

The Friday Forum

To be held by Teams Meeting

11th December 2020
3.30pm - 5.00pm

Bushfires a year on: Environmental humanities and the future of the planet

Between November 2019-February 2020 Australia experienced an unprecedented bushfire season. The fires burnt an estimated 18 million hectares, destroyed over 5,000 buildings and killed 34 people. The devastation of the fires on wildlife has been extraordinary with over a billion mammals, birds and reptiles killed and over a third of all koalas in New South Wales believed to have perished. Debates about the cause of the intensity and scale of the fires involved discussions about climate change and the future of the planet, fire management practices, Indigenous knowledges about land use, and the fossil fuel industry. In response, the Federal government established the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements, or the Bushfires Royal Commission. In what ways can scholars from the humanities and social sciences contribute to this debate and provide a human centred analysis? Are we well prepared for the bushfire season this summer?

Chair: Assoc. Prof. Ruth Morgan - ANU

Speakers:

Prof. Lesley Head – University of Melbourne

Assoc. Prof. Andrea Gaynor - UWA

Dr. Mike Thompson - School of Arts, ACU

Prof. Iain McCalman – IHSS, ACU



Australian Bushfires 2020 (image auspire.org.au)