

Benefits flow from op-shop grants

By Allison STEWART

THE 17th annual Kendall Community Op Shop Grants Night was celebrated on Thursday, 23 April.

Hosted at the Kendall Services & Citizens Club, with catering from the Kendall Welfare Group, the event drew a crowd of over 130 people, including special guests Port Macquarie MP Robert Dwyer and ABC radio personality Cameron Marshall.

The Kendall Op Shop operates as a not-for-profit organisation, with all funds raised going back into the community.

The benefits are felt not only in Kendall, but across the wider Camden Haven region and beyond.

The shop dates back to 1995, when it began as the Kendall Pool Committee, established to raise funds for a community swimming pool.

That goal was achieved in 2004 with the completion of the pool, but by then, the shop had become an integral community icon.

Harnessing its potential, the committee redefined its purpose, renaming it the Kendall Community Op Shop and amending its constitution to support local projects, charities and major

community initiatives through grants and sponsorships.

Today, the organisation's mission is structured across four key categories.

The Schools Wellness Program distributes \$40,000 equally across 10 local schools, providing vital support to students.

The program focuses on assisting children who would otherwise miss out on extracurricular opportunities.

The Sponsorship Awards Program was introduced to support organisations whose needs fall outside standard grant criteria.

This year, five recipients shared in \$29,013, including the Kendall National Violin Competition and Riding for

the Disabled.

The Charity Grants program holds a special place in the heart of local volunteers, who are eligible to nominate recipients.

Fifteen percent of the shop's net profits is allocated to this category, supporting a mixture of local and national causes.

This year thirteen organisations received a combined total of \$32,000, including Community at 3 and the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

As always, the highlight of the evening was the Community Grants.

In 2026, a total of \$163,522 was awarded to 18 deserving recipients,

all meeting the criteria of delivering sustainable, community-based projects with direct local benefit.

This remarkable, continuous volunteer endeavour has now delivered a total of \$2,467,732 and is fast

approaching the \$3 million milestone, in contributions back to the community.

For a full list of funding recipients, visit www.kendallcommunityopshop.com.au.



□ Sponsorship Awards Program recipients. Photo: supplied.



□ 2026 Charity Grant recipients. Photo: supplied.



□ Recipients of the Community Grants program. Photo: supplied.