

# RAW receives large donation of Hay bales for farmers in need

40 large round bales of hay have been donated to RAW as part of the *HAY, lets bale a farmer out Tasmania* drive

Tuesday 7 July 2020

Media Call:

Note time – 11:00am Wednesday 8 July at Southern Midlands Council Depot at 71 High Street, Oatlands:

At a time when many in the local communities across Tasmania are doing it tough with the drought, RAW has some good news. A local Campbell Town farmer has donated hay to assist others in their time of need.

Mr. George Gatenby, Director at Bicton and an eighth generation farmer, heard about the *HAY, Lets bale a farmer out* drive which is being organised to assist Tasmanian farmers who are doing it tough in drought conditions. The hay drive inception came from Karen James, a farmer in the North West who wants to help give farmers a hand up.

Rob Bayles, of Chanak transported the hay from Campbell Town to Oatlands, donating his truck free of charge. Rob's son Matthew generously donated his time to drive the truck for RAW. The Southern Midlands Council generously offered storage of the hay and RAW will arrange for farmers to drop in and collect some free hay from 11:00am on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July.

As part of the Tasmanian Drought Relief Fund, RAW received funding to appoint an additional outreach worker to support drought impacted communities. Madelyn Munday, RAW's RRR Coordinator for Drought Impact will manage the distribution of the hay to farmers in areas heavily impacted by drought which will assist in the well-being of their livestock. Being a rural outreach service provider, RAW is well-positioned to utilise existing networks to make sure that those farmers in greatest need receive an allocation of the donated hay.

RAW has been a key support service for those in rural communities for over 10 years and with limited resources this donation will greatly assist our team to be able to further support those impacted.

RAW rural Reach Out Coordinators support people who are doing it tough. RAW Reach Out Coordinators provide accessible and responsive outreach support services to all rural Tasmanian communities. The service is free and confidential, RAW also operates a 24/7 support line: 1300 HELP MATE (1300 4357 6283).

RAW Chief Executive Officer, Barb Walters said:

*“We are delighted to have the support from the hay drive which will assist our workers in providing ongoing support to those in need”.*

*“RAW has provided extremely valuable services such as counselling support to isolated Tasmanian communities in times of need and it is vital the services continue. This donation and drive helps but we still have a long way to go to ensure communities have the full support services they need to focus on mental health and wellbeing support tailored to individuals.”* Mrs. Walters said.

Bicton’s, George Gatenby said:

*“Tasmania has faced some of the most severe droughts in history and some of our farmers are really doing it tough. Many of the farmers here in Tasmania are the older generation and they won’t ask for help. I am lucky to have the resources available to assist those in rural communities and the main aim is to put a smile on their faces. If we can ease some of their concerns with some food stocks it may help get them through.”*

*“I am pleased to support RAW with the donation knowing it will go to those in need with the valuable outreach work they do across the Tasmanian community. The donated hay is enough to feed 150 sheep for a year”* Mr. Gatenby said.

Images: <https://bit.ly/2UfhgEE>

**TALK TO A MATE – 1300 HELP MATE (1300 4357 6283)**  
**24HR/ 7 DAYS - STATEWIDE**

**Contact: Madelyn Munday 0477 003 779**

7 July 2020

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