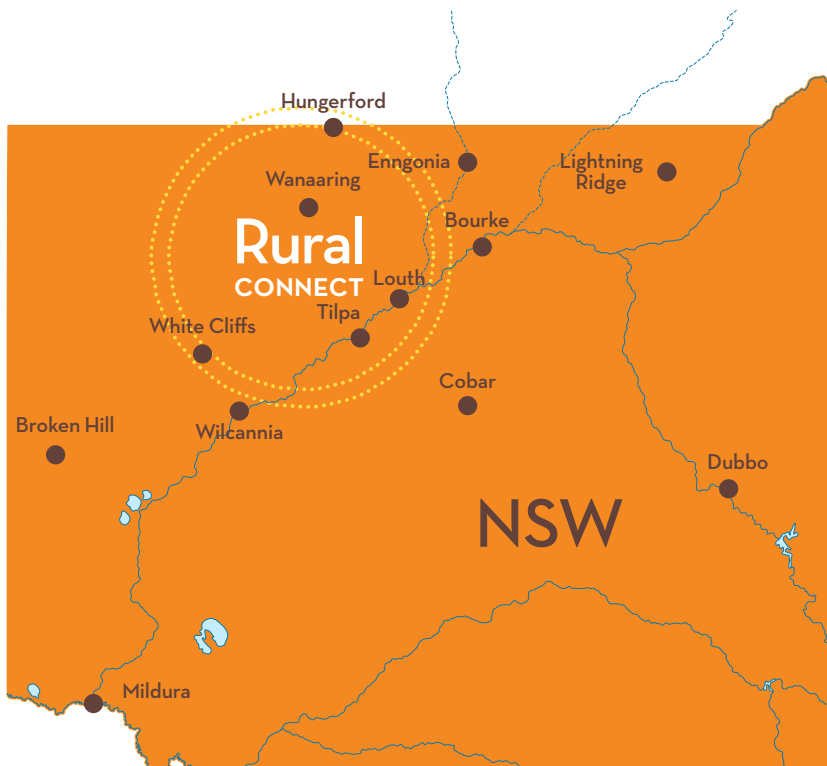


RuralCONNECT

NEWSLETTER

Supporting
remote families
and their
children in far
western NSW



RuralCONNECT project is a joint program designed by Contact and Royal Flying Doctor Service South Eastern Section (RFDS SE) to seek ways to better support families with young children living in rural and remote parts of northwestern NSW, areas previously serviced by Paroo Contact Children's Mobile.

Welcome to RuralCONNECT Newsletter Summer Edition

We are deeply appreciative of all the families and agencies in the region who have engaged and provided information to the Project Officer, Helen Ponder.

It has become clear that unfortunately many are missing the opportunity to come together with other families and access early childhood programs like those previously provided by the Paroo Contact Children's Mobile. Many families have indicated that early education programs complemented by options for social interactions for both the children and adult are a priority for them with many families offering a willingness to host sessions on their property should future programs become available.

Please be assured that we continue to work with Paroo Contact to Children's Mobile to explore options to reinstate

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this important service and provide child and family programs to the region.

With this in mind, we are delighted to advise that, as a first step, the proposed Child and Family Days will be offered in early 2021. As feasible, they will be offered to coincide with the Royal Flying Doctor Service SE clinic days with the anticipated dates being:

- Tilpa 3 March 2021
- Wanaaring 24 March 2021
- Louth 14 April 2021

Promotions for each event will be circulated once all venue bookings are confirmed, lunch will be provided and a range of children's activities will be offered and agencies from the region will be invited to attend so you can meet them firsthand and learn more about their service.

Hoping you may be able to attend and join in these days.

The proposed RuralCONNECT family (video conferencing) linkups to meet agencies were put on hold simply because families have shared that after a year like no other, they would like a break from zoom, so so we will discuss interest in future similar events at the 2021 Child and Family Days.



A RuralCONNECT partnership with 'Kids Giving Back' Foundation is enabling a further ability to provide school packs in the region for the children (6 to 12 years) and a few

other remote NSW locations. The contents of the school packs are being purchased and packed by children and volunteers linked to 'Kids Giving Back' in Sydney.

'Kids Giving Back' is a charity offering programs for children 6-18 years old and their families which provides opportunities to assist people in the community.

It was with pleasure that the RuralCONNECT 12-month

scholarship was awarded in November 2020 and the successful recipient, Bec Bennett is further featured in this newsletter.

Don't forget we have set-up a RuralCONNECT Facebook page and you can keep up to date with RuralCONNECT on Facebook as well as via our email mailing list.

We wish everyone a safe, healthy and joyous festive season and until next time, thank you for engaging in RuralCONNECT – we look forward to continuing to be in touch and sharing times together in 2021.

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RuralCONNECT Alerts

FACEBOOK

We invite you to join the RuralCONNECT Facebook group as another way to link-up with families in the region and keep in touch with RuralCONNECT happenings.

RuralCONNECT Child and Family Days

Dates for the diary

- Tilpa 3 March 2021
- Wanaaring 24 March 2021
- Louth 14 April 2021

Promotional flyers will be sent out to alert you of each event with further details about the activities that will be provided, confirming the dates venues, times and how to be involved.

RuralCONNECT Scholarship



We are delighted to announce that Bec Bennett has been awarded the 12-month RuralCONNECT scholarship. Bec lives in Louth region and is completing her Bachelor of Midwifery studies through Charles Darwin University and will utilise the RuralCONNECT Scholarship towards some of the costs of her studies.

Congratulations Bec!