



Eildon Fire Brigade

Hi all this month guess what, yes more new boat stuff, but before that a word about the coming fire season. In the next few weeks or so you will be overwhelmed by all manner of predictions about the weather, the condition of the bush and likely outcomes. But just remember these things:

- Have you prepared your property the best you can, we say that every year?.
- Do you have a fire plan, that is, can you defend in all circumstances or should you go?.
- If you decide to go, go early that means in the morning of a bad day not when the smoke can be seen.
- Get the Standard, read Eyes for pre info. And you must listen to local radio UGFM and ABC (batt op.).

Finally remember black Saturday was an very extraordinary day, a week of extreme temperatures then a ripper day with very high temperatures and winds predicted, does not take a

rocket scientist to see the potential.

Now that we have experienced this catastrophic and worst day in history we know there are some days where defending may not be possible.



Now for the boat. We have had some fun and great exposure for the lake and town at the boat show. The boat was the biggest and brightest there and we were allowed to have members to talk about the boat and to talk up the lake and our town. We have also had some more fun with last minute bureaucratic needs and this has

resulted in me doing a whole lot of extra learning most of which is irrelevant to boating up here but we hope others will be exempt from this with a bit more back room work.

The boat has passed its inspections at sea trials and acceptance testing done last Friday at Carrum. It passed with better performance than specified and that we expected. The boat is faster, more easily controlled, has better bow access and is more stable than we hoped. After very minor 'fix-ups' we expect the boat to be delivered up here the last day of July when it will go through final acceptance tests. Then its ours. For the first two months it and us will go through some extensive practice with three members certified to drive it at the start and another five in a few weeks.



Cheers Bob Dare