

# RAWCS – Southern Region Report

## Drought Community Outreach Program, Victorian Coordinators Report

The Drought Community Outreach Program, is a partnership program with the Australian Government and Rotary, which aims to bring services specific to farmers and their communities to their region for a drop-in style one-stop-shop. The National Drought and Flood Agency brings government and non-government agencies to rural and regional Australia to make it easier to access support and information to support farmers and rural and regional communities living through the immediate and longer-term effects of drought.

The Drought Community Outreach Events include local Regional Recovery Officers and representatives from Australian Government agencies such as the Australian Taxation Office, Regional Investment Corporation, Services Australia and NBN Co. State government agencies and non-government organisations with drought support info at each event. Drought Community Outreach Events are being rolled out as COVID-19 restrictions are eased. Appropriate measures are in place to ensure they are run safely.

Through this Drought Community Outreach Program RAWCS has been allocated funds to distribute to Farmers, Farm Workers and Farm Contractors and Suppliers. These funds are distributed at events scheduled by the National Recovery and Resilience Agency. Rotary has a twofold role. First to assist in the administration and completion of forms applying for a **\$500 gift card** and secondly, to connect with the communities through a BBQ style initiative.

RAWCS have engaged Rotary Clubs throughout Australia to provide the BBQ facilities at each DCOP event. This invitation has been made available to both city and regional Rotary Clubs, but favour to Rotary Clubs near those locations. The benefit to the Rotary Club is **\$1,500** as a fee for service, plus all expenses are covered for provisions and costs of getting there.

To date there has been **6298 DCOP gift cards** distributed nationally which equates to **\$3,149,000** provided to drought impacted Farmers, Farm Workers and Farm Contractors and Suppliers to be spent in their communities. There have been **44 Rotary Clubs** involved to date (providing catering) and **\$1,500 donated** to each Rotary Club which totals **\$66,000**.

**The RAWCS Southern Region has been supported through the Drought Community Outreach Program, with the following events:**

### RAWCS Southern Region DCOP Assistance

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|----|---|
| 11 | <b><u>Birchip Event</u></b><br>10am - 2pm Monday 22nd March <b>Rotary Club of Warracknabeal</b>     |
| 27 | <b><u>Kerang Event</u></b><br>9am - 1pm Tuesday 23rd March <b>Rotary Club of Kerang</b>             |
| 2  | <b><u>Sea Lake Event</u></b><br>4 pm - 6pm Tuesday 23rd March <b>Rotary Club N/A</b>                |
| 18 | <b><u>Ouyen Event</u></b><br>10am - 2pm Wednesday 24th March <b>Rotary Club Mildura Deakin</b>      |
| 55 | <b><u>Robinvale Event</u></b><br>10am - 2pm Thursday 25th March <b>Rotary Club Robinvale/Euston</b> |
| 10 | <b><u>Murtoa Event</u></b><br>10am Monday 29th March <b>Rotary Club of Horsham</b>                  |
| 51 | <b><u>Hopetoun Event</u></b><br>3 pm Tuesday 30th March <b>Rotary Club of Warracknabeal</b>         |
| 21 | <b><u>Werrimull</u></b><br>4pm Wednesday 31st March <b>Rotary Club N/A</b>                          |

**195 cards 8 DCOP events / 5 Rotary Clubs**

**\$97,500**

**13 Team Visits 48 DCOP Events Planned (7 within RAWCS SR)**

**27 DCOP Events have been Postponed**  
**21 DCOP Events are Going ahead**