

## Fire use dates and safety

We understand that a wood fire is a significant and enjoyable feature of our accommodation. However, the wood fire is not in use during the total fire ban season and can only be used from late Autumn to late Spring, that is, from 1 May to 31 October. This is for several reasons.

- Being in a rural environment, there is a risk of embers escaping from the chimney and starting a fire. As well as the risk of damage to our own property, we have a responsibility to our neighbours to ensure this does not happen.
- South Australia, being an extremely dry state, is subject to blanket fire ban periods, as well as extra intermittent and more extensive fire bans which can occur at very short notice due to days of extreme risk. These can occur well into April each year.
- Insurance liability is a serious consideration for our business with regard to being the source of a fire affecting property belonging to us and others.
- There is a risk that after summer the flue/chimney may have become obstructed (eg birds/bees nests). Part of our maintenance/guest safety programme is to have the flue checked prior to the fire season each year and the gutters are cleaned out. For your own safety and comfort, we therefore are unable to allow fires prior to this maintenance being done in late April.

Should the weather be cool during your stay, you will find that the reverse cycle air-conditioner keeps the retreats and cottages warm very effectively. The beds are equipped with warm woollen quilts and woollen blankets.

We thank you for your understanding. Tina and Evan Gobell