



## THE 2023 BROKERS CONFERENCE

27th-29th August — Hobart, Tasmania.

Brokers and insurers from across Australia gathered for the event, in picturesque and historic Hobart, Tasmania. It provided our MGA brokers with a valuable chance to learn, exchange experiences and interact in person with numerous insurers and underwriting agencies. Our guest speakers were both insightful and inspiring, leaving everyone with valuable knowledge to utilise and/or reflect on. The conference wrapped up with a Gala Dinner with a Winter Wonderland theme.

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- Bushfire Threat Builds
- MGA Milestones
- Back to Base
- Tim Hardy - Champion
- Grand Final BBQ Campaign



### ALANA BROWN DARWIN OFFICE

MGA are proud to acknowledge Alana Brown announced as Broker of the Year at the Northern Territory Insurance Conference Awards.

This award is given to a broking professional who has demonstrated exceptional service within the industry.

**Congratulations Alana!**







# You have been warned! BUSHFIRE THREAT BUILDS AS FORECAST WORSENS

SOURCE: [insuranceNEWS.com.au](https://www.insuranceNEWS.com.au)

**Australian home and business owners – and their brokers – should be well aware of the potential bushfire threat this spring and summer, but a new report from an insurer shows misunderstandings about the risks are still rife.**

We only have to look overseas to witness what could be coming our way – unprecedented, uncontrollable fires in Canada, a terrible death toll in Hawaii, and holidaymakers running for their lives in Rhodes.

Australia has just recorded its warmest winter since at least 1910, and the Bureau of Meteorology last week warned this spring will likely be marked by low rainfall and high temperatures.

Bureau Climate Services Manager Karl Braganza says unusually warm days are likely, especially for WA and parts of the south-east, and many areas have an increased chance of an unusually dry spring.

These predictions worsen the outlook for the upcoming bushfire season – with concerns already high as the country is on El Nino alert. The weather system, driven by conditions in the tropical Pacific, usually leads to less rainfall across parts of Australia.

Other nations have already declared an El Nino, and the bureau still expects to. But whether conditions meet its particular thresholds isn't crucial – the precursors to a bad bushfire season are already there.

Climate models also show a positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) event is likely to form during spring.

"This increases our chances of below average rainfall for much of south-eastern and central Australia," bureau Senior Climatologist Catherine Ganter said.

***"If a positive IOD occurs with an El Nino, the drying effect is typically stronger and more widespread across Australia, compared to either event by themselves."***

Global sea surface temperatures have been the highest on record in recent months, which only adds to the problem.

As previously reported by Insurance NEWS.com.au, the Australasian Fire Authorities Council warns that an earlier start to the high risk fire season is expected, with increased risk in parts of NSW, Victoria, Queensland, SA and the NT.

"The recent wildfires in Canada and Hawaii underscore risks that Australians are familiar with, in particular the catastrophic potential of fires that can occur near urban areas during periods

of low rainfall," Dr Braganza said.

But a new report from Suncorp questions just how familiar Australians are with true scale of the threat.

The research released today, which polled 1000 people across the country, found:

- 55% of survey participants don't know that rivers, creeks or roads cannot stop the path of a very intense bushfire. This was 46% in regional locations
- 55% of Australians don't know that the front of the fire is the most dangerous part
- 26% don't know that embers can travel up to 40km during a very intense bushfire
- 16% of Australians have no idea that a house can catch fire from embers well ahead of the fire front
- 31% of Australians don't know that lightning is one of the most common causes of bushfires in Australia
- the event of a bushfire, 42% incorrectly assume it is safe to remain at their property unless advised otherwise by Emergency Services.

Suncorp says it has used claims and climate data to develop a “sophisticated view” of Australian bushfire risk – and for some areas it doesn’t look good.

“Tragically, we expect those regions that have high risk now will only become worse as the world becomes warmer,” Suncorp Insurance Climatologist Rhys Whitley said.

“This trend is particularly evident for much of southern Queensland where fire-weather conditions are becoming more severe and emerging more frequently.

“As we look into the future, catastrophic bushfires will be an ever-present danger, and so monitoring of conditions (including fire weather, fuel loads) and extensive planning (i.e. property development, evacuation of communities and fire-fighting resources) is something we consider as a high priority.”



## MILESTONES

MGA is proud to acknowledge and congratulate the following individuals for their remarkable achievements of service for 20+ years!



Deb Rudd



Garth Hannaford  
Kathryn Hannaford  
Kerrie Baldwin  
Chris Grant  
Rebekah Munn



Geoff Lawrie  
Pat Warren  
Cathy Piper



David Guidera  
Paul Daly

**CONGRATULATIONS!**



Geoff Lawrie



L-R Ben Will, Deb Rudd, Emma Reichstein and Matthew Hutchinson





## TIM HARDY

### CANBERRA OFFICE - HOCKEY AUSTRALIA COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Tim Hardy recently played in the Hockey Australia Country Championships for NSW Country.

The event took place in Shepparton, Victoria. NSW Country had a strong start securing victories in all their rounds during the tournament. Despite having numerous opportunities, it just wasn't NSW's day, and they ended up losing 4-2.

After the tournament, an Australian Country team was announced, and Tim was fortunate to be selected. He will be travelling to New Zealand to participate in a series of international matches at the end of the year.



## BACK TO BASE SEPTEMBER 2023

18th & 19th of September, we hosted our final Back to Base program for 2023. It provided a fantastic opportunity for our delegates, who wholeheartedly embraced the program with enthusiasm and a keen mindset to absorb as much knowledge as possible over the course of the two days.

## MGA WHITTLES COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AFL/NRL GRANDFINAL BBQ CAMPAIGN

On the 29th September 2023, the Foundation organised a Grand Final fundraiser in aid of MND South Australia and NT/NSW.

Many people arrived dressed in their team colours and enthusiastically participated in games, raffles and office sweeps. The Adelaide Crows Football Club, MTX Club (Adelaide Oval) and Haigh's kindly donated prizes for our raffle, which was a great success.

**A total of \$4250 was donated to MND.**



## GALA DINNER

At our recent Brokers Conference Gala Dinner, MGA successfully raised \$31,000 in aid of AllKids.

"A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the brokers, insurer partners and the AUB Group for their generous contributions." Paul Otto - AllKids Country Manager.