

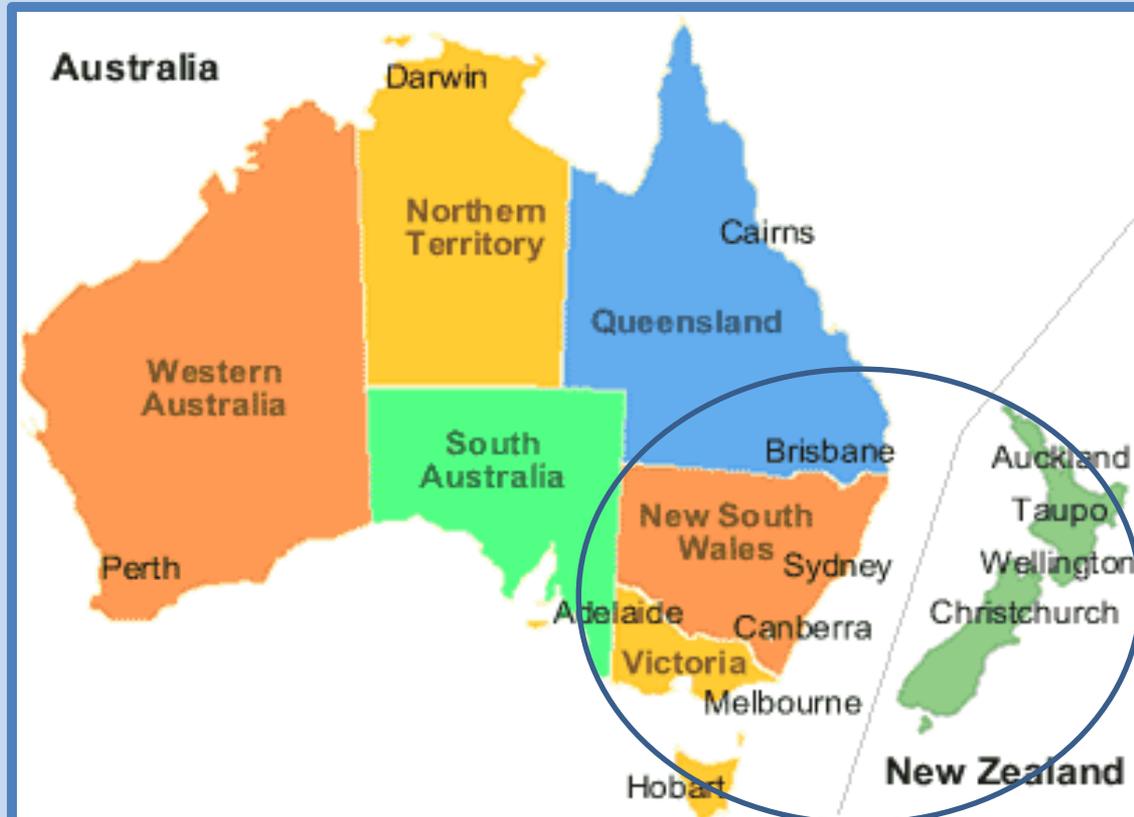
**The benefit of multi-country study
tours: A history of the relationship
between Australia, New Zealand
and North America.**

Jason Steinmetz

Department of the Interior

2014 Study Tour to Australia and New Zealand

- Australian Capital Territory (ACT)
- New South Wales
- ACT- Symposium
- Victoria
- Tasmania
- New Zealand
 - Christchurch
 - Auckland

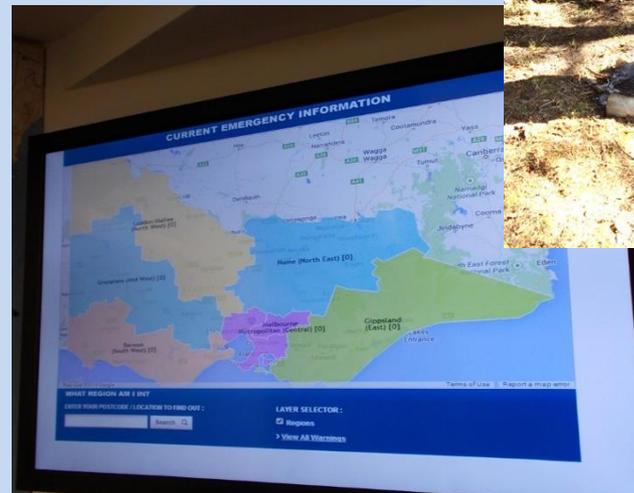


2014 Participants



Takeaways from the Study Tour

- Relationships
- Engagement of stakeholders
- Common operating picture
- Landscape approach
- Shared responsibility
- Future research
- FFMG - FMWG
- Bushfire Symposium



History

- Fire Management Working Group of the North American Forest Commission has been operating since 1962.
- Members
 - Canada
 - United States
 - Mexico
- Key objective of the Fire Management Working Group is to promote mutual assistance for wildland fire response among its three participating countries



History

- Study Tours started in North America in 1968
 - Twenty-seven persons, representing 23 countries toured the United States for over two months.
- Since then, numerous tours have taken place throughout North America. At each FMWG annual meeting, the host strives to provide a study tour for the participants.



Australia and New Zealand

- 1951- Australia Luke and Torbet toured the US
- Early 1980 US/Canada started regular Study Tours with AUS/NZ
- Visitors from AUS and NZ tour the U.S. and Canada on a four year cycle as well—with an exchange between the two hemispheres occurring about every two years.
- 2014, first year Mexico sent a person on the study tour



Figure 3. Interagency cooperation can be identified by the uniforms at a gathering.

Outcomes

- Important tools and technologies
 - Incident Command System adopted in Australia and New Zealand
 - Lighting detection and mapping
 - Common Operating Picture
 - Exchange of research
 - Emergency operational assistance during severe fire seasons between the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand

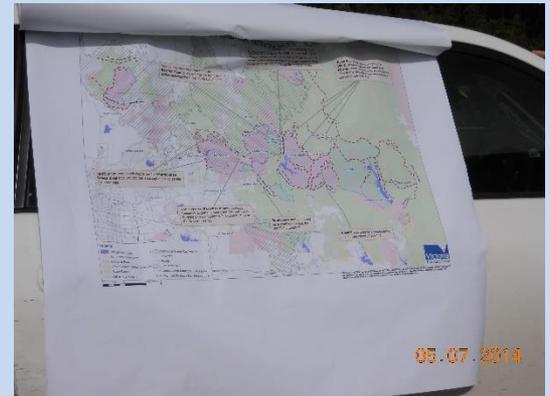
Creating your own study tour

- Benefits
 - Relationships
 - Sharing technologies
 - Lesson learnt
 - Sharing resources



Hurdles

- Language
- Planning
 - Location
 - Time of year
- Understand end state of study tour
- Cost



Important Tips

- Plan early
- Have a in country tour guide for the whole tour
- Develop a detailed plan from locations to travel times and motels.
- Make backup plans due to weather or learning opportunities
- Look at travel times on bus or planes.
- Leadership involvement
- Down time
- Do a final report



It's all about Relationships

- Study tour was about developing and maintaining relationships



Thank You



Jason Steinmetz

Jason_Steinmetz@ios.doi.gov