

PUBLIC MEETING

Dynamic Bushfire Behaviour on Canberra's Western Edge

Thursday 27 September 2018 at 7 pm

Flynn Community Hub Hall, 21 Bingle Street, Flynn
(parking accessed off Hedland Circuit)



Modelled ember load in the proposed Ginninderry development area was found to be 15 -115 times that of the 2015 Hastings Bushfire on the Mornington Peninsular where 32 houses were damaged all due to ember attack (Roberts, Sharples and Rawlinson 2017).

Speaker: Associate Professor Jason Sharples

Jason is Associate Professor of Applied Mathematics at the University of New South Wales, where he works on various aspects of extreme and dynamic bushfire propagation, the development of large conflagrations and bushfire risk management. He is also a volunteer firefighter.

On 18 January 2003, four lives were lost, 490 people were injured and 500 houses were destroyed by bushfire in the Canberra suburbs of Duffy and Chapman. Others suffered PTSD for years after. At the time, a number of unusual fires were observed in which bushfire spread sideways across the wind direction and was accompanied by rapid and intense downwind fire spread caused by embers. Since these fires, much research has been conducted to understand why some fires turn into firestorms with vastly different behaviour from ordinary grassfires. Firestorm events consistently cause the greatest wildfire damage and pose an increasing challenge worldwide.

The Association's Annual General Meeting will be held before the talk, 6.30 pm in the same venue.