

Hepburn Wind opening draws more than 760

THE Hepburn Community Wind Farm was declared officially open on November 5.

The winner of the Name the turbines competition, 10-year-old Neve Boshier of St Augustine's School in Creswick, cut the ribbon in front of more than 760 people.

Her winning names were Gale and Gusto.

Per Bernard, founder of Hepburn Wind, said:

"In Denmark, where I was born, most wind farms are owned by communities.

"I am so proud that the Hepburn community has come together to benefit from renewable energy."

Vicki Horrigan, chair of the Hepburn Wind Community Fund,



announced grants of \$15,000 to community groups for causes as diverse as an arboreal tree mammal research project in the Wombat Forest, a community arts project by the Bungal Arts Depot in Ballan, welding equipment for the Daylesford Men's Shed and play equipment for the Clunes

Playgroup.

Initiated with the support of Sustainability Victoria, the project recently received a prestigious Banksia Environment Award as well as the Victorian Premier's Sustainability Award.

David Karoly, one of Australia's leading climate scientists, said: "This project demonstrates that there's a viable business plan for communities to build wind farms on a small scale all around Australia in rural and regional areas and it will generate income and jobs."

The wind farm is located on the property of long-time Leonards Hill farmers, the Liversidge family, who, as well as growing potatoes and cattle, are now wind farmers.