

Boots for fire fighters

COMPANY Nitti Safety Footwear has donated \$50,000 worth of work boots to be distributed amongst CFA members in bushfire-affected areas.

Nitti is part of the Singapore-based CEH group, and manager of Flexible Assembling Systems Australia (the importer of Nitti Safety Footwear), Gary Burgess, said he contacted CEH management after the bushfires to see how the company could help.

Recently, Mr Burgess visited the Wandong Relief Centre to donate 300 pairs of Nitti safety boots to bushfire survivors who were cleaning up their properties and rebuilding.

Free boots were also delivered to Flowerdale, Whittlesea, and Buxton, and were very popular amongst community members, which prompted Mr Burgess and CEH management to donate more footwear - this time to CFA members in areas affected by the Black Saturday bushfires.

Last time, the boots were extremely popular and were gratefully received by visitors to the relief centre, and will likely be as popular with CFA members.

"Any CFA that was bushfire-affected is welcome to contact me to arrange to receive Nitti Safety Footwear," Mr Burgess said.

He suggested the best way is for station officers



Putting the boot in: Gary Burgess at the Wandong Relief Centre recently, with the boots donated by Nitti Safety Footwear to bushfire survivors.

to gather a list of volunteers and their shoe sizes, and fax the form to his office.

For more information, contact Gary Burgess on 9548 9144, or fax through names, sizes, and the name of the CFA branch, to Mr Burgess on 9548 9455.

Donations continue

DISTRICT residents in the process of clearing up their properties and preparing to rebuild after Black Saturday have benefited from the delivery of 300 pairs of workboots from Nitti Safety Footwear.

The boots were delivered to the Wandong Recovery Centre late last week, with about half the stock picked up by those in need within about 24 hours, and the rest gone soon after.

Nitti's manager of flexible assembling systems Australia, Gary Burgess, dropped off the boots at Wandong, and said boots have also been delivered by the company to relief centres in Flowerdale, Whittlesea, and Buxton.

"I personally delivered these boots and was greatly affected seeing firsthand the horrible path of destruction that these fires have left, yet at the same time I was so uplifted by the community

spirit and 'never give in' attitude of so many volunteers I met at the various community centres," Mr Burgess said.

"There are so many inspirational people out there in our communities doing so much unrecognised work and it was an honour and a privilege to have met some of them last week."

Nitti has also pledged to donate one third of sales proceeds from its best-selling model, the mid-cut pull-on safety boot, to raise funds for bushfire relief, from now until June 30.

Beaut' boots: Gary Burgess from Nitti Safety Footwear, gives a pair of boots to Debbie Nichols from Mitchell Shire Council, to be handed out to district residents affected by the bushfires.



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News



Gary Burgess (centre) with Cranbourne and Tooradin CFA members and donated boots. N42BL303

Boots in for safety

CASEY CFA units will be able to put their best feet forward in free safety boots, courtesy of a Singapore-based footwear company.

Cranbourne resident and Australian manager of Nitti Safety Footwear, Gary Burgess, said the company had given more than 500 pairs of the \$105 elastic-sided safety boots to people in bushfire ravaged areas in the wake of Black Saturday.

Mr Burgess said he had convinced his boss to extend the offer by another 500 pairs so he could help kit out local brigades.

"Like everyone, we really wanted to do something to help in bushfire affected areas. So we gave away \$50,000 worth of boots," he

said. "Now we plan to make that a total of \$110,000 worth of boots, so there's plenty more to go around for our local crews."

Mr Burgess said the offer was open until the end of the financial year, but it would be a case of first in, best dressed.

Cranbourne, Cardinia and Devon Meadows fire crews have already put their hands up.

Cranbourne fire officer John Townsend said the team would score 35 pairs of the safety boots.

"It's a substantial contribution and one we are very grateful for," Mr Townsend said.

CFA units hoping to take part in the giveaway should call Mr Burgess on 9548 9144.