

## MEDIA RELEASE

12/09/2013

### Riverina First funding recipients announced

Regional Development Australia (RDA)-Riverina has announced the funding recipients for Round 12 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 24 applications from across the region, 9 regional groups were successful in receiving up to \$2000 to go toward their chosen project which included stove installations, community hall improvements, community event signage and shade sails and refurbishment of early learning centres.

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

"The Riverina First Community Fund Committee assessed total project submissions amounting to \$286,000 and choosing the most worthy recipients was very difficult. The increase in applications in Round 12 reflects a very active community in the Riverina with a local 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, early childhood groups, community interest and event groups.

Events West Wyalong will use their funds to assist the cost of promotional main street flags and pull up banners for their inaugural "in the West" festivals after the success of Paris in the West in 2012.

Rankin Springs & District War Memorial Hall Committee is in the process of upgrading the major function centre and community hub for the district and have been fundraising for several years for this vitally necessary upgrade. Riverina First Community funds will contribute to a new stove for the War Memorial Hall kitchen.

RDA Riverina Chairman, Tom Watson believes the funding is a significant way for RDA Riverina 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."

Future rounds of Riverina First Community Fund will be updated on [www.rdariverina.org.au](http://www.rdariverina.org.au) .  
Riverina First Fund, Round 12 recipients:

Organisation

Project

Amount

LGA

Rankins Springs & District War Memorial Hall Committee	Stove	\$2000	Carrathool
Events West Wyalong	Promotional Street flags and pull up banners	\$2000	Bland
Coolamon PreSchool Assoc	Solar tint & Bathroom refurbishment	\$1830	Coolamon
Wagga Wagga School of Arts Community Theatre Inc	Lighting Upgrade	\$875	Wagga
Advance Marrar Committee	Community Banner	\$850	Coolamon
Leeton Early Learning Centre	Shade Sails	\$2000	Leeton
Lockhart & District Progress Assoc	Improvements to Pastoral Shadows of Brookong project	\$1500	Lockhart
Naradhan P & C	Oval Upgrade	\$847	Bland
Old Junee Progress & Hall Assoc	Old Junee Hall improvements	\$2000	Junee

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