

Case Study:

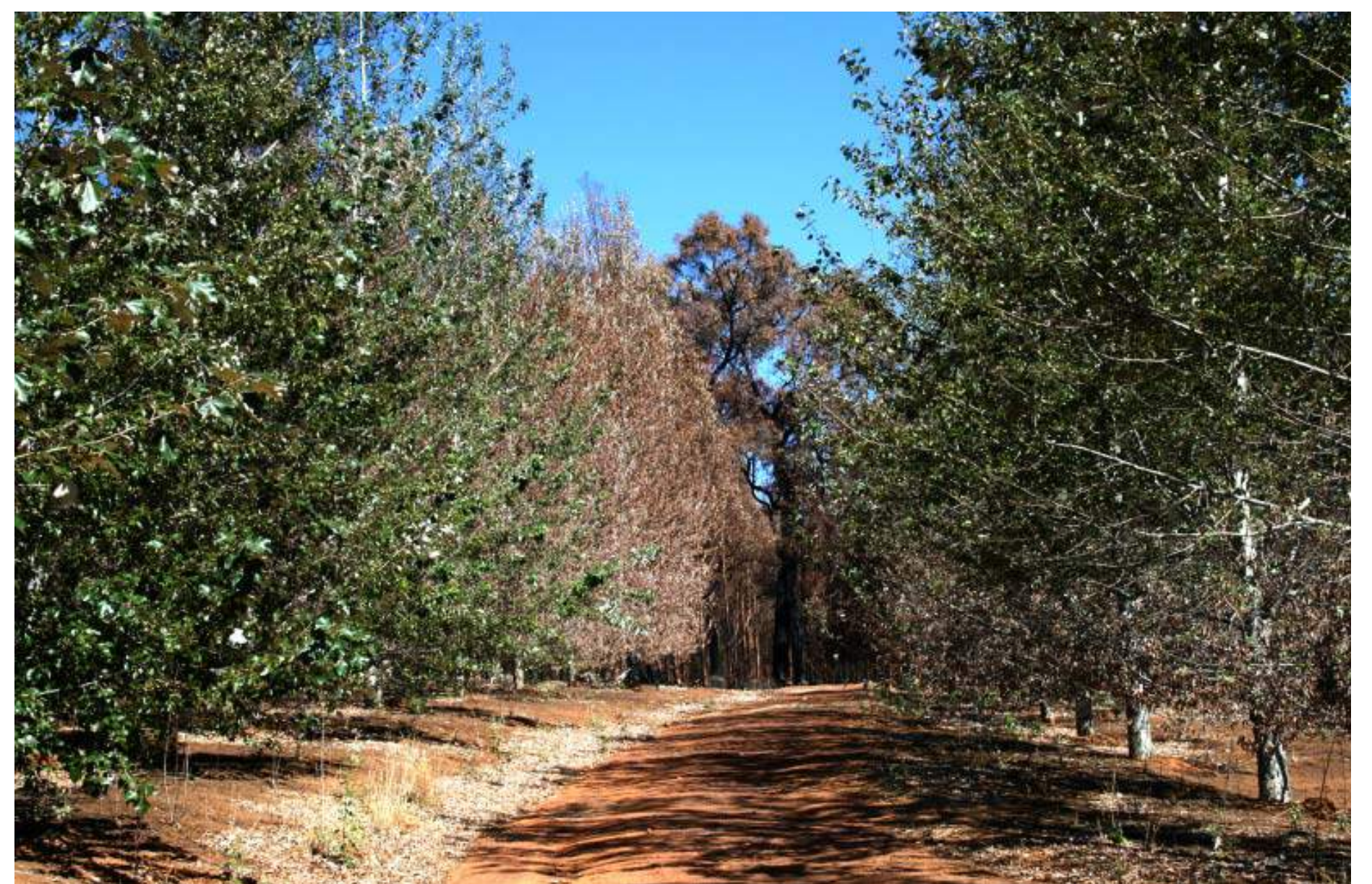
Egerton-Warburton Homestead Bridgetown Jan 2009



Overview: The fire approached from the Background.

"The Poplar avenue split the fire into two when it came out of the Blue Gum plantation. It went around the garden on either side...My plantings around the homestead have intuitively been fire retardant. "

Ruth Egerton-Warburton speaking of the 2009 Bridgetown fire that burnt out much of the farm including shearing shed & cattle yards.



**Only the few avenue Poplars closest to the plantation edge burned/scorched/steamed.
Had the avenue been comprised of fire accelerant trees such as pines or gums they would have drawn the fire down the avenue towards the house probably with a “turbocharged” tongue of heat and flame shooting out of the middle space.**

Case Study:

Darling-Molyneux Residence Balingup/Nannup Rd Feb 2009



"The fire just skirted around the garden. It failed to penetrate past the fire retardant trees on the edges. They cut off the radiant heat. There wasn't much to do, just a few small spot fires in some dry grass to put out."

Experienced firefighter Clinton Bailey speaking of defending the Darling-Molyneux home in the second 2009 Ferndale fire.



On the edge that bore the brunt:



Outside Looking In

Young plantings on bare ground created a gap which helped cut the radiant heat. The older fire retardants did the rest.



Inside Looking Out

Admixture of eucalypts amongst fire retardant trees on this edge saw the fire carry part of the way in.

On a flank:



Outside Looking In

Only the outsides of the edge trees are scorched.



Inside Looking Out

From the inside the impact of the fire upon the edge is hardly noticeable.

Case Studies:

Fire Retardant Tree Belt Stops Running Fire and Cools Downwind Zone

Blackwood Park Rd Bridgetown Fire Jan 2009



The fire retardant trees (arrowed) stopped the approach of the fire from background right. The grass in front of them caught fire from embers that hopped over. As a result of the cooler conditions only the non sheltered side of the flammable Pines (foreground right) burnt, and the fire had to build up progressively through several rows of the Eucalypt planting before regaining enough intensity to redevelop as a crown fire.

Firefighter Sees Difference In Fallen Leaves.



"Every ember that fell on the side of the house that was planted with Blue Gums started a fire in the fallen gum leaves. Every ember that fell on the other side, amongst the poplar leaves, just petered out. There was a 100 per cent difference."

Firefighter John Guest speaking of defending a house at Wright's Bridge in the second 2009 Ferndale fire.

Poplars Save Hayshed From Ember Attack



"The fire roared through the pines, jumped the river, burnt through the eucalypts on the flat and swept up the hill burning out almost our entire farm. The Poplars stood between the fire's path and the hay in the shed, trapping the flying embers without catching fire themselves"

Farmer and Fire Control Officer David Jenkins talking about the 2003 West Bridgetown Fire

Some Difference Seen even in Victoria's Black Saturday Firestorm



Cape Lilac, our Native Deciduous Tree, Proves to be Up With The Best

"Every single leaf had burned off the Marri tree yet the Cape Lilac was still perfectly green except for the bit of crown adjacent to the gum where it was singed brown. It saved a shed. I'm sorry I lost the photo"



Andrew Thamo of Small Tree Farm on visiting a Darlington property after a bushfire some years ago.