

THE REGIONAL



review

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David Heine

A Community Partnership Interview



Hi David, Can you explain to our readers what the Community Partnership program is & how it works?

The Regional Australia Bank Community Partnership Program provides financial assistance to community groups across Regional Australia allowing them to focus on what they do best rather than fundraising. Our members choose the local community organisation they wish to support from our list of 1,900 registered groups and causes. The amount we donate to each group is calculated by crediting an additional 1% 'interest' from the average monthly balance per financial year of our nominating member account balances.

Where did this idea come from and what was the process like of bringing it to life?

Now in its 15th year, the Regional Australia Bank Community Partnership Program has grown with us. It started out as an idea to demonstrate the good that money can do within our local communities. As we've grown, so has the community Partnership program. In 2018 we gave away just over 1 million dollars. This year, we gave away almost 2.75 million dollars to community groups in regional NSW.

Can you tell us about some of the benefactors of the program so far?

The Community Partnership Program reaches over 1900 community groups in regional NSW. These range from sporting groups, healthcare support groups, arts groups, preschools, animal shelters and more. Here locally, some of the groups we support include the Wauchope Blues Rugby League Club, The Rotary Club, Port Macquarie Land Care and the Micro Business forum, just to name a few.

In what ways has the program supported these people and groups?

The Community Partnership program provides financial support to groups that have registered to the program. Each Regional Australia Bank branch runs their own community event which provides a platform for sponsored groups to raise awareness of their local activities and the initiatives that our donations will support. This year we will be donating over \$34,000 to Port Macquarie Community Groups, over \$30,000 to Wauchope groups, and over \$29,000 to groups in Laurieton.

What has the feedback been like from both the groups that have received funding and members of the community?

The feedback we receive from the community is immensely gratifying. Each of our sponsored community groups have an amazing and often emotional story to tell. To be able to stand along side them is a privilege that we hold dear. Every dollar that we are able to donate is another sausage sandwiches they DON'T have to sell or another regional family that they can assist.

How can RAB customers and members of the community get involved?

If you have a transaction account with Regional Australia Bank, you can be a part of the Community Partnership Program. Give us a call on 133 067 or come into the branch and see our team, they will assist you with choosing a community group to support. If you're a community group looking to join our program, it's as easy as talking to the staff.

Do you have any future plans for the program or others like it?

The plan is for the Community Partnership to continue growing with us. As an organisation we strive for excellence, and this program is no different. We are looking to grow the recipients, and of course grow the donations.

How does it feel for you personally working within a business that gives back to the local community like this?

The community Partnership program is a great example of why I love leading the team at Regional Australia Bank. I challenge any of the other financial institutions to follow our lead and donate nearly 10% of their profits where it really matters – in our communities. We truly are here to empower regional Australians, we live and breathe the local spirit, and it feels bloody great.

Empowering Regional Business

Behind the Scenes at The Goldfish Bowl – an Armidale institution

Situated on the corner of the city's Rusden Street and Jessie Street, The Goldfish Bowl cafe and bakery has been an Armidale institution for more than a decade.

It's a hugely important focal point for many in the region. As well as having a strong regular clientele who prize its coffee, sourdough, pastries and woodfired pizzas, The Goldfish Bowl – a creative space with good vibes – is often high on the list of places for those from outside of Armidale to visit when in the city, too.

Importantly, it also provides employment to 32 wonderfully talented and passionate locals, sources its produce from suppliers from the region, who provide fresh, sustainable, organic ingredients for its delicious range of food and drinks, and supports a range of community activities, sporting clubs and associations. No wonder it's an Armidale must-visit!

Since 2016, The Goldfish Bowl has been owned and operated by Trent Rush, whose interest in food began at an early age.

"I left school to embark on a baking/pastry cooking apprenticeship at the local bakery, and after the completion of the apprenticeship, I ventured to Newcastle, then onto Armidale, learning the trade and absorbing as much knowledge from whomever I came across in the industry," he explains.

"In 2016, I felt confident enough in myself to take the big step of purchasing The Goldfish Bowl, realising my lifelong dream of owning my own bakery.

"I surrounded myself with skilled and passionate staff, some of whom are still with me today, and together, we've grown The Goldfish Bowl into the business it is today."



[Read The Full Story Here](#)

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The Goldfish Bowl

Back on the New England road with Killen's Smash Repairs

Since 1970, Killen's Smash Repairs has been helping the people of Armidale and the New England region get back on the road after a vehicle accident.

The business was originally born more than 50 years ago as Killen & Reid, having been founded by Paul Killen and David Reid. However, in 1975, Paul and his wife Gwen took sole ownership, and it's remained a family business ever since.

Today, Killen's Smash Repairs is under the stewardship of Michael and Natalie Killen and their son Patrick, employs 15 people, and continues to deliver the exceptional, high-quality service it's known for.

"We pride ourselves on having one of the best-equipped workshops in regional NSW and have a huge commitment to training beyond the standard apprenticeship," explains Michael.

"Killen's is one of only 32 repairers in NSW and 120 in Australia to have achieved the I-Car Australia Gold Class Accreditation – we achieved this in 2018, and it involves a commitment from all staff to complete accredited training in their category every year to maintain."

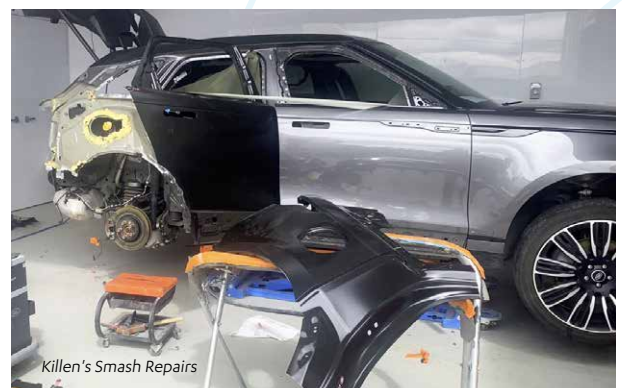
In the ever-changing world of automotive, it's essential to keep up with the latest technology, repairs and finishing materials too, and this is something Killen's continuously invests in. It's a Manufacturer Certified Structural Repairer for the likes of Tesla, Jaguar, Land Rover, Subaru, BYD & GM/Chev/HSV Vehicles, and as such, is well equipped to manage electric vehicles, which are increasingly popular.

It's not only the quality of the work behind Killen's long-term success, however – it's its dedication to customer service and the local community, too.



[Read The Full Story Here](#)

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Killen's Smash Repairs

Empowering our Communities

Beechwood Billycart Classic

Established in 1980, The Beechwood Billycart Classic is the biggest billycart race on the Mid North Coast, reaching speeds of 100kph racing down Mt Pappinbarra. Regional Australia Bank were proud to support such fun day for the whole family. Races included Veterans, Pro Carts and kids races, all funds raised supported to local sporting grounds.

Henty Field Days

The Regional Australia Bank team attended the 60th Henty Field Days in September 2023.

Henty Machinery Field Days is an agricultural institution with a proud history spanning six decades. Over the years the not-for-profit co-operative has garnered a reputation for kick starting the last quarter of the agricultural calendar in southern NSW and northern Victoria.

We were honoured to take part in the celebratory events at the Henty Machinery Field Days with some great food, awesome company and amazing weather!



We've Donated \$2,748,916.14 Million to Regional Australian Community Groups

The Community Partnership Program is an option on our everyday transaction 'Community Partnership' Account.



Get in Touch today! 132 067

The Community Partnership Program Guidelines are subject to change. Terms and conditions apply. Please refer to the Product Details, Conditions of Use and Target Market Determination when considering if a product is right for you. Please visit a local branch or refer to our website for more information. Regional Australia Bank Ltd ABN 21 087 650 360 Australian Credit Licence and AFSL 241167



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