

CATAclysmic FIRES ON KYTHERA

Dorothy Mackellar’s iconic poem “My Country” and its symbolic verse “I love a sunburnt country” are etched in our memories from school. The regular occurrence of bushfires in Australia has possibly made us somewhat blasé about the ravages of fires.

Unfortunately, as we have seen in recent days, Kythera has not been spared with a spate of wildfires causing untold damage to the already sparse and at times barren landscape.

Reports in the Greek press, as well as Facebook photos and commentary from James Prineas, demonstrate that the fires were savage, starting in the area around Agia Moni, and threatening several villages, including Mitata and Viaradika, in the verdant centre of the island.

The ash-coloured ground and the darkened outlines of trees destroyed by fire paint a terrible picture.

Initial press reports suggested that the locals were upset by what was perceived to be a poor response from the fire-fighting authorities to the raging fires.

Eventually, a number of water bombing aircraft and helicopters and fire fighting units were deployed but not before countless hectares of olive groves, beehives, vineyards, brush and other green countryside were destroyed.

As James Prineas’ photos graphically depict, houses were narrowly spared from this raging inferno.

Let us pray that the island is spared from further destruction.

George Vardas



Περιοχή προς Μητάτα 02.30 16/8



Περιοχή Αγίου Βασιλη Παλαιόκαστρο 02.15 16/8

