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MEDIA RELEASE

Alliance donations help communities celebrate



Celebrates in Yea Wetlands for the 2009 Womindjeka Day

New sponsorships to the Yea Tigers Cricket Club, Yea Camera Club and last weekend's Womindjeka Day celebration top off more than \$20,000 in sponsorship provided to the Yea area by the Sugarloaf Pipeline Alliance in the past 12 months.

Donations along the length of the Sugarloaf Pipeline from Yarra Glen to Yea have reached \$40,000. This includes \$10,000 to The Haven wildlife refuge in Yea, which helps rescue and rehabilitate injured native animals.

More than \$8000 has been donated by the Alliance toward educational projects and about \$7000 has been donated toward sports clubs.

The Haven manager Andrew Voss said the \$10,000 received from the Alliance has enabled him to rebuild and repair the wombat enclosures and start building an animal hospital.

The Sugarloaf Pipeline project is part of the Victorian Government's plan to save, create and share water in the face of drought and climate change. Melbourne Water, GHD, SKM and John Holland are working as an alliance to deliver this \$750 million project linking the Goulburn River near Yea with the Sugarloaf Reservoir.

“We currently have half a dozen wombats, eight kangaroos, about 100 birds and other animals. We are always needing financial help and this money has been a great contribution towards enabling us to provide better homes and enclosures for the animals,” Mr Voss said.

The Haven’s display of animals, including wombats, lizards, a talking cockatoo and two pythons, which children were invited to hold, were a popular attraction at the Womindjeka Day celebrations at the Yea Wetlands last weekend.

The Alliance provided \$2000 toward the celebration, which attracted about 150 people.

Another highlight of the event was the opportunity for children to gather around the campfire and listen to Aboriginal dreamtime stories told by local identity Uncle Larry and join in the Aboriginal dancing with Wally Cooper and his son Kevin.

Other recent donations by the Alliance include \$1000, which is being provided to the Yea Tigers Cricket Club to help sponsor its upcoming season, and almost \$700 toward the Yea Camera Club Photography Competition.

The Sugarloaf Pipeline Alliance has also provided \$5 million through Melbourne Water’s Regional Benefits Grants Program. In Yea, 16 projects received funding including sporting clubs, education and environmental centres, tourist facilities, local community groups and council.

Meanwhile, the Sugarloaf Pipeline project continues to make significant progress. At the Goulburn River pump station, the upper-level structure and roof of the control building will be completed this month, electrical work is underway and the finishing touches to the inlet structure are being installed.

At the high-lift pump station, the roof on the pump station and its fit-out is half complete. The roof on the balance tank is almost complete and the supply pumps are being installed.

The Sugarloaf Pipeline remains ahead of schedule and on budget.

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LATEST MEDIA PHOTOGRAPHY – high/low-resolution media images are available for download at:

http://www.sugarloafpipeline.com.au/content/news_and_information/media_photography.asp

About the Sugarloaf Pipeline Alliance

The Sugarloaf Pipeline project is part of the Victorian Government’s plan to save, create and share water in the face of drought and climate change. Melbourne Water, GHD, SKM and John Holland are working as an alliance to deliver this \$750 million project, which will link the Goulburn River near Yea with the Sugarloaf Reservoir.