

Local clubs benefit from Ahrens field bins

Football Clubs across the district have received field bins to auction as part of a community donation by Ahrens, manufacturers of silos, sheds, field bins, feeders, garages and augers.

Clubs on the Adelaide Plains which have accepted the offer include Balaklava, Hummocks Watchman Eagles and Hamley Bridge, while Blyth Snowtown football club will also benefit from the offer.

Ahrens is donating 120 field bins to country football clubs in South Australia and Victoria.

For more than 100 years, Ahrens has been well supported by rural South Australia, and now the company said it was time to give something back.

According to chairman of the SA Community Football Board, David Shipway, this donation was the most valuable offer ever made to SA country football clubs.

"This is an outstanding gesture by a truly community-minded company," David said.

"The fabric and culture of our country towns generally revolve around their local footy clubs, many of whom have suffered from poor agricultural seasons and declining populations.

The generosity of Ahrens will significantly contribute to the wellbeing, and in some cases the survival of clubs in our grain belt areas."

The field bins will be offered to the public via silent auction, with all proceeds going directly to the participating clubs.

Ahrens managing director, Stefan Ahrens said the 50th anniversary of its Sherwell operation in 2010 had provided the ideal opportunity to thank rural communities for their support.

"We are a fourth-generation family business and we are always looking for ways to give back to those who have contributed to our success," Stefan said.

"We decided to do this by donating field bins to local football clubs, as they are the heart of rural communities."



PICTURED at the media launch on Tuesday are, from left: Bob Ahrens, general manager of Ahrens Agri; Tim Barrett, Community Football Board chairman David Shipway, Ahrens managing director Stefan Ahrens, Martin Bond and Andrew Lane of Balaklava Football Club, Blyth/Snowtown Football Club president Nick Ashby and committee member Phillip Bigg.

Stefan said clubs had agreed to spread the word about the new Ahrens Agri division in return for the bins.

The Agri division brings together all of the company's rural products, including industrial and rural sheds, flat bottom silos, elevated silos, transportable silos, augers, belt conveyors, feeders and bunkers.

APFL clubs were overwhelmed by the donation.

Speaking on behalf of the clubs, APFL president, Brad Busch said the

donation was great for community football.

"It gives clubs a good opportunity to pick up an extra few thousand dollars for very little," he said.

Balaklava Football Club president, Andrew Lane said it was an offer he wasn't expecting but welcomed it all the same.

"It is fantastic and a very generous offer," Mr Lane said.

"We appreciate their generosity. It was very unexpected."

HWE club president Richard

Taylor said it would be a good alternative to raise funds for the club.

"Raising money can be hard work, and it seems like we're always asking the same people," he said.

"Who knows how much we could make from the silent auction, it's a really good thing," he said.

Hamley Bridge president Newton Lines said the club also appreciated the generous offer.

"It's very much appreciated and a very generous offer," he said.

Stefan said the company was

looking forward to helping the farming communities.

"We are very excited about the field bin offer and the benefits it will bring to dozens of football clubs in South Australia," Stefan said.

"We are equally excited about the future of Ahrens Agri, and our well recognised Sherwell, Brandt and Famson brands, which in conjunction with our new product lines, provide the complete range of grain storage and handling equipment to Australian farmers," Stefan said.

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