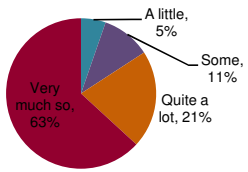
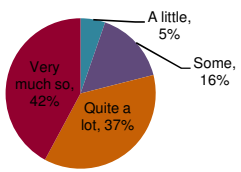
Objectives for the Dundurrabin workshop series

- Discuss strategies to manage of fire to reduce risk whilst improving biodiversity and cultural values
- Introduce landholders to fire management planning for their own property
- Address the fear of fire and potential barriers for landholders to conduct planned burns
- Address any confusion regarding procedures and regulations for planned burns

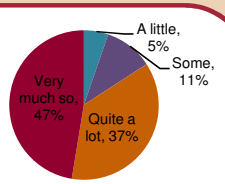
Workshop Evaluation Results



Did this workshop inform you about who is involved with fire management around your area, and what they do?



Has this workshop increased your understanding about fire behaviour in the landscape?



Did this workshop improve your understanding of how to plan for and conduct a safe burn?

43 percent of landholders plan to use fire for biodiversity after attending Hotspots

Workshop achievements

- As a result of the Hotspots workshop series, residents of Dundurrabin have planned property fire management plans, and actions to implement these plans.
- The local Clarence Valley RFS District office at Ulmarra will be working closely with landholders to implement their plans, and achieve outcomes identified in the areas bush fire risk management plan.
- During the process of identifying a suitable demonstration burn site, it became apparent that the burn site potentially supported habitat for the Nationally Endangered Hastings River Mouse (*Pseudomys oralis*). Pre burn surveying was undertaken by Dr Sally Townley and NCC Hotspots ecologist Kevin Taylor. Pre-burn survey work confirmed that a population of Hastings River mouse was located immediately adjacent to the demonstration burn site. As a follow on, the Hotspots Team has advised the University of New England who are keen to continue fauna surveys on the demonstration property and have also generously offered to undertake survey work on other Hotspots workshop participant properties to look for this elusive mouse.

Under the guidance of the nine project partners in the Advisory Committee, Hotspots is delivered through the coordinated efforts of the NSW Rural Fire Service and the Nature Conservation Council of NSW.

HOTSPOTS FIRE PROJECT

2011 Australian Safer Communities Awards NATIONAL WINNER

DUNDURRABIN WORKSHOP SERIES REPORT*

Workshop 3 (7/02/2012)*

"The workshops were great, Hotspots was a very down to earth, common sense approach to land management and fire. Having identified ecological areas with different vegetation types has made it easier to manage for fire and biodiversity"
Rosemary Yates, host property

Dundurrabin is in the North Coast Bioregion at the eastern edge of the New England Tableland. It is located near the western edge of the Dorrigo Plateau at the headwaters of the Nymboida River in the Clarence River Catchment.

The vegetation of Dundurrabin is complex and is strongly influenced by the underlying geology. On the most fertile sites with basalt geology are areas of Subtropical Rainforest. Less fertile areas on the Moombil Beds are covered by Northern Warm Temperate Rainforest. Dry Rainforest occupy limited areas with shallow soils, rocky outcrops and areas with freely drained soil on steep escarpments.

The native vegetation of Dundurrabin is recognised as having international conservation value for several reasons, including the presence of populations of over 30 threatened species, the presence of several species dependent upon large home ranges and extensive areas of native vegetation and the significant corridor values of the landscape, providing connections along the Great Eastern Ranges, between Gondwana Rainforest World Heritage Areas (Dorrigo, Mt Hyland and New England) and from the coast to the New England Tableland.

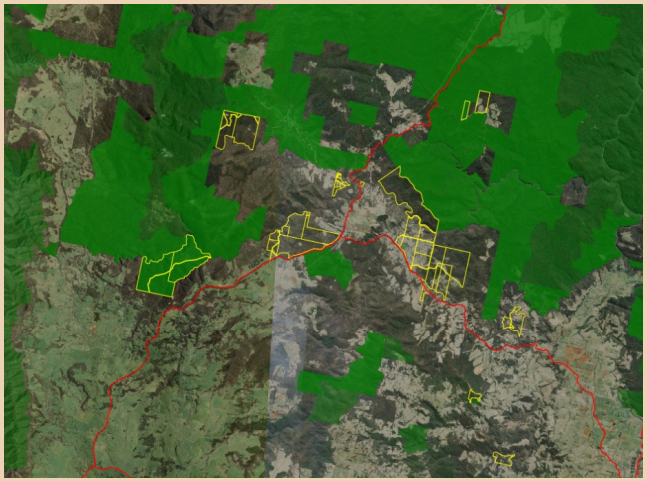
A total of 29 landholders and land mangers attended the workshop series leading to the production of 18 property fire management plans, covering over 1,585 hectares. After a series of repeated escape fires, the community comprising of a mix of property types, ranging from agricultural interests (grazing and selectively logging) through to Wilderness Retreat enterprises, banded together to look at ways to reduce wildfire risk.

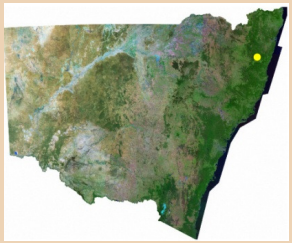
This Hotspots programme was funded by the Northern Rivers CMA as part of their Fire and Biodiversity Program. Workshop 1 and 2 were organised and facilitated by Julie Woodroffe of Never Never Resources, and Workshop 3 was facilitated by John Allen of the NSW Rural Fire Service .

HOTSPOTS FIRE PROJECT

Fire Management for the Dundurrabin Area

Content developed May 2012



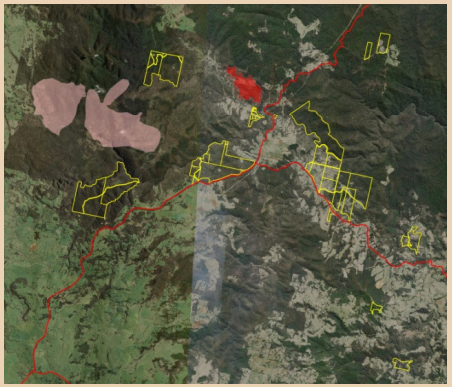


This fire management landscape overview has been compiled by the Hotspots Fire Project. It serves merely as an aid to planning. The information contained herein reflects our understanding at the time of planning. We are learning more about fire and the environment every day and anticipate that some recommendations may change as new information comes to hand. Thus whilst every effort has been made to ensure the information presented herein is as accurate and well-informed as possible, those involved in compiling this plan take no responsibility for any outcomes, actions or losses resulting either directly or indirectly from the interpretation, misinterpretation or implementation. This plan is intended to be used in conjunction with the help of experts and good neighbour relations. For further information on the Hotspots Fire Project:

Nature Conservation Council of NSW

Email hotspots@rfs.nsw.gov.au
Or visit www.hotspotsfireproject.org.au
This map has been created by NSW RFS in April 2013

FIRE HISTORY



IDENTIFIED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS*

Actions identified in the workshop series include:

- Maintain healthy ecosystems.
- Improve and maintain threatened species habitat and Endangered Ecological Communities.
- Exclude fire from Rainforest, Wetlands and Riparian Zones.
- Minimise erosion.
- Manage noxious and environmental weeds.
- Utilise recommended fire regimes when undertaking hazard reduction burns.
- Maintain fire trails and existing tracks.
- Manage Asset Protection Zones around built structures.
- Maintain on-going communication with neighbours and agencies regarding fire management.
- Maintain fuel loads where appropriate by stock management.

* **Please note:** This is a listing of the types of follow up actions that participating landholders have identified as part of their individual fire management plans.

LOCAL & WORKSHOP SERIES CONTACTS

NSW Rural Fire Service: Janine Rudder, Scott Vandermaal 6641 5135	**Hotspots Facilitator workshop 3:** John Allen 6655 7002
National Parks & Wildlife Services: Geoffrey James / Steve Hull 6657 2309	**Hotspots Ecologist:** Mark Graham mgraham@nccnsw.org.au
Forests NSW: Andrew Pitzen / Warren Taylor 6652 0111	

THE LANDSCAPE

- Located at the western edge of the Dorrigo Plateau adjoining the Mt Hyland Gondwana World Heritage Area.
- Major component of the Great Eastern Ranges.
- Provides corridors for wildlife movement from the coast to the Great Dividing Range and links World Heritage Areas.
- A major refuge for ancient biodiversity.
- Over 30 threatened species including endemic species such as the Dorrigo Daisy.
- Pristine catchment and important agricultural areas.

THE VEGETATION & STATE WIDE FIRE INTERVAL GUIDELINE

Vegetation Formation	Vegetation Class	Ecosystem types (Species dominance)	Min Fire Interval	Max Fire Interval	Comments
Rainforest	Subtropical	Yellow Carabeen (*Sloanea woollsii*), Red Carabeen (*Geissois benthamii*), Hoop Pine (*Araucaria cunninghamii*) and Black Booyong (*Heritiera actinophylla*), Socketwood (*Daphnandra repandula*), Dorrigo Waratah (*Alloxylon pinnatum*), Brush Cherry (*Syzygium australe*), White Bolly Gum (*Neolitsea dealbata*), Bolly Gum (*Litsea reticulata*) and Veiny Wilkiea (*Wilkiea huegeliana*). Less common species include Smooth Oak (*Helicia glabriflora*), White Quandong (*Elaeocarpus kirtonii*) and Hazelwoods (*Symplocos* spp.).	n/a	n/a	Fire should be avoided
Rainforest	Northern Warm Temperate	Coachwood (*Ceratopetalum apetalum*), Prickly Ash (*Orites excelsa*), Sassafras (*Doryphora sassafras*), Coast Banksia (*Banksia integrifolia*) and Callicoma (*Callicoma serratifolia*).	n/a	n/a	Fire should be avoided
Rainforest	Dry	Grey Myrtle (*Backhousia myrtifolia*). The understorey is sparse, consisting of wiry vines, lithophytic ferns, orchids & herbs	n/a	n/a	Fire should be avoided
Wet Sclerophyll Forest (shrubby subformation)	Northern Escarpment	Tallowwood (*Eucalyptus microcorys*), New England Blackbutt (*E. campanulata*), Sydney Blue Gum (*E. saligna*), Brush Box (*Lophostemon confertus*)	25yrs	60yrs	Crown fires should be avoided in the lower end of the interval range
Wet Sclerophyll Forest (grassy subformation)	Northern Escarpment	New England Blackbutt (*E. campanulata*), Ribbon Gum (*E. nobilis*), Dorrigo White Gum (*E. dorrigoensis*)	10yrs	50yrs	Occasional intervals greater than 15yrs may be desirable. Crown fires should be avoided in the lower end of the interval range
Derived Grasslands	Derived Grasslands	Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda australis*), Blady Grass (*Imperata cylindrica*)			
Black Oak Thickets Note: This is not a vegetation formation under the Keith Classification System.	Black Oak	Black Oak (*Allocasuarina littoralis*)			An adaptive management approach will need to be applied recognising the stages of maturity of each stand.

THREATENED SPECIES

STATUS (*Threatened Species Conservation Act* 1995)	FIRE ECOLOGY (management requirements)*
Dorrigo Daisy Bush *Olearia flocktoniae* (Endangered)	No fire more than once every 5 years, and no fire in rainforest. No slashing, trittering or tree removal.
Slender Forest Twiner *Tylophora woollsii* (Endangered)	No fire more than once every 25 years. No slashing, trittering or tree removal.
New England Tree Frog *Litoria subglandulosa* (Vulnerable)	No burning adjacent to streams. No slashing, trittering or tree removal.
Pouched Frog *Assa darlingtoni*, Sphagnum Frog *Philoria sphagnicolus* (Vulnerable)	No fire.
Giant Barred Frog *Mixophyes iteratus*, Stuttering Frog *Mixophyes balbus* (Endangered)	No burning within 100m of streams.
Glossy Black Cockatoo *Calyptorhunchus lathami* (Vulnerable)	No burning of *Allocasuarina* thickets. Protect tree hollows.
Powerful Owl *Ninox strenua*, Masked Owl *Tyto novaeholldaniae*, Sooty Owl *Tyto tenebricosa*, Yellow Bellied Glider *Petaurus australis* (Vulnerable)	No burning around known nest sites at any time. Protect tree hollows.
Eastern Pygmy Possum *Cercartetus nanus*, Long Nosed Potoroo *Potorous tridactylus* (Vulnerable), Hastings River Mouse *Pseudomys oralis* (Endangered)	No slashing, trittering or tree removal.
Eastern False Pipistrelle *Falsistrellus tasmaniensis* (Vulnerable)	Protect hollows. No removal of trees.
Golden Tipped Bat *Kerivoula papuensis* (Vulnerable)	No slashing, trittering or tree removal. Protect rainforest from fire.
Little Bent-wing Bat *Miniopterus australis*, Common Bent Wing Bat *Miniopterus schriebersii* (Vulnerable)	No fire around known roost sites. Utilise buffer around known roosts. No slashing around maternity caves.
Large Footed Myotis *Myotis adversus* (Vulnerable)	No fire around known roost sites. No removal of trees.
Stephens Banded Snake (*Hoplocephalus stephensii*) (Vulnerable)	No slashing, trittering or tree removal.