

Talking Fire: Reviving Indigenous burning in a changed landscape



Friday 30.11.2018 – 9am-5pm – Final Program

Newstead Community Centre, 9 Lyons Street, Newstead VIC 3462

8.30 Registration

9.00 Welcome

- Welcome to Country
- Our agenda

9.30 Panel 1: What do we know from traditions, history and the landscape about fire and Indigenous burning in Central Victoria?

Questions to be explored could include:

- What do we know about Indigenous burning based on traditions, oral and documentary history?
- How was fire used by Aboriginal people? When did Indigenous burning stop in this region?
- How do our knowledge systems contribute to how we see fire? How are fire histories constructed culturally?
- What can be learnt from reading the landscape – vegetation communities and patterns for example – as to how fire was used?

Brief presentations from panellists: facilitated discussion.

Questions from the floor

10.45 Morning tea

11.15 Panel 2: Adapting Indigenous fire management practices to today's landscape:

Questions and topics to be explored could include:

- How and why to burn, or not burn? Learning from traditional indicators and decision-making processes.
- Fuel reduction strategies – why we do what we do now and how it would need to change?
- What is required to adapt to today's landscape and settlement patterns?
- Understanding and managing risk at the local level: the view from the brigade.

Brief presentations from panellists: facilitated discussion.

Questions from the floor

12.30 Lunch

Smoking ceremony – Mick Bourke, DDWCAC

Chris Johnston – Welcome & agenda

Mick Bourke: District Planner, Forest Fire Management Vic (DELWP)

Sarah McMaster: PhD Candidate, Federation University

Dr John Morgan: Lecturer, Ecology, Environment & Evolution, La Trobe University

Facilitator – Paul Foreman

Scott Falconer: Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Loddon Mallee Forest, Fire and Regions, Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning

Doug Richardson: Brigade Captain, Newstead Brigade

Michael Sherwen: Statewide Cultural Heritage Adviser, CFA

Facilitator – Chris Johnston

1.15	<p>Panel 3: Perspectives on risk</p> <p>Questions to be explored could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do communities understand and respond to risk? • How do governments – at all levels – perceive and respond to risk? <p><i>Brief presentations from panellists: facilitated discussion</i></p> <p><i>Questions from the floor</i></p>	<p>Matt Campbell: Senior Project Officer, Engagement, Policy and Planning, Forest, Fire and Regions, DELWP</p> <p>Dr Blythe McLennan: Research Fellow in Emergency Management with RMIT University's Centre for Risk and Community Safety.</p> <p>Professor Cristina Montiel: Visiting Academic, School of Ecosystem and Forest Sciences, University of Melbourne. (Chair of Research Group, Department of Geography, Complutense University of Madrid)</p> <p>Facilitator – Brendan Sydes</p>
2.15	<p><i>Quick break – stretch, cup of tea</i></p>	
2.30	<p>Drawing the threads together: reflecting on key topics from the day</p> <p>How can we reshape the use of fire as a land management tool to better protect and enhance our landscape, ecosystems, people and resources? Can rebuilding knowledge and the practice of Indigenous burning techniques assist us?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building community capacity and confidence Understanding our communities' perceptions of risk? Contributing to a greater understanding of fire in land/ecological management? 2. Learning and adapting: community and government What would a process of learning and adapting look like? Who has the knowledge to do this in Central Victoria? 3. Support and capacity building What support is needed – funding, capacity building, legislative change? 	<p>Facilitator – Matt Campbell</p>
3.45	<p>Taking some steps locally?</p>	<p>Facilitators – Chris Johnston & Brendan Sydes</p>
4.15	<p>Thanks & close</p>	<p>Dr Sam Strong</p>
4.30	<p>Farewell drinks</p>	<p>Dig Cafe</p>

Talking Fire is a community initiative designed to create different kinds of community conversations about fire.
For more information go to [Talking Fire](#) on Facebook or our [website](#) or drop us a line at newsteadtalkingfire@gmail.com.
You can also read about the [2016 Talking Fire event](#).

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