

Tuesday 17 May 2011

Grants available for local groups

Applications are now open for Indigo Shire Council's 2011/2012 Community Grants Program, and local groups and organisations are encouraged to apply.

\$45,000 is available for the categories of Community Grants – General, and Community Grants - Arts and Cultural Initiatives, with an additional \$2,500 for Youth Initiatives. Grants for successful applications range from \$200 up to a maximum of \$4000.

Indigo Shire Mayor Cr Ali Pockley said the program helps community groups with projects that meet the needs of their local communities. "Local groups and organisations are important to building strong and vibrant communities. Providing financial assistance through the Community Grants Program is just one way Council supports these groups and the important work that they do in our community. The grants are awarded to programs that will benefit the community at large, with particular emphasis on the disadvantaged and specific need groups and organisations," Cr Pockley said.

"There is a range of criteria that applicants must meet to be considered for a Community Grant. Groups need to show what they hope to achieve, and how they will do it."

The grants are available to non-for-profit groups to broaden their role in the community. Projects must increase skills, promote community participation, be social or educational in nature, improve the quality of services, facilities, equipment or meet a need within the Shire. Preference will be given to groups who are not already receiving significant support from Council and funding is not available from other sources such as the State or Federal Governments.

Indigo Shire Council Manager Community Planning David Koren said applicants must have appropriate Public Liability Insurance. "Anyone wanting to apply is encouraged to contact Council to discuss their proposed project and application before it is submitted," Mr Koren said.

The Indigo Shire Community Grants and Awards Advisory Committee assesses all grant applications and makes recommendations to the 12 July Council Meeting to be held in Sandy Creek. A Presentation Night will be held in July after the successful applications have been formally adopted by Council.

Successful applications in the past include projects for the purchase of a water tank, a skills development program, safety fencing and the purchase of chairs.

Applications close at 5pm on Wednesday 8 June 2011, and can be submitted with all supporting documentation to Chief Executive Officer, Community Grants Applications, Indigo Shire Council, PO Box 28, Beechworth VIC 3747, fax 03 5728 1676 or email: indigoshire@indigoshire.vic.gov.au.



Guidelines and Application Forms for the Program are available at Councils website www.indigoshire.vic.gov.au, at a Customer Service Centres in Beechworth, Yackandandah, Rutherglen and Chiltern or by phone 1300 365 003.

For further information about Council's Community Grants please contact David Koren, Manager Community Planning, phone 02 6028 1100.

****ENDS****

Caption: Indigo Shire Council Deputy Mayor and Wooragee resident Cr Bernard Gaffney enjoying the outdoor tables and seating restoration at the Wooragee Hall, that were funded by a grant of over \$1,500 awarded to the Wooragee Neighbourhood Watch in the 2010 Grants program.