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For immediate release

Australian Ethical increases support for the community

Australian Ethical is happy to announce its 2011 community grant recipients, with more than \$150,000 being distributed to 22 charities and conservation organisations operating in Australia and overseas. After 11 years, this brings the total amount gifted to communities to about \$1.3 million.

Recipients were chosen from a record 350 applicants. Two major project grants of \$35,000 each were awarded to Carpets for Communities and Men of the Trees. The remaining 20 grants range in value between \$3,600 and \$5,000 and were voted on by Australian Ethical staff.

Carpets for Communities uses micro-finance to lift families in Poipet, Cambodia out of poverty. Their grant will be used to provide start-up capital to mothers for a carpet-making enterprise which uses recycled cotton fabric. The carpets are sold around the world to benefit the Poipet community. On assessing this project we were impressed with the blend of long-term sustainability of helping people make a difference to their own lives and conservation in the use of recycled fabrics.

Men of the Trees will use their grant to fund revegetation of a highly degraded landscape in the wheatbelt of Morbinning, east of Perth. Men of the Trees deliver environmental programs working one-on-one with farmers and will provide ongoing maintenance of the revegetation program.

Australian Ethical's Managing Director, Phil Vernon said, *"Every year, Australian Ethical donates 10 per cent of company profits through our community grants scheme. This is one of the highest percentages of corporate giving in Australia and something we are fully committed to."*

I am extremely proud of our capacity to give generously to Australian and international communities regardless of the difficult economic conditions and this is in large part due to the success we continue to have investing in a deeply ethical manner. I am particularly excited by the major grants to Carpets for Communities and Men of the Trees, projects that will have a long-lasting positive impact on those communities."

Major project grants \$35,000

Carpets for Community
Men of the Trees

Project grants up to \$5000

Children's Hospital Westmead
ACT Eden Monaro Cancer Support Group
Brighter Future 4 Kids Foundation
Room to Read Australia foundation
Royal Guide Dogs for the Blind Assoc
Bikes for Humanity
Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation
Australian Afghan Hassanian Youth Assoc
Diamond Valley Foodshare

Rainforest Rescue
Liverpool Plains Land Management
Arthritis and Osteoporosis Assn of NT
Animal Rescue Qld
Barefoot Economy
Kokoda Track Foundation
Free the Bears Foundation
Environment Victoria
Cranbourne Police Senior Citizens Register
Australia Zoo Wildlife Warriors
Australian Platypus Conservancy

For comment please contact:

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