

Bangor Bushfire Recovery Newsletter

Issue 3



Government
of South Australia

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LOCAL STORIES AND EXPERIENCES

Ashley and Jeanette Harvie
By Felicity Arthur

The fire was stressful, but now it's time to move on for Ashley and Jeanette Harvie, who lost significant feed, fencing and some cattle on January 17.

Ashley's thoughts already have turned to enhancing the 300ha enterprise west of Wirrabara, where he cell grazes cattle on native pastures. "We're redesigning paddocks, water lines, water points," he said. "Instead of having 26 paddocks on 750 acres, we're going to have 43 or 44. We'll have bigger rest times for each of the paddocks." BlazeAid will lend a hand when the time comes.

Fire was not a grave threat on Florina Station; Ashley had fought only one blaze in 24 years on the Mannahill property before moving to Wirrabara five years ago. This one was savage. There was no hope for a farm ute appliance and a couple of fire extinguishers. "I thought we might have been safe until it turned, down south of us – and then we bolted," Ashley said. Measures such as full gutters and sprinklers on the garden were effective, but Ashley credits his few dozen sheep with the wide, bare break that saved the house. Even so, just a narrow strip of dry grass on the eastern side was enough to draw the fire. "We lost the doghouse and the chookhouse," Ashley said. "We had boiled eggs and roast chicken."

Future fire-proofing will include a stronger holding facility for stock. The panicked cattle broke through their gate and were soon into the garden where they "mowed and scarified" enthusiastically.

While Ashley feels he had his insurance about right, this challenging topic is another thing to review over coming months. Bushfire inevitably takes a financial and psychological toll but, now, Ashley prefers to be positive.

"We came out of it pretty well, really," he said. "The only thing we haven't got is pastures and such-like."



WANTED
Your feedback, newsletter
items, letters, stories,
poems, photos.

This would be much appreciated although we can't promise that we will be able to include everything. If you have something to contribute please contact Jessie White by phoning 8666 2014, emailing deputyceo@mtr.sa.gov.au or writing to her at PO Box 94, MELROSE, SA 5483.



Natural Resources
Northern and Yorke



For assistance with redesigning farm fencing and livestock water systems please contact Michael Richards, the Regional Landcare Facilitator in the Northern & Yorke Region.

Michael lives in Crystal Brook and works with farmers to improve farm productivity and sustainability.

The following support is currently available to farmers in the Bangor fire area;

- a GPS for farmers to easily work out the size and layout of paddocks and water systems.
- assistance with redesigning farm fencing and paddock layout.
- help with setting up water trough and tank systems which provide high flow rates and are easily relocated.
- information on electric fencing equipment and techniques.
- access to information and specialist expertise on livestock, native vegetation and soil management.
- from early April, farmers will be able to access the use of a RAPPA electric fencing unit.

To contact Michael phone on 0427 547 052 or email to; michael.nynrm@internode.on.net

BlazeAid

BlazeAid is a volunteer-based organisation that works alongside rural families, to help rebuild fences that have been damaged or destroyed after natural disasters such as fires and floods. You can find out more about BlazeAid at:

www.blazeaid.com.au.

For enquiries and to register, contact the BlazeAid Wirrabara Temporary Camp Coordinator: Eugene Ross, phone 0447 252 931 or email blazeaid.wirrabara@gmail.com.

Post-bushfire – native vegetation clearance and management

Protection of burnt native vegetation is vital to enable good post-fire recovery of flora and fauna. For information on post-bushfire activities that involve any clearance of native vegetation please contact the Native Vegetation Management Unit, Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) on 8303 9777.

Tree planting

If you are a landholder who has been affected by the bushfires, Trees for Life can arrange for volunteers to plant native seedlings on your property this winter.

Register your details by phoning the Trees for Life on 8406 0500 or send an email to info@treesforlife.org.au or log onto www.treesforlife.org.au for more information.



Help with financial issues

Financial Counselling

The Salvation Army offers a free telephone service where financial counsellors provide support, information and options to people in financial difficulty. This service can assist with negotiating with creditors; strategies and options; budgeting; phone and energy bills; Centrelink and concessions; debt recovery and court processes; mortgages, loans and repossessions.

You can call the Salvation Army Financial Counselling Telephone Helpline on Freecall 1800 007 007.

Rural Business Support

Rural Business Support provides free, confidential and impartial business support and information to primary producers and small rural business owners who are experiencing financial difficulties and have no alternative source of impartial support.

Staff are professionally trained in all aspects of business analysis and can assist with cash flow, meetings with banks, financial institutions and insurance companies. They also offer a referral service to other professionals.

To contact the two Mid North Rural Financial Counsellors, Deb Purvis and John White, please telephone Freecall 1800 836 211. More information about Rural Business Support can be obtained at www.ruralbusinesssupport.org.au.

Centrelink

Centrelink has a range of payments and services that you may be eligible for to support you in an emergency or crisis, whether or not you are already a Centrelink customer.

Income Support Payments – you may be eligible for Centrelink payments if your income has been reduced as a result of an emergency.

Current Centrelink Customers – We can look at a variety of options, including:

- Advancing a portion of future income support payment to assist with expenses, (deductions will be made automatically over 13 fortnights);
- Special child care benefit, extra assistance may be available to help with the cost of childcare for families affected;
- Urgent Payment – a portion of your regular Centrelink payment may be paid before your payday if you are in severe financial hardship;
- Centrelink Social Workers and psychologists can provide counselling, support and information.

Centrelink contact details:

Employment Services	13 28 50
Youth and Students	13 24 90
Family Payments	13 61 50
Retirement	13 23 00
Disability, Sickness & Carers	13 27 17

www.centrelink.gov.au



How you can help

There are many ways you can help the recovery.
You can:

Donate money

Bangor Bushfire Appeal, ph: 8633 8600
www.ucwcsa.org.au

State Emergency Relief Fund, ph: 1800 302 787

Trees for Life Bushfire Appeal, ph: 8406 0500

BlazeAid: www.blazeaid.com.au/donations

Donate fencing materials

BlazeAid, ph: 0447 252 931

Donate fodder or agistment

Primary Producers SA, ph: 8297 0899

Volunteer

Re-build fences: BlazeAid, ph: 0447 252 931

Tree planting: Trees for Life, ph: 8406 0500

Personal support

The Commonwealth Government's at
www.disasterassist.gov.au **Fact Sheet -
Supporting people affected by disaster** gives
some tips on how to best help a person recovering
from a traumatic event.

Useful contacts

General recovery information

Bushfire Recovery Hotline
ph: 1800 302 787
www.sa.gov.au/safiresrecovery

Agistment

Primary Producers SA
ph: 8297 0899

Business support and information

Rural Business Support
ph: 1800 836 211
www.ruralbusinesssupport.org.au

Counselling and support

Country Health SA	131 465
Beyond Blue	1300 22 4636
Youth Beyond Blue	1300 22 4636
Kids Helpline	1800 55 1800

For more information visit
www.sa.gov.au/safiresrecovery

Fencing

BlazeAid (Eugene Ross)
ph: 0447 252 931
email: blazeaid.wirrabara@gmail.com
www.blazeaid.com.au

Financial counselling

Salvation Army Financial Counselling
Telephone Helpline ph: 1800 007 007

Financial support

Centrelink
www.centrelink.gov.au

Fodder

Primary Producers SA
ph: 8297 0899

Legal advice

Law Society
ph: 8229 0200
email: disaster.planning@lawsocietysa.asn.au

Native vegetation management

Native Vegetation Management Unit
ph: 8303 9777

Reporting road hazards

Traffic Management Centre
ph: 1800 018 313

Tree planting

Trees for Life
ph: 8406 0500
email: info@treesforlife.org.au
www.treesforlife.org.au