

Rotary
Australian Districts



Australian Government

National Emergency Management Agency

The Drought Community Outreach Program

A successful Public – Private Partnership



Final Report

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Drought Community Outreach Program

Final Report contents

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Executive Summary

The Drought Community Outreach Program (DCOP) was a highly successful cross sector partnership between the Australian Commonwealth Government and Rotary, designed to support rural families and communities through the worst drought in the history of the nation. It directly supported 13,043 families through provision of cash vouchers, advice, counselling and support and conducted outreach events in 138 selected communities across Australia.

The DCOP project delivered :-

- \$500 vouchers to **13,043** drought affected families. **\$6,521,500** of direct aid.
- Outreach events delivered to **138** drought affected communities.
- An opportunity for direct delivery of information on Government support programs to drought impacted families.
- An opportunity for numerous support agencies to directly meet with drought affected Communities and individuals.
- An average boost to each of the local economies of the small and remote towns where Outreach events were held, of **more than \$20,000**.
- More than **9,500** hours of Rotary volunteer work.
- An additional opportunity for farming families to get together, socialise and provide mutual support in dealing with the drought.
- Significant **mental health support** to many victims of the long and intense drought.

The DCOP has played an important part in assisting farming families to survive the worst drought on record, to know where to seek support in the next drought and the programs and tools that are available to help their preparations. The DCOP formed a significant Government sponsored contribution to building rural resilience delivered through the Australian network of Rotary Clubs.

Background

The DCOP was conceived in late 2019 through a recognition by the Commonwealth Government and Rotary that the persistent severe drought was having cumulative negative economic and emotional consequences on affected farms and rural communities and further support was required.

Governments at all levels had initiated support programs for primary producers and affected rural businesses and their communities and many not-for-profit (NFP) organizations were applying donated funds to assist in various practical ways. In particular the Commonwealth Drought Community Support Initiative (DCSI) had provided financial assistance to eligible families through distribution partnerships with Rotary (RAWCS), St Vincent de Paul Society and the Salvation Army and had also provided funding for separate distribution by the Country Women's Association.

The Drought Situation

Drought periods are a reasonably well understood and expected cyclic phenomena in the Australian landscape and experience had prepared many rural enterprises and communities to be resilient in the dealing with their impacts. However, the drought that commenced in many areas in 2017 and progressively worsened during 2018 and 2019 was far more severe than many people had ever previously endured. In many areas the rainfall measured during calendar 2019 was less than half the lowest ever previously recorded annual total.

By late 2019 crops had failed or been severely reduced in many areas, livestock producers had been hand feeding stock for so long that their capacity to continue buying in feed was nearing exhaustion and water supplies for stock and domestic use had failed or soon would. On top of this, bushfires had broken out in many areas and created additional damage to homes and farms. Many farmers quipped that they were not worried about fire as there was nothing left on their farms to burn.

Farming families in many areas were suffering mental and physical exhaustion and financial hardship from which it would take many years to recover, when the drought finally broke.

The recognition of the economic consequences for rural families and the survival of rural communities, together with the growing concerns over the mental health consequences to the long term 'slow-burn' nature of drought as a natural disaster, prompted Rotary and the Commonwealth Government to consider additional ways to assist.



The Partnership

Rotary Australia World Community Service Ltd (RAWCS) is a NFP Company limited by Guarantee that facilitates the humanitarian service projects of Australian Rotary Clubs and Districts in both overseas aid and in Australia. In November 2019, RAWCS leaders visited Canberra and met with the then Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management, the Hon David Littleproud and staff of the National Drought and North Queensland Flood Response and Recovery Agency (NDNQFRRRA - Drought Agency) and discussed ways in which the Rotary Club network could further assist in supporting drought affected communities and increasing awareness of the Commonwealth Government's drought assistance programs.

The Drought Community Outreach Program was developed from these and follow-up discussions and formalized as Grant Agreement DCOP000002 signed on 9th June 2020 by RAWCS and the Department of Industry Innovation and Science, representing the Commonwealth Government.

Grant Agreement DCOP000002 was formally amended by Deed of Variation on 2nd March 2021 to increase the grant amount from \$5M to \$7.5M and subsequent variations amended the agreement end date to 31st December 2022 to allow for delays caused by Covid shutdowns and related travel and operating restrictions.

During the course of the DCOP the Commonwealth 'Drought Agency' was reorganized from the original NDNQFRRRA to the National Recovery and Resilience Agency (NRRA) and subsequently further reorganized as the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).

Program design

The intended outcomes of the DCOP were:

- To provide immediate and direct support to farming households facing hardship arising from the impact of drought;
- To improve levels of economic activity in regions by supporting local communities and businesses, and;
- To increase coordination of drought support and enhance community awareness of the Australian Government's drought assistance measures through community events.

These outcomes were to be achieved by conducting outreach events in selected rural towns across the drought affected parts of the nation and by delivery of \$500 vouchers to drought affected families. Drought affected areas were determined by RAWCS, in close collaboration with the Drought Agency, but were flexible enough so that eligible families would not be rejected due to artificial lines on maps such as LGA boundaries. Numerous sources of information were considered including the Bureau of Meteorology two-year rainfall deficiency map, State drought declaration maps and field reports.

Towns selected to host outreach events were selected by the Drought Agency in collaboration with RAWCS. These towns represented a fair distribution of the resources available (budget for events) across populated drought affected areas in each State.

Outreach Events

Outreach events were designed as 4 hour 'one-stop shop' events in community buildings where a dozen or more Government and non-Government (NFP) agencies were represented to offer information on available support programs, advice, leaflets and some giveaways. Appendix 1 lists all participating Agencies by State where the relevant outreach events were held.

RAWCS regional representatives facilitated the voucher distribution and free catering was provided by local Rotary Clubs. As much as possible, all consumables, accommodation and fuel were sourced from local businesses. Generally, the events were grouped into itineraries of five events over a week.

The events were promoted jointly by RAWCS, the local Rotary Clubs and the Drought Agency using local focused social media, print media radio and mail drops. Promotion was targeted to the catchment of each Outreach event by using the networks of the local Rotary Clubs and other organisations such as Rural Financial Councillors, Chambers of Commerce, Local Government, and relevant local businesses such as Stock and Station Agents, Rural Merchandise Stores and local Accountants. The Drought Agency produced a Media Pack of promotional resources for each itinerary including editorial, posts, posters, social media tiles. (See examples in Appendix 3)

Advertisements were placed in local Newspapers, on local radio stations, including real time on-air interviews, and posters and flyers were put up in shopfronts and distributed so that all local networks were informed. Rotary Clubs employed their targeted social media which was often picked up by 'community champions' and disseminated widely. In several cases announcements were made at local Stock Selling Centres and at other Rural Community events in the leadup to the Outreach Event.

Often as a final reminder, Rotarians and NRRA staff walked through the main street of the towns talking with businesses and community members to highlight the place and time of the outreach event on the day. The program was also promoted with a presence at major Regional Rural Events backed up with pull-up banners, posters and booths manned by the Drought Agency staff.

A limited number of Outreach events also featured a guest speaker such as Mary O'Brien and her "Are you Boggled Mate" rural mental health presentation. A few events also included entertainment such as the "Crack Up Sisters" just before Christmas 2021 in Mungindi and Coolatai NSW. These special presentations at outreach events were organised by the Drought Agency.

Voucher Distribution

An important aspect of the DCOP was the provision of \$500 vouchers to eligible families who were suffering financial strain due to the sustained drought. The vouchers were in the form of \$500 pre-paid debit cards that could be used in local 'bricks and mortar' retail outlets but not on the internet. The vouchers were intended to be both financial assistance as well as an incentive to families to attend the outreach events and thus be acquainted with the full range of support programs.

Very specific eligibility criteria were tested with each applicant. Criteria included:-

- Be an Australian Citizen or Permanent Resident.
- Be 18 years of age or older.

- Be a farmer, farm worker, farm supplier or contractor. -Live and/or work in an area that is identified as drought-affected, in line with RAWCS's drought assistance arrangements.
- Be in need of financial assistance to pay for household expenses.
- Not have previously received a DCOP voucher.

Applicants were required to agree that they met these criteria in completing and signing the application form and additional information including: Address, phone number, driver's licence number, date of birth, Property PIC or NGR were recorded to ensure that only one voucher was issued per household. [PIC: Property Identification Code; NGR: National Grower Registration Number for broad acre cropping.]



In most cases Rotary volunteers, Drought Agency Regional Support Officers (RSOs) or Councillors assisted applicants in completing the application form.

When completed applications were accepted, the applicants were advised that on receipt of the voucher they should **spend it Locally, spend it All and spend it Quickly**. This was to encourage the boost to local business and discourage recipients seeing the voucher as a resource to be preserved for future need. In addition to the \$500 debit card, the package received by successful applicants included a letter co-signed by the Federal Minister and the Chairman of RAWCS, explaining the program, as well as printed material summarising all the

relevant Government drought support programs that the recipient may also be eligible to apply for.

The commencement of the DCOP coincided with the start of Covid lockdowns which severely restricted travel and the ability to conduct outreach events. Understanding this, the contract, and subsequent contract variations, provided for \$3.2M (54%) of the budget of \$6M for vouchers (12,000 vouchers) to be distributed at Outreach 'Activities' and the remaining \$2.8M to be available for direct distribution by mail to eligible families identified through Rotary, Drought Agency RSOs and Rural Financial Councillor networks.

Contributions by the Rotary Club network

Rotary engagement with the DCOP was facilitated by RAWCS through direct contact with Rotary Clubs in or near the towns selected to host an outreach event and with the Rotary District Governor for that area. In many cases the DCOP was an additional support program to local support projects that the Clubs were already undertaking. In agreeing to participate, Rotary Clubs signed a letter of acceptance acknowledging their understanding and acceptance of the program guidelines (see Appendix 4) and agreement to observe RAWCS policies on Child Protection, Vulnerable Persons Protection and Workplace Health and Safety.

RAWCS also provided advice on Covid avoidance procedures that were appropriate to the time and location. The Drought Agency ensured compliance with the Covid requirements of the relevant State and Local authorities and provided a Covid Marshal and Covid commodities for each event.

The participating local Rotary Clubs provided free catering at each event and were able to talk with the community members who attended to offer advice and to highlight existing drought support programs that the Rotary Club was undertaking or had plans to undertake in the area. In general, local Rotarians were not directly involved with the voucher distribution process to avoid concerns over confidentiality or embarrassment to local eligible family members.



Participating Rotary Clubs received an 'event fee' of \$1,500 to put towards their fund raising for local community support. This was another form of support to local rural economies.

It is estimated that between the June 2020 start and the December 2022 completion of the DCOP Rotary volunteers contributed 9,500 hours of volunteered time to the program.

Fraud and Double dipping avoidance

RAWCS remains confident that eligibility checks were robust and appropriate to the DCOP. At most outreach events, applicant's names were checked against the online data base as an initial screening to avoid duplicate applications. All applications were subsequently checked for duplication of several key identity elements before vouchers were issued. In signing the completed voucher application form, applicants signified that they met criteria including that they were:- An Australian Citizen or Permanent Resident; 18 years of age or older; A farmer, farm worker, farm supplier or contractor; Living and/or working in an area that was identified as drought-affected (as defined by RAWCS and the Drought Agency); in need of financial assistance to pay for household expenses; And Not already in receipt of a DCOP voucher.

Additional information including: Address, phone number, driver's licence number, date of birth Property PIC or NGR were recorded to ensure that only one voucher was issued per household. Rotarians, RSOs or Councillors assisting with the application indicated, by initialling the drivers licence and PIC lines, that they had sighted the drivers licence to verify the photo ID, the date of birth recorded and that the address was the same as recorded on the application and also signed the application to indicate that all checks had been conducted and the advice regarding use of the vouchers (i.e. Spend: Locally, Quickly and All of the voucher) had been discussed with the applicants.

The DCOP extended to two and a half years because of delays caused by Covid travel restrictions and a consequence was that some applicants genuinely forgot that they had previously received a DCOP voucher. RAWCS procedure of preliminary checks on-site at the outreach events, using the on-line DCOP database, was able to screen many of these unintended double-dipping applications. Additional checks, during application processing in Sydney, also subsequently identified additional apparent application duplications which were resolved by on-line checking of some details and, in some cases, by phoning the applicant for additional checks and verifications. This later group were mostly from applications received by RSOs, outside of the outreach events.

The DCOP database was encrypted and only accessible by a small number of trained RAWCS representatives. It was available on-line (password protected) to enable real-time applications checking at the Outreach events and in the head office. At the completion of the DCOP, the database was taken off-line to secure storage so that the contained personal details cannot be hacked or misused. RAWCS has in place a robust Privacy Policy.

As described above the DCOP data base was actively used at Outreach events and in head office to screen applications for any indication of fraud or double-dipping. Numerous duplicated applications were identified and rejected. In most cases these duplicated applications were likely due to the applicant simply forgetting that they had received a DCOP voucher earlier in the program by direct mail or in some cases that a member of the same household had already received a DCOP voucher. No cases of direct reportable fraud were identified.

DCOP Operational Achievements

In all, 138 Outreach events were conducted by Rotary and the Drought Agency, covering drought affected or recovering areas in every State. These included 41 events in Queensland, 34 events in NSW, 17 events in Victoria, 8 events in Tasmania, 30 events in South Australia and 8 events in Western Australia. (See Appendix 2 for complete list of Outreach events.)

In supporting the Outreach events, 108 Rotary Clubs participated (in some cases in several remote locations), and one Lions Club, one local school support group and one CWA branch also helped when no Rotary Club was available. In every case Rotarians representing RAWCS attended to facilitate the \$500 voucher distribution and processing.

At the end of the program the \$6M budget for vouchers was exceeded by \$521,500 as **13,043** vouchers, worth **\$6,521,500** were distributed. Of these 7,199 (55%) were distributed to applicants identified at one of the 138 outreach events or smaller less formal mini events conducted by RSOs and 5,844 were distributed by direct mail. The increased budget allocation was possible because the DCOP had to be extended to 2 years and 6 months to cope with delays caused by Covid travel restrictions. As a result, some vouchers issued early in the program (valid for 12 months) expired with funds still not fully expended. These funds were recycled to provide the additional vouchers required as a result of a last-minute surge in applications over the last itinerary of outreach events which concluded in July 2022.



Through the DCOP outreach events and the information pack supplied with the vouchers, the program has achieved a wider and better understanding of the available Government and other agency support programs that are available to drought affected families and communities. The project has also contributed to strengthening and maintaining rural town service centres, in drought

affected areas, and boosting confidence to persist in the next drought. Significantly the project has played a part in improving the mental health and averting the suicide of drought impacted farmers.

The Outreach events provided an additional opportunity for Rotary Clubs and many participating agencies to talk to farming families directly and to offer counselling, advice and practical support during the drought and the recovery phase, also contributing to planning and preparations that could be made to prepare for dealing with the next drought. The Outreach events also provided a social opportunity for often remote families to get together and offer mutual support and understanding to each other.

The positive effect of the interactions with participants, the vouchers and the practical advice had a much greater effect on boosting the mental health in the families, that were assisted, than had been anticipated. The effect on the mental health of the community members who received the vouchers is, of course, hard to quantify. However, the comments from recipients at the time of the Outreach Events and subsequent letters of appreciation indicate that this material sign of care, from the Government and participating agencies, had a catalytic effect as a positive indication of understanding of the difficult circumstances that many people endured in dealing with and recovering from drought.

The economies of towns that hosted DCOP event were not only boosted by the expenditure of vouchers received by eligible local families, but local businesses also enjoyed the expenditure brought by the logistics supply of the events being as much as possible sourced locally. These expenditures included accommodation, meals and fuel supporting the RAWCS representatives, Drought Agency staff and the staff of the many contributing stake holder agencies as well as the catering supplies purchased by the local participating Rotary Club. It is estimated that these expenses and the local use of vouchers contributed \$20,000 on average in communities where Outreach events were held. Some communities with much higher engagement and voucher up-take received an even greater boost to the local businesses.

For many farmers, whose losses amounted to hundreds of thousands of dollars, the \$500 was not material in terms of cashflow but it was very significant as a sign of care and support in that difficult time. Of course, to farm workers, suppliers and contractors it was also financially material.



Conclusions

The DCOP demonstrated the value of the network of Rotary Clubs across the nation. Rotary Clubs are integrated in their communities and into the community leadership. Rotary members often include members and leaders in the Chambers of Commerce of the towns, the Local Government, schools and other significant community institutions. Rotarians represent a standing army of volunteers ready, willing and able to assist their communities at all times but in particular in times of need. Collaboration with national projects like the DCOP and careful application of Federal funding can provide a significant boost to programs that are usually already commenced by Rotary when help is needed.

The partnership between a national volunteer organisation focussed on humanitarian projects (RAWCS) and a Federal Agency focussed on supporting recovery and building resilience (NEMA) can deliver fantastic outcomes for communities impacted by natural disasters, as demonstrated by the DCOP in the case of drought.

In all 13,043 families received a DCOP voucher in the form of a pre-paid debit card. The vouchers served several purposes including direct financial assistance to the eligible families, injection of cashflow into local businesses, who were also suffering a downturn due to the drought restricting family budgets, as an incentive for families to attend the outreach events and as a much-needed mental health boost to many recipients. In addition to the \$500 debit card, the package received by successful applicants included a letter co-signed by the Federal Minister and the Chairman of RAWCS, explaining the program, as well as printed material summarising all the relevant Government drought support programs that the recipient may also be eligible to apply for.

Acknowledgments

The valuable volunteer work of the following Regional and National focussed Rotarians is gratefully acknowledged:

Mike Whitehouse (Former RAWCS National Treasurer and DCOP Project Manager 2020 – 2021).

PDG Brian and Carol Coffey (Representing RAWCS at DCOP events in NSW and WA)

PDG George and Mary Grant (Representing RAWCS at DCOP events throughout Queensland)

PDG Bob and Marylin Cooper (Representing RAWCS at DCOP events in SA, NSW and Tasmania)

PDG Jerry and Briony Casburn (Representing RAWCS at DCOP events in SA, Victoria and Tasmania)

PDG Robyn Yates (Representing RAWCS at DCOP events in SA and WA)

PDG Tim and Bronwyn Klar (Representing RAWCS at DCOP events in SA and NSW)

Brad Quilliam (Representing RAWCS at DCOP events in Victoria, NSW and Tasmania)

Sam and Elizabeth Cozens (Representing RAWCS at DCOP events in SA)

Notable contributions to the smooth running and great outcomes of the DCOP include:

RAWCS Staff:

Andrew Woodward (CEO)

Belinda Griffen (National Administrator)

Pauline Lane (DCOP voucher processing and eligibility verification in Sydney and in the field)

Drought Agency Staff with key roles in the DCOP at a National level:

Hannah Wandel

Kate Woodbridge

Steve Taylor

Katrina Mihajlovic

Jennifer Jeffery

Mary Jane (MJ) McLeod

Caren Carey

Jess Huntley

Commonwealth Dept. of Industry Innovation and Science – Grants Hub Staff:

Noel Taloni

Emma Odede



APPENDIX 1

DCOP Participating Agencies



DCOP Participating Agencies in NSW

Coordinators:

Rotary Australia World Community Service Ltd
Rotary Clubs (see Appendix 2)
NEMA (as NQFDRRA & NRRRA)

Participants:

ATO
(Gwydir and McIntyre Resources Management Committee) Landcare
AOD Services South West LQD, Lives Lived Well Drug and Alcohol support/New Access
Mental Health Support
Armidale Council
Australian Red Cross
Broken Hill Flying Padre
Central Tablelands Landcare
Cowra District Landcare
Coonamble CWA
Department of Business and Training
Dept Agriculture, Water & Environment
Drought Angels
Farmgate Counsellors
Frontier Services
GIVIT
HealthWISE
Home Support Services
Intereach
Irrigation Research & Extension Committee
Landcare
Lifeline
Live Better Community Services
Local Land Services
Mental Health Program
Murrumbidgee Local Health District
NBN Co
New England Family Support Service
NSW Farmers
NSW Health
Ombudsman NSW
Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator
Resilience NSW

RFCS
RHEALTH
RIC
Riverine Plains
Royal Financial Counselling Service
Rural Adversity Mental Health Program (RAMHP)
Rural Aid
Rural Crime Prevention team
Rural Financial Counselling Service
SAFE work NSW
Salvation Army
Services Australia
Social Futures
SVDP
TAFE NSW
The Hub at Guyra
Western NSW Local Health District
Western Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service
WorkSafe

DCOP Participating Agencies in Victoria

Coordinators:

Rotary Australia World Community Service Ltd (RAWCS)
Rotary Clubs (see Appendix 2)
NEMA (as NQFDRRA & NRRRA)

Participants:

ATO
Australian Red Cross
Drought Angels
Inter-tech (NDIS)
Northern District Community Health
Rural Aid
Rural Financial Counselling Service
Services Australia
SVDP
Youthrive (Rural Health Network)

DCOP Participating Agencies in Queensland

Coordinators:

Rotary Australia World Community Service Ltd (RAWCS)
Rotary Clubs (see Appendix 2)
NEMA (as NQFDRRA & NRRRA)

Participants:

AgForce QLD
ATO
Capricornia Catchments
Catholic Care
Charleville Neighbourhood Group
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
Dept of Wildlife
Drought Angels
Drug Arm
Ergon
Farmgate Support program, NSW Health
Fitzroy Basin Association
Frontier Services
GIVIT
Legal Aid
Lifeline Uniting Care
Lives Lived Well
Macintyre Ag
NBN Co
Neami National
Need a tutor
Northern Australia Climate Program, QLD Health
Primary Health Networks
QLD Dept. of Agriculture
QLD Health
QLD Rural & Industry Development Authority
QRIDA
Queensland Rural and Industry Development
RFCS
RHEALTH
RIC
Rockhampton Housing Service Centre
Royal Flying Doctor Service

Rural & Remote Mental Health
Rural Aid
Rural Financial Counselling Service
Services Australia
Southern Downs Mental health Service
SQ Landcare
SVDP
Toowoomba Regional Council
TRACT - Landscape Architecture
Tackling Regional Adversity through Integrated Care (TRAIC)

DCOP Participating Agencies in Tasmania

Coordinators:

Rotary Australia World Community Service Ltd
Rotary Clubs (see Appendix 2)
NEMA (as NQFDRRA & NRRRA)

Participants:

ATO
Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
National Resource Management (NRM) North
National Resource Management (SRM) South
Relationships Australia
Rural Alice & Well Inc
Rural Business Australia
Salvation Army
Services Australia
Rural Business Tasmania
RIC
Tasmanian Farmers & Graziers Association (TFGA)
Ausindustry
Hearing Australia
Safe Farming
Diabetes Australia
Landcare Tasmania
BOM Climate Services

DCOP Participating Agencies in South Australia

Coordinators:

Rotary Australia World Community Service Ltd (RAWCS)

Rotary Clubs (see Appendix 2)

NEMA (as NQFDRRA & NRRRA)

Participants:

ACT for Ag

ATO

Australian Red Cross

CFS Regional Prevention

CWA

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

Department of Primary Industries and Regions, SA (PIRSA)

District Council of Karoonda East Murray/Regional Development Australia

Drought Angels

Economic Development Officer - Southern Flinders

Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board

fAbs Mentor

Farmer Assist

Flinders Ranges Council

Frontier Services

Future Drought Fund

Grain Gowers

Grow - Mental wellbeing programs

Landcare

Landscape SA

Mission Australia

Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board

National Bushfire Recovery Agency

National Disability Insurance Scheme

Northern & Yorke Landscape Board

Office of the Premier's Advocate for Suicide Prevention

PIRSA

RAWCS

Reach Out

Regional Development South Australia

RFCS

RIC

Rural Business Support

SA Arid Lands Landscape Board
SA Country Fire Service
SA Mental Health Service
SA Primary Health Network
SafeWork SA
Salvation Army
Services Australia
Services Australia
SVDP
UniHub

DCOP Participating Agencies in Western Australia

Coordinators:

Rotary Australia World Community Service Ltd (RAWCS)
Rotary Clubs (see Appendix 2)
NEMA (as NQFDRRA & NRRRA)

Participants:

Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal
Lions Club of Lake Grace
Men's Shed Kellerberrin
NBN Co
Regional Men' Health
RIC
Rural Financial Counselling Service (Rural West)
Rural Men's Health
Rural West
Services Australia
SVDP

APPENDIX 2

DCOP Outreach Events

Locations, dates, venues, Rotary Clubs.



DCOP Outreach Events in NSW

Event Date	Town	Rotary Club	Rotary District	Venue
19/Oct/20	Quirindi	Quirindi	9650	Longfield Pavilion
20/Oct/20	Scone	Scone	9670	Arts & Crafts Centre Hall
21/Oct/20	Merriwa	Merriwa	9670	Show ground
22/Oct/20	Coolah	Coonabarabran	9650	Shop front, 50 Binnia St.
12/Dec/20	Mungindi	Moree	9650	Mungindi Golf Club
13/Dec/20	Coolatai	Warialda	9650	
18/May/21	Blayney	Blayney	9705	Blayney Community Centre
17/May/21	Oberon	Oberon	9705	Malachi Gilmore Hall
22/Feb/22	Wallangara	Tenterfield	9640	Wallangara School of the Arts Hall
23/Feb/22	Deep Water	Glen Innes	9650	Deepwater Hall
24/Feb/22	Bundarra	Uralla	9650	Bundarra School of the Arts Hall
25/Feb/22	Guyra	Guyra	9650	Guyra Memorial Hall
7/Mar/22	Balranald	Swan Hill Sunrise &	9780	Greenham Park Hall
8/Mar/22	Moulamein	Swan Hill	9780	Moulamein Town Hall
9/Mar/22	Deniliquin	Deniliquin	9790	Deniliquin Sunday School Hall
10/Mar/22	Colleambally	Narrandera	9705	Colleambally Community Hall
21/Mar/22	Packsaddle	No RC catering required	9510	Packsaddle Roadhouse
22/Mar/22	Tibooburra	Unley / Coromandel	9510	Albert Hall
23/Mar/22	White Cliffs	Unley / Coromandel	9510	White Cliffs Community Hall
24/Mar/22	Wilcannia	Cobar	9670	Wilcannia Community Hall
4/Apr/22	Broken Hill	Broken Hill	9510	Broken Hill Civic Centre
5/Apr/22	Menindee	Red Cliffs	9510	Menindee Civic Hall
6/Apr/22	Pooncarrie	Irymple	9510	Pooncarrie Hall
6/Apr/22	Mungo	No RC catering required	9510	Mungo Lodge
7/Apr/22	Wentworth	Wentworth	9510	Wentworth Town Hall
2/May/22	Walgett	CWA Walgett	9650	Walgett CWA Hall
3/May/22	Coonamble	Coonamble	9650	Coonamble Bowling Club
4/May/22	Piliga	Coonamble	9650	Piliga Community Centre
5/May/22	Rowena	Moree	9650	Rowena School Hall
6/May/22	Narrabri	Narrabri	9650	Crossing Theatre lawns
28/Jun/22	Goolgowi	Griffith Avanti	9705	Goolgowi Hall
29/Jun/22	Morundah	Narrandera	9705	Paradise Palladium Theatre
30/Jun/22	Finley	Finley	9790	School of Arts Hall
1/Jul/22	Oaklands	Corowa	9790	CWA Rooms

DCOP Outreach Events in Victoria

Event Date	Town	Rotary Club	Rotary District	Venue
22/Mar/21	Birchip	Warracknabeal	9780	Birchip Cropping Group
23/Mar/21	Kerang	Kerang	9780	Kerang Memorial Hall
23/Mar/21	Sea Lake	No Club needed		Royal Hotel Sea Lake
24/Mar/21	Ouyen	Mildura Deakin	9510	Ouyen United Football Club
25/Mar/21	Robinvale	Robinvale/Euston	9510	Robinvale Community Arts Centre
29/Mar/21	Murtoa	Horsham	9780	Neighbourhood House Murtoa
30/Mar/21	Hopetoun	Warracknabeal	9780	Gateway Beet - 75
14/Feb/22	Omeo Nowa	Orbost / Lakes Enterance /	9820	Soldiers Memorial Hall
16/Feb/22	Nowa	Barnsdale Sunrise /	9820	Nowa Nowa Public Hall
17/Feb/22	Buchan	Mitchell River / Barnsdale	9820	Buchan Mechanics Hall
18/Feb/22	Mallacoota	As above; 5 clubs	9820	Mallacoota Mudbrick Pavillion
2/May/22	Euroa	Euroa	9790	Memorial Oval Function room
3/May/22	Benalla	Benalla	9790	Benalla Town Hall
3/May/22	Milawa	Milawa Oxley	9790	Milawa Hall
4/May/22	Nathalia	Nathalia	9790	Nathalia Showgrounds
5/May/22	Cobram	Cobram	9790	Cobram Civic Centre
27/Jun/22	Cheshunt	Miliwa Oxley	9790	Cheshunt Hall

DCOP Outreach Events in Queensland

Event Date	Town	Rotary Club	Rotary District	Venue
24/Nov/20	Roma	Roma	9630	Roma Saleyards
25/Nov/20	St George	St George	9630	Riversands Winery
26/Nov/20	Goondiwindi	Goondiwindi	9640	Goondiwindi Community Centre
15/Mar/21	Cloncurry	Mt Isa South West	9550	Cloncurry Shire Memorial Hall
16/Mar/21	Julia Creek	Townsville Daybreak	9550	Julia Creek Civic Centre
17/Mar/21	Richmond	Charters Towers	9550	Richmond Race Course
18/Mar/21	Hugenden	Charters Towers	9550	Hughenden Diggers
19/Mar/21	Winton	Longreach	9550	Winton Council Hall
19/Apr/21	Gin Gin	Bundaberg	9570	Gin Gin RSL Hall
20/Apr/21	Childers	Childers	9570	Isis Cultural Centre
21/Apr/21	Gayndah	Gayndah	9570	Gayndah RSL Hall
22/Apr/21	Kingaroy	Kingaroy	9600	Kingaroy Town Hall
13/Jul/21	Surat	Kingaroy	9600	Surat Shire Hall
13/Jul/21	Meandarra	Kingaroy	9600	Meandarra School of Arts
14/Jul/21	Millmerran	Toowoomba Sth	9630	Millmerran Comm. & Cultural Cent.
15/Jul/21	Pittsworth	Toowoomba Sth	9630	Pittsworth Town Hall
16/Jul/21	Allora	Allora	9630	Allora Community Hall
17/Aug/21	Dululu	Mt Morgan	9570	Dululu Hall
17/Aug/21	Banana	Mt Morgan	9570	Sutherland Hall
18/Aug/21	Monto	Monto	9570	Monto Shire Hall
19/Aug/21	Eisvold	Mundubbera	9570	Eisvold Community Hall
30/Aug/21	Clermont	Emerald	9570	Clermont Civic Centre
31/Aug/21	Blackwater	Blackwater	9570	Blackwater Civic Centre
1/Sep/21	Springsure	Emerald	9570	Springsure Memorial Hall
1/Sep/21	Bauhinia	Blackwater	9570	Bauhinia Community Hall
2/Sep/21	Taroom	Toowoomba Sth	9630	Taroom Town Hall
20/Sep/21	Muttaburra	Barcaldine	9560	Muttaburra Memorial Hall
21/Sep/21	Aramac	Barcaldine		Harry Redmond Centre
22/Sep/21	Barcaldine	Barcaldine		Barcaldine Showgrounds
23/Sep/21	Alpha	Barcaldine		Alpha Town Hall
3/Nov/21	Charleville	Next Gen	9640	The Raceview Complex
4/Nov/21	Augathella	Next Gen	9640	Augathella Town Hall
5/Nov/21	Tambo	Next Gen	9640	Grasslands Art Gallery
5/Nov/21	Blackall	Next Gen	9640	Blackall Memorial Hall

22/Nov/21	Texas	Goondiwindi	9640	Texas Memorial Hall
23/Nov/21	Ma Ma Creek	Lockyer Valley	9620	Ma Ma Creek Community Centre
21/Feb/22	Stanthorpe	Stanthorpe	9640	Stanthorpe Civic Centre
20/Apr/22	Theodore	Theodore	9560	Theodore RSL Hall
20/Apr/22	Biloela	Biloela	9560	Biloela Civic Centre
21/Apr/22	Calliope	Calliope	9560	Calliope Community Centre
22/Apr/22	Gracemere	Rockhampton Fitzroy	9560	Gracemere Community Centre

DCOP Outreach Events in Tasmania

Event Date	Town	Rotary Club	Rotary District	Venue
1/Dec/20	St Marys	Kingston	9830	
3/Dec/20	Bothwell	Kingston	9830	
14/Sep/21	Swansea	Spring Bay	9830	Swansea Court House
15/Sep/21	Oatlands	Brighton & Glenorchy	9830	Pub
16/Sep/21	Dunalley	Sorell	9830	Community Hall
23/May/22	Campbell Town	Hobart	9830	Campbell Town Town Hall
24/May/22	Latrobe	Latrobe	9830	Latrobe Memorial Hall
26/May/22	Flinders Island	Flinders School Assoc.	9830	FAEC Whitemark

DCOP Outreach Events in South Australia

Event Date	Town	Rotary Club	Rotary District	Venue
22/Feb/21	Cowell	Whyalla, Whyalla Norrie	9510	Franklin Harbour Institute
23/Feb/21	Cleve	Whyalla, Whyalla Norrie	9510	Cleve Sporting Bodies Club
24/Feb/21	Elliston	Port Lincoln	9510	Elliston Hall
25/Feb/21	Wudinna	Port Lincoln	9510	Wudinna & districts Memorial Hall
26/Feb/21	Kimba	Whyalla, Whyalla Norrie	9510	Kimba Institute
5/Mar/21	Waikerie	Waikerie	9510	Waikerie Institute
4/Mar/21	Eudunda	Kapunda	9510	Eudunda Town hall
4/Mar/21	Robertstown	Clare	9510	Peace Institute
3/Mar/21	Burra	Clare	9510	Burra Town Hall
1/Mar/21	Quorn	Port Augusta	9510	Quorn Town Hall
2/Mar/21	Peterborough	Peterborough	9510	Peterborough Town Hall
15/Mar/21	Pinnaroo	Loxton	9510	Pinnaroo Institute
15/Mar/21	Karoonda	Murray bridge	9510	Karoonda Institute
16/Mar/21	Tailem Bend	Tailem Bend	9510	Tailem Bend Town Hall
17/Mar/21	Keith	Bordertown	9780	Keith Show Grounds
15/Apr/21	Cambrai	Onkaparinga	9510	Cambrai Sports Ground
20/Apr/21	Tanunda	Barossa Valley	9510	CWA Hall Tanunda
21/Apr/21	Angaston	Gawler	9510	Angaston Town Hall
6/Sep/21	Balaklava	Morphett Vale	9510	Balaklava Town Hall
7/Sep/21	Brinkworth	McLaren Vale	9510	Brinkworth memorial hall
8/Sep/21	Crystal Brook	Burnside	9510	Crystal Brook RSL Hall
9/Sep/21	Paskeville	North Yorke Peninsular	9510	Paskeville Hall
7/Feb/22	Lameroo	West Lakes	9510	Lameroo Memorial Hall
8/Feb/22	Alawoona	Loxton	9510	Alawoona Institute Hall
9/Feb/22	Nildottie	Gawler Light	9510	Nildottie Town Hall
10/Feb/22	Sedan	Onkaparinga	9510	Sedan Hall
10/Feb/22	Palmer	Murray Bridge	9510	Palmer Hall
29/Mar/22	Marree	Roxby District	9510	
30/Mar/22	Copley	Whyalla	9510	
31/Mar/22	Blinman	Whyalla Norrie	9510	

DCOP Outreach Events in Western Australia

Event Date	Town	Rotary Club	Rotary District	Venue
21/Jun/21	Pingrup	Lions Lake Grace	9465	Pingrup Hall
22/Jun/21	Lake King	Lions Lake Grace	9465	Lake King Hall
22/Jun/21	Newdegate	Lions Lake Grace	9465	Newdegate Sports Pavilion
23/Jun/21	Lake Grace	Lions Lake Grace	9465	Lake Grace Pavilion
21/Sep/21	Beacon	Northam	9455	Beacon Town Hall
22/Sep/21	Bencubbin			Bencubbin Community Rec. centre
23/Sep/21	Meriden	Kellerberrin Men's Shed		Merredin Town Hall
24/Sep/21	Kellerberrin	Corrigin	9455	Kellerberrin Leisure centre

APPENDIX 3

DCOP Promotional material

Examples of Posters, Editorial and social media tiles.



Kingaroy newspaper "Burnett Today" 29th April 2021

Early NDNQFRRA flyer



Australian Government



Rotary



WE ARE COMING TO CLONCURRY!

\$500 ROTARY
VOUCHERS
AVAILABLE

COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENT

Drop in and have a chat to find out what support is available for farmers, farm workers and your community.

CLONCURRY SHIRE HALL
SCARR ST

MON 15 MARCH 2021

BETWEEN 10AM - 2PM

While you're in town why not check out our **Grant Writing Workshop**. These free workshops will help you understand what's needed in a grant application. **Register now!** www.droughtandflood.gov.au/events/other-events

An Australian Government Drought Initiative

Due to COVID-19, events may be cancelled at short notice. Please check our website prior to the event: droughtandflood.gov.au/recovery-assistance/outreach



Australian Government



COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS

FREE
BBQ

WE'RE COMING TO YOUR TOWN!

Drop in and have a chat to find out what support is available for farmers, farm workers and your community.

Don't miss **GUEST SPEAKER**
Mary O'Brien, Founder,
Are you bogged mate?
Presenting at 6pm



ARE YOU BOGGED MATE?

**\$500 ROTARY
VOUCHERS
AVAILABLE**

- Mon 22 Feb** Franklin Harbour Institute, Cowell
- Tue 23 Feb** Cleve Sporting Bodies Club
- Wed 24 Feb** Elliston Hall
- Thu 25 Feb** Wudinna Memorial Hall
- Fri 26 Feb** Kimba Institute

**BETWEEN
4PM-8PM**

An Australian Government Drought Initiative

Due to COVID-19, events may be cancelled at short notice. Please check our website prior to the event: droughtandflood.gov.au/recovery-assistance/outreach

NRRA flyer late in the program.



 Australian Government

National Recovery and Resilience Agency

Rotary 

Join us for our community outreach event!

Drop in any time and have a chat to find out what support is available for farmers, farm workers and your community.

Free Rotary BBQ & \$500 Rotary vouchers available

 Guyra Memorial Hall
163 Bradley St
Friday 25 February 2022
10:00am-2:00pm

For more information contact Christina on:
0437 963 325 or
Christina.jeffries@recovery.gov.au

 Local Land Services

 SafeWork NSW

 THE SALVATION ARMY

 ramhp

 Drought Angels

 RURAL (aid)

 Australian Red Cross

 HealthWISE

 Rural Financial Counselling Service NSW

Communication Pack – QLD & NSW Community Outreach Events – February 2022

About this pack

You've received this communication pack because you're a valuable part of our messaging network and we appreciate the part you play in raising awareness and communicating the Australian Governments drought initiatives to help farming families, small rural businesses and regional communities.

To minimise the effort involved, we've drafted the following content about our upcoming drought community outreach events in Queensland & New South Wales which you can share across your networks.

This content may be changed to meet your organisation's style or audience, but we ask you be mindful not to lose the key messages.

Thanks in advance for your support,

The Community Engagement team
communityoutreach@recovery.gov.au

Background

The National Recovery and Resilience Agency (the Agency) works hand-in-hand with communities, all levels of government, charities and agricultural organisations to support farmers and rural and regional Australians living through the immediate and longer-term effects of bushfire drought and flood. Our aim is to ensure people and communities are given the support they need to be better prepared now and into the future.

The Agency in conjunction with Rotary Australia will be conducting community outreach events throughout drought-affected districts in regional Australia to bring together community members and share with them important information about available drought support and how to access it. Under this Australian Government initiative, agencies will travel to drought-affected communities to assist farming households.

Rotary will be distributing \$500 vouchers to drought-affected households and conducting community well-being activities at the outreach events. The outreach events provide opportunities for face-to-face, confidential conversations with farmers and community members experiencing the impacts of drought.

For more information please contact us at communityoutreach@recovery.gov.au

Upcoming Events

Date	Location	Time
Monday 21 February	Stanthorpe Civic Centre	2:00pm – 6:00pm
Tuesday 22 February	Wallangarra School of the Arts Hall	10am – 2pm
Wednesday 23 February	Deepwater Hall	10am – 2pm
Thursday 24 February	Bundarra School of the Arts Hall	10am – 2pm
Thursday 25 February	Guyra Memorial Hall	10am – 2pm

Key Messages

- The National Recovery and Resilience Agency and Rotary Australia are bringing 'one stop shops' to rural and regional Australia to help you get through the drought and other challenges.
- The events will bring together all levels of government, charities, not-for-profit and agricultural organisations to support farmers and rural and regional communities living through the immediate and longer-term effects of drought.
- Our aim is to ensure people impacted by natural disasters and drought get the support and advice they need to recover, while also delivering initiatives that reduce the risk and lessen the impact of future such events.

Social media posts

Facebook

You can find us on Facebook at [@RecoveryAust](#). The posts below are examples only; please feel free to tailor to your specific audience. To ensure branding is uniform across all of our multipliers, we ask you to please include the imagery we've provided with your posts.

Suggested posts

1. [@RecoveryAust](#) and [@RotaryAustralia](#) Community Outreach Events are coming to Stanthorpe on Monday 21 February to provide support and advice on drought and other challenges.

These events bring together all levels of government, charities, not-for-profit and agricultural organisations to support farmers and rural and regional communities living through the immediate and longer-term effects of drought.

It is an excellent opportunity for farmers, families and rural communities to grab a sausage sandwich, catch up with friends and neighbours and find out what support is available during tough times.

Come down to the Stanthorpe Civic Centre on Monday 21 February between 2:00pm – 6:00pm and say hello.

Twitter

You can find us on Twitter at [@RecoveryAust](#). The posts below are examples only; please feel free to tailor to your specific audience. To ensure branding is uniform across all of our multipliers, we ask you to please include the imagery we've provided with your posts.

1. [@RecoveryAust](#) and [@RotaryAustralia](#) Community Outreach Events are coming to Stanthorpe on Monday 21 February to provide support and advice on drought and other challenges. Come down to the Stanthorpe Civic Centre between 2:00pm – 6:00pm and say hello.

Instagram

You can find us on Instagram at [@RecoveryAust](#). The posts below are examples only; please feel free to tailor to your specific audience. To ensure branding is uniform across all of our multipliers, we ask you to please include the imagery we've provided with your posts.

1. [@RecoveryAust](#) and [#RotaryAustralia](#) Community Outreach Events are coming to Stanthorpe on Monday 21 February to provide support and advice on drought and other challenges.

These events bring together all levels of government, charities, not-for-profit and agricultural organisations to support farmers and rural and regional communities living through the immediate and longer-term effects of drought.

It is an excellent opportunity for farmers, families and rural communities to grab a sausage sandwich, catch up with friends and neighbours and find out what support is available during tough times.

Come down to the Stanthorpe Civic Centre on Monday 21 February between 2:00pm – 6:00pm and say hello.

#recovery #resilience #drought #droughtsupport #droughtassistance #Ausgov #Stanthorpe #queensland #regionalaustralia #regionalcommunitites #disasterassistance

Newsletter article

The National Recovery and Resilience Agency and Rotary Australia Community Outreach Events are coming to local communities in February 2022 to provide support and advice on the drought, bushfire, flood and other challenges.

These events will bring together all levels of government, charities, not-for-profit and agricultural organisations to support farmers and rural and regional communities living through the immediate and longer-term effects of drought.

It is an excellent opportunity for farmers, families and rural communities to grab a sausage sandwich, catch up with friends and neighbours and find out what support is available during drought and tough times.

The Community Outreach Events, part of the Australian Government's Drought Community Outreach Program, are coming to the following towns in February 2022:

Date	Location	Time
Monday 21 February	Stanthorpe Civic Centre	2:00pm – 6:00pm
Tuesday 22 February	Wallangarra School of the Arts Hall	10am – 2pm
Wednesday 23 February	Deepwater Hall	10am – 2pm
Thursday 24 February	Bundarra School of the Arts Hall	10am – 2pm
Thursday 25 February	Guyra Memorial Hall	10am – 2pm

If you're in the area, come along and say g'day!

APPENDIX 4

DCOP Guidelines for participating Rotary Clubs



DROUGHT COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

Guidelines for participating Rotary Clubs

Background

On behalf of Rotary, RAWCS has entered a partnership with the Commonwealth Government to assist in delivery of the Drought Community Outreach Program [DCOP], an initiative of National Recovery and Resilience Agency (NRRA).

The DCOP has been conducting information outreach events in selected towns throughout the regions affected by severe drought over the last few years. These events are aimed at assisting farming families who have been adversely affected by drought and who are undergoing the long recovery from drought impacts. The aim is to increase coordination of drought and drought recovery support and enhance community awareness of the Australian Government's drought assistance measures. An additional aim is to enhance local business turnover by sourcing the event consumables in the selected town and through the local expenditure of \$500 debit cards distributed to eligible families.

Rotary's role is to

- Assist with the delivery of community outreach events through community wellbeing activities and BBQ catering.
- Distribute \$500 debit cards at these events to eligible farming households that are experiencing financial hardship due to drought as direct support and to improve levels of economic activity in regions by utilizing these cards in local communities and businesses.

This represents a fully funded Community Service Project opportunity for your Club.

Event Arrangements roles

The NRRA will book the venue, organise required furniture, coordinate attending Government Staff and other Agencies, estimate attendance numbers and assist with local promotion.

RAWCS will fund the catering and Rotary Club travel costs, coordinate debit card distribution and pay the Club a \$1500 event fee (upon receipt of your Club's invoices for both). See attached indicative catering budget.

Your Club Role:

Organise and prepare the catering and community well-being aspects.
Use your local network to promote the event and attendance of eligible families.
Assist RAWCS people with the debit card application process.

Promotion

The NRRA and RAWCS will provide posters and material for local newspaper, radio and social media promotion. The local Rotary Club can assist by distributing posters and seeking referrals from the Chamber of Commerce, other Service Clubs and Community organisations, Stock and Station Agents and others to have the greatest reach for inviting eligible families and individuals to attend.

Eligible Families or individuals

Eligible families or individuals live and work in drought affected areas and are:

- Farmers, farm workers, farm suppliers or farm contractors who are over the age of 18 and Australian citizens or permanent residents and their families.
- In need of financial assistance (as a result of drought) to pay for household expenses such as food, fuel, utility bills or other needs.
- Only one DCOP \$500 card is available per household.

Insurance

RAWCS will advise Rotary's insurer, AON, about the DCOP events program. Your Rotary Club should complete a local notification through your District Insurance Officer and a risk assessment as you would for any other Rotary community project. This will include a sign-on sheet for Rotarians helping at the event which RAWCS and the NRRRA staff will sight and copy.

Vulnerable Persons and Child Safety

RAWCS has given undertakings to the Commonwealth Government that all DCOP activities will be conducted in accordance with RAWCS Policies on the treatment of Vulnerable persons and Children. These are available on the RAWCS web site under Admin>Key Documentation and can be accessed directly through these links:

<https://www.rawcs.com.au/documents/admin/AbuseAndHarassmentPolicyJuly2013.pdf>

<https://rawcs.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Youth-Protection-Policy-May-2019.pdf>

These policies are best complied with by ensuring that Rotarians are never placed in a situation of being in the presence of a non-related vulnerable person or child without another adult also being present.

OH&S

RAWCS has a written Policy on Occupational Health and Safety which must be observed in undertaking this project details are available on the following link:

<https://www.rawcs.com.au/documents/admin/WHS%20Policy.pdf>

Detailed arrangements

RAWCS will forward more detailed information, promotional material and Covid arrangements advice once the venue and expected numbers of attendees have been advised by the NRRRA. Experience to date suggests that, for most events 80 to 100 attendees is about right.

Acceptance

To accept this Project offer please complete the attached proforma letter on your Club letterhead and return by email to:

David Pearson, Deputy Chair RAWCS Ltd, deputy.chairman@rawcs.org.au