



VOLS ON HOT COALS: How ecological hazard reduction burning has rekindled the flame within Bushcare volunteers



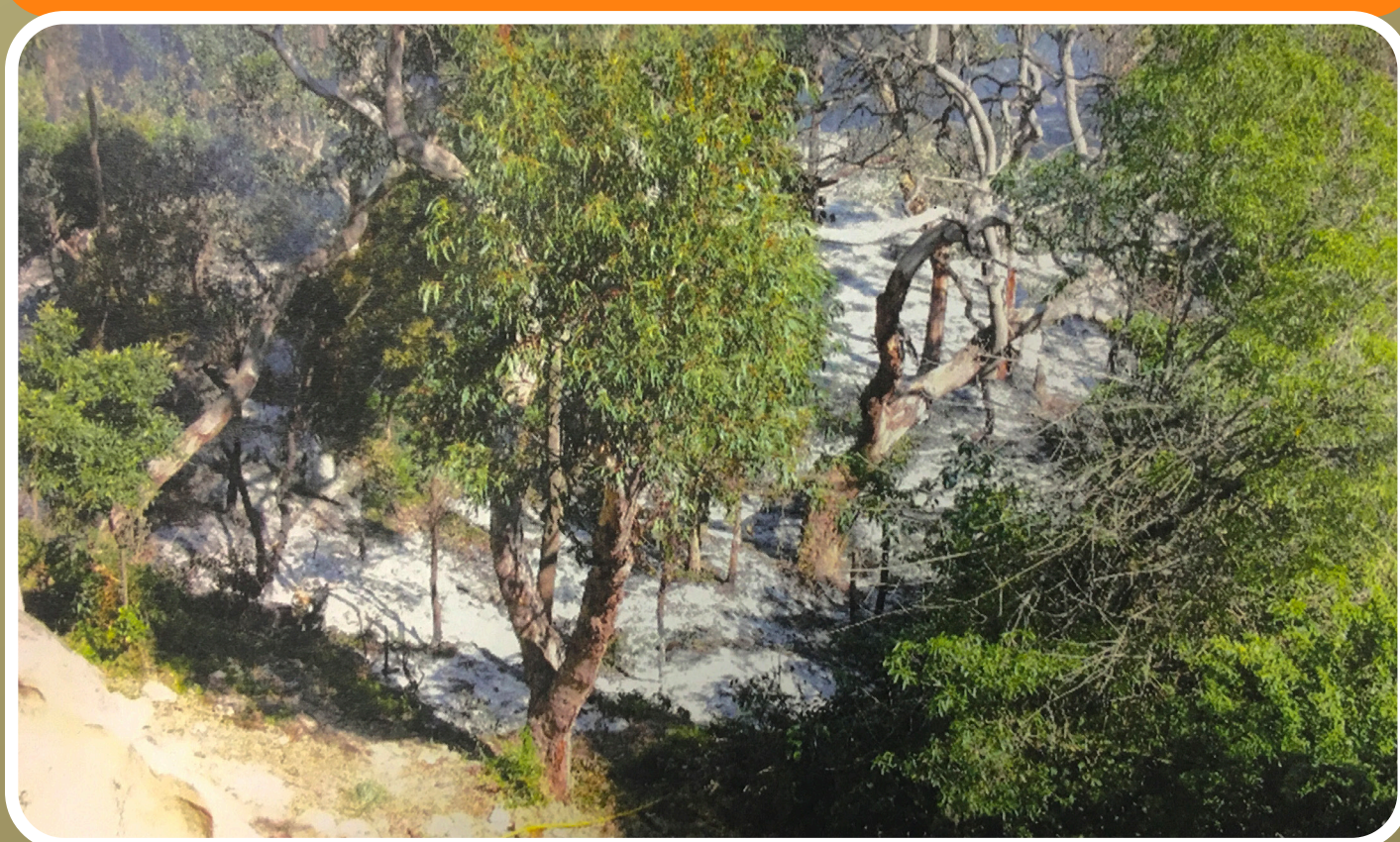
After the 1994 bushfire, Willoughby City Council formed a Fire Hazard Reduction Team. Since then, pile burning which was common practice at the time has evolved into broader area

burns. The planning, the preparation and the lighting of these burns have always been sympathetic to the bush and to the wildlife it supports.

Today we have taken this innovation and experience to our Bushcare Volunteers whose sites are often found in the same urban/ bushland interface.

Together we can demonstrate how the local community and council can meet fire hazard reduction obligations with ecological sensitivity. This is a unique and exciting opportunity for the Bushcare program to engage with the community's growing interest in fire and the role it plays in the urban environment.

Our lighting patterns are sensitive to wildlife and the canopy is left unharmed



Our control burns are 'Low and Slow'. This means we plan and prepare burns that have:

- Low flame height
- Low scorch height
- Slow rate of spread



Volunteers are actively involved with the burn preparation process. This is an important stage where many questions about fuel management and fire ecology can be answered



Post fire care will be the greatest learning curve for volunteers as we introduce herbicide free techniques and strategies. This is where bush regeneration and plant id skills are really put to the test.



Our volunteers witness first hand the roles fire plays in the environment. The transformation of the site can have a profound impact on both volunteers and trainers.

