

UPDATE - D9705 Flood Response and Plans as at 27 Jan 2022

The purpose of this message is to provide club presidents and district leaders with advice on the flood response in Central West NSW and the Riverina.

Current action in Eugowra. The RC of Orange Daybreak led by **Michelle Duncan** with **Colin Nayda** have sustained an enormous effort that is deeply appreciated by the residents of Eugowra. Focused relief action by Rotary volunteers has effectively finished although some leaders and teams will still undertake specific actions.

- Club member and former Cabonne Shire General Manager **Graeme Fleming** assisted by Orange Daybreak Rotarians will today help the Orange Ex-Services Club undertake the distribution of cash vouchers to Eugowra residents.
- **Scott Griffiths** and the RC of Orange have managed the herculean task of distributing the mountain of donated items to Eugowra residents, or to appropriate charities when the goods were not needed there. That there was very little wastage - just 2 pallets of old kitchen utensils and tired stuff - is a good indication of their efficiency.
- A one-page infographic of D9705's flood response is attached. It may be helpful in conveying the extent of Rotary and Rotary Australia World Community Service's (RAWCS) support to the many communities affected by the flood emergency.

Premiere of Rotary Flood Response Video. The video made by the RC of Parkes of the flood and Rotary's response will be premiered at the Eugowra Bowling Club on Sunday 5 Feb. We hope the video will record the effects of the flood and what Rotarians did to assist the town to recover. Possibly it will show actions that could help other districts if they experience a similar event.

- You can see the video trailer here <https://youtu.be/ZjG9xfc1vLY>
- The bottom line is that Eugowra residents still need help and donations are still most welcome. To do that, go to the [RAWCS project page](#) and search for "46-2022-23: Assistance to flood-affected Central West and Riverina regions of NSW (RABS)" Click on that and follow the steps.

Rotary Australia Benevolent Society Project 46-2022-23. We have kicked off the RABS project and have had an early conversation with Eugowra's leader Sean Haynes as to what is needed in the form of benevolent relief projects. District Governor **Geraldine Rurenga** will attend the video premiere and further conversations may well be had. At this stage the situation is as follows:

- **No need for emergency housing.** That is being provided by Commonwealth and State government agencies. Mr Haynes mentioned some 160 plus pods would be coming in and people would be transitioning to them.
- **No need for mental health or trauma counselling** - that is being covered;
 - However, the one thing in this area that is possible is an event or activity for men. The town has had held a 'pamper day' for women and Mr. Haynes is hoping for something of the kind for men. So I am on the lookout for a 'mens' day.
- **Positive towards Air Conditioning.** Mr. Haynes was very pleased with the work that partner-of-a-Bathurst Rotarian Dave Conyers and his tradie volunteers have been doing to install new or 2nd hand air conditioners across the town. I gather he would like to see that continue though

both of us were unsure of the status the work. I have sought an update from Dave Conyers. This might be a "quick win".

- **Positive towards Storage and Garden Sheds.** Mr. Haynes thought these were needed on those housing blocks where flood waters had scoured the surface flat. Many people had lost their sheds and all the tools and things stored in them.
- **Positive towards Kitchen Refits.** He noted many existing kitchens are made of melamine particle board that swell when soaked in water. So there is a need and he noted a mens shed is aiming to bring some 2nd hand kitchens salvaged from a retirement village. He felt that there was scope for more of the same though the extent of the need was not clear.
 - *Community Core Central West* which is associated with Peter Milbank and the RC of Orange North may have an interest in this sort of project. I gather Community Core comprises former members of the RC of Orange Calare.

Further updates will follow.

Yours in Rotary

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