

VICTORIAN BUSHFIRES –ARTS CENTRE AUDIENCE APPEAL

The tragedy of Victorian bushfires has once again prompted the public, the performing arts industry and the Arts Centre staff to want to join forces to help alleviate the plight of those so horrendously impacted, whether through loss of property, possessions, schools or even loved ones.

As a result, we have begun a coordinated approach that we hope will deliver the best outcome for the victims and their families.

The Arts Centre will enable on-site fund-raising from audiences, with collection buckets provided at the end of all performances in the St Kilda Rd buildings, and the forthcoming Sidney Myer Music Bowl concerts.

These will be handled by Visitor Services staff.

Funds collected will be delivered through the Red Cross channels.

Announcements will be made from the stage and through the front of house staff, notifying audiences of this.

A message directing visitors to the donation website is being arranged for the plasma screens.

We are also investigating other options whereby staff may be able to contribute time and resources to any future fund-raising events.

Blood donations are another important element where individuals can get involved.

The concept of a special Memorial concert for the victims or a Thank-You concert for the firefighters and other emergency service personnel is currently being canvassed, with presenters and a range of artists, performing organisations and media wanting to be involved.

We will be carefully working through this approach with Arts Victoria and responding to any requests from the Premier's Department for an event such as was arranged for the Bali Bombings.

While the Sidney Myer Music Bowl may be available for such an event, a larger Melbourne venue to cope with the response may not be out of the question.

Our thoughts are with those still fighting the fires and with staff who may be among them, or who have friends or family who have been touched by the fires.

Stay tuned for further updates.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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