



October 2018

HOT TOPICS

Celebrating our network

WELCOME TO ALICE RECRUITS

The Alice Springs VBB is thrilled to welcome eight new volunteers to the brigade, five of which have already undertaken BFNT Fire Fighter 1 training.

Alice Springs welcoming vibe and mateship atmosphere creates an exciting and enticing organisation to be involved with. It's a real credit to the brigade and something to be very proud of.

Bushfires NT has no doubt the volunteers will enjoy their experiences with the guys and gals in the Red Centre and would like to say well done and thank you to the ASVBB for their continued support.



Left to Right: New Alice Springs VBB volunteers Steven Bell, Sharn Hortin, James (Jimbo) Whittaker and Katrina Bartholomew at one of the brigade's weekly training sessions

MEET KRISSY RILEY

I'm just over a month into my new role as Manager of Training and Engagement with Bushfires NT.

During this time, part of my position has included facilitating debriefs for recent fires.

I would like to thank those who have attended these debriefs and raised their concerns as well as sing the praises of others for a job well done.

Debriefs will continue to occur in future as soon after fires as possible.

These debriefs have also enabled me to meet a few of you and to catch up for a chat afterwards. I look forward to getting out to meet the rest of the brigades for a cuppa and a chat.

I would like to thank every firefighter and operations support out there for doing a job that is both dangerous, and difficult. You are heroes, every one of you.

Thank you.



Krissy Riley facilitating a fire incident debrief session held at Berry Springs recently

UPDATE: VOLUNTEER STRATEGY

By Lucas Fiddaman

Bushfires NT has received funding through the NT Disaster Resilience Fund to develop a three year Volunteer Strategy and Implementation Plan. The project will investigate options to address issues of volunteer recruitment, retention, training, leadership and succession planning.

As you're aware, we have conducted a volunteer census as part of the first stage of the development of the Volunteer Strategy. In August, we posted close to 1000 census forms to registered volunteer members.

While we have already received a great deal of useful information and support from many volunteers, we are hoping to receive more feedback from as many volunteers as possible.

If you hear from any volunteers that have not yet completed the census, please ask them to get in touch with lucas.fiddaman@nt.gov.au for a form. The census only takes 10-15 minutes to complete.

Over the coming weeks and months, I will be conducting brigade consultations. This will provide us with the opportunity to hear more about the issues that are important to you, and discuss the results of the Census.

Alice Springs VBB recently met with me to discuss the Strategy, and it proved to be a very useful exercise. ASVBB volunteers provided a wealth of information, ideas and feedback that will be useful for the development of the Strategy. Thank you to all ASVBB volunteers for making the time to meet with me.

I am hoping to meet with as many volunteers as possible, and further meetings have already been scheduled with several other brigades. If your brigade is interested in meeting to discuss the results of the Census and/or provide further input into the Volunteer Strategy, please let me know.



Lucas Fiddaman talking to Alice Volunteers about the strategy





THANKS FROM DARWIN RIVER

The Darwin River Volunteer Bushfire Brigade were successful with a Grant application to the NT Government to build a new meeting and utilities room on their new lease at Curragundi – the old scout camp adjoining current fire station.

We are very grateful to the NT Government and wish to convey our thanks through the Hot Topics newsletter and to advise the wider community of this new facility. The building should be completed early in the New Year.

We were also successful securing a minor grant for a weed sprayer and security cameras.

As the adjoining lease is covered in Mission, Gamba and Calopo grasses the weed sprayer will be invaluable to help get these grasses under control.

While we were re-roofing the big shed we had 25 sheets of iron stolen, so the cameras will be on guard all the time from now on.

We whole-heartedly thank the Northern Territory Government for granting our application for the equipment.

TENNANT CREEK'S BBQ BASH RAISES CASH

By Ngaire Donald, Captain TCVBB

The Tennant Creek Volunteer Bushfire Brigade held a fundraising BBQ on Saturday October 6 outside our local IGA store.

The store provided fantastic support by supplying the sausages, onions, bread, sauces, BBQ and tools so that the Brigade could receive all of the proceeds.

A big THANK YOU to the IGA Manager Gemma for initiating this wonderful idea for our community.

A big bonus for us was, not only did we get to raise funds and promote the Volunteer Bushfires Brigade, but we also signed up two new, keen volunteers who have just arrived in town.



Volunteer Greg May serves up a snag to fellow vullie Naomi Castle-Southgate while Queensland SES blow-in Lynda Clark helps out with the cooking

TAKING AIIMS

By Samantha Trott

My role as Secretary of the Dundee Volunteer Brigade has brought me to, at times, being at an area within close proximity to the fire line organising support for the fire fighters and liaising with the Bushfires NT operations office at Batchelor.

I find this really satisfying so, as a result I decided to "Top Up" on some training.

The only previous experience I had to complete the tasks required of me as a Volunteer was running a business for 14 years.

So, I enrolled for the Introduction to The Australian Inter-Service Incident Management System (AIIMS) course run by Northern Territory Emergency Services as soon as I could.

As one of the handouts from the course states: "The training is designed for and targeted towards (people) who are likely to assist in functions of an incident management structure throughout emergency incidents."

That basically means the course is suited to anyone involved with helping out during fire incidents ... big or small.

The course was run over three days and included training in the use and purpose of the WEBEOC computer program.

It is a secure record keeping program used for recording actions as they are initiated and actioned into a legal document.

The course also explained the concept of AIIMS and how it is broken into areas depending on the size of an incident. And as an incident rolls out and grows, or reduces in size, how the AIIMS model adapts to cater for the changes.

At the end of the course we all joined our efforts and knowledge to participate in a mock incident scenario to put into practice our new found knowledge and expertise.

I highly recommend anyone who is in a position of support for your local brigade to give it a go.



Samantha Trott with course instructor Michael Ryan at the AIIMS training course held at the Peter McAulay Centre at Berrimah in mid-October

"Hot Topics is published during the last week of each month. Contributions for editions should be sent to mark.wilton@nt.gov.au by the second last Friday of the month."

NT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS



The NT Volunteer of the Year Awards highlight exemplary volunteer work and recognise the invaluable contribution volunteers make to communities in the Northern Territory. Bushfires NT is proud to announce the following Bushfires NT nominations for 2018. Together these nominees have a combined volunteering service of over 120 years and are remarkable in their efforts to improve fire management outcomes for the Northern Territory. Bushfires NT would like to sincerely thank each for their outstanding service to the Territory and thank all our volunteers for their commitment and generosity to help make Northern Territory communities safer.

Category	Nominee	Brigade
Northern Territory Lifetime Contribution to Volunteering	Fred Byrnes	Bart VBB
Chief Minister's Top End Volunteer of the Year	Maureen Kohlman	Acacia VBB
	Paul Pokorny	Elizabeth Valley VBB
	David Wills	Manton VBB
	Charlie Gimbel	Livingstone VBB
Top End Emergency Service Volunteer	Campbell Elliot	Edith Farms VBB
Central Australia—Jacana Energy's Community Volunteer Organisation of the Year	Alice Springs VBB	Alice Springs VBB

Awards Presentations

Central Australia (Alice Springs) 7 November 2018

Top End (Darwin) 8 November 2018

Thank you

