

# SOUTHERN EMBERS NO.10 – November 2015

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

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Welcome to the tenth edition of Southern Embers we hope you have all kept warm over winter and are ready for the summer which is already upon us. The Southern Branch of the TVFBA wish you all the very best to you and your families for Christmas and the New Year ahead!

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### **Upcoming Events**

**Southern Branch visit to Great Lake, Brady's Lake & Arthurs Lake Brigades - Autumn**

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### **Staff Movements**

- Regional Chief Jeremy Smith is currently Deputy Chief Officer.
- Deputy Regional Chief Hugh Jones is currently on leave.
- Greg Butters is currently Regional Chief South.
- Mark Klop continues as Deputy Regional Chief South
- **Hobart District** - Colin Attrill continues as District Officer until 14 December when Neil Brooksbank will undertake the role until further notice.
- Field Works Officer Adrian Petrie continues until 14 December when Colin will return to his substantive position.
- **East Coast District** - Steve Walkley continues as East Coast District Officer with Field Works Officer George Auchterlonie.
- **Midlands District** - Dale Rayner is Midlands District Officer due to Gerald Crawford's secondment to the Fuel Reduction Unit. Adam Meredith is currently undertaking the role of Field Works Officer while Dave McGuinness takes leave.
- **South West District** - Rod Sherrin continues as the District Officer. Brendan Burridge continues as Field Works Officer.

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### **40kph Speed Limit when lights are flashing**

School buses have it, council workers have it, South Australia has it so why not us. The TVFBA is currently looking to hold discussion with the State Government in conjunction with our peers around having the posted speed limit dropped when emergency lights are activated at an incident. We have all been to RAR's, MVA's, house fires and bushfires where distracted drivers are continuing to drive past at up 110kph. A 40kph speed limit when emergency lights are active on a road will allow traffic flow safely past an incident and greatly reduce the risk to the many volunteers who are found in this vulnerable situation. In South Australia the legislation is that when emergency lights are activated the speed limit automatically drops to 20kph which is aligned to their road work and school bus speed limit of 20kph. If all other roadside workers can mitigate their risk so should we. Watch this space!



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### **Volunteer Emergency Service Award Nominations**

Do you know an individual or group within your volunteer emergency service who is dedicated and committed to their service? They may not always be on the frontline, they may work behind the scenes or in an affiliated support role. If you do, then nominate them for the Tasmanian Broadcasters Emergency Service Awards. Nominations close on November 25<sup>th</sup> 2015. More information can be found at the following link:

<https://www.fire.tas.gov.au/userfiles/tym/file/whatsnew/ESAform2015Hobart.pdf>



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## Recent Events

### 2015 Hobart District Light Tanker Competitions

The 2015 Hobart District Light Tanker Competitions were hosted by Cambridge Brigade on Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> of October. Ten brigades from Collinsvale to Taroona participated over eleven stages to compete for the trophy with events including a first aid scenario run by medical students from the University of Tasmania. Other stages were Burnover, Urban Interface, Radio Q&A, Standpipes, GP Pumping, Driving, Chainsaws, Maps and Navigation, General Knowledge and Fire Extinguishers. The weather held out for an excellent morning of fun with crew skills being very close for the stages managers to judge. After having lunch the results were announced with Rokeby taking away the top spot by two points over Cambridge with Taroona coming a close third. A big thank you to all those who helped out on the day and also to the Southern Branch of the TVFBA for donating the trophy to the winners, and finally congratulations to Rokeby Members Terrence Mills and Jonathon Belbin on their win.



Martin Bower & Chris Walter (Taroona), Terrence Mills & Jonathon Belbin (Rokeby), Dean McKibben & Dave Menzie (Cambridge)



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## Ford Blitz

On Tuesday the 11<sup>th</sup> of August a morning tea was held on Lou Hanslow's property Summer Hill, half way between Richmond and Cambridge. Mike Brown was in attendance along with local councillors, former brigade chiefs, local brigade members and media from across the south of the state all joining together for a cuppa and scones for the launch of the restoration of one of the earliest known heavy tankers in Tasmania. In 1964 Bill Casimaty purchased the Ford Blitz from the Wynyard Airport at the fall of the auctioneers hammer for the grand total of 300 pounds. After the local community rallied together being in need of a firetruck the Blitz was soon put into use with various upgrades including a new pump. After its life of as a red fire truck at Richmond it soon wound up in the municipality of Clarence (Richmond then being its own Council area) and had a white paint job makeover. After some years in and around Clarence and the Rokeby area it soon found it's self at home as the Mount Rumney Brigade's first truck. It was here under Mount Rumney Brigade Captain Paul Macmichael that Retiring Chief Officer Mike Brown had his firsthand experience of the old girl with many stories to tell. After some more brigade modifications and another paint job to reflect the Rural Fire Board the old Blitz was eventually superseded by a TK Bedford and was decommissioned at Blackwood Hodge at Bridgewater. From here the Blitz was sold by tender to a property owner at Lower Marshes (near Bothwell), on sold to a landholder at Lonavale (near Judbury) and finally to another property at Native Corners (near Campaina). After the truck had toured half of the state, in the lead up to Richmond Brigades 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary the search for the long lost Blitz began. After Lou, Bill and many others had been searching diligently for some time for a truck last known to be white, all hope was nearly lost until one day Lou started scrapping back some paint of an old green truck he had bought some time back. It was home at last!



Greg Dare (Mt Rumney), Lou Hanslow (Cambridge), Mike Brown, Paul Macmichael (Mt Rumney), Sam Hibberd (Cambridge)



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## CAFS Heavy Tanker Rollout

We have come a long way from the Blitz! Engineering Services have finished the current lot of the new Heavy Tanker 3.1 units which are all fitted with Compressed Air Foam Systems. Late last month Police and Emergency Services Minister Rene Hidding told the unveiling that "These new tankers represent the latest capital investment in the frontline of our fire service, and will soon enter service with brigades around the state. The new tankers are fitted with Compressed Air Foam Systems (CAFS), which enhance firefighters' ability to suppress fire." Mr Hidding also noted that "A generous donation of \$166,000 from a not-for-profit organisation has supported the TFS in fitting CAFS to six of the tankers, which are being allocated to brigades in communities touched by the 2013 fires.". With the 3.1 CAFS units rolling out through the Southern Region be sure to check them out over the coming months.

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## Message from Acting Regional Chief South – Greg Butters

With the new staff settling into their jobs, the team in the Fuel Reduction Unit have had a busy time involved in: community engagement forums; planning; fire management area committee meetings; Landcare-hosted forums; media activities and, planned burning around the state.

Regional Planner for the South, Bernard Plumpton, has been working with the Hobart, East Coast, Southern and Midlands Fire Management Area Committees to get the annual reviews of the Fire Protection Plans complete. These are all on track for presentation to State Fire Management Council on 1 December 2015.

After a dry winter, it has been a busy spring with burning opportunities taken when the appropriate conditions were in place. This has been a tricky juggling act, particularly with total fire bans and bushfire response during a busy October.

The following burns have been undertaken within the South, with some smaller burns planned to be completed over the next few weeks before the end of the Spring program, weather permitting.

### Burns complete:

Barossa Creek	Lenah Valley	South	60ha – completed in 2 stages.
McRobie's Gully	South Hobart	South	40ha
Simpsons Hill	Orielton	South	750ha
Spring Beach	Orford	South	10ha

All brigades are welcome to participate in the burning program, and we liaise with District Officers about the burns as they come up. The participation of brigades in these burns has really been appreciated – watching Emma from Lenah Valley swing a gas gun has been a highlight for everyone!

DO Gerald Crawford has now joined the Unit to help with coordinating the burning pass on his vast knowledge of vegetation fire management in Tasmania.

If you would like more information about the program, please don't hesitate to call anyone of the team. You can find us in the web here: <http://www.fire.tas.gov.au>Show?pagId=colFuelReductionProgram>



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**Don't Forget:**

**L**ookout  
**A**wareness  
**C**ommunication  
**E**scape Routes  
**S**afety Zones

**If you have anything you wish to hear more about or have any issues where your local volunteer rep may be able to help you please contact the southern branch via email at [ccunning@clubtelco.com](mailto:ccunning@clubtelco.com)**

