

Friday, 6 February 2009
2:00 pm WDST

t (08) 9224 6000 f (08) 9224 6010
info@wacf.org.au www.wacf.org.au

EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES LEAD WA

Western Australian Community Foundation offers of a combination of community capacity building resources, unlike any other organisation in WA. In 2008, 36 Western Australian communitiesⁱ actively took control of their own destiny at the grass roots to ensure a vibrant and secure future.

Western Australian Community Foundation highlights throughout 2008 include:

- Establishment of the Pilbara Community Foundation to support projects and activities which demonstrate a positive contribution to the future sustainability of the Pilbara region.
- Five new community donation funds; Beeliar-Rockingham Lakes Regional Parks Fund, Carnarvon Rotary Club Education Fund, South West Resource Natural Management Assist, Verve Energy Collie Community Fund and Verve Energy Kwinana Community Fund.
- Donations received increased the pool of sustainable funds available for WA communities by 23%.
- Over \$395,000 was distributed to communities across Western Australia, building community capacity.
- Community Business Partnerships research report was launched exploring how SMEs in WA engage with community organisations.
- The fourth annual summit, "Today's Choice for Tomorrow; Lead, Follow or Get Out of the Way!" saw over 150 delegates gather to explore community leadership in WA.

"The Foundation now manages and supports 36 community funds and over 200 local advisory committee volunteers, establishing an extensive community advisory committee network across WA at grass roots level," said Tonia Swetman, Chief Executive Officer.

"Thanks to our partners and supporters, the capacity of the Foundation to strengthen WA communities built on the premise of empowerment and self reliance, continues to increase."

"Whilst we anticipate 2009 to be a year filled with challenges and opportunities, the Foundation's sustainable model is ideal in equipping WA communities to survive not only the prosperous years but, most importantly, the years that are the most economically, and in turn, socially challenging."

A copy of Western Australian Community Foundation's 2008 Year Book is available for download from http://www.wacf.org.au/Annual_Report.asp. For further information on the Foundation and its communities across the state, call (08) 9224 6000 or e-mail info@wacf.org.au.

(ENDS)

CONTACTS:

Tonia Swetman – Chief Executive Officer
Western Australian Community Foundation
t (08) 9224 6020
m 0419 947 697

Renaë Hibben – Communications Manager
Western Australian Community Foundation
t (08) 9224 6040
m 0438 780 313

ⁱ A community is any group with a common purpose.