



ANNUAL REPORT

"THE NEXT PHASE"



The Bushfire Foundation Inc
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The Bushfire Foundation Inc

ANNUAL REPORT

2018

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CORPORATE INFORMATION

ABOUT US

Australian Business Number:

53 245 944 613

Registered Incorporated Association: Consumer Affairs Victoria

A0098937L

Registered Australian Registrable Body with the ASIC: (Australian Securities and Investment Commission)

ARBN: 628 126 116

Registered Charity with the ACNC: (Australian Charities and Non-Profit Commission)
Charity Sub Categories:

1. Advancing the Safety and Security of Australia or the Australian Public
2. Advancing Social or Public Welfare
3. Preventing or Relieving suffering of animals
4. Advancing the Natural Environment

Registered Charity Tax Concessions: (Australian Taxation Office)

1. Income Tax Exemption,
2. GST
3. Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT)

Recognised Charitable, Religious or Benevolent Organisation (VicRoads)

Registered to Fundraise in:

1. State of Victoria
2. State of Tasmania
3. State of South Australia
4. Australian Capital Territory
5. Northern Territory



OUR PURPOSE

Improve and Enhance Bushfire Preparedness and Recovery in Australia

OUR MISSION

Through undertaking vegetation management works and programs in the community the reduce the hazards and risks that increase the effects of Bushfire, in doing this we aim to reduce the effects and improve and enhance the community's capabilities to be self-sufficient and resilient through the emphasis of self-prevention.

GOVERNANCE

CEO'S REPORT

Message from our CEO

Nathan Rogers, Chief Executive Officer and Founder

Another year has gone by and it comes to reflect and review where our foundation is, well what can I say it has been a somewhat different twelve months for the foundation, with not so much active community work or assistance but building for the future which can I say certainly seems bright.

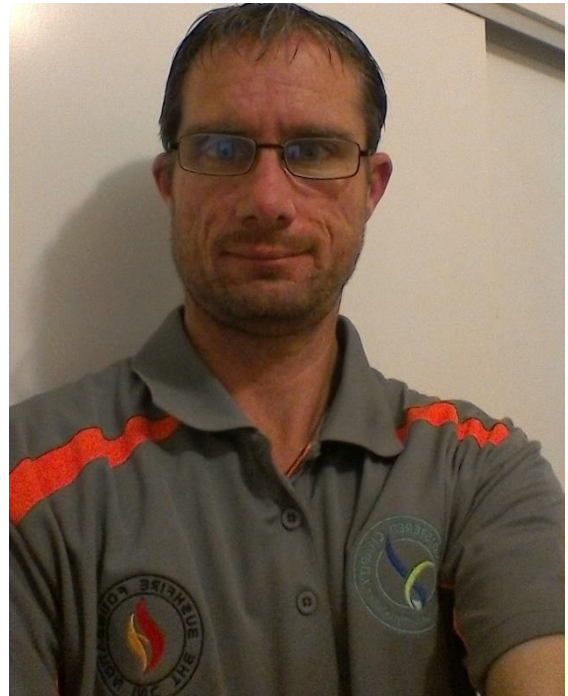
We introduced to the board an active and insightful operations director who has driven us to many quarters of the state and we have reached out far and wide across Australia to spread the word, our name and mission to anyone who would listen and so far, the responses have been positive and reassuring.

Our focus has increased and our scope for services has improved after we took over the National Equine Database from the Walking forward Disaster relief team who unfortunately for them disbanded, but in keeping in line with their previous hard work to build their network of support for within the Equine Field originally we have grown the capacity already by expanding it to include stock and other domestic animals also.

This has allowed us to design and develop what we believe will be an Australian first in regards to Animal Welfare by developing Concept plans for a National Animal Disaster Relief Program that includes many variables such as the database now known as the Community Animal Relief Directory and Community Animal Relief Stations. Then there is the ongoing design and development of the Community Animal Relief Teams (CARTS) that will form a massive volunteer base across Australia that will respond in disasters and provide relief and support for animal owners through providing Emergency Relief shelters, Food, water and Care items, then there is the very in-depth and well needed Animal disaster Relief Foodbanks where there will be 24/7 food, water and welfare items available to communities in need when disasters strike that will also have the ability to serve other purposes like low income earners and domestic violence and elderly keeping in line with a core business key target areas within the community.

We have also been entered into the National Landcare Database and recognised as a Landcare group within Australia, again another avenue to branch out and grow and develop new ideas in line with landcare principals, this will be seen in our development of the Flash Farm through fire wise landscaping and other land related concepts within that space. Also within the landcare space we have been able to develop a partnership with Parks Victoria that could see our foundation play a key role in bushfire preparedness and mitigation within the National Park Systems across Victoria, at this stage our test patch if you'd like to call it that will be Solomon Gully Nature Conservation Reserve an urban bushland reserve amongst homes, where we will revitalise and restore its worth and image to the community.

We also achieved some bigger feats like becoming a Nationally Registered Company allowing our growth to filter out over the next 3-5 years as we see this as our next stage within our development, in line with this



registration we redesigned our operational structure developing divisions and director roles to suit that should cater for our growth and expansion going forward.

We also had some other achievements through winning the Rural Councils Victoria by winning there Fire Safety Category and we were nominated for many awards although we didn't win them all we certainly stuck our nose our there and put our hand up and showed we are here to stay and will grow bigger and stronger.

We forged links with international counterparts in the USA and New Zealand that will over time lead to much bigger things and opportunities for everyone involved, we developed opportunities with employment networks through the creation of job pathways with in the farming and agriculture sector that will support us into the future but also ensure some financial security and investment through the funding received to support that system.

In saying all this you can see that we are on the verge of bigger things and huge opportunities in many areas and most importantly throughout Australia, which takes me back to the beginning when i established and founded the organisation the vision then (Three years ago) was to be a National Charity working in this area although we aren't there yet its not far away, and I thank each and everyone of you who has been apart of foundation in this short time as without you we wouldn't be where we are, and I know some of you say that without my drive and determination as CEO to continue to put us there it wouldn't be, well I disagree because with your support, ideas and team work there wouldn't be a foundation and we wouldn't be where we are as there is no I in team and Together Everyone Achieves More, Going forward Together we all will certainly achieve more.

Welcome to the "Next Phase"

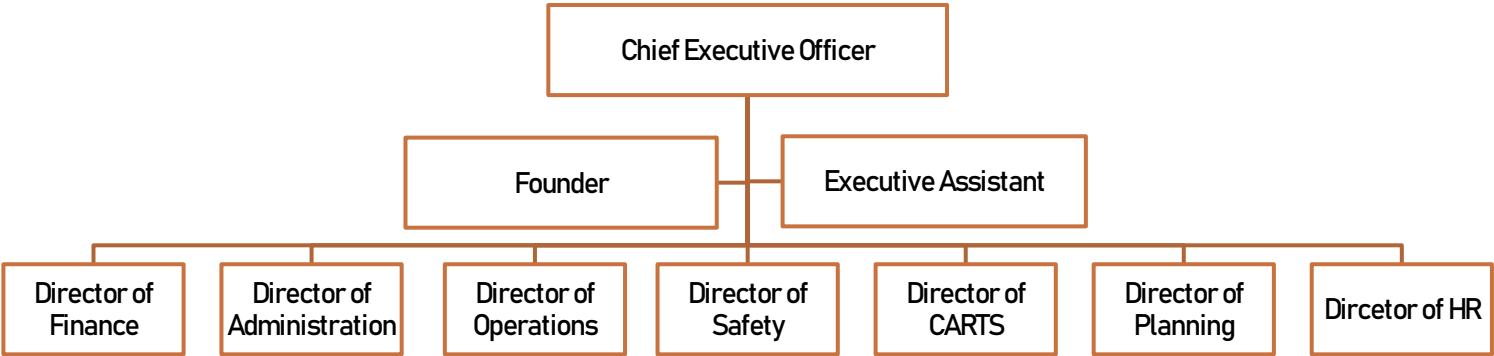
KIND REGARDS



NATHAN ROGERS
CHEIF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
THE BUSHFIRE FOUNDATION INC

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

As mentioned in the CEO’s Report we redesigned our operational structure developing divisions and directors alike to support the operational capacity that will be needed into the future the new look borad is as follows below:



Our Current People

Nathan Rogers
Chief Executive Officer & Founder

Michael Cordina
Director of Administration & Co-Founder

Leslie Jones
Director of Finance and Co- Founder

Elizabeth Wells
Director of Operations

Our Future People

Director of Safety
April Tattersall August – September 2018

Executive Assistant
To Be Confirmed

Director of CART Operations
To Be confirmed

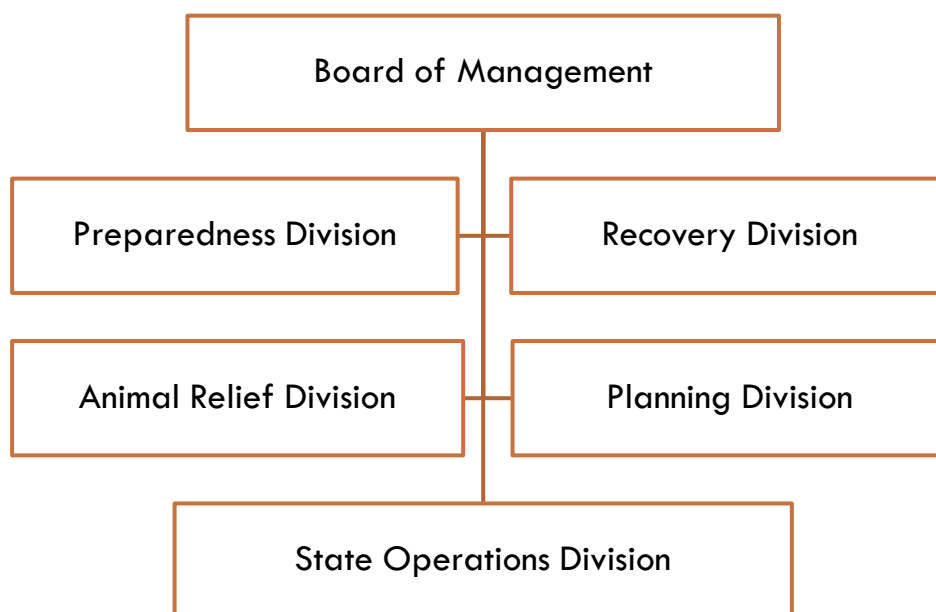
Director of Planning
To Be Confirmed

Director of Human Resources
To Be Confirmed

OPERATIONAL OVERVIEW

OPERATIONAL FUNCTIONS

the redesigned and developed operational Functions of the foundation as introduced in 2018



PREPAREDNESS DIVISION

Responsible for all the Foundations Preparedness works and Projects such as our Home Bushfire Preparedness Program, Landcare Fire Wise Projects and other Community partnerships that relate to improving and enhancing community preparedness.



RECOVERY DIVISION

Responsible for all works and Projects in relation to recovery, for example our Home Bushfire Recovery Program



ANIMAL RELIEF DIVISION (ARD)

Responsible for all works and Projects undertaken as part of our Animal Disaster Relief Program such as Community Animal Relief Teams and Animal Disaster Relief Food Banks



PLANNING DIVISION

Responsible for the overall planning of all functions of the organisation as well current and future works and projects



STATE OPERATIONS DIVISIONS

Responsible for Each Individual States Works and Projects relating to the operations of the Organisation, Each State will have One or Two Volunteer State Commanders who will work closely with the appropriate Operations Division Commander from above

OPERATIONS REPORT

Message from Responsible Director

Elizabeth Wells, Director of Operations

I had the pleasure of joining the team in 2018 as Director of Operations and since my appointment in early April 2018, it has been my privilege to work alongside the CEO on the future direction of the Foundation.

We have been feverishly developing and implementing strategies to enhance and secure the future of the Foundation's core programs as well as researching and identifying any potential gaps within the market to secure the Foundation's ongoing growth and success.

We have commenced a five-year plan that involves many various strategies going forward that include Creating new business opportunities within the scope of the existing operations and creating and developing new projects to support them.

We will be working on and communicating with (Reaching out) to other organisations that we believe can with the Foundations Core values, objectives, projects a scope this will include research and development of both current and future programs to bridge identified gaps within the market of home preparedness.

We will Research and further develop the new divisions within the foundation such as the Community Animal Relief Teams, Animal Food Bank and the National Animal Disaster Relief program this will include Establishing a Business plan, Establishing Partnerships with Local, State, Federal and International Governments and Establishing and development of local social groups.

Within this business plan we aim to establish working partnerships with Employment agencies that will hopefully implement Funding opportunities such as Grants and Work for the Dole programs and will further Engage Volunteers and the Community.

The Business Plan has five key areas the will be investigated which are as follows:

1. Stage one will be focus on the development of all the strategies
2. Stage two will be the evaluation of the strategies
3. Stage three will be the deletion of any programs/ projects that no longer fit within the Scope and Objectives of the Foundation
4. Stage four will be Future planning
5. Stage five will be the overview of the past, present and Future direction of the Foundation.

As Director of Operations I am anticipating the continual growth of the Foundation's core program the Home Preparedness Program, as well as the Community Animal Relief Teams and Animal Food Banks will strengthen the foundation to be a leader of these fields both within Victoria and Nationally.

KIND REGARDS

Elizabeth Wells

Director of Operations

The Bushfire Foundation Inc

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

2017/2018 FIANANCIAL STATEMENT

AS AT AUGUST 2018

REVENUE (INCOME))	AMOUNT
Cash Donations	\$1165.00
Grants and Funding	\$3180.00
CEO's Contribution	\$1402.00
Equipment Donations	\$3180.00
Raffle Tickets	\$120.00
Product Sales	\$85.00

TOATL REVENUE	\$9132.00
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EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT
Administration Fees	\$369.04
Operating Expenses	\$552.07
Tools and Equipment	\$989.02
Money Owing on Account	\$24.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$1934.13
TOTAL PROFIT (REVENUE - EXPENDITURE)	\$7197.87

ASSETS (money held at bank)	AMOUNT
Community Solutions Chq Account	\$118.19
Community Solutions cash reserve Account	\$190.00

TOTAL ASSETS	\$308.19
NET PROFIT 2017-2018	8226.19

IN KIND DONATIONS	Est Value
Office Desk	\$150.00
Fire Branch	\$80.00
Printer	\$250.00
Lawn Mower	\$250.00
Mesh Display Banner	\$250.00
Equipment	\$50.00
Sandbags (1000 x 0.80c each)	\$800.00
Sand	\$300.00
Hose Reel	\$250.00
Tractor Hire (1x Free)	\$250.00
Response/Dispatch Software Licence (1 Free Unlimited Account)	\$550.00

TOTAL DONATIONS VALUE	3180.00
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FIANCE REPORT

Message from Responsible Director

Leslie Jones, Director of Finance

This year as in line with other years the bushfire foundation continued to assist that community with 2 property owners being aided at maiden gully and at kyenton.

We were able to have to opportunity to engage with the community through a number of promotions at strath village shopping centre, the marketplace and at

lansell plaza shopping centre where we had various different displays and spoke to many people about who the foundation is and what the foundation does with a number of interested community residents interested in the foundation and what we are trying to achieve.

We also had the opportunity to attend a number of community events at the Eaglehawk community house, Strathfieldsaye community Market/Fair at Strathfieldsaye shopping centre, with the major one being the Australia day celebrations at Lake Weeroona on the 26th of January.

We engaged in a trail project during seniors' week that saw us assist elderly people within the bendigo region and changed over 50 smoke alarm batteries at a number of houses

it has been a busy year all round we also had a number of donation's that came from the young Rotarians, the rotary club just to name a few we have also been involved with the flash farm which is a new innovation to be involved with and hopefully be a good thing for the bushfire foundation and also the flash farm

Further to my report Nathan and I went up to cohune for the day to an information day at the cohune town hall and it was well patronised with about 100 people in attendance we learned a bit about different businesses and it was a good day.

KIND REGARDS

Leslie Jones
Director of Finance
The Bushfire Foundation Inc

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

HOME BUSHFIRE PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

This program is designed to offer assistance to residents in the community that are unable to prepare their own homes for reasons such as they are elderly, injured or in financial Hardship by offering assistance with Bush Fire Preparedness Works Such As:

- Gutter – Cleaning and Clearing
- Tree and Shrub – Trimming or Removal
- Grass and Vegetation Management
- Fire Break Construction and Management
- Vehicle Access Points
- Inspection of Firefighting Equipment
- Reducing any other Risks or Hazards Associated with Bush fire's

Home Bushfire Preparedness Program Summary		
Total no of Jobs Completed	No of jobs Unable to Assist	No of Jobs Outstanding
10	0	0

HOME BUSHFIRE RECOVERY PROGRAM

This program is designed to help residents in the community that Have been affected by a bushfire by helping with Bush Fire Recovery Works Such As:

- Property and Site Clearing
- Assistance with Salvaging of Personal Items
- General Property Maintenance and Repairs
- Demolition or removal of unsafe structures
- regaining and tidying property access areas (like roads, tracks or driveways)
- re-vegetation

Home Bushfire Recovery Program Summary		
Total no of Jobs Completed	No of jobs Unable to Assist	No of Jobs Outstanding
0	0	0



FIREFIGHTING TRAILER HIRE

Available for hire by members of the community to assist with protecting their home during fire season or for assisting with burning off.

The trailer consists of the following items for your use

1. Onga mini-blaze 25 Fire Pump
2. 3-meter hard suction hose
3. 600 litre water Tank
4. Shut off fire nozzle



NEW PROGRAMS AND SERVICES 2019 AND BEYOND

LANDCARE PROJECTS

The aim of our Landcare projects is to incorporate FIRE-RESISTANT Plants into any Landscaping or Community Garden's to assist in the development of fire resilient gardens and communities

1. FIRE WISE FARM Project that we will working on so that you too can also potentially use the concepts we do on your farm or in your own gardens at home.
2. We will also hopefully be able to post updates and images on a community sensory garden that we are assisting with, again this garden will include fire resistant plants and materials but in an inner-city environment.
3. We are excited to be a part of these community projects and to bring the concepts use to you.



NATIONAL ANIMAL DISASTER RELIEF



We hope to not only address the gap, but potentially reduce the Loss of lives to Stock and Domestic Animals through the establishment of a National Animal Disaster Relief Support Network/Service.

ESTABLISHMENT OF ANIMAL DISASTER RELIEF FOODBANKS
Dedicated Animal Disaster Relief Food Storage (Food Banks) that will encourage Community Engagement, Skill Building and Training, Social interaction and support for all Stakeholders and Cohorts. While many natural disasters cause great

financial hardship and can tragically result in loss of human life, animals are often forgotten in the chaos. Domesticated animals, dependent on human caretakers for survival, are often left to perish during these events. This loss of Domesticated Animals is preventable in many of these Disasters if food and water is provided quickly. This will reduce the loss and costs to the Communities affected.

ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY ANIMAL RELIEF TEAMS

Teams of Volunteers will work in our community supporting our local Emergency Service Agencies when there is a disaster such as storms and fires to provide support and assistance to members of the community who have animals on their properties or as pets. The teams will offer transport services of animals to help relocate them, before and after a disaster if required, they will also assist and deliver water and food supplies to animal owners that require this after a disaster to assist with the animal welfare on their properties. They will help animal owners to prepare their properties.

ANIMAL DISASTER RELIEF TRAINING FRAMEWORK

The Bushfire Foundation hopes to not only address these Gaps by partnering with appropriate RTOs and Training Providers and Organisations too design and develop Various levels of Training and Qualifications for the general community and more complex for volunteers and emergency service personnel or responders within government and private companies who may deal with or respond to manage Animals in the Aftermath of Disasters.

ADOPTION OF THE NATIONAL EQUINE DATABASE (N.E.D)

The community animal relief directory is part of our national animal disaster relief program. The purpose of the directory is so that we can develop a nationwide support network for animals in disasters. You can register to be listed on the directory as a community animal relief station by offering to make your property or surrounding areas available to take on and care for animals for a specified time during disaster we Transferred this to become the Community Animal Relief Directory (CARD)

OTHER INFORMATION

AWARDS

Our Foundation is Proud to have been awarded the following awards for recognition of our work in the community



2018 Community Innovators Awards

Winner Fire Safety Category

Nominees in

Resilient Australia Awards 2018

Victoria State - Community Group

2018 Regional Victoria Community Awards

Leadership and Innovation Award,
Community Group of the Year and
Environment and Sustainability

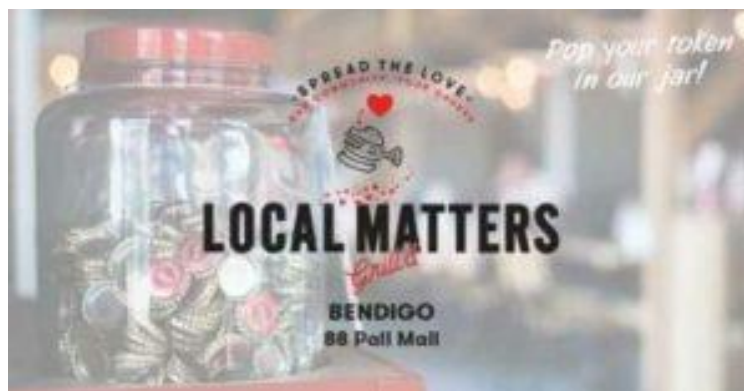
2018 Premier's Volunteer Champion Awards

Leadership and Innovation Award

GRANTS, FUNDING



2018 Community Grant Recipient



Winner of the Local Matters program

2018 DONORS





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