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THE STAR GOLD COAST - SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITY THROUGH COVID-19

While The Star Gold Coast has been forced to close and stand down most of its dedicated team members – it has been able to make some significant local community donations during the challenging COVID-19 environment.

The Star has donated more than ten tonnes of food to OzHarvest and Foodbank Queensland following its temporary closure on Monday 23 March. Both groups help fight food scarcity and hunger by providing the most vulnerable in our communities with meals and low-cost groceries.

As part of its annual collection and donation program, The Star has also contributed \$36,000 to long-term community partner Currumbin Wildlife Hospital, to help it remain open to accept sick and injured wildlife and purchase much-needed medical supplies and medicine.

For Currumbin Wildlife Hospital, which admitted more than 12,000 animals in the past year due to bushfires and drought, the donation couldn't have come at a better time when admissions continue to climb as animals return to their still-devastated habitat and require food and shelter.

"This donation from The Star will ensure medical supplies are kept in abundance so that we can keep caring for sick, injured and orphaned wildlife and keep Currumbin Wildlife Hospital open during these uncertain times," said Dr Michael Pyne, Senior Vet and General Manager Currumbin Wildlife Hospital.

"Our team from the Currumbin Wildlife Hospital could not be more appreciative of The Star's help, which will assist us to be that iconic symbol that will attract tourists back to Australia once travel bans are lifted in the near future."

The Star Gold Coast Chief Operating Officer Jessica Mellor said The Star is proud to support the local community in a variety of ways.

"Although our properties have temporarily closed, our hearts remain well and truly open," said Ms Mellor.

"It was a silver lining on a very dark day that we could work with Foodbank Queensland and OzHarvest to deliver 10 tonnes of food, to help nourish the neediest in our local community during these difficult times.

"We're also pleased, as a partner to Currumbin Wildlife Hospital for five years, that we can contribute the funds raised over the past several months to help support the treatment and rehabilitation of sick and injured animals following the devastating bushfires earlier in the year."

"While we're sad to say that this will be The Star Gold Coast's last community contribution for a little while, we look forward to finding ways to help our community get back on its feet again when we're all able to get back to business."

Meanwhile, The Star's management team at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre are also helping the community in this time of need.

The centre is closed, but its technology team is assisting the education sector by creating temporary on-campus studios and recording lessons that can be delivered online.

The centre's kitchen has also produced over 10,000 pre-packaged meal portions to charities including OzHarvest, Love This City, St John's Crisis Centre and Hillsong CityCare.

“We’re in an excellent position to be able to provide these services and are actively seeking donations of ingredients and packaging to allow our efforts to continue as long as we are able,” said Adrienne Readings, General Manager, GCCEC.

“We have been offering our tech team’s support to local schools across the Gold Coast who are challenged with online delivery of lessons to help give them support, equipment and expertise to enable e-learning.”

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About The Star Gold Coast

Since its inception in 1985, The Star Gold Coast has become the coastal city’s most iconic tourism and entertainment destination and today welcomes around 3.5 million visitors a year through its doors. Owned and operated by The Star Entertainment Group, the property has continued to evolve significantly since embarking on an extraordinary transformation, and has become home to some of the nation’s biggest events including the first World Poker Tour in Australia. Along with its consortium partners, the company is currently building a \$400 million, 53-storey first mixed-use tower at The Star Gold Coast, which will bring the internationally-acclaimed Dorsett hotel brand to Australia for the first time when it opens around 2022.

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