



2 September 2010

Media Release

Fire experts to gather in Darwin

Australia's biggest gathering of fire and emergency management staff will join leading local and international researchers in Darwin next week to discuss major issues confronting the industry in the wake of the final report of the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission.

The fire industry's main annual conference – hosted by the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) and the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre -- will showcase the industry with presentations of current developments and research as well as stands featuring the latest in firefighting technology and equipment.

Naomi Brown, Chief Executive Officer of AFAC, said: "This is a very exciting annual event and I am delighted we have almost 1000 delegates coming from around Australia and the Pacific region to share their knowledge and experience in this forum. AFAC has played a lead role in facilitating closer working relationships between all fire and emergency service agencies and the talented and committed people who work in our industry. This conference is a wonderful opportunity for them to network, strengthen those relationships and broaden their knowledge."

With the final report of the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission having been published just weeks ago, the nationwide implications of its findings and recommendations will be much discussed at the conference's dozens of sessions and workshops.

Bushfire CRC Chief Executive Officer Gary Morgan says the conference is happening at a pivotal time for the sector, with many changes on the way following the work of the Royal Commission, which made recommendations with nationwide as well as Victorian implications.

“The Royal Commission made considerable use of Bushfire CRC expertise and recommended the establishment of a permanent national bushfire research agency to build on the work of the CRC. We intend to implement that by transitioning to a new Australasian Fire Research Institute after federal funding for the CRC ends in 2013,” Mr Morgan said.

Conference speakers will be experts in their fields from around Australia and overseas. The keynote opening speaker on Thursday morning is former High Court Justice Michael Kirby, whose chosen topic is “After the fires die down and the lawyers depart.”

A number of sessions will highlight the aftermath of the Black Saturday bushfires, including the weather lessons learned from the fires, a study of who survived the fires and why when they might have died, and the implications of the Royal Commission for emergency services.

Conference topics will range well beyond bushfire issues into the wider emergency management issues of coping with cyclones, floods and tsunamis. Other sessions will examine how indigenous people have managed fire in their landscapes, not just in Australia but also in Timor and sub-Saharan Africa.

AFAC and the Bushfire CRC are pleased to acknowledge the role of Scania as principal sponsor of the conference.

The AFAC/Bushfire CRC 2010 conference will be staged from 8 to 10 September at the Darwin Convention Centre, Northern Territory.

For more details visit: http://knowledgeweb.afac.com.au/Window_on_the_Conference

For further information and interviews with speakers, contact:

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Thursday 9 September 2010

	Main Auditorium	Waterfront Room 1	Waterfront Room 2	Waterfront Room 3
800	Registration			
845	Opening Keynote After the fires die down and the lawyers depart The Honourable Michael Kirby AC CMG			
945	Coffee Break and Poster Session			
1015	Executive Stream Shared responsibility Dr Simon Longstaff St James Ethics Centre	Indigenous Fire Management People, poverty & fire use in Africa The Working on Fire program Alex Held AfriFireNet	DC10 - Large Airtanker Evaluation, Victoria 2010 Dr Matt Plucinski AFAC	The First Seven Years of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade Emergency Responder Program Colin Bibby Metropolitan Fire Brigade, Victoria
1050	The Emergency is Now Dr Ed Blakely United States Studies Centre, University of Sydney	Learning from the heart of the peoples of Timor and Sumba Prof Ferry Fredy Karwur Satya Wacana Christian University, Indonesia	Fire Detection Cameras Stuart Matthews CSIRO	A History of Alternative Solutions and NSWFB Benjamin Hughes-Brown NSW Fire Brigades
1125	Executive Leadership Tom Rogers Australian Institute of Police Management	Hope for the Future: how cooperation with locals has transformed fire regime in Arnhem Land Michael Carter Bushfires NT	Towards a national policy on fire in the landscape Ewan Waller Department of Sustainability & Environment, Victoria	Managing and delivering a major PPC Project Phil Taylor Metropolitan Fire Brigade, Victoria
1200	Lunch and Poster Session			
1300	Keynote The Policy Cat-and the many ways to skin it when in govt. Prof Clare Martin Professor, Northern Institute, Charles Darwin University, NT			
1355	Coastal Inundation & Climate Change Prof Barbara Norman University of Canberra	The NAFI website a dynamic, user-driven tool for monitoring landscape-scale fires Dr Peter Jacklyn Charles Darwin University, NT	Deep survival in the Victorian bushfires of 7 Feb 2009 Dr Jim McLennan Latrobe University, Melbourne	Double Session The Mental Health Effects of Trauma in the emergency services Prof Mark Creamer Australian Centre for Post Traumatic Mental Health
1430	Wildland fire science and technology trends and initiatives: A Global Perspective Jim Gould CSIRO Forest Biosciences	Improvements to fire management on Aboriginal lands in central Australia Grant Allan, Bushfires NT Gina Broun, Central Land Council	A Fire Learning Network cultivating local expressions of capacity Matt Campbell Department of Sustainability & Environment, Victoria	
1500	Coffee Break and Poster Session			
1530	Letting facts get in the way of a good story: informing bushfire policy through a strategic research agenda John Schauble Office of the Emergency Services Commissioner, Victoria	Landscape-Scale Wildland Fire Modelling Research and Applications Janice Coen National Centre for Atmospheric Research, Colorado, USA	Fire & Carbon Sequestration Burning credit? - Fire & carbon sequestration in tropical savannas Dr Lindsay Hutley Charles Darwin University	55 years of flood rescue in NSW. The story so far, but what does the future hold for the next 50 years? Peter Cinque & Keith Fitzgerald NSW State Emergency Service
1605	Don't be afraid: the psychology of bushfire response Dr Danielle Clode University of Melbourne	The trench effect and eruptive wildfires: lessons from the King's Cross Underground disaster. Dr Jason Sharples ACT Rural Fire Service	Fire & carbon sequestration in the High Country Prof Mark Adams University of Sydney	The future of flood emergency management in Australia. Andrew Gissing Victoria State Emergency Service
1640	Operation NOMAD The South Australia Police response to the threat of bushfires. John McMahon South Australia Police	Meteorological lessons learned from 'Black Saturday' Claire Yeo & Tony Bannister Bureau of Meteorology, Melbourne	Fire & carbon risk management in tall temperate forests Dr Stephen Roxburgh CSIRO Canberra	Time modelling of flood evacuation operations Steve Opper NSW State Emergency Service
1710	Close			
1830	Conference Gala Dinner			

Friday 10 September 2010

	Main Auditorium	Waterfront Room 1	Waterfront Room 2	Waterfront Room 3
800	Registration			
900	Victoria's Bushfires-Changing our Landscape Mick Bourke Chief Executive Officer Country Fire Authority, Victoria			
1005	Impact of climate change on fire in US National Parks Dick Bahr Wildland Fire Branch, US National Park Service	International Search and Rescue Australian USAR Response to the Sumatra Earthquake John Cawcutt Queensland Fire & Rescue Service	Tsunami: How it changed a nation Tipaula Laupu'e Samoa FRS	"Awake, Smoky, and Hot": occupational stressors during bushfire suppression Dr Brad Aisbett
1045	Coffee Break and Poster Session			
1120	Outcomes of the Vic Bushfire Royal Commission implications for emergency services Catherine Dunlop Maddocks Lawyers, Melbourne	Cyclones Why some buildings perform well in cyclones, and others fail. Cam Leitch Manager CTS, James Cook University, QLD	Savanna Burning & Greenhouse gas abatement Joe Morrison, CEO, NAILSMA <i>Current status in Australia</i> Kevin Anderson & David Hinchley, Carpentaria Land Council, QLD <i>Issues & challenges in QLD Gulf</i>	It's learning... but not as we knew it. Peter Wilding New Zealand Fire Service 11:20-11:50
1155	Sleeping with the enemy Stuart Ellis Leading Emergency Services, South Australia	Tropical Cyclone Threats- -Present and Future Dr Bruce Harper GHD	Dr Mick Meyer, CSIRO <i>Global context and scientific work in savanna burning</i>	Planning, preparation and response to emergencies in large tunnels Shan Raffel, Queensland Fire & Rescue Service 11:50-12:15
1230	Legal consequences from the 2003 ACT bushfires Dr Michael Eburn Australian National University, Canberra	Climate change, tree change and sea change: The future for bushfire and cyclone risk management in Australia Dr Garry Cook Principal Research Scientist, CSIRO Darwin	Dr Peter Whitehead (NTG) <i>National/state policy developments</i>	Sofa Superstore - Rising from the Ashes of Tragedy Tim Sendelbach Nth Las Vegas Fire Department, USA 12:15-13:00
1305	Lunch and Poster Session			
1400	Debate That Experience Teaches Us More Than Inquiries Moderator: Richard Margetson, ABC Darwin <i>Teams:</i> Graham Fountain, CEO, Metropolitan Fire Brigade, Melbourne Catherine Dunlop, Partner, Maddocks Lawyers Mike Hall, CEO, New Zealand Fire & Rescue Service Charlie King, ABC, Darwin Dr Michael Eburn, Australian National University Michael Grant, Solicitor-General, Northern Territory			
1500	Plenary - Keynote The Chemistry of Success Matt Church			
1600	Closing Ceremony			
1630	Conference Close			
1800	Farewell Mixer - Crocosaurus Cove			