



HUFF STUFF

Newsletter Issue 5 February 2016

Greetings everyone,

Happy New Year. We hope you have a safe and healthy one. Thankfully we seem to have been spared the terrible fire season that so many other Australians are suffering. Last week ABC News was showing a current emergency warning for residents in northern Tasmania. Part of the warning said that embers were falling on the town ahead of the fire. This is a timely reminder that we must never become complacent.

About twenty people have joined Simon's free 'Twitter for Disasters' workshops. It's not too late to take up the offer. You don't have to 'tweet' yourself, you simply receive 'tweets' from the emergency services as they come in, and you don't need a smart phone. This could be very useful in times of emergencies. You can email Simon directly at cyber_shed@banc.org.au.

Emily and I have attended some more street get-togethers and would like to congratulate those of you who have facilitated bringing your neighbours together. This is not an easy task especially when we are all so busy. Some of you are feeling a little disappointed that more people have not responded. However, don't let it put you off. Many people do not think about emergency plans unless an emergency is about to land on their doorstep. Just keep chipping away. Even if you reach one household that's one more group of people who are connected.

I attended a HUFF street afternoon tea with three neighbours in attendance. One couple had newly arrived twins and a toddler with dad at work quite a long

distance away, and one is an elderly resident living on his own. Both are very vulnerable but I am sure that they now feel somewhat happier that they are in the loop to get any useful information and that they are feeling less isolated.

We also want to remind you to have a look at your contact sheet and find out the facilitators in your hub. It would be good to connect with them as well. If you are going away you could let the other facilitators know and make them aware of any vulnerable neighbours. I received an email from a facilitator telling me that she is going overseas for three weeks and letting me know about an elderly resident, just in case something happened. I know that in one particular hub the three facilitators let each other know if one of them is going to be away for any length of time. This is what it's all about – staying connected and staying in touch.

This morning I was asked a question about the 10/50 rule for clearing trees without permission from council. I found this link on the RFS website. You can use the online tool to put in your address and it will tell you if you come under the 10/50 or not. (You will need to tick the disclaimer box to get through.) The person in question was not in that area but two streets away the residents were. An interesting exercise...

<http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/1050-vegetation-clearing>

Finally, here are some short but useful bits from the website that are good for refreshing your memory. If you have your neighbours' email addresses please pass them on.

http://www.myfireplan.com.au/?gclid=CKa3w_jlyMoCFQF7vQod65oKdA

Just a reminder that Mina is at BANC every Wednesday but can be contacted on 0409 629 407 any time.

Warm Regards
Mina and Emily

