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Media Release:

Upper Hunter gets funding boost

Ashton Coal has granted over \$80,000 in funding to local community organisations, aiming to make a positive difference to the Upper Hunter Valley region.

The latest round of Ashton's Community Support Program is funding new equipment, education resources and events for the Singleton Heights Preschool and Public School; the Singleton Strikers Football Club; Maitland City Boxing; and the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service.

The Yancoal Community Support Program invests in community groups working in the areas of health, social and community, environment, and education and training.

Ashton Coal Operations Manager Aaron McGuigan was delighted to be funding local initiatives.

"We are proud to be part of the Upper Hunter Valley region and recognise that local community groups are the backbone of our community. They make an important contribution to maintaining and creating a strong and sustainable community.

"This funding will enable Singleton Heights Public School to purchase smartboards to assist with student learning, the Singleton Heights Preschool can install a shade structure for greater sun safety for the children and our local sporting clubs can buy much needed equipment.

"For over nine years, we have been donating funds to support projects and initiatives in our community that make a positive difference to the lives of people who live and work here. It always pleases me to see the difference even a small amount can do for a community organisation," said Aaron.

Neisha Dean, Director at Singleton Heights Preschool was thrilled with the funding support.

"Our new shade structure provides a large area of sun protection for our teachers and children when playing outside, which is critical in the hotter months.

"With this installation, we can now get more use of our outdoor space. We can take some classroom activities outside into the natural environment, providing an enriched learning experience for our preschool children.

"We are all thankful for the donation," said Neisha.

The Ashton Community Support Program aims to make a positive difference in the local community, and to the lives of the people who work and live in the areas it operates.

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Media contact: Tracy Woodley Email: tracy.woodley@yancoal.com.au;