



HUFF STUFF Newsletter Issue 17 June 2017

Greetings everyone,

I hope you all enjoyed the warm, sunny end to autumn. The sudden cold snap has brought us all back to reality I'm sure. As the weather gets colder please keep an eye out for your more at-risk neighbours. Winter is the time we tend to stay indoors more and we may not be aware of each other's movements as much.

Two weeks ago I attended an RFS Community Engagement Forum in Tamworth. We met the new young and vibrant community engagement team who will set the direction for community engagement for the next five years. The RFS now acknowledge that community engagement is part of core business and that a prepared community is an important tool for firefighters. In the past it's been putting 'wet stuff on the hot stuff' as we often say.

Here's some exciting news! I am a state finalist in the Rotary Emergency Services Community Awards. I had no idea I had been nominated and got a big surprise when I received 'the call'. There are 24 finalists, four from each emergency service. The presentation is in August. No doubt I will be up against some pretty tough competition but it is great to even be nominated.

At present I am organizing meetings with the various groups around town to start the conversation around emergency preparation. This is an attempt to reach out to more people who may not be lucky enough to live in a connected HUFF street. I will also be targeting the local schools.

The new primary geography syllabus has included a unit where the students are required to study a fire or tempest event that has occurred close to them. This is a great step towards encouraging children to think about these things so that it starts to become second nature to consider environmental risks.

Our Brigades at Work



Last Sunday six new recruits successfully completed their Bush Firefighter's assessment. This picture shows them simulating pulling up at a property, connecting to town water supply and rolling out hoses to provide property protection.



Young firefighters of the future.



Anthony Bradstreet, Heading NSW RFS Community Engagement Team, introduces his vision for the next five years at the Tamworth community Engagement Forum.

Trivia discovered during lunch break...

Did you know that Tamworth was the first city in Australia to introduce street lighting?



FUEL for THOUGHT

Walk around your property and take note of areas that are windier than others. Block any narrow space that pulls wind through it with a solid gate, fence or plant.

Low flammability trees, hedges and walls are triple safety features: wind, spark and radiant heat shields.

Joan Webster OAM

ALERT!

Recently I have spoken to several people who have either received fines or have been threatened with prosecution from council for removing trees without permission. I have also spoken to people who are confused about what they can clear.

Take the time to check your own property using the online tool. It's an interesting exercise if nothing else. There are also quite a few restrictions even if you are in the 10/50 zone. It is also some useful information you can pass on to anyone if the subject comes up. Just Google NSW RFS 10/50 rule.

From NSW RFS website...

Check if you're in a 10/50 area

You can check here if you are in a 10/50 vegetation clearing entitlement area. Checking your land is easy.

For more information on the 10/50 vegetation clearing entitlement have a read of our [frequently asked questions](#).

Check the online tool on the day you are clearing

Check the [online tool](#) on the day you are clearing to re-confirm your eligibility to clear vegetation under the 10/50 Scheme. This is because the 10/50 vegetation clearing entitlement area, the excluded matters or other rules may have changed. It is important to know that you must follow the eligibility or rules in place at the time you clear any vegetation.

You may only clear your own land.

Stay safe, stay warm.

Regards,

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