

PRESS RELEASE

RMHI attendance at Pooncarie Field Day in NSW

Last year a request for assistance came across our desk from a community nurse in Pooncarie seeking some form of social support to help alleviate the effects of the enduring drought affecting Western NSW including the Pooncarie area. This led to conversations with other groups and individuals in WA about what education and support could be provided, ultimately leading to a conversation with Angus Whyte, the Chair of the Pooncarie Field Day and a grazier in the area. The conversation was around RMHI attending the Pooncarie bi-annual field day (4th May 2019) conducting the “Fast Track Pit Stop” and delivering education sessions to community members, engaging with individuals and blokes, as well as discussing our program/model with the intent of enabling like-minded groups to establish similar educational and support mechanisms in Regional NSW.

The motto for the Pooncarie field day this year is *“bugger the drought have the day out”*. This resonates with our “Talk to a Mate” message, encouraging social connectedness and primary care (ordinary people looking out for each other).

A 10-day road-trip has been organised around having 4 nights and 3 days in Pooncarie while also visiting Horsham on the way home. This is where we previously delivered dry season talks in 2016 and have had additional requests from interested parties about our program and to deliver specific education sessions to their local community and also staff.

This trip has endorsement under our advocacy banner. We have some external supporters for this trip, the Wongan-Ballidu & Districts Men’s Shed, who have donated money to help cover our accommodation and expressed their support as “extending a big arm over to shake hands and to show someone cares” and fuel costs will be covered by Stirling Thomson of R & L Hiab Services. Additionally, the RMHI team members attending will be donating a third of their time to this effort.