

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 2 September 2008

5:00 pm WST

PEEL COMMUNITY TO PROSPER

A strong and vibrant Peel community is set to prosper with the official launch of the Peel Community Foundation in Pinjarra today, thanks to the visionary approach towards building community capacity by the Peel Development Commission in partnership with Western Australian Community Foundation.

Michael Anderson, Western Australian Community Foundation Chairman and the Hon John Coddell, Peel Development Commission Chairman helped secure the future of the Peel region at today's official launch and tree planting ceremony. Over 80 community, industry and government representatives gathered to celebrate.

The Peel Community Foundation aims to support people, projects and / or activities that can demonstrate a positive contribution to the economic, social or environmental enhancement or well-being, or future sustainability of the Peel Region.

The fund, established with an initial Regional Development Scheme donation of \$100,000 from the Western Australian State Government through the Peel Development Commission, will be administered by Western Australian Community Foundation as Trustee for the benefit of local communities of the Peel Region. Western Australian Community Foundation will oversee all governance, financial, legal and compliance matters including grant-making requirements.

The Peel Community Foundation is able to:

- understand the changing needs of the Peel community, making charitable giving more effective;
- provide an easy mechanism for achieving the communities' charitable giving objectives; and
- provide an opportunity to work together, building an independent long-term resource for the Peel community.

A local advisory committee has been established to provide recommendations to Western Australian Community Foundation on a range of community initiatives and programs in order to distribute funds, enabling grassroots input that ensures community needs are met. Community volunteers are John Gillingham (Local Advisory Committee Chairman), Andy Gulliver, Ken Monson, Lisa Craig, Maree De Lacey, Ian Wight-Pickin and Paddi Creevey.

Eight local initiatives will benefit from the support of the Peel Community Foundation, following today's announcement of the inaugural grant round recipients, which are:

- Dwellingup Volunteer Bushfire Brigade to support the purchase of new communications equipment;
- Peel Health Campus Foundation to help build a dedicated children's ward at Peel Health Campus;
- Serpentine Jarrahdale Wellness to support the Mental Health Expo for seniors;
- StreetNet Youth Outreach's 'Mystery Tour Project', an educational program for young drivers;
- Preston Beach Progress Association to support the telecentre for the local community;
- Waroona Senior Citizen's Welfare Inc for transport assistance;
- Friends of the Reserves – Boddington to purchase library resources and equipment; and
- Men of the Trees – Peel Branch to assist the improvement of facilities at Island Point.

“Together, Western Australian Community Foundation and the Peel Development Commission are today proud to officially launch the Peel Community Foundation which will benefit communities of the Peel Region in perpetuity” said Michael Anderson, Chairman, Western Australian Community Foundation.

“Harnessing the energy and resources of the community and business, large and small, empowering people towards the goals of sustainability, is the key to creating a sustainable society.”

The Hon John Cowdell, Peel Development Commission Chairman said “We are delighted to assist in the establishment of the Peel Community Foundation.”

“Formed under the umbrella of Western Australian Community Foundation, the Peel local advisory committee - including representatives from the Peel Harvey Catchment Council, Peel Economic Development Unit, Peel Community Development Group and community members - can dedicate itself to the promotion of the fund and the provision of advice on local priorities.”

“Today, I would like to especially recognise and thank George Weston Foods – Wandalup Farm, for their support as the Peel Community Foundation’s inaugural donor.”

“There are many other supporters. The ‘giving’ has just begun.”

Today, Alcoa of Australia demonstrated its commitment to the Peel region through its \$100,000 donation to the Peel Community Foundation. This was followed by Community First’s donation presentation of \$7,000. These gifts will build a corpus of funds for the region, ensuring the local community benefits in perpetuity.

For more information on the Peel Community Foundation or to speak with a member of the local advisory committee, please call (08) 9224 6000 or visit www.wacf.org.au/Peel_Community_Foundation.asp .

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CONTACTS:

**Renaë Hibben – Communications Manager
Western Australian Community Foundation**

t (08) 9224 6040

m 0438 780 313

**Christin Smith – Corporate Communications Coordinator
Peel Development Commission**

t (08) 9535 0000

m 0419 659 974