



National Parks Association of the ACT Bushfire Management - Balancing the Risks

Friday 21 – Saturday 22 July 2017

Pilgrim House, 69 Northbourne Avenue,
Civic ACT 2601

A community symposium to discuss research, strategies and expectations for fire management in the ACT in a changing climate

Aim: an informed ACT community able to contribute positively to ACT government policy, goal setting and strategic directions of fire management

FRIDAY 21 JULY

8.30am – 9am Registration and Coffee

9.00 -9.30am OPENING AND OVERVIEW

- **Welcome and overview**, Christine Goonrey – Symposium Convenor, Vice-President National Parks Association (ACT) and member ACT Bushfire Council
- **Minister's welcome**, Mick Gentleman – ACT Minister for Environment; Minister for Emergency Services
- **The community and bushfire management**, Sarah Sharp – former member of the Bushfire Council, Immediate past President of Friends of Grasslands

9.30 -10.30am LAW AND LEGISLATION

- **Bushfire management: balancing the risks**, Commissioner Dominic Lane, Emergency Services Agency
- **Protecting the environment in bushfire management: the role of the Conservator**, representative of Conservator of Flora and Fauna
- **Balancing nature conservation and emergency risk management**, Associate Professor, Dr Michael Eburn, College of Law, Australian National University

Moderator: Professor Stephen Dovers, Fenner School, Australian National University (ANU)

10.30 -11am MORNING TEA

11 – 12.30pm VALUES AND EXPECTATIONS

- **Social attitudes towards fuel management used to reduce bushfire risk to life and property**, Melinda Mylek, PhD Student, Australian National University
- **How the sense-making of myths can help us understand bushfire**, Samantha Strong, PhD Student, Institute for Land Water and Society, Charles Sturt University

- **Between a rock and a hot place: volunteer rural fire brigades and the “wicked problem” of fire management**, Sandra Lauer, PhD Student, Fenner School, Australian National University, member ACT Bushfire Council and NSW Rural Fire Service

Moderator: Larry O’Loughlin, Executive Director, Conservation Council ACT Region

12.30– 1.15pm LUNCH

1.15 – 2.30pm UNDERSTANDING HAZARDS AND RISKS

- **Extreme bushfire development**, Jason Sharples, Associate Professor, Mathematics Research Group School of Physical, Environmental and Mathematical Sciences, University of New South Wales
- **Changing the paradigm from fuel reduction to plant management**, Phil Zylstra, Visiting Fellow at the University of Wollongong Centre for Environmental Risk Management of Bushfires
- **Bushfire risk reduction and biodiversity: the Victorian experience**, Philip Ingamells, Fire Project, Victorian National Parks Association

Moderator: Kate Auty, ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment

2.30 – 3.30pm PLANNING FOR FIRE MANAGEMENT – MITIGATING HAZARDS AND RISKS

- **The ACT Fire Management Planning Framework, SBMP’s, RFMP’s and BOP’s** - Tony Scherl, Senior Fire Management Officer, Fire Forests and Road, ACT Parks and Conservation Unit, Environment Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD)
- **Risk Assessment and Decision Support Tool for prescribed burning** – Adam McLachlan, Fire Infrastructure Planner, Fire Forests and Road, ACT Parks and Conservation Unit, EPSDD

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- ***Using Technology for Post burn monitoring*** – Ryan Lawrey, Fire Management Officer, Fire Forests and Road, ACT Parks and Conservation Unit, EPSDD
- ***Values before, during and after the burn*** – Craig Wainwright, Regional Operations Coordinator, ACT Parks and Conservation Unit, EPSDD

Moderator: Rod Griffiths, President Conservation Council; Immediate Past President, National Parks Association

3.30 – 4.00pm AFTERNOON TEA

4.00 – 5.30pm RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT

- ***The National Burning Project***, Deb Sparkes, National Burning Project Support Officer, Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC)
- ***Plants and fire research: what does it tell us about current fire management practices***, Julian Seddon, Conservation Research, EPSDD
- ***Fauna and fire research: what does it tell about current fire management practices***, Tony Corrigan, Conservation Research, Environment Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate
- ***Does fire severity matter? Plant responses in montane plant communities after high intensity landscape fires***, Michael Doherty, PhD student, ANU
- ***Do long unburnt forests in Namadgi National Park support lower fuel hazard than those more recently burnt?*** Kelly Dixon, PhD student, Fenner School, ANU

Moderator: Kate Auty, Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment

5.30 – 6.30PM

NETWORKING FUNCTION / DRINKS AND NIBBLES

SATURDAY 22 JULY

9.30 – 9.40am WELCOME BACK AND OVERVIEW

- Christine Goonrey, Symposium Convenor, Vice-President National Parks Association; member ACT Bushfire Council

9.40 – 10.20am INDIGENOUS FIRE MANAGEMENT

- ***Indigenous fire management: what does it mean, how does it fit in?*** Dean Freeman and staff, ACT Fire Unit, Parks, Conservation Service, EPSDD

Moderator: Christine Goonrey, Symposium Convenor, Vice-President National Parks Association; member ACT Bushfire Council

10.20–11am ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS AND CLIMATE RISKS

- ***Climate change and bushfires: a new paradigm***, Professor Janette Lindesay, Deputy Director, Fenner School, ANU

- ***Fires and impacts on weeds and pest animals***, Jenny Conolly, Parks Conservation Service, EPSDD (TBC)
- ***Bushfire, climate change and water supplies***, Emeritus Professor Ian Falconer, water quality consultant

Moderator: Josh Creaser, Conservation Council Board Member, 350.org Canberra (TBC)

11.00–11.30am MORNING TEA

11.30am–12.30pm

IMPACTS OF FIRE ON THE COMMUNITY

- ***Decision-makers on fire management know the impacts***, Podcast, Dorte Ekelund and Brett McNamara, personal stories of the 2003 fire (TBC)
- ***Health impacts of local prescribed burns or wild fires***, Asthma Foundation
- ***Community understanding and perspectives of bushfire management in our loved bush capital***, Kathy Eyles, PhD Student, Fenner School, ANU

Moderator: Daniel Iglesias, Director, Parks Conservation Service

12.30 – 1.15pm LUNCH

1.15 – 2.15pm WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE (WUI)

- ***Managing a farm and grass fuel-loads***, John Starr, former rural leaseholder, Kinlyside
- ***Living at the wildland interface: a personal perspective***, Steve Angus, Member ACT Rural Fire Service for 30 years, Member ACT Bushfire Council
- ***Building standards in bushfire prone zones***, Nick Lhuede, Group Manager, Emergency Management, Risk and Spatial Services, Emergency Services Agency
- ***Community Fire Brigades: A perspective*** (TBC)
- ***Bushfire management and the urban edge***, Larry O'Loughlin, Executive Director Conservation Council

Moderator: Kathy Eyles, PhD Student, Fenner School, ANU

2.15 – 3.15pm SHARED RESPONSIBILITY FOR WAYS FORWARD

Wrap up and Communique. Moderator: Professor Stephen Dovers, Fenner School, ANU

3.15 – 4.15 AFTERNOON TEA

SUNDAY 23 JULY

9.30am –12.30pm – Aranda Site Visit – hosted by Friends of Aranda Bushland. Morning tea provided.