

# Fire Forum

FIRE will be the topic for a forum at Streatham on Wednesday September 10, covering all aspects of “Living with Fire in our Landscape.”

Speakers will include the noted fire ecologist Associate Professor Kevin Tolhurst. Tom McDonnell will give a first-hand account of the major fire that ravaged his north-eastern Victorian property and livestock last summer.

Voices of experience will be drawn on when a panel of regional speakers will provide insight into what has been learned during and after being burned out. Another panel will highlight a wide range of views about burning practices and policies in bush regions.

A session organised by the Westmere Group CFA will probe fire matters relevant to western Victoria, while Southern Farming Systems will focus on fire in relation to harvest and stubble.

Fire will be covered from all angles – managing fire on farms and roadsides, living with fire in our landscape, and informing ourselves about fire issues and policies – including ‘stay or go’, road blocks, burning policies on public land, community safety and preparations.

The forum will discuss planning and planting design to reduce fire risk around farms and homes. The GHCMA will provide useful material on the planning of streamside plantings and there will be useful fire equipment on display.

Event organisers are pleased to have notable speakers addressing and participating in this forum and believe the topics covered will be relevant to all living in the western Victorian landscape and beyond.

“While winter is in full swing it’s a good time to look at these issues to prepare ourselves for next fire season,” Bill Sharp, co-ordinator for the Beyond Bolac Catchment Action Group said.

The day is being organised by the Beyond Bolac Catchment Action Group, in partnership with the local CFA, Southern Farming Systems and Glenelg Hopkins CMA through the Regional Facilitator funded by the Federal Government.

The forum will be held at Streatham’s Fireworld centre beginning at 9.30am until mid-afternoon. Cost is \$5 and will include lunch.

**For catering purposes please contact Beyond Bolac  
billsharp2@bigpond.com or on mobile 0418542687.**