

Acacia saligna after fire



Land for Wildlife members, Richard and Anne Janes, cut down some dead *Acacia saligna* during the winter and burnt them. They sent us this great photograph showing a ring of new plants sprouting from the edge of the ash.

This is a textbook example of what happens after a fire. Around the edge of the ashbed, the heat cracks the hard seed coats of wattles and peas without killing the seeds, and stimulates them into germination. Where dense material burns, an ashbed forms, providing nutrients, and the ground is sterilised, providing the right conditions for the growth of new plants.

In managing this site, the seedlings of *Acacia saligna* should be culled to leave only the number left that you would like to grow there. The others could be transplanted, if desired, as long as they are moved when they are very small. It is also a great site to scatter some other seed, such as Wandoo seed, to see if it will germinate.