

NOTICE BOARD

Mount Buninyong planned burn preparation works underway

Preparation is underway for a planned burn on Mount Buninyong, scheduled for late August 2018, weather permitting.

This 3.7ha burn at the top of the mountain will provide asset protection for the fire lookout and telecommunications towers used by Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic), Victoria Police, Ambulance Victoria, SES, CFA and Telstra.

FFMVic Midlands District Manager, Jasmine Filmer said from previous fire experiences, the consequence of a fire at Mount Buninyong would be severe.

“In 2013 lightning started a fire at the base of Mount Warrenheip that burnt at high intensity up the mountain covering a significant percentage of the reserve and damaging radio and power infrastructure,” Ms Filmer said.

“The planned burn at Mount Buninyong will be at much lower intensity than a bushfire and will introduce fire into the landscape in a controlled manner.

“For the Mount Buninyong planned burn, initial candling will be undertaken to reduce bark hazard in late winter, before returning to treat remaining ground fuels in late autumn 2019.

“Candling has a beneficial effect, helping to protect trees in a future fire or planned burn. Trees with hollows are avoided to preserve habitat for wildlife.

“FFMVic carries out planned burning where and when it will achieve the greatest impact on reducing risk of bushfire for communities and the environment, which is guided by our understanding of bushfire risk, and informed by local knowledge, science and our bushfire modelling technology.

“Our fire crews follow careful processes before, during and after a burn to make sure it is kept safe and controlled.”

Weather conditions are assessed and monitored, control lines and contingency areas are prepared, traffic control is put in place and fire crews monitor the area for several days after ignition to put out or remove smouldering material.

Road and track access to Mt Buninyong summit will be restricted during planned burn activities.

Smoke from this planned burn will be visible from Ballarat and surrounds, and may affect people's health, particularly those with heart or lung conditions, including asthma.

People experiencing symptoms that may be due to smoke exposure should seek medical advice or call NURSE-ON-CALL on 1300 60 60 24.