



Media Release

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ANZ commits \$250,000 for 2012 regional Australia grants program

- Seeds of Renewal grants of up to \$10,000 to be awarded per project
- Focus on projects which help advance education and employment opportunities
- \$2.75 million donated by ANZ to community programs since 2003

ANZ and the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) today announced the opening of the 2012 Seeds of Renewal program which provides \$250,000 in grants for education and employment projects across regional Australia.

Tania Motton, ANZ General Manager Regional Business Banking, said: "Since we started the Seeds of Renewal program in 2003, ANZ has provided more than \$2.75 million to almost 600 community projects in regional communities.

"Last year the Tullimbar Public School in New South Wales was one of 30 Australian community organisations to receive a Seeds of Renewal grant. They used their funding to purchase books and other resources as part of their library expansion program to increase student literacy skills.

"ANZ has a long history of supporting customers in regional Australia, and through programs like Seeds of Renewal, we remain committed to helping make a significant and sustainable difference to rural communities.

"We also recently partnered with the Australian Beef Industry Foundation to promote growth and development in regional Australia by delivering a scholarship program aimed at developing future generations of Australian rural agribusiness leaders," Ms Motton said.

Alexandra Gartmann, FRRR Chief Executive Officer, said: "We're looking for grants that have a focus on employment and education initiatives. We've been working across regional Australia for over 10 years and we know that education and employment are the key areas which require focused support as it's what underpins sustainable, resilient and adaptable rural communities.

"We're proud to partner with ANZ to deliver this program which enables local communities to identify and implement local solutions. I encourage all regional communities to visit our website or speak with their local ANZ representative for more information," Ms Gartmann said.

The grants will be awarded to projects which help advance education and employment opportunities in regional communities of fewer than 15,000 people. Seeds of Renewal is funded by ANZ and independently administered by FRRR.

For more information or to apply for an ANZ Seeds of Renewal grant visit www.frrr.org.au. Applications close 5:00pm on 31 August 2012 and successful applicants will be notified in November 2012.

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Notes for the Editor:

2011/2012 Seeds of Renewal Grant Recipient Case Studies

Tullimbar Public School

- Established in 2008, the Tullimbar Public School now has 160 students.
- Its library requested a Seeds of Renewal grant for school books and other library resources, as it hadn't been updated since its library was constructed as part of the original building works in 2008.
- Mark Nightingale, ANZ Regional Executive NSW South Coast, presented a \$5,000 Seeds of Renewal grant to support a comprehensive library expansion program.
- Matthew O'Bryan from Tullimbar Public School said: "We received a \$5,000 grant and with that we have purchased over 300 books, from picture books for our prep kids through to the much needed non-fiction books for our older students."
- "The library looks fantastic and we are finding more and more that our kids are now coming into the library to read - it has really become the hub of the school, and the library has a great, happy atmosphere."

Riding for the Disabled

- Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) is a not-for-profit group that provides opportunities for people with disabilities to enjoy a safe, healthy, therapeutic and recreational sport, using horses. The program relies on volunteers and fundraising to maintain and extend facilities.
- The Port Lincoln RDA branch applied for a Seeds of Renewal grant to assist with training more volunteers so they can continue to provide valued experiences for special needs children.
- The Port Lincoln RDA has used their \$7,000 the grant for a State coaching workshop and teaching riding skills to volunteers.
- Jodie Parker, President of RDA Port Lincoln, said: "With the funds we received from Seeds of Renewal we now have the ability to attract new volunteers to assist with the ongoing coaching and training to ensure staff are accredited to deal with disabled children and animals."
- Chris Clark, ANZ Regional Executive SA North West Australia is pleased ANZ is able to support local community groups such as Riding for the Disabled. "Seeds of Renewal is a great example of how ANZ is involved in the local community and further demonstrates our commitment to regional Australia."