

Attachment (3)

26th September 2016

The Editor

Mallacoota Mouth

Dear Sir,

We, the undersigned would like to commend the Mallacoota Country Fire Authority for their field day of 17th September, "Double Creek Bushfire Extravaganza" for their attempt to bring the public and residents of the area to recognize the risk of dangerous fire and probably what can be done to safeguard the community.

On the following morning a drive around the town convinced us of the "Time Bomb" Mallacoota has become with many houses surrounded by scrub (a bit like bird-nests in the bushes) and that they would be all but impossible to protect from a fast travelling fire. Dr. Gill's talk explained how it happened in Canberra in 2003.

It is obvious that the majority of people in Mallacoota are oblivious of the occasional occurrence of Mega-Fires such as impacted Canberra, this fire was fuelled by the neglected forests of the Brindabella Ranges 10 to 50 miles to the west of Canberra.

Seasonal small fires are fairly normal and expected and controllable, but the Mega-Fires such as 1939, 1983, 2003 etc. occur every 40 to 50 years when various contributing factors fall into line, then you have something that turns to a disaster beyond control, given the state of the forests at present.

Unfortunately Mallacoota lies in the path of such a potential fire as the forests from Orbost in the west to Delegate and Buldah in the north have huge fuel loads that would fuel such a fire disaster. As well as the houses and human life that would be lost just consider the environmental damage. Most fauna and birds depend on normal "mosaic" type burns, ie. a patchwork of burns to enable their species to survive, but huge fires over thousands of hectares do not provide this.

To safeguard against such a Mega-Fire it will be necessary to fuel reduce at least 15% of the deeper forest each year and we are sure the local Department of Environment, Water, Land and Planning Fire Officer, if given the autonomy and backing could achieve this. Of course a lot of the present regulations, rules and control by out of the area bureaucracy would have to go.

We hope the organizers will take the opportunity to write to Government as was moved at the meeting "To Burn or Not to Burn" requesting that the problem of heavy fuel loads in the

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deeper forests be addressed and that they keep the momentum of what they have started moving.

Yours faithfully

John Mulligan

Bill Gammage

Vic Jurskis

Double Creek Extravaganza!

Our Community

our Emergencies

our Resilience

#WeWorkAsOne



Noel & Cate Bruce are generously hosting this *community event* on their property on the Mallacoota-Genoa Road. 100% of proceeds will support our **Mallacoota and Gipsy Point Firefighters and their Community Safety & Resilience Group.**

10am-4pm Saturday 17 September 2016

***Landholders, residents, visitors,
ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls
EVERYONE WELCOME!***

Emergency services displays, amazing guest presenters, demonstrations, Community Groups, open garden, Trash 'n' Treasure, bicycle riding, kayaks, canoes, sizzling B-B-Q ... and more

For information or to contribute please call [REDACTED]

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES ...

LOCAL BUSINESSES SUPPORT THIS EVENT!