

Rotary
District 9800



Bushfire Disaster Relief Appeal 2020

As with all Victorians, Rotarians in our District have been profoundly saddened and touched by the tragedy of the bushfires over summer, which have claimed lives, destroyed many homes and decimated thousands of hectares of bushland.

The response from Rotarians around the nation and indeed the world has been overwhelming, including the willingness of the Family of Rotary from far and wide who have been asking what it is they can do to help.

Whilst the current pandemic has taken centre stage, it is important that we do not forget those who have been so heavily impacted by the bushfires and who now have the added burden of the coronavirus lockdowns.

As a result, we wanted to share with you an update on what our District has been doing and some ideas on how Rotarians can continue to assist those dealing with the consequences and challenges of the bushfires.



Rotary District 9800 Bushfire Appeal Update

Since early January, we have raised in partnership with the Bendigo Bank Community Enterprise Foundation, around \$700,000 with a further \$500,000 worth of pledges.

The funds have been generously donated by Rotarians, Clubs, and our Corporate partners. We are particularly proud of our partnership with **Carlton United Breweries** whose 2,000 plus Publicans ran a fundraiser over the Australia Day long weekend to raise valuable dollars for our appeal. Of course, we could not have done this without the support of **Bendigo Bank's Community Enterprise Foundation** who has given us the ability to use an Appeal that gives donors tax-deductible receipts online for their donations. A number of Corporate Partners have also given us donations in kind for the Appeal. Our thanks go out to all of our committee members and to our partners on the ground in Districts 9790 and 9820, as well as to Rotarians who have donated and are looking to support a project soon. Any small thing that we can all do will help tremendously with the bushfire recovery.

If you have any questions please contact PP Sue Foley, incoming Chair of our District Community Service, and Chair of District 9800's Bushfire Appeal Committee on email Sue.Foley@bendigoadelaide.com.au



Business Leaders Breakfast



The District ran a Business Leaders Breakfast fundraiser on 19 February in support of the Bushfire Appeal with guest speaker Andrew Crisp, Emergency Management Commissioner Victoria. With 170 attendees, the event was jointly project managed by Lili Teichman, President of Rotary Club of Glen Eira, Fabienne Nichola, Rotary Club of Camberwell, and Rotary Southbank.

Major sponsors included Carlton & United Breweries, Bendigo Bank, Community Enterprise Foundation, Mercedes Benz, Mitchelton Wines, State Trustees, P&O Cruises, Michelin Tyres, Fenner Dunlop Engineered Conveyor Systems, Hyatt Place Event

Centre – Essendon Fields, Vosgi Jewellers, Hawkesburn Village Dental, Balwyn Jewellers, German Tivoli Club and Minuteman Press Prahran. Total Funds raised amounted to just over \$7,000.

Shipping Containers and Caravans for Victims of the Bushfires

The long recovery process is just beginning for those heavily impacted by the bushfires. **District 9800 Bushfire Relief Appeal** will where possible through funds raised, enable those in need to have a shipping container placed on their block for storage, and to deliver caravans prior to winter setting in for those who have been left homeless.

Shipping Containers

The communities in Gippsland and Hume urgently need shipping containers and caravans to assist the local community recovering from the bushfires. As a club, you can help service the local bushfire affected communities needs by purchasing shipping containers and donating funds for the refurbishment of caravans.

At this stage, we have delivered 49 containers, 34 to Gippsland and 15 to the Hume. If your club can support further deliveries through donations, and/or a grant from the Bushfire Appeal fund that the District has established, please contact Rhys Maggs (Rotary Essendon North) on email: rmaggs@bigpond.net.au or mobile: 0418 317 393.



20ft Containers can be purchased for around \$3,500 refurbished, ready to be used for storage, and delivered to the location. Bushfire Appeal Grants of up to \$3,000 are available to clubs. Therefore the cost to the club will be \$500. At present there are still about 90 outstanding requests for containers, a list that rapidly grew once the first deliveries were made. So if your club is interested in supporting the container program, please do get in contact with Rhys Maggs.



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Sponsored containers will have the Rotary emblem together with the name of the sponsoring Rotary Club. Clubs will know where their container has been delivered and may have the opportunity to make contact with their recipient.

Caravans

With the onset of winter housing is critical, and The Rotary Club of Melbourne has started delivering refurbished caravans to those in need. There are still a few caravans for clubs to sponsor a delivery. If your club would consider a \$4,500 donation, a caravan worth around \$30,000 - \$40,000 totally refurbished, will be delivered.



As this is a Rotary Club of Melbourne project, please contact Jim Orchard (Rotary Club of Melbourne) on 0452 639 329, or email him at jimporchard@gmail.com

We have been communicating and consulting with the Bushfire Disaster Team in District 9820 and District 9790 to identify their specific needs in the fire-affected communities, particularly in regard to our container and caravan projects. If your club is interested in assisting these communities you are encouraged to make direct contact with clubs in Gippsland and Hume once you have registered your interest.

What is your Club's Bushfire Project?

COVID-19 has understandably taken away our focus from the bushfire disaster and drought. With the onset of winter we need to do as much as we can for our neighbours who have been particularly impacted by the bushfires. Your club may be working on a project that needs funding. You can apply for a Bushfire Appeal Grant up to \$3,000, or you can apply for a matching grant up to \$25,000 for a more significant project. Please see the application form attached or contact PDG Jim Studebaker via email: jimstude@bigpond.net.au or phone: 0413 304 864.

This could be a fabulous Centenary project for your club!

