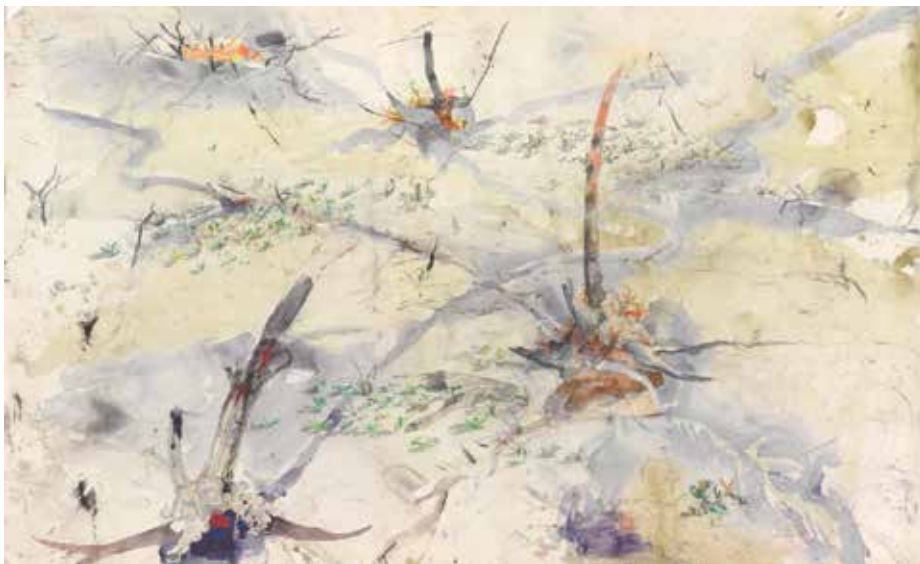




## Editorial: The lifecycle of a journal

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John Wolseley,  
*Regeneration after  
fire – the seeders and  
the sprouters, Mallee*  
(detail), 2009–11,  
watercolour, charcoal,  
pencil and pigment,  
1522 x 2567mm,  
Collection of Sir  
Roderick Carnegie AC  
and Family.

[M]allee roots had vivid amber, scarlet and new growth exploding from the surviving stumps. Nearby were scatterings of tiny, bright banksia seedlings that had germinated after the fire, causing seed pods to burst open and expel their seeds. Botanists call such trees ‘seeders’, while their companions, the mallee eucalyptus, are known as ‘sprouters’. Sprouters have a large root, known as a lignotuber, which stores water and nutrients – this is part of the brilliant strategy for survival in arid landscapes. (Wolseley, 2015).

This compelling picture provides insight into the artist John Wolseley’s experience of a desert wilderness park on the western border of Victoria, Australia, where there had been fires.

Without resorting to clichés, we could perhaps liken arts therapy practitioners in our region to ‘seeders’, ‘sprouters’, or some combination of both. We have been able to store and draw on the strong historical and philosophical roots of the professional arts therapies and of healing and artistic traditions within our diverse cultures, in order to survive and even thrive in parched or under-resourced landscapes. At times, crisis has led to a bursting forth and germination of ideas, as, for instance, the responses documented in this and earlier issues of the journal by arts therapists to the earthquakes in New Zealand and to the Australian bushfires.

In many respects our peer-reviewed journal is a place for sharing aspects of the processes of