



On the Land

LAUNCH INFORMATION



Bruce Esplin



Michael Tudball (L), Simon Ramsay (R)

'On the Land' Launch

ELMORE FIELD DAYS OCTOBER 2007

'On the Land' (CFA agricultural fire management guidelines) was launched by the Emergency Services Commissioner, Mr Bruce Esplin at the Elmore Field Days.

He outlined how this booklet would help rural land owners and managers to plan for fire safety on their properties; and the support of the Victorian Bushfire Inquiry in funding the development of this document.

Mr Michael Tudball, CFA Board Member representing CFA at this event, emphasised that 'On the Land' is a simple step-by-step guide to preparing and managing fire on rural properties.

The development of this booklet was the result of community input and collaboration between CFA, Victorian Farmers Federation, Department of Sustainability and Environment, Department of Primary Industries and the plantation timber industry. This launch was a real celebration for the organisations that worked to bring this document together.

A highlight of the event was the participation of the Victorian Farmers Federation President, Mr Simon Ramsay, who spoke about the involvement of VFF members in the development of this publication and the support of VFF for these guidelines.

He said, "VFF is at the forefront in supporting practical ideas and programs that assist people who live and work in rural areas. I am happy to be associated with promoting 'On the Land' and fire safety within the farming community."

Another highlight was a poem that was written and performed by Mr Colin Milligan for this occasion. Guests enjoyed his humorous insights into developing and undertaking a farm plan, as demonstrated on the following page.

More Information

For more information on this project please contact Linda Brownstein. Copies of 'On the Land' are available at CFA Regional Offices or contact Jill Allen.

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Visit the CFA website
www.cfa.vic.gov.au/business/farms/on_the_land.htm



DON'T YOU JUST LOVE A PLAN

Written and performed by Colin Milligan
for the launch of 'On the Land'

It's fire danger time again, the wife is in my ear,
She's dropping hints that maybe I should go and volunteer.

They're calling out for people at the local CFA,
I told her it's a noble cause and, she should sign up right away.

And blow me down she did, she went and joined the fire crew,
Well that'll get her off my back cos I've got things to do.

I sort of got a bit of peace for just a day or two,
And then she hit me with this list of things I had to do.

She asked me bout a fire plan, now they're a lot of fun,
My special plan for fires is, I won't be having one.

I've done that stuff for years and years, while I've been on the land,
There's nothing new on earth, I know exactly where I stand.

That stuff's all time consuming, though I felt I should relent,
See, if it means she'll cook my tea I s'pose it's time well spent.

"I won't be needing fire breaks cos both my neighbours planted crops,
If any fire comes this way they'll soon make sure it stops.

"And yes I've got a mobile phone, I hate the bloody thing,
I turn it on at eight am, the kids know when to ring.

"Apart from then they know it's wise to give the house a ring,
I turn my mobile off at nine, I hate the bloody thing.

"Now, if I use the grinder up the paddock there today,
I know the sparks are dangerous but yep I've found a way.

"I point the grinder up, the sparks fly way up in the air,
Then as they fall they cool right down, you wouldn't know they're there.

"I know for every gate that's locked they'd like to have a key,
But will they shut the bloody thing is what's concerning me.

"You may well call me stupid and I won't lose any stock,
I guarantee I won't do that, cos I'll unlock the lock.

"I've tidied up the place and all the undergrowth about,
And cleared the scrub around the house, I ripped your roses out.

"They'll save the most important thing and that's the house I know,
But what about my hay, I can't afford for that to go.

"I've pondered on that deeply and I've used a bit of nouse,
And so I've stacked up all the bales right around the house.

"There's one thing left for you to do that's when your mother stays,
Just keep the dragon locked inside on fire danger days.

That's when she cracked a wobbly said they'd do a practice run,
They'll bring the crew out here to see what fire plan I've done.

"And Dr Winston Smith will come along as well my dear,
You never know he just might check your prostate while he's here."

I need to burn the stubble in the paddock by the house,
And they'll be out here anyway, see, once again it's nouse.

I lit her up at half past three she took off with a roar,
I saw the dust and heard a truck at twenty five to four.

She's three parts up the paddock and she's going hot and strong,
They'll put her out up this end here, it won't take very long.

There's heaps of time to stop her, well before she hits the hay,
But then I heard them awful words that sent my plans astray.

"We'd really like to stop her but I think you're out of luck,
You'd better ring the station mate we didn't bring a truck."

Col. Milligan 2007