



HUFF STUFF

Newsletter

Issue 46

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Greetings everyone.

What a difference a year makes! This time last year our gardens were suffering, water was at a premium and fires were heading our way. We have enjoyed wonderful weather so far although we have already had two High Fire Danger days. We can never be too complacent.

I'd like to introduce you to Cornelia Gartner. I am handing over the reins of HUFF to Cornelia in January, the reason being that I have been selected to take on the role of District Governor for our Rotary district which extends from Toukley to Sydney and up to Blackheath. I am very excited to take on this position but it requires extensive commitment on my part for the next several years.

Some of you may know Cornelia from her previous stint with BANC when she worked on various projects within our organisation.

I think it is timely to have different eyes on the HUFF project and reassess how the program is functioning. Given that we have just conducted a survey we are looking to your feedback to provide insight into how HUFF goes forward.

I will remain a member of our local RFS Brigade so will be around to assist if and when needed.

I am immensely proud of our community and the HUFF project. Thank you from the bottom of my heart to all of you for being part of this initiative and I hope you will all continue on and assist Cornelia to keep HUFF going.

Anna, left and Mina teaching Kindergarten about Triple 000



left: Cornelia Gartner the new HUFF Coordinator with Mina Howard, the project's outgoing coordinator.

Starting Young

Recently our RFS Community Engagement Team were invited to provide fire preparation talks to the Blackheath Primary School students. We presented to students from Kindergarten to Year 6. The children had many stories of their experience with the recent fires and we were again amazed at how knowledgeable they are. As we have been doing these talks for several years now we are able to build on their knowledge from year to year. Everyone knows how good children are at nagging their parents so hopefully our messages are hitting home.





Kindy students are always willing participants.

Get Ready Day

This year our Get Ready Day was held a little bit later than usual. The brigade partnered with BANC who provided a complimentary BBQ, with 'Step by Step' Recovery Group and the Salvation Army represented. Our wonderful CWA ladies provided delicious sweet treats.

An added highlight on the day, was our newly appointed Blue Mountains RFS Manager, Nick Medianik, presenting our brigade members with their citations and pins from the NSW Premier for their commitment during the Black Summer Fire event. Local member Trish Doyle came along to congratulate the brigade on their effort.

Lots of community members came along and it was deemed a very successful day by all concerned. (A Covid-safe event of course!)



Left to Right: Blue Mts RFS manager, Nick Medianik, Captain Larry Howard and MP Trish Doyle

CYBER_SHED Bushfire Safety Mobile Apps Workshops

for HUFF Facilitators proved to be a great success. Thank you to those who attended. We were able to discuss so much about preparedness issues in our villages. Hopefully Simon can get funding to run some more next year. And...if you have had your Fires Near Me App for a while please uninstall and reinstall to get the latest version. You can do your entire Bushfire Plan on your mobile. Don't forget to contact CYBER_SHED if you would like help with any of your devices.

cyber_shed@banc.org.au



Rotary is collecting packets of seeds and asking people to propagate plants to gift to those who were affected by the fires last summer. Step by Step Recovery Team has been able to identify those most in need and will see that the seeds and plants will go to those people. You can drop seeds off at BANC but keep the cuttings until next year when they will be distributed then.

Testing Times



Pictured here is Blackheath/Mount Victoria's Cat 7 tanker testing the cabin protection system during a recent training session. During the fires the Cat 1 tanker was caught in an overrun at a property

on Hat Hill Rd and was able to use the system to protect and save the crew.

Regards, Mina Howard