

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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Attention: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Stay and defend – The regeneration of a community

“What didn’t kill us has made us stronger,” said Michael Jones, a Four Mile Creek resident, who decided to stay and defend his property during the East Coast bushfire last December.

Living through that experience would require the utmost courage and determination. He and his wife Lil’s hair and eyebrows were burnt off. They could not blink or close their eyes because they hurt too much. However, when asked if they would stay and defend their property again, they said “yes”.

This is one of the many stories in the book titled “*Regener8 – Stories and impressions of the Tasmanian East Coast Bushfire 2006*” launched today by the East Coast community to celebrate and pay tribute to the extraordinary spirit, courage and humanity of ordinary people who faced great danger during the East Coast bushfire this time last year.

University Department of Rural Health Honorary Research Associate Dr Rosa McManamey, editor of the book, remarked: “The courage, determination and honesty within this book demonstrates the enormous strength of community spirit. It highlights exactly what Mother Nature has to contend with when we unite together in communities and across state sectors to combat natural disasters and regenerate.”

The book is dedicated to Thomas Orr who lost his life as a result of the fires and to everyone affected by the fires. It will be available for purchase for \$15.00 with profits from the sale of the publication going to local fire services and Wildlife Rescue.

The East Coast community is also hosting the ReGener8 Bushfire Recovery Exhibition as a showcase of people's experiences of the bushfires in 2006 and a record of the survival and rebuilding over the last 12 months.

The Exhibition will be at St. Marys at e-Scape café, Gone Rustic and St Marys District High School. The exhibition will be open to the public free of charge from 1 – 14 December.

For interviews and further information:

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