



July worst for fires

July is the worst winter month for house fires and a third of these start in the kitchen, according to new research by NRMA Insurance. The insurer is urging residents to be vigilant, with one in seven house fires caused by appliances, most commonly with reverse-cycle air conditioning units, followed by microwaves, dishwashers and dryers. Kitchen fires had the potential to spread quickly, often to cupboards or curtains in a matter of seconds.

"It's important to clean electrical appliances frequently including reverse-cycle air conditioners and the filter on dryers to help prevent fuelling a fire," NRMA Insurance spokeswoman Megan Lupton said.

"People should be careful not to overload their power boards and ensure they dust unused power points to help avoid starting an electrical fire."

Heywire regional youth summit

Heywire, an ABC Radio initiative that provides a space for the conversation, stories, debate and ideas of young people from regional Australia, will celebrate its 15th birthday at the Heywire Regional Youth Summit in Canberra.

Since its launch back in 1998, well over 7000 young Australians have told their stories and the stories of their communities. Heywire is open to people aged 16-22 to tell stories in all forms of media, text, photos, video and audio, about life and issues in Australia outside the major cities. Winning stories are presented on the ABC through ABC local radio, Radio National, ABC TV and abc.net.au

Winning entrants also receive a trip to the Heywire summit in Canberra in

February 2013. Participants meet other Heywires, gain leadership skills and have a chance to pitch their ideas to politicians, funding bodies and policy makers.

Enter now at abc.net.au/heywire and join the conversation at [facebook.com/abcheywire](https://www.facebook.com/abcheywire) or Twitter @heywire. Entries close September 17.

No place for alcohol

The National Alliance for Action on Alcohol (NAAA) has applauded 12 major national sports for backing action to reduce binge drinking and disassociating themselves from alcohol sponsorship.

A new campaign from the Australian National Preventive Health Agency (ANPHA) launched recently by Sports Minister Kate Lundy and Mental Health Minister Mark Butler sees the federal government providing funding to 12 sports, including soccer, swimming, athletics and basketball, as part of a program to reduce binge drinking in young people, and engage leading sports and sports stars to help change Australia's youth binge drinking culture. The funding comes from the 'alcopops' tax.

The NAAA consists of 73 member organisations from around Australia.



- A winter photo of our region by local photographer Kim Gourlay. For the complete gallery of photos illustrating winter in our region centre in by readers visit www.yasstribune.com.au.