

FMAC MEMBER PROFILE

Sam Tacey - Red Hot Tips

A/Coordinator RHT and Facilitator (North)

FMAC Observer on Central North, Flinders, King Island, North East, Tamar and West Coast.



I have worked in fire and land management for over 20 years both in my home state and the mainland in roles that encompass remote area firefighting, hazardous tree felling operations, machinery operation, incident management, crew supervision and training.

I started from boots on the ground working under some fantastic, experienced senior staff that forged my desire to learn more skills in the fire management area. Two pivotal role models for me were the late Kent McConnel and Trevor Norris.

My experience in bushfire management and prescribed burning programs for fuel reduction, asset protection and ecological outcomes is wide and diverse given the exposure I have had in different states that see differing vegetation / values and topography all playing key roles into the management objectives.

Forest health and ecology is a key interest and one that is shared by my wife Dr Fiona Christie (Landscape and Fire Ecologist). Together with my two sons we now instill an active love of exploring the outdoors with family.

PEOPLE MOVEMENTS

Red Hot Tips Coordinator

Andrew Cargill has accepted the role of Senior Mitigation Officer within the Bushfire Risk Unit. Sam Tacey is Acting Co-ordinator.

East Coast FMAC

- TasWater - Alex Sweet
- Tasman Council - Lee Wilson

Hobart/Southern FMACs

- Huon Valley Council - Hannah Bowling

Midlands FMAC

- SFMES - Bric Milligan

West Coast / King Island FMACs

- David Fulford has accepted the role of Planner replacing Clinton Heyworth

FMAC NEWS



The first draft the FMAC manual was distributed in March to all FMAC members for comment and feedback by Easter, now extended to 29 April 2024. In addition, further discussions have been requested via Teams invitation over a 2 week period up to Friday 5 April. This item will also be on the agenda for 1st round of FMAC meetings. Your feedback is crucial.

The FMAC manual including amendments will be presented at the State Fire Management Council meeting 13 September 2024 with the intention of releasing the final version prior to the commencement of round 2 FMAC meetings.

In response to comments made in 2023 regarding the FMAC agenda, amendments have been made to the Standing items.

RED HOT TIPS



A Day in the Life of a Red Hot Tips Facilitator



In the morning we attend an arranged landowner property visit resulting from previous conversations with the landowner on what they want to achieve. This varies from controlled burning of piles of dry vegetation and fuels to removing risk of ignition in dry conditions, broadacre fuel reduction burning to lessen intensity of a possible wildfire, to encourage green pick for stock, or to do a light burn for ecological purposes.

At the site inspection we discuss the vegetation type, fuel loading, Fuel Moisture Content (FMC) and Soil Dryness Index (SDI), the area to be burnt and what preparation work may be required, such as control lines and boundaries. We then discuss a lighting pattern, where to start the lighting and whether spot lighting or strip lighting may be required. We then discuss weather prescriptions leading up to, on the day and follow up conditions and resources required. The burn plan is then written together.

In the afternoon we either visit another landholder property or return to the office and prepare maps of the area and mark the boundaries lighting pattern, the assets, water points and hazards. These maps are sent to the landowner and another meeting is arranged to discuss the burn plan so that both parties are clear on what is planned.

ACTING COORDINATOR:

Sam Tacey - 0417 153 620

FACILITATORS:

Frank Bishop (Sth) - 0459 908 539

Sam Tacey (Nth/NW) - 0417 153 620

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Website: SFMC.tas.gov.au/RedJptTips

UPCOMING EVENTS

IAWF

15-19 April 2024

<https://www.iawfonline.org/events/>

Women in Leadership Conference

29-30 May 2024, Melbourne

<https://www.theleadershipinstitute.com.au/women-in-leadership-summit-melbourne/>

TFS State Conference

22 June 2024, Launceston

Fire Summit 2024

26-27 June 2024, Melbourne

<https://www.forestry.org.au/2024-fire-summit-prescribed-fire-exploring-the-science-practice-and-culture/>

Fuel Reduction Program 2024 Wine Forums

29 July - 9 August 2024

AFAC 2024

3-6 September 2024

<https://www.afaconference.com.au/>

Australian Disaster Resilience Conference

4-5 September 2024

<https://www.aidr.org.au/events/43845>



SFMC Update

The SFMC met in March and discussed the Strategic Directions Framework for 2024 with Wise Lord & Ferguson.

Priorities for the next 12 months include:

- FMAC Review Implementation
- BRMPs including work required for FMAC Review Implementation
- State Vegetation Fire Management Policy
- Capacity building of end users
- Research co-ordination

SFMC will be holding a stakeholder meeting in June to discuss the Machinery Operations Guidelines.

Red Hot Tips is currently in recruitment phase to fill the Coordinator and North Facilitator role.

Permits in the West Coast municipality were revoked at 2am Friday 15 March 2024 with permits remaining in place for the remainder of the state.

The SFMC website will be progressing changes.