



Wallaga Lake Heights community newsletter 27, 13 September 2023

It's getting drier and it's time to start thinking fire

For the first time in what seems like years, the fire risk sign at the northern approach to Bermagui has shifted from a position off the scale to Green – Moderate. The message is Plan and Prepare. This is the new format, intended to be simpler and clearer than its predecessor.

With it is an invitation to an information session – Prepare for Bushfire - at the Bunga Street fire station on Saturday 16 September from 10 am to 1 pm.



Heights Care's origin can be set at precisely 5.50am on Tuesday 31 December 2019 when several households gathered on Lake View Drive, ash falling from a sky black where it wasn't glowing orange to our east. Few of us were prepared for the three weeks that followed. Since then, most have prepared fire plans and are busily dusting them off after a couple of wet La Niña years.

Heights Care member Libby Bolton, who was in Tathra for the fires a few years ago, has refined the comprehensive fire plan she had produced and which we circulated to our members in 2020. It is very detailed and is of course specific to one household's circumstances. It does serve as another reminder - the latest version will be circulated separately

STOP PRESS 8 September – Fire risk temporarily upgraded to “HIGH”

Land Care work along the Wallaga Lake Foreshore

The late summer and autumn have seen weeding and planting along the foreshore and the steep bank between the path and backyards. The Land Care group has now planted well over 1,000 plants native to Wallaga Lake, including Dianella, Westringia, Lomandra, Viminia and Rhagodia. – more detailed census in the next newsletter. A mass of fishbone fern has been cleared and replaced with native plants to help stabilise the bank.

The emphasis over what looks like being a dry summer is moving from planting towards watering and maintenance of work already done.



More Land Care volunteers needed

Every organisation, not only in the Bega Valley but all across Australia is short of volunteers. From Montreal Goldfields to Meals on Wheels, many volunteers who got used to staying at home just haven't come back. Heights Care has lost a few, some of whom have moved away and others with conflicting commitments.

Why not come along at 2 pm on any Wednesday to the patch behind 27 Lake View Drive – there is a public right of way to the south of number 27 that will get you there. Email admin@heightscare.org.au if you'd like more details.

New web site www.heightscare.org.au up and running

We are delighted to report that, after some months offline, Wallaga Lake Heights Care once again has a new web site. With masses of material from Alison and excellent support from Mike Power, owner of local IT operation mpower.com.au, we are live again. There are still a few tweaks to be made but do have a look.

Best wishes, Heights Care steering group,

Roz Bannon

Peter Campbell

Ivana Gattegno

Alison Kuitert

Doug Mein

Olga Nielsen

Bill Southwood