



HUFF STUFF

Newsletter

Issue 26

April 2018

Greetings everyone,

The last edition of our newsletter featured the Tathra fires and how it was unusual to have such a devastating bushfire so late in the season. And here we are now having just witnessed the Holsworthy fire! Over two thousand hectares, fanned by high winds, raging through to the Georges River and threatening many homes in its path. Fortunately no homes were lost. This time it was my husband's family, living in Alford's Point, who came under threat. Interestingly the whole neighbourhood decided to stay and defend. Robyne and John are both over seventy but together with their neighbours they remained vigilant and on the watch for ember damage. Robyne reported that they received four RFS alerts and were visited by emergency volunteers with advice on what to do to keep safe. She is more than impressed with the firefighters and as a consequence felt confident throughout the ordeal.

You may have noticed on the news, footage of men on their roofs. This activity is fraught with danger. Nobody should **ever** get on the roof during a fire. One man was crawling tenuously around in shorts and the other had long sleeves, long trousers and goggles (all good protection) but smoking a cigarette!

It just isn't worth the effort. Apart from a possible better vantage point there is absolutely no reason to get on the roof. There was other footage shown of Community Fire Unit (CFU) members hosing roofs and gutters from the ground. More effective and definitely safer.



Ahhh, don't look now but...



So I've reached the top, what next?

HUFF keeps growing. We have another new facilitator in Mount Victoria. Welcome **Marianne Bates.**

Justices of the Peace

Many of you know Judy Kenyon. She wanted to let it be known that she is also a JP. 47877684; 0400 391 508

You may remember the ‘turf war’ issue that emerged during the Tathra fire. Most people were suitably annoyed that this was given oxygen at such a traumatic time for the Tathra residents. Below is a joint statement that was released to ‘pour water on the fire’. I have also been asked about turf wars. On a local level we work very well with all emergency services.



JOINT STATEMENT

Fire & Rescue NSW Commissioner Paul Baxter

NSW Rural Fire Service Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons

For more than 20 years, NSW has had the benefit of coordinated firefighting arrangements.

These arrangements have worked well, ensuring the community has the benefit of the expertise of both fire agencies.

Each day, you will find the two services work side by side in the community, and at a range of incidents.

At the weekend, firefighters from all agencies worked hard under difficult and dangerous conditions.

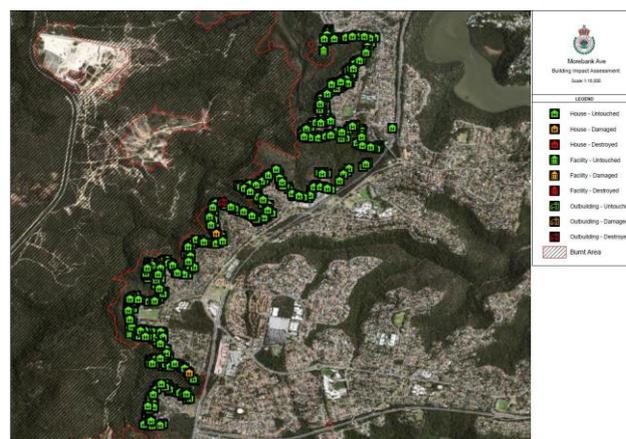
We should be thankful that their combined efforts resulted in no loss of life – either to members of the public, or to firefighters.

The matter is now subject to a formal review however where there are lessons to be learnt from events such as these, the two agencies will work together to identify them in a constructive and collaborative way.

However as the Commissioners of each agency, we agree that the response was appropriate given the fire location, the type of vehicles available, and the information available at the time.

Claims to the contrary are disappointing, and poorly timed, given the firefighting operation is continuing and the community has been affected deeply by this tragedy.

21 March 2018



You can find this map on NSW RFS website under ‘Facebook Feed’. There are many more interesting photos and maps as well. In the map above the green blocks are houses that were saved. Two orange blocks are houses that were damaged.

The larger view is very clear and has a detailed report with it. If you are interested it is well worth a look.

Stay safe everyone and enjoy the autumn colours (and weather...finally).

Regards, Mina