



\$10,000 FOR THE GIFT OF LIFE FOUNDATION PROMOTING ORGAN DONATION

Member for Kogarah, Cherie Burton today presented the Gift of Life Foundation with \$10,000 from the NSW Government to raise awareness of the importance of organ donation.

The Gift of Life Foundation is a not for profit organisation that runs free presentations for community groups and companies to explain the importance and need for organ donation.

"Despite having a world class reputation for successful organ transplants, Australia also has one of the lowest donation rates in the developed world," Ms Burton said.

"The Gift of Life provides an invaluable service teaching people about organ donation and how they can arrange to be donors.

"I am delighted to present the Gift of Life Foun-

ation with \$10,000 to support their work.

"The Foundation will use the NSW Government grant to help cover operational expenses and rent at a larger premises to help their organisation grow."

In 2009, 799 Australians received organ donations from 247 donors.

Around 1700 people are on Australian organ transplant waiting lists at any one time.

"The Gift of Life Foundation is based in Taren Point but provide presentations and services for groups all over Sydney - we can all be truly proud of the great work they do," Ms Burton said.

"I encourage the local community to get behind the Gift of Life Foundation and volunteer or have them give a presentation to your company or community group."

People urged to prepare for bush fires ahead of scorching summer heat

Emergency Services Minister Steve Whan is reminding people to prepare their properties and clear bush fire hazards as weather across NSW heats up.

With temperatures expected to hit the high thirties and forties in parts of the state, Mr Whan is also urging people to check their Bush Fire Survival Plans.

"People should now be reviewing their Bush Fire Survival Plans and ensuring their homes and families are well prepared," Mr Whan said.

"Everybody should know what they will do and where they will go in the event of a bush fire - including knowing the location of your nearest Neighbourhood Safer Place and if you will leave early or stay and defend your property.

"With the warmer weather we are already starting to see areas dry out, with the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) attending a number of grass fires over recent days.

NSW RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons said with the high temperatures there is a need for total fire bans and it's important for people to exercise common sense.

"Each afternoon, we'll be reviewing conditions such as temperature, humidity, winds and the dryness of the landscape for the following day and if necessary, declare total fire bans."

Mr Whan said total fire bans are now in place for the Greater Hunter, the Greater Sydney region, Illawarra and the Shoalhaven, Monaro Alpine, Southern and Central Ranges and the Southern Slopes.

"The fire bans are in place for 24 hours and must be observed. This means all fire permits are suspended and no one may have an open fire," Mr Whan said.

"Even on days when total fire bans aren't in place people should still always exercise caution and common sense."

Total fire bans, current fire danger ratings and information on preparing a Bush Fire Survival Plan can be found on the NSW RFS website at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au or by calling 1800 679 737.



GRAFFITI ACTION DAY 2011

A day of community action to remove graffiti - Graffiti Action Day - is on again this year following the outstanding success of the inaugural event in 2010, NSW Attorney General John Hatzistergos announced yesterday.

Graffiti Action Day 2011 is a community-based day of action that will involve hundreds of community minded volunteers, community groups and local councils.

Mr Hatzistergos said the joint initiative with Keep Australia Beautiful resulted in an impressive 4178 square metres of illegal graffiti removed from public and private property across NSW last year.

"Last year's inaugural graffiti action day was a huge success, pulling together 800 volunteers to remove a total of 4178 square metres of graffiti from more than 230 sites," Mr Hatzistergos said.

"This year we are hoping to do even better and I would urge any community-minded individuals to sign up to lend a hand on May 15."

CEO of Keep Australia Beautiful, Peter McLean, said Graffiti Action Day 2011 will be held on Sunday May 15.

"Graffiti Action Day puts the power back in the hands of the community, and everyone from community groups to businesses and local government can get involved," Mr McLean said.

"While the event is open to everyone, this year we're focusing our efforts on hotspots for graffiti vandalism as identified by police data so we can have the biggest possible impact."

Keep Australia Beautiful NSW will work to establish partnerships with

local councils to jointly fund graffiti removal and prevention activities as part of Graffiti Action Day 2011.

Funding will be used to remove graffiti and also implement other methods such as landscaping, which are known as Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).

CPTED is proven to be an effective anti-graffiti strategy. Graffiti Action Day and CPTED are important

components of the NSW Government's comprehensive Graffiti Action Plan.

To volunteer for Graffiti Action Day 2011 email graffitiactionday@kabnsw.org.au or visit www.kabnsw.org.au for more information. All volunteers will be briefed in techniques for safe and effective graffiti removal and provided with personal protection equipment and refreshments.

GRAFFITI ACTION DAY 2011 - MEDIA FACT SHEET

WHAT?

Graffiti Action Day 2011 is a Keep Australia Beautiful NSW initiative in partnership with the NSW Government to promote a community approach to tackling graffiti vandalism.

WHY?

Graffiti vandalism is a significant problem for many areas in NSW with some councils spending very large sums of money on clean up efforts.

Graffiti Action Day is a chance to:

- Get the community involved in the removal of graffiti at a local level
- Educate councils and communities about good graffiti removal and on Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design
- Help non-government and community repair damage caused by graffiti

HOW?

Volunteers, businesses, individuals, community groups, schools and anyone who would like to volunteer their time will be assigned to sites.

Graffiti will be removed using a number of methods including:

- Cleaning off with green cleaning products, brushes and water
- Painting over graffiti for stubborn surfaces which may be difficult to clean

To register your interest in participating or to nominate a site please email your name and contact details to graffitiactionday@kabnsw.org.au Top 40 sites are eligible for additional assistance for work such as landscaping carried out as part of a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design strategy.

WHEN?

Graffiti Action Day, Sunday May 15, 2011