



## HUFF STUFF

### Newsletter

### Issue 35

**February - March 2019**

Greetings everyone,

On a nice cool, damp day in the upper mountains it is great to reflect on the fact that we have escaped a severe bush fire event for this summer, keeping in mind that the fire season is still not over.

We recently travelled in Victoria and almost got caught up in the Bunyip Creek fire that has destroyed over 20,000 hectares of bushland. It was only due to friendly and informed locals helping us to find a way around the fire that allowed us to get safely away from it. (The police who were manning the road block had no idea) However we did experience heavy traffic as we were trying to get back onto the highway so I have had a taste of what it could be like if many people were trying to leave at the same time.



It just reiterates the need to have plan A, B and C and maybe even more! It also proved that local knowledge is invaluable. We were the tourists this time and had no idea about the local area as we travelled from Mornington to Sale.



*View of the fire from Sale, Victoria.*

#### **BRIGADES AT WORK**

Last weekend the annual Six Foot Track Marathon was held. Each year, RFS Brigades from the mountains man the checkpoints, delivering drinks, snacks and first aid assistance when needed. There were no major incidents thankfully, just lots of exhausted runners and scraped knees. The winner was very relaxed as he collected a drink before the last 4.4 kms to the finish.



*The winner – although it could have been the case of the hare and the tortoise!*



*All set up and ready for the 900 runners to arrive.*

### **HUFF CATCHUP**

I have booked the meeting room at the Neighbourhood Centre for Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7.00pm for our catch up. This will be a very informal round table chat to share ideas and concerns and just generally get to know each other. Please let me know if you intend to come along.

### **CYBER\_Shed APP\_FIX\_IT**

Simon is offering **free** help with your smartphones and tablets each Wednesday at BANC from 9.30 - 12.30. Just drop in, no need to book. Please pass

the word around. And just as an interest story, Simon was able to assist an elderly resident who is partially blind to access her phone by just 'speaking' to it. This is wonderful achievement and so enabling for someone who would otherwise be isolated and unable to make use of her phone. Well done Simon!

### **Hazard Reductions (HR's)**

Autumn is the time for hazard reductions. You can check where they are happening on the RFS website. There are no Blue Mountain HR's listed yet. The nearest is Lidsdale to the west and Hawksbury to the east. This list may change at short notice depending on the weather at the time.

If there is a hazard reduction burn planned for your area, take the following steps:

- Keep doors and windows closed to prevent smoke entering homes
  - Remove washing from clotheslines
  - Ensure pets have a protected area
  - Vehicles must slow down, keep windows up, turn headlights on
  - Sightseers must keep away from burns for their own safety
  - If you have asthma or a lung condition, reduce outdoor activities if smoke levels are high and if shortness of breath or coughing develops, take your reliever medicine or seek medical advice
- For health information relating to smoke from bush fires and hazard reduction burning, [visit the NSW Health website](#) or [the Asthma Foundation](#). (NSW RFS website)

Regards, Mina Howard