



HUFF STUFF  
 Newsletter  
 Issue 21  
 October 2017

Greetings everyone,  
 As we enjoy our beautiful spring weather we can be grateful for some much awaited rain to spur on our gardens. The latest prediction is showing that we may enter a La Nina weather pattern that could provide some relief from watering! However, from the Bureau of Meteorology:

*“La Niña events typically bring above average rainfall to eastern Australia during late spring and summer. However, given the competing influence of other climate drivers (weakly warm waters to the north of Australia, and cooler waters in the eastern Indian Ocean), current climate outlooks do not favour widespread rainfall across Australia for November to January. Weak La Niña events in summer can also produce heatwaves in southeast Australia.*

*Seven of the eight international climate models surveyed by the Bureau suggest that sea surface temperatures will reach or exceed La Niña thresholds by November 2017. However, indicators need to remain at La Niña levels for at least three months to be considered an event. This is forecast by six of the eight models. If a La Niña does occur this year it is likely to be short and weak, as sea surface temperatures are forecast to warm again in early 2018, as the austral autumn is the time when La Niña events normally decay.”*

Rain will be beneficial but of course rain leads to increased growth that, when dried out provides more fuel for fires. Either way we need to remain cautious. You may also have heard on the news that the climate change experts are warning of increased bush fires as we move into the future and are calling for a doubling of fire fighter numbers by 2030.

Our thoughts go out to the thousands of people tragically affected by bush fires in California, Spain and Portugal.

FUEL FOR THOUGHT

**Fire Danger Ratings**

**Moderate, High and Very High:** Mild to unpleasantly hot and windy.

- If a fire starts, it can most likely be controlled and homes can provide safety.

**Extreme and Severe:** Extremely hot, dry and windy conditions.

- If a fire starts and takes hold, it will be uncontrollable, unpredictable and take hold fast. Spot fires will start, move quickly and come from many directions.

**Catastrophic: Rare.** The worst-known conditions for a fire.

- More likely during a drought.
- Exceptionally hot day; unusually violent, gusty winds; extremely dry air.
- Often a violent cool wind change is expected, which can dramatically increase danger.

Don't drop your guard for mild bushfire danger forecasts.

Be prepared as if for catastrophe on every hot, windy day.

Any bushfire can be catastrophe when you don't know enough about what to do.

Joan Webster OAM

## Brigade Happenings.



Blackheath/Mt Victoria RFS brigade have taken possession of a brand new Cat1 heavy tanker. The older truck is at Mt Victoria RFS station at present.

### Dragon Boat Team

Twenty members from RFS brigades from the Blue Mountains entered a team in the Dragons Abreast Festival this year for the first time. The event raises funds for breast cancer research. It took place last Saturday at Darling Harbour. We managed to come third in fund-raising although we were actually second as donations continued to come in after the count. We also won third place in the best dressed section. Unfortunately our paddling prowess meant that we came last in all four races! At least we were consistent. But it was a great day out and we enjoyed it so much we have all agreed to come back next year!



## And from Simon at CyberShed

CHOICE ranks the **Synaptic / Motorola App for android / G4 Play** as tops in its 2017 review of all available models suitable for seniors. ...it scored **76% overall performance rating**  
<https://www.choice.com.au/products/electronics-and-technology/phones/mobile-phones/synaptic-motorola-app-for-android-g4-play>

Unfortunately it's on the expensive side, but **SYNAPTIC** is designed it specifically for vision impaired folks - see  
<http://www.synaptic.com/synaptic-software.aspx>

Their promo videos  
<http://www.synaptic.com/videos.aspx>

Please pass this information on to anyone you think could use it.

### BAMS

The Blackheath Area Men's Shed would like HUFF Facilitators to look out for anyone who may benefit from coming to their 'shed'.  
The number is 4787 5773  
[www.bams.org.au](http://www.bams.org.au)

*Kind Regards,  
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