

The Alternative Journal of the Rainbow Region



THE NIMBIN GOODTIMES

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BURN-OFF SEASON IS HERE

by Bob Dooley

With few being aware of their intentions, Ngulingah Aboriginal Land Council conducted a fuel reduction burn around Nimbin Rocks on the last Thursday of May.

Smoke from the cliffs above the Rocks, which could be seen for miles, raised concerns for the residents of Mountaintop as the fire crossed the Ngulingah boundary fences and was expected to burn for days.

Nimbin Rural Fire Brigade crews were up there extensively to ensure that there was no threat to any structure, but Deputy Captain Charlie Cohen said, "We had to do hours of chainsawing in a hurry, clearing alleged fire trails in order to be functional."

Land Council representatives were in attendance overnight and for the duration of the hazard reduction burns, which flared up spectacularly on the eastern side in a stiff breeze as night fell.

Fortunately the blazes were largely doused by a four-mil shower of rain later that evening.

Charlie Cohen said, "It's a good eye opener to you all: prepare for your own safety, be in charge of your own fuel."

"The weather is perfect for hazard reduction of every kind. Get off your ass and get busy. Don't whinge, talk to your neighbours and be effective together."

"Summer is not that far off - we have this opportunity where it is dry enough to slash or burn and set up for our collective safety."

It is a legal requirement to advise all adjoining neighbours 24 hours prior to lighting any fuel reduction burn and to contact the fire authority.

The NSW RFS Northern Rivers Zone phone number is 663-0000. Office hours are



Photo: Sue Stock

8.30am-5pm Monday to Friday.

RFS have launched a new website where you can check to see if your land is in a bushfire prone area and find information about building in a bushfire prone area: www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare

AND IN CANBERRA...

Read our contributors' views on a range of the issues in contention in the lead up to the Double Dissolution federal elections on Saturday 2nd July, when we vote for both houses of parliament, providing a rare opportunity for a thorough-going clear-out. See inside, pages 6-7, 12, and elsewhere.



KUDRA FALLA-RICKETTS FOR PAGE

"We need to protect our precious farmland, water and climate. Our region has a bright future in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture and tourism.

These industries create healthier and happier jobs that are sustainable. We need to take serious action on climate change today as a matter of urgency. Our region has a growing renewable energy industry that can provide jobs and local growth, but it is being held back by the major parties allegiance to fossil fuel money.

The corrupting influence of donations on our political system has to stop."

STAND UP FOR WHAT MATTERS - JOIN THE CAMPAIGN

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