



## Break Thru Support for the Victorian Bushfire Victims

The Break Thru team were touched by the recent Victorian bushfires and the devastating effect it had on the lives of many people throughout Victoria.

Many staff were moved by this tragedy and enquired as to how Break Thru could help their fellow Australians in their hour of need. The challenge was put by Break Thru's CEO, Ross Lewis, that for every dollar raised by staff, Break Thru would match that amount in its entirety. As a result, staff either donated individually or organized a fund raising event at their site (or both!).

CEO, Ross Lewis proudly announced on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March that Break Thru raised \$18, 730 that will go to the Australian Red Cross' Victorian Bushfire appeal.

One of the most successful events was Sue Ayers (Regional Manager, Northern NSW) offer to shave her hair for donations. This raised over \$10,000 alone, including Break Thru's contribution.



“It makes me proud to head an organisation that has strong values in helping others, but even prouder when staff take it upon themselves to go beyond that.” said Ross Lewis.

Break Thru regularly encourages its staff to support local and national causes.

Currently Break Thru supports a number of community initiatives including:

**Soul Café** - A not for profit restaurant feeding homeless and disadvantaged people in the Newcastle area.

**Everyman's Welfare Service** - Serves the members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and their families by providing counselling, recreational opportunities and other support. The ADF rely on this service to lift morale in the field or on base. Due to the organisations high regard in the community, Allen Pipes from Everymans was one of the first people granted access to the areas devastated by the Victorian bushfires to provide crisis counselling.

**Leukaemia Foundation World's Greatest Shave** - One of Australia's biggest fundraising events. 100,000 people across the country will shave or colour their hair to raise money towards leukaemia research. [www.worldsgreatestshave.com](http://www.worldsgreatestshave.com)

**Harmony Day** - Dealing with cultural, racial and religious intolerance by promoting respect, fairness and a sense of belonging for everyone. [www.harmony.gov.au/harmony-day](http://www.harmony.gov.au/harmony-day)

**International Day of People with a Disability** – This is celebrated worldwide on December 3 every year, this day recognises the achievements and contributions of people with disability. [www.idpwd.com.au](http://www.idpwd.com.au)