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## Structures tell a powerful story of bushfire resilience

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# Powerful story of bushfire resilience transformed into interactive exhibits

## Timber suppliers and DAF contribute to Griffith University project

JIM BOWDEN

STORIES of resilience have been collected and transformed into interactive exhibits for key sites along Queensland's Scenic Rim impacted by the Black Summer bushfires.

The region is a group of forested mountain ranges of the Great Dividing Range south of Brisbane. In Queensland specifically, more than half of the Gondwana world heritage rainforests were burned, including the iconic Binna Burra Lodge.

Griffith University with community stakeholders and strategic partner Binna Burra Lodge have collaborated to tell first-hand accounts of survival and recovery and unearth important insights for future natural disaster preparedness.

The story-telling pavilions will be built on two impacted sites.

Research lead Associate Professor Karine Dupre from the Griffith Institute for Tourism says the project showcases the community's ability to adapt, "by collecting the lived experiences from across the Scenic Rim community".

"We'll get many different perspectives on how stakeholders dealt with the aftermath and recovery from the bushfires," Prof Dupre said.

These memories have been weaved into two exhibition pavilions educating the public about bushfire disasters, their impacts and community stories.



*Interactive exhibits completed at the Griffith University laboratories before transport to Binna Burra.*

"Our aim is to create a platform for social learning for the community by focusing on the different phases of disaster management: prevention, preparedness, response and recovery," Prof Dupre said.

The Bushfire Pavilion is a Griffith University project (architecture and engineering schools) undertaken in collaboration with the DAF forest products innovation team based at the Salisbury Research Facility in Brisbane.

The Griffith multi-disciplinary team is composed of experts in sustainable tourism, design and environment.

Suppliers of materials included Austral Plywoods

(hoop pine plywood), Big River Group (spotted gum plywood), and Wesbeam (LVL).

Prof Dupre said the shared memories would powerfully inform four community workshops to discuss best practices, opportunities and recommendations for recovery to strengthen the existing resilience in the Scenic Rim community.

The project also includes key partners impacted by the bushfires – the Binna Burra

Lodge, Mount Barney Lodge and Scenic Rim Regional Council – as well as the wider community including residents, emergency services, local businesses and visitors.

Binna Burra Lodge chair Steve Noakes says the research will help improve the capacity and capability of the local community to respond to future disasters.

"This research is underpinned by our community's recovery and the first-hand knowledge we've collectively gained through this experience," he said.

"At Binna Burra we lost our

“COLLECTING LIVED EXPERIENCES FROM ACROSS COMMUNITIES”

Cont P 16

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heritage lodge and 11 houses were also destroyed in our Beechmont community.”

Earlier this year Griffith signed a long-term strategic partnership with Binna Burra Lodge to collaborate on research and education initiatives.

The ‘Fire Memories: Gathering Stories about Fire Impacts and Response to Build Resilience’ project is funded under a federal and Queensland government bushfire recovery program.

The 2019-2020 bushfires were devastating. Not only did they burn forests, farms, buildings to the greatest extent ever recounted, but they also took the life of 34



1/ Queensland DAF research centre at Salisbury and timber companies Austral Plywoods, Westbeam and Big River Group contributed to the interactive bushfire response exhibits destined for Queensland’s Pacific Rim.  
2/ Steve Noakes... Griffith project helping communities respond to future disasters.



people and more than a billion animals.

This project acknowledges the traditional custodians of the Land and pays respect to the Elders, past and present, and extends that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

**“WORKING TOGETHER ON RESEARCH AND EDUCATION INITIATIVES**

*On the cover: Looking over interactive exhibits at Griffith University are Associate Professor Karine Dupre, Dr Ian Underhill, Associate Professor Benoit Gilbert, and James Webster. The exhibits are destined for key sites along Queensland’s Scenic Rim, now in recovery after the 2019-20 Black Summer bushfires.*

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