



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**February 2, 2018**

### **Dreams come true thanks to Hastings Co-op grants**

Nine local community groups welcomed a \$12,500 funding injection last night from Hastings Co-op's annual Community Chest grants program.

Designed to support community-based projects that will leave a lasting legacy, the grants ensure long-awaited projects such as a surf club trailer, FAWNA training equipment, girl guide water tank and school play areas can become a reality.

This year's Community Chest recipients include: Comboyne Community Preschool, Wauchope Girl Guides, Beechwood Public School, Hastings District Pony Club, FAWNA, Wauchope RSL Cricket Club, Byabarra Sport and Tennis Club, Wauchope Public School P&C and Tacking Point Surf Club.

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.

More than \$73,963 has been raised by customers since official recording started in 2012, however, an estimated \$200,000 has been returned to the local community since the program's inception.

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

"Hastings Co-op has a proud history of giving back and our annual Community Chest grants is just one example.

"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."

#### **Community Chest projects**

- 1. Comboyne Community Preschool** - soft fall in the play area
- 2. Wauchope Girl Guides** - upgrade to camp shed, including water tank and two solar panels
- 3. Beechwood Public School** – sun shelter over infants sand pit
- 4. Hastings District Pony Club** – public address system

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5. **FAWNA** - education and training equipment
6. **Wauchope RSL Cricket Club** – junior and senior equipment and training upgrade
7. **Byabarra Sports and Tennis Club** - water tank, pump and hot water heater to clubhouse
8. **Wauchope Public School P&C** - home readers project
9. **Tacking Point Surf Club** - trailer to carry equipment to events

**Media contact -**

**Nicole Langdon, Executive Manager Sales and Marketing**

**Phone: 02 6588 8999, Mobile: 0498 111 353**

**Email: [nicolel@hastingscoop.com.au](mailto:nicolel@hastingscoop.com.au)**