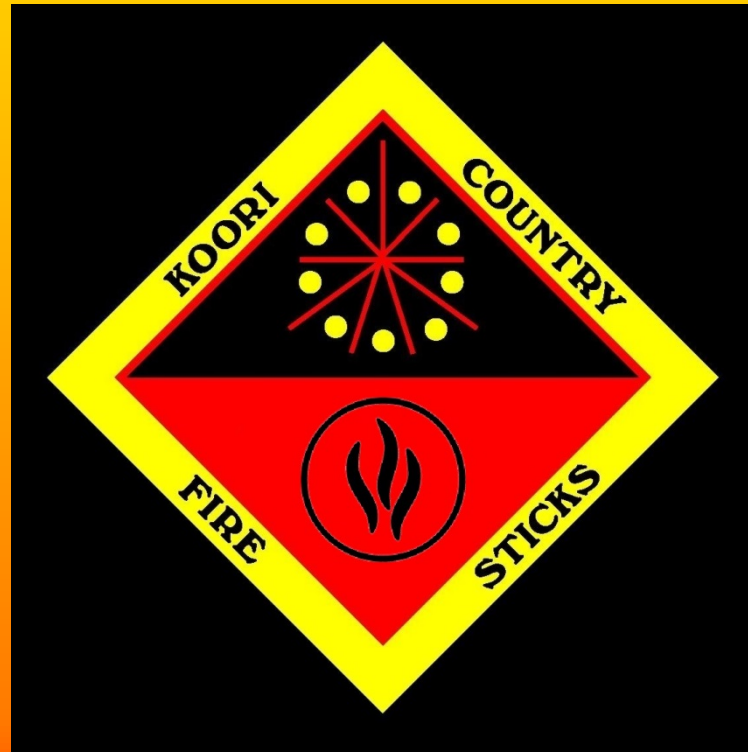


KOORI COUNTRY FIRESTICKS ABORIGINAL CORPORATION



'Our Story'

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are advised that the following presentation contains images of people who have passed away.

We Acknowledge Country and pay our respect to
Elders past and present,
Our **Sky Father** creator, the good **Ancestral Spirits**
and **Mother Earth**.



Our 'Mother' provides us with everything that we need.

A defining moment!!!



Tunnel View of Linksvie Fire.MOV

Who am I? Why am I smiling?



Den Barber

**Founding Director – Koori Country Firesticks
Aboriginal Corporation**

Descendant of the Traditional Aboriginal Custodians from
Mudgee of the Wiradjuri

KCFSAC Acknowledge



Traditional Knowledge Revival Pathways

Traditional Knowledge Revival Pathways (TKRP)

- Bizant Fire Management Workshop 2010, held in Lama lama Country, Lakefield National Park, QLD.
- Invitation to Aboriginal people of the Blue Mountains including Darug and Gundungurra
- NPWS Co-Management funding provided opportunity for Aboriginal people of the Blue Mountains to attend.
- This workshop had a profound affect on all of the Blue Mountains participants including myself.





*firesticks



Local Land
Services
Greater Sydney

We returned home with great enthusiasm, knowledge and understanding.

How could what we learnt be applied in Blue Mountains Country?

BLUE MOUNTAINS FIRE STICKS was born!



 firesticks

FIRESTICKS

Victor Steffensen of TKRP was invited to visit the Blue Mountains in August 2010.



The following observations were made:

Kings Tableland Site (The 'J block') Blue Mountains National Park

- ❖ Too many trees.
- ❖ Understorey is dominated by shrubs and saplings.
- ❖ Very little grass but large amounts of dead and dry fuel.
- ❖ All mature trees showed scarring to the crown from recent 'hot' fire.
- ❖ Recommendation to 'cool' burn leaf litter and other dead vegetation that had accumulated since last hot fire.

Endangered Ecological Community Site near Hazelbrook – Blue Mountains NP

- ❖ Hanging swamp in desperate need of a burn. High volume of dead grass and fuel loads.

Yellomundee Regional Park – NSW NPWS

- ❖ Highly weed infested area can be treated with cultural burning.

The Past

Aboriginal people have used and lived with fire in this country for thousands of years.

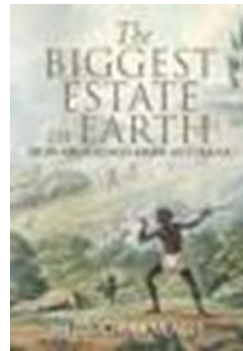


FIRESTICKS

The
BIGGEST
ESTATE
on EARTH

HOW ABORIGINES MADE AUSTRALIA

BILL GAMMAGE




ALLEN & UNWIN

Excerpt from 'Of the Aborigines' T.L MITCHELL, Surveyor General

'..... Fire, grass, kangaroos, and human inhabitants, seem all dependent on each other for existence in Australia; for any one of these being wanting, the others could no longer continue. Fire is necessary to burn the grass, and form those open forests, in which we find the large forest-kangaroo; the native applies that fire to the grass at certain seasons, in order that a young green crop may subsequently spring up, and so attract and enable him to kill or take the kangaroo with nets. In summer, the burning of long grass also discloses vermin, birds' nests, etc., on which the females and children, who chiefly burn the grass, feed. But for this simple process, the Australian woods had probably contained as thick a jungle as those of New Zealand or America, instead of the open forests in which white men now find grass for their cattle, to the exclusion of the kangaroo, which is well-known to forsake all those parts of the colony where cattle run.....'

A timeline of significant seasons fire events recorded for the Blue Mountains:

- ☀ 1957 Leura fire (600 left homeless).
- ☀ 1968-69 Lower Mountains fires (3 lives lost and 123 buildings).
- ☀ 1977-78 (3 lives lost and 49 buildings destroyed).
- ☀ 1993-94 800 separate fires across NSW. Grose valley re-burnt after 1977-78.
- ☀ 2001-02 Over 744,000 ha burnt and 109 houses destroyed. (Sydney Water catchments highly impacted).
- ☀ 2002-03 Extensive fires across NSW with Section 44 invoked for 151 days continuously. (1,500,000 ha burnt and 3 lives lost)
- ☀ 2006 Grose Valley fire with significant impact on ecologically sensitive areas.

Source: Fire Stories: The Story of the 1957 Leura Fires a lesson in time.

And more recently in 2013:

- ☀ Winmalee;
- ☀ Lithgow (State Mine);
- ☀ Mt Victoria;
- ☀ and Springwood 'Linksview' Fires.

More than 200 homes destroyed or badly damaged.

Images of Lithgow (State Mine) and Linksview Fire (Springwood, Winmalee and Yellow Rock). 17 October 2013

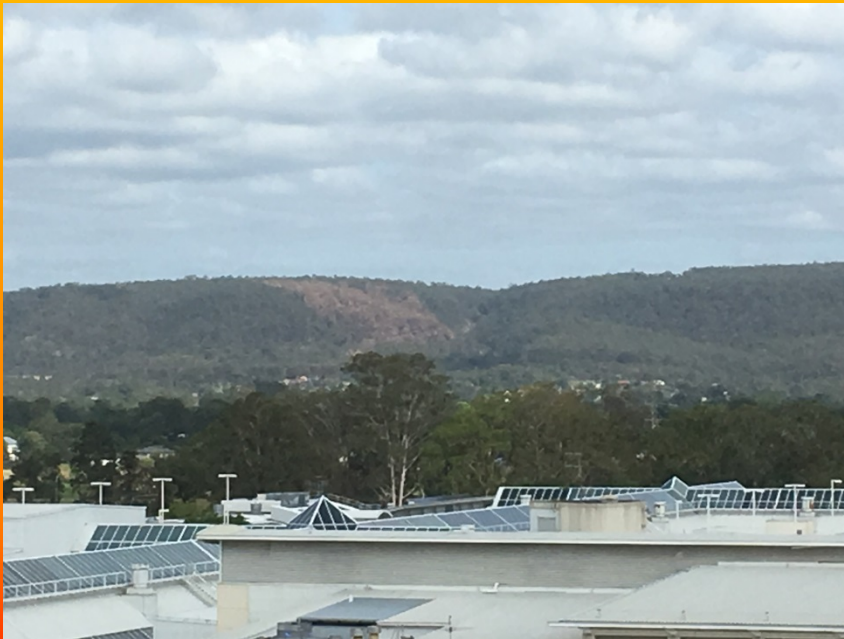


'Fires near me'

Mitchells Pass, Blue Mountains NSW

15 February, 2018

Effects of this wildfire



Mitchells Pass Wildfire Lower Blue Mountains

Scorched bare earth.



Canopy totally removed.



The Present

Question

Can 'Cultural Burning' be used as part of contemporary Conservation Land and Fire Management to restore Country?

2 types of fire we are used to seeing in the Blue Mountains



Wildfire



FIRESTICKS

Hazard Reduction Burning



Something to think about!



Geebung – *Persoonia levis* & *Persoonia pinifolia*

Native Grapes - *Leptomeria acida*

The Koori Country Firesticks Story

“...there is only one fire and that is the right fire and fire for your Country...”

(Victor Steffensen, ‘Line of Fire’ SBS Insight, 15 February 2016)



Who are Koori Country Firesticks?

Koori Country Firesticks Aboriginal Corporation (KCFSAC) is a newly created non for profit organisation. We aim to revive Traditional Aboriginal cultural practices of burning Country as an alternative approach to Hazard Reduction techniques used by private and public landholders and managers.

KCFSAC primary objective is to care for Country (Our Mother Earth), regardless of tenure or ownership. This knowledge has been passed onto KCFSAC by Aboriginal Cultural Elders and knowledge holders.

We are Koori Country Firesticks



We are Culturally Burning Country and passing on the knowledge.

What does Koori Country Firesticks do?

Koori Country Firesticks offer a community driven model that assists private and public landholders to manage Country using Aboriginal cultural knowledge and practices.

KCFSAC also pass on this knowledge to other Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people to help restore Country that has been impacted by wild fire, the absence of fire and or infestation of exotic weeds. Cultural burning also acts to reduce fuel loads that surround urban development and regional towns and properties.

Ngurrampa – Laguna NSW

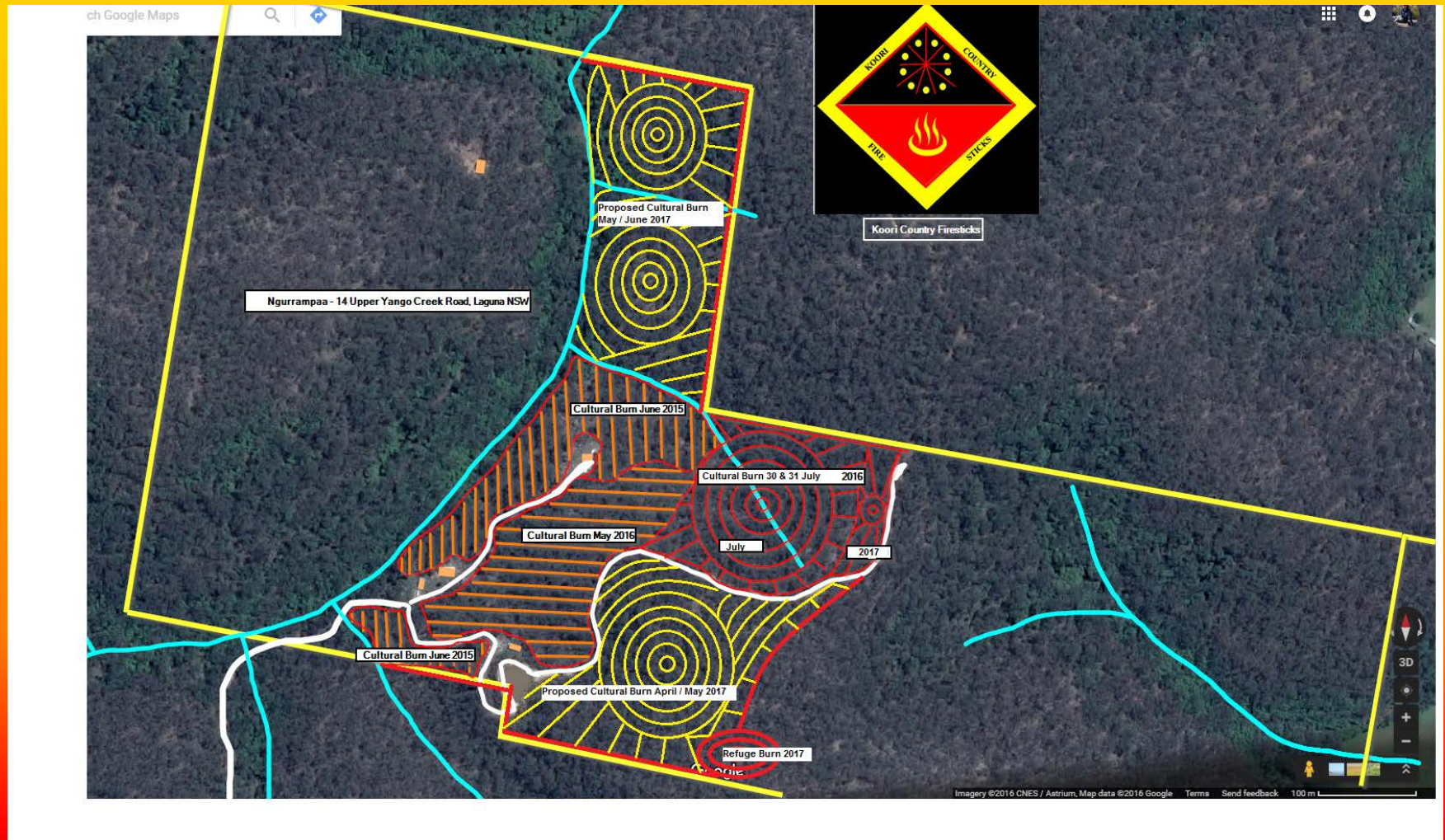
Our first KCFS cultural burn ignition 28 May 2016.



Cultural fire moves slow, low and cool.



KCFS Cultural Burn Mapping and Monitoring



A cultural learning pathway.



Greater Sydney LLS Workshop





FIRESTICKS



FIRESTICKS

After the 'cool burn' has passed.



FIRESTICKS

The young and old.



Thanks to Elders, Communities
involved and the
Firesticks Alliance Indigenous
Corporation for leading this work,
particularly in NSW.

wiiny – nganhagu - ngurambang

I acknowledge the work and publications of Uncle Stan Grant (Snr) and Dr John Rudder from where these Wiradjuri words were sourced and adapted.

Den Barber

wiiny – nganhagu - ngurambang

wiiny
wiiny
wiiny

fire
fire
fire

wiiny nganhagu ngurambang
ngurambang nganhagu wiiny

fire for that country
country for that fire

wiiny nganhagu balugan
balugan nganhagu wiiny

fire for that animal
animal for that fire

wiiny nganhagu bila
bila nganhagu wiiny

fire for that river
river for that fire

wiiny nganhagu ngurambang
ngurambang nganhagu wiiny

fire for that country
country for that fire

wiiny
wiiny
wiiny

fire
fire
fire

wiiny nganhagu ngurambang
ngurambang nganhagu wiiny

fire for that country
country for that fire

wiiny nganhagu madhanda
madhanda nganhagu wiiny

fire for that tree
tree for that fire

wiiny nganhagu yubaa
yubaa nganhagu wiiny

fire for that rain
rain for that fire

wiiny nganhagu ngurambang
ngurambang nganhagu wiiny

fire for that country
country for that fire

wiiny
wiiny
wiiny

fire
fire
fire

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*Follow us: Koori Country Firesticks Aboriginal Corporation on
Facebook*

Thanks for listening!