

Media release

Funding flows to community projects thanks to inaugural Riverina Water grants program

Friday, 22 November 2019

Riverina Water's inaugural Community Grants Program has awarded almost \$390,000 in funding to projects and initiatives across the region.

The new grants program was open to individuals, community groups and organisations across the four Local Government Areas that Riverina Water services – Federation, Greater Hume, Lockhart and Wagga Wagga.

Successful projects ranged from a movie projector for Morundah to a water tower mural at Milbrulong. A total of \$389,867 in funding flowed to 42 grassroots projects across three categories – Community Projects and Facilities, Arts and Culture; and Water Conservation.

"This is a new initiative Riverina Water is trialling for two years as another way to give back to the communities in our service area," Riverina Water Chair, Councillor Greg Verdon, said.

"The Community Grants Program allows Riverina Water to fund a diverse range of projects that will benefit our residents for many years to come.

"The response to the program was overwhelming and the Board and I are looking forward to see these projects take shape over the coming months."

Unexpended funds from this year's program will be rolled over into the 2020/21 grants, with Federation Council to have an extra \$53,360 available and Greater Hume Council an extra \$56,773.

With the success of the first year and the extra funding available for these two Local Government Areas, Cllr Verdon encouraged potential applicants to start thinking ahead to 2020.

"The total applications for funding across the four Local Government Areas exceeded the \$500,000 pool," he said. "Whether it's a small or large project, the Community Grants Program is a fantastic way for southern Riverina communities to upgrade recreation facilities, do something creative or conserve water."

For interviews, please contact Riverina Water Chair Councillor Greg Verdon: 0408 213 586

Riverina Water

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Riverina Water Community Grants Program 2019/20

- \$389,867 awarded across Federation, Greater Hume, Lockhart and Wagga Wagga Local Government Areas
- 42 successful applications
- Three grant categories: Community Projects and Facilities, Arts and Culture; and Water Conservation.

Federation Council

Community Projects and Facilities

- Morundah Bush Entertainment Committee: Supply and fit an industry standard projector at Morundah Hall to allow conferencing, movies and enhanced cultural experiences (\$12,930)
- Urana Progress Association: Replacement of lighting system with LEDs at Urana Bowling Club and construct a colourbond panel fence around the perimeter of the playing facility (\$13,210)
- Rand Sportsground Committee: Convert visitor showers into male toilets. Construct dividing wall in showers and fit out for nursing parents' room. Create disabled toilet facilities (\$17,000)

Water Conservation

- Rand Sportsground Committee: Install water tank with pressure system and filtration for general purpose use (\$3,500)

Greater Hume Council

Community Projects and Facilities

- Walla Walla Sportsground Management Committee: Inside lining of walls and ceiling in function area of Clubhouse (\$12,000)
- Headlie Taylor Header Museum (Henty): Provide an interactive external touchscreen to increase visitor experience at the museum (\$19,931)
- Rotary Club of Holbrook Inc: A project in Henty, Walla Walla and Holbrook to erect large red bows in streetscape to encourage shopping locally during holiday and festive season (\$2,606)
- Holbrook Adult Riding Club Inc: Erection of a clubhouse to provide an office/kitchen using a modified shipping container and earthwork preparation for power and water connection (\$8,690)

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Lockhart Shire Council

Community Projects and Facilities

- The Rock Recreation Ground Management Committee: Multipurpose storage and timekeeper shed (\$19,000)
- Milbrulong Hall Committee: Milbrulong water tower mural and outdoor space (\$6,750)
- The Rock Central School: Develop sensory garden at back of school and indigenous garden at front. To be used particularly for students who have sensory and or learning difficulties (\$17,000)
- Lockhart Football and Netball Club: Upgrade and renew BBQ facilities and provide an all-weather shelter for year round use (\$18,700)

Water Conservation

- The Rock Memorial Men's Bowls: Water tank to water bowling greens and surrounds (\$7,000)
- Lockhart Golf Club Inc: Install two 10,000 litre water tanks at clubhouse and secondary water cart tank with pumps (\$5,300)
- Lockhart Progress Association: Replacement of plumbing with water saving devices and replacement of electric hot water system with instantaneous gas hot water at Lockhart Bowling Club (\$8,950)

Arts and Culture

- Lockhart & District Historical Society: A series of mosaic and indigenous painting workshops centered around the theme of the Murrumbidgee (\$6,750)
- Spirit of the Land Festival: Collaboration with Lockhart Central School to conduct four separate adult art workshops (\$6,950)
- The Rock Town Hall & Museum: Mosaic beginners' workshops (\$3,600)

Wagga Wagga City Council

Community Projects and Facilities

- Anglican Parish of South Wagga: Replacement of church roof and hall St Alban's Koorngal (\$15,000)
- Oura Progress Association: Resurfacing of Oura community tennis courts (\$14,080)
- Wagga Rugby League Inc: Installation of wireless scoreboard at Harris Park (\$13,250)
- Anglicare Riverina: Solar panels for the Ashmont Community Resource Centre (\$13,232)
- Service for the Treatment & Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors (STARTTS): Wagga Refugee youth participation program of workshops focusing on health & wellbeing, arts & culture and sport & recreation (\$11,092)

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- Wagga Combined Hockey Association: Water refill station installation – 2nd hockey field (\$7,000)
- Wagga Men's Shed: Installation of fire hydrant system to new building (\$10,900)
- Tarcutta Campdraft Club: Upgrading of water storage facilities and access (\$11,007)
- Riverina Environmental Education Centre: Water refill station installation (\$7,000)
- 1st Wagga Wagga Scouts: Installation of solar panels on Scout hall Dalman Parkway (\$7,760)
- South Wagga Rotary: Storage facility in cattle shed at Wagga Showground for club equipment (\$9,150)

Water Conservation

- The Bidgee School: Placement of two slim line tanks in greenspace for watering of fruit trees and vegetables (\$2,613)
- Erin Earth Limited: Irrigation project stage 1 including solar pumps, installation of water line from dam (\$10,000)
- Koorinal Abbeyfield: Water wise garden for 95m nature strip (\$8,136.64)
- Kurrajong Waratah: Hildasid Farm community gardens (\$10,000)
- Wagga Sensory Garden Ashmont Ave sponsored by FirstHealth Ltd: Water tanks off neighbouring Men's Shed building (\$8,500)
- Lake Albert Cricket Club Inc: Installation of a Bluetooth programmable water control valve, piping and 6 in ground sprinklers (\$6,501.68)
- St Luke's Preschool: Waterwise garden including irrigation systems and water tank (\$5,172)

Arts and Culture

- Peter Cox (sponsored by Eastern Riverina Arts): Script development for a play titled "A few quiet ales" (\$7,242)
- Booranga Writers' Centre: Writing workshops with water theme to encourage and mentor local writers (\$3,060)
- Uranquinty Preschool: Exploring creating and art making with artist in residence (\$5,300)
- Multicultural Council of Wagga Inc: Storytelling workshop for young people through drama and literacy techniques – partnership approach with Monkey Baa Theatre company and Lost in Books (\$7,000)
- Friends of the Wagga Art Gallery: Kintsugi art classes and lectures (\$2,414)
- 4th Dimension Art & Wellbeing Practice (sponsored by Eastern Riverina Arts): Programmed sessions for disadvantaged youths teaching them to express themselves creatively rather than destructively (\$4,590)

We supply safe and reliable water to more than 73,000 people across more than 15,000 square kilometres of NSW's Riverina. Our water supply covers the local government areas of Wagga Wagga, Lockhart and parts of Greater Hume and Federation Councils.

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