

Goulburn Post

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\$1.60 including GST



This merry Santa's mantra is family first

WHEN the Post caught up with the Big Red Man to ask about his most memorable Christmas present requests, one stood out from the rest.

A young child asked for "Daddy to come home from Heaven."

"That brought a tear to my

eye and I wondered how many other children would be missing their father, or mother or other family members this Christmas too," Santa said while at Centro last week.

In Goulburn he has seen hundreds of children each day and heard lots of tales about how good they have

tried to be.

"If you can think of it I have probably been asked for it," Santa said with a twinkle in his eye.

"I have even had a child ask for McDonald's."

In Centro, Santa has been photographed on average 600 times a day, handing out

kilograms of sweets.

He hopes all the boys and girls will be sleeping when he calls around tonight and they don't wake up too early on Christmas morning.

Santa enjoys the Lieder Theatre and his wish for the New Year is that everyone will see at least one show in 2013.



• A photo of the Mountain Ash Rd blaze taken from Rocky Hill.

RED ALERT

300 hectares burnt

A POTENTIALLY disastrous bushfire just east of Goulburn has been contained.

Rural Fire Service crews from as far as Marulan and Parkesbourne raced to the blaze via Mountain Ash Road shortly after 1pm.

At the time of deadline, three water-bombing aircraft were assisting more than 40 on-ground fire units and hundreds of personnel.

At least 300 hectares had already been burnt out as of 3.30pm.

Paramedics were called as back up, with police closing access to Mountain Ash, Rosemont and Boxers Creek roads.

Authorities were also sweating on rain from a storm that was brewing over the Goulburn area.

The fire raced north westerly towards the Rosemont Rd/Boxers Creek Rd area.

The RFS said the blaze was contained at about 3.45pm, saying it eventually "blew back on itself".

Smoke from the fire enveloped much of Goulburn.

It was the district's second big grass fire in 24 hours after water-bombing aircraft and some 60 personnel swarmed on a blaze caused by an angle grinder on Saturday afternoon.

It burnt quickly on well grassed private property in the Trappers Retreat area, some 15km northwest of Goulburn.

Fixed wing aircraft from Cowra and Wagga Wagga were brought in to help, taking off from Goulburn airport.

The blaze was contained at 6pm after burning out an estimated area of more than 200 hectares.

Zone operations manager Ian Kennerley re-issued a warning to people not to use machinery in dry, hot weather.

■ More updates online

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