Preparedness essential as bushfire risk grows

The bushfire risks that face our city have never been more daunting.

A Climate Council report reveals the ACT faces a much higher risk of bushfire than predicted this year, with bushfires predicted to spread much faster than typical. Both the ACT and NSW have raised their bushfire threat alert levels to the highest level, with a high risk of bushfire. This is the highest level of bushfire threat in the ACT, which is expected to last for the next few weeks.

A surge in another introduced jihadist activities. (Jihadists community protection to wise recyclable. Heaps-of rat heaven pel manufacturers to such introspection may be consumption are more likely to mental. Responsible con­ recycling stream ist end up in landfill? giving preference to those acquiring a modicum of a lifelong commitment to still doesn't really matter how

Letters to the Editor

Opt for recyclable goods

In “Buy nothing news” (CT Relax, September 26), avoiding purchasing new consumer goods for a year in pursuit of recycling and re-using is suggested. A commendable idea but, for many, a rather impossible one to implement for any length of time, let alone a year. An alternative approach to meeting recycling targets...consumption could involve a lifelong commitment to acquiring a modicum of new and used goods while giving preference to those that are recyclable.

Jorge Gopala, Kateen

What’s wrong with us?

Counter-terrorism and deradicalisation experts may profitably engage in introspection to determine what it is about Australian society that so repulses youngsters they choose to forsake family and community protection to engage in life-endangering activities. (This is an issue.) Canberra Times, Sunday CT, September 28.

The conclusions from such introspection may be as follows:

Albert M. White, Queenboyen

Heats of rat heaven

While we discourage cats and encourage urban recycling, there appears to be a surplus in another introduced species.

The heat is locked by rat-sized holes dug by appreciative rodents. Some communities are noted reservoirs for all sorts of nasty bugs.

Gary Wilson, MacGregor

Parking-fine pig still pig

It doesn’t really matter how much lipstick Australian Federal Police Chief Executive Dettell Gally puts on the police action parking-fine pig (CT Letters, Sept 21). The stroke of that action will carry and also be the interest to ensure community safety. However, the ACT is bucking this trend, as revealed in today’s Sunday Canberra Times. Nearly half – 48 per cent – of the ACT’s rural firefighters are now aged just 34 or younger. Whereas volunteers over 45 make up 63 per cent of NSW’s rural volunteer firefighters, the equivalent of the 21-29 year old group in the ACT accounts for just 29 per cent.

Credit should go to the volunteers, who prove, as one captain has said, that Canberra does have a future. The Rural Fire Service has done a fantastic job embracing online communication to manage its younger charges. With a wider demographic now represented, the service is now more social and inclusive – which can only encourage a more effective force to battle whatever dangers lie ahead.

Despite increased participation across the age spectrum, the importance of vigilance cannot be ignored.

The Prepare, Act, Survive message, that all parts of our nation’s bush capital cannot ignore.

Bushfires have no concern for state and territory boundaries; we must ensure we learn from the lessons of the past to minimise our risks in the future.

We implore Canberra to help support our firefighters any way they can in the fight to ensure our safety this summer.

Bronte putting our poor careerism, misery, reminds me of the pig in George Orwell’s Animal Farm.

Richard Keys, Alinga

Team! a cruel sham

The government’s concocted “nicag crisis” has plumed new depths in terms of deliberately appealing to bigotry. The fact that all people are regularly and systematically identified and screened at airports with their snouts out of the bag is just on hysterical extremists like Gary Bernardi and Jacqui Lambie. Tony Abbott belatedly “condemned” their views while welcoming the electoral boost the Coalition receives from fearmongering. His appeal for all of us to be part of “Team Aus­ tralia” is shown to be a cruel sham when he promotes policies that divide the community.

In 1861, when a terrible drought was about to begin; Abraham Lincoln was able to articulate what our politicians acceptable in order to heal itself:

“We are not enemies, but friends, who have been divided by our sins.”

Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory will swell when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.”

Australia needs leaders today who will appeal to those “better angels”, not to suspicion and hatred.

Steve Ellis, Hackett

Bridal-revealed threat

When you research the bridal veil it is just as open to women as the “burgs”, and probably even more dangerous to humanity.

K Calvert, Downer

Keep your letter to 250 words or less. References to Canberra Times reports should include date and page number. Letters may be edited. Provide phone number and full home address (suburb only published). Email letters.editor@canberratimes.com.au. Send from the message field, not as an attached file. Fax 6200 2382, Mail Letters to the Editor, The Canberra Times, PO Box 7955, Canberra Mail Centre, ACT 2600.

SundayFocus

Exhibit No. 4 - tabled 13 November 2014 - Inquiry into AG Rpt No. 5 of 2013

Comment

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