



HUFF STUFF
Newsletter
Issue 2
October 2015

Hullo everyone. Fire season is well and truly upon us with the unusually hot weather, although, as I write we have plunged back to 11 degrees.

Firstly, we apologise for the delay in the ID Cards. They *have* been ordered and as soon as the cards arrive we will get them to you or arrange for you to pick yours up.

Thank you to those people who have returned their 'Permission to Share Contact Details' form. There are still plenty of forms outstanding so please get yours to me as soon as you can.

It is very exciting to have received the special invitation to visit the Bush Fire Control Centre in Katoomba on the 23rd October. So far we have 33 takers. Let me know if you can attend so that the RFS have some idea of numbers. It doesn't matter if you haven't done the workshop yet and if you would like to bring your partner or a friend please do.

The next workshop for those who missed out on the first round will be Monday 26th October. We will let you know where it will be held closer to the time.

Some facilitators have collected magnets and other resources from BANC and have begun making contact with their neighbours. Three facilitators have allowed us to share with you their introductions to the neighbours.

Also included is the AIDER link that may be useful, and some gardening tips from a very useful little book called "Essential Bushfire Safety Tips", Third Edition, by Joan Webster OAM, published by CSIRO.

AIDER LINK

<http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/aider>

Gardening Tips

"Vegetation and other fuel in your garden can provide more fuel than in the bush. Managing garden fuel reduces the danger of embers and flames encroaching from the bush. A protective garden creates a lifebelt around your home.

There are three core aspects of a protective garden

- Distance of flammable vegetation from buildings.
- Distance between flammable plants.
- Absence of ground litter and clutter.
- Among other things protective gardens have
- " sizeable areas of close-mown grass, well irrigated if possible
- trees and shrubs planted singly or in separated clumps
- leaf litter reduced to the equivalent height of closely mown grass
- dead matter removed from trees and shrubs
- wide paths between mulch, plants and flammable walls
- firewood covered and stacked well away from the house
- toys, boxes and papers (anything flammable) moved under cover on fire danger days."

Sandra's story

"I did a run in our car with Graeme driving, during the snow time. Funny, I found myself on a drug run - roll your own tobacco, 3 packets etc. I remember one brand... Ruby Rose? The friendly grocer at Blackheath thought it was

funny as I read out my list of tobacco brands. Also a coffee and one pie for a lady in McLaren Street."

Keep sending us little snippets to share.

Getting started

Here are some ideas to get you started. Barbara Gordon made a flyer and delivered it to each mailbox with the magnet. I have retyped it below. Barbara also inserted a picture of herself. Thanks Barbara for allowing me to share your flyer.

Hi, I'm Barbara, your HUFF Facilitator for Eveleigh Ave, I live at number 25, my number is 47875085. HUFF stands for 'Heads Up For Fire', a service from BANC, in association with RFS to help people become aware and prepare for the inevitable emergency situations eg. bushfire and storms, that we are at risk of, living here in the mountains. My volunteer role, as facilitator, is to acquaint you with what you need to know in order to prepare and to connect you with services available to assist you to remain safe before, during and after such an emergency. It is also important that we engage with our neighbours so that we are more readily able to help each other. I intend to do just this in the next few weeks, connecting with you personally. In the meantime feel free to call me or just leave a message on my phone to say who you are and where you live.

- Liz had a business card made with her contact details on it (in bright pink so it couldn't be missed) and dropped that in with the magnet.
- Sibyl has organized a get together in the cul de sac near her house and invited me along to meet the neighbours.
- Margaret and Josie are planning a get together in November with the CFU members in their street and inviting the rest of the neighbours, many of whom are new...they live in St Georges Pde in MT Vic.
- Graeme also has shared his flyer below. We were happy to print them for him.



What is HUFF?

HUFF is a project of Blackheath/Mt Victoria Rural Fire Brigade and Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre.

HUFF aims to generate genuine connections between residents, the Emergency Services, local community groups and the Neighbourhood Centre that will be beneficial to residents in the event of an emergency, natural disaster or extreme weather.

How will this happen?

HUFF facilitators have been appointed. Each has responsibility for the street in which they reside (and in some cases surrounding streets).

Facilitators volunteer their time to :

- connect with neighbours to assist in preparing them for an emergency, in particular, people who may be considered vulnerable in the event of an emergency due to lack of preparedness or other factors, and
- provide neighbours with information about services available to assist them to remain safe before, during and after an emergency.

Who is my HUFF Facilitator?

Graeme Perrett at 17 Ada Road, Blackheath. Graeme will cover Ada Road, View St. and the section of Station St. behind Ada Road.

How do I make contact?

Over the next few weeks Graeme will be door knocking however you may prefer to arrange a mutually convenient time.

Graeme can be contacted via:

Email: graemeperrett@iprimus.com.au or Phone 4787 7047

And finally,



We have been doing lots of property assessments lately which shows that people are really thinking about how they can prepare for the fire season.



This under house gate has wide gaps between the slats that could allow embers to enter. The owners have covered the gate with metal fly screen gauze. Problem solved!

Thank you Mina and Emily!