

Media Release

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\$450,000 reward for big ideas from small towns

ANZ and the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) have announced today that 97 community projects in small rural towns will receive a total of \$450,000 from the *Seeds of Renewal* grants program.

Some of the successful applicants for 2008 include:

- Nimmitabel Public School, NSW, which will receive \$8,291 towards building a wind-powered generator to reduce electricity costs and demonstrate environmental leadership
- Bright Lions Club, Victoria, which will receive \$2,000 to buy refrigeration equipment to store food donated to needy families
- Jamestown Junior Cricket Association, South Australia, which will receive \$7,000 towards the cost of a mini-bus to take children and community groups in Peterborough to events in Jamestown
- Toogoolawah-Esk Local Ambulance Committee, Queensland, which will receive \$10,000 towards a replacement defibrillator for one of the area's ambulances.

Funded by ANZ since 2003 and independently administered by FRRR, *Seeds of Renewal* has distributed more than \$2 million to about 470 community projects, including this year's grants.

FRRR Chief Executive Officer, Ms Sylvia Admans, said: "There is an amazing amount of resilience in small rural communities hit by drought and climate change. We have had hundreds of applications from people who are thinking creatively about how they can support their town. They are willing to give it a go in the face of challenges and this is very heart-warming."

Seeds of Renewal continues to support projects that contribute to the long-term growth and sustainability of small rural communities with populations of 15,000 or less. Key criteria include: creating community wellbeing, supporting local volunteer initiatives and diversifying local economies.

ANZ Managing Director, Regional, Rural and Small Business Banking, Mr Rob Goudswaard, said: "Seeds of Renewal is an important part of ANZ's commitment to making a difference in the communities where we live and work, and the grants this year will make a difference to many small towns and regions."

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Notes to editors

ANZ – supporting communities

ANZ is committed to enhancing the wellbeing and prosperity of the communities where our people live and work, and where our business operates.

ANZ has supported *Seeds of Renewal* since the program's inception in 2003.

Seeds of Renewal

- *Seeds of Renewal* is an ANZ-funded rural and regional grants program for community projects in small towns.
- *Seeds of Renewal* is independently administered by the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR).
- By the end of this year, *Seeds of Renewal* will have granted more than \$2M to around 470 community projects in small towns since 2003.
- \$450,000 has been made available for *Seeds of Renewal* in 2008.
- Applications are accepted from not-for-profit organisations with an ABN in communities with populations of 15,000 or less.
- This year *Seeds of Renewal* supports projects that build resilience and contribute to the long-term growth and sustainability of small rural communities. Key criteria include: creating community wellbeing, supporting local volunteer initiatives, and diversifying local economies.

About the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR)

Founded in 2002 as a partnership between the Sidney Myer Fund and the Department of Transport and Regional Services, FRRR supports the renewal of rural and regional Australia.

FRRR's role is to work in partnerships with the private sector, governments, and community and philanthropic organisations to champion the economic and social strength of Australia's regional, rural and remote communities.

FRRR manages all of the *Seeds of Renewal* program's planning and implementation, including processing grant applications, overseeing the recipient selections process and distributing the grants.