

# 2009 community grants project descriptions

\$45,000 major grant

## Co-operation in Development (CO-ID)

The 'Building schools, bringing hope' project aims to provide free basic education to children in Bangladesh.

The successful CO-ID primary school in the 5 Doors area, one of the poorest areas of Bangladesh, is under threat following the partial collapse of the levy. CO-ID will use the grant to rebuild a new combined primary and secondary school with more elevated protective mud wall in the 5 Doors area of Bhola Island, this will avoid the collapse allowed flood waters to reach the school for again.

The grant will also support CO-ID to construct a new style of school, which will provide the base for expanded education over the next twenty years. This will enable CO-ID to provide free education and training to more students, cover their stationery needs as well as other necessities. In addition, evening education will be made available to senior students aged nine and who have left school to enter the workforce.



\$40,000 major grant

## An Australian ethical initiated mini- documentary competition on the theme 'Corporate Responsibility and the Environment'

Australian **ethical** wishes to promote better public understanding of the link between corporate actions and the state of the natural environment. Australian **ethical** intends to use a portion of this year's title money to sponsor a prize for very short documentaries (e.g. mash-ups) on this subject. Our intent is that the prize will be awarded at a documentary film-making conference to be held in Adelaide in late February 2010. The intent is that Australian **ethical** will collaborate with Documentary Australia Foundation to organise this prize. Details of these arrangements will be announced when they have been finalised.

# 2009 community grants project descriptions

\$5000 grant

## ACT Eden Monaro Cancer Support Group

The ACT Eden Monaro Cancer Support has been operating since 1986 and provides financial and emotional assistance to families who have a member undergoing treatment for cancer. They assist with accounts such as medication, food and petrol vouchers. Their aims are to limit the impact of cancer as a disease in the community by focusing upon the needs of people with cancer and their families, irrespective of age, race, religion or the type of cancer.

The grant will be used to provide food vouchers to families that cannot afford proper Christmas meals due to the disruption that the cancer disease has had on their lives.

[www.actemcsg.org.au](http://www.actemcsg.org.au)

## Australian Marine Conservation Society

The Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS) is Australia's only charity dedicated exclusively to protecting our seas. An independent, not-for-profit organisation that has been operating for over forty years, AMCS work to create marine parks, save our ocean wildlife and make fisheries sustainable. Three quarters of our oceans are overfished or fished to their limit. AMCS has produced Australia's sustainable seafood guide to empower consumers to pressure industry and government to be more responsible fisheries and oceans managers. Just as the organic and free range markets are growing, so is demand for sustainable seafood. Since the campaign's inception in 2004, AMCS have made tangible progress through achieving mandatory 'Fish Names Standards' (2007) and 'Country of origin labelling' (2008), but they need to take the message further. AMCS need to convert the guide to electronic format for the Apple iPhone, a project which will cost \$47,000, and potentially reach half a million iPhone users. AMCS have approached Apple who is excited by this groundbreaking venture.

[www.marineconservation.org.au](http://www.marineconservation.org.au)

\$2800 grant

## ACT Frogwatch

ACT Frogwatch is a community frog monitoring and education program. It involves large numbers of volunteers who undertake frog monitoring as well as protecting and creating frog habitats. The program, hosted by the Ginninderra Catchment Group, has been operating since 2002 and is currently funded through Caring For Our Country.

Funding will go towards developing and distributing a promotional brochure and enhancing frog habitat in the ACT community. Users range from school groups setting up a frog habitat in their school grounds to keen suburban gardeners and rural landholders looking to increase the biodiversity on their property. There is significant public interest in frogs as an indicator of environmental health, and by engaging the community to consider frog habitats it can lead to involvement in broader conservation activities.

[www.ginninderralandcare.org.au](http://www.ginninderralandcare.org.au)

# 2009 community grants project descriptions

\$2800 grant

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## Alzheimer's Australia NSW

The mission of Alzheimer's Australia NSW (AlzNSW) is to minimise the incidence and impact of dementia through leadership, innovation and partnerships in advocacy, policy, education, services and research. AlzNSW aims for a society that is committed to the prevention of dementia, and one that values and supports people with dementia.

There are 227,300 Australians with dementia. It is the fourth highest cause of death in people over 65 years. AlzNSW Dementia Helpline receives 6500 calls a year from people who are newly diagnosed to carers dealing with issues of grief and loss. AlzNSW Dementia Helpline offers counselling and individualised information. It is available in 23 languages via help sheets, books and DVDs. Information can be accessed online, but as only 18% of people aged 65 years and over have internet at home (ABS, 2006), much of this material requires posting, with 62% living in regional/ rural areas. AlzNSW aims to meet the information and educational needs of people with dementia and carers, which reduces stress, encourages self-determination and dignity.

[www.alzheimers.org.au](http://www.alzheimers.org.au)

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## Australian Red Cross

Red Cross helps vulnerable people by providing a wide range of services to improve their quality of life, independence and opportunities.

An adequate, regular supply of healthy food is recognised as a human right by the United Nations (2002). However 60,000 Australians from low-income working families go without meals or are food insecure (VicHealth). To address and prevent these adverse effects, the Red Cross partners with local and national businesses to run a program called the Good Start Breakfast Club, which provides free, healthy breakfasts to school children in low socio-economic areas across Australia. \$33,000 will enable six clubs throughout the hunter region of NSW to provide approximately 25,067 nutritious breakfasts over 12 months to children who might otherwise go hungry.

[www.redcross.org.au](http://www.redcross.org.au)

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## Barefoot Economy

Barefoot Economy establishes locally owned, ethical businesses and provides livelihoods for the poorest communities in developing countries. They train people in sustainable agriculture, and provide first world technology and training to convert low-cost agricultural materials into high added value products for export.

Funding will be used to train poor farmers in Nepal in the use of sterilised organic biomass to increase crop yields and ensure long-term environmental sustainability of farmer's land banks. Organic biomass is a cheap organic fertiliser however, unless it's sterilised prior to use, naturally occurring fungi, bacteria, yeasts and moulds in the biomass can cause massive crop failures.

They aim to train 1000 farmers over three years in application and use of sterilised organic biomass fertiliser. Sterilised biomass may be used by farmers as a sustainable natural fertiliser to guarantee higher, better crop yields. Surplus biomass can be sold to local farmers generating an income for the project and ensuring sustainability.

[www.barefooteconomy.org](http://www.barefooteconomy.org)

# 2009 community grants project descriptions

\$2800 grant

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## Bush Heritage Australia

Bush Heritage is a non-profit organisation that protects the environment through management of high conservation value land. Bush Heritage owns and manages 31 reserves, nearly 1 million hectares, and is Australia's most widely supported group of this type.

The grant will be used to monitor increases in the population and distribution of tamar and black-gloved wallabies in the Fitz-Stirling region of the Gondwana Link land restoration project in southwest WA. Specifically this is required to gauge species response to an increase in habitat availability through vegetation restoration. The limited number of remote sensing infra-red cameras proved an effective and efficient method of detecting wallabies, which tend to be active only at night. A zoologist is to be contracted to carry out the monitoring and hair analysis work. The project also involves the completion of habitat analysis in relation to wallaby distribution, which will be invaluable for guiding future vegetation restoration projects.

[www.bushheritage.org.au](http://www.bushheritage.org.au)

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## Free the Bears Fund

Free the Bears Fund (FTB) work to protect, enrich, and preserve the lives of bears worldwide. Since 1995 FTB have rescued more than 600 bears from lives of torture, and these bears now act as ambassadors for their species at our sanctuaries in Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam.

The grant will be used towards the development of a bear conservation project in Cambodia, which will incorporate a visitor education zone for the 300,000 Cambodian visitors who come to the sanctuary each year. By demonstrating how destructive bears become as they grow older, FTB will educate visitors not to purchase any cubs that they find for sale in local wildlife markets, and inform them of the correct course of action to take to ensure that the cubs are rescued.

[www.freethebears.org.au](http://www.freethebears.org.au)

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## Pedal Power ACT

Pedal Power was founded in 1975 as a non-profit community organisation, and currently has 2000 members. It undertakes cycle advocacy and promotions, leads bike ride programs, and supports over 90 Ride-to-work coordinators across Canberra, lead over 200 rides a year, and generally promote cycling.

The grant will be used to continue its advocacy work, particularly for its ACT 2009-10 budget campaign, which is a campaign that will focus on filling in the missing links in Canberra's cycle path network. Funding will be used to employ a professional advocate to work with volunteer cycling advocates, as well as cover printing costs.

[www.pedalpower.org.au](http://www.pedalpower.org.au)

# 2009 community grants project descriptions

\$2800 grant

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## Sydney Cochlear Implant Centre

Sydney Cochlear Implant Centre (SCIC) is dedicated to providing the opportunity for hearing impaired people to communicate using the Australian invented bionic ear/cochlear implant. SCIC is recognised as a world leader in the provision of hearing and the development of communication using this technology.

In order to maintain and further enhance their Canberra programme it is essential that they provide appropriate equipment for our expanding list of clients. The grant will assist with the purchase of a cardinal health medelec synergy system to be located at our Canberra centre. The synergy machine is used for:

- re-surgery testing
- during cochlear implant surgery
- post surgery

It will avoid the need for the machine to be transported to Canberra each time a surgery is performed or each time testing of a recipient's implant is required maximising the outcomes for recipients, particularly young children.

[www.scic.org.au](http://www.scic.org.au)

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## The Grey Man

The Grey Man works to eradicate the trafficking of children in the sex industry in Thailand. It does this through skilled volunteers, who in their own time and at their own expense provide surveillance, intelligence, planning and operational expertise to local Thai police, NGO's and indigenous trained operatives.

The grant will be used for the construction of a six bedroom trekker accommodation facility, with adjacent shower/toilet block and craft display area at Lahu Village, Baan Pak Kwee Province, Northern Thailand an area vulnerable to trafficking. The work will all be done by local builders utilising local labor, thus recycling funds within the community. Lahu Village has excellent craft and trekking revenue potential with the cash injected into the community enabling more children to stay at school longer. Well documented research has shown conclusively that education is a marker for trafficking incidence, with better educated children less likely to be trafficked. Environmental responsibility is a prime project aim.

[www.thegreyman.org](http://www.thegreyman.org)

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## Wildcare Queanbeyan

Wildcare is dedicated to rescuing, rehabilitating and releasing sick, injured and orphaned native Australian wildlife. Established in 1992, Wildcare operates a 24/7 help line and assists more than 800 birds, reptiles and mammals a year.

The grant will be used to establish the necessary infrastructure for the new leasehold property adjacent to two National Parks. For example, enclosures for temporarily-housed animals prior to release, on-site water and equipment storage, and temporary accommodation for carers during those periods when animals are being released. This will overcome the current problems of finding suitable release sites away from human habitation and intervention.

[www.wildcare.com.au](http://www.wildcare.com.au)

# 2009 community grants project descriptions

## \$1500 grant

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### CARE Australia

CARE is an international humanitarian organisation fighting global poverty, with a special focus on working with women and girls to bring lasting change to their communities. The grant will be used to fund the project to construct a carbon free, micro-hydro village electrification scheme in Doikoa village, located in one of the poorest rural areas of Laos. Access to electricity will transform the lives of villagers, positively impacting on their health, livelihoods and social wellbeing. With the provision of electricity, villagers will be able to have a cold-chain for human and animal vaccines, run income-generating equipment such as rice mills and have lighting in the evenings so that they can study and carry out social activities. The electrification system will be low maintenance with no on-going running costs. This project will run from November 2009 to October 2010. The grant will be used for civil engineering materials, turbine and electrical equipment, subcontracted work, transport, staff costs, refrigeration system and other operational costs.

[www.careaustralia.org.au](http://www.careaustralia.org.au)

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### Condobolin and Districts Landcare

Condobolin and Districts Landcare, formed in 1990, work with local communities, business, industry and government to repair and viably manage our most precious natural resources.

The grant will be used to continue their riparian regeneration project. This project is about conserving 400kms of riparian land stretching through our catchment, a key zone in the Murray-Darling basin. Activities include:

- fencing riverbanks to exclude grazing stock
- controlling exotic weeds within riparian zones
- and encouraging local species, including endangered ones, to regenerate naturally.

The revegetation of local species expands on previous successful demonstration sites in the area, and supports the aspirations of local landholders, indigenous land managers and the community to sustain and increase viability of the land for future generations. Completion of the project is expected to be by 31 December 2011.

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### East Timor Women Australia

East Timor Women Australian (ETWA) is a volunteer organisation based in Melbourne that supports East Timorese women through community orientated programs, particularly in the handcrafts industry. The grant will be used to build sustainable community cultural arts centres in three remote villages in the Lautem district of East Timor, beginning 2010. ETWA will accommodate the activities of its partner organisation, Cooperative for Tais and Cultural Development (CTCD), including:

- the design, development and production of textile handcrafts
- business, financial and tourism management
- training and education programs
- visitor accommodation, and
- land and facilities for permaculture community gardens.

Women will be involved in all stages of the process to strengthen their leadership capacities and management skills. In light of current corruption in Timor, it is essential to establish sound governance frameworks.

[www.etwa.org.au](http://www.etwa.org.au)

# 2009 community grants project descriptions

\$1500 grant

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## Hope Street Urban Compassion

Hope Street Urban Compassion seeks to empower all people of the inner city of Sydney, especially the most marginalised, towards wholeness in all life. This ideal is achieved through several grass-roots programmes which empower homeless people to address issues of addiction, emotional/physical turmoil and ultimately choose healthier life choices.

Hope Street will use this grant to fund 'Cleaner's with a mission', an employment training program which aims to empower marginalised long-term unemployed people toward fullness of life and further employment. This employment training program is an ongoing project that works towards short-term social outcomes and impacts within the Woolloomooloo and surrounding areas through 18 to 20 people taking the first step out of homelessness, addiction, or total reliance on the disability support pension. Over the long term, the employment training program hopes to see clients integrated back into the wider workforce, self-dependant, and coping well with mental illnesses and past addictions.

[www.hopestreet.org.au](http://www.hopestreet.org.au)

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## International Women's Development Agency (IWDA)

International Women's Development Agency (IWDA) is an Australian NGO creating positive change for women and their communities in developing countries. Their projects directly address poverty, discrimination and oppression. IWDA works in partnership with grassroots organisations to improve opportunities for and well being of women and their families.

Violence against women is widespread in Cambodia, experienced by some 25% of women. Domestic violence is seen as a family matter and few women speak out or seek redress. For many women, lack of power is compounded by extreme poverty and a culture of impunity, corruption and collusion. From January to June 2010 this project will provide emergency support for women who have experienced domestic violence, including accommodation and food, transportation, referrals for medical, legal and psychosocial services, education on women's rights, assistance in filing legal complaints, and assistance to access long term rehabilitation and reintegration.

[www.iwda.org.au](http://www.iwda.org.au)

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## New Internationalist

The New Internationalist is an independent not-for-profit co-operative that has operated for more than 30 years with more than 70,000 subscribers worldwide, publishing the world's leading alternative news and magazine campaigning on global social justice.

The grant will used to expand the readership of the New Internationalist magazine through its successful internet outreach campaign. The magazine is widely used by campaigners and educators as vital recourse on a range of world issues.

[www.newint.org/about](http://www.newint.org/about)

# 2009 community grants project descriptions

\$1500 grant

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## NSW Wildlife Information Rescue & Education Service (WIRES)

NSW WIRES is the largest wildlife rehabilitation organisation in Australia rescuing and rehabilitating sick, injured or orphaned native animals. It has a network of 2200 voluntary rescuers, carers and veterinarians across NSW in 30 branches. The grant will be used to proactively protect, preserve, raise awareness of, advocate for, and protect habitat of threatened species by producing information to educate the public. Examples of such a campaign was 'thegreycross.org.au' to halt the shooting of flying foxes in NSW.

[www.wires.org.au](http://www.wires.org.au)

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## Sea Turtle Foundation

Sea Turtle Foundation's mission is to safeguard sea turtle populations, migration routes and habitats, and support activities that increase sea turtle numbers worldwide. They achieve this through education, monitoring, research support and advocacy.

The grant will be used to send scientists to Milman Island, in the far Northern Great Barrier Reef, to continue the longest running study of hawksbill demographics in the southern hemisphere. It will also contribute to existing knowledge of the population demographics of two of the most globally significant populations of marine turtles in the world; the northern GBR hawksbill and green turtles. Using a combination of flipper tagging and satellite transmitters, the project will determine population trends and threats in order to develop sound conservation management strategies, from both a regional and international perspective. In addition, the project will involve traditional owners in turtle monitoring activities, and will initiate coral reef and sea grass monitoring in a highly protected 'preservation zone'.

[www.seaturtlefoundation.org](http://www.seaturtlefoundation.org)

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## Spinal Cord Injuries Australia

Since 1967, Spinal Cord Injuries Australia (SCIA) has provided support to people who have suffered a catastrophic injury or disability. SCIA offers services that encompass all of life, from hospital to home, to the workplace, and develops and delivers programs to educate, support and care for the wellbeing of the Australian community.

The grant will be used to produce 15 comprehensive individual advocacy kits to empower people with a disability to self-advocate and regain quality of life. The kits will contain all information a person with a disability needs to ensure they have the same rights as everybody else. It includes education on the system of government, information on who the 'go to' people are, and briefs on ministers and their areas of expertise. Over 300 people a year nationally will benefit from the kits. Consultation with key stakeholders will begin immediately, the development of materials from June-December 2009, and the kit launched in 2010. There will be an immediate community result with a faster turnover of disability issues, and individuals will be empowered to change perceptions within the community.

[www.scia.org.au](http://www.scia.org.au)

# 2009 community grants project descriptions

\$1500 grant

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## The Cerebral Palsy Foundation

The Cerebral Palsy Foundation was established to fund research to find the prevention and cure for cerebral palsy (CP). CP is the most common physical disability in childhood. This will be achieved by funding research in an expanding grants program which encourages researchers to study CP.

The grant will specifically fund the employment and training of one principal research investigator, two post doctoral research positions, six doctoral scholarships and one clinical trial coordinator for one and a half years. This will enhance the window of opportunity for early brain repair, as well as discover new possibilities for brain repair through the Foundation's early intervention research project.

[www.cpfoundation.com.au](http://www.cpfoundation.com.au)

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## WaterAid Australia

WaterAid Australia is an international development organisation whose mission is to overcome poverty by enabling the world's poorest people gain access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene education.

For 2009 WaterAid Australia aims to:

- improve the health and quality of life among rural poor communities in 15 villages in Liquica District in Timor-Leste through integrated water, sanitation and hygiene education (WASH) activities, and
- advocate for increased quality and quantity output of the rural WASH sector.

WaterAid Australia's work will provide an estimated 2250 people with access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene education. Safe water and sanitation close to peoples' homes have far reaching and wide ranging benefits, which extend beyond the expected improvements to health and the reduction in time spent collecting water. WaterAid Australia believes that when water, sanitation and hygiene education are combined, it forms the foundation for all other development.