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MEDIA RELEASE

**Community Trust supports F3 expansion along with wildlife
rescue, sustainability efforts and literacy**

At its October meeting, the Coal & Allied Community Trust approved more than \$125,000 for projects covering the areas of literacy, wildlife recovery, sustainability, transportation infrastructure, and learning.

Fiona Nicholls, Chair of the Trust, said the projects are aimed to make a positive impact in the Hunter region.

“Our aim at the Community Trust is to provide enhanced capacity for the growth of the Hunter region related to the environment, vocational learning, business development, economic enhancement or academic opportunities. We are pleased to be part of the future of the Hunter Valley,” said Ms Nicholls.

The Community Trust will provide \$20,000 to support the Hunter Economic Development Corporation’s efforts to update a business case study for the proposed F3 Extension from the Newcastle Link Road at Seahampton to Branxton. The update will include economic, social and environmental data, to support the construction.

A grant of \$54,084 was awarded to Wildlife Aid, a local group that coordinates the rescue of injured wildlife in the Upper Hunter Valley. The group facilitates the intake of injured animals and works to increase awareness around native wildlife and its importance in the environment. The Community Trust funding will include resources for new care providers.

‘Let’s Read’ is aimed at improving literacy in the Cessnock area. The program involves one-to-one training with parents to expand their understanding of the importance of reading with young children. With \$20,000 support from the Community Trust, families will receive promotional materials, an instruction DVD, suggested book lists, and an age appropriate book for their child.

The Sustainability Committee at Muswellbrook Shire Council will be provided \$24,000 for the construction and development of a travelling sustainability exhibit. Once constructed, the display will promote energy efficiency and sustainability principles. The trailer will be on display at community events within the region.

The Community Trust has also provided \$8,600 in funding for the University of Newcastle’s SMART science show, which is a travelling science exhibit for students in years K-10. The 2007 theme is robotics and features interactive demonstrations, pictures, video clips and real robots to enthuse and involve the students about

science, engineering and technology. The SMART Science show will travel to schools throughout the region beginning in 2007.

The Trustees will next meet to consider new applications in February 2007. To apply for funding contact the Coal & Allied Community Trust Executive Officer on 02 6570 0430.

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