



Welcome to the twenty fourth edition of the ACCIONA Energy Waubra Wind Farm newsletter. This newsletter provides information updates about the Waubra Wind Farm project approximately 35km North West of Ballarat.

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## ACCIONA puts the wind in the sails of local community groups

Local Waubra and Ballarat community, sport and education groups have benefitted from a funding boost from ACCIONA.

A total of eleven community groups in the region have shared in this year's sponsorship pool of \$17,500. The funding was delivered through ACCIONA's Waubra Wind Farm community sponsorship program.

ACCIONA is proud to have supported these sponsorship recipients – we are honoured to be able to contribute to the local community. We've attached some photos of students at the Miners Rest Public School working on the kitchen garden and food preparation initiative, as well as ACCIONA's Cameron Stowe at the Learmonth Bowling Club Royal Children's Hospital fundraiser.

Future newsletters will provide updates on other sponsored projects for 2014. ACCIONA would like to congratulate all the community based organisations receiving sponsorship this year and look forward to hearing more about the progress of these projects. Thank you to all the organisations who applied for sponsorship this year. Applications for sponsorship for 2015 will be made available on our website in January 2015.



Miners Rest Primary School children learning food preparation skills

Community Group	How the sponsorship money will be used	Amount
Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre	Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre Community Garden	\$1000
Beaufort Secondary College	'Patch to plate', kitchen garden	\$2000
Business for Beaufort Inc	B4B Putting the Heart in Beaufort	\$500
Highland Support Services	Christmas Tree Farm Equipment	\$1000
Learmonth Bowling Club Inc	Greens Sprinkler Upgrade	\$1000
Learmonth Football Club Inc	Kitchen Upgrade	\$1000
Lexton Public Hall Inc	Hall Renovations	\$2000
Miners Rest Public School	Kitchen Garden	\$500
Learmonth Bowls Club	Royal Children's Hospital Fundraiser	\$500
Talbot Primary School	RACV Energy Breakthrough Uniforms	\$1000
Waubra Football and Netball Club	General sponsorship for football and netball	\$7000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$17,500</b>



Miners Rest Primary School students assisting with the kitchen garden project



Cameron Stowe (left) and David Ryan (right) at the Royal Children's Hospital appeal in Learmonth, \$9700 was raised this year



## Site Report

**Melanie Robertson**  
Site Manager

The first half of 2014 has seen a flurry of activity. In January we underwent a significant change on site as we restructured our routine servicing and maintenance of the turbines. We engaged Australian Wind Services (AWS) to undertake this function. AWS have significant wind farm maintenance experience around Australia. This has allowed our Waubra Wind Farm technicians to focus on fault response and corrective works following the servicing. The revised servicing model has proven to be very effective and an efficient use of resources on site.

Also in January we commenced a major repair of a blade after it was noted by our Waubra Wind Farm technicians that the blade was damaged. This was the first blade repair that we have

completed at site and although it was a very time consuming repair it was a very successful undertaking.

For the first time this year, we conducted a formal application process with our Waubra Wind Farm Sponsorship program. The new process allows for more equity and transparency with sponsorship allocations and also broadens the types of community projects we now support in the region. To those applicants that were allocated sponsorship this year, we look forward to hearing more about how your projects are progressing. Thank you to all the community based groups that applied for sponsorship this year.

The unusually warm autumn months brought sunshine but unfortunately did not bring the winds we desire, so year to date production has been lower than our predictions. Winter winds to date have significantly improved our production.

I also had the privilege of attending the Biggest Morning Tea on behalf of ACCIONA in Waubra. It was a wonderful opportunity to see the community unite together to catch up for a cuppa and also support the Cancer Council in its quest to raise vital funds for research. Kerryn Gallagher spoke about how no one is immune from this terrible disease and that we all need to take the time to appreciate what we have and the value of family and friends. It is a privilege to be part of such a wonderful community.

# Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre Community Garden

The Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre has recently moved to the Ballarat South Community Hub based within the grounds of Phoenix P-12 Community College in Sebastopol. The new building and location has been fantastic for our training programs and other community events. However, it has meant that the community garden must be completely re-established from scratch.

The community garden is being developed as an opportunity for the local community to work together to build a sustainable garden which will provide a sense of place and community, as well as a sense of achievement that comes from growing your own food.

Everyone is welcome to enjoy and participate in the community garden. A special program also allows people with disabilities and special needs to learn new skills, increase their social interaction and develop self-confidence by spending time in the garden and growing their own food.

To date the group has utilized old crates as garden beds for vegetables and seating has been donated but there is still a long way to go.

The community garden project aims to utilise the nearby existing rain water tanks to create an ongoing sustainable water supply. Other plans for the future include garden design, painting, landscaping of the surrounding area with a water-wise native plant garden, making of paths and hopefully a community arts project.

The Acciona grant has been an important financial boost and provided significant encouragement to the group. A small component has already helped to buy winter seedlings and seeds for propagation to carry on garden activities and interest while the development of the garden continues.

The Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre Community Garden wishes to thank Acciona for their support and encouragement. We look forward to sharing our progress with you and the broader community.



## Renewable Energy Target (RET) Review

The Renewable Energy Target (RET) began in 2001 to encourage growth in renewable energy. The policy is designed to deliver on the Australian Governments' commitment to ensure that 20 per cent of our electricity will come from renewable sources by 2020. It is a policy that has enjoyed support from both of the major political parties. Both parties reconfirmed their support for the RET ahead of the 2013 Federal election.

The Federal Government is currently reviewing the Renewable Energy Target and has appointed a panel to lead this work. The review panel has received over 22,000 submissions on the Renewable Energy Target, as part of its public consultation.

The panel reviewing the RET will consider the following information:

- Benefits and costs of the RET
- Economic factors
- Environmental factors
- Social implications

We expect the Federal Government will make a decision later this year on whether to retain the RET in its current form, or make changes to the scheme.

The Renewable Energy Target has generated \$18.5 billion in new investment, reduced carbon emissions by 22.5 megatonnes and created tens of thousands of jobs – many of which are in regional and rural Australia. With its ample

wind resource, the Pyrenees Shire and City of Ballarat Council are uniquely well positioned to benefit from retaining the Renewable Energy Target.

The Waubra Wind Farm has brought numerous benefits to the local community, including local community groups benefiting from the wind farm supported Waubra Community Benefit Fund.

The current Renewable Energy Target will continue to create economic investment in the Waubra region. It also delivers new employment opportunities for families living in the region, independent of, but complementary to the traditional agricultural and service industries.

# Waubra Educational Scholarship Update, Darcie Bleicher

In the February newsletter we announced that Darcie Bleicher from Miners Rest was awarded the Waubra Wind Farm education scholarship for 2014. Darcie has very kindly provided some feedback on how life on campus is progressing.

This year, Darcie is currently studying science at the University of Melbourne and living at Saint Hilda's College. From all reports, Darcie is enjoying both University and College life very much!

This semester Darcie is studying Psychology, Chemistry, Biology and German, and is really enjoying all of the classes. There are some favourites which are Psychology and German. Chemistry seems to be a really challenging class but Darcie is enjoying the opportunity to participate in chemistry experiments.

Darcie is also enjoying College life, having fun and loves living so close to the university. Campus life sounds very social with Darcie attending a few formal dinners and balls.

Darcie had her first exam on the 11th of June, finished her last exam on the 24th and is looking forward to the winter break, when she will be returning home for a few weeks.

It is great to hear that Darcie is doing well with her studies and enjoying campus life. The Waubra Wind Farm Education Scholarship has certainly assisted with Darcie's academic journey.



*Darcie with her parents on her first day of college*



*Darcie and friends watching hockey at St Hilda's*

## CONTACT US

We welcome your contact for information or feedback about any of our activities. Please call the free-call number **1800 283 550** or email **Waubra@acciona.com.au**. Visit our website to find out more about other ACCIONA projects **www.acciona.com.au**.



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