



## HUFF STUFF

### Newsletter Issue 3 November 2015

Greetings everyone,

Last month we had the opportunity to visit the Bush Fire Control Centre and many of our HUFF Facilitators took advantage of this. It was great to meet the Local area Commander of NSW Police, Darryl Jobson who gave a good overview of how the combat agency services work together in an emergency. David Jones, the RFS District Manager gave us a tour of the new Control Centre and gave us a rundown on the upcoming fire season.

Most people now have their ID cards and lanyards and many of you have started activating your roles as HUFF Facilitators. For those of you who haven't started yet don't feel pressured. It is important to start when you are ready. Remember to ask us for the emergency contact list magnets to distribute to the households in your street. We have also been giving people the SES pamphlets to circulate at the same time. We can also assist with preparing and printing letters of introduction for you.

There are still some people waiting to complete their workshop. However we have decided to do these individually. Please contact Emily (Emily.hamon@banc.org.au) to organise a time that is mutually convenient. Individual workshops will take about an hour of your time. Some new facilitators are beginning to come on board as the word spreads so keep a lookout for friends who may be happy to take on the role and join the HUFF team!

The contact list is almost completed but there are still some 'Permission to Share Contact Details' outstanding. However, we will still send it out to you shortly as it can be easily updated.



*Hot Bush Fire Tip:*

*Keep fuel away from water tanks.*

*If fuel ignites, it can prevent access to your water supply, or melt/damage the tank.*

Simon from Cyber\_Shed has been successful in achieving a grant from Bendigo Bank to run the 'Twitter for Disasters' workshop which is great news. Mina has completed this workshop and can attest to it being a worthwhile and informative use of your time. Simon will let us know when he intends to start running them.

At present we are putting together a resource kit for you with useful information that you can pass on to neighbours when the occasion arises.

## Here are some **Useful Tips**

From "Essential Bushfire Safety Tips", third edition by Joan Webster OAM. Published by CSIRO

### Ceiling space

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

- Clear out stored goods, papers, rubbish, birds', rats' or possums' nests
- Make as dust free as possible. Commercial contractors will vacuum ceiling space
- Insulate above and below rafters
- If you don't have an inspection trapdoor, make one

### Chimneys and flues

- Clean
- Install or repair metal flywire covers (these help prevent flying embers from entering your roof space)

### Eaves, fascias and fluted roof edging

- Check for cracks
- Fill and sand smooth

## Reminders

Contact Mina ([mina.howard@banc.org.au](mailto:mina.howard@banc.org.au))

- For how many magnets you need
- If you are having a street get together so HUFF or the RFS can come and visit
- If you are still unsure of which households you should make contact with
- If we can help you with any resources
- If you need help with **anything!**



*Above: An excellent example of a well prepared and maintained garden*

*Below: A less than perfect model of yard/tree base maintenance!*



*...If messy shrubs and debris around the base of a tree catch fire, it can fuel the flames to 'climb' the tree.*

*If you are physically unable to clear areas of your garden or land, contact AIDER for a one off service to send a crew to assist in cleaning up your property.*

*Ph: (02) 8741 4955*

*Email: [aider@rfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:aider@rfs.nsw.gov.au)*

Thanks for being involved!

Warm regards,  
Mina and Emily

*HUFF Project Directors*