

ITEM 1 CONNECTING NEIGHBOURS PROGRAM GRANTS - ROUND 3

In 2018 Council piloted a new funding program to provide grants to community members and groups who want to make a positive impact on their local area. The program aimed to strengthen and celebrate neighbourhoods at the grass roots level, creating connections and encouraging collective action to build strong communities.

There have already been two pilot grant rounds, and the third round was open for applications from 13 September to 28 October 2019. Six Category 1 applications and 13 Category 2 applications were received from suburbs across the city. The applications have been considered by a review panel and the General Manager. This report provides a list of recommended successful recipients for 2019-2020.

RECOMMENDATION

Council note the successful recipients for Connecting Neighbours Grants Round 3.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Sue Savage, Manager Community Cultural + Economic Development
Authorised by: Jenny Thompson, Director Community Services - Creative + Innovative City (Acting)

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Connecting Neighbours Grants Round 3 - Panel Recommendations under 250
- 2 Connecting Neighbours Grants Round 3 - Panel Recommendations under 1000

BACKGROUND

The Connecting Neighbours Program provides grants to community members and groups who want to make a positive impact in their local area. The program aims to build positive neighbourhoods and community connections, support creative, innovative and unique activities and events while providing opportunities for vulnerable groups and individuals. The program focuses on celebrating neighbourhoods at the grass roots level. The first two rounds of the pilot saw projects delivered across our city in 2018 and 2019.

Building on the success of the first two pilot rounds, funding allocations will continue for 2019-2020 with a further \$10,000 allocated in the financial year, to provide grants to small groups of community members and smaller community groups across all suburbs of Wollongong.

The grants have two categories:

- Category 1 Up to \$250 for an individual who, along with at least two other community members, shares an idea and wants to make it happen;
- Category 2 Up to \$1,000 for projects where community members have partnered with an incorporated organisation to auspice the funds and support the project.

Applications were assessed against the criteria on 19 November 2019 by a panel including Manager Community Cultural and Economic Development (Acting), Community Development and Engagement Manager (Acting) and an independent community representative. The General Manager approved the panel's recommendations on 20 December 2019.

A total of 10 applications, including five Category 1 and six Category 2 applications, are recommended for funding for a total of \$7,000.

PROPOSAL

Council notes this report of the Connecting Neighbours Grants Round 3 successful recipients, as listed below:

Category	Project Title	Location
Up to \$250	Do Drop In	Bulli
	Persian Hub	Wollongong
	Hall Park Community BBQ	Fairy Meadow
	Bond Street Verge Garden	Bellambi
	Wollongong Community Meet and Greet BBQ	Avondale
Up to \$1,000	Farrell Gardens Social Inclusion Program	Bulli
	Grow Together Garden	Dapto
	Bulli Zero Waste Community Picnic	Bulli
	Russell Vale Community Sports Days	Russell Vale
	Port Kembla Food Forest Laneway Party	Port Kembla
	Friendship and Fun	Gwynneville

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

The Connecting Neighbours Grants Program was promoted as follows:

- Council's website
- Social media activity
- Extensive distribution through existing formal and informal networks.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This program contributes to the delivery of Our Wollongong 2028 goal 'Goal 3 - *Wollongong is a creative, vibrant city*', 'Goal 4 - *We are a connected and engaged community*' and 'Goal 5 - *We are a healthy community in a liveable city*'. It specifically delivers on the following:

Community Strategic Plan	Delivery Program 2018-2021	Operational Plan 2019-20
Strategy	3 Year Action	Operational Plan Actions
4.2.1 Support residents, businesses and visitors to be actively involved in diverse community activities helping to connect neighbourhoods.	4.2.1.2 Support community participation in community activities.	4.2.1.2.3 Pilot, evaluate and implement a 'Connecting Neighbours' Grant program.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The Connecting Neighbours Grants Program has been integrated into the Financial Assistance Procedures Management Policy in accordance with the Council resolution of 29 January 2019.

The provision of coaching and support by Council staff was an additional avenue to manage risk.

The approval process for applications has taken into account a risk assessment. The funding categories have been designed to increase the level of accountability and management in line with increased amounts and associated risk.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Connecting Neighbours Grants Round 3 Program has been delivered in accordance with the 2019 - 2020 budget allocation.

CONCLUSION

The Connecting Neighbours Grants Round 3 has provided a further opportunity for Council to expand the existing programs offered through the Financial Assistance Policy and create greater flexibility in how support is provided for small locally-based activities. This grants program is a further demonstration of Council's commitment to working with community members to build on local neighbourhood strengths and add an additional element to our place making initiatives.

CONNECTING NEIGHBOURS GRANTS 2019 - ROUND 3 – Up To \$250

REVIEW PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

CONNECTING NEIGHBOURS GRANTS 2019 - ROUND 3 - \$250 REVIEW PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS						
Appl No	Project Name	Name of Group	Project Co-Ordinator	Project Description	Requested	Recommended
S1	Do Drop In	Brenda Chilly & Rachel Blackburn	Marina Scozza	We have managed to form a close and supportive group of neighbours a couple of houses up and down the street and would like to extend the friendship to the whole street and National Ave. I am proposing that we invite each household of the two streets to drop in at some time over the course of the day. We will open our home and provide food and drink from 10am to 8 pm allowing people to come and go as they are available or feel comfortable. We hope to create a relaxed atmosphere where people can either come to or avoid larger groups as they see fit. We also hope to get two of our recently widowed neighbours involved and the residents of National Ave that traverse through our streets often walking their dogs.	\$250	\$250
S2	Persian Hub	Azadeh – Navid	Alireza Fayyatoossi	Still many community members don't know about Iranian culture and confusing with other Middle East countries - make Iranian food and inviting them to show them some photos and video clips from Iran. To introduce Persian culture to our neighbours. Our home to be used as the event place to invite neighbours. Our TV, internet and other media items to be used.	\$250	\$250
S3	Hall Park Community BBQ	Alison Platt & Jane Timbrell	Mark McCarthy	Hall Park is a small park in Fairy Meadow, on the corner of Holder Street and Carters Lane. Within this precinct is a great community of neighbours which make this pocket of Fairy Meadow a great place to live. We have held a Christmas Party in the park every few years or so but lately this time of the year has become far too busy for many of the families and residents. Holding a Community BBQ in the new year will provide a better opportunity for more people to attend. Recently, there have been quite a number of new families moving in to the area and holding a community BBQ will provide an opportunity for other residents to get to know these new families. It has been identified that there are a number of older residents in the area that have lost partners and feel quite isolated. Holding a community BBQ will allow these residents to connect or re-connect with neighbours. Holding a community BBQ will also provide familiar faces to the children and adults of the area. Often children may feel intimidated when trying to make new friends. Holding this Community BBQ will allow the children of the area an opportunity to meet new friends and cement old friendships. Holding the BBQ gives both adults and children the opportunity to become familiar with those in their neighbourhood. By getting to know the children and adults of the area will provide a safer and more secure community. To get everyone involved each household in the vicinity of the park will be invited and a letterbox drop and door knock will ensure all those who want to attend will be given every opportunity. Those that can, will be invited to bring a plate to add to the options available. Those with cultural dishes that might be different to what many would normally consume will be strongly encouraged to make a cultural dish everyone can sample/share. On the invitation will be the option for those making dishes or bringing food to apply for small financial assistance to assist in making the dish if needed. On successful application, a date for the BBQ will be set for March 2020.	\$250	\$250

CONNECTING NEIGHBOURS GRANTS 2019 - ROUND 3 - \$250 GRANT REVIEW PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS						
Appl No	Project Name	Name of Group	Project Co-Ordinator	Project Description	Requested	Recommended
S4	Bond Street Verge Garden	Kristy Lee Hammond	Kristy Lee Hammond	I would like to start up a verge garden on the Council premise land out the front of 29 Bond Street Bellambi. I would also run a community table (food is free Illawarra - homegrown produce sharing) at my house for others in the community to participate. 'Our street holds a xmas party each year. I would take food and promote our bond street verge to others and hopefully get them involved too. I have 3 children who adore gardening and their friends would love to get their hands dirty too. The project would benefit the neighbourhood by having a meeting place, it would be a conversation starter for those walking past. Healthy eating options growing on the sidewalk - how cool is that. I would be happy to do this project myself and no funding - just Council approval to do so. Seasonal seedlings purchased from Bunnings Bellambi up to \$100. Soil/compost from 'The Compost Man' - local business in Illawarra to enrich Council strip soil that would be excavated and turned into organically enriched food produced growing soil (Approx cost \$100 per 1 tonne load). \$50 to go towards sleepers or other wood boundary to garden. The plan of the garden would include consideration and space for bin pickup (4 x bins for 29 & 29a Bond Stand also a passageway for car parking & exiting from vehicle) and also Australia Post delivery to letterbox space/area. Seed saving process and community participation would see this project ongoing.	\$250	\$250
S5	Wollongong Community Meet and Greet BBQ	Wollongong 40+ Get Out and Have Fun Meetup.com Group	John Gill	Wollongong 40+ Get Out and Have Fun Group is a group on www.meetup.com with over 900 members and 59 event organisers. Information about the group is here https://www.meetup.com/Wollongong-40-get-out-and-have-fun-club/ . Members or our group attend many and varied activities every week, each organised by a volunteer, usually at no cost to members. We believe there are many lonely or disconnected people in the local area would benefit from joining our group, so would like to hold a BBQ, inviting Illawarra people to meet existing members and have an informal chat over BBQ lunch about what we do. We have not selected a date at this point hence the date range. It would likely be sooner than later. I haven't worked out a strict budget but I estimate the majority for food and drink and the remainder to advertise the event, probably through boosted Facebook posts.	\$250	\$250
S6	Illawarra Positive Birth Movement Group	Better Births Illawarra	Jen Halldorsson	We are a passionate group of local parents advocating for improvements to maternity care and services in the Illawarra. We formed Better Births Illawarra (BBI), a volunteer-run community initiative, in 2016 in response to the community's demand for access to continuity of midwife-led care and modern, fit for purpose birth suite facilities at Wollongong Hospital. Our idea for a neighbourhood project is to create an Illawarra group as part of the Positive Birth Movement (PBM; www.positivebirthmovement.org), a global network of antenatal discussion groups which brings pregnant women of all backgrounds, experiences and choices together to share experiences and insight about childbirth. There are eleven PBM groups running in NSW amongst many others nationally + internationally, and we want women and families of the Illawarra community to have access to these groups. We want to create a warm, welcoming space where pregnant women + partners are able to build a network of friendship and support in their community which would continue to support them after the birth of their babies. We want women to be able to share stories and ideas, learn about others' experiences, consider what they would really like from their childbirth experience and challenge any negative fears or expectations they might have. Attendance to the group would always be free. We will connect with potential attendees through our social media platforms including our Facebook group (www.facebook.com/betterbirthsillawarra) and Instagram profile (https://www.instagram.com/betterbirthsillawarra/). We have an extensive network of local midwives, doulas, childbirth educators and supporters which we will use to reach broadly into the community. This project will be of significant benefit to the Illawarra as birth is something that touches every family. We are passionate about creating a space where pregnant women are able to receive support, information and become empowered in the best options for their pregnancy and birth, to increase the number of positive experiences and reduce the need for medicalised intervention, thereby setting new families up for the positive start together that all deserve.	\$250	NIL

APPROVAL

SIGNATURE



NAME

Greg Doyle

TITLE

General Manager

DATE

20.12.2019

CONNECTING NEIGHBOURS GRANTS 2019 - ROUND 3 - Up To \$1,000

REVIEW PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

CONNECTING NEIGHBOURS GRANTS 2019 – ROUND 3 - \$1,000 GRANT REVIEW PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS							
Appl No	Project Name	Name of Group	Project Co-Ordinator	Auspice	Project Description	Requested	Recommended
1	The Village	Parents Guide Illawarra	Jenny Henderson	Parents Guide Illawarra	<p>Local parents around the Wollongong region are more often than not, feeling disconnected, stressed and isolated. The adjustment to parenting is really tough as is managing the sleep deprivation and responsibility of care and wondering if we are doing it OK!</p> <p>I would absolutely love to hold a free parenting group that meets regularly and enables parents to connect, meet up, share experiences and know they are not alone! It can move between the villages to make it easy for local parents to pop in with their babies or kids.</p> <p>Each meeting would be very welcoming, non-judgemental (we all parent differently and that is a good thing as we know and love our baby best of all!) and a warm, inviting friendly place that welcomes ANY parent.</p> <p>The goal would be to connect local parents, so we would encourage a safe or repeat way to meet again. It does after all take a village to raise a child and our modern busy culture which has shifted to be 'online' has added to the isolation and sense of community that is vital for parents, kids and families to thrive.</p> <p>The rates of post-natal depression are high and isolation only fuels this. We want to allow parents to connect and share experiences in a safe, supported space that acknowledges the many challenges we all face as parents!</p>	\$1000	NIL
2	Farrell Gardens Social Inclusion Program	Farrell Gardens Residents Group	Margaret Ewart	The Illawarra Community Housing Trust	<p>Farrell Gardens was tenanted in June 2018. There have been some divisions between neighbours since that time. We would like to engage all residents to be more supportive of one another and have the opportunity to participate in activities should they chose to. Our Housing Provider has already conducted some preliminary consultation and we know some residents are interested in participating in art classes, and others in growing herbs, vegetables and fruit in the community gardens. If we are successful in this grant, our Housing Provider has pledged to assist, and we will have open meetings to plan how to move these projects forward in a way that will be beneficial to all those wishing to be involved. It is hoped that these programs will assist residents to be friendlier, more supportive of one another, and have better health and wellbeing.</p>	\$2,650	\$1000

CONNECTING NEIGHBOURS GRANTS 2019 – ROUND 3 - \$1,000 GRANT REVIEW PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS							
Appl No	Project Name	Name of Group	Project Co-Ordinator	Auspice	Project Description	Requested	Recommended
3	Port Kembla Community BBQ	Hope Church	Emmanuel Bakenga	Hope Church Inc	Why are we doing it - To reduce social isolation and promote social connection and interaction. How will we get people involved - Our community kitchen has a reputation in providing free nutritious meals every Friday to over 50 local community members. This also gives us an opportunity to: 1. Announce that we have a special BBQ day. 2. Distribute an invitation to all community residences in the surrounding area. 3. Use our social media platform like Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp to invite people. How will this idea benefit the neighbourhood - Neighbours will have a free BBQ, improve social connection and social interaction, reduce social isolation. Where did the idea come from - Emmanuel who is the Pastor of Hope Church in Port Kembla came to Australia as a refugee. He got a job at Green Connect in Port Kembla that lasted for about 5 years. During this time, he realised that Port Kembla has a lot of people struggling with many issues including: Drug addiction, prostitution, suicidal, robbery and extreme poverty. As Christians we believe that God is love and he does not discriminate. The bible says that he came for the rejected and the broken. Because of this we believe that the only way to make our community a better place is not to reject but to love, care, connect and engage with our community members.	\$1,000	NIL
4	Grow Together Garden	Heather Boardman (Playgroup) & Carol Stumbles (Seniors Social Group)	Heather Boardman	Dapto Anglican Church	The Grow Together Community Garden will foster connection between young parents, children and senior members of our community - promoting a sense of belonging across generations and cultures. Working together on the garden will develop social skills and communication among participants. Playpatch (Playgroup) children's interest in foraging for plants and flowers with and for parents/carers. Many parents expressed social isolation and missing extended families, arising from recent move to area from other regions/countries. Also social isolation during maternity leave. Recent research (including TV series: 'Old Peoples Home for 4 Year Olds) identifying benefits of intergenerational connections through play and ongoing projects. Discussion with Carol Stumbles from 'Best is Yet to Come' (Seniors Social Group) indicated some members also expressed loneliness as they are now isolated from extended families. We will introduce Playpatch families to see raising in Term 4 2019. We will invite seniors from Best is Yet to Come group to Playpatch in Term 4 2019. Playpatch will send information sheet about the Grow Together Garden to seniors group, inviting questions and expressions of interest.	\$1,000	\$1,000
5	Bulli Zero Waste Community Picnic	Make-Do Library of Things and DIY Space	Alice Henchion	Making Do Inc	Make-Do Library of Things in Bulli will be running a series of sustainability themed community get togethers in the month of April 2020. It would be great to have this month of activities culminate in a zero-waste community picnic to bring together people to meet and talk about local sustainability initiatives, and how we can avoid waste in our local neighbourhoods. Make-Do Library of Things has a large Facebook and Instagram following, and has had some media attention already, so we can leverage that to promote the event, as well as distribute flyers to the neighbourhood around the Library of Things. Make-Do has a great team of volunteers who would see to the smooth running of the event, has toilet facilities and will ensure the event is zero waste. The Make-Do volunteer team has successfully run a similar event in the past at the launch of the Library of Things, and the group has insurance.	\$1,000	\$1,000

CONNECTING NEIGHBOURS GRANTS 2019 – ROUND 3 - \$1,000 GRANT REVIEW PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS							
Appl No	Project Name	Name of Group	Project Co-Ordinator	Auspice	Project Description	Requested	Recommended
6	Ocean Friendly	Surfrider Foundation Australia	Susie Crick	Surfrider Foundation	Surfrider is a non-profit environmental organisation dedicated to the protection and conservation of our oceans, waves and beaches. Surfrider has a program called Ocean Friendly which aims to work with cafes, restaurants, markets, festivals, businesses and school canteens to institute self-regulated ocean friendly practices that reduce disposable and single-use plastic that ends up on our beaches. This project is focussed on school canteens. Our goal is to get all of the local school canteens in our region certified, as we believe that change starts young. The program will reduce single-use plastics use at the source and therefore reduce the waste that ends up on our beaches. This program will also provide sustainability education for our children and show them that it's possible to run a school canteen without disposable, single-use plastics. This grant will enable us to raise awareness amongst the next generation about environmental conservation, which will have a positive impact on their health and well-being. We also want to ensure that the health of our children is not affected by microplastics and nanoparticles leaching into their foods (as we recently shared at the world inaugural Plastic Health Summit in Amsterdam. Our volunteers will directly approach schools to educate and encourage them to become Ocean Friendly, and thus ensure that the next generation is protected from the toxic burden of single-use plastics, as they will be the ones most affected by climate change.	\$1,000	NIL
7	Towradgi SLSC & Towradgi Public School Community Collaboration Event	Mark McCarthy, Georgina Baguley	Paul Baguley	Towradgi Public School P & C	My name is Paul, I am on the Towradgi Public School P & C Committee and my role is to help with fundraising. Mark McCarthy, the President of the Towradgi P & C also has a strong connection with the surf lifesaving movement. We had an idea to help strengthen links between local educational institutions and the surrounding community groups including iconic institutions such as the surf lifesaving clubs of Australia. The event will also be a great way to continue to bring the members of both the school and surf lifesaving clubs together to enhance the social aspect of living in our community. We will advertise the event at school and SLSC events and newsletters. Our idea was to hold an afternoon/evening with BBQ and live entertainment to help raise funds for both the school and the SLSC and in the process bring two separate social groups together to enhance each other via social cross linkages. Small coastal communities thrive when these links can be formed and nurtured. Funds raised will assist both organisations.	\$1,000	NIL

CONNECTING NEIGHBOURS GRANTS 2019 – ROUND 3 - \$1,000 GRANT REVIEW PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS							
Appl No	Project Name	Name of Group	Project Co-Ordinator	Auspice	Project Description	Requested	Recommended
8	Girls Day Out	Essence of Life Youth Girls Program	Mariam Hadaya	Essence of Life	The idea came from realising that we have a lot of young Muslim high school girls that come from a diverse range of backgrounds, including Lebanese, Turkish, Pakistani, Libyan and African girls as well as Syrian and Iraqi refugees. These young girls are vulnerable due to socio-economic issues as well as social stigma relating to Muslims and in particular Muslim females. Due to this it has led to isolation for many of the Muslim youth girls and one particular aspect that these youth are not participating in is sports and looking after their well-being, both physical and mental health. We need these girls to be empowered by getting out into society and being a part of society and not feel let down by social stigma and any publicised discrimination. These girls need a sense of belonging. I would like to connect Muslim girls from all diverse backgrounds, including refugees, by organising a social and sporting event. This would be open to girls of high school age, about 13- 19, to go and enjoy a recreational day out. The plan is to take 40 girls to Nowra Tree Tops and to subsidise between \$18 and \$28 per person so that the girls only pay \$20 each as many are from disadvantaged families. The normal cost is \$38 (13-17) and \$48 (18+). I believe that this project would benefit my community as it will improve self-confidence for the girls and allow for a sense of belonging as well as form new friendships and connections for girls that are otherwise isolated	\$1,000	NIL
9	Russell Vale Community Sports Days	Russell Vale Public School P & C Association	Nicole Aldred	Russell Vale Public School P & C Association	A Multipurpose Sports Court has recently been built at Russell Vale Public School. However, this is a community asset and we wish to encourage the usage of the court by the whole Russell Vale community. Hence, we are proposing to hold two community sports days in March and June 2020. These days will be open and free for the whole community to attend. They days will feature round robin style games with Basketball, Netball, Volleyball and Futsal featured as part of the days. The events will be facilitated by professional sports coaches. The day will also offer health food and drink options for the participants to enjoy. All games will also be inclusive of those with disabilities and appropriate sports team like the Roller Hawks will also be involved in the days to provide adequate support. These carnival days will be used to promote the new sports court facility and to encourage the community to use them as part of their regular activity. Additional balls and sports equipment will also be purchased for the events but will be available for community use beyond these events. The event will be promoting via letterbox drops throughout Russell Vale, via Russell Vale Connect Facebook page and will also be promoting via emails and newsletters by Russell Vale Public School and Russell Vale Junior Football Club.	\$950	\$950

CONNECTING NEIGHBOURS GRANTS 2019 – ROUND 3 - \$1,000 GRANT REVIEW PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS							
Appl No	Project Name	Name of Group	Project Co-Ordinator	Auspice	Project Description	Requested	Recommended
10	Emerging Leaders	Essence of Life Young Ladies Program	Maha Elhage	Essence of Life	There are many new and emerging high-achieving Muslim students who are capable of taking on leadership and volunteer roles in the wider community and as such need to be trained in leadership and volunteer management. By improving these skills, the girls can fill in much needed gaps in the community and develop new skills that can help improve networks with the wider community. In particular there are also barriers with employment and employability skills. We are working hard in the community to address these issues and supporting these young ladies where possible. Education is highly encouraged and more so now than in previous times. Whilst there is much concentration on studying and working there is also a sense of displacement from these ladies that come from many diverse backgrounds. Not much time is spent on mind fullness or self-care. Some are disconnected with nature and the lovely surroundings around us. I would like to take these young ladies on a therapeutic trip to unwind with sporting activities, adventurous fun and high energy challenges. They will also connect with nature in quiet surroundings and reflect in a peaceful environment. The idea is about Reflection, Adventure and Relaxation. I would like to take the girls to Department of Sport and Recreation in Berry or The Tops Conference Centre in Stanwell Park. The programs there provide an arena for young people to learn new skills, to confront challenges and fears in a supportive environment & to grow in confidence. Furthermore, they can foster positive peer relationships through shared experience & success where the outcome for the participant is a strong sense of belonging & team-spirit.	\$2,010	NIL
11	Port Kembla Food Forest Laneway Party	Transition PK: Kelly Ryan & Jess Whittaker	Kelly Ryan	Our Community Project	A community gathering at the Food Forest Laneway in Port Kembla that was founded by Dan Deighton 20 years ago, with the intention of bringing the community together and Educating them about the space and fruit trees that are there. Inviting them to take Ownership of the site. The gathering would include pizzas provided by the Arthouse Cafe, a produce and Seedling plant swap, music and a bit of a working bee. We would also be labelling all of The Trees prior to the event so the community could become more aware of the fruit Trees in the laneway and be more involved in harvesting and care of the laneway.	\$800	\$800

CONNECTING NEIGHBOURS GRANTS 2019 – ROUND 3 - \$1,000 GRANT REVIEW PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS							
Appl No	Project Name	Name of Group	Project Co-Ordinator	Auspice	Project Description	Requested	Recommended
12	Friendship and Fun	Gwynneville Public School P&C Incorporated	Katie Singh	Gwynneville Public School P&C Incorporated	Gwynneville Public School (GPS) is a multi-cultural school with families from diverse socio-economic and cultural backgrounds. We at GPS feel the school is an exemplary microcosm of harmony, diversity and inclusion. GPS P&C has a strong focus on bringing community together and capitalising on the diversity in our community. Our application for this grant is to fund equipment that can be utilised on a regular basis for community play dates and picnics. Our vision is to hold regular informal events at local parks around Gwynneville, Keiraville and West Wollongong to bring families together. These informal playdates and picnics will be coordinated by GPS P&C and advertised through networks and social media to all local schools and all in our local area. We plan to use our multicultural networks to advertise social, family friendly events in multiple languages, and, if our application is successful, we intend to share the equipment with other schools in our local area, e.g. Keiraville, St Brigid's, West Wollongong and St Therese to name a few, so that they can also benefit from these assets for their own school events. GPS P&C already has a community building profile having previously arranged parenting seminars that were advertised through local schools, and, having coordinated a multi-cultural cooking group. We are currently working on a multicultural recipe book. If successful, we will use the equipment in conjunction with other special dates, such as the Muslim festival of Eid, the Hindu festival of Diwali, Clean Up Australia Day, NAIDOC, Halloween, Christmas and other special events as suggested by our community. We would also like to use this opportunity to build a social network in the local area, scale up and get our community involved in other fantastic WCC initiatives, such as Bushcare, Dune Care, Rise and Shine and other initiatives, e.g. planting a herb garden on the empty garden bed at North Wollongong station, coordinating a toy, book and clothes swap event, establishing a community library, holding a multicultural food festival etc. If GPS P&C were successful in applying for this grant, we would ensure that the assets purchased would be put to great use to build connections in our community, enhance the feeling of social inclusion, safety and belonging. GPS P&C would match the funding with actual and in-kind contributions, e.g. planning, coordination, marketing and purchasing of additional equipment and supplies.	\$1,000	\$1,000

CONNECTING NEIGHBOURS GRANTS 2019 – ROUND 3 - \$1,000 GRANT REVIEW PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS							
Appl No	Project Name	Name of Group	Project Co-Ordinator	Auspice	Project Description	Requested	Recommended
13	Shiny Seniors	Wollongong Chinese Seniors Association	Lanying Liu	Wollongong Chinese Seniors Association	<p>As middle or old aged migrants, some of us came to Australia twenty or thirty years ago and devoted the best of our life to this country; some of us came in recent years because our children are devoting themselves to this country. We come from a country with a language and culture different from Australia's. It takes some time for us to find a sense of belonging. After our children go to work and our grandchildren go to school, we feel lonely and thus we who are from the same country get together to talk, dance, travel, organise events, and learn English. While retaining the culture from which we come and bear, we are trying our best to be part of the multicultural community of Australia. With the purpose of helping each other to establish a sense of belonging here, we established the Wollongong Chinese Seniors Association. Our sincere gratitude goes to Wollongong City Council for initiating this grant. With it, we will organise the following events to get involved people from and outside our association.</p> <p>Organise events on Australian public holidays and Chinese cultural festivals. We have a dancing group. We will invite more people to join our dancing group and buy more costumes. When festivals come, we may dance in the mall and invite more people to dance with us. We will organise some low-cost trips to the areas we have never been to in the Local Government Area to know more about the place where we live. With the grant, more people will join our association and we will pass on the spirit of multiculturalism to more people. With the grant, we will gain more sense of belonging in this place where we are living. There are currently 145 members in our association and this number may increase. We have a schedule for future activities and events: Christmas 2019 (est 60 participants), Chinese New Year 2020 (est 100 participants), Lantern Festival 2020 (est 80 participants), Australia Day (est 100 participants), 1st anniversary of Association's founding (est 120 participants), mid-Autumn Festival (est 150 participants) plus monthly activities.</p>	\$1,000	NIL

APPROVAL

SIGNATURE:

NAME

Greg Doyle

TITLE:

General Manager

DATE:

20.12.2019