

# Worldwide fundraising for Aussie bushfire relief

While the bushfires that recently threatened our local area are now under control, the rest of the country continues to be ravaged by out of control mega blazes that have captured the world’s attention. More than 150 fires continue to burn across NSW.

Frustrated by inaction from the prime minister and state premiers to properly address and resource fire fighting efforts, financial support is rolling in from around the planet, including celebrities donating generously to fundraisers.

An online fundraiser launched by Australian comedian Celeste Barber has brought in more than \$40 million for bushfire victims and firefighters. Donations have come from all over the world, thanks to her large social media following.

Donors to the Facebook page from as far as Poland, Belgium, Romania, France, UK and the USA have left messages of support for firefighters and bushfire victims.

“So many people need help I can’t wrap my head around it – so much wildlife – it’s absolutely devastating,” Barber said. “We have to help people completely rebuild their lives.”

Donate to Celeste’s fundraiser here: <https://www.facebook.com/donate/1010958179269977/2477326602586291/>

Other celebrities to raise funds for those affected by the bushfires

include US singer Pink, Australians Nicole Kidman and Keith Urban and tennis star Ash Barty, while a host of other Australian sports people are also donating to appeals.

A huge number of benefit concerts are also being announced each day.

**Appeal to support koalas**

An online fundraising campaign set up by Port Macquarie Koala Hospital has raised more than \$4 million to rescue and rehabilitate marsupials devastated by bushfires.

The hospital will use the excess funds to establish a wild koala breeding program. As many as 31 koalas have been brought to the hospital since the bushfires began.

The campaign has raised over \$4 million, eclipsing the initial target of \$25,000. All money raised will go to the Wildlife Water Drinking Stations project and the establishment of the world’s first Wild Koala Breeding Program.

Donate to koala fundraiser here: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-thirsty-koalas-devastated-by-recent-fires>

WIRES and RSPCA are also seeking donations.

**Hollywood acknowledgment**

Despite being held in Los Angeles, our bushfire crisis was mentioned multiple times throughout the Golden Globes award night.

Joaquin Phoenix, Cate Blanchett, Patricia Arquette, Ellen DeGeneres

and Pierce Brosnan each mentioned the Australian bushfires in their acceptance speeches.

But the biggest mention came from Russell Crowe when he won the Golden Globe for best actor in a limited series. Crowe didn’t attend the awards ceremony because he was defending his 320-hectare Nana Glen property against bushfires, but he sent the following message:

“Make no mistake, the tragedy unfolding in Australia is climate change-based. We need to act based on science, move our global workforce to renewable energy and respect our planet for the unique and amazing place it is. That way we all have a future. Thank you.”

**Free nudes for the fireys**

LA-based model Kaylen Ward, aka The Naked Philanthropist, organised a fundraiser, offering a free nude of herself to every person who could provide proof of a \$10 donation to a list of 20 charities supporting those affected by bushfires.

**Donate directly to RFS**

The NSW Rural Fire Service has multiple options for donations. You can donate to the RFS as a whole, or to specific brigades. For bank transfers, there is a set bank account (Account Name: NSW Rural Fire Service, BSB: 032-001, Account No: 171051). This account is for the RFS as a whole.



Celebrities are among many posting on social media to express their gratitude to our volunteer firefighters.



“Make no mistake, the tragedy unfolding in Australia is climate change-based.” – Russell Crowe



Australia’s wildfires have burned about 12.35 million acres of land and destroyed over 1,800 homes. 24 people have died. Liberals cut the NSW RFS budget by 75.2%.



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