



Press Release

NSW 4WD Clubs provide further tangible relief aid to the Victorian Rural community

NSW 4WD Clubs have organised a further delivery of hay to the rural victims of the Black Saturday Fires to help feed livestock and are sending a volunteer force to clear and remove fences destroyed in the fires. Mr Graham Bourke, President of the Mudgee 4WD Club who travelled with the last delivery stated, "The call for fodder is a long term need as the ground is dry & little or no rain has resulted in no new growth, and many of the paddocks are scorched with no feed available."

HAY FOR VICTORIA: Hay is loaded onto the truck to help fire ravaged farmers in Mudgegonga in Victoria.

Reproduced with courtesy of the Mudgee Gazette.



It is planned for the next shipment to leave Mudgee on Wednesday for the trip to the Mudgegonga region. "Again this would not be possible without the continued support of our local farmers." Said Graham, "And the funding for the trip has been provided by Ulan Coal Mines Ltd & as part of the generous donations of member clubs in NSW & Victoria."

After the recent fact finding trip undertaken by the 4WD NSW-ACT representatives, it was revealed that it is estimated that nearly 8,000kms of wire fencing will need to be replaced, just in the Myrtleford – Beechworth region alone. "At a cost of \$5,000 per km approximately (replacement only), the farmers of the area face a daunting challenge," remarked Vice President Roger Sheath.

Roger went on to explain, "Experienced fencers also suggest that the costs associated with the removal of damaged fencing are actually greater than the cost of renewal (excluding materials), so the work we are undertaking is very valuable. Beyond this is the positive impact of just being there and helping, is extremely important as many are trying to deal with huge issues, and isolation can be a significant factor. The Association is currently organising for club members totalling some 25 volunteers representing 5 clubs to visit the area over the Easter holiday period to help in the restoration of property in the Myrtleford region. This is being arranged in co-operation with the local Wangaratta 4WD Club who are co-ordinating the efforts in the region with the Indigo & Alpine Shire Councils. We expect that future volunteer groups from 4WD Clubs in NSW & ACT will go to Victoria in the months and even years ahead to help with the long term restoration of the communities affected by the fires."



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Remanets of fencing after the fire.



Taking a break whilst removing the old fence line.

For more information and photographs contact Roger Sheath on 0418 831 881.

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About Four Wheel Drive NSW & ACT Inc.

<http://www.4wdnsw-act.asn.au>

Four Wheel Drive NSW & ACT Inc works for access to public and private lands for responsible 4WD and AWD touring and camping on behalf of its member clubs. It presents our views to public land managers in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory to keep bush trails and roads open.

We acknowledge that driving off road vehicles requires attention to each vehicle's dynamics in order to safely operate our vehicles on road and to drive sensitively and responsibly off road. We support drivers' rights to properly prepare their vehicles for safe country driving and remote outback touring. Modifications to accomplish any of these activities must comply with regulations for registration of vehicles for use on public roads.

Our clubs provide driver training and this Association is an RTO operating and managing the training and assessment of our drivers. Most clubs have a social and community service strategy and the members enjoy volunteering to help land managers keep our bush clean and healthy for both now and into the future.

We urge anyone visiting the bush to do so with minimal impact at all time.

Four Wheel Drive NSW & ACT Inc Codes of Ethics

Obey the laws and regulations for Recreational Vehicles that apply to public lands. Respect the cultural, heritage and environmental values of public and private land by obeying restrictions that may apply.

1. Respect our flora and fauna.
2. Stop and look but never disturb.
3. Keep to formed vehicle tracks.
4. Keep the environment clean.
5. Carry your own and any other rubbish out.
6. Keep your vehicle mechanically sound and clean to reduce the environmental impact.
7. Adopt minimal impact camping and driving practices.
8. Seek permission before driving on private land.
9. Do not disturb livestock or watering points, leave gates as found.
10. Take adequate water, food, fuel, basic spares and a first aid kit on trips.
11. In remote areas travel with another vehicle and have Royal Flying Doctor Service, or equivalent, radio contact.
12. Enjoy your recreation and respect the rights of others.
13. Leave your trip details with a responsible person for essential contacts.