



## HUFF STUFF Newsletter Issue 19 August 2017

Greetings everyone,

I would like to welcome Deb Wells as our newest HUFF Facilitator. Thank you for offering to assist your neighbours to be connected, informed and prepared Deb.

I have had the pleasure of talking to some of our seniors groups over the last few weeks. Many do not have HUFF Facilitators but at the same time some did know there's so well done people. It is not surprising to find that many people are concerned about issues such as pets, and where to relocate if they need to. Hopefully my talking with them has helped to at least start the process of planning.

The school visits, which began last week, are rewarding and fun. We cover a huge amount of information in each session. The students know a lot already and are enthusiastic learners. Hopefully some of those things discussed will flow over to their families.

Except for the odd grey, cold day our weather is promising a warm and sunny spring. Unfortunately the dry conditions have continued and this is not good news for the upcoming fire season. So now is the time to start preparing our properties and having that conversation about emergency plans with our friends and neighbours as well.

You may have been smelling smoke over the last week or so. That is due to hazard reductions being carried out within the Blue Mountains and neighbouring districts. A couple of weeks ago a hazard reduction was carried out at the Rhododendron Gardens by Fire and Rescue NSW assisted by RFS.

The RFS is trying to get in as many planned burns as they can before things get too hazardous. Due to the predicted drier and warmer than average weather the fire season has been brought forward one month so that it will begin in September, rather than October. (See attached media release).

It can be very confusing trying to find out when you can light fires, have barbeques and use certain equipment during the fire season and during total fire ban (TOBAN) days so I have attached a fact sheet for clarification.

Get Ready Weekend will held over two days this year. Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> September will be at Mt Victoria RFS station (next to Mt Vic Flicks) from 10:00 to 2:00. Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> September will be held at Blackheath RFS Station in Station St from 10:00 to 2:00. Please drop in and say hullo and tell your neighbours as well.

### **FIIEI for THOUGHT**

#### ***Safety of precious possessions and important papers***

- *Plan what to relocate, where and at what stage.*
  - *For the duration of the bushfire season.*
  - *On a fire-danger day.*
  - *With a friend at a safer house.*
  - *In a storage facility.*
  - *Buried in a garden dugout in moisture-proof wraps.*
  
- *Budget for an external hard drive and high-GB memory stick for your computer.*

*Joan Webster OAM*

Regards, Mina Howard. 0419 629 407



**NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE**



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Nine LGAs to start Bush Fire Danger Period one month early 22 August 2017**

The NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) today announced nine Local Government Areas (LGAs) will commence the Bush Fire Danger Period (BFDP) one month early due to prevailing dry conditions. NSW RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons said the Warrumbungle, Gilgandra, Mid-Western Regional Council, Port Macquarie – Hastings, Mid-Coast, Bathurst, Oberon, Lithgow and Blue Mountains LGAs will start the BFDP on Friday 1 September 2017.

These nine LGAs will be in addition to the 19 LGAs and six LGAs that permanently commence the BFDP on 1 September and 1 August respectively, because of local climatic conditions.

The state's remaining 95 LGAs will enter the statutory BFDP on Sunday 1 October, 2017.

Anyone wishing to light a fire during the BFDP must obtain a permit from their local Fire Control Centre.

"Permits ensure that fire is used safely and to minimise the danger to landholders, their property and the community," Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

"While hazard reductions are an important part of preparations, landholders need to be extremely careful as warmer conditions mean fire can spread quickly and suddenly.

"Never leave a fire unattended and, if a fire does escape, make sure you call Triple Zero (000) immediately so that emergency services can respond and minimise the damage."

Commissioner Fitzsimmons urged homeowners to prepare for the upcoming fire season, noting warmer than average temperatures and below average rainfall are forecast for the coming months.

"Last week we saw a hint of the conditions the upcoming season may bring, with firefighters responding to 612 bush/grass fires that burnt 21,239 hectares, including three Watch and Act fires that threatened homes in Kempsey, Port Macquarie and Port Stephens," Commissioner Fitzsimmons said.

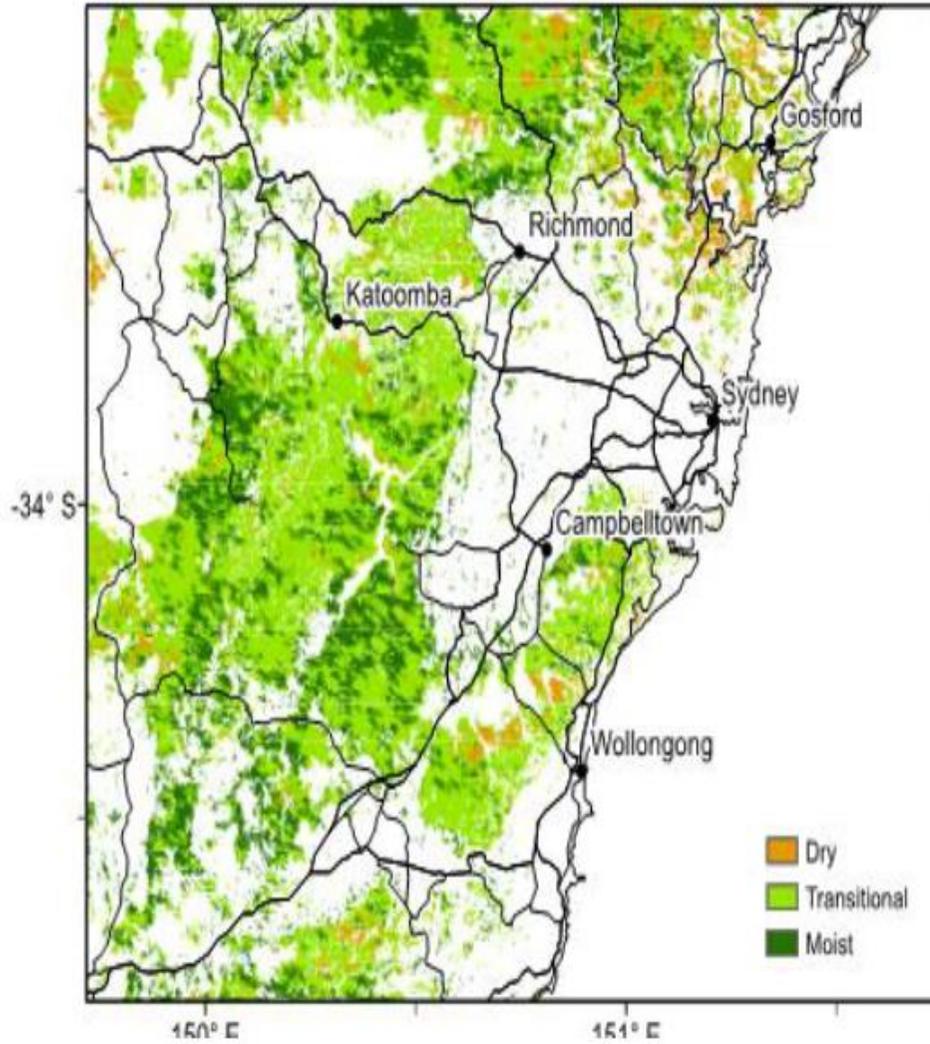
"Firefighters have been busy undertaking hazard reductions in the lead up to the bush fire season and it is equally as important that residents play their part by preparing their property, which includes removing flammable materials from yards, clearing leaves from gutters and checking hose lengths.

"It is also important to make or update your Bush Fire Survival Plan and have a conversation with your family to ensure everyone knows what they will do and where they will go in the event that they are threatened by a bush fire."

To check the Fire Danger Ratings for your area or to download a Bush Fire Survival Plan, go to [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au) or contact your local Fire Control Centre.



Live Fuel Moisture Content (22-29 March 2017)



Live Fuel Moisture Content (28 July - 4 August 2017)

