

# **Blue Mountains Gazette - Letters To The Editor**

26<sup>th</sup> January, 2011

## **Burning Issues**

In most years many Mountains people spend nervous summers under the threat of bushfire, particularly during the dry El Nino events. This year's rain has provided welcome relief, but it is well to be wary of complacency. In the short term, a week or so of hot, dry north westerlies can set up a time of high fire danger, and certainly provides plenty of fuel for the next summer. Furthermore, consensus environmental and climate science indicates a high probability of regular hot, dry summers ahead in our spectacular mountain home.

With this in mind, the Blue Mountains Conservation Society has arranged for its monthly presentation to be on the topic of "Living with Fire in the Mountains", given by the society's Bushfire Officer, Hugh Paterson. Hugh represents the Nature Conservation Council on the Blue Mountains Bushfire Management Committee, and is also Deputy Captain of the Valley Heights Rural Fire Brigade. Clearly he has abundant experience to underpin his presentation.

Hugh will discuss strategies that we can (and do) use to prepare ourselves, plus wider issues like the ever contentious hazard reduction burning. In this forum we look to discuss the facts behind HR burns in an unemotional and factual way.

This presentation, at The Conservation Hut (west end of Fletcher St, Wentworth Falls), will be given on this Friday, 28th January, starting at 7:30pm. Visitors are most welcome.

Peter Green

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Blue Mountains Conservation Society