

# SOUTHERN EMBERS NO.9 – June 2015

## TASMANIAN VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADES ASSOCIATION "Representing volunteer fire-fighters throughout Tasmania"

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Welcome to the ninth edition of Southern Embers. We hope you have all had a relatively quiet fire season and get some rest over winter!

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### **Upcoming Events**

**State Conference** – Don't forget the State Conference is on at the Country Club on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July.

**Southern TVFBA AGM** – Everyone is invited to attend the Southern AGM of the TVFBA at 7pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August at the Cambridge Training Complex.

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### **Staff Movements**

Deputy Regional Chief Hugh Jones is undertaking the role of Regional Chief North from April until 1 July 2015. During this time Mark Klop will be Acting Deputy Regional Chief South until further notice.

District Officer Gerald Crawford will be on leave from 4 May 2015 until 6 July 2015. During this time District Officer Rod Sherrin will be acting as District Officer Midlands.

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### **Recent Events**

#### **Working with children**

Working with children legislation came into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015. Please ensure that you and fellow members of your brigade are registered for working with children and all members who come into contact with children outside an emergency response need to be registered. More information can be gained from the TFS website or through your district office.

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#### **Southern Delegates visit to Primrose Sands Brigade**

Thank you to Brian Rainbird and his brigade for making the Southern Delegates of the TVFBA so welcome on their recent visit to Primrose Sands Fire Station. The evening went well and discussions were held around current issues including new structural PPC and volunteer training at Brigade level. If you would like the Delegates to come for an evening discussion to your brigade please contact the Southern President Colin Cunningham via email [southernbranchpresident@tvfba.org.au](mailto:southernbranchpresident@tvfba.org.au).

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### **Automatic Vehicle Locators (AVL)**

Some of you may have noticed some movement on the left hand side of the screen on the radios in our vehicles. This is the transmission back to Firecomm of the current location of the vehicle. The transmission sends every few minutes and has been turned on in a number of group vehicles and field vehicles as well as a number of fire appliances throughout the state. More information on the technology can be found at the following link:

<https://www.fire.tas.gov.au/userfiles/tym/file/WebsiteAutomaticVehicleLocation.pdf>

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### **Updated Map Book Proposal**

Most of our Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) personnel would have had some experience with the map books currently supplied with our vehicles.

The first edition of the Tasmanian Map Book was published in 2007. The publication was a new concept primarily designed to satisfy the needs of the Tasmania Fire Service (TFS). As there were over 400 maps required to cover the State the publication became three map books covering the three TFS regions. The publication has proved to be an essential reference for TFS and other Emergency Services despite some of its shortcomings (i.e. over emphasis of certain features to the detriment of essential elements).

The publication is now over seven years old and uses topographic data that in some cases is 20 years old. Spatial analysis reveals that there has been considerable change to roads, buildings and dams in this intervening period.

TASMAP is proposing a number of changes to mapping products in Tasmania, including the abolition of the "Tassie Towns" street atlas, 1:100,000 and 1:25,000 map series. A new 1:50,000 topographic map series will be produced as a replacement.

In line with these changes there is an opportunity to update our current Map Books. Please provide your thoughts on whether we should replace the current out dated map book or consider other options, including electronic, to District Staff.

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### **Responsible Use of Alcohol Policy**

Brigades are reminded of Responsible Use of Alcohol Policy and are asked to ensure that they have either a licence or permit in place as detailed in the policy document below.

<https://www.fire.tas.gov.au/Show?pageId=displayDoc&docId=00005292>

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### **DPEM integration**

It has now been six months since the integration of corporate services with the Department of Police and Emergency Management. The project is still continuing and current updates of the integration and changes can be found on the TFS intranet under the DPEM Corporate Services Integration Project.

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### **Message from Regional Chief South – Jeremy Smith**

Planning has commenced for the upcoming fire season with a number of activities being undertaken in preparation.



These included:

- The allocation of the latest heavy tanker build and subsequent flow on
- Pre fire season briefing content
- Identification and accreditation of level III incident controllers
- State-wide Exercise objectives and locations
- Fireline leadership courses
- Strategic fuel reduction planning

It is now the middle of winter but it won't be long until we are again in the bushfire season.

Could all Members please check their PPC to ensure it is clean and serviceable and if it needs replacing please contact your District staff.

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### **Clothing Update**

The PPC Committee has been working for some time now on moving to a new structural ensemble. New Structural PPC has been rolled out in the North West (Burnie and Devonport) as this happens the PPC will be fitted to personnel by the manufacturer to ensure appropriate sizing and protection. The first 670 sets will arrive by mid this year and will be distributed to brigades with the priority going to those brigades with the most amount of structure fires being contained to room of origin. These brigades will also have to have correct storage built for the new structure PPC so that it can be hung up correctly and not stored in an engine bay. The new PPC also will need to be correctly laundered and the process for this is still being decided.



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### **Key Knowledge:**

When responding to an incident a Crew Leader will be preparing themselves and the crew by considering the following acronym:

- R**escue
- E**xposures
- C**ontain
- E**xtinguish
- O**verhaul



## Mike Brown Retires

The Southern Branch of the TVFBA would like to sincerely thank Mike Brown for his help, support and contribution to the Association over his years as Chief Officer and long serving member of the Tasmania Fire Service. Mike is highly regarded by our association and will be sorely missed. We wish Mike all the best for his retirement and will keep an eye out for him when at Sommers Bay.



Photo: Mike Brown along with Senator David Bushby, Lyndsay Suhr, Frank Howe and members of the Cambridge Brigade at the recent unveiling of the Cambridge War Memorial which was built by the brigade.

