

"We Didn't Start The Fire"

A red sky belies the burning
of the red country.

The sun is a brazen orb;
tendrils of heat lick the
fire's flickering fingers
entice them further
out into the outback.

Flames build into towering walls;
a tsunami of rage sweeps away
forest and habitat,
settlements and homes.

Families stand knee-deep
in crimson-stained waters
and a billion charred carcasses
pay homage to cool waterways
where bush animals once drank.

Australia burns like every year
except this year
there's a madness to the heat
and an impotence
to our reactions.

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