



Prince's Trust
Australia

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
KANGAROO ISLAND, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

BLACK SUMMER BUSHFIRE RECOVERY MILESTONE: BUILDER APPOINTED FOR STOKES BAY COMMUNITY HALL



Pictured: Stokes Bay local community, His Excellency, General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley, Prince's Trust Australia staff and board members. Photo credit: Alex Robertson

Adelaide-based builder Aube Projects has been appointed to rebuild the bushfire-devastated Stokes Bay Community Hall on Kangaroo Island.

The hall was severely damaged during the devastating Black Summer bushfires. In the wake of the fires, Prince's Trust Australia partnered with the Stokes Bay Community Hall Committee to assist with the rebuild of this important community centre.

The committee has awarded the tender for building works to Aube Projects, an Adelaide-based design and construction business with local ties and experience on Kangaroo Island. The committee was impressed by their experience, local knowledge and dedication to local procurement.

Building is expected to commence in October, with completion expected in September 2023.

Since February 2020 Prince's Trust Australia has played an essential role in the rebuild process, facilitating community consultation, the development of the design concept, project management and fundraising, to ensure that the community has a place to gather again for generations to come.

Prince's Trust Australia, which is the Australian charity of His Majesty The King, brought together a dedicated team of professional consultants many of whom kindly donated their services and time. Without the support and dedication of these industry experts, this project would not have been possible.

Prince's Trust Australia's Chair, the Hon Julie Bishop, who visited the project site in late 2021 said,

"Prince's Trust Australia has been working with the community of Stokes Bay to assist them with the rebuild of their community hall since the Black Summer bushfires devastated the region.

"The Stokes Bay Community Hall is the heart and soul of this strong community, and we are honoured to be able to assist in their recovery. When I visited the hall, I was inspired by the resilience of the community, which has been through so much; not just the bushfires, but also challenges to their recovery from COVID lockdowns."

Stokes Bay Community Hall Committee chair Madelyn Kelly said,

"The Stokes Bay community is thrilled that we are another momentous step closer to regaining our meeting place.

"Already there is talk of what events we are looking forward to and new ideas to create more socialising! Our wholehearted thanks to Princes Trust Australia and all those associated with it for your ongoing support, what a journey but now we will see all of the hard work come to fruition."

Kurt Strazdins, the Managing Director at Aube Projects, said,

"Aube Projects is incredibly honoured to be awarded the re-build and construction services for the Stokes Bay Community Hall with support from the nominated committee and contributions of the Prince's Trust Australia.

"We are looking forward to supporting Stokes Bay residents with re-establishing a meaningful place where the community can once again celebrate, participate and congregate."

Reflecting on her upbringing on Kangaroo Island and memories of community gatherings held at the Stokes Bay Community Hall, it is evident that the devastation of the 2019/20 bushfires is close to the heart of Amanda Strazdins, General Manager at Aube Projects. Amanda said,

“It is incredibly special to have the opportunity to play an integral part in re-building what I know is such an important place for the Stokes Bay Community. Our Aube Projects team, both locally and in Adelaide, are grateful for the opportunity to contribute their skills and expertise to a project that goes beyond the bricks and mortar.”

Prince’s Trust Australia and the Stokes Bay Community Hall Committee thank all our supporters and donors including Kangaroo Island Council, the State Government of South Australia and the Federal Government Black Summer Bushfire Recovery grant programme, which provided the \$1.7 million needed to commence construction. This project received grant funding from the Australian Government.

We also thank our core project consultant team, Ashley Halliday Architects, WGA (Wallbridge Gilbert Aztec), Lucid Consulting, MBM Quantity Surveyors and Katnich Dodd, as well as Prince’s Trust Australia patrons Alexandra and Julian Burt, Ken Harrison AM, KSJ & Jill Harrison OAM, DSJ, Barry Janes and Paul Cross, and Dr Patricia Michell for their invaluable support.

ABOUT PRINCE’S TRUST AUSTRALIA

Prince’s Trust Australia is a national charity that helps young people prepare for the rapidly changing world of work, inspires veterans and their families into entrepreneurship and self-employment, and champions resilient sustainable communities.

Our work is inspired by our Founder and President, His Majesty The King, and is driven by his vision for a more sustainable future.

We also work in partnership with our colleagues across The Prince’s Trust Group, a global network of charities transforming lives and building sustainable communities in the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and across the Commonwealth. Together, we promote, support, and inspire people and their communities to flourish.

Visit: www.princes-trust.org.au

For media enquiries, contact Lucy Murray on media@princes-trust.org.au

High-resolution photos provided upon request.



Pictured: Prince's Trust Australia Chair Julie Bishop with Stokes Bay Community Hall Committee Chair Madelyn Kelly and Danielle Bowden



Pictured: Stokes Bay Community Hall Committee members. Photo credit: Alex Robertson



Pictured: Artist's impression of the completed Stokes Bay Community Hall. Supplied.



Pictured: Artist's impression of the completed Stokes Bay Community Hall. Supplied.



Pictured: The devastated Stokes Bay Community Hall after the Black Summer Bushfires. Supplied.



Pictured: His Excellency, General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) and Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley turning the sod on the Stokes Bay Community Hall. Photo credit: Alex Robertson