



## THE ROTARY CLUB OF SYDNEY RURAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAMME



[www.sydneystrotary.com](http://www.sydneystrotary.com)

In 2019 the Burrumbuttock Hay Runners and the Rotary Club of Sydney continue to support rural communities. Inspiring leadership from Brendan Farrell, OAM, has marshaled donations from 2GB listeners, Rotary Clubs, businesses, other organisations and supporters for fuel to move donated hay, and sometimes the purchase of hay, to feed drought affected livestock. The January 2019 Run was to the Quilpie in SW Queensland; a convoy of 180 trucks with 500 volunteers descended on the parched landscape with over 6,500 bales of hay to help drought-stricken Queensland farmers. For volunteers on the Hay Run, the journey is not just about delivering supplies, but about looking after the mental health of struggling farmers. The volunteers also delivered toys to families in the area, who were invited to attend a special Australia Day concert on Saturday night. See links to articles below.



Ironically, in February 2019, in a hay run first, 120 trucks loaded with hay to feed cattle and horses stranded on high ground following recent floods in NE Australia drove to Cloncurry in Queensland; from there it will be distributed by AgForce.



<http://bordercafe.com.au/2019/01/29/hitching-a-ride-with-the-hay-runners/> <https://www.bigrigs.com.au/news/hay-runners-deliver-hope-to-drought-stricken-qld-f/3633738/>



### BACKGROUND

The Rotary Club of Sydney Rural Community Support Programme was established in 2014. This Programme has enabled the Club to continue to do what it has always done: partner with others in the community in Achieving for Others \*. To date the programme has delivered outcomes for people who need help in rural NSW, Queensland and Victoria. Money is raised and spent in partnership with other organisations; our major partner is the Burrumbuttock Hay Runners.

(\* Brian Fletcher *The Rotary Club of Sydney 1921-2005 Achieving for Others*)

### NOT JUST HAY RUNS:

Over the last 5 years the Hay Runners and the Club has also assembled donations to back the:

- Western Division Resilient Landscapes Project in partnership with Soils for Life.
- Australian Rotary Health Mental Health First Aid Courses and Mental Health support for truck drivers.
- Hair and makeups artists working with remote students at the Longreach School of the Air musical production just as they do for city students. (See photo right)
- Murrumbidgee State School and the Murrumbidgee Amateur Swim Club (AKA Mudskippers) and the RCS was also one of the sponsors of a Bourke High School students' excursion to Japan.
- Christmas hampers for rural families in financial stress.
- Rural families going through difficult financial times, some needing a small helping hand and some lifesaving surgery; Ash Stuart was again operated on by Dr Charlie Teo in Sydney in October 2016 to remove a piece of tumour in the left frontal lobe of her brain. <https://www.gofundme.com/2tjxtzgt> In 2017-2018, 5 Year old Kelly, from Nupunyah Station Tilpa, diagnosed with Leukaemia required ongoing medical treatment. Her parents and three siblings had to move to Adelaide with Kelly.



The best way to donate is by EFT to our designated Rural Community Support Appeal bank account:

Account: Rotary Club of Sydney.  
Bank: CBA BSB: 062 438 Account No: 10211156

We can also take donations by cheque to:  
RCS Rural Support Appeal GPO Box 1523 Sydney 2001.

*Administration is done by volunteer Rotary Club members and the Burrumbuttock Hay Runners. The Rotary Club of Sydney cannot provide tax deductible receipts for donations as the RCS Rural Community Support Account does not have Deductible Gift Recipient status. The Australian Taxation Office or your accountant will be able to advise if you can claim a taxation deduction on other grounds.*