



Fortuna Group Newsletter

Region 2 now has a
fee call number

1800 735 202

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*This newsletter is available
by email. Simply email you
details to ,*

go@fortunagroup.com.au

Upcoming Events -

- Fortuna Group Meeting 20th February 2008



From the Fortuna Group Officer Peter Rogasch

So we come to the end of another year with Christmas just weeks away and the summer fire season in full swing with fires at Myrtle Creek, Mannes Lane, All Stone Quays and far too many small local grass fires all being contained very quickly. A very good result by all the brigades involved.

This time last year Fortuna & Bendigo groups were in full planning mode with the first joint task force 0208 day and night shift being deployed on the 6th December to Ovens and into the Buffalo dam area to work with Hancock plantation crews and DSE. That was the beginning of a long commitment by the two Groups to the North East Fires.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Fortuna Group Brigades members for the support you have given to the Group executive over the last year.

The public sometimes forgets that the Group not only heightens its readiness over the Summer period but due to the large residential and commercial area we look after our fire season runs 12 months of the year. So thank you from the Team.

I would like to say thank you and farewell to two of the career firefighters from Bendigo Alun Hughson and Greg Kinross both off to the new Sunbury station. Good Luck

The main message I would like to get out to all brigade members is that although we give your time freely to the CFA, Christmas is a time for the family. So over the fire season don't forget to take time out and enjoy the festive season.

"Merry Christmas and a Safe New Year"

Bushfire CRC Researchers'

*Dr. Brad Aisbett & PHD
Student Jennifer Raines with
"THE" Volunteers*



Fortuna firefighters take part in research into Dehydration, Heat Strain and fatigue in firefighters at the Groups pre summer exercise. The LaTrobe Uni fuel Reduction Burn. Three of the volunteers followed the CFA hydration recommendations and the other three ad libitum Behavior during the burn. Thank you to the firefighters that took part in the research.

**Spectrum Pre Conference System Hub Testing for Fortuna Group
Third Wednesday Of Each Month 1900hrs.**



*Fortuna Group pre summer Exercise
Fuel Reduction Burn LaTrobe University*

More than sixty people from all seven Fortuna Group brigades took part in a different type of Group exercise on the 10th November. A prescribed Burn

Black out crews. There were a lot of tired and dirty firefighters at the end of the day with some of the crews experiencing very hot fire for the first time. Which gave an opportunity for some new crew leaders to be mentored in the role of running trucks and crew. Not as easy as it looks. So remember hydration is as important as your Safety at a fire.

In the nine years that I have been involved with organising Group exercises this is the first time there has been a delay due to rain. So thank you to all that attended the day and help in the planning. From designing the burn plan to making sure that there was water to drink and food at the end of the day. Also I would like to thank acting ops officer Alun Hughson & DSE Bret Wagstaff for the support in making the day work.



Although not all of the learning outcomes were achieved I believe there was sufficient to make this type of activity worthwhile. Activities included traffic management, asset protection, rake Hoe work, a fire lighting crew and



News from Region 2 - November Ops Report

By Ops Officer Mark Gilmore

**Region 2 Monthly
Ops Report**

Available on email from
Operation Officer
Mark Gilmore
m.gilmore@cfa.vic.gov.au

PREPAREDNESS

Thank you for the fantastic response from brigades and groups to the recent survey on conditions for the FDP. Introduction dates are: 12/11/07 (Loddon, Campaspe, Mt Alexander, City of Greater Bendigo, Central Goldfields.)

Annual delivery to brigades of water, energy packs (new name for rat packs) and pager batteries has occurred to most brigades and will be completed in the next couple of weeks.

The major level 3 IMT joint DSE/CFA exercise for the Region was held at Epsom DSE on Sunday 25/11/07

DSE/CFA pre season liaison meetings were held at, St Arnaud, Elmore, Maldon, Inglewood. Note cancelled lack of numbers.

Brigades are reminded that Equine Flu may bring some special precautions and cleanup requirements if working around Horse facilities or racetracks.

Police are conducting a graffiti cleanup project around Bendigo. Please communicate sites of known graffiti to Neil Crouch at Bendigo police.

Extra parking at regional HQ will be available soon as the house next door is being removed this month. Well done to Peter Gladstone and Chris Raven who waded through the endless red tape to make this relocation happen as we were not able to demolish the house.

IFMP positions are now filled and include Norm Free at a state level and the

local person for Loddon Campaspe will be Daryl Glover (ex DSE/PV) who many of you will know.

Bendigo brigade have been evaluating different monitors for possible use with 3.4C tankers

Vehicles

New 3.4C tanker handover ceremony was held at Mandurang last month with local member Jacinta Allen.

CFA People News

Operations Manager Mike Wassing is "back" Monday 03/12/07

Mark Gilmore will be acting Ops Manager till December. Alun Hughson is acting Operations Officer till he leaves us at the beginning of December.

Tim Fitzgerald will be acting Ops officer over the Christmas new year period

A Happy Traffic Controller
1st Lt Euan Paton/Huntly FB





Matt Bunton, Steve Hall, Jason McIlroy Mandy & Rod Mills, Shaun OBrien, Maiden Gully. Lionel Dix, Jason Pearce, Gerry Butler, Will Penhall Golden Square. Robert Gibbons, Bryon Miatke, Ray Mundy Jurortoun. Pedro Eberbach, Nigel May, Dion Gooderham Sedgwick. Donna English Goornong. With Volunteer Instructor & Assessors Peter Rogasch and Michael Rogers



CFA Volunteer Wildfire

Recruit Course WFRC-020706



Sunday 18th Nov saw the completion of the third Recruit course for the year making a total 57 newly trained firefighters trained by Volunteers from the Fortuna Group and part of a total of 122 new firefighters for Region 2 for 2007 Not Bad !

The Fortuna Group is already planning to run at least two recruit courses for 2008 the first will be in April and the second in October so new members wont have to wait more than 6 months for a course. But if brigades need more we will look at running more.



CITY OF GREATER
BENDIGO

**Ben Trevena Municipal
Fire Prevention Officer**

Inspections.

1,270 Courtesy notices were sent out on the 8th of Oct.

Inspections have started with 201 fire prevention notices issued so far issued for cut all grass and 12 for a 10 mt break. Areas covered include Elmore, Raywood, Sebastian, Goornong, Huntly, Epsom, White Hills, North Bendigo, East Bendigo Strathdale and Quarry Hill.

If there are any brigades that want to have a representative come with me on the inspections please co-ordinate with me as it has two benefits, one, more properties will get picked up and two, you know the properties targeted.

FDP Signs

We have the O.K. from VICROADS and have a meeting with them tomorrow about the

locations that they will go so hopefully this can be worked out before the introduction of the FDP.

Fire Prevention Grading Program

The fire prevention grading program will start on Monday the 4th of November.

Slashing

Contracts have been awarded and will be signed off on Friday, However a special agreement has been made for them to start work tomorrow as the season is fast approaching, all of the contractors will start in the North of their area and work towards the South.

Fire Plugs

Since February this year over 1,050 fire plugs have been attended to. Some brigades eg Eaglehawk, Maiden Gully, Bendigo and Elmore have been proactive and helping out in the

program which will in turn get the areas completed much quicker if we work together. Supplies of equipment and a demonstration can be given to show how I have been going about the process.

Fire Access and Road Subsidy Scheme

We were successful in our bid for our grading program and attained the funding that we asked for. The program will run again next year so start thinking of areas that may need to be looked at and let me know.

Crusoe Reservoir

A familiarization exercise was held for Kangaroo Flat Brigade for the expected opening of Crusoe Reservoir to the public it was conducted so that the brigade felt comfortable with the fuel load and the area and knowing that appliances would fit down the tracks.



Acting Ops Officer Alun
 Hughson leading the burn crew
 LaTrobe Uni

Contributions to the monthly
 newsletter need to be submitted to
 Group Officer Peter Rogasch
 by 15th each month.

email -
go@fortunagroup.com.au

or
 c/o CFA Region 2
 PO Box 3



OIC Bendigo Fire Station Craig Brittain

It is again that time of the year when
 our thoughts are well and truly on the
 Fire Danger Period and Christmas.

It is quite evident that we are again,
 as in other years, facing a long hot
 dry summer with the same potential
 for large complex fires as we have
 faced previously.

But I am reassured that with the skills
 maintenance, leadership and the con-
 tinued support and dedication from
 all of you, we will see out another
 summer.

With that in mind, it is also a timely
 reminder not to spend the majority
 of your time going away to fires or
 spending too much time at the
 "shed". It is a time to spend with
 your family, a time to relax and en-
 joy the company of your loved ones.

I would also like to take this oppor-
 tunity to thank Peter and his execu-
 tive for all the hard work and time
 they have put in to getting the
 Group to where it is today. We have
 come a long way but we still have
 some way to go. Fortuna group has
 excelled and continues to lead the
 way and shows how it should be
 done. I have no doubt in my mind
 that Fortuna Group *is* the best
 Group in the Region. This is due to
 the leadership of the Executive, the
 leadership and support from the
 Captains and largely the support
 from the Brigades and their families.
 Congratulations and well done to all.



Kangaroo Flat Fire Bri-
 gade congratulate DMO &
 Volunteer Firefighters
 Danny & Cherie O'Neill on
 the Announcement of the
 birth of their Baby Girl
 Katrina Isabella.

Congratulation to Jarron &
 Kate De Prada on the birth
 of Lucy Kate. Best wishes
 from all at Fortuna Group.

Brigade News

Brigades please send in your news

If anyone is interested in as-
 sisting in the production of this
 newsletter please contact
 Group Officer Peter Rogasch

"THINK ABOUT IT"
"SAFTY FIRST"



New

Fire Danger Period Roadside Signage
Are being installed from early Dec.

NORTH WESTERN DISTRICT	
FIRE	
RESTRICTIONS	
IN FORCE	
	(1800 240 667