

HOT TOPICS

Celebrating our network

September 2020

New HQ official opening

The new Acacia headquarters was formally opened by Minister Eva Lawler and Senator McMahon on Monday 6 July 2020 and will support 35 Bushfires NT staff and 350 volunteers, providing a centralised hub in Darwin's rural area.

Staff from the Winnellie and Batchelor offices have now moved in. If you are passing Townend Road, please call in for a cuppa and a tour of the facilities.



Minister Lawler, Collene Bremner, Senator McMahon, Jo Townsend and Alaric Fisher



A calm and solid influence

On Saturday 25 July 2020, Bushfires NT had the pleasure in recognising 35 years of service of "Buffalo Man" Barry Lemcke of the Lambells Lagoon Volunteer Bushfire Brigade.

The brigade was established in 1984 with Barry as the inaugural Captain, a position he held for many years. Over the years Barry has also been a fire warden and public officer. His calm and solid influence in the region helped build the brigade to what it is today.

On behalf of Bushfires NT and the brigade, thank you to Barry for his dedication and service in making a difference across the Top End.



Barry with wife Hellen Lemcke



The Lambells brigade proud to be there in celebration of Barry

Thank you



In appreciation

Thank you to the Manager and Board of Directors of Standley Chasm for the beautiful dinner held on 25 June in appreciation of the hard work and effort of our Central Australian Bushfires NT volunteers and staff for their assistance during a challenging 2019 bushfire season.

The brigade was presented with a beautiful plaque in recognition and sincere appreciation for saving there infrastructure at Standley Chasm in January 2019 bushfires. Such a treat. Thank you.



Bunnings BBQs are back!

The Alice Springs Volunteer Bushfire Brigade was lucky enough to be the first customer back to Bunnings to hold a Sausage Sizzle since COVID-19.



A little thanks, goes a long way!

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P.O. Box 345
HUMPTY DOO, NT 0836
AUSTRALIA

Phone: 61 8 89 881467
Fax: 61 8 89 889005
Email: admin@acaciahillsfarm.com
ABN: 90 163 911 322

A very big official THANK YOU from everyone at Acacia Hills Farm to all the fire crews involved in getting the wildfire under control on Wednesday the 3rd of June.

The results demonstrated the pride, commitment and determination of everyone involved.
What a prompt and efficient response and amazing community effort.

Please pass on to all your crew.

THANK YOU

With kind regards

Acacia Hills Farm Team



Equipment development

Bushfires NT is currently testing an automatic fuel cut off nozzle supplied by Pro-quip, specifically for filling Pacific model drip torches. It connects to any standard size jerry can and ensure you can fill a drip torch to the correct level without the chance of spilling. They cost \$33 each if brigades would like to learn more about this new equipment or details on how to order them, please contact:

Lachlan Zordan 8922 0844 (Darwin)

Paul Justin 8973 8872 (Savannah)

Tom Morrison 8951 9272 (Central Australia)

Images needed

We are always looking for stories, photos or videos to share across our network. Email us at bushfires.NT@nt.gov.au if you have anything you would like to promote, raise or celebrate.

Recent fire activity around Kostka and Trippe Road, Humpty Doo

Saturday 1 August was a busy day for fires in the rural area, the most significant being at Kostka and Trippe Road, Humpty Doo. There was more than 30 crew members on the ground helping to get this fire under control, 3 planes water bombing, 2 helicopters surveying the area, ground earth moving equipment and the Police helping to close the road for safety.

Thank you to everyone involved in fighting fires recently.



Bushfires NT members only group on Facebook

We now have more than 160 members following the Bushfires NT Members Facebook group. It's a great resource for you to share information among yourselves and it's a closed group just for members in the Bushfires network. Thanks to the brigades who have already started to share information.

If you are not following this page, join us today. Don't forget when you request to join, please answer the questions so we know which brigade you are member of.

Facebook/Bushfires NT: Members Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2588365808156326/>



Barkly and Alice Springs regions update

Alice Springs is now operating at full capacity and is ready for the upcoming fire season.



Tom Morrison, Tim Leane, Shane Leech, Lee Gleeson and Flo Edwards

Meet the team:

Lee Gleeson, Senior Fire Management Officer who started with Bushfires NT in February 2019 after 30 years in Victoria with Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) in several roles. Lee looks forward to placing faces with the names as he gets out and about.

Shane Leech, Fire Management Officer - Preparedness and Engagement in Central Australia. Shane recently started with Bushfires NT on 13 July 2020 after close to 20 years in Victoria with DELWP in several roles, the main being Fire and Forest Officer. Shane is looking forward to the new challenges in a new environment and providing support across our network.

Tim Leane, Fire Management Officer – Risk Management for Central Australia who started on 6 July 2020. Tim first came to the Territory in 2004, working for Low Ecological Services mostly in the Tanami Desert, and has since worked for a variety of organisations including Greening Australia, NT Parks and Wildlife and 10 Deserts Project. He is looking forward to meeting and working with a few more of you in the coming months.

Tom Morrison, FMO – Operations Coordinator for Central Australia, has been with Bushfires NT since August 2019. Tom has 10 years fire experience with government and private industry, mostly in the Victorian high country. Tom looks forward to working with you all more closely to understand the local issues affecting fire management across the Territory.

Flo Edwards, Business Support Officer and has been the backbone of the Alice Springs office for 11 years. Keep up the good work Flo!

Welcome to our new staff and their families

We welcome our new team members Shane Leech and Tim Leane to the Bushfires family, to celebrate we had a BBQ with the Alice Springs Bushfire Volunteer Brigade. Keven Stout, Captain from Tennant Creek also joined the festivities.

This coincided with a visit from the Assistant Director - Operations Joshua Fischer and the Manager Engagement and Training Krissy Riley who were down visiting and updating the Central Australian team re Business activities.



Happy Birthday to the Milne Volunteer Bushfire Brigade



Expressions of interest to volunteer in the Bushfires NT Incident Management Team



What is an IMT?

An Incident Management Team (IMT) is formed or 'stood up' when a Fire Ban period is declared or significant fire incident occurs. The IMT is made up of operational and administrative staff from across Bushfires NT (BFNT) and other government departments to manage an incident/s using functional roles under the Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS).

Incidents are managed to the principals of AIIMS under a chain of command structure utilising the following eight core function groups:

- control
- planning
- operations
- logistics
- intelligence
- public information
- investigation
- finance

These functional groups have been adopted to our business and are made up of many different roles.

Why do we need your help?

We always need you, however Bushfires NT seeks to develop and enhance volunteer programs which includes opening up more volunteering opportunities to improve our capacity and strengthen relationships. Similarly to last Top End fire season, 2020 is off to a busy start. The fire season has only just begun and we have experienced many frequent wildfire events over the past couple of weeks that is exhausting for volunteers and staff alike.

Through opportunities within an IMT we provide for more accessible and inclusive volunteering beyond the fire ground and brigade administration. This assistance will help to keep our communities and members safe!

Who can help?

Anyone can help. I would like to introduce Sam Trott, Dundee Volunteer Bushfire Brigade. Sam is a leading example of how one volunteer can make a difference. She has provided a substantial amount of assistance in our IMT over the past couple of years and has become a valued part of the team, always willing to help out wherever she can in any way she can. She has helped lighten the load and become a welcomed addition when things are quiet but an absolute champion when things get tough.

She understands the true meaning of the more hands make less work and we are grateful to have her share her time with us.

If you are interested in gaining a new perspective on incident management, have time to spare, an understanding of fire and would like to take on Sam for the IMT champion position then give us a call.

No IMT experience is necessary.

What roles are available?

There are many roles available during an IMT from those behind the scenes in our incident control centre to those out and about delivering welfare to a fire ground. There will be opportunities for all skill levels and experience which we will explain in further detail if you would like to give us a call to find out more.

The roles will predominantly be based at our Headquarters, Acacia Hills.

To find out more contact Tina Holt on 8922 0842 or tina.holt@nt.gov.au



Sam Trott, an IMT champion!

Newest member to the Katherine team



Darren Jury, Fire Management Officer - Preparedness and Engagement. Originally from Victoria, Darren has been in Katherine for over 12 months. It has always been an ambition of Darren's to live and work in the Territory, particularly for the lifestyle change. His fields of expertise are Forestry and Horticulture, Agriculture and Fire. He has extensive experience in bushfire recovery programs, native plant propagation, seed collection, recovery logging and site rehabilitation. Darren was given the opportunity to join Forest Fire Management (FFM) as a Project Fire Fighter (PFF) in Victoria, which gave him an opportunity to further develop his skills. He has been a CFA volunteer for over 20 years at Bonnie Doon and being involved in many community projects. His specialist fields with FFM were road maintenance, felling trees and burn preparations. Darren is looking forward to the opportunity to work with Bushfires NT in the Territory.

Did you know?

- the fixed wing bombers completed 191 water drops during Sunday 23 to Saturday 29 August
- a total of 120 of these water drops were completed by 5 planes on Thursday 27 August
- approximately 3,000L per drop, equates to 360,000L of water used
- planes were using 70,000L of water per hour



Strickland Road, Adelaide River

Australian seasonal bushfire outlook: September to November 2020

Northern Territory

Wet season rainfall totals in most areas across the Northern Territory were well below average for 2019/20, and as a result many areas are now experiencing drier soil moisture and earlier vegetation curing. As noted in the Australian Seasonal Bushfire Outlook: July 2020, the Fire Danger Period for the northern half of the Territory was declared earlier than normal. In some areas of the savanna region, vegetative fuel loads remain lower than average. Planned burning in the north was predominately limited to strategic corridors, carbon burning projects, and fine scale properties. For the top half of the Territory, the duration and extent of the fire weather to date has been slightly less than what was experienced in the 2019 fire season, with the western Top End experiencing higher than average humidity during August. The Bureau of Meteorology's weather modelling indicates a negative Indian Ocean Dipole is possible in coming months. This may increase the chances of an early onset to the wet season and the possibility of exceeding October and November median rainfall. A review of fire season activity to date, completed fire mitigation and overall fuel loads indicates normal fire potential for all regions of the Territory for the outlook period.

The Australian Seasonal Bushfire Outlook is available at <https://www.bnhcrc.com.au/hazardnotes>

Visit from the Chief Minister and Minister Lawler

On Tuesday 1 September we received a visit from the Chief Minister and Minister Lawler to say thank you to Bushfires NT staff and volunteers for all their hard work during the fire season and dealing with extreme fire conditions in recent days.

During the visit they had the opportunity to witness an active Incident Management Team (IMT) and hear the morning briefing, this gave them an understanding on how many people are involved during a Fire Ban day.

Thank you to everyone who attended and all your hard work so far!



Chief Minister, Minister Lawler and Collene Bremner



IMT brief by Joshua Fischer



Maggie Towers, Nathaniel Staniford, Collene Bremner, Chief Minister, Minister Lawler and Lee Humphris



Listening to the IMT brief



Ray Nicholls (Cox Peninsula), Steve Wilmore (Acacia Hills), Minister Lawler, Chief Minister and Collene Bremner



IMT room



NT volunteer of the year award nominations

The NT Volunteer of the Year Awards highlight exemplary volunteer work and recognise the outstanding contribution of NT volunteers, volunteer involving organisations, corporate volunteering programs and volunteer managers who make an invaluable contribution to our communities.

This year, Bushfires NT have put forward several nominations for being both exemplary volunteers and invaluable members of the NT community.

We wish the best of luck to ALL volunteers nominated for the 2020 Awards.

For more information visit volunteeringsa-nt.org.au/training-and-events/events/nt-volunteer-of-the-year-awards-2020

Category	Top End nominations	Central Australia nominations
Excellence in Volunteer Management		Amanda Houston – Alice Springs Marissa McGrath – Tennant Creek
Emergency Service Volunteer Award	Therese Balanzategui – Labasheeda	
Jacana Energy Community Volunteer Organisation/Team of the Year	Berry Springs Volunteer Bushfire Brigade	
Inpex Lifetime Contribution to Volunteering Award	Max Kennon – Livingstone Volunteer Bushfire Brigade	
Excellence in Volunteer Management Award	Sue Jones – Milne	

Certificate of appreciation

- Bill Grant – Acacia Hills
- Kim Fox – Acacia Hills
- Adrian Phillips – Point Stuart
- Ralph Dein – Marrakai
- Cherie Nichols – Cox Peninsula
- Michelle Rawes – Cox Peninsula
- Melanie Ledingham – Livingstone
- Liam Craighead – Acacia Hills
- Chantel Fisher – Berry Springs
- Cheyenne Steward – Darwin River
- Cherie Steward – Darwin River
- Doug Chalmers – Cox Peninsula
- Donna Tinkler – BART
- Courtney Mabey – Daily River
- Brett Gill – Douglas Daly
- Patrick Ryan – Dundee
- Brendon Flynn – Lambells Lagoon
- Kevin Bates – Edith Farms
- Ben Hardwick – Elizabeth Valley
- Ian McIntosh – BART
- Douglas Barden – Berry Springs
- Cindy Holden – Berry Springs
- Gary Kholman – Acacia Hills
- Haiden Delaney – Berry Springs
- Pam Wanrooy – Cox Peninsula

Presentation of the awards

Central Australia Awards at Double Tree by Hilton, Alice Springs on Wednesday 4 November 2020.

Top End Awards at Double Tree by Hilton, Darwin on Thursday 5 November 2020.



2020 NORTHERN TERRITORY
**VOLUNTEER OF THE
YEAR AWARDS**

