

# The Australian Crayfish Project

## Project No. 100001

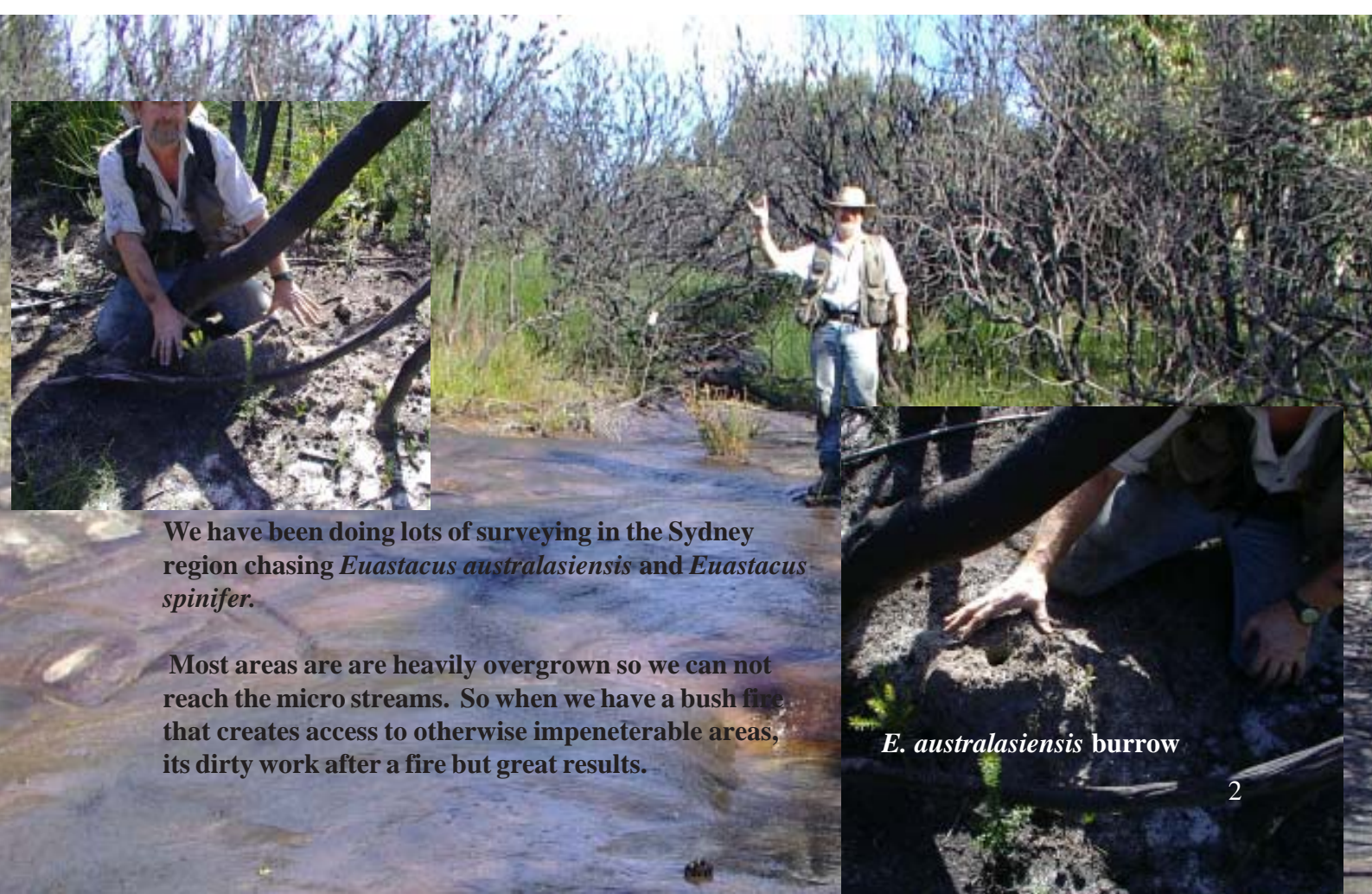
The Australian crayfish project is continuing at full speed, we have been here there and everywhere chasing crayfish as part of the project. This is a never ending quest as the more we search, the more we find and that forces us to search some more and then we find more and on it goes. Research is great as the more you learn to more you realise how little you know and how much more there is to learn.

At this stage in August 2008 the initial surveys of NSW are completed and we are doing the initial surveys of Queensland and Victoria to finish off the eastern side of Australia. It's not just the mainland we are doing it's all the Islands as well. Last year we did Frazer Island, earlier this year we did Bribie and Stradbroke and later this year or early next year we will add Norfolk and Lord Howe Islands.

In NSW we came across lots of anomalies and many of these have become independent projects. Some of these projects are shown later in this publication, for a full list go to [www.aabio.com.au](http://www.aabio.com.au) were details are listed. The Australian Crayfish Project is a privately funded project that is consuming vast amounts of money, many of the new projects are ones that involve funding from various governmental agencies. This 2008 financial year AAB will be applying to a large number of funding organisations to assist with crayfish research projects. The knowledge base on freshwater crayfish is very small and each of the projects that are seeking funding will add to the knowledge base and help conserve and protect the crayfish and its environment. Check out the projects on the web and check out the few projects listed in this newsletter, we need your assistance, if you can help, let us know.

On another note is that we have had lots of enquiries from people that want advice on how to get a permit to collect crayfish from the wild. It's not good news, for the ACP we need a vast number of permits and there is a huge level of difficulty in getting permits in eastern Australia. Each state has their own rules and regulations and some states are incredibly efficient and others are unbelievably inefficient. My only advice is to do all the paperwork and then be patient and chase up again and again.

Following is a compilation of some of the areas that we have been with the ACP.



We have been doing lots of surveying in the Sydney region chasing *Euastacus australasiensis* and *Euastacus spinifer*.

Most areas are heavily overgrown so we can not reach the micro streams. So when we have a bush fire that creates access to otherwise impenetrable areas, its dirty work after a fire but great results.

*E. australasiensis* burrow





1-The start of Appletree Creek  
Kur-ing-gai Chase National Park



2-A piece of mullet on a  
string attracts the cray



3-Scoop the cray and bait with a net,  
cray still will not let bait go



4-Female *E. australasiensis* with eggs



A male *Euastacus australasiensis*.  
Check out the dorsal propodal spines