

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

Important news for today is that dates for the departure of the first deployment from the US back to Australia and New Zealand are being finalised today. Their last day on the line will be 13 September (US time), with expected departure from Boise to Los Angeles on 16 September. Exact details are yet to be determined.

John Barnes (NZ) and Liam Fogarty (VIC), who were the initial personnel deployed to the US are in the process of making their way home.

This first deployment contingent have returned to the fireline, see "Where are the ANZ crews?" for details of locations for both the first and second deployment.

*The following information aims to provide you with the latest situation in the US, including locations of ANZ personnel, maps, stories and helpful contacts.*

### **Deployment Summary:**

There are currently 94 Australian and New Zealand firefighters deployed to the USA fires. See the table on the third page for the current location of these ANZ members.

The ANZ deployments involve cooperation between a total of 29 organisations across Australia and New Zealand. These include crews deployed to the USA, and organisational support for those crews.

### **Total Firefighters in USA:**

	VIC	WA	NSW	ACT	TAS	NZ	Total
1 <sup>st</sup> Deployment	15	7	11	2	4	11	<b>50</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Deployment	9	7	13	2	3	10	<b>44</b>

### **Weather Forecast:**

Dry thunderstorms are possible in eastern Oregon, the northern Great Basin and western Montana through Wednesday. Storms are forecast to become wetter over the southern Great Basin by Thursday. Hot, dry and unstable conditions will exist from eastern portions of Washington and Oregon into western Montana through mid-week. Wet thunderstorms are expected in southern California through Wednesday.

### **Current report: 5 Sep 2006 (US evening) – 6 Sep (Melb morning)**

Initial attack activity was moderate nationally with 211 new fires reported. Twelve new large fires were reported, three in Idaho, one in Oregon, two in Washington, two in California and four in Nevada. Firefighters contained four large fires yesterday, one each in Oregon, Montana, Washington and Idaho.

New Zealand and Australia have provided 94 fire specialists and managers to assist with suppression operations. Canada has provided four 20-person crews and 59 fire specialists and managers.



## Stories from the Fireline (and beyond)

Greg Harry reports that weather conditions have improved in the last day or so, in comparison to the previously extreme conditions. His visit to the Red Mountain airbase revealed excellent reports regarding the work of the ANZ support crew, including Peter Tierney, Rachaele Thorpe, Graeme McIntyre and David Ingram.

**A message and some photos from Andrew Morrow (VIC) and David Nugent (VIC) who are shadowing several incident management teams to look at how they go about the business of planning an carrying out bushfire suppression operations. This is their latest report:**

"Andrew and I have arrived at the Columbia fire, joining quite a large contingent of the ANZ Team. In discussing with Bill Ellis this morning we worked out that there are around 26 of us at this fire. Having enjoyed our R&R with the others at Lake Chelan we travelled from Winthrop to Portland staying overnight at a small campsite in northwest Washington. Funny but our preference was the tent over a motel! It was a great spot beside a river - this time there were no generators or smoke.

We joined up with Dennis Matthews (VIC) and Steve de Voogd (VIC) in Portland and spent a day observing the role of the Geographic Area Coordinating Committee (the group to determine priorities for much of Washington State and Oregon). We were particularly impressed with the in depth briefings on predicted weather and fire behaviour. The process for prioritising incidents is also something that would be worthwhile considering for use back home.

Mike Lohrey as the Incident Controller at Columbia has welcomed us into his team. We are looking forward to spending time at this fire to build on the knowledge we have picked up over the last few weeks."

**Here are a couple of fun photos from the Lake Chelan R&R break courtesy of Brain Carttele (NZ)**



Rob plying his trade on the BBQ, and Ian out on the lake making the most of it!





Brian Carttele (NZ) also reports that Mark Williams (NSW), Barry Scott (VIC), Ashley Frank (NSW), Peter Windle (NSW), Evan Rarere (NZ), Wayne Leader (NSW) and Michael Pryjma (NSW) had a memorable R&R break to Seattle where they visited the Seattle Tower, the Boeing Museum, and went to a game of baseball.

Julian Armstrong (NSW) has posted some photos on the internet in the last few days – here is one of him in the top-notch Conconully Hair Salon.

### Where are ANZ crews?

First Deployment		
Location	Fire fighters/liaison	Other information
Columbia Complex (SE Washington State)	Michael Grant – NZ Kevin Ihaka – NZ John Sutton – NZ Michael Morley – VIC Michael Wright – WA Robert Round-Turner – WA Nicholas McCabe – NZ Neil Cooper – ACT Chris Irvine – TAS Glenn Launt – NSW Russell Manning – VIC John Duggan – TAS Steve de Voogd – VIC David Nugent – VIC Andrew Morrow – VIC	Managed through ANZ liaison at Columbia Complex (Walla Walla)
Tripod (Nth Washington State)	Michael Sullivan – NZ Brian Cartelle – NZ Trevor Bullock – NZ Paul Devlin – NZ Edward Te Kahika – NZ Evan Rarere – NZ Julian Armstrong – NSW Terence Auton – VIC Ian Bounds – TAS Craig Burley – NSW Michal Priyjma – NSW Robert Ratcliffe – TAS Wayne Leader – NSW	Field Liaison



	Barry Scott – VIC Mark Williams – NSW Peter Windle – NSW Ashley Frank (leader) – NSW	
Cascade Crest Complex (Oregon)	Scott Cashmere – ACT Peter Driscoll – VIC Ian Dicker – NSW Peter Gibson – WA Alan Daw – WA Rodney Simmonds – WA Matt Potter – VIC Peter Bidwell – WA Paul McCoughtry – VIC Darryl Burns – VIC Ed Hatherley – WA Phillip Savage – VIC Angela Lonergan – NSW	
Heavens Gate Complex (Idaho)	Shane Geerin - NSW	
Paradise Valley Complex, (Montanna)	David Vaskess - VIC	
Coordination Centre Boise - NIFC	Liam Fogarty - VIC John Barnes – NZ	Liaison
NWCC	Dennis Matthews – VIC	

Second Deployment		
Location	Fire fighters/liaison	Other information
Tripod Complex	Christopher Banffy – NSW Glenn Burns – NSW Mathew Flynn – NZ Paul Kale – NZ	
Columbia Complex	Anthony Archer – VIC Peter Cecil – VIC Rob Chalwell – VIC Gerald Crawford – TAS Mark Cullen – TAS Barrie Curtis – NSW William Ellis – NZ Phillip Goldberg – NSW Robert Hagan – WA Phil Hamer – VIC Murray Harrison – NSW Vincent Hilder – WA Thomas Kenneally – WA Stewart Kreltszheim – VIC John McNamara – NSW Trevor Reeves – NSW David Robson – TAS	Liaison



	Brian Smith – NSW Hilton Taylor – ACT	
South Fork Complex	Peter Le Breton – NSW	
Red Mountain	Allan Rankin – VIC Mark Read – WA David Ingram – ACT Peter Kearney – NSW Bradley Lett – NZ Graeme McIntyre – NZ Tim Sheppard – NZ Brian Taylor – NZ Rachael Thorp – NZ Trevor Tidey – NZ Greg Harry - VIC	Liaison
Rattlesnake	Grant Olsen – WA Russell Perry – NSW Brett Wagstaff – VIC Gavin Wornes – WA Julia Visser – NSW Garth Toner – NSW John Webster – NZ	
Coordination Centre Boise - NIFC	Andrew Graystone – VIC Roger Armstrong – WA	Liaison

NOTE: Map on page 6 indicates location of fires by fire number.

## USA Local News

The second deployment group featured in a news article on TV station KTVB in Idaho. View footage at the following website <http://www.ktvb.com/sharedcontent/VideoPlayer/showVideo.php?vidId=84112>

For up-to-the-minute local news on the US fire situation, including a special mention of the ANZ contingent, check out [www.nuggetnews.com](http://www.nuggetnews.com)

## Helpful contacts

- The facts and figures on this newsletter will be updated three times a week. Family and friends are also encouraged to check the US websites for latest updates- [www.nifc.gov/fireinfo/nfn.html](http://www.nifc.gov/fireinfo/nfn.html)
- Useful glossary of USA firefighting terms at [www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/fire/glossary.html#fst0](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/fire/glossary.html#fst0)
- For map of major fires in the US [http://activefiresfiremaps.fs.fed.us/lg\\_fire2.php](http://activefiresfiremaps.fs.fed.us/lg_fire2.php)
- 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](http://www.worldtimezone.com)
- Calculate time in USA relative to your location at [www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/converter.html](http://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 Wednesday	10am Wednesday	12pm Wednesday	5pm Tuesday	6pm Tuesday





## Large Incidents - September 05, 2006



*We will update this newsletter on Friday 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](mailto:us.coordination@dse.vic.gov.au)



Forest Fire Management Group  
Coordinating Australian and New Zealand (ANZ) deployment to the USA 2006