

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Riverina First funding recipients announced**

Regional Development Australia (RDA)-Riverina has announced the funding recipients for Round 11 of the Riverina First Community Fund.

The Riverina First Community Fund is philanthropic fund used for improving social, cultural and community services and facilities in Riverina communities.

From 15 applications from across the region, 12 regional groups were successful in receiving up to \$2000 to go toward their chosen project which included stove installations, sandpit regeneration, a fundraising marquee, school band musical instruments and youth hall games equipment.

Lani Houston, Executive Officer for RDA-Riverina said once again the applications far outweighed available funds.

“We were assessing total project submissions amounting to \$130,000 and choosing the most worthy recipients became very difficult. It goes to show we have a very active community in the Riverina with a lot of groups and organisations developing some great projects for the benefit of many,” said Ms Houston.

“This round we once again saw a wide variety of projects from a broad range of interest groups including art groups, charities and school groups. And it was great to see the first application from an Aboriginal community group through the Sandhills Foundation for Aboriginal Affairs.”

Sandhills Foundation for Aboriginal Affairs is undergoing refurbishment to increase its capacity to deliver health and lifestyle outreach programs designed to encourage healthy eating in the Aboriginal community. The grant will provide funds for an electrical stove, broadening the scope of programs such including the *Healthy Cooking skills for the elderly on a budget* and *Healthy alternative recipes for those with chronic illnesses*.

Western Riverina Arts will use its funding to purchase portable lighting and hanging system to use in contemporary art spaces throughout the Riverina. These will be available to community groups to use in found spaces so as not to damage property

The Kindra Park Trustees group in Coolamon will use the funds to install playground equipment as part of the *Forever Young Project* established in memory of the children who have lost their lives throughout the district.

RDA Riverina Chairman, Tom Watson believes the funding is a significant way for the government to make a difference to the lives of many in the community.

“The Riverina First Community Fund is all about engaging and assisting with community activities and allowing people in the region to develop regional solutions to community challenges and direct funding toward the things that matter to them most,” said Mr Watson.

“We are pleased to be able to see these worthy projects get the funding that is sometimes difficult to raise yet desperately needed.”

Riverina First Fund, Round 11 recipients:

Binya Public Hall Trust	Kitchen Doorway	\$1,780	Narrandera
West Wyalong Men's Shed	Tools	\$2,000	Bland
Koorinal Public School Band Program	Musical instruments	\$2,000	Wagga
Western Riverina Arts	Pop Up Goes the Easel	\$2,000	Leeton
Ariah Park Community Projects Inc.	Youth Hall Games Equipment	\$1,200	Temora
Coolamon Preschool Association Inc.	Sandpit Regeneration	\$2,000	Coolamon
Temora & Districts Visual Arts Community	Ceiling fan installation	\$1,280	Temora
Hay CanAssist	Marquee for fund raising	\$2,000	Hay
Sandhills Foundation for Aboriginal Affairs	Stove Installation	\$2,000	Narrandera
Cootamundra Creative Arts	Greenroom Floor Coverings	\$2,000	Cootamundra
Griffith Post School Options Inc.	Equipment Garden Program	\$1,738	Griffith
Kindra Part Trustees	Equipment foundations and installation	\$2000	Coolamon

Information about future rounds of Riverina First Community Fund will be updated on the RDA Riverina website: [www.rdariverina.org.au](http://www.rdariverina.org.au) .

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**All media enquiries:**

Marg Couch, RDA-Riverina

Ph: 02 6964 5540 M: 0487 922570

Email: [mcouch@rdariverina.org.au](mailto:mcouch@rdariverina.org.au)