



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW



MEDIA RELEASE

June 19, 2008

RAS FOUNDATION SUPPORTS SMALL RURAL SCHOOLS

The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW Foundation (RASf) has announced its second round of education grants, ensuring quality education remains accessible to young people in rural and regional communities.

Five small schools will share in funding grants totalling **\$21,400**, to be distributed under the Foundation's *E³ Grants* program, which aims to assist communities across NSW.

Mr John B Fairfax, AM, RASf Acting Chairman says the latest round of funding supports a variety of projects. "This current round of *E³ Grants* will help implement a range of programs for young children, from a literacy program for pre-schoolers to a community festival producing numeracy and literacy workshops."

Students from five towns across the state, from Bowraville in the north, to Bourke in the west, and Binalong, Nimmitabel and Tumut in the south, will benefit from the funding, which aims to significantly enhance their educational opportunities.

Grants Awarded;

- **Binalong** Public School: new home readers and teachers aide - \$5,000
- **Bowraville** Central School P & C Association: "Born To Read" community festival - \$3,250
- **Bourke** Public School; "Reading To Learn" literacy program - \$4,000.
- **Nimmitabel** Public School; numeracy and literacy workshops - \$6,150.
- **Tumut** Public School; update home readers - \$3,000

Ms Bettina Core, from Bowraville Central School P & C Association, has been organising the Bowraville "Born To Read" Festival. "The festival is a unique educational community event that has been developed through a partnership involving three local schools, the pre-school and TAFE NSW,"

"The Born To Read Festival involves a range of literacy and numeracy based activities that the children work on throughout the term, and then culminates in a one day festival involving the whole community," said Ms Core.

Ms Maria Chilcott, Foundation Manager, is keen to encourage projects that benefit the wider community. "This is a great example of what a small rural town can achieve when a number of organisations work together to produce an exciting event, which will make a difference to both the students and to the community as a whole."

Since the Foundation's launch at the 2008 Sydney Royal Easter Show, more than \$45,000 has now been distributed to rural and regional schools.

In collaboration with the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR), the *E³* grants are awarded on a quarterly basis.

Further information; www.rasf.org.au

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