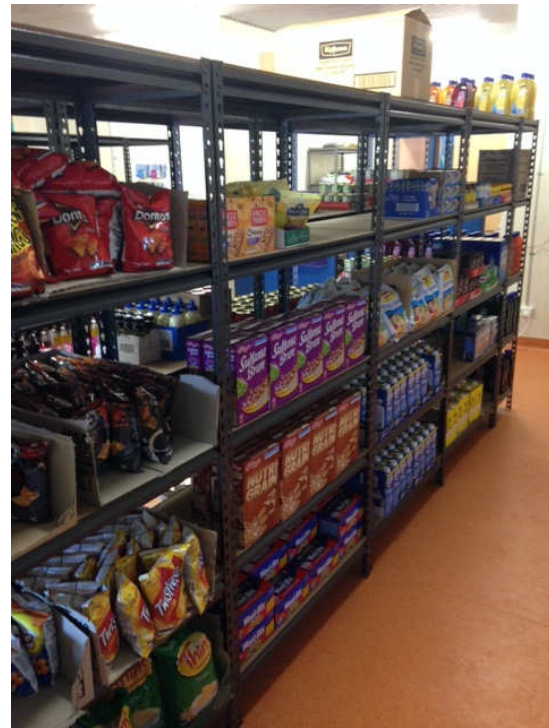
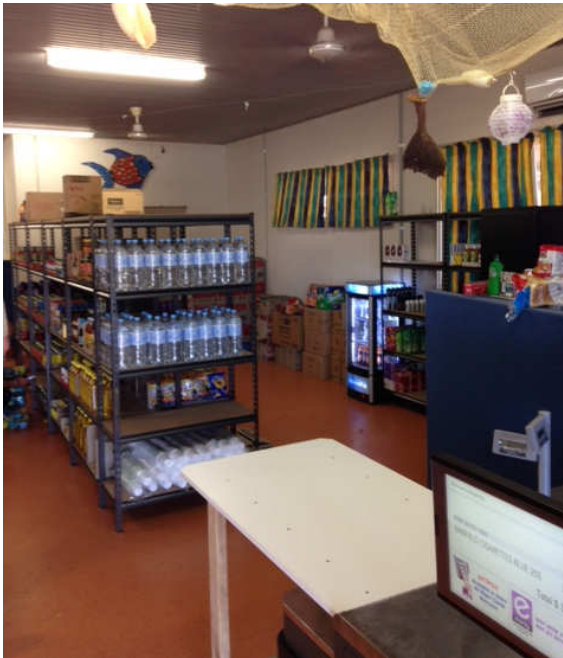


16 October 2014

TEMPORARY STORE OPENS AFTER FIRE



Food and supplies are now available at the remote community in Western Australia after the community store was destroyed in a fire last Friday.

The Beagle Bay Community Store was severely damaged following a fire that occurred in the early hours of 3rd of October 2014.

A team of eight staff from Outback Stores, along with store owner Ngarlan Store Indigenous Corporation, has been working to set up the temporary store at the Women's Centre building in Beagle Bay, 125 km north of Broome. New plant and equipment, including point-of-sale systems, shelving, and portable dry storage units arrived at the community yesterday. Additional display and refrigeration units are expected to arrive on Monday.

The store is currently open for trade offering a range of dry foods, general goods and fuel for the community. The store is expected to return to regular trade by Tuesday 14th of October, when it will be able to offer chilled and frozen supplies.

"This has been an awesome outcome for the community and everyone is really happy to have the shop open now so quickly. Steve, Kerry, Melissa, Richard and everyone from Outback Stores have done a fantastic job. It didn't take long to organise everything and everyone in the community is feeling great", said Helena Williams from Beagle Bay, who also works at the store.



Store employee Leticia Shadfort

Outback Stores has managed Beagle Bay Community Store since March 2014, following a request from the owners, and services nearly 300 people.

Insurance assessors visited the community yesterday to assess the fire-damaged store. The cause of the fire is yet to be determined. Outback Stores has begun planning the design and construction of the new store, which is expected to take up to 12 months.

Outback Stores would like to thank all those who have assisted generously in our efforts to resume trade in Beagle Bay after only a few days, in particular the Beagle Bay Women's Centre, Department of Aboriginal Affairs WA, the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, the store's retail partners and the Beagle Bay community.

About Outback Stores

Outback Stores provides retail services to remote stores on behalf of Indigenous communities. Set up in 2006 as a response to a need for functional and viable retail stores, Outback Stores was able to guarantee a secure, continuous supply of safe and healthy food and keep local jobs in remote communities.

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