

FIRE UPDATE

BUSHFIRE CRC NEWSLETTER MARCH 2014

EXCITING NEW FEATURES FOR FIRE NOTES

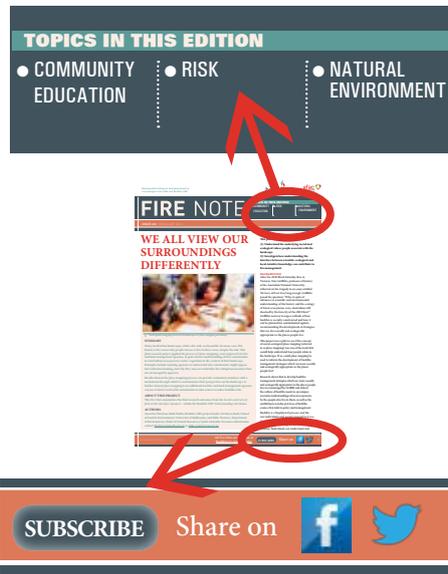
If you have noticed that *Fire Notes* now look a bit different, you would be correct. To assist you to organise, share and act, *Fire Notes* now have new features. These features will be included in all future editions, and began with *Fire Note 121*.

All *Fire Notes* now have topics highlighted – this will help you direct who you should share the *Fire Note* with and are aligned with AFAC. Topics are viewable on the top right of the front page.

Share it! – Like a *Fire Note* and want to tell others how they can benefit from the science? You can now share *Fire Notes* directly via Facebook and Twitter. Just click the icons on the bottom right of the front page.

Get more! – Did you know you can receive new *Fire Notes* straight to your inbox? Subscribe for free by clicking the icon on the bottom right of the front page.

Now what? - To help you get the most out of



each *Fire Note*, simple activity sheets are now available online. These activity sheets will enable you to consider the key issues raised by a *Fire Note*, the impact this could have and what you could do about it. The activity sheets are highlighted at the end of each *Fire Note*.

The *Fire Note* section of the website has also been reworked, enabling the searching of all *Fire Notes* by published date and topic.

CEO'S BLOG

GARY MORGAN



More than a decade ago, Australia and New Zealand embarked on a coordinated fire science program through

the Bushfire CRC – the first such effort to include a broad scope of scientific disciplines that was nationally coordinated and addressing user needs.

The bushfires of the scale experienced on Black Saturday in 2009 raised many research questions for agencies right across Australia and New Zealand. It was on this foundation that the second phase of Bushfire CRC research was built. As the research findings from the last three years become available, the focus of our work quite rightly turns to utilisation.

A significant aspect of this will be the Putting Research To Good Use forum series over the coming months. Planning is well underway, and will enable all partners to be informed of the research outcomes. Your participation is vital. This will start the thinking about how the science, a considerable investment, can best be used by all agencies. Ongoing research utilisation will allow more intense thinking about the implications of the research and potential follow up actions. With time, this will ensure that your 10-year investment in bushfire science is utilised to its potential. The best value from the research will be achieved when the findings are acted on by our end user partners and communities.

The tweaks to the *Fire Notes* (described via the story top left), are another example of our ongoing utilisation focus. Topics in each edition will help readers quickly identify the focus of the work, the activity sheets will assist you in your thinking, and the social media tools will enable easy sharing to your networks. Make sure you spread the word.

RESEARCH FORUM 2013 PROCEEDINGS AVAILABLE

The formal proceedings of the 2013 Research Forum, held as part of the 2013 Bushfire CRC and AFAC Conference in Melbourne, are now available on the Bushfire CRC website. Download the proceedings at www.bushfirecrc.com/news/news-item/proceedings-bushfire-crc-and-afac-research-forum-2013-available

The next Research Forum will be held in conjunction with the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC and AFAC annual conference in Wellington, New Zealand, in September 2014. Register at www.afac.com.au/events/conference

SUCCESS SPREADS FOR CRC'S FIRST EBOOK

Use and sharing of the Bushfire CRC's first ebook, *Making a bushfire plan? Involve you kids!* is growing, with a number of organisations distributing and promoting the ebook when talking about making bushfire plans with communities. CFA, Victoria's Department of Human Services and local councils have all got in touch with the Bushfire CRC to share their story with the ebook. Have you and your organisation shared the ebook with parents, or made

it part of your community safety toolkit? Let us know your story by emailing info@bushfirecrc.com

The ebook is based on the PhD research of Briony Towers from RMIT University, which has been presented in many research and industry forums in recent years. The ebook is designed as an interactive PDF that can be read on a computer or any tablet device, as well as printed. Download it for free at the Bushfire CRC website by searching for 'ebook'.



Bushfires at the rural/urban interface are likely to emit smoke that is more dangerous than smoke from a forest fire.

RESEARCH REPORTS FINALISED

A further three projects have finalised their final reports since the last Fire Update. They are now available on the website.

The *Operational readiness of rural firefighters (air toxins)* project, led by Dr Fabienne Riesen at CSRIO, identified, measured and modelled toxic emissions that firefighters could be exposed to while fighting fires at the urban/rural interface. Read the final report at www.bushfirecrc.com/publications/citation/bf-4326

The *Integrated assessment of prescribed burning* project used case studies in New Zealand's Central Otago region and South Australia's Mount Lofty Ranges to provide insights into the question of which fire-prevention strategies provide the best value for money? A decision framework was developed to provide an integrated assessment of the benefits and costs of fire risk management strategies. The study, undertaken by Professor David Pannell and

Dr Fiona Gibson at the University of Western Australia, shows that the methodology works and can provide valuable decision-making inputs to fire management programs. View the final report at www.bushfirecrc.com/publications/citation/bf-4329

The *Northern Fire Mapping* project, a collaboration between Dr Jeremy Russell-Smith and Dr Andrew Edwards at Charles Darwin University, and Dr Mick Meyer from CSIRO, developed fire severity mapping to help manage fire in the tropical savannas and rangelands across Queensland, the Northern Territory and Western Australia. The final report details how the results of the project have improved ecological-risk assessments, including greenhouse gas emissions, tree carbon sequestration, biodiversity and erosion – read it at www.bushfirecrc.com/publications/citation/bf-4376

IN BRIEF

CARBON EMISSIONS WEBINAR

If you are a land manager, tune into the next webinar at noon (AEDT) on Wednesday 26 March by *Fire in the landscape* project leader Dr Chris Weston. Dr Weston will answer your questions and discuss study findings, which will allow fire managers to be more confident in the carbon balance outcomes of prescribed burning. For more information and to register visit www.bushfirecrc.com/research/event/2014-webinars

CONGRATULATIONS

PhD scholarship recipient Brenda Mackie has recently completed all the requirements for her PhD by the University of Canterbury in New Zealand. Brenda explored warning fatigue and how to recognise it, mitigate it and overcome it. Her research is the focus of an upcoming *Fire Note*. Keep an eye out for it soon.

RESEARCH UTILISATION BLOG

NOREEN KRUSEL



You will have noticed the changes to our *Fire Notes* since issue 121 – one of these changes is very much

designed to facilitate utilisation.

The activity sheets provide you with simple tools (indeed they are often used by professional facilitators) to assist with thinking and talking about an issue and teasing out the key aspects relevant to your own work environment. The activity sheets can be used by an individual in a reflective manner. Alternatively, some are more suitable for group discussion. We have provided a few different activities so that you can use the one you think would work best for you and your group. There are no hard and fast rules about which to use.

Fundamentally, each activity sheet works around the very simple learning cycle of 'What? So what? Now What?' What did this *Fire Note* say? What are the implications for us? Is this relevant to our work? Could it improve or change the way we do things around here? Or does it reinforce that what we do is pretty good (yippee - more evidence to back us). If we think some changes could be needed, what are the ways we could start to tackle them?

It is easy to be bogged down in the systems and processes of a large organisation, and to feel disempowered ... but we can all think, and we can all do something! These tools might help you out. Access them at www.bushfirecrc.com/firenotes

STUDENT BLOG **LYNDSAY WRIGHT**



Part of the process of winding up the Bushfire CRC is formally documenting the project Intellectual Property (IP) for all the great work completed over the past 10 years.

This is an aspect of finalising the research outputs which often gets pushed to the side, but it is a useful way of seeing the achievements. We don't want to make this a time consuming process, so we have put together this IP information based on what we know from the documentation you have provided us.

We are simply asking you to review and correct where we have got things not quite right. We also have a PowerPoint that explains the different types of IP to help you do this. This comes right at the end of each project, and it is hoped the work has been minimised as much as possible.

Please remember if you have any questions about this process you can always email me or give me a call.