the TMP.

Our Emergency Services need to work cooperatively during emergency incidents in accordance with the following principles:

- Emergency Services requiring traffic to be controlled or stopped from entering specific areas will request Tasmania Police to initiate that action.
- Tasmania Police will, as soon as possible, assess the necessity or otherwise of initiating the requested course of action.
- Where appropriate, TMP's are to be established in the shortest possible time once a determination is made to take that course of action.
- TMP's are established to assist with the safety of emergency service personnel and members of the community.
- In the event Tasmania Police members establish a TMP of their own volition, that information is to be provided to the response MA as soon as possible.
- The response MA will communicate the location and status of TMP's to relevant emergency service personnel and the media.
- TMP's are to be established and maintained in areas that best support emergency services activities, assist with safety of the community and cause the least impact to the community in general.
- Where TFS has established an Incident Management Team (IMT), traffic management is to be embedded in the Incident Action Plan (IAP); and at large scale incidents Tasmania Police will provide a police officer to the IMT to assist with preparation and implementation of a Traffic Management Plan.
- The response MA for the incident will notify Tasmania Police as soon as possible that access restrictions are no longer required.
- The relaxation of traffic restrictions or cessation of a TMP requires authorisation from the response MA.
- The response MA will expediently communicate to TMP staff any decisions to cease or change the access status of a TMP. Likewise, TMP staff will notify the response MA of any issues or change to their status as soon as possible.
- TMP staff maintains the discretion to relocate or remove themselves for reasons of safety; but are required to notify the response MA as soon as possible.

If you require additional information please contact your District staff. **GB**

Lachlan lads on Solomons duty



Victor Kaiser and Phil Pyke

From one small island to another, two volunteer firefighters from Lachlan Brigade in the Derwent Valley, Phil Pyke and Victor Kaiser, were recently reunited in Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands.

In normal life Victor Kaiser is an Australian Protective Services Officer and currently posted to the Solomon Islands for 18 months as part of the Federal Police International Deployment Group.

Phil, who was in the Pacific nation in his role as an Army Reserve officer, was assisting with *Exercise Boss Lift*, which takes up to twenty business employers to see their Reservist employees in the Solomon Islands as part of the Regional Assistance Mission Solomon Islands.

Victor and Phil first met through shared interests in the Army Reserve, later through the Lachlan Brigade, and both are members of the New Norfolk RSL.

"It has been really good to catch up and have a chat with Victor as we haven't seen each other for a couple of months," Phil said. "I also brought over his fishing rod and reel which I collected from his house just prior to coming over."

Victor also took the opportunity to show Phil one of the Australian Police fire response vehicles used on the island. "As we are both volunteer firefighters with Lachlan, it was good to look over some of the vehicles they have up here with the AFP and compare equipment with our appliance back home," said Victor. "An interesting difference in the equipment is that even in the light tankers, the pump is controlled from the cabin."

"Phil also brought over copies of *The Mercury* as well as the local *Derwent Valley Gazette*," he said. "Over here you only get copies of the major newspapers so it was nice to be able read local news and get a feel for what is going on back home, however, I have still been receiving my copy of *Fireground*. I'm away for quite a while so it was great to see Phil and relay back to the Brigade what I am doing over here."



TFS Environmental Directions Forum

By Chief Officer, Mike Brown



Photographer: Station Officer Mark Ciantar

During May more than thirty TFS members attended our Environmental Directions Forum at Youngtown. Four groups were established and these groups each considered the following topics:

How can we reduce our resource use?
How can we best manage our waste?
How can we save energy?
How can we get everyone on board?

Below is a summary of some of the short and long term suggestions that were identified.

How can we reduce our resource use eg water, paper, fuel?

We need to:

- Monitor and track water / fuel consumption;
- Better manage our water resources through education and better work practices;
- Report system faults immediately;
- Use video conferencing facilities more often instead of travelling;
- Better or more recycling facilities available for members;
- Increase the use of network printers, default to duplex printing and consider the removal of individual printers;
- Actively encourage car pooling arrangements.

All members supported the TFS working towards achieving as many of the objectives as possible. In addition it was suggested that TFS should work towards being recognised as an environmentally responsible organisation.

How can we best manage our waste?

We need to:

- Increase the number of recycle bins;
- Reduce the number of individual printers thus reducing and cartridge purchases and disposals;
- Ensure cleaning contracts require cleaners to recycle items placed in recycle bins;
- Update purchasing contracts to include a clause in relation to recyclability of items including packaging.

How can we save energy?

We need to:

Review building design and specifications targeting:

- Energy consumption
- Isolation switches that turn off all but essential items
- Review current power consumption of electrical equipment including stand alone heaters;
- Seek consumption trends from Aurora;
- Educate members to turn off electrical items not required overnight;
- Establish car pooling arrangements.

How can we get everyone on board?

We need to:

- Establish an effective structure;
- Develop a policy;
- Communicate what we need to achieve;
- Regularly advise staff of results and our achievements.

As you can see from the points above, some very thoughtful discussions were held and some brilliant suggestions were made. All members supported the TFS working towards achieving as many of the objectives as possible. In addition it was suggested that TFS should work towards being recognised as an environmentally responsible organisation.

The new Manager Corporate Support position will have carriage of this project in consultation with key stakeholders. One of the first projects will be the development of a policy that addresses the issues raised and a way forward. Until the Manager Corporate Support is appointed the Director Corporate Services will initially take carriage of the project and has identified the following short term issues that are to be addressed:

- Identify energy consumption per building;
- Identify water consumption per building;
- Review car pooling arrangements;
- Review printer use including duplex printing and stand-alone printers;
- Review the use and requirements for individual mobile heaters in workplaces;
- Review building design and specifications;
- Establish a policy on the use of video conferencing vs face to face meetings;
- Review purchasing/contract arrangements.

I would like to thank all members who attended this meeting for their enthusiasm, optimism and for providing some great ideas and guidance on this very important program. **MB**

Wynyard presentations

By Brigade Chief Wynyard Brigade, Bruce Corbett

The Wynyard Brigade recently held its annual Dinner at the Wynyard RSL Club. Several special guests were present including Chief Officer Mike Brown and Mrs Patricia Brown. The Waratah-Wynyard Council was represented by Cr Alwyn Friedersdorff and the Volunteer Associations were represented by Richard Cosstick from the Retained Association and Rob Atkins from the Volunteer Association.

Brigade Chief Bruce Corbett welcomed members and guests and presented the Firefighter of the Year Award to Leading Firefighter Greg Smith. Richard Cosstick and Rob Atkins presented Fire Service Volunteer Medals to Fourth Officer Damian Poke; Leading Firefighter Jarrod Wade and Firefighter Stephen Brown. Firefighter Trevor Poke was also presented with his 20 year clasp for his Volunteer Medal.

A/Regional Chief Paul Hill and District Officer Jodi Armstrong also attended and presented service badges to several members of the brigade. **BC**



Fire Service Volunteer Medal recipients with presenters L-R: Rob Atkins, Damian Poke, Trevor Poke, Jarrod Wade, Stephen Brown and Richard Cosstick

North East Volunteers recognised for contribution to TFS

By District Officer Steve Lowe

Volunteer members from the Brieses/Mount Cameron Group were recognised for their valuable contribution to their communities and commitment to the TFS in an award presentation evening conducted at Gladstone recently.

Regional Chief Andrew Comer presented National Medals and TFS long service badges to 21 volunteer members from Gladstone, Musselroe Bay, Tomahawk and Winnaleah Brigades.

Rodney Mullins (Third Officer Winnaleah) was presented with a first clasp to his National Medal for 25 years diligent service; Michael Cooke (Second Officer Winnaleah) and Timothy Binns (Second Officer Tomahawk) were presented with National Medals for 15 years diligent service. Five years to thirty five years service badges were awarded on the night, with the Brieses Group Officer and Winnaleah Brigade Chief Arthur Taylor awarded his 35 year service badge. I am sure Arthur can reflect upon significantly changing times within the service over that period.

The event was well attended with everyone enjoying a light supper and a few tall tales following the presentation evening. Well done to all the recipients and I look forward to providing my support to enable you all to continue your valued commitment into the future. **SL**



National Medal recipients
L – R: Michael Cooke,
Rodney Mullins and
Timothy Binns



Brigade Chief Arthur
Taylor with Regional Chief
Andrew Comer



Gravelly Beach Station opening

By Firefighter Gravelly Beach Brigade, Sharee Smith

On 8 December 2009 extensions to the Gravelly Beach station were officially opened by the Hon. Michael Polley, MP.

The new and improved station facility was the first major station build undertaken by the TFS's building maintenance division. Brigade members put in hundreds of hours in labouring work, which included site clean-up during many cold evenings, as well as the landscaping and all the internal painting.

While the re-build was being undertaken, meetings and trainings were held in cold and cramped conditions but the brigade soldiered on. All the hard work put in by brigade members has paid off. The hours put in were a massive contribution to achieving the facility we now have.

The new station has a much larger meeting room and kitchen area, new toilets and showers and most importantly, two additional engine bays with dual front and rear doors and additional space and better layout for our turnout gear.

The official opening was attended by Chief Officer Mike Brown and representatives from surrounding brigades. A highlight of the opening was the attendance of all brigade chiefs that have headed the Gravelly Beach Brigade.

Since the brigade was formed there have been four brigade chiefs – Barry Blenkhorn (1961-1995); Stuart Phillips (1995-2005); Wayne Wise (2005-2009) and Geoff Goss (2009-current). While Barry is no longer a member of the brigade, Stuart is still an active member and Wayne a member.

It is believed the opening was the first time all brigade chiefs having served a brigade had been together at a station opening. While that it is difficult to confirm, having all chiefs attend was a great opportunity for them to reminisce about the history of the Gravelly Beach Brigade.

The brigade was formed in 1961 by members of the local Progress Association but it had no official status, no station and not much in the way of equipment until 1963 when the brigade was recognised by the Rural Fires Board who issued some basic equipment and a grant towards the construction of a station on the foreshore.

The Progress Association raised the balance needed, and a small red-brick station was built. The structure still stands today and the words "fire station" can still be faintly seen on the wooden doors, but the building has not been used for many years and is likely to be demolished in the near future.

In 1972 a new two bay fire station was built in Tomah Place, Gravelly Beach, and has been the brigade's home since. Extensions to the meeting room and recreation area of the station were officially opened in 1990 by Chief Officer Gerry Lowe.

The official opening was also attended by brigade life member Richard "Dick" Curwen who has not been in the best of health. He arrived wearing his dress blues and a State Fire Commission dress hat, much to the delight of all brigade members.

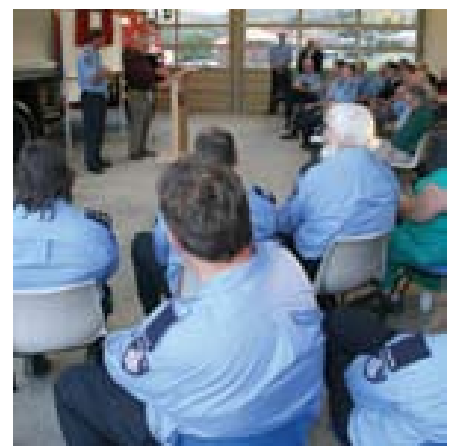
The official opening of the new station was the culmination of a lot of hard work and dedication, and the Gravelly Beach Brigade is looking forward to continuing to serve our community from our much improved facility. **SS**



L-R: Gravelly Beach Brigade life member Richard "Dick" Curwen, Chief Officer Mike Brown, Brigade Chief Geoff Goss and the Hon Michael Polley, MP.



Gravelly Beach Brigade Chiefs - past and present - Stuart Phillips (1995-2005); Wayne Wise (2005- 2009); Geoff Goss (2009-current) and Barry Blenkhorn (1961-1995).



I ntroducing

New FireComm staff



Darren Bradford, Lidia Baric, Jodie Lidden and Stephen Palmer

Darren Bradford – I started in FireComm on a secondment from Tasmania Police in December 2009. I enjoyed the work and was fortunate in being permanently appointed to FireComm.

I was employed at Tasmania Police for around 13 years with time spent in Radio Dispatch, Human Resources and Business Project Services. Prior to this I have a technical background in laboratory work and was a technician at the University of Tasmania for 11 years.

I'm looking forward to working in FireComm and hope to meet you in the course of my duties.

Lidia Baric - I grew up in Tassie before escaping interstate for some time. I've had a diverse work history – from working in Casinos as a dealer, supervisor and in surveillance, to working in Sydney as a Communications Officer for 8 years with NSW Police.

I love my footy and I'm a Swans supporter, as well as a fan of bare-foot bowls. I'm looking forward to interacting with you all at some stage.

Jodie Lidden – I commenced employment with TFS on 16 November 2009. Prior to that I was employed with Vodafone for 12 months, and previously with NSW Police for 6 years as a General Support Officer at Dee Why Station.

Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with family and friends, dining out and seeing the occasional movie.

Stephen Palmer – I commenced with the TFS as a junior at Kingston Brigade in 1986 and I'm currently Fourth Officer.

I was employed with Centrelink in Hobart for the past 7 ½ years, commencing in the Call Centre in Hobart and the last 3 years doing payment correctness reviews on customers throughout the state.

I'm married to Veronica and have 2 daughters, Julia and Zoe and a cat Lily. I enjoy golf (when I'm able to), fishing and spending time pottering around in the unfinished yard. I am looking forward to continuing my passion of being involved with TFS in my new role.

TFS Family Support Fund

By Communications Officer FireComm, Michelle Clarke

At the recent State Conference the TFS Family Support Fund made a presentation about the fund and conducted a raffle (please ask your Conference representative about it at your next training night). I am pleased to advise that the raffle and donations received on the night totalled \$1743.30 – well done and thank you to everyone who participated.

Also congratulations to the following raffle winners: Paul Templar; Vaughan Oldham; Gerald Aulich; Andrew Comer; Fiona Tustian; Anthony Woolley; John Jago; Andrew Johns; Wayne Woolley; Robert Elliott; Margaret Kean; Jason Vinen; Glenn Bailey; Michael Goldsmith; Robert Featherstone and Debbie Jackson.

All raffle prizes were donated by the following individuals or businesses from around the state: Lions Club of Hobart Town; TasFire Equipment; 4 Lunch Catering; Gerry Clarke; Centre Euro Wines; Chocolate Lovers and Cat Underground Mining.

The future of this fund is all dependent upon the community generosity and ourselves making donations to ensure we can help each other in the event of a need arising. Some recent donations which we would like to acknowledge are:

- The Lions Club of Hobart Town donated \$2,500 to purchase raffle items. This raffle will be organised soon with each brigade receiving tickets to sell in their local areas;
- Mr Sandor Nagy from DLA Forklift donated \$100 following a recent fire on his property;
- Mr Lucas van Rijswijk won last edition's Fireground photo competition and has donated his \$100 prize;
- SHQ held a Free Dress Day and raised \$54 to be donated to the fund.

The TFS Family Support Fund can assist with the financial burden to all TFS personnel in times of financial hardship due to unforeseen illness or injury. Some examples of when money/vouchers/items from the fund has been utilised to assist are: medical expenses for treatment of long term illness; travel expenses to access treatment or be with family members who are receiving treatment; funeral expenses; trust funds; alterations to homes or purchase of equipment for long term disability/illness.

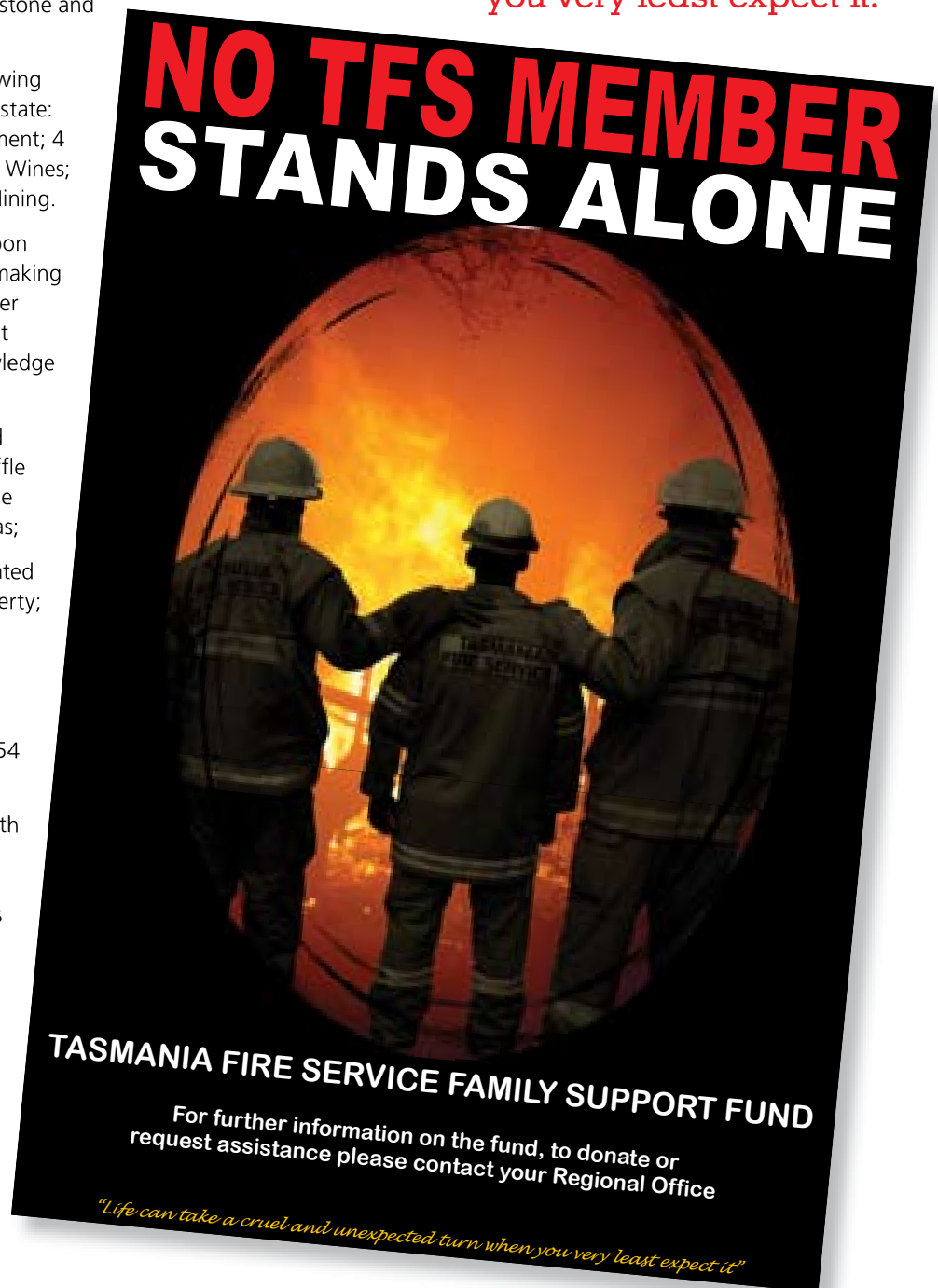
If you know of someone in your Brigade, Group, District or Region who

may benefit from the fund please contact your Regional Staff so they can notify a committee member.

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

MC

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



Blessington fire

By Second Officer Blessington Brigade, Michael Long

The fire had started the weekend before on a private property at Blessington, Michael Long and Brigade Chief Nigel Hodges were asked to assist. We had the job of protecting the grass paddocks to the north of the fire on the Blessington Road.

It was a mild February day with only a slight breeze which was near perfect conditions for back burning and preventing the fire from escaping to adjoining properties. This was attained with the use of the fire service chopper guiding the six or so brigades into the areas that needed our attention. **ML**

White Hills International
31 unit in foreground



LNG Introduction to Tasmania

By Firefighter Launceston Brigade, Paul Morrison

In late June the first load of Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) for use as an alternate fuel by the transport industry is expected to arrive into Tasmania via road tanker from Victoria. It will supply the first of six refuelling stations to be set up around the state with Scottsdale due to be commissioned in the coming weeks.

The other five refuelling stations will be situated at Westbury; Burnie; Rocherlea; Epping Forest and Bridgewater.

This specially designed tanker, along with a second tanker due later in the year, will then transport LNG around the state from the LNG processing plant in Westbury which is due to be commissioned in July/August.

LNG is by no means a new innovation to the trucking industry, but Tasmania is the first state in the country to have these refuelling stations set up for public supply.

With up to 150 prime movers initially expected to be adapted to run on LNG, it is important that we are aware of these vehicles and understand what is considered normal operation. LNG is a cryogenic liquid meaning it is reduced down to very low temperatures to convert it from a gas to a liquid. Due to these low temperatures (in excess of -160 degrees) it is quite normal to see frosting around the fuel tank valves and associated pipe work as well as occasionally hearing gas vapour being



LNG refuelling station at Scottsdale



Typical frosting around valves on an LNG tank fitted to a truck

released through the system's vent pipes as the liquid in the tank gradually increases in temperature over a period of time. Understanding these normal events will assist us in determining what normal operation is and what could be considered an LNG incident.

I was asked to put a presentation together to introduce the new fuel system, the first introductory sessions having already begun in the initial areas where the first fuel stations are situated. Along with this presentation, response guidelines and standard operating procedures are currently being developed. **PM**

Changes in the air at TasFire Equipment

By Fire Equipment Officer TasFire Equipment, John McDonald

From January 2010 TasFire Equipment has enacted the amended Australian Standard (AS) 1851.2005 Section 15.1 General – Portable and Wheeled Fire Extinguishers.

Major change to this Standard requires the recall or pressure-testing of fire extinguishers to be conducted every 5 years and not 6 years as previously was the case. 2010 is proving to be a busy time for Fire Equipment Officers and workshop Technicians in all three regions of the state.

It is not uncommon for a large commercial site to have 30 extinguishers due for pressure-testing in this calendar year as we are recalling all extinguishers with a manufacture date or pressure test date of 2004 and 2005.

To reduce the financial impact on the customer we endeavour to split the pressure-testing over the two required services for 2010. We have been able to accomplish this task in the first 6 months of 2010 so there is light at the end of the tunnel.

AS1851- 2005 – Section 4.1 General - Fire Hydrant Systems - Flow-Testing

Major change to this Standard is that flow testing of fire hydrants and fire plugs are to be conducted 12 monthly and not 3 yearly as was previously the case.

Dispersing of water which can be as high as 30 litres per second or more can be one of the main responsibilities when conducting such work. Some drains are not designed for such volume of water especially on roof tops.

Fire hydrants are to have a rebuild completed every 5 years and not as before (“when and if required”).

The water to the hydrants must be isolated and the washers replaced. Managing the best time to isolate water so it does not interfere or cause disruption to business trade is a major priority. Liaising with Southern Water and engaging a plumber to assist with the work or identifying isolation points are just some of the responsibilities required to conduct such work on a more regular basis.

Hopefully this article will give some insight into how our work practices change in accordance with Australian Standards. **JM**



Phil Seelig Southern Workshop Technician with some of the extinguishers waiting to be recharged / pressure tested



Carlo Lanci conducting a flow-test at the extension to the Argyle Street Car Park in Hobart

Benefits of Project Wake-Up

By Second Officer South Arm Brigade, Barry Heather

On the evening of 29 May this year South Arm Brigade were paged to a structural fire in Blessington Street, South Arm. The pager message stated that the fire was caused by a power board. On arrival at the property we found that the power board under the bed of the elderly resident of the house had caught fire, setting the carpet alight and creating sufficient fumes and smoke to set off the smoke alarm. The alarm was situated in the bedroom directly over the bed.

The elderly property owner had been in bed at the time and, being hard of hearing had not realised the noise was due to the smoke alarm. Luckily the occupant of the flat under the house had been home that evening, and on hearing the smoke alarm had called 000, switched off the power at the main and, using a dry powder extinguisher, had extinguished the fire before a life was lost.

The power board had three appliances running from it, a clock, a radio and the special orthopaedic type bed.

It is worth noting that all of the smoke alarms in the house had been installed by the brigade only a few months earlier as part of Project Wake-Up, and the resident had been advised to reduce the number of appliances plugged into the board. **BH**



Photographer: Leading Firefighter Matt Easterher

7XS West Coast Emergency Worker of the Year

By Tasmanian Emergency Services Support Association Member, Ron Jones

This year's award went to Robert Butterfield, a multi skilled, multi agency emergency services worker.

Robert joined the Queenstown Brigade in 1994 and has held various positions within the brigade including Fourth Officer, Secretary and Treasurer. He is an instrumental part of running the brigade functions including the annual dinner, raffles and other fundraisers.

In October last year Robert received the inaugural Ian Mitchell Memorial Award for the Queenstown Firefighter of the Year for services to the brigade.

Robert also joined the SES in 1999 and is currently the Unit Manager at Queenstown and is heavily involved in Road Crash Rescue, Storm Damage and Search and Rescue. He is also an active volunteer with the Ambulance Tasmania. Through his emergency service work, which also includes being part of the mine rescue team at Copper Mines of Tasmania, Robert has been promoted to a fulltime Emergency Services Co-ordinator at the mine. All the good work has paid off.

The 7XS Radio Station is to be congratulated for keeping this award going for over 17 years and their fantastic support of the West Coast Emergency Services. Please keep in mind that



Wayne Richards, Robert Butterfield, Helen Wiggins (Manager 7XS Radio), John Streets

nominations will be called for later this year in the West and North West so listen to your local stations. Work is being done to have the awards in the North and South as well. Stay tuned.

For more information or if you want to forward a nomination contact Ron Jones at tessa@harboursat.com.au (Tasmanian Emergency Service Support Association) **RJ**

Fire Safety Week at Kempton

By Firefighter Kempton Brigade, David Deacon

Coinciding with Fire Safety Week, Second Officer Ray Cooper (Coop) and David Deacon (Kiwi Dave) visited Kempton Primary School with the fire truck. This followed Firefighter Barry's earlier visit, reinforcing his lessons and giving the kids something to see and hear - equipment, truck noise etc.

The kids loved it, Coop and Kiwi Dave thought it would be a short visit, but it was more like 1.5 hours by the time they finished.

Thank you to Community Education for providing the kids packs for the end of the session, they were thrilled with the fold-up fire truck, colouring book and stickers. **DD**



Kiwi Dave and Coop with Grade 1 students



Kiwi Dave and Coop with Grade 3 students



Kiwi Dave demonstrating the rake hoe



Hitting the ball!



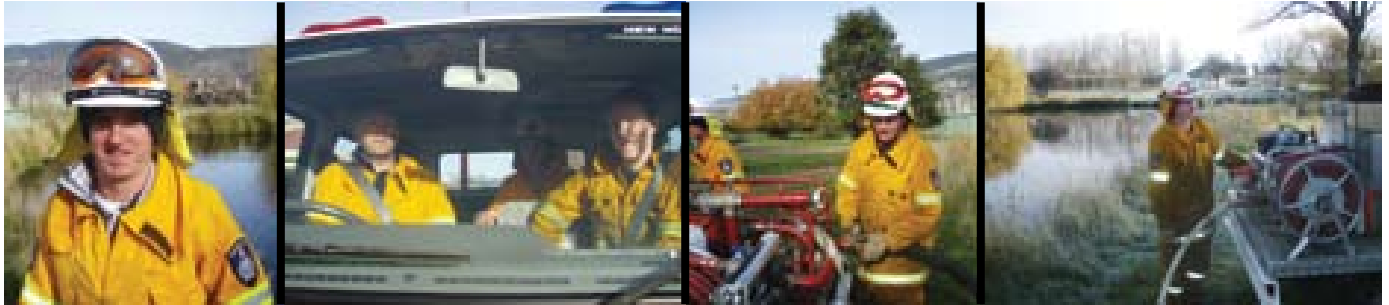
All waiting for a turn



Ready for the siren!

2010 Midlands District 4 x 4 Tanker Competition

By Second Officer Gretna Brigade, Trafford Harvey



The 2010 Midlands District 4 x 4 Tanker Competition was held at Gretna on 23 May. Teams from Bagdad, Lachlan, Magra, New Norfolk, Brighton and Gretna Brigades participated in a series of exercises which tested crew skills, knowledge and team work. The events included, meeting the District Officer, draughting and pumping, fire extinguisher and fire blanket scenario, question sheets, ladder work, standpipe event, operational driving course, first aid, chainsaws and communications.

Scores were very close which indicates the intense rivalry between brigades.

- First place - Magra - 201 points;
- Second place - Lachlan - 200.5 points;
- Third place Brighton - 193.5 points.

After an enjoyable day in fine weather conditions, a much anticipated BBQ was appreciated by all. This was followed by the trophy presentation to the winners and the recognition by District Officer Gerald Crawford of George Rumley's fifty years of service. George served in the Bushy Park Brigade, transferred



District Officer Gerald Crawford congratulating Brigade Chief George Rumley

to Westerway, was involved in the Glenora Special Unit and finally returned to Bushy Park as Brigade Chief, a position he currently holds. George's service also includes over thirty years with the State Emergency Service in the Derwent Valley. **TH**

Northern Region Presentations

Recently the Northern Region held long service and national medal presentations to regional personnel from Operations, Engineering Services, Administration and Tas Fire Equipment.

The afternoon was well attended and provided an opportunity to recognise the contribution of the support divisions of the TFS provide in assisting the organisation achieve the goals and expectations of the communities we are involved with.

The highlight of the day was the presentation of a 35 year National Medal clasp to Field Officer Rodney Springer recognising both his career and volunteer service.



Back: Station Officer Paul Beechey; Field Officer Rodney Springer; Regional Chief Andrew Comer and Deputy Regional Chief Jeff Harper
Front: Team Leader Carol Davey, Clerical Officer Lisa Gilbert, and Leading Firefighter Tony Johnson

Climbing the Mountain

By Leading Firefighter Hobart Brigade, Jarrod Read

Many of you may have met Lucy Henry at the recent TFS Conference. Lucy spoke of her severe depression and how it drove her to self harm, eventually burning herself, sustaining full thickness burns to 70% of her body, 20% of which were inhalation burns to her lungs. Throughout the past seven years, the Burns Unit at the Royal Hobart Hospital has provided Lucy with excellent treatment and care.

Lucy wants to help the Royal Hobart Hospital Burns Unit by raising money so she is walking the Point to Pinnacle on 21 November. Lucy's mental health assistance dog, a liver spotted Dalmatian called Lottie will be walking with her, and she is looking for others to walk and to fundraise.

Chief Officer Mike Brown has pledged to support Lucy's cause through encouraging TFS staff to walk with her and to conduct



Chief Officer Mike Brown and Leading Firefighter Jarrod Read with Lucy Henry and Lottie

fundraisers to contribute to the fundraising total; also offering fire engines for the media promotion, both on the day of the walk and for the launch of "Climb to Recovery" at the Mercure Hobart on 11 August.

We are encouraging members of the public, as well as TFS staff, to walk with Lucy and collect donations and sponsorship from their workmates, family and friends. The Royal Hobart Hospital Burns unit is relevant to every Tasmanian, there is no Burns unit at the Launceston General Hospital and many of the patients accessing the Burns Unit are children.

If you would like to make a donation you can send it to Linda Lacy or Jarrod Read who will pass it on to Lucy.

To join the walk, please email j.read@fire.tas.gov.au **JR**

**To join the walk, please
email j.read@fire.tas.gov.au**

Barton about to benefit!

By A/District Officer South Esk, Ian Bounds

The recent State Fire Commission tour of the Northern Region saw members visit Barton Brigade to view the current shed that has been used for many years as the local fire station. The shed is the private asset of Brigade Chief Frank Youl and sits on his farming property, known as *Barton*, located about 12 kilometres west of Epping Forest on the Midland Highway.

TFS has been keen to build improved facilities for the Barton members, and just as importantly to give Frank back his shed, so it was good news all round that Frank saw fit to donate another parcel of his land to TFS to be used a station site and for the State Fire Commission to approve funding in the 2010/11 financial year to construct a new single bay station and meeting room.

The Commission was able to view the new site and meet briefly with Frank and a few of the members when they visited. Second Officer Ewan Taylor and Third Officer Gilbert Taylor provided the "cooks tour" of the existing shed and, like the other brigade members, eagerly await the completion of the new station.

TFS is greatly indebted to the Youl family, both for the provision of his shed over many years, no doubt it caused some occasional inconvenience, but also for their willingness to donate a portion of land that will serve as the site for a new station complex.



Current "fire shed" for Barton fire appliance

We extend our sincere thanks and look forward to an official opening in due course. **IB**

Mystic Winter

2010 EMERGENCY SERVICES CHARITY BALL “GIVE ME FIVE FOR KIDS”

By Chair – Organising Committee, Greg Butters



Greg Butters

The 2010 Emergency Services Charity Ball “Mystic Winter” was held on Saturday, 3 July at Hobart’s Hotel Grand Chancellor.

Thanks to the support of our sponsors this event proved to be a resounding success, attracting around 340 guests and raising over \$26,000 for Southern Cross Television and Heart 107.3’s “Give Me Five For Kids”. A special thank you to our “Platinum” sponsors RBF; James Boag; Hotel Grand Chancellor-Hobart; Display Works; Heart 107.3 and Southern Cross Television.

All the money raised will help purchase equipment for the Royal Hobart Hospital’s “In the Home Program”. This program will provide support to children with chronic diseases and assist their parents to manage their child’s treatment and care at home; ultimately reducing their hospital admissions enabling their children to spend more time at home with family and friends.

A very dedicated committee consisting of, Debra White (TFS), Emma Boucher (TasPol), Monica Baker (AT), Kate Dobson (SES), Taya Dineley, Elisa Lang, Michael Goldsmith, Lynda Robins and John Hazzlewood (all TFS) helped organise the event. It was a huge effort and wouldn’t have been possible without all the work undertaken by this committee.

In particular, thank you to everyone from TFS, family and friends who contributed to making this a fantastic night out, it was certainly a night to remember and I look forward to next year’s event.





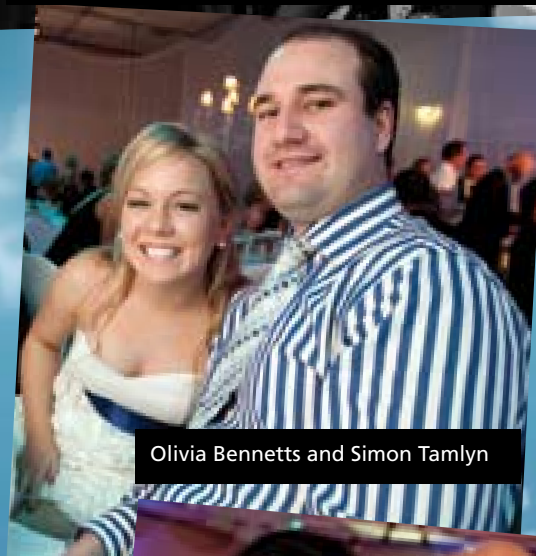
Tracey and Claudio Muench



Alison Wigston, Barry Bones, Peter Schultz and Belinda Harvey



Community Education ladies – Belinda Harvey and Kelly Marriott-Smith



Olivia Bennetts and Simon Tamlyn



Lindy and Rod Sherrin

Silver Sponsors

4one4 Real Estate
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The Hobart Aquatic Centre
Cricket Tasmania
Helicopter Resources
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Launceston Golf Club
Lenna of Hobart
Shimmer Health & Beauty
The Old Woolstore
Rockwall Bar & Grill
Anaconda
Print Centre
Tarraleah Estate
Stillwater



Mystic Winter



Gavin Freeman, Julie McCullough, Carolyn Salter, Karen Butters, Paul Salter, Greg Butters



Committee members - Front L-R: Emma Boucher (Tas Police), Taya Dineley (TFS), Debra White (TFS), Kate Dobson (SES), Lynda Robins (TFS)
Back L-R: Michael Goldsmith (TFS), Monica Baker (Ambulance Tasmania), Greg Butters (TFS), John Hazzlewood (TFS)



Front L-R: Craig Allen, Dale Nicolson, Anthony Atkins
Back L - R: Kathy Castle, Jacqueline Fisher, Joanna Verwey, Lauren Nicolson, Nikki Millard, Erin Fyle, Melissa Douglas and Frederica Dillon



Jade Gordey, Todd Evans, Molly Baxter and Taya Dineley

Images by Richard Bugg and Warren Frey

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A visit from Hamish and Cooper

Recently Hamish and Cooper, sons of TasFire Equipment member Jodie Willis, came to visit C Shift at Hobart Brigade. Alison Wigston showed them how to operate a high pressure hose and then took them out for a drive in the truck.

Hamish has a rare heart condition, Jodie and her mum, Kaye Nugent, are trying raise awareness about his condition in various ways including raising funds for Hearts of Hope who provide support for families living with Complex Congenital Heart Conditions (CCHC).



Hamish was born with hypoplastic left heart syndrome. Diagnosed twenty weeks into the pregnancy, Jodie carried him to full term accepting that he may only live a few days. Not willing to give up hope, they have attempted everything to give him a full life - twenty operations and two years later, Hamish is enjoying life and going strong.

Jodie says "we have just celebrated our darling Hamish's second birthday, he is doing okay. We have had a few ups and downs, the journey is far from over, but we have him, and we love him to bits that's all that matters!"

They are members of the Hearts of Hope support group that assists families touched by CCHD and fundraise for research. You can assist with fundraising for Hearts of Hope through their website www.hearts-of-hope.org, by purchasing a children's book "Just a Bunny ... Eating Bread and Honey" written by Leone Yost and illustrated by Helen Quilty (both local), or by simply purchasing chocolate bars sold at TFS Reception. Thank you for your support.



Fireground goes far and wide!

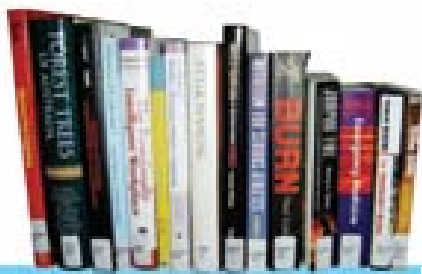


David van Geytenbeek at Australia Zoo in Queensland

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



Tony Davidson in Papua New Guinea

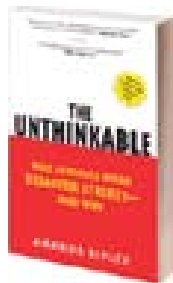


Library News

New Resources in the TFS Library

Did you know that videos and DVDs are listed on the library's intranet page? Go to Members Area » Info Centre » Library » Videos/DVDs and click on the subject of interest. Videos and DVDs can be posted to Brigades for training nights – just email library@fire.tas.gov.au. An updated Video/DVD catalogue is also available from the library on request.

New Books



The unthinkable: who survives when disaster strikes - and why by Amanda Ripley. New York: Three Rivers Press, c2009.

Switch: how to change things when change is hard by Chip and Dan Heath. London: Random House Business Books, 2010.

Emergency law: rights, liabilities and duties of emergency workers and volunteers by Michael Eburn. (3rd ed.)

Leichhardt, NSW: Federation Press, 2010 Ch 1. Legal principles; Ch 2. First aid & prehospital care; Ch 3. Firefighting and rescue; Ch 4. Ambulance, fire and emergency services; Ch 5. Disaster planning and response; Ch 6. Liability of emergency services; Ch 7. Driving emergency vehicles; Ch 8. Compensation for rescuers



Failure to learn: the BP Texas City refinery disaster by Andrew Hopkins. Sydney, NSW: CCH Australia, 2008. Discusses the causes of a major explosion at the Texas City Oil Refinery in 2005 and compares this event with the Longford Gas Plant explosion in Victoria in 1998.

Predictable surprises: the disasters you should have seen coming, and how to prevent them by Max H. Bazerman and Michael D. Watkins. Boston, Mass.: Harvard Business Press, c2008.

Handbook on firesetting in children and youth edited by David J. Kolko. Amsterdam; Boston : Academic Press, c2002.

Inferno: the day Victoria burned by Roger Franklin. Docklands, Vic: Slattery Media, 2009.

Footsteps in the ash: the story of St Andrews and Strathewen in the 2009 bushfires by Jim Usher and Mac Gudgeon. St Andrews, Vic.: J. Usher and M. Gudgeon, 2010

Spontaneous volunteer management resource kit: helping to manage spontaneous volunteers in emergencies.

Australian Red Cross Project Team. Canberra: Dept. of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, 2010.

Weblinks

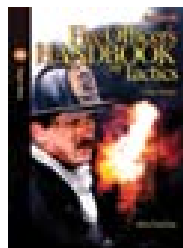
2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission final report
<http://www.royalcommission.vic.gov.au/>

Accidental fire injuries in residential structures: who's at risk? Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council. Mount Waverley, Vic.: AFAC, 2009
http://knowledgeweb.afac.com.au/research_reports/people_and_communities/community_safety/accidental_fire_injuries

Bushfire arson prevention handbook by Jessica Anderson. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology, 2010
<http://www.aic.gov.au/en/publications/current%20series/rip/1-10/11.aspx>

Map reading guide: how to use topographic maps
Canberra City : Geoscience Australia, 2003
https://www.ga.gov.au/products/servlet/controller?event=GEOCAT_DETAILS&catno=63639

New DVDs



Fire officer's handbook of tactics video series: Vol.16. High rise by John Norman. Tulsa, OK: Fire Engineering; Penwell, c2010. 1 DVD (42 min.). Discusses the various types of office-building construction, the ventilation issues in such buildings, and logistical difficulties in large-scale events.

For a full listing of library resources, go to our catalogue at <https://talis.education.tas.gov.au/uhtbin/fire/>

Contact us:

Contact Helen in the Library to borrow any of these resources.
Phone: 6230 8679

Email: library@fire.tas.gov.au

In person: Corner Argyle and Melville Streets, Hobart. Visitors are advised to phone in advance to confirm opening hours.



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:



1st place Photo submitted by Second Officer Blessington Brigade, Michael Long (\$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

Thank you to last edition's winner Lucas van Rijswijk who donated his \$100 prize to the TFS Family Support Fund.

Fire Speak



- A southern Brigade Chief who recently attended an incident at a house which was across the road from his own home, rang FireComm as he had arrived before his brigade and appliance. In his Sitrep he requested a PPV from Clarence as the house was smoke logged. In relaying the message to Clarence the operator advised that a DVD was required. I'm sure you can imagine what was said when they arrived wanting to know why the brigade had requested a DVD.

- At a vegetation fire at Elderslie the following comment was transmitted over the simplex function by a particular Group Officer: "All firefighters on the fireground, meals have arrived, come to the porta loos for a feed"



Members of Kempton, Brighton, Broadmarsh, Bagdad and New Norfolk Brigades having lunch around the porta loos. Fortunately all meals were better than what was initially expected!

Awards



A list of recent awards presented within the TFS

Location/Brigade	Name	Award	Location/Brigade	Name	Award
Bagdad	Stephen Forster	Long Service (30 years)	Kimberley	William Duncan	Long Service (15 years)
	Tom Adams	Long Service (30 years)		Phillip McCormack	Long Service (25 years)
	Anthony Kenner	Long Service (30 years)	Latrobe	Graeme Brown	National Medals (35 years)
	Barrie Martin-Henry	Long Service (25 years)		Greg Turner	National Medal (15 years)
Bushy Park	George Rumley	Long Service (50 years)		Michael Clarke	National Medal (15 years)
	Ian Hoggett	National Medal (45 years)		Michael Parker	Long Service (25 years)
Evandale	Malcolm Deane	National Medal (15 years)		Neville Smith	Long Service (20 years)
	Peter Fowler	National Medal (15 years)	Magra	Kerry Turner	Long Service (15 years)
	Janne Croswell	National Medal (15 years)		Kevin Hardwick	Long Service (40 years)
	Peter Fowler	Long Service (15 years)		Keith Russell	Long Service (20 years)
Grove	Terry Johnston	Long Service (15 years)		Randal Garwood	Long Service (20 years)
	Paul Binns	Long Service (15 years)	Molesworth	Andrew Smeal	Long Service (15 years)
	Janne Croswell	Long Service (15 years)		Gavan Rainbird	Long Service (30 years)
	Kerry Johns	National Medal (15 years)		Michael Apted	Long Service (15 years)
Human Services	Stephen Bartels	Long Service (20 years)		Michael Podeschwa	Long Service (15 years)
	Jason Lovell	Long Service (20 years)	Relbia	Edwin Chugg	Long Service (40 years)
	Paul Brown	Long Service (15 years)		John Gee	Long Service (40 years)
	Debra White	Long Service (15 years)		James Langdon	Long Service (40 years)
Huonville	Michael Direen	Long Service (30 years)		Greg Wise	Long Service (40 years)
	Grant Woolley	Long Service (30 years)		Sandra Brunacci	Long Service (20 years)
Kimberley	Anne McCormack	National Medal (25 years)		Rodger Duncan	Long Service (20 years)
	Robert Gaffney	National Medal (15 years)		Maurice Liddington	Long Service (20 years)
	Wendy Gaffney	National Medal (15 years)		Allan Jones	Long Service (15 years)



Bob Ackroyd (Richmond) receiving Volunteer Medal from Don Jones and Lindsay Suhr



Klaus Strange (Richmond) with Deputy Chief Officer Gavin Freeman



John Brown (Campania) and Deputy Chief Officer Gavin Freeman

Location/Brigade	Name	Award
Rheban	John Harrison	Long Service (40 years)
Risdon Vale	Nathan Woolley	Long Service (20 years)
	Oliver Gledhill	Long Service (15 years)
	Michael Glowacki	Long Service (15 years)
	Ann Harrison	Long Service (15 years)
	Robyn Leahy	Long Service (15 years)
	Paul Jaeger	Long Service (35 years)
Smithton	Trevor Kingston	Long Service (35 years)
	Leo Berechree	Long Service (30 years)
	Craig Porteus	Long Service (15 years)
	Richard Calvert	Long Service (30 years)
South Arm Southport	Peter Bradley	National Medal (35 years)
	Barrie Oakley	National Medal (25 years)
	Peter Bradley	Long Service (35 years)
	Peter Price	Long Service (30 years)
	Barrie Oakley	Long Service (25 years)
	Garry Price	Long Service (20 years)
TasFire Equipment Ulverstone	Malcolm Boyle	Long Service (15 years)
	Sandra Heddle	Long Service (15 years)
	Rick Branfield	National Medal (25 years)
	Phil Hubbard	National Medal (15 years)
	Robert Hayes	Long Service (30 years)
	David Stott	Long Service (30 years)

Location/Brigade	Name	Award
Ulverstone	Noel Woodhouse	Long Service (25 years)
Wellington	Cameron Suhr	Long Service (25 years)
Wynyard	Brian Willcox	Long Service (25 years)
	Christopher Neilson	Long Service (20 years)
	Jarrold Wade	Long Service (15 years)
	Trenton Poke	Long Service (15 years)

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



Magra Brigade award recipients: L to R: Michael McNaughton (5 years), Randall Garwood (20 years), Kevin Hardwick (40 years), Keith Russell (20 years), Laurence Coppleman (National Medal).



Awards presented at Primrose Sands - Gavan Rainbird (30 years), Michael Podeschwa (15 years) and Michael Apted (15 years)



Director Human Services Robyn Pearce presenting Deb White with her 15 year long service award



National Medal presented by District Officer Gerald Crawford to Laurence Coppleman of Magra Brigade

On the Move

A list of recent personnel changes within the TFS



The following Career personnel changes have occurred

Arrivals

FireComm	Lidia Baric	Communications Officer	26 April 2010
FireComm	Stephen Palmer	Communications Officer	26 April 2010
FireComm	Darren Bradford	Communications Officer	26 April 2010
Communications	Anders Marchant	Communications Technician	12 July 2010

Departures

North West Region	Wayne Richards	District Officer	3 May 2010
Corporate Services	Rebecca Evans	Library Technician	14 May 2010
Hobart	Steven Jones	Senior Firefighter	30 June 2010
Communications	Greg Harwood	Communications Technician	23 July 2010

Elevations

Northern Region	Jeff Harper	Deputy Regional Chief	10 May 2010
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The following Volunteer Brigade Officers have been elected by their Brigades

BRIGADE	OFFICER	APPOINTMENT	BRIGADE	OFFICER	APPOINTMENT
Bridgenorth	David Wright	Brigade Chief	Karoala	Alison King	Second Officer
	Robert Lack	Second Officer		Shane Coleman	Third Officer
	Andrew Eyles	Third Officer		Peter Sweeney	Fourth Officer
	Marcus Byard	Fourth Officer	Kelso	Helmut Rechberger	Brigade Chief
Burnie	Zac Blizzard	Third Officer		Steven Masters	Second Officer
	Mark Brazendale	Brigade Chief		Maree Millier	Third Officer
Cambridge	Chris Mayne	Second Officer	Lady Barron	Kevin Cleaver	Fourth Officer
	Matt Fenton	Third Officer		Richard Mollineaux	Brigade Chief
	Shane Clark	Fourth Officer		David Bailey	Second Officer
Collinsvale	Jamie Gordon	Second Officer		Scott Wood	Third Officer
	Richard Edge	Third Officer	Lauderdale	Greg Bailey	Fourth Officer
	Ben Cunningham	Fourth Officer		Paul Baker	Brigade Chief
Cradle Mountain	Steven Shephard	Brigade Chief		Michael Riley	Second Officer
	Rodney Richards	Second Officer		Stephen Hickie	Third Officer
	Paul Hawthorne	Third Officer	Longford	Alan Vidler	Fourth Officer
Dodges Ferry	Chris Wilson	Brigade Chief		Michael Armstrong	Brigade Chief
	David Johns	Brigade Chief		Ronald Denne	Second Officer
	Craig Walker	Second Officer		Tim Reilly	Third Officer
	Roger Grace	Third Officer	Loongana	Gregory Lockhart	Fourth Officer
Grove	Andrew Lovell	Fourth Officer		Tony Swindale	Brigade Chief
	Steve Bartels	Brigade Chief		Terry Steers	Second Officer
	Bruce Ward	Second Officer	Marrawah	Shane Hine	Brigade Chief
	Ian Cooling	Third Officer		Anthony Grey	Second Officer
Huon Group	David Orpin	Fourth Officer		William Gale	Third Officer
	Michael Direen	Group Officer		David Grey	Fourth Officer
Irishtown	Bruce Cornish	Brigade Chief			

BRIGADE	OFFICER	APPOINTMENT
Middleton	Kevin Lawler	Second Officer
	John Levett	Third Officer
	Ken Cawthorn	Fourth Officer
Midway Point	Andrew Dare	Brigade Chief
	Daniel Cotton	Second Officer
	Matthew Wright	Third Officer
	Jeremy Hughes	Fourth Officer
Montumana	Paddy Buckley	Brigade Chief
	Josh Elphinstone	Second Officer
Moriarty	Peter Lapthorne	Brigade Chief
	James Hortle	Second Officer
	Daniel Johnson	Third Officer
	Ashley Stott	Fourth Officer
Musselroe Bay	Peter Webb	Brigade Chief
	Steve Blackwell	Second Officer
	Jacqueline Webb	Third Officer
	Ralph Purdon	Fourth Officer
Nubeena	Garry Cooper	Brigade Chief
	David Tatnell	Second Officer
	Shane Williams	Third Officer
Old Beach	Dion Grace	Brigade Chief
	Kellie Willits	Second Officer
Port Arthur	Peter Williams	Brigade Chief
	Christopher Richards	Second Officer
	Trevor Briggs	Third Officer
	Tim Watson	Fourth Officer
Primrose Sands	Brian Rainbird	Brigade Chief
	Michael Podeschwa	Second Officer
	David Darby	Third Officer
	Kevin Emmerton	Fourth Officer
Relbia	Sandra Brunacci	Second Officer
	John Harrison	Brigade Chief
Rheban	Chris Chesterman	Second Officer
	Tim Chesterman	Third Officer
Rokeby	Hayden Williams	First Officer
	Peter Francis	Second Officer
	Andrew Webster	Third Officer
	Joel Adams	Fourth Officer
Ross	Rodney Brown	Brigade Chief
	Raymond Goss	Second Officer
	Richard Dowling	Third Officer
	Wayne Mayne	Fourth Officer

BRIGADE	OFFICER	APPOINTMENT
Smithton	Trevor Kingston	Brigade Chief
	Peter Turnbull	Second Officer
	Leo Berechree	Third Officer
	Craig Proteus	Fourth Officer
St Marys	Michael Aulich	Brigade Chief
	Michael Spilsbury	Second Officer
	Jason McGiveron	Third Officer
	Grant Faulkner	Fourth Officer
Stanley	Stuart Parker	Second Officer
	Fiona Tustian	Brigade Chief
	Steve McLaren	Second Officer
	Nigel McLaren	Third Officer
Swansea	Ken Nichols	Brigade Chief
	Paul Morris	Second Officer
	Bob Moore	Third Officer
	Ricky Gray	Fourth Officer
Tasman Group	Gary Cooper	Group Officer
	Peter Daft	Brigade Chief
	Noel Wilson	Second Officer
	Brendon Daft	Third Officer
Tea Tree	Darren Norman	Fourth Officer
	Jayde Beard	Third Officer
Yolla		



Greg Harwood being farewelled by the Communication Services team members

LETTERS



Cressy District High School

Main Street, Cressy TAS 7302
Ph (03) 6397 6281 Fax (03) 6397 6525
Email Cressy.District.High@education.tas.gov.au Web http://www.cressy.tas.edu.au



Mr. C. Tomes
Tasmanian Fire Service
339 Hobart Road
Youngtown 7249

21 June, 2010

Dear Mr. Tomes,

On behalf of all our primary students and staff, I would like to thank the Tasmanian Fire Service for the valuable information and interaction during Fire Prevention Week, June 15-18.

Belinda Harvey, your School Fire Education Officer, is an inspiration to all students and she gives freely of her time and expertise. The students looked forward to her lessons and many parents commented on the value of TFS input at school level.

We appreciate her professionalism and hope that this programme is available to us in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Ruth Tilsley
Ruth Tilsley
AST

Holy Trinity
ANGELICAN CHURCH

The Anglican Parish of Holy Trinity Launceston

June 11, 2010

Mr Danny Richardson
District Officer Operations
89 Paterson Street
LAUNCESTON 7250

Dear Mr Richardson,

I write to express the appreciation of our Sunday 10.30 a.m. congregation for the TFS presentation on Sunday, June 6.

Nick Hubbard, with the support of the team, gave an interesting and informative presentation. This was obvious with the number of questions that illustrated the interest of the congregation. We were concerned that our members were familiar with the equipment fitted in our church and Nick covered those aspects carefully.

Would you please express to the team our thanks and disappointment that they were unable to stay for morning tea. Perhaps they may call another Sunday. They will be most welcome.

Best wishes,

Warwick Cuthbertson
Warwick Cuthbertson
Rector.

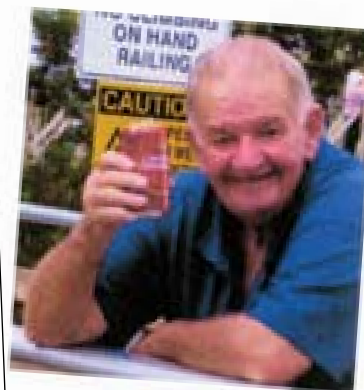
*To Officers and Firefighters
Hobart Fire Brigade*

*The greatest comfort during
our sorrow was the expressions of
sympathy conveyed to us in many
ways.*

We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Thank you most sincerely

Blaise Jay and family



*In Loving Memory of
Kevin Maxwell Jay*

To: TFSONline

Subject: lachlan road lachlan fire 18 March 2010

thankyou for putting out the fire on that steep hill. It is very hard work and you made it look easy. And you did it with such good humour and until all hours. It is nice to see such service to community in action. I was not all that worried because it was such a great response. Thank God it was not a windy day.

hobart
INTO THE WIND

Wednesday 14th July, 2010

Dear Phil,

We are writing to thank you for your involvement in the Emergency Medicine Challenge (EMC) as part of the Australian Medical Students' Association Annual Convention.

Your generous donation of time and resources helped to make the event an outstanding success. The feedback we have received from competitors, spectators, and assessors is that the event was both entertaining and highly educational. Many delegates who have competed in previous challenges reported that this was the most successful EMC they have experienced!

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any further assistance. Once again, on behalf of the entire hobart2010 Convention team, thank you!

AUSTRALIAN
MEDICAL STUDENTS'
ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL

Yours Sincerely,



Stephanie Flukes and Kate McKenle
EMERGENCY MEDICINE CHALLENGE COORDINATORS
HOBART 2010 CONVENTION
AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION



4 June 2010

Chief Officer
Tasmanian Fire Service
123 Argyle Street
Tasmania 7000

Dear Sir

RE: Wayatlnah Fires

On behalf of Transend Networks, I would like to express our gratitude for the support the Tasmanian Fire Service provided in defending Transend telecommunications infrastructure at Heal Spur during the recent wide spread fires in the upper Derwent Valley. Having visited the site several times since the fires it brings a greater realisation of the threat we faced.

As you would be aware, the fire was active around the site for the week 1st to the 8th of February. TasFire and Forestry staff provided support in not only defending the asset but provided accompaniment, when safe to do so, for Transend Communications Services staff to amend the site. This enabled Transend staff to tend to our standby generator equipment and maintain vital network services. As a direct result, Transend were able to maintain telecommunications services to our electricity transmission infrastructure and Hydro Tasmania's generating assets.

The way in which both permanent and volunteer staff conducted themselves is to be commended. There is no doubt that the combined effort of both TasFire and Forestry resulted in the preservation of the Heal Spur facility.

Thank you again for the support you and your staff provided in defending Transend critical infrastructure.

Yours sincerely



John Coles
Manager Communications Services

Hi all,

Just a quick note to say that the reward from volunteering with Old Beach Fire Brigade is reward in itself, and at this moment in time I am fortunate enough to have had greater reward through the length of my continuous involvement than any other member.

However, receiving the TFS Volunteer Medal had not crossed my mind and came as a wonderful surprise. (you can generally predict when you are due for your National Medal).

I can't speak for Peter Wylie or Graeme Gee, but I cannot imagine that they are not feeling as proud as I am today, and congratulations to them both on their deserved award.

Again I thank Dave for his time, effort and leadership over the past 7 years as Brigade Chief. As I assume Dave was responsible for nominating Pete, Graeme and myself for the TFSVM, I congratulate him on his extremely good and astute judgement of deserving character.

To Kellie, well done on your elevation to 2nd Officer. Probably a unique situation, in that I suspect that nowhere else in Tasmania is there a husband and wife team where the wife outranks the husband (at the fire station as well as at home)...surely there is a story in that! (can someone send this to Linda Lacy)

Dion Grace, Brigade Chief, what can I say? Good luck in the role, and as I am intending to remain active (God willing) you might have to put up with me for another 3 or 4 years yet.

Phil Owen

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

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

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

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

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

STATE FIREFIGHTER CHAMPIONSHIPS

SATURDAY 6 & SUNDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2010
Inveresk Park, Launceston



Junior, cadet and
adult firefighters
from across
Tasmania



Family activities,
games etc.



All Brigades eligible
to enter a team/s



Camping available
at Inveresk



Function & live
entertainment on
Saturday evening
at the venue



This event is proudly hosted by the Tasmanian Fire Brigades Competitions Association (TFBCA)

For more information go to www.fire.tas.gov.au or email championships@fire.tas.gov.au