Find out why this charity organisation has 75,000 reasons to smile

By Staff Reporters

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A local business has proven that community efforts make a huge difference for an organisation.

This was evident when Elders Griffith raised a whopping $75,000 for Boys to the Bush in its second charity ball on August 23.

Those who attended the ball on August 23, proudly displaying a cheque articulating the incredible amount raised for Boys to the Bush. Picture supplied

The event brought together clients, staff, and the wider community for an unforgettable evening of generosity, entertainment, and celebration.

More than 230 guests attended the black-tie event, with a raffle and a spirited auction of memorabilia and unique items sold to raise funds for the grassroots organisation.

Boys to the Bush is dedicated to mentoring and supporting young men through hands-on learning and positive community involvement.

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Many local farmers and clients have been actively involved in the program by welcoming participants onto their farms.

The fundraising auction proved to be a major highlight, with enthusiastic bidding on a range of generously donated items.

The top-selling lot that drew strong competition was a corporate box at Marvel Stadium, valued at over $10,000 and kindly donated by Jerilderie Tyre Services.

A signed racing item from Oscar Piastri generated plenty of excitement, selling for an impressive $3600.

Local Boys to the Bush youngsters in 2023. Picture file

Guests also eagerly bid on Catherine Stewart's artworks and a Collingwood Football Club jersey, helping to lift the final fundraising total even higher.

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Organisers noted it would not have been possible without the generous support of the community, with 28 sponsors contributing to the success of the event.

Elders General Manager for Victoria and Riverina, Brendan Rinaldi, praised the team for their efforts.

"To see more than 230 people come together and raise $75,000 is inspiring," he said.

"This will have a huge impact on Boys to the Bush and the young men they support in the community.

"I'm incredibly proud of the Griffith team for creating such a meaningful event that not only benefits the community but also strengthens our culture at Elders."

Adding his thanks, Jack Buckingham, Mentor, Program Coordinator and Community Partnerships Manager at Boys to the Bush, highlighted the life-changing impact donations will have.

"This funding will go directly to supporting boys in our programs across Griffith, Leeton and surrounds," Mr Buckingham said.

"It will help us run school groups, mentoring and camps, and provide opportunities for young men to engage with agriculture and community at an early age.

"Many of the boys are already on farms, and partnerships like this with Elders give them a real foot in the door for their future careers."

Closing the night, Elders Griffith Branch Manager Ray Ellis, gave his reflections.

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"The support for Boys to the Bush shows the impact we can make when staff, clients, and sponsors unite," Mr Ellis said.

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A walk through of a nostalgic and charming offering in the bustling Collina market.

"It was a memorable night, and we're looking forward to making the next Charity Ball even bigger."

This year's ball follows the success of the first Elders Griffith Charity Ball, held in September 2023.

That event raised $64,000 for Angel Flight.

The recent event has now put $139,000 back into Griffith and the surrounding communities.

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