

RESTORING OPEN ECOSYSTEMS WITH ECOLOGICAL & CULTURAL FIRE

Professional Development Training for:

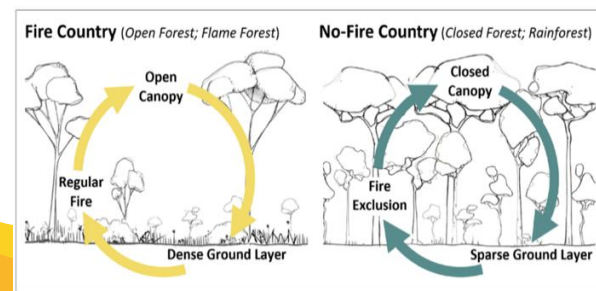
- Natural Resource Managers
- Threatened Species Officers
- Biodiversity Managers
- Consultants

Over the last 200 years, the reduction of Aboriginal cultural fire in the Northern Rivers has degraded open ecosystem biodiversity and increased fuel loads that drive destructive bushfires. This shift now threatens human, plant and animal communities and severs key carbon sequestration pathways and the ability for Aboriginal custodians to care for Country.

Good Fire is beneficial to biodiversity. Applied under the right conditions it is cool, controlled and staged in mosaic patterns over multi-year intervals. Awareness of the need to restore *Good Fire* is growing but its implementation is hindered by a limited understanding of how ecological and cultural values decline in absence of fire and available approaches for restoring fire.



Fire country in the Northern Rivers includes dry and wet sclerophyll forests, heath and grassland ecosystems which provide essential habitats for 75% of threatened fauna in our region including iconic species such as koalas, glossy black cockatoos, large forest owls, long-nosed potoroo and greater gliders. The exclusion of *Good Fire* is a threatening process that can result in localised extinctions of fire-dependent plants and animals.



The objective of this professional development training is to bridge traditional fire practice with contemporary ecological restoration and build your capacity to support and implement *Good Fire* across the Northern Rivers. The training will increase your awareness of the ecological processes of open ecosystems and the crucial role of good fire in their regeneration, maintenance, and protection from destructive wildfires. It will increase your understanding of culturally appropriate approaches to caring for Country through cultural fire and open-ecosystem restoration techniques used by Indigenous fire practitioners.

The Northern Rivers are world leaders in rainforest revegetation and regeneration. This training will build your skills toward restoring open ecosystems and protecting their biodiversity values.

TRAINING PROGRAM

29 May 2026, 9am-5pm.

Open ecosystem and fire ecology, cultural values and protocols, and good fire restoration planning. Field trip to learn from Country.

04 June 2026, 9am-5pm.

Cultural burn and post-burn field day led by Jagun Alliance Aboriginal Corporation on a freehold property with old growth dry sclerophyll, a Good Fire Restoration Plan and several previously burnt areas. The burn is weather dependent and therefore may require rescheduling to a following Thursday in June.

Tutors:

Dr Andy Baker – Wildsite Ecological Services and Southern Cross University Fire Ecologist.

Shane Ivey - Madhima Gulgan Project Manager and Tafe NSW Conservation teacher

Marcus Ferguson –Jagun Alliance Fire Practitioner.

[Bookings click HERE](#)

Cost: \$60.00

Enquiries - Please call Wren McLean on 0437643008 or email landuse@zerobyron.org



Zero Emissions Byron, in collaboration with Jagun Alliance Aboriginal Corporation and Madhima Gulgan Community Association have secured funding from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal to restore *Good Fire* to conserve biodiversity, increase community resilience and co-operation, increase bushfire safety, and continue connection to Country.

