

Rathdowney Memorial Grounds Association

Rebuilding Futures Grant Recipient 2021



"Thanks to our Rebuilding Futures Grant, we have been able to repair our equestrian arena and make it flood resistant. For us to now be able to set a date for an event and know that it will be able to proceed – regardless of weather – gives us and our local community a sense of relief."

- Pam Hardgrave, Secretary Rathdowney Memorial Grounds Association



For over 70 years, the Rathdowney Memorial Grounds Association has managed the Rathdowney Memorial Grounds and provided locals with a shared space for community and sporting events, as well as a central place to coordinate community response to natural disasters and emergencies.

As a result of the March 2021 floods, the equestrian arena was severely impacted. The RMGA had recently begun a project to make the arena flood resistant and upgrade the surface area with high quality sand, but due to the floods, the project was delayed, and the base level needed to be re-levelled. This project would increase the safety of the arena for all competitors, spectators, cattle and horses, and safeguard the space from future significant weather events.

RMGA applied for a one-off grant during the first round of the Rebuilding Futures Grants Program and was awarded \$15,000 to go towards continuing the arena's upgrade, and better preparing the grounds to withstand future flooding.

"As a small rural community our annual events are highly anticipated, and once the upgrade is complete, the arena will be safe to use regardless of the weather – allowing our community to plan and enjoy future events which help support our Rathdowney community – financially, socially and emotionally."

- Pam Hardgrave, Secretary Rathdowney Memorial Grounds Association

