

# FIRE UPDATE

BUSHFIRE CRC NEWSLETTER MAY 2013

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN, LEN FOSTER AO

**The Governing Board of your Bushfire CRC had one of its regular meetings on 17 April 2013. At that meeting the Board was advised that there was some confusion surrounding the Bushfire CRC.**

The following should provide some clarity:

The Bushfire CRC continues under its Commonwealth Agreement until 30 June 2014 and will close as a CRC at that time. However, the Bushfire CRC entity has contractual research obligations over and above those with the Commonwealth which go beyond 2014.

Under the Commonwealth Agreement, the Bushfire CRC has an obligation to develop a Transition Strategy.

The Transition Strategy will contain plans for the further delivery of knowledge to industry partners as well as delivery against contracted research obligations. The Board has yet to finalise that strategy which will be subject to member approval. It could mean seeing the Bushfire CRC transition to a new vehicle after 30 June 2014.

The Bushfire CRC Board is deliberating on these matters.

## CEO'S BLOG

**GARY MORGAN**



**The Governing Board of the Bushfire CRC is currently considering a vision to build upon the successful research program of the last decade.**

As the new Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC lays its foundations over the coming year, the Bushfire CRC will focus on completing its research program and working with partners to ensure the research is thoroughly taken up within our sector.

Bushfire CRC partners can be assured that during 2013/14, research utilisation and contract research will continue. On the contract side, some research extends through to 2016. I encourage any partners with further needs for specific contract research to talk to me about your ideas.

Clearly, the Bushfire CRC has much ongoing work to do so its members gain the most from their 10 years of investment in fire science.

Meanwhile, the Bushfire CRC will support and work closely with the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC. The research program of the new CRC will be underway by September this year but, given that it will take some time for the research to build momentum and deliver outputs, the Bushfire CRC will continue with its high profile activities during 2013/14, including our 10th Annual Conference and Research Forum this September.

All partners have a crucial role in the next phase of the Bushfire CRC; this commitment will see through the national initial investment in bushfire research.

## RESEARCH FORUM - DON'T MISS IT

**The latest in fire science from around Australia and internationally will be showcased at this year's Research Forum, which kicks off the AFAC and Bushfire CRC annual conference in Melbourne on 2 September.**

A key part of the conference, the Research Forum highlights the diversity of research being conducted across the sector. The Forum is not just for scientists, but for all emergency management personnel and the wider researcher community.

Topics covered include fire weather, community safety, smoke toxins, prescribed burning and a special discussion on the impacts of heatwaves.

With keynote presentations from Professor John Handmer from RMIT and Ivan Pupaliduy of the US Forest Service, the Research Forum is a must for anyone who wants to use new knowledge to make our communities safer.

Featured presentations will also include Bushfire CRC project leader Jeff Kepert from the Bureau of Meteorology on extreme fire weather, the University of Western Australia's Illy McNeil on how to identify underprepared residents in bushfire prone areas, and an outline of the research of the new Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC.

Partnerships are one of the most important aspects of the Bushfire CRC, and the Research Forum provides a great opportunity to connect EM practitioners with researchers to discuss the latest fire science.

"The Research Forum will focus on the latest research from leading researchers and how it is implemented into policy and practice," said Gary Morgan, Bushfire CRC CEO.

Register for the Research Forum or the full conference at [www.afac2013.org](http://www.afac2013.org)



▲ The Bushfire CRC Research Forum will once again highlight the latest in fire research.

## IN BRIEF

### UP FOR A GONG

The Bushfire CRC is a finalist in a number of awards at the national Cooperative Research Centre Association annual conference in Melbourne next week.

PhD student Mika Peace is one of six finalists in the Showcasing Early Career Researchers award. Mika, from the Bureau of Meteorology, will give a five minute presentation on her research into the interactions between fire and the atmosphere. There were 51 entrants in this category, so it is a great feat for Mika to get this far.

Two Bushfire CRC projects are short listed as finalists in the Excellence in Innovation Awards: the Community Safety research conducted through Professor John Handmer at RMIT University, and the PHOENIX bushfire modelling research under Dr Kevin Tolhurst at the University of Melbourne. We congratulate all our finalists and wish them luck.

### A POSTER SPEAKS A 1000 WORDS

A substantial research poster exhibition will again complement the main speaking program at the annual AFAC and Bushfire CRC conference in Melbourne from 2-5 September.

Bushfire CRC Project Leaders, researchers and students are required to submit a poster. New templates are [online](#), and once again there will be a completion for the poster judged the best by an expert panel, as well as the most popular poster with conference delegates.

Bushfire CRC researchers and students will soon be notified about the process on submitting their poster.



Photo: Timber and Forest eNews

### IN RECOGNITION BUSHFIRE CRC CEO

Gary Morgan (above left) was recently awarded the Commonwealth Forestry Regional Award. The award recognises Gary's outstanding work in the forestry sector at a regional and national level throughout his career. "Gary's vision and leadership has resulted in Australia playing a pivotal role in forging lasting links with the most fire-prone regions of the world," said Michael Bleby, Commonwealth Forestry Association regional coordinator, south east Asia and Pacific.

### CARBON AND FUELS

Researchers and end users met in Melbourne this week to discuss "Contemporary Challenges in Managing Bushfires". The forum was organised under the joint Bushfire CRC and AFAC professional development series. The two major topics of discussion were on the political dimensions and the research questions surrounding carbon and its relationship to fire, and on the social construct of fuels in the interface. Former Bushfire CRC honours student and now Research Scientist with the federal Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, Robert De Ligt, opened the forum with an outline of the National Carbon Accounting System.

result is of a high quality because it is the work of many people: from the research team, through lead agency and industry participants, to professional editors and designers.

Most research groups either have a *Fire Note* incorporated in their project milestones or see them as an opportunity to promote their work to end users and others.

Regardless, if you are anticipating writing a *Fire Note*, firstly contact the Bushfire CRC before you start. A conversation with *Fire Note* editor Nathan Maddock will enable you to better understand the process and expectations, including timelines and style.

Nathan can be contacted at [nathan.maddock@bushfirecrc.com](mailto:nathan.maddock@bushfirecrc.com) or 03 9412 9605. The Bushfire CRC *Fire Note* template can be found at [www.bushfirecrc.com/members/crc-documents](http://www.bushfirecrc.com/members/crc-documents)

## RESEARCH BLOG

### RICHARD THORNTON



One of my favourite aspects of the Bushfire CRC and AFAC conference week is

the Research Forum, which begins the conference on Monday 2 September.

This year's Research Forum is the third incarnation, and promises to be one of the best yet.

The Research Forum provides one of the best opportunities for researchers and scientists not currently connected to the Bushfire CRC to get involved in not just bushfire science, but the upcoming work into other natural hazards that face Australian communities.

If your university or organisation is not currently working in this area, but wishes to, I would encourage you to come along and experience the buzz of Australia's best fire researchers and fire and emergency managers discussing the latest science, all working towards the making communities safer. I look forward to seeing many new faces with an interest in our field.

## RESEARCH UTILISATION BLOG

### NOREEN KRUSEL



Did you know that as a Bushfire CRC end user, you are eligible for a travel grant of up to \$3000 to

discuss and promote how your organisation has utilised Bushfire CRC research at major international conferences?

This opportunity is in recognition that end users are best placed to demonstrate how their organisations have utilised Bushfire CRC research to make effective improvements to the business of their organisation.

Up to three applications per year will be supported, with conferences of a high international profile preferred. The funding can be used to support travel and conference registration. End user organisations are expected to provide additional support such as accommodation costs.

To apply, read the full guidelines on the [Opportunities page](#), and send me an [email](#).

## COMMUNICATIONS BLOG

### DAVID BRUCE



*Fire Notes* are a valuable tool to communicate your research outcomes and potential

implications to agencies and other interested audiences. Feedback from a range of our end users has clearly indicated that they value *Fire Notes* and that they expect *Fire Notes* on all Bushfire CRC projects.

The writing, editing and production process for *Fire Notes* is quite complex. It can involve editing to improve clarity and style to ensure it is suitable for all intended readers. This also includes a formal internal approval process. The end