

# Tom Lowe, The Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre visits Kurth Kiln 8 February 2015



Tom Lowe, from the Bush Fire Cooperative Research Centre (an Australian Government initiative that is part of the Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) program) has devised a methodology that will help communities and fire agencies develop a better understanding of each others' values and goals. The 'Social Cognitive Mapping' methodology, which was created in collaboration with researchers at the University of Melbourne, provides an engagement platform that not only

promotes discussion and interaction between agencies and members of the public, but also helps to build a common understanding of the values that residents place upon the environmental, social and cultural elements of their home 'patch'. The workshops can create more informed fire management planning and bush fire safety communication approaches, whilst also strengthening relationships by ensuring alignment between community and agency objectives.

Tom visited Kurth Kiln and the Klink's to find out their feelings about their environment landscape.

