Disaster Storytelling – Bridging the divide and building community resilience

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Tasmania Fire Service
GOAL: RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Why?
BUSHFIRE READY NEIGHBOURHOODS (BRN) IS A TASMANIA FIRE SERVICE (TFS) COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAM WORKING WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO BE BUSHFIRE READY.

The program recognises that individuals, communities and government all play a part and share responsibility to prevent, prepare for, respond and recover from bushfires and other natural hazards.
Bushfire Ready Neighbourhoods
1967 Bushfires

7 February 1967
110 separate fires
2,640 square km
5 hours

62 lives
900 injured
over 7,500 homeless

The total damage amounted to $40,000,000 in 1967 Australian dollar value.
Enter… Lesley King
The value of archives

"I lived through the London Blitz during the war but it wasn’t as frightening as this."

Brushy Creek Road,
Lenah Valley
3 February, 1967

Photo courtesy of Max Martin Whalan.
A touring video booth
ABC Archive introductory piece
Capturing the stories...
Stories used as public art...

“The first vehicle to try this manoeuvre was immediately in front of us and was higher than our Austin, so touched the wires as it went under, giving off a shower of sparks from its roof. This sent a shiver through us ... Nevertheless we took our turn to go under without touching the wires, Margaret having kept the engine going successfully. By then the motor was so hot it amazed me it would run at all.”

Alan Keogh
The online resource –
http://67bushfires.fire.tas.gov.au
Why was this project successful?
Building resilience??
The Lessons for Us....