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For Immediate Release

02/08/2020

BlazeAid Camps Now Open In Jingellic And Walwa

- Jingellic BlazeAid Basecamp reopened and Volunteers working on NSW properties
- Walwa Satellite Camp opened to enable work to be done on Victorian properties
- Teams have started work on both sides of the border

Jingellic NSW / Walwa VIC

Not just rebuilding fences, but helping rebuild lives.

The last few weeks of August have seen a determined team of BlazeAid volunteers arrive in the Upper Murray to continue the work started from the Jingellic Basecamp in Summer but called off due to the approach of winter and worsening Covid situation in March. A small team was very quickly out helping fire effected farmers clear and rebuild their fences.

It very quickly became apparent that the Border Control situation would inhibit this work greatly. A great proportion of properties registered for assistance are on the Victorian side of the river and restrictions on permits for volunteers to work cross-border would have made camp life at the Jingellic Hub unsustainable.

Having explored all options, it was decided to open a second Camp at the Walwa Football grounds. Within days volunteers from Victorian Covid-free regional areas started arriving and they were soon out on the fence lines with another deserving farmer. If you still have fire damaged fences to fix pick up an application from either the Walwa Store or Jingellic Store then drop it into our camps and Coordinator Natalie Trigwell will contact you about your needs.

BlazeAid is providing more than just the usual Fencing help as well with two new programs rolling out in the area. Fire affected farmers may be eligible for perennial grass seed to

reestablish pastures in those paddocks burnt in the 2019/20 fires. Many deserving farmers have received funding in the first rounds of approvals. If you wish to be included in the GRAFFI program contact the Camps and we can steer you in the right direction.

The latest BlazeAid initiative is the Trillions of Paddock Trees program being trialed from the Walwa camp starting next week.

Paddock trees are a dying race - we have squillions along the roadsides unmanaged for fire fuel, but the paddocks are often bare, with no shelter for stock or refuge for our native birds and animals against cats and foxes!

Any property owner wanting to be part of this exciting new trial please contact the Camps for more details or phone Natalie on 0497 717 605.

If you would like to support BlazeAid in our work we are always in need of volunteers. Volunteers are our lifeblood and not only work the fence lines but also make sure our camps run smoothly by Cooking, cleaning and helping with Admin tasks. There are jobs for all ages and skill levels. There are many ways you can help us help your community.

Give Coordinator Natalie Trigwell a call on 0497 717 605 with any questions.