

# ROTARY AUSTRALIA WORLD COMMUNITY SERVICE (RAWCS) – KANGAROO ISLAND (KI) FENCING PROGRAM

## Who is the Farmer and what is the impact on them?

Sarah and Bill Walsh, members of the Rotary Club of Glenelg, South Australia, travelled to KI on Sunday 3 May and set up camp on the property of David and Lynn McArdle. They are situated 8km south of Parndana and have two properties close together. Both homes were lost. David and Lynn have been living in the shearing shed, a donated bus and have the use of a donated Recovery Pod.

It is now May and this couple has been doing it tough. It is very cold at night and winter is only just starting and they have been without power all this time, despite repeated requests to SA Power Network.

David and Lynn run one of, if not **the** state's leading Polwarth Sheep Stud, recognised throughout South Australia and the eastern states. David lost 700 breeding ewes and 400 of twelve-month-old lambs.

**Fencing.** Securing the home block was completed on Monday and Tuesday (approximately 350 metres) including digging all holes by hand as the soil was not damp enough to use the post rammer.

Wednesday consisted of finishing the McArdle boundary on the Little Wedgewood farm. Another 300 metres. All of David's boundaries are completed. Although David lost just about all his fencing, there are sections where he has made do for now, to be worked on during winter. A large proportion of fencing has been put in with droppers. These will be replaced when the soil is wetter so that the post hole rammer can be used. The remaining portion of 500 metres will be completed this coming week, including the clearing of the fence line of dead or dying trees.

## Footnote.

On Thursday (7 May) while Bill Walsh was in Kingscote meeting with other groups, he met long-time friend Roger Williams who owns a local cafe and the newsagency. When told of David and Lynn's plight regarding the lack of electricity, Roger Williams advised David to go to the Kangaroo Island Bushfire Recovery Centre, where staff proved to be extremely helpful.

Whether it was the visit to the Bushfire Recovery Centre or a call by Roger Williams to local Member Leon Bignell that prompted action, at 9:00am Friday three SA Power Network trucks were on site and over the next four hours, installed transformers on both properties. An electrician was organised to connect power to the shed Monday or Tuesday (10 or 11 May).

## Work scope coming weeks.

Bill Walsh continued to stay at the McArdle property during the week 10-15 May, before moving on the weekend to the property of Michael and Sarah Stanton, which abuts the Stokes Bay Hall.

The following weekend 23-24 May, he will move to the property of Elijah and Kellie Whale, located on the South Coast Road about four kilometres east of Kelly Hill Caves.

**Footnote: Bill Walsh added this note:** *"With the easing of travel restrictions over the coming weeks I would encourage any able bodied persons who are able to be self-sufficient to come over (to KI). I can find so much fencing for them to do. You know sometimes it's not just the fencing which is important, it's also the listening."*