



The Place To Be

Media release

Geoff Howard MLA, Member for Ballarat East

10 February 2009

SEND YOUR MESSAGE TO FIRE AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

Geoff Howard MP, Member for Ballarat East, today invited local residents to offer their condolences to the victims of the devastating bushfires and show support for the emergency services workers by contributing to the state government's official message book being made available for the people of Victoria.

"People wishing to send their thoughts to the people whose lives have been affected by this extraordinary tragedy can sign the official message book at my Office," Mr Howard said today.

15 Main Road Ballarat 3350 or contact my office on 5331 7722 for enquiries

The message books have been distributed across Victoria and will be brought together and bound into books to commemorate this tragedy.

"We have all been moved by what are the worst bushfires in our history and many will want to remember lost loved ones as well as send messages of support to our emergency services workers and volunteers," Mr Howard said.

The message book, which the Premier and other community leaders have already signed, is a small way for Victorians to let those affected by this tragedy know that the thoughts and prayers of the State are with them.

"Victorians are responding to the tragedy by pulling together to assist those whose lives have been changed forever by this devastating natural disaster," Mr Howard said today.

"Every Victorian is proud of the efforts of our emergency services workers, volunteers and community in dealing with the unprecedented conditions and loss of life. This message book is a small way to record our appreciation and thanks."

Victorians wanting help to relief efforts are encouraged to make donations to the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund.

The Fund was launched by the Premier in partnership with the Federal Government and the Red Cross. The Brumby Government and the Federal Government have already pledged \$2 million each to the Fund on top of the many other forms of assistance provided by the governments.

Donations can be made online through www.redcross.org.au or by calling 1800 811 700.

Contact: Geoff Howard MLA Member for Ballarat East 5331 7722