

Surviving and recovering from flood has been the focus of the 22/23 Financial Year for many farmers.

Rural Aid has helped primary producers get back on their feet after the widespread, destructive flooding.

As always, Rural Aid is standing with our mates in the bush as the next natural disaster approaches; a difficult drought is looking most likely.

Rural Aid spent \$3.5 million helping farmers, their families, and their communities, in the past financial year.



*A Rural Aid counsellor walks with Condobolin farmer 'Gypsy' Kuhl through his flooded paddocks*

*For our mates in the bush*



# RURAL AID

# DISASTER ASSISTANCE



The Townsend family smile next to their new fence on their Eugowra property

## VOLUNTEERS

Much of Eugowra farmer Ray Townsend's property was destroyed in the unprecedented 2022 flood crisis.

“ [These floods were] bigger than anything I've seen in my lifetime. ”  
RAY TOWNSEND

**4850+**  
**HOURS**  
**OF VOLUNTEER**  
**HELP**



**\$20,000**  
**SPENT**  
**ON DISASTER RECOVERY**  
**EVENTS**



With the help of a team of Rural Aid volunteers, Ray was able to rebuild hundreds of metres of damaged fencing.

The new fences meant Ray could bring his livestock back on property once again; a huge relief for the dedicated farmer.

“ It's been absolutely fantastic, the support we've been shown. ”

RAY TOWNSEND

## WATER

100% of surveyed recipients agreed that receiving a water delivery had a positive impact on their mental wellbeing.

**3.4mil**  
**LITRES**  
**165+ DRINKING WATER**  
**DELIVERIES**



**105**  
**WATER TANKS**  
**DELIVERED**

**\$310k**

“ We now drink RAINWATER!!! How good is that? We were at a very low point emotionally when we were offered this wonderful rain tank and it lifted our spirits just knowing we weren't alone. The whole job was done promptly and smoothly by friendly understanding people. This has encouraged us to rethink our whole water layout and we are in the process of drought proving our farm! ”

So thank you, this was more than a tank, this was encouragement not to give up.

WATER TANK RECIPIENT



# RURAL AID

# DISASTER ASSISTANCE



**FINANCIAL  
PRE-PAID  
VISA CARDS  
(PPVS)**

**MORE THAN  
\$375k  
PPVS GIVEN OUT**

**MORE THAN  
4000  
BALES  
DELIVERED ACROSS  
AUSTRALIA**

**HAY  
DROPS**

86% of surveyed recipients agreed that receiving hay reduced their financial stress.



*Just a short thank you note for help over the fires. I looked back through the calendar during the week and found the fire broke out on 12 February. It has been a dramatic period since. Rural Aid were of particular help when it counted. Thank you.*

A WESTERN DOWNS FARMER



*A hay drop on Queensland's Western Downs*



# RURAL AID

# SUSTAINABILITY



UNE speakers Richard Flaval and Craig Birchall with Farming Family Reboot participants Peter and Karen Weller, from Winton NSW

## FARMING FAMILY REBOOT

The Farming Family Reboot is a powerful program that supported a dozen families away from their farm for a brief period of time to learn new skills, knowledge and tools.

The free program was held at the University of New England, Armidale, supported by Rural Aid.

“ *It was a great opportunity to just refocus* ”  
FRAN THOMPSON | FARMER

“ *I'm not into going away to courses! I thought the program was fantastic. It's not just about farming, it's about the whole lifestyle.* ”  
STEVE THOMPSON | FARMER



## MULTIKRAFT

Twelve New South Wales farmers are trialling a Multikraft Probiotic Solutions product following a Rural Aid workshop in Gunnedah.

Multikraft Probiotic Solutions has developed a range of sustainable microbial products which help to increase farmer's overall resilience and productivity, whilst also reducing reliance on harmful chemicals.

Multikraft has decades of experience across the globe and has been actively helping Australian farmers since 2014. Their tailored solutions cover the plant and cropping, animal and environmental and waste sectors.



Multikraft Probiotic Solutions

# RURAL AID



A Community Builders' 'Cluster Muster' workshop in West Australia

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## COMMUNITY BUILDERS



MORE THAN  
**\$400k**  
TO DELIVER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Community Builders is underway in the North Midlands and Southern Central Wheatbelt regions of West Australia.

Representatives from the regions' towns are learning how to improve their district's allure, foster volunteerism and boost their population.

Community Builders is delivered by Rural Aid and small-town expert Peter Kenyon from the Bank of I.D.E.A.S. with more than 60 towns engaged nationally.

**96%**  
ENJOYED PARTICIPATING & LIKED THE WAY THE PROGRAM WAS RUN

“ **Participants loved:**  
*Hearing about all the amazing initiatives in other communities and realising that we don't need to reinvent the wheel, as there are so many people happy to help and share their work.* ”

PARTICIPANT

“ *Being able to showcase my hometown. It got us to look critically at what we have, what we need and how we go about it. Some of the guest speakers were amazing too* ”  
BEECHWORTH BAKERY  
PARONELLA PARK

**96%**  
WERE CONFIDENT THEY COULD IMPLEMENT THE LESSONS LEARNT

## OUR TOWNS



Gayndah in Queensland and Coolah in New South Wales both welcomed a team of volunteers to their towns.

More than 75 volunteers dedicated their time to the drought-recovery, town-makeover program.

**COOLAH NSW**  
**\$52K**  
WORTH OF LABOUR  
**1290+**  
VOLUNTEER HOURS



**GAYNDAH QLD**  
**1000+**  
VOLUNTEER HOURS  
**32**  
VOLUNTEERS





# RURAL AID

# MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING



Rural Aid Counsellor Darren attends a disaster preparation workshop in Foster



Rural Aid counsellors are passionate about talking with farmers. The trained mental health professionals check-in with our farmers on property visits and over the phone.

The latter half of 2022 was an especially busy time for Rural Aid's counsellors.

The sheer devastation and scale of the floods were sinking in for farmers.

In the 22/23 Financial Year, Rural Aid has spent more than \$1.25 million in counselling support.

RURAL AID HAS

CONDUCTED MORE THAN  
**1800**  
COUNSELLING SESSIONS



ATTENDED MORE THAN  
**50**  
COMMUNITY EVENTS



## MUSTERING GROWTH

The Mustering Growth program has entered its second phase of development.

The program was developed with Monash University to enhance the wellbeing and resilience of regional and rural primary school children in Australia.

Dozens of schools and hundreds of students have already benefitted from the program.

One facilitator reported at the program's end:

“ Children discussed how it helped calm them down when they were feeling anxious. ”

Rural Aid is now taking Mustering Growth to schools across Australia.

*Rural Aid counsellors deliver the Mustering Growth program on the Northern Rivers*



# RURAL AID

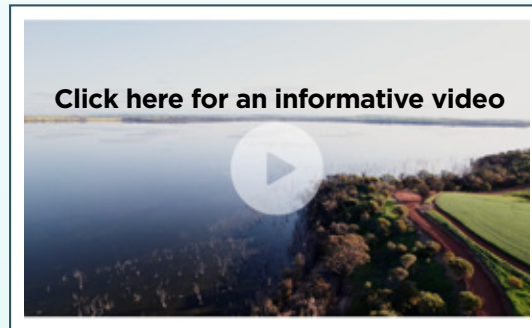


WA Cluster Muster

# VETTA

From February 2022 to June 2023, Vetta supported more than 60 rural towns nationally, through our Community Builders program.

Rural Aid's Community Builders program creates long-term positive change, improved economic growth and fosters prosperity in small rural farming towns. We use an Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) approach, empowering communities to be active partners in building resilience and adaptability to natural disasters.



“ Personally, I am, and collectively we in Wagin, are getting so much out of the Community Builders Program. I see everything differently now - in my own town as well as in other rural towns. ”

WENDY PIETRE | WAGIN COMMUNITY BUILDER



**Stage 1 LEADERSHIP TRAINING:** consists of all representatives meeting for six one-day 'Cluster Muster' workshops.

**Stage 2 PLANNING:** has each town's community team develop a Community Development Plan.

**Stage 3 ACTION:** this is when the Community Development Plan is implemented.

Some examples of **Community Builders'** outcomes include a small community buying a local pub, another upgrading town accommodation to attract visitors, and another community putting together a regional calendar of events.

## LONG TERM OUTCOMES

- Farmers and communities felt empowered to manage their own recovery
- Farmers and communities felt empowered to identify and implement solutions that allow them to overcome their challenges.



# RURAL AID

*Thank You*

for helping Rural Aid  
achieve its vision:

*Farming and rural  
communities are  
safeguarded to  
ensure their  
sustainability before,  
during and after  
natural disasters.*



*Eugowra farmer Dave Herbert  
received Rural Aid volunteer assistance in March*

*For our mates in the bush*

