



MEDIA RELEASE

September 1, 2017

Call for Hastings Co-op Community Chest grant applications

Hastings Co-op's proud history of giving back to the community continued today with the launch of the 2017 Community Chest grant program – an initiative which has returned more than \$200,000 to the local community.

Last year's \$27,600 funding injection helped 17 local groups, with projects ranging from a new undercover community area at Wauchope Showground and defibrillator for Wauchope Park Run to an outdoor learning area at Beechwood Public School and Lifeline Port Macquarie's suicide prevention workshops.

"What's great about this program is it helps drive community-based projects that have a lasting legacy and benefit us all," Hastings Co-op's chief executive officer Allan Gordon said.

"It's all about recognising and thanking non-for-profit groups for the invaluable contribution they make to Hastings way of life."

Wauchope Show Society president Neil Coombes said the 2016 Community Chest grant was a blessing for the society as it "tipped this undercover area project, which we'd hoped and saved for, over the line".

"Now we have a family-friendly, multi-purpose facility that's used all year round, providing shade and a meeting area for all community groups," he said.

"We're very grateful to Hastings Co-op and strongly encourage any other community groups with a project that needs funding to apply for a grant."

Mr Gordon explained that Community Chest grants provide anywhere from \$500 to \$2000 for each eligible project and past recipients hail from a wide cross section of the community - from sports clubs, schools and volunteer organisations to disability, volunteer and special interest groups.

Hastings Co-op IGA Supermarket 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," Mr Gordon said.

To ensure equity and fairness all non-profit community groups are required to complete an application form which is available at www.hastingscoop.com.au or the Hastings Co-op Corporate Centre.

Grant applications opened on September 1 and will close on October 30.

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Caption: (L-R) – Hastings Co-op executive manager sales and marketing Nicole Langdon, Wauchope Show Society vice-president Andrew Carroll, secretary Anne Watkins, showground caretaker Dave Reeve, vice-president David Crofts and president Neil Coombes at the new undercover community area partly funded by a Hastings Co-op Community Chest grant.

2016 Community Chest projects

- Defibrillator for Wauchope Park Run
- Upgrade of nets and purchase of a court sweeper at Comboyne Tennis Club
- Community garden by Pappinbarra Progress Association
- Outdoor learning area at Beechwood Public School
- Club house restoration work at Port Macquarie Cycle Club
- New Hastings Education Fund scholarship
- Lifeline Port Macquarie's suicide prevention workshops
- 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
- New public address system for Wauchope Netball Club
- Mural project by Wauchope Soccer Club
- Canteen improvements for Beechwood Shamrocks Rugby League Football Club