

Open Letter

Dear Gerringong Community,

This open letter is on behalf of Gerringong Rotary, and the 'Farmers Project Committee', about our fundraising for the farmers' drought relief project. You, the Gerringong Community, have been absolutely amazing in your generosity by helping us raise over \$18,000 since August last year. This means that we were able to help 36 individual farming families with a \$500 Load'n'Go card each. The cards were distributed to farmers in need by the NSW Rural Financial Counselling Service. This service is a government organisation that works closely with farmers to help with financial counselling and monetary needs. Their counsellors are in direct contact with farmers and have the knowledge and expertise to determine financial hardship. Thus, your money was distributed to those farmers who needed it most – and it was most gratefully received. These are some of the emails we received:

Hi, we recently received a gift card from you for Christmas. Thank you and all involved. It made a huge difference.

We are extremely grateful to have received and accepted the gift card from Rotary.

Thank you very much for your generous donation of the Rotary Club gift card. It will be greatly appreciated this Christmas.

We wanted to let you know we received one of the \$500 debit cards donated by Rotary. We unfortunately lost our crops to the drought this season, and whilst we have been able to access the Farm Household Payment, we ran very short of money over the Christmas period with extra costs. We have used the card for groceries so far. We are extremely grateful to the Rotary club for helping with some expenses, and would appreciate you passing on our thanks.

What a beautiful surprise to open the envelope and find a \$500 gift card. For this I am so grateful as now I can go and have Christmas with my son who lives a nine hour drive from me.

We are struggling farmers, my husband and myself with two young children and to receive this load'n'go card was delightful. At first we were unsure whether to use it but after a few sleepless nights of worry about a phone call from the transport company we use to move our produce, I decided to pay in full the overdue and very much outstanding account which we were struggling to meet. With the amount still on the card, this will help with some household expenses and maybe some on the little ones. We could not thank the Rotary Club enough for this generous gift, this has been a relief financially.

As Rotarians we are extremely proud to be part of such a wonderful and caring community.

THANK YOU.

The Gerringong Rotary Farmers Project Committee