

Welcome to today's newsletter for families and friends of Australian and New Zealand fire personnel deployed to the USA.

The ANZ involvement in the USA's 2006 fires is fast drawing to a close. The 24 remaining members of the ANZ deployment have now been released from their fireline assignments and are at NIFC in Boise, Idaho where they completed their debrief on Saturday (US time). They are preparing to depart the USA and are expected to return home later this week.

Deployment Summary

Nationally, initial attack activity remains light, with 30 new starts reported. No new large fires were reported or contained.

Weather Forecast

California will have warm and dry conditions on Friday which will turn cooler with higher humidity this weekend. A high pressure over the western states will weaken as an upper trough develops along the coast on Saturday. Cooler onshore flow with higher humidity is predicted to start this weekend in California.

Current Fire Situation

US Date	US Time	No. active, large fires	New large fires	Large fires not under control (Acres)	Large fires not under control (HA)	Total Acres burnt this season	Total Ha burnt this season
01-Oct-06	1600	11	0	888,343	359,500	9,074,358	3,672,262

As at 1 October 2006 (USA evening) - 2 October (Melbourne time)

Large fires are still burning in California (5), Washington (4), Idaho (1), Montana (1) and Oregon (1).

Where are ANZ crews?**Total ANZ Firefighters in USA:**

	VIC	WA	NSW	ACT	TAS	NZ	Total
3 rd Deployment	6	3	5		2	8	24

The first deployment returned home in mid September. All bar two members of the second deployment have now arrived home. Roger Armstrong (WA) (Liaison Officer at the NIFC Coordination Centre in Boise) will return on Tuesday, 3 October. Dennis Ward is now ANZ Liaison at Boise and will return with the third deployment.

The third deployment will depart the US on 3 October (US time) and is expected to arrive in Australia and New Zealand on Thursday 5 October (Aus & NZ time).



Crew Locations: Second Deployment

Location	Fire fighters/liaison
NIFC Coordination Centre, Boise	Dennis Ward – VIC - liaison

Crew Locations: Third Deployment – previous duty – now all

Deployment	Released from fireline duty	
	Bruce Jane – NZ	Paul Whiteley – NSW
	Phillip MacDonald – NZ	Geoffrey McGill – VIC
	Shane Cross – NZ	Glenn Harrap – VIC
	David Stackhouse – NZ	Alexander Moylett – WA
	Russell Gould – WA	David McMillan – WA
	Ross Williamson – VIC	Alan McDonough – NSW
	Peter Cramer – VIC	Darryl Dunbar – NSW
	Peter McKechnie – NSW	Mark Bang – NZ
	Kenneth Borland – TAS	Timothy McNaught – NSW
	Michael Phillips – TAS	Steven Richardson – VIC
	Raymond Gardiner – NZ	Wayne Hamilton – NZ
	Douglas Ashford – NZ	

Stories from the Fireline

Andrew Graystone (Vic) writes (from home in Victoria) that all of ANZ#3 arrived in Boise on Friday September 29 (US time) to prepare for their departure over the next few days.

On Saturday September 30 the contingent debrief was conducted at the NIFC training building. This was followed by the contingent dinner hosted by hosts and friends at NIFC. Andrew writes "Having witnessed the past 2 contingent dinner, I am sure this was a fun evening at the Owahee Restaurant in downtown Boise".

With Andrew Graystone back in Melbourne and Roger Armstrong (WA) in transit, Dennis Ward (Vic) will now handle the presentation of 3rd Contingent Awards.

The departure of ANZ #3 will be spread over a few days.

- Andrew Graystone, Contingent Liaison in Boise, departed on September 29.
- Roger Armstrong (WA), Bob Hagen (WA) and the New Zealand contingent are travelling home, starting Sunday 1 October.

As there were no flights available for the 16 Australians in Contingent 3 to travel as a group until Tuesday October 3, they will head for Yellowstone National Park on Sunday, returning Monday 2nd October, before preparing to return home. Andrew states that "this should be a great experience and we thank our hosts at NIFC for organising this trip".

A Poetic Farewell

The New Zealand Helicopter Crew of Shane Cross, Philip MacDonald and Bruce Janes passed on their thanks to their US friends at the Weaverville Airbase (Bear, James, Lyle, Nathan, Octavio and Kelly), on their last morning in fine style - with a poem presented by Shane Cross.



PAD 5 ON THE DECK

*Fire is a dirty word,
like soot, sweat and dirt.
It's a passion we share in them
there hills
But we just call it work.*

*The days are long, hot and dry,
but still we got good support
Daily lunches on the Rig @ 5 & 10 a
piece
Eat all day, Watch Your Fly Weight,
just a random thought*



**NZ members at NIFC
in Boise**

Deck works hard, hosing pads, and all the s#&@ jobs
While the box has air conditioning and pesters for ya Hobbs
Cargo work in the searing sun packing up the drops
nets and strops of everything destined for the spots*

*Now the pilots and ships, such well oiled machines
ready to attack the line
It's just that bloody smoke hanging around
that holds them back on time*

*So I hope this Kiwi humour has refreshed your mind,
and not burnt it to a crisp.
Cause if we can't leave the States
You may not get your wish.*

*LAKE is our final word ,
A word we all understand
It's here and now we gotta upon our
merry way
So thanks from us, and enjoy your
day.*

- Shane Cross - NZ

News from California

Paul Whiteley (NSW) was assigned as Division Supervisor on Division K of the Oven Bake Fire on the Bar Complex fire in Northern California.

Paul with the San Juan Hotshots on the Salmon Mountain Ridge, in Division I.



Paul has been predominantly involved with structure protection, but was spiked out on Monday night to attack a slop-over with crews (a slop-over is, in our southern hemisphere language, a spot over where the fire edge crosses a control line or natural barrier intended to contain the fire).



3rd contingent – Group Photographs

Following on from the group photograph of the NZ members of the Third Contingent on page 3, here are the Australian members of the contingent (minus a few missing members).



NSW members of 3rd contingent



Tasmanian members



Victorian members



WA members



Helpful contacts

- The facts and figures on this newsletter will be updated daily. Family and friends are also encouraged to check the US websites for latest updates
 - www.nifc.gov/fireinfo/nfn.html
 - <http://www.inciweb.org>
- Useful glossaries of USA firefighting terms:
 - <http://inciweb.org/terminology/>
 - <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/fire/glossary.html#fsto>
- For map of major fires in the US http://activefiresfiremaps.fs.fed.us/lg_fire2.php

TIME ZONES

- Time zones - Australia is approximately 16 hours ahead of the western USA. New Zealand is 18 hours ahead.
- View a map of world time zones at www.worldtimezone.com
- Calculate time in USA relative to your location at www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/converter.html

Western Australia	Eastern Australia Vic, NSW, Tasmania	New Zealand	USA western-most states including Oregon & Washington State	USA Mountain daylight time including Montana & Idaho
8am today	10am today	12pm today	5pm yesterday	6pm yesterday

We will update this newsletter daily with new information.

In the meantime, if you have any concerns or questions please contact:

US Coordination Group (Melbourne)

Phone: 1300 13 4444 (local call cost, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

Email: us.coordination@dse.vic.gov.au

