

Thomas & Ann Stone
“Descendants”
Reunion 200 (1819-2019)
Hobart-Tasmania 11th-13th October 2019
“Countdown - 258 Days remaining”



Australians Helping Australians
“Farmers Across Borders”
Hay From WA (Tues. 22nd - Sat. 26th Jan. 2019)

If you have heard on the news, read in the papers, or seen the interviews on TV, the "Convoy of Hay" to severely drought affected farmers in New South Wales from WA, it involves a relative of yours. **Ross Harvey Stone** is an organiser and is the *Great, Great, Great, Great Grandson* of Thomas and Ann Stone who arrived in Tasmania 200 years ago on 11th October 1819. This is the largest convoy of fodder to cross the Nullabor Plain and is headed to the Cobar region of NSW, a 2,500km journey.

Ross was interviewed—ABC News Sunday, 20 January 2019. "Farmers Across Orders organiser Ross Stone wants to give back after himself experiencing drought." (photo on right of Ross Stone by Tara de Landgraff). Ross's lineage is, Gratton, Donald, Walter, Joseph, Alfred, & Thomas.



(Left, Ross' leading truck with the banner on the side of the hay)



The donated hay and fodder will help up to 400 farmers in New South Wales.

www.abc.net.au/news 20th Jan. 2019

Almost 50 trucks packed with more than 3,000 bales of donated hay and fodder will make their way across the Nullarbor from Western Australia this week, bound for drought-stricken farmers in New South Wales.

Ross Stone personally pressed thousands of bales of hay and straw for the donation. He lost his farm to drought almost a decade ago and said he wanted farmers who were struggling to know that the nation was behind them.

"The last trip we did was so overwhelming and it's a bit personal for me, we've been through drought and had some tough times," he said. "It's been a massive effort, especially when you've got another job.

"I was doing my other job, starting at 4 o'clock in the morning, loading log trucks and then in the afternoon, baling straw and doing that until midnight most nights and getting home again, getting a couple of hours' sleep and doing it all again."

He said he was very proud to see not just the local community, but the state's farmers and truck drivers get behind the cause, as well as businesses provide sponsorship. But he said it was the help of his family that really made him smile.

"The kids are into it as much as I am, and the wife, they've all put their bit in and it's been great," he said.

While Eastern Australia has experienced drought, farmers in Western Australia had one of their best seasons on record, with high yields in many areas and record grain prices.

The 2019 Hay Run is in conjunction with Lions, Need for Feed.

"All of us together as a group decided that **Australia Day** was a good day



just to show that **Australians are out there to help other Australians.** "This will just buy those farmers a bit more time, maybe get a smile on their face."

As we celebrate Australia Day, let us spare a thought for drought stricken farmers & those on the "Hay Run," including Ross, Natahna & family.

(Photo-left) Ross & Natahna Stone & family. From left: Imogen, Amelia, Ross & Natahna, Inaya & Annika Stone.



***Esperance fundraiser doing it for the kids* MARCH 28th 2014**

Amelia Stone (*Great, Great, Great, Great, Great Granddaughter of Thomas and Ann Stone*). Amelia's lineage: Ross, Gratton, Donald, Walter, Joseph, Alfred, & Thomas.



Welcomed support: *Thirteen-year-old Amelia Stone is fundraising to take gifts to encourage the kids of families across Australia suffering from the effects of drought. On April 1, 2014 Amelia and father Ross will travel to Bourke in New South Wales, taking about 1000 bales of hay to donate to farms and stations in drought. Amelia has been supported with donations from a large number of local businesses and individuals, including Member for Eyre Graham Jacobs. Photo: Lauren Vardy.*

AMELIA Stone is one inspirational young lady.

At only 13 years of age, she has charity at heart and is gearing up to travel across the country to help others in need.

On Monday Amelia will accompany her father **Ross Stone** to New South Wales in a road train including another **20 trucks** taking almost **1000 bales of hay** to farms and stations in drought-stricken areas.

Her efforts come as part of the Farmers Across Borders Hay from WA-For Kids event.

Amelia hopes to raise more than \$2000 before leaving on Monday. "I'm excited about the trip," she said.

"I have been to South Australia a few times, but never to NSW. I would like to make up small packages to give to the kids who live on farms receiving the hay donations over east...

Amelia grew up in **Quairading** and moved to **Esperance** two years ago where her parents manage a farm in Scaddan. She is in year 8 at the Esperance Anglican Community School.

Since beginning her charity drive, Amelia has set up her own Facebook page Hay from WA - For Kids and has approached schools, asking them to run a free dress day to support her cause.

Member for Eyre Graham Jacobs was happy to donate to Amelia's fundraiser.

"This is a really fantastic idea. Amelia will bring her experience of being through conditions that have not always been easy to the trip," he said. "I wish her all the best in her endeavour."

Amelia's mother **Natahna Stone** said the family was so pleased to see others getting behind her daughter's fundraising efforts. "It shows that they think that these kids are valued and deserving of a gift that show other kids around Australia are thinking of them," she said.

Mrs Stone said the family has heard from the coordinator of an after school care program in Victoria, whose children have decided to donate their pocket money and have made post cards to put into the bags.

"It's a wonderful thing to see the kids encouraging and supporting each other," she said.



(Photo left) 2014, Ross drove with Amelia as his passenger the Western Star (Road Train) with 2x 45 foot trailers, with 86 bales weighing approx. 42 tonne.



(Photo above) Ross & Amelia



(Left) Ross during his days of harvesting

