



Jack's good deed saves the day

Jack Van Voorst is 16.

He is currently a member of the Warradagee Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, a junior member of the Moora State Emergency Service and student councillor at Central Midlands Senior High School. On the night 28 of June, Jack was being driven home to Warradagee. Travelling along the Brand Highway near Badgingara, Jack saw an elderly man beside the road. Jack's mum, Mandy, was eager to get home as it was late, but Jack insisted his mum turn around to check on the man.

Jack approached the man and his first aid skills kicked in. The gentleman was clearly disoriented and couldn't explain where he was or why he was there. His car had run out of fuel and the weather was very cold.

While Jack cared for the gentleman, Mandy rang the police at Moora. The senior constable on duty was delighted to get the call as they had just received the missing person's report. The gentleman, who has dementia, had driven off, with his dog, from Perth and driven until his car had stopped. His family were very anxious about his wellbeing and delighted to hear that he had been located and were heading north to collect him.

At Jack's insistence, he and his mum remained with the man to see that he would be safe. In the meantime, Mandy rang around everyone she could in Badgingara to obtain

some fuel to get the car started. While they waited, the gentleman was kept warm in the car and as Mandy had just done the shopping, there was even some food for the dog!

When the police arrived from Moora, they realised that the gentleman was calm in Jack's car. Mandy drove him to the station while the police brought the vehicle back. By the time the gent was dropped off in Moora, a late night for Jack and Mandy had become an early morning. For Jack's community spirit and sense of duty to assist a person in distress, Moora police awarded Jack a certificate at his SES training night on 12 July.

Sgt Vanderplank said that Jack's determination to give help, when many people had driven past and ignored the elderly man was the reason this was a successful missing person search and not a tragic outcome.

Moora SES team is proud to have Jack on board, showing the best attributes of a volunteer emergency service member.



Sgt Vanderplank and Jack Van Voorst