

Fire Recovery Update

Participants: Noel and Irene Ham, Stan and Bethne Williams (safety talk), Murray Chapman & Doc Hair (Sat), Gerry Lomer, Campbell Griffin, Neville, Monica and Jason French and Charlene, Jackson and Riley Ham (Sat eve.)

Despite extremely cold and windy conditions, (even hail at times), a wonderful effort was provided over the Anzac weekend to assist farmers affected by the fires in the Mudgegonga area. 20 vehicles from three 4WD clubs in ACT - the Landrover 4WD club, the ACT 4WD club and the Southern Tablelands 4WD club - met with 9 members of the Wang Club on Saturday morning for a safety briefing and to form work parties. Work continued on Sunday to complete a rewarding weekend for all.

A total of 8 properties were visited, with volunteers developing a close rapport with the farmers they had the privilege of working alongside. Most of the work completed consisted of pulling up damaged fences, digging out burnt strainers, clearing fallen trees from fence lines and carting damaged materials to community skips. Fence repairs and new fence installation involved steel post driving, wire stringing, tensioning and tying off. Those involved in the work quickly learnt new skills and terminologies. 'Twitching' for example was found to be not only a facial expression!



As in previous working parties to this area those involved have come away from the weekend with a real sense gratification through helping those affected by the fires. To complete a fence and see the bulls in the yard released into a long awaited paddock, gave those involved a lot of satisfaction. Not only was valuable physical assistance provided, but also invaluable moral support.

Unfortunately some of the work, especially in the steeper areas was halted due to the weather conditions. Although all the farmers are extremely happy with the rain over the weekend, many are now faced with the added

problem of new fences being pushed over from the mud slides caused by the heavy runoff down steep, bare ash covered slopes. The main concern for these farmers at present is to complete external fences and yards so that stock can be returned to their properties.



Many volunteers have expressed a desire to continue assisting with these tasks, including a number from the ACT who have already started making arrangements to return in the near future.



David Blore (Wangaratta 4WD Club) will continue to work with the Shire in the Mudgegonga area to offer co-ordination support for anyone interested in assisting farmers in this area.

Clem Tozer, from the ACT 4WD Club commented on the wonderful coordination effort and great club hospitality in testing circumstances provided by the Wangaratta 4WD Club. He said that his members really appreciated the opportunity to help the Victorian farmers in some small way and it was gratifying to experience the appreciation offered by the farmers they assisted. They clearly enjoyed and appreciated our small contribution.

Also, See Caravan Deliveries- pg 14



WHY GOD MADE MUMS

Answers given by 2nd grade school children to the following questions:

Why did God make mothers?

1. She's the only one who knows where the sticky tape is.
2. Mostly to clean the house.
3. To help us out of there when we were getting born.

What ingredients are mothers made of?

1. God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and everything nice in the world and one dab of mean.
2. They had to get their start from mens' bones. Then they mostly use string, I think.

Why did God give you your mother and not some other Mum?

1. We're related.
2. God knew she likes me a lot more than other people's Mums like me.

What kind of little girl was your Mum?

1. My Mum has always been my Mum and none of that other stuff.
2. I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.
3. They say she used to be nice.

What did Mum need to know about Dad before she married him?

1. His last name.
2. She had to know his background. Like is he a crook? Does he get drunk on beer?
3. Does he make at least \$800 a year? Did he say NO to drugs and YES to chores?

Why did your Mum marry your Dad?

1. My Dad makes the best spaghetti in the world. And my Mum eats a lot.
2. She got too old to do anything else with him.
3. My Grandma says that Mum didn't have her thinking cap on.

Who's the boss at your house?

1. Mum doesn't want to be boss, but she has to because Dad's such an idiot.
2. Mum. You can tell by room inspection. She sees the stuff under the bed.
3. I guess Mum is, but only because she has a lot more to do than Dad.

What's the difference between Mums & Dads?

1. Mums work at work and work at home and Dads just go to work at work.
2. Mums know how to talk to teachers without scaring them.
3. Dads are taller & stronger, but Mums have all the real power 'cause that's who you got to ask if you want to sleep over at your friend's.
4. Mums have magic, they make you feel better without medicine.

What does your Mum do in her spare time?

1. Mothers don't have spare time.
2. To hear her talk, she pays bills all day long.

What would it take to make your Mum perfect?

1. On the inside she's already perfect. Outside, I think some kind of plastic surgery.
2. You know, her hair. I'd die it, maybe blue.

If you could change one thing about your Mum, what would it be?

1. She has this weird thing about me keeping my room clean. I'd get rid of that.
2. I'd make my Mum smarter. Then she would know it was my sister who did it and not me.
3. I would like her to get rid of those invisible eyes on the back of her head.