

Fire tanker caught in the flames



This is the fire truck that was caught in a fire in a pine plantation about 15km north of Ahipara, Northland, on Sunday. A team of rural firefighters were forced to leave their tanker and make a hasty retreat after the fire closed in on them. The firefighters were battling the 15ha blaze near 90 Mile Beach when the fire started closing in. "They were in a clearing of the fire and they seemed to have a mechanical problem [with the tanker]. The fire was coming towards them so they got to their escape route and got themselves out," said volunteer support officer Colin Kitchen.