



Personal accounts of fighting the 2009 bushfires from Parks Victoria officers

Extracts from Parks Victoria Annual Report 2008-09

“When the fire first broke and we had to evacuate the park and began our communication with the local community, we aimed to constantly keep them up-to-date with developments in an effort to help ease the tension. Sometimes it was only a matter of minutes after information had been discussed in the incident management team in Tidal River, that it was typed and distributed by email and fax to the local and broader community.”

(Graeme Baxter, Parks Victoria Manager Visitor Services Tidal River, Wilson’s Promontory National Park)

“It was like ten jet engines, if you could imagine that. The fire came on two levels. At ground level with spinning fire whirlwinds engulfing anything in their path, and high above, at canopy level, with flames shooting twenty to 30 metres above the tree tops.”

(Parks Victoria Ranger, Natalie Brida, who worked with her crew at the Kinglake Depot on Black Saturday 2009. The Kinglake depot was destroyed in the fires.)

Supplied by Parks Victoria.