

THE REGIONAL ●  
**review**

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100% CUSTOMER OWNED AND FOCUSED



**regional**  
australia **bank**

# Empowering our Communities

## NSW Country Rugby

Regional Australia Bank is proud to announce its partnership with NSW Country Rugby Union, a collaboration aimed at empowering grassroots community sport across regional NSW.

Recognising the importance of community engagement and the role of sports in fostering healthy lifestyles and leadership in our youth, Regional Australia Bank is thrilled to partner with NSW Country Rugby. Through this partnership, Regional Australia Bank reaffirms its commitment to supporting local communities and nurturing the growth of sports at the grassroots level.

"We are excited to partner with NSW Country Rugby Union to support the joy and benefits of rugby to communities across regional NSW," said David Heine, CEO at Regional Australia Bank. "At Regional Australia Bank, we believe in the power of sport to unite communities and inspire the next generation of athletes. Through this partnership, we aim to provide opportunities for individuals of all ages and backgrounds to participate in rugby and experience the thrill of competition.

"NSW Country Rugby shares Regional Australia Bank's commitment to grassroots development and community engagement. By partnering with Regional Australia Bank, NSW Country Rugby Union aims to expand its reach and impact, ensuring that more communities have access to quality rugby programs and resources.

Stephan O'Brien from NSW Country Rugby Union echoed the enthusiasm around the partnership, saying "We are delighted to welcome Regional Australia Bank as a partner in our mission to promote rugby and foster community spirit across regional NSW. Together, we will work to strengthen grassroots rugby programs, support local clubs, and create pathways for aspiring athletes to pursue their rugby dreams.



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## Empowering Regional Sport



# Empowering our Communities

## Regional Australia Bank Celebrating International Women's Day

We were proud to celebrating the incredible women who are making a difference in our community every day. On International Women's Day this year, we honour the strength, resilience, and achievements of women from all walks of life. From business leaders to community advocates, to women who play a vital role in sport.

We are privileged to be a part of events such as Northern Inland Academy of Sport (NIAS) Girls & Goalposts - International Women's Day High Tea Event in Tamworth. With guest speakers Kezie Apps, Eloise Sohier Dr. Rachel Horton, who inspired and empowered us with their stories! Along with Gen Collective to celebrate International Women's Day Luncheon alongside the incredible Jelena Dokic in Newcastle.

As we celebrated International Women's Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to breaking down barriers and creating a more inclusive and equitable community while celebrating the strength, resilience, and achievements of women in not only regional Australia but all over the world. A big thank you to all who joined us at these events to celebrate International Women's Day with us.



# Empowering the Vilomah Community



## Regional Australia Banks' Dedication to Supporting the Vilomah Community

With a shared ethos of community empowerment and compassion, Regional Australia Banks have forged a meaningful partnership with Vilomah, recognizing the invaluable work they do in offering comfort, resources, and understanding to those affected by the heartbreaking loss of newborns.

In an exclusive interview with the founders of Vilomah, Megan Gaffney & Bek Baker, we delve into their inspiring journey, the vital role of support networks in times of adversity, and the transformative impact of collaborative efforts in fostering healing and resilience within the Vilomah community.

### Where did the Vilomah Community begin?

In 2019, Bek went through the heartbreaking loss of daughter, Mia, and reached out for support. Megan quickly realised that in the time between the loss of her own daughter, Ruby in 2010, to Mia's passing in 2019, not much had changed in terms of support for women dealing with pregnancy loss.

The gap seemed even wider. As we talked to other families, it was obvious that everyone in our local area was struggling with the same lack of guidance on how to grieve, what resources were available, and how to move forward.

One day, we were chatting and realized how much we wished there was something out there to help these women and families. That's when the idea of creating a community focused on this issue was born.

Since creating The Vilomah Community we have supported over 35 families from not only Wagga Wagga but Leeton, Narrandera, Forbes, Trundle, Murrumbateman, & surrounds.



### How did you come up with the name for your organisation?

We were looking for a name that truly captured the essence of our mission and identity. After much consideration, we came across Vilomah, which perfectly embodies the idea that a parent should never have to bury their child. In fact, a parent who has lost a child is known as a 'Vilomah'.

### How long has the community group been running and where does your passion come from?

The Vilomah Community was established in 2021. We are passionate about supporting bereaved parents because we have been in their shoes. We understand the pain of having our world shattered and having to break the news to our loved ones that our baby has passed away. We know the struggle of trying to hold onto precious memories while navigating through the grief. We have experienced the ups and downs of emotions firsthand, and we want to provide the support that we didn't have when we lost our own babies.



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## New Branch Opening In Wagga Wagga

We are thrilled to announce our recent expansion, opening of our newest branch in Wagga Wagga. This expansion represents our ongoing commitment to delivering quality, competitively priced products, superior service and by investing back into our communities, we are focused every single day on what's important: the prosperity of regional Australia.

Back in February this year our CEO David Heine, was honoured to be joined by Michael McCormack MP, Federal Member for Riverina, Dr Joe McGirr MP Independent Member for Wagga Wagga, and Cr Dallas Tout Regional Cities NSW. We were also privileged to have representatives of our esteemed Wagga Wagga community partners, Country Hope, Ronald McDonald

House and The Vilomah Community. Together, we're forging stronger ties and empowering the community of Wagga Wagga for a brighter tomorrow.

Regional Australia Bank is now boasting an impressive network of 38 locations across central and northern NSW, our Wagga Wagga branch, in conjunction with the recent launch of our sales office in Warners Bay, represents the giant strides we are taking towards our mission of providing equal financial opportunities to all regional Australians.

While the Big Four banks are gradually closing their doors in regional Australia, Regional Australia Bank remains steadfast in its commitment to serving the needs of our valued customers. As a mutual bank, we are proud to be owned by our customers rather than investors. This unique ownership structure allows us to prioritize the financial well-being of our members above all else.



## Regional Australia Bank and Macquarie Credit Union Merger

We are excited to announce Regional Australia Bank and Macquarie Credit Union have now joined forces! In a strategic to improve services and expand their presence, reshaping regional banking in New South Wales. Macquarie Credit Union will now become part of the extensive network of Regional Australia Bank branches and call centers. MCU customers can expect continued customer-owned banking services.

The merged organisations will continue to operate both Regional Australia Bank and Macquarie Credit Union brands in their respective locations.



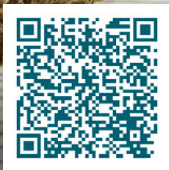
'As mutual entities, we are committed to investing back into our regions, both responsibly and sustainably. We continue to seek ways to empower all regional Australians through our customer owned banking services.' says Graham Olrich, Regional Australia Bank Chairman. 'Our purpose is to become the trusted bank for all regional Australians, and with the unity with Macquarie Credit Union, we are one step closer to that goal'.

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