



Tuesday, September 04 2018

‘The Whistleblower’ movie delivers community benefits

Lifeline Gippsland will have a new truck to collect much-needed goods and Rotary’s Centenary House will be fitted with solar panels, thanks to the production of an international film at the former Hazelwood Power Station.

ENGIE Hazelwood has donated the entire location fee from Chinese production company, Edko Films Ltd, to these two community groups who are making a difference in Gippsland.

Hazelwood Rehabilitation Project Director, Tony Innocenzi, said the opportunity to support the community was the contributing factor to allowing filming in the disused power station which is awaiting demolition.

“We had a window of opportunity and our board agreed the station could be used for a short period of time because of the benefits to so many people and local businesses,” Mr Innocenzi said.

“We have always been proud of our support to the community through our current Corporate Social Responsibility activities and this is an extension of that support.”

Edko Supervising Location Manager, Pia Emery, said it was the first time she had seen an entire location fee donated to the community. “I am thrilled that we have played a small part in assisting Hazelwood to help two worthy organisations,” Ms Emery said.

“Our crew of around 200 have spent a lot of time in the area and have been welcomed by everyone. I also have family living in Morwell so understand the significance of Hazelwood to the community.

“To be able to have the opportunity to showcase aspects of the former power station in this production, is very special. We hope as many locals as possible get to see *The Whistleblower*.”



The new Lifeline truck with a hoist will assist in collecting donated goods from seven opportunity shops located as far east as Lakes Entrance and in the west to Wonthaggi.

Lifeline Gippsland Manager, Michelle Possingham, said the new truck would help Lifeline in running many of its important services, including Lifeline Australia's 24-hour Telephone Crisis Support network.

"There are many reasons why people call Lifeline," she said. "Mental health issues are varied and can be complex or life-changing and subsequently many people can find themselves in crisis. Callers may also be living with the effects of substance abuse or domestic and family violence.

"We are very grateful to ENGIE Hazelwood. To put this donation into context, when one divides the amount of the donation into the number of lives saved – each call costs \$26 to answer which means ENGIE may have helped us to save as many as 1923 lives."

ENGIE will also support the installation of a solar panel project for Rotary Centenary House near Latrobe Regional Hospital.

The large project will assist the facility to reduce energy costs while providing safe, supportive and affordable accommodation for patients and their families undergoing treatment at the Gippsland Cancer Care Centre at Latrobe Regional Hospital.

The not-for-profit house contains 17 motel-style guest rooms with full communal facilities including kitchens, dining rooms, lounges, laundries as well as outdoor relaxing areas. A further 13 rooms will be added as part of the House's stage three expansion which is set to be completed mid-2019.

Guests come from across Gippsland with most staying six weeks during radiotherapy.

- Ends -

