

## Hotspots Information Session

<https://hotspotsfireproject.org.au/>



*What members said, 'great workshop, bring on the rest', 'fantastic day', 'really good day to build momentum around caring for country for all of us', 'looking forward to the workshops', 'most informative and interesting'.*

On the 16<sup>th</sup> November, 25 members attended the Hotspots Fire Project Information Session along with representatives from the Lower North Coast Rural Fire Service, Macleay Landcare, Local Land Services, Kempsey Shire Council and National Parks and Wildlife Service. Representatives provided an overview of their role and how they could connect with the co-op.

Hotspots presenters, Jamie Bertram (RFS Community Protection Planning & Neighbourhood Safer Places Coordinator) and Kevin Taylor (Nature Conservation Council NSW ecologist) provided an overview of the Hotspots Project and details of the 2 day training program on offer.

The program is conducted over two days held approximately one month apart, and would assist the co-op in managing fire for the protection of life and property, while at the same time ensuring healthy, productive landscapes in which biodiversity is protected and maintained.

Prior to conducting the training program Jamie and Kevin plan to visit the co-op to complete a 'scoping exercise' of the property.

On day one we watch a powerpoint presentation and then visit field sites to discuss fire ecology, history and management. One of the sites visited will be a potential demonstration burn-site. A detailed ecological site story outlining flora, fauna, cultural values and fire history will have been prepared in advance by Kevin, the ecologist. It is anticipated we will be provided with 3 to 5 fire management plan maps covering the 1600 acres. Groups are guided in marking the infrastructure, water, fire history, vegetation types, goals and objectives on the maps. A folder containing resources is provided to accompany each of the maps.

On the morning of the second day, completed fire management plan maps are reviewed, and then we drive/walk to the identified demonstration burn site and conduct a risk assessment. Tools for assessing weather, fuel loads and topography are demonstrated and discussed in advance of the burn. In the afternoon, weather permitting, we observe and conduct a planned burn.

The aim is to hold the training days next Autumn. Dates will be made available in the near future enabling members plenty of time to plan ahead as the training days will be held on a weekday, and not on the weekend.

*Denise*