

For Immediate Release
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Manning Park Tidy Towns Clean Up with Grant Funding

Manning Park might be one of the tidiest towns on the Central Coast thanks to the Manning Park Tidy Towns volunteers who have put in close to 1,600 hours in the last year and now, thanks to a grant from the Wallarah 2 Community Foundation, the group will be armed with new equipment to make their job easier.

Manning Park Tidy Towns was established five years ago with a mission to beautify the town, the community hall and establish new gardens and vegetation in what was once large heavy industrial sites. The group also clean graffiti from common areas, pick up and remove rubbish, mow lawns throughout the area and manage common garden spaces.

Ian Carr, President of the Tidy Towns group in Manning Park said, "Sometimes we're a little forgotten up here in the North part of the Coast, but we're proud of our beautiful town and wanted to ensure that it wasn't left to deteriorate.

"To date our efforts have had a considerable impact on the community. We've established impressive Manning Park entry gardens complete with a stone entry wall and solar lighting, we pick up litter weekly, as well as mow the town entry, Community Hall grounds and school footpaths. We've also worked with Council to improve our public reserves.

"All our running costs, like petrol and machinery are funded solely by donations, fundraising activities and grants. We're very appreciative of this funding of just over \$1,000 provided by Wallarah 2, which will allow us to purchase two new lawn mowers, to replace the ones we are currently using that were handed down to us and are very old."

Peter Smith, Environment and Community Manager of the Wallarah 2 Coal Project said, "Manning Park Tidy Town is a perfect example of individuals coming together to volunteer their time to add value and benefit the wider community.

"Speaking with the volunteers, I can see that these two new mowers will make a huge difference, making it easier for them to carry out their wonderful work in the community.

"It is people like this who make a real difference to the sense of community in a town, increasing the sense of pride in the beauty of the local area and also decreasing the levels of rubbish that end up in waterways and environmental areas.

"The group's graffiti program is also an impressive community initiative with the volunteers aiming to remove graffiti within 24 hours, deterring youth from further graffiti activity," added Peter.

The Wallarah 2 Community Foundation grant application process is now closed. 14 grants are being presented to support organisations that benefit the Wyong Local Government Area. For further information see www.wallarah.com.au

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