



## Connecting with community organisations

Community partnerships program showcases contribution to local lifestyle, Port of Newcastle

“

Port of Newcastle's Community Partnership Program is a great model for connecting with local community organisations and engaging port staff in the process. It showcases the tremendous contribution of local, volunteer-based organisations and the invaluable role they play in making Newcastle a great place to live.

Geoff Crowe,  
Port of Newcastle  
CEO



**Australia's ports are a vital part of our communities – from coastal towns to the most isolated regions of Australia.**

**Ports are committed to supporting our communities.**

**Each year, Australia's ports spend more than \$2.2 million supporting communities by hosting educational tours, improving local facilities, protecting the environment, sponsoring events and taking part in industry partnerships.**

Since the Port of Newcastle received its first shipment 217 years ago, the port and the city have grown and prospered together.

With a proud history of supporting local organisations, the Port of Newcastle is committed to sharing the benefits of trade growth with the local community.

Newcastle is a harbour city known for its stunning coastline and pristine beaches. The Port of Newcastle co-exists with this beautiful natural landscape. The entrance of the port is flanked by beaches.

Port of Newcastle has a long history of supporting surf lifesaving clubs, in recognition of the invaluable work they do keeping local beaches safe. Many local surf lifesavers train within the harbour and these local clubs have a long-standing connection to the port.

In the 1860s, a group of men known as the *Stockton Rocket Brigade* were involved in the rescue of seamen who ran aground while trying to enter the harbour. These men went on to form the Stockton Surf Lifesaving Club.

In 2007, Nobbys Surf Lifesaving Club played a key role in the emergency and rescue operations when the *Pasha Bulker* ran aground in heavy seas.





# Solution

In 2014, Port of Newcastle established a Community Partnerships Program.

This program supports grass-roots, volunteer-driven projects across education, environment, youth development and health and wellbeing.

The program involves two rounds of funding each year. Port staff play a role in reviewing applications and recommending the projects and causes they would like to support.

Port of Newcastle partners with successful applicants to promote their project and explore volunteering opportunities for port staff.

**Beneficiaries of the program include:**

**Micro Theatre Festival** – an independent short play festival held in local venues during August each year

**Nobbys Surf Lifesaving Club's New Wave Nipper Program** – purchase of new equipment which will enable children with a disability to take part in beach activities

**Newcastle Surf Lifesaving Club** – assistance with delivering surf lifesaving training programs

**Hunter Surf Lifesaving Club** – funding for a new high-performance rescue water craft

**Stockton Surf Lifesaving Club** – sponsoring the *Active Kids Program* which assists young members to develop surf lifesaving skills and encourages ongoing volunteer participation in the club.



# Outcome

Since the program began in 2014, Port of Newcastle has awarded more than \$400,000 to 92 community and industry-based projects.

With the support of the port, Stockton Surf Lifesaving Club now delivers the *Active Kids Program* four days a week. This program engages young members in activities including assessing water currents and learning to use the rescue boards, resulting in increased confidence and better surf awareness.

The port also provides \$1 million each year to the Newcastle Port Community Contribution Fund. Managed by the New South Wales Government, this fund supports projects that enhance or maintain landside infrastructure and community amenities around the port.



**For more information visit:**  
[www.portofnewcastle.com.au/Community](http://www.portofnewcastle.com.au/Community)