



NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE



CASE STUDY

WILDFIRE ARSON

Macarthur Zone (Campbelltown, Liverpool, Camden)

Paul Sweeney, 2 June 2017

Acknowledgement

- The work of NSW Wildfire & Structural Investigators
- Support of the Macarthur Zone Staff & Volunteers
- Support from Supt Bob Mathieson and Mark Fullagar
- Support from NSW Police LACs, Campbelltown, Liverpool, Green Valley, Camden
- Support from the NSW Police Arson Squad



Macarthur Zone Wildfire Arson

- Zone over the last 5 years has had a lot of arson activity.

2013	40
2014	50
2015	41
2016	50
2017	3

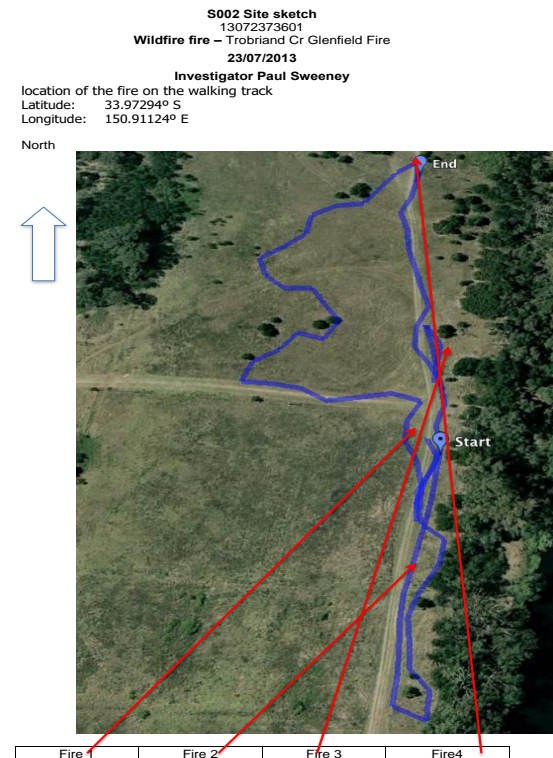




- After discussion with Zone staff & fire investigators we started to target all wildfires (yes all wildfires fires) in the Campbelltown LGA from the fire season of 2013.
- Having a focus area was vital so we could investigate all fires in this LGA. (Airds, Macquarie Fields).
- This has resulted in several arrests and convictions in the target area.
- Involved working closely with 2 LACs. (Campbelltown MacFields)
- No local meetings every contact was by email.

What we did in the Zone.....

- Zone set up a Fire investigation pager group to notify the FIs that an investigation was required.
- We attend all fires and submitted the FIU reports promptly.



Police Event Number for all investigations

- Zone staff electronically requested a Police event via the **PAL** system. Police were only requested to attend if the fire crew had concerns for their safety or any item was located. Police were also requested to attend if there was something for them to follow up like POI nominated or witnesses. (this resulted in a better Police notification system).
- Fire reports include **Police Event Numbers**. This is added to ICON.

Print	Subject	Priority	Reliability	Date and Time	Information	Author	Role
View PDF	Police Event Number	Routine	Reliable	29/01/2017 08:40	E276916294 local police car crew attended on the night.	Paul Sweeney	Fire Investigator

PAL number in all FIU reports

FIRE INVESTIGATION REPORT WILDFIRE



Incident Name:	Peppin Cr, Airds		
Incident Location:	24 Peppin Cr, Airds, NSW 2560		
Reference #:	17011850784	Region:	East
Incident Date:	18/01/2017	LGA:	Campbelltown
Incident Time:	2251	District Manager:	Raymond Norton
Investigation Date:	19/01/2017	Other Agency:	
Grid Reference:	008268		
Site Visit Comments:	PAL E63281745		


Summary of Findings

I was asked to investigate the grass fire at Peppin Cr, Airds by the New South Wales Rural Fire Service Macarthur Zone Duty Officer Darrin Vatcher on 19 January 2017 at 1000 hours (10:00 am), on the day of the fire. This was a TOBAN in the Zone.

What did we do.....

- Spreadsheets were created on fire activity with maps provided to the LAC.

Day	Time	Reference	Incident Name	LGA Name	Incident Date	Police Event	Comment	
Monday	8:30 pm	16032820700	Peppin Cr, Airds	Campbelltown	28/3/16 20:37	PAL E 61263159	Easter Monday	
Monday	1:07 pm	16041122377	Georges River Rd, Airds	Campbelltown	11/4/16 13:07	PAL E6114059	school holidays	
Tuesday	12:03 pm	16041222502	Georges River Rd, Ruse	Campbelltown	12/4/16 12:03	PAL E63580581	school holidays	
Monday	3:14 pm	16042523944	Merino Cr, Airds	Campbelltown	25/4/16 15:14	PAL E 60894904	Anzac Day	
Thursday	6:07 pm	16051225663	Haddon Rig Pl, Airds	Campbelltown	12/5/16 18:07	PAL E60562970	spree arson	
Thursday	9:19 pm	16051225678	Foxlow Pl, Airds	Campbelltown	12/5/16 21:19	PAL E60827837	spree arson	
Thursday	8:56 pm	16051225681	Haddon Rig Pl, Airds	Campbelltown	12/5/16 22:56	PAL E61578966	spree arson	
Friday	2:59 am	16051325691	Foxlow Pl, Airds	Campbelltown	13/5/16 2:59	PAL E60917235	spree arson	
Sunday	5:35 pm	16052227030	Riverside Dr, Airds	Campbelltown	22/5/16 17:35	PAL E 61731958		
Friday	4:27 pm	16052327074	Woolwash Rd Airds	Campbelltown	20/5/16 16:27			
Monday	4:32 pm	16052327162	Peppin Cr, Airds	Campbelltown	23/5/16 16:32	PAL E 61181632		
Tuesday	4:06 pm	16052427318	Georges River Rd, Airds	Campbelltown	24/5/16 16:06	PAL E 61168222		
Thursday	4:08 pm	16060228335	Peppin Cr, Airds	Campbelltown	2/6/16 14:48			
Sunday	5:27 pm	16073132989	Hazeldean Way, Airds	Campbelltown	31/7/16 17:21	Pal E 96087777		
Sunday	3:39 pm	16082134825	Riverside Dr, Airds	Campbelltown	21/8/16 15:39	PAL E64731088		
Sunday	3:45 pm	16082134850	Peppin Crescent Airds	Campbelltown	21/8/16 15:45	PAL E64731088		
Friday	5:59 pm	16091636798	Samuel Pl, Airds	Campbelltown	16/9/16 17:59	Pal E 62412076		
Thursday	3:48 pm	16100638663	Foxlow Pl, Airds	Campbelltown	6/10/16 15:48	PAL E 62791766	school holidays	
Friday	12:18 pm	16100738757	Foxlow Pl, Airds	Campbelltown	7/10/16 12:18	PAL E 62307952	school holidays	
Saturday	2:24 pm	16100838927	Foxlow Pl, Airds	Campbelltown	8/10/16 14:24	PAL E 62634048	school holidays	
Saturday	5:44 pm	16100838950	Hazeldean Way, Airds	Campbelltown	8/10/16 17:44	PAL E 61566020	school holidays	
Tuesday	6:45 pm	16101139256	Peppin Cr, Airds	Campbelltown	11/10/16 18:45	PAL E 956816190		

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- Established a Police contact..... so all information was sent to the LAC Crime Manager. (No phone calls)
 - Always use the **Police Event number** in all communications with Police.
 - Local Rural Fire Brigades were proactive in Fire Scene Preservation.
 - All information set to Crime Manager was in a pdf format. This avoided formatting issues.

Lessons learnt.....

- Be Professional in your dress, attitude and approach to staff, volunteers, Police and most importantly the Public.
- Work as a team with Zone, Fire Investigators, Police.
- Promptly submit your fire reports.
- PAL (Police Assistance Line) Police Event Numbers are vital.
- Do not chase Police (what is happening with this...) Police will follow you up for a statement and notify you if you are required for court.
- Submit outstanding Police statements with lots of detail, maps, diagrams so you are not required for Court.
- Develop your report writing skills, mapping etc.
- As a Zone we share our experience with others.

Questions/Comments?

