



The Book of Light project is a critical part of the Department for Education and Early Childhood Development's work in rebuilding the Victorian communities affected by the Black Saturday Bushfires in February 2009. The project is being run with funding from the Department for Education and Early Childhood and Telstra.

## The Book of Light Club

Students are being supported through a social learning networking site, SuperClubsPLUS Australia, where they become part of an international online community. SuperClubsPLUS is a protected online 'space' where children use Web 2.0 technologies to share their ideas, experiences and interests while learning new ICT and cybersafety skills.

Within SuperClubsPLUS the Book of Light club has been specifically designed for primary school children affected by the Black Saturday Bushfires. The aim of this online club is to allow children who have been through similar experiences to create links with each other. The focus of the club will be very much on the process of regeneration and to assist students in moving forward. It will also be very much the children's space, where they are able to communicate their thoughts or feelings in their own way and to whatever extent they are comfortable with.

## The Book of Light School Funding

In addition to joining this online community, schools have been offered funding to assist in the completion of a 'regeneration' project. The form of the project will be negotiated on a school-by-school basis, but some ideas include; a short film, a painting or mural, a sculpture, a new structure at the school (frog pond or similar) or a community based project.

## The Interactive Book

There is also the opportunity to publish the children's work, and the school projects, in a web-based interactive 'book' to be known as the 'Book of Light' will be available for the public to view online. This is a webpage where the children's stories, videos, drawings, photographs and other works can be displayed.

**The KnowledgeBank: Next Generation Project (KB:NG) is funding the Book of Light project as one of a series of trials and pilot projects that aim to increase access to emerging technologies, quality assure new forms of digital content and communicate effective practice in teaching with ICTs to inform school and system improvement.**



## **The Book of Light School Funding – What are the schools doing?**

### **Chum Creek and Healesville**

These areas were heavily under threat throughout the fires with many students being badly affected.

The schools will use some of their grant to create a regeneration feature for Chum Creek (frog bogs). The remainder of the money will be used to help rebuild Leslie's 'Labyrinth' at the Good Life Farm School. The labyrinth was originally built by Leslie herself and used as a sanctuary and place of focus for 'at risk' kids, it was sadly destroyed by the fires. The students from the schools will work with Leslie to plan and re-plant her labyrinth.

Healesville will also create mosaic plaques to go to each of the schools in the Book of Light project.

### **Epping Views Grade 5/6**

Epping Views hosted displaced students after the fires destroyed their own schools.

Their project will be create 'eggs' containing seeds/seedlings which will be sent to the schools they hosted or the other Book of Light schools so that they can be planted and create a new garden as a symbol of unity between them.

### **Middle Kinglake**

The children from this school were badly affected by the fire, most lost homes and family and friends. The school itself was destroyed and is currently housed in a couple of portables on the site. They will not have their school rebuilt until Term 3 next year and are struggling with many things, one of which is only having 10 working computers and no tech support to get donated computers working.

The Book of Light project will provide funding to get their donated computers working and in conjunction with ITD will install Edustar which will the school a greatly enhanced ICT environment.

