

Successful use of small change

A recent campaign encouraging locals to donate their 'small change for a big change' at all Hastings Co-op retail outlets and Holiday Coast Credit Union branches, has seen \$5,000 donated toward grants provided by the Hastings Education Fund.

The \$5000 will help local youth with much-needed financial support to start post-school studies or their chosen career path. Hastings Education Fund grants are open to students 16-21 years commencing at university, TAFE or other training.

Hastings Co-op and Holiday Coast Credit Union each pledged to match and top up the small change collection, which totalled \$1618, to reach the \$5000 target set for the campaign.

Hastings Co-op CEO Allan Gordon praised customers and staff and those of the Holiday Coast Credit Union for their support of the fundraiser and commented that "The Co-op and Credit Union's support for our local youth via the Hastings Education Fund demonstrates what we're all about – locals supporting locals."

Holiday Coast Credit Union CEO Neville Parsons praised the community's generosity and said that "Though the shift to a cashless society is speeding up, it's pleasing to see how we can all still help a great cause by reaching into our pockets and purses for that spare change."

Hastings Education Fund Chair, Peter Cuskelly, commented that "With increasing education costs and more student applications each year, the Hastings Education Fund needs to grow its funding and this \$5000 raised via the small change campaign is a welcome addition indeed."

Another major fundraiser is being held by Port Macquarie Golf Club's Veteran Golfers on Sunday 24 May from midday, with all social and handicap golfers welcome and all proceeds to the Hastings Education Fund. Teams of four will compete for 18 holes, with a \$20 entry fee per person and local businesses donating an array of prizes for team competitions. Registrations close on Sunday 17 May and can be made to Greg Christie on 6585 4770.

A raffle to be drawn on the Golf Day, has been supported with generous prize donations from Emirates and local businesses including: airfares for two to New Zealand; a two-night Hunter Valley golf, meal and accommodation package; local overnight accommodation and breakfast packages at the Macquarie Waters and Observatory Hotels; and restaurant vouchers.

Further information on how to support the Hastings Education Fund or how to apply for a grant can be obtained from Peter Cuskelly on 0434 595 437.

Pictured is Alan Gordon, CEO of the Hastings Co-op with Neville Parsons, CEO of the Holiday Coast Credit Union announcing their welcome boost to the Hastings Education Fund.