

## Media release

7 January 2020

# Local hospitals donate to Australian bushfire relief

Wairarapa Hospital has received accolades from the community on social media for its contribution to the Australian bushfire relief effort, but communications manager Anna Cardno is dodging any tributes.

“It is the very least we can do,” she said.

Anna delivered a palletload of medical supplies, collected from both Wairarapa and Selina Sutherland Hospitals, to PGG Wrightsons Masterton on Tuesday. The donation included surgical masks, gloves, handgels, needles, i/v fluids and bandaging, all destined to assist the teams that are providing relief for and treating the animals affected by the fires.

A qualified Veterinary Nurse ‘in a past life’, Anna has found the coverage of the animals suffering extremely hard to watch.

“The sheer numbers being reported – an estimated 500 million animals affected, and that’s not even including some species – it is devastating,” she said. “We can’t do much. We can do this.”

Anna’s strong equestrian connections are shared by Selina Sutherland Hospital Manager, Cate Tyrer, and they were inspired by New Zealand’s Saddlery Warehouse initiative for the stores to become a collection point for donated supplies.

“We manage our ordering carefully at the hospitals, so as not to run with expired supplies, but we do have a small amount of still-useful stock passed its use-by date that is fine for this purpose,” Anna said.

“Donating it to such a worthy cause, that’s not commendable really, is it? It’s just common sense. And when PGG Wrightson’s stepped in to offer a courier point, it all came together.”

“I was pleased to receive the approval to go ahead and get our contribution across the Tasman.”

Pictured:

1. Associate Leader Nursing, Vicki Hookham, with the Wairarapa Hospital supplies
2. Wairarapa and Selina Sutherland hospital’s pallet of medical supplies to be wrapped for transporting by PGG Wrightson’s Masterton

**ENDS**