

Living With Bushfire 2017 Preliminary Conference Program

Federation University Australia, Mt Helen Campus, Ballarat – Friday 6 & Saturday 7 October 2017

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Day 1 – Friday 6 October 2017				
8.30	Arrival and registration			
9.00	Conference welcome Prof. Leigh Sullivan, DVC FedUni			
9.10	Welcome to country			
9.15	Conference opening - Prue Bentley (ABC Radio) MC			
9.20	Emergency Management Victoria - Before, during, after bushfire - Craig Lapsley, EMV			
10.00	Forest Fire Management Victoria - Matt Potter, Acting Chief Fire Officer FFMV			
10.30	Morning Tea			
11.00	Overview of mental health in personal recovery & preparedness relating to bushfire—David Younger			
11.30	Victorian fire season outlook - James Pescott, Bureau of Meteorology			
12.00	The emotional context of bushfire: Learning from Black Saturday - Dr Graham Dwyer, Uni of Melb			
12.30	Lunch			
	Concurrent sessions			
1.30	How myth and language influence successful restoration and environmental management: learning from two major bushfires Samantha Strong, CSU	Bushfire predictive services Dr Trent Penman, Uni of Melbourne	Blazeaid and its role in farming recovery Barry Thompson	Let's Get Ready Jennie Schoof & Ange Wright Yarra Ranges Council
1.55	Benloch - recovery after the Lancefield 2015 fire Vince Cafari (CFA), Louise Scott & David Watson DELWP	The use of bushfire simulation modelling to analyse bushfire risk Phil Brien & Stephen Balharrie, DELWP	Animal and wildlife welfare management before, during and after bushfires Paul Beltz, DEDJTR	
2.20	Ballarat Community Health's role in Scotsburn recovery Robyn Reeves, BHS	Fire, landscape pattern and biodiversity in the Otway Ranges A/Prof. Alan York, UoM	Small business recovery	
2.45	Responding to bushfire and what is expected of community? Brett Boatman, CFA	What do animals do during a fire? Insights from the Henderson Creek fire experiment Dr Matt Swan, Uni of Melb	Traditional burning': Reviving Indigenous cultural burns for bushfire management Trent Nelson (Parks Vic) & Mick Bourke (DELWP)	
3.15	Afternoon tea			
3.45	Emotions and wellbeing in emergency management before, during and after Louise Scott (DELWP)			
4.15	Day 1 Question Session with Panel			
4.45	Day 1 Conference close - MC			
5.00	Pre-dinner social catch up			
6.00	Conference Dinner			

DAY 2 – Saturday 7 October 2017				
8.30	Arrival and registration			
9.00	Welcome and Introduction to Day 2 - Penny Johnston (ABC Radio), MC			
9.20	Safer Together: agencies and communities reducing bushfire risk Rachaele May (FFMV) and Peter O'Keefe (CFA)			
10.00	Bushfire behaviour - what we should expect and prepare for Dr Kevin Tolhurst, Uni of Melbourne			
10.30	Morning Tea			
11.00	The St Andrews Conversation - we're better together Kathy Overton, DELWP	Return of the Firestick Project Bryon Powell, Wadawurrung	Bushfire planning - BAL and building modification Mark Holland, CFA	Social risk factors: exploring demographic drivers of bushfire resilience WORKSHOP Phil Brien & Louise Scott
11.30	Scotsburn recovery - implementing on ground recovery through Landcare projects	Cultural heritage - impacts and considerations in planned burning Shu Brown, DELWP	Landscaping and property management in bushfire prone areas Owen Gooding, CFA	
12.00	Scotsburn bushfire experience - from a residents perspective	The art of roadside burning Michael Rowe, Cape Clear CFA brigade	Insurance and bushfire Laurie Ratz, Insurance Council	
12.30	Lunch			
1.30	The bushfire is now - how are emergencies managed (Command and control structure) Jon Rofo, DELWP	Planned burning and biodiversity Matt Chick, DELWP	Community based fuel management planning - an example of successful collaboration in Kalorama & Monbulk Steve Pascoe	Bushfire Scenario Hypothetical WORKSHOP Reinhard Pohl CFA
2.00	Bushfire warning systems - learnings from Moorabool/Blackwood evacuation exercise Cherie Graham, Moorabool Shire Council	Laughing Kookaburra's message: Not all birds respond positively to post-fire regrowth Diana Kuchinke, FedUni		
2.30	Evacuation procedures and management of human access during a bushfire event Neil Cheney, Victoria Police	What can ants tell us about when it is suitable to burn from a biodiversity perspective? Greg Horrocks, FedUni	Community Bushfire Connection Lance King, Latrobe City Council	
3.00	Conference finisher and close - MC with Community rep			
3.30	Afternoon Tea			

*Please understand program may change, as circumstances require.

CRAIG LAPSLEY

Craig's vision for an *all communities, all emergencies* approach to emergency management will work to ensure a systematic and coordinated approach before, during and after major emergencies. It provides an opportunity for the alignment of strategy, planning and investment across multiple agencies, to champion unified information systems, a culture of information sharing, and a sharp and deliberate focus on better decision making with the community as a central partner in emergency management.

Craig Lapsley is Victoria's Emergency Management Commissioner and has overall responsibility for coordination before, during and after major emergencies. Craig has more than 30-years' experience in emergency management, working mostly with the Victorian Country Fire Authority (CFA) including service as a volunteer firefighter. He has also worked with the NSW Fire Brigades (Sydney), the Victorian State Emergency Service, and the Department of Health and Human Services where he was appointed Director Emergency Management - Health and Human Services.



Forest Fire Management Victoria

MATT POTTER

ACTING CHIEF FIRE OFFICER
FOREST FIRE MANAGEMENT VICTORIA
DELWP

Matt Potter is a Deputy Chief Fire Officer for Forest Fire Management Victoria and has the portfolio of Operational Improvement and Quality Management

Matt joined the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands in 1989 as a project firefighter based in Orbost, Victoria and has an operational background working in fire and land management at various locations across Victoria and Western Australia.

Matt is a Level 3 Operations Officer, has a background in planned burning and has performed key emergency response and relief and recovery roles both interstate and overseas in USA and Canada.

Forest Fire Management Victoria comprises staff from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), Parks Victoria, VicForests and Melbourne Water. Our aim is to reduce the risk and impact of bushfires on Victoria's parks, forests and other public land. Our firefighters are easily identifiable by our distinctive green overalls and are responsible for responding to all bushfires on public land and assisting our CFA and MFB colleagues on private property.

We are responsible for planned burning and preparedness activities, like slashing, mowing and creating fuel breaks on public land. We also maintain assets like roads, water points and fire towers that are used for detection of fires in our forests and parks. We have specialist firefighting resources such as rappel crews for first attack in remote areas and the provision of heavy machinery. We manage community and environmental recovery when a fire does occur. We work alongside the CFA, other emergency services and local communities year round to protect people, property and our iconic landscapes. We are the lead agency for bushfire management on public land, whale stranding or entanglement, dam safety, oiled wildlife, water and wastewater service disruption. We also play a support role in emergency management for food or drinking water contamination, flood, heatwave, marine pollution, exotic marine pest incursion and search and rescue.



DAVID YOUNGER

CLINICAL & CONSULTANT PSYCHOLOGIST

David Younger is a Clinical & Consultant Psychologist with over ten years' therapy and clinical intervention experience. He runs a warm and compassionate practice providing assistance to individuals across a range of mental health difficulties. David is also highly experienced in community recovery following emergency events. He provides advice, training & development, and encourages innovation in emergency management and the private sector. The philosophy underlying David's work is the provision of high quality evidence based treatment that promotes resilience, recovery and growth.

Overview of mental health in personal recovery and considering psychological preparedness as a benefit to healthy adaptation after bushfires

The spectrum of mental health issues that have the potential to emerge in a community following bushfire are well identified. It is also well understood that the vast majority of individuals do not develop a diagnosable condition, but this does not mean that quality of life is not reduced for a period of time afterwards. Taking into consideration the fact that many Victorians live in bushfire prone areas, this talk will outline differences between healthy adaptation and ill health after a bushfire. Consideration will also be given to psychological preparedness as an approach that may lessen negative impacts. A main theme of the talk is healthy adaptation and the preservation of personal well-being amidst ongoing bushfire risk.



Victorian fire season outlook

JAMES PESCOTT

FIRE WEATHER TRAINING PROGRAM
MANAGER
BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY

James Pescott has been a meteorologist at the Bureau of Meteorology for over 10 years. In his current role, as Fire Weather Training Program Manager, he is responsible for ensuring the Bureau's fire weather forecasters are qualified to provide the Bureau's fire service. During the summer, he also works as a Fire Weather Forecaster in the Victorian Regional Office.

In this presentation, a review of the 2016/17 fire season will be given before the background climate signal and the outlook for the 2017/18 fire season are presented. Whilst NSW suffered an above average 2016/17 fire season, Victoria had an average to slightly above average season. Against a background climate signal of increased duration and severity of the fire season, the 2017/18 season is looking like being normal to above normal in terms of bushfire potential for Victoria. This is largely due to the dry start to winter and forecast of above average temperatures with only average rainfall in the spring and early summer period.



The emotional context of bushfire: Learning from Black Saturday

GRAHAM DWYER

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Graham Dwyer is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Melbourne. His research examines how organisations understand and manage risk. He has previously worked for the state government of Victoria in several portfolio areas responsible for emergency management.

Natural disasters are extremely challenging for individuals who find themselves in operational response roles. Such events transpire rapidly and bear little comparison with what has gone before. Consequently, organizational systems become overwhelmed, response capacity is constrained and stressful as well as dangerous work environments emerge for individuals seeking to ameliorate the effects of the disaster. Surprisingly, commentaries to date have often overlooked the emotional toll that these events take on these individuals. Accordingly, this presentation will focus on the individuals who fought the Black Saturday fires, were then cross examined by a royal commission (sometimes on multiple occasions and while the disaster is still ongoing), which often emphasized blame and culpability. While commentaries have detailed much of the proceedings surrounding public inquiries, less is known about the emotions that arise afterward. We know little of about the emotions individuals carry forward into their future as they begin to make sense of public inquiry recommendations in their organization and learn for the future. Accordingly, this presentation focuses on the way emotion shapes learning in emergency management organizations.



SAMANTHA STRONG

CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY

How myth and language influence successful restoration and environmental management: learning from two major bushfires

Sam Strong lived on the family farm near Ruffy until 2015, when she moved to Clunes. She has worked as a project co-ordinator for volunteer natural resource management programs, the Parks Victoria Bushfire recovery Program in 2010-11, and is a member of Landcare. In 2013, she decided to explore questions that arose from experiences following the Black Saturday bushfires in a PhD at Charles Sturt University.

Influences of powerful language and imagery used during and after major bushfires were the focus of Sam's qualitative research that considered the context of two of the most catastrophic 21st century bushfires in SE Australia. Two case studies- the ACT 2003 and Victorian 2009 Kilmore-Murrindindi complex of bushfires- were explored via print media, public memorials, bushfire and native vegetation management policies, environmental histories and interviews with fire and environmental management agency staff. Findings suggest that perceptions of the environment, and those who manage it, are shared and shaped by retelling vivid cultural myths to help make sense of the crises. The myths frame the environment and people in contradictory and polarising narratives, which result in a range of paradoxical responses. This presentation will provide insights into how understanding myths can assist us in understanding the evolution of contradictory and reactive environmental management decision-making.



VINCE CAFARI
BENLOCH CFA CAPTAIN

DAVID WATSON
LANCEFIELD FIRE RECOVERY CASE MANAGER
DELWP

LOUISE SCOTT
LANCEFIELD RECOVERY MANAGER
DELWP

Benloch – recovery after the Lancefield-Cobaw 2015 fire

Following the Lancefield Cobaw Fire in October 2015, an extensive recovery process was undertaken with impacted residents in Benloch, Lancefield and surrounds. Losses included 4 houses, and other impacts on 132 properties, included outbuildings and machinery, Around 130 km of fencing was destroyed and an extensive recovery process was required to help affected residents recover following the fire. An apology from the Secretary of DELWP provided a foundation to help start to rebuild trust in the community. Community fire planning in Benloch was enhanced following the fire with the assistance of agencies through *Safer Together* approach. Learn about how these communities have approached recovery and the processes involved, and hear some of positive changes both within the community and Forest Fire Management Victoria following the independent investigation following the event.

Vince Cafari - From working in the tall forests of the California Red Woods to the mountain ranges of the NT. On first sighting Benloch – Benloch was to be home and the place to relocate family and be part of a community that seemed to get on with it and take care of themselves. Taking care of themselves is the Benloch way. Looking out for each other and giving a hand when needed is the Benloch way.

David Watson is the Regional Manager, West Central Bushfire Risk Landscape at Forest Fire Management Victoria in Ballarat. He manages a specialist team responsible for developing the strategy for fuel treatment on public land between Ballarat and Bendigo. David has been with the department for 9 years across a range of leadership roles, including Lancefield Fire Recovery Case Management. He has a Graduate Certificate in Australian Rural Leadership and a Bachelor of Science.

Louise Scott is a Strategic Bushfire Planner and was the Lancefield Recovery Manager. She has worked both in operational and incident management roles, as well as with fire affected communities including after both Black Saturday and the Lancefield fire, and has also worked with agricultural industries experiencing challenges.



BRETT BOATMAN

OPERATIONS MANAGER
CFA DISTRICT 15

Brett Boatman has been a Career Officer with CFA for 23 years and is the District Operations Manager for CFA District 15, based in Ballarat. He leads Fire and Emergency Service delivery provided by 61 Brigades across the Central Highlands. Brett is passionately committed to delivering CFA's services within the community using an integrated model of Volunteers and Career staff working together.

Responding to bushfire and what is expected of community?

What do responders expect of the Community? Have Fire Agencies ever truly asked this question and if we did, what would the answer be? How do we define community and what channels are available to not only connect with the people we protect, but meaningfully engage?

This stories-based session will explore the key messages of Victoria's fire agencies for before and during bushfires as viewed through the lens of a Level 3 Incident Controller and Fire Service Leader. Drawing on his two decades of experience working in communities being impacted by bushfire, Brett seeks to align the expectations of responders and community. This session will layout the latest practices from the Emergency Management Sector and draw on academic research to answer the question.



PHILLIP BRIEN

BUSHFIRE RISK ANALYST
WEST CENTRAL VICTORIA
DELWP

STEPHEN BALHARRIE

BUSHFIRE RISK ANALYST
WEST CENTRAL VICTORIA
DELWP

Phillip Brien is the Bushfire Risk Analyst for West Central Victoria. He graduated from the Uni. Of Sydney with a Master of Environmental Science in 2013, specialising in both ecology and social sciences. Phillip draws upon this dichotomy of philosophies to underpin his work in strategic fire planning. With operational experience across western Victoria, his grounding in fire behaviour, computer and statistical analysis' have quickly made him a respected fire behaviour expert.

Stephen Balharrie has worked as a Bushfire Risk Analyst at DELWP since 2013. He completed a Bachelor of Environmental Science at Charles Sturt University and an honours year at Monash University. His honours research focused on bushfires caused by lightning and the spatial characteristics of their ignition locations. Stephen recently spent a year working as a Research Advisor within the Sri Lankan Forest Department, where he trained researchers to analyse data and use geographic information systems.

The use of bushfire simulation modelling to analyse bushfire risk

The location and circumstances under which bushfires occur, greatly influence their potential to cause damage. Bushfire simulation models enable bushfires to be simulated based on a range of different scenarios. Forest Fire Management Victoria are using the bushfire simulation model Phoenix Rapid-fire to analyse the potential behaviour and impacts of bushfires across Victoria. Bushfires are simulated from a grid of ignition points across the landscape and the results combined to identify areas most at risk. This information is then used to plan fuel management and other risk mitigation activities.



MATT SWAN

RESEARCH FELLOW
SCHOOL OF ECOSYSTEM AND FOREST
SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Matt is a postdoctoral researcher in the fire ecology and biodiversity group based at the Creswick campus of the University of Melbourne. His research interests include the effects of disturbance regimes on processes such as animal movement, resource acquisition and species interactions.

What do animals do during a fire? Insights from the Henderson Creek fire experiment

Managing fire regimes for biodiversity conservation requires an understanding of both the long term effects of fire regimes and the short-term effects of fire events on species and communities. However, many questions remain about the short-term effects of fire on animal populations. For example, how do individuals avoid injury from fire? What role do unburnt patches play in allowing individuals to survive and persist after fire events? Where do species recolonise burnt areas from? In this presentation I will present results from a fire experiment conducted in the Otway Ranges. We followed animal populations before, during and after the burn event and at a nearby unburnt control site. The results provide insight into the ways animals survive and persist after disturbance.



Blazeaid and its role in bushfire recovery

BARRY THOMPSON

BLAZE Aid COORDINATOR

Barry is a coordinator at Blazeaid, a volunteer-based organisation that works with families and individuals in rural Australia after natural disasters such as fires and floods.

As Blazeaid coordinator, Barry has the responsibility for coordinating works and equipment across Australia and has worked in communities after fires, floods and drought. In 2015-2016 he had overall responsibility for all camps across Australia, including the camp that assisted in recovery after the Scotsburn bushfire.

In his role, Barry has had the opportunity to work around the world in project management. He has been a member of the Board of Blazeaid since 2015.

Blazeaid was formed in 2009 following the Black Saturday fires in Kilmore on the property of Kevin and Rhonda Butler. In the time since, Blazeaid has expanded to work across Australia in recovering communities impacted by natural disasters.

This presentation will describe Blazeaid's involvement in the recovery process, and the organisation's unique approach to building community spirit following destructive events such as bushfire. For example, once a disaster occurs and the community requires support how does this happen and who should be involved in process?

Blazeaid is an amazing on-ground operation that is nimble and offers high levels of support to people who have suffered as well as its volunteers working in challenging conditions. This is highlighted by its Farmers Nights, held on a Saturday during camps, where people who have had a loss or been impacted by fire are invited for a meal to meet the volunteers and enjoy some social time, which is an important part of the healing.



DR PAUL BELTZ

SENIOR VETERINARY OFFICER, SOUTH WEST
AGRICULTURE SERVICES AND BIOSECURITY
OPERATIONS

Dr Beltz is an experienced veterinarian in both private and government roles, working as a veterinarian for almost 25 years. He has expertise in the treatment of burns in animals as an emergency consultant veterinarian and now, as part of Agriculture Victoria, significant experience in assessing and managing livestock and wildlife, before and after bushfires.

Animal and wildlife welfare management before, during and after bushfires

Dr Beltz will take you through what information is available for you to prepare your livestock and pets for an emergency situation – and what to do if you are caught out and do not have time!

He will discuss many topics, including:

- The Victorian Emergency Animal Welfare Plan (VEAWP) and how it links the emergency management agencies together to make sure that all animals are looked after as well as possible in the event of a bushfire;
- What you can do to prepare to reduce the risk to your livestock prior to a bushfire;
- How to manage your pets in the event of bushfire warnings; and
- What to expect after a bushfire comes through your property – and how Agriculture Victoria will help



LOUISE SCOTT

LANCEFIELD RECOVERY MANAGER
WEST CENTRAL RISK LANDSCAPE PLANNER
DELWP

Louise is a Strategic Bushfire Planner and was the Lancefield Recovery Manager. Louise is passionate about improving resilience within communities with a particular interest in wellbeing of emergency managers. She has training in Psychological First Aid, Family Violence after Natural Disasters, is a Peer Supporter and is on DELWP's Diversity and Inclusion Council, and is a participant in the Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program.

Emotions and wellbeing in emergency management – before, during, after

It is no surprise that emergency managers and communities experience a range of emotions when faced with preparing for (before), during, and after emergencies. Hear about some research findings, some current research that is being undertaken, and learn about why we experience these emotions. Recognise what we can do to manage our own wellbeing, and that of our colleagues, families and communities. Find out what services are available to us when things “get too much”, and recognise that there is no shame in talking about either our physical, or mental health. Let's go away with a better understanding, and some strategies that we can all implement (personally, with our colleagues, and within the sector and our communities) to support wellbeing.



RACHAELE MAY
 ASSISTANT CHIEF FIRE OFFICER
 FOREST FIRE MANAGEMENT VICTORIA

PETER O'KEEFE
 CFA

Rachaele May is an Assistant Chief Fire Officer in Forest Fire Management Victoria. She has over 14 years' experience in public land and bushfire management, with policy and operational experience. Living in regional Victoria, Rachaele is passionate about the linkages between communities and their natural environments, and the many services public land provides. She is keen to see better partnerships between government agencies and communities when delivering emergency and public land management programs.

Safer Together: agencies and communities reducing bushfire risk

Fire and emergency agencies need to continually improve how we work together and how we work with the community and our partners in bushfire management. The *Safer Together* program is about further developing this joined-up approach to bushfire management; it makes use of the latest science and technology and combines this with the extensive knowledge of our agencies, and a continued emphasis on shared responsibility with communities, to better manage bushfire risk. Peter and Rachaele will demonstrate how *Safer Together* is the foundation for the way their two agencies are working together - to concentrate efforts on where the greatest gains can be made to reduce bushfire risk to communities and the environment.



Michelle Richards was appointed the Fire Recovery Coordinator for Moorabool and the City of Ballarat in January 2016. During the Scotsburn Fires Michelle was the Recovery Centre Manager for Moorabool, operating from Buninyong until January 2017. Michelle continues to work in partnership with the Community Recovery Committee to implement the \$65,000 of Government funding designated for capacity building programs and events and has recently secured additional funding for the Scotsburn Community Leadership Program. Prior to the Scotsburn Fires Michelle spent 10 years in State and Local Government delivering community, economic and recovery development programs.

Janie Power and her husband Adrian purchased their 50 acre property in Scotsburn in 1995 for their growing family. Since losing their home in the Scotsburn Fires, Janie has become very active in the Scotsburn community, holding a place on the Community Recovery Committee and the Scotsburn Art Project subcommittee. Janie has continuously advocated for the residents in the community for increased support from the State Government and is currently in the process of re-building her home.

Donna Hart and her husband Trevor have lived on their 57 acre property in Clarendon since 2006 and serve on the Committee of Management for the Clarendon Recreation Reserve. Donna is also on the Community Recovery Committee and Scotsburn Art Project Subcommittee. Donna works tirelessly to advocate for the community and has hosted Art Project days and community meetings at her home for residents. Donna and Trevor's property was severely impacted by the Scotsburn Fires where numerous outbuildings and kilometres of fencing were lost.

Murray Arnel, and wife Cheryl bought their 6.5 hectare Clarendon life style property at 23 Nugent Court in 1982 to raise their young family in a peaceful rural environment. In the years since they have become active Clarendon community members, Murray serving the past 30 years as the Committee of Management secretary of the Clarendon Recreation Reserve. Murray is also more broadly known across southern Australia for his 35 years as a livestock markets reporter and rural journalist with the highly regarded Stock & Land newspaper. Murray and Cheryl's property was extensively damaged in the Scotsburn Fires which required almost a total rebuild of their fences, sheds, water tanks and garden areas, and refurbishment and re-wiring of their partially-damaged home.

Scotsburn bushfire experience – from a resident's perspective

Michelle Richards, Fire Recovery Coordinator for Moorabool and the City of Ballarat will give an overview of the event and the community recovery program and events leading on from the Scotsburn Fires in December 2015. Residents Janie Power, Donna Hart and Murray Arnel will talk about the individual planning, impact and recovery from a resident's perspective.



MARK HOLLAND

SERVICE DELIVERY TEAM LEADER
FIRE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
CFA

Mark has been with CFA for 13 years, mostly within the Community Safety Department working with the State's bushfire planning and building requirements. Mark holds a Graduate Diploma in *Bushfire Planning & Design* from the University of Western Sydney and has been involved in research into impacts of bushfire on structures on numerous occasions.

Bushfire planning – BAL and building modification

In Victoria development in areas exposed to bushfire are regulated through both the planning and building systems. Areas broadly exposed to fire hazard are identified as *Bushfire Prone* under the *Victorian Building Regulations 2006* with areas of high bushfire hazard also subject to the Bushfire Management Overlay, a control within planning schemes. These controls are important in increasing community resilience and limiting the impact of bushfires.

This presentation will provide a brief explanation of these controls and the minimum requirements which need to be met for development in these areas. While the planning and building systems set the minimum requirements there are measures which can be implemented to further enhance the resilience of new home in bushfire risk areas. These will also be discussed.



MICHAEL ROWE

CAPTAIN
CAPE CLEAR CFA BRIGADE

Michael joined the Clunes Fire Brigade in 1981 and transferred to Cape Clear in 1989. He is currently 8 years into his second term as Captain. Michael is passionate about the Brigades activities, the welfare of its members and the safety of his community, hence his extensive interest in preventative burning.. Michael has learned his skills from the good firefighters he has always had around him forming a fantastic firefighting and fire prevention team.

The art of roadside burning

To successfully live with bushfire we need to work with nature rather than against it. This is what preventative grassland burning does. At Cape Clear we spend 6 days burning the roadsides and we have evidence that this work has stopped a number of wild fires from taking off: fires with enormous potential to cause harm to people, animals, crops and which would undoubtedly have scorched the earth. I feel that it is better practice to spend those 6 days on preventative burning than lose family time and income fighting fires during a poorly planned and ill-prepared fire season.

While doing any kind of burning safety is our main concern. We adhere to all CFA guidelines and municipal permits. We identified the need for a Safe Work Practices Document under the OH&S Act and were the first brigade to work with this for our preventative burning.

I believe that roadside burning is one of the greatest community protection tools rural brigades have at their disposal and I wrote the book *The Art of Roadside Burning* to persuade others that it really is not too difficult; the native grasses that do not burn as easily as introduced species will return and the community will be that much safer.



JON ROFE

SENIOR ADVISOR
FOREST FIRE MANAGEMENT VICTORIA
DELWP

Jon Rofe commenced his firefighting career in 1987 on a rappel crew based in Horsham, and has an operational background working in forest and fire management at various locations across Victoria.

Jon has been a Level 3 Incident Controller since 2011, has a background in planned burning, and has been deployed to significant fires across Victoria and overseas in Canada. Jon has also been an Incident Controller at numerous local fires in the Ballarat area including the Chepstowe (2013) and Scotsburn (2015) fires.

The bushfire is now – how are emergencies managed (Command and control structure)

Bushfires are a part of life in Victoria. The management of emergencies such as bushfire is a shared responsibility involving many organisations and people in the community, where we work as one and we all have a role to play.

Victorian emergency response management operates across three tiers – state, region, and incident. This presentation will focus on how an emergency is managed at the incident level on the day of the fire. Topics to be covered will include who is involved, what systems and processes are used, where resources come from, the use of weather information and fire danger ratings by agencies and communities, decision making and information sharing. Discussions will include references to a number of significant fires that have occurred both locally and overseas in recent times.



CHERIE GRAHAM

MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MANAGER
MOORABOOL SHIRE COUNCIL

Cherie Graham is the Municipal Emergency Manager at Moorabool Shire Council where she has responsibility for the management of Councils emergency management planning, response, recovery and mitigation processes.

Cherie joined Moorabool Shire Council in November 1997 and has held various roles within local government before moving into the Emergency Management area in 2010. Cherie attained her Diploma of Public Safety (Emergency Management) from the Australian Institute of Emergency Management in Mt Macedon in 2013.

Cherie has worked in the response and recovery fields for the 2014 Northern Grampians Complex fires and most recently for the Scotsburn Fires that occurred on 19 December 2015.

Bushfire warning systems – learnings from the Blackwood Evacuation Exercise

A presentation on the objectives set for a planned evacuation of the high risk area of Blackwood, Dales Creek and surrounds in 2012 using Community Warning Sirens, Phone Alerts and different techniques in evacuation of community members. This was to exercise the newly developed Blackwood Evacuation Plan and to engage the community in enacting their own bushfire plans so that they could be tested, trialled and refined.

Emergency Service personnel took part in a sectorised evacuation using door knocks, loud speakers, emergency alerts etc and determined what worked, what needed improving and what could be maintained into the future.

Residents evacuated to a local reserve and took part in an Emergency Services Expo at the conclusion.



MATT CHICK

SENIOR BIODIVERSITY OFFICER – STRATEGIC
BUSHFIRE PLANNING
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, LAND,
WATER & PLANNING

Dr Matt Chick has completed a PhD in Forest and Fire Ecology with the University of Melbourne which researched the interactions between environment, fire-disturbance and biodiversity in an Australian heathy-woodland. He is currently working as a Senior Biodiversity Officer - Strategic Bushfire Planning (or Planned Burning Biodiversity Officer) with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning in Victoria.

Planned burning and biodiversity

Ecosystem resilience is the capacity of an ecosystem to absorb natural and management-imposed disturbance and retain its basic structure — the composition and function of its species — over time. The ecological risk is that inappropriate fire regimes can have negative impacts on biodiversity and decrease an ecosystem's resilience. There is significant focus on determining what the most ecologically appropriate planned burning regime is. Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) use three key measures to estimate appropriate regimes in Victoria's different vegetation types. These are Tolerable Fire Intervals, the Geometric Mean Abundance of species diversity, and Growth-Stage Optimisation. These measures are based on the ecology and fire response of the present species and require constant updating with new information. This presentation will give an overview of these measures and how they are incorporated into ecological risk assessments and planned burning regimes.



GREG HORROCKS

RESEARCH FELLOW
FEDERATION UNIVERSITY AUSTRALIA

After completing a BSc at Melbourne University, Greg has been involved in wildlife research for over 35 years with conservation agencies including Parks Victoria, Zoological Board and DELWP in all its recent incarnations. After working on floodplain and box Ironbark forest vertebrates for several years at Monash University he is currently an Honorary Research Fellow at Federation University focussed on wildlife ecology and entomology.

Greg acknowledges his co-workers in this research, Geoff Brown and Ben Fansom from the Arthur Rylah Institute, DELWP>

From little things, big things known: Ants as management tools for Pink-tailed Worm-lizard

The Pink-tailed Worm-Lizard *Aprasia parapulchella* is a threatened fossorial pygopid lizard patchily distributed in suitable woodland and grassland environments. The lizard is highly sensitive to environmental changes and its reliance on ants as its only food resource intensifies its vulnerability. In Victoria it only occurs in the Bendigo area.

This study investigated the effect of prescribed burns on ants and by association lizard populations. Active and passive ant surveys were carried out at each of the 47 sites established within the park. Both burn treatment and control sites were sampled pre-fire and at various stages post-fire (1 month, 1 year, and 2 year) over two years. All sites showed similar patterns in both ant species richness and abundance. Ants showed some resilience to low-intensity disturbance from fire and after the initial positive response in abundance, the pattern of ant diversity in the study area appears to return to pre-fire levels. Indications are that low-intensity burning has little effect on ant communities over time, at least in the short-term, and may have a limited impact long-term.



LANCE KING

CO-ORDINATOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
LATROBE CITY COUNCIL

Lance has lived in the Latrobe Valley most of his life where he has been involved in a range of community activities which he continues to this day. Lance's current community volunteer roles include:

- Deputy Chairperson for the Yallourn North Hall and Recreation Reserve Committee
- Chairperson for the Yallourn North Community Housing Committee
- CFA member at Yallourn North
- Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria District 27 President

Lance is a Life Member of the CFA and has received the National Medal with two Bars, Gold Star award and the Australian Fire Service Medal

Community Bushfire Connection

The **Community Bushfire Connection** program is all about what people do before, during and after a bushfire, either individually on their property, collectively in their township or as an organisation involved in emergency management. Our committee is committed to engaging with our communities to facilitate greater community awareness about bushfires and bushfire planning at an individual level. The Community Bushfire Connection program will deliver three community-based, bushfire-related events across Latrobe Valley communities in the near future.

The Community Bushfire Connection program is an initiative that grew from the two Latrobe Valley conferences titled Living with Bushfire. In November 2016 the Living with Bushfire Conference won a State Fire Awareness Award, this recognised not only the conferences held in the Latrobe Valley in 2014 and 2015 but also the event in Lilydale in 2016. Following the 2017 conference in Ballarat, it will return to Churchill in 2018.



PHILLIP BRIEN

BUSHFIRE RISK ANALYST WEST CENTRAL RISK
LANDSCAPE
DELWP

LOUISE SCOTT

LANCEFIELD RECOVERY MANAGER
DELWP

Phillip Brien is the Bushfire Risk Analyst for West Central Victoria. He graduated from the University of Sydney with a Master of Environmental Science in 2013, specialising in both ecology and social sciences. Phillip draws upon this dichotomy of philosophies to underpin his work in strategic fire planning. With operational experience across western Victoria, his grounding in fire behaviour, computer and statistical analysis have quickly made him a respected fire behaviour expert.

Louise is a Strategic Bushfire Planner and was the Lancefield Recovery Manager. Louise is passionate about improving resilience within communities with a particular interest in wellbeing of emergency managers. She has training in Psychological First Aid, Family Violence after Natural Disasters, is a Peer Supporter and is on DELWP's Diversity and Inclusion Council, and is a participant in the Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program.

Social risk factors: exploring demographic drivers of bushfire resilience

This workshop aims to challenge the conventional thinking of what bushfire risk really is. Together we will discuss the less publicised drivers of risk such as human psychology and preparedness, education, income, and age.

We will explore how social demographics can drive a community's resilience/vulnerability before, during, or after a fire event. We identify these new concerns for fire management authorities, and discuss how to use this information to keep you safe.

From this workshop, we hope to develop some general principles around how community and agency members think we should analyse, evaluate and incorporate demography into fire planning; with the aim of informing long term strategic bushfire management plans.



REINHARD POHL

COMMUNITY LIAISON – BUSHFIRE
ENGAGEMENT FACILITATOR
COUNTRY FIRE AUTHORITY

Reinhard Pohl has been a casual Community Liaison - Bushfire Engagement facilitator for CFA since 2011, presenting bushfire safety information at community meetings. He is also an active CFA volunteer firefighter.

WORKSHOP

Bushfire Scenario Hypothetical

This is a workshop utilising a realistic bushfire scenario that gives participants an opportunity to reflect on their bushfire preparedness and response arrangements, and learn about bushfire behaviour and the manner in which people affected by bushfire may respond.

This fire scenario has been carefully prepared to demonstrate what might happen during a bushfire event. The scenario utilises fire knowledge to accurately predict fire behaviour and fire spread.

The scenario is presented as a 'hypothetical'. The participants are given roles and locations in the path of a threatening bushfire and asked to respond to the scenario according to their role.