



HUFF STUFF

Newsletter

Issue 48

February 2021

Greetings everyone,

I hope 2021 has started off well for you all. I imagine you have all witnessed a rejuvenation in your gardens with all this rain.

Medlow Bath Community Gathering

You may remember that February 6th was a particularly wet Saturday but the brave and determined residents of Medlow Bath were not about to let that stop them from going ahead with their community picnic and information day. The Blackheath Area Neighbourhood Centre and HUFF were invited to participate in the event. The numbers may have been smaller than hoped for but the sausage sizzle and the entertainment went a long way towards warming us all up. It was great to meet some of the Medlow Bath HUFF Facilitators and hear how being involved in the HUFF program worked for them during the Black Summer fire season.



HUFF information stand at Medlow Bath Community Picnic and Information Day

HUFF Survey

In the last newsletter for 2020 we provided links to the survey. Perhaps the timing in sending out the request to complete the survey just before the Christmas / New Year holiday period wasn't the best as very few responses have been received. If you haven't completed the survey, we would greatly appreciate your feedback. The survey results could assist us with obtaining more funding for the program and being able to support other communities to set up the program in their area. Please use the following links:

HUFF Facilitators survey:
https://surveyswesternsydney.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5o3UAMtPlptqhpP

HUFF Neighbours survey:
https://surveyswesternsydney.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bQTpApIGT7HFldz

Static Water Supply (SWS)

The Static Water Supply (SWS) Program is a free service that enables residents to help local firefighters by identifying existing water supplies (such as dams, tanks or swimming pools) on their property that could be used for firefighting purposes.

The NSW Rural Fire Service provides specially designed SWS signs for properties with suitable water supplies. This helps firefighters access vital water supplies quickly and efficiently to help them defend your property.

Examples of suitable water supplies include:

•
A property dam which can be used to refill fire tankers and firefighting aircraft such as helicopters which support our firefighters on the ground.

•
A backyard swimming pool, which provides an ideal static water supply for small portable pumps and hose lines to help protect your home.

•
A tank, which with appropriate fittings can also be used to quickly supply water for firefighting.

If you would like to participate in this program, please see the NSW RFS website.



AIDER Program

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you about the AIDER (Assist Infirm, Disabled and Elderly Residents) program. It is a free, one-off service which supports at-risk community members to live more safely and confidently in their home in areas where bush fires may start.



The AIDER program is designed for people who have limited domestic support available from family, relatives, friends or other services. This could include older people, people living with a disability, and people who are already receiving community assistance and services. Their property must also be on bush fire prone land (land that can support a bush fire or be subject to bush fire attack).

AIDER services can include:

- clearing gutters
- thinning vegetation around the home
- removing leaf and tree debris
- trimming branches from close to the home
- mowing or slashing long grass.

If you would like to know more about the free, one-off AIDER service, call 02 8741 4955 or email aider@rfs.nsw.gov.au

Until the next newsletter, take care of yourselves.

Regards Cornelia