

# Presentation by Dave Luxton

1980-94 District Inspector Charters Towers

1994-2000 Senior /Regional Inspector North

2000-2005 Assistant Commissioner Rural Operations QFRS

Retired September 2005

Dave Luxton

# THE ISSUES

**THEN :- Issues presented to the North Australian Fire management Workshop convened by the Tropical Savannas Co-operative Research Centre (CRC) in Darwin in 1998**

**NOW :- Are these issues still relevant ?**

**If so, have they been resolved ?**

**To what extent, and are they still useful as a frame of reference relative to the future direction of fire management in Northern Australia?**



# THEN

## PUBLIC SAFETY



- **Legislated responsibility.**
- **Political realities if not addressed and impact on ability to use fire as a management tool.**
- **Common Law Implications.**

## SMOKE MANAGEMENT

- **Single most critical factor to be addressed.**
- **Perceptions vs Realities.**
- **Public safety/environmental responsibility vs expediency.**

# ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

- **Biodiversity.**
- **Maintenance of habitat.**
- **Need for(w)holistic\*approach.**

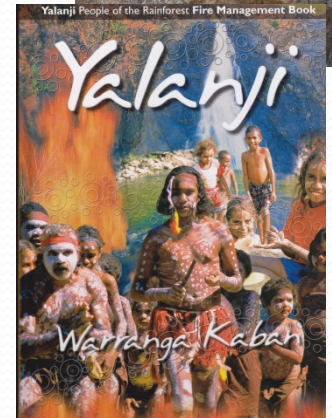
## LAND MANAGEMENT

- **Woody weeds.**
- **Fire as part of rural production systems.**

## ABORIGINAL/INDIGENOUS BURNING

- **Definition.**
- **Need for collaborative consultative approach.**

\* **holism = wholism** the philosophical theory that wholes ( which are more than the mere sums of their parts ) are fundamental aspects of the real. [ coined in the 1920s by Jan Smuts S. African politician ]



# COMPETENCY OF FIRE PRACTITIONERS

- **Diminishing skills base.**
- **Concentration on skills associated with suppression.**
- **Need for development and definition of competencies relevant to fire management in Northern Australia.**
- **Need for strategic alliances and focus.**



# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



- **Awareness and education.**
- **Political outcomes. ( Influencing Policy Development )**

## BEST PRACTICE

- **Imperative that it be developed.**
- **Scientific basis, relevance and applicability as well as monitoring**
- **Proactive integrated approach.**

## COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP

- **Facilitation, co-ordination, extension and training.**
- **Volunteer management.**

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# **Purpose of NAFMG:-**

- **Access relevant, up-to date research outcomes ;**
- **Share information across jurisdictions and between agencies ;**
- **Identify issues of mutual importance and interest and, where appropriate, to act collectively on those issues. Such issues include national policy, research priorities, training and equipment;**
- **Promote the understanding of fire in Northern Australia, and the role that fire plays in achieving land management objectives.**





# **Objective of NAFMG:**

**To identify, develop and promote best – practice fire management tailored to the needs of northern Australian Communities and environments.**



**NOW**

**How relevant is all this in today's world and is it of value in assisting to achieve the required outcomes for NAFM Group?**



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# **Knowledge and Skills Transfer**

**Facilitation**

**Co-ordination**

**Extension**

**Training**

# FACILITATION

**An action or process to make (something) easier or less difficult.**

**Assisting others to learn by adopting an approach in which participants are actively engaging in the process of discovery rather than being passive recipients of information.**

# CO-ORDINATION


**Due ordering or proper relation.  
( In order to bring about)  
Harmonious combination.**

# EXTENSION

**Course, lecture or service etc which is outside the normal function of an organisation *e.g, extension services offered by Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to rural producers.***

# TRAINING

**The development in oneself or another of certain skills, habits and attitudes.**



Is there a role for story  
telling similar to that  
which existed in many  
indigenous cultures as a  
way of developing  
appropriate narratives



**Quote from Dr John Woinarski one of the participants in the 1998 workshop** *“ I’d labour you with an analogy, I love analogies – I’m really crook, I go to hospital for a CAT scan, they do a CAT scan, they come up with a beautiful picture of the insides of me, I go home to the missus and she says to me “how did you get on at the hospital ? ” and I produce this marvellous picture but I’m no better. The point is , I think , that we have destroyed the library which said what normal was and I fear that we have in some penny pinching government way, got rid of the medical specialist who will be able to tell us what you do about it, what the consequences are. “ unquote”.* *Dr John Woinarski National Parks and Wildlife Commission NT from a presentation to the 1998 Fire Management in Northern Australia Workshop – Darwin.*

# Thank You

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