

Your vegetation – what you need to know



Feedback Survey

Q9 - Please provide details of the most informative parts of the webinar

- 1 The complexity of fire risk and fire behavior. Simple ways to assess the flammability of different plants. The risks of plants close to dwelling walls.
- 2 Understanding the science behind what vegetation burns more readily than others. Images of house fires, examples where vegetation type played a part.
- 3 The mechanics of how fires spread. The knowledge that 90% of homes lost to bushfires did not experience fire fronts. So this means there is a lot that can be done to vegetation surrounding the house to mitigate damage from embers. Reduction of fuel load & choice of vegetation around the yard etc. It is really important to know that good garden design and good maintenance can reduce bushfire risk.
- 4 Kevin Tolhurst's presentation very easy to understand, great communication.
- 5 Hard to decide. I wanted to know what plants are fire resistant.
- 6 The different way the fire moves through the bush garden. My mulch is a no no.
- 7 Scientific, real life scenarios.
- 8 How to reduce flammability of vegetation.
- 9 Learning.
- 10 The concept of vertical & horizontal connectivity in the progression of fire which might have been obvious was elucidated. The vertical conductivity of tall trees & the removal of lower branches & litter at their base to reduced the potential of canopy fires. The need to be cautious in choice of plantings and/or the removal of fire promoting plants/trees/shrubs. The issues relating to bark & the info of bark promoting embers.
- 11 Community working together, this could be improved.
- 12 Vegetation types. Impacts of fire behavior. Planting bushfire safe gardens.
- 13 All informative. Learning about different vegetation in fire situations. How to best present property in the fire season for maximum safety.
- 14 Call to action question - what is the one thing you are doing to prepare. We are familiar with the material however will re read the documents referred to.
- 15 The action on suitable vegetation around a home and the spacing height.
- 16 Myth busting information.
- 17 Defining exactly what fine fuels are.
- 18 Depending on the type of tree some prevent fires, while others enhance them.

- 19 Clear about how a fire travels, the importance of clearance around homes and how woody mulch (which I love and have lots of) is very bad for producing embers!
- 20 Myths. Q+A's
- 21 Having words from professionals to validate observation and ideas for plans.
- 22 Concept of fuel connectivity.
- 23 Vegetation differences.
- 24 Discussion on exotic plants although limited was reassuring as an alternative to planting fuel.
- 25 Fire behavior, embers on the lee side. Plants and how to choose a fire resistant species. Vertical and horizontal fuel loads. Drs. Tolhurst and Leonard were direct and clear about fire hazards around the house.
- 26 Justin Leonard's practical on-ground experience shone through, and he seemed to have the whole picture, not just one area of research or specialty.
- 27 Practical ways to focus on what we need to look for and really interesting myth busting.
- 28 The horizontal separation was very helpful. Also the surface and near surface fuel and highlighting the fact that the ground clean up is so important. The impact of fire on windows and houses as per the photos was also very impressive.
- 29 Explanation of the behaviour of fires and the impact of mulch, bark and plants near and around the home.
- 30 I learnt not to have mulch too close to your home.
- 31 Care with respect to wood chip mulch. Flammability of 'brown' matter on trees such as pencil pines.
- 32 How to interrupt the continuity of the vegetation and reduce the risk of fire spreading quickly.
- 33 All the speakers provided useful and clear information.
- 34 Most houses do not burn down as a result of bushfire front radiant heat. The risk from embers on the leeward side.
- 35 Which fuels are the most critical to deal with before a fire season.
- 36 The lee side of the house is the more vulnerable than the side of the house facing the wind.
- 37 The guest speakers were good presenters, provided useful information.
- 38 I found the whole webinar informative.
- 39 Understanding more about how bushfires operate with plants and trees.
- 40 Plant species and how to check which ones may be good.
- 41 First talk on how fires spread vertically and horizontally.

- 42 Learning about the layout and fuel loads of different trees and shrubs.
- 43 Vegetation management.
- 44 Guess Speakers and Panel members of notable expertise and qualified to discuss topic.
- 45 As someone who for many years has worked in Community Engagement both prior to, and since retiring from CFA, I found it a fantastic way to reinforce my knowledge in this field from the horse's mouth. It was great to hear from people who are considered experts in the field and advice and produce the materials we use to educate the people in the community who are interested in their own safety.
- 46 Both presenters and input from panel guests.
- 47 The information about the better trees to plant. Also information about what the Surf Coast shire council actually do for their residents - AMAZING! LCC have a lot to learn from others.
- 48 The two presentations by Kevin & Justin - they are always informative and up to date!
- 49 Statistics were great. Knowing what plants to use around my property.
- 50 Horizontal and vertical separation.
- 51 I found all of the webinar informative.
- 52 Justin and David are experts. This clearly shows in their presentations and practical advice. The session last night explained not only the steps a land owner can take to reduce bushfire impact to their house and property, but importantly the detailed reasons why these steps are beneficial in mitigating bushfire impact.
- 53 I was particularly interested in the publications you can download to read more about suitable planting/landscape ideas.
- 54 Reinforced details of vegetation management and priorities for me.
- 55 Horizontal and vertical.
- 56 Kevin and Justin always impress.
- 57 The layout of vegetation within a garden & the impact of fire through vegetation. Will revisit the "Landscaping a garden" brochure & reconsider my position.
- 58 Looking inside shrubs to see dead/drying fuel load.
- 59 Kevin and Justin are so informative. Their information is clear and meaningful.
- 60 Referencing documents already available to the public from Surf Coast Council and CFA with specific plant recommendations and examples of landscaping suggestion for bushfire resilience.
- 61 Types of vegetation most/less likely to burn.
- 62 Learning how fire spreads and that planting fire resistant vegetation can actually help protect your property.
- 63 Both the presentations were, as usual, very informative and well-structured.

- 64 The notion of leaves are not the main problem, but part of the overall scene of being aware of how we all need to care for our surrounding environment.
- 65 I learned a little about how to identify which plants are more prone to spreading fire and which can suppress fire.
- 66 Checking the insides of plants for dead / dryness.
- 67 Overall very informative. Facts around vegetation, heat shielding in built up areas near vegetation blocks and ember spread mostly caused by bark.
- 68 It was all relevant. The ways you can slow the movement of fire through vegetation and particularly the management of the vegetation as it stands.
- 69 Behaviour of various species of trees and shrubs under fire conditions.
- 70 Info and clarification about fuel loads, types and stratification of vegetation.
- 71 So far only watched Dr Tolhurst. He is a legend, have followed his work.
- 72 Reminded me that I need to clean up surface fuel big time.
- 73 Good practical advice that made sense. Thank you.
- 74 Don't try and escape from fire unless vegetation is fire safe.
- 75 I found it all very informative.
- 76 Types of plants suitable for hilly countryside, and ways to manage surrounding areas of our house.
- 77 Practical tips and reasons for them.
- 78 This should be a compulsory subject in primary school and in high school for bushfire prone areas. This is absolutely vital information. I am so grateful that everyone of you working on this webinar series are dedicated to educate others (me included) in this lifesaving and asset saving information. Thank you.
- 79 All of it. The two presenters were extremely knowledgeable and also good communicators.
- 80 As I am a Bushfire Ready Facilitator for our volunteer bushfire brigade I am familiar with what was talked about. However, some snippets from myths and the Q & A I will use when talking about this topic with the general public.
- 81 Removing dead wood, putting steel panels in hedges to break them up. That bark is an issue next to a house without plants & bushes & lots of other bits & pieces.
- 82 Ember behaviour, tree oil level relevance, exotic trees being preferred nearby houses. Lots of great stuff.
- 83 How to test as to the flammability of plants and seeing the photos. Really enjoyed it, it was very informative. Thank you.
- 84 Trees are not as big a bushfire threat (even protective) vs lower lying shrubs, and plants lower down with high dead:live load, or high oils/volatiles content. Embers attack on lee-side of wind/fire front 90% houses burnt down from ember attack were not near the fire front Oak trees can be protective.

- 85 Surface fuel, including breaking the horizontal continuity of a bushfire, surface fuel close to house such as mulch,
- 86 All very informative but the discussion about connectivity between layers and the discussion of the makeup and directionality of ember attacks gave me lots to think about.
- 87 Justin's account of the link between vegetation ignition and house loss.
- 88 Hard to prioritize as it was all very relevant.
- 89 Information about the linking of vegetation both horizontally and vertically.
- 90 That any fuel within 2m of your property could be a threat to the integrity of your property. The second point was the community aspect given that it is also important what your neighbour 200m away is doing regarding fuel reduction.
- 91 All of it.
- 92 Seeing the photos of how vegetation burnt next to house.
- 93 All was excellent. Also I am going back to view recordings of last year's sessions.
- 94 Much of it was just a revision of what I already knew, but I had not heard about crushing and smelling leaves to get an idea of their flammability before. Re last year's seminars. They were mostly a revision, and confirmed the things that I always do pre-summer were useful things to do.
- 95 How to make landscaping decisions to reduce fire load.
- 96 Understanding how fire moves and prioritizing both short term jobs and long term planning around garden design.
- 97 Reducing fuel load.
- 98 Plant types.
- 99 Theory from Justin and Kevin was good. Confirmed thoughts we had come to and helped confirm instincts.
- 100 Clearing vegetation. Removing bark or mulch near house.
- 101 Presentations by Kevin Tolhurst and Justin Leonard were excellent along with responses to the two polls and questions.
- 102 The information about connectivity and ways to break connectivity - vertically and horizontally.
- 103 Both Kevin and Justin were terrific presenters once again. I really got a lot out of Justin's myth-busting and also the diagram (especially) of Kevin's fuel examples. Easy to understand.
- 104 Horizontal and vertical connectivity and examples of high and low risk vegetation. The two questions helped me determine what I should do next. Thanks.
- 105 General understanding of fuel and considerations of what can be done to manage exposure. The myths section was very educational.

- 106 Different garden people say different things re fire retardant plants. It is a very big job making the garden as safe as possible. Thank you for providing some guidance.
- 107 The vertical and horizontal distances between fuel loads.
- 108 Garden design and property design and distance between different elements.
- 109 Explaining the factors involved in generating fires and the different aspects of vegetation that are relevant.
- 110 Practical ideas that anyone can undertake.
- 111 As a new resident of a high fire risk area I found all of the information useful, presented at a suitable pace and level, thought provoking and practical. Really well done.
- 112 Dead material within plants.
- 113 Nature of fire behavior and applying characteristics of vegetation to decision-making.
- 114 Informative hearing from experts.
- 115 Uncertainty surrounding leave early option.
- 116 Vegetation around the house, height and type.