

DRANZSEN Victoria Forum

Wednesday 30 August 2017

AFAC, Level 1, 340 Albert Street, East Melbourne

Key Notes

Attendees: Dr Briony Towers (RMIT), Melissa Laird (Life Saving Victoria), Emily Dunstan (Save the Children), Jennie Schoof (Yarra Ranges, Knox and Maroondah Councils), Steve Cameron (EMV), Michelle Roberts (DET, Victoria), Scott Angove (Ambulance Victoria), Jacqui Douglas (AIDR), Phil Byers (Emerald Community House), Susan Davie (SES), Phil Hawkey (CFA), Luke Roy (CFA), Robyn Molyneaux (University of Melbourne), Brett Ellis (EMV), Elissa Bourne (CFA), Lynn White (freelance publisher), Katitza Marinkovic (University of Melbourne), Amanda Leck (AIDR), Liz Tomazic (AIDR)

Apologies: Allie Guegan (City of Frankston), Matt Henry (CFA), Lisa Gibbs (University of Melbourne), Kathy Overton (DELWP), Anthea Rees (APS), Scot Walker (SES), Peter Roberts (ISV), Marie Tanner (Ambulance Victoria), Linda Anderson-Berry (BOM), Rupert North (Yarra City Council)

1. Presentation

Liz Tomazic, AIDR - *Report on state/territory DRANZSEN forums, May 2017*

Liz provided an update on state/territory DRANZSEN forums held throughout Australia in May 2017, which included an overview of the outcomes identifying opportunities for collaboration or interaction between groups/nationally. See Appendix 1 for detailed Report.

2. Presentation

Katitza Marinkovic, PhD student, Melbourne University (supervisor Assoc Prof Lisa Gibbs) - *Research project*

Kati spoke about her research which explores children's participation as agents of change in their communities and beyond. She is currently investigating the potential benefits of connecting groups of children from diverse communities to work together on generating ideas and actions for DRR. Kati is developing a pilot project which connects a group of children in Chile with children from Anglesea through sharing videos of their work and lives. Kati shared a sub-titled video created by students at the Altazol de Maipo School, Chile (Team 'The Voice') about what to do if an earthquake strikes (a local hazard). The students' film and Kati's PowerPoint slides are available for viewing on Education for Young People website <https://schools.aidr.org.au/>.

3. Presentation

Dixons Creek Primary School Grade 5 and 6 students and Jennie Schoof, Yarra Ranges Emergency Management Project Coordinator - *Youth Firestick initiative*

Twenty Dixons Creek Primary School senior students, along with their teacher Kylie Schabel and Jennie Schoof, provided a summary of their involvement in the *Youth Firestick* project. As part of the program, an Aboriginal elder, Uncle Dave Wandin, takes the students through the local bush. He educates them about how Indigenous people use fire to keep the land healthy and to prevent large wildfires. Jennie presented a highly detailed presentation of the students' *Firestick* learning journey and this is available on AIDR's new Education for Young People website <https://schools.aidr.org.au/>.

The subscription-based children's newspaper, *Crinkling News*, published a feature story on the students' project in the 12 September 2017 issue as follows:

*Students from one of Victoria's bushfire-prone areas are learning the way of the firestick, writes **Heather Zubek**.*



*Dixons Creek Primary School students Connor Fallon and Chloe Morris have been learning about disaster resilience.
Photo: Kylie Schabel*

CONNOR Fallon was only four when the Black Saturday fires destroyed his home in 2009, but he remembers how anxious he felt. And this feeling returns whenever hot dry winds blow over his home back in Steels Creek, north of Melbourne in Victoria.

“When we go back to our houses on a 40-degree day we definitely start to worry a little bit more,” he says.

Return of the firestick

Connor is now 12 and is one of the students from Dixon Creek Primary School who are taking part in a program called “The Return of the Firestick”.

With other Year 5 and 6 students, Connor talked about the program to a group that met to talk about disaster resilience education on August 30 in Melbourne.

‘A sad time’

“In February 2009 the Black Saturday bushfires swept through our local area,” Connor said. “Curtis, Cobie and I all lost our homes. It was a sad time.

“It is very important to us that we manage the environment going forward.”



Students from Dixons Creek Primary School listen to speakers at a disaster resilience forum in August, 2017. Photo: Hansika Bhagani

The Return of the Firestick program teaches young people about how Indigenous Australians manage fire.

“We have learnt that not all fires are bad and that bad fires have black smoke,” said Chloe Morris, 10, whose family also lost their home on Black Saturday.

Healthy flames

As part of the program, an Aboriginal elder, Uncle Dave Wandin, takes the kids through the local bush. He tells them how Indigenous people use fire to keep the land healthy and prevent large wildfires.

“What the students were told by Uncle Dave had to be translated into drawings and stories,” says a teacher, Kylie Schabel.

This work by the students will be published in a book by the end of the year.

Wisdom of the ages

“We learnt that the importance of the right type of fire for the right type of country is the way that Indigenous people look after the environment,” says Connor. “This is firestick knowledge.”

4. Other business

- **DRANZSEN film**

Today's forum was filmed by Phil Byers and footage will be used to produce promotional material for anyone interested in the DRANZSEN initiative. Thank you Phil!

- **2nd National DRANZSEN Forum, Sydney**

This event takes place in Sydney as part of the AFAC17 Professional Development program. It is free to attend; an interesting program of speakers is provided; and lunch and refreshments are included. Online registration may be completed at <https://afac.hannoverfairs.com.au>. Numbers limited.

- **Future DRANZSEN forum calendar dates**

Dates for Victorian and other state/territory 2018 forums, including the 3rd National DRANZSEN Forum, will be provided.

Forum concluded with lunch at 12.35pm.