A dry winter has left Canberra with a significantly increased risk of bushfires this summer. Our hardworking Emergency Services are reminding all Canberrans to prepare their home and discuss action plans with family, friends and neighbours. Trimming trees, mowing grass and removing flammable materials are simple tasks that can prepare your home for the summer.

This edition of Our Canberra has more information on how to be Bushfire Ready.

More on at the ACT Emergency Services website at esa.act.gov.au

Christmas in the heart of Canberra will be bigger and better this year with 12 days of festivities.

A week of free outdoor movies in Glebe Park, backyard cricket, a long-table dinner and a family fun day form part of a program of events from 13 December to Christmas Eve. City Walk, Garema Place and Petrie Plaza will be dressed for the season, with street art, decorations, lighting, a Christmas forest and entertainment to get Canberrans into the holiday spirit.

WHAT’S ON

> Canberra Christmas Markets, EPIC, 16 December. Uncover Christmas gifts from speciality items to gourmet foods.

> New Year’s Eve in the City, 31 December. Ring in the New Year with family-friendly celebrations and fireworks at 9pm and midnight.

More on Christmas events at cityrenewalCBR.com.au

A Happy CBR Christmas

SPORTS FIELDS for TAYLOR

New community playing fields in Taylor will be ready to use in early 2019.

The two full-sized natural grass fields are next to the new Margaret Hendry School and will have lighting, a synthetic cricket pitch, goal posts and line marking for soccer, rugby union and rugby league. During school days the school will use the ovals. Sporting groups can hire out the ovals during after school hours and on weekends.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF MINISTER, ANDREW BARR

For more stories and information from across Canberra visit act.gov.au/our-canberra or follow us on social media.

For consultations in Canberra visit yoursay.act.gov.au
HELPING WOMEN GIVE TRADES a GO

More support is now being offered to help Women in Canberra interested in traditional trades to give it a go.

New grants are now available for projects across Canberra that support an increase in the promotion and take up of women in male-dominated trades, as well as projects that help to retain women in trades.

If you think your project or business is eligible, contact a Skills Canberra Manager by emailing skills@act.gov.au. Applications close 20 December.
Canberra dog owners are reminded of the importance of having a secure yard and ensuring pet registration and microchip details are up to date this holiday season.

Make sure your yard or premises is secure and your dog cannot escape.

If you need to access emergency and after-hours services for lost and injured dogs contact Access Canberra 24/7 on 13 22 81.

More at act.gov.au/accessCBR

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Gungahlin residents are enjoying access to free treatment and health advice at Canberra’s newest Walk-in Centre. An average of 46 people a day sought treatment in its first six weeks of operation.

People are making use of the centre from when it opens at 7.30am, until it closes at 10pm, meaning they’re getting treatment at a time that suits them.

Walk-in Centres provide free treatment of minor injuries and illness. They’re open every day, including Christmas and New Year’s Day, and you don’t need an appointment.


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Thank you to more than 140 volunteers who have mentored Canberra kids across 42 ACT public schools in 2018, through the School Volunteer Program.

Ann Donovan volunteers at Palmerston District Primary School because she finds volunteering rewarding. “From February to December the children’s learning improves so much,” she said.

We will celebrate all Canberra volunteers on International Volunteer Day on 5 December.

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Construction on the Hibberson Street one-way shared zone from Gungahlin Place to Gozzard Street is complete.

This project has delivered a safer space for pedestrians including improved landscaping, bike racks and places to sit and relax under the shade.

Construction in the Gungahlin Town Centre has made the area more people-friendly and linked the light rail terminus with the bus station and local shopping centres.

FOUR SIMPLE STEPS TO CREATING YOUR BUSHFIRE SURVIVAL PLAN

1. DISCUSS
   With your household what you will do in a bushfire.

2. PREPARE
   A plan and your home for bushfire.

3. KNOW
   The bushfire alert levels.

4. KEEP
   Information, numbers, websites, and the App.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR RISK?

Where you live is one of the things that determines if both you and your home are at risk of bushfire, and what kind of fire you might experience. Think about the area you live in:

**BUSH**
If you live in an area that’s close to or surrounded by bush, you’re at risk. Bushfires can be hot, intense and throw burning embers towards your home.

**GRASSLANDS**
If you live in an area where grasslands meet built up areas or homes, you’re at risk. Grass fires can start easily and spread quickly.

**PADDOCKS**
If you live on the outskirts of the city or near paddocks you’re at risk. Fires can spread quickly over great distances.

**ON A HILL**
If you live at the top of a hill, you’re at risk. Fires travel uphill faster. For every 10 degrees of slope, the fire can double in speed.

THE TOP 5 ACTIONS TO MAKE YOUR HOME SAFER

1. TRIM
   Trim overhanging trees and shrubs. This can stop the fire spreading to your home.

2. MOW
   Mow grass and remove the cuttings. Have a cleared area around your home.

3. REMOVE
   Remove material that can burn (e.g. door mats, wood piles, leaves, paint, furniture).

4. CLEAR
   To prevent embers setting alight clear and remove debris and leaves from gutters.

5. PREPARE
   A sturdy hose or hoses that will reach all around your home. Have a reliable source of water.

KEEP KEY INFORMATION

- In an emergency call: **Triple Zero (000)**. For information on bushfires call Access Canberra: **13 22 81**
- For Fire Danger Ratings visit the ACT Emergency Services website: **esa.act.gov.au**
- Install the smartphone ‘Fires Near Me’ App
- Local radio, local ABC/emergency broadcaster frequency, TV and news websites.
- Stay up to date at: **facebook.com/ACTESA** and **twitter.com/ACTESA** and **esa.act.gov.au**

Produced by: Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate. For more stories and information from across Canberra, visit act.gov.au/our-canberra or follow us on social media.