

Capacity to Deliver

Let's Talk - Red Cross Christmas Events

GLENRAC Inc



Supporting drought-affected rural community groups within the Glen Innes district to celebrate Christmas events.

The issue

In 2019, 100% of NSW was declared in a state of drought, with the Glen Innes region classified as severely impacted. The physical, financial and emotional strain this placed on farming families in the area was extremely challenging and isolating, and community groups and their regular activities suffered as a result of this extreme pressure.

The solution

Annual Christmas events celebrated by small villages and localities across the district were identified as an area that GLENRAC could offer financial support to, to assist with the running of the day. Traditionally, these events provide opportunity for connection, communication and social inclusion, as well as excitement and celebration - elements that are extremely important to cultivate in rural communities, particularly during times of high pressure.

Through funding from the Red Cross, GLENRAC were able to provide financial assistance to 13 Christmas events during November and December 2019 across the Glen Innes District, including Ben Lomond, Wellingrove, Kings Plains, Deepwater (x2), Bolivia, Glen Elgin, Torrington, Pinkett, Emmaville, Dundee, Elsmore and Glen Innes. This support was tailored to suit each particular group and their event, and included catering, lighting equipment, sound systems and gifts - items that were all sourced from local businesses.

The impact

Approximately 1,710 attendees participated in one of the 13 Christmas events supported by GLENRAC, a number considered by organisers to be overwhelmingly positive. By relieving the financial burden of some of the elements of the event, community groups were able to put their energy into planning a day that fostered connection and communication within their community group. To quote one of the attendees, "For a day, our focus could be shifted away from the drought and the bushfires, and instead it was on catching up with family and friends during a time of the year that should be about happiness and celebration."



Key facts

- Providing opportunities for social inclusion and connection in rural communities is essential for the wellbeing of the region, particularly during times of extreme pressure.
- GLENRAC provided financial support to 13 Christmas events across the Glen Innes region, reaching approximately 1710 attendees.

Project Partners



A partnership between Local Land Services and Landcare NSW Inc. supported by the NSW Government.

