



# Black summer

Edited by Michael Rowland

First published in 2021

## Genre & subject

Wildfires -- Australia -- History -- 21st century

Forest fires -- Australia -- History -- 21st century

Natural disasters -- Social aspects -- Australia

Disaster victims -- Australia

## Synopsis

Told by ABC journalists who were on the ground and broadcasting during our worst ever fire season, spearheaded by Michael Rowland. The bushfires that burnt across Australia from June 2019 to February 2020 were unprecedented. By the time the rains came, they had devoured more than 18 million hectares of bush and farm land, destroyed nearly 3000 homes, claimed the lives of 33 people, killed about a billion animals and driven more to the brink of extinction. The heartbreak, pain, loss and uncertainty were felt far and wide. These were fires that burnt in every state and affected all Australians, directly or indirectly. But out of the tragedies, the fear, the lost homes, the burnt forests, the bleak holidays, the unrelenting smoke have come stories of courage and community. ABC journalists on the ground during the crises brought many of these stories into homes across the nation. This book contains updates, new stories and overviews by them, as well as reflections on how such a catastrophe occurred and what we have learnt from it. It is both a record of the events and a tribute to those who endured, escaped, fought and in some cases paid the ultimate price. Stories of loss, courage and community from the 2019-2020 bushfires, told by the ABC reporters who were on the ground and broadcasting during our worst ever fire season, spearheaded by Michael Rowland.

## Author biography

Michael Rowland is the co-presenter of ABC News Breakfast on ABC-TV. He has spent more than 25 years reporting stories in Australia and around the world. During the bushfire crisis in January 2020, he presented the ABC flagship program 7.30, which covered the stories and events extensively.

## Discussion starters

- Did this book make you want to explore the subject matter more?
- What were your impressions on the author's style? Did you find the book easy to read, or a slog?
- Of all the information presented in the book, what has stayed you the most?
- What did you Google while reading the book?
- Did you agree with the author's conclusions? Where did you deviate?

If you liked this book, you may also like...

*Currowan: the story of a fire and a community during Australia's worst summer* by Bronwyn Adcok

*Sunburnt country: the history and future of climate change in Australia* by Joelle Gergis



If you are looking for something new to read try **NoveList!** It is a free database to help you find that perfect book. Visit [www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/library](http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/library)

Author biography from Wikipedia ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George\\_Orwell](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Orwell)), discussion starters from [www.litlovers.com/reading-guides](http://www.litlovers.com/reading-guides) and read-a-likes from NoveList.