



## HUFF STUFF Newsletter Issue 18 July 2017

Greetings everyone,

I hope you are all staying warm and well although this winter seems a bit milder than previous ones. As I mentioned in the last newsletter we tend to stay indoors and become that bit more isolated, especially if we are not working or not part of a group that meets regularly. For this reason it is important to maintain some kind of contact with our neighbours to remain connected.

This term I will begin working with Blackheath Public School to help students understand bush fire preparedness. If they think about it at an early age it hopefully becomes second nature to them as they grow older. Having these conversations will inevitably flow on to other family members, neighbours and friends. Understanding the risks and learning to deal with them is essential for where we live and also leads to being less anxious about what to do in an emergency.

The inaugural Blue Mountains Community Engagement Conference is being held at Wentworth Falls this weekend. It has been organized by Andrew Kaye from Fire Control and is aimed at all RFS members in the mountains. I will be presenting the HUFF program to encourage other brigades to take it on. I also had a request from a group in the Central Coast for a copy of our manual as they are looking at a way to improve communications in their area and will be working with their local RFS brigade.

Maggi Williams, Carysfort Hub facilitator has prepared a letter regarding the up and coming storm season to distribute within her hub. The State Emergency Service (SES) who deal with storm and tempest are raising awareness through their website and it would be worth a look. Maggi has kindly allowed me to share it with you and you may think about having some printed for your street as well (we can help with that).

### Our Brigades at Work



Brigade members being familiarized with the Cat 13 bulk water carrier that is being housed at Mt Victoria RFS station for the near future.



Recently local brigades held a combined training day at Canyon Colliery. Here they are practicing putting out a car fire. RFS members receive qualifications for this sort of emergency by completing the Village Fire Fighting course.

### FUEL for THOUGHT

Because it is not easily observed, ceiling space is very vulnerable. Ignition in the ceiling space is a major cause of house destruction and of deaths of shelterers.

- Clear out stored goods, papers, rubbish, birds', rats' or possums' nests.
- Make as dust free as possible.
- Check insulation.

Commercial contractors will vacuum ceiling space.

*Joan Webster OAM*

Regards, Mina. 0419 629 407