

Aust-US research symposium

Australasian Participants

Ross Bradstock **University of Wollongong**

Professor Ross Bradstock is Director of the Centre for Environmental Risk Management of Bushfires, University of Wollongong. His research interests include: fire ecology, fire risk analysis and modelling, conservation biology, landscape ecology and climate change. He is currently engaged in collaborative projects with the CSIRO Climate Adaptation Flagship, Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, NSW Rural Fire Service, NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, NSW Department of Infrastructure and Investment, Bushfire CRC, United States Geological Survey, Australia New Zealand Network for Vegetation Function.

Naomi Brown **Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council**

Naomi Brown has been the Chief Executive Officer of the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) since December 2006. Naomi is also a Board member of the Bushfire CRC and the National Aerial Firefighting Centre. Naomi took up the role of Director Community Safety at the Country Fire Authority (CFA) of Victoria in 2003. She had previously worked with the WA Fire and Emergency Services (FESA) for five years. She spent time there as Executive Director Community Safety and also Executive Director State Emergency Service and Volunteer Marine Rescue.

Mark Chladil **Tasmania Fire Service**

Mark Chladil has been the Fire Management Planning Officer for the Tasmania Fire Service since 1994. His role is to provide policy and technical support for bushfire related issues. During fire events he also provides incident management support in the areas of fire behaviour and planning. Mark represents the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC) on Australian Standards Committee FP – 020 which is responsible for the Australian Standard AS359-2009 Construction of Buildings in Bushfire Prone Areas. In recent times Mark was a member of the fire research team investigating house fire losses in the Victorian bushfires. Mark gave evidence on behalf of the AFAC to the Victorian Bushfire Royal Commission on issues about the Australian Standard and then made a second appearance at the request of the Royal Commission as a member of the experts forum on planning related issues.

Steve Dovers **Australian National University**

Professor Steve Dovers is Director of the Fenner School of Environment and Society, Australian National University. His research and teaching interests cover the policy and institutional dimensions of resource management, disasters, and climate adaptation. Among his recent works are the co-authored books "Institutional change for sustainable development" (Elgar 2004) and "The Handbook of disaster and emergency policies and institutions" (Earthscan 2007).

Liam Fogarty **Dept of Sustainability and Environment, Victoria**

Liam is the Assistant Chief Officer - Planning and Knowledge for the Department of Sustainability and Environment, Victoria. Liam has worked in land, fire and emergency management in several states of Australia, New Zealand as well as Indonesia. His experiences and interests include firefighting, forest and

fire management planning and research, emergency response coordination, as well as state and national policy development.

Jim Gould CSIRO

Jim Gould is Principal Research Scientist for CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems Bushfire Dynamics and Application Group and the initial Program Leader with the Bushfire CRC. Jim has been working with CSIRO for over 28 years with his first project in evaluation of air tankers and a cost-benefit study of aerial suppression of bushfires. On completion of this study, Jim concentrated his research into fire behaviour and fuel management of various vegetation types throughout Australia. The results of this research has been a revision of grassland fire behaviour models, prescribed burning guidelines in young eucalypt forest in south eastern Australia. Jim is working with other bushfire scientists from CSIRO and Western Australia investigating the behaviour and spread of high-intensity bushfires in dry eucalypt forests with different fuel ages and understorey vegetation structures. Jim research role in coordinating research project for both CSIRO and the Bushfire CRC in the area of fire behaviour, fire weather, and suppression technology, bushfire risk management and climate adaptation related to fire management. In 2008/09 he was on an interchange program in Canada as a Senior Forest Fire Science Advisor for the Canadian Forest Service.

Lisa Langer Scion

Lisa Langer is a research scientist, Scion, Christchurch, New Zealand who leads the social fire research focusing on community resilience and recovery following wildfires in Scion's Rural fire research programme. She has led and participated in case study research of three fire affected communities in New Zealand, including one community in the rural-urban interface.

Justin Leonard CSIRO

Justin Leonard is a Bushfire CRC researcher leading CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems' Bushfire Urban Design project. The work is delivering risk assessment tools and urban design solutions.

Justin's experience with experimental science indicates that people living in bushfire prone areas need to first accept the natural occurrence of bushfires, then effectively assess the risk these bushfires present. He joined CSIRO in 1993 and gained experience in the areas of materials flammability and fire test methods as well as combustion science and air quality. In the following years his research focus has moved to bushfire related infrastructure impact.

Grant Pearce Scion

Grant is a fire scientist with the New Zealand Rural Fire Research programme, based at Scion in Christchurch. He has 18 years experience in fire research, with fire behaviour modelling, fire danger rating and fire climatology forming the major components of his work. Grant led the NZ component of the Bushfire CRC shrubland fire behaviour experiments (Project FuSE), aiming to improve understanding of fire behaviour in shrubland fuels on slope. Grant was also a member of the Bushfire CRC fire behaviour research team reconstructing the spread of the Black Saturday fires in Victoria during February 2009, and also assisted with forecasting fire behaviour and spread during the 2006/07 Victorian bushfires.

Alan Rhodes CFA

Alan Rhodes Manager of Community Safety Research and Evaluation at the Country Fire Authority (CFA) in Victoria. He has been involved in research projects for the Bushfire CRC and CFA on community preparedness and response and he is currently a member of the CFA Royal Commission task force, working on strategic issues and policy.

Rob Rogers New South Wales Rural Fire Service

Assistant Commissioner Rob Rogers has been involved in fire fighting for more than 30 years. He has a strong operational background and has been an Incident Controller at many serious fires in both an urban interface environment, as well as remote areas. Rob's current position of Director Operational Services is responsible for leading the Rural Fire Service's capabilities to ensure that operational volunteers and staff are enabled to prevent, suppress and mitigate fires in rural fire districts across NSW. His responsibilities also include leading and directing the development and implementation of Community Safety policies, strategies and programmes to reduce risks and educate the community.

Andrew Short Queensland Fire and Rescue Service

Andrew Short is a Chief Superintendent within the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS). Over many years Andrew has contributed significantly to the development of Interface Zone (known as iZone within Queensland) capability within QFRS, covering both operational response and preparedness aspects. He managed the implementation of the Southern California designed iZone Risk Assessment Model (RAM) now in place within QFRS operational policy, and was the concept developer of the Wildfire Alert Level (WAL) system that now supports proactive QFRS preparedness and response to iZone wildfire risk. In 2007, Andrew was awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal for his work in this and other QFRS operational areas. Currently in the role of Director of Professional Development, he is responsible for the conduct of professional development across QFRS.

Andrew Sullivan CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems

Dr Andrew Sullivan is leader of CSIRO's Bushfire Dynamics and Applications team. He has been involved in bushfire research since joining CSIRO in 1991. He has a background in applied physics and computing and recently completed a PhD in competitive thermokinetics and non-linear bushfire behaviour. He has been involved in a wide range of research projects, including the design of the CSIRO Grassland Fire Spread Meter and the CSIRO-Modified McArthur Mk 4 Grassland Fire Danger Meter, and the investigation of the behaviour of forest fires under dry summer conditions (Project Vesta). He has also been involved in the development of fire spread prediction software and models of radiant heat from bushfires, the study of wind and fire interaction and the investigation of spray protection systems for fire tankers. He is the co-author with Phil Cheney of *Grassfires: Fuel, Weather and Fire Behaviour* (2nd Edition published in 2008).

Kevin Tolhurst University of Melbourne

Dr Kevin Tolhurst is a Senior Lecturer, Fire Ecology and Management, Department of Forest and Ecosystem Science, University of Melbourne, and a Bushfire CRC researcher. He provides expert advice on fire behaviour and fire suppression strategies at major bushfires. Some recent examples include the Black Saturday fires in Victoria in 2009, and the Great Divide Fires in 2007. Kevin has been involved in several inquiries and court cases involving fires. His current Bushfire CRC research activities are centred around developing a bushfire risk management decision support system. His research interests include: wildfire behaviour prediction; the development of prescribed burning techniques and guidelines; landscape scale fire ecology management; fire risk management, and; the ecological impacts of repeated fires.

Shane Wiseman Dept of Environment and Heritage, South Australia

Bio to come.

Bushfire CRC Staff

Gary Morgan Bushfire CRC, Chief Executive Officer

Gary Morgan has spent over 20 years in senior land and fire management roles. As Victoria's Chief Fire Officer for Public lands, for over nine years, he was responsible for the management and deployment of fire suppression personnel. Following over a decade of developing international links, in 2000, Gary was responsible for the initiation and signing of a formal agreement between Australia, New Zealand and the US for the provision of firefighting support, staff exchanges and joint research. Since becoming CEO of the Bushfire CRC in mid-2007, Gary has worked to form a close alliance with the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC) to foster strong relationships between researchers and the industry.

Richard Thornton Bushfire CRC, Deputy CEO and Research Director

Dr Richard Thornton is the Deputy CEO and Research Director of the Bushfire CRC a role he has held for six years. His responsibilities have included leadership and oversight of the research program for the research centre, ensuring research quality, research relevance, and up-take. Richard is a member of the Board of the International Association of Wildland Fire and the chair of the Editorial Advisory Committee of the International Journal of Wildland Fire. Richard also was the project director for the extensive research - data collection task-force project undertaken following the 7 February 2009 bushfires in Victoria.

Lyndsey Wright Bushfire CRC, Research and Education Manager

Lyndsey is Research Manager at the Bushfire CRC. This is a newly created role recognising the importance of effective management of the complex research program for the Bushfire CRC Extension to 2013. Lyndsey was seconded to the Bushfire CRC from the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board where she had held the role of Manager Planning and Research for nearly 10 years. During her secondment Lyndsey held the role of Acting Research Director and contributed to the bid for the CRC Fire Environment and Society, in particular considering the economic impact of bushfire research. Lyndsey has a background in economics and planning and management.

Noreen Krusel Bushfire CRC, Research Adoption Manager

Noreen has considerable research, policy and operational experience in the development and application of bushfire community safety programs. Noreen's Ph D looked at predicting fire activity and used decision tree analyses to investigate the relationships between various climatological variables and fire activity. She has 15 years of experience with a large volunteer-based fire agency – the Country Fire Authority - and has held roles in the community safety area with state leadership of fire prevention, land use planning, environmental management and structural fire safety and dangerous goods. She also has extensive experience in post fire analysis. Over the past two years Noreen's experience has been applied to assist all fire and land management agencies around Australia to bridge the gap between research and its effective application. She is also a member of a small rural community which has twice been impacted by bushfire over the past six years.

David Bruce Bushfire CRC, Communications Manager

David has been responsible for media relations and all communications for the Bushfire CRC since 2006. Prior to that he has been a journalist with Melbourne's daily broadsheet *The Age* and News Limited's community newspapers, and a Communications and Media Manager at Monash and Deakin universities.