

FARMERS RELIEF PROJECT

2018-2019



Committee

Rex Estoppey - Tony Murray - Gillian Reeve - Bonnie Walker - John Walker - Michelle Young

FARMERS RELIEF

The day after celebrating 80 years of serving the community, the Rotary Club of Bairnsdale was contacted by the Rotary Club of Lilydale in the Yarra Valley. They had been given a donation of \$10,000.00 and wanted to assist the farmers in the Bairnsdale area. They acquired 100 bales of hay which they hoped to bring to Bairnsdale. After negotiations their end, as well as ours we managed to deliver the much-needed bales to Bairnsdale.

Together with the first delivery of hay, Lilydale gave the remainder of the monies that had been donated to them to be spent within the local community. From that an idea came to talk to local businesses about accepting vouchers that would be issued and then the club would reimburse them. To date eight businesses have come on board, so then the vouchers were able to be distributed and used to assist in farm purchases. Sheep farmers who are experiencing a lack of grain for their livestock, so after identifying who needed help, these vouchers have been used to pay money off their accounts at a local feed store. To date over \$6500.00 worth of vouchers have been distributed.



What else can we do? was the thought amongst the members of the small sub-committee that had been formed - a barbecue to show the farmers in the Buchan, Gelantipy and Orbost areas, that we are thinking about them. So, on the first weekend in October that is exactly what happened at the Buchan Caves Reserve. About 45 farmers with families attended a free barbecue, where a free raffle saw the distribution of Rotary vouchers, free passes from a local fun park, chocolates, wines food hampers, bags of potatoes and onions. A great time was had by all and our District Governor for 9820, Janne Speirs together with Assistant Governor Judy van der Vlugt attended on the day, mingling with the farmers and listening to the stories.

How do we source the hay, you may ask? From the beginning the Rotary Club of Lilydale has sourced hay that is both donated and has to be paid for, either by them, us or a joint effort. Gippsland Farmers Relief were approached by a farmer in Glengarry who has 180 small bales that he wanted to donate. Rex as ever with his contacts, managed to organise a group of farmers in Glenaladale, with trucks, to collect and then distribute to needy farmers in their area. A win, win situation. A lovely lady farmer in Yellingbo offered bales at a reduced price and on hearing of all the work that we have been doing, offered a further discount AND gave us a donation. The Rotary Club of Hastings/Westernport are the latest to come to our rescue sourcing several loads of hay, some donated, some sharing the cost with us and now we are negotiations for more smaller bales. The list goes on, but in these tough times it is becoming harder and harder.



When you have to bring in this amount of hay, you need the trucks. Bonnie with her contacts has managed to organise many loads. Then we used a cartage firm in Lilydale who offered a cheaper rate for carting hay from there and Dimboola. Sourcing hay from a local supplier, he offered to deliver for free. Through our Facebook post, a lovely man called Paul from Trafalgar offered his truck and trailer to bring us hay. He has made three trips now and each time refuses to accept any money. Our own local Wayne from Donaldda's has been our latest hero, carting two loads from Hastings/Westernport at only the cost of fuel.

Talking of Donaldda Motors, from the first load they have been there for us, providing a tractor to unload from the large trucks and then loading back on to the farmers smaller vehicles. Those first loads were stored at the aerodrome and we were worried that they may disappear, but that was not the case. Donaldda's then offered the use of their locked yard to store any further loads, we supply a list of the farmers who will be collecting and how many bales. Wayne and his trusty machine ensure that it all runs smoothly. Without this resource we would not have been able to keep up the good work.





In the early days when we thought we could not go on as funds dwindled, a call from Johnno's Opportunity Shop in Bairnsdale was a life saver. They had profits made in 2017-2018 that they were keen to give to a community group to ensure that the funds stayed in this area. A presentation of a cheque for \$15,000.00 put the project back on the map and we were able to buy hay, pay for cartage on more loads.



As the word spread, through numerous articles in the local newspaper, social media and District 9820, more donations flowed in. Even the local primary and secondary schools came onboard, plus private donors. A local retailer, Bernie Eastman decided that he needed to do something for the drought affected farmers. He organised 16 shops to participate in a Shopping Days promotion with discounts offered over three days and a percentage being donated to Farmers Relief. A flow on from that was an interview on the Channel Nine News with participating shop owners and Gillian from our club.

Thanks to our own District 9820, we received \$5,000.00 and a contact within District 9800 who had received some of the monies from the Channel Nine appeal. A few phone calls later and a submission was sent in, within days \$30,000.00 landed in our account and we could continue to think big.

As a club we had not actually done a fundraiser for this project, having allocated only \$2,000.00 at the beginning of the year. A young lady called Michelle, a visiting Rotaractor to our club for over a year, offered to organise one and so a Music Bingo night became a reality. We had hoped for a better attendance and to therefore raise more money, but it was agreed that everyone on the night had a fabulous time, raising \$1000.00. Music from the 60's, 70's and 80's rang out through St John's Church Hall and even if you did have the title on your card you were able to sing along and have a dance. The evening was summed up by one of the prize winners, a farmer's wife, who had almost decided not to come as she could not afford

it. She had a fabulous night and winning one of the baskets of goodies, certainly lifted her spirits. Her family had been the recipient of some of our hay and vouchers and she gave a short speech on the night thanking us.



Another notable donation came from the Freemasons Victoria, who presented Rex and Gillian with a cheque for \$10,100.00 at their Gala Banquet held in Melbourne. What a night and it is always great to have the support of other not for profit organisations. In the last two weeks we have received another smaller donation from a local Masonic Lodge, so the momentum is still going.

We have had a local contact in the Buchan area, right from the start of this project, who has sourced names of farmers who were in need, plus helped distribute vouchers to needy families. As winter approached and hay supplies were hard to source the idea emerged that we could help with a supplement called Molafos, a mixture of molasses and urea. One tanker load, worth over \$11,000.00 has the ability to help over 20 farmers. Containers were organised by the farming communities of Buchan and Ensay, we organised two tankers and they decanted the supplement for transportation to their farms. We are always listening to the ever-changing needs of the farmers and adapt our relief accordingly.



Since August we have increased our presence on Facebook with one post receiving 34,245 views and 485 shares, resulting in offers of help with hay and cartage. The local newspaper must be getting sick of us, as nearly every week we get a photo with editorial printed. Articles have been sent to Rotary Down Under magazine, plus of course our own District newsletter. The Rotary Club of Lilydale also managed to get several articles in their local news. This of course has raised the profile of Rotary in Bairnsdale and throughout Victoria it would seem.

Throughout the whole process we have made many contacts with Rotary Clubs, Rotary Districts, CWA Chapters, Probus Clubs, Aged Care Facilities, Freemasons, Convents and many Rotarians. We can honestly say that without all this assistance we would not have achieved what we have. At the outset we promised the farmers in our area that we are in for the long haul and we are committed to continuing with the relief work until this drought is over. We have \$23,000.00 to carry over to 2019-2020 and hopefully by then there will be some relief from the drought.

We have distributed over 900 bales of hay, issued vouchers to the value of \$6,500.00 but as we looked at all the donations that we had received as well as hay and cartage, we realised that the monetary value of the hay donated is estimated at \$90,000.00 and the cartage \$12,000.00. Hard to believe that a small club of 19 members, when we started (now 23) have managed so much over the last 12 months.

This report could go on and on, the amount of help we have received is mind blowing, but only goes to show that in times of need, communities come together for the common good, with Rotary right in the thick of it.

The detailed financials are presented as part of this report.

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING:

District 9820 Disaster Relief Fund
District 9800 Drought Relief Fund
Rotary Club of Lilydale
Rotary Club of Lakes Entrance
Rotary Club of Drouin
Rotary Club of Altona
Rotary Club of Hastings/Westernport
Rotary Club of Inverloch
Rotary Club of Rosebud/Rye
Rotary Club of Trafalgar
Rotary Club of Warnambool Daybreak
Rotary Club of Altona
Rotary Club of Kooweerup Lang Lang
Rotary Club of Melton
Johnno's Op Shop
St Mary's Op Shop
Freemasons Victoria
Freemasons Holy Royal Arch Chapter Bairnsdale
Lakes Entrance Garden Club
Brigidine Sisters
Probus Club of Pakenham
Panmure CWA
Eagle Point Primary School
Warragul Cake Decorating Assoc
Diane Jochetz
Sportfirst – Bernie Eastman
Combined traders in the Shopping Days Promotion
Rose Anne Amarant
Bairnsdale & District Art Society
Gippsland Truck Centre
Dyers Transport
Willaton Transport
Grinters Transport
Donalda Motors
Elders Farm Supplies

Plus several other donators as documented in the financials

INCOME AND EXPENSES FARMERS RELIEF PROJECT 2018-20019

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
29/04/2019	Music Bingo Night		994.00
22/08/2018	Diane Jochetz		2,000.00
22/08/2018	Rotary Club of Lilydale		3,967.00
28/08/2018	Rotary Club of Bairnsdale		2,000.00
04/09/2018	Rotary Club of Bairnsdale		47.90
10/09/2018	Rotary Club of Lakes Entrance.		500.00
19/09/2018	Rotary Club of Sale		1,000.00
21/09/2018	Johnno's Op Shop		15,000.00
26/09/2018	Anonymous		248.90
28/09/2018	St Pauls Sale		95.00
11/10/2018	Donation		25.00
19/10/2018	Warragul Cake Decorating Ass Branch of Vi		1,030.00
23/10/2018	Rotary Club of Trafalgar		3,000.00
29/10/2018	Rotary Club of Inverloch Inc		1,000.00
29/10/2018	Eagle Point Primary School		420.00
29/10/2018	Rotary Club of Lilydale		500.00
02/11/2018	Rose Anne Amarant		2,000.00
06/11/2018	Connie Cunningham		100.00
12/11/2018	Donation		16.80
05/12/2018	Meadowvale Retirement Village		2,590.40
11/12/2018	Rotary Club of Bairnsdale		5.00
13/12/2018	Rotary Club of Rosebud Rye		1,050.00
09/01/2019	Panmure Country Womens Ass		1,000.00
23/01/2019	Probus.Club of Pakenham Inc		657.20
29/01/2019	Donation		20.00
05/02/2019	Rotary Club of Warrnambool Daybreak		3,015.00
06/02/2019	Rotary Club of Bairnsdale		5.00
12/02/2019	MA Grimes		100.00
13/02/2019	Helene Hunt		50.00
15/02/2019	Dorothy Purton		50.00
18/02/2019	Paul Taylor		100.00
18/02/2019	Anonymous		50.00
18/02/2019	Harley Brook		1,000.00
20/02/2019	from Rotary Australia		30,000.00
22/02/2019	RK Docking & RBob and SallyD		100.00
24/02/2019	Rotary Club of Bairnsdale		5.00
27/02/2019	District 9820 Disaster Relief Fund		5,000.00

01/03/2019	Anonymous	238.45	
01/03/2019	Rotary Club of Drouin	7,000.00	
05/03/2019	Rotary Club of Bairnsdale	5.00	
12/03/2019	Rotary Club of Bairnsdale	5.00	
12/03/2019	Rotary Club of Altona	2,100.00	
18/03/2019	Potted Pear	388.00	
18/03/2019	Sue Tufnell	200.00	
18/03/2019	LLoyds Menswear	100.00	
18/03/2019	SportFirst Bairnsdale	645.00	
19/03/2019	Bulmers Gifts	330.00	
19/03/2019	Aussie Disposals	300.00	
19/03/2019	Just Books	335.00	
19/03/2019	Hendo's Cafe	375.00	
19/03/2019	Rotary Club of Bairnsdale	5.00	
20/03/2019	AAA Electronics	47.00	
20/03/2019	Beds R Us	100.00	
20/03/2019	Toyworld	173.00	
20/03/2019	Pallots Jewellers	382.00	
21/03/2019	Amcal Corner Chemist	300.00	
21/03/2019	Anonymous Hay Bale Sale	213.00	
25/03/2019	Rotary Club Of Melton	500.00	
25/03/2019	Leading Edge Computers.	50.00	
02/04/2019	Rotary Club of Bairnsdale	5.00	
05/04/2019	Joan Rofo	400.00	
10/04/2019	Rotary Club KooWeeRup - Lang Lang	2,000.00	
11/04/2019	Brigidine Sisters	1,000.00	
23/04/2019	Sand Bar Surf	100.00	
29/04/2019	Lakes Entrance Garden Club Inc	500.00	
29/04/2019	Blennerhassett, Beatrice Ann	100.00	
29/04/2019	Rotary Club of Warrnambool Daybreak	1,000.00	
07/05/2019	Rotary Club of Bairnsdale	5.00	
07/05/2019	Rotary Club of Bairnsdale	2.00	
08/05/2019	Freemasons Victoria	7,500.00	
14/05/2019	St Mary's Opp Shop	2,000.00	
16/05/2019	Freemasons Victoria	2,600.00	
21/05/2019	Rotary Club of Bairnsdale	5.00	
24/05/2019	Peter & Margaret Down	50.00	
18/06/2019	Rotary Club of Bairnsdale	5.00	
21/06/2019	Rotary Club of Bairnsdale	33.75	
27/06/2019	Patricia Keat	100.00	
27/06/2019	Bairnsdale & District Arts Society INC	1,000.00	
27/06/2019	Bairnsdale Holy Royal Arch Chapter No 62	600.00	
Total Donations Received		0.00	110,545.40
	Heads & Tails Changeover	293.85	
		0.00	293.85

28/09/2018	September Farmers V's	2,000.00	20 Vouchers gone out in Sep
30/09/2018	Rotary Club of Lilydale	2,777.50	Payment re our share of Hay with Lilydale
30/09/2018	Orbost Chamber of Commerce	1,000.00	vouchers of \$100.00 for the Orbost area x 10
02/10/2018	David Luckes	255.04	Farmers BBQ @ Buchan
04/10/2018	Bunnings Warehouse	28.65	1 x bottle of gas
09/10/2018	October Farmers BBQ Vouchers	1,000.00	Vouchers Given out at BBQ on Sunday 7th Oct 18
15/10/2018	October Farmers \$250 Vouchers	1,500.00	\$250 Vouchers
17/10/2018	Aldi	4.68	Milk Oil for Oct Farmers BBQ
17/10/2018	Choc Box	200.00	Boxes of Choc's October BBQ Buchan
17/10/2018	Rob Bennett & Sons	4,965.90	Supply & Deliver rolls of Oaten Hay/Rolls of Meadow Hay
01/11/2018	Pearce's Oil City Transport P/L ATF Pearc	6,630.00	Grass Hay x 34 Rolls @195.00 = \$6630 – free Delivery
07/11/2018	Omeo Ski Hire & Service Station	100.00	Fuel Voucher
01/12/2018	Pearce's Oil City Transport P/L ATF Pearc	6,630.00	Grass Hay x 34 rolls @ 195.00
07/01/2019	Pearce's Oil City Transport P/L ATF Pearc	5,780.00	Grass Hay x 34 rolls @ 170.00 - Nil Charge for Delivery
06/02/2019	Rob Bennett & Sons	1,650.00	delivery of 44/ 4x4 hay rolls
18/02/2019	Yarra Ranges Contracting	963.60	Mowing raking and bling of hay as directed by Peter Stroker
19/02/2019	Rob Bennett & Sons	1,650.00	delivery of 44/ 4x4 hay rolls
12/03/2019	Perangiwa Farm	4,800.00	80 Haybales @60.00
15/03/2019	DEPL Haulage	12,100.00	1T Molafos 15 S
03/04/2019	Rob Bennett & Sons	5,610.00	Supply & delivery of 30 hay rolls Ex Grayere
05/05/2019	Pearce's Oil City Transport P/L ATF Pearc	6,630.00	Grass hay 34 rolls @ \$195 - delivery free
16/05/2019	DEPL Haulage	11,935.00	25T Molasses
19/06/2019	BJR Landscaping	6,599.82	44 Round Hay bales
20/06/2019	Rotary Club of Hastings Western Port	3,300.00	1/2 share in Hay 44 Round bales with Rotary Club of Hastings /Western Port
		<u>88,110.19</u>	<u>0.00</u>
17/10/2018	Australia Post	<u>4.99</u>	
		<u>4.99</u>	<u>0.00</u>
		<u>88,115.18</u>	<u>111,833.25</u>
	TOTAL MONIES TO CARRY FORWARD TO 2019-2020	<u>23,718.07</u>	

FARMERS RELIEF SUB COMMITTEE

This committee has functioned as a cohesive unit since day one. Everyone has a job and we trust each other to carry it out, never stepping on each other's toes. We have enjoyed a great year working together and look forward to it continuing into this next Rotary year

Rex Estoppey

The voice on the end of the phone as farmers desperate for fodder poured their hearts out to him. A local born and bred he understood the plight of the farmers and always had a comforting word and ensured that they got an allocation of hay.

Tony Murray

Our President for 2018-2019, a retired farmer who also understood what they were going through and used some of his contacts to assist where needed

Gillian Reeve

As the main contact for any enquiries, she was more than happy to explain what we were doing and send emails, write submissions for grants and talk to whoever would listen to encourage more donations. Together with Bonnie she has written many articles for the local papers as well as District 9820 Newsletter and the Rotary Down Under magazine

Bonnie & John Walker

The pair of them work as a well-oiled team as they used all their farming contacts to organise free transport when they could and ensure that articles, plus pictures found their way to the local paper.

Michelle Young

When she took on the job as Treasurer for 2018-2019 she never thought that she signed up for handling thousands of dollars, producing detailed reports, paying numerous bills on time and keeping accurate reports on all monies received and expended. She has achieved all this and is still smiling



Paul and Warren with another load



Hay to help out in the east

By Casey Neill

Rotarians and Yarra Valley farmers have now sent 120 hay bales to drought-affected farmers in East Gippsland.

The Mail reported on 21 August that the Rotary Club of Lilydale was sending 78 bales of hay to Bairnsdale plus \$6000 in grain and fuel vouchers.

President Ron Haines said that with help from the Rotary Club of Healesville and Yarra Valley farmers, that number had grown to 120 bales.

"The Rotary Club of Lilydale has also donated a further \$6000 for grain and fuel vouchers, with several transport companies donating their trucks for transportation of the hay - this has been a huge saving."

The Rotary Club of Bairnsdale is co-ordi-

nating the donations, which have reached farmers in Orbost, Buchan, Marlo, Cabbage Tree and Orbost.

Mr Haines received a report from Bairnsdale Rotary secretary Gillian Reeve that the donation had been warmly received.

"As Gillian stated, the extent of the drought cannot be underestimated as some farmers have now run out of feed and they now see some of the cows walking away from their calves due to lack of feed," he said.

"Farmers are dealing with no feed, cattle starving, drought conditions, and the mental health issues that all go along with this."

Call Mr Haines on 0412 252 344 to support the relief effort.

"Every dollar we receive goes directly to the farmers in East Gippsland," he said.



Farmers collect the donated hay in Bairnsdale.

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BE THE INSPIRATION