

# Our extended Deer Park family.

When parts of Victoria were destroyed by bushfires in February, it really was close to home for our team at the Deer Park Bypass project. The team's Plant Operator, Andrew 'Puppy' Sexton's house was destroyed and Foreman, John 'Poss' Watson lost some very close friends.

The team's response to the devastation of their local communities was immediate and practical. They quickly identified different ways of helping, from assistance with four wheel drives to fight the fires, to finding someone to build possum and bird boxes for injured wildlife. They provided posts and wire to rebuild fences, found cranes to deliver essential ablation blocks and donated the use of a Leighton Contractors site shed for a local veterinarian.

Many of the team's regular suppliers and contractors were keen to get involved with the team and generously donated materials, tools and their time. Everyone who came forward to assist brought their energy to the extended team and added to the momentum of Deer Park's efforts. On top of all this practical help, donations came rolling in from the team to the tune of \$13,000.

Now that the initial crisis is over, the team has continued with their commitment to being part of people's ongoing recovery. They remain in contact and offer assistance to the grandparents of 12 year old Maddison Bartlett, who was seriously injured and whose immediate family perished in the fire. The team has also assisted financially by sending school children and their parents on much needed day trips to help families regain a small sense of normality. Keeping in contact can go more than a little way towards helping people recover emotionally from the tragedy and as time passes, the team from Deer Park Bypass will stay in close contact with these people who have touched their hearts during this disaster.

**Special thanks go to: Our suppliers and contractors:**

- Ray Wall
- Gary Briggs
- Matt Westaway
- Joan Bulpit
- Mick Huxtable
- Alan Bobbera
- Trudi McGill
- Mick Griffin
- Chris Hope
- John Watson
- DBF Tools
- Darley Stud
- Brian Duggan
- Craig Membrey
- Phil Prime
- Laverton Plant Yard



**Above:** Vet clinic at Morwell, LCPL assisted with a site shed housing the wildlife injured in the fires



**Above:** Mick Griffin and Andrew "Puppy" Sexton



**Above:** Mick Huxtable and Fred from DBF tools