



Media Release

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For immediate release

Hunter Water awards community grants

Twenty-three community organisations will receive a boost to their budgets this year following support from Hunter Water's Community Funding program.

Hunter Water Managing Director, Kim Wood, said that Hunter Water has been a part of the local community for 120 years and has long been associated with supporting community-based organisations.

"It gives us great pride every year to be able to support community organisations that are assisting people across the lower Hunter. This year we have been able to support 23 not-for-profit groups with their initiatives," said Mr Wood.

Each year community groups are selected for undertaking projects, initiatives or events that encouraged community education around water efficiency and sustainability, promoted healthy lifestyles or promoted environmental awareness. Successful applicants include Compass Housing Services, Dungog Pedalfest and Newcastle University Sport.

Funding from Hunter Water will assist Compass Housing Services purchase a rainwater tank for a community garden. This will benefit members who have low incomes and difficulties sourcing affordable housing. The use of a rainwater tank will reduce resident's water bill. These residents will be joining nearly a quarter of households in the lower Hunter which also have a rainwater tanks installed.

This year Hunter Water will again support the Dungog PedalFest which brings together more than 500 participants together in the spirit of sustainable living. Participants are encouraged to take a bottle of drinking water along with them for the ride while enjoying the scenic countryside by bicycle. This community event is also a fundraiser for the Westpac Rescue Helicopter, an organisation Hunter Water sponsors.

The 'Healthier Schools' program run by Newcastle University Sport will be able to continue to offer its swimming programs to students from kindergarten to graduation, as it has for the past six years, thanks to support from Hunter Water. The 'Learn to Swim/Swim & Survive' program encourages water saving practices for children. With many locations to go swimming across the lower Hunter, it is important that children are water wise.

"The selected community projects will raise awareness of topics important to our community, which range from water efficiency, to education campaigns or caring for our environment.

"We see Hunter Water's Community Funding Program as another example of building relationships with the people at the heart of what we do – serving our community," said Mr Wood.

Applications for Hunter Water's 2013-14 Community Funding Program will open soon for next year. See www.hunterwater.com.au for more information.

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