



HUFF STUFF
 Newsletter
 Issue 15
 March 2017

Greetings everyone,
 Welcome to the big wet!

Firstly I would like to thank you all for the fabulous effort in delivering 'The Big Fix'. This was a real community-minded activity and I am very proud of you all.

Welcome to the first volunteers from Medlow Bath – Deb, Russell, Carlene, Pat and Carol. We will continue to run street meetings to see if we can get all of Medlow on board.

I would also like to mention that HUFF coordinators are very useful in so many ways. We had a very distraught resident, who had exhausted all avenues, come into BANC to report that the owner of a parked semi-trailer was waking up his ill wife every morning as he warmed up the vehicle. I mentioned this to the HUFF Facilitator, who found the driver's mobile number, had a chat and the driver kindly agreed to park the truck elsewhere. The resident has reported that his wife is now sleeping longer and giving them both the much-needed rest that they need.

Another Facilitator noticed that signage at the National Park seemed inadequate in relation to 'warnings' – no smoking, no dogs etc. She also remarked that 'Total Fire Ban' signage at the station was difficult to find. We are in the process of making some enquiries to improve things or find reasons for signs being the way they are. Being observant and reporting possible issues is very useful in helping to make our environment safer.

I also received a report that part of a fire trail had become overgrown so I was able to get our brigade to clear it and now we have another happy customer.

(See photos on next page.)

Which leads me to the subject of the Northern Strategic Line (NSL), commonly called 'the black line' (so called because the originator drew a line in black text on a map – not because we burn from it). You may have noticed these black and yellow signs around the village outskirts. They are there to assist RFS when

the need arises. The NSL has been around for a long time and goes from Mt Victoria to the bottom of the mountains. Recently the line was refurbished and signage put up. Here is an explanation of the information on the signs.



- *The numbers in the bottom left corner represent the map grid reference.*
- *'WARDS' – the name given to that particular sector. It is usually derived from some significant aspect of the area.*
- *'Cat 1 1.4km' – this indicates that the vehicle, Category 1 is able to travel along the trail for 1.4 km. The Cat 1 is the largest fire truck. Next size down is the Cat 7, then Cat 9. If you see 'HTL' (Hand Tool Line) that means you can only walk there and the trail has been cut using hand tools.*
- *NSL indicates 'Northern Strategic Line.'*
- *BLH indicates 'Blackheath.'*

The Northern Strategic Line is the trail used when back-burning needs to be done to protect properties on the escarpment. We last burned from this line locally in 2013 after the

breakout of the Mt York Fire and the State Mine Fire.



Before clearing...



and after clearing.

If you see any other trails that you think may need a spruce up please let me know. We may be able to help.

Telephone Warnings

People have had questions regarding the telephone alerts. This information can be found on the NSWRFSS website:

“During a fire, you may receive warnings over your landline or mobile telephone. These use a system called Emergency Alert.

Emergency Alert messages can be sent:

- Based on your landline location – if your landline phone is in the warning area, your phone may ring and a recorded message will give you information about what you need to do.
- Based on your mobile phone's billing address – you may get a text message on your mobile, if your mobile phone's billing address is in the warning area.
- Based on your mobile phone's last known location – if your mobile handset has recently been in contact with a mobile phone tower in the warning area, you may receive a text message.

Do I need to register? No.

You do not have to opt-in for Emergency Alert. It uses the national telephone database, so even if you have a private number you can receive a message.

The key thing to remember is – **don't wait for a warning.** Some fires start and spread so quickly there may not be any time for a warning.”

Brigades at work



The Six Foot Track Marathon was held over the weekend in perfect weather. Our brigade had two checkpoints, Binda Cabins and the Pluviometer.

All brigades in the mountains take part. We hand out drinks and snacks, manage first aid and record the runners' numbers as they pass through.

An early runner conquers the steep climb to the pluviometer.

If you have any stories or requests for information please let me know.

Regards, Mina 0419 629 407