

\$30,000 for Victoria Animal Aid

Coldstream, Wednesday, 21 October 2009:

Bendigo and Adelaide Bank's philanthropic arm, Community Enterprise Foundation™, has partnered with the Peter Brock Foundation to donate \$30,000 to Victoria Animal Aid.

The money was raised as part of the foundation's Bushfire Appeal which saw more than 32,000 generous donors give \$8 million dollars for victims of February's Black Saturday bushfires.

General Manager of Victoria Animal Aid, Neil Thompson, said the animal welfare organisation was the first port of call for many impacted by the fires and the grant will go towards the establishment of its new Education and Administration Centre.

"We are an open door shelter and we never refuse an animal, offering care, treatment and shelter to unwanted, injured and stray animals.

"During the fires we accommodated many of the animals evacuated from the fire zone and care for those that were burnt by the flames and radiant heat.

"This funding will allow us to more effectively provide emergency response to the local community, their domestic animals, livestock and wildlife," he said.

Wandin Seville **Community Bank**® Branch Manager, Tony Forbes, said that the bank, through the foundation and its partnership with the Peter Brock Foundation, was able to help support the animal shelter.

"The events of the 2009 Victorian bushfires left a lasting impression and the plight of animals caught in the fires caught the attention of people world-wide," Mr Forbes said.

"Due to the generosity of so many donors across Australia we are able to help fund programs such as this to save the lives of animals and ensure their care."

Victoria Animal Aid hopes to have the new building ready before Christmas and the upcoming fire season.

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