

TALENT: Sarah Martin - Birnam Rural Fire Brigade member

NOTES: Pre-record after 3pm Friday. Sarah was one of two brigade members tasked to protect the Animal Welfare League Qld property at Stapylton during a fire just over a week ago

TEASE: It pays to remember the little things, even during emergencies and when times are difficult. For a rural fire brigade crew from south of Brisbane, that meant leaving a note to reassure an animal shelter's volunteers that all was well. You'll hear about the message ... and why it's gone viral ... shortly

NETIA CLIP

INTRO:

Think back on the times you've gone that extra mile for someone... perhaps at work, or helping out family or friends in need... or maybe even for our animal friends.

Last week, when a bushfire broke out at Stapylton, halfway between Brisbane and the Gold Coast, the chance threat of fire or ember attack put the local Animal Welfare League at risk.

Members of the Birnam Rural Fire brigade sent to monitor the property went above and beyond in their duties... and they left behind a note to let staff know that the cats and dogs... and a solitary cow... had been in safe hands.

As they finished their deployment, the crew left the following message for the centre's volunteers, and it's received a lot of attention online.

Dear Animal Welfare League ...

We brought in your blankets so they didn't get ash on them.

We also told all the dogs that we were here to keep them safe.

They are all very well behaved and listened as they stopped backing after we told them they were safe.

It has been our pleasure to be onsite to make sure no fire started in your property. Lots of love, the crew from Birnam Rural Fire Brigade.

Sarah Martin is one of the two brigade members who protected the animal refuge.

QUESTIONS:

Q: Why were you called to the animal shelter?

Q: Were the animals under threat?

Q: So what did you find when you arrived at the shelter?

(dogs in kennels in one building, cats in another and a cow in the paddock behind the buildings) **Q:** Were the animals stressed?

(they gave the cow some water)

Q: What were you and your brigade partner tasked to do?

(put out any embers that drifted into the bush beside the shelter)

Q: How long were you on site?

Q: Have you ever left notes for property owners and occupiers before?

Q: Have property owners and occupiers ever left you notes before evacuating or dropped a note of thanks afterwards?

Q: How long have you been a member of the Birnam rural fire brigade?

Q: How big is Birnam's rural fire team?

Q: What is the brigade hoping Santa will bring it?

b/a: If you would like to donate to the Queensland Gives ABC Christmas Appeal, you can still direct your donation to your own region by going to the queenslandgives.com website.