

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS FIRE WORKSHOP 2016 - 2021

Co-creating a visual language design, communication strategy, creative production and archiving protocols.



PORTFOLIO: RECORDED OR RENDERED CREATIVE WORK 2016-2021

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Image: Visual language design for Firesticks Alliance website

www.firesticks.org.au

The Country needs the people and the people need the Country.

Quote from Victor Steffensen 2013

https://vimeo.com/user14441437?embedded=true&source=owner_portrait&owner=14441437

RESEARCH STATEMENT

National Indigenous Fire Workshop 2016-2021: Co-creating a visual language, design, communication strategy, creative production and archiving protocols

This research investigates culturally respectful approaches for non-Indigenous visual communication designers on Indigenous-led projects. The research asks the following questions: How can non-Indigenous designers decentre themselves in the design process? In what ways can design practices be informed by Indigenous led processes and protocols to ensure visual content in both mainstream and social media platforms preserves Indigenous self-determination?

This co-designed program of work (incorporating visual language design, communication strategy, creative production and archiving protocols) applies research on decolonising design by researchers including Linda Tuhiwai Smith, Anoushka Khandwala, and the Australian Indigenous Design Charter 2016, to the work of the Firesticks Alliance, national leaders in Indigenous environmental management. Through codesign processes developed with Kuku Thaypan Elders and Victor Steffensen, the program produced a design protocol and visual language for use across all Firesticks' media platforms and respectfully recorded, edited and published cultural burning practices accordingly. The strategy also ensured the dissemination of all the design assets similarly met these protocols for community approval and acknowledgement. This approach resulted in a new benchmark for communication design in Australia.

In 2018 The National Museum of Australia commissioned Gothe and Steffensen to document cultural fire for the permanent exhibition 'Life In Australia'. Following the 2019 bushfires a range of film companies and broadcasters (including ABC, Channel 10 and the BBC) approached Firesticks Alliance to license their cultural burning footage recognising Indigenous Cultural Intellectual Property Rights. Bundanon Trust with Felix Media requested footage for Wesley Enoch's 'We Need to Talk about Fire' in 2020, and The Australian Museum included visual imagery and video from NIFW Dhunghala in their exhibition 'Spark: new Australian Museum showcase on climate solutions' in 2021.

[Go to Vimeo home page](#)

Firesticks Alliance

Firesticks Alliance Indigenous Corporation is an Indigenous led network and aims to re-invigorate the use of cultural burning by facilitating cultural learning pathways to fire and land management. It is an initiative for Indigenous and non- Indigenous people to look after Country, share their experiences and collectively explore ways to achieve their goals.

Firesticks is an opportunity for people to build on the knowledge they already have on Country and look for ways to make use of new technologies and understandings as a way to support cultural identity and practice. Firesticks is building a community of practice, sharing fire stories and communicating positively about the work that is undertaken and its value to people and place. Mentoring and networking through Firesticks strengthens community and Country. Implementing fire to enhance ecosystem health within culturally connected landscapes improves habitat condition and connectivity. Firesticks ultimately strives to empower Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities to work together towards healthy, functional and resilient landscapes.

55 videos

All

Documentary

Educational

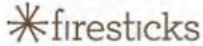
Music

<https://vimeo.com>

Video Archive – 55 videos (2016-2021)

Firesticks Alliance Vimeo site https://vimeo.com/firesticksalliance?embedded=true&source=owner_name&owner=92177729

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS FIRE WORKSHOP 2016 WUJAL WUJAL




Cultural burning, healthy communities, healthy landscapes


Home About News Community **Education** DONATE

Community spirit and strength is strong to continue the knowledge and practice.

For more information visit:
capeyorkfire.com.au/
facebook.com/indigenousfire/



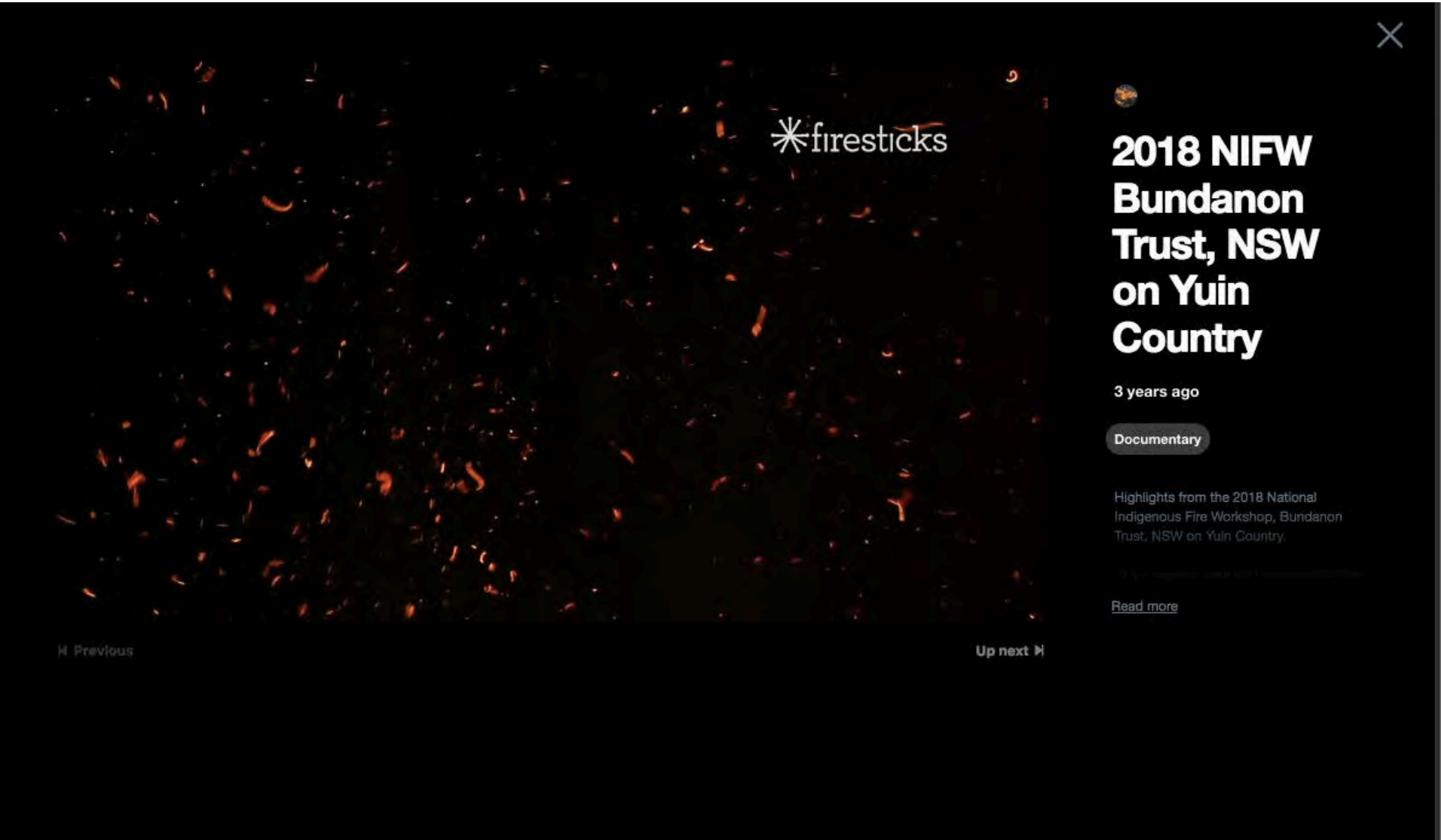
**NATIONAL INDIGENOUS FIRE WORKSHOP, WUJAL
WUJAL CAPE YORK 2016**
from *Collaboration Design & Country*



This film was produced by:
Victor Steffensen, Mulong
Jacqueline Gothe, UTS
Peta Standley, Cape York NRM
Vera Hong Productions

Video embedded in Firesticks Alliance website: <https://www.firesticks.org.au/national-indigenous-fire-workshop/wjal-wjal-2016/>

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS FIRE WORKSHOP BUNDANON 2018



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*firesticks

**2018 NIFW
Bundanon
Trust, NSW
on Yuin
Country**

3 years ago

Documentary

Highlights from the 2018 National
Indigenous Fire Workshop, Bundanon
Trust, NSW on Yuin Country.

[Read more](#)

⏪ Previous

Up next ⏩

The Good Fire, Dharrawal-Yuin Ngurra

'Dharrawal-Yuin Country': a short film series featuring Yuin Traditional Custodians cultural burning at the 2018 National Indigenous Fire Workshop held at Bundanon Trust, Shoalhaven, NSW, Australia. 'After the Wildfires': a short film series reflecting on the impacts of good and bad fire. Culturally burned sites on Yuin Country are revisited 18 months later after the destructive wildfires of 2019/2020. Film Production: Producers - Firesticks Alliance Indigenous Corporation and Vera Hong Productions. Cinematography and Edit - Craig Bender and Vera Hong. Post production supported by NSW South East Local Land Services and Create NSW's Creative Koori Digital Initiative.

1 - 12 of 20



Dharrawal-Yuin Country: Welcome ...



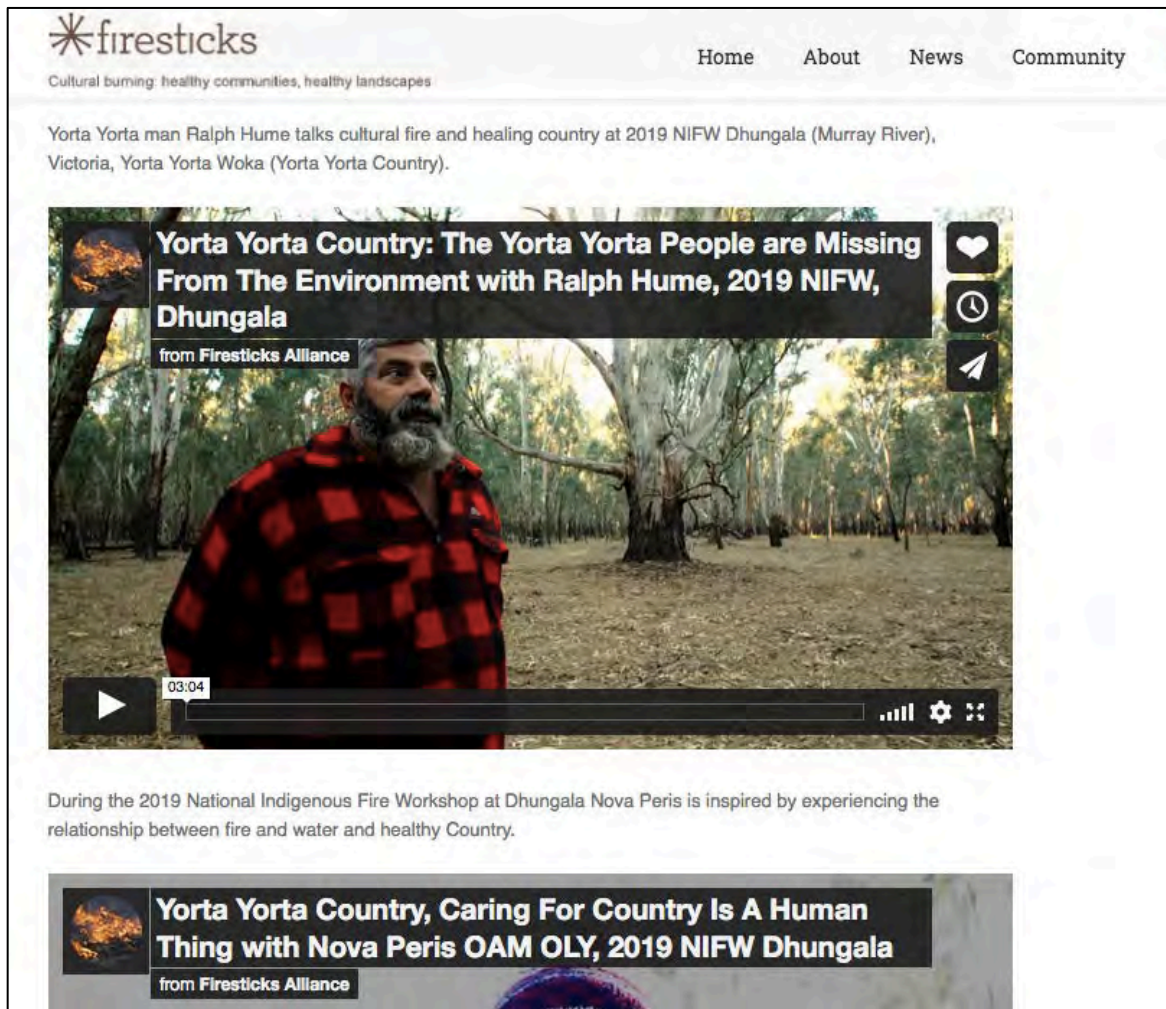
Dharrawal-Yuin Country: Bundanon...



Dharrawal-Yuin Country: Women an...

Video archive on Vimeo of NIFW Bundanon 2018 and post 2019 Bushfires fire documentation <https://vimeo.com/showcase/8775729/>

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS FIRE WORKSHOP 2019 DHUNGALA




The screenshot shows the Firesticks Alliance website. At the top left is the logo "firesticks" with a starburst icon and the tagline "Cultural burning healthy communities, healthy landscapes". To the right are navigation links: "Home", "About", "News", and "Community". Below the navigation is a text block: "Yorta Yorta man Ralph Hume talks cultural fire and healing country at 2019 NIFW Dhungala (Murray River), Victoria, Yorta Yorta Woka (Yorta Yorta Country)".


The main content area features a video player. The video title is "Yorta Yorta Country: The Yorta Yorta People are Missing From The Environment with Ralph Hume, 2019 NIFW, Dhungala" and it is attributed to "from Firesticks Alliance". The video player shows a man with a beard wearing a red and black plaid shirt in a forest setting. The video progress bar indicates a duration of 03:04. To the right of the video are three icons: a heart, a clock, and a share icon.

Below the video player is a text block: "During the 2019 National Indigenous Fire Workshop at Dhungala Nova Peris is inspired by experiencing the relationship between fire and water and healthy Country." Below this is another video player with the title "Yorta Yorta Country, Caring For Country Is A Human Thing with Nova Peris OAM OLY, 2019 NIFW Dhungala" and "from Firesticks Alliance".

Video embedded in Firesticks Alliance website: <https://www.firesticks.org.au/national-indigenous-fire-workshop/dhungala-2019-2/>

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS FIRE WORKSHOP 2019 DHUNGALA







NATIONAL INDIGENOUS
FIRE WORKSHOP



National Indigenous Fire Workshop 2019
4-7 June 2019
On Yorta Yorta Woka (Country) on Dhungala (Murray River)

WORKSHOP INFORMATION AND BOOKING
FIRESTICKS.ORG.AU/DHUNGALA-2019/

PROJECT PARTNERS



*firesticks

Yenbena Itawudik Woka Inyabaknaylin Galyan Bitdja – *People Healing Country with Good Fire*



Left to right: EDM for NIFW 2019 Dhungala.

Images from Firesticks photographic archive: Opening ceremony 2019. Image credit: Josh Gowers. Fire in the landscape at the workshop 2019. Image credit: Josh Gowers

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS FIRE WORKSHOP 2020 FIRESTICKS VIRTUAL CONFERENCE



Kuku Thaypan Country Cape York Peninsula. Photo courtesy of Leo Goddard.

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS FIRE WORKSHOP 2020

FIRESTICKS VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

Sharing Community Cultural Fire achievements

Over the two days of the conference, representatives from Aboriginal communities across Australia shared their achievements and challenges leading Cultural Fire projects and initiatives, and what support they need to take Cultural Fire to the next level.

From Yidinji Country in Far North Queensland to truwana/Cape Barren Island in lutruwita/Tasmania, Aboriginal communities are leading Cultural Fire projects and initiatives right across the country.

Over the two days of the conference, they shared their achievements, challenges and needs for support to take Cultural Fire to the next level.

CASE STUDY 1	FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND
GERRY TURPIN, JAI JOSEPH, KYLEE CLUBB, BARRY HUNTER	
CASE STUDY 2	SOUTHEAST QUEENSLAND
PAUL DAWSON	
CASE STUDY 3	SOUTHEAST QUEENSLAND
LEETON LEE	
CASE STUDY 4	HUNTER VALLEY
TOBY WHALEBOAT	
CASE STUDY 5	SOUTH COAST NSW
LEANNE BROOK AND DAN MORGAN	
CASE STUDY 6	VICTORIA
DAVE WANDIN, MICK BOURKE AND AMOS ATKINSON	
CASE STUDY 7	TASMANIA
FIONA MAHER, TERRY MAYNARD AND ANDRY SCULTHORPE	
CASE STUDY 8	WESTERN AUSTRALIA
ORAL MCGUIRE	

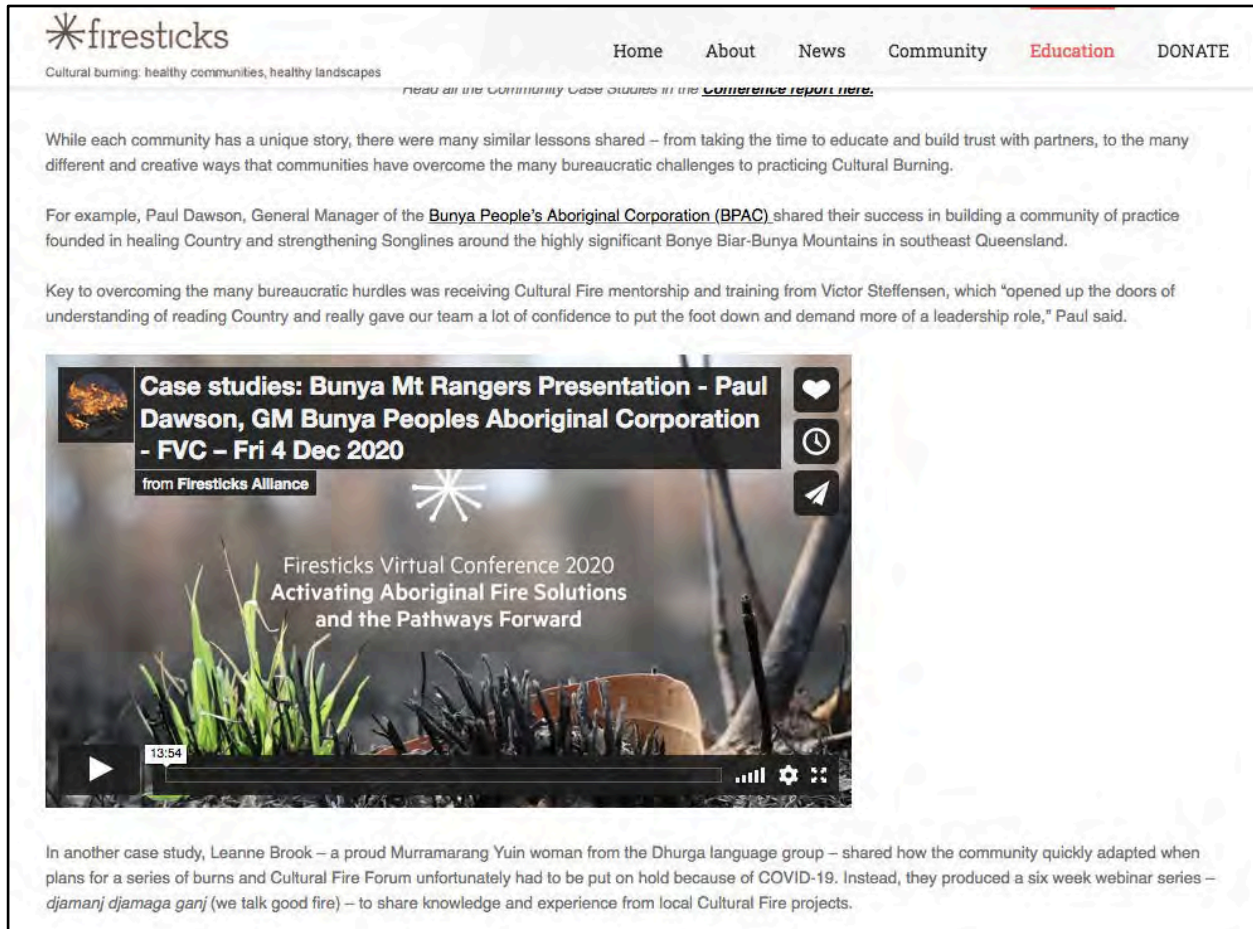


Read all the Community Case Studies in the [Conference report here](#).

<https://www.firesticks.org.au/education/firesticks-virtual-conference-2020/>

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS FIRE WORKSHOP 2020

FIRESTICKS VIRTUAL CONFERENCE



The screenshot shows the Firesticks website with a navigation menu (Home, About, News, Community, Education, DONATE) and a main content area. The main content area features a video player for a case study presentation. The video player has a title, a description, and a play button. The video player is titled "Case studies: Bunya Mt Rangers Presentation - Paul Dawson, GM Bunya Peoples Aboriginal Corporation - FVC - Fri 4 Dec 2020" and is from the Firesticks Alliance. The video player is titled "Firesticks Virtual Conference 2020 Activating Aboriginal Fire Solutions and the Pathways Forward". The video player shows a play button and a progress bar at 13:54.

firesticks
Cultural burning: healthy communities, healthy landscapes

Home About News Community **Education** DONATE

read all the Community Case Studies in the [Conference report here](#).

While each community has a unique story, there were many similar lessons shared – from taking the time to educate and build trust with partners, to the many different and creative ways that communities have overcome the many bureaucratic challenges to practicing Cultural Burning.

For example, Paul Dawson, General Manager of the [Bunya People's Aboriginal Corporation \(BPAC\)](#) shared their success in building a community of practice founded in healing Country and strengthening Songlines around the highly significant Bonye Biar-Bunya Mountains in southeast Queensland.

Key to overcoming the many bureaucratic hurdles was receiving Cultural Fire mentorship and training from Victor Steffensen, which "opened up the doors of understanding of reading Country and really gave our team a lot of confidence to put the foot down and demand more of a leadership role," Paul said.

Case studies: Bunya Mt Rangers Presentation - Paul Dawson, GM Bunya Peoples Aboriginal Corporation - FVC - Fri 4 Dec 2020
from Firesticks Alliance

Firesticks Virtual Conference 2020
Activating Aboriginal Fire Solutions
and the Pathways Forward

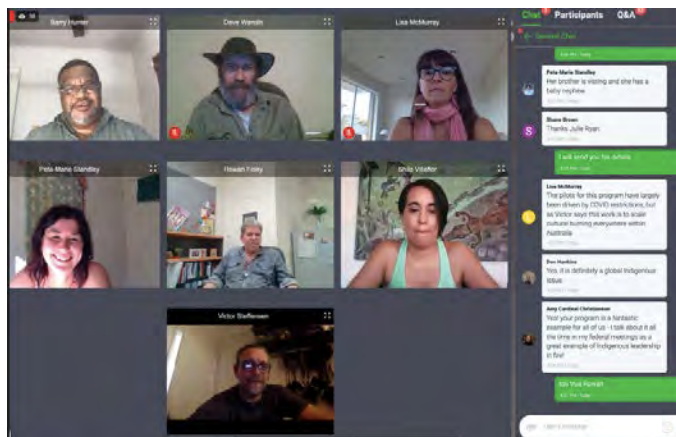
13:54

In another case study, Leanne Brook – a proud Murramarang Yuin woman from the Dhurga language group – shared how the community quickly adapted when plans for a series of burns and Cultural Fire Forum unfortunately had to be put on hold because of COVID-19. Instead, they produced a six week webinar series – *djamanj djamaga ganj* (we talk good fire) – to share knowledge and experience from local Cultural Fire projects.

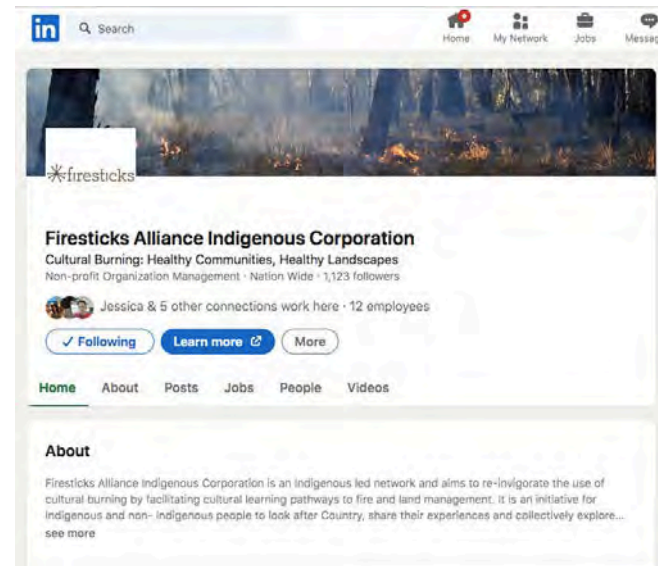
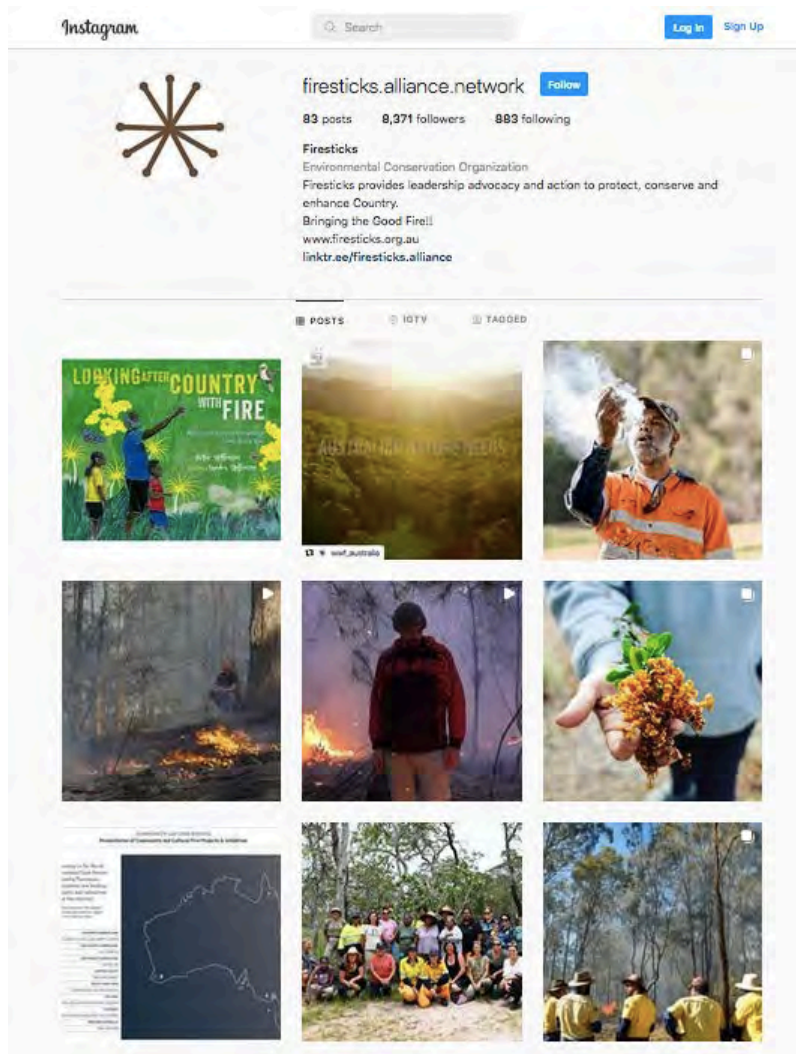
<https://www.firesticks.org.au/education/firesticks-virtual-conference-2020/> videos of virtual conference available on website and vimeo
https://vimeo.com/551402887?embedded=true&source=video_title&owner=9217729

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS FIRE WORKSHOP 2020

FIRESTICKS VIRTUAL CONFERENCE REPORT



SOCIAL MEDIA



Left to right: Pages from Firesticks Alliance Network Instagram; Firesticks Alliance Indigenous Corporation; Facebook page for National Indigenous Fire Workshop (Accessed 1 February 2022)