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For immediate release

Australian Ethical puts more than \$1 million into the community

Canberra based fund manager Australian Ethical has donated more than \$1 million into the community over the last ten years, after distributing \$124,941 in its 2010 Community Grants program.

The 2010 round of Australian Ethical community grants sees donations ranging from \$2000 to \$30,000 distributed to 22 charities and environmental groups across Australia.

The largest of these grants were made to the Tasmanian Land Conservancy and the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre.

The \$30,000 grant to the Tasmanian Land Conservancy will assist in the purchase of Skullbone Plains, a largely pristine wilderness property near Lake St Clair in Tasmania. The property was recommended in 1990 as being worthy of inclusion in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, and contains endangered and unique flora and fauna. Skullbone Plains was previously destined to be logged.

The Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC) will use their \$30,000 grant to fund a co-ordinator for their law program. The ASRC Human Rights Law Program has provided legal assistance to over 5000 asylum seekers since 2001. The ASRC has won 83% of all legal cases it has taken on.

Australian Ethical donates 10 per cent of its company profit each year to its community grants scheme. This is one of the highest levels of corporate giving in Australia.

"I'm pleased Australian Ethical's business success means we can continue to assist worthy causes such as protecting Australia's unique wilderness areas and supporting asylum seekers in establishing their lives in Australia, said Phillip Vernon, Managing Director.

"It's also pleasing for us to support many grassroots organisations around Australia for whom our grants make such a big difference in allowing them to achieve their goals.

"Australian Ethical continues to set the benchmark for corporate giving. We hope in future other companies will make the same commitment to giving something back to the community."

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For further comment please contact:

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2010 Australian Ethical Community Grants

\$30,000 major project grant

Tasmanian Land Conservancy
Asylum Seeker Resource Centre

\$5000

Central Coast Kids in Need
Engineers Without Borders
Free the Bears
I Give a Buck Foundation
WIRES

\$3000

Activ Foundation
Animalia Wildlife Shelter
Animals Asia Foundation
Barefoot Economy
Coast Shelter
Eurobodalla Meals on Wheels
FareShare Australia
International Women's Development Agency
Muscular Dystrophy Queensland

\$2000

Casa Care
Cystic Fibrosis Queensland
Deal Communication Centre
Greening Australia Capital Region
RiverSmart Australia
Timor L'este Vision