



Local Lions Clubs supporting Sydney northern beaches community service organisations

Lions Clubs donated more than \$100,000 to community projects throughout Australia through the Lions Australia's Community 100 program. The program marking the Centenary of the organisations, will assist more than 100 worthy causes around Australia.

700 community organisations applied for funds under the program that was supported by County Style magazine. Projects included support for people with dementia, sports programs to integrate refugees, resilience building workshops for at-risk youth, community gardens as well as domestic violence and mental health initiatives. In the Manly Warringah area three projects were selected : Mr Graham Lugsdin Queenscliff Surf Lifesaving Club received air conditioner for first aid/patrol room (Balgowlah Lions), Ms Tanya Carmont. Water Skills for Life – teach swimming and water safety skills to the Tibetan Community of Dee Why (Frenchs Forest Lions) and Mr Jake Carmont Funding to support the Ripper Nippers program, a modified program for Special Needs Nippers.(Manly Lions)

Tanya Carmont, President Water Skills for Life says “I have been a swim instructor for number of years and have volunteered to teach swimming at Narrabeen and Collaroy rockpools. I have a passion to empower people no matter what age or ability to be safe around the aquatic environment helping them to enjoy the water experience. I feel that giving back to my local community as well as helping developing countries in water safety techniques and swimming is an important role I have to play.

After my first volunteer Vietnam experience, I had an urge to be able to help others and so Water Skills for Life began. I have a very dedicated Committee who share the same passion as I do.”Many Tibetan's new to our area are unfamiliar with our beaches and waterways, and have no 'water awareness'.

Water Skills for Life are committed to educating this community, who may be at risk on our beaches without proper education and training.

Water Skills for Life are working closely with the Tibetan Community of Australia to provide a program that will develop water awareness, swimming and water safety skills.

Water Skills for Life volunteers operate a swim program at Dee Why rock pool commencing in December each summer season. “

Rob Oerlemans, Lions Australia Executive Officer said the Community 100 program has highlighted how many fantastic projects there are and how these grants can fund a much needed piece of equipment or keep a meal program running, for example.

“These amazing projects can make a significant impact to their local communities, and what better way to celebrate 100 years of service than by doing what has made us great,.. helping others,” said Mr. Oerlemans. “For 100 years Lions have shared a core belief that the community is what we make it and Lions Australia's Community 100 program celebrates this belief.”

100% of all fundraising goes back into the communities we serve.