



## HUFF STUFF NEWSLETTER

### ISSUE 40

November 2019

Greetings everyone,

We are now well and truly into the fire season and as you would have seen on the news it has been pretty awful for those in the northern region of the state. Being in the grip of drought has meant very dry fuel loads so, as I am sure you are well aware, a fire could spread very quickly. Remember, **total fire ban** means no fires in the open. You can still use your gas BBQ's but make sure that they are not left unattended and the area around the BBQ is clear. Just to remind you about fire behavior, I have included two scenarios for you to consider. You can find more on the RFS website.

#### Know Your Risk *(from NSW RFS website)*



I live in an area where the bush or grasslands meet built-up areas

What to expect:

- Fires can spread quickly from parks and reserves, threatening your home, fences or gardens
- Thick smoke from the fire might make it difficult to see or breathe

- Even if you live a few streets back from the bush, you are at risk from ember attack
- Burning embers can travel through the air, setting fire to homes a few streets back from the bush.



I live in an area surrounded by bush

What to expect:

- Fires in dense bushland can be very hot, intense and fast moving
- Burning embers may be blown from the bush, landing on your property and starting spot fires or setting fire to your home
- Embers may land for many hours even after the main fire front has passed
- Smoke and fire may affect driveways or homes, making it difficult to leave
- The radiant heat from a fire nearby may set fire to your home or surrounds

## Get Ready Weekend

The *Get Ready Weekend* activity at Blackheath Public School, although reasonably quiet, resulted in eight requests for property assessments, two new members for the Blackheath/Mount Victoria RFS brigade and two HUFF enquires. The day was the culmination of three weeks of fire talks at the school. The team completed a talk for every class from Kindergarten to Stage 3 (Yrs 5/6), fourteen in all, and it was a very rewarding exercise. It is amazing how aware our students are and how much knowledge they have already. If you have children or grandchildren introduce them to the Triple Zero Kid's Challenge so they can learn how to deal with emergencies in a fun and interactive way.

<http://kids.triplezero.gov.au/>



*Firefighters, Brian, Anna and Mina presenting to Kindergarten.*

### From BANC

Blackheath Fitness and Walks starts 15 NOV (with a walk). Alternating with walking and yoga. Meet at Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre, Fridays 10.30am. Bookings not required. Free. Age range 55+.

CYBER\_SHED's two face to face offerings are:

**TUITION one-to-one** classes Tuesdays & Thursday by appointment, at CYBER\_SHED,

The Principals Cottage, 207GWH (first four classes free to over 50s) - call 0458 099 001 to book☐

- **APP\_FIX\_IT drop-in** Wednesday mornings all, no booking required)

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### FIRES NEAR ME

Have you upgraded your free "Fires Near Me" app?

You will need to uninstall the old one and reinstall the new one.

You can now set your own watch zone. Simply click in the top left-hand corner and choose 'My Watch Zones'. You can choose multiple watch zones and the size in km. You will receive a notification if a fire starts in your watch zone. There are also lots of other headings to click on that will provide you with all the information you need to get prepared. For example, under 'Emergency Information' you can download a bush fire survival plan and fill it out. Anything that is available on the website can be accessed on this app.

However, I am amazed at how many people don't know of 'Fires Near Me' so please spread the word.

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### LEAVING EARLY

You should identify one or more safer locations as part of your Bush Fire Survival Plan. These locations should be well away from the bush.

These might include:

- A friend, family members or neighbour's property that is well prepared
- Local shopping centre or central business district
- Local sporting field/oval
- Recreation area, such as a local park
- Nearby community facility, such as a library or community centre
- Registered Club or licensed establishment

You should also know how to get there, as well as alternate routes in case the road is blocked or too dangerous to drive on. If you have elected to go to a friend, family member's or neighbour's home, ensure they are aware of your plans.