

**RAWCS
FUND
TOTAL
\$ 102,782.56**

Donations have been received from multiple sources

- Private
- Rotary Clubs
- Rotary Districts
- Corporate



Rotary
District 9810



From the Bay
to the Hills

The Rotary Dandenong Ranges Storm Recovery Fund Newsletter # 2



The Fund Committee and the Hills Storm Cluster made up of the Rotary Clubs of Belgrave, Emerald and Monbulk have been working tirelessly to determine the needs of the community and the best way to distribute the funds that have been raised from the Rotary clubs, Rotary Districts, Private and Corporate donors.

We asked many questions regarding what was the immediate need after the storms, what are the current needs now, six months later, and how can we help those that were traumatised by the events. Recovery processes will continue for many months, even years. Rotary's efforts are addressing some of the support needed and we believe we have applied the funds gathered in a way that will address many of those needs.

Communications Failures

One of the main issues that the people experienced directly after the storm was a complete failure in communications between the affected area and the outside world. Our first action was to add to the efforts of the Rotary Club of Monbulk when they supplied two satellite phone communication hubs to the **Monbulk Emergency Group**, by adding another Satellite Phone system and funding to maintain connection plans for the next two years. These communication hubs can be set up in any areas that are effected by storm or fire events to enable locals to communicate with families and let them know they are okay or need help, the lack of which often results in adding to the trauma of the event.



Iridium Satellite Hot Spot



Iridium Satellite Phone



Iridium Satellite Hot Spot with High Gain Antenna

Recovery from the traumatic event

During the event of the storms, children often suffered trauma when their homes and lives were threatened and the sounds of howling wind and crashing trees was impressed into their memories. In order to help these children recover from that trauma, **Rescue Logs** is publishing a book to be funded by the Rotary Storm Recovery Fund. This book will help the children manage their fears and allow them to talk about the events and work through their feelings that they experienced. This book will be distributed, free to the primary school students in the area.



Mount Dandenong Pre-School

A Pre-School on the mountain was destroyed by the storm and much of their fundraising equipment was destroyed. Rotary have assisted the **Mount Dandenong Pre-School** with funds for roasters used in their major fundraising event, The Chestnut Festival to help them raise money and restock their school with items not covered by insurance. The building was not able to be repaired due to the presence of asbestos. A complete rebuild is required.



Grab Bags — for when you have nothing

Many people that had to evacuate their homes, said that they often left with nothing but the clothes they were wearing. Rotary is producing “Grab Bags” containing items such as torches, gloves, blankets, first aid kits, hand warmers, respirator masks, tissues, hand sanitiser and more. These will be distributed to families in the most vulnerable areas of the Ranges. This project is still in development and funds are being held until planning and design is completed.

What we can do now !

The most important need that has currently been identified now, is the need to assist people with fallen trees on their property who have no means of clearing the heavy logs and branches, that have now become a fire hazard. Two organisations, working on this huge task, are working with the **Yarra Ranges and Cardinia Councils**. Rotary is supplying materials and funding to help these organisations clear land of families in need that are referred to them, through **Anglicare and Windermere Community Services**. These organisations are **Treasure our Trees**, which is a group of people supporting Professional Arborists, to clear the land of trees which are mostly in dangerous states and need expert knowledge to dismantle their entanglement. Treasure our Trees are recovering the logs and, in some cases, using them to build playgrounds and gardens in the schools on the mountain. The second organisation that the Rotary Fund is helping is **Habitat for Humanity**. This is an organisation that supervises volunteers who are formed into teams to go onto properties to clear the mess that the storm has left behind.



Log Recovery and Processing



Primary School Discussion Area



Volunteers at Work



Emerald State Emergency Service (SES)

I'm sure that we are all aware that the SES are the heroes of our community in these traumatic events and they certainly shone in the days and weeks following the storms in the Dandenongs. The clubs of the 'hills cluster' quickly identified the SES as worthy recipients of a contribution from our fund. As well as much needed equipment, our fund is helping the SES with training of new recruits. As in many organisations, knowledge and skills diminish over time as members retire from the group. Rotary is funding the training of 10 SES volunteers in the safe operation of Chain Saws plus 4 volunteers are to be trained to attain Heavy Vehicle Driving Licenses in order to keep their trucks on the road in a safe manner.



Fund Distribution Table

Total Amount Donated	\$102,782.56
Less	
RAWCS Admin Fees	<u>2826.52</u>
Balance available for distribution	99,956.04
Less Distribution	
Rescue Logs Book for primary school students	3,971.50
SES Equipment and Training	16,775.00
Mt Dandenong Pre School - Roaster and Loo hire	1,850.00
Grab Bags (Not approved but working on costs)	7,500.00
Habitat for Humanity	27,000.00
Treasure our Trees	37,747.00
Monbulk Emergency Group	<u>5,399.00</u>
Balance after Distribution	-286.46
Plus	
Additional funding from district	<u>286.46</u>
Remaining Funds	<u>0.00</u>

The Fund Committee is now working with the Rotary Clubs involved and the organisations that are working in the Dandenongs to ensure the funds are distributed carefully and correctly to ensure a successful outcome.

Thank you to all those involved who donated. We are working diligently to ensure your donations are used wisely.

Further information is available through the Project Manager, Alan Lunghusen

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Don't forget to join us at the Storm Recovery Festival.
All are welcome ... Why not make a day of it ?
A visit to our Dandenongs is very rewarding.
Lots to see and do!



Rotary Storm Recovery Festival

SUNDAY 27th FEBRUARY 2022

10.00am - 2.00pm

**St George's Anglican Church Paddock,
Main Street, Monbulk**

'A Time to Heal - A Time to Thank - A Time to Help'

STALLS. AMUSEMENTS. FOOD. LIVE MUSIC. DISPLAYS.

**Food Stalls. Crafts and Gifts. Coffee Van. Live Music. Amusements. CFA and
SES Displays. Pop-corn. BBQ. Yarra Ranges Information tent. Give-Aways.**

(Formalities commence at 12 Noon)

Gold Coin Entry donated to CFA and SES

Festival Proceeds Directed to Rotary Storm Recovery Projects

Rotary Presentations start at 12 noon

See you there !