

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 the **DCOP project has engaged and provided the following:**

60 Rotary Clubs have now supported 84 Drought Outreach Events:

- Average community benefit from each event \$20,000
- Southern Region DCOP Outreach Events: **(17 Planned for 2022 / 4 completed)**

Developments:

The DCOP Grant duration has now been extended to **30th June 2022**.

Currently working with Southern Region Rotary District Districts to distribute cards, engage communities through local Rotary Club initiatives and developing a pilot project with NRRRA to assist Rotary Clubs in drought affected areas to develop Outreach projects with support from the DCOP & NRRRA and with the ability to also distribute \$500 debit cards within the guidelines. These are the proposed DCOP events/activities for Victoria in 2022.

DATE	TOWN	COUNCIL
Monday 14 Feb 2022	Omeo	East Gippsland Shire
Tuesday 15 Feb 2022	Bairnsdale	N/A
Wednesday 16 Feb 2022	Nowa Nowa	East Gippsland Shire
Thursday 17 Feb 2022	Buchan	East Gippsland Shire
Friday 18 Feb 2022	Mallacoota	East Gippsland Shire
Monday 7 Mar 2022	Balranald	Balranald
Tuesday 8 Mar 2022	Moulamein	Murray River
Wednesday 9 Mar 2022	Deniliquin	Edward River
Thursday 10 Mar 2022	Coleambally	Murrumbidgee
Monday 2 May 2022	Euroa	Strathbogie Council
Tuesday 3 May 2022	Benalla & Milawa	Benalla & Wangaratta Council
Wednesday 4 May 2022	Nathalia	Moira Council
Thursday 5 May 2022	Cobram	Moira Council
Monday 23 May 2022	Campbell Town	Northern Midlands
Tuesday 24 May 2022	Latrobe	Latrobe
Wednesday 25 May 2022	Flinders Island	Flinders island