



**NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE – ORANA TEAM**  
**Dubbo, Narromine and Wellington Districts**



# *Bush Fire Blaze*

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## Orana Team News

### Fire Season

The end of March marked the end of a busy and difficult 2013/2014 bushfire season for not only Orana but the Rural Fire Service as a whole. Locally we had 199 incidents during the season, with the largest being a fast running wheat crop fire in Narromine which burned 600 acres. Good work by the volunteers and aircraft stopped it developing further. Orana provided much out of area assistance and strike teams throughout the state including the Blue Mountains, Lithgow and Colo – Putty Valley. Support was also provided to South Australia and we were on call for Victoria.

A **big** thankyou to all the volunteers, employers and staff that not only did a great job in our area, but helped many other areas, districts and states who were in dire need of support. 🙌🙌

Currently staff are busy conducting volunteer and staff training and workshops, funding, planning and executing hazard reductions, asset management/ maintenance, AGM's and Community Education Programs, long service nominations and awards. Shortly we will be commencing tanker servicing.

Over the last couple of months we have also had the Bushfire Management Committee and Sub Committee Meeting's, Liaison Committee Meetings with the 3 Local Councils, Rescue Committee and Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting, Captains and Group Captains Meetings, Post Season Debrief and the Orana Strategic Planning Forum.

As you can see from our training, meeting, hazard reduction and maintenance commitments, staff are still very busy and committed during the non bushfire season.



Lyndon presenting Matt Fuller General Manager, Taronga Western Plains Zoo with a certificate of appreciation under the supportive employer program.

*If you have a supportive employer please let fire control know so we can organise and present a certificate in appreciation of their support.*



## Orana Team News cont...



**Mike Baird MP**  
Premier of NSW  
Minister for Infrastructure  
Minister for Western Sydney

### MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 29 May 2014

#### NEW LAWS TO PROTECT PROPERTY FROM BUSHFIRES

Residents will be given additional powers to protect their homes from bushfires, with new laws being introduced into NSW Parliament today to make it easier to clear trees and vegetation from around a property.

NSW Premier Mike Baird, Minister for Police and Emergency Services Stuart Ayres and Minister for Planning Pru Goward announced the measures today along with NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) Deputy Commissioner Rob Rogers and Blue Mountains MP Roza Sage.

"We saw last summer how devastating bushfires can be, which is why we are removing regulatory obstacles on homeowners who want to take sensible steps to protect their properties from bushfires," Mr Baird said.

"The new rules will ensure we cut green and red tape for residents whose homes are located in designated areas close to bushland, so they can clear trees and vegetation from their property.

"Under the proposed new laws people with homes in a bushfire zone will be able to clear trees within 10 metres of their house.

"They will also be able to clear shrubs and other vegetation, except for trees, within 50 metres of their home.

"We have worked closely with the RFS to develop these new rules which will empower landowners who are taking responsibility for minimising the fuel loads near their homes – a key fire prevention goal."

Mr Ayres said the locations of the designated bushfire zone areas – known as a '10/50 vegetation clearing entitlement area' – will be determined by the RFS.

"Last bushfire season more than 200 homes were destroyed by bushfires and more than 100 houses damaged," Mr Ayres said.

"It is imperative that the NSW Government gives landowners the powers they need to prepare their properties from the risk of bushfires, while balancing legitimate environmental objectives.

"The RFS Commissioner will determine where the 10/50 vegetation clearing entitlement areas are and these areas will be shown on a map published on the RFS website.

"I also encourage all homeowners to complete a *Bush Fire Survival Plan*, which can be downloaded from the RFS website.

Minister for Planning Pru Goward said the new rules will also apply to non-residential buildings in designated bushfire zones.

"The NSW Government is ensuring we provide additional protection to people in these designated areas, which is why these new laws will also apply to other facilities deemed high risk.

"Under these changes staff at facilities including schools, child care centres and hospitals in designated zones will also be able to remove trees and vegetation that pose a bushfire risk from their property."

RFS Deputy Commissioner Rob Rogers has welcomed the new laws.

"We need to ensure the community is as prepared as possible for bush fire and these changes will give residents the flexibility they need to clear their property from bush fire risk," said Mr Rogers.

"A well prepared property, along with a completed Bush Fire Survival Plan, can minimise the risk of loss of life and property."

A map of the 10/50 vegetation clearing entitlement areas will be published once the new laws come into force.

#### MEDIA:

Mark Tobin – 9228 5239 (Premier)  
Sophie Onikul 0428 596 319 (Minister Ayres)  
Nick Tyrrell 0467 733 876 (Minister Goward)  
RFS media 9898 1855

### Radio/Paging Upgrade

Orana has now been operating on our new digital paging system for over a year, without too many issues. The additional repeaters installed at Cumboogle and in Tomingley seem to have alleviated some of our coverage issues.

Several of our repeater sites have had the new digital PMR radio equipment installed, specifically those in, and to the south of, the Wellington Shire. There are still two sites to be changed over to digital, Sappa Bulga and the new Dewers Trig site in the Goonoo forest. Once these two final sites are operational, the PMR network in Orana will be complete. The Dewers Trig site is a new repeater site and will replace the existing Cumbarella (Ballimore) and Moriguy repeaters. Work has commenced to clear the site ready for construction of the new 50m tower.

Please take every opportunity to take your tankers on regular maintenance runs during winter

**Please remember to contact Fire Control and book in your AGM**

## Orana Team Reminders

### A.C.E Workshops Aviation, Communication & Evaluation



4 - One Day workshops

Dubbo 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> June 2014 or Forbes 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> June 2014

Senior Field Commanders get the most advantage from Aircraft at Bush and Grass fires.

Learn more about:-

- Aircraft roles in Fire fighting.
- Firebombing both from fixed wing and helicopters
- Performance and cost analysis
- Bombing footprints, factors influencing drop placement and effectiveness.
- Ground to Air communications ( get in touch with the pilots)
- Common terminology – get the most from the bombing aircraft- get the load where it's needed.
- Hazards associated with Aircraft
- Safety procedures for ground crews when aircraft are bombing.
- See field demonstrations of differing water additives and drop patterns

*Interested members contact your local fire control centre to reserve a position at any of the four workshops*

## *Women with Flair*



A **free two day** Workshop designed for Women to build resilience –

*We aim to provide basic fire awareness and knowledge, how to plan and prepare for a fire and to give confidence that an informed decision can be made or actions taken in the event of a fire.*

*Especially designed for those with little to no fire knowledge or experience who are living in rural areas.*

- *What to expect in a Bushfire* • *Physical and Emotional Preparation* •
- *Practical Skills* • *Acting on Fire Danger Days* • *Your Bush Fire Survival Plan* •

**Planning to make a plan is not a plan!**

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2014**

**9am – 3pm both days**

**at Wongarbron**

Limited places available – RSVP by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2014

If you this one doesn't suit, you can register your interest in one of the upcoming workshops in Wellington, Narromine and Dubbo

**Get in early to not miss out!**



## Orana Team Reminders cont...

### Orana upcoming training events:

| Course                                       | Course Date            | Closing Date for Nominations |
|--|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Air Base Operator (ABO)                      | 12-14 Sept             | 12-Aug                       |
| Air Base Radio Operator (ARO)                | 12-14 Sept             | 12-Aug                       |
| Assessor ( ASR)                              | TBA                    | Subject to demand            |
| Aviation Basic Knowledge (ABK)               | Any time               |                              |
| Chain Saw Operator (TFT/TFI) Recertification | 31-Aug                 | 15-Aug                       |
| Chain Saw Operator (Level1) (TFT)            | 4-6 July               | 20-Jun                       |
| Chain Saw Operator (Level2) (TFI)            | 8-10 Aug               | 25-Jul                       |
| District Exercise                            | 11-Oct                 | 26-Sep                       |
| First Aid Application (FAA)                  | 19-20 July             | 4-Jul                        |
| First Aid Application (FAA) Recertification  | 23-Aug                 | 8-Aug                        |
| Incident Managemnet Workshop (IMW)           | 1-4 July               | 2-Jun                        |
| L & D Forum                                  | 15-17 Aug              | 18-Jul                       |
| Off Road Driving (ORD)                       | 1-2 Aug                | 18-Jul                       |
| Plant Operations Manager ( POM)              | 18-19 Sept             | 15-Aug                       |
| Village Firefighter (VF)                     | 27-29June & 26-27 July | 13-Jun                       |

*The following course may be done online at any time: BF, CLG, CLW and FAA.*

### Farewell:

A big thank you to all the great volunteers in Orana for making me and the family feel at home here. It's been a great 4 yrs and I will be moving on to Southern Border/Albury RFS where you can all drop in any time. I would also like to say how great it was to work with such good people in the office. Good luck in the future and stay safe. Pat



The RFS Firefighter's Pocketbook is now available as a trial app for your smartphone. It is available for both Apple iOS and Google Android devices, and will also run on tablets

### WHS

*Please notify Orana Fire Com if you notice any safety issues at your brigade station or on your tanker.*

**\*\*\* Remember, Work Health and Safety is the responsibility of everyone! \*\*\***