

12th August 2019

CafeSmart 2019

Purchasing a hot coffee to help those in need proved to be the perfect blend on Friday 9th August, with \$1 from every coffee sold at participating outlets helping to tackle homelessness. Hundreds of coffee roasters and cafes around Australia partnered with StreetSmart's CafeSmart campaign to donate \$1 from every coffee sold to services that help better the lives of the homeless.

This year, three cafes across the local district took part in the campaign that coincided with Homelessness Week. Quamby Quoffee, the Long Paddock Food Store in Koondrook, and Pyramid Hill's Coffee Bank were all keen to be involved.

Pyramid Hill Coffee Bank managed to raise a total of \$257 for the initiative, with 150 coffees sold and an extra \$107 given in generous donations. "The day went really well and we were more than happy with the result, the community were very generous," Pyramid Hill Coffee Bank owner and manager Deborah Forster said. "It was our second year running and we sold 150 coffees on the day, so super happy with that."

The local little red wagon, Quamby Quoffee originally intended to take part in the initiative on Friday. With the arctic blast that crossed the state bringing some of the worst weather we've had this winter, Quamby Quoffee marked the event a day earlier.

Northern District Community Health (NDCH) support people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness across the region. NDCH help roll out the CafeSmart campaign locally and are honoured and excited to receive funds that directly support local people. "At NDCH we have a specialist homelessness service which helps to generate programs of support within the community," NDCH Specialist Homelessness Service Co-ordinator Anna Beamish said. "All funds raised will go to supporting those who are homeless in our community and those who are at risk of being homeless."

Ms. Beamish said funds from previous campaigns have directly impacted on local people, providing warmth from material aid and food supplies that are made available from multiple services across the region.

NDCH support over 200 people across our region each year who are at risk of or are experiencing homelessness. Of those 200 people there are another 500+ dependent children who are also supported.

Ms Beamish told The Gannawarra Times she was thrilled to see local cafes supporting the CafeSmart campaign and encouraged more cafes in the district to jump on board for next year's campaign. "Cafes always add more value to this campaign than just the \$1 from every coffee sold," Ms. Beamish said. "They're very generous with making extra baked goodies and providing donations which helps the issue at hand a lot. We're very appreciative of their efforts and of locals who pop in and support the campaign and participating businesses."

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Deborah Forster, Pyramid Hill Coffee Bank