



HUFF STUFF

Newsletter

Issue 33

December 2018

Greetings everyone,

We have five new facilitators! Welcome Micki, Joan, and the two Debs from Medlow Bath, and Marianne from Mount Victoria. Thank you for joining our team of volunteers who are looking out for their neighbours and building connections.

More exciting news - Woodford RFS Brigade Community Engagement Officer Carmel Gammel, held a HUFF workshop with six residents last week. All six have come on board and she is expecting more. We are also looking at a second edition of the HUFF Manual to make it more generic for other villages.

There is a new *Fires Near Me* app available. It has more information so please download it when you get a chance.

Thankfully, up to now we have escaped the destructive storms that hit Sydney on the weekend. Crews from the mountains, including our local brigade have been assisting with the cleanup. Large trees have caused most of the damage (one tree took out the fences of three neighbouring properties) and apparently insurance companies only cover the repairs caused by falling trees, leaving home owners with the cost of having the debris removed. It may be worth checking trees in your gardens to see if they present a potential threat to your property and your neighbours' properties.

Brian Jewell and I have just completed three sessions with Kindergarten children at Blackheath Public School. They learned about dialing 000, inside fires and getting down low and go, go, going, and outside fires – bushfires. We had a lot of fun with Firefighter Brian adding lots of interesting ideas, hints and stories. We are so impressed at how much information these youngest students take in and remember.

The Blackheath/Mount Victoria RFS Brigade's Santa run takes off this Saturday at Blackheath and will be in Mount Victoria on Christmas Eve. I would like to acknowledge Past Captain and current Senior Deputy Larry Howard who initiated the Santa Run many years ago and donates the lollies each year, and also Mount Victoria Community Association who supplement the lolly supply for their village run. Our fabulous secretary Jonathan Mallin also spends lots of time organizing the route and managing the FaceBook page. Thankyou goes as well to our two Santas. It's hard to tell who has the most fun, the Santas or the children.

And finally, thank you for another year of being part of the HUFF team. Please have a relaxing Christmas and stay safe and well.

Regards,

Mina Howard