

# Rotary District 9510 has provided more than \$720,000 in drought relief for long-suffering farming families in need in South Australia, Western NSW and North West Victoria.

## *Federal Government Drought Communities Outreach Program*

The Federal Government's Drought Community Outreach Program (DCOP), in partnership with Rotary District 9510 and Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS), brings services specific to farmers and their communities for a drop-in style one-stop-shop.

The DCOP Events Program brought government and non-government agencies to rural and regional Australia to make it easier to access support and information for farmers and rural and regional communities living through the immediate and longer-term effects of drought.

A total of \$350,000 in gift Cards were distributed to farming families affected by drought in South Australia, Western NSW and North West Victoria. More than 100 farmers who received hay from Rotary were also sent \$500 gift cards.

Gift cards to the value of \$75,500 were distributed at events in the towns of Cowell, Cleve, Elliston, Wudinna and Kimba on Eyre Peninsula. A cluster of six events were run in the Upper/Mid North/Murraylands regions towns of Quorn, Wilmington, Peterborough, Burra, Robertstown, Eudunda and Waikerie, where \$48,000 worth of gift cards were distributed, and more than \$50,000 worth of gift card application forms were distributed in the Sunraysia/Mid Murray/Mallee towns of Robinvale, Ouyen, Cambrai, Tanunda, Angaston, Pinnaroo, Karoonda, Tailem Bend and Keith. Throughout the events, hundreds of free barbecue meals and drinks provided by Rotary clubs filled the bellies of grateful farming families across the various regions.

## *Rotary Clubs of Australia national drought relief program funds distribution*

Rotary District 9510 was selected to distribute the Rotary Clubs of Australia National Drought Relief Program Funds Distribution \$250 debit cards as a result of the \$600,000 fundraising efforts by Rotary and Bendigo Bank in 2019. The Rotary District 9510 have been provided with 532, \$250 debit cards, totalling \$133,000.

We nominated 11 towns in drought affected areas of South Australia where Rotary club members have activated EFTPOS machines in general stores in Kimba, Cleve, Cowell/Arno Bay, Lock, Wudinna, Hawker, Leigh Creek, Karoonda, Peterborough/Yunta, so the debit cards can be used by farming families who are in need of financial support. The stores selected will help provide goods so they can continue to support the local community.

The debit cards have been distributed by an independent third-party financial counselling organisation, Rural Business Solutions, with councillors identifying those in most need.

## *District 9510 Rotary clubs to the rescue*

From rain dances to men's buckets, 23 Rotary clubs throughout District 9510 have underwritten 48 drought relief projects in South Australia to the value of \$240,000 from the 2018 Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS), Drought Appeal.

- Coordination, purchase and distribution of various hay runs, including multiple Hay Runs to Hawker (totalling more than \$102,000)
- Spring Rain Dance at Sanderston (\$2000)
- 50 Buckets for Men on the Land project for drought effected Sunraysia areas (\$4967.50) and 10 'B' double loads of hay, arranged and donated by RAWCS, delivered to surrounding stations
- Farming Systems' Dealing with the Dry seminar at Booleroo Centre and Laura Ag Bureau 'Blokes Bonding Beyond Booleroo Big Bus' trip (\$5000)
- Helping pastoralists in Yunta with water distribution (\$3558.50)
- 11 \$25 vouchers purchased from each of 13 businesses in Peterborough (\$3575)
- Karoonda Golf Club introductory coaching clinic and community lunch (\$3237)
- Fuel cost for transport of donated hay from Yorke Peninsula to Hawker and from Jamestown (\$5281)
- Hay runs to Yunta, total cost of \$33,000,
- Drought Muster Day for the Hawker and surrounding district communities with free activities, food and a round table raffle with many donated prizes (\$5000)
- Delivered 4 loads of Hay to Kimba, Poochera and Cowell on Eyre Peninsula (\$61,510)
- Chart Your Course – three workshops held at Lameroo/Pinnaroo, Coonalpyn/Coomandook and Tintinara (\$4950)
- Karoonda Farm Fair Night (\$4300)
- FUN Raising film night at Blinman (\$1568)

*Rotary District 9510  
Drought Relief Project  
Manager, PDG Bob Cooper*

**Rotary**  
Club of Burnside

