# Mentoring programme

#### Colin Wood

**Coordinator Fire Safety, Certification & Compliance** Penrith City Council

• EDAP 2012 - Bathurst

 Identified we have lots skills and we need to share the knowledge around

- Classroom teaching has its limitations
- Suggested we should look at mentoring as a better alternative.





Mentoring was already proving successful at Penrith













#### We were even starting to train the mentors



 Penrith Council offered to start the mentoring programme

• EDAP called for expressions of interest

 Lindsay Mathieson from Gilgandra Shire Council won the ballot



### What happened

Craig Squires contacted Lindsay to ask what he wanted to focus on.

Proved beneficial and we were able to select appropriate projects

- Fire safety upgrades
- Accessibility
- Bush Fire assessments







### Projects

#### Fire Safety

- Gun shop with accommodation (where else St Marys)
- Hotel + accommodation (2x) (St Marys and Penrith)
- Indoor sports centre hydrant issue (St Clair)
- Nursing Home (Penrith)
- Residential flat building (Kingswood)

#### Accessibility

• Penrith Panthers Centrebet Stadium

#### • Bush Fire

• Subdivision at Mulgoa Rise

































### What did Lindsay think?

- He got a lot out of the experience
- He would have liked more time
- He would like to thank EDAP for the opportunity
- He would recommend it to everyone
- He owes Colin a coffee for doing this presentation!

### What did we think?

Clearly 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> days was not enough time.

With more time (say 1 week)

• Complete reports on the buildings visited.

• Complete a BCA assessment of a major building looking at the intent of the clauses – not just the words.

• Assess vegetation and complete the bush fire referral.

• Discuss accessibility with those who experience it daily.

Lindsay knew what he wanted to see. It is important for people to have this focus.

### What's happened since Lindsay's visit?

Brad Donohue (BMCC) completed 2 weeks (Feb 2013)

- Fire Safety assessments
- BCA assessments on major buildings
- Used experience to support BPB upgraded to A1

• Penrith's Christopher Hawkins has been assisting Lachlan Shire with a staff shortage since March 2013.

### What's happened since Lindsay's visit?

• Mentoring of Penrith's staff continues (Compliance issues, BCA assessments, Bush Fires & Fire Safety).

Staff have showcased the database programmes they have developed to other councils in our "Westpool" insurance group (April 2013)

- Critical stage inspections
- Annual fire safety statements
- Fire safety audits
- Compliance (from complaint to completion)
- Swimming pool register

## Who wants to go next?



# Questions

