

Coles to donate this Friday's profits to Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund

Coles will donate this Friday's (13 Feb) profits from its 750 stores nationally to the Government's Bushfire Appeal Fund in partnership with the Red Cross.

Customers will also be able to donate to the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund at all Coles stores. Donations can be made at all Coles supermarket checkouts from today.

Coles Managing Director Ian McLeod said

the bushfire tragedy had touched a number of Coles team members, some of whom have lost loved ones in the fire, and a number who have lost their homes. "Like everyone in the community, we've been shocked by the devastation these fires have wrought, and we extend our deepest sympathies to those who've suffered loss in this terrible event," Mr McLeod said. Mr McLeod said the size of this Friday's

donation would depend on customer support, but could be several million dollars.

"We hope Australians will help us make this Friday's donation as substantial as possible." Coles has been helping ground level relief agencies over the weekend, providing essentials such as food, water and toiletries, and will continue to provide additional local support as needed.

GBOTA to Honour Miss Elly Mint at Wentworth Park on February 14

In winning the Nice Products FFA over 520 metres in the time of 29.96 at Wentworth Park on Saturday February 7, 2009 Miss Elly Mint recorded her 16th consecutive win at TAB tracks, creating in the process a new Australian record.

To recognise this outstanding achievement the NSW GBOTA has named race 6 on the Wentworth Park program next Saturday February 14, in honour of Miss Elly Mint and will be making a special on-track presentation to the connections. Miss Elly Mint is engaged in this race on Saturday out of box 4 and will be a pronounced favourite both with bookmakers and the public.

GBOTA Chairman Bill Mangafas was delighted to take this opportunity to recognise Miss Elly Mint's achievements.

"Miss Elly Mint's record is remarkable. She has now won 12 races at Wentworth Park from 20 starts, with a career record of 38 wins from 58 starts. In addition her win on Saturday broke the record for consecutive wins on the Wentworth Park track since it was converted to loam - 7 consecutive wins stood to the credit of Gallant Ruler, Foreign Legion and the mighty Tenthill Doll before Miss Elly Mint's latest win took her tally to eight on end there.

"Miss Elly Mint's record is a testament to the skills and efforts of trainer Robert Smith who has kept his outstanding sprinter racing and winning in top company including Group races for a significant period." Mangafas concluded.

Well known and successful breeder, owner and trainer Ray Watson owns Miss Elly Mint who is by Elite State out of Watson's brood-bitch Indigo Mint. Watson will be remembered for his outstanding performer Mint Magic.

By the time Miss Elly Mint goes to the boxes on Saturday she may also be "Greyhound of The Year" as she is a finalist at GRNSW's big awards at the Hilton on Friday night.

For the record Miss Elly Mint now is third on the all time list of consecutive wins on

Australian tracks behind Tropical One (24) and Sophocles (21) but unlike the other two all her wins are on TAB tracks. Her prize money total stands at \$147, 090.



Fire in Australia Kills two Greeks

As per the Foreign Ministry, a Greek couple is among the 181 people, who lost

their life in the multi-fatality fires that hit Victoria State and which continue raging in Australia.

As per information, the victims are **Dimitris and Tania Tsimikli, 39 and 35** respectively, the body of which were found charred by the police in their house, where they had been trapped in the blaze at Kinglake. The village has vanished from the map.

As it is feared that the number of expatriate Greek victims may rise, as there are more than 80 people reported missing in the hit areas, the Australian Foreign Ministry has announced that all who wish to be informed about their relatives or friends, who live in the fire hit areas can use an international line that will offer information.

The number of the Australian Red Cross is 0061 3 9328 3716 and the information is available only in English.

In parallel, the blaze continues burning with the firemen failing to contain the fire until now. At the same time, the authorities are concerned as the three fronts may unite into one, something which everybody wishes not happen.

The authorities are also concerned over the number of victims, since they are afraid it may rise to 300 from 181, as the access of rescue teams to many areas is difficult and in some cases impossible.

Until now about 900 houses have been burnt in 20 areas and over 400,000 hectares of forestland and cultivated land has turned to ashes. At the same time, firemen made all they could to prevent other homes from burning.

PRESS RELEASE



AHEPA NATIONAL BUSHFIRES APPEAL

We will all be aware by now of the worst Natural Disaster in the History of Australia and the devastation caused by the ferocious bush fires across the Southern States, especially in Victoria, with such horrific loss of life and property.

In Victoria alone, over 170 people have lost their lives and many more are unaccounted for, over 1000 homes have been destroyed and many townships razed.

The National Lodge of Australasia has launched the AHEPA NATIONAL BUSHFIRES APPEAL and is coordinating all donations from Ahepans through the National Lodge.

Sisters and Brothers and Friends of AHEPA, let us show our generosity, goodwill and love for our fellow Australians, by giving generously to the National Bushfires Appeal.

Please send your donations directly to the National Lodge of Australasia, 8A Church st. Hawthorn Victoria, or make deposits to Supreme Lodge of Australasia (AHEPA National Lodge) account, ANZ Bank, BSB 013328, Ac no. 484420641.

The National Lodge will then forward all donations to the Red Cross, to distribute it where it is most needed.

I thank you in anticipation, for your support,

*Tasia Manos
National President
AHEPA AUSTRALASIA*