

\$1 Million for community



Representatives from community groups within the Liverpool Plains Shire attended a Community Fund Announcement Morning Tea hosted by Shenhua Watermark in Gunnedah.

Groups within the Gunnedah Shire Council and Liverpool Plains Shire Council have received over \$1 million in community grants from Shenhua Watermark. The financial contribution comes as the final round of a \$5 million Watermark Community Fund dedicated to supporting a wide range of local developments since 2009.

The grants were formally presented at a morning tea held in Gunnedah on May 19. Representatives from the participating community groups attended the ceremony.

Chairman of Shenhua Australia Holdings Pty Ltd and Shenhua Watermark Coal Pty Ltd, Mr Liu Xiang, provided an address at the morning tea where he summarised the allocation of funding and outlined the importance of supporting local council and community.

"Many submissions were received this year and after a long and careful decision making process by our Community Advisory Committee, we are pleased to be able to support 19 projects," explained Liu Xiang. "We expect these projects will make a meaningful and

lasting difference across the region.

"Although this may be the last round of funding, Shenhua has every intention of continuing to be an active participant in the community and looks forward to supporting the region over the next 30 years. It has been a pleasure to support the community over the last five years and we look forward to continuing to support the region in the years to come," he concluded.

Mayor of Liverpool Plains Shire Council, Cr Ian Lobsey was a member of the Community Fund Advisory Committee

which was responsible for helping determine which grant applications received financial assistance.

"There are so many deserving projects out there that as a member of the committee it was difficult to see which ones to leave out," said Mayor Lobsey. "We appreciate Shenhua's contribution in this way. There are many happy groups out there who can now do projects which were going to be impossible without the funding."

Mayor Lobsey also accepted grants on behalf of the council to the value of \$170,500. The

funding will be put towards rehabilitation works around Quirindi Creek and creek side interpretative signage.

A diverse range of projects were awarded funding including the Quirindi Heritage Village's Model Railway Group which received \$25,852 for the development of a model railway based on NSW State Railway from 1930's.

According to Model Railway Group member Matt Wilcox, "The Quirindi Rural Heritage Village Model Railway Group would like to thank Shenhua Watermark Community

Fund for the wonderful sponsorship of our new project.

"The model railway is an exciting new addition to the extensive exhibits already on display; it will demonstrate how the railways were the life's blood of the NSW country transporting anything and everything over the rails to small distant communities.

"The project will also help to bring in new members to the organisation thus helping to cement the Quirindi Rural Heritage Village's future for generations to come," he concluded.

Werris Creek Public School received \$34,570

for the installation of two rainwater tanks which will assist in minimising school water bills and freeing up finances to spend on other educational equipment.

"It's going to be very helpful because we have a lot of water wastage at school with runoff so if we harvest that we won't be paying for water from the town supply," explained Relieving Principal, Timothy Munday.

Other recipients from the Liverpool Plains include Friends of Quirindi Library, Werris Creek District Pre-school and Walhallow Public School.