

Newsletter No 8 November 2020

One of the inspiring community organisations in the North East

Management Committee Members

President: Rollo Kiek (0419814240), **Vice-president:** Vacant, **Secretary:** Paul L'Huillier (0400056247), **Membership Secretary:** Helen L'Huillier (0421273699), **Treasurer:** Henry Ziemnicki (0407931129), **Courses coordinator:** Vacant, **Speakers coordinator:** Vacant. **Committee:** Luise Mock, Christina Callinan, Brian Rochford, Linda Parkinson (Web site), David Wood (Newsletter)

Editorial Comments David Wood (0419514399)

It is great news that very busy people in the Community, Paul and Helen L'Huillier have stepped up to take on the Secretary and Membership Secretary positions in the Alpine U3A. Both have "hit the ground" running and organisationally changes have already been made. We still need a speakers' coordinator and course coordinator, both positions being vital to the wellbeing of our U3A group. Early speakers have already been arranged for 2021 and many of the tutors are already in place but coordinators are essential to the smooth operation of the club. Please contact Paul L'Huillier if you are able to help.

The Seniors hall is now available for use under strict COVID19 safety rules. Thanks to Christine Hamilton for the thorough cleaning that she has provided for the Hall. Christine has also unwrapped all of the new chairs so that they are ready for use. Each tutor is responsible for making sure that the hall is used responsibly and COVID cleaned after use. Thanks to Helen L'Huillier for making all of the necessary arrangements. The kitchen and the small meeting room are unavailable and class members are responsible for cleaning all surfaces after use. The course tutor is responsible for this being done.

This issue of the Alpine U3A newsletter concludes with an article from the online newspaper "The Conversation", by Professor David Bowman from the University of Tasmania on the report of the Bushfire Royal Commission which was recently published and delivered to governments. The report includes 80 recommendations, 55 of which are directed to governments. In accepting the findings of the report, the Federal Government has declined to establish a sovereign aerial firefighting fleet and specifically acknowledges that firefighting aircraft are the responsibility of the States and where more aircraft are needed, they should be hired from overseas. This is very disturbing given that our firefighting season now overlaps with some of the worst wild fires in the USA and Europe.

Elene and I drove on the Omeo to Falls Creek road last Sunday and we were horrified by the number of dead and partly burned trees lying in the forest. This is perfect tinder for the oncoming fire season. Members of our community should be very concerned about the oncoming fire season and I would welcome an article on this from one of the members of the CFA in our local community.

Finally, thanks and farewell to Gwen Goss who has moved to Woodend. Gwen has been a long-time member of the Alpine U3A and up to his passing Brian was also a member. Gwen is a delightful person and participated in U3A activities with great enthusiasm. We will miss her.

Christmas Lunch Tien Meakin (0408802665)

Once again Tien Meakin (cettien3@bigpond.com), has accepted responsibility for organising the Christmas Lunch. It is to be held at 12. Noon on Friday 11th December at Settlers. The food cost is \$23 per head for a 2-course lunch (see menu at end of this newsletter). The Committee of Management has decided to subsidise the cost of food so that members are asked to pay just \$15 per head instead of \$23 per head. Drinks must be purchased at normal cost and the payment for guests is the full cost. Please advise Tien by phone (0408802665) or email of your attendance intentions and pay your money into the Alpine U3A account at the Bendigo bank in Mt Beauty. The payment can be in person at the bank or transferred by EFT, the details being: Name of Account "Alpine U3A", BSB: 633000, Account Number: 132758707.

Given the interruption of COVID 19 in our activities this year this lunch is a wonderful occasion to renew friendships and to look forward to having a COVID 19 free 2021.

Newsletter No 8 November 2020

One of the inspiring community organisations in the North East

Membership 2021

The Committee of management has decided that the annual subscription for 2021 is to be “rolled over” from 2020. Hence for existing members there are no further fees to be paid for 2021. For new members the fees are \$25 for a single and \$45 for a double.

The first Coffee morning in 2021 is on Friday February 5th and this is enrolment day for courses. There will be a coordinator for this program and tutors should make their plans now and be ready for Friday 5th February. A mailout for tutors is planned following the December meeting of the Committee of Management on the 7th December.

Other Matters from the COM meeting in November

- The Senior Citizens Hall is now open for Alpine U3A activities and course providers (tutors) have been notified. The Hall is operating to a COVID 19 safe plan and this has been approved by the Shire. Members should contact their course convenor to find out when courses are to resume. For a number of courses there will be no resumption this year and planning will occur for a 2021 resumption. The Kitchen and the small meeting room remain closed for the time being.
- As mentioned earlier we have 3 positions waiting to be filled on the COM and whilst they remain vacant this generates an extra heavy workload for those on the Committee.
- Christine Hamilton has given the Hall its first COVID19 clean since the opening and she has also carefully unwrapped the new chairs. A big thank you to Christine. Also thanks to Judith, our outgoing secretary for chasing up the Federal grant for the chairs.
- The Committee expressed its thanks to Judith Falle who held the position of Secretary during a somewhat difficult time. Hopefully Judith will be at the Christmas lunch where our thanks can be expressed in a more robust fashion.
- Honour Board: Paul is considering adding a menu item to the web site called Honour Board where longstanding/serving members can be listed and recognised. This is in its infancy at present and any information that you can provide to Paul would be most welcome. Contact Paul at secretary@alpineu3a.org.au
- Our web site is <https://alpineu3a.org.au/> and currently Linda Parkinson (0407091742) is the Web administrator. Some updating for the site is required as we gather new information for 2021. If anyone is interested in working with Linda please let Paul know.



Newsletter No 8 November 2020

One of the inspiring community organisations in the North East

The Bushfire Royal Commission

(From the online newspaper "The Conversation 30th October 2020)

The bushfire royal commission has made a clarion call for change. Now we need politics to follow

October 30, 2020 3.30pm AEDT

Author



David Bowman

Professor of Pyrogeography and Fire Science, University of Tasmania

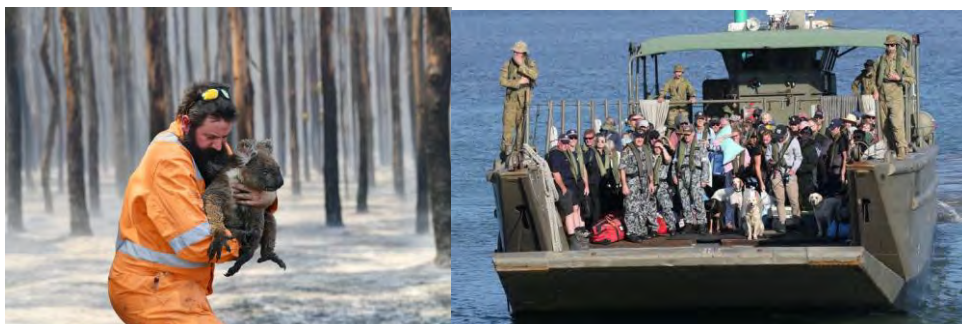
Disclosure statement

(David Bowman receives funding to study fire ecology and management from the Australian Research Council (ARC), the NSW Bushfire Risk Management Research Hub, Bushfire and Natural Hazard CRC, and the Tasmanian Government Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and the Environment.)

The bushfire royal commission today handed down its long-awaited [final report](#). At almost 1,000 pages, it will take us all some time to digest. But it marks the start of Australia's national disaster adaptation journey after a horrendous summer.

The report clearly signals the urgent need to improve disaster management capacity in Australia. Closer examination of the report will determine if other recommendations are needed. But overall, this seems a realistic report that incorporates a diverse and complex body of evidence. And it arrives at recommendations likely to enjoy broad political, institutional and community support.

As the report states, the 2019-2020 bushfires were the catalyst for, but not the sole focus of, the inquiry. It also looked at floods, bushfires, earthquakes, storms, cyclones, storm surges, landslides and tsunamis. The recommendations demonstrate the Royal Commission is serious about shifting the status quo when it comes to managing Australia's natural disasters – events that will become more frequent and severe under climate change. What's needed now is political will for change.



Mallacoota residents and CFA firefighters were evacuated to Hastings on landing crafts to escape the bushfires. AAP

Newsletter No 8 November 2020

One of the inspiring community organisations in the North East

A picture of devastation

The commission received evidence from more than 270 witnesses, almost 80,000 pages of tendered documents and more than 1,750 public submissions. It recaps the damage wrought, including:

- more than 24 million hectares burnt nationally
- 33 human deaths (and perhaps many more due to smoke haze over much of eastern Australia)
- more than 3,000 homes destroyed
- thousands of locals and holidaymakers trapped
- communities isolated without power, communications, and ready access to essential goods and services
- estimated national financial impacts over A\$10 billion
- nearly three billion animals killed or displaced
- many threatened species and other ecological communities extensively harmed.

The report noted every state and territory suffered fire to some extent, adding “on some days, extreme conditions drove a fire behaviour that was impossible to control”.

A new role for national government

The scope of the commission’s recommendations is vast. For government, it would mean changes across land-use planning, infrastructure, emergency management, social policy, agriculture, education, physical and mental health, community development, energy and the environment.

Broad areas of recommended change include a clearer leadership role for the federal government and establishing a national natural disaster management agency. The report notes while state and territory governments have primary responsibility for emergency management, during the bushfire crisis the public “expected greater Australian Government action”.

Other recommendations include:

- nationally consolidating aerial firefighting capacity
- more capacity in local government
- nationally consistent warnings including air pollution (especially bushfire smoke) forecasts
- acknowledgement of the role of Indigenous fire managers in mitigating bushfire risks.

The commission says preparing for natural disasters “is not the sole domain of governments and agencies”. Individuals and communities must also ensure they’re prepared. As the commission notes:

While we heard that some individuals and communities were well prepared for the 2019-2020 bushfire season, this was not always the case. For other individuals and communities, although they did prepare, the intensity of the bushfires meant that no level of preparation would have been sufficient. For others, they were seemingly unprepared for what confronted them.

The inquiry said governments have a critical role to play here, by providing information on disaster risks through community education and engagement programs.

Newsletter No 8 November 2020

One of the inspiring community organisations in the North East

The climate question

During last summer's bushfire crisis, Prime Minister Scott Morrison was reluctant to draw links to climate change. And before the inquiry commenced, there was much doubt over whether it would adequately probe how climate change is contributing to natural disasters.

Significantly, the commission's final report explicitly recognises climate change increases the risk and impact of natural disasters. It says global warming beyond the next 20 to 30 years "is largely dependent on the trajectory of greenhouse gas emissions", but stops far short of calling for federal government action on emissions reduction.

The report says extreme weather "has already become more frequent and intense because of climate change; further global warming over the next 20 to 30 years is inevitable". It goes on:

Globally, temperatures will continue to rise, and Australia will have more hot days and fewer cool days. Sea levels are also projected to continue to rise. Tropical cyclones are projected to decrease in number, but increase in intensity. Floods and bushfires are expected to become more frequent and more intense. Catastrophic fire conditions may render traditional bushfire prediction models and firefighting techniques less effective.

Among its recommendations, the report calls for improved national climate and weather intelligence to support governments to implement, assess and review their disaster management and climate adaptation strategies.



Prime Minister Scott Morrison was reluctant to draw links to climate change during the Black Summer bushfires. AAP Image/Lukas Coch

Now's the time to act

The commission acknowledged most of its recommendations identify what needs to be done, rather than how it should be done.

The commission also says while governments and others have backed the notion of improving natural disaster resilience, "support is one thing – action is another". And the time to act, the report says, is now.

This is a key point. As noted by the report, more than 240 inquiries about natural disasters have been held in Australia to date. Many would have been time-consuming and expensive. And while many recommendations have been implemented and have led to significant improvements, the report said, "others have not".

Newsletter No 8 November 2020

One of the inspiring community organisations in the North East

So, will this royal commission lead to substantive change? The inquiry suggests this will require that governments “commit to action and cooperate and hold each other to account”. Further, progress towards implementing the recommendations should be publicly monitored.

Fundamentally, political appetite will determine whether the royal commission’s recommendations ever become reality. There is much work to be done by governments and others to iron out the legal, administrative, social and practical complexities of changing the status quo. And the Morrison government has given next to no indication it’s willing to seriously tackle the problem of climate change.

Ultimately, these findings are small steps towards achieving natural disaster reliance. To paraphrase Winston Churchill, this report can be read not as the beginning of the end, but perhaps the end of the beginning of the long road to climate change adaptation.

And Finally!

GRIM FAIRY TALE

A married couple in their early 60s were out celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary in a quiet, romantic little restaurant. Suddenly, a tiny yet beautiful fairy appeared on their table and said, “For being such an exemplary married couple and for being faithful to each other for all this time, I will grant you each a wish.” “Ooh, I want to travel around the world with my darling husband,” said the wife. The fairy moved her magic wand and – abracadabra! – two tickets for the new QM2 luxury liner appeared in her hands. Now it was the husband’s turn. He thought for a moment and said: “Well, this is all very romantic, but an opportunity like this only occurs once in a lifetime, so, I’m sorry my love, but my wish is to have a wife 30 years younger than me”. The wife and the fairy were deeply disappointed, but a wish is a wish... So, the fairy made a circle with her magic wand and -abracadabra! the husband was 92 years old. The moral of this story: Men are ungrateful idiots, Fairies are female!



Bob and his wife started dieting a week ago.

Bob's wife proposed that they should have a cheat day today.

She brought home McDonald's and KFC wings. Bob brought home his secretary.

From his hospital bed, Bob is wondering when men will ever begin to understand women.



Newsletter No 8 November 2020

One of the inspiring community organisations in the North East

Alpine U3A Christmas Lunch Menu
Settlers Tavern
PO BOX 130
Tawonga South Vic 3698
Phone: 03 57544 888
Fax: 03 57544 775
A.B.N 54 111 334 411

Self Service Tea & Coffee Bar

MAIN MEAL	Christmas Roast - Roast Turkey & Slow Cooked Roast Beef / mustard seasoned pan gravy and a medley of roasted root vegetables (GF) Cold Roast Meats & Salad Plate (GF)
Vegetarian	Mushroom, Parmesan, Red Rice Arancini Balls / fresh Italian tomato salad & basil aioli (V)
DESSERT (Alternate Drop)	Traditional Christmas Pudding with custard & ice-cream Tropical Fruit Salad Pavlova with shaved chocolate & cream (GF)

Please advise if there is any special dietary or allergy requirements for your guests not already catered for.

Kind Regards
Mardi Lucas
Licensee
Ph 0357 544888