



## HUFF STUFF

### Newsletter

Issue 32

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Greetings everyone,

Firstly, I would like to welcome our newest HUFF Facilitator, Liz Parker who has recently moved to Blackheath and is keen to become involved in the community. Liz has already assisted a local elderly neighbor, living alone, with a bush fire plan. This is what HUFF is all about. Connecting and supporting each other and having that conversation.

“When people are better connected to their community research indicates they feel safer, there are lower rates of crime, people generally feel healthier and they live longer.” *Source: Australian Red Cross*

To assist people to prepare for the bush fire season members of our local RFS Brigade have been gradually working through the list of requests for property assessments. If you know of anyone who may benefit from an assessment or would like assistance with emergency planning please let me know. AIDER is also an option if people have properties that are in need of a tidy-up so please encourage anyone you know who could benefit from this free one-off service. Email: [aider@rfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:aider@rfs.nsw.gov.au) or call on (02)8741 4955.

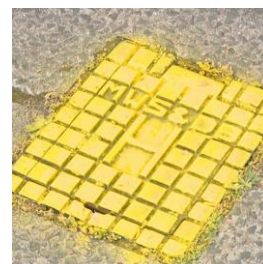
#### Hydrants in you street

Have you ever taken notice of where the hydrants are in your street? Whilst carrying out a property assessment recently we noticed that the signs were

in a bad state of repair and it wasn't clear as to where the hydrants were. Whilst you wouldn't be expected to use a hydrant, it is in your interest as residents to have them clearly visible if emergency services need to find them quickly. So here's what you can do:

- ✓ Keep the area around the hydrant clear of any grass, vegetation, gardens, rubbish and dirt. 30cm around the hydrant cover is adequate.
- ✓ Don't place large heavy objects on top or next to the surface fitting.
- ✓ Ensure no one parks over the hydrant at any time.
- ✓ If you see a marker or markers that are old, unreadable or worn out, signs of insects or if other maintenance might be required contact Sydney Water on 132 090.

These hydrants are well-marked so keep a look out for them.





The following photos show hydrants in need of repair or clearing.



### Brigades in Action

Blackheath/Mt Victoria RFS Brigade was called to assist police last weekend. A climber had fallen 6m at Hornes Point, Mt Victoria. Luckily the patient was rescued by helicopter avoiding a long and arduous carry-out.

Blackheath/Mt Victoria Brigade joined with Blackheath and Mount Victoria NSW Fire & Rescue units to meet and share information as well as testing pumping capabilities between the different vehicles. Often both services are called to the same incident and need to work together to supply water among other things.

Well over forty RFS and NSWFR members attended a familiarization exercise run by TrainLink on Saturday night. This involved visiting the access points for the ten tunnels between Mt Victoria and Lithgow and learning about the signs, signals and safety issues in case of an emergency. Even though the course finished at 2 am on Sunday morning it was well worth the effort and very interesting and...

Bendigo bank has donated a grant of \$2000 to assist the setting up of HUFF further down the mountains. Thank you BB!

Regards,

Mina Howard