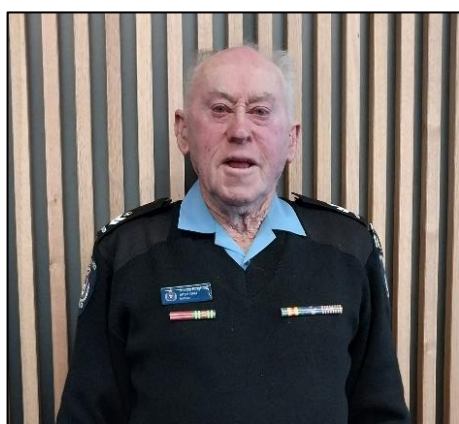




FMAC Member Profile 1

Neville Bingham - AFSM OAM



*Neville Bingham
at the Central
North FMAC
meeting
May 2023*

At the recent Central North FMAC meeting in Devonport, TFS FMAC member Neville Bingham, (Volunteer firefighter and Retired Group Officer) announced it was his last meeting after 51 years as a FMAC member. **Yes, that's right, 51 years.** So, in acknowledgement of Neville's service, I spoke to Neville and below is a summary.

Neville Bingham joined as a TFS volunteer firefighter 55 years ago. Growing up and living in the country, he was motivated to join to help his fellow neighbour, serving the Melrose and Paloona areas. Neville lived on a farm, and worked as a builder, and through his work and supportive wife was able to vary his time and where he was to enable his firefighter service.

During his service time, Neville held roles such as Deputy Captain Melrose (1970-1982) and Group Officer (1982 – 2018) and brought knowledge from the 1966/67/68 fire seasons to his service. Neville has been an FMAC member for 51 years, including service on the Barrington Fire Management Area Committee (1995 – 2013). In attending meetings, Neville found they were mostly attended 'blue

shirts'. Merging of committees saw more representation from agencies such as Hydro, Forestry and Parks and a lot more input through prepared fire plans, knowledge, and responsibility for the land managed.

Knowledge and responsibility for the land managed was something Neville said should be important to FMAC members. In his time, Neville found his knowledge of the Deloraine area wasn't great compared to other areas. Therefore, bringing everyone together to share knowledge and have input was important.

*'An investment in knowledge pays the best interest'.
Benjamin Franklin*

Over his time, Neville has seen Fire Management Area boundaries change and the number of areas get less – and in his view they can't get much less. Neville has also seen changes in committee support. He considers himself lucky he could go to meetings in the daytime; every volunteer has a job and replacement is difficult. When Group Officer, after an FMAC meeting Neville would write a report and would go to Deloraine for the group meeting and bring to the table what was happening.

Neville said that the FMAC role is not just about attending an FMAC meeting. In his time with the Mersey District from 2007 – 2013 they worked closely with the District Officer and took people on a bus trip to show what hazard reduction work they were doing. Community, like local council representatives, need to be shown what is being done eg via a field trip otherwise they don't understand what FMACs are all about.

Neville spoke about how FMACs make the community aware of the dangers of the fire in the bush and need for reducing the undergrowth.

Hazard reduction is about educating people, making them aware of the 'checkerboard' approach to reducing fuel, so a fire doesn't continue to move through everything.

Neville spoke about how planning, and community bushfire awareness have changed. He spoke about the first plan the Rural Fires Board did for the greenbelt bush on the outskirts of Devonport at Stony Rise Rd (Kelcey Tier). The plan was presented to the FMAC in December 1981. In January 1982 a bushfire was lit near the Don River and came right up to Devonport in 3 hours - there wasn't much time to put the plan into place! The fire was chased for several weeks using volunteers. Because people had moved from the town to acre blocks, they were not bushfire aware.

To raise awareness of the risks associated with the Lake Barrington area, Neville said the Group Officers ran a training exercise, utilising 20 TFS vehicles and 20 Army vehicles and the use of boats. They worked with the Army who had a massive tanker with 14,000L of water – in terms of awareness, people were certainly made aware of what the Army had available!

Over his term of 51 years with FMACs, Neville gained much personally from meeting and working with like-minded knowledgeable people, including many wonderful volunteers.

We sincerely thank you, Neville, for your contribution of local and bushfire knowledge, your generous and selfless service, and your support of FMACs. We wish you all the very best.

By Perpetua Turner, SFMC Manager

FMAC Member Profile 2



Lauren Bird is the Conservation Program Officer for northern Tasmania with the Private Land Conservation Program at the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania. Lauren has recently been appointed as a member of the North-East, Tamar and Central North FMACs.

Lauren provides a broad range of land management and ecological advice, assistance, and support to private landowners with land protected under conservation covenants to help them meet their obligation of maintaining the natural values on their covenant land. Where appropriate, this includes providing initial advice on the consideration of planned burns to reduce fuel loads for safety reasons and, in many instances, to benefit vegetation communities from ecological burns.

Lauren also facilitates direct engagement between covenant landowners and bushfire education and engagement programs such as Red Hot Tips, and fire management agencies.

People Movements

SFMC Membership

Suzette Weeding and **Owen Hoffman** have both been successfully renominated to the Council.

Dr Perpetua (Pep) Turner commenced as Manager, SFMC in November 2022. Perpetua was previously Senior Planner, Bushfire Risk Unit (July 2021) and A/Research Biologist with the Forest Practices Authority.

Karina Lowe moved to the Fire Permits Project in August 2022.

Christina Smith Executive Support Officer, SFMC commenced in February 2023. Christina reports to the Manager, SFMC. Christina coordinates support to SFMC and its associated projects, programs and working groups, including oversight of FMAC membership and meetings.

People Movements (Continued)

Bushfire Risk Unit - Planning Tasmania Fire Service

Planning Officers in the Bushfire Risk Unit (BRU) are assigned to two FMAs each and participate as Subject Matter Experts in FMAC meetings.

In the past 12 months, several BRU Planning Officers have either changed position/agency or changed the FMAs that they are assigned to (which was undertaken to balance the workload across planners).



West Coast and King Island FMACs - Clinton Heyworth continues as the Planning Officer.

North East and Flinders FMACs - Steve Summers started as a Planning Officer in January 2023, taking over from Leon Murray, who has moved to a Policy and Assessment Officer role in the TFS.

Tamar and Central North FMACs - Steve Summers is caretaking the Planning Officer roles for these FMACs, since the departure of Robyn Allchin to a PWS Bushfire Policy role in May 2023.

Hobart and East Coast FMACs - Denna Kingdom continues as the Planning Officer for East Coast FMAC and became the Planning Officer for Hobart FMAC in August 2022. Bernard Plumpton, who previously was the Planning Officer for Hobart FMAC, has moved to a role in PWS and now represents PWS at North East, Tamar and Flinders FMACs.

Southern and Midlands FMACs - Jonathan Leaman started in the role of Planning Officer in February 2023, after the departure of Bernard Plumpton.

Bushfire Protection Planning

The Project Officer, Bushfire Risk Management Framework (formerly Project Officer, Bushfire Protection Planning) position recruitment is ongoing.

SFMC Update

- **FMAC Project 23** - Following on from the March 2022 resolution to **review and reduce FMACs**, consultation continues with a report and workshops in the north and south being organised in the next few months and direction expected by the end of 2023.
- **Fire Service Act Reform** engagement and communication continues with the Ministers office and the Fire Service Act Reform Steering Committee.
- Project Officer Craig Mackinnon provided an update on the **Fire Permit System Review Implementation Project**.



- **SFMC Strategic Directions Framework** with measures of success will be reviewed in September.
- The **Strategic Coordination Group** met with and discussed a number of projects including High Risk Lightning and Fixed Cameras.
- The **Machinery Operations Guidelines** were discussed with the intent to convene a meeting of stakeholders prior to the fire season.
- **FMAC BRMP Implementation Status Reports** were tabled.
- New **FMAC members** were approved.

Ian Sauer

Chair – State Fire Management Council

FMAC News

FMAC members

Unsure what your role as a new FMAC member is?

Checkout the FMAC Terms of Reference [here](#) or email FMAC@fire.tas.gov.au

Welcome to our new FMAC members

Central North FMAC		North East FMAC	
Steve Hallett	Meander Valley Council	Chong Ong	TasNetworks
		Lauren Bird	NRE Private Land Conservation Program
Hobart FMAC		Southern FMAC	
Dr Stephen Bresnehan	Glenorchy City Council	Amanda McCall	Huon Valley Council
Allison Coombe	Clarence City Council	Amy Russell	Mt Wellington Trust
Amy Russell	Wellington Park Trust	Alistair Heyward	SFM Environmental Solutions
Melanie Gent	Hobart City Council		
King Island FMAC		Midlands FMAC	
Shelley Graham	Parks & Wildlife Service	Adam Jones	Tasmania Fire Service
Robyn Barwick	King Island Council	Pip Jones	NRE Private Land Conservation Program
East Coast FMAC		West Coast FMAC	
Jess Dallas	Tasman Council	Raymond Mee	Burnie City Council
Peter Porch	Glamorgan Spring Bay Council	Craig Denney	Sustainable Timber Tasmania
Ben Smith	TasNetworks	Darryn Crook	Reliance Forest Fibre
Flinders FMAC		Tamar FMAC	
Warren Grove	Flinders Council	Steve Hallett	Meander Valley Council
Stephen Mason	Tasmania Fire Service	Nathan Lowe	Northern Midlands Council
		Lauren Bird	NRE Private Land Conservation Program
		Chong Ong	TasNetworks

Meeting Proxies



FMAC meetings require a membership quorum of **half of the total number of elected members PLUS one** to be able to make decisions. A meeting can proceed without a quorum, but overall, any

business decisions without a quorum is null and void.

If you are unable to attend an upcoming FMAC meeting, please consider sending someone from your organisation to the meeting to represent you as a proxy.

SharePoint

On the SFMC SharePoint site you will find agendas, minutes, publications and resources, meeting dates and other information of interest.



Check your access often. If you are experiencing problems email fmac@fire.tas.gov.au

How to access the SharePoint:

New FMAC members will receive an email giving you an access link to the relevant FMAC SharePoint site.

If you do not receive an email or require assistance, please contact Christina fmac@fire.tas.gov.au

FMAC News (continued)

Chair and Deputy Chair Vacancies

FMAC Chair and Deputy Chair positions are a great way to network, enhance your bushfire risk understanding, and work closer with TFS Planners and the SFMC.

FMAC Chair and Deputy Chair's receive dedicated SFMC executive support.

You will not be left to organise meetings alone.

Get in touch with Pep Turner, SFMC Manager, if you have questions Perpetua.Turner@fire.tas.gov.au

The table below lists current vacancies

Self-nominate or encourage a fellow FMAC colleague to step up. Email fmac@fire.tas.gov.au

FMAC	VACANT POSITION/S
Central North	Chair
Tamar	Chair
King Island	Chair
East Coast	Deputy Chair
Midlands	Deputy Chair

Training and Development



22-25 AUGUST 2023
BRISBANE CONVENTION AND
EXHIBITION CENTRE

"Creating a sustainable future: the challenges and opportunities"

For more information go to: <https://www.afaconference.com.au/>

Update: Fire Permit System Review Project



The 2013 Tasmanian Bushfire Inquiry recommended a review of the Fire Permit System, and subsequently an extensive independent review was undertaken. The TFS is currently undertaking a three-

year project to implement the reviews recommendations. The eighteen recommendations include a suite of legislative, technological, policy, process and educational changes to improve the experience of stakeholders and the community in managing fire in the landscape.

Currently seven of the Review recommendations have been completed which have resulted in the following:

- A revised governance structure for the statewide coordination and management of the Fire Permit System which addresses:
 - communication between fire agencies
 - quality assurance processes
 - continuous improvement and
 - stakeholder management.

- Improvements in the Fire Permit Officers (FPO) appointment process have been implemented. Further identified efficiencies will be implemented via legislative change.
- Updated policies and processes for making decisions regarding the declaration of Total Fire Bans and Fire Permit Periods.
- Introduction of risk-based self-regulation mechanisms and a process for their review and development.

The remaining recommendations are scheduled for completion by July 2024. This includes the ongoing development of a revised FPO training package to reflect the newly drafted skills training matrix and learning pathway. Elements of the Fire Permit System Review which require legislative amendment are also being considered in the context of the Review of the Fire Service Act 1979. For queries regarding the Fire Permit Review project please contact the Project Team at firepermitsystem.project@fire.tas.gov.au.

Mountain bike emergency response is important for bushfire

By Chris Hughes (North East FMAC, Break O’Day Council)

Tasmania is a success story when it comes to mountain biking. The success of the Blue Derby MTB network, reportedly attracting more than 30,000 visitors annually, stimulated new trail development across the state. With such high visitation, an emergency management plan is as an essential component of mountain bike trail management. Precise, clear, and unambiguous information being made available to emergency response, such as bushfire, is essential to save lives and time.

The Derby Mountain Bike Trail Network Emergency Response Plan (Dorset Council), St Helens MTB Network Emergency Management Portal (St Helens MTB Trails and Break O’Day Council) and the Break O’Day Mountain Bike Platform are two examples of demonstrated commitment to emergency response planning. The Blue Tier Trail sits under the Derby Mountain Bike Platform yet is a Break O’Day Council Trail and implements that municipalities system. The Blue Tier Trail also has emergency markers.

Mobile phone apps and the COP for MTB

The Derby Mountain Bike Trail Network Emergency Response Plan and the location of mountain bike trails are on the Common Operating Platform (COP), as are St Helens MTB emergency markers. Mobile phone apps can also be used to assess MTB trail maps. The most common apps are Blue Derby and Trail Forks (the latter is also available on the COP).

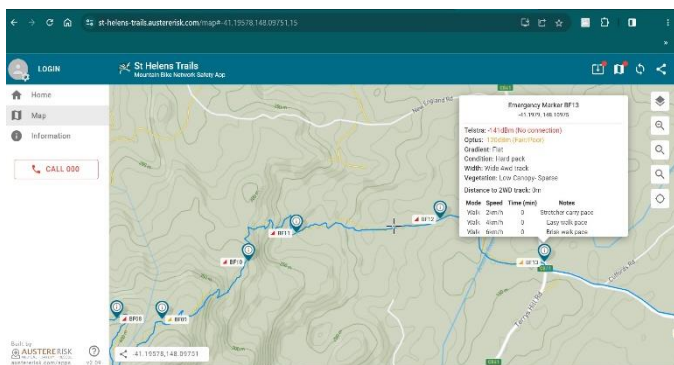


Figure 1 - St Helens MTB network showing Emergency Marker BF13

For the St Helens MTB Network, you can download the Emergency Management Portal <https://st-helens-trails.austererisk.com/> where you can access detailed trail maps that contain:

- Emergency Marker Locations
- Mobile Coverage
- Potential Trail Hazards

Members of emergency services are ‘Trail Stakeholders’ and can use the link above to request a stakeholder account to provide additional information including:

- Emergency Access Routes
- Emergency Egress information
- Report an issue function, as well as,
- Registration to receive email updates on Trail Closures

Emergency Markers (EM) are orange marker poles that can be noted as riders travel along the trail. The EMs are located along the trail and are marked with numbers representing the distance from the trail start. In an emergency, 000 is called and the number of the marker is given. In a natural emergency – for example fire – mobile phones are pinged by emergency services and text messages sent.



Figure 2
Emergency Marker BF13 on St Helens Bay of Fires Mountain Bike Track

For bushfire and mountain bikes, planning matters...

In October 2019, emergency markers and emergency management planning proved effective when a fire broke its boundaries from a burn off and started to impact on the Dreaming Pools Trail. The conditions were not particular hot although the wind had come up and was blowing towards the Dreaming Pools Trail.

Break O'Day Council's Emergency Procedures were implemented immediately and all trails within the St Helens MTB Stacked Loops were closed. Signage was put in place and staff were present at the Flagstaff Trail head where an incident control centre was put in place.

In conversations with bus tour operators, it was determined that there were several people riding the Dreaming Pools Trail. If the riders kept riding they would have ridden straight into the fire front. Break O'Day Council were able to get in touch with some of the riders and warn them of the fire. We

identified through the emergency markers where the riders were and talked them through a different route to get from the trails and back to safety, and well away from the fire front. Luckily one of the riders was a teacher and was able to group people together to ensure that everyone had a buddy and was able to get to safety.



The helicopter when it arrived in the area was able to follow the orange markers to ensure that no-one was still riding the trails.

BUSHFIRE READY NEIGHBOURHOODS

www.fire.tas.gov.au/brn



The Community Bushfire-Ready Challenge is an immersive bushfire preparedness experience brought to you by the Bushfire Ready Neighbourhoods Team. The challenge will commence in Spring 2023 and available to all Tasmanians. Register as a family or household and receive weekly challenges across a 6-week program. Through this experience we will help you know your bushfire risk, create a bushfire plan, prepare your property and much, much more! You'll have the opportunity to engage with Tasmania Fire

Service bushfire-ready experts, as well as receive rewards for completing challenges.

Register now and let us help you get prepared for bushfire season. To learn more about the challenge and other Bushfire Ready Neighbourhoods activities visit:

www.bushfirereadyneighbourhoods.tas.gov.au

Remember, we all play a part. Individuals, community and the TFS.

Join the challenge today. Let us help you get planned and prepared for bushfire!

Take on weekly challenges to help you stay safe in bushfire season. There are a range of rewards that you could win!

-  **COMPLETE YOUR BUSHFIRE PLAN**
-  **PREPARE YOUR PROPERTY**
-  **KEEP YOUR FAMILY SAFE**

 **TAKE IT ON, BE PREPARED**

Scan the QR code to learn more



www.bushfirereadyneighbourhoods.tas.gov.au/challenge

Red Hot Tips on fire



The Red Hot Tips program continues to grow its landholder base, assisting landowners and the agricultural industry with their fire management objectives.

Since its inception in August 2020 the program has grown to including **264 landowners** covering around 440,000ha of private land, and have completed 411 burns totalling around 9,000ha.



Lake Crescent – many hands make light work

The Lake Crescent community were concerned with their bushfire risk and reached out to their local council asking what assistance was available to them. The Mayor approached the TFS and after it was discovered that the land requiring to be burned was already a registered landowner with the program started to make some enquiries on possible treatment options.

Southern Region Facilitator Frank Bishop contacted the landowner and chatted about how he, RHT and the Lake Crescent community could work together to achieve their outcome. From here Frank worked with the landowner and shack owners on the creation of a burn plan and the prep work for the block was completed by both the landowner and shack community. TFS district staff were also contacted who put the call out for resources for the day, while the community attended a burn planning workshop facilitated by RHT to teach them some fundamental

skills in burn planning. During May some lighting of the block was undertaken, this was designed to take out the flashy fuels after more than 20 years of fuel accumulation, we will be back in autumn 2024 to continue the good work.

Fingal Farmer achieved first burn

Facilitator Sam has been working with several landowners in the Fingal valley area completing property visits and burn planning. A main issue found amongst some landowners is having enough firefighting equipment of their own to safely undertake larger burns. Property owner Jan had worked with Sam on preparing for a burn on her property and with a drier than average winter also had a weather window to achieve her burn. For some extra resources Sam reached out to local volunteer brigades to attend to provide some extra resources and also provide a training opportunity for the volunteers. A great day was had by all, with the burn being undertaken safely and achieving the burn objective.

This is just some examples of how RHT can piece people, resources, and opportunities together to achieve positive outcomes for a safer community.

Find us on

Email: RedHotTips@fire.tas.gov.au

Website: SFMC.tas.gov.au/RedHotTips

Coordinator:

Andrew Cargill 0417 635 164

Facilitators:

Frank Bishop (South) 0459 908 539

Sam Tacey (Nth/NW) 0417 153 620

