



For immediate release
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It's Smooth Sailing for Hopetown School Students Thanks to Wallarah 2 Grant

Students at Wyong's Hopetown School are now able to explore coastal waterways and learn important new skills thanks to a recent grant from the Wallarah 2 Community Foundation, which will see the school gain three new kayaks and accessories including paddles and life jackets.

Hopetown School services the needs of students with emotional disturbance. These students have found it difficult to cope in larger mainstream schools and are better able to develop their social and emotional skills in a smaller, specialised setting that offers both conventional and alternative programs.

The addition of three new kayaks and equipment as a result of Wallarah 2's grant has enabled the school to launch its Coastal and Inland Waterway Exploration Program, which aims to educate students about coastal and inland waterways through exploration via canoe.

"Our students learn through hands on experiences and this program will educate them about a variety of waterways in our local community and the factors that affect the health and wellbeing of our rivers, lakes and oceans," said Terry Taylor, Principal of Hopetown School.

"From past programs that we have delivered, we have also found kayaking to be very therapeutic for our students and it's a great way to alleviate stressors in students' lives.

"Through our different way of looking at learning and programs such as our Coastal and Inland Waterway Exploration Program, we aim to teach our students important academic, social, emotional and life skills. We thank Wallarah 2 for providing this generous grant, which will prove to be very valuable in helping us achieve important educational outcomes," he added.

Peter Smith, Community Manager of the Wallarah 2 Coal Project said, "Hopetown School provides important education to students who may not thrive in a regular school environment, helping to equip them for adult life and learn skills necessary for meaningful participation in the community.

"The Wallarah 2 Community Foundation is proud to support the school in achieving these goals through the delivery of this grant."

The Wallarah 2 Community Foundation grant application process is now closed, with 14 grants presented to support organisations that benefit the Wyong local government area. For further information please visit www.wallarrah.com.au.

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For more information, interviews or photos:

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