

Minister's Award for Outstanding Contribution to Bushfire Recovery

Winner – Whittlesea Football Club

The devastation of the Black Saturday bushfires has seen this inspiring local sports club play a pivotal role in rebuilding the Whittlesea community.

The Whittlesea Football Club is one club that has gone the extra yard to provide an important rallying point for its surrounding community; providing a place for locals to get together, socialise, rebuild, recover and stay involved in sport in the aftermath of the fires.

Even though many of the club's supporters were severely impacted on, the collective determination of its members, to provide activities for the surrounding communities to help them move forward has been nothing less than outstanding.

One example of this effort is highlighted by the use of the club's home ground as a key relief centre for the community and headquarters for the fire-fighters and other emergency services during the bushfire period. Members assisted by cooking meals for those who were left homeless and living in the temporary tent city located on the oval and by unloading and distributing donated relief.

Under these very difficult circumstances, the club still managed to continue and look towards the future by working closely with the community and the Victorian Government to support their members and provide activities.

In the wake of Black Saturday, the Whittlesea Football Club became more than a sports club; it became a place of safety and refuge for those who were left with nothing.

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