

# FIRE UPDATE

BUSHFIRE CRC NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2010

## STAKEHOLDERS MEET IN SYDNEY



**The Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre's first seven years successfully produced a new generation of bushfire researchers, Chairman Len Foster told the organisation's combined annual meeting and Stakeholder Council meeting on 9 November.**

More than \$120 million in cash and kind had been spent on bushfire research in the first seven years of the CRC's existence, Mr Foster told around 30 representatives of Bushfire CRC partners from around Australia and New Zealand at the meeting, hosted by the University of Sydney at the Australian Technology Park.

The Bushfire CRC's three-year extension – which began on 1 July 2010 – provided a breathing space to ensure there would be

## CONFERENCE CALL FOR PAPERS

The 2011 annual conference of the Bushfire CRC and AFAC is now offering two opportunities for presenters. Abstract submissions are being sought for presentations at the annual conference general proceedings or for the one-day science conference, which will be held on the final day.

The Bushfire CRC is hosting the one day Bushfire and Emergency Management Science Conference in conjunction with the annual Bushfire CRC and AFAC conference in at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre from 29 August to 1 September 2011.

This science conference will focus on the new research being conducted in the areas

ongoing research after 2013, in the form of the Australasian Fire Research Institute, in to which the CRC would transition.

The proposed institute model had been endorsed in principal by the industry and a range of tertiary providers, Mr Foster said. The model featured a Victoria-based hub with spokes to centres throughout Australia and New Zealand.

Following the formal annual meeting, which among other matters approved a new constitution taking into account changes associated with the three-year extension, CRC staff, stakeholders and several new research students gave presentations on their work and other CRC activities.

**Full report: [www.bushfirecrc.com/fireupdates](http://www.bushfirecrc.com/fireupdates)**

of bushfire management and emergency management, response and recovery more broadly. It will be a multi-stream day with presentations from leading experts in their field. It is anticipated the proceedings will be peer-reviewed and published by the Bushfire CRC.

In line with the theme of the main conference the program committee is seeking short abstracts in the main areas for this science conference, however topics not directly covered by these topic areas will be considered.

All abstracts should be submitted through the main conference website – [www.afac2011.org](http://www.afac2011.org) – by the 1 February 2011 and successful people will be notified by the end of April.

## CEO'S BLOG

**GARY MORGAN**



November was another busy month with the Bushfire CRC with important meetings for the Governing Board, Stakeholder Council, and the Research Advisory Forum. Amidst all this activity we finalised our new website.

An important outcome of the meetings was a change to the Constitution of the Bushfire CRC, which now gives voting rights at Stakeholder Council to partners providing significant in-kind contributions. Further changes have made the Constitution consistent with the new Centre and Partner agreements.

The 6th International Conference on Forest Fire Research took place from 15-18 November in Portugal. Dr Richard Thornton, Bushfire CRC Deputy CEO and Research Director, delivered a keynote presentation on my behalf on "Australia's most deadly wildfire disaster and its aftermath".

Late last month I represented the Bushfire CRC at the ceremony for the 2010 Prime Minister's Prizes for Science at the Great Hall in Parliament House, Canberra, where I was pleased to see many of our partners receive awards.

## RESEARCH FORUM

The Research Advisory Forum was an important part of the Bushfire CRC governance and communications framework. The University of South Australia hosted a successful forum this time. Presentations were given by both the researchers and lead end representatives from selected projects, with considerable time spent on questions and discussion. The next will be held on 25-26 May next year. Details on the location will follow later.

• **Find the full blog at [www.bushfirecrc.com/fireupdates](http://www.bushfirecrc.com/fireupdates)**

## FIRE PROTECTION PROMOTION

The research program of the Bushfire CRC was strongly promoted to a new audience at the annual FPAA Conference in Queensland recently.

The Bushfire CRC is keen to support its partner organisations on appropriate occasions in the interests of promoting the research outputs to broader and newer audiences. Such an occasion occurred in mid-November when new partner, the Fire Protection Association of Australia (FPAA), held its annual conference.

The FPAA supported the Bushfire CRC/AFAC annual conference with a booth at the Trade Expo in Darwin this year so we were happy to do the same at the FPAA conference at the Gold Coast Convention Centre.

As a new exhibitor the Bushfire CRC booth attracted much interest from conference participants wishing to discuss the research program and keen to keep informed through *Fire Notes*, Fire Australia and our website.



### RESEARCH BLOG

#### RICHARD THORNTON



A lot has happened since the last time I wrote; we have had a really

successful conference in Darwin, where many researchers and students got to meet each other. It was a great location and a wonderful atmosphere. I hope everyone enjoyed it.

With all the major agreements now all signed and adorning bookshelves the serious business of getting the research program going is underway. Many of the projects have now started and are actively developing their research plans and employing research fellows. It is also very heartening to see the new students getting going as well.

We recently held the Research Advisory Forum at the University of South Australia, in Adelaide. This saw about half of the research projects present to the Bushfire CRC partners, enabling a better understanding of where the projects are heading. The projects have certainly moved on a long way since the last meeting earlier in the year.

I recently attended the 6th International Conference on Forest Fire Research in Coimbra, Portugal. The conference is held every four years and organised by Prof. Domingos Viegas, a close collaborator of the Bushfire CRC. I presented the opening Keynote at the conference, and a number of presentations were also given on Bushfire CRC work. For more details, go to <http://www.adai.pt/icffr/2010/>

### RESEARCH UTILISATION BLOG

#### NOREEN KRUSEL



You may have heard about, or participated in, our Research Utilisation survey recently. The

survey went to all of our end user stakeholder agencies at the end of September. We received 145 responses.

A big thank you to all agencies and individuals who participated. We need information from you to help us to formulate our approach to Research Utilisation and to adapt to your changing needs.

We have not yet fully analysed the survey data. However, I can't resist highlighting one

finding that has emerged from our survey.

Of the various tools and resources we provide (Website, *Fire Notes*, Research Publications and Events):

- People are most familiar with the *Fire Notes*.
- People are most satisfied with the *Fire Notes* as an information source.
- People indicated that the *Fire Notes* offer the best assistance with learning new knowledge and skills.
- *Fire Notes* provide the most help with understanding the Bushfire CRC research.
- They are of the most help with evaluating what needs to change.

However, not surprisingly, they aren't particularly useful in giving the skills needed to bring about change.

### STUDENT BLOG LYNDSEY WRIGHT



The Bushfire CRC offers scholarships in a range of disciplines to students interested in contributing to the sector as they undertake their Higher Degree by research.

Scholarships provide financial support but also offer the opportunity to attend industry conferences and forums.

Interested students are encouraged to consider the various projects that are being undertaken across the Bushfire CRC and submit a brief expression of interest outlining the project they would like to undertake as part of their studies and explain how this would contribute to research we are involved in.

Currently, we have more than 10 new higher degree by research students. Scholarship applications remain open.

### COMMUNICATIONS BLOG DAVID BRUCE



I hope you have noticed that the Bushfire CRC website has been completely overhauled with a new look and a new feel.

The site is linked to a database where each individual bit of information (for example, a report, researcher, partner organisation or news article) is now integrated and linked with all related bits of information. This makes it easier for the visitor to search and find more information. The overhaul was the only sensible way we could deal with more than 800 different types of publications that are the output of seven years of research by more than 100 researchers and research students.

The site still allows easy access to all this material from the Bushfire CRC 2003-2010 program. Please provide feedback to us on how you use the new Bushfire CRC website.