

Victoria University and the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC have great pleasure in inviting you to
Understanding our values at risk and risk ownership workshop

Date and time: 27 August, 10.00am – 5.00pm

Venue: The Mountain Ash Room, NSW Rural Fire Services State Headquarters, 15 Carter Street Lidcombe, Sydney

RSVP by 14th of August to Vaia Smirneos email: vaia.smirneos@bnhrc.com.au



"Value is not a logical process because value is not just about what something costs, it is about what we as individuals and communities hold as precious to us."

Participant 'Beyond the Mean' Workshop 2012

Values underpin the foundations of decision making, shaping the choices we make. Yet often they only become visible when they are lost. They can be social, environmental or economic and can be measured as tangible (monetary) or intangible (non-monetary). To date there has been little clarity as to the worth of different types of values and the role that they play in decision making. Preventing future loss of values and the associated costs from uncertain but potentially severe natural hazard events can be difficult but is necessary in order to make the case for investment. It is also important for understanding more fully the implications of the trade-offs associated with different mitigation options to improve strategic decision making.

Values affected by natural hazards exist within a system that links people with their environment. Damage to one value can impact on another. For example, extensive wildfire damage to a forest in a tourist area is likely to directly affect the local community and economy. The increasing intensity of some natural hazards and changing demographics is placing many of these values at greater risk. This is driving the need to better understand which values are most vulnerable; also to identify who has ownership of these values and the risks that threaten them to ensure effective management.

This series of workshops are part of the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC project *Mapping and understanding bushfire and natural hazard vulnerability and risks at the institutional scale* that aims to develop:

- An economic geography of values at risk.
- A framework to assist development of governance around risk ownership.

The purpose of this workshop is to explore how values and risk ownership currently inform decision making through a series of structured exercises. We will also be testing aspects of the newly developed draft values-at-risk map to ascertain gaps in the values currently represented and explore risk ownership at an institutional level.

Key questions for these workshops are:

- How are the values at risk represented in the draft maps currently understood? What other values should be represented in the geography and how?
- What types of decision-making structures apply values at risk in strategic planning of natural hazard risk management?
- What are the current strengths and gaps in risk ownership at an institutional level?

For any inquiries please contact Celeste Young, phone: 03 9919 1347 or email: celeste.young@vu.edu.au

Understanding values at risk and risk ownership with natural hazards workshop
Draft Workshop Agenda
Date and time: 27st of August, 10.00 - 5.00pm
Venue: The Mountain Ash Room, NSW Rural Fire Services State Headquarters,
15 Carter Street, Lidcombe, Sydney

9.30am	Registration
10.00 am	Workshop introduction
10.10am	Welcome
10.20	Stakeholder overview
10.30am	Project overview
10.45 am	Values at risk and risk ownership presentation
11.15 am	Group activity and discussion
11.40	Morning tea
12.00am	Exercise 1 Values at risk mapping exercise, gaps and understandings
1.15pm	Lunch break
2.00pm	Feedback from groups
2.15 pm	Exercise 2 Risk Ownership allocation and interactions
3.30	Afternoon tea
3.50	Exercise 3 Needs, barriers and opportunities
4.30pm	Observations
4.50	Workshop Summary
5.00pm	Close

Facilitators

Professor Roger Jones is a Professorial Research Fellow at the Victoria Institute of Strategic Economic Studies (VISES) at Victoria University, Melbourne. He applies a transdisciplinary approach to understanding and managing climate change risk that bridges science, economics and policy, and is building a portfolio of research on the economics of green infrastructure. He previously worked for Australia's CSIRO for 13 years, developing methods for climate risk assessment. Qualified in earth science, he has since worked on urban ecology, been a museum curator and technical essayist, public radio host and researcher working on past, present and future climates and their impacts.

Roger's methods for assessing climate risk have been used widely in Australia and internationally. He was Coordinating Lead Author on the chapter *Foundations of Decision Making* in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Working Group II Fifth Assessment Report, released earlier this year. He was also Coordinating Lead Author on the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report and a lead author on the Third Assessment Report. In 2005, he was awarded with the Burtoni Award, for Adaptation Research by Ian Burton, the first recipient of the eponymous award. He has published over 50 chapters and refereed papers in a total of over 140 publications.

Dr John Symons is a Research Fellow at the Victorian Institute of Strategic Economic Studies, Victoria University. He has worked extensively in the area of sustainability and climate change. John was originally trained as a scientist and subsequent qualifications in environmental planning and environmental economics where his PhD examined the business case for voluntary emissions reductions using robust optimisation mathematical modeling techniques. He has worked on projects with Professor Peter Sheehan for the CRC for Rail Innovation examining the role rail can play in the transition to a low carbon economy. This work also included examination of the environmental and social externalities of different transport modes.

Prior to working in his current role, John worked extensively in the sustainability and education areas. He has worked as a practitioner and consultant for the Sydney Olympic Coordination Authority and ARUP engineering in the sustainable development of their projects. He has also worked in the areas of strategic development for planning consultants in the delivery of sustainable cities and suburbs. John also has extensive experience with local government and schools in the UK with the Environmental Actions Plans for Schools project in the London Borough of Barnet. John also has wide-ranging experience in education, training and communication experience in Sydney, London and Melbourne.

Celeste Young is a Collaborative Research Fellow at Victorian Institute of Strategic Economic Studies, Victoria University whose works in the area of climate change adaptation with a particular focus on using a transdisciplinary approach to bridge the gap between theory and practice. In particular she uses innovation, creative and business methodologies to assist this process. She has extensive experience working with stakeholders in diverse sectors such as government (all levels), research, community, arts and industry sectors. Much of her research to date has focused on industry and local government adaptation and she has produced a number of working papers and reports in this area. She was also a Contributing Author to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Working Group II Fifth Assessment Report Chapter on the *Foundations of Decision Making*, (2014).

Prior to working in her current position, Celeste worked extensively as a practitioner and consultant in the areas of strategic development, communication and implementation in the sustainability and climate change area. She has worked for organisations such as BAE Systems, the Western Alliance For Greenhouse Action (WAGA), the Victorian Centre for Climate Change Adaptation Research (VCCCAR). During this time she has developed and instigated a number of successful programs including: Smart Sustainable Secure (BAE Recognition Achievement Award), Council Connections (featured in the Victorian State Adaptation Plan 2012) and a communication framework which was presented in poster form at the NCCARF Conference 2012, (Won best overall poster prize and is used by researchers and practitioners in the adaptation sector globally and has been translated into Spanish). The engagement program she played a key part in developing whilst at

VCCCAR was awarded the University of Melbourne, Vice-Chancellor's Staff Engagement Excellence Awards 2014.