

Community grants to boost local organisations

Last week, Maryborough MP Anne Maddern announced a swathe of recently approved community grants funded by the well-endowed Gambling Community Benefit Fund.

The fund is an initiative of the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation to distribute revenue from gaming taxes to various not-for-profit community groups throughout Queensland.

Among the grant approvals was an application from the Toogoom Community Association, which requested support to fund the purchase and installation of air-

conditioning units for their hall on Torbanlea Rd.

Association president John Upton said the hall was a major focal point for the community and at times, the heat inside was overwhelming.

"We thought we really needed to do something about this," John said.

"It's not only a social focal point, it's also a disaster management focal point."

John said the air-conditioning unit would help provide a comfortable environment for the many residents and groups that used the hall regularly.



Toogoom Community Association treasurer David Wardley and president John Upton will breathe a sigh of relief when the Hall's air conditioning units are finally installed.



The Burrum District Community Men's Shed members will get together to build their new shed, funded by the Gambling Community Benefit Fund.

Another vital community organisation to receive a grant from the fund was the Burrum District Community Men's Shed.

The Men's Shed was approved for just over \$30,000 in funding to help build a new shed to accommodate their growth in recent years and raise it above flood level.

"At the moment, we're working out of a shed behind the Burrum District Respite Centre in Howard," Men's Shed secretary John Laffin said.

"We've been there for a couple of years now and it's a

bit cramped.

"This new shed was meant to go to Vietnam and it's been sitting in a box since the 1960s.

"The army generously donated that to us in November 2014."

John said all members would be pitching in with the construction.

"The Men's Shed movement has proven to be an effective way of engaging men in their communities, our shed creates a comfortable environment for men to work together on meaningful projects whilst sharing skills with other men," he said.