

## **Willunga Farmers Market community raises \$17,050 for BlazeAid KI Recovery**

Following the devastating fires on Kangaroo Island in January 2020, members of the Willunga Farmers Market community expressed a strong desire to assist with the recovery effort.

In response the Willunga Farmers Market Board decided to **donate all weekly market fees from the Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> January** markets to BlazeAid, a well-recognised rural volunteer-based organisation that has acted quickly in establishing teams to directly assist Kangaroo Island farming families.

In true Willunga spirit, the community rallied behind the fundraising effort, donating cash to add to the contribution from the Market and quickly filling buckets placed around the market stalls. In addition, local buskers "Dust Bowl Chic" donated their busking dollars, local farmer Bob Heath from Najobe @ Strath donated snags for a sausage sizzle held at the Market, and Willunga Resident Allison Reynolds raised money from the sale of postcards with stunning Kangaroo Island artwork produced by her sister, Frankie Woods of Bristol in the UK.

With these additional contributions, the total raised from Willunga Farmers Market reached **\$17,050**.

The contribution from Willunga Farmers Market will enable the purchase of fencing posts and wire for Kangaroo Island farmers. BlazeAid confirmed that they are pulling out all stops to assist in rebuilding Kangaroo Island farms with their team of volunteers.

Kangaroo Island producers were not left out of the direct support offered by the Willunga Farmers Market. In a call out to the Kingscote Farmers Market – Willunga invited producers to trade at the market for no charge to showcase their wares on the mainland. The public support of this stall to date has been outstanding with over **\$23,000** in sales across 9 Kangaroo Island producers including Kangaroo Island Spirits, KI Oats, Islander Estate Wines, KI Garlic, Emu Ridge Eucalyptus Distillery and more. Many of these producers have been directly affected by the recent bushfires.

Willunga Farmers Market is South Australia's first Farmers Market, established in February 2002. Winner of the delicious Produce Award for Australia's Most Outstanding Farmers Market in 2019 the Market operates every Saturday in Willunga Town Square from 8am until 12.30pm with over 80 Farmers and local Producers.

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