



# If your clothes catch on fire

**1. STOP**

**2. DROP**

**3. ROCK & ROLL**

School Fire Education Program

# Crawl Low and GO, GO, GO!

CALL OUT AS YOU CRAWL OUT!

## Crawl low in smoke

School Fire Education Program

96608

**TASMANIA FIRE SERVICE**  
School Fire Education Program

**000**  
**EMERGENCY**

[www.fire.tas.gov.au](http://www.fire.tas.gov.au)

# Fire Safety Activity Book

Learn all about fire safety with Firefighters Greg and Claire and have fun with their fire safe friends!

**BOOK 1**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

[www.fire.tas.gov.au](http://www.fire.tas.gov.au)

# Fire Safety Activity Book

Learn all about fire safety with Firefighters Greg and Claire and have fun with their fire safe friends!

**BOOK 2**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

[www.fire.tas.gov.au](http://www.fire.tas.gov.au)

# Fireground

winter 2010

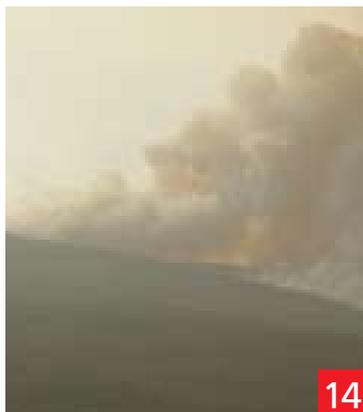


- Australasian Police & Emergency Services Games
- Fire season roundup

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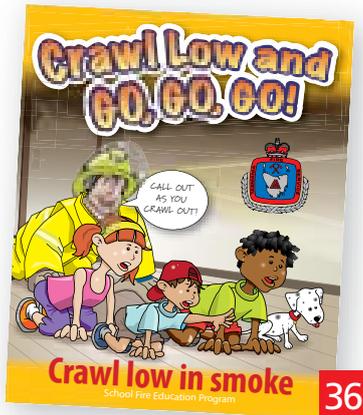
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**Cover photo** – Left to right - Jeff Harper, Paul Salter, Gavin Freeman, Mark Dobson, Jeremy Smith and Shane Batt in the Tug of War at the Australasian Police and Emergency Services Games - Article page 4  
Photo submitted by Leading Firefighter Hobart Brigade, Bill St Leger

Official Journal of The Tasmania Fire Service

**CHIEF OFFICER and CHAIRMAN of the STATE FIRE COMMISSION** Mike Brown

**COMMISSION MEMBERS** Bruce Corbett, Paul Kingston, Lyndsay Suhr, Rod Sweetnam, Carmel Torenium

**EDITOR** Linda Lacy **EDITORIAL** FIREGROUND, GPO Box 1526, HOBART TAS 7001

**Email:** [fireground@fire.tas.gov.au](mailto:fireground@fire.tas.gov.au) **Web:** [www.fire.tas.gov.au](http://www.fire.tas.gov.au)

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## From the Chief Officer



MICHAEL BROWN

**T**he media in recent times has again highlighted the concerns of many Tasmanians about smoke management. My immediate impression is that there is still much confusion about prescribed or controlled

burning for forest industry management purposes and burning that is undertaken for the purpose of fuel reduction. I'm not a forester so I cannot comment with any authority or qualifications on the former, but I do hold some views on the matter of fuel reduction burning.

At present much of Tasmania is relatively dry due to low rainfalls and warmer than average temperatures during March and April. The days are becoming shorter and the weather conditions have been fine and mild. Ideal conditions for fuel reduction, and yet very little seems to be done.

In my earlier career I can recall that there was often smoke in the foothills of Mt Wellington and the farmers of the midlands and east coast would constantly be using fire to reduce fuels in their bush run areas. Today I suggest there is only a fraction of the area burnt compared to 20 – 30 years ago.

I would also be the last to suggest that fuel reduction burning is a 'silver bullet' solution to the bushfire problem. To be effective, fuel reduction burning needs to be followed up on a regular basis. The burning also needs to be carefully planned and properly resourced. Science tells us that halving the fuel quantity will result in one quarter fire intensity, but we also know that our dry eucalypt forests produce more fuel in a short period of time so the effect of the fuel reduction may be short lived. We also know that fuel reduction may have little impact on the very extreme days.

Notwithstanding this, I am a supporter of strategic fuel reduction burning. I believe we should be doing all we can to support the use of fire in reducing the risk on our urban fringe interface and in other areas.

But there is a cost to fuel reduction burning. Firstly it carries a risk. Controlled burns have been known to escape and cause unintentional damage. The planning needs and simple prescriptions for fuel reduction burning need to be better promoted and understood. Secondly (and this is where I started) there are the smoke issues. It certainly appears that people are much less tolerant to bush smoke. We need to do all we can to promote the planning and conducting of fuel reduction burns so that they minimise their impact on communities. Ultimately though, fires will produce smoke and therefore we also need to communicate the cost benefit aspects.

All is not lost. In recent times while I have been travelling I have noticed several brigades conducting fuel reduction burning. What a great opportunity to learn bushfire behaviour and firefighting techniques while at the same time reduce fuels adjacent to communities.

To Dunalley, Triabunna and Cambridge Brigades, I did notice your activity, well done. I'm sure there are plenty of others as well.

Our structural and house fire risk is with us year-round and I noticed a large number of incidents last weekend coinciding with our first cold snap. I know Community Fire Safety and brigades do a lot to promote our winter campaigns. I urge you to seek any opportunities you can to engage with community groups to keep promoting our messages.

July will be a busy time for us with the release of the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission final report and the TFS State Conference.

**Michael Brown**  
Chief Officer

*PS No I didn't win a medal at the Police and Emergency Services Games, but I certainly had a great time ..... congratulations to all competitors and to the games organisers.*

## Editorial

This issue includes articles on the Australasian Police and Emergency Services Games, fire season roundup, State Fire Commission members, smoke alarms, plus many more.

Closing date for next edition will be 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010, please don't wait for the closing date - send your articles as the events occur – if they miss that edition, I'll carry them over to the next one!

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

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

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

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

## Message from Lin Thorp Minister for Police and Emergency Management MLC



Lin Thorp, Minister for  
Police & Emergency Management

On 21<sup>st</sup> April 2010, I welcomed my appointment as Minister for Police and Emergency Management. On that day I also became the Minister for Education, Skills and Children. I am particularly looking forward to my new roles, which upon closer examination have revealed many common synergies.

I was elected to the Legislative Council in 1999 and held the portfolio of Minister for Human Services in the previous government. Prior to entering Parliament I was a teacher specialising in children with special needs. I look forward to being able to draw together my experience and skills from teaching along with my parliamentary experience to be able to bring about the best outcomes for the Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) and the people of Tasmania.

TFS is a highly regarded and well resourced fire service with access to new and emerging technologies. Recent budget funding will enable the continuation of the ongoing vehicle replacement program and progress infrastructure development such as the Automatic Vehicle Location Project.

Additional funding for equipment will further improve firefighter safety with the expedited roll-out of fire safety blankets and extra ancillary equipment. The forthcoming appointment of the three Community Protection Planning Officers will provide the TFS with the extra resources and a dedicated focus for the continued development of Community Fire Protection Plans.

I note TFS is an organisation of over 5,000 people that provides a 24 hour, 7 day a week response for all Tasmanians in need of assistance with a focus on structural fires year round, bushfires on a seasonal basis, road accident rescue and community fire safety education. TFS is an organisation which leads by example and demonstrates how career and volunteer firefighters work together to provide a first class service for Tasmanians.

The TFS model of career, volunteer, urban and rural is unique in the national context and provides for a highly effective emergency organisation that is the envy of other fire services across the country.

I know that TFS also provided much needed support in the tragic Victorian bushfires and that your corporate knowledge and expertise was called upon at varying stages during the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission. I am aware that TFS has already adopted a number of changes following the interim findings of the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission.

The final report and recommendations of the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission are due to be handed down in July, and I am sure these outcomes will further shape the way in which TFS approaches fire management.

I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming months as my work takes me around the State.

# State Fire Commission welcomes some new members!

By A/Manager Administration, Phil Oakley



Left to right: Lyndsay Suhr, Rod Sweetnam, Carmel Torenus, Gavin Freeman, Mike Brown, Phil Oakley, Mike Gallagher, Bruce Corbett and Paul Kingston

**T**hree new members have recently been appointed to the State Fire Commission (SFC). Carmel Torenus, Rod Sweetnam and Paul Kingston were appointed to the SFC in November 2009 and each will serve a three year term.

Carmel and Rod both represent the Local Government Association of Tasmania, while Paul represents the Department of Treasury and Finance. Collectively they bring a diverse range of experiences to the SFC and here is a little bit about our new members:

Carmel is the Mayor of Sorell (since 2000) and has also previously held the position between 1994 - 1999. Carmel is a Director in the family business "Torenus Timber", holds a Certificate of Teaching and a Diploma in Fashion, and is Patron of various community service clubs.

Rod is the Acting General Manager of Launceston City Council while his substantive position is Director Resident and Leisure Services. Rod was a volunteer with the CFA for 16 years to

1989 before moving to Tasmania where he joined the TFS as a volunteer. He held the position of Brigade Chief of the Hadspen Brigade from 1999 – 2004 and he is currently the Group Officer for the Quamby Group. Rod holds a Diploma in Horticultural Science and a Certificate in Business Studies and Accounting and is a serving member of several municipal emergency management committees.

Paul is the Director Procurement and Property with the Department of Treasury & Finance and prior to 1996 was a Senior Research Officer with the Department. Paul has a Bachelor Degree in Economics (Hons) and Graduate Certificates in Management and IT. Paul has been a Board Member, Chairperson and Sitting Member of numerous professional and community groups and was a Judge at the World Planning Day Awards.

I'm sure you will all join me in welcoming Carmel, Rod and Paul to their new positions. **PO**

# CONQUER the isle

## Australasian Police and Emergency Services Games February 2010

By Games Organising Committee Member, Jeremy Smith

**T**he 13th Australasian Police and Emergency Service Games have now been run and won and what a great 7 days it was. Hobart put on ideal weather for the Games that were held from 20 - 27 February 2010. This was first occasion that Tasmania has hosted the Games and turned out to be the largest sporting event of its type ever held in the State. Competitors came from as far as Western Australia, Northern Territory and New Zealand. It was great to see such a strong commitment from the emergency services fraternity that attended and a real boost to the Tasmanian economy.

Registration for the games saw more than 1250 competitors battle their way through 42 different sports and nearly 800 events during the week so it was pleasing to have only a small number of serious and minor injuries reported.

With such a large number of participants competing, it resulted in over 3000 medals being presented over the 7 days. Congratulations to all those competitors that were successful enough to win or place in the medal tally.

The TFS was well represented with approximately 80 members registering in a variety of sports with a large percentage walking away with at least one medal.

The week wasn't just about sports. It also involved a number of social functions in and around Hobart which allowed competitors to sit down and have an enjoyable refreshment after their event. Although at times the competition was physical and demanding, it was soon forgotten and the camaraderie and respect that was held between competitors soon became apparent and many new friendships were formed between the different states and emergency services.

To all the staff and volunteers that donated their time and effort in helping to organise, co-ordinate, conduct or help in anyway, thank you. Events like this do not run themselves and it takes a committed group of people to ensure the success of such a large sporting event. Special thanks go to Station Officer Shane Batt and Leading Firefighter Scott Vinen who, with several others from Tasmania Police spent numerous hours before, during and after the Games to ensure everything ran smoothly and on time.

To all those that competed and to anyone that wished they had, the New Zealand Games Committee would like to extend an open invitation to all TFS firefighters (career and volunteer)



Warming up for the 4 x 100 relay  
– Gavin Freeman, Mark Dobson, Shane Batt and Jeremy Smith



Belinda Harvey with her Cross Country gold!



and staff to participate in the 14th Australasian Police and Emergency Service Games to be held in Christchurch, New Zealand between 2 - 9 March 2012.

So talk to your mates, get your teams together and start planning and preparing for what will be a great games in beautiful Christchurch. **JS**



The Chief's Bowls team – John Streets, Andrew Newell, Tony Maney and Mike Brown



TFS swimming relay team - David Russell-Green, Stewart McKinlay, Paul Salter and Adrian Petrie proudly displaying their medals. They won the gold in all three relays - 4 x 50m Freestyle, 4 x 50m Medley, 4 x 100m Freestyle Relay, plus medals for individual events.



Emma Weitnauer, Steve Percival, Dave Russell-Green and Adrian Petrie – winners of the Aquathon



Nigel Hume, Craig Chivers and Steve Percival



Steve Percival, Belinda Harvey and Sean Mennitz after the Stair Race



Little Emily Heddle wearing one of mummy's many medals! Mummy is Sandra Heddle of TasFire Equipment who competed in shooting (small bore)



Grafton Gorrillas (NSW Prison Officers)



Andrew Skelly



Tug of war – TFS against Grafton Gorrillas (NSW Prison Officers)





Firefighters who competed in the bowls including the NSW team (in the black shirts)



## Australian Fire Service Medal

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

The Governor, the Honourable Peter Underwood presented the Australian Fire Service Medal to Graham Bennell, Brigade Chief Forth; John Tyrrell, Firefighter and Permit Officer Cambridge Brigade and Leading Firefighter Hobart Brigade; and Andrew Comer, Regional Chief North.

Graham Bennell has 36 years' service with Forth Brigade, including 25 years as Brigade Chief. TFS has several Bennell family members: Graham's wife Wendy who is a member at Forth; Stuart who is a career firefighter with Devonport, and Second Officer of Forth; and younger son Matthew who is Brigade Chief at Falmouth.

John Tyrrell has over 36 years' service with TFS. He joined in 1974 as a junior working alongside his father at Mt Rumney Brigade. The brigade amalgamated with Cambridge where he has continued as a volunteer where he has held various officer positions including Brigade Chief. John became a career firefighter with HFB in 1996.



Chief Officer Mike Brown, Leading Firefighter John Tyrrell, Brigade Chief Graham Bennell and Regional Chief Andrew Comer

Andrew Comer has 30 years' service with TFS working in Operations, Community Fire Safety, Learning & Development, and district and regional management. He achieved a Bachelor of Business Studies and membership qualifications in the Institution of Fire Engineers. For a number of years he held the position of Australian President of the Institution. Andrew was promoted to Regional Chief North in 2006.

## Nullarbor Links hole-in-one!



Hole-in-one at the Sheep's Back, Fraser Range Station

Fern Tree Brigade's Chris Salmon became the first golfer to score a hole-in-one on the world's longest golf course – the Nullarbor Links. The par 72, 18 hole course which was officially opened in October 2009 stretches 1,365 km along the Eyre Highway from Ceduna in South Australia to Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

Chris, who plays off a 12 handicap, played the 18 holes over seven days. The hole-in-one was on the 13th at Sheep's Back, Fraser Range Station. Chris said he "muscled the shot down the fairway" and it was a case of "better lucky than good". "A mere 141 metre par three, left to right breeze at 15 kph, caressed a six iron, slightly to the left of the green, one bounce in the red dirt, followed by a puff of dust, slight kick to the right and onto the green, two bounces, hit the pin and into the hole."

Chris says "the course is uniquely Australian, the rugged desert beauty, with heat, wind and flies make this journey unforgettable, not to mention the many travellers we met

## Stuart Males – District Officer Operations

By Regional Chief South, Tony Davidson

**S**tuart Males was promoted to the position of District Officer Operations - Hobart on Thursday 4th March 2010. Stuart joined the TFS as a recruit firefighter in August 1985, a job which was a far cry from his trade as a radio and television technician. He quickly established himself and his potential for becoming an officer was recognised very early in his career.

In May 2000 Stuart was promoted to Station Officer and then Senior Station Officer in March 2005. Stuart spent time at Cambridge as a Training Officer and was not only involved in recruit courses as an instructor, but was also the course manager for Course 1/2001.

Stuart has been actively involved in Hazmat CBRN and is currently the TFS AFAC representative for these areas. More recently he has been involved in the development and introduction of compartment fire behaviour training across the service.

A seemingly quiet person by nature, Stuart is a very competitive sportsman and was an integral part of the running team, he also had a very successful career with the DOSA Football Club. You could say he is "the quiet achiever". We wish Stuart every success in his new role as a District Officer. **TD**



District Officers Rod Sherrin, Hugh Jones, Jeremy Smith, Gerald Crawford, Stuart Males, Regional Chief Tony Davidson, District Officers Paul Salter, John Green and Mark Dobson

along the 'course' with their stories. I can thoroughly recommend this very challenging experience!"

As a result of Chris' "good golfing" fortune, he was made a member of the Nullarbor Links in a laid-back ceremony at a local Kalgoorlie pub over a couple of beers. The presentation was made by Alf Caputo, a very passionate Secretary of the Nullarbor Links.

Chris, who is currently on leave of absence from Fern Tree Brigade, and his wife Susan are visiting their sons Brenton and Nick and 18 month old granddaughter in Kalgoorlie.

In action at Ninety Mile Straight, Caiguna



# Obituary

## Stephen Adam Ritchie 8 February 1969 – 5 March 2010



**S**teve joined the TFS as a Trainee Firefighter on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2007 and successfully completed his recruit course on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2007. He was posted to Launceston Brigade and was subsequently assigned to D Shift. He worked diligently for 3 years at LFB and attained the rank of Senior Firefighter just prior to his passing.

Steve embraced the team work environment on his new shift very quickly and settled into operational activity with due professionalism. He was an enthusiastic member of the shift and was highly regarded and respected by all members at LFB and the Northern Region.

Steve loved being a firefighter and took his role very seriously but he also found time to embrace the camaraderie and family atmosphere that plays an important part of shift work. He had a passion for motorbike riding and cycling that he frequently enjoyed with his workmates on his days off.

On behalf of all his LFB colleagues we wish to say how proud we are to have worked alongside him during his time with TFS and how much he is, and will continue to be, missed by all of us who knew him personally.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his partner Jacqui, his three children, Alex, Jamie and Sam. Our thoughts are with them and their extended families as they too adjust to life without Steve.

A thank you note from the Ritchie's

How do we show you all how deeply moved and grateful we are for the love and support you all have given not only to me but to our children, Alex Jaime and Sam. Words can not express how you all have touched my heart over the last couple of weeks. I have been able to draw my strength from that, allowing me to keep taking steps forward. Plus with 3 children I have no say in the matter, really. Steve would have been so over whelmed and humbled for such an amazing send off to his short but full life.

There are some people I would like to send a big thank you to if possible. Andrew Comer, what a kind and caring man you are. The generosity, professionalism, and compassion you have shown me are so very much appreciated. I will be eternally grateful for the assistance and presence the Tasmanian Fire Service family has given us.

Nick Hubbard, wow that was such a wonderful speech, you brave man! It meant the world to me so thank you. Actually it reminded me of the speech both you and Steve had to do together for your first xmas dinner.

To all the Platoons, Administration staff and volunteers who not only attended the funeral but those who came from around the state to take over shifts, allowing Steve's colleagues to farewell a mate is just tremendous. The guard of honour looked amazing, a sea of blue. You should all reflect on that day, and realise what a strong and respectful service you belong to. A real family doesn't mean it's perfect but when push comes to shove you're there for each other. I would encourage anyone of our children to belong to something like that.

To the union board and members, I do hope Colin Lockhart has passed on my thanks to you all. This generosity is so kind. Know that this contribution will be put away for Steve's children's future. United is defiantly the right word when I think of Fire Fighters!

The social club. Wow to put on the food and drinks was not expected. Belinda Harvey the "organiser" you're amazing. I just wanted his wake to be in an environment he loved not some stuffy room that didn't represent who Steve was. I hope you all enjoyed the slide show, good memories!

To the awesome D shift crew. Steve truly found some life time friends with you lot. He loved the opportunity to work with you guys, have laughs, playing pranks but most of all to learn from you. He admired and respected each and every one of you. He loved the times where he went skiing, riding, fishing and camping with you all. For all those treasured memories he has taken with him, thank you. Time will heal and hearts do mend, but memories remain.

With kind regards and much thanks

Jacqui, Alex, Jaime and Sam Ritchie

# Corporate Services News

## New Finance system

By Manager Finance, Bruce Ludeke

Finance has been busy with the selection and implementation of a new finance system. The existing Prophecy system which was introduced in 1994 is to be replaced by Finance One after 16 years of service. The expected "go-live" date is 1 July 2010.

Finance One is used extensively by the Tasmanian Government along with Empower for payroll. This is the configuration TFS will have as we already use Empower for payroll.

Finance One is quite different to Prophecy in that it is Windows based and it has very flexible reporting. It also operates using internal workflows where tasks can be passed from one user to another for approval or further action.

While the system is still taking shape it is envisaged that it will have a number of significant changes, which may be phased in over time:

- Most orders will become electronic. A requisition will be raised and forwarded for approval and when the invoice comes in it will be scanned and attached to the transaction, enabling enquiries that can view the originating document.
- Stock will be barcoded with hand-held scanners to be trialled in the main store and at Engineering Services Cambridge. This will reduce errors in picking stock and facilitate stocktakes.
- It will provide a comprehensive solution to TasFire Equipment's needs for a client asset management system.
- It will link to Vetrack for TasFire Training data.
- It will provide much more detailed management and reporting and maintenance of assets.

The process has been to define and analyse our finance system needs in a series of comprehensive BRS (Business Research Study) sessions. We have mostly completed this process. We have also reviewed our data in the old system and manual systems surrounding Prophecy and determined which data we will transfer to Finance One. We are currently mapping that data to make it fit the format of the new system. This is a complex technical exercise.

We currently have two consultants who are beginning to build the system to our requirements. After training of key users, we will then load test data and begin testing. Key users will also help build system screens, etc. Key users will also train other users of the system. Systems administrators are to be trained. Final data transfer will happen on 1 July this year. The old Prophecy system will be used for reporting up to 30 June 2010 and Finance One will be used for all reporting after that.

Following the implementation of Finance One we will continue to develop various applications on the system to manage finances. Projects already identified include Human Services and Community Education. **BL**

**This should further reduce the number of calls requiring direct contact with FireComm, reducing the call handling time and focusing our call taking to emergency callers in high use periods.**

## Renew and refresh communications system infrastructure FireComm ACOM Upgrade

By Manager Communications Services, Garry Sullivan

Later this year Communication Services will upgrade the dispatch communications system (ACOM) that delivers all the telephone and radio traffic to and from FireComm. While this is part of the State Fire Commission's long term capital program, it also coincides with the Ambulance Tasmania (AT) relocating and expanding their call taking and dispatch Communications Centre. TFS and AT have integrated infrastructure where we share some common radio channels in rural areas and share the paging system. The backbone links that connect these systems together allow both FireComm and AT Communications Centres to take emergency calls and talk to vehicles via the radio statewide as well as general fire and emergency telephone call handling.

The present system was the first ACOM 1 system to be deployed in an emergency services environment in Australia and has given 14 years faultless services (no critical faults or down time) with two upgrades (Y2K [remember that] and a second upgrade to the audio interface) completed in that period. Now there are about 30 ACOM 2 systems across 30 sites with 340 operational consoles in use in Australia, mainly in the emergency services. Our present system has limited connections and today FireComm and AT have no capacity to expand full operations beyond the present ten consoles.

The upgraded system will provide TFS and AT future capacity with the initial installation allowing for up to 24 consoles and along with increased capacity to add further telephone and radio services. The system has other features that are not available in the present system including better call handling functions that will allow the active creation of voice announcements (messaging) for calls waiting or queued that can target responses to individual incidents. This should further reduce the number of calls requiring direct contact with FireComm, reducing the call handling time and focusing our call taking to emergency callers in high use periods. The new system will also allow for web browser overlay where vehicle locations, for example, could be displayed on a map. **GS**

## TFS Family Support Fund

By Communications Officer FireComm, Michelle Clarke

I hadn't realised how much thought, money and energy goes into the loss of a loved one and funerals until I was recently faced with two in one week. One had most of the funeral arrangements made by the person before passing, but this is not always the case. The TFS Family Support Fund can assist with the financial burden to all TFS volunteers and staff in times like these and other special needs circumstances.

Some examples of when money / vouchers / items from the fund has been utilised to assist are:

- medical expenses for treatment of long term sickness;
- travel expenses to access treatment or be with family members who are receiving treatment;
- funeral expenses;
- trust funds;
- alterations to homes or purchase of equipment for long term disability / illness.

There are defined parameters as to who will be assisted and at this stage only direct family dependants of TFS personnel can be given assistance (wife, husband, partner, children). The fund has been set up to assist all TFS personnel under the TFS structure.

The future of this fund is all dependent upon the community

generosity and ourselves making donations to ensure we can help ourselves in the event of a need arising. Two recent donations which we would like to acknowledge are:

- Department of Premier & Cabinet raised \$214.45 for the Tasmanian volunteer firefighters throughout the month of January and as part of their "Casual Clothes Friday".
- Members of the NW Regional Tea Fund donated \$900 received from the selling of My State shares to the fund.

It does not take much to help assist fellow co-workers in times of special need. If all volunteers and career staff in the state made a gold coin donation once a year it could add up to a minimum \$9000.

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

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

## TFS State Conference 2010

By Regional Chief North West, John Streets

The TFS Bi-Annual State Conference will be held on Saturday and Sunday 10/11 July 2010 at the Country Club Resort Launceston.

This will be the first conference officiated by Mike Brown as Chief Officer. Lin Thorp, Minister for Police and Emergency Management, has been invited to open the Conference and Naomi Brown, Chief Executive Officer of the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) will be speaking at the conference.

To allow for those travelling long distances, the conference will commence at 9.30 a.m. with registration commencing at 8:45 a.m.

The conference should be of interest to all attending with the program including:

- our safety;
- the impact on the TFS of the Royal Commission into the Victorian fires;
- leadership within the organisation;
- bushfire-ready communities;
- case studies of recent Tasmanian fires;

- introduction of new medium fire tanker;
- alternative power supplies;
- FireComm and Operations working together;
- advancement in technology including GPS mapping, automatic vehicle location, operations communications;
- use of aircraft by TFS;
- understanding fire weather conditions;
- demonstrations and information displays.

Guest Speakers will include Alex Jerrim, Innovation Manager Driver Safety Services and James Wood, CNBSAFE with their address emphasising our safety.

There will be a dinner on the Saturday evening at which the Chief Officer's Award will be presented.

paper version of the report will become a thing of the past.

We hope that these changes will see an increased use of hazard and accident reports. After all, these forms are designed to alert our fellow members of risks or dangers so that we can either reduce or eliminate them. Over time this will lead us towards a safer place to work.

## Secondment to State Emergency Service as Regional Manager – North West

Late in 2009, the State Emergency Service (SES) lost a valuable staff member through the retirement of Bevis Dutton after 43 years with the organisation. As part of the process to fill the vacancy, District Officer Wayne Richards was seconded to the position of Regional Manager (North West) for a period of four months.

During his time as District Officer at Burnie and Devonport, Wayne has been heavily involved in emergency management, and had a reasonable amount of interaction with a number of the SES Units in the Region, through his L&D or D/O roles. Through his participation as a senior official in car rallying, he has also worked with many of the SES Units and their members in the North-West over many years, where they provide radio communications and traffic management to various events.

Wayne saw the secondment as an opportunity to gain a valuable insight to another emergency service organisation, but more importantly, to progress interoperability and interagency co-operation and hoped that his time with SES will foster and enhance a healthy relationship with other emergency response agencies.

During his time there, he integrated quickly into the position and has worked hard to catch up with the volunteer units and their members across the region. It is quite reassuring to know that SES and TFS volunteers share the same issues and highs and lows in terms of motivation, enthusiasm, training, equipment, time constraints with work, family, social and personal lives. While TFS has better resourcing to develop systems and progress some of these issues, such as the current Leadership Framework, SES is severely restricted and limited due to its funding arrangements.

The Tasmanian SES sits within the Department of Police & Emergency Management (with TFS) but is clearly a division of the Police Department. Budget allocation is provided from Police Department funds and management and reporting lines are through the Director SES to departmental corporate hierarchy and the Police Commissioner. The autonomy and flexibility that is enjoyed by TFS certainly does not exist with SES.

Other anomalies between the two organisations are that funding for the units (equivalent to brigades) are largely the responsibility of local councils when it comes to the provision and maintenance of buildings and most of the equipment. Vehicles and specialist rescue gear are provided from the state funds and other needs are pursued, often dependent on the success of receiving government grants. It is this aspect that is

generally not understood or appreciated by other agencies or the general public.

SES has about twenty salaried staff and about 570 volunteers, forming 33 units across the state. Units have a primary response role for storm and flood damage, many units provide a road crash rescue responsibility and the members also provide a search & rescue capability when required to support Police.



The role of Regional Manager (North, South and North West) is to support and maintain an operational capability within the region, and to perform an emergency management planning function within each area. They serve as the Executive Officer to the District Police Commander for all emergency management issues and work closely through liaison with local councils and other government agencies, co-ordinating and ensuring that emergency management planning and resourcing is in place to address crisis as they may occur.

During his stint in SES, Wayne's tasks have been as varied as co-ordinating searchers at 0430 hrs on a Sunday morning at Daisy Dell (near Cradle Mountain), meeting with politicians at Unit facilities on the West Coast, chairing a regional meeting of Government agency representatives, arranging a media coverage for the first ever interstate deployment of SES personnel and fronting the Corporate Management Group at Police HQ Hobart to report on organisational achievements. It is this exposure that he hoped to increase his professional development as a senior manager, but also to share the knowledge and experiences across both organisations.

### STOP PRESS

We wish to announce that District Officer Wayne Richards is transferring to SES in a permanent capacity. We are confident that we will still hear and see plenty of Wayne in his new position and that his move will only help to improve emergency management arrangements and interagency cooperation across the NW and beyond. All of us at TFS wish Wayne all the very best in his new role as Regional Manager NW.

# Wayatinah fire

By District Officer Midlands, Gerald Crawford

Photographer: District Officer Gerald Crawford

**S**unday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2010 was a Total Fire Ban. Hot Day Response procedures were in place. An IMT was in place in Hobart for the Southern Region. Several fires were burning on the West Coast and Cradle Mountain area. The Derwent Valley was enveloped in smoke. No fires of significance were burning in the Southern Region.

At 1538 hours a report was received at FireComm from a person at Wayatinah of a fire burning between the two Saltas fish farms, no idea of size was given.

1541 hours, Ouse and Hamilton paged.

1542 hours, smoke plume observed through the smoke blanket by Brady's Tower.

1600 hours, weather at Bushy Park, just south of the area hits 35c, 16% RH, Wind Northerly at 50 kph, gusting to 69 kph, FDR Extreme 76.

Fire jumps edge of Wayatinah Lagoon and spotting starts to occur up to 18 kms south east of the fire.

By 1800 hours the wind was starting to swing to the west and at this stage the fire spotted into the grasslands on "Cleveland" and was running towards Ouse township. The main fire was burning on both sides of the Derwent River.

Urgent requests were made for assistance to protect Ouse. Fire trucks plus aerial support was mobilised from throughout the Southern Region.

Local resources were utilised to contain the fire approaching Ouse and as a result the threat to Ouse was contained.

Meanwhile the other spots and the main fire were continuing to burn. At this stage the Hobart IMT were running the fire but on Monday morning an IMT was set up at Cambridge for the next two weeks.



Second Officer Barry Heather of South Arm Brigade backburning near Mt Thunderbolt

The photos were taken on Sunday 7 February whilst working in Sector C off Thunderbolt Road, protecting and ensuring that the fires did not jump the road into a Forestry plantation of eucalyptus forest. Photographer: Firefighter Terry Roe, South Arm Brigade



By 1800 hours the wind was starting to swing to the west and at this stage the fire spotted into the grasslands on "Cleveland" and was running towards Ouse township. The main fire was burning on both sides of the Derwent River.



Photographer: District Officer Gerald Crawford

Over the next three weeks the fire burnt 6500 hectares of State forest and private timber company assets, National Park, conservation area and private property. No loss of life or structure loss occurred. Considerable losses of plantation production were sustained.

#### Observations

Even though the day this fire started was a Hot Day Response no suppression was undertaken until the fire was running into Ouse. This was because of a number of factors:

- The valley was covered in smoke from other fires with visibility down to a couple of hundred metres.
- Because of all the smoke the fire lookout towers did not report the fire until a plume was seen which was nearly 5 minutes after the fire was reported to FireComm from

Wayatinah. By this time the fire was well advanced and starting to spot.

- The nearest brigade location was some 25 kms back at Ouse.

There has been debate over the location of the IMT which was at Cambridge some 100 kms from the fire. This incident was a Level 3 Multi Tenure Fire and as such requires a considerable number of people to fill the roles in the IMT and also requires suitable infrastructure such as computer access, printing facilities, fax, phone lines, radio base, separate areas for the functional roles (Operations, Planning, Logistics) as well as access to food supplies for the crews. Cambridge is an excellent facility for this role and will be used again in the future.

The downside to having the IMT so far from the fire is that there are less opportunities for the Operations and Planning

people to interact with the Divisional Commander and Sector Commanders. This is something that we need to look at and try and come up with a suitable solution. ICS is a system where all the functions tend to operate in the one area, my own personal belief is that the Operations Officer should be able to spend more time at the front but still be able to supply the required information to planning when required.

Because the IMT was so far from the fire, Ouse Fire Station was used as a Staging Area. This is an area where we need to provide some training for the personnel working at these places.

The Swansea station is location Arnol Street and is co-located with SES and Ambulance Tasmania. Their current appliances are a Hino heavy tanker and a Toyota light tanker.

The length of the work period on bushfires needs to be from very early morning to late at night. To do this we need to run at least two shifts. The only feasible way we can do this on Multi agency fires is for TFS to work from 0600 hours – 1800 hours and FT and PWS to work from 1200 hours – 2359 hours. These times would need to also reflect travel time with 12 hours as the maximum for crews. We have very limited resources in Tasmania and large fires tax these to the maximum.

Overall the operation was a success but some complaints have been received. If you have an issue then also have a workable solution. **GTC**



# Swansea Brigade

By District Officer East Coast, Paul Salter

**S**wansea is a coastal town in the East Coast District located 134 km from Hobart and sits on Great Oyster Bay overlooking the Freycinet National Park. European explorers started visiting the Swansea area in 1789 before settlement in early 1820's.

Swansea Brigade formed after 1967, prior to that fire suppression was under the control of municipal fire wardens. The first appliance was a white Bedford pumper from Britain which was stored behind the local service station.

The Swansea station is located in Arnol Street and is co-located with SES and Ambulance Tasmania. Their current appliances are a Hino heavy tanker and a Toyota light tanker.



Swann Inn fire – September 2004

Swansea currently has nineteen active members of mixed ages and experience, no juniors at present and they usually manage to turnout with a crew of six. As with many brigades, Swansea have had some colourful members including John Morey who is nearing 40 years service and one member who is an inventor always looking for innovative ideas for fire suppression such as sand slurry pumps.

Brigade Chief Ken Nichols said *"the biggest risks for the brigade would be the May Shaw Nursing Centre, the school, influx of tourists and the Dolphin Sands community."*

The Swansea Brigade area is 216 square kms, however, they often travel out of area supporting neighbouring brigades and attending campaign fires. Notable fires for Swansea: the Dolphin Sands fire (some readers may recall the article on in the Summer 2009 edition of Fireground); the Swansea Cafe and Bistro in September 1997; and the Swan Inn, September 2004.

*"We help out where we can in the community with clearing fire breaks and fuel reduction burning, as well as meeting with the Dolphin Sands Rate Payers Association and the Glamorgan Spring Bay Emergency Management Committee"* Ken Nichols said.

Thanks to Brigade Chief Ken Nichols and Second Officer Kelvin Jones of Swansea Fire Brigade. Photos courtesy of Kelvin Jones. **PS**



Early appliances at Swansea



Swansea Brigade – April 2010

# Smoke alarms for the deaf

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

On 3rd December 2009 the Minister for Human Services, Lin Thorp announced the funding of a subsidy program for specialised smoke alarms for deaf and hearing impaired Tasmanians. The proposal for the subsidy scheme was developed by Tasmanian Deaf Society (TasDeaf) as the result of a partnership with TFS and the Department of Health and Human Services (Disability and Housing). All three organisations are delighted with the decision, and will move forward together in implementing the program.

Since late 2008 TFS has been represented by Community Education and Building Safety staff on the inter-agency working group, developing strategies for improving home fire safety in the deaf community; identified as being at increased risk if fire breaks out in the home.

Smoke alarms for the deaf consist of 4 units:

1. Photo-electric smoke alarm with transmitter;
2. Monitor (detects signal from the transmitter);
3. Flashing strobe light; and
4. Vibrating pad.



When the alarm (usually attached to the bedroom ceiling) is triggered by smoke, it emits a loud noise plus a signal (similar to a radio signal), which is picked up by the monitor. The monitor then sets off the strobe light and the vibrating pad. The monitor and strobe light are usually set up beside the bed, with the vibrating pad under the pillow.

These alarms are very expensive (\$450+), and there was previously no subsidy program in Tasmania. A smoke alarm survey conducted in 2009 by the Tasmanian Deaf Society found that 59% of participants did not have specialised smoke alarms fitted as they were considered too expensive, and a further 22% were not aware of them.

This program will provide equitable access to essential and potentially life-saving equipment for deaf and hearing-impaired Tasmanians. The plan is to install these specialised smoke alarms through *Project Wake Up!* Community Education will provide further information and resources to brigades before the scheme is rolled out. **SB & CT**

## An Easter gift

The Australian Red Cross Blood Service is a reflection of many of the best qualities of Australia and Australians. Its very existence depends on the continued support of more than 520,000 generous Australians who give their time and their blood as a gift or donation. Unfortunately at holiday times the demand for blood due to trauma increases. Just prior to Easter, the Department of Police and Emergency Management joined forces with Ambulance Tasmania to lead the way in donating blood for the Easter period. Representatives from all services that know first hand the importance of blood donations rolled up their sleeves and literally bled for the cause.

Deputy Chief Officer Gavin Freeman said *"while we would prefer our blood wasn't needed, I guess that is pretty typical of the service we all provide, this is just another small way we can help out"*.

Why not consider being a year round blood donor?



Rolling up their sleeves for Red Cross – Deputy Chief Officer Gavin Freeman(TFS), Assistant Commissioner Scott Tilyard (Tasmania Police), Director Andrew Lea (State Emergency Service), Chief Executive Officer Dominic Morgan (Ambulance Tasmania)

# Mystic Winter

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

Be part of another fantastic Emergency Services charity event, raising funds for a very worthwhile cause, the Hobart Media Centre’s “**Give Me Five For Kids**” in aid of the Royal Hobart Hospital Children’s Ward.

## Tickets are on sale now!

- **\$130 per person - book your tickets by phoning 6230 8450 or e-mail - [charityball@fire.tas.gov.au](mailto:charityball@fire.tas.gov.au)**

*It is recommended to book as a group to secure your seating arrangements.*

*Tickets include a full buffet dinner and all your beer, wine and soft drinks!*

*Tickets purchased before 17 May will go into the draw for a lucky ticket prize!*

- **Live music provided by one of Tassie’s top bands!**
- **Live and silent auctions throughout the evening**
- **Hot accommodation deal!!**

*Hotel Grand Chancellor – Hobart are providing a special rate of \$170 per Mountain View Room or \$205 per Harbour View Room (based on single, double and twin share accommodation).*

*When booking please mention that you will be attending the Emergency Services Charity Ball to take advantage of this fantastic offer.*

**If you would like further information please phone 6230 8450 or contact your agency representative.**

### Tasmania Police

Emma Boucher – 6230 2424

Sharon Murphy – 6336 3925

### Ambulance Tasmania

Monica Baker – 6230 8566

### State Emergency Service

Kate Dobson – 6230 2712

Luke Griffiths – 6230 2708

### Tasmania Fire Service

Greg Butters - 6230 8742 or 0418 129 407

Deb White – 6214 8820 or 0409 626 514

Michael Goldsmith – 0418 122 265

Elisa Lang – 6214 8814

Taya Dineley – 6230 8450

Lynda Robins – 6336 5612

John Hazzlewood – 6336 5666

## Be brave and shave!

By Bridget van de Kamp, Fundraising Tasmania, The Leukaemia Foundation

It was the challenge of the decade. Team Vanders was set to raise \$15,000 by the 13<sup>th</sup> March and we would get to shave both Peter van de Kamp and Jade Gordey's lovely heads. By the 13<sup>th</sup> there was just over \$14,000 in the bank so it was decided that there was no turning back and their hair was GONE!

With many family members, friends and work colleagues there to support them, both Jade and Peter sat down in front of hundreds of people at Salamanca Lawns and allowed the clippers to take off all their hair.

The experience of losing your hair is hard to put into words but this is what both Peter and Jade told us about the experience.

Peter wrote "Although it was something that I said partly in jest at the beginning, I quickly realised that it was not a matter to be taken lightly! Once it was made public, the amount of support our team received was nothing short of AMAZING. Who would have thought that we would raise over \$1,000 in a morning tea and cake raffle?"

*These experiences and the effort people went to, to make sure we reached our target was humbling and exciting. There was no way we weren't going to shave!*

*Being a part of the World's Greatest Shave was fun and to know that we have made a difference in so many Tasmanians lives is something that will stay with me forever!"*

Jade wrote "Chief Officer Mike Brown and my husband Michael shared the job of shaving my head as part of the World's Greatest Shave. As my hair fell to the ground in clumps, I was able to feel the cool autumn morning breeze slowly creep over my scalp. Dad watched on from the crowd with a tear in his eye; mum was fully armed with a camera and a trigger happy finger. I was experiencing a warm fuzzy feeling in my heart which now matches the feeling of my head.

*The generosity from some people was truly humbling. Some people gave money, some gave their time, and others shared their skills or supplied me with products to use as prizes for the quiz night.*

*Being a part of the World's Greatest Shave was a very rewarding experience. I will continue to support the Leukaemia Foundation and I encourage anyone who is thinking about shaving for a cure to pursue it. After all, the only thing that you have to lose is your hair. Others are not so fortunate."*

At the time of printing Team Vanders were number 2 in the state for highest fundraisers. Tasmania as whole has raised over \$210,000 and rising.

With over 700 patients on the Leukaemia Foundation books in Tasmania, you can easily see why they need money to help assist families through their journey of treatment and beyond.

Well done Team Vanders! **BvdK**



Peter and Jackie van de Kamp



Jade and Peter with the Chief



Jade with Mike Brown and husband Mike Gordey

The generosity from some people was truly humbling. Some people gave money, some gave their time, and others shared their skills or supplied me with products to use as prizes for the quiz night.

leukaemias lymphomas  
related blood disorders  
myeloma

15<sup>th</sup> April 2010

Chief Officer  
Mike Brown  
Tasmanian Fire Service  
Cnr Melville and Argyle Street  
Hobart TAS 7000



Dear Mike,

**World's Greatest Shave 2010**

I'm writing to thank you and your staff for supporting both Peter van de Kamp and Jade Gordey in their recent quest to raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation.

It was nothing short of amazing to see a morning tea that raised over \$1000 in a 30 min time slot and to see so many people there all to support Peter and Jade. And of course to try and get their hands on one of those famous cheesecakes!

**Team Vanders** has raised over \$14,400 for the Worlds Greatest Shave campaign. Their efforts so far have them in second place in Tasmania.

With over 700 patients on our books in Tasmania, these funds will help us to continue to provide practical and financial support to them and their families. The treatment process is long (averaging about 2 years) and intense to say the least.

The Leukaemia Foundation assists them with transport, education, qualified nurse for home visits and also financial assistance where possible. We are there for the complete process from diagnosis and beyond. The money that is raised helps us to continue our work and to make a difference in their lives.

Although WGS is a FUN way to raise money, it has a serious side. Our patients can suffer from hair loss with their treatments, so for Peter and Jade to stand up and say "I'll support you!" by shaving is very much appreciated by the foundation and by the patients and their families. It was very BRAVE of them!

Your supportive staff and in particular, Peter and Jade, are a credit to the TFS. We can not thank you all enough for helping in raising those much needed funds.

Thank you to everyone involved!

Regards

Bridget van de Kamp  
Fundraising - Tasmania

Correspondence to:  
GPO Box 9954  
In Your Capital City  
1800 420 420  
info@leukaemia.org.au  
www.leukaemia.org.au

CENTRAL OFFICE: 230  
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL  
NEW SOUTH WALES: 4  
NORTHERN TERRITORY  
QUEENSLAND: Mincott  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA: 13  
TASMANIA: 26 Crispin  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA:  
VICTORIA: 44 Springbar



Back - Brad van de Kamp, Anita Harwood, Eliza van de Kamp, Bridget van de Kamp, Jade Gordey  
Front - Jackie van de Kamp, Hamish van de Kamp, Peter van de Kamp, Mike Brown

# Collaborative Purchasing Group

By Director Corporate Services, Mike Gallagher

The Collaborative Purchasing Group, which comprises representatives from fire and land management agencies, recently met in Hobart to review current collaborative purchasing arrangements and business practices and the use of the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC) Knowledge Web to enhance these processes.

The Collaborative Purchasing Initiative (CPI) which has been embraced by AFAC member agencies was established four years ago and during that time direct savings in excess of \$3 million have been achieved as a result of collaboration by participating agencies.

The TFS is one of the main supporters and benefactors of the CPI with savings in excess of \$1 million being realised by accessing contracts established by other AFAC agencies. Major savings have been realised in the purchase of fire appliance cab chassis, heavy pumpers, uniform and protective clothing, foam and thermal imaging cameras. Savings are not only realised through

The TFS is one of the main supporters and benefactors of the CPI with savings in excess of \$1 million being realised by accessing contracts established by other AFAC agencies.

direct purchases but also as a result of agencies not having to spend time and resources calling and evaluating tenders. From a TFS perspective establishing our own contracts does not provide us with an opportunity to make large savings through bulk purchases as the quantities we purchase are relatively small, however, when we are able to access another agency's contract we not only realise savings through purchasing items at a lower price but we do not have to establish and maintain the contract.

Well over 250 agency specific specifications have been loaded onto the Knowledge Web providing member agencies with access to a significant number of contracts. This area continues to grow and the sharing of information and contracts between AFAC members has increased significantly over a relatively short period of time. **MWG**



# PJ Parssey Memorial Award 2010

By Australian Institute of Emergency Services representative, Ron Jones

At a dinner held recently in Hobart, a very surprised and proud John and Avis White were announced winners of the PJ Parssey Memorial Award for 2010 by Betty Parssey.

John and Avis were both humbled by the award, in particular after hearing the quality of the other nominees.

Also present at the dinner were current board members, including past Australian President of the Institute, Maurice Massey and his wife Gwen.

Congratulations to all nominees and fellow emergency service workers for the support to our communities now and in the future.

John and Avis were nominated for the Parssey Award after winning the 7BU SeaFM radio emergency service volunteer award.

If you wish to nominate somebody for the awards, contact Ron Jones at [tessa@harboursat.com.au](mailto:tessa@harboursat.com.au) **RJ**



John and Avis White being presented with the award by Betty Parssey; Darrell Johnson, State President of the Institute of Emergency Services looking on.

## The Main Store Hobart

The Store has three staff members who are part of the Finance team. They are Purchasing Officer Mick Strange, who is also the supervisor of the store, assisted by Scott Thomson and Jack Campbell.

Mick has been the Purchasing Officer at TFS for the past two years and oversees the general operations of the store, handles TFS tenders and also responsible for central procurement and contractual performance issues. He provides advice and oversees stocktakes in relation to the Engineering Services stores at Cambridge, Youngtown and Burnie and the TFE stores at Hobart, Youngtown, Burnie and Devonport.

Jack has been the Stores Clerk for the past 25 years. His role is receiving goods and picking and packing of orders. Jack is a very well known part of the Fire Service and I'm sure most people know which football team he follows.

Scott has been the Finance / Stores Officer for the past 4 years after relocating from a Finance Clerk position which he held for 11 years. His role is receipting onto the Prophecy computer system of stock and performing stocktakes with Jack and Mick. He is currently attending the Skills Institute and studying for his Certificate IV in Government.

### The Past

The original store was located in Mornington, where Kevin Broughton (now retired) was the Purchasing Officer, Barry McHenry was the Utility Officer and Jack Campbell was the Stores Clerk. Another familiar name from the old days of the Mornington store was John Thomson who went on to become the Manager Administration (now retired). The store was relocated to its current location in the mid 1990's.

In 1999 Moonah Fire Station closed and the TasFire Equipment store which operated there was amalgamated with the Main Store. The store was extended to cater for the increased inventory.

### The Future

The store is currently preparing for some major changes when the new finance system, Finance One, is implemented in July this year. The new system will include a significantly improved store inventory management system.



Scott, Mick and Jack at the Store

**The store is currently preparing for some major changes when the new finance system, Finance One, is implemented in July this year. The new system will include a significantly improved store inventory management system.**

Activities in preparation for this include re-cataloguing of all stores stock and the creation of bin code numbers in the main store and the Engineering Services stores. Stock codes are being reviewed and deleted where stock items haven't been used for some time.

In the new system, shelves will be barcoded, with a trial in the main store and the Engineering Services store at Cambridge. Handheld scanners will be used to scan the items being receipted and picked and this information will be electronically transferred to the Finance One system. The scanners will also be used in stocktaking, eliminating the need for stock control sheets, and reducing the likelihood of errors in counting and writing stock numbers.



# New Isuzu NPS300 Medium Tanker

By Manager Engineering Services, Leon Smith



As a package I am very pleased with this appliance as we have managed to integrate capacities and functionality to provide a more user friendly and efficient product in which to undertake our service delivery.

Thank you once again to the enthusiastic participants of the user group and Engineering Services staff on an excellent product.

After the consultative group process, the development of the prototype Isuzu 4-1 medium tanker has recently been completed and mass production of components has commenced. As per the pre-established role and functionality required by the TFS of this category of appliance, Engineering Services have managed to incorporate everything that was agreed or flagged for inclusion during the consultation with end users.

Broadly, the appliance was to be engineered to incorporate the maximum water capacity feasible, given the level of equipment required to be carried, based on its defined role. This appliance carries 1600 litres of water (an increase of 160 litres from the previous model 6 tonne Fuso, Canter) which has been achieved due to a combination of increased available tare by using Isuzu (instead of Canter) and some engineering solutions such as the removal of fixed baffles and the use of baffle balls to reduce mass, lighter suction hose, full aluminium tray and reduced structure for a ladder gantry (elimination of traditional extension ladder and inclusion of a telescopic ladder).

In addition to an increase in water capacity, the appliance boasts an increase in locker volume for stowage of PPE (something that has been long awaited) as well as the removal of the deck work area and inclusion of suppression sprays under the front bull bar (the same as the Hino pumper tankers). The suppression sprays are rated to 140 litres per minute at 1000 Kpa, with the wheel sprays, 15 litres per minute at 1000 Kpa for the protection of critical hardware in the front wheel arches when working in vegetation with a risk of heat or flame impingement. The proportional axle mass ratio has been achieved by slightly lengthening the tray and rotating the pump set 90 degrees getting the mass further to the rear, as well as the relocation of the suction hose to the rear of the body, rather than behind the cab of the appliance.

The suction hose is a single length (8 metres) of external bound heliflex 2 1/2 inch fuel transfer hose that is permanently coupled to the inlet manifold and wraps up in the rear underdeck locker negating the need for joins and coupling. The benefits of this arrangement include a huge reduction in the time required to set up prior to drafting, no leaks in joints and the reduction in manual handling issues associated with the storage and access of traditional suction hoses.

The appliance has a 30 litre stainless steel 'A' class reservoir that once again is a permanent fixture that is housed at the rear below deck. Concentrate is picked up from foam pales at ground level using a permanently attached pick up tube and on board electric pump, eliminating the OH&S issues associated with the handling of foam concentrate.

The appliance body is aluminium in construction with AS roller shutters and LED internal locker lighting. The body incorporates local work area lighting, as well as gas discharge scene lighting on a stem light. From a crew safety perspective, the appliance has been fitted with roll down radiant heat shields (radiant heat shield curtains) on all cabin windows in line with the CFA

specification. A head restraint has also been fabricated and fitted into the two rear seating positions to provide a greater level of protection for rear seat occupants.

The rear cabin window has been removed and replaced with powder coated 4 mm aluminium negating the need for a radiant heat shield over the rear window. Given the rear visibility has been reduced due to the glass replacement, a rear camera has been fitted allowing the driver or occupants to have clear unobstructed vision of the rear work area of the appliance, enhancing safety.

From a technical perspective, the integration of multiplexing (switching by data) has allowed the TFS to incorporate increased functionality into the appliance such as thermal pump protection, headlight flashing for prominence during response, interlocking of electrical functions for increased safety and easy diagnosis and rectification. The Class 1 product, supplied through AEI in Queensland is the first of its type used by the TFS, the same technology will be integrated into future appliances from this point in time. This is a proven product and is currently in use within the emergency services industry worldwide and is supported in Australia and extremely well supported from a national perspective.

As a package I am very pleased with this appliance as we have managed to integrate capacities and functionality to provide a more user friendly and efficient product in which to undertake our service delivery.

Thank you once again to the enthusiastic participants of the user group and Engineering Services staff on an excellent product.

The prototype appliance will be made available to brigades for assessment and will be on show at Agfest this year for fire protection for the duration of the event, as well as a joint exhibition by Motors Trucks, the Isuzu agent in Tasmania. The allocation of appliances is being worked through by regional and engineering staff based on fitness for purpose. I look forward to any feedback and please contact me with any queries in regard to this article. **LS**

# Climbing the Mountain

By Leading Firefighter Hobart Brigade, Jarrod Read

I'd like to introduce you to Lucy Henry. In 2003 Lucy sustained full thickness burns to 70% of her body, 20% of which were inhalation burns to her lungs. Throughout the past seven years, the Burns Unit at the Royal Hobart Hospital has provided Lucy with excellent treatment and care, not at all affected by the fact that her burns were self-inflicted. The cost for just the initial treatment of a patient with major burns is around \$500,000, let alone the ongoing costs for the surgery needed to release the bands of hard scarring that form and restrict movement - contractures.

Many of the dressings used immediately after reconstructive surgery contain real silver, which is very effective when used topically to prevent infection - but also very expensive. The plastic surgeons also made use of an artificial dermis called Integra to improve the appearance of Lucy's arms and face. A relatively small sheet of Integra costs \$6,000.

Lucy is walking the Point to Pinnacle on 21 November this year to raise money for the Royal Hobart Hospital Burns Unit. Walking 21 km uphill for Lucy forms a perfect metaphor, for the physical and emotional struggle to recover from major burns, and to overcome the social anxiety resulting from facial disfigurement.

When I met Lucy she told me it has been a long climb for her to achieve physical and mental wellbeing, and she still has times when she stumbles rather than soars. In 2006 Lucy received a mental health assistance dog, a liver spotted Dalmatian called Lottie, and she began to walk almost every morning. It is ironic that her assistance dog is a Dalmatian, the breed commonly recognised as "firehouse dogs".

Her walks have become longer and included more hills since then. Walking up steep hills and the resulting fitness makes her feel strong, capable and less disabled. The mobility of her arms has been affected by the burns, but her legs are probably stronger than most other women her age, something she tends to celebrate at every opportunity!

Chief Officer Mike Brown has pledged to support Lucy's cause through encouraging TFS staff to walk with her and to conduct fundraisers to contribute to the fundraising total; also offering



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

fire engines for the media promotion, both on the day of the walk and for the launch of "Climb to Recovery" at the Mercure Hobart on 11 August.

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

We are encouraging all TFS to help, and to walk with Lucy allowing her to climb the mountain through our support and encouragement. **JR**

To join the walk, please email [j.read@fire.tas.gov.au](mailto:j.read@fire.tas.gov.au)

# Making life easier for Stowport Natone

By District Officer Arthur, Jodi Armstrong



**S**towport Natone recently had their 3.1 Mercedes upgraded to an Isuzu 3.1 dual cab and although there was a reluctance to let go of the Mercedes, having a dual cab would make life a little easier for brigade members to attend fire calls.

In the past, most members would travel in their own vehicles due to the Mercedes being a single cab, but now a crew of four can respond in the same vehicle and allow for the Officer to conduct some pre-planning with the whole crew prior to arriving at the call.

Although the picture does not do justice the Stowport-Natone Mercedes was arguably one of the neatest vehicles we have in our TFS fleet due to the care and attention the brigade gave it. Full credit to the brigade for looking after their vehicle so well and ensuring that even though it was old it looked as new as the first day they received it.

When a new vehicle is brought into a brigade it not only upgrades their current vehicle but also allows the Fire Service to upgrade other vehicles within the fleet. Late last year the Arthur District could finally remove two petrol vehicles from the fleet and also upgrade five brigades in the process.

Late last year the Wynyard Brigade received a new 3.1P and this allowed us to move their existing 3.1 vehicle on to Stanley Brigade. Along with this move the Stanley Brigade obtained a

**Full credit to the brigade for looking after their vehicle so well and ensuring that even though it was old it looked as new as the first day they received it.**

5.1 vehicle and we decommissioned an old mid mounted petrol Ford. The Stanley 3.1 vehicle was then moved to Somerset with Somerset's vehicle moving to Stowport –Natone.

The Mercedes that was stationed at Stowport-Natone will now flow onto Yolla Brigade and allow the North West to remove yet another petrol engine vehicle at Yolla from its fleet.

Although some brigades may not necessarily obtain a new vehicle, with these transfers they are getting something better than what they previously had, and full credit goes to the guys at Engineering Services on the North West coast for their effort in making these moves occur as quickly as possible. **JA**

# PHOTO GALLERY



Fourth Officer Jason Hingston of Dilston Brigade took this photo of Firebird 716 dropping water at a fire at Liffy in February 2010.



Substation fire at Bridgewater –Senior Firefighters Kim Jessup and Colin Sattler in foreground. Photographer: Station Officer George Auchterlonie



Escaped camp fire at Batman Bridge on the 2nd March, looking from the western side of the Tamar River. Photographer: Jon Morrison Photo Imaging, [www.jonmorrison.com.au](http://www.jonmorrison.com.au)



Unusual cloud formation over Hobart taken from Sorell.  
Photographer: District Officer Gerald Crawford



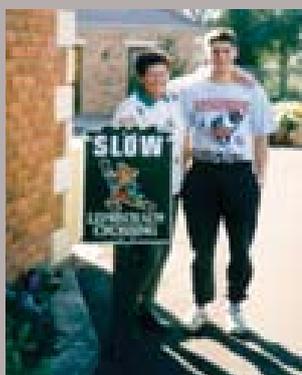
Whilst on a few days away in his camper van, TFS Museum member Iain Watson, stopped at the Old Saltworks at the mouth of the Little Swanport River and there in a yard was a rather forlorn tanker trailer with the old Rural Fires Board lettering on its side. As the Communications Co-ordinating Officer for the Rural Fires Board, Iain used to travel to the "outposts" to check the radio equipment on the various farms associated with the rural brigades and at the same time check the tanker trailers for serviceability. The photos are of the old Lisdillon tanker which is sadly in poor condition and looks as though it needs some TLC, although the tyres were pumped up so at least it appears mobile.





Coal mine servicing

# See the Bombers fly up!



Greg and his mum Dianna



Senator Calvert presenting Greg with a service medal for his late father



Cray boat rescue

**G**reg Harwood, our rabid Bombers fan in Communications Services, is saying goodbye to TFS. His smiling face and quirky sense of humour is going to be missed by us all.

Greg's talents have seen him break new ground in TFS in a number of areas. He was the first apprentice to work with Communications Services, starting in 1994 while employed by Tasmanian Group Training Ltd on placement to the TFS. Not only was he our first apprentice, he also went on to be awarded Apprentice of the Year in 1998. Over the last two years of his apprenticeship, his results averaged 94%!

Greg is a typical country lad, born and bred in Nubeena. As a young bloke, he played footy with the mighty Nubeena Tigers collecting a few premierships along the way (unlike the Richmond Tigers ...). He also played cricket and, during the week, fitted in a game of badminton, while on weekends he liked a round of

golf. Greg was gifted with being able play most sports left or right handed. He was a proud New Town High boy where the headmaster saw his sporting talent and encouraged him to play senior cricket with Dynnyrne where he went on to be captain.

Greg's work has been first class. He has travelled the state undertaking repairs and installations at brigades statewide. Most of these trips were with former Communications Technician Ben Wilson (Benny Base Station) - now SO Wilson Tamar District. There are many tales to be told of these travels. We have a pinboard of action shots taken while on duty: herding escaped cows on King Island, some good landscapes of lighthouses, and the famous "Pub in the Paddock". And how could we forget the famous sea rescue of a fishing boat drifting in Franklin Sound between Lady Barron and Cape Barron Island! To explain - when servicing a Parks radio on Cape Barron Island, the challenge

was getting there. Usually we could hitch a ride on the Police boat; so on this trip they were on the Police boat and, being always on duty, the Police received a call for assistance from a cray boat that had lost steerage. So it was Greg and Benny to the rescue! (Not too sure how much help Benny was as he's not too sound in the air or at sea but Benny's stomach isn't the story here ....)

When travelling, Greg and Benny would also stop over at Scottsdale when they could - particularly if it was a brigade training night. Now I'm sure it was for the company and a chat with Bob and the crew at Scottsdale, but I know Greg likes his Bundy and similar drinks are found at Scottsdale .....

As mentioned, Greg is an Essendon supporter and traditionally had a carton of beer on the famed ANZAC Day match each year with Paul Lewis (a Collingwood supporter). Greg came out well on top in this bet, to the point where the deal lapsed, although I understand Paul has been keen to reinstate the deal in recent years .....

In 2001, Greg was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS). MS is a disease of the central nervous system that occurs when the protective sheath (myelin) on nerve fibres is damaged. This damage then interferes with messages between the brain and other parts of the body. It is a progressive disease that begins slowly and occurs usually in young people. It continues throughout life with periods of exacerbation and remission. As the disease progresses, the intervals between exacerbations grow shorter and the level of disability becomes greater. There is no specific treatment for MS but Greg uses specific drugs to treat various symptoms.

Even after diagnosis, Greg remained positive and completed his Certificate IV in Telecommunications in 2002 while continuing normal duties. As time went on, Greg started to show signs of physical instability. Sometimes this was just on a day or two a month but, with medication, Greg remained able to manage his duties. By 2004, Greg's duties were largely based in the Hobart workshop, although he would occasionally go into HQ for the mail run or a chat with the Southern Region staff. In the workshop, he repaired brigade pagers, maintained the paging database as well as looked after moves and changes to our mil key access system in Hobart and career stations.

Greg's condition has worsened over time to the point where he feels he can't contribute in a helpful way in the workplace and has requested early retirement. This has been a tough decision for Greg and his mother Dianna.

Greg - your workmates and colleagues at the TFS say thanks, not only for your input and hard work over the years, but the mateship and courage you showed in coming to work every day, the countless rounds on a Monday morning of "See the Bombers fly up .....", the birthday cake on the table in the first week of January, you're welcome in the workshop any time (except if the Bombers win!). There's always a place and a time here to chat.

## Driving in the TFS

By OH&S Officer, Gerald Kutzner

**D**riving is a frequent and critical activity in TFS. Whether responding to emergency incidents, conducting school fire education, or inspecting fire extinguishers, nearly all activities and services in TFS are dependent upon us travelling in vehicles including fire appliances.

The fact that TFS owns and operates a fleet of over 700 vehicles, plus allows over 2,000 members to use these vehicles and appliances on a regular or semi regular basis, reflects the crucial role of driving in the TFS. Unfortunately, driving can also be a very hazardous part of our work. Since October 2002 the TFS has recorded over 180 accidents related to the use of vehicles. In fact, vehicle accidents rank as the second highest cause of accidents in the TFS and driving represents the highest cause of serious accidents. As such it is also the most costly in terms of injury and property loss.

With so many of us on the roads and the risks being so high, we want and need to make the task of driving as safe as possible. To achieve this we have begun the process of implementing a safe driver program aimed primarily at reducing both the number and severity of vehicle accidents involving TFS members. This important program will include:

- Developing a key stakeholder working group that will consult widely with the other stakeholders;
- Undertaking a review of all relevant data and evidence on organisational driving;
- Identifying areas for change and / or improvement and making specific recommendations;
- Developing and implementing safe driving initiatives; and
- Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the recommendations and any policies or procedures created.

We are still in the early stages of this initiative and are developing the working group and the consultative arrangements. The working group is likely to include the TFS Fleet Vehicle Committee, our driving instructors, Engineering Services and regular and infrequent drivers of TFS vehicles.

The sort of issues the working party will be looking at will include:

- Fleet and vehicle safety issues (vehicle types and appropriateness for use);
- Ensuring all relevant issues with vehicles are well documented and readily available to the vehicle users;
- Driver responsibilities and accountability (including licensing, loss or suspension of licences, speeding and other traffic infringements, vehicle damage etc.)
- Issues in regard to driver training and vehicle maintenance;
- Managing fatigue for drivers (particularly heavy vehicle drivers); and
- TFS specific issues associated with using / driving vehicles operationally and / or use in remote areas statewide.

We will keep you informed of any findings or changes as this program unfolds over the next 12 to 18 months. **GK**

# Statewide breathing apparatus servicing program

By Co-ordinator Statewide Breathing Apparatus Services, Andy Smith

**B**A Services are continually engaged in a rolling program to ensure the breathing apparatus allocated to brigades is serviced annually in accordance with Australian Standards.

Recently there have been concerns raised that the breathing apparatus when returned to station has been of a different type to the original units. This has led to a few individuals being reluctant to use equipment that they are unfamiliar with. In an effort to balance the rate of wear and tear of apparatus in high frequency use brigades it is necessary to rotate the equipment between brigades. In certain cases this will result in a different breathing apparatus set replacing the original.

The main differences are as follows:

**Facemask** will be of two types:



Panorama Nova



Futura

The donning, operation and performance of the two masks remains the same, with the only difference being in the appearance.

**Lung Demand Valve** will be of two types:



PA90



PSS 100

**In an effort to balance the rate of wear and tear of apparatus in high frequency use brigades it is necessary to rotate the equipment between brigades.**

Positive pressure breathing apparatus sets have a manually operated re-set lever / button to switch "OFF" the positive pressure function – this must be operated before opening cylinder. First breath inhalation by the wearer will switch "ON" the positive pressure.

In the case of the PA90 this is a small black lever fitted to the right (as worn) of the lung demand valve.

In the case of the PSS 100 this is a red button to the top of the lung demand valve.

Supplementary air supply / pressure release facility on both types of lung demand valve is made active by pressing the centre of the protective cover to the front of the lung demand valve.

## Identification of breathing apparatus assets

In some instances current identification marks have been removed and replaced by the brigade's own identification. In order to maintain a consistent statewide approach, from now on, each breathing apparatus set will be permanently engraved with a unique reference number to assist in tracking and recording. Brigades are requested not to make any additional identification marks or modifications to breathing apparatus equipment or cylinders.

Can brigades please ensure that during gear checks regular inspections and functional testing of breathing apparatus (minimum monthly) is undertaken. This combined with regular training, will ensure familiarity and confidence in the use of this equipment.

Apologies if you have already been made aware of this information via an OH&S newsletter, but due to the nature of content we are endeavouring to reach as wide an audience as possible. **AS**

# Fire season 2009 – 2010 roundup

By Fire Management Planning Officer, Mark Chladil

Now the autumn burning season has commenced, it is possible to make some preliminary observations on the last bushfire season.

## The lead-up

The horrific outcomes from the Victorian bushfire disaster ensured that there would be heightened bushfire awareness this season, as well as heightened public scrutiny of all aspects of bushfire mitigation and operations. New and untried fire danger ratings and warning systems would provide additional complexity for both the people on the fireground as well as for the fire managers behind the scenes.

In terms of seasonal rainfall, last winter saw the breaking of the drought and significant recharge of soil moisture. The overall accumulated soil moisture deficits from years of below average rainfalls were not replaced but there was sufficient rain to generate significant pasture growth. This growth had the potential to wick fires across the landscape and to encourage significant landscape scale fires should an ignition source, severe fire weather and continuous dry fuels all coincide.

## A quiet spring

Calls to vegetation based fires were below average through Winter and into Spring. At the end of Spring a series of warm windy days were accompanied by increasing fires. A fire at Dolphin Sands on 20<sup>th</sup> November took only a couple of hours to destroy three dwellings and damage a dozen other properties: a typical wind driven event in a very dry coastal (sandy) situation which reinforced the need for the presence of both defensible space and defenders. It was a nasty start to the season.

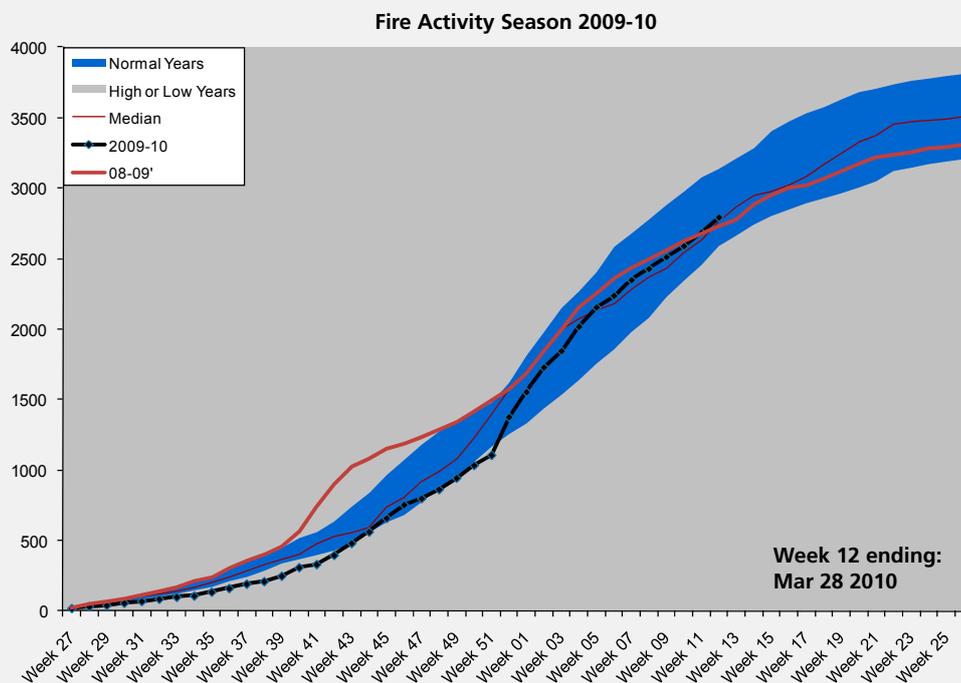
The end of November saw significant rainfalls in the eastern half of the state which dampened down the escalating situation during early December.

## A busy summer

The good rains at the end of November were not significantly followed up. The relatively quiet start was soon made up for in all the regions, so that by the end of January the season was as busy as normal and several large fires had occurred.

The major fires for the season included a very protracted campaign fire near York Town first reported on 2<sup>nd</sup> January which was in very difficult country and reached the edges of Beaconsfield. Tremendous efforts were required to hold this fire to around 3000ha.

A roadside ignition on the Plenty Road on 11<sup>th</sup> January required significant resources ahead of worsening weather before it was



held within suitable boundaries and away from built assets.

The fire which started near Wayatinah on 31<sup>st</sup> January was driven down the Derwent Valley, through wet forest, dry forest and open grassland, potentially threatening Ouse and nearby settlements. This fire required significant resources to firstly apply control lines and then to go in and extinguish it. Although the burnt area was only around 6500ha there was a very long and complex perimeter. The fire continued to be a threat through February and March.

The largest fire of the North West Region was on the West Coast at Lake Mackintosh. This came from a lightning strike in mixed scrub and buttongrass moorland in mid-January and then required resourcing all summer. When the major run occurred it sent smoke over many communities on the North West Coast and in the Great Western Tiers, causing significant concern. At some 3500ha it was the second largest fire of the season.

## Overall

The season started very quietly but ended up with close to the normal number of calls. Despite the potential, only a few fires grew to significant size. In the Southern Region there were six Total Fire Bans during the season. This is twice the annual average for the last thirty years. The Northern Region had two Total Fire Bans, which is average and the North West Region had one Total Fire Ban, which was also average.

The fact that the majority of calls were kept to small size and had limited damage is a great result.

The great result comes from the cooperation of the community in preventing and reporting fires as well as the significant use of aircraft to support the fantastic efforts of the crews in hitting the small fires early and keeping them small. **MC**

Penguin 3.1 and 5.1 after the fire was contained



# Penguin Golf Course fire

By Penguin Brigade Member, Peter Arvier

It was a hot, dry January afternoon with blustery winds when the pagers went off. A deliberately lit fire in old pine forest adjacent to the Penguin Golf Course spread rapidly with the smoke visible from 10 km away even before the first crews arrived. Eight appliances from Penguin, Ulverstone, Heybridge and Riana responded – plus a local plant operator who turned up with his excavator asking if he could be of assistance – yes please!

There were plenty of anxious onlookers as the golf course adjoins the urban outskirts of Penguin. To our amazement there were still players on the golf links as embers started multiple spot fires on the fairways. There was considerable urgency to contain the fire moving up hill before it could spread into the adjacent forest of the Dial Range. Crews worked from both the eastern and western flanks of the fire and were hampered by the ground conditions - months earlier, the winter storms had brought down many old trees leaving a tangle of tree trunks on the ground. It was a great relief when the crews on either side met at the top of the hill just ahead of the fire front.

Fortunately water was not a problem. Boosting with the Penguin trailer pump and Ulverstone 3.2, water was relayed for almost a kilometre from the nearest hydrant ensuring the branch operators at the top of the hill had good pressure at the far end of multiple lengths of hose. With the fire contained, the excavator was able to complete a fire break on the southern flank leaving the crews to finish blacking out and several days of patrolling for the inevitable flare-ups.

The response to this fire was a tremendous learning exercise for new volunteers for whom this was their first “real” fire. The coordination and cooperation between pump operators, crews on the branches, chainsaw operators and excavator operator was impressive – averting a potentially nasty fire if it had escaped into the Dial Range. **PA**



The trusty Penguin VW trailer pump boosting supply from the hydrant 1 km away



Spot fires on the fairways spread rapidly



An anxious wait for local residents whose houses adjoin the burning forest  
Photos by Firefighter Penguin Brigade, Robert Arvier

# Converge International

[www.convergeinternational.com.au](http://www.convergeinternational.com.au)

## Have you heard of Converge?

Converge International is the TFS Employee Assistance Provider, ie a contractual counselling service to all TFS members (career and volunteer). Formerly known as ITIM (they changed their name back in 2007) Converge are funded by the TFS to help you balance your work, relationships, health and wellbeing.

## What the service means to you

- Primarily it is a confidential counselling service provided by qualified and experienced counsellors who are familiar with the TFS structure, personnel and culture;
- Counselling is available for work and some non-work related issues;
- Up to 3 individual counselling sessions are available to all TFS members with some ongoing support available and / or referral to further support services where necessary;
- Dependant on the nature of the problem some support is available to TFS member's family.

## What you can use the service for

Counselling can help with managing conflict, coping with change, stress, grief, career transitions, relationship issues, gambling, alcohol / substance abuse, parenting conflict, pain, trauma, anxiety, depression and many types of emotional difficulties.

You can use the service in your own time, or speak with your supervisor who may arrange for you to attend during working hours.

## Contacts:

### South



Clare Wherett  
(Divisions)



Martin Howell  
(Operations)

### North



Geoff Gillam

### North West



Ann England

**To contact Converge for a confidential discussion or to make an appointment please phone 1800 337 068**

# ALIES 2010 Conference

The 2010 Australasian Libraries in the Emergency Sector (ALIES) Conference was held 29 March to 1 April 2010 at the Australian Emergency Management Institute at Mount Macedon, Victoria. The theme was "Resilience" and topics included: resilience in the community, resilience in the library community, and information and resilience.

## TFS Librarian awarded

Enola Johnson was awarded the Outstanding Service Award. This award recognises an individual within the ALIES network who has made a significant contribution to ALIES or an outstanding contribution to the information needs of the Emergency Management Sector. Enola was recognised for her steadfast commitment and enthusiasm for the work of ALIES through her involvement in ALIES committees and her promotion of ALIES to the outside community.



## How ALIES benefits you

Through the ALIES network, TFS members reap the following benefits:

- Access to a wider scope of resources and information through these networked library collections;
- Access to other agencies experts and in-house policies, procedures and practices;
- Access to shared databases such as the NFPA codes and standards;
- Your library staff being skilled and informed on best practice in the library and information management profession through receiving ongoing professional development and support.

# New School Fire Education program resources Out with the old and in with the new

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

Community Education's School Fire Education Instructors (SFEI) are pleased to announce the introduction of a new set of dynamic re-designed resources for the SFE program. It's out with the old and in with the new.

"We had reached a stage where the activity books and other resource material that we were using had reached their use-by-date," said the SFEI's. "It's vital that we are able to present fire safety information to the school students in a way that is engaging" they said.

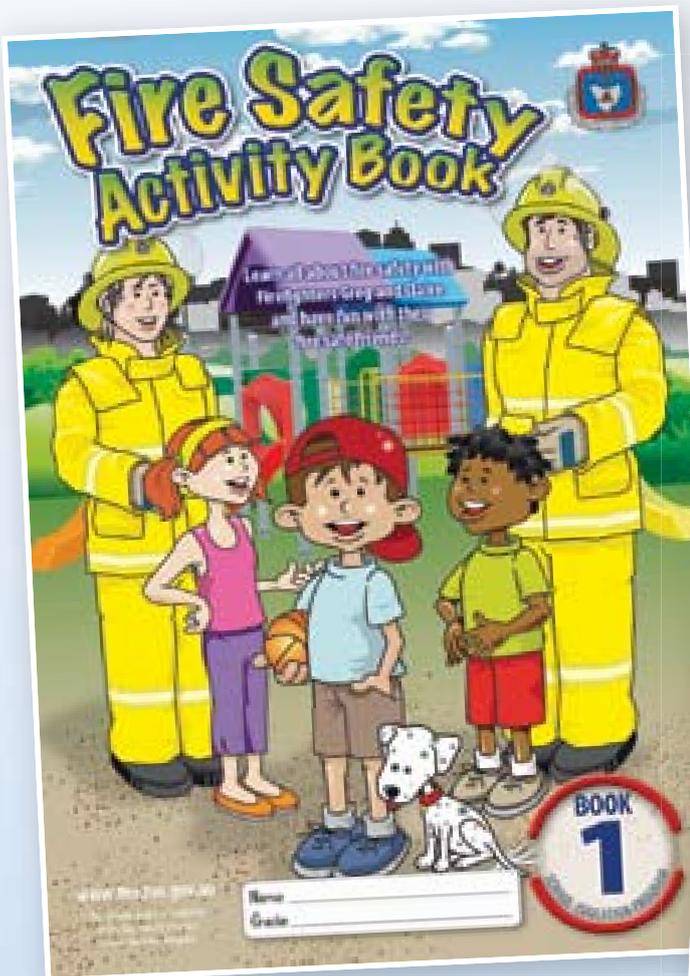
A design and consultation process commenced in December 2008 and continued until December 2009 with the view to rolling out the new resources at the beginning of the 2010 school year.

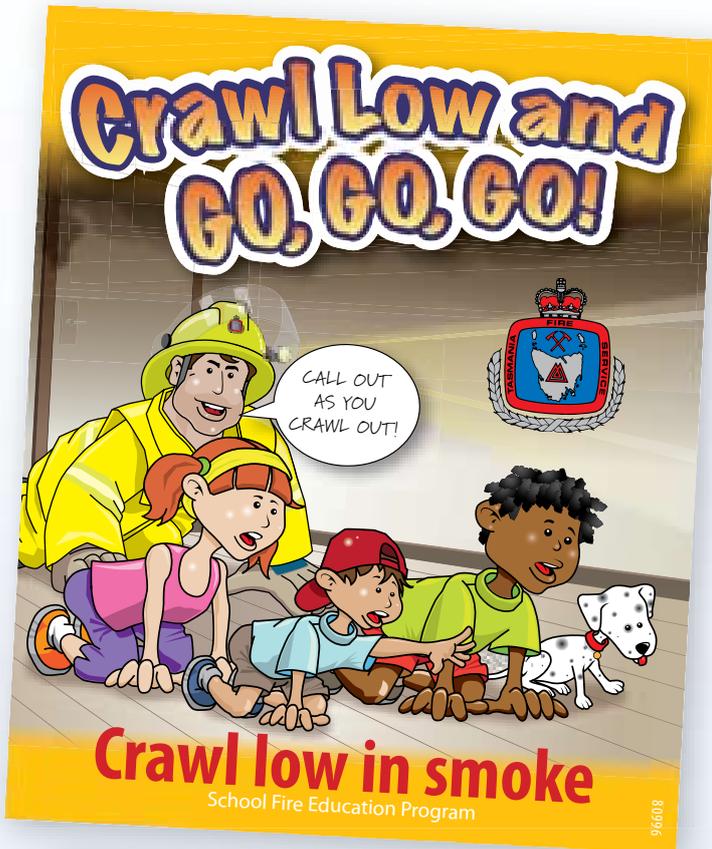
The resources include a new set of characters: Firefighters Clare and Greg; three children, Jane, Alex and John; and Spot the dog.

The Firefighter Greg character has been named after Firefighter Greg Williams from the North West Community Education Unit in recognition of his valuable contribution and years of service to the Community Education Unit and to the TFS.

In previous SFE material we have heavily promoted the use of a mascot such as a dragon, Willy Wombat etc. Our research indicated the most credible and recognisable character that we could use is a firefighter. So that's what we've done.

All the new SFE resources are for use by the SFEI's only and are not for general circulation or use. This helps ensure the children are receiving something new and engaging and not something they've seen before. **CT**





## Personal protective fire blankets

**B**urnover procedure training is currently under way in all areas of the state. Part of this procedure is taking refuge under a blanket in your vehicle in an emergency situation.

Personal protective blankets have been ordered and will be supplied to TFS vehicles from May 2010. Operational vehicles including crew cab 4x4's will receive one blanket per seating position.

Blankets will be stored in individually vacuumed sealed bags. These vacuum bags will be stowed in the passenger cell or the crew haven of vehicles.

It is important for all crews when working at bushfires to rely on their training and experience so they don't become trapped in a burnover. TFS vehicles are not designed to withstand a burnover situation. In an emergency such as this remember:

- Park your vehicle in an area of low or no vegetation;
- Shut all windows and vents;
- Cover yourself with a dry blanket;
- Get down as low as possible making sure you are under window level.



Station Officer Paul Coad with a personal protective fire blanket



# Ellendale's largest structure razed

By Second Officer Ellendale Brigade, Nathan Ransley

It was one of those extremely humid nights where you don't get to sleep until after midnight. Then the rain comes and you finally drift off, wondering how tired you'll feel for work tomorrow. The peace and comfort of the rain is shattered by that all too familiar sound of the pager, you glance at the clock, 0227 hours. It can only be a structure fire or a motor vehicle accident.

As three of the members drove to the station they could easily see the glow coming from "Kingsholme" which is located around 2 km north of town. Initially we had 5 firefighters turn out, a good start I thought as a plan starts to evolve. We have done 3 pre-incident plans with this particular property over 15 years because of the size of the structures, proximity of exposures and amount of people on the 200 acre farm, which at the last pre-incident check in July 2009 exceeded 50 persons overnight.

Ellendale 3.1 was mobile 5 minutes after the initial call and radioed FireComm. This year was the first in our history of a stay or go command for the township of Ellendale. For the previous week we had been under constant threat from bushfires to the north west, spot fires created from the Wayatinah fires.

0238 hours, Ellendale 3.1 arrived. The largest hop kiln (claimed to be the largest timber structure in the southern hemisphere) was involved in the eastern end and in the third floor apex. Dallas, Adam and Lindsay pulled the three fuses to the building as I did a size up. We set our portable pump at the dam and connected to the 3.1 which was moved to the cattle grid to the east to prevent vehicles from passing between the two kilns. Flames broke through the roof and I knew we had no chance of entry as access to the third floor was via a complicated series of small timber staircases and we were undermanned and under resourced. The 80 year old structure was perfectly designed for fire to rip through, as this airflow was required to dry the hops. Soon the top of the walls burned through and we had searing hot flames which caused the neighbouring kiln to ignite five times, each time we took shelter in the doorways before attacking the spots again.

The residents were now accounted for, evacuated from the premises and sheltered in the town hall. It was later reported that the asbestos roof sheets could be heard exploding as far away as the township proper. The flames soon doubled the height of the building, some 6 storeys high. Westerway 4.1, Bushy Park, Ouse and Gretna 3.1's, and New Norfolk 3.2 arrived and we were now able to concentrate on containing the fire.



Remaining kiln adjacent to fire scene. Ignition point at 3<sup>rd</sup> floor left window. Left vent also caught fire.



0700 hours. Photographer Firefighter Ellendale Brigade, Dallas Featherstone.

These appliances were able to draught from the dam. Two 64 mm cannons were delivered and at daylight two 10 yard water carts arrived. By 0700 hours all flames had been extinguished and fire investigators were on scene. By noon investigations had progressed enough to allow an excavator to dig the ashes apart to allow extinguishment. At 1730 hours the last of the Ellendale crew handed the incident over to the owner and after 15 hours on scene were quite happy to get home safely.

I am convinced we would have lost the second kiln if it wasn't for the pre-incident planning, allowing us to organise easier and stick to a plan of attack. I urge any brigades that are concerned with difficult properties to consider pre-incident planning.

To all who attended – thank you for your professionalism and assistance – it was greatly appreciated. **NR**

## Easter Surprise for 'A' Shift

By Firefighter Hobart Brigade, Sandra McCann

**E**aster Sunday was "A" shift's first day back at work and they were hoping for a quiet day with Easter eggs and Easter buns, Hobart firefighters were more than a little surprised when they received a pager call – "Aircraft incident – Brooker Avenue, New Town - Small aircraft down on Cloverleaf".

Immediately both Hobart crews responded with Hobart 1.1 first on scene with Station Officer Steve Percival, Firefighters Simon Nelson, Martin Grubb and Sandra McCann. The crew was prepared to lay a foam blanket at the scene but on arrival found it unnecessary as no fuel had leaked. Fire extinguishers and the high pressure hose were placed nearby the plane as precautionary measures. The battery was disconnected and made safe.

The plane, a twin seater aerobatic plane, had been flown by a trainee pilot with the Australian Airforce who was practising aerobatics when the engine stalled forcing him down on one of the state's busiest highways just after 10am.

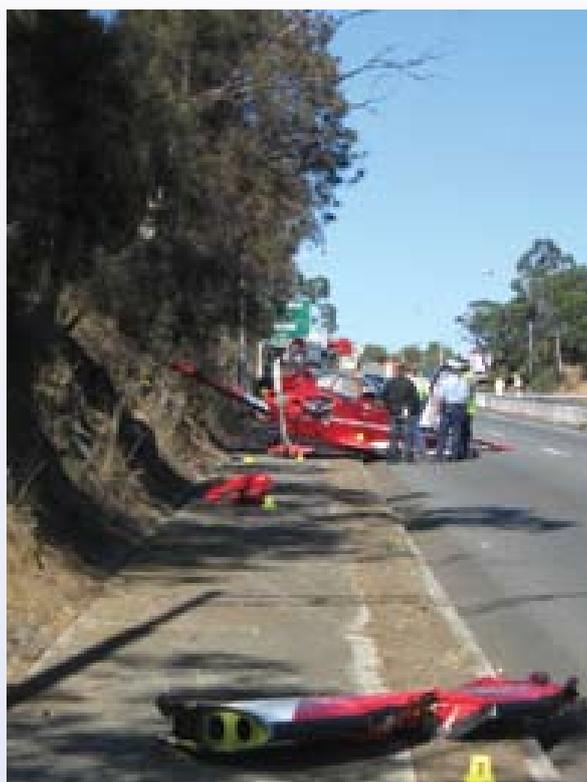
The plane clipped an Aurora light pole shearing off half of the wing before coming to rest near a bank in the south-bound lane of the highway a further 50 metres down the road. Luckily this type of plane carries its fuel in the fuselage under the pilot, not in the wings which could have caused a running fire. Although able to carry 130 litres of fuel, fortunately at the time of the crash, the aircraft was only carrying approximately 40 litres.

The pilot escaped injury and had climbed out of the plane and run down the highway to warn oncoming vehicles of the crash. He advised that he had looked for a suitable landing spot at Cornelian Bay and the Hockey Centre but was unable to land at either.

The Brooker Avenue was closed for two hours while Police conducted an initial investigation and the plane moved by crane onto a tow truck and transported for further investigation as to the cause of the engine problem. **SM**



The crew was prepared to lay a foam blanket at the scene but on arrival found it unnecessary as no fuel had leaked.



# How's that?

By Fourth Officer Ulverstone Brigade, Craig Yaxley

On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March Ulverstone Brigade took on Ulverstone Police in a friendly game of twenty20 cricket.

Police and firefighters in Ulverstone already have a great working relationship and members of Ulverstone Police challenged the Ulverstone Brigade to a game, along with the chance for a few light refreshments over a BBQ lunch, so that we'd have a chance to socialise in a bit less hectic environment than where we'd usually meet, on a job.

The day began with the BBQ at the Ulverstone station, then we all headed out to the Forth Cricket Club for the game. There were many highlights, but not so much quality cricket to talk about. In the end the Police won comfortably. The "official" perpetual trophy presentation night will be held in coming weeks.

"We already know many of the local Police here in Ulverstone, today really gave us the chance to have a bit of fun and enjoy each other's company. It will make working together even more effective" said Ulverstone Brigade Chief Robert Cunningham.

Special thanks go to Firefighter Sarah Redman and Constable Matt Streat for making the day possible. Plans are underway for more days like this in the future. **CY**



Police celebrate a wicket!

Photographer Leading Firefighter jai Manning



Ulverstone team



Police team

## Accident & hazard reporting made easier

**W**e are very pleased to announce that the TFS has invested in a new Occupational Health & Safety database! The program is called **S**afety **H**ealth & **E**nvironment (SHE). "SHE" is a nationally recognised OH&S specific database used by other fire agencies and businesses across Australasia. We aim to have it up and running in the second half of this year.

### Why did we need to buy a new database?

For the last 10 years or so anyone that has had an accident or spotted a hazard has needed to manually fill out either an Accident Report or a Hazard Report.

Due to our current "system" being almost entirely paper-based it has been near impossible for our Managers and Supervisors to keep a solid grasp on what safety risks or issues exist in their area. For example not being able to quickly determine whether hazards have been removed or whether accidents are occurring through the same cause.

From an OH&S unit perspective we also had the further concern that we were not able to actually look at reports collectively, see what the trends were (eg slippery floors in engine bays etc) and then help to put in place strategies to address the issues.

A new database will be a huge step forward towards addressing those and similar issues and limitations we currently have when trying to assist and manage OH&S across the state.

### Some of the features or benefits of "SHE":

- Ready access, retrieval and analysis of all accident or hazard information for individuals, managers, specific work groups and work areas (divisions or regions);
- Increase confidence in our ability to track and ensure action (accountability) on hazards identified through our reporting and inspection programs;

- Develop trends and analyses based on historical and current data; and
- Increased accountability with supervisory notification (email) of outstanding due dates for the control of hazards to senior managers.

These features mean improved speed, accuracy, communication and knowledge in addressing accidents and hazards reported by members.

### How will I complete an Accident or Hazard Report?

For all career staff you will be able to bypass the completion of the actual paper based form and simply go on-line (training will be provided) and enter what happened directly. Once in the system, tracking and notification features will apply as well as the ability to identify what the current status of the report is (eg closed, awaiting one of the recommendations to be completed etc).

For the majority of volunteers the initial part of completing the Accident or Hazard Report will not change, it is where it goes to and the "actioning" part thereafter that will change and improve. The completed reports will simply be sent to Regional Offices for entering into the system by trained administrative staff. Once recorded in the system all the tracking and notification features above will apply ensuring your report gets the due diligence it deserves. It is hoped that in the long term all members will be able to have the option of inputting their report on-line and the paper version of the report will become a thing of the past.

We hope that these changes will see an increased use of hazard and accident reports. After all, these forms are designed to alert our fellow members of risks or dangers so that we can either reduce or eliminate them. Over time this will lead us towards a safer place to work.

## New fire station at Parattah

By Brigade Chief Parattah Brigade, Gavin Wagner

**A**fter the devastating fires of 1967 the Rural Fires Board established a brigade at Parattah. It was registered on 4<sup>th</sup> February 1969 and known as the Parattah Tunnack Brigade. In 1972 Parattah Brigade became a brigade in its own right and had a membership of 91 local men.

On 20<sup>th</sup> February 2010 the Hon. David Llewellyn MP officially opened the new Parattah Fire Station. Guests included Chief Officer Mike Brown, Southern Midlands Mayor Tony Bisdee and State Fire Commission member Bruce Corbett. The new building has two engine bays, storeroom, kitchen, meeting room, office, toilets and showers.

Long service badges were presented to Tim Wilson (20 years); Simon Reid (15 years); and Rex Reid (15 years). Les Palmer was presented with a certificate of appreciation for his service to the brigade.

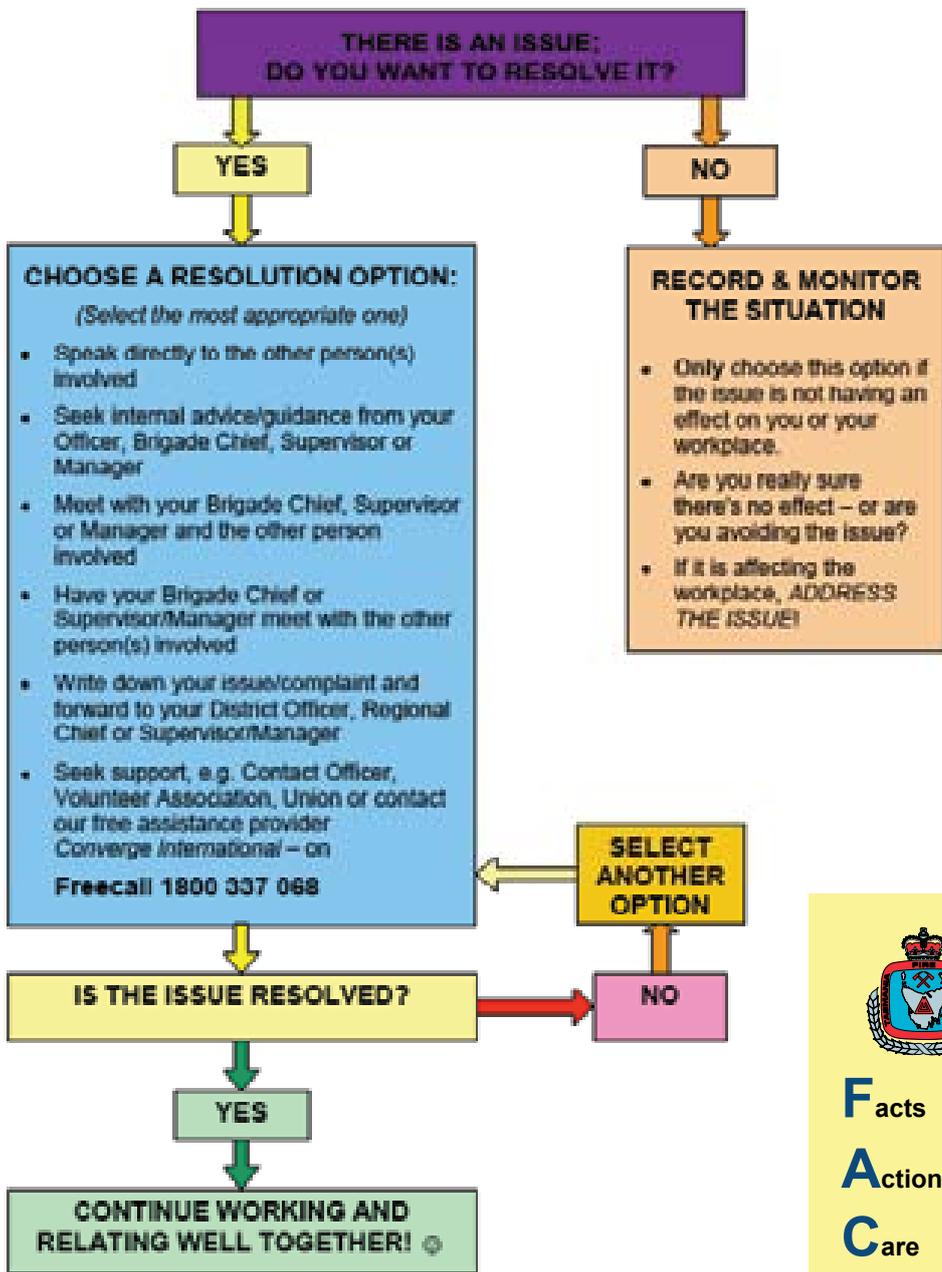
Thank you to the Parattah ladies for the wonderful morning tea.

Finally, the members of Parattah Brigade would like to thank the TFS for this wonderful facility. **GW**

# People issue? FACE UP to it!

By Coordinator Volunteer Strategy, Lucas van Rijswijk

## TFS Resolution Procedure



**What do you do when something doesn't seem right?**

**Do you ignore it hoping it will go away?**

**Do you know how to face up to an issue and to resolve it effectively?**

For most of the time being a member of TFS is a positive experience, however, there are times when people disagree or misunderstand each other. Conflict between people is inevitable – we cannot always agree. Conflict, if it is well managed, can be positive when it improves understanding and trust. If a conflict is ignored, or not dealt with respectfully, it will harm trust and undermine a brigade's capacity to work as a team.

A sign of professionalism is a willingness to resolve a conflict confidentially with fairness and respect.



**People issue? FACE UP to it**

**F**acts      What do I know?  
                  What am I assuming?

**A**ction      What are my options?

**C**are        Where can we get help?

**E**ffect      What is its effect on other people?

**U**nderstand      How might the other person be seeing it?

**P**lan        What will I do to resolve this?

**How will I deal with this confidentially with fairness and respect**

# TFS and Wellness

By OH&S Officer, Kelly Gordon

The health and wellness of our members is important to the organisation. Being fit for duty, healthy and happy are vital components to organisational success. TFS are keen to establish an effective health and wellness program that achieves all of these outcomes. In the past TFS have put health and wellness initiatives into place but it has been a somewhat spasmodic approach.

What has TFS done in the past in regard to health and wellness? Many things such as:

- Safety week – tai chi, yoga, massages, safe drinking, walks, healthy lunches, stress management, Beyond Blue, Pit Stop (weight, blood pressure, flexibility, diet, smoking, sexual health) and food (healthy)
- HFB – nutrition sessions (learning how to cook properly)
- Quit smoking (designated areas for smoking)
- Fundraising (runs / cycling)
- Intranet (fitness, parenting, relationships, gambling, alcohol, recipes, links etc)
- Global Corporate Challenge
- Health & Wellbeing survey
- Fitness leaders
- Mental health - Converge (ITIM) & CISM
- Medical monitoring – hearing tests, influenza injections, hepatitis B
- Variety Challenge

So what will a health and wellness program at TFS mean to you? In its simplest form a health and wellness program will assist you in your efforts to lead a healthy lifestyle. It will give you access to resources and support if you wish to make any positive changes or maintain your health and wellbeing both at work and in your private lives.

The planning and research for the implementation of a TFS Health and Wellness program is currently in progress. A wellness working party has already been established to scope out the content for a health and wellness program. The working party has so far met twice and one of the key undertakings was to find out what our people actually wanted for a wellness program. So in December an online survey went out to all staff with the purpose of obtaining feedback about what should be in a health and wellbeing program. 128 employees participated in the survey and the top five results were:

- Minimum fitness standards
- Mental health
- Fitness checks
- Nutrition
- Gym equipment upgrade

Taking into consideration the top five preferences, the working party will continue to research health and wellness options in order to ensure that the best possible program is developed to meet our members' needs.

The working party is currently working on a recommendation report for management's consideration which will list various options that can be included in such a program. Although we are still in the early planning stage please keep an eye out for exciting health and wellness initiatives coming your way! **KG**

As part of our *Supportive Brigades* workshop members are encouraged to see what is working well in their brigades. They are also asked to explore how to resolve conflict well. Two tools are provided; a FACE UP fridge magnet and chart of the new TFS Resolution procedure. Follow these, using the help and support that TFS provides, and you won't go far wrong.

Many conflicts arise due to poor communication or misunderstandings. When we are offended we can make assumptions about why people do things. Often these assumptions are wrong.

The steps in *FACE UP* help you to think through the issues, always remembering that you need to be willing to see the other "side". The *TFS Resolution Procedure* tells you what steps you can follow and what help you can call on. Put these together and you are well on the way to resolving differences of views.

So remember, if you feel there is a problem, find a quiet time to talk it through. The sooner you have the chat, and the more low key you can keep it, the more likely it can be resolved amicably. However, if you cannot agree on a solution, ask for advice or help from your brigade officers, Contact Officers or District Officers. We all owe it to ourselves and our brigades to build trust and respect into everything we do. **LvR**

## TFS logo

By District Officer Midlands, Gerald Crawford

In the last edition of Fireground there was a story on the origin of the TFS logo. This story contained some facts that were not quite correct.

In 1968 the Rural Fires Board conducted an emblem competition restricted to professional artists. Some 82 designs of high quality were submitted.

The competition was judged by Mr Allan Paull, President, Victorian Branch, Australian Commercial and Industrial Artists' Association; Mr BK Miller MLC, Chief Secretary; and Mr TL Roberts MC, Chairman of the Rural Fires Board.

The winner was Mr R H Thomas of Hobart, second Mr Max Angus and third Mr Bert Aurlei.

The emblem selected symbolised the containment of fire in relation to the surrounding countryside.



RFB Emblems

In 1978 the Fire Brigades Commission was abolished and replaced with the State Fire Authority and a new shoulder badge was designed by Commission staff.



State Fire Authority Emblems

In 1979 the State Fire Authority and the Rural Fires Board were amalgamated into the TFS. Mr Gayle Paltridge was installed as the inaugural State Fire Commissioner. It was Gayle Paltridge who came up with a design for the new TFS logo along with the senior staff members at the time. There were some 6 different designs before the final one was approved. Loretta Olsen who was the Illustrator with the Rural Fires Board did the drawings for the design.



The TFS logo is a compilation of the old State Fire Authority and Rural Fires Board emblems. The Crown symbolises the allegiance to the Crown with the laurel wreath signifying victory. The original shoulder badge had a white edging. **GTC**

## Skylarking in the Workplace

**P**icture this: You're in the kitchen and you hear your name called, turn around and see a big wet sponge flying at your head. Do you:

- (a) Duck and brand your ear on the hot plate next to you;
- (b) Slip and jar your back on the floor;
- (c) Stand there dripping and humiliated;
- (d) Retaliate with a full bucket of water (and create a hazard in the process);
- (e) Hit them with the door next time you drive past.

TFS, like many businesses, has its fair share of "incidents" resulting from people skylarking in the workplace.

"What's skylarking"? I hear you say? Well, there are a number of different words that can be used to try and explain what skylarking is all about. Here are just a few:

- Tomfoolery;
- Shenanigans;
- Humorous antics;
- Practical jokes;
- Horseplay;
- Any kind of act that is packed full of mischievous content.

For us, a typical example of this type of behaviour may be "hosing" someone down on station, or perhaps moving someone's chair away from them just as they are about to sit down. Both of these examples can be done with the best intentions, ie to have some fun, but what if it doesn't work out that way?

What happens if the person being sprayed by the water slips and injures themselves? What if the person misses the chair and lands heavily on the ground and injures their back? It's not funny anymore.



It's not just physical injuries; we also need to remember the psychological effect this type of shenanigan can have. It may have been funny to you or the group that watched it happen but not at all to the individual concerned. They may feel that this joke (and perhaps others like it) is likened more to harassment or bullying than simply a bit of fun amongst work "mates".

Don't forget that you have to keep yourself and others safe at work. A "simple bit of fun" might result in you being investigated for breaking the laws on workplace safety. There's a range of legislation and TFS specific program / information that applies to these situations. Some of them are:

- Workplace Health & Safety Act 1995 (Duty of Care, responsibilities of employers and employees);
- Workers Rehabilitation & Compensation Act 1988;
- Anti-Discrimination Act 1998;
- SFC Occupational Health and Safety Policy;
- SFC Policy for the Prevention of Harassment and Bullying;
- Contact Officers

Please, consider the other person before going too far with your pranks and ask yourself "What might happen if I go through with this joke?" and "Is this the type of behaviour we should be encouraging or participating in"?

## West Coast Council's Tasmania Day award

By Fourth Officer Queenstown Brigade, Robert Butterfield

**B**rigade Chief Bill Tiddy of Queenstown Brigade was recently awarded the West Coast Council's Tasmania Day award for "Outstanding Community Service".

Bill Tiddy first joined the Queenstown Brigade in 1965 and is still as passionate and committed to the brigade as when he first joined 44 years ago. Bill has spent thousands of hours and many nights away from his family attending fires in the

Queenstown area as well as training courses held throughout the state to help maintain his skills at a high level.

Bill has taken a leadership role within the brigade since 1981. He was elected as Brigade Chief, in 2005 and still holds that position today. Bill is a mentor for many members in the brigade and has helped and encouraged new members into the service in a positive and encouraging style, always finding time for the things that are important to other members. **RB**



## Supportive Brigades workshop – at a brigade near you!

By Coordinator Volunteer Strategy, Lucas van Rijswijk

**B**y the time you read this more than 40 brigades will have completed the Supportive Brigades workshop. Feedback has been fantastic. You've told us that you've really enjoyed it. What's more, you'd recommend it to other brigades too.

If you haven't done it yet you've missed out on something special!

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

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

We've planned it so that every volunteer brigade can do the workshop by June 2011. We'll do about 70 by July and the remaining two-thirds of brigades by July 2011.

So what are you waiting for – ask your district staff to put you on the list.

The workshop was developed from what our people told us they needed. It was piloted with volunteers and VTIs. Lots of people have been involved in its development. Thanks to all the volunteers, association representatives, and career staff for their contribution to the development of this unique workshop. **LVR**





## Thanks for your valuable info!

By Coordinator Organisational Development, Steve Willing

**T**hanks to all those who responded to the TFS Values surveys! We had great responses and the results show some clear preferences. You'll recall that we had to run 2 separate surveys so that the results for the employee's survey could be fed into a survey of State Service employees.

For the employees, the clear favourites were 'Professional' and 'Accountable'. After that there are many with similar scores, but there are possible groupings that could be put under one heading, like 'Trustworthy' + 'Honest' + 'Integrity'.

For the volunteers, 'Professional' scored highly again and there was more of a focus on 'Connected to Community', 'Committed' and 'Dedicated' – which makes sense!

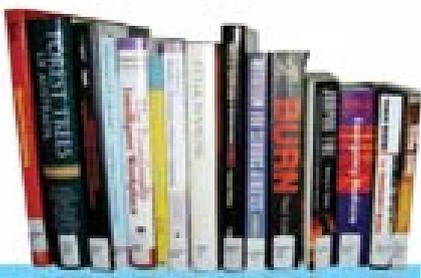
Other attributes suggested were Non-biased', 'Efficient', 'Team Focussed', 'Team Oriented', 'Equality', 'Competent' and 'Courageous'.

Now we have these results, they will be used to help decide if and how we need to change the existing TFS Values.

Once a decision is made, we will conduct workshops and focus groups to determine what each attribute (e.g. 'Professional') means in terms of specific behaviours – what will (and won't) we do in our own workplaces to demonstrate this value?

We'll keep you posted. Thanks again for your input! **SW**

| Attribute               | Employees | Volunteers |
|-------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Accountable             | 58        | 49         |
| Committed               | 17        | 110        |
| Compassionate           | 8         | 20         |
| Connected to Community  | 21        | 113        |
| Considerate             | 9         | 6          |
| Creativity              | 1         | 0          |
| Customer Focused        | 24        | 7          |
| Dedicated               | 16        | 109        |
| Ethically Based         | 13        | 19         |
| Excellence              | 4         | 11         |
| Fair                    | 18        | 21         |
| Honesty                 | 35        | 31         |
| Innovative              | 11        | 13         |
| Integrity               | 33        | 47         |
| Knowledge Based         | 7         | 37         |
| Outcome Focused         | 6         | 18         |
| Passionate for Tasmania | 12        | 15         |
| People Focused          | 23        | 41         |
| Professional            | 71        | 242        |
| Progressive             | 21        | 28         |
| Respectful              | 20        | 39         |
| Responsive              | 12        | 87         |
| Service-oriented        | 28        | 40         |
| Trustworthy             | 37        | 80         |



# Library News

## New Resources in the TFS Library

### **Installation of photovoltaic (PV) arrays: AS/NZS 5033:2005**

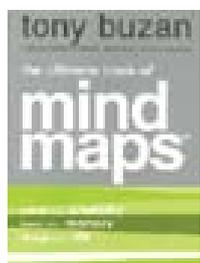
/ Standards Australia, 2009.

Provides electrical safety and fire protection requirements for premises where photovoltaic arrays are installed.

*Accessible via our Standards Online database*

**Fire safety in the home** / Standards Australia, March 2010  
(Supersedes HB 46-1993 Guide to residential safety)

*Accessible via our Standards Online database*



**The ultimate book of mind maps: unlock your creativity, boost your memory, change your life** by Tony Buzan with Susanna Abbott. London: Thorstons, 2005.

“Colour illustrated throughout, this definitive guide is packed full of examples of amazing thinking tools and practical Mind Map examples, including running a meeting, preparing for an interview, starting up a new

venture, planning family events, shopping for gifts, designing a garden, getting fit, and writing a speech for a wedding.”

*Available at SHQ library*

**Tasmania’s weather tales: one hundred years of weather and climate services in Tasmania and Antarctica.** Bureau of Meteorology, 2008.

*Available at SHQ library*

**Using crime prevention to reduce deliberate bushfires in Australia (AIC report No. 98)** / Damon A Muller. Australian Institute of Criminology, 2009

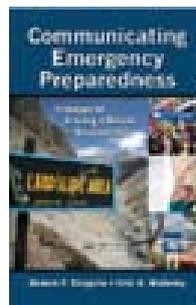
*Available at SHQ library, and online at*

<http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/current%20series/rpp/81-99/rpp98.aspx>

**The cost of bad behaviour: how incivility is damaging your business and what to do about it** / Christine Pearson and Christine Porath. New York: Portfolio, 2009.

Whether deliberate or not, inconsiderate or unethical behaviour can have a serious impact on otherwise well-functioning workplaces. The authors reveal strategies used by successful organisations to counter incivility.

*Available at SHQ library*



**Communicating Emergency Preparedness: Strategies for Creating a Disaster Resilient Public** / Damon P.

Coppola, Erin K. Maloney. New York: CRC Press, 2009.

Recent events worldwide have made disaster preparedness and disaster communication to the public a crucial concern. September 11th, the Indian Ocean tsunami, Hurricane Katrina, and other

mega-disasters have highlighted not only a woeful lack of community awareness of vulnerability but also the absence of a clear protocol for what to do as events unfold. The book presents the best ways to inform communities about disaster risk factors, response plans, and emergency procedures without fomenting panic or paranoia, and features a series of case studies which identify various public awareness campaigns that have been successfully conducted in different communities.

*Available at SHQ library*

**Underpinnings of fire management for biodiversity conservation in reserves: fire and adaptive management**

/ Gill, A. Malcolm. Melbourne, Vic.: Department Sustainability and Environment, c2008. South-eastern Australia has many areas of very high conservation value. It also has people and assets and is highly prone to fire. Managing this landscape is complex and challenging. For example, decisions about fire and water catchments on one side of the mountains may impact on livelihoods and biodiversity more than 100 km away and 50 years hence.

*Available at SHQ library and online*

### **New DVDs**

**Forecast for disaster: the weather behind Black Saturday.** 2009. 1 DVD (50 min.).

Originally broadcast on The Weather Channel (Foxtel), 2 May 2009, this documentary looks behind the human tragedy and explains the culmination of extreme weather conditions that led to Black Saturday.

*Available at SHQ library*

**VE Commodore: an exercise in technique evaluation.**

Brisbane: Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, 2009 1.DVD (18 min.) Holden Commodore VE test vehicles are used for the crash simulation and technique and equipment evaluations examined in this program.

*Available at SHQ library*

**Inside the firestorm.** ABC, 2010. 1 DVD (1.51 min).

The story of the terrible events of "Black Saturday" bushfires as seen through the eyes of those who were there, the witnesses caught inside the horrendous firestorm that would re-write history and change all the rules.

*Available at SHQ library*

**How to survive a disaster** (Horizon) BBC, 2006 1 DVD (60 min.)

Through controversial experiments, computer simulations and analysis of hundreds of survivor testimonies from plane crashes to ferry disasters and even 9/11, the program reveals what happens in the mind in the moment of crisis and how the human brain can be programmed for survival.

*Available at SHQ library*

#### **Online Newsletters**

**Connections** (Workplace Standards Tasmania e-magazine)

This free magazine includes information for those working in the allied industry areas of electrical, gas, plumbing and building. It will be produced twice a year, and will include changes to the legislation and how this will affect workplaces and work practices, licensing and regulatory requirements, and more.

To subscribe, go to <http://www.wst.tas.gov.au/publications/CONNECTIONS>.

#### **Get Moving at Work eNewsletter**

To help workplaces to improve the health and wellbeing of their employees, the Premier's Physical Activity Council has developed a bi-monthly e-newsletter to share the latest information about resources, events and case studies relevant to workplace health and wellbeing. To join the network, email [ppac@getmoving.tas.gov.au](mailto:ppac@getmoving.tas.gov.au), with "subscribe to workplace e-newsletter" in the subject line, or phone 1800 252 476.

#### **Historical records of medals and awards across Tasmanian Fire Brigades**

As a sideline to his research for the HFB Book, Terry Gill created spreadsheets related to records of medals and awards preceding the national medal across all Tasmanian brigades. This information could assist people seeking brigade historical information, for example when compiling speech notes for a station opening or preparing a brigade history.

The spreadsheets cover the following:

- 1914 and 1949 - long service medals awarded by the Burnie, Hobart, Launceston and Queenstown Fire Brigade Boards to their own operational members;

- 1949 and 1970 - Fire Brigades Commission of Tasmania Long Service & Meritorious Conduct Medals awarded to members of all Tasmanian urban fire brigades;
- 1970 and 1976 - "Queen's" Fire Brigade Long Service & Good Conduct Medals recommended by the Fire Brigades Commission of Tasmania and awarded to members of all Tasmanian urban fire brigades; and
- 1912 to present - bravery awards from all sources (Governor-General, Royal Humane Society of Australasia and TFS Chief Officer) to members of all Tasmanian fire brigades.

Please contact the Library to access this information.



#### **New face in the Library:**

Helen Richardson is acting Librarian for 6 months while Enola works in Human Services as a Project Officer. Helen will be in the Library Monday to Thursday, and can be contacted on:

Ph: 6230 8679

Email: [library@fire.tas.gov.au](mailto:library@fire.tas.gov.au)

Or drop into the State Headquarters Building  
Corner Argyle and Melville Streets, Hobart

Library catalogue: <https://talis.education.tas.gov.au/uhtbin/fire/>

# Awards



## A list of recent awards presented within the TFS

| Location/Brigade      | Name             | Award                     | Location/Brigade  | Name                    | Award                     |
|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Beaconsfield          | Kelvin Beams     | Long Service (25 years)   | Gladstone         | Jacqueline Moore        | Long Service (20 years)   |
|                       | Robert Gilley    | Long Service (25 years)   |                   | Veronica O'Neil         | Long Service (20 years)   |
|                       | Greg Miller      | Long Service (20 years)   |                   | Jillian Probert         | Long Service (20 years)   |
| Brighton              | Andrew Walker    | Long Service (20 years)   | Tania Thompson    | Long Service (20 years) |                           |
|                       | Chris Stingle    | Long Service (15 years)   | Carly Moore       | Long Service (15 years) |                           |
|                       | Simon Geard      | Long Service (15 years)   | Skye Moore        | Long Service (15 years) |                           |
| Colebrook             | Normal Iles      | Long Service (25 years)   | Hobart            | Nigel Hume              | National Medal (25 years) |
| Coles Bay             | Tony Marriott    | Long Service (20 years)   |                   | Paul Coad               | Long Service (30 years)   |
| Community Fire Safety | Chris Tomes      | Long Service (25 years)   |                   | Andrew Fyfe             | Long Service (25 years)   |
| Cranbrook             | David Amos       | Long Service (40 years)   | Andrew McGuinness | Long Service (20 years) |                           |
|                       | Michael Dunbabin | Long Service (30 years)   | Darren Gray       | Long Service (20 years) |                           |
|                       | Howard Edginton  | Long Service (20 years)   | Stephen Benefield | Long Service (20 years) |                           |
|                       | Patrick McShane  | Long Service (20 years)   | Giulia Russo      | Long Service (15 years) |                           |
| Dover                 | Mark Baker       | National Medal (15 years) | Launceston        | David Klug              | Long Service (20 years)   |
| Engineering Services  | Bernard Drew     | Long Service (25 years)   | Longford          | Leon Richardson         | National Medal (15 years) |
|                       | Andrew Triffett  | Long Service (20 years)   | Midway Point      | Andrew Dare             | Long Service (20 years)   |
|                       | Craig Plummer    | Long Service (15 years)   | NW Region         | John Streets            | Long Service (40 years)   |
|                       | Paul Cooper      | Long Service (15 years)   | Old Beach         | Graeme Gee              | National Medal (25 years) |
|                       | Gladstone        | Rodney Moore              |                   | Long Service (25 years) | Graeme Gee                |
|                       | Bernard O'Neil   | Long Service (25 years)   | Craig Bowerman    | Long Service (20 years) |                           |
|                       | David Probert    | Long Service (25 years)   | Parattah          | Tim Wilson              | Long Service (20 years)   |
|                       | Ian Richards     | Long Service (25 years)   |                   | Simon Reid              | Long Service (15 years)   |



Deputy Regional Chief Ken Burns, Regional Chief Tony Davidson and Station Officer Nigel Hume



Deputy Regional Chief Ken Burns, Regional Chief Tony Davidson and Station Officer Andrew McGuinness



Regional Chief Tony Davidson and Senior Firefighter Darren Gray



Regional Chief Tony Davidson and Senior Firefighter George Kokkoris



Deputy Regional Chief Ken Burns, Regional Chief Tony Davidson and Leading Firefighter Steve Benefield

| Location/Brigade Name |                         | Award                     | Location/Brigade Name     |                           | Award                     |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Parattah              | Rex Reid                | Long Service (15 years)   | St Patricks River         | Brian Medcraft Snr        | Long Service (15 years)   |
| Richmond              | Stuart Bailey           | Long Service (30 years)   | Tomahawk                  | Tim Binns                 | National Medal (15 years) |
|                       | Robert Ackroyd          | Long Service (25 years)   |                           | Terry Binns               | Long Service (20 years)   |
| South Bruny           | Tony Martin             | Long Service (15 years)   | Tunbridge                 | Tim Binns                 | Long Service (15 years)   |
|                       | Robert Mason            | Long Service (15 years)   |                           | Max McMahon               | Long Service (15 years)   |
| St Helens             | Tony Wessing            | Long Service (15 years)   | Wattle Hill               | Paul Triffitt             | Long Service (25 years)   |
|                       | Glenn Bailey            | National Medal (35 years) | Winnaleah                 | Bob Madsen                | Long Service (30 years)   |
|                       | Dale Richards           | National Medal (25 years) |                           | Rodney Mullins            | National Medal (25 years) |
|                       | Craig Clark             | National Medal (15 years) | Michael Cooke             | National Medal (15 years) |                           |
|                       | John Le Fevre           | Long Service (35 years)   | Arthur Taylor             | Long Service (35 years)   |                           |
|                       | Fred Hannam             | Long Service (30 years)   | Rodney Mullins            | Long Service (30 years)   |                           |
|                       | Ian Hawker              | Long Service (30 years)   | Frank Wagner              | Long Service (25 years)   |                           |
|                       | Joseph Cook             | Long Service (25 years)   | Ronald Apted              | Long Service (20 years)   |                           |
|                       | Rodney Ferrall          | Long Service (20 years)   | Michael Cooke             | Long Service (20 years)   |                           |
|                       | William Freeman         | Long Service (20 years)   | Wendy Goninon             | Long Service (20 years)   |                           |
|                       | St Patricks River       | Brian Medcraft Snr        | National Medal (15 years) | Kent McPherson            | Long Service (20 years)   |
|                       |                         | Scott Mills               | National Medal (15 years) | Christine De Wit          | Long Service (20 years)   |
| Paul Mills            |                         | National Medal (15 years) | Rhonda Wagner             | Long Service (20 years)   |                           |
| Neville Calvert       |                         | Long Service (40 years)   | Jennifer Murphy           | Long Service (15 years)   |                           |
| Christine Medcraft    |                         | Long Service (20 years)   |                           |                           |                           |
| Scott Mills           | Long Service (20 years) |                           |                           |                           |                           |
| Paul Mills            | Long Service (20 years) |                           |                           |                           |                           |

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



Regional Chief Tony Davidson with award recipients Station Officer Paul Coad, Senior Firefighters Simon Pilkington and Sean Mennitz, and Senior Station Officer Andrew Fyfe



Award recipients - Tony Marriott (Coles Bay Brigade), David Amos, Howard Edginton, Michael Dunbabin and Patrick McShane of Cranbrook Brigade



Recent presentation evening at Campbell Town Brigade – L-R: District Officer Jeff Harper, National Medal recipients Andrew Gray and Michael Liston, Warren Barr – retiring from active membership after 42 years, Zane Darke – 5 years long service award

# On the Move

*A list of recent personnel changes within the TFS*



*The following Career personnel changes have occurred*

## Arrivals

|                   |                |                          |                 |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| North West Region | Debbie Jackson | Clerical Support Officer | 9th April 2010  |
| Southern Region   | Gerald Parsons | Utility Officer          | 14th April 2010 |

## Departures

|          |               |                        |                |
|----------|---------------|------------------------|----------------|
| FireComm | Heath Pickett | Communications Officer | 3rd April 2010 |
| Hobart   | Shane Gustas  | Senior Firefighter     | 6th April 2010 |

## Elevations

|        |              |                  |                |
|--------|--------------|------------------|----------------|
| Hobart | Stuart Males | District Officer | 4th March 2010 |
|--------|--------------|------------------|----------------|

*The following Volunteer Brigade Officers have been elected by their Brigades*

| BRIGADE   | OFFICER           | APPOINTMENT    | BRIGADE      | OFFICER            | APPOINTMENT    |
|-----------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Hadspen   | Wayne Preston     | Brigade Chief  | North Motton | Robert Marshall    | Brigade Chief  |
|           | Ian Gabites       | Second Officer |              | Gregory Davies     | Second Officer |
|           | Trevor Parker     | Third Officer  |              | Ben Gurnhill       | Third Officer  |
|           | Geoff Rollins     | Fourth Officer |              | Sam Ling           | Brigade Chief  |
| Kimberley | Alvyn Parker      | Brigade Chief  | Riana        | Gary Morse         | Second Officer |
|           | John McCormack    | Second Officer |              | Christopher Talbot | Third Officer  |
|           | Wendy Gaffney     | Third Officer  |              | Gerry Clarke       | Fourth Officer |
| Latrobe   | Graeme Brown      | Brigade Chief  |              |                    |                |
|           | Christopher Hinds | Second Officer |              |                    |                |
|           | Michael Parker    | Third Officer  |              |                    |                |
|           | Michael Clarke    | Fourth Officer |              |                    |                |



District Officers Paul Salter, Stuart Males and Jeremy Smith



Acting District Officer Learning & Development Gary Johnson, Regional Chief John Streets, and District Officer Arthur Jodi Armstrong congratulating Senior Station Officer Phil Harvey on his promotion (second from right)



## Photo Competition Winner

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

The winning photo from this edition is:



Photo submitted by Lucas van Rijswijk, Coordinator Volunteer Strategy (\$100)

### How to enter:

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

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

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

Photos may be of any TFS event or incident

May include TFS personnel in turnout gear or uniform

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

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

Post them in to:

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

or email them to:

[fireground@fire.tas.gov.au](mailto:fireground@fire.tas.gov.au)

## Introducing .....

**G**erald Parsons has joined the TFS as Utility Officer for the Southern Region. For the past ten years Gerald has run his own garden maintenance business and brings a wealth of experience with him to his new role. He has also been a volunteer firefighter with the Gretna and Bushy Park Brigades.

Gerald fills the position Denis Hoggett left last year. I wonder if Gerald will be allowed to use "the big roller" when he assists David Shorthouse. Ed

Please take the time to say hello to Gerald and welcome him to the Service.



# LETTERS



5 April 2010

Gerald Crawford  
District Officer  
Tasmanian Fire Service  
C/- Midlands District  
Bothwell Tas 7030

Dear Gerald,

**Re: Wayatinah Fire**

We would like to sincerely thank you and the Tasmanian Fire Service and other authorities involved in the fire fighting activities and subsequent control of the Wayatinah Fire. Especially all the volunteers who responded to the spot fires on Cleveland.

Although the fires were extensive and very random on where they spotted (five spots on Cleveland) we were lucky that more damage did not occur. The worst was on the southern end of the property that burnt up to the fire breaks of 100ha of pine plantations just 1km from the Township of Ouse. Through quick thinking and assertiveness from local brigades, forestry and community members the fire was contained quickly and with out too much damage.

No building or stock were lost in the fire, with the majority of the damage to fence structures. Already we have had neighbours offering assistance and the Land Rover Club Of Tasmania helping us repair the damaged fences.

If you could please pass on our sincere thanks to all the crews, DMT and others that came up to Cleveland and the Wayatinah Fire, they all did a great job in some extreme fire fighting conditions.

On behalf of the local community and as Brigade Chief of Ouse I commend the Tasmanian Fire Service in keeping the locals well informed of potential threats, current conditions and the need to implement their Bush Fire Plans. However I would question not just Ouse residents, but many Tasmanians living in the rural and rural/urban fringe on their preparedness to stay and defend or even a plan to leave.

Kind Regards

 + ECR Shoobridge

Tom & Elise Shoobridge  
Cleveland Pastoral Estate

Cleveland Pastoral Estate  
ACN: 009 482 571  
ABN: 29 009 482 571

7401 Levee Hwy  
Ouse Tasmania

GPO Box 70  
Ouse Tasmania 7140

Telephone 03  
Facsimile 03

14-02-2010

Officer In Charge  
Tasmania Fire Service  
Northern Regional Office,

We would like to express our sincere thanks for the way in which the Blessington, Evandale and Reibbia brigades dealt with the recent bushfire on Blessington Rd. Our property, Ballroom Hill, was under threat and we cannot praise the brigades enough for their efforts in getting the fire under control before it damaged any structures.

Those brigades are a credit to Tasmania Fire Service.

Please pass on our thanks.  
Regards,

Ian & Tracey Grayson



Department of Health and Human Services  
AMBULANCE TASMANIA

GPO Box 111, HOBART TAS 7001, Australia  
Ph: (03) 6230 8581 Fax: (03) 6230 8573  
Web: www.dhhs.tas.gov.au



Contact: Dominic Morgan  
Phone: (03) 6230 8580  
Facsimile: (03) 6230 8585  
E-mail: dominic.morgan@dhhs.tas.gov.au  
File:

Mr Michael Brown  
Chief Officer  
Tasmania Fire Service  
Corner Argyle and Melville Streets  
HOBART TAS 7000

Dear Mr Brown

A/Southern Regional Manager Monica Baker has briefed me on a significant multi persons trapped motor vehicle collision that our Services attended at Westernway on Saturday 3 April 2010.

Regional Manager Baker provided a report outlining the exceptional pre-hospital assessment, scene management and clinical management involved in this incident. This case involved eight patients, (five seriously injured and three others requiring transport), three of whom were airlifted by helicopter. Supervisor Peter Berry reported that the teamwork between the pre-hospital providers, the helicopter team and other emergency services was outstanding. As such I feel all services attending are worthy of note and due recognition. The cooperation and treatment initiated in the early pre-hospital phase of care assisted greatly in the stabilisation of the patients and rapid mobilisation to definitive care.

I am writing to acknowledge your Service's contribution to the professional way in which this incident was handled and to ask if you would pass on my personal thanks to your staff who attended. The Ambulance Tasmania paramedics and volunteers were extremely thankful for their support.

Yours sincerely

Dominic Morgan  
Chief Executive Officer

13 April 2010

We recently had some help from the Molesworth Fire Brigade and I wondered if it was possible for you to publish our thanks in your newsletter.

The Molesworth Primary School and Molesworth Environment Centre would like to send a huge thank you to the Molesworth Fire Brigade for their help on Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup> March. With only a few days notice we had a team of enthusiastic helpers to fell, chainsaw and remove some trees that were posing a threat to our rope and tyre bridges. They worked so hard we had difficulty getting them to stop for morning tea. Work that would have taken us weeks to complete was finished by lunch time. Once again thank you for your support.

Rachel Viney

Co-ordinator – Molesworth Environment Centre

## LETTERS

Dear Mike

The reason for my letter is to pass on the thanks of my husband Rob, and myself, to the firemen from the Evandale Volunteer Fire Brigade.

Last Tuesday afternoon, 16 March 2010, we had a fire in our garage at Evandale, which it was determined had been caused by the angle of the sun shining onto a magnifier in a lamp on the floor of the garage, and igniting a bag of polystyrene chips.

We were extremely lucky, that on that day, two members of the Evandale Brigade, Ian and Andrew Hoggett, were working on Andrews house in the next street. They smelt the smoke from our garage and immediately investigated. They then raised the alarm and returned with the fire engine to extinguish the fire.

As Rob and I were both at work at the time, we are indeed fortunate that such quick thinking, and use of their training, by Ian and Andrew resulted in our home and an adjacent shed not be compromised.

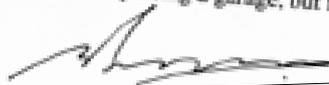
Upon my return from work, Grant Rigby and his crew were still in attendance and Grant stayed on site until he was certain all was well.

We would be very appreciative if you could formally pass on our thanks to these men, as our situation could have been considerably worse than replacing a garage, but for their timely intervention.

Kind regards

*Katharine*

Katharine von Bibra  
46 Barclay Street  
EVANDALE TAS 7212



2 Crouch Court  
Dunstable 2108

2 February 2010

Evandale Volunteer Fire Brigade  
Denny

Our thanks to you and the team for responding so quickly and professionally to the fire at our block the Saturday before last.

You fell pretty helpless at a time like that, especially with the memory of last years Victorian fires still fresh. Its good to know that help is close by.

Could you please buy the team a couple of beers with the enclosed.

Thanks again

Tim & Helen WHITE.



**Dolphin Sands Ratepayers Association Inc**  
(Representing the ratepayers of Dolphin Sands and The Great Oyster Bay Estate)  
P. O. Box 133, Swansea, Tasmania 7190  
Email: dsra7190@hotmail.com  
Phone: (03) 6257 0042

Mr Paul Salter  
East Coast District Officer  
GPO Box 1526  
HOBART 7001

1<sup>st</sup> March 2010

Dear Paul,

Dolphin Sands Ratepayers Association would like to thank Tasmania Fire Service for their involvement in the fire which at Dolphin Sands on 20 November 2010.

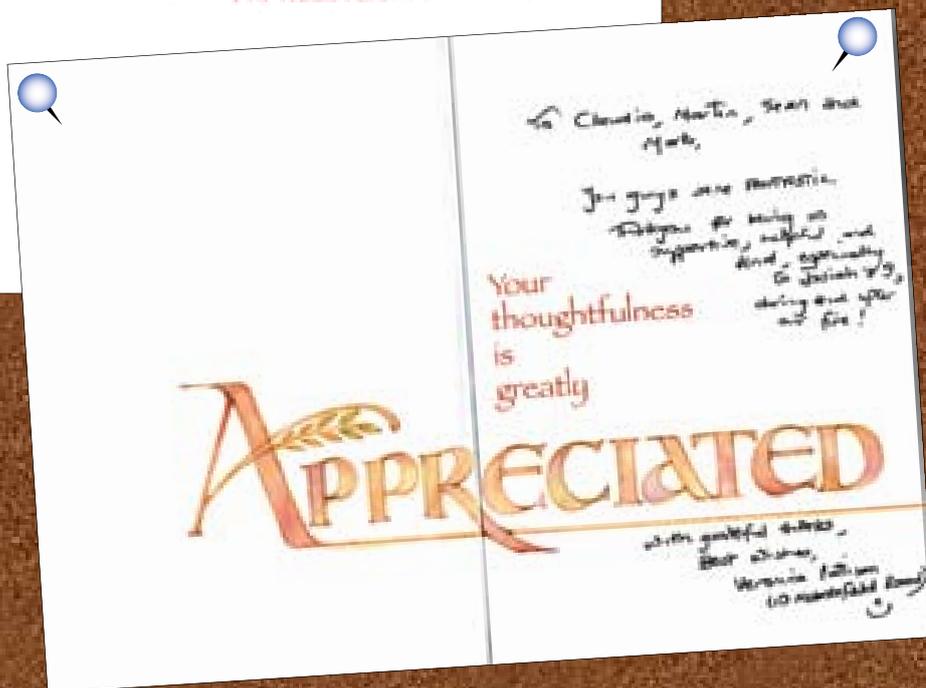
We would ask that your pass on our immense appreciation to all the various units which attended that day and night to fight what was to those of us involved a quite horrendous fire. Their total dedication and professionalism was a real highlight, as well as the great concern they showed for the individuals with whom they had contact.

DSRA has been able to express our sincere thanks to our two local volunteer brigades (Swansea and Cranbrook) in more tangible ways, so we hope that you can convey our gratitude to those involved who come from outside of our community.

Thanks again for your support.

Yours sincerely,

*Sue Bull*  
Sue Bull  
President



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

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

Tasmanian Retained Volunteer  
Firefighters Association  
State Secretary - Mathew Philpott  
Email: [secretary@trvfa.org.au](mailto:secretary@trvfa.org.au)  
Mobile: 0417 499 088  
Website: [www.trvfa.org.au](http://www.trvfa.org.au)

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

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