



Title: Humanitarian Crisis on the Banks of Barka River

Category: Emergency Services

Club Name: Broken Hill Musicians Club

Entrant: Michael Boland

- 1. Provide an outline of the program, project or cause that addresses each of the following aspects:**
 - a. The program/project/cause objectives**
 - b. The support the club provided, i.e. was it financial, in-kind, staff volunteers or use of club facilities?**
 - c. A timeline of activities/events**
 - d. Any developments made since implementation (for example: if the support spans multiple years, how has the program grown? Will the club provide support again? Will the program be enhanced in the future?)**

When it comes to remote, it doesn't get a whole lot more remote than Wilcannia. Wilcannia is home to 725 Wilyakali First Nation peoples and located on the banks of the mighty Barka River (Darling River) within the Central Darling Shire LGA,

With Covid-19 number increasing across the State, it was only a matter of time before covid-19 arrived into some of most remote and disadvantaged communities in the State, covid-19 arrived into Wilcannia in mid-August 2021.

Over the next seven weeks, 152 people over 20% of Wilcannia population contracted covid-19 and the outbreak would become Australia's worst per capita out break.

With the limited amount of services in the remote community, issues began to arise including food stores being shutdown one by one due to the outbreak and with Broken Hill being off limits and fighting its own outbreak New South Wales and Australia had a humanitarian crisis on our hands.

The Musicians' Club support started with a phone call on Saturday 21st August 2021 to Club President Kim Evens from the Club's Vice President Paul Kemp who is himself a local Indigenous leader and has a set in motion support for the remote community of Wilcannia.

At the time the Musicians Club was in lockdown due to Broken Hill's own outbreak but that did not stop an urgent board meeting being convened via audiovisual means to approve support to the community of Wilcannia.



\$5000 worth of fresh meat was approved with local butcher shops jumping on board with their own donation of meat and within a few days, a refrigerated trailer was on its way to Wilcannia being driven by the Clubs very own Vice President and First Nations man Paul Kemp.

With the overall support of the community of Broken Hill and Australia food packs were soon being delivered to the First Nation peoples of Wilcannia, with assistance from the Australian Defense Force, NSWHealth, NSW Police, and local leaders.

The experience the Club gained with support supplied Wilcanna was again called on when another remote community experienced an outbreak of Covid-19, this time the assistance followed to Ivanhoe.

The Musicians Club Board approved \$5000 worth of fresh meat to be sent to Ivanhoe with Indigenous Affairs with the support of our very own Paul Kemp ensured that the most in need received our support.

The Musicians Club was proud to be able to play a major part in organising support for the Wilyakali First Nations peoples and the community of Wilcannia.

2. Provide a brief insight into why this program, project or cause was supported by the club.

In your answer, summarise:

- a. How the project, program or cause was first presented to the club. For example, did a member present it to the Board or Executive team, was it part of a ClubGRANTS submission, did it come from a local business or the community based on a need, was a survey conducted to identify areas of community need, etc.**
- b. Why it was important to the club to support this community need.**

As a local Indigenous leader, it was quickly apparent to the Club's Vice President Paul Kemp that once Covid-19 struck Wilcannia (a town Mr. Kemp is incredibly close to) that there would be problems that would not be easily or quickly be solved. Mr. Kemp also knew that his Club, the venue he is so proud to be Vice President of would be able to offer the support that the Barkindji people needed quickly.

News articles were being published daily showing the worsening crisis affecting Wilcannia. Mr. Kemp in the early days of the crisis had been in contact with Proud Wilyakali woman and local leader Taunoa Bugmy who was leading the charge to assist her people, a presentation of Ms. Bugmys work and humanitarian crisis unfolding on our doorstep was shown to the Board with the decision to provide support to Wilcannia being moved and passed quickly.



First Nations people make up some 23% of members at the Broken Hill Musicians with a large majority of those members being Wilyakali people. Many Wilcannia folks have a strong connection to Broken Hill and the land it's built on and as such are also members of the Club.

In short, the Musicians Club could not sit back and watch our community suffer under the burden of this sickness.

3. Provide an outline of the positive impact the club's contribution had on the community.

Wilcannia residents that had Covid-19 or who were isolated at home were able to be provided with food packages when the small remote community had no operating food stores and were not allowed to travel to Broken Hill for food shopping.

When our nearest neighbor needed our help, Broken Hill, its people, and proudly the Musicians Club stood up and did whatever it took to save lives.

Without the support of people like Taunoa Bugmy, Paul Kemp, and local businesses that came together so quickly to support Wilcannia and our First Nations Peoples we could have lost lives many lives in Wilcannia.

4. Add any credits here (optional).

Broken Hill Musicians Club President Mrs. Kim Evans

Broken Hill Musicians Club Vice President and local Indigenous leader Mr. Paul Kemp.

Broken Hill Musicians Club Board of Directors:

Deputy Vice President and Indigenous leader Mr. Ken Dennis, Mr. Eric Craney LLB, Mr. Gavern Kerstin, Mr. Donald McQuillan.

Proud Wilyakali woman Taunoa Bugmy.

Broken Hill Musicians' Club team:



Mr. Michael Boland - CEO, Mrs. Mel Weinert - Operations Manger, Mr. Logan Pasco - Marketing and Communications Manager.

Top End Meats Broken Hill and Broken Hill Meats for matching our support dollar for dollar.

5. Supporting material:

- *To request copies of the supporting documents, please email events@clubsnsw.com.au*