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## Love is all around: 2023 Love Water Grants announced

Hunter Water has announced 15 recipients of its Love Water Grants program, totalling more than \$100,000, following the highest number of applications ever received.

The one-off grants valued at up to \$10,000 primarily support water conservation and efficiency initiatives, as well as projects with an education, environmental and sustainability focus.

Minister for Water, Housing and Homelessness, Rose Jackson, said the Lower Hunter community proposed innovative water-saving approaches.

“It’s clear from the 76 applications, a record number, that the local community is committed to providing innovative solutions to help save our most precious resource however they can,” Ms Jackson said.

“In the current economic climate, we’re seeing now more than ever how important it is to support our community. The diverse range of projects from amenities upgrades to irrigation systems to community gardens all promote water conservation and will make a significant difference to the people of the Lower Hunter.”

The Love Water Grants program opens each year on Valentine’s Day (14 February).

This year, in a stroke of serendipity, one of the Love Water Grants recipients is Valentine Hydrotherapy Pools (VHP).

VHP will use the grant funding to upgrade its amenities block to be more water efficient, including installing eight new dual-flush toilet cisterns. The Pools Committee will also put in a 10-thousand-litre water tank.

VHP Committee Member, Lynda Payne, said the organisation is excited and grateful to receive a Love Water grant.

“Our pools serve multiple parts of our community. Our hydrotherapy pool facility is where disabled, injured, post-operative or older people can exercise with their physiotherapist. In our heated 15m pool, babies to adults can become water confident and learn to swim. We’re a charity, so receiving the support to see a much-needed project come to life is wonderful,” Ms Payne said.

Hunter Water Managing Director, Darren Cleary, said VHP’s project captured what the Love Water Grants program is all about.

“We’re committed to supporting our community, and Valentine Hydrotherapy Pools’ project will have some great community outcomes when it comes to saving water and improving the facility’s functionality,” Mr Cleary said.

“Thank you to all applicants, and congratulations to the successful recipients. We’re proud to support our community as we work together to ensure we have a sustainable and resilient water future.”

For more information, visit [www.hunterwater.com.au/grants](http://www.hunterwater.com.au/grants)

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# Media Release

## Hunter Water

### 2023 Love Water Grant recipients

Organisation	Project	Funding	LGA
Australia's Wildlife Ark Ltd (Aussie Ark)	Hunter Region Endangered Turtle Breeding Program	\$10,000	Multiple - Hunter River
Biraban Local Aboriginal Land Council	Growing Plants for their return to country	\$10,000	Lake Mac
New Lambton Heights Infants School P&C Association	Embedding water conservation ideology and practice into early school life	\$8,860	Newcastle
Fig Tree Community Association	Olla Water Workshops	\$5,328	Newcastle
Australian Sailing	Water conservation and education in sailing clubs in the Lower Hunter	\$9,953	Multiple - Lower Hunter
Valley Village Early Learning Centre	Bush Tucker Garden and Frog habitat Water Conservation	\$3,700	Maitland
Millers Forest Public School	Millers Forest Garden Water System ('Water' you think about this?)	\$10,000	Maitland
Maitland Community Men's Shed	Water System Pressure Upgrade	\$2,800	Maitland
St John's Primary School Lambton	Developing Biodiversity in Our Garden	\$3,115	Newcastle
Trees in Newcastle (TIN)	TIN Water Plan	\$9,200	Lake Mac
St Johns Church Community Garden	Water for community garden	\$8,400	Port Stephens
Valentine Hydrotherapy Pools Inc	Love Water Saving - Step 1	\$10,000	Lake Mac
Clarence Town Public School	Connections for Our Climate	\$4,024	Dungog
PCYC (OzHarvest)	Nourish Community Garden	\$9,400	Lake Mac
Lodge Paxton 608	Water efficiency project	\$3,237	Cessnock