



March 2018

HOT TOPICS

Celebrating our network



DALY RIVER FLOODING KEEPS STAFF BUSY

Bushfires NT staff have been busy assisting NT police and emergency services with the 2018 Daly River evacuations. On Monday 29 January, staff assisted a small group of evacuees and later undertook planning for the next day.

Seven staff members from the Batchelor office also assisted emergency services with the on ground and air coordination of helicopters for the Daly River evacuation. Two staff members from Darwin travelled to the Daly River on the Tuesday morning to assist with the safe movement of residents on to helicopters with the remaining staff in Batchelor to undertake the aircraft marshalling and refuelling. In total, 23 helicopters were activated with a further nine on standby.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF PPE



Clean and properly maintained PPE is important to ensure they remain effective and function properly throughout their working life. Because of this, Bushfires NT is currently working on a set of guidelines on how to get the most out of your PPE. The guidelines will provide advice on how long you should keep your gear before it should be replaced, as well as providing manufacturer's advice on how to keep it clean without reducing its effectiveness.

If you have any questions about the guidelines, or would like to provide some input into the development of the PPE Care and Maintenance Guidelines, please contact peter.clouting@nt.gov.au.



STREET SIGN PROGRAM

Sometimes it's the little things that save lives and property. Ensuring you and your neighbours have adequate signage that displays both your street and lot numbers can save time and reduce confusion when a fire is in your area.

Bushfires NT is now partnering with NTFRS in the Top End to produce high visibility street signs that include both street and lot numbers. Signs are available from the Virginia Store, Howard Springs Mitre 10, Humpty Doo Hardware and Berry Springs Hardware.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND GRANTS NOW AVAILABLE

The community benefit fund supports community development and improvement initiatives in the Northern Territory-based through small and major community grant programs. Community benefit funds can be used for equipment, events and activities, organisational development, and capital works.

The maximum grant for each small community project is \$10 000 with this round closing on 16 March 2018. For more information, visit <https://nt.gov.au/community/community-grants-and-volunteers/small-and-major-community-grants>

TWO TYPES OF SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR NATIONAL VOLUNTEERING CONFERENCE

Emergency Management Scholarships

The Emergency Management Scholarships are sponsored by the Australian Government Attorney General's Department. They are providing support for emergency management volunteers to register and attend the 2018 National Volunteering Conference.

The Department of Social Services Scholarships

The Department of Social Services (DSS) is providing assistance for people who are from regional, rural or remote areas to attend the Conference. This is a unique opportunity to be part of Australia's premier volunteering event.

A range of different scholarships (including registration, travel and accommodation) will be available.

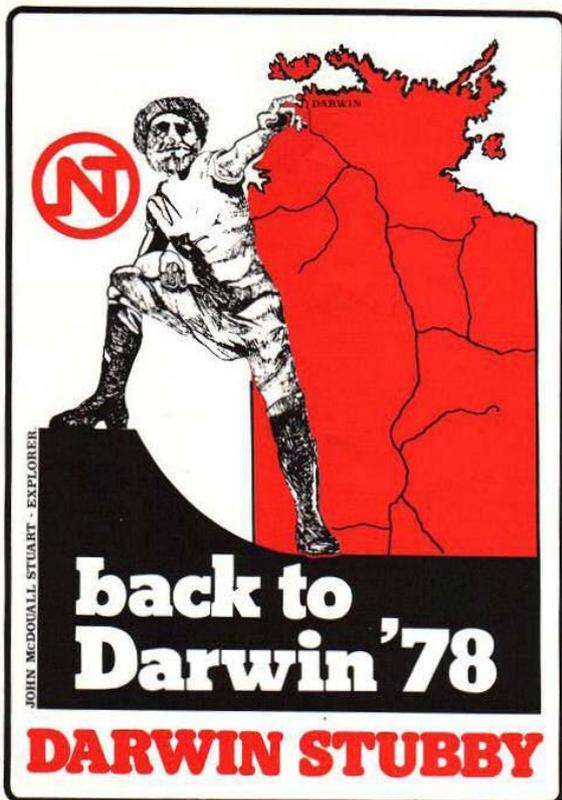
Please visit <http://nvc2018.com.au/register/scholarships/> for more details.





The Darwin Fire Brigade presents a display of their fire fighting apparatus. Darwin Oval 1 July 1978.
Photo: NT Department of Education

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF SELF-GOVERNMENT



With the Northern Territory celebrating 40 years of self-government in 2018, the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources and Bushfires NT is looking to prepare displays for the show circuit that look back at the changes that have occurred in that time.

Bushfires NT would like to prepare a display that includes a lot of photos and stories that shed some light on our colourful past. If you have any old photos, stories or memorabilia that you think would help to tell the Bushfires NT story, please contact 8922 0839 or bushfires.engagement@nt.gov.au.





WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE IN HOT TOPICS?

Hot Topics is a newsletter designed to inform the Bushfires NT volunteer network. It's meant to provide you with the right information to make life as a volunteer a little easier.

So, how can we do this?

What is important to you?

What do you want to read about in Hot Topics?

Do you want to see more training updates, more research articles, or just more information about what other brigades are up to? Furthermore, if you have any other ideas, photos or stories you would like to include in Hot Topics, don't hesitate to let me know.

Have a think about it and get in touch on 8922 0839 or bushfires.engagement@nt.gov.au.

NATIONAL DISASTER RESILIENCE PROGRAM

The Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) encourages the Government to work together with volunteers, the private sector, and non-government organisations, in an effort to enhance Territory communities to be more resilient to natural disasters. Funding for the 2017-18 round is now open until 1 April 2018.

For more information, visit <https://dcm.nt.gov.au/supporting-government/natural-disaster-resilience-program/grants-and-funding>

BUSHFIRES NT FF1 TRAINING CALENDAR

Training Officer, Wendy, has put together a training calendar for the first half of 2018. Dates for training have been developed in consultation with regional offices, and are designed to ensure all regions receive the appropriate training at a time most suitable/appropriate for volunteers.

The following dates have been confirmed, so make sure all volunteers requiring FF1 register as soon as possible to secure a place. Additional courses may be organised if demand exceeds capacity.

- 17-18 March Berry Springs
- 14-15 April Cox Peninsula
- 28-29 April Alice Springs
- 12-13 May Katherine
- 19-20 May Berry Springs
- 13-14 June Douglas Daly (TDB)



FINE FUEL DATA COLLECTION PROGRAM

The Fine Fuel Data Collection Program Alice Springs is currently being undertaken by Lachlan Fife and Tamara Rolph, this newly implemented works program has been developed to collect data that will assist in interpreting seasonal condition variances (what impacts each season has on fuel loads & curing rates).

While there are many ways to quantify fuel, the visual interpretation method (providing a fuel hazard score or rating but not a quantity of fuel) has been the most efficient in the past, however the system that Alice Springs are currently trialing is by destructively sampled fuel loads (physically harvesting then weighing both grass and litter) which is then calculated into tonnes per hectare.

Curing rates are also monitored during this process which again can give a more precise curing rate than visual interpretation alone.

Examining this data will provide a much clearer understanding of potential fire behaviour which in turn will eliminate under/over estimates.

7 sites have been established within the Alice Springs Fire Protection Zone, these sites have been selected to have the best representation of the varying fuel types found in central Australia. As only initial data has been collected it is expected that a detailed interpretation will be available after a 12 month period with the expectation that the program run indefinitely to support bushfire management. Tamara and Lachy will ensure any significant findings from this research will be communicated throughout Bushfires NT as the research progresses.



This Program would be beneficial for all regions to implement, Maggie Towers from Batchelor has just undergone a week in Alice Springs learning the technique to carry out this research so it may then be implemented in the top end. Any Bushfires NT staff interested in learning anything further regarding this program are encouraged to contact Tamara Rolph or Lachy Fife.

LABASHEEDA PARK VBB NEARLY READY TO BREAK GROUND ON HQ

Labasheeda Park Volunteer Bushfire Brigade has been operating from members' homes for 30 years. This, however, will soon come to an end. Land surveys for their new headquarters are due to be complete by the end of this month.

From there, permits and plans will need to be submitted before the final go ahead to commence clearing, fencing and construction.

Needless to say, we are all incredibly excited.

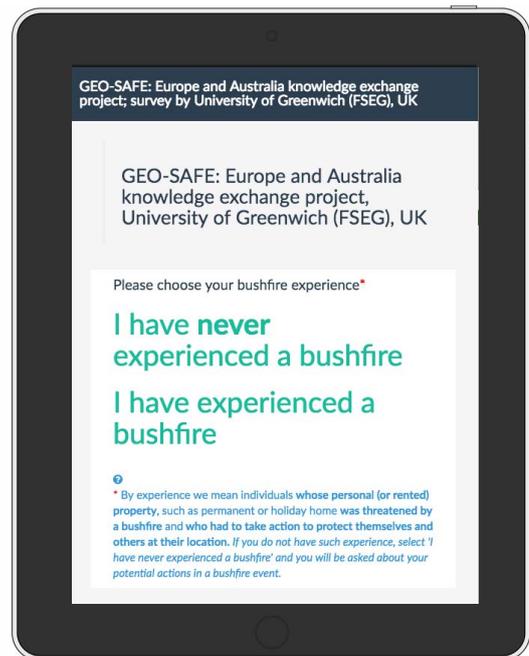


SURVEY ON HUMAN BEHAVIOUR IN EVACUATIONS

The University of Greenwich is currently undertaking research into community responses to bushfire events and aiming to capture both - actual experience and hypothetical behaviours. They have created an online survey for dissemination to communities in bushfire prone areas.

Your experience in wildfires can help advance science in human behaviour in evacuations. Go here: www.tinyurl.com/bushfire-geosafe and take part in a survey now to contribute to the EU GEO-SAFE project.

If you have never experienced a bushfire but you want to check how you would react, you can still take part!



VOLUNTEER CODE OF CONDUCT

The Bushfires NT Volunteer Code of Conduct sets a standard for how Bushfires NT volunteers are to behave when acting in the capacity as a Bushfires NT volunteer. The code is intended to ensure a safe and rewarding experience for all volunteers, and it sets a standard designed to ensure that Bushfires NT and the brigade network will continue to enjoy the support and confidence of the community.

The Bushfires NT Volunteer Code of Conduct is a declaration of personal behavioural standards, diligence, and ideals. It includes the following values:

Safety - Everyone is responsible for personal safety. Personal protective equipment is to be worn at all fire management operations.

Respect - Respect is to be given to all members of the community and stakeholders, and those who are placed in leadership positions.

Harassment, Bullying and Discrimination - There is a duty of care to report any known occurrences through your chain of command or to a Bushfires NT staff member.

Equity and Diversity - Bushfires NT volunteers are to respect diversity and promote inclusiveness.



Accountability - Personal responsibility is to be taken for all actions.

Use of Official Resources - Bushfires NT facilities, equipment and other physical resources are to be used with due care and for the purpose for which they are provided.

Ethical Decision Making - All volunteers must act ethically in their dealings with members of the community, our stakeholders and their fellow members.

Social Media/Public Comment - When representing the Bushfires NT network, public comments should be restricted to matters pertaining to fire control operations and should not include private information or personal opinions.

Public Interest - Bushfires NT volunteers are expected to perform duties and activities, make decisions and exercise any delegations in ways that preserve our public interest and enhance community engagement.





NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK CELEBRATIONS

National Volunteer week 2018 will be from the 21-27 May. This year's theme is 'Give a little. Change a lot'. This year, Volunteering NT is organising special events to thank the NT's dedicated volunteers.

Two volunteer receptions will be held in addition to the many other events that are usually organised for the week. The first reception will be in Alice Springs and the second in Darwin (details right).

To assist with finalising an invitation list, please let me know the names, contact details and brigades of any volunteers and guests that wish to attend the reception. Bushfires NT staff are also welcome to attend to show their support for volunteers.

Forward all information to lucas.fiddaman@nt.gov.au by 26 March 2018.

Alice Springs	
Function	Volunteers Reception
Hosted by	The Honourable Dale Wakefield
Date and Time	Tuesday 22nd May 2018 from 5.30pm to 7.00pm
Venue	Star of Alice TBC

Darwin	
Function	Volunteers Reception
Hosted by	The Honourable Michael Gunner MLA
Date and Time	Thursday 24 May 2018 from 5.30pm to 7.00pm
Venue	Main Hall, Parliament House





volunteering nt

Leading volunteering in the Northern Territory

2018 Training & Events Calendar

Date	Time	Location	Topic	Cost
Tuesday, 6 February 2018	10.00am - 12.00pm	Darwin	Training: Finding New Volunteers Explore your membership, plan for the future & discuss ways to approach new people to join.	FREE training VNT Members \$22 Non Members
Wednesday, 14 February 2018	10.00am - 12.00pm	Alice Springs	Training: Finding New Volunteers Explore your membership, plan for the future & discuss ways to approach new people to join.	FREE training VNT Members \$22 Non Members
Wednesday, 7 March 2018	10.00am - 12.00pm	Darwin	Volunteer Managers Network Meeting	Open to all Volunteer Managers & Coordinators
Thursday, 15 March 2018	10.00am - 1.00pm	Tennant Creek	Training & Networking: Building Conflict Resolution Skills. 3 hour interactive session examining the role of communication in managing conflict & identifying situations	\$44.00 VNT Members \$55.00 Non Members
Tuesday, 27 March 2018	10.00am - 12.00pm	Katherine	Training & Networking: Volunteer Management 101 - The Essentials Supporting new volunteer managers to develop their management skills, and to understand motivations of volunteers and principles	FREE training VNT Members \$22 Non Members
Wednesday, 4 April 2018	9.00am - 1.00pm	Alice Springs	National Standards Workshop Prepare for and plan the implementation of the National Standards	\$77 VNT Members \$88 Non Members
Tuesday, 10 April 2018	9.00am - 1.00pm	Darwin	National Standards Workshop Prepare for and plan the implementation of the National Standards	\$77 VNT Members \$88 Non Members
Wednesday, 2 May 2018	10.00am - 12.00pm	Darwin	Volunteer Managers Network Meeting	Open to all Volunteer Managers & Coordinators
21-27 May 2018		All	National Volunteer Week	
Thursday, 7 June 2018	10.00am - 12.00pm	Katherine	Training & Networking: Finding New Volunteers Explore your membership, plan for the future & discuss ways to approach new people to join.	FREE training VNT Members \$22 Non Members
Wednesday, 20 June 2018	10.00am - 12.00pm	Tennant Creek	Training & Networking: Grant Writing for Beginners Finding the right grant, identify your project scope, learn grant application writing	FREE training VNT Members \$22 Non Members
November 2018 - date TBC			 NT Volunteer of the Year Awards	
Wednesday, 5 December 2018			International Volunteer Day	

Beginner Intermediate Advanced

Register at www.volunteeringsa-nt.org.au

*Location details on Eventbrite





Acacia Hills Volunteer Bushfire Brigade
330 Whitstone Road, Acacia Hills

Meals \$10 per person - kids under 10 free



FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH
Serving starts 6:45pm
Menu changes monthly
Take-away available
Soft drinks \$2 each
Kiddies - free icy poles
DOOR PRIZE TICKET INCLUDED WITH MEAL



GRANTS NOW OPEN

NATURAL DISASTER RESILIENCE PROGRAM 2017-18

A national partnership agreement between the Northern Territory Government and the Australian Government that focuses on building resilience in communities to withstand natural disasters.

Northern Territory Risk Priority Project Fund Up to a value of \$250,000

Enables agencies and emergency management organisations to deliver projects that address key risk knowledge gaps, develop or enhance programs, or enhance emergency management capability.

Northern Territory Disaster Resilience Fund Up to a value of \$100,000

Supports organisations and local agencies for natural disaster resilience works, measure and related activities that will contribute to safer, sustainable and more resilient communities.

Northern Territory Disaster Resilience Emergency Volunteer Fund Up to a value of \$75,000

Supports volunteer organisations at the frontline of Territory emergency management.



Application Dates

Applications open:
19 February 2018

Applications close:
1 April 2018

For further information
visit: nt.gov.au/ndrp
or contact
e: DCM.NDRP@nt.gov.au
p: (08) 8999 6281

