

## **BUSHFIRES AND KARST IN SOUTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES – 2001/2002 AND 2002/2003**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Wild fires burnt across many significant karst areas in southern New South Wales in the summers of 2001/2002 and 2002/2003.

This paper describes some of the fires and their impacts – or lack thereof. Those in 2001/2002 had little impact. However, fire over the Coleman, Yarrangobilly and Ravine karst areas this last summer was very dramatic – but not necessarily destructive.

Certainly there has been widespread vegetation alteration and there will be extensive soil loss. However, we can take the opportunity to have a better look at karst topography, think about the karst processes, time and judge what all this means for karst and its ecosystems.