

2 September 2020

Media Release:

Toy funding brings joy to local children

The Blackwater Toy Library shelves are fully stacked with shiny new toys after a \$1,100 donation from Yancoal's Yarrabee Coal Mine.

Everyone in the community is having a harder time than normal with the current pandemic, so it was perfect timing to purchase a significant number of new replacement toys for the Blackwater community children who visit the popular toy library.

The Blackwater Toy Library is run by a dedicated volunteer committee and provides local families with a wide array of educational toys to loan; assisting cognitive, physical and social development. Locals can join as members and are welcome to borrow up to six toys each fortnight.

Karla Blake, President of the Blackwater Toy Library, was thrilled with the funding boost.

"We have around 76 family members in the Blackwater community who visit regularly. Thanks to Yarrabee Coal's donation, we have a new supply of toys that cater to a wide range of play activities.

"We are delighted to continue to offer this toy loan service; it enables play and a sense of community for all families and children of Blackwater.

"All our donations and money from membership go towards purchasing new toys - although they never last long on the shelves," said Karla.

The Blackwater Community Toy Library is located on Arnold Street and is open every Wednesday 9am-10am and Sunday 3pm-4pm during school terms. Under current government legislation, all toys returned must be cleaned and they will be isolated for seven days before they are back on the shelves. Only 10 people are allowed in the toy library at one time and social distancing applies.

Yarrabee Coal Operations Manager, Cris Shadbolt, was happy to assist the Blackwater Toy Library.

"Feeling connected to your community is critical, especially now, and the toy library provides connection for children. We are always so pleased to see how a small donation can make a positive impact to people in our community," said Cris.

The donation was part of the Yancoal Yarrabee Community Support Program, which aims to make a positive difference in the local community and to the lives of the people who work and live in the areas it operates.

END

Media contact: Tracy Woodley Email: tracy.woodley@yancoal.com.au;