

Heatbeat Online

News from the Blue Mountains District
of the NSW Rural Fire Service for the week Commencing 7 April 2008



1800 NSW RFS

Call 1800 679 737 for
fire information 24
hours a day



FIREWISE
together

My Two Cents

Hello again everyone.

Anngret and I would like to thank everyone who has passed on their regards and best wishes. Our holiday was great fun and the F1 Grand Prix was probably the highlight, although it was a little warm (41c).

One thing I did notice in Victoria was the amazing amount of advertising about bushfires and property safety. Mobile billboards and all kinds of posters were very much in evidence.

Ditto for the "Stop, Revive, Survive" message, especially recommending power-naps to people driving interstate. The message was everywhere, as were well-equipped rest areas.

As always, you can tell me what you think (good or bad) by email, snail-mail or telephone.

Regards,
Eric Berry (Editor)



**Report ALL Fires to
'000'**

Bush Fire Risk Management Plan Review Workshops

To date there have been three Community Consultation Workshops held about the review of Blue Mountains' Bush Fire Risk Management Plan.

These workshops have provided an opportunity for interested residents to have input into the development of the plan, especially in identifying assets that are considered important to our communities.

Attendees have also been able to learn more about the Bush Fire Management Committee, the review process and how bushfire risk is identified.

Depending on community interest and resource availability, further workshops may be announced.

For more information about these workshops visit our website – www.bluemountains.rfs.nsw.gov.au.

Congratulations John & Sarah

Congratulations to John and Sarah Norris on the birth of their daughter Amelia Jane.



Ken's Corner

Ken's Corner is sponsored by Ken Shaw Fire Protection. www.kenshawfire.com.au

Last week's challenge must have been hard – nobody picked it.

The correct answer is a Windlass-style barbed wire fence stretcher.

The prizes have arrived! So next week we'll be contacting our major winners.

What Is It?

Here is this week's challenge...



Tell me what you think its name is, and where it's from, by email to eric.berry@rfs.nsw.gov.au. Correct answer(s) will be published in the next HeatBeat Online.

Any enquires regarding HeatBeat Online should be directed to **Inspector Eric Berry** – Community Safety Officer, Blue Mountains on **02 4784 7444**, by email to eric.berry@rfs.nsw.gov.au or in writing to PO Box 600, Katoomba NSW 2780

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Fuel Management, Hazard Reduction and Smoke

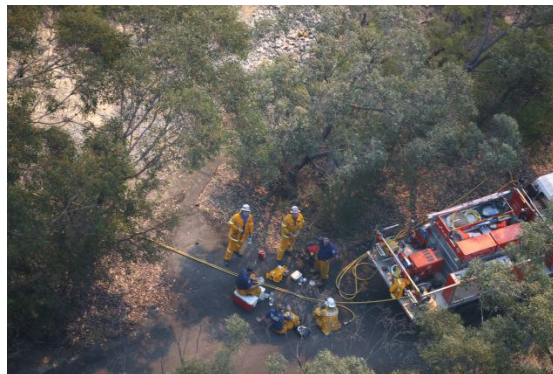
Over the past week we've been very fortunate with the weather conditions, which have enabled various land managers to undertake some strategic fuel management burns.



Smoke rises above a burn in the National Park near Linden (5 Apr 08).

Over the coming months, land managers and fire services will be undertaking further works as and when the weather conditions allow.

Wherever possible we will try to bring you this information ahead of time – not only in the pages of HeatBeat Online, but also on the Blue Mountains RFS website and via our community information email list.



Medlow Bath Brigade pauses for a break.

SMOKE MANAGEMENT

Unfortunately with HRs, there is some smoke involved. Residents are advised to take all normal precautions including:

- Keep home windows and doors closed if affected by smoke;
- Avoid hanging out washing;
- Keep flammable outdoor furniture under cover to prevent damage from embers;

Residents who have respiratory problems are advised to stay inside and out of any smoke.

Fire Crews are in attendance throughout these operations, however should residents become concerned, or see open flames with no fire crews in attendance, they should call '000' immediately.

TIME TO CHANGE YOUR SMOKE ALARM BATTERIES

As we turn the clocks back at the end of daylight saving, the Rural Fire Service (RFS) and NSW Fire Brigades (NSWFB) encourage every resident to change their smoke alarm batteries. Although some batteries might last longer than 6 months, changing your batteries now will ensure that you have a fresh one in for winter – the most dangerous time of year for house fires.

Since 1 May 2006, smoke alarms have been compulsory in all homes and places where people sleep.

Information on smoke alarms, the regulations and guides for the elderly, hearing impaired, residents, landlords and tenants is available from your local Fire Station, NSW Fire Brigades www.fire.nsw.gov.au, Planning NSW www.planning.nsw.gov.au and from the RFS Blue Mountains District Website www.bluemountains.rfs.nsw.gov.au or by telephone on 02 4782 2159.



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