



Monday, October 23 2017

Portable water pump finds new home

A portable water pump, once housed in Hazelwood Mine's Dredger 11, will now be put to good use by the Newborough Fire Brigade.

It is the only pump of its kind in the Latrobe Valley CFA, helping the firefighters replenish their water tanks when fighting fires in remote areas.

The MK 500 pump has been engineered to meet firefighters' need for pumping high volumes of water required for a self-contained pumpset to use in urban, industrial or rural applications.

"It's a fantastic boost to our equipment," Newborough CFA captain, Phil Kenter said. "We're a volunteer unit and to buy a piece of equipment like this would cost upwards of \$20,000."

CFA volunteer and Hazelwood Mine electrician, Ray Vella, knew the pump would be useful for his brigade so approached the Hazelwood Project Team who agreed.

The challenge was getting the pump, which weighs half a tonne, from its 30 metre high position to the back of a truck for transporting to the CFA Station.

"Everybody helped," Ray said. "Our people and the Belle Banne mechanics, fitters and riggers all assisted in planning the pump's safe removal. A crane was used to lift it onto a truck where it was transported to the maintenance area for its journey to Newborough."

Ray said the equipment could pump 3000 litres of water a minute.

"It means that when there is no reticulated water, the pump can be used to remove water from a creek or a dam and then fill our tankers," he said. "When you are out fighting a fire in a remote area, every minute counts."

The pump is currently sitting in the CFA Station's shed while it undergoes a maintenance check although Ray said it was only commissioned in 2012 and had hardly been used.

"Our next step is to raise funds to buy a large tandem trailer to transport the pump around," Ray said.





The pump is just one of many items Hazelwood has donated to its CSR partners that are now redundant but have proved valuable to the recipients. These include chemical equipment for local schools and even an engine to be used by the Walhalla Goldfields Railway.

Pictured (from left) Newborough CFA Captain Phil Kenter, volunteer Ray Vella and Brigade Secretary Scott Hanson.

