



Hunter Water Corporation
ABN 46 228 513 446

PO Box 5171
HRMC NSW 2310

Media Release

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For immediate release

Hunter Water helping to promote healthier schools

Hunter Water's new Managing Director, Kim Wood, was on hand yesterday to meet with students, teachers and organisers of The Forum's Healthier Schools Program, and formally present the program with a \$10,000 community grant.

The program, which Hunter Water has supported through its Community Funding Program for six years running, aims to keep Hunter kids active and safe in the water, as well as providing them with information about our waterways and how to use water more wisely.

"While Hunter Water has a long history of supporting this important initiative, this is my first experience with the Healthier School's program, and may I say what a wonderful program it is," said Mr Wood.

"It's great to see these local students engaging in healthy activities, while learning about the importance of one of our most precious resources – water.

"Hunter Water is committed to maintaining its ongoing support of initiatives that promote healthy lifestyles and water safety."

Since 2005, more than 13,500 Hunter school kids have participated in the program.

The students of Waratah West Public School, which has also only just joined the Program, were lucky enough to meet Oggie the Froggie, Hunter Water's official mascot.

The Forum's Director Programs, Roxana Olivares, said that flexible programs can be developed to suit the needs of each school and its students.

"The Healthier Schools Program helps children to develop fundamental movement skills to help them lead healthy and fulfilling lives. This program specifically focuses on the development of lifesaving swimming skills as well as ways in which children can value and conserve water in our community."

The Healthier Schools Program includes the Royal Life Saving accredited 'Swim and Survive' course as well as information on how to implement environmentally friendly water solutions to assist in water saving practices. Topics of education include the water cycle, sustainable water management and water conservation.

More information: Nicholas Kachel on 4979 9885 or 0457 605 371