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BEAGLE BAY STORE REOPENS AFTER FIRE

The new look Beagle Bay Community Store has reopened after it was destroyed by fire in October 2014.

Beagle Bay Community Store, managed by Outback Stores, was severely damaged following the fire and has operated temporarily out of the Beagle Bay Womens' Centre while the new store was being built.

Outback Stores is pleased to announce that the new store was officially opened on Thursday 21 January, with more than 200 people celebrating with traditional dances and a community lunch.

The airconditioned store is now fully stocked and has been equipped with a rear loading chiller and freezers to save on power costs and improve refrigeration. The store can stock a larger range of healthy food and other necessities including white goods, furniture and bikes.

A new takeway service can now be operated independently from the store for the first time in several years and offers a range of health meals including curries, salads and sandwiches in line with the Outback Stores health and nutrition policy.

The project has increased the number of jobs in the community with 12 local people and two Outback Stores managers to be employed in the store.

The store's owners, the Ngarlan Store Indigenous Corporation, awarded the tender to reconstruct the Beagle Bay Community Store to Broome based company H&M Tracey Construction Pty Ltd and the Darwin branch of AECOM managed the project.

Security has been increased at the store after Outback Stores provided \$270 000 to build a caretaker residence on site and worked with the directors of the Ngarlan Store Indigenous Corporation to design and plan the new store.

“Outback Stores would like to thank everyone involved in the project,” Outback Stores Chief Executive Officer Steve Moore said. “The turnaround time for the project was very tight and we knew it was going to be challenging to get the store open before the wet season set in.

“The team did an excellent job and the project came in on time and budget, with thanks also to the Aboriginal Land Trust, Department of Aboriginal Affairs WA and the Shire of Broome who helped the approvals and planning process for the new store.”

Mr Moore said the new store would not have been made possible without the support of the community, and the efforts of Ngarlan Store Directors Lenny O’Mera (Chairman), Laurie Cox, Debra Anne Sabastian, Paula Augustine and Albert Bevan. And as a big thank you to the Beagle Bay Women’s Centre for the temporary store location, Outback Stores installed airconditioning and improved power services at the centre.

“The community will benefit from more healthy food options, a new takeaway service at the store and a wider range of fresh fruit and vegetables,” Mr Moore said.

Caption: *Employees Leticia Shadforth, Outback Stores Store Manager Richard Makins, Helena Williams, Ethan Victor, Outback Stores Manager Melissa Rankine, Fumiko Akune and Rikita Cox welcome the opening of the new Beagle Bay Community Store.*

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.

www.outbackstores.com.au

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