

Tuesday 14 September 2010

Bikes donated to Flowerdale Tykes

Apprentices, trainees and graduates from north-east Victoria's electricity distributor SP AusNet have donated bikes they assembled to local Flowerdale children affected by the Black Saturday Bushfires.

SP AusNet's Apprentice and Trainee Manager Gerard Cooke said the company's apprentices, trainees and graduates assembled the bikes during a recent team building day at Mansfield and happily donated the finished products to students from Flowerdale Primary School.

"With a strong focus on 'skilling for the future', we actively support career opportunities for young people in communities in which we operate and are very pleased to be able to help these children.

"Each year we build bikes and donate them to a chosen charity and this year we have worked closely with the Victoria Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Committee (VBRRA) to build and donate eight bikes to children between the ages of four and 11 from the Flowerdale region," Mr Cooke said.

Mr Cooke said the charity work and team building exercise enabled SP AusNet apprentices, trainees and graduates to make a positive impact and contribution towards local communities in which SP AusNet operates.

"One of the aims of the team building exercise is to challenge the group to build a bike from scratch. However, the real power of the program is when the finished bike gets donated to the waiting children – that's where the impact of such an exercise really hits home to everyone involved.

"Bushfire-affected residents have endured a great deal and this donation will hopefully be a small step in helping these children and their families make a new start in their lives.

Mr Cooke said it was important to maintain work with Victorian charities through SP AusNet's donations program.

"We are especially grateful that our apprentices, trainees and graduates have been able to support these young people," Mr Cooke said.

SP AusNet has employed more than 220 apprentices and trainees since it implemented the program in 2000, with the aim of developing the skills needed by the power industry now and into the future.

SP AusNet conducted the team building exercises with 'Corporate Challenge', a company that specialises in team building programs, activities and games.