

Fireground

autumn 2015



- Rising to the challenge: new trainees tough it out
- Fire season 2014-15: Lefroy fire a lesson in cooperation
- Trench rescue: crews awarded Chief Officer's Commendation
- Hazard reduction: what role can local brigades play?



Tasmania Fire Service

Contents autumn 2015



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A career firefighter in the making: see story page 20
Photo: Trainee Firefighter Course 1/2014 Team



Official Journal of Tasmania Fire Service

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FROM THE CHIEF OFFICER



MICHAEL BROWN

While we have just experienced a relatively quiet 2014-15 fire season we have been very busy working through the complexities of integrating our Corporate Services with the broader Department of Police and Emergency Management (DPEM).

We have benefited and enjoyed having our own Corporate Services support for the entire history of TFS. However, from a 'whole of Government' perspective there is commitment to integrate like services to reduce areas of duplication and achieve efficiencies. From the public's view there have often been questions such as: why wouldn't you have shared financial services? Surely it's more efficient to have just the one fleet management area or IT section?

In the current climate it's very difficult to support any case for remaining separate entities in our support services. As a result, we will see integration of our Finance, IT, Communications and Fleet Management. I ask that everybody assists in this change process and, while there will be challenges, I'm confident we will ultimately have very effective corporate services supporting all of the DPEM arms at Police, Fire, SES and Forensic Services.

The other area of change for us is the new relationship we have with our friends at SES. As of late last year the Director of SES, Andrew Lea now reports to me as Chief Officer at TFS. The change makes good sense. It's only early days yet, but I believe this new arrangement will result in us all working a lot closer together at every level. This will benefit both of the services and the Tasmanian community.

Operationally we did experience a late season bushfire event in our very dry autumn at Lefroy in the north east. In a Tasmanian first, we deployed Large Air Tankers (LATs) for fire retardant drops. The LATs were contracted by Emergency Management Victoria (EMV). The National Aerial Firefighting Centre (NAFC) has been conducting a formal and comprehensive evaluation project looking at the use of LATs, including their effectiveness in Tasmania.

The LATs were deployed over the past season to Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania. The early indication is that these tankers are likely to become a 'game changer' in our operations as they have the potential to provide a true 'National' rapid capability. I'm confident that LATs will soon become a regular feature of our summer bushfire operations. More details of the LAT's operations in Tasmania are within this edition; *Lefroy Fire March 2015*.

In closing I welcome our 15 new career firefighters that commenced full time operations late last year and I look forward to welcoming an additional nine firefighters later this year. My sincere thanks to the staff involved in the recruitment, selection and trainee course process. You have clearly done very well!

Regards,



Mike Brown AFSM
CHIEF OFFICER

Fire Season 2014-15

A lesson in cooperation: Lefroy fire, March 2015

Stephen Lowe
District Officer—North East

With a wetter than average January this year, the bushfire season was, thankfully, relatively quieter in most areas in comparison to previous years.

While there was a green tinge emerging from the pasture as summer drew to a close, the bush fuels in the north east of the state especially remained dry and potential remained for some late season activity.

Over the summer period there had been several smaller fires attended by local brigades in and around the township of Lefroy, and within the bushland east of George Town.

These were quickly rounded up due to good work from responding brigades—on most occasions, within the day.

Toward the end of February a deliberately lit fire that started in the area of Musk Vale Road was attended by Tasmania Fire Service and Parks and Wildlife crews.

This fire covered some 200 hectares and was in the final stages of blackout by 3 March. Crews departed from the fireground on this day around 1800 hours following a full day of blackout.

Within some 30-40 minutes of crew departing this area, a report was received by FireComm of another fire in the area.

Winds were averaging 25 kilometres per hour from the west, and this fire quickly

Photographer: Ross Marsden. Photo supplied courtesy of the Hobart Mercury.

gathered momentum in the dry eucalypt forest and coastal scrub vegetation.

Within the next three to four hour period, this fire travelled approximately four kilometres east, directly toward the Lefroy township.

A 'Watch and Act' alert was placed on this fire for residents in Lefroy and the immediate surrounds, as smoke and cold embers were impacting the town. Fire crew numbers were bolstered within the township to prepare for asset protection.

All residents within the potential impact area were doorknocked by crews to make them aware of the fire conditions, with some of these residents opting to leave the area based on their bushfire survival plans.

Wind conditions eased around 2230 hours, enabling the immediate threat level to be downgraded overnight for Lefroy.

Crews maintained a presence within the town throughout the night and preparations were well underway for the following day, with an understanding that Lefroy would be impacted again given the forecast conditions.

Crews and machinery arrived early on 4 March to try and establish some containment on the head of the fire, which still had approximately one kilometre to run into the Lefroy community.

Winds were again a hamper to operations with, 30-40 kilometre per hour westerlies being experienced from early morning.

The weather, nature of the topography, coupled with the available time and space, dictated that we would not be able to fully contain this fire from further easterly travel toward Lefroy and that we were in for another hectic afternoon.

A number of control lines were constructed around the Lefroy community by late morning and the fire took its expected run at the township by mid-afternoon.

All crews and machinery were withdrawn into the township for asset protection and an 'Emergency Warning' was initiated for Lefroy, Beechford Road and Big Hill Road.



Photographer: Ross Marsden. Photo supplied courtesy of the Hobart Mercury.

Fire crews working with Tasmania Police evacuated residents from the immediate impact zone to a fire evacuation centre opened by the SES in George Town.

Level 1 road blocks were established on all roads into Lefroy by Tasmania Police at the request of the Multi-agency Incident Management Team operating from Northern Regional Headquarters.

Given the potential and predicted impact on Lefroy itself and the possibility of the fire pushing even further east, an offer was made to consider the use of Large Air Tanker (LAT) aircraft based in Victoria for fire retardant drops.

These two LAT aircraft, a C130 Hercules carrying 15,000 litres and an Avro RJ-85 jet carrying 11,000 litres of retardant, can together establish 600—800 metres of retardant line, and can be delivered directly onto the fireline.

These planes are guided in by a smaller 'Bird Dog' aircraft crewed, by a pilot and an Air Attack Supervisor flying ahead of the LAT aircraft.

After considering all options, the LAT aircraft were requested with the intent to attempt a retardant drop west of Lefroy adjacent to the structures under threat.

On arrival at Lefroy, the fire conditions had worsened to the point that visibility from the air could not be established to identify



Photo: Chrissie Anquetil.



Photo: Ian Cawthorn.



Photo: Chrissie Anquetil.



Photo: Jordan Young.



Photo supplied courtesy of the ABC.



Photo: Kate Lyall.

the fire front and subsequent intended LAT drop.

As a result, a secondary drop point was identified on the southern boundary of the fire where residential properties were under threat between Curries Dam and the Bridport Highway.

The 30-metre-wide retardant drop was undertaken directly adjacent to the fire edge in what is known as an 80-20 (20 per cent onto the fire and 80 per cent onto the unburnt edge), which had the effect of immediately knocking the fire down and preventing any further forward fire progression.

While not the intended drop zone for the retardant, this application proved to be very successful in protecting the residents and enabled additional ground crews to be transferred to Lefroy.

TFS, Parks and Forestry Tasmania firefighting crews, supported by machinery and water bombing helicopters, worked throughout the afternoon in an attempt to hold the fire west of Beechford Road and Lefroy township.

Working conditions on the ground were less than ideal to say the least, with smoke and embers blowing across the town reducing visibility to zero.

Those on the ground did a magnificent job coordinating resources for property protection and dealing with spot fires. A small area of the fire crossed the Beechford Road to the north of Lefroy and was quickly rounded up.

When the conditions eased a little and visibility was re-established, we determined that no structures had been lost and the only damage reported was to the base of one power pole on Beechford Road.

Transend had previously disconnected power into Lefroy and along Beechford Road at the request of the IMT in preparation for the fire impact.

Due to the minimal damage to this infrastructure, power was reconnected to these areas by early evening and road blocks lifted to Level 2 to allow residents to return to their properties.

Fire operations continued into the night to establish control of the northern sector of the fire as a result of expected strong south westerly winds, which were forecast for the following day.

The morning of 5 March saw the IMT again request LAT support to strengthen the north eastern fire break between Beechford Road and Curries River.

This area was identified as an area of critical ground to hold under the forecast south westerly weather conditions, with fire modelling identifying significant fire travel should the fire escape from this area.

The LAT aircraft ran four retardant drops (two from each aircraft) onto this area by late morning to establish a 30-metre-wide break, and ground crews worked throughout the afternoon consolidating this control line.

By late afternoon, control lines had been established on the south eastern, southern and northern flanks of the fire.

The weather showed no respite and while temperatures were quite mild, wind direction and strength were consistent from the north west through to south west, gusting to more than 40 kilometres per hour.

A large back burn was conducted on 6 March to tie in the fire edge to the constructed control line between Curries Dam and Lefroy.

This area had been identified by the IMT as a weak point in the early stages of the fire; however, it could not be consolidated until the control line had been established and weather conditions provided a window of opportunity to conduct the required back burn operations.

On-ground fire operations continued into the night and subsequent days to patch out unburnt vegetation, consolidate fire boundaries and blackout the fire.

The fire was handed back to local control on Tuesday 10 March and was continually patrolled for a number of days.

A multi-agency fire investigation team was established to determine the cause and origin of both fires and these investigations are ongoing in conjunction with Tasmania Police.

There were many highlights throughout this emergency incident. However, I would like to acknowledge the following three:

1. The interagency cooperation that occurred with all the emergency services, land management agencies, and support people banding together to establish control of the incident, provide communities with the critical information they required and bring some normality back to the residents, was seamless.
2. The community's resilience, understanding and cooperation when given direction, asked to evacuate by emergency services or being restricted from accessing their properties during the emergency incident.
3. Our people, their willingness, time commitment and dedication to the task was outstanding throughout the entire incident.

This incident provided us with one of the few opportunities this year to test our incident management structure and our interagency cooperation based on previous lessons learnt. In my opinion, the outcome was an outstanding success and can be attributed to many things, some of which I have highlighted above.

This is not to say that there is no room for further improvement. We will analyse all aspects of this operation over the coming weeks and look to continue improving our performance across all areas.

SL



FIRE SEASON 2014-15 Mangalore fire

Tristan Smith

Firefighter—Bagdad Fire Brigade

On Sunday 8 March at 1130 hours, Bagdad Fire Brigade was paged to a vegetation fire at Mountford Drive, Mangalore.

As soon as the brigade was mobile it was clear that a large fire had started, due to the smoke that was visible. Brighton and Kempton brigades were paged right away.

On arrival, crews were faced with a large grass fire being fanned by gusty winds. At that stage, the fire was heading for Wybra Hall on the Midland Highway.

Broadmarsh along with career and volunteer firefighters from Bridgewater were paged and crews were put on property protection.

Once more crews had arrived the fire was cut off at Wybra Hall. The main priorities were then to extinguish the fire in a horse arena built from rubber tyres, and in 50 acres of grass.

Bridgewater 3.2 CAFS Heavy Tanker was assigned to the burning tyres right after arrival. By 1300 hours the fire was under control and crews had begun to mop up.

All up, it took 11 firefighting appliances to extinguish this fast-moving grass fire. At 1536 hours a stop was placed on the fire and crews returned to their stations.

This job was then placed into patrol as there were still multiple hot spots. At 1700 hours that afternoon, and again at 2010 hours, Bagdad Brigade was paged for flare ups. Both of these involved different trees that had caught on fire again, but they were quickly extinguished by crews.

The fire was patrolled at regular intervals over the next few days with the brigade only responding to one other flare up at the horse arena at Wybra Hall.

The Bagdad Fire Brigade would like to thank Brighton, Kempton, Broadmarsh and both career and volunteer firefighters from Bridgewater brigades for their assistance and quick response.

TS



Photos: Tristan Smith.



Photo: Kathleen Hunter, King Island Courier.

Blaze destroys King Island's only pharmacy

A deliberately lit fire destroyed King Island's only pharmacy, and damaged an adjoining newsagency and apartment, on 24 January this year.

The damage bill from the blaze was estimated at more than \$1 million.

Nobody was injured in the fire.

A 20-year-old man later appeared in the Burnie Magistrates Court charged with burglary, stealing, and arson.

A temporary pharmacy is currently operating out of the King Island hospital.

Firefighters discover mortar shell

Peter Tavas

Senior Station Officer—Hobart Fire Brigade

Rokeby career and volunteer crews attending a small bushfire at the top of Rokeby Hills on 12 December had an unpleasant surprise when we discovered a mortar shell during the blacking out phase.

The area was immediately cordoned off and left in the hands of Tasmania Police. It proved to be a real shell but it was inert, not having any fuse or explosives in it.

It's thought that the shell may have been dumped in the bush following a robbery some years ago. Its age was uncertain.

Most of us had walked close to the mortar while extinguishing the fire, but smoke had obscured our view. I think we were lucky in this situation and were all reminded to be vigilant at bushfires, as you never know what you might find.

PT



Next-generation structural firefighting ensemble ready for rollout

Shane Batt

District Officer—Arthur and Burnie

Tasmania Fire Service will commence an initial rollout of a next-generation structural ensemble, Gemini XT, in late April and early May.

The main safety features of the ensemble have been designed to protect firefighters from a flashover while conducting an interior attack.

The new ensemble will initially be issued to brigades on a 'risk to needs' basis, with those brigades that meet a number of set criteria being included in the stage one rollout. I can assure all members that we have had the current lime green nomex ensemble tested and inspected and it still meets AS/NZS Protective Clothing for Structural Fire Fighting.

It is envisaged that a complete changeover for all brigades that have urban-qualified firefighters may take between four to five years.

Some of the notable features on the new ensemble are:

- Radio pocket and hand mic holder
- Ergonomic sleeve design
- Anti-wicking barrier in trouser and jacket sleeve
- Thumb loops
- High back trouser design
- Aeroshield knee protection
- Adjustable 'H' braces
- Aeroshield protection on bottom of trouser cuff

The new-generation personal protection clothing (PPC) enables a firefighter to safely enter a burning building to extinguish the flames and rescue any

possible victims. The clothing for our firefighters protects them from any situation they may face whenever they are fighting a fire.

Outer layer protects from flash over

The Australian/New Zealand Standard 4967:2009 Protective Clothing for Structural Fire Fighting requested an outer layer of flame-resistant fabric that would not be destroyed through charring, separating, or melting when exposed to high temperatures.

The new ensemble has been exposed to temperatures in excess of 800 degrees Celsius for an eight second period to simulate a flash over.

A second layer is a moisture barrier to prevent moisture from penetrating through to the wearer, and a third layer, known as the inner scrim, allows for easy donning and doffing.

The standard also requires reflective trim on the ensemble to provide visibility in many different conditions.

Health and safety induction for all members issued with new ensemble

Research and development testing of the new ensemble has proven that the introduction of a moisture barrier into the middle layer has resulted in an increase to metabolic heat buildup for the wearer.

Although the combination of materials used in the assembly of the garment around breathability has recorded outstanding results, it has also been recognised that the breathability of the garment can't keep up with the increase of metabolic heat rise within the garment.

When conducting heavy physical work, firefighters will need to be aware that sweating will quickly overtake the moisture barrier's ability to release moisture. It will cause greater heat build-up and will feel



Senior Firefighter Sandra Onn demonstrates the new turnout gear.

hotter than the current lime green Nomex used by TFS today.

Every new member issued with the Gemini ensemble will have to go through an induction to ensure they are aware of the health and safety issues.

Evolution of PPC makes firefighters safer

Firefighting is a dangerous profession that requires specialised equipment to effectively and safely mitigate a fire emergency. An important part of this equipment is the firefighter's PPC: coat, pants, hood, helmet, boots and gloves.

The personal protective equipment structural firefighters wear today is drastically different from what they wore in the early years. Large strides have been made in the evolution of firefighters' PPC, and as a result, our firefighters today are much safer than those of decades past when confronted by radiant heat or naked flames while undertaking interior firefighting.

The firefighting personal protective clothing in use today consists of a combination of previous years' testing and technology. The materials and temperature rating have improved dramatically over the last ten years, resulting in Tasmania Fire Service purchasing what is believed to be the best

available structural ensemble available within Australia.

The jackets and pants are the pieces of PPC that have evolved more than any other. In the early days, firefighters did not need much protection because they fought the fires from the outside of the burning structure. That is why the early jackets were made for dryness and warmth.

The jacket is now made of a complex mixture of fire-resistant materials consisting of a blend of PBI and Nomex, and can weigh as little as 1.5 kilograms.

Today's overpants are the first article of PPC the firefighter puts on when he or she is dispatched to a fire or another emergency that requires leg protection.

The overpants themselves now weigh as little as 1.5 kilograms and the firefighter must have suspenders to help hold the pants up and to assist with the ensemble's breathability. The pants are also reinforced with an aeroshield knee pad because of all of the crawling we do.

SB

Knowledge management news: doctrine and policy projects on track

Nick Wilson

Principal Staff Officer—Office of the Chief Officer

The doctrine and policy projects outlined in the Summer 2014 edition of *Fireground* are on track and will ensure Tasmania Fire Service policies and procedures are uniformly managed, updated and relevant. Thus far, the doctrine project has been the main effort, and remains so presently.

To that end, we have drafted approximately 70 per cent of the expected doctrine publications—a fantastic effort by all those involved. This means we are on schedule to realise the June 2015 publication date, when we expect to roll out the new library, both electronically and in hard copy.

Likewise, the policy framework is also seeing results. Business units have worked hard to rationalise their products, and now we are concentrating on consolidation so as to minimise duplication.

Of note, TFS now chairs an Intra-Department Policy Working Group with the State Emergency Service, Forensic Science Service Tasmania, and the Department of Police and Emergency Management to ensure alignment across the department.

Finally, thanks once again for your enduring support and commitment. I look to our future interaction.

NW



How many firefighters does it take to move a horse?

The answer is nine.

Firefighters were called to assist a vet rescuing a horse from a creek bed in Glenorchy on 12 November last year. The horse had fallen into the creek and was trapped.

Nine firefighters were on the scene for around two hours, and used roping equipment to lift the horse to safety. The horse weighed in at around 570 kilograms.

The horse was uninjured and seemed glad to be back on level ground.

Firefighters using roping equipment to lift the trapped horse to level ground.

SAFETY ALERT

issued on personal protective clothing

Chief Officer Mike Brown has asked all members to be aware of a recent Safety Alert issued on wildland (bushfire) personal protective clothing (PPC) made with PROBAN® treated cotton.

The alert follows the results of CSIRO testing of PROBAN® treated cotton garments for contaminants, at the request of the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC).

The testing raised two key issues of concern:

- Significant levels of dust and respirable particles may become trapped in the fabric after the garments had been used in fighting bushfires.
- Unexpected levels of formaldehyde both in the fabric, and released into the atmosphere following sealed storage of the garments.

The testing indicated that the trapped respirable particles may be a significant risk, and that the formaldehyde retained in the fabric was above the recommended limit of 100 parts per million (ppm), both before first wash and after laundering.

More research will be done to work out the most practical ways of reducing the amount of particulate matter and formaldehyde held in PPC fabric. AFAC will also work with manufacturers to ensure the retained levels of formaldehyde in future supplies of PPC are within the recommended limits.

ACTIONS FOR YOU:

KEY SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROBAN® TREATED PPC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to clean PROBAN® treated garments in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions that were included with the PPC on issue. Wash your PPC before first use and frequently thereafter. TFS recognises that it may not be practical to wash PPC after each use, as noted in the safety alert.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Store your PPC in a well-ventilated space.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open sealed bags containing PPC in a well-ventilated space, and allow a short amount of time for any fumes to dissipate before removing.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not shake or beat PPC to remove dust.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear a long-sleeved shirt and long pants under the garments if you suffer skin irritation from direct contact with PROBAN® treated fabric.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you have experienced skin irritation as a result of wearing PROBAN® treated PPC, please contact OHS Officer Gerald Kutzner on 6230 8689 or g.kutzner@fire.tas.gov.au

While airborne formaldehyde can be a health risk, the test used in the research was not a recognised methodology. Further testing that reflects realistic agency practice is needed.

To this end, Victorian emergency management agencies have commissioned independent testing based on their practices. The results of this research will be made available to other AFAC member agencies, including TFS.

Mike Brown said the findings of the CSIRO research were concerning, but did not identify the levels of contamination as a critical safety risk.

"I assure you that TFS is working closely with AFAC and other agencies to identify what further work needs to take place to reduce the risk as far as possible.

"I recently attended an AFAC meeting where all participants agreed to an industry plan to address this issue.

"Like TFS, other agencies have been communicating with their members, unions and associations about the nature of the risks and practical steps that can be taken to avoid or minimise exposure, and further testing to understand the risks in their particular environments."

The Australian Firefighters' Health Study conducted by Monash University found that there was no elevated incidence of cancers linked to formaldehyde amongst firefighters compared to the rest of the population.

PROBAN® treated garments have been used by Australian emergency services for over 30 years without any significant issues being raised.

TFS ceased purchasing PROBAN® treated PPC some time ago, but many uniforms are still in service.

You can view the safety alert on TFS intranet by searching 'safety alert PROBAN'. For more information, see your manager, District Officer or field staff, or contact the OHS Help Desk at OHSheldesk@fire.tas.gov.au

AFAC industry plan for wildfire PPC

The AFAC industry plan outlines four actions:

1. Further independent scientific research to determine the best way to reduce the levels of particulate matter and formaldehyde retained in PPC.
2. Continued monitoring of retained formaldehyde in wildland PPC.
3. Sharing of information gathered by emergency service agencies that are conducting their own research.
4. Following the existing advice provided through the AFAC Safety Alert, which has been adopted by TFS.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION SHARING HAS BEEN IMPROVED

Facts you should know about WebEOC™

David van Geytenbeek

Senior Firefighter—State Operations

To allow better information sharing across Tasmanian emergency services the WebEOC™ (Web Emergency Operations Centre) system has been adapted for use during multi-agency incidents of all types.

WebEOC™ was created with crisis management and public safety personnel in mind, and has evolved to include information sharing during all phases of a crisis or emergency.

WebEOC™ promotes situational awareness through all levels of incident management and government agencies.

WebEOC™ provides:

- An Internet-based incident management system and information sharing tool.
- Support for multiple incidents and emergency operation centres (RFOCs and SFOC).
- Information sharing between agencies (government, non-government and private sector) if required.
- An ability to effectively and efficiently manage information, tasks and resource allocation.
- A common operating picture across a diverse range of emergency service organisations.
- Real time information sharing.

All this means that TFS has an efficient, easy and timely way of sharing critical incident information. WebEOC™ was trialed this year in State Fire Operations Centre and Regional Fire Operations Centres only. It will be implemented in incident management teams next bushfire season.

Personnel working at an incident can be confident that the information they provide in SitReps will be used to develop the 'big picture', which is then posted on WebEOC™. This ensures other ESOs have excellent situational awareness.

The dedicated team at State Operations have been busy ensuring that appropriate levels of training and support are provided to our WebEOC™ operators.

The implementation of WebEOC™ has also been a great opportunity to forge stronger partnerships with Tasmania's other emergency management agencies.

DVG



Incident Boards (Menu)



The Activity Summary Screen





Southern Region Remote Area Team 'Alpha' Members with Australian Defence Force personnel and United Aero's Pilot Mark Laughridge.

Flying start to year for Remote Area Team

David McCambridge

Firefighter—A Shift, Hobart Fire Brigade

Tasmania Fire Service Southern Region Remote Area Team (RAT) was out in the field on the Buckland Military Training area in January. Crews refreshed their skills in working safely around aircraft, hover entry and exit, remote area landings and sling loading operations.

Crews received an aircraft safety brief on the B3 Squirrel Helicopter, call sign FireBird 730, piloted by Mark Laughridge. Crews carefully entered the aircraft as it hovered about 1.5 meters above the ground. RAT members were then flown to remote helipads around the military range.

Crews performed a hover exit at the remote pads, and practised receiving remote area pumps, chainsaws and other equipment slung underneath the aircraft.



Remote area firefighter performing a hover entry into the helicopter.

Crews also conducted aircraft marshalling, where they practised directing aircraft for water drops.

The training was made possible through the cooperation of Australian Army Major Graeme Wren who allowed us access to the range, and Range Caretaker Jamie Farrow, who is also Brigade Chief at Buckland, helped with reconnaissance for potential helipads.

Thanks needs to go to the Southern Region Leadership Team for supporting the training; Heli Ops Air Attack Supervisors Marcus Skelly, Paul Terry and Michael Goldsmith; United Aero's Mark Laughridge; and all those involved with the Remote Area Team.

DM

NEW BOOK SHOWCASES EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) has released a new book, *Every Day*, which showcases the formidable capability of Australia's emergency services.

Federal Minister for Justice, Hon Michael Keenan, officially launched the book in Canberra on 1 December last year.

The publication provides an insight into the work the sector undertakes. Traditionally the focus was on reacting to emergencies. Today, the priorities are working proactively and collaboratively with communities to minimise risk; developing and delivering response capabilities; and providing relief and recovery services.

Chief Officer Mike Brown was one of the guests at the launch. He noted that the distinguished war historian, Charles Bean,

had drawn comparisons between the military and the emergency services.

"In the *Story of Anzac*, he wrote, '... fighting bush-fires, more than any other human experience resembles the fighting of a pitched battle.'"

AFAC CEO Stuart Ellis said Australia's emergency services workforce was three times that of the defence force, with 34,000 paid and 254,000 volunteer personnel.

"This is not widely recognised by our community, as fire and emergency service agencies are the responsibility of states and territories.

"On more occasions every year, fire and emergency services are supporting each other across state borders.

"It is when we work together to combat major bushfires such as the Black Saturday fires in Victoria or major floods



(L-R) Chief Officer Mike Brown with ACT SES Volunteer Jordan Kerr, Minister for Justice Hon Michael Keenan MP, and AFAC CEO Stuart Ellis.

like Queensland experienced in 2011, that we clearly identify the significant national capability that Australia has to protect communities from natural disasters and other emergencies."

Every Day will be distributed to TFS brigades and SES units, and is also available online at issuu.com

Brigades opt in to defibrillation program

John Hazzelwood

District Officer Planning and Capability—North

In February, Chief Officer Mike Brown included information in *WordBack* about a new Ambulance Tasmania program that invites brigades to use their Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) to provide lifesaving, early access to defibrillation to a patient in cardiac arrest while an ambulance is on its way.

Our response will not affect the Ambulance response protocols, meaning that Ambulance Tasmania will send the same response whether we turn out or not.

It's an 'opt in' program, which means that brigades can choose to become

involved. Some are currently fundraising to purchase units so that they can become involved, and quite a number of brigades have already purchased them to benefit their own members at incidents.

A frequently asked question is, if the brigade chooses to become a part of the program do the brigade members have to take part? The simple answer is no, this is also an 'opt in' program for individual members.

Currently, 32 brigades have registered their AEDs in the program and a number of brigades are seeking funding from community groups. If a Bendigo Community Bank is operating in your area, it may be interested in supplying and maintaining a unit for you.

Training

An AED is designed to be used by someone with no training, although it is widely recognised that a better result will

be achieved if good cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is combined with the use of the AED.

TFS is committed to providing first aid training to brigade members participating in this program. However, it may take a couple of years to achieve all of the desired training.

Purchasing

While most of the units currently in TFS are Cardiac Science brand, there are now a lot of units on the market that could suit brigades. Please deal with reputable suppliers when purchasing. District staff may also be able to assist with the purchasing process.

For further information, please contact District Officer John Hazzelwood on 0409 900 673 or email john.hazzelwood@fire.tas.gov.au

JH

Chief Officer commends crews for trench rescue

John Hazzlewood

District Officer—Planning and Capability, North

At the Tasmania Fire Service 2014 State Conference, Chief Officer Mike Brown awarded a Chief Officer's Commendation to the crews that rescued a man buried in a trench collapse in 2013.

Just after 1100 hours on 26 July 2013, TFS was advised of a person stuck in a trench following a cave-in. White Hills Fourth Officer Greg Chugg was the first TFS person on scene. To prevent the man being crushed by heavy clay soil, he set about co-ordinating the efforts of contractors on site.

The victim was trapped by the lower part of his body and unable to get out. Nothing could be done to prevent tonnes of earth continuing to move in and over him.

The initial task was to make a breathing space for his chest to move, and to maintain a tunnel for air to get to him.

We came to know the victim as Wayne, an engineer who had been looking at the stability of the soil.

When the soil stopped falling into the trench, Wayne was about 500 millimetres below the surface with a short tunnel to an opening in the trench through which to breathe.

The long task of digging down to get him out started when ambulance paramedics and crews from Launceston Brigade arrived.

The paramedics found a stable lump of ground adjacent to the victim and were



About one hour into the rescue.

able to get some oxygen to him. Greg continued to work with the 'town' crews.

When we train for trench rescue, we dig nice neat trenches with vertical walls in soft soils, shoring them with 'soldier sets' of timber or hydraulic shoring sets that push back on our nice straight walls.

If the weather is inclement we postpone to another day. Meal times are rigidly observed and apart from the cramped conditions, it's not too bad.

This day was cold, rain threatening, and the trench had been dug in spoil from site excavation to bench out a house site on a sloping block.

It had a high clay content and there had been heavy rain over much of the preceding week. The trench looked like a great misshapen gash in the ground.

We later measured it to be about five metres from the surface to Wayne's feet. It was always going to be difficult.

The photos are the only real way to understand the site. The bucket of the excavator that had been used to dig the trench was pushed against part of the trench wall as a part of the initial lifesaving operations. It remained there for the entire rescue.

The shoring used was constantly reviewed and most certainly looked nothing like the textbook.

A workplace inspector was on site and was a part of the review of our processes.

Station Officer Danny Guy took up the Operations Officer role, and along with Senior Station Officer Danny O'Donnell, managed the rescue.

Greg continued to toil away along with Leading Firefighter Stephen Smart. Firefighters Jason Buchanan, John Krocowski, Matthew Youd, David Moir, Matthew Ross, Jeffrey Gibson and Andrew Lowe slogged their way down through the clay soil.



Wayne's head is at about the level of the Firefighter's feet.



Making progress, and using the suction truck to remove debris.



The red helmet with the white blanket is on Wayne's head.



Here comes Wayne.



After the removal of the stretcher no one was allowed to enter the trench, by agreement with WorkSafe Tasmania. The shoring was removed using the excavator. It was approximately five metres from the top of the soil to his feet.

To the Amazing TFS Officers,
Thank you for your HUGE effort
to help save my life.
We appreciate the outstanding work you did
and know that this was not without risk
to your own life.
God bless you
Wayne R. Badnell
David, Stephen and Matthew

Wayne visited the Station with his wife. A very religious man, he had decided that it was God's will if he survived.

When Wayne's head came out we put a helmet on him (red in the photo) to prevent us from inflicting some other injury on him.

The paramedics monitored his vital signs and got a drip into him so they could administer warmed fluids to prevent hypothermia.

At one stage a paramedic asked me, "If we wanted him out in a hurry, what would you do?"

I could only tell them we were doing it already.

The crews continued to work, slowly uncovering Wayne's body and legs. There was difficulty in communicating to the firefighters in the trench due to the wind and sound-deadening effect of the earth, so we put ropes on them so we could tug on the rope to get their attention.

One part of our training did hold true. Wayne could not be removed from the hole until his feet were completely uncovered, not almost completely - absolutely clear of the dirt.

And so, three and a half hours from the initial call, Wayne was placed on our stretcher and taken to the waiting ambulance.

All personnel exited the trench and no one was allowed to re-enter. WorkSafe Tasmania inspectors took measurements from safe locations and the shoring was removed using the bucket of the excavator, which had now been released from its duty of stabilising the trench wall.

After leaving hospital, Wayne and his family visited Launceston Fire Station to express their gratitude for his rescue.

During our operational analysis we again reviewed our options for the rescue. Was the reward worth the risk? The short answer is yes.

We had a number of observers carefully observing the trench walls and security of the shoring, and there was a constant review of progress. If we had tried to set a more secure shoring in place, we would have delayed Wayne's removal from the cold earth, which would most likely have had a negative effect on his wellbeing.

JH



EMERGENCY '000' SPECIALISTS TAKE ON TECH CHALLENGES

Michael D'Alton
Supervisor—FireComm
State Operations

In November 2014 Tasmania Fire Service, Tasmania Police and Ambulance Tasmania hosted the National Emergency Communications Working Group, Australia and New Zealand (NECWG A/NZ) workshop over three days at the Hadley Oriental Hotel.

We welcomed over 40 communication specialists from Police, Fire, Ambulance, State Emergency Service, Department of Communications, Telstra, Optus, Vodafone and Emergency Service

Telecommunications Authority Victoria, including members from New Zealand.

The National Emergency Communications Working Group has been established to address the core issues of the Emergency Call Service (triple zero) in both Australia and New Zealand, and to ensure that the relevant issues are considered and discussed within an Australasian framework.

Some of the great work that has been achieved is the creation of the 'Emergency +' app for smart phones, and the Triple Zero Kids Challenge online eLearning tool.



The main focus at the moment is the Next Generation Triple Zero (NG000) for Australia. This includes working out the complexities of SMS and video calling to triple zero.

NECWG meets every May and November in a different state. November's meeting was our opportunity to show off Tasmania's communication centres.

MD

WHAT'S NEW

Groundbreaking technology to provide real-time location of operational fleet

Ian Bounds

Acting Regional Chief—North West

Tasmania Fire Service is currently in the process of fitting automatic vehicle location (AVL) to its operational fleet.

Over the last twelve months, a number of trials were undertaken to assess the viability and to identify suitable technology. Through this process our Communications Services, in collaboration with Zantech Industries,

developed an AVL unit that operates across both the 3G network and existing TFS radio network.

This system will provide close to real time display of vehicle locations, providing an improved situational awareness for our dispatch and command centres, improving safety and coordination for incidents.

The groundbreaking technology will automatically switch between the two

networks depending on location to provide a greater coverage. It has a fallback option if one network fails, or if there is poor coverage.

Additional information will be provided at this year's state conference.

IB



Fundraising work has its rewards

Geeveston Fire Brigade officers **Amelia Franklin** and **Stephen Franklin** recently received a certificate of appreciation from Keep Australia Beautiful acknowledging their fundraising efforts for cadets. They are pictured relaxing after the presentation, held during the Keep Australia Beautiful town awards in Huonville on 26 November 2014.

CORPORATE SERVICES INTEGRATION: WHERE ARE WE NOW?



Scott Wilson-Haffenden

Director—Information Services and Communication Technologies



Todd Crawford

Director—Finance and Physical Resources

In August 2015 the Secretary of the Department of Police and Emergency Management (DPEM) engaged the firm Wise, Lord and Ferguson to undertake a high-level review of governance structures for the delivery of Corporate Services across the Department, in order to identify options for the future delivery of these services.

New Directors' relationships

The review resulted in the current functional responsibilities for Corporate Services being split between the two existing directors.

The two key functional areas are a Finance and Physical Resources stream, which is being led by Todd Crawford, and an Information and Communications stream, which is being led by Scott Wilson-Haffenden.

The new structure at this level was implemented immediately after the review was endorsed by the Steering Committee, with both positions reporting directly to the Secretary.

While there are still some challenges with the implementation of the new arrangements, we have been particularly impressed with, and grateful for, the support shown by personnel from within Corporate Services and the operational arms of the Department.

Integration opportunities

At present we and the Project Team are working with the respective areas of DPEM Corporate Services to integrate processes and systems for maximising our efficiencies.

While it may appear at this stage as if little is occurring, we have been establishing a realistic insight into the integration opportunities for both the short and long term.

The present project activities include:

- Review, collation and analysis of the information and various business operations from respective areas, such as processes, systems and legislative requirements.

- The establishment of reference groups.
- Commencement of sub-projects in core business areas, such as cross-department intranet access and employment conditions.
- Continuation of work area visits.
- Establishing short-term interim arrangements to assist with the day-to-day management of business units.

We and the Steering Committee are committed to providing collaborative Corporate Services to continue our support to our operational services.

The feedback we are receiving from the wider organisation indicates that members do not wish for us to diminish any of the current services in place, and want us to acknowledge and understand the working relationships that have been established for some time.

We are deeply aware of the complexity of the change we are undertaking and recognise the importance of supporting the organisational readiness for business and cultural change.

All members are reminded that a specific project site is located on both the fire and police intranet sites. You are encouraged to provide feedback, seek clarification or provide suggestions direct to the Communication and Change Manager via this site.

We look forward to engaging with the wider organisation as the project progresses.

SWH & TC

Training officers navigate the world of learning and development from Hobart

Shane Batt

District Officer —North West Region



(L-R) Tasmania Police Commissioner Darren Hine and TFS Chief Officer Mike Brown welcome delegates to the conference.

Tasmania Fire Service in partnership with Tasmania Police was honoured to host the National Emergency Services Training Officers Conference (NESTOC) in Hobart from 30 September—3 October 2014.

The theme of the conference was the four 'Cs': Commitment, Capacity, Capability and Competency. The delegates certainly demonstrated many, if not all, of these attributes.

Both international and local delegates were warmly welcomed to the shores of Hobart and took in the picturesque sights around the city.

The conference provided a wonderful opportunity for training officers across Australasia to network, discuss and learn how other states and emergency services are negotiating their way through the ever-changing world of learning and development.

The conference started with registrations and a welcome dinner at Blundstone Park on 30 September. TFS Chief Officer Mike Brown and Tasmania Police Commissioner Darren Hine welcomed our interstate and international guests

to Hobart before introducing the first of many guest speakers.

Over the next three days the conference offered a vast selection of activities including lectures, workshops and interactive sessions.

Each morning and afternoon of the program followed a soon-familiar pattern: the conference delegates would gather in the main hall for a plenary session, and after a short break, the concurrent sessions would begin.

With two sessions running at once, and four or so topics in each session, you can imagine the hurried scrambling from room to room, trying to get to the next talk in time for it to begin without having to miss the end of the previous one.

With every topic on the program from professional development and RTO standards to challenges in learning and development, there was always something to attend, no matter what your interest.

These small, intimate sessions were where the gold of the conference could be found, and the smaller audiences really promoted two-way discussion between presenter and audience.

Through use of the online sharing, delegates could contribute to, and vote on, their experiences during the conference.

A field trip was held on the final day, which included a visit to Dunalley to look at bushfire recovery, a tour of Hobart, and a display at Cambridge.

The field trip also allowed TFS to showcase its latest innovation. Thanks to Leon (Alfy) Smith and his staff, TFS was able to demonstrate the capabilities of the compressed air foam system (CAFS) appliance.

We proved to our mainland counterparts that, once again, TFS is leading the development and introduction of cutting-edge firefighting equipment.

I am sure everyone who attended not only made new friendships at the conference, but came away with a renewed enthusiasm for training in the emergency service environment. As we all look ahead, there is indeed a bright future for training officers across the country.

Thanks to Tasmania Fire Service, Tasmania Police, and everyone who assisted with organising venues and displays for this fantastic conference.

SB



RIISING TO THE CHALLENGE: new trainees tough it out to become career firefighters

The TFS trainee course is a demanding and intense program that transforms people from all walks of life into career firefighters. Recent graduate, Robin O'Brien, shares his experience of being selected as one of 15 trainees to rise to the challenge.

On 4 August 2014, 15 trainee firefighters, having left their previous jobs, started the trainee course at Cambridge Training Facility.

They undertook 75 days of training, by the end of which, they graduated as probationary firefighters and were posted to the Burnie, Devonport or Hobart Fire Stations to begin their new careers.

I was lucky enough to be selected as one on those fifteen recruits. We came from a diverse range of backgrounds and brought with us a mix of firefighting knowledge, ranging from extensive to none. I had previously worked as a registered nurse in the emergency department at the Royal Hobart Hospital, so my firefighting knowledge was the latter...none.

Led by Station Officer Scott Vinen, the team of trainers—Station Officer Steven

Townsend, Station Officer Barry Bones, Station Officer Richard Onn and Acting Station Officer Tim Crellin—had the task of training, improving, refining and ensuring we were equipped with the wide range of skills required to be a firefighter.

The course introduced the basics of firefighting such as hose and branch handling, pump operation, correct personal protective equipment (PPE), and breathing apparatus use.

The pace of the course was fast and physically demanding. Knowledge gained in the classroom was quickly reinforced through practical sessions in the backyard.

It quickly came apparent to others and myself that the role of a firefighter has expanded in recent years.

On the course we not only trained to be proficient in urban and bush firefighting, but we also undertook training modules in road crash rescue, first aid, HAZMAT, compressed air foam system (CAFS), compartment fire behaviour training, and technical rescue.

The course also provided the foundation to a career-long education process that will keep us as effective emergency responders in various situations.

The 15 weeks went quickly, and after the graduation ceremony we had a brief introduction to our stations before commencing on our respective shifts.

It took a few days and sleepless nights until my nerves settled—this was mainly helped by the support I received from my colleagues.

They gave timely and knowledgeable advice and support that helped us all settle in and work as part of the motivated and dynamic team that is Tasmania Fire Service.

At the time of writing this, it has been three months since graduation, and we all have had to call on the skills and knowledge gained during the trainee course.

Some of us have experienced road crash rescue and structure fires, while others are still waiting for that first 'big job'. The nerves have settled but the excitement and enjoyment of coming to work has not faded.

A sincere thank you to Station Officer Scott Vinen and the training group for the effort they made to make the course fun, challenging and effective at producing probationary firefighters. Also, congratulations to Firefighter John Lyons for being awarded dux of the course.

RO

Photos: Trainee Firefighter Course 1/2014 Team.



Thanks to our partners

The Championships were once again extremely well supported by a number of corporate partners and I would like to acknowledge the outstanding assistance provided by:

Platinum Partners

Bendigo Bank
Britax Automotive Equipment
Bupa
Caltex
FRM
Isuzu Trucks
Ken 'N' Barbie

Gold Partners

PT Hydraulics Australia

Silver Partners

Draeger
J Boag & Son
Tassie Instant Marquees
Andrew Walter Constructions
SPT Security
TVFBA North
New Norfolk Fire Brigade
John Banks
Robert and Veronica Atkins



Record number of teams battle it out in firefighter championships

Mark Dobson

District Officer—Planning and Capability, Southern Region

TFBCA President

The 2014 Tasmanian Fire Brigades Competitions Association State Firefighter Championships were conducted over the weekend of 8—9 November 2014 at Launceston's Invermay Park, in near-perfect weather conditions.

A total of 39 teams, our largest enrolment yet, battled it out in 17 individual events. Included were three new events that have their origins in New South Wales—First Aid Reel and Pumper (four competitors); Hose, Hydrant and Extinguisher (three competitors); and Hose and Hydrant (four competitors). Feedback following the Championships suggests these new events were well received.

Some very good times were recorded, including 11 new State records, which shows teams honed their skills in preparation for the events.

The eventual aggregate winners were Devonport 1 in the senior section and Sassafras in the juniors, with the combined section going to Claremont 1. Congratulations to the team members and coaches on being crowned State Champions for 2014.

Following its win in the senior section, the Devonport team has been automatically selected to represent Tasmania at the Australasian Firefighters Championship being held in Echuca, Victoria, 23—25 October 2015.

If I could take this opportunity to sincerely thank everyone who was involved in staging the 2014 Championships—officials, judges and particularly the competitors for making it arguably, the most successful yet.

The Executive Committee is aware that a number of brigades who haven't competed for quite a while are intending to enrol for the 2015 Championships. This is fantastic news and I can only encourage brigades to get involved in what is becoming a great event.

MD

RESULTS

NEW STATE RECORDS

SENIOR

GP Pumper Relay – Devonport 1
30.684 (32.137)

Hose, Hydrant and Pumper –
Claremont 1 23.487 (26.558)

Siamese Valve – Devonport 1 46.985
(51.063)

First Aid Reel and Pumper –
Devonport 1 34.853 (new event)

Hose, Hydrant and Extinguisher –
Claremont 1 38.693 (new event)

Hose and Hydrant – Claremont 2
20.811 (new event)

JUNIOR

GP Pumper Relay – Gretna 27.693
(31.110)

Tanker Rescue – New Norfolk 38.173
(40.992)

Hose, Hydrant and Pumper –
Claremont 1 20.394 (26.051)

Hose, Hydrant and Extinguisher –
Sassafras 40.052 (new event)

Hose and Hydrant – Sassafras 25.148
(new event)



RACISM. IT STOPS WITH ME

EMERGENCY SERVICES SAY 'NO' TO RACISM

In an Australian first, all four emergency service organisations in Tasmania have come together to jointly pledge their support for the 'Racism. It Stops with Me' campaign.

Tasmania Police, Ambulance Tasmania, Tasmania Fire Service and State Emergency Service joined with Australia's Race Discrimination Commissioner, Dr Tim Soutphommasane and Tasmania's Anti-Discrimination Commissioner, Robin Banks, to sign up to the national campaign.

Chief Officer Mike Brown welcomed the opportunity for the emergency services to combine together to sign the Agreement.

"Coming together sends a strong signal that we are united in our belief that there is no room for racism in Tasmania," Mr Brown said.

The TFS operates over 230 fire brigades across Tasmania, with over 250 career firefighters and close to 5,000 volunteers.

"We are a diverse organisation and a lot of what we do is based on getting different people to work harmoniously together. There is no room for racism either in the way we operate or in the community we serve."

Tasmania Police Commissioner, Darren Hine, said that Tasmania's emergency services were at the front line serving the community every day.

"We do so without fear or favour – serving everyone regardless of who or where they have come from, whatever their background."





"It is an important statement for us to make that racism has no place in the way we operate, both as organisations and in the way our services are delivered or in the behaviour we expect within the community.

"Our goal is to foster harmony and understanding. Showing respect for every individual is a fundamental underpinning of crime prevention in a vibrant and tolerant multicultural community.

"Signing this Agreement sends a strong message that there is no room for harassment or bullying on the basis of race within our community. Racism hurts people. It robs them of their dignity and it perpetuates an injustice that will not be tolerated.

"It takes strength to stand up to racism; strength to say it is wrong and strength to let someone know that what they have said or done is offensive. At the end of the day it may also require the involvement of Tasmania Police in situations where racist behaviour makes someone feel unsafe or threatened. Signing this Agreement sends a strong signal that racism will not be tolerated, in any form" Commissioner Hine said.

Chief Executive Officer of Ambulance Tasmania, Dominic Morgan said Ambulance Tasmania, Tasmania Police, Tasmania Fire Service and State Emergency Service provided essential services to Tasmanians in their greatest time of need.

"Thousands of Tasmanians have first-hand experience of the services we

deliver. We are organisations that they know they can rely upon.

"It is important that all Tasmanians feel equally confident that when they call on any of our emergency service personnel they will be treated with appropriate sensitivity to their background."

Acting Director of the SES, Andrea Heath, spoke of her organisation's role in the community.

"We take pride in working with the community every day to make Tasmania a safer place; whether it is preparing for natural disasters or increasing awareness of emergency preparedness at community events," she said.

"It makes sense for us as an organisation to be clear that racism and intolerance won't be tolerated," she said.

"Just as we reach out to everyone in times of need, we support action that emphasises what brings people together rather than divides them. The 'Racism - It stops with me' campaign fits that ethos nicely and we are happy to help spread the message," Ms Heath said.





Do you need to apply for Working with Children Registration?

Lucas van Rijswijk

Coordinator Volunteer Strategy

Recent Tasmanian legislation means that if you have regular contact with children (under 18 years of age), you will need to apply for Working with Children Registration.

Working with Children Registration applies to paid workers, volunteers, self-employed people, and service providers, who will regularly work with, or are involved in overnight activities with young people under 18 years of age.

So, what does this mean for you?

Because of the way the introduction of the legislation is being staged, we have started with members directly involved in, or who have responsibilities for, the Junior and Cadet program, and with volunteer brigade members that have regular or overnight contact with children.

Who in TFS needs to be registered right now?

As part of this first phase, the following TFS members should all have been registered to work with children from 1 April 2015:

- All Junior and Cadet Coordinators, or members who have access to children in brigades more than seven times each year.
- All Brigade Officers in brigades that have a Junior and Cadet program, or who have access to children in brigades more than seven times each year.
- All members of brigades that have children present at brigade training, meetings and/or social activities more than seven times each year.
- All District Officers and Field Officers who have direct responsibility to provide volunteer brigade support.
- All Group Officers.
- All Regional Chief Officers and Deputy Regional Chief Officers.
- Anyone (member or non-member) who takes part in any TFS-related overnight activity involving children.

If you are included in any of these categories, and have not yet registered, please contact your District Officer, Supervisor, Regional Administration, or Human Services immediately.

In February, almost 300 members took part in workshops in each region to discuss what we need to do to ensure that children in our care are kept safe. They also clarified what they needed to do to apply for 'Working with Children' registration.

That so many of our members made more than three hours available for these workshops reflects highly on their commitment. The quality of questions and discussions emphasised their professionalism.

Looking ahead, from 1 July 2016 members of some emergency services not engaged in emergency management activities, for example, those delivering educational sessions in schools or at community events, will need to apply.

This may include TFS Community Educators, Community Development Staff, Volunteer Training Instructors and Learning and Development Training Officers, and other TFS staff. However, there will be consultation about this phase—so watch this space!

LVR

New video instills TFS Values

Lucas van Rijswijk
Coordinator Volunteer Strategy

Don't look! Can you list our TFS Values?

Even more importantly, do you know what they mean for you? How does what you do for TFS 'look like' when you apply our values?

Do your workgroup members all agree as to what behaviours support or undermine our TFS Values?

To help your brigade or work group describe and agree as to what TFS Values 'look like', we have produced a media clip.

The clip comes in two versions:

Version 1: TFS Values—What do they mean to our team?

This self-paced and self-directed clip will guide your workgroup or brigade through a discussion as to what each TFS Value will 'look like' in your team. It will help each team to come to an agreement as to how its members will apply the values.

Version 2: TFS Values—an introduction

This clip will be used by brigades and workgroups to induct new members into TFS.

These two clips are available on DVD, the TFS Intranet and in other formats. Check to see if your brigade has its copy yet.

When you see the clips, you may well recognise some people. We're very grateful to members who gave up their time to share their experiences and to role play some of the scenarios.

And just in case you answered the first question, the TFS Values are: Service, Professionalism, Integrity and Consideration. Did you get all four?

LVR



TFS Values videos in the making. Photos: Lucas van Rijswijk.



A day in the life of... an Air Attack Supervisor

Meaghan Newson

Matthew Grant is one of the Northern Region Air Attack Supervisors (AAS) for Tasmania Fire Service. During a bushfire, he has the formidable task of managing airspace over the fireground: directing water bombing to protect assets and ensuring both air crew and people on the ground remain safe during an aerial attack on a fire. At the recent Lefroy fire, he coordinated the first-ever use of large air tankers and fire retardant in Tasmania. Here's how a day on a bushfire might unfold for him.

"My job is to manage water bombing activities utilising helicopters and/or fixed wing water bombers in a safe, effective and efficient way.

"If a fire breaks out and we get dispatched, my primary role is to protect our people on the ground, protect civilians, and to protect assets with strategic water bombing. I need to coordinate where the water or foam has to be dropped.

"On a typical day, I'm based in the Northern Region at Youngtown. On a stand-up day or a day of total fire ban, I may be based at different strategic places depending on the Fire Danger Index.

"When a job comes in, I'll start a pre-mission brief noting the grid reference, the nearby towns, the Incident Controller, what type of vegetation fire it is, distance to the fire from base, whether helicopters need to mobilise their refuellers, and any aviation hazards known to that area such as high voltage transmission lines and towers.





"Once pre-mission briefing is complete, I am then dispatched by the Air Operations Manager to Perth aircraft hangar where I meet the pilots. The pilots are informed of the pending flight, and start their pre-flight checks prior to my arrival to reduce delays.

"The pilots are briefed on the ground and we also go through a few other things with them including confirmed 'long' and 'lat' coordinates, bearing and distance.

"As we fly in controlled airspace it is also necessary to get clearance for take-off via Launceston Airport's Air Traffic Control.

"Regular updates and communication are important once airborne, and of course professional radio etiquette is followed.

"So to give you an example, the current northern contracted Firebird call sign for the AAS aircraft is Firebird 739, and the water bomber is Firebird 735. So, if we were heading to Campbell Town, I would say:

"FireComm, this is Firebird 739 (2POB) and 735 (1POB), we are heading to the Campbell Town fire, on a bearing of 190 degrees, distance 35 kilometres."

"I'll then give an inbound call to incident controller (IC). The information I require from IC is any aviation hazards near the area of the fire, location of nearest water refill points, etc.

"This information builds the picture before we get to the fire. I'll then brief the pilot of the water bomber on the information I have received from IC.

"From dispatch at Perth it's about a 15-minute flight to Campbell Town. FB739 will reach the fireground a bit before FB735.

"While FB735 fills up with water, we [FB739] do a lap of the fire itself and establish a bombing plan with the incident controller.

"For example, we might require a direct attack to the left flank to protect houses. I will then direct FB735 to the target with a reference point, direct attack to the left flank for asset protection, coverage level of drop 4 with foam. I will then fly the drop zone prior to drop to ensure all crews are clear.

"Then we commence water bombing.

"My role is to maintain a visual on each bomb drop to make sure it's effective and to make sure all crews are clear.

"As part of the crew, you are always scanning the horizon for hazards like power lines, towers, other aircraft, even wedge-tailed eagles as they have been known to attack helicopters because they see them as a threat. You have to be really visual at all times.

"As you scale up to more aerial assets, there is more to organise. In conjunction with the pilot we incorporate the incoming aircraft into the bombing circuit, establish air separation and maintain good communication between the pilots.

"At the Lefroy fire, the large air tankers (LATs) were called in from Victoria. There was an Arvo R85 jet air bomber, a Hercules C130 air bomber, and a 'bird dog', which guides the larger aircraft. They were dispatched from Avalon, and can do a two-hour turnaround to northern Tasmania.

"At the time, we had an emergency warning on Lefroy, I had four helicopters water bombing the north of Lefroy/Beechford road of the fire.

"We had to separate the helicopters from the two big water bombers and communicate with the pilots and crews on the ground.

"My communication was with the LAT AAS in the bird dog. He flew above us so I could show him where the drop needed to start from.

"The first bomber—the jet air bomber—was led in behind the bird dog and put down the first 350 metres of retardant. It then returned to Victoria.

"It is possible for them to reload in Victoria and return within two hours as mentioned previously, but this was not required on Day 1.

"The second bomber continued on from the last drop and then flew back also. These retardant drops provided efficient and successful protection of property within the area.

"That incident was the first large air tanker job in Tasmania, and the first time we had used retardant. A couple of firsts there, and I can assure you, I felt the responsibility.

"I had a big learning curve with the large air tankers. It tested a lot of my training.

"Fortunately, just before the fire I had done a four-day rotation at Avalon airbase in Victoria, and learned how they operate.

"My job is all about communication and being vigilant and making sure everyone's safe at the end of the day. Ensuring regular breaks for meals and hydration during operations are important.

"We all work differently. For me, the more things I have going on, the better I work.

The best thing about my job is that it's challenging. You have to take it passionately, for sure. To me, it's a very important role, and it has to be done right. You have to tick all the boxes."

MN

"My job is all about communication and being vigilant and making sure everyone's safe at the end of the day."

10 minutes with:

Wellington Brigade
by Brigade Chief Tom Dempsey**1. When was your brigade founded?**

In 1945. It originally started as a council brigade, and when they brought in the special fire areas after 1967 it became a fire service brigade.

2. How many members does your brigade have?

At the moment we have 29 active members. They come from all sorts of backgrounds—we've got truck drivers, electricians, coppers, miners, you name it, we've got it.

3. What was the last call you attended?

The last call we attended was [a fire in] about 100 square metres of grass and scrub, up the top of Tolosa Street [Glenorchy]. It took about 10 minutes to knock down and about half an hour to black out.

It's been pretty quiet this year. It's been quite enjoyable. Probably not for the newer and younger members, but when you've been around for a while you don't mind if you have a quiet season or two.

4. What did you do on your last training night?

Our last training night was a relay pumping exercise up at a little weir on Knights Creek, which is at the back of Tolosa Street. We set up a base pump in the weir, off one of the trucks. Then we got the hoses out and put in a couple of little portable pumps in between to keep the pressure up and move the water along 15 lengths of hose.

5. What is the most memorable call your brigade has had?

There are lots of them. Probably in recent times, Dunalley. Four Mile Creek was another one in recent times. There's so many, and so many bigger ones over the last 10 or 15 years that it's hard to pick one out.

We've had crews go to the mainland on occasion as well. We had crews go to the Blue Mountains fires the year before last, and the last one before that was Victoria.

6. What is your brigade most passionate about?

Mainly just looking after the community. We're always going to different community events—school fairs, Lions Club things, and stuff like that.

7. What was the last community event you were involved in?

A day down at Bunnings at Moonah. They had a special on smoke alarms for that weekend. We had the trucks down there, giving people general advice and chatting to them, that sort of thing.

We do a fair bit with Bunnings. One of the boys in the brigade works for them and they are pretty good to us. They donate a bit of stuff to use and give us the odd barbecue so that we can raise a few bucks. If they have a theme for the day and we fit in with it, they ask us to come along.

8. What types of appliances do you have?

We've got a 3.1 tanker, and a light tanker, a 5.1.

9. What is your brigade's biggest achievement?

Saving properties at major fires. If you had to sum it up, that would be it.

10. What changes has your brigade seen in the last five years within TFS?

Probably the biggest change has been in the last two to three years, with the tendency to stand up strike teams now. That's the biggest single change, and the most obvious change.



Photos: Sam Allen and Kate Smith.

10 minutes with:

Juleesa Smith
Chudleigh Brigade

1. What is your role?

I'm a volunteer firefighter—I joined about 12 months ago. I train once every two weeks. So far, I've been to two callouts. One was a fire at Montana, which was a vegetation fire caused by a powerline falling down, and the second one was a grass fire at Needles.

2. What is your day job?

I'm a student, studying veterinary science. I'm in my third year of a six-year degree. I'm hoping to specialise in large animals and rural practice.

3. What's the biggest change you've seen during your time with TFS?

There seems to be a lot more young recruits coming in lately.

4. What has been your most memorable experience with TFS?

Probably the two bushfires that I went to—getting to put all the stuff we've learnt into practice. I was pretty nervous, but pretty excited, to experience what it was really like.

5. One thing people would be surprised to learn about you?

That I'm a farm girl. I live on a dairy farm and love cows.

6. What is one of the biggest challenges you've overcome?

Being able to prove myself as able to do anything that the males can do, both as a firefighter and in veterinary science.

7. Favourite TV show?

McLeod's Daughters.

8. If I am not working I am

At a show with my cows. Or playing sport—I play soccer.



9. Most hated chore?

Folding washing.

10. If you could meet one person living or dead, who would it be?

Albert Einstein. It would be pretty good to pick his brain.

11. What are you most passionate about?

Definitely animal welfare. I'm very passionate about that.

12. Describe your perfect day?

It would start with a sleep-in, and then just pottering around the farm, not having to do too much work or study.

13. Your worst habit?

I'm a bit of a perfectionist.

14. Favourite ice cream flavor?

Chocolate.

15. Don't get between me and my

Bed.

16. What do you wish you had invented?

Television.

17. Tea or coffee?

I'm neither, actually. I don't like to drink any hot drinks.

18. Dogs or cats?

Cows. But I have cats and dogs too. I don't discriminate.

10 minutes with:

Phil Gardner
 Engineering Services, North West

1. What is your role?

I'm the Engineering Services Workshop Supervisor for the North West Region. I coordinate the maintenance and repairs for all the fire trucks in the '64' phone region. The work's pretty consistent throughout the year – there is a lot of work in the summer, but we also schedule a lot of maintenance through the winter.

2. What's the biggest change you've seen during your time with TFS?

When I first started 25 years ago there were both white and red trucks [from the two fire services] but we are all one fire service now. We used to have a lot of old trucks, but luckily we have a lot of new ones now. The way in which funding has been directed into the vehicle fleet is a real change—there's no comparison, really, from patching up old clunkers for the least amount as possible, to new modern vehicles that do cost significant dollars.

3. What has been your most memorable experience with TFS?

Some of the opportunities I've had to travel. I've been to Adelaide, Melbourne, and Brisbane, all for the fire service. The trips have been for training, and acceptance tests for new vehicles. It's been good to rub shoulders with people from other states who are doing similar jobs as I am.

4. One thing people would be surprised to learn about you?

I've got a second job. We run a small beef cattle farm—60 acres—inland from Somerset. It's a beautiful spot.

5. What is one of the biggest challenges you've overcome?

Dealing with a wide variety of people. I deal with absolutely everybody from tradesmen to fires—both volunteer and career—and management, to the general public and suppliers. It's a life skill that you acquire—either you do it or you don't do it.

6. Favourite TV show?

Watching the V8 supercars.

7. If I am not working I am?

Either working on the farm or at sporting events with my kids.

8. What frustrates you?

Lazy people.

9. Most hated chore?

Cleaning the toilet.

10. If you could meet one person living or dead, who would it be?

Someone like Ricky Ponting, or Steve Waugh. I admire their leadership qualities.

11. What are you most passionate about?

My farm and my kids. They're never far from one's thoughts.

12. Describe your perfect day?

Away camping with the kids, watching the sun come up over the lake, some fish caught for the day, maybe a game of cricket and a few quiet ones. We have a spot that we go to every year. It's lovely.

13. Your worst habit?

Procrastinating.

14. Favourite ice cream flavor?

Strawberry.

15. Don't get between me and my?

Family.

16. What do you wish you had invented?

The wheel.

17. Tea or coffee?

Tea.

18. Dogs or cats?

Dogs, for sure. I have two dogs, a kelpie and a fox terrier.



Acting District Officer Steve Walkley with Glamorgan Spring Bay Citizen of the Year, Triabunna Brigade Chief Bill Sullivan.

TRIABUNNA BRIGADE CHIEF RECEIVES AUSTRALIA DAY HONOUR

Melissa Shaw

Firefighter—Triabunna Fire Brigade

Every year on Australia Day, local councils award one person in their municipality with a citizenship award.

Well, this year, Triabunna Brigade Chief Bill Sullivan (my dad) won the Glamorgan Spring Bay Council's Australian Citizenship Award.

The award recognised his 43 years of service with Tasmania Fire Service in the local area, as well as his involvement with the local football club and other community groups.

Approximately 70 people came to honour Bill when he was presented with his award by Mayor Michael Kent at a special presentation ceremony held at the Orford Hall on 26 January.

Australia Day Ambassador Posie Graeme-Evans presented the Australia Day address as part of the event. She linked the Gallipoli spirit to the motivation to volunteer and the Australian ideal of giving assistance in time of need, using the example of the response by Tasmanians to the 2013 bushfires. She also thanked Bill for his dedicated service to the community.

Acting District Officer Steve Walkley attended on behalf of Tasmania Fire Service and gave a brief history on Bill's service over the years. Ambulance Officer Philip Pyke, who has known Bill all his life,

also gave an insight into his involvement in the community.

Bill has been with Triabunna Fire Brigade since 16 October 1972. He has been Fourth Officer, Second Officer and is currently the Brigade Chief. He has also been Permit Officer for the past nine years. Bill has attended numerous incidents over the years both, locally and around Tasmania.

He has been involved with many community events, such as Australia Day Celebrations, Anzac Day marches, and various fêtes and functions within the local community. He has also attended many Falls Festivals as crew leader.

At age 17, he was the first of the Triabunna Brigade to be involved in the local event, 'Bring Santa to the Children'. This led to the Brigade starting the Triabunna Christmas Parade.

In 2013, Bill helped organise the Brigade to raise funds for Shave for a Cure, raising approximately \$2,500 within the local area in just two hours.

He has been mentor to various new recruits and juniors with the Brigade and is an approachable Brigade Chief who is available to all members and the community at all times.

In 2013, he was a finalist for the Australia Day Local Hero and received a certificate, which was presented by then-Premier Lara Giddings.

Well done and congratulations, we hope to have many more years with you in the Brigade.

MS

ALL GO AT SOMERSET

Robert Dawes

Brigade Chief—Somerset

Somerset has been a busy brigade over the last 12 months.

The Somerset Junior and Cadets celebrated 30 years, Juniors participated in Somerset's Anzac Day parade, and we held our Annual Dinner and presentation evening.

We participated in Wynyard Fire Brigade's 100th anniversary, which included an open day and street parade.

During the year, the Somerset Primary School kindergarten class, including 35 pupils plus teachers and guardians, came for a station visit.

We also organised Somerset's Christmas pageant and participated in the parade, the Santa Claus site visit to Yarrandoo home for the aged, and the end-of-year Christmas barbecue with a jumping castle and Santa Claus for the kids.

The brigade also participated in the Australia Day celebrations at Anzac Park in Somerset.

RD



Trivia night for the Pink Fairies: L-R Brigade Chief Robert Dawes, Katrina Tabart, Treasurer of Fairy Godmothers, Simon Lenarcic event organiser, Social Club President Dale Atkinson.



Junior Fire Cadets turn 30: cutting the birthday cake are (L-R) former Brigade Chief Dan Kerr and Second Officer (and original Junior Cadet Coordinator) Kim Murray.



Acting Regional Chief North West Ian Bounds presenting Brigade Chief Robert Dawes with his 15 Year National Medal.



Annual Dinner and Medal Presentation evening: Acting Regional Chief North West Ian Bounds presenting Dale Atkinson with a 30 Year Long Service certificate.



Australia Day at Anzac Park, Somerset: Junior cadets testing out one of the water activities set up by the brigade.



Australia Day at Anzac Park, Somerset: Parents take photos with Brigade Chief Robert Dawes and Junior Cadet Pat Hanson and the 1928 Chevrolet fire truck.



L-R Former Brigade Chief Dan Kerr AFSM, Ron Grave, Justin Artis, Dale Atkinson. Photo courtesy of The Advocate.

Throwing open the doors

Robert Dawes
Brigade Chief—Somerset

Somerset Fire Brigade threw open its doors and held an open day on 13 December 2014 to help celebrate 30 years in the current fire station premises on the corner of Cardigan Street and Old Cam Road.

The Brigade displayed memorabilia going back to the early days of the Brigade, including photo albums and scrap books.

Free stickers, colouring books, and fire engine money boxes supplied by Tasmania Fire Service were a great hit. Also on display was a large amount of fire-related Lego.

The brigade held its Annual Christmas barbecue in the evening. Former Brigade Chief Dan Kerr AFSM and wife Helen, both life members of the brigade, attended.

Dan was the main instigator of the building project 30 years ago, not only designing the station, but taking on the roles of site supervisor and plumber.

Other members that are still in the brigade from that time are Ron Grave, Dale Atkinson, Heyden Blizzard and Justin Artis.

RD

TRIBUTE PAUL HORNE

24 February 1956 -
27 May 2014



(L-R) Gerald Crawford with Paul Horne.

Gerald Crawford

District Officer—Midlands

Ronald Paul Horne was born at Bothwell in 1956. He was always known as Paul because his father's name was also Ronald.

Paul went to school in Bothwell and during this time his father taught him and his brother Jeff the art of boxing. They both became very good boxers and both represented the State.

Paul also played football and was a very tough opponent who always gave his all. Paul was also a keen golfer and a keen Carlton supporter.

Paul worked around the shearing sheds and farms in the Bothwell area and also worked for Grote Reber, the 'father' of radio astronomy, erecting very tall poles at "Dennistoun", Bothwell, and near the Hobart Airport. These poles were all part of the very first radio astronomy devices anywhere in the world.

In 1975, Paul joined the Bothwell Fire Brigade as a firefighter, and also worked

as a summer casual for the Rural Fires Board. In 1978, Paul commenced full-time service with the Rural Fires Board (later to become Tasmania Fire Service) as a Fire Control Officer.

Throughout Paul's career he never left Bothwell to work anywhere else, except for a firefighting deployment to King Island.

Paul was well known throughout the Midlands District and knew virtually everyone.

Paul Horne was a dedicated professional who gave his all no matter what it was, a man who you wanted in your corner in any situation.

He was respected and honoured by all those with whom he came into contact.

A quiet achiever gone too soon. The 'black dog' called and Paul went with him.

GC

It is a sign of **STRENGTH** to **ASK FOR HELP**

Are you:

- › Feeling tired and stressed
- › Getting frustrated easily
- › Feeling unusually emotional
- › Finding it hard to sleep
- › Finding it hard to concentrate
- › Getting angry easily
- › Feel edgy, tense, restless
- › Drinking alcohol to cope
- › Having repetitive thoughts
- › Constantly worried

You can get **FREE** and **CONFIDENTIAL** help!

TFS support includes:

M/EAP – Member/Employee Assistance Program

Call **1300 687 327** for free, confidential counselling by *Converge International* for TFS members and their families

CISM – Critical Incident Stress Management

Call **0427 181 207** for free and confidential help from a peer if you have been impacted, directly or indirectly, by a critical incident

Community-based support includes:

GP Mental Health Care Plan

Visit your General Practitioner

Beyond Blue

Call **1300 224 636**

Lifeline

Call **13 11 14**

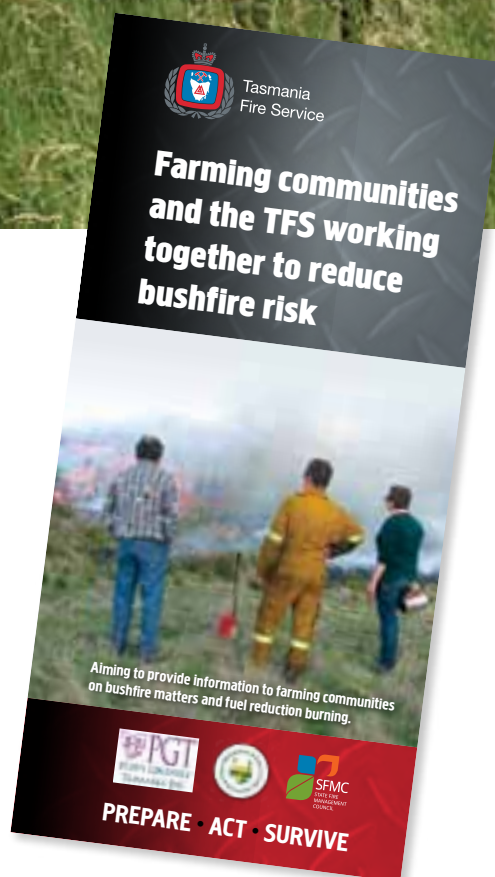
It's OK not to be OK



Tasmania Fire Service



Richard Johnson of "Esk Farm", Longford, Ian Sauer, Mike Brown and Jan Davis show off the new brochure.



NEW BROCHURE HELPS FARMERS TO REDUCE BUSHFIRE RISK

Chief Officer Mike Brown, together with Jan Davis, CEO of the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association, and State Fire Management Council (SFMC) Chair Ian Sauer came together last December to launch a new brochure, *Farming communities and the TFS: working together to reduce bushfire risk*.

The joint publication reflects a strong collaboration between the Tasmania Fire Service, TFGA, poppy growers, farming communities and the SFMC to provide clear and consistent advice about managing bushfire risk.

Mike Brown said the three organisations had been working on the brochure for some time.

"I really appreciate the strong engagement we have had across all sectors through its development.

"It is more than a set of rules, it is a practical guide to help the rural community understand how we all play a part in bushfire management."



Red Hot Tips round two wraps up

In May 2014 a cool patchy burn was conducted on Sarah and Stephen Barrington's Apsley Park property with the aim of encouraging native plant regeneration while reducing fuel loads.

Round Two of the Red Hot Tips Program, which provides private landowners with the skills to conduct planned burns on their properties, has been completed with all workshops and property fire management plans delivered.

The project team and participants aim to conduct eight burns this autumn on selected properties around the state.

By participating in one of these planned burns, participants will have the opportunity to put the theory from the workshop and fire management plans into practice.

They will learn how to conduct a burn including developing the burn plan, fire lighting techniques, fire fighting equipment and monitoring the weather conditions.

The last round of Red Hot Tips is due to kick off in June 2015.

Read more about the Red Hot Tips program in the Summer 2014 edition of *Fireground*.

More information:

Bronnie Grieve,
Macquarie Franklin Consultants
0400 763 904 or
bgrieve@macfrank.com

Head of State Fire Management Council hopes local brigades will encourage hazard reduction in their communities

Meaghan Newson

State Fire Management Council Chair Ian Sauer wasted no time on his appointment late last year urging farmers to get involved in fuel reduction burning.

Now he's turning his attention to the contribution that Tasmania's volunteer firefighters can make towards helping landowners to reduce local bushfire hazard.

"Volunteer firefighters have a whole set of skills that they could be passing on to their communities. They're highly respected, and that level of trust goes all through the year—not just when there is a fire.

"With that respect, and their knowledge of fire, they can encourage farmers—and indeed all landowners—to do hazard reduction burns on their land during the autumn and spring."

Ian speaks from 30 years of experience as both a farmer and volunteer firefighter. He regrets the loss of practical fire management skills from the land over that time.

"Once it was really common in the autumn and spring to see fuel reduction fires. Often it was done because granddad did it to reduce the fire risk, or to provide feed for sheep. Most farmers did hazard reduction burns very satisfactorily 25 years ago.

"When a bushfire was going, firefighters would always be thinking about the next patch of bush that had been burnt. We knew the fire would slow down when it hit an area that had been burnt in previous years.

"Sadly, many of those skills have been lost. Most people in the community are

too scared to light a fire today. They're reluctant to do hazard reduction burns."

This is where Ian believes volunteer firefighters can make a difference.

"There is a wealth of decision support tools now available for land managers. They can ring up the local brigade, go onto the TFS website, or get involved in the Red Hot Tips Program.

"But it's the volunteers who can get to the core of local communities to talk about where people can go to get that information.

"If every brigade could get three land managers to do three hazard reduction burns, the result would be enormous."

However, he says the contribution that landowners can make at the local level is equally important as the large-scale targets.

"The government organisations take a broad, statewide view. However, the local brigade operates at the farm gate scale.

"Many burns might not be of strategic importance at a statewide overview, but they are definitely of local importance. They mean a lot to the local people.

"They make the community safe, assets safe, and increase biodiversity in the bush.

"By providing the right information and decision support tools, we can help communities to make their own decisions about local priorities for fuel reduction. That will lead to culture change."

Fuel Reduction Unit Manager Sandra Whight agrees.

"There is a time and a place for large area strategic burns, but small local burns are just as important in the long run. They



Ian Sauer

Ian Sauer was appointed Chair of the State Fire Management Council in September 2014. He has held many senior policy and advisory roles in natural resources management and agriculture. His previous posts include Chair of Tamar NRM, the National Gorse Taskforce, and the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Tamar Valley Branch.

One of Ian's key roles is to oversee the Tasmanian Government's \$28.5 million fuel reduction program. The program will see strategic burns carried out annually as part of a cross-tenure program aimed at reducing the threat of large bushfires to communities and property.

He says Tasmania is leading the nation in implementing the strategy: "Other states are looking at what we are doing. Everybody involved thinks it's fantastic."

Ian operates a sheep and cattle property near Pipers Brook in the north east of the State, and has been a volunteer firefighter with the Pipers Brook Brigade for the past 25 years.

make sure there is a good balance of different types of fire in the landscape."

Ian acknowledges that the level of support, if any, that each brigade is able to provide to landowners will vary across the State.

"It's important to recognise that volunteers don't get paid, and are not compelled to do anything.

"Some brigades might decide to act as a referral service, while others might help with a hazard reduction burn as a group exercise.



(L-R) Working together: Tasmania Fire Service Firefighter Ben Payne and Third Officer Evan Cram with Parks and Wildlife Service staff Chis West, Cameron Roper and Rod Watson at a fuel reduction burn.



Hazard reduction: Firefighter Emma Maingay at Mount Nelson.



"Others might talk to neighbours about why they should be doing hazard reduction burns, or help to set the fire management priorities in their local areas."

Ian says that the other key role that volunteers can play is to allay people's concerns about the use of fire.

"There is a huge variation in understanding about fuel reduction burning, and some people will turn around and say, 'don't do it.' They need to know where to get information so that they have a level of comfort about burning.

"Local fuel reduction needs to be a bottom-up process—the community needs to have some ownership of the decisions that are made.

"The volunteers have a role to play. They are able to encourage discussion, and people will listen to them.

"Because the brigades are so highly respected, they can be agents of change in their local communities."

Landowners wishing to carry out fuel reduction burns need to register their fires by calling 1800 000 699. Fire permits are required during declared Fire Permit

Periods, which are in force during the drier months, usually from November to March.

In the near future, the State Fire Management Council will release a range of easily accessible tools that will provide the community with a greater understanding of fuel reduction burns, and which will help landowners to do burns on their properties.

For more information, visit fire.tas.gov.au and click on Fuel Reduction Program, or call 6230 8681.

MN



Bushfire-Ready Neighbourhoods: **program wins national award**

Peter Middleton

Community Development Coordinator - Community Education



(L-R) The University of Tasmania's Dr Mai Frandsen with Tasmania Fire Service's Community Education Manager Sandra Barber and Bushfire-Ready Neighbourhoods Coordinator Peter Middleton.

The Bushfire Ready Neighbourhoods program has gone from strength to strength following its five-year pilot, and in December 2014, won a National Resilient Australia Award at a ceremony in Canberra.

The awards, coordinated by the Attorney General's Department, recognise best practice initiatives that build disaster resilience in Australia.

Representatives from TFS and the University of Tasmania accepted the overall award for a State/Territory Government program from Federal Minister for Justice, Hon Michael Keenan.

This is national recognition of an action research project that is now driving the TFS program and leading the way nationally in community engagement for bushfire.

The presentation followed the 2014 State Resilient Australia Award, which the program won jointly with Kingborough Council in September.

The BRN program conducted by TFS was developed in collaboration with the University of Tasmania and the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre.

It is now operating in many parts of the State and takes a community development approach to building community capacity for bushfire prevention and preparedness.

The program's vision is that we all play a part in being bushfire ready: individuals, TFS, and communities, through sharing

responsibility and taking ownership of the bushfire risk at all levels.

The success of the pilot would not have been possible without the collaborative partnership between TFS, the University of Tasmania, Bushfire CRC and AFAC, which commenced in 2009.

This collaboration and pilot program was published as part of Dr Mai Frandsen's doctoral research thesis, *Promoting Community Bushfire Preparedness: Bridging the Theory-Practice Divide*.

Communities on board

Over the last six months the BRN team has seen a busy time statewide.

16 core communities have been actively engaged with the program and more than 30 others have been supported.

They include communities from Flinders Island in the north east and Sisters Beach in the north west, to Pelterata and Nubeena in the south of the state.

The summer of 2014-15 has seen the implementation of community engagement activities, with staff facilitating the program with communities in many bushfire-prone parts of Tasmania.

Some of the popular activities include information sessions, bushfire planning workshops, property assessments, brigade open days and expos.

New program web page

The BRN program web page went live in December 2014 and we are encouraging all TFS members to familiarise themselves with it: www.fire.tas.gov.au/bushfirereadynighbourhoods



Bushfire Ready Neighbourhoods activity, Flinders Island.

If your community and/or brigade is conducting bushfire education activities let us know, as we would like to help promote them through the web page.



Northern Community Development Officer graduates with Advanced Diploma in Public Safety (Emergency Management)

In 2014 David Cleaver achieved the qualification of Advanced Diploma of Public Safety (Emergency Management) through the Australian Emergency Management Institute.

The qualification comprises 12 units of study, including Community and Emergency Management, Designing and Managing Exercises and Developing and Organising Public Safety Awareness Programs.

Congratulations to David for achieving this qualification.

Representing TFS and AFAC at the International Association of Wildland Fire Conference

Thanks to the support of AFAC, Peter Middleton will be presenting a talk and poster at the International Association of Wildland Fire Human Dimensions of Wildland Fire conference in the USA in April. Stay tuned for an update in the next edition of *Fireground*.

PM

Caption to come.



Emergency services share their knowledge

Robert Cunningham
Brigade Chief—Ulverstone

The Central Coast SES unit recently joined the Ulverstone Brigade for some familiarisation and knowledge sharing. The night proved to be valuable for both groups.

SES members shared their valuable knowledge and experience with road crash rescue, including a live demonstration, and provided some pointers on what Tasmania Fire Service members can do to assist them while they are undertaking a rescue.

Both groups plan to meet again in the near future to continue to build this important relationship.

RC



Central Coast SES provide some pointers on road crash rescue.



Get involved in Community Protection Planning

Chris Collins

Senior Planning Officer—Community Protection Planning Unit



For some time now Community Protection Planning (CPP) has been working towards mitigating bushfire risk within Tasmania's most bushfire-prone areas.

Bushfire risk and planning priorities

CPP prioritises communities for bushfire risk treatment using a comprehensive risk assessment methodology. Recently this approach has been reinforced by the great work done by State Fire Management Council in modelling landscape-level bushfire risk.

Community planning

In consultation with Fire Management Area Committees and communities, the planning team is developing protection plans, response plans and mitigation plans for bushfire-prone areas. These risk treatment strategies are making great headway towards mitigating bushfire risk and improving disaster resilience in Tasmania's most bushfire-prone communities.

Mitigation plans

The mitigation plans developed by CPP provide guidance for the long-term planning and management of potential bushfire threat to communities and assets.

These plans focus on bushfire fuel management and the development of fire management infrastructure (fire trails, firebreaks, water holes).

The first of these plans are starting to be implemented, with the CPP team assisting TFS Districts and Brigades to conduct a number of fuel reduction burns statewide last year.

Get involved

Brigades, districts and communities are encouraged to get involved in this initiative, and help us with developing and carrying out these plans.

More information:
planning@fire.tas.gov.au or 1800 000 699.

CC



On the Move

A list of recent personnel changes within the TFS



The following Volunteer Brigade Officers have been elected by their brigades

BRIGADE	OFFICER	APPOINTMENT	BRIGADE	OFFICER	APPOINTMENT
Barton	John Atkinson	Second Officer	Prospect	Nicholas Dahl	Third Officer
	James Walch	Third Officer	Ravenswood	Steven Jarman	Second Officer
	Alex Downie	Fourth Officer		Matthew Elphinstone	Third Officer
Blessington	Dina Williams	Second Officer	Richmond	Peter Hemelrijk	Brigade Chief
	Lyndal Kimpton	Third Officer		John Knibbe	Second Officer
	Adam Dickenson	Fourth Officer		Anthony Shearing	Fourth Officer
Bridport	Matthew Hartley	Brigade Chief	Snug	William Bylett	Second Officer
	Dylan Olden	Second Officer		Joseph Templeman	Third Officer
	Nick Arnold	Third Officer		Simon Leonard	Fourth Officer
Buckland	Jamie Farrow	Brigade Chief	Tarleton	Stewart Geard	Brigade Chief
	Christopher Wilson	Second Officer		Tyson Rolls	Third Officer
	Brenton Cornish	Third Officer		Todd Beckett	Fourth Officer
Circular Head Group	Leo Berechree	Group Officer	Upper Derwent Group	Colin Cunningham	Group Officer
Colebrook	Brendan Carroll	Second Officer	West Coast Group	Mark McDermott	Group Officer
	Laurie Smythe	Third Officer		Ulf Sildatke	Third Officer
Deloraine	Simon Sherriff	Second Officer	Wynyard	Stephen Brown	Fourth Officer
	Ricky Walker	Third Officer			
	Daniel Watson	Fourth Officer			
Devonport	Gregory Kelly	First Officer			
	David Ryan	Third Officer			
	Duncan Brooke	Fourth Officer			
Dulverton Group	Barry Thomas	Group Officer			
Four Springs	Peter Davson-Galle	Second Officer			
	Nigel Barker	Third Officer			
Geeveston	Steve Franklin	Brigade Chief			
	Amelia Direen	Second Officer			
	Ian Mattice	Third Officer			
Golden Valley	Stephen Wilson	Third Officer			
	Nigel Harris	Fourth Officer			
Jordan Group	Tony Kenner	Group Officer			
Karoola	David O'Neill	Third Officer			
Lower Derwent Group	Dallas Baker	Group Officer			
Margate	Christopher Beck	Third Officer			
Melrose	David Griffiths	Third Officer			
Port Sorell	Chris Richardson	Second Officer			
	Susan George	Third Officer			
	Adrian Wigg	Fourth Officer			



King Island volunteers honoured

Kathleen Hunter

The value and trust we place on our emergency service volunteers is hard to express in tangible terms; however, last February King Island's volunteer firefighters were formally recognised for their dedication and outstanding service.

Tasmania Fire Service, North West Region District Officer Shane Batt presented a number of service badges, certificates and National medals to 41 members of King Island's firefighting volunteers.

"It's a great honour to recognise the invaluable contributions these fire officers have made, over a considerable number of years to the King Island community," Mr Batt said.

"During their service they have demonstrated dedication to their community, applying a diverse range of their ongoing training, skills and knowledge," he said.

"As volunteers, they stand ready to defend King Island's people, assets and environment, with outstanding skill and professionalism and I thank them for their service," he said.

The National Medal is the Commonwealth of Australia's recognition of long and diligent service by members of recognised government and voluntary organisations who risk their lives or safety to protect or assist the community in enforcement of the law or in times of emergency or natural disaster.

Five of King Island's firefighter volunteers were awarded the National Medal: Rod McGarvie for 45 years of service, Peter Aldridge for 35 years of service, father and son firefighters Kevin and Chris Crouch for 20 and 15 years service respectively, and Wayne Woodcock for 25 years service.

A number of other awards were presented, including Tasmania Fire Service Badges and a special presentation honouring late Currie Brigade Chief, Victor Cook.

KH

Story and photos courtesy of the King Island Courier. Photos: Kathleen Hunter.



(L-R) Kodie and Corey Cook receive a special presentation honouring their father, the late Victor Cook.



(L-R) Rod McGarvie and Shane Batt.



(L-R) Peter Aldridge, Wayne Woodcock, Chris Crouch, Rod McGarvie and Kevin Crouch.



(L-R) Peter Aldridge and Shane Batt.



(L-R) David Bowden and Shane Batt.

Awards



A LIST OF RECENT AWARDS PRESENTED WITHIN THE TFS

Loc/Brigade	Name	Award	Loc/Brigade	Name	Award
Barton	Stevan Green	First Clasp to National Medal	Dunalley	Paul Bird	Long Service (15 years)
	Ewan Taylor	First Clasp to National Medal	Elizabeth Town	Roy Thomas	Long Service (20 years)
		National Medal		Richard Bennett	Long Service (15 years)
		Long Service (30 years)	Four Springs	Tim Eddington	Long Service (30 years)
	David Downie	National Medal		Michael Souto	Long Service (20 years)
	John Atkinson	National Medal	Geeveston	Timothy Ryan	Long Service (30 Years)
	John Taylor (Snr)	National Medal			
	David Taylor	National Medal	Gravelly Beach	Rob Henderson	Long Service (20 years)
Beaconsfield	Peter Gatenby	Long Service (30 years)			
	Ken Arnold	Long Service (25 years)	Hadspen	Terry Heier	First Clasp to National Medal
Bransholm				Ian Gabites	Long Service (20 years)
	Kelvin Beams	Long Service (30 years)	Southern Region	Barry Hogan	Second Clasp to National Medal Long Service (35 years)
Bransholm	Sam Tyler	National Medal Long Service (30 years)		Garth Mackey	Second Clasp to National Medal Long Service (35 years)
	Ivan Burr	Long Service (30 years)		Colin Sattler	Second Clasp to National Medal Long Service (25 years)
	Ken Naylor	Long Service (30 years)		Barry Bones	First Clasp to National Medal Long Service (25 years)
	Suzanne Naylor	Long Service (30 years)		Gary McCann	First Clasp to National Medal
	John Cresswell	Long Service (15 years)		Jason McSherry	First Clasp to National Medal
Bridgewater				Michael Netherton	First Clasp to National Medal
	Robert Pearce	Long Service (20 Years)		Stacey Peters	First Clasp to National Medal Long Service (25 years)
Cambridge	Gregory Dare	Long Service (35 years)		Mark Bryant	National Medal
	Matthew Fenton	Long Service (25 years)		Bruce Oakley	National Medal Long Service (15 years)
	Mark Morrison	Long Service (15 years)		Adrian Petrie	National Medal Long Service (15 years)
	Scott Massie	Long Service (15 years)		Hugh Jones	Long Service (35 years)
Carrick	Greg Cain	First Clasp to National Medal		Steve Walkley	Long Service (35 years)
	Robert Fergusson	National Medal Long Service (15 years)		Andrew Fyfe	Long Service (30 years)
	Gil Walker	Long Service (40 years)		Rod Sherrin	Long Service (30 years)
	Peter Burr	Long Service (20 years)		Craig Chivers	Long Service (25 years)
Channel				David Collins	Long Service (25 years)
	Robert Greenwood	Long Service (35 years)		Haydn Fletcher	Long Service (25 years)
Chudleigh				Grant Joyce	Long Service (25 years)
	Lexie Flanagan	Long Service (25 years)		Stuart Males	Long Service (25 years)
	Allan McGregor	Long Service (20 years)		Scott Morgan	Long Service (25 years)
Claremont	Julie McGregor	Long Service (15 years)		Dale Rayner	Long Service (25 years)
				Marcus Skelly	Long Service (25 years)
	Bradley Curtis	Long Service (20 years)		Wayne Smart	Long Service (25 years)
Claremont	David Brown	Long Service (15 years)		Philip Douglas	Long Service (20 years)
	Aaron Williams	Long Service (15 years)		Michael Goldsmith	Long Service (20 years)
Colebrook				Jamie Gordon	Long Service (15 years)
	Michael Munnings	Long Service (40 years)		Andrew Mc Connon	Long Service (15 years)
Colebrook	Belinda Munnings	Long Service (15 years)			
Deep Bay					
	Joe Turnbull	National Medal			
Deloraine					
	Ricky Walker	Long Service (25 years)			
	David Nichols	Long Service (25 years)			
	Philip Barrett	Long Service (15 years)			

Loc/Brigade	Name	Award
	Gerald Parsons	Long Service (15 years)
Engineering Services	Bernie Drew	Long Service (30 years)
	Phil Gardner	Long Service (20 years)
	Leon O'Brien	Long Service (15 years)
Hillwood	Leon Hodges	Third Clasp to National Medal
	Ian Wheeler	National Medal
Jericho	Roderick Taylor	Long Service (25 years)
	Geoffrey Burns	Long Service (15 years)
Kimberley	Wendy Gaffney	Long Service (20 years)
Lachlan	Stephen Townsend	Long Service (25 years)
Latrobe	Michael Parker	First Clasp to National Medal
	Kerry Turner	National Medal
	Ian Hingston	Long Service (30 years)
	Ben Dick	Long Service (15 years)
Legana	Scott Hayes	National Medal
Lilydale	Murray Dolbey	First Clasp to National Medal
Meander	Anthony Berne	Long Service (20 years)
	Michael Berne	Long Service (20 years)
	David Hadley	Long Service (20 years)
	Ricky Lehman	Long Service (20 years)
	Ian Payne	Long Service (20 years)
	James Payne	Long Service (20 years)
	Grant Buttery	Long Service (15 years)
Mole Creek	Haydn Stedman	Long Service (20 years)
Nubeena	Timothy Cooper	Long Service (20 years)
	Shane Williams	Long Service (20 years)
Old Beach	Gil Clark	Long Service (30 years)
	Philip Owen	Long Service (30 years)
	Graeme Gee	Long Service (30 years)
	Craig Bowerman	Long Service (25 years)
	Peter Wylie	Long Service (20 years)
	Dion Grace	Long Service (15 Years)
Pipers River	Kevin Byard	National Medal
Railton	Stephen Niaura	Long Service (25 years)
	Robert Gaffney	Long Service (20 years)
	Dwayne Jones	Long Service (15 years)
Ravenswood	John Lyons	National Medal
Rosebery	Colin Atkinson	First Clasp to National Medal
		Long Service (30 years)
	Gerry Smith	Long Service (40 years)
Sassafras	Andrew Perry	Long Service (25 years)
	Tony Perry	Long Service (25 years)
	David Perry	Long Service (20 years)
	Tony Maney	Long Service (20 years)
Snug	David Archer	Long Service (30 Years)

Loc/Brigade	Name	Award
St Helens	William Freeman	First Clasp to National Medal
St Patricks River	Murray Galloway	National Medal
		Long Service (15 years)
	Neville Calvert	Long Service (45 years)
	Scotts Mills	Long Service (25 years)
	Paul Mills	Long Service (25 years)
	Brain Medcraft Snr	Long Service (25 years)
	Christine Medcraft	Long Service (25 years)
	Nigel Calvert	Long Service (15 years)
	Ric Rees	Long Service (15 years)
Tarleton	Gail Connelly	Long Service (35 years)
	Terry Connelly	Long Service (35 years)
	Robin Buck	Long Service (30 years)
	Peter Jackson	Long Service (30 years)
	Peter Loone	Long Service (25 years)
	Ivan Dolbey	Long Service (15 years)
Tea Tree	Adam Daft	Long Service (20 years)
Tullah	Alan Hennessy	National Medal
		Long Service (20 years)
	Gregory Blake	Long Service (20 years)
	Ken French	Long Service (20 years)
	Tania Blake	Long Service (15 years)
	Douglas Cock	Long Service (15 years)
Wilmot	Bruce Gibbons	National Medal
		Long Service (15 years)
	Rodney Richards	Long Service (25 years)
	Andrew Cooper	Long Service (15 years)
Winkleigh	Michael Breen	First Clasp to National Medal
		Long Service (35 years)
	Tim Hooper	National Medal
	David Jarman	Long Service (30 years)
	Paul Clements	Long Service (30 years)
	Alan Broomby	Long Service (15 years)
	Julie Rickards	Long Service (15 years)
	Kim Rickards	Long Service (15 years)
Winnaleah	Ronald Apted	First Clasp to National Medal
	Rodney Mullins	Long Service (35 years)
	Michael Cooke	Long Service (25 years)
	Kent McPherson	Long Service (25 years)
	Gary Oliver	Long Service (20 years)
	Peter Strachan	Long Service (15 years)

NATIONAL MEDALS 2014

Minister for Police and Emergency Management Rene Hidding presented National Medals and Clasps to Tasmania Fire Service Southern Region volunteer and career members on 15 October last year.

The National Medal was established on 14 February 1975 as one of the original elements of the distinctive Australian system of honours and awards. It recognises diligent long service in organisations that protect life and property at some risk to their members.

The Medal is awarded to people who fulfill the primary function of their organisation and meet other criteria. Fifteen years of eligible service is necessary to qualify for the Medal. Clasps are available for each additional 10-year period.

Hon Rene Hidding presented National Medals and Clasps to Tasmania Fire Service volunteer and career members. Congratulations to all recipients.



L-R Wren Fraser, Southport Brigade; David Cameron, Southport Brigade; Chief Officer Mike Brown. Photo: Neville Rushworth, New Norfolk Brigade.



L-R Chief Officer Mike Brown; Robert Klingsporn, Primrose Sands Brigade; Hon. Rene Hidding. Photo: Neville Rushworth, New Norfolk Brigade.



L-R Bob Greenhill, Cranbrook Brigade; Pat Greenhill; District Officer Gerald Crawford. Photo: Neville Rushworth, New Norfolk Brigade.



(L-R) LAFM Volunteer Award winner David Purcell of Scottsdale Fire Brigade and Ambulance Tasmania, AIES Tasmanian President Ron Jones, RSL North winning nominee Ron Denne of Longford Fire Brigade, PJ Parssey Memorial Award winner Gary Linnell, 7AD/SeaFM Volunteer Award winner Richard Elliot of SES Sheffield Unit, 7BU/SeaFM Dual Volunteer award winner John Duncombe of SES Burnie Unit, 7BU/SeaFM Dual Volunteer award winner Bruce Corbett of Wynyard Fire Brigade, and Kat Chiver of Tasmania Police, recognised for outstanding work in her field.

Award recognises tireless volunteer

Jeremy Smith

Regional Chief—Southern Region

Gary Linnell of the Eaglehawk Neck Brigade has won this year's Peter Parssey Memorial award.

The Tasmania Division of the Australian Institute of Emergency Services awards the Peter Parssey Memorial Award annually to an emergency service worker who has excelled above and beyond their normal duties.

Gary has worked tirelessly for over 20 years, volunteering in dual roles with

Tasmania Fire Service and Ambulance Tasmania to serve the Tasman Peninsula community.

Gary is also a Volunteer Training Instructor and has delivered countless First Aid training programs to TFS in the Southern Region.

Regional awards were also presented to the Wynyard Fire Brigade for serving the community for 100 years, and to Longford Fire Brigade second officer Ron

Denne for extensive fundraising events to assist those in need in the community.

Congratulations to all nominees and winners in this year's awards.

JS



(L-R) State President of Australian Institute of Emergency Services, Ron Jones, presents Gary Linnell with the PJ Parssey award.

Trauma Teddies ready to come to the rescue

One way that firefighters can help alleviate some of the stress from a traumatic experience for a child is to give them a Trauma Teddy.

In late 2014, Kingston Primary School students put their creative energies into providing comfort to children in need by making teddies for their local brigade. Teacher and past member of Kingston Fire Brigade, **Kirby Barker**, reflects on the project.

As a teacher and a former member of the Kingston Fire Brigade in the State's south, I recognised that, after attending several incidents where children were involved, there were no Trauma Teddies within the brigade to pass on.

I discussed this with my Grade One class and other teachers, and we all agreed that it would be a good idea to be involved with this community project.

According to the Red Cross, Trauma Teddies originated in Campbelltown, New South Wales, in 1990. Richard Hamilton, a superintendent for the ambulance service saw a teddy bear given to a child who was being treated.

He noticed the calming effect it on the child and asked the Red Cross to make some bears. Twenty-five years later, Trauma Teddies are still being used throughout all emergency services in Australia.

The term 'trauma' derives from the Greek word for 'wound'. Firefighters often see members of the community



The students present their Trauma Teddies to Kingston Fire Brigade. Photo: Monique Weatherill.

wounded. Wounds may be physical or psychological, and may stem from distressing experiences like house fires or motor vehicle accidents. Incidents involving children can be the most difficult of all.

Students presented the Trauma Teddies to the brigade on 4 December last year. Brigade Chief Faron Wall praised the students' work.

"It was overwhelming to receive the amount of teddies, and to see the children go to the effort to help other members of the community."

The experience was particularly special for 11-year-old Racheal and seven-year-old Janet Odwogo, students from Kingston Primary School who had experienced a house fire first hand.

"Last year, our family went to the Botanical Gardens and when we came back we saw smoke coming from the house. It made us feel really, really sad.

"When we went through the house later it was a shock—everything was burnt and black. It's hard for children to stop crying after something horrible has happened.

"For the ones that have lost something in a house fire or a car crash, the teddy is very special."

KB



Kirby Baker shows student Leo Stewart how to use a fire hose.



Students Racheal and Janet Odwogo, who last year experienced first hand the trauma of a house fire.

Shave takes more than expected in Latrobe

Early in 2015, Latrobe Volunteer Firefighter Hayden Applebee approached Brigade Chief Graeme Brown and challenged him to shave his moustache if \$2,000 could be raised for the Leukaemia Foundation *World's Greatest Shave*.

With Hayden prepared to shave his head, the challenge was accepted, an event was organised, and fundraising started.

An event was held at Latrobe Fire Station on 15 March, which included a barbeque and a hair-spraying booth. All profits went towards the *World's Greatest Shave*.



(L-R) Hayden Applebee and Graeme Brown.

We exceeded the \$2,000 target, raising over \$2,850. We also had five people participate in the shaves: Volunteer Firefighter Marcus Holland (head), Volunteer Firefighter Brian Botley (head), Leon Bugg (head and beard), Volunteer Firefighter Graeme Brown (head, eyebrows and moustache) and Volunteer Firefighter Hayden Applebee (head).

We would like to thank everyone who participated and who helped us out because without you, this wouldn't have been possible.

Newspaper clippings:
Coverage in the Advocate,
17 March 2015.



Burnie Brigade shaves for a cause

Lynne Butler

Clerical Officer—North West Region

Burnie Fire Brigade C Shift are participating in the Leukaemia Foundation 'World's Greatest Shave' fundraising event this year.

In support of this fantastic cause the North West Region administrative staff decided to hold an out of uniform and cupcake day at North West Regional Headquarters.

As can be seen from the photograph there were cupcakes galore and the generous response received was wonderful.

Members of Burnie Fire Brigade B Shift, DO Shane Batt, staff from Engineering Services, TasFire Training, Building Safety, and TasFire Equipment attended, along with participants of a TasFire Training course being conducted on site at the time.

In addition to the event held at Regional Headquarters, cupcakes were delivered to the Devonport Fire Station for staff to enjoy and contribute to the day.

A big thank you to the admin staff for their cooking and organisational skills, and for the generosity of all who attended and donated.

Events like these are not only wonderful for contributing to community charities,

but are a great chance for work colleagues to meet, eat and have a chat.

All up \$166.10 will be added to the fundraising efforts of C Shift and we look forward to seeing their new hairdos when the big shave occurs.

LB





Queensland brigade says 'thanks' to its mates

Queensland's Murphys Creek Rural Fire Brigade, which had its station destroyed in the 2011 floods, recently presented a wall plaque and sign in thanks for the New Norfolk and Relbia Brigades' financial support towards the rebuild.

Pictured are (L-R) Reg Wood, Chairperson, Murphys Creek RFB; Brett Fazackerley, DO South Esk, on the behalf of Relbia Fire Brigade; Colin Triffitt, Brigade Chief, New Norfolk Fire Brigade; and Margaret Wood, Secretary, Murphys Creek RFB.





Historic fire vehicles shine at the National Automobile Museum

John Hazzlewood

District Officer—Planning and Capability,
North

Around 1,500 people attended a display of historic vehicles from the Tasmania Fire Museum at the National Automobile Museum's annual free admission weekend last August.

The Northern and North Western Branches of the Tasmania Fire Museum were invited to display the vehicles, and we received a huge number of compliments. TFS was also praised for its foresight in curating its history.

We displayed a variety of classic old vehicles—Launceston's 1956 Dennis F8 pumper and 1963 TK Bedford Snorkel, Burnie's 1935 Dodge pumper, Sheffield's 1957 Ford VB pumper, Somerset's 1928 Chevrolet LP Capitol AA pumper, Devonport's 1940 Ford V8 hose carriage, and Longford's 1937 Dodge pumper.

In addition, we displayed a privately owned 1930s Dennis forestry trailer pump and a Mini, dressed up as a command vehicle, which was also very popular.

I would like to make special mention

of Phil Gardner from Engineering Services for his support in transporting the vehicles, Terry Gill for producing the information brochures detailing the history of the individual vehicles, and the Museum members from the Longford Brigade, who were on hand to talk to the visitors and explain the exhibits.

We have been invited back next year and we will try to take some other vehicles.

JH

Do you have a photo of a TFS member, event or incident that could **WIN** the next Fireground Photo Competition?

To be in the running for a \$100 prize for first place, simply send your photo with a brief caption or short story (including the name of the actual photographer) and your contact details to **fireground@fire.tas.gov.au** or post to: Fireground, GPO Box 1526, HOBART TAS 7001.

Please ensure your digital photos are at three megapixels or above, 300 dpi and in JPEG format (and please do not reduce the size when emailing as this greatly affects the print quality). Additionally, please be aware that photos entered will become the property of TFS and may be used in publications or displays, with acknowledgement given to the photographer.

Good luck.



Brigade memorabilia a wonder of Wynyard

Dale Atkinson

Fourth Officer—Somerset Fire Brigade

I had the honour and privilege of displaying some of my fire brigade memorabilia at the Wonders of Wynyard Exhibition Centre in Wynyard, 4—30 November 2014.

Curator Katrina Farley had approached me about a display, and we decided to focus on a Tasmanian theme.

With only a fortnight to get everything ready I had some late nights and early mornings organising everything, not to mention doing a full restoration on an old running cart. I also designed a PowerPoint presentation that ran as part of the display. Every item that was

displayed had to have a description and a brief history.

Displayed were sections on fire insurance brigades, different eras of firefighting equipment, different eras of Tasmania Fire Service dress caps and helmets, a 'Willy Wombat' suit and stickers, shoulder patches, and arm flashes.

I also included a collection of early Burnie Fire Brigade competition photos dating back to the 1900s.

Equipment on display included a 1928 Chevrolet fire truck and different types of branches and hoses.

A special thanks also goes to Somerset



Restored running cart.

Fire Brigade Chief Robert Dawes, Colin Atkinson, Luke Atkinson, Sally Atkinson, Tasmania Fire Service Museum Historian Terry Gill AFSM, and Tasmania Fire Service District Officer John Hazzlewood for assisting in putting this display together. A special thanks also goes to the Poke family for lending some industrial fire extinguishers from the Trevor Poke Trust.

Also I would like to thank Katrina Farley and the staff and volunteers at the Wonders of Wynyard Exhibition Centre.

DA

Step back in time:

life in the Hobart Fire Brigade during the 1960s and 70s

Part three of a six-part series

Last time, **DK Tomes** recalled how people lived and worked at the Hobart Fire Brigade, and recalled the way in which the watch room operators monitored a plug-in switchboard for emergency calls. This time, he provides an insight into how the brigade ran on a daily basis.

Office hours

Next to the watch room were two office areas. The rear office was for the Duty Superintendent, the front office for the Duty Station Officer.

A duty roster was on the wall outside. Firefighters reporting for duty had to ascertain the appliance they were rostered onto, and place turnout gear on it.

The other office space was located in Melville Street. The office staff consisted of a male secretary, a male assistant secretary and two female employees, one whom was the paymaster.

Payment was in cash in an envelope. Off-duty personnel had to call into the office on paydays. This practice stopped when the assistant secretary was attacked and robbed of the payroll while returning from the bank.

The Hobart Fire Brigade and the State Fire Commission Board held their meetings in this area.

Keeping a backup

The fire operational personnel consisted of a Chief Officer, Deputy Chief Officer, Superintendents, Station Officers and firemen. Firemen were later renamed firefighters.

Hobart Fire Brigade had four operational stations - head station Argyle Street; Moonah sub-station Main Road, Moonah (with two flats attached); Claremont sub-station, Main Road, Claremont (with a house on either side); and Clarence sub-station, Riawena Road (also with two houses alongside).

Because of limited staff, these stations were run on a backup system. Each station would be backed up with staff from the next available station. When a major fire broke out, off-duty personnel would be recalled to duty.

Any fire deemed to be out of the area of responsibility of the Hobart Fire Brigade would be covered by Country Volunteer Fire Brigades.

Turning out

The Metz turntable ladder rarely left the metropolitan area. It usually only turned out on a general alarm fire call when all available units responded. This was usually a report of a fire in a multi-storey building, or a heavily populated building.

The salvage van turned out to any fire within the area covered by Hobart Fire Brigade. The unit carried all the gear necessary to clean up a fire scene and tarpaulins to cover any undamaged goods.

This unit also carried additional breathing apparatus, including the two-hour Proto breathing apparatus.

Turnout fire units carried four trays of fire hose plus spare coils, two ladders on top one twenty six foot and a thirty five foot.

There were also short scaling ladders. These were fitted with hooks on the



end to place over ridge capping on steep roofs. These were mainly used at chimney fires.

Compartments with heavy lift-up doors were filled with standpipes, reducers, spare branches, breathing apparatus and various tools.

The driver and station officer sat in the front and the firefighters in a separate section in the back. They shared this compartment with a very large pumping appliance held down by bottle jack fittings. These were known as two-man pumps, but actually required four men to lift from the unit.

The Dennis pumper appliance with the fifty-foot Morris ladder turned out to any call where a ladder on the turnout unit was inadequate.

All stations had similar first turnout appliances with the same gear in each compartment.

Units were fitted with radios that often were inadequate. On many occasions officers had to use a public phone box to contact headquarters.

DKT

© DK Tomes



1st Place: Burnie Firefighter Vaughn Thompson sings lullabies to a small baby while other firefighters treat the mother's minor burns from a kitchen fat fire. Photo: Shayne Andrews.



3rd Place: Water bombing at Jackson Street Tip fire, Glenorchy, January 2014. Photo: David Conceicao.



2nd Place: The sight that confronted firefighters from Wynyard, Somerset, Burnie, Yolla and Upper Calder attending a house fire at Oldina Road, Wynyard, 8 February 2015. Photo: Craig Stirling.



Lefroy fire, March 2015. Photo: Chrissie Anquetil.



Fire destroys the historic home "Lottah" at Nubeena, New Year's Day, 2015. Photo: Matt Lowe.



First light on New Year's Day, 2014 Falls Festival. Photo: Clare Sullivan.



Tasmania launches the National Aerial Firefighting Centre (NAFC) fleet for the 2014-15 bushfire season at the Tasmania Police Academy, 15 December 2014. Photo: Greg Butters.



Claremont 3.1 at a hazard reduction burn, Claremont, 2013. Photo: Isaac Russell.



Strike team deployed for Regional Fire Operations Centre at Campbell Town, 7 February 2015. Photo: Danny Guy.

PHOTO COMPETITION



Lefroy fire, March 2015. Photo: Chrissie Anquetil.



View from the cabin, Lefroy fire, March 2015. Photo: Ben Parker.



Brigades on the go, Lefroy fire, March 2015. Photo: Mitchell Dutton.



Bushfire Ready Neighbourhoods community forum, Golden Valley, 26 October 2014. The Golden Valley Brigade organised activities to demonstrate firefighting equipment and to encourage community connections with the brigade. Photo: Suzette Harrison.



Gravelly Beach Brigade 4th Officer Richard Goss at structure fire, Holwell Road, Frankford, 21 February 2015. Photo: Liam Cox



Vegetation fire at "Padfield", Epping Forest, December 2014. Photo: Geoff Rollins.



McDermott Aviation pilot Chris Wilcock with one of the Hobart Fire Brigade crews attending the National Aerial Firefighting Centre (NAFC) launch, 15 December 2014. Photo: Greg Butters.



2013 Trainee Firefighter Course. Photo: Scott Hunter.



Gretna and Westerway combined night. Photo: Many Butler.



Hazard reduction burn, Geeveston, January 2015. Photo: Amelia Direen.



Helicopter taking off for the Pass Road fire at Rokeby after filling with water, February 2014. Photo: Karen Butters.



Santa is happy to have delivered lollies to the children of Midway Point, Sorell and Penna, 24 Dec 2014. Photo: Chris Beis.



New gear ready to go at the start of the 2013 recruit course. Photo: Scott Hunter.



Midway Point members help deliver Santa to the Sorell Christmas Carols, 13 Dec 2014. Photos: Chris Beis.



Firefighters and a landowner at the scene of a vehicle fire, Bridgenorth Road, February 2015. Photo: Geoff Rollins.



Longford 5.1 on fire watch at the Longford Revival Festival, Longford, 2012. Photo: Isaac Russell.



Firefighters at the Mangalore fire near historic Wybra Hall, 8 March 2015. Photo: Tristan Smith.



Gretna and Westerway combined night. Photo: Many Butler.



A great night for a fuel reduction burn. Photo: Glenn Bailey.

Sent: Tuesday, 3 March 2015 3:22 PM
To: Peter Ockerby

Hi Peter,

Just thought would drop you a line to thank you for the Fire Training that we attended last week.

It was very beneficial for all who attended and in discussion with the participants all feel much more prepared about not only using the equipment such as blankets and extinguishers but more importantly it has helped the decision-making process about deciding whether to stand and fight the fire or evacuation the building and leaving that to the pros!

The certificates arrived today in the post.

Many thanks again to yourself and to Andrew for your involvement in providing this training.

Regards, Steve Artis (Manager)



From: Robert & Kerrie Goudsouzian
Sent: Tuesday, 10 March 2015 11:42 AM
To: Gerald Crawford
Subject: FIRE AT MANGALORE - WYBRA HALL
Importance: High

Dear Gerald,
We just wanted to pass on our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to you and your fire fighting teams (Bridgewater/Bagdad and whoever else was involved) for the fantastic effort that was put in to saving our property and livestock. Unfortunately we have significant losses (property wise) and are still coming to terms with this.

Thankyou and your crews again they do a fantastic job under very difficult circumstances.

Kindest regards,
Kerrie & Robert Goudsouzian

0431



12th January 2015

Michael Brown
Chief Officer
Tasmania Fire Service
GPO Box 1526
Hobart TAS 7001

Dear *Mike* Brown,

Thank you! The Tasmania Fire Service's contribution to the 2014 ABC Giving Tree appeal helped raise more than \$115,000 and 30,000 gifts for those less fortunate in our community. The generosity and goodwill in our state goes a long way and makes a big difference to those doing it tough.

Tasmanian charity leaders dealt with a huge demand last year – including from families who had never had to seek assistance before.

The money and gifts generated by the Giving Tree have been distributed to those in need and it would not have been possible without your contribution.

This was the ABC Giving Tree's 27th appeal and it relies on the continuing support of people and organisations like yours prepared to share time, effort and donations. Please feel free to contact us with any feedback or ideas for 2015. We are particularly interested to hear from businesses and individuals keen to commit to volunteering for activities in 2015 – the ideal opportunity for community and charity engagement.

With the ABC Giving Tree, everyone knows that "a dollar in is a dollar out" to major charities like:

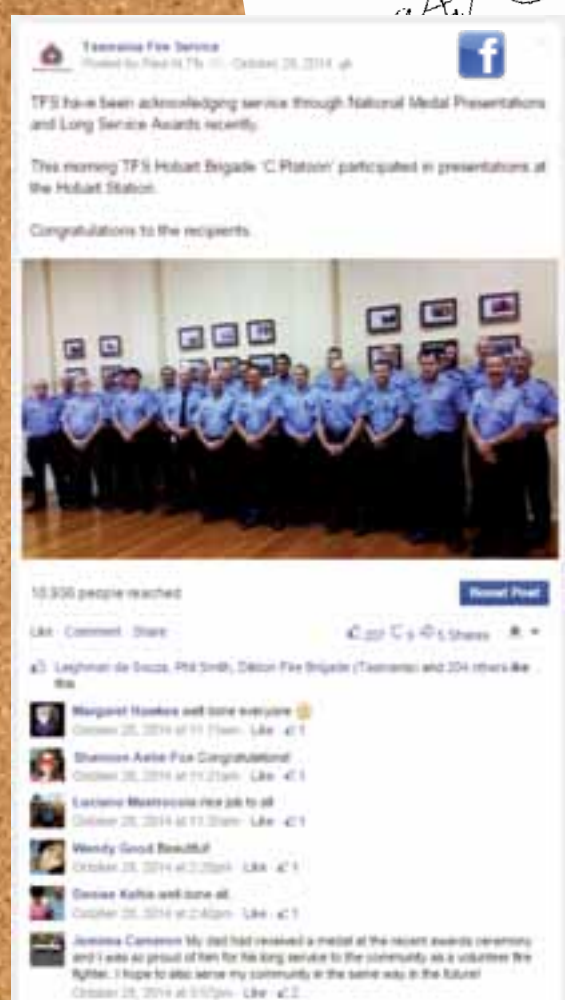
Launceston Benevolent Society
St Vincent de Paul Society
UnitingCare Tasmania
Mission Australia
Colony47

Launceston City Mission
The Salvation Army
Hobart City Mission
Anglicare

Thank you again for helping out with the 2014 appeal and we look forward to your support in 2015.

Yours sincerely,

A. N.





Eva and Gerry Kletzenbauer

Mr. Ian Cawthorn
District Officer
Tasmania Fire Service

Dear Sir,

Just a short note of thanks, on behalf of my wife and myself, regarding the fires next to our property on Wednesday 4 March 2015.

The bushfire had been burning in adjacent State Forest, since morning and was traveling uphill towards our house, fanned by strong westerly winds. We had enacted our bushfire plan and were ready to defend our property.

By late afternoon, conditions had deteriorated further and we were very pleased to learn that water bombing would be conducted adjacent to our property, using fire retardant, ahead of the fire front, which was at this time about 50-70 metres from our house.

The water bombing was conducted by one small lead plane and two large fixed wing aircraft, which did a great job in saving our property from fire and ember attack.

I would appreciate if you could pass on our sincere thank you to all those involved in protecting our house, not just on that day, but over the next several days, when ground crews monitored and back-burned and bulldozers cleared a fire break in the adjacent State Forrest.

It is with heartfelt appreciation to the professionalism and dedication displayed by the men and women of the Tasmania Fire Service that our home was saved and in no small part due to the fixed wing water bombing.

Thank you,

Eva and Gerry Kletzenbauer
11 March 2015.

Howden Progress Association Inc

C/- Deborah Chadwick, Secretary

6 December 2014

Mr Rod Sherrin, District Officer
Tasmania Fire Service]
C/- Howden Fire Brigade
Howden TAS 7054

Dear Mr Sherrin

On behalf of the Howden community, I wish to extend our sincere appreciation for the presentation you gave at our Community Fire Preparedness meeting last week in Howden Fire Hall. Thanks to your work and dedication, the better educated we are, the better prepared we'll be as a community.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Deborah Chadwick
Deborah Chadwick
Secretary, Howden Progress Association

Mr Grant Flowers
Fire Chief
Meander Volunteer Fire Brigade
Meander Tas 7304

Dear Grant,

Re: Montana Road Fire

I would like to thank you and your Brigade, and all other people involved, in the extinguishment of the fire on my property.

I am genuinely appreciative of the professionalism of you and your team, without whose assistance I would have lost everything.

Thanks again,

Yours Sincerely

Brian Campbell
Brian Campbell

Tasmania Fire Service
Posted by Paul At TFS 171 | February 4, 2015

Schools back and so is our School Fire Education Program.

The aim of the School Fire Education Program is to promote to all Tasmanian primary school children an awareness of fire safety and what to do if fire breaks out in the home.

For more information please visit www.fire.tas.gov.au and select 'School Fire Education'

School Program

The School Fire Education Program is an initiative of the Tasmania Fire Service, an integral resource for most of a Tasmanian community that is built from the support of fire.

The program has been designed to reach primary school children aged 5 to 10 years old, and is delivered by fire fighters. The program is offered to all Tasmanian primary schools, and is delivered by fire fighters during their normal school visits. Lessons and resources are delivered in a fun and interactive way, and are tailored to the needs of the Tasmanian Fire Service.

The program includes:

- Fire 10 minutes lesson for Fire in Play/Grade 1 students
- Fire 10 minutes lesson for students in Grades 1, 2, 3 and 4
- Fire 10 minutes lesson for students in Grades 5 and 6

The fire fighters, safety, firefighters and firefighters are the primary role of the program, as they are the most appropriate and engaging for students. The fire fighters, safety, firefighters and firefighters are the primary role of the program, as they are the most appropriate and engaging for students. The fire fighters, safety, firefighters and firefighters are the primary role of the program, as they are the most appropriate and engaging for students.

8,204 people reached

Boost Post

Like Comment Share

20 Shares

Any Austin, Louise Mott, Diane Manning and 70 others like this.

See Simpson Great program
Educating children young is the best plan
Like Reply February 4 at 10:21am

Diane Manning Good idea TFS well done
Like Reply February 5 at 12:00pm

Patron: The Honorable Nick Chernik AC QC, Governor of Victoria

Office of the Chief Officer
CFA Headquarters

Mr Mike Brown
Chief Officer
Tasmania Fire Service
GPO Box 1526
HOBART TAS 7001
Email: m.brown@fire.tas.gov.au

17 December 2014

CFA's Retrofitted Compressed Air Foam Systems (CAFS) Tanker

Dear ~~Mike~~ *Mike*
On behalf of the Country Fire Authority (CFA) I would like to express my sincerest appreciation to you and your staff for the assistance and advice extended to CFA during the modification of one of our tankers to make it CAFS capable.

The expertise and support from your Manager Engineering Services, Mr Leon Smith has been nothing short of remarkable. I would also like to pay special mention to his team in particular Appliance Fabrication Supervisor Matt Sheen, Fabricator Richard Denholm and Auto Electrician Damien Berry. I understand they have worked tirelessly to ensure our vehicle was completed prior to Christmas.

CFA is the direct beneficiary of their passion for fire fighting vehicle development which has been amply demonstrated by their enthusiasm. The improvements to our fleet capability would have been difficult to achieve without their insight.

Please pass on my thanks for the assistance they provided.

"THANK YOU!!"

Yours sincerely

Euan Ferguson
Euan Ferguson AFSM
Chief Officer

CC: CFA Deputy Chief Officer Capability and Infrastructure
CFA Executive Manager Technical Asset Services
CFA Manager Engineering, Technical Asset Services

Protecting lives and property



The Firemen

Gill Lapworth, Ranelagh resident

A "Thank You" to the firemen at our local station,
Like many others working hard right across our nation.
They give their all everyday at bushfires and disasters,
With quick thinking, experience, and powerful water blasters.
The bells start ringing loudly; the firemen grab their gear,
Down the pole and in the truck, for the hundredth time this year.
Out into the paddocks, the scrub and dried up bush,
To fight the wrath of nature, and out do it with a flush.
Rolling out the hoses, amongst the smoke and heat.
Racin through the forests, this furnace must be beat.
Followed by the water tankers, and noisy 'copters in the air,
The firemen know real urgency, with each action that they dare.
So give them all a medal, a pay rise and a clap.
Tell them they are valued with a pat upon the back.
Where would we be without them when times like this appear?
Australia is known world wide, for its bushfires every year.

Tasmania Fire Service
Posted by Paul At TFS on September 20, 2014

Richmond Volunteer Fire Brigade - 50 NOT OUT ! (10 photos)
The Richmond Volunteer Fire Brigade today celebrates 50 years of community service with the brigade's past and present members gathering to celebrate the special anniversary.

CONGRATULATIONS RICHMOND VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE !!!



6,388 people reached

Like Comment Share 282 6 12 Shares

Honey Rose, Rebecca Stradwick, Susan Headwood and 259 others like this.

Michael Laing Congratulations. Well done.
September 20, 2014 at 4:24pm · Like

Luciano Mastropola nice going to all
September 20, 2014 at 4:52pm · Like

Heather Bayles Congrats from 7 mile beach fire brigade
September 20, 2014 at 5:12pm · Like

Lyn Semmens congrats
September 20, 2014 at 5:18pm · Like

Don Mackrill Congrats Richmond quite an achievement
Best wishes
September 20, 2014 at 6:43pm · Like

Elaine Hill Where would we be without all these volunteers, they give up their time to help others and that goes for ALL volunteers no matter where you are worldwide
September 20, 2014 at 6:54pm · Like · 41

Kevin Haley A mighty fine effort Richmond Volunteer Fire Brigade well done to you all. Past present and of course future.
September 20, 2014 at 8:20pm · Like

Write a comment...

Tasmania Fire Service
Posted by Paul At TFS on September 4, 2014

The 2014 TFS Trainee Firefighters today accepted the Ice Bucket Challenge from the Tasmania Police Recruits. The Trainees took a different approach to the challenge and from the looks on their faces the water was extremely cold. They will each donate \$20.00 to Motor Neurone Disease Australia. Well done team !!



Sharon Farrelly awesome effort TFS trainees
September 4, 2014 at 2:22pm · Like

Hayley James Camille James haha
September 4, 2014 at 3:22pm · Like

Lana Rowbottom Well done guys
September 4, 2014 at 3:45pm · Like

Nicole Sawford that water must be soooo colid
September 4, 2014 at 5:58pm · Like

Tasmania Fire Service
Posted by Paul At TFS on September 23, 2014

TFS helps Sunrise with Calendar (10 photos)
Sunrise Weather broadcasted live this morning from the Duralley Hotel. They are in the process of making a calendar of volunteer firefighters with proceeds raised going to the Red Cross for future bush fire appeals. A big thank you to Dodges Ferry, Duralley, Eaglehawk Neck and Phoenix Sands Brigades.



Rec Warner his ha great idea. we were only talking about that a couple months ago Tayls Long
September 23, 2014 at 5:28pm · Like · 1

Renee Granger Thats my Daddy at the front next to the camera man!
September 23, 2014 at 6:13pm · Like · 2

Tayls Long Haha we were too! Rec Warner
September 23, 2014 at 6:50pm · Like · 1

Eileen Phillips Finally Tassie gets a mention on sunrise
September 23, 2014 at 7:50pm · Like · 6

Don Mackrill Well done TFS great outcome
September 23, 2014 at 8:20pm · Like · 2



The heads of Tasmania's four emergency services unite to say 'no' to racism—clockwise from left: SES Assistant Director, Emergency Management Andrea Heath, TFS Chief Officer Mike Brown, Tasmania Police Commissioner Darren Hine, Ambulance Tasmania CEO Dominic Morgan. See story page 24.