



Southern Cape FPA Newsletter - May 2014 9th Edition



Dear member,

We would like to thank you for your loyal support and welcome all new members to the SCFPA. We are aware that some personal details may change and/or farms may be sold or bought and we kindly request that you contact our offices to make us aware of these changes. It is very important for us to have updated information in case of an emergency and for invoicing. Please see the last page of the newsletter for our contact details.

It has come to our attention that some members would like to be visited by us and we would be more than happy to assist in any way we can. To arrange a visit with one of our area managers or extension officers, please contact our admin office and we will arrange for the relevant person to contact you as soon as possible.

A kind notice to members, membership and joining fees are excluding VAT. Please take note of your invoice for the correct amount payable and use your account/membership number as reference. Thank you to those who have already paid the membership fees for this year. It is important to know that fees do not only go to firefighting on your property or to the presumption of negligence clause in the Act, but it contributes to the safety and awareness of a larger area.

What has happened since December 2013?

Training

Extended Fire Attack Simulation

During 2013, 4 Extended Fire Attack Simulations were held at various locations. The purpose of these simulations is to promote better coordination and cooperation between partners during a wild fire incident and to exercise the

command systems during such an event. These simulations were coordinated by the SCFPA and funded by Cape Pine. Thank you to all the organisations who were involved, to Cape Pine who took initiative and to Ben Potgieter who facilitated these simulations.

Saasveld Educational Field Day

Tiaan Pool (Lecturer Forestry) from Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU), requested the SCFPA to assist them with an Educational Field Day on 13 February 2014 for students studying for a Higher Diploma in Veldfire Management

The aim of this excursion was to bring the classroom closer to the in-field situation in order to give students an understanding of the reality of the tasks they have to perform as qualified individuals working in the field of Veldfire Management.



Above: Students visiting the SCFPA office in Knysna



Above: Demonstration given to students at Knysna Fire Brigade

One-Day Basic Fire Fighting Course

The one-day basic firefighting course is a voluntary training day provided to SCFPA members and their labourers/personnel, free of charge, in conjunction with Eden District Municipality. This course deals with the basics of firefighting and what to do in case of a fire emergency on your property. Thus far, 237 individuals received training during 2013 and several one-day basic firefighting courses are planned for 2014. The training are organised per municipal region and members who fall within these areas, will be contacted with the dates.

Awareness

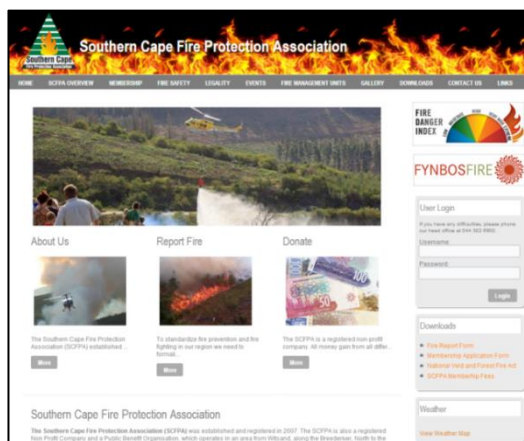
New SCFPA Website

The Southern Cape Fire Protection Association has updated their website with a new look and feel as well as some useful and interesting features. This re-design was made possible and funded by the FynbosFire Project.

The most exciting of these new features are a continuously updating weather application, an event calendar that shows upcoming prescribed burns, important meetings and site visits, and a page that contains articles published by the media regarding veld and forest fires and the SCFPA.

Another interesting feature of the new website is the donations button. Members or non-members can make a donation towards the sustainability of integrated fire management.

Mentioned above are just a few improvements, to see more visit the website at www.scfpa.co.za



Left: Home page of newly designed SCFPA website

High Fire Risk Billboards

The SCFPA received funding from the FynbosFire Project for the production of 10 high fire risk billboards to be erected on the national road in the Southern Cape Region. Presently, there are 4 similar awareness boards in the Tsistikamma

region, placed at strategic places alongside the N2 route. The new boards have been redesigned and are currently being manufactured. Erection will take place within the next 2 months.



Above: Awareness billboard erected along the N2 in the Tsistikamma region



Above: New billboard design

New SCFPA Appointments

Senior Base Manager

In January 2014, Japie Hendrikz, base manager of the Goudveld firebase, was promoted to Senior Base Manager, overseeing all the base managers and Working on Fire (WoF) teams allocated to the eastern region of the SCFPA. This position was created to enhance the productivity and allow more projects to be taken on by the SCFPA. Mothusi Skosana, the Crew Leader of the Goudveld base, has been promoted and appointed as the Base Manager.

Japie's key task will be to manage the day-to-day operations of the four SCFPA firebases. Among other duties, this will include mentoring and

motivation of the base managers, overseeing the administration of the firebases and coordination of the SCFPA fire fighters when dispatched to wild fires. He will also maintain the operational preparedness of SCFPA firebases as well as assist the area managers and extension officers with the planning and preparation of prescribed burns undertaken by the SCFPA.

In addition to the promotion, Japie is also funded by the FynbosFire Project to complete a Higher Diploma in Veldfire Management. He started at NMMU on the 3rd of February



Left: Japie Hendrikz:
SCFPA Senior Base Manager

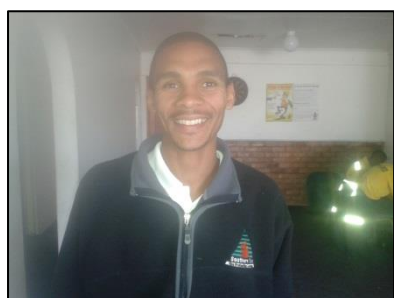
New Working on Fire Bases

The SCFPA has acquired an additional two Working on Fire firefighting teams, one based in Ladismith and the other in Sedgefield. The Base Manager appointed to manage the Ladismith firebase is Ricardo Pietersen. Ricardo was previously stationed as a Crew Leader at the Witfontein WoF base, managed by Cape Nature. The Base Manager appointed to manage the Sedgefield base is Julanden van Wyk.

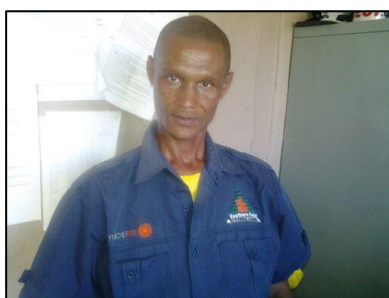
These new teams fall under the guidance and management of the SCFPA and are a welcome

addition to their current five teams. This extension of the fire fighting force in the Southern Cape will prove beneficial to all parties involved, including our members, and are a huge contribution to the SCFPA's resources. This proves that the WoF program contributes to the upliftment and improvement of their firefighters' careers.

A Kia Truck, to transport the team, has also been purchased for the Sedgefield firebase.



Above: Julanden van Wyk:
Sedgefield Base Manager



Above: Ricardo Pietersen:
Ladismith Base Manager



Above: Sedgefield Kia Truck

Advanced Fire Information System (AFIS)

In our previous newsletter, we mentioned that we acquired an AFIS terminal and satellite dish through funding provided by die GEF FynbosFire project. It is currently working and detecting fires but the great news is that end of August 2014, we will be receiving the second-generation software, which will allow us much more functionality and features to work with. Just to mention a few, these features will include fire alerts, high fire danger index alerts, more accurate weather data

and a reporting tool for specific dates, areas or both. This new AFIS software will allow the SCFPA a faster response time to fires, increased high fire danger predictions from a climate and vegetation point of view and will provide us with more complete statistics, which can help us with funding and sponsorship in the future. It also allows us to map fires on private and state land.

For more information on AFIS, visit their website at www.afis.co.za



Left: Active fires detected by the MODIS satellite

Photo source: www.afis.co.za

Please visit us our website at www.scfpa.co.za

Facebook page: "Southern Cape Fire Protection Association"

Twitter: "Southern Cape FPA"



❖ For any further information, please feel free to contact:

- **Dirk Smit: Area Manager Eastern Region**
Cell: 072 785 2742
Tel: 044 302 6908
Email: managerfpa@gmail.com
- **Charl Wade: Area Manager Western Region**
Cell: 079 485 5320
Tel: 028 713 1987
Email: scfpa.riversdale@gmail.com
- **Paul Gerber: SCFPA Managing Director**
Cell: 082 805 5840
Tel: 044 302 6920
Email: PaulGe@daff.gov.za
- **Admin Office**
Tel: 044 302 6912
Email: adminfpa@telkomsa.net