

Draft Media Release for approval

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WINTER CHILLS EASED WITH COMFORT DONATION FROM NEW WARRAWONG WILDLIFE SANCTUARY OWNERS

The plight of Adelaide Hills' residents struggling to keep warm over winter has been eased a little under a co-operative community campaign involving the Salvation Army, the new owners of the Warrawong Wildlife Sanctuary and Year Nine students from Heathfield High School.

The three Hills groups have banded together to collect and distribute dozens of sets of brand new blankets, doonas, bed linen, and even steel camp beds, to those local families or residents in need of assistance to keep warm this winter.

The articles were found by Warrawong's new owners, David Cobbold and Narelle Macpherson, when they took over the disused sanctuary site this year with plans to fully restore it as an iconic tourist and wildlife attraction by early next year.

The bedding had been assigned for use at the former Sanctuary's camping facility but had never been used before the Sanctuary closed four years ago. The "new" Warrawong plans eventual luxury camping accommodation on site but those targets are a year or two down the road yet.

Salvation Army "The community need for winter assistance over 2017 has been as strong as ever – more so as many lower income households have struggled to pay their ongoing power bills, including heating, or find the cost of buying wood for heating increasingly prohibitive.

"Any relief that can be injected into these Hills households is therefore most welcome."

Mr Cobbold : "It quickly became very obvious to us in our first winter here that this has been a chill-to-the bone opening to the season. Many Hills residents who have spoken to us supporting the re-opening of Warrawong, have also openly provided us with the background to what life in the Hills, one of the State's colder climes over winter, can be like for some people. It is not all wine and roses for many, and the better use of these blankets now in a time of need is what being part of the Hills business and Hills community is all about."



Around 20 Year Nine students from Heathfield High jumped at the chance to “skip class for a while” for a good cause, and took about an hour to load the consignment of “winter warmth goodies”.

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