



SPINNER

Aero Club of Southern Tasmania Newsletter
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**FLY AERO CLUB
THIS WEEKEND**

FEBRUARY 2006

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DIARY NOTES

- **TLACS SATURDAY APRIL 22nd FONTHILL.. BBQ LUNCH - FLY OR DRIVE (NEAR OATLANDS) ALL WELCOME - FAMILY DAY.**
- **WEDNESDAY MARCH 1ST EDMO ASIA PACIFIC PRODUCT NIGHT. LUCKY DOOR PRIZES SEE FLYER.**

CANADIAN BOMBING MISSION

The Helicopter is an invaluable tool in combating Bushfires. It quickly gives planners a birds eye view of the fire front from where they can direct ground crews, and with the Bell 212, the Tasmanian Fire Service has a first attack capability being able to water bomb the head of a fire to at least slow it's progress until ground crews arrive. Danny Reid, Acting District Officer said "If the tree canopy is not too thick to break up the water, aerial water bombing is very effective. The 212 can dump as much water as one of our medium tankers in one go or spread progressively over the fire line."

The Bell 212 cruises at 100 kts when fully laden with the tank attached and has a useful load of 3800lbs. In it's civilian mode this twin engine aircraft carries up to 12 passengers.

Chief Pilot - of Canadian Company Wildcat Helicopters, Jason Evans said "The Belly Tank is fixed right to the bottom of the aircraft, so it just feels heavier. It still manoeuvres about the same it just feels sluggish when it's fully laden."



"When you are flying a 3000 lb Bambi Bucket on the end of a 100 foot string line then you are really flying the load." Water Bombing takes skill, planning and timing so the water hits the head of the fire and stops it burning. "It's not

the place for a junior Pilot, there is a lot of radio chatter, you have to co-ordinate yourself with other aircraft, work in reduced visibility with smoke and fight the fire." said Jason.

Helicopter Resources is on a 15 minute standby throughout the two months of the fire season. They provide an invaluable array of capabilities including water bombing, transport of firefighters, hauling fire fighting equipment and airborne perspective for planners to direct fire crews. They are on immediate standby during Total Fire Ban Days.

The Bell 212 is here under a Federal Government initiative started 3 years ago. It is one of three Canadian Helicopters placed in Hobart, Sydney and Canberra by the National Aerial Firefighting Centre. "The purpose of this helicopter is the protection of the urban interface, people within a 100 metres of the bush. It operates within a 35 km distance from Cambridge. Last year it fought 8 fires all small because we got there quickly." said Danny Reid.



Jason Evans - Chief Pilot Wildcat Helicopters & Danny Reid - Acting District Officer Tas Fire Management at morning weather briefing. Left: Bell 212 Inset : 1400 litre Belly Tank.



HeliRes filling the Bambi Bucket from a Dam

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Wall of Fire in the Southwest.



HeliRes dropping firefighters into the heat.



Helicopter Resources Pilot Dave Pullinger