US decision key to Korea peace

The brief cancellation of the June 12 summit by President Trump was a hasty overreaction to a legitimate complaint from North Korea about remarks made by John Bolton that were repeated by Mike Pence ("Embrace thy neighbour"), May 28.

For some time now, the momentum has favoured North Korea. It seeks peace and security on the Korean Peninsula — as does the whole world. It is prepared to trade its nuclear capability in return for "a guarantee of its security and removal of the US military threat". Kim Jong-un regards it as imperative for the prosperity of his country that the US agree to end the state of war that has existed for almost 70 years. China and South Korea desire the same objective.

The problem is Washington. But contrary to what some commentators have suggested, there is no disagreement on what "denuclearisation" means. It means freeze, disable and dismantle.

The core issue is actually whether the US will agree to a peace treaty and an non-aggression pact. If it is prepared to do so, denuclearisation will occur. Talk of "unilateral denuclearisation" is delusional.

Trump’s readiness to reverse his "cancellation" suggests that he just might understand the dynamics, even if Bolton and Pence do not. Certainly presidents Moon Jae-in of South Korea and Xi Jinping of China do understand.

Michael Pembroke, Woolloomo (author of Korea — Where the American Century Began)

North Korea has finally woken up that Japan’s former enemy the US helped rebuild them into a wealthy country, they helped impoverished South Korea to become an industrial nation and did the same with US technology and trade for China. China knows it will lose heavily if the US stops trading with it. Obviously this history is what the Chinese President Xi Jinping has told Kim Jong-un. So he will meet all the US requirements for the benefit of his countrymen and turn North Korea into a strong, industrialised wealthy nation too.

Gil May, Forestdale

Foley not in the mix

I agree with Kathryn Lai (Letters, May 28). Luke Foley doesn’t have the inclusive, progressive, global outlook NSW requires to make it a truly fantastic place to live and work for all citizens. I live in the inner west and have worked in western Sydney for 25 years and continue to feel energised and exhilarated by the mix of people and cultures and the projects we collaborate on. That diversity is one of the best things about NSW.

NSW Labor needs to reinvigorate itself with people who have brilliant and productive ideas, are genuinely consultative and with the guts to stand up to the developers and their small-minded, money-making obsessed ilk who control the current state government and too many powerful NSW institutions.

Pia Larsen, Stanmore

 Cabraramma: kind and welcoming.

Tick for density

Nano Passmore (Letters, May 28) challenges pro-density politicians to live in an apartment with small children. Well, I’m a pro-density town planner and we lived in a 60s two-bedroom walk-up with our three children under six, and lived in apartments for years before that. We now live in a dual-occupancy, but far from public transport. While we did eventually need an extra room, I liked living in the apartment much better because it was a five-minute walk to shops and the trains. We made good use of our balcony space, and the apartments being built now are much better.

Matthew Benson, Hornsby

13 good reasons

I am a teenager and a fan of the Netflix series 13 Reasons Why. This series is an important step in our culture ("Reasons why 13 Reasons Why should be pulled!", May 25). The series allows for the discussion of serious issues that teenagers face daily. While the series can be extremely graphic at times confronting and even heartbreakingly, it’s important to understand that it allows for the discussion of the issues that teenagers regularly face worldwide.

While I have not personally struggled with mental health issues, I have connections with many people who have, and will continue to struggle because of it. The main reason 13 Reasons Why is so important is its main idea is to start the conversation. It’s also breaking the social stigma surrounding mental health problems and sexual assault.

Another issue raised in your article is that people are involuntarily being exposed to the series. There are settings (Netflix that enables parents) to restrict what their children are viewing. In every episode of season 2 there is a trigger warning, where the creators warn graphic scenes and advise people struggling with these issues should not watch. At the end of each episode, they show their web address where viewers can access crisis Helplines in areas near them.

I cannot stress enough just how important this is to me and should be to everyone.

Australia has an issue with sweeping under the rug problems that so many face. It’s time to allow the conversation to start and demolish the social stigma surrounding these major issues that have such a huge impact on young people across the world.

Caitlin Munday, Kemp