

## APPENDIX C – FIRE IN VICTORIA: A SUMMARY

This appendix summarises the major fire events in Victoria from February 1851 to February 2007.<sup>1</sup>

Date	Location	Impact Summary
6 February 1851 (Black Thursday)	Wimmera, Portland, Gippsland, Plenty Ranges, Westernport, Dandenong district, Heidelberg	<b>Deaths:</b> 15 <sup>2</sup> <b>People rendered homeless:</b> 100 <b>Buildings:</b> 1,300 <b>Livestock:</b> 1 million sheep, thousands of cattle <b>Area burnt:</b> 5 million hectares (approx. 25%) of Victoria <sup>3</sup>
4 and 5 January 1886	Otway and Heytesbury, incorporating Panmure, Colac, Camperdown	<b>Deaths:</b> nil <b>Estimated damage:</b> £15,000 <sup>4</sup> <b>Buildings:</b> approx. 50 <sup>5</sup> <b>Fencing:</b> thousands of miles (over 5,000 chains) <sup>6</sup>
1 February 1898 (Red Tuesday)	South Gippsland	<b>Deaths:</b> 12 <b>People rendered homeless:</b> 2,500 <b>Buildings:</b> over 2,000 <b>Area burnt:</b> 260,000 hectares
December 1899	Beechworth–Yackandandah, Broadford, Bairnsdale	<b>Deaths:</b> nil <b>Estimated damage:</b> £50,000 <b>Buildings:</b> many homesteads <b>Livestock:</b> extensive losses <sup>7</sup>
January 1900	Hamilton, Bealiba, Warrenbayne, Wangaratta, Euroa, Warrnambool	<b>Deaths:</b> nil <b>Estimated damage:</b> £100,000–200,000 <b>Buildings:</b> 6 woolsheds and a number of homes <b>Fencing:</b> extensive losses <b>Livestock:</b> 20,000 sheep, 300 cattle and a number of horses <b>Area burnt:</b> more than 500,000 acres <sup>8</sup>
February 1900	Meredith, Warrnambool, Pyrenees Range, Gippsland	<b>Deaths:</b> 3 <b>Estimated damage:</b> £35,000 <b>Buildings:</b> homes, farmhouses and farm buildings <b>Fencing:</b> hundreds of miles <b>Livestock:</b> cattle and sheep <b>Area burnt:</b> in excess of 60,000 acres <sup>9</sup>
December 1905 – January 1906	Dandenong Ranges	<b>Deaths:</b> 12
1 January 1912	Willaura	<b>Deaths:</b> nil <b>Buildings:</b> 15 <b>Area burnt:</b> main street of the town
1 January 1913	Chelsea (Melbourne)	<b>Deaths:</b> nil <b>Buildings:</b> 64 permanent residences and 100 holiday homes
1914	Gippsland, Grampians, Otway Range	<b>Deaths:</b> nil <b>Area burnt:</b> varied – 100,000 hectares <sup>10</sup>
1926	Noojee, Kinglake, Warburton, Erica, Dandenong Ranges	<b>Deaths:</b> 60 <b>People rendered homeless:</b> 700 <b>Buildings:</b> 1,000 <b>Area burnt:</b> 400,000 hectares
1932	Gippsland and other areas across Victoria	<b>Deaths:</b> 9 <b>Area burnt:</b> large areas of state forest
8 January 1939	Narbethong	<b>Deaths:</b> 2

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13–20 January 1939 (incl. Black Friday)	Large areas of the north-east and Gippsland, the Otway and Grampian Ranges and the towns of Rubicon, Woods Point, Warrandyte, Noojee, Omeo, Mansfield, Dromana, Yarra Glen, Warburton, Erica	<b>Deaths:</b> 71 <b>People rendered homeless:</b> 3,000 <b>Buildings:</b> 1,300 (including 69 sawmills) <b>Livestock:</b> 2,500 <b>Area burnt:</b> 1.5–2.0 million hectares
3–4 March 1942	Hamilton, South Gippsland	<b>Deaths:</b> 1 <b>Livestock:</b> 100 sheep <sup>11</sup> <b>Buildings:</b> 30
22 December 1943 – 15 February 1944	Central and western districts, Morwell, Yallourn	<b>Deaths:</b> 51 (including 10 at Wangaratta on 22 December) <b>Livestock:</b> 10,000 <b>Buildings:</b> more than 500 (as well as an open-cut mine) <sup>12</sup> <b>Area burnt:</b> more than 1 million hectares of grassland and 160,000 hectares of forest <sup>13</sup>
1 January 1952 – 1 March 1952	Central and southern districts, including Benalla area	<b>Deaths:</b> 10 <b>Livestock:</b> 7,500 <b>Area burnt:</b> 1.5 million acres
14–17 January 1962	The Basin, Christmas Hills, Kinglake, St Andrews, Hurstbridge, Warrandyte, Mitcham	<b>Deaths:</b> 32 <b>Buildings:</b> 454
January – February 1962	Southern district	<b>Deaths:</b> 1 <b>People rendered homeless:</b> 2,500 <b>Buildings:</b> 150
17 January 1965	Longwood	<b>Deaths:</b> 7 (all in one family) <b>Buildings:</b> 6 houses
15 February – 13 March 1965	Gippsland	<b>Deaths:</b> 3 <b>Buildings:</b> more than 60 homes and shops <b>Livestock:</b> more than 4,000 <b>Area burnt:</b> 750,000 acres of forest, 40,000 acres of grassland <sup>14</sup>
19 February 1968	Dandenong Ranges, The Basin, Upwey	<b>Deaths:</b> nil <b>People rendered homeless:</b> 200 <b>Buildings:</b> 64 <sup>15</sup> <b>Area burnt:</b> 1,920 hectares
8–9 January 1969	Lara, Daylesford, Bulgana, Yea, Darraweit, Kangaroo Flat, Korongvale	<b>Deaths:</b> 23 <b>People rendered homeless:</b> 800 <b>Buildings:</b> 251 <b>Livestock:</b> more than 12,000 <b>Area burnt:</b> 250,000 hectares
December 1972	Mt Buffalo	<b>Deaths:</b> nil <b>Area burnt:</b> 12,140 hectares <sup>16</sup>
12 February 1977 (Black Saturday)	Penshurst, Tatyoon, Streatham, Creswick, Pura Pura, Werneth, Cressy, Rokewood, Beeac, Mingay, Lismore, Little River	<b>Deaths:</b> 8 <b>People rendered homeless:</b> 350 <b>Buildings:</b> 456 <b>Fencing:</b> 10,000 kilometres <sup>17</sup> <b>Livestock:</b> 250,000 sheep; 4,500 cattle <sup>18</sup> <b>Area burnt:</b> over 135,000 hectares <sup>19</sup>
15 January 1978	Bairnsdale	<b>Deaths:</b> 2 <b>People rendered homeless:</b> 80 <b>Buildings:</b> 36 <b>Livestock:</b> 6,500 <sup>20</sup>
28 December 1980 – 6 January 1981	Sunset Country and Big Desert	<b>Deaths:</b> nil <b>Area burnt:</b> 119,000 hectares <sup>21</sup>

Date	Location	Impact Summary
8–9 January 1983	Greendale	<b>Deaths:</b> 2 Forest Commission employees <sup>22</sup>
31 January – 12 February 1983	Cann River	<b>Deaths:</b> nil <b>Area burnt:</b> 120,000 hectares
1 February 1983	Mt Macedon	<b>Deaths:</b> nil <b>Buildings:</b> 50 houses <b>Area burnt:</b> 6,100 hectares (including 1,864 hectares of state forest)
16–18 February 1983 (Ash Wednesday)	Monivae, Branxholme, Cockatoo, East Trentham, Mt Macedon, Otway Range, Belgrave Heights, Warburton, Cudjee, Upper Beaconsfield, Framingham	<b>Deaths:</b> 47 <b>People rendered homeless:</b> 9,000 <b>Buildings:</b> 2,500 <b>Livestock:</b> 32,750 (including 18,000 sheep and 7,000 cattle) <b>Fencing:</b> 5,900 kilometres <b>Area burnt:</b> 210,000 hectares <b>Estimated damage:</b> \$190 million <sup>23</sup>
4–12 March 1983	Cann River	<b>Deaths:</b> nil <b>Area burnt:</b> 140,000 hectares
14 January – 15 February 1985	Including Maryborough, Avoca, Little River, Wilsons Promontory	<b>Deaths:</b> 5 <b>People rendered homeless:</b> 600 <b>Buildings:</b> 680 <b>Livestock:</b> 46,000 <b>Area burnt:</b> 50,800 hectares
27 December 1990 – 10 January 1991	Strathbogie Ranges	<b>Deaths:</b> 1 <b>People rendered homeless:</b> 30 <b>Buildings:</b> 166 <b>Livestock:</b> 13,500
23 February 1995	Berringa	<b>Deaths:</b> nil <b>Area burnt:</b> 10,000 hectares (mostly forest) <sup>24</sup>
1 October 1995	South-western districts	<b>Deaths:</b> nil <b>Area burnt:</b> bushland and a pine forest
19–21 January 1997	Dandenong Ranges, Creswick, Heathcote, Teddywaddy, Goughs Bay	<b>Deaths:</b> 3 <b>People rendered homeless:</b> 150 <b>Buildings:</b> 43 and 1 CFA fire truck <b>Area burnt:</b> 4,150 hectares
16 February 1997	Winton, Romsey	<b>Deaths:</b> nil <b>Livestock:</b> 200 sheep <b>Area burnt:</b> 800 hectares
31 December 1997 – 12 January 1998	Caledonia River area of Alpine National Park, Carey River State Forest	<b>Deaths:</b> nil <b>Area burnt:</b> 32,000 hectares
1 February 1998	Western District	<b>Deaths:</b> nil <b>Buildings:</b> 60 <b>Livestock:</b> some losses <b>Area burnt:</b> more than 1,600 hectares
22 March 1998	Trentham	<b>Deaths:</b> nil <b>Buildings:</b> 60 <b>Area burnt:</b> 3,500 hectares
2 December 1998	Linton	<b>Deaths:</b> 5 (CFA firefighters) <b>Area burnt:</b> 780 hectares <sup>25</sup>
5–9 January 1999	Grampians	<b>Deaths:</b> nil <b>Area burnt:</b> 7,000 hectares <sup>26</sup>
18–21 January 2000	Portland region	<b>Deaths:</b> nil <b>Area burnt:</b> 1,700 hectares

Date	Location	Impact Summary
10 February 2000	North-western Victoria	<b>Deaths:</b> nil <b>Buildings:</b> 5 <b>Area burnt:</b> 115 hectares
28 November – 20 December 2000	Dadswells Bridge and surrounds, Horsham, Stawell, Barratt region	<b>Deaths:</b> nil <b>Buildings:</b> 6 <b>Livestock:</b> 8,000 (mainly sheep) <sup>27</sup> <b>Fencing:</b> 500 kilometres <sup>28</sup> <b>Area burnt:</b> 29,000 hectares <sup>29</sup>
March 2002	Glenaroua	<b>Deaths:</b> nil <b>Buildings:</b> 1 house <b>Area burnt:</b> 6,100 hectares of grass and scrub <sup>30</sup>
17–31 December 2002	Big Desert	<b>Deaths:</b> nil <b>Buildings:</b> 1 abandoned house <b>Area burnt:</b> 181,400 hectares <sup>31</sup>
8 January – 7 March 2003	North-eastern Victoria, Gippsland	<b>Deaths:</b> 1 <b>Buildings:</b> 41 houses <b>Fencing:</b> 3,000 kilometres <b>Livestock:</b> 110,000 <b>Area burnt:</b> 1.3 million hectares
April 2005	Wilson's Promontory	<b>Deaths:</b> nil <b>Area burnt:</b> more than 6,000 hectares <sup>32</sup>
31 December 2005 – 31 January 2006	Ararat, Baw Baw Shire, Glenelg Shire, Golden Plains Shire, Greater Geelong, Horsham, Latrobe, Moorabool Shire, Moyne Shire, Murrindindi Shire, Northern Grampians Shire, South Gippsland Shire, Southern Grampians Shire	<b>Deaths:</b> 4 <b>Buildings:</b> 416 <b>Fencing:</b> 2,654 kilometres <b>Livestock:</b> 64,265 <b>Area burnt:</b> 160,000 hectares
1 December 2006 – 7 February 2007	Alpine Shire, Benalla, Indigo Shire, Mansfield Shire, Corangamite Shire, Golden Plains Shire, Baw Baw Shire, East Gippsland, Latrobe, Wellington Shire, Moyne Shire, Wangaratta	<b>Deaths:</b> 1 <b>Buildings:</b> 51 houses <b>Livestock:</b> 1,741 <b>Area burnt:</b> more than 1.2 million hectares

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- 1 Unless otherwise indicated all statistics in this appendix are drawn from Exhibit 726 – Emergency Management Australia Disasters Database. See all at RSCH.041.001.0002
  - 2 All other sources refer to 12 deaths—Exhibit 720 – Report of the Inquiry Into The 2002-2003 Victorian Bushfires (INF.018.002.0001) at 0047; Exhibit 726 – Inquiry into the Impact of Public Land Management Practices on Bushfires in Victoria (RSCH.016.001.0204) at 0259; National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management (RSCH.004.003.1961) at 2338
  - 3 Exhibit 726 – Inquiry into the Impact of Public Land Management Practices on Bushfires in Victoria (RSCH.016.001.0204) at 0259
  - 4 Exhibit 726 – The Argus 1 February 1886 (RSCH.016.001.0001)
  - 5 Exhibit 726 – Report of Distribution of Forest Fires Relief Fund 1886 (RSCH.003.003.3143)
  - 6 Exhibit 726 – Report of Distribution of Forest Fires Relief Fund 1886 (RSCH.003.003.3143)
  - 7 All data for this fire comes from Exhibit 726 – Eleventh Progress Report of the Royal Commission on State Forests and Timber Reserves (RSCH.003.002.8789) at 8804
  - 8 All data for this fire comes from Exhibit 726 – Eleventh Progress Report of the Royal Commission on State Forests and Timber Reserves (RSCH.003.002.8789) at 8804
  - 9 All data for this fire comes from Exhibit 726 – Eleventh Progress Report of the Royal Commission on State Forests and Timber Reserves (RSCH.003.002.8789) at 8804
  - 10 Exhibit 726 – Inquiry into the Impact of Public Land Management Practices on Bushfires in Victoria (RSCH.016.001.0204) at 0259
  - 11 Exhibit 726 – Inquiry into the Impact of Public Land Management Practices on Bushfires in Victoria (RSCH.016.001.0204) at 0259
  - 12 Exhibit 726 – National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management (RSCH.004.003.1961) at 2338
  - 13 Exhibit 726 – Inquiry into the Impact of Public Land Management Practices on Bushfires in Victoria (RSCH.016.001.0204) at 0259
  - 14 Exhibit 726 – Inquiry into the Impact of Public Land Management Practices on Bushfires in Victoria (RSCH.016.001.0204) at 0259
  - 15 Exhibit 726 – National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management (RSCH.004.003.1961) at 2338
  - 16 Exhibit 726 – National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management (RSCH.004.003.1961) at 2339
  - 17 Exhibit 726 – Report of the Board of Inquiry into the Occurrence of Bush and Grass Fires in Victoria (RSCH.003.002.8822) at 8841
  - 18 Exhibit 726 – Report of the Board of Inquiry into the Occurrence of Bush and Grass Fires in Victoria (RSCH.003.002.8822) at 8841
  - 19 Exhibit 726 – Report of the Board of Inquiry into the Occurrence of Bush and Grass Fires in Victoria (RSCH.003.002.8822) at 8841
  - 20 Exhibit 726 – Inquiry into the Impact of Public Land Management Practices on Bushfires in Victoria (RSCH.016.001.0204) at 0260
  - 21 Exhibit 726 – Inquiry into the Impact of Public Land Management Practices on Bushfires in Victoria (RSCH.016.001.0204) at 0260
  - 22 Exhibit 726 – Legislative Assembly Ministerial Statement 16 March 1983 Pages 3072–3087 (RSCH.003.003.0364) at 0367
  - 23 Exhibit 726 – Legislative Assembly Ministerial Statement 16 March 1983 Pages 3072–3087 (RSCH.003.003.0364) at 0368
  - 24 Exhibit 726 – National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management (RSCH.004.003.1961) at 2339
  - 25 All data for this fire come from Exhibit 720 – Report of the Inquiry Into The 2002-2003 Victorian Bushfires (INF.018.002.0001) at 0048
  - 26 Exhibit 726 – Mt. Difficult Fire – Grampians National Park 1989 (RSCH.030.001.0397) at 0399
  - 27 Exhibit 726 – Inquiry into the Impact of Public Land Management Practices on Bushfires in Victoria (RSCH.016.001.0204) at 0260
  - 28 Exhibit 726 – Inquiry into the Impact of Public Land Management Practices on Bushfires in Victoria (RSCH.016.001.0204) at 0260
  - 29 Exhibit 726 – National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management (RSCH.004.003.1961) at 2339
  - 30 All data for this fire comes from Exhibit 726 – Inquiry into the Impact of Public Land Management Practices on Bushfires in Victoria (RSCH.016.001.0204) at 0260
  - 31 All data for this fire comes from Exhibit 726 – National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management (RSCH.004.003.1961) at 2339
  - 32 Exhibit 11 – Statement of Esplin, Attachment 12 (WIT.005.001.1393) at 1418–1420