

MEDIA RELEASE

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Beswick Bistro Grand Opening

Beswick community celebrated the grand opening of the Beswick Bistro this week, made possible through the local store's community benefit fund

The bistro is a family-friendly dining area, seating 80 people inside and a further 170 people outside. It is an extension of the existing Beswick Club, now refurbished and located on the site of the former store.

Chair of the Wuduluk Progress Aboriginal Corporation, Peter Lindsay, proudly welcomed locals and visitors to the new bistro.

"It has always been a dream of the directors to renovate the old store and create a place for families to enjoy. I couldn't wait to show everybody. It's something that will last a long time. We're all proud of it," Mr Lindsay said.

The grand opening on Wednesday 17 August included a barbeque and jumping castles, a *bunggal* (traditional dance ceremony), and a ribbon-cutting by traditional owners Rayleen Bulumbara and 'Tango' Frankie Lane.

In a speech on the day Mr Lindsay outlined in Kriol Beswick store's journey from voluntary administration to working with Outback Stores and then making a profit.

"We saw changes straight away, with fresh produce and grocery shelves full. The store was making a profit, paying the bills, paying the local staff and banking some money," said Mr Lindsay. He went on to thank the current store managers Ross and Sandra McDermott for their role in reaching the profit target needed to build the bistro.

Outback Stores started providing retail services to Beswick in 2008, when the store was recording losses. The past 14 years saw the store rise out of administration and build up its financial position to allow for annual [distributions to the community](#), as well as \$850,000 for the construction of the Beswick Bistro.

The Beswick Club has been in operation since 2012. The region's police believe that this locally-owned licensed venue provides a good service to the community.

"It reduces the number of people needing to travel for alcohol, which can lead to drink driving, and risks everyone on the road. It also employs people, locally. I think it works really well, and that Ross and Sandra do a great job" said Daniel Leighton, Remote Sergeant Officer in charge of Maranboy Police Station.

The new hours of operation for the Beswick Club and Bistro are Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, between the hours of 4:30pm – 7:30pm. The club serves low-alcohol beer only and serves takeaway food from Tuesday to Saturday.

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About Us: Outback Stores provides retail store management and support services on a transparent fee for service basis to Indigenous owned community stores. We work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in a holistic way to improve health, nutrition, employment, training and economic outcomes in remote communities.

Over the past fifteen years Outback Stores has assisted 62 remote community stores in total. Of those it has halted the closure of 15 stores, managing 11 of these stores out of administration, 3 out of liquidation and a further 10 stores through significant financial challenges.