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Media Release:

Upper Hunter projects get funding boost

Ashton Coal is investing \$85,000 into community groups across the Upper Hunter Valley region through its 2023 Community Support Program.

This funding will be shared across fourteen local community organisations that work in the areas of health, social and community, environment, and education and training.

Ashton Coal's funding will financially assist the following community groups and initiatives:

- purchase equipment for the Little Athletics Club;
- buy musical instruments for Australian Christian College Singleton;
- obtain a blanket warmer for the Lions Club;
- a maintenance trailer for the Singleton Mountain Bike Club;
- support a youth development project at the Hunter Hornets;
- run training for volunteers at Singleton Neighbourhood Centre;
- upgrade buildings and facilities at Muswelbrook Preschool, Singleton PCYC, Witmore and Singleton Heights Preschool; and
- run various community events.

Also, as part of Ashton and Mount Thorley Warkworth's joint partnership with the University of Newcastle, it will continue to help bring the Science and Engineering Challenge and SMART Science Shows to budding scientists in the Upper Hunter region.

Representatives from Ashton Coal and the successful community organisations recently attended a presentation to celebrate their success.

Ashton Coal Operations Manager, Aaron McGuigan, was pleased to help fund more amazing projects in the community this year.

"We acknowledge the importance of local groups in our community and the positive change they deliver for the people in our region.

"As a key employer in the Hunter Valley, we are committed to playing an active role in the community and making a positive difference to the lives of people who work and live here.

"This year we are helping fund a variety of projects and initiatives across schools, sporting clubs, disability and service providers and we are proud to improve and help ensure these great programs are available," said Aaron.

Sue George, President of Singleton Neighbourhood Centre said, "With this funding, we can provide our volunteers with valuable assistance, information and enhance their skills to enable them to work with our

clients, most of whom have varying levels of need and mental health issues. Our volunteers are vital to our ability to deliver our services to the community, and we are thankful to Ashton Coal for their financial assistance to offer this training to them.”

The Ashton Coal Community Support Program runs annually and is funded by Yancoal Australia, aiming to make a positive difference in the local community and to the lives of the people who work and live in the Hunter Valley.

Since 2004, Yancoal has grown to be one of Australia’s largest coal exporters: owning or operating nine producing mines across the country, employing over 4,300 Australians, contributing to the national economy, and investing in regional communities.

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