

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - EVERYONE LOVES A MARKET

The Wallendbeen markets are set for a revitalisation thanks to a grant from the Stronger Communities Fund. The Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council administers the fund for the NSW State Government.

The Wallendbeen Combined Church Guild received the \$5200 grant to enable the group to purchase a marquee, signage and to put a marketing plan into place to promote the markets. The Guild plans to use social media, advertising and erect a permanent sign at or near the market venue.

Wallendbeen Combined Church Guild secretary, Carole Nomarhas said it was wonderful to receive the grant.

“We are very grateful to have the opportunity to revitalise the markets in Wallendbeen and keep the tradition going, the markets give us an opportunity to raise funds for local organisations and charities,” Carole said.

Established over 100 years ago, the Wallendbeen Combined Church Guild’s aim is to provide a social gathering place, fellowship and service to local community. Fundraising is the focal point of the group. In the last five years the group has raised over \$20,000 and distributed these funds to local and community organisations such as Cootamundra Nursing Home, Careflight, Angelflight, and Cootamundra Riding for the Disabled.

The Guild has organised the Wallendbeen markets for over 22 years, the markets serve as the main source of income for the group. The revitalisation project aims to increase public awareness to attract the general public, tourists and potential stall holders to the markets.

Advertising through local newspapers, radio and Facebook, along with additional signage will commence in the spring. Members of the Guild are contacting and visiting other markets in the area to encourage stall holders to attend.

The Guild aims to have their new look markets starting in October and repeated on the first Sunday of the month. The revamped markets are held in Mackay Park, the rest area site adjacent to the Burley Griffin Way and Olympic Highway roundabout. The markets have high visibility for passing traffic. The Guild believes the markets have the potential for further expansion and provide a social hub on market days whilst providing an additional economic outlet for local producers to showcase locally produced arts, crafts, produce and goods.

The purchase of the marquee will provide better facilities for serving refreshments on market days and will also be made available to other local organisations free of charge such as the primary school for sporting events.

Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council administrator Mr Stephen Sykes said the revitalisation would also act as a tourist attraction and encourage tourists to visit local areas.

“The location and added promotion should see more visitors and passing traffic stopping for the market experience, this in turn could lead to increased interest in our area for increased tourist stays,” Mr Sykes said.

Member for Cootamundra, Katrina Hodgkinson MP said the Stronger Communities Fund grant to Wallendbeen Combined Church Guild is another example of local organisations being able to enhance their fund raising activities and provide a valuable service to the amenities they offer.

“To be able to assist an organisation steeped in so much history, and one that is so entrenched in the community, is a perfect example of what this fund is all about,” Katrina said.

“I’m very pleased to support the Wallendbeen Combine Church Guild through the NSW Government’s Stronger Communities program and the revitalisation of their markets,” Katrina said.

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Photo and caption

Wallendbeen Combined Church Guild member Mr Jim Nomarhas is pictured with some of the new signage purchased with funds from the Stronger Communities Fund grant. The Guild plans to revitalise the Wallendbeen markets, with increased advertising, signage and new marquee. The group aims to have the new rejuvenated markets to start on the first Sunday in October.



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