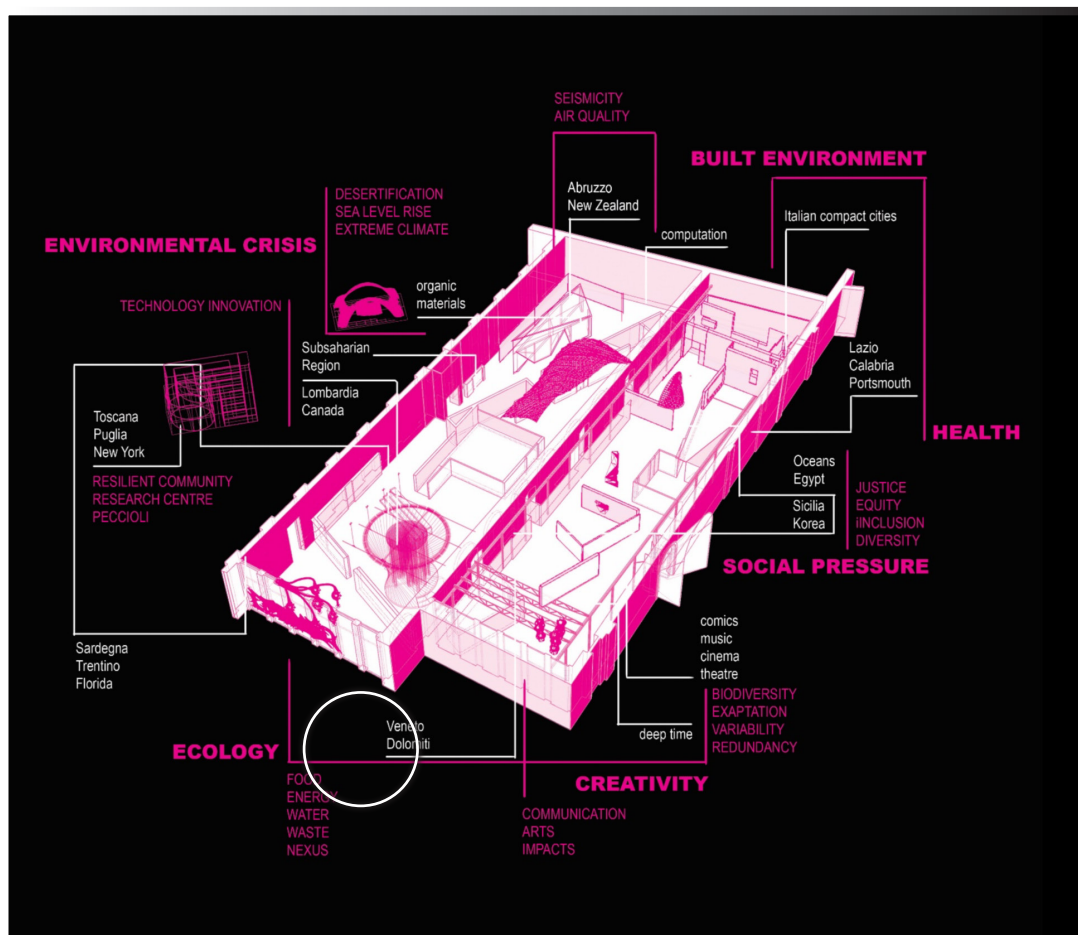
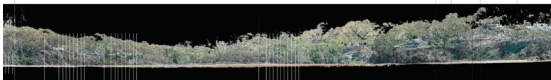
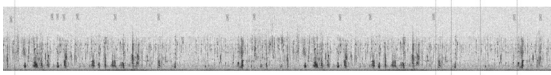




Installation of project in Italian Pavillion (edited)



Italian Pavillion exhibition location of project work



Stills from the documentary film *Living with Fire* (6:15)



ARCHITECTURE - 21 NOVEMBER 2021

## THE BIENNALE ARCHITETTURA 2021 CLOSES WITH OVER 300,000 VISITORS

The number of visitors exceeded that of the 2018 edition (pre-Covid).

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### THE 17TH EXHIBITION

Today, Sunday 21 November 2021, the **17th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia** closed with a total of **298,600 visitors**, plus the **6,000** visitors during the preview, thereby exceeding the numbers of the 2018 edition.

Despite the particularity of this year which imposed so many restrictions on the school system and on national and international universities, **young people under the age of 26** represented **32%** of the total visitors. **18,614** visitors took the guided tours (+9% compared to 2018), of which **7,125** joined the pre-scheduled tours (+214% compared to 2018).

### COMMUNICATION, WEB AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The digital communication of the Biennale Architettura 2021 began in 2020 with the project *Biennale Architettura Snook Peak*, which posted videos, images, podcasts and texts about setting up the Exhibition. Subsequently, the content posted during the **Biennale Architettura 2021** on the social platforms of **La Biennale di Venezia** counted **90 million views** overall.

#### Official website

22 May - 19 November 2021

**1,977,383** individual visitors

**8,745,588** page views (compared to 5,953,789 in 2018)

#### Devices/users

- mobile: 1,223,130 users (61.68%)

- desktop: 719,899 users (36.30%)

- tablet: 39,983 users (2.02%)

#### Social Media

20 May - 18 November 2021

##### Facebook

**392,773** total fans of the page

**+14,118** since the opening of the Biennale Architettura 2021

(Biennale Architettura 2018: 341,720 total followers on November 24, 2018)

##### Twitter

**702,908** total page followers

(Biennale Architettura 2018: 701,559 total followers on November 24, 2018)

##### Instagram

**604,288** total page followers

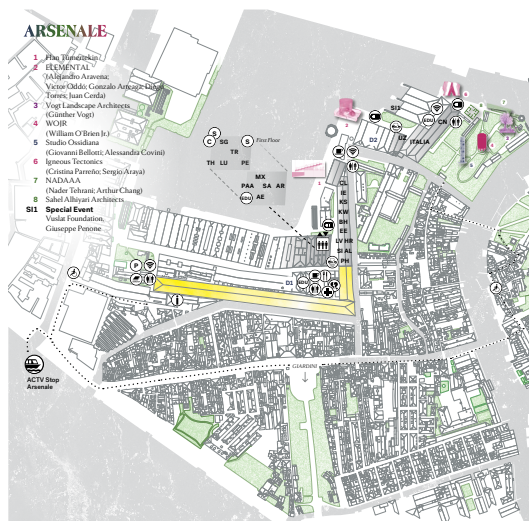
**+ 60,141** since the opening of the Biennale Architettura 2021

(Biennale Architettura 2018: 297,907 total followers on November 24, 2018)

##### YouTube

Total subscribers to the channel **41,833**

**+3,500** subscribers since the beginning of the Biennale Architettura 2021



- Press Office
- First Aid
- AED
- Biennale Educational
- Biennale Sessions
- Biennale Collage
- Edison Mobile Recharge point

#### Special Project

**PAA Pavilion of Applied Arts**  
La Biennale di Venezia  
with Victoria and Albert  
Museum

**D1** Biennale Danza  
NOT ONCE  
Michael Baryshnikov;  
Jan Faber

**D2** Biennale Danza  
TOM  
Wilke Branson

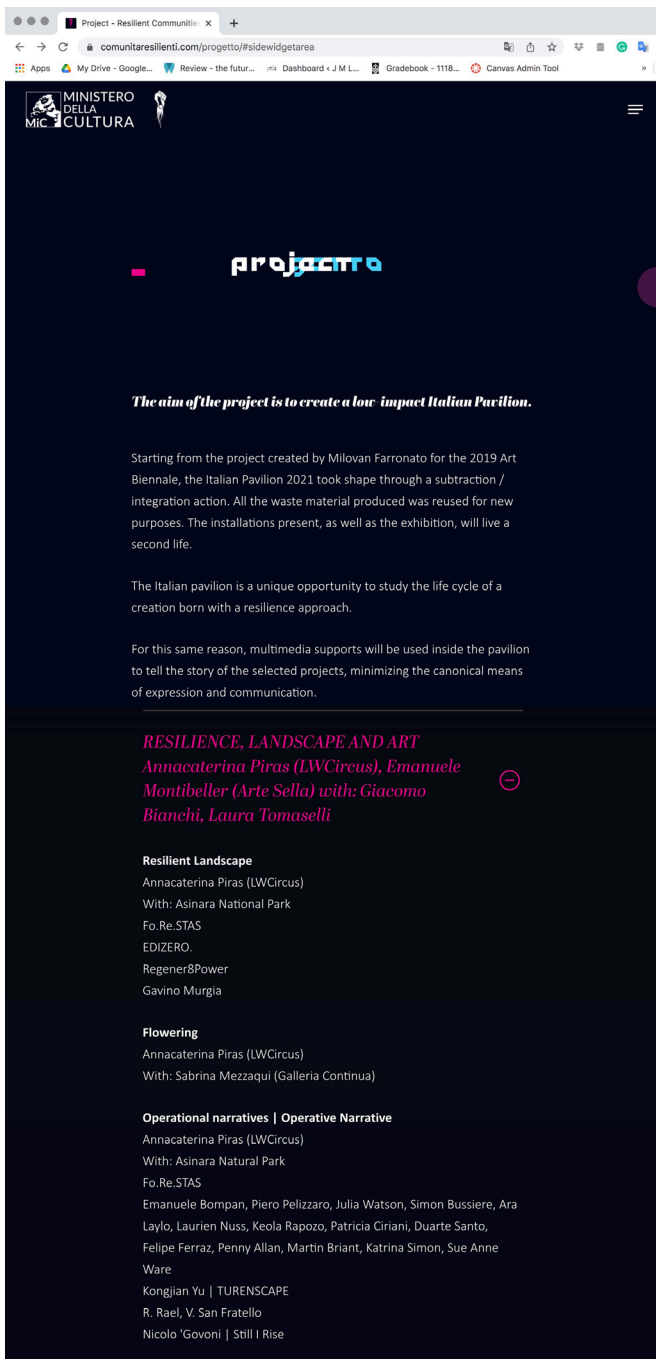
#### Participating Countries

**AL** Albania  
**SA** Saudi Arabia  
**AR** Argentina  
**BH** Kingdom of Bahrain  
**CL** Chile  
**CN** People's Republic of China  
**HR** Croatia  
**AE** United Arab Emirates  
**EE** Estonia  
**PH** Philippines  
**LU** Grand Duchy of Luxembourg  
**IE** Ireland  
**ITALIA** Italy  
**KS** Republic of Kosovo

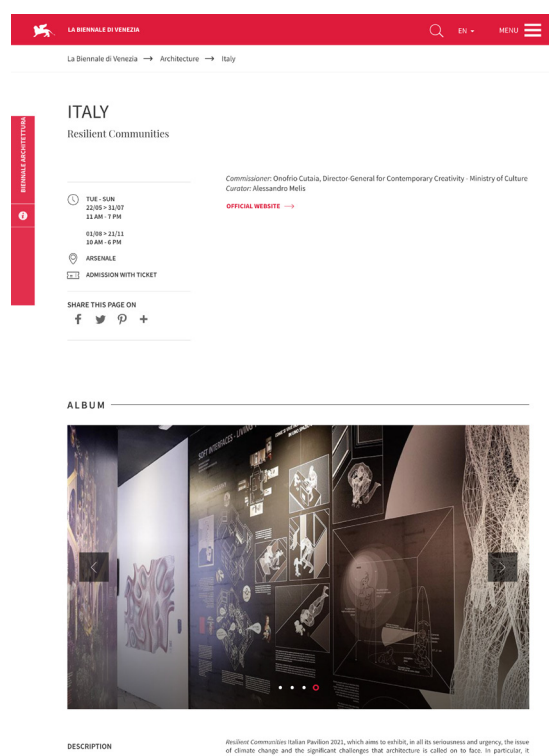
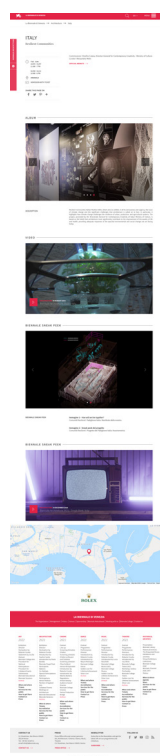
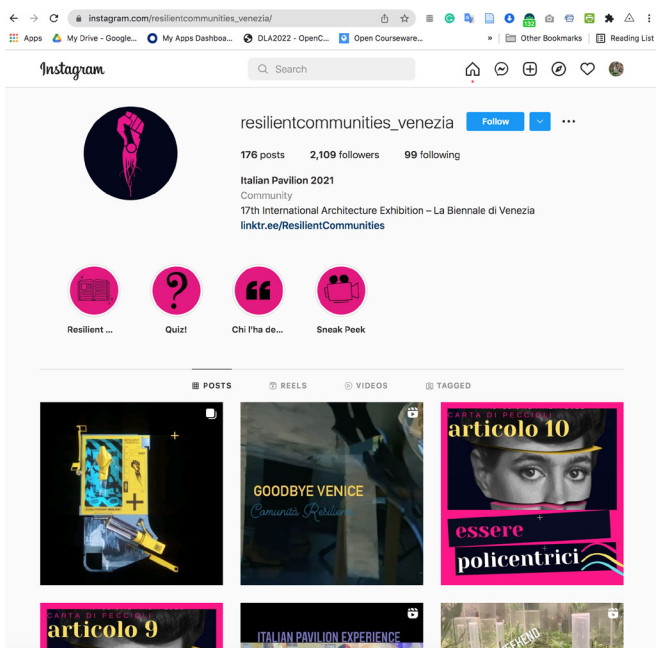
**KW** Kuwait  
**LV** Latvia  
**MX** Mexico  
**PE** Peru  
**SG** Singapore  
**SI** Republic of Slovenia  
**TH** Thailand  
**TR** Turkey  
**UZ** Republic of Uzbekistan

Venice Biennale event reach and exhibition significance  
<https://www.labiennale.org/en/news/biennale-ar->

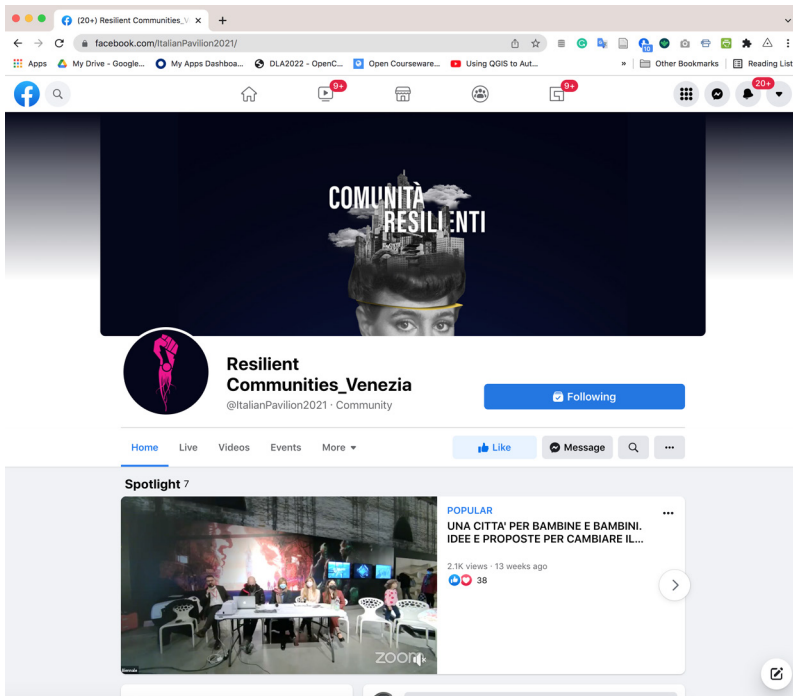
Venice Biennale publication, printed and digital, showing location of the Italian Pavilion in the Arsenale



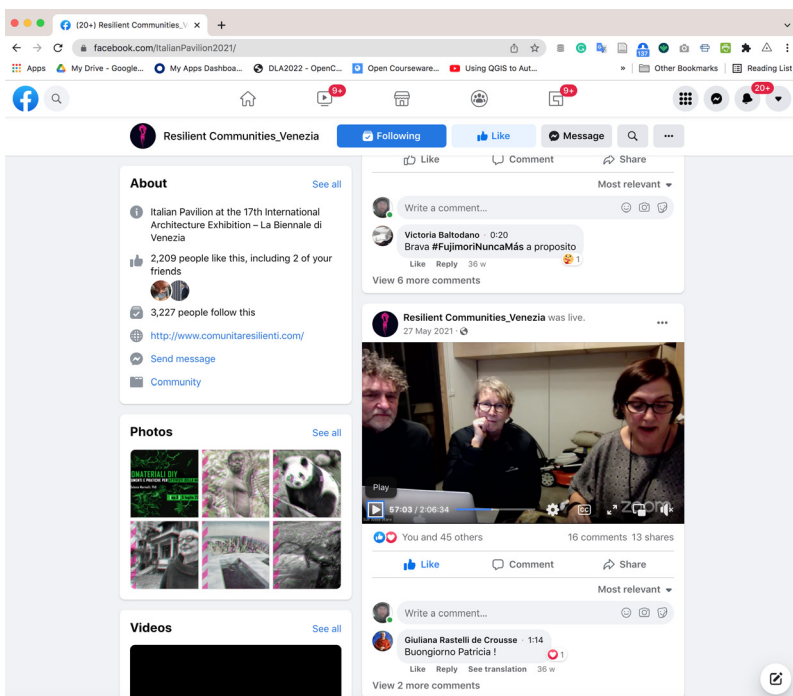
Italian Pavillion website, event reach and exhibition significance



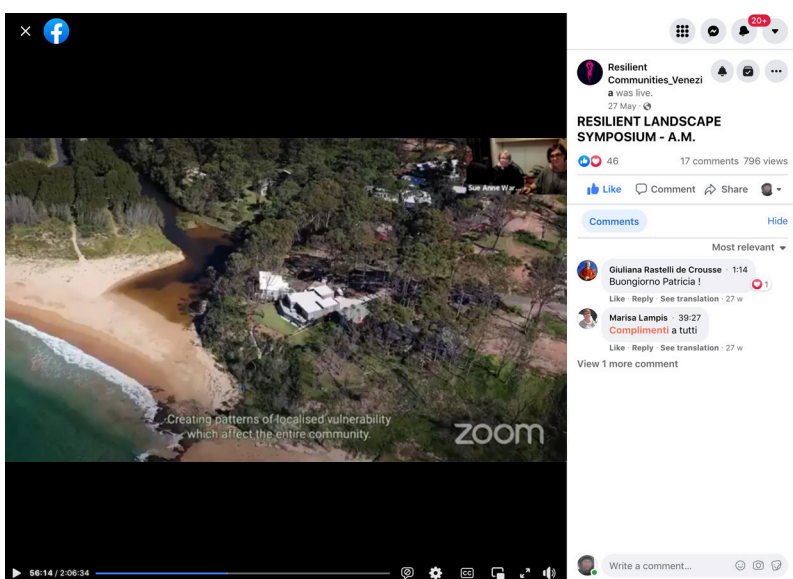
Italian Pavillion representation on Venice Biennale website



Facebook Site, Italian Pavillion

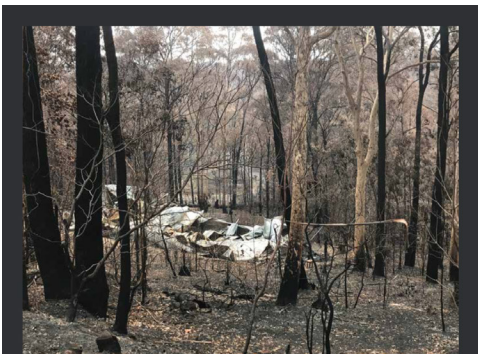


Resilient Landscape Symposium and Press Event, 27 May 2021. Penny Allan (center), James Melsom (off camera)



Still from narrated video presentation Resilient Landscape Symposium and Press Event, 27 May 2021

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**Beyond Borders:  
A Collective Approach  
For Living With Fire**  
**Penelope Allan &  
James McLean**

At an event at the Sydney Opera House in February 2020 about the catastrophic 2019/2020 fires on Australia's east coast, two incisive comments – amid the stories of death and destruction – identified who had been missing in the media, which has until that point focused almost exclusively on destruction, how the fires started and who was to blame: The first comment related to the “politics of fire”:

...such a disastrous event inevitably uncovers a set of underlying conditions often decades in the making. To understand the event, you need to excavate the forces that led to the moment of crisis.<sup>3</sup>

The second challenged its "dominant values":

A lot of people say "Were you OK?" and "Did your house burn down?". I live in a forest. As far as I was concerned my house was replaceable, but the forest was not. The fire showed us what we try to preserve and therefore where we place value. I am OK and this house is the legal system says is mine is OK. But we must recognise that these are embedded within systems of human and more than human relationships which have been devastated by the fire by the drought that preceded it and the perilous future we're moving towards, that *sea vanu fei from Qix*!

Both provide a useful frame for the design research described in this essay, which proposes a paradigm shift from a reactionary response and the notions that form it, to a systemic rebuilding of our coexistence with fire.

The research sets out to interrogate the tensions between fire, politics, ecologies and settlement and the language and logics of fire in the landscape. It challenges the typical, reactive approach to disaster: the shock, public outcry, military response, using the language of war, strengthening of defence and a slow "return to normal". It deconstructs the media coverage, which was continuous, shifting, melodramatic, all-consuming and always out-of-date. Instead, it uses a forensic eye to uncover the political, economic and environmental factors that influenced the development of fires that burned on the east coast of Australia.

These tensions were keenly felt in the small coastal settlement of Rosedale on the NSW South Coast. It is a region rich in terrestrial and marine biodiversity, which sustained the life of local Yuin tribes for thousands of years, long before the more recent development of scattered settlements along its ridges, headlands and waterways. The town was badly affected the 2019 New Year's Eve fires (Fig. 11).

The fires destroyed some 70 houses in Roseville, and this presents a conundrum for those who need to rebuild. Locals see a profound attachment to the bush and the life within it, but the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) has a different view. The 2019 PEPB will make it difficult for them to rebuild affordably and encourage interspecies relationships of wildlife in the bush. The RFS has a hierarchy of values: the protection of something at the expense of something or someone else. The 2019 PEPB proposes to expand the Asset Protection Zone (APZ) to include the bushland adjacent to protect the asset or building.<sup>1</sup> But clarity, it suggests that property should be protected at the expense of habitat and biodiversity. The APZ boundary is implemented according to the PEPB: significant amounts of critical habitat will be destroyed, directly contradicting the Environment and Biodiversity Conservation Act 2017. The RFS is not aware of the growing tensions in the community between the rights of the individual and the rights of all living things into which they are born. The RFS is not aware that APZs are already under increasing pressure to relax their legislation.<sup>2</sup> Australia's inflexible statutory planning system, biased towards the interests of the urban individual, is struggling to keep up.

The challenge of this research has been to work through the tensions: to move beyond the dominant values of risk and prevention, and shift from an event-based understanding of bushfire to an understanding of fire as an evolving and adaptive spatial paradigm, correlative with broader systemic land management practices and attitudes. It marks the beginning of a long process of negotiation between all those who have a stake in the outcome, including those who have a stake but no voice.

### Deconstructing the event

Can major fire events act as moments to reconfigure and adjust the logic of property in the landscape and realign it to better live with fire? This question frames the research: a collaboration with the community, Yuin, local council, Rural Fire Service (RFS), the land itself and everything that inhabits and shapes it.

The assumptions associated with the concept of rebuilding and recovery typically imply an erasure or denial of fire, a reinstatement of the status quo and a fundamental negation of the past and future role of fire in the landscape. The research challenges these assumptions by orienting towards the phenomenon of fire and its impacts on the landscape, imagining how the marks and logics of fire can shape the landscape and suggest new ways of living with and alongside fire.

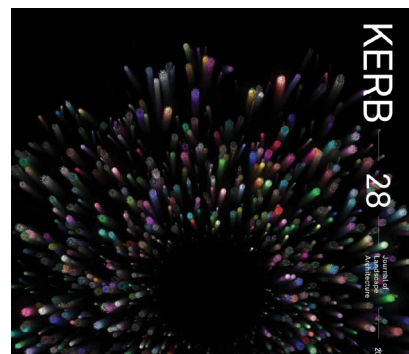
To this end we investigated the routines, borders, maintenance schedules and modes of living in the landscape, looking for evidence of fire: the logic of its path; the role of topography, ridges and their relationship to settlement; the distribution of species and density of vegetation; and human interventions such as fire tanks and architectural objects of resistance. Using a wide range of data sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology, satellite imagery, fire warning drawings, point cloud, video, fieldwork, drones, media (newspapers and social media), personal accounts, conversations and local observations, we deconstructed the fire event at local and regional scales from its June 2019 beginnings on the east coast, to a detailed examination of the 24 hours of the New Year's Eve fire event.

We imagined a collective approach for Rosedale and the surrounding region; an assemblage beyond borders where new practices and modes of living together in the landscape might signal a more adaptive relationship with fire. A series of thematic areas of enquiry frames these methods.

**The fires across space and time**

Scientists have long predicted that the weather effects of anthropogenic climate change in Australia – hotter summers, less rainfall and more intense flood events, together with continuing poor land management practices – would have a significant impact on our forests in this country. In 2019 these climate change effects were further exacerbated by two climate anomalies. El Niño, operating in cycles of one to seven years, blows hot winds across the Pacific Ocean from South America, and the Indian Ocean Dipole, which is the product of a temperature differential at opposite sides of the Indian Ocean.<sup>1</sup> The recent positive Dipole, one of the strongest on record, coincided with the longest period of no rain in the history of Australia, continuing between 2015 and 2019. Hot air circulated from the east coast to the centre and back again as temperatures rose and rainfall diminished. This prepared the ground for what was

On the second of January 2020, after avoiding the topic in public statements, the Prime Minister of Australia, Scott Morrison acknowledged climate change for the first time as a contributing factor to the fires and the preceding drought, but stressed the need to balance environmental with economic sustainability.<sup>9</sup> Significantly, this balancing act echoes that of the NSW Government which, between 2011 and 2019, made 'savagely cuts' to funding for the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).<sup>10</sup> This resulted in the loss of hundreds of jobs, decades of firefighting experience and a significant reduction in



20  
WILLIAM F. FLETCHER, JR.  
EXISTENCE IN A TIME OF CRISIS

We have begun to explore this with the community. Something like a collective agreement that is legally binding but flexible and responsive to local conditions might help the community negotiate a loosening of the legal restrictions that are currently forcing them to choose between rebuilding or cutting down trees. A collective agreement of this nature might also recognise the systems of human and non-human relationships that were devastated by the fire and signal the

intention of the community to coexist with these systems in a more reciprocal and respectful way. There are no precedents for this kind of agreement in Australia,<sup>6</sup> so much of our research to date has been about figuring out how to take the first steps.

A clear statement from the residents articulating where they place value and therefore what they are trying to preserve, and a collaborative drawing with input from the Yun, RFBs and local council, which clearly shows how Rosedale's imagined future might mitigate the vulnerability of the settlement to fire, could act as a solid foundation for an agreement, loosening the conflicts between bushfire protection and biodiversity.

There is a growing interest amongst stakeholders about the research. Planners at the local council are looking for models to help them shape the way coastal settlements vulnerable to fire are managed in the future, and feedback from the community has been encouragingly positive. The research, at least in its

recognising and engaging directly with strategies to minimise anthropogenic climate change, many of the most compelling adaptive approaches require that we rethink our attachment to Western values about property and reassess our relationship with fire. A shift in our culture of habitation, construction, ecologies, land management and climate impact also entail a shift in focus from reconstruction to adaptation. Adaptive approaches are likely to be landscape in scale and move beyond the practices of cultural burning that are not ours to exploit because they belong to the traditional owners of this country.<sup>28</sup> They should not be seen as a

substitute for a radical shift in our own habits of settlement and land use, which appear to be so destructive. The research suggests that we think about recovery not as a "return to normal", but as a promise of evolution, continually shifting in the face of unpredictable climate extremes. In order that all living things have an opportunity to adapt and thrive, we may need to relinquish certain elements of control and move towards a collective approach of living with fire.

hazard reduction burns across the state.<sup>7</sup> By the beginning of the fire season in 2011 without regular reduction in fuel loads, the steep and inaccessible landscapes of the east coast's Great Dividing Range had accumulated at least 14 tonnes of fuel per hectare, enough to support a 100,000 kilowatts-per-metre fire.<sup>8</sup> In June, the first fires started in the north-east, intensifying as they tracked south along the Great Dividing Range towards Rosedale.

There is a very tiny cleared land between Rosedale on the NSW South Coast and the Great Dividing Range. Some of that land is national park, some state forest. A much smaller percentage is farmland or small acre holdings. On the coast, the region's distinctive geomorphology, with its characteristic steep headlands of igneous rock dissected by waterways, has influenced the way the land is settled. Small houses, many of them beach shacks or temporary residents, cluster on ridgelines facing the sea with their backs to west-facing forested slopes, which burn hot and fast in a fire. By late 2019, fuel loads had accumulated on individual properties to the point of a complete or near-complete loss of vegetation. It was a major misconception about what makes healthy land. When the RFS visited North Rosedale in November 2019, they called it an accident waiting to happen.<sup>2</sup>

The fire that arrived at about 9:30am on New Year's Eve was intense. "I was in bed and I woke up to hear people shouting. I went to leave, some residents sought shelter on the beach, others stayed in place. Many homes were lost, as has been recorded in countless photos and media posts. I was in the middle of the beach when I saw that people were running. I was the first who stayed to defend because I was prepared for the fire to come from the northwest as predicted. But it came from every direction, driven by erratic winds gusting from the ocean, creating a vicious fire and a very dangerous situation for the people," which created its own weather patterns. The communications towers in the Range burned early in the day. Residents in South Rosedale stated out "zones of care," by which they were able to help people without any prior planning, to prevent flying embers taking hold. These informal assemblies of people and resources operated well after the fire front had passed, giving information, resources and help. It was weeks before power and communications were completely restored.

### Legislation and other alternatives

The current stringent regulations around rebuilding demand that those who have lost their houses make an impossible choice: to spend an enormous amount of money rebuilding in accordance with the PBP or to essentially destroy vegetation to build a more affordable house. [Fig. 2] The legislation is a blunt instrument. The

