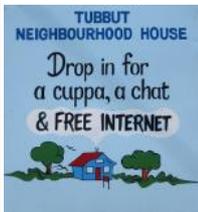


TUBBUT TATTLE

ISSN 2200 - 5243



December 2019

Tubbut Neighbourhood House

E-mail: tubbutnh@iinet.net.au

Phone: 02 64580295

Open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

<http://www.tubbutnh.com> Like us on Facebook



Cover Photos courtesy of Peter Adams. Taken at Amboyne

Classifieds	2	News for the Departments	8-9
TNH	3-4	CFA	10-14
What's On	5	Glyphosate Resistance	15-17
4WD Club	6	Recipes	17
News from DELWP	7	Calendar	18

CLASSIFIEDS

Orbost Solar and Electrical
Happy to come to our area and comes highly recommended by the Tubbut Neighbourhood House
Call Ben on 0434038395



Septic getting full?

Robert Hampshire will pump out your loo. Septic tanks, porta-loos— no problems Truck has capacity to handle 2 tanks/trip Phone: 0417423983
Please keep your old glass bottles for Robert too as he is a passionate collector.

Delegate Multi Purpose Service

Craigie St, Delegate

Wellness Clinic

Mon, Tue, Thur and Fri 10.30am - 11.30am

Every week except public holidays.

No Appointments necessary.

A clinic where well people come for health monitoring and a variety of nursing procedures such as:

- Wound care
- Blood pressure readings
- Blood sugar readings
- Non-urgent and pre-operative
- Electrocardiograms (ECG)
- Health Assessments
- Suture or clip removal
- Injections with Doctors **written order**
- Other procedures that do not require a Doctor

Pathology clinic (conducted by Pathology West)

Wednesday 9.30am – 10.30 am.

No appointment necessary.

Every week except public holidays.

Tattler Contributions: We welcome your articles, news, reports on local groups, photos from local events, milestones, interesting stories, poems, biographies, births, deaths, historical items, and more. *We also welcome any letters to the editors.*

Available for cleaning (only)

Contact Natasha 64588162 or 0408477774

The Tubbut Tattler is produced by the Coordinators of the Tubbut Neighbourhood House which is funded by the Victorian Government. Material herein is the responsibility of the authors and does not represent the views of the DVICG or Tubbut Neighbourhood House unless stated. We welcome material from, and of interest to, people in the border areas of East Gippsland and NSW.

WANTED

Old crockery of any colour except white, can have patterns, can be broken.

Please contact Sue Collins 64580287 or the NH, or leave at the Bonang Hall.

Bobcat contractor for hire

Slashing, clearing, small earthworks, levelling, preparation for sheds, carports, water tanks and paving and clean ups

Ring Steve 0407190258 or email stephenscroope@bigpond.com

Bates' Fencing & Machine Hire

- Large 90hp Compact Track Loader. Tracks ensure minimal ground disturbance.
 - 900 mm Trencher ideal for pipe / cable laying
 - 6 ft slasher for paddock, scrub & advanced re-growth clearing with tree pusher, ideal for fence line maintenance.
 - 1600mm Road Broom / sweeper
 - 300mm post hole auger
 - Bucket, dozer blade , pallet & hay forks
 - Fan assisted sprayer for difficult terrain
 - Experienced operator
 - Fully insured & GST registered
 - Experienced in Rural fence design & construction
- (Call the Neighbourhood house and we will pass your message on to Mark)



FOR HIRE

The Tubbut Neighbourhood House has the following for Hire:

Trailer—\$5.00 per day

Wood Splitter—\$10.00 per day

You can also borrow many of our books & gadgets:

Laminator, recording VHS to DVD player, Laptop, tablet, digital photo scanner, convert photos, slides or negatives to digital, record records to USB

3 female pigs for sale

6 months old

Contact the Neighbourhood House

Tubbut Neighbourhood House

Tubbut Neighbourhood House and
Bonang Hall Committee's 2nd
annual

CHRISTMAS PARTY

SATURDAY THE 14TH OF
DECEMBER

5PM ONWARDS

Please bring a sweet, or salad to share and BYO drinks



All Welcome

Tubbut Neighbourhood House

Community Fire Meetings

On Wednesday the 27th of November the Neighbourhood House was visited by Gary Bellesini (Parks Ranger) along with John Upton and Peter Ryan (CFA Community Engagement Officers) to discuss and share information on the 2 fires which are impacting our area. They brought along maps which showed the intended major fall back and containment lines which are being worked on as we go to press. There were 6 locals who took advantage of the opportunity to come along and chat with the guys and get up to speed with what is happening.

Following this on Sunday the 1st of December there was a Community Information Meeting at the Bonang Hall, this meeting was attended by representatives from Parks, CFA, East Gippsland Shire and Vic Police. Around 25 locals attended this meeting which followed up on the fall back and containment lines which are in progress and also talked about the possibility of road closures and how to avoid being locked out, it was advised by Vic police to carry your rates notice at all times as this will help you to get back into your residence if road blocks are at a level which allows residence only in. Remember to carry all notices for all your property's if you have land in different places. CFA also advised us to carry a packed bag with medications, phone chargers, important paperwork and enough clothing for 2 to 3 days ect..... at all times when leaving the area as road closures can occur very quickly in these situations. Also remember to let someone know what you plan to do, as in, leave the area or stay and defend (remember there is the Intensions Box at the Bonang Hall outside the kitchen door). Please also be aware that communication could be an issue in these times as power supply can be affected.

Please stay safe everyone its going to be a LONG Summer!!

CHRISTMAS LATE NIGHT SHOPPING

Friday Bombala 13th Dec

We want to bring back the Street Carnival and now we're one step closer....

On Friday 13th December the street will be closed for the Bombala Township Late Night Shopping.

Whats happening on the night.....

Select stores will be staying open longer from
5pm to 9pm
Lions Club Stalls
Rotary Stalls
Santa Photos
Kids Face painting
Kids Disco @Cosmo's
And much much more.....

Also keep your eye out for our Shop Local Competition

Where if you spend \$25 or more you go into the draw to win

\$1000 Why Leave Town gift card Sponsored by IGA

plus many more prizes to be won...

These prizes will be drawn at 7:30pm on the night

Fire Apps

Sentinel is a good companion to the EmergencyVic app. Sentinel gives a graphic picture of wildfire extent.

<https://hotspots.dea.ga.gov.au/>



The Neighbourhood House will be closed from the 20th of December and reopen on the 2nd of January

What's On

Life by Colour 2020 Weekend Craft Retreats

Go on, treat yourself to that weekend retreat you've been waiting for...be inspired by other crafty babes and have some me time!

Hosted at the Quality Inn & Suites Traralgon

5601 Princes Highway, Traralgon, Victoria

Contact: Sarah Rosse on 0425 876 476

For all bookings and enquiries, email Sarah at srosse15@icloud.com



Summer Retreat

10am Friday 29 February—3pm Sunday 1 March

Bookings close 31 December 2019 with full payment due 7 February 2020

Autumn Retreat

10am Friday 22 May—3pm Sunday 24 May

Bookings close 27 March 2020 with full payment due 1 May 2020

Winter Retreat

10am Friday 14 August —3pm Sunday 16 August

Bookings close 26 June 2020 with full payment due 24 July 2020

Spring Retreat

10am Friday 13 November —3pm Sunday 15 November

Bookings close 4 September 2020 with full payment due 23 October 2020

Accommodation options:

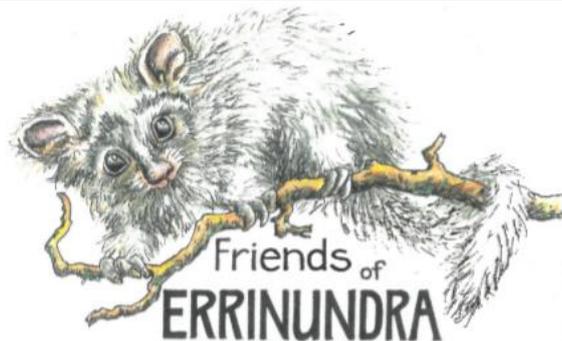
Single room (one bed)	\$475 per person
Twin room (two beds)	\$355 per person
Triple room (three beds)	\$335 per person (limited number)
Quad room (four beds)	\$315 per person (limited number)
Play but no stay option (no accommodation included)	\$220 per person

*A non-refundable \$50 deposit is required upon booking to hold your place

**Please note, minimum of 25 people per retreat must be met for it to go ahead. All deposits are refundable if numbers are not reached by the booking date.

Includes: 4 star accommodation, free wi-fi, on-site bar available (no BYO), Craft room access from 8am—11pm daily, Catering from lunch on Friday to lunch on Sunday, including cooked breakfasts, lunches, afternoon teas, dinners and supper. Gift on arrival and door prizes with memories made forever!

Check out all the details at <https://www.facebook.com/Lifebycolour>



On Saturday December the 14th The Friends of Errinundra will be holding their annual Christmas break up party followed by spotlighting for Greater Gliders and other nocturnal animals in the nearby National Park. This will be an official Parks Victoria volunteer group activity. Anyone can attend; we do encourage new participants to become a member of the Friends group.

Where –The rainforest Boardwalk on Errinundra road, suggest travel via Gunmark road and follow the signs.

Time – 5.00 pm at the boardwalk or 4.00 pm at the DELWP office in Bendoc if you are looking to car pool.

What to bring – Warm clothes, a torch, insect repellent and sturdy footwear.

Parks Victoria will be supplying tucker for a BBQ and bottled water.

Markets

Bairnsdale Farmers Market 8.00am	1st Sat of month	Next market 7th Dec
Paynesville Farmer & Makers Market 8.30-1.30	4th Sat of month	Next market 28th Dec
Howitt Park Market 8.00– 1.00	4th Sun of month	Next market 22nd Dec
Wyndham Village Market 8.30– 1.00	4th Sun of month	Next market 22nd Dec
Merrimbula seaside Market 8.00– 12.30	3rd Sun of month	Next market 15th Dec
Eden local produce Market 10.00– 2.00	3rd Sat of month	Next market 21st Dec
Pambula Market 8.00– 1.00	2nd Sun of month	Next market 8th Dec
Candelo Market 8.30– 12.30	1st Sun of month	Next market 5th Jan
Mallacoota	1st Sat of month	Next market 7th Dec

4wd Club Track Clearing



'They came, they saw, they cleared.'

Fifteen years of 4WD club track clearing in Far East Gippsland

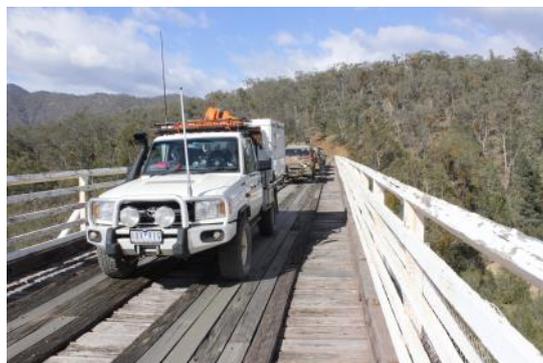
By James Lawson - Land Rover Owners Club of Victoria

One of the most significant ways that members of four wheel drive clubs can 'give back' to the Parks Victoria (PV) Rangers who maintain our parks for us to enjoy, is to participate in annual track clearances and gate openings prior to the Melbourne Cup long weekend, the main date for seasonally closed tracks to be reopened.

Driving commonly used tracks and clearing them of fallen trees or assessing them for other

damage is an enormous task which places a huge burden on the limited time and resources of PV Rangers. It also takes them away from their other valuable work and yet it is critical to the safety of the four wheel driving public. It was in this context that fifteen years ago, in 2004, the local ranger in the Deddick/Tubbut area, Wing Hagger, contacted John and Prue Hasler through the Four Wheel Drive Victoria Regional Representatives Program to organise some track clearers at short notice for the Deddick Trail.

John and Prue were a good choice to ask as they are experienced four wheel drivers as well as members of three different large 4WD clubs (Land Rover Club of Victoria, The Pajero 4WD Club, and the Range Rover Club of Victoria). They were also, and still remain, the FWDV Regional Representatives for Far East Gippsland. That first year, John and Prue organised a small group of willing volunteers who camped on Wing's property near Bonang. In contrast, from that small start fifteen years ago, this year's track clearing event in the same area attracted some 48 participants, 37 vehicles and 5 Park Rangers! Track Clearing has now become the 3rd longest running event in the history of the LROCV (after the 4WD Show and the now completed involvement with the Murray River Marathon).



Playing a significant role for many years in the organisation of the weekend is Tony Jambu, club member of the Pajero 4WD Club. So important has this activity become that some years three generations from one family have participated and some club members only maintain their membership so that they can participate in track clearing.

Critical to the success of the annual track clearing has been the support from the Area Chief Ranger, Dave Burton and the other rangers who work the area as well as, more recently, the Tubbut community who have prepared a PV sponsored meal each year on the Saturday night or Sunday brunch for the volunteers. As well as clearing tracks, the activity has a number of other benefits. Volunteers enjoy working with PV Rangers as they share their knowledge of the area and it also exposes members of various clubs to some of the most beautiful and remote parts of Victoria they might not normally visit. John and Prue also liaise with the local community and provide feedback on track conditions and the prevalence and identification of various plant species, such as rare orchids to Parks Victoria. The hours spent by volunteers are also reported to FWDV to assist them in meeting Government KPIs and obtain some funding for the FWDV operation.



Over the years since 2004 a few things have changed. For example, the job safety briefings have become more detailed and the requirement for chainsaw operators to be properly trained and equipped with protective gear was made mandatory. The number of National Parks where track clearing occurs has grown from just the Snowy River National Park to now include the Alpine National Park, the Errinundra National Park and this year the Croajingalong National Park. Now most people camp at MacKillops Bridge campsite on the Saturday night as Wing's property is no longer available. Otherwise, the job itself has essentially remained the same. And, despite a few wet years where track clearing was slower than normal, it has only been postponed once when sleet and snow forced all volunteers out of the mountains. That weekend was rescheduled a month later and the club volunteers returned, willingly making the 1,000km round trip to Melbourne.

When asked about the future of track clearing, John and Prue said that despite their active involvement in leading club trips, sharing the bush with club members and their involvement in FWDV Regional Representatives, they are committed to arranging the annual track clearing in Far East Gippsland with Tony Jambu for as long as PV require assistance. With that in mind, we can look forward to many more years of a well-organised partnership among PV, FWDV, club volunteers and the local community in the annual track clearing that is so beneficial for the entire 4WD community.

News from DELWP

New firefighters ready for peak bushfire season

delwp.vic.gov.au



Forest Fire Management Victoria's (FFMVic) new seasonal firefighters will be ready to respond to bushfires this summer following their recent intensive training at Licola's Wilderness Camp.

Gippsland's Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Beth Roberts said "The comprehensive training course ensures our firefighters are trained to the highest levels in fighting fires and reducing bushfire risk."

"This summer FFMVic has employed 192 seasonal firefighters in Gippsland, 58 of whom are new recruits and are going through their training regime," Dr Roberts said.

"Seasonal firefighters work alongside our experienced permanent staff to respond to bushfires and undertake planned burning.

"The course is a mix of classroom and field-based activities to prepare recruits for the demands of being a forest firefighter.

"The new firefighters learn how to use a wide range of equipment, from water pumps and chainsaws, to operating G-Wagens and Unimog firefighting tankers.

"Topics covered during the camp include emergency management procedures, safety and survival techniques, fire suppression techniques and planned burning.

"In addition to increasing their knowledge on fire management, they'll gain an understanding of FFMVic's responsibilities in supporting broader emergencies, such as floods and wildlife emergencies.

"Recruits will continually refine their skills at other training courses throughout the season, making them further equipped to fight bushfires.

"These frontline forest firefighters are critical to our resources during the high-risk summer season.

"Many of our firefighters have already been deployed to work on the recent bushfires in East Gippsland's forests and the new recruits will bolster those crews as the season continues."

FFMVic has crews based at depots across the region including Noojee, Foster, Yarram, Erica, Heyfield, Briagolong, Dargo, Bairnsdale, Swifts Creek, Nowa Nowa, Orbost, Cann River and Bendoc.

The new boys are ready to rock 'n' roll!

These two male southern Brush-tailed Rock-wallabies ('Merle' and 'Chance') were released at Wulgulmerang Creek in the Little River Gorge in far East Gippsland at the end of September. Translocated from the Mt Rothwells Biodiversity Interpretation Centre captive breeding program, they have genetics from the now extinct Rocky Plains Creek population in East Gippsland, the Little River Gorge population and the central Brush-tailed Rock-wallabies.

It's great to see them on camera as it means they've survived the first month in their new surroundings.

All fingers are crossed for their successful breeding with the Little River Gorge population and a further increase in numbers of this endangered species.

We'll check back in with them early next year.



News from the Departments

National Wild Dog Action Plan proves worth in review

The National Wild Dog Action Plan, Australia's blueprint for wild dog management, has added significant value to agriculture and communities through increasing confidence, leadership, capability and investment in wild dog control, according to a recent independent review.

Wild dogs are conservatively estimated to cost the Australian economy up to \$111 million annually in lost livestock production and control costs with rural and regional economies impacted even further by loss of enterprise choice (sheep and goats become unviable when wild dog numbers are high), reduced employment and business opportunities and increased emotional stress.

Wild dogs also prey on 39 International Union for Conservation of Nature Red Listed Species of threatened Australian fauna and, in overabundance, can significantly impact biodiversity.

National Wild Dog Management Coordinator Greg Mifsud said the Plan, implemented in 2014 following industry demand for a national coordinated approach to wild dog management, is the master strategy on which all of Australia's state, regional and local management plans are based.

Industry-driven

"Peak farming groups such as WoolProducers Australia, concerned producers and research scientists saw the benefit of a nationally-recognised strategy that would ensure wild dog management was carried out in the most ethical, humane way, using evidence-based, best practice guidelines and tools that would enable effective, targeted broadscale management that transcended title boundaries and jurisdictions," he said.

"Today, the Plan is recognised by industry and governments as the primary strategic delivery mechanism."

Greg said the Plan's past performance has seen it become a role model for national pest strategies and a pioneer in invasive multiple pest management as highlighted by the Minister for Agriculture Bridget McKenzie in her recent announcement to establish a National Feral Pig Management Coordinator.

"Its key role is to influence policy, attract funding, promote ethical, humane best practice management, and to ensure continued community support for its programs," he said.

Positive results

Greg said the Victorian Wild Dog Program, an early adopter of the Plan's principles and strategies, was a great example of its effectiveness.

"During the past five years, there has been up to a 71% reduction in number of sheep killed and maimed across the program and, for some Wild Dog Management Zone groups, stock losses have been almost eliminated," he said.

"In future we'll see the Plan play an important role informing and supporting multiple pest management plans as landholders contend with merging threats from other vertebrate pests."

The independent review, conducted by Agtrans Research, assessed the overall impacts of the Plan (2014-2019).

Key findings include:

- The \$2.62 million investment made during 2014-2019 returned estimated total benefits of between \$15.93 million and \$43.30 million.
- Benefits included more efficient expenditure on wild dog management, more efficient research, development and extension investment, and maintained ongoing community support to undertake control.
- The Plan contributed significantly to improved leadership and capacity, increased government and industry confidence and increased leverage and investment for wild dog management throughout Australia.
- A national reporting system for measuring wild dog impacts and the benefits of wild dog management programs should be pursued; and, Improved communications would convey more clearly the Plan's purpose and activities.

Federal Department of Agriculture spokesperson Shalan Scholfield said the National Wild Dog Action Plan five-year review has shown how effective collaboration can greatly improve outcomes in managing the negative impacts of established pest animals such as wild dogs.

The Plan works in conjunction with the Australian Pest Animal Strategy 2017-2027 and has established an overarching national wild dog management framework that has guided significant increases in best practice wild dog management across Australia.

The department commends the work done by the National Wild Dog Action Plan and Mr Greg Mifsud as the National Wild Dog Management Coordinator and will continue to work closely with them to develop a new Plan for 2020 and beyond.

Where it began

South Australian wool producer Geoff Power is chair of the National Wild Dog Management Coordination Committee and was one of the grassroots agitators for a National Wild Dog Action Plan.

"Ten years ago we had dogs in every mainland state creating havoc, every state's control approach was ad hoc and areas that were no longer safe to run sheep were getting bigger," he said.

"We knew we needed a national approach so with the help of industry groups such as WoolProducers Australia, Federal and state governments and some key individuals, we drafted a plan.

"It took four years but it was exciting moment when it was launched on NSW Monaro Plains.

"Looking at what has evolved, it's been a great achievement. The Plan is one of the few initiatives that has grown out of industry, that has united industry, government and researchers, in a common cause.

"There's been a lot of goodwill from all sectors wanting to do the right thing and without the Plan we wouldn't have all the tools, strategies and coordinated management we have now."

News from the Departments



Your farm is your business

On-Farm Drought Resilience Grant now available

A grant of up to \$5000 is now available to eligible drought impacted farm businesses in the Wellington and East Gippsland shires.

Apply for funding to invest in on-farm drought preparedness and resilience, pasture management and recovery and farm business planning.

Contact ruralfinance.com.au or 1800 260 425 to find out more and to apply.

For more information on available drought support visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons or call 136 186.



Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne

Endangered 'Keys Matchstick' grasshopper found at Omeo

An endangered grasshopper thought to be extinct in Victoria have been found on Omeo road reserves. Called the 'Keys Matchstick' Grasshopper (*Keyacris scurra*) they are one of 27 Australian species of focus in the Melbourne Zoos '[Fighting Extinction](#)' program.

The grasshopper can't fly, so it cannot easily disperse when mowing or fuel reduction burns/slashing take place. But importantly they can be re-introduced so herbicide, burning and slashing need to be managed to maintain the habitat. They are found in kangaroo grass and native alpine daisy patches .



Photo Michael Kearney

What CAN I put in my kerbside recycling bin, skip bin or trailer?

- Paper and cardboard
- Newspapers/envelopes
- Telephone books
- Milk and juice cartons
- Glass bottles and jars
- Steel cans, aluminium cans, and clean foil
- Plastic containers numbered 1 to 7

Recyclables must be placed in your bin loose.

Do not bag your recyclables or use a bin liner in your recycling bin.

What CAN'T I put in my kerbside recycling bin, skip bin or trailer?

- Plastic bags and soft plastics*
- Polystyrene foam cups, meat trays or packing material - commonly used in the packaging of white goods and furniture. (Please note: Polystyrene is a number 6 plastic that we accept as recycling in it's rigid form eg. yoghurt containers, but not as a foam).
- Waxed cardboard
- Broken glass/crockery/pyrex/mirrors
- Motor oil or Fuel
- Green waste
- Hazardous waste, including paint tins
- Food waste
- Household Appliances eg toasters, DVD players
- Scrap metal and /or steel
- Household furniture and mattresses
- Home improvement items eg sinks, fittings, hot water systems
- Carpet / Linoleum
- Fencing material
- Medical waste / syringes
-

*You can recycle plastic bags and soft plastics through the [REDcycle](#) program if you drop them in at participating Coles and Woolworths supermarkets.

CFA Guide to Property Preparation

The basics

The basics

Is my property at risk of fire?

You don't have to live in the country to be at risk.

Fires can occur where the suburbs meet the bush or in urban areas where houses have grass, bushland or parkland around them.

Fires occur in all these areas:



How fires destroy houses

There are three main reasons houses burn down during fires. They are:

- Embers
- Heat
- Flame

Heat

The heat from fires is intense, (think of how hot a campfire is). When flammable materials get hot enough, they can catch alight without any flame. Heat can also cause glass to break. Woodpiles, outdoor furniture and plants that are near or against your home can ignite and expose it to heat that is hot enough and sustained enough to cause fires and damage.

Flame

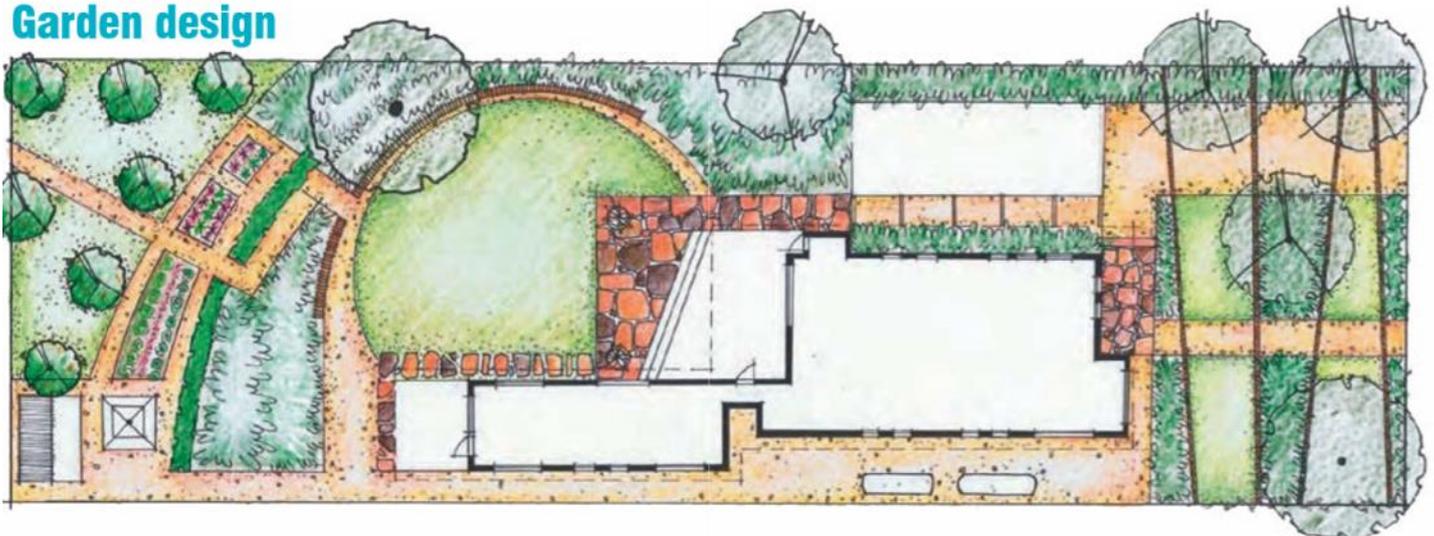
Fires typically destroy everything in their path. If you live in a high fire-risk area, it may be impossible to prevent. What you can do is design your property so that you reduce the intensity of the fire when it reaches your home. You can do this by designing your garden to reduce heat and flames reaching your house, by creating firebreaks with gravel or dirt, and keeping plants and trees maintained. By preparing property, you give your house the best chance to survive fire, even if you plan to leave early.

Embers

Embers are burning pieces of bark, leaves and twigs. They are carried by wind and can start spot fires. They are the most common way houses catch fire. For hours before a fire reaches a home and after it has passed, embers land on and around it. Embers start fires when they land in gaps in the roof, chimneys, underfloor and through broken windows. Anywhere burning leaves or twigs enter your home, or get wedged, there is a risk they will start a fire. If embers get inside your home, fire will quickly spread because there are so many flammable objects inside such as curtains and carpet.



Garden design



Even if you plan to leave early, you can do a lot to protect your home from fire. There are a couple of basic rules:

- Reduce the risk of fire getting inside your house
- Reduce the flame and heat near your house.

To reduce the risk of fire getting inside your house, you need to seal cracks and reduce weaknesses such as glass that can break during a fire.

Some preparations are costly and not achievable for everyone. If you can't afford protections such as fire-resistant shutters, there are still many things you can do to protect your home. Some are as simple as cutting back shrubs from your windows, or removing outdoor furniture and woodpiles from near your house.

Fire days are usually windy days. Most people who've experienced bushfire say there were more and larger embers than they expected. When you prepare, think about what might be a risk in these conditions.

You can do a lot to reduce the flame and heat near your house by designing a garden that is fire wise and maintaining it during warmer months. Fire burns wherever there is fuel. If you reduce fuel around your home, you can reduce how hot and destructive a fire is as it passes through your property.

Well-placed garden beds, firebreaks and reducing vegetation under trees are all ways you can manage fire risk.

Good separation is provided between all trees and garden beds to help slow fire spread. The entire area is irrigated to keep plants lush over hot summer days.

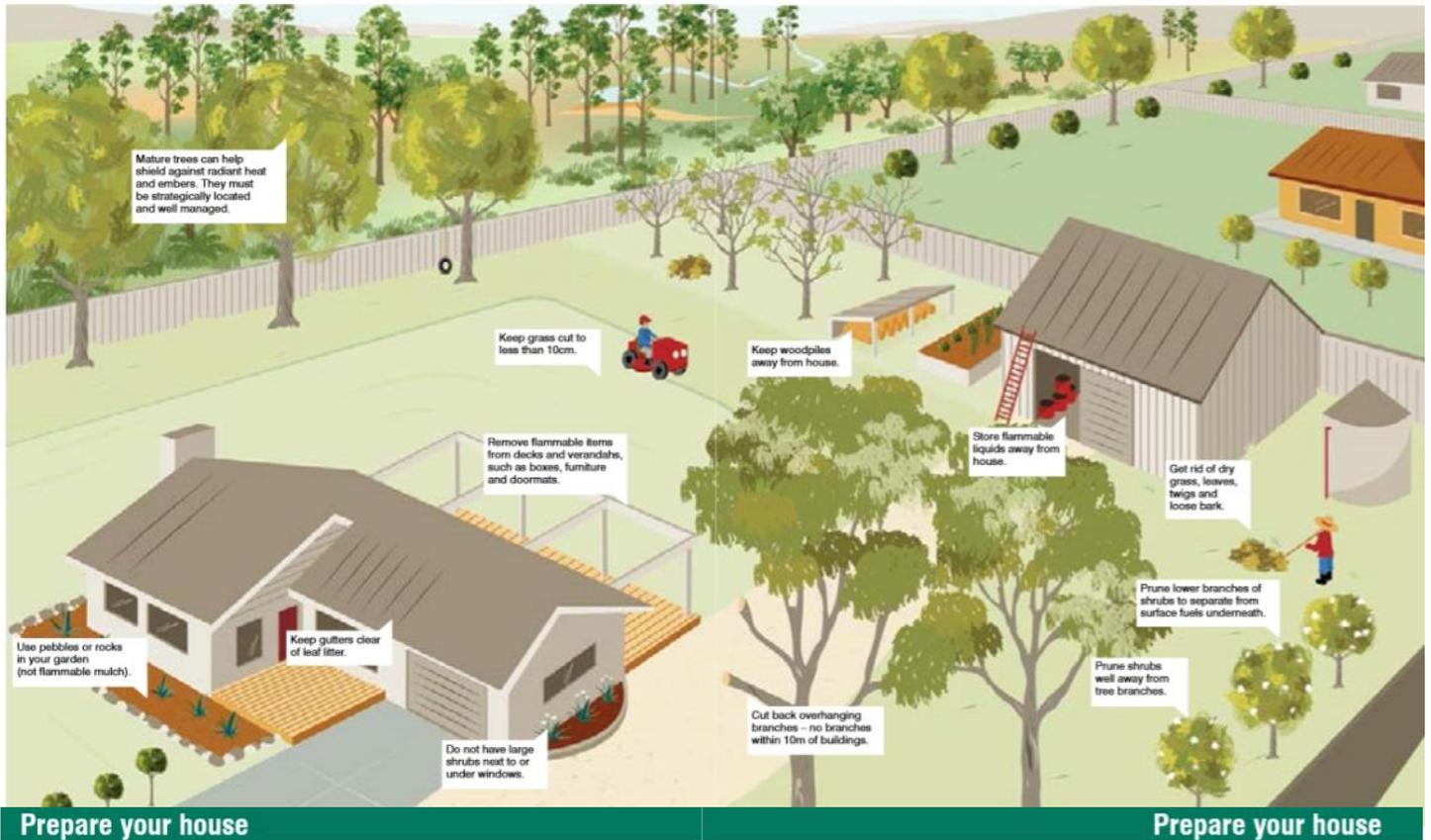
A small tree is located well away from the house. It provides shade and may also catch embers during a fire.

Lawn and low-sitting walls provide separation between the house and the direction of the most likely fire hazard.

CFA Guide to Property Preparation

Well-prepared property

Things to do before and during the warmer months



Prepare your house

Prepare your house

You can reduce the risk of fire entering your house. By sealing any gaps, and strengthening some areas, you can do a lot to help your house survive a fire.

Floors

Many houses catch fire from embers. One major problem is when embers get under sub-floors, especially when wood or other flammable objects are stored under the house.

To stop this happening, you need to seal your sub-floor. Make sure there are no gaps. Non-combustible materials such as masonry, brick veneer, mud brick or concrete are the best materials to use.

If your sub-floor isn't enclosed, there are two things you can do to reduce your risk from embers:

- Remove all flammable materials from under the house
- Seal any gaps using mesh or perforated sheet made of corrosion resistant bronze or steel (maximum aperture of 2mm).



Windows

If windows break, they let embers into the home. Once this happens fires can spread very quickly. Bad fire days are windy days so try to protect your windows from embers and other debris. You could use:

- Fire shutters
- Toughened glass (minimum 5mm thickness).

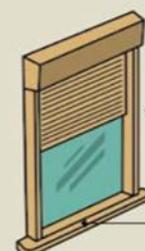
Heat can break glass. You can reduce the heat against your windows by removing shrubs and flammable mulch from under or around them.

The best window frames are made from non-combustible materials such as metal or fire-resistant timber. If you have timber frames, make sure they are well maintained and painted.

Windows

Open and unscreened windows pose an extreme risk.

Screened windows and sills
Installing wire mesh screens (not aluminium) with 1.5mm holes over both the window and frame can prevent embers touching the glass or timber. This can also be an effective method for reflecting radiant heat.



Shutters
Installing shutters over both the window and frame will protect windows from cracking due to flying embers.

Seal gaps around window frames
This is an effective treatment for existing metal window frames. The sealant should be fire retardant.

Maintenance of window sills
Embers lodging on combustible window sills pose a high risk. Maintain window sills so there is no flaking paint.

CFA Guide to Property Preparation

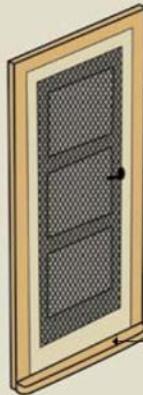
Prepare your house

Doors

Open and unscreened doors pose an extreme risk. Embers lodging on combustible door sills and gaps around door frames pose a high risk.

Screened doors

Installing metal screen doors over timber doors will reduce the chance of an ember igniting the door.



Seal gaps around door frames

If the door is non-combustible, sealing the gaps around the door will prevent embers from entering your home.

Non-combustible door sill

Replacing combustible door sills with a non-combustible product will reduce the chance of an ember igniting.

Doors

- Most modern doors can easily catch fire – you should aim to have a door made from solid timber or non-combustible materials
- Seal any gaps to stop embers getting inside
- Never leave your doormat under the door on bad fire-risk days
- If you have a fly-screen, the frame should be metal or non-combustible material, and the screen should be made of corrosion resistant bronze or steel mesh (maximum aperture of 2mm)
- Any glazing should be toughened glass with a minimum thickness of 6mm

Prepare your house

Roof

You need to protect your roof to stop embers getting into the roof cavity and starting a fire.

- Seal gaps using compressed mineral wool insulation
- Use sarking (non-combustible sheeting) under the roof to stop embers
- Bushfire sprinklers can help but need to fully cover all exposed areas of the house and be constructed from non-combustible materials (seek professional advice)

- Cover skylights with non-combustible fire screens and gaps in evaporative coolers with metal mesh
- Keep gutters clear of any leaves or twigs during warmer months. Check after windy days.

Sarking (reflective non-combustible sheeting)

Sarking is an effective treatment to prevent embers from entering through your roof. Unless installed at construction stage this can be expensive to retrofit.

Seal gaps by using compressed mineral wool insulation

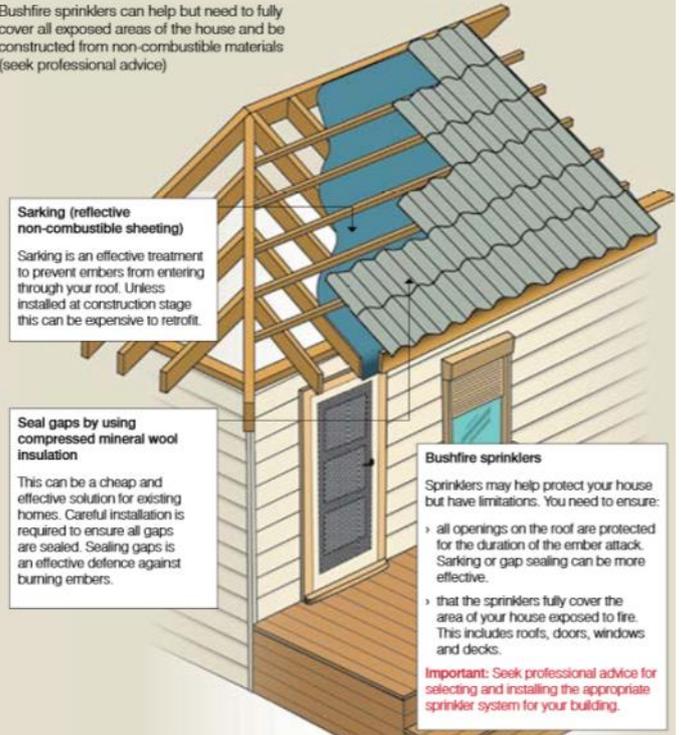
This can be a cheap and effective solution for existing homes. Careful installation is required to ensure all gaps are sealed. Sealing gaps is an effective defence against burning embers.

Bushfire sprinklers

Sprinklers may help protect your house but have limitations. You need to ensure:

- › all openings on the roof are protected for the duration of the ember attack. Sarking or gap sealing can be more effective.
- › that the sprinklers fully cover the area of your house exposed to fire. This includes roofs, doors, windows and decks.

Important: Seek professional advice for selecting and installing the appropriate sprinkler system for your building.



Prepare your house

Carports/decks/verandahs

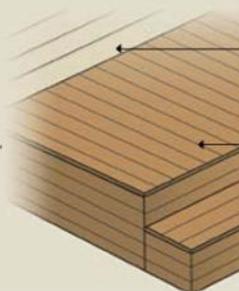
- If you live in a high fire-risk area, it's best to construct decks, carports or verandahs using non-combustible materials.
- If these structures are timber, make sure they're well maintained and note where leaves naturally gather, as this will probably be where embers land.
- Make sure you remove all flammable items such as outdoor furniture and pot plants before bad days.
- Try to keep shrubs and plants away from any timber structures.

Decks

Embers lodging on decks pose a very high risk of ignition

Non-combustible decking materials

Non-combustible decking material will not burn. Use concrete stumps, metal framing and fire-retardant-treated timber.



Separation from the dwelling to prevent fire spread

If the deck is built with combustible material, non-combustible material should be placed between the deck and the house. This will reduce the possibility of the fire spreading between the deck and the house.

Construct with gaps between decking materials

Leaving gaps between the decking timbers will allow most embers to fall through. However, there is still a possibility of embers igniting at timber junction points. Ensure there is no fuel under the decking and that you have access underneath to put out any spot fires.

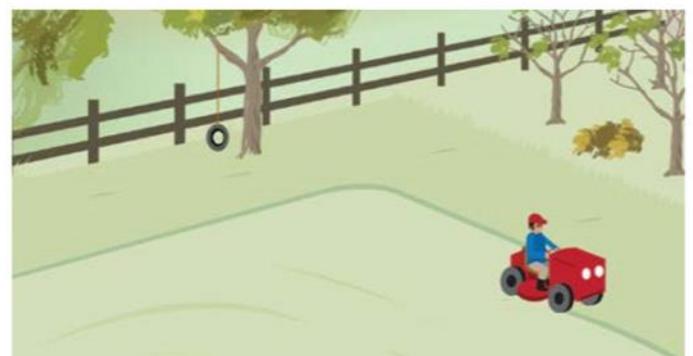
Prepare your garden

Wooden sleepers have smouldered for days after fires have passed through properties. In hot and windy conditions, this could cause fine fuels such as mulch and leaves to catch fire. Use non-combustible materials for garden beds and retaining walls such as concrete or large rocks. It will give your home extra protection if you can't access your property after a fire.

You can reduce the flame and heat near your house by properly designing your garden. Fire doesn't jump, it burns where there's fuel. If you reduce and break up fuel, you can make the fire slower and less hot.

Lawns and garden beds

- Keep lawns between 5cm and 10cm. This means they are short enough to minimise fuel for fire but they can retain moisture.
- Where possible keep garden beds away from the house.
- Try to mulch garden beds within 10 metres of the house with stones not flammable materials.
- Keep garden beds clear of weeds and remove any dead vegetation.
- Keep plants well watered over warmer months.



CFA Guide to Property Preparation

Prepare your garden

Shrubs and trees

- Remove shrubs, plants and other flammable materials from around the bottom of trees. These can move fire up to the top of a tree and create embers.
- Look for bark that hangs off the tree and make sure it's well clear of the ground.
- Clear any branches away that overhang your house or decking.
- Remove dead branches from trees.
- Keep shrubs well watered, pruned and away from your house.

Don't leave piles of green waste near your home. Either dispose of them at the tip or in your usual green waste, or, if you're allowed, you may be able to burn off before the warmer season.

Don't forget that during certain times of the year burning off without a permit is not allowed. Before burning off:

- Check with CFA or your local council about any laws and restrictions
- Notify the Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority (ESTA) on 1800 668 511
- Check the weather forecast for the day of the burn and a few days afterwards. Don't burn on hot, dry, windy days
- Make a fire break of no less than three metres around the fire and clear it of anything flammable
- Make sure you watch the fire and have the tools to put it out if it escapes
- Have a good supply of water handy while you burn and put the fire out with water.



Breaking up fuels

One way to reduce the speed and heat of a fire is to create spaces without any fuel. If you break up fuel such as plants, garden beds and tree canopies, the fire can't spread as easily through your property. Fire needs a path of fuel to travel.

You can do this by:

- Keeping shrubs and plants away from the bottom of trees
- Using gravel paths and non-flammable mulch
- Keeping grass no longer than 10cm between trees, shrubs and garden beds
- Pruning tree branches at least 2 metres above the ground
- Keeping trees separated by pruning back branches.

What does it mean when we call plants fire resistant and fire retardant?

Fire resistant describes plants that can survive being burnt and will regrow after a fire. They will still burn. This means they aren't necessarily the best plant choice just because they have resistance to fire.

Fire retardant describes plants that may not catch fire or burn as easily as other plants, so they may slow a fire. But they will still burn. In fact, all plants will burn under the right conditions.

14

15

Prepare your garden

Choose the right plants

Although all plants will burn under the right conditions, some plants are less likely to catch fire than others. Choosing plants with low flammability and locating them correctly will help reduce the fire risk in a garden.

There are seven factors to consider when choosing fire wise plants:

	Good	Bad
Texture Plants with coarse texture are less flammable.		
Branching Choose plants with open and loose branching as well as leaves that are thinly spread.		
Bark type Smooth bark is best. Loose, stringy bark can catch fire easily.		
Density Plants that are dense with leaves very close together, can be more flammable because there is more to burn.		
Resins, oils and waxes If the leaves have a smell when crushed (such as eucalyptus, lavender and pines) they probably contain resins, oils or waxes which make them flammable.		
Leaves Wide, flat, thicker leaves, like those on camellias, are best because they usually have a high moisture content.		
Dead material If a plant is prone to having dry and dead sections, it will catch fire more easily.		

Prepare your garden

The 10/30 and 10/50 rule

Generally, you need a permit to clear vegetation from around your property but, in some council areas, particularly those with a high fire risk, the 10/30 rule or the 10/50 rule might apply to you. These rules allow you to clear vegetation without a permit, with certain restrictions.

You can check if they apply to your property by visiting cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/vegetation-clearing-tool/

Newer homes

If your home was built or approved after 10 September 2009 you will need a permit to clear vegetation no matter where you live. Contact your local shire or council for more information.

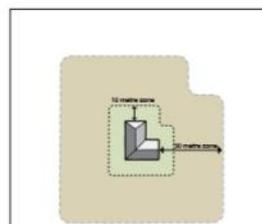
Note: houses that are replacements for a home damaged or destroyed by bushfire between 1 January 2009 and 31 March 2009 are entitled to clear vegetation according to the 10/30 and 10/50 rules.

The 10/30 rule

If this rule applies in your municipality, you will not need a permit to remove, destroy or lop:

- any vegetation, including trees, within 10 metres of your house
- any vegetation, excluding trees, within 30 metres of your house.

The 10/30 rule only applies for vegetation on your own land.

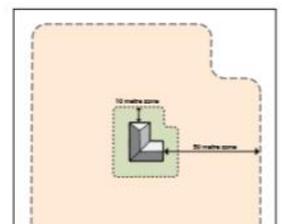


The 10/50 rule

If this rule applies in your municipality, you will not need a permit to remove, destroy or lop:

- any vegetation, including trees, within 10 metres of your house
- any vegetation, excluding trees, within 50 metres of your house.

The 10/50 rule only applies for vegetation on your own land.



CFA Guide to Property Preparation

Checklist

Checklist

Leading up to bad fire days

Don't leave things until the last minute. If you know a hot, dry, windy day is coming, start getting your property ready:

- Remove doormats from around the house
- Move combustible outdoor furniture and other items from decks, up against, or under the home
- Move pot plants a few metres from the home
- Double check that gas bottles are anchored securely with the relief valves pointing away from any flammable materials
- Mow your lawns. On bigger properties, a clearing of about 10 metres of well-mown grass around your home is advisable
- Walk around your home and remove piles of fine fuels such as leaves. It will probably be where embers will land
- Check your gutters to make sure leaves haven't built up
- Make sure you remove any fuels from around your windows and doors. These are the most vulnerable parts of your home
- Make sure trees on your property are healthy with no dead limbs and no vegetation underneath them
- Ensure your insurance is sufficient and current.

On bad fire days – last things to do before you leave

- Fire risk days are usually hot, dry and windy. This could mean you lose power. Consider moving cars out of garages with electric doors or outside of electric gates the night before.
- Check you have removed anything that could burn easily from around your house, on decks, verandahs and pergola areas. This includes mats, outdoor furniture and wood piles.
- Turn off the gas supply.
- If you have time, block your downpipes and partially fill your gutters with water.
- Close and lock all windows and doors.
- Leave your front or access gate open – unless this will mean large animals or livestock will be released on to roads.

Recycle polystyrene at the Bairnsdale Tip Shop

A new polystyrene processing machine has been installed at the Bairnsdale Tip Shop to divert more than 150,000 cubic meters of waste from landfill each year.

Recycling Enterprise Incorporated who manage and run the Tip Shop at East Gippsland Shire Council's Bairnsdale landfill, are now recycling polystyrene in an expanded polystyrene (EPS) processing machine supplied by Council. The machine compresses polystyrene using heat and the product obtained is sent to a recycler for repurposing.

Manager of the Tip Shop Geoff Veness said the partnership enables the voluntary community based social enterprise to reduce landfill and provide a valuable opportunity for locals who have had difficulty gaining employment.

"We are able to employ seven staff, as well as diverting more than 150,000 cubic meters of landfill each year. This new opportunity to recycle polystyrene will benefit the whole community."

The new agreement helps combat waste challenges and builds a stronger local economy - and is a small step towards creating a circular economy.

Council has provided the polystyrene processing machine and \$24,000 per annum in cash to operate and manage the recycling at the Tip Shop.

Did you know? It costs approx. \$150 for every cubic meter of airspace filled by landfill.

E-waste pop-up Bairnsdale

Curious to find out what to do with unwanted e-waste now it can't go in the bin?

Drop by to the pop-up electronic waste opportunities in Bairnsdale, to learn about how to reduce your carbon emissions and landfill from electrical waste, and your role in a circular economy.

Tammy Logan will be available for a chat at:

**Wed 11 December, 12 – 3pm,
Betta Home Living, 300 Main St,
Bairnsdale**



Metabolism-based glyphosate resistance

Metabolism-based glyphosate resistance discovered in weed in Western Australia's Ord irrigation scheme [WA Country Hour](#) By [Courtney Fowler](#)

Researchers have claimed a world first in herbicide resistance, after discovering a tropical weed in Western Australia's far north that literally eats glyphosate.

Key points:

- Barnyard grass in the Ord irrigation scheme is the first weed scientifically proven to metabolise glyphosate
- Many plants have evolved resistance to glyphosate but none have done it by metabolism

Researchers have also said farmers should use glyphosate less frequently to lessen the chance of resistance by weeds

Glyphosate, commonly known as Roundup, has been the most frequently used herbicide on the planet, mainly because most plants cannot metabolise it, or break it down.

But a barnyard grass population in the Ord irrigation scheme is the first weed scientifically proven to be the exception to the rule.

Professor Stephen Powles is among a group of researchers at the Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative who have spent the best part of a decade trying to crack the mystery behind this supposed 'super weed'.

"In research you get excited about new discoveries that weren't known previously; and in the world of science this is indeed a first," he said .

Professor Powles has forged a career in agricultural weed management that has seen him rise to become a global expert in herbicide resistance.

What causes resistance?

In the last 20 years, massive glyphosate use has led to worldwide evolution of an increasing number of glyphosate-resistant weed species.

In the United States alone, the herbicide has an estimated annual use of 136,100 tonnes (300 million pounds).

Currently 304 populations of 42 weedy species have evolved resistance to glyphosate across six continents.

But until now, no scientist has proven a plant's ability to metabolise or break down glyphosate.

It all started back in 2011, when a former Ord agronomist Andrew Cripps was approached by a grower who had barnyard grass which had survived hefty glyphosate use on the farm.

When Professor Powles heard of the conundrum, he flew to the northern irrigation region with an American colleague, Dr Todd Gaines, to investigate.

"How could this plant survive glyphosate, it's not easy to survive glyphosate if you're a plant," he said.

"And any plants that've evolved resistance around the world, none have done so by the ability to break down or metabolise herbicides.

"Despite a lot of good work, we were not able to identify the mechanism of resistance in this population."

An international collaboration

Professor Powles said this scientific enigma piqued the curiosity of a group of 20 scientists from China, who flew to AHRI in Perth to collaborate on the research.

"For many years now, we've had excellent collaborations with various labs in China," he said.

"This young man Dr Pan Lang from China started these studies using sophisticated modern genetic tools [and] we were able to identify a gene called the AKR gene that we thought might be responsible.

"We isolated that gene from our glyphosate-resistant barnyard grass, put it into rice and the ultimate proof was that rice became resistant to glyphosate.

"By doing so we were able to identify this population of barnyard grass from Kununurra in WA, is the first population in the world to have evolved resistance to glyphosate due to the ability to metabolise glyphosate and de-toxify it."

A lesson in weed management

So what significance does this discovery have beyond the lab, for farmers around the world?

For Professor Powles, the accidental discovery is a much bigger lesson in using restraint when reaching for Roundup on the farm.

"The bottom line for farmers who are using glyphosate is a variation of the old line — when you're on a good thing, don't stick to it," he said.

"By that I don't mean cut the rates, I mean you cut the number of times you use it.

"If you want glyphosate to work for the next generation, then you need to show some restraint with it now."

Metabolism-based glyphosate resistance

In Kununurra, the research has changed the way farmers approach weed management, according to the man who first identified the weed's resistance almost a decade ago.

"We got the farmers to listen to those guys and it certainly changed the way things were happening and the way guys were thinking," Mr Cripps said.

"It just reinstates the importance of these chemicals that we use and if we don't look after them then we won't have them forever, we won't be able to continue to use them."

More discoveries 'inevitable'

The former Ord agronomist is now working in Geraldton at his business Independent Rural.

He said he was increasingly noticing more and more glyphosate resistance in the Wheatbelt region.

"Conserving chemical groups, rotating and using other ways to approach weeds is something that we deal with every day in our business down here," Mr Cripps said.

"No matter where you farm or even in your backyard, if you continue to use the same thing then resistance will happen; it's inevitable."

Professor Powles agreed it was only a matter of time before more discoveries were made.

"What happens in research is someone makes the discovery, then others can go look for that in other situations, and design a diagnostic test to quickly look for that gene once its been identified," he said

"So it will get found all around the world now, you can bet on it."

The research comes at a time when the popular herbicide finds itself under an increasing amount of public scrutiny.

The chemical's manufacturer Monsanto has been ordered to pay out billions of dollars in compensation to customers in several high profile court cases in the United States, where it was argued regular contact with glyphosate was linked to cancer- a claim Monsanto strongly deny.

A number of countries have taken steps to restrict or ban the product but it remains the biggest selling weedkiller around the world.



Glyphosate, sold as Roundup, is one of Australia's most common and effective weedkillers. (ABC Rural: Rose Grant)

Council aims for 100% renewable

East Gippsland Shire Council has agreed to participate in a tender to purchase electricity supplied from 100 per cent renewable energy over the next 10 years.

The opportunity has been developed by a local government group consortium of 48 Victorian councils. The tender will be managed by the Municipal Association of Victoria and is for the purchase of renewable electricity in what's called a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). By participating, East Gippsland Shire Council will be able to access renewable electricity for their buildings and assets, such as street lighting, public toilets, aquatic centres and libraries.

In addition to reducing Council's greenhouse gas emissions, participation in a PPA for 100 per cent renewable energy will demonstrate Council's ongoing commitment to environmental sustainability and deliver on the Council Plan commitment to reduce council's energy use and greenhouse gas emissions by 2021. The PPA will also provide price certainty with potentially cheaper electricity rates.

Further information: Wayne Burton, Sustainability Project Planner

Recipes

classic vanilla caramels

donna hay

INGREDIENTS

- 1¼ cups (310ml) double thick cream
- 2½ cups (550g) white (granulated) sugar
- 100g unsalted butter, chopped
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 cup (350g) golden syrup

Photography: Chris Court

METHOD

1. Line a lightly greased 20cm square tin with non-stick baking paper. Place the cream, sugar, butter, vanilla and golden syrup in a large saucepan over high heat and cook, stirring occasionally, until the sugar is dissolved and the mixture comes to the boil. Reduce heat to medium, insert a sugar (candy) thermometer, and cook, without stirring, for about 9–15 minutes or until the temperature reaches 124°C (255°F)+. Set aside to cool for 5 minutes, before carefully pouring the hot caramel into the prepared tin.
2. Set aside to cool, at room temperature, for 8 hours or overnight, or until firm. Slice to serve. **Makes 20**
+ For the perfect caramel, the cooking time may vary depending on the stove top and size of saucepan, but it is essential to bring the caramel to the correct temperature for it to set properly.



cashew and date butter

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups (300g) cashews
- 6 fresh dates, pitted
- ½ cup (125ml) maple syrup, plus extra to serve
- sliced toasted walnut baguette or fruit loaf, to serve

METHOD

1. Preheat oven to 160°C (325°F). Place the cashews on a large baking tray and cook for 8–10 minutes or until golden.
2. While the cashews are still warm, place them in a large food processor and add the dates. Process for 2–3 minutes, scraping down the sides of the bowl occasionally. With the food processor running, gradually pour in the maple syrup and process until smooth. Transfer to a bowl and set aside to cool.
3. Spread onto toast and drizzle with extra maple syrup to serve. **Makes 1½ cups.**



December 2019

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Sun

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Computers with Sharon	13	14 Bonang Xmas Party	15
16	17	18	19	20 Neighbourhood House closed	21	22
23	24	25 <i>Xmas Day</i>	26	27	28	29
30	31	JAN 1	2 Neighbourhood house re-opens	3	4	5