

# HEAVY DAMAGE BY FIRE AT MOUNT STROMLO

**Canberra—A raging pine forest fire swept Mount Stromlo Observatory, near Canberra, yesterday, destroying the workshop and causing almost £100,000 worth of damage.**

Fresh outbreaks of Victorian bushfires yesterday claimed another life and more homes, while two people were killed in a car-van crash in dense bushfire smoke on a N.S.W. road.

The equipment lost at Mount Stromlo will take two years to replace. The workshop was one of the finest of its kind in the world.

Equipment in the workshop included valuable precision lathes and expensive lens grinding and polishing gear.

The observatory's director (Dr. R. V. D. R. Woolley) and about 20 of his staff, including four women, fought the fire for three hours.

They managed to save the three telescopes and two-thirds of the building.

About 50 women and children were evacuated from the mountain before fast-moving flames, licking the tops of 50ft. pines, encircled the observatory.

Had the firefighters failed to save the observatory Australia would have been

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The observatory houses the apparatus which transmits the signals to the State

meteorological stations. from which the familiar time pips are broadcast every hour.