

## **Council applauds BlazeAid's help with bushfire recovery**

Work by BlazeAid to help landholders in the Woodenbong area after the Border Trail bushfire has been applauded by Kyogle Council.

Kyogle Councillor Lindsay Passfield told Council's April meeting that the help of the BlazeAid volunteers over the past three months had been significant and timely and was deeply appreciated by the Woodenbong community.

The BlazeAid camp was set up at the Woodenbong Showground on 27 December last year after the Border Trail bushfire burnt out tens of thousands of hectares in NSW and Queensland and affected scores of rural landholders.

The volunteers who manned the Woodenbong camp hit the ground running and in three months cleared 12.7km of damaged fencing and erected 30.03km of new fence on bushfire-affected properties.

The camp was disbanded on 27 March.

"BlazeAid did a wonderful job," Cr Passfield said.

"They worked really well with the local community and in the three months they were in Woodenbong they only had two days off – New Year's Day and Australia Day – apart from days lost to inclement weather.

"All up, there were 98 volunteers aged from 18 to 78, with many of the volunteers returning multiple times. We even had a few backpackers and a small contingent of army reservists from Lismore helping out early in the operation."

The cost of the Woodenbong camp, including more than 3,300 meals provided for the volunteers, was met by Kyogle Council out of its Bushfire Recovery funds.

Council will write to BlazeAid to formally thank the organisation and the Woodenbong camp coordinators for their contribution to the bushfire recovery.

**Media enquiries contact Kyogle Council Mayor Cr Danielle Mulholland phone 0438 931 425; for further information contact Kyogle Council General Manager Graham Kennett phone 0427 921 605.**