



MEDIA RELEASE

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Grants to help community groups build a better tomorrow

Thirteen local community groups have had their wishes granted thanks to more than \$17,000 in Hastings Co-op Community Chest grants presented last night.

Hastings Co-op's chief executive officer Allan Gordon said this year's grants would fund everything from training equipment for King Creek Rural Fire Brigade and a sound system for Comboyne Hall to Wauchope Swimming Club's new timing software, a storage shed at Beechwood Public School and special furniture for Wauchope Public School students with mobility aids.

Other projects included: playing and curating equipment for Wauchope Cricket Club; portable PA systems for Wauchope Junior Rugby League and Hastings Old Holdens; storage cupboards for Wauchope Lions Club; play equipment at Wauchope Community Preschool; directional signage for Hastings Valley Mountain Bike Club; training and game day equipment for Wauchope Netball Club and; upgrades to Hastings Public School's running track.

"This year's recipients were all looking for ways to improve, for the benefit of their members, and we're really pleased we could provide a helping hand," Mr Gordon said.

"The projects are far-reaching and will benefit a wide cross section of the community, but the one thing they have in common is they recognise the contribution our hard-working non-for-profit groups make to the Hastings way of life.

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

Hastings Co-op's IGA customers play a vital role in the Community Chest program, with funds from specially-marked products, including the Community Co. range, pooled to provide the grants.

"An estimated \$229,500 has been returned to the local community since the program's inception, which is something we can all be proud of," Mr Gordon said.

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2018/19 Community Chest projects

- 1. Wauchope Swimming Club** – On Your Mark! Timing software upgrade
- 2. Wauchope Lions Club** – Storage cupboards at Wauchope Showground
- 3. Beechwood Public School** – Additional chairs and a storage shed
- 4. Wauchope Public School** – An *Acer Smartable* to improve computer access for children with mobility aids
- 5. Wauchope Community Preschool** – New play equipment
- 6. Hastings Public School** – Kilometre Club track upgrade, including a stormwater drain and retaining wall
- 7. Hastings Valley Mountain Bike Club** – New directional signage
- 8. Wauchope Cricket Club** - Playing and curating equipment, including roller mowers and leaf blowers
- 9. Hastings Old Holdens** – Portable PA system and a marquee
- 10. Comboyne Community Association** – Sound system for Comboyne Hall
- 11. King Creek Rural Fire Brigade** – Training and education improvements
- 12. Wauchope Junior Rugby League Club** – Portable PA system for ground announcements
- 13. Wauchope Netball Club** – Training and game day equipment