

THE COFFEE CLUB®

The Coffee Club cafes take donations to support flooded communities

Brisbane – January 10, 2011: *The Coffee Club* cafés across Australia are taking donations from the public to support victims of the recent floods which have brought vast devastation to regional Queensland communities.

The Coffee Club is asking members of the public to make a donation at any of *The Coffee Club* cafés and support their fellow Australians, many of whom have lost everything from this natural disaster.

All donations will be forwarded to The Premier's Disaster Relief Appeal which will distribute the funds raised to flood victims across more than 14 Queensland council communities.

John Lazarou, Director of *The Coffee Club*, who manned the phones during Channel Nine's Flood Relief Appeal telethon on Sunday night, said he was proud of Australians after speaking to so many members of the public who did not have much but insisted on giving what they could.

"People in these affected communities are made of strong stuff and will recover, but they need our help now. And Australians have made a great start by donating more than \$10 million during the telethon," Mr Lazarou said.

"Our franchisees across the country have expressed concern for those Queensland communities battling floods and wanted to know what they could do to help. And taking donations on behalf of victims is the best way we can support them.

"So, we're rallying together and asking members of the public wishing to make a donation to visit any of our cafés across Australia.

"We started our business in Queensland, we have some of our cafés in the affected areas and because our business is more like a family we have a strong connection to our franchisees and their communities," he said.

Donations can be made in person to *The Coffee Club* cafés across the country.

The Coffee Club is a relaxed place to meet friends and family for *Good Food, Great Service and Excellent Coffee*. Since opening its doors in Brisbane almost 21 years ago, ***The Coffee Club*** has become Australia's largest home-grown café group, with some 273 stores.

In 2008, hospitality and leisure company Minor International took a 50 per cent stake in *The Coffee Club*, fuelling its international growth. The Coffee Club is expanding dramatically in 2011 with 30 cafés opening in Australia, many of which will be located in New South Wales, as well as entering China, Vietnam, Egypt, and New Caledonia.

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

Clinton Parker, Red Agency

P 07 3837 3870 | M 0400 788 978

E clinton.parker@redagency.com.au