

Kendall Community Op Shop hands out \$94,323 in grants during 2021 presentation night



- Robert Dougherty
Community



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Photo: Robert Dougherty

The Kendall Community Op Shop has received a record breaking 29 applications for \$94,323 in community grants funding this year. The grants system is used by the shop to assist not for profit community groups, enhance the well being of the community of Kendall and fund one-off projects and sponsorships.

Fifteen successful grant recipients and community groups attended the presentations made on Thursday, March 18 at the Kendall Services & Citizens Club.

The 2021 sponsorship programme funded \$2500 towards Riding For The Disabled and \$5000 towards the Kendall National Violin Competition this year.

Camden Haven Community@3, Hastings House Hospice, FAWNA, Hastings Education Fund and Burma Education Fund all received 2021 charity grants for amounts ranging from \$2000 to \$500.

Op Shop president Bill Jones said the committee receives around 20 applications per year and aims to keep the grants as local as possible.

"We were probably down about 30 per cent last year for sales at the op shop and we were closed for four months. This changes that total of about \$100,000 we would usually use for grants each year.," he said.

"We had some new applicants such as the Kendall Community Ladies Welfare Group this year as well as other groups we have supported before.

"We don't fund running costs but we are happy to assist with structural works or equipment with lasting impact."

Grants were awarded to Camden Haven Dragon Boat Inc to purchase a speed coaching system, Camden Haven Landcare Group to extend pathways at Kendall Primary Schools rainforest, Queens Lake Park Run for a PA system and Kendall Community Pre-School to replace a fence.

Grants were also given to Kendall Community Ladies Welfare Group for a new kitchen, Camden Haven Historical Society for a new computer workstation, Kendall Blues Rugby League Club for a line marking machine and Kendall Community Centre for a new air conditioner.

Riding for the Disabled Kendall received funding for new riding helmets and a water pump, Kendall Men's Shed was funded for a new air conditioner, Camden Haven Girl Guides were funded for

new signage and Comboyne Cricket Club assisted to purchase cricket balls.

The largest grants on the night were for Kendall Tennis Club to fund earthworks and drainage for a new tennis court worth \$20,000, Camden Haven Pony Club to install a \$15,000 safety fence and iKew Information Centre to build a \$15,130 structure over the timber picnic table at Kew Community Park.

Pony Club president Donna Baker said the grant would help horse-riding in the community

"It's just amazing, we have so many little children and through the grant we are going to put up an arena where the RDA was," she said.

"Without the support of the grant we would probably be two or three years until it is completed."