

## **AFA AGM**

### **Venue:**

*Brian & Marilyn Clarke's*

*"Jilambra" Moruya*

**Date:** 30<sup>th</sup> May 2009

**Time:** 10.00 am Meeting followed  
by Lunch @ 12.30pm

**Cost:** Gold Coin donation

**Menu:** Sausage sizzle

**RSVP:** 23<sup>d</sup> May 2009

**Phone:** 48428047



**All welcome, bring a friend or two!**

Directions: Turn right at roundabout in Moruya, travel approximately 3km on Araluen Rd turn left into Womban Rd, go approx 600metres to number 30 on left hand side of road.

### **Future dates for 2009 AFA meetings:**

30<sup>th</sup> May - AGM – venue Brian & Marilyn Clarkes home

29<sup>th</sup> August – Venue to be set at AGM

28<sup>th</sup> November – Xmas Meeting. Venue not yet arranged

### **COMMITTEE CONTACTS**

Access for All Fax/ Answering 02 48428002

Chairman: Garry Gowen 0416268964

Secretary: Joan Webb 48428047

Treasurer: Terry Hart 48422710

Asst. Treas. & M/ship recorder:

Jeanette Hindmarsh 48471115

Vice Chairmans:

Brian Clarke, Peter Kneen & Liz Innes

Publicity & Website Officer:

Peter Kneen

### **AFA Address:**

ACCESS FOR ALL INC.

LOCKED BAG 10

BRAIDWOOD NSW 2622

**Website : (updated December '08)**

# ***ACCESS FOR ALL*** ***NEWSLETTER***



EDITION NO. 9:15

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## FROM THE COMMITTEE

It would be inappropriate for the committee to commence this newsletter without mention of all those involved in the tragedy resulting from the devastating bushfires in Victoria. To families that have lost loved ones, to those that have lost everything they own, to the rural fire fighters & all the volunteers, our thoughts are with you all.

Xmas has come & gone, already it is February, and by the time this newsletter reaches you all it will almost be March! Time is moving along quickly, so quickly that our usual January newsletter was unable to be completed in time. At the January meeting the committee has voted on having only three newsletters a year, this will also help with reducing AFA costs associated with postage etc. Hopefully you have an AFA bumper sticker with this newsletter. Think carefully where this sticker would best advertise AFA.....this does not include police cars!

Calendars for 2009 sold well again for us. Preparation for this calendar is time consuming and our thanks to Margot Waddell for her efforts again this year. There are a small number still available. The cost has been reduced to \$5.00. So contact any AFA committee member if you are able to assist with relieving us of the remaining few.

Publicity Officer's Report - AFA is currently reviewing their brochure; all members with suggestions on format, content etc are encouraged to participate. Once completed, all members will be issued with the new brochure, brochures will also be available for distribution on request.

A reminder to members that the regularly updated AFA website has useful links for its members. Some of these links include National Parks & Wildlife Service, NSW Horse Alliance, and Department of Environment & Conservation. Contact a committee member if you have a link that maybe useful or if you have photos that

would be of interest. eg 4WD information, photos of camping groups events etc.

Note: Links, photographs & other requests can be added on approval of the AFA committee. AFA is a non-political organization & the committee have control of which content is included in AFA Newsletters, brochures & website.

## WHAT ELSE SHOULD YOU KNOW?

The Victorian catastrophe enhances AFA member's frustration that the nation's worst natural disaster continues to highlight the debate about to burn or not to burn our National Parks, wilderness & nature reserve areas. Again we will read about yet another Colonial Coroner Inquiry. Again there will be millions of tax payers dollars spent on endless advice sought from "experts", reams & reams of paper used to publish recommendations. It is a travesty of justice that colonial enquires get caught up with the meaning of what a word means. The energy put into the definition of what a word means eg "cause" or "origin" by the coroner only blurs courts & government boundaries of responsibility.

Again, public confidence in the ability of coroners to dispense justice in a fair & impartial manner is largely dependent upon continuing recognition of the coroner's independence. The bias of a coroner should be avoided by knowledge of all affiliations the coroner may have connected to the investigation; this includes private memberships of organizations that may have influence over decision makers.

Browsing through the AFA link to the previous Victorian & ACT bushfire enquiries and the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) recommendations, nothing except for the easier recommendations have changed. All suggest that the responsibility be shared between communities & fire agencies, all recommend backburns so fuel load

management will minimize risk of firestorms, all recommend research into indigenous traditional burning practices yet none have taken on the responsibility of leadership to initiate more aggressive back burning of our National Parks in their Fire Management Plans.

Research into back burning has been going on for longer than any research project most of us are aware of! Unfortunately the research into the long term impacts of firestorms on people & their community will identify the lasting legacy of our authority's inability to take leadership, make hard decisions, act decisively & control organizations that simply do not want the responsibility that goes with their mandate of forbidding access to our vast areas of bush.

## ***REMINDERS***



**Please make sure when renewing memberships, or changing details let us know the correct mailing address. Also let us know your email address.**

### ***AFA MEMBERSHIP***

Family \$20.00, Single \$10, Pensioner \$5

and Corporations \$100. (Memberships are due at end of each financial year)

Thank you to all our members for your ongoing support. 2008-2009 Membership numbers are remaining consistent. Some 450 members support the ongoing costs associated with AFA (stationary, fax/phone, postage). Included with this newsletter are your stickers also your membership fees will allow us to update the AFA brochure this year.