

Seeing the rewards

GARY SHIPWAY



The Beswick Store board of directors last week approved its largest social development distribution to the community, worth \$150,000. A white goods delivery to the store. Picture: Supplied

Beswick Store thriving for the community, distributing \$150,000

THE Beswick Store is kicking big goals for its community with its board of directors approving its largest social development distribution to the community of \$150,000.

Each of the 75 houses in the community received a white goods package including fridge/freezer, microwave, electric frying pan, rice cooker, kettle, toaster and a choice of a TV or chest freezer.

As well as that, Beswick community members now have a 14-seater commuter bus to drive them around the community free of charge.

The ongoing maintenance of the bus and wage of the driver will be paid by Wuduluk Progress Aboriginal Corporation, owners of Beswick Store.

Wugularr Primary School received a \$20,000 cheque to support improved school attendance efforts.

Principal Stephen Hill said the money would go towards extra equipment for its re-engagement program.

"We're looking at purchasing our own 4WD vehicle, and more pool tables or other equipment, to encourage school attendance," said Mr Hill.

Wuduluk Progress Aboriginal Corporation chairman Peter Lindsay said he was proud of what the community had achieved.

"Thirteen years ago we didn't have any food on the shelves and the store was in debt ... it has been an amazing journey with Outback Stores to get to this point," he said.

"I got goosebumps seeing all this going out to our community. It was the talk of the town."

Outback Stores started providing retail services to Beswick in 2008, when at first the store was recording losses. The past 13 years have seen the store rise out of administration and build up its financial position each year to allow this year's distribution.

"The community can see that when you buy from the store, this is what you get in return. It's your store, you own it," Mr Lindsay said. Further projects to be funded by store profits this year include another community bus specifically for women, landscaping for the community cemetery, and renovations to the community club.