



MEDIA RELEASE

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\$12,000 in grants to kick-start 2023 for 13 local community groups

Thirteen local community groups will be able to tick vital equipment off their 2023 wish list thanks to a \$12,000 funding injection from Hastings Co-op's Community Chest grants.

This year's grants will benefit a broad cross section of the community, funding everything from surf club boards, cricket ground rollers and CPR mannequins to PA systems, netball equipment, laptops and printers.

Other projects include literary resources for school students, a biosecurity awareness campaign, woodwork dust extractors and horse saddles for Riding for the Disabled.

"What's great about the Community Chest grants program is the projects are helping to build a brighter future, and more importantly, recognising the hard-working community groups that make a real difference to the local way of life, whether that's sports clubs, schools, volunteer organisations or disability and special interest groups," chief executive officer Allan Gordon said.

"Hastings Co-op has a proud history of giving back and this is just one example.

"It's also one of the reasons we are the 2022 IGA National Community Service Award winners and have been nominated again this year."

Mr Gordon explained that Hastings Co-op IGA customers play an important role in the Community Chest program, with funds from specially-marked products pooled to provide the grants.

The \$12,000 in grants was also boosted by the sale of Hastings Co-op Cookies, which can be found at store checkouts.

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

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2023 Community Chest grant recipients

Wauchope/Port Macquarie Riding for the Disabled	Extra large horse saddles
Tacking Point Surf Lifesaving Club	Two carbon nipper boards
Wauchope Cricket Club	Replacement of cricket ground rolling equipment
Wauchope Bonny Hills Surf Lifesaving Club	CPR training mannequins
Hastings Valley Motorcycle Club	New PA system
Iona Netball Club	New netball equipment
Hastings Valley Amateur Beekeepers	Biosecurity awareness campaign and materials to improve apiary area
Port Macquarie Arts and Crafts Centre	Woodworking dust extractor
Wauchope Yesteryear Truck and Machinery Club	Laptop and laser printer
Wauchope Swimming Club	Laptop and laser printer
Wauchope Public School	Literary resources
Camden Haven Community Band	Running costs and band arrangements
Tender Funerals	Grief packs to help deal with loss