

Helping others



Rovers packed emergency supplies for bushfire victims as service on their CBR Moot expedition.

Victorian Scout Groups have responded quickly to Australia's bushfire disaster.

Groups have donated to the Victorian Bushfire Relief Fund through activities like Bunnings barbecues, raised funds directly for organisations such as WIRES, CFA and RFS, made wildlife pouches and gloves for organisations supporting wildlife rescue groups, extending to possum hutches/boxes, collected food



Bushfire Badge

This is a special Scouts Australia badge to raise funds for those affected by the bushfires.

The badge is funded by Snowgum and Scouts Victoria, so 100 per cent of all sales will go to bushfire relief.

This limited edition badge is just \$5 and Victorian Scouts can wear it on their uniform, on their right chest.

Postage and handling is a flat \$5 for any quantity so get one or get 100.

You can order now at <https://scoutshop.com.au/products/bushfire-badge>

for Foodbank Australia and other organisations which were capable of receiving food at the time, and assisted when requested at evacuation centres such as Wodonga.

Members of the Carlton Scout Group quickly organised a collection at Barkly Square shopping centre, raising \$4183 on

the Saturday for Wildlife Victoria. They returned the next day and collected \$4412 for Red Cross.

2nd Springvale were busy at Bunnings where their barbecue made a profit of \$4691.25 to donate to the bushfire appeal.

Paynesville Scout Group supported the supply of equipment, including items for the Bairnsdale Relief Centre.

Shepparton Groups sewed items for injured animals.

Wodonga Rovers spent many mornings cooking a barbecue breakfast at the local showgrounds for evacuees. They also helped out the Rovers returning from the truncated CBR Moot as they passed through Wodonga and slept and breakfasted at 3rd Wodonga hall. In their spare time they helped check out donated tents before they were given to evacuees, and packed other donations to be moved to fire-affected areas. It was a busy time for Rover Callan Spinelli, who is also District Leader - Scouts. He was in the middle of moving house and his property was in the fire area near Myrtleford.

City of Knox/Boronia Scout Group raised funds and delivered goods to the RFS/CFA people. Members of the Group are involved with the CFA. Says



Scouts Millar from Victoria and Cameron from Queensland accept a bushfire donation from the 22nd New Zealand Jamboree. All proceeds from the sale of the Day 8 badge, a campfire design, were donated by NZ Scouts to help with Australia's recovery.

Region Commissioner Brett Cole: "The level of support from Knox Groups was outstanding. They are a great community."

Scouts Victoria provided agencies with a full inventory of gear in the State Q-store, such as stretchers, marquees and tents that might be useful at relief centres, and a list of 700+ halls and campsites available for the community across Victoria if required.

Groups have opened up their halls for those relocating from bushfire prone areas before significant fire danger days.

The cancellation of the CBR Moot meant international Rovers were caught short without program and accommodation. A number of Groups opened their halls to accommodate Rovers as they continued their travels. They included 3rd Wodonga, 2nd-11th Brighton, 1st Elwood, and the BAYWAC hall.

Our wider network also helped move our members out of bushfire-prone areas.



Carlton Scout Group raised \$8597 over two days at Barkly Square shopping centre for Wildlife Victoria and Red Cross.



2nd Springvale and Willara Venturers made a profit of \$4691.25 for the bushfire appeal from their barbecue at Bunnings. Who could resist?



A group of Venturers from Emerald hiking near Portland were picked up by the local Group Leader and moved to Portland Scout Hall – saving their parents and Leaders an 800km round trip.

Scouts Victoria is also grateful and proud of the efforts of our hundreds of members who are involved in response and recovery efforts including:

- CFA firefighters, both career and volunteer
- SES volunteers
- MFB and Forest Fire Management Victoria firefighters
- those working in local government and the Department of Human Services.

- our members working with other volunteer and staff-based organisations such as wildlife support organisations.

Victoria Police Leading Senior Constable Surrey Hunter, Venturer Leader at Myrtleford, was recalled to work on January 2 to manage liaison between the many agencies involved, including CFA, SES, Victoria Police, Parks Victoria, Forest Fire Management, the local council, and the Agriculture Department. He's just one of many who keep the community safe, and volunteer with young people in their spare time.

Burnt area maps are now up to date due to rapid impact assessment teams. At this time, January 9, no properties owned or operated by Scouts Victoria have shown up inside these areas.



When they weren't cooking breakfast for evacuees, Wodonga Rovers were checking donated tents for evacuees, to make sure the equipment was correct.



International

Scouts around the world have sent messages of support including World Scout chairperson Craig Turpie, who sent an impassioned video message for the closing ceremony of the CBR Moot, and Secretary General of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, Ahmad Alhendawi, who wrote:

“The reports and images of devastation that are reaching us are heart-breaking. The human casualties, material and wildlife loss are very saddening. I also wish to express our sympathy with the organising team of the 13th Asia-Pacific and 21st Australian Rover Moot and the 515 participants from 22 countries. Thank you for keeping young people and volunteers safe during this difficult time. Please do let us know how the World Scout Bureau could assist the efforts of the Scout Association of Australia. We keep the Scouts and people of Australia in our thoughts and prayers under those difficult circumstances.”