



MEDIA RELEASE

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Hastings Co-op grants helping to build 'a brighter future'

The hopes and dreams of 17 community groups from all corners of the Hastings and Camden Haven can now become a reality thanks to a \$27,600 funding injection from Hastings Co-op's Community Chest grants program.

The non-for-profit groups represent everyone from schools and sporting clubs to disability, volunteer and special interest groups, who will use the grants for projects and infrastructure that will leave a lasting legacy.

At Thursday night's presentation Hastings Co-op's chief executive officer Allan Gordon explained that Hastings Co-op IGA customers play a pivotal role in the Community Chest program, with funds from specially-marked 'Community Chest' products pooled to provide the grants.

"Every time you purchase one of these specially-marked products you can feel good about giving back to the community too," he said.

"Community Chest is all about building a brighter future and recognising the tapestry of community groups that make a real difference to the Hastings way of life."

Since the program's inception, Hastings Co-op has returned more than \$200,000 to the local community.

Examples of projects this year's grants will fund include: a defibrillator for Wauchope Park Run; the upgrade of nets and purchase of a court sweeper at Comboyne Tennis Club; a community garden by Pappinbarra Progress Association; an outdoor learning area at Beechwood Public School; club house restoration work at Port Macquarie Cycle Club; a new Hastings Education Fund scholarship; Lifeline Port Macquarie's suicide prevention workshops; a new administration and storage shed for Wauchope and Port Macquarie Riding for the Disabled; new longboards for Tacking Point Surf Lifesaving nippers; new guttering and flood lights for the 2nd Wauchope Scout Group; a new public address system for Wauchope Netball Club; a mural project by Wauchope Soccer Club; and canteen improvements for Beechwood Shamrocks Rugby League Football Club.

"Hastings Co-op has a proud history of giving back to the community, and our annual Community Chest grants is just one example," Mr Gordon said.

"We hope each of the community groups, their members, volunteers and the wider community enjoy the benefits of these grants for many years to come.

The 2016-17 Community Chest recipients include:

- Wauchope Netball Club
- Lifeline Port Macquarie
- Beechwood Public School
- Wauchope Show Society
- Wauchope Hockey Club
- Pappinbarra Progress Association
- Tacking Point Surf Life Saving Club
- Hastings Education Fund
- Port Macquarie Cycle Club
- Comboyne Tennis Club
- Wauchope Park Run
- Beechwood Shamrocks Rugby League Football Club
- Wauchope RSL Cricket Club
- Upper Rollands Plains Public School
- Wauchope and Port Macquarie Riding for the Disabled Centre
- Wauchope Soccer Club
- 2nd Wauchope Scout Group

Media contact -

Nicole Langdon, Executive Manager Sales and Marketing

Phone: 02 6588 8999, Mobile: 0498 111 353

Email: nicolel@hastingscoop.com.au