

Sport big winner in grant funding

LOCAL sporting groups are among the latest recipients of funding from the Federal Government.

More than \$20 million was handed out to community organisations around Australia including eight groups in the Pilbara.

The Wickham Wasps, Karratha Dampier Men's Darts Association and the Karratha Netball Association were all successful in gaining funding

from the Volunteer Grants Program.

The Wickham Wasps Rugby League Club received \$3400 but relies on volunteers to run its club and raise money for equipment and services for players.

The Karratha Dampier Men's Darts Association were given \$2500 to help promote darts and to organise their annual events while Karratha Netball Association are now

\$3000 better off.

Other community groups that received money include Ngurawaana Group Aboriginal Corporation, Vinnies Karratha, Pannawonica Kindergarten and Tom Price Community Arts and Cultural Centre.

Federal Member of Parliament Barry Haase said the volunteer grants recognised the important work volunteers do in their local com-

munities.

"Every day volunteers are out in our local community working tirelessly to build community pride and to give a helping hand to the elderly, the sick and those who have hit hard times, contributing towards making the communities in which we live more amenable," he said.

The next round of funding will be open for applications in the first half of this year.

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DAMPIER Jan 13 to 20				PORT HEDLAND Jan 13 to 20			
WED 13	SUN 17	WED 13	SUN 17	WED 13	SUN 17	WED 13	SUN 17
Time	Ht	Time	Ht	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
0404	1.48	0621	0.81	0359	2.33	0003	6.44
1030	3.31	1225	4.08	1031	5.13	0617	1.17
1603	2.09	1822	1.39	1611	2.87	1234	6.26
2156	3.85			2215	5.72	1827	1.73
THU 14	MON 18	THU 14	MON 18	THU 14	MON 18	THU 14	MON 18
Time	Ht	Time	Ht	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
0446	1.23	0015	4.34	0442	1.92	0033	6.52
1105	3.56	0648	0.79	1106	5.51	0644	1.11
1646	1.86	1248	4.18	1652	2.47	1300	6.38
2238	4.04	1851	1.32	2256	6.03	1854	1.65
FRI 15	TUE 19	FRI 15	TUE 19	FRI 15	TUE 19	FRI 15	TUE 19
Time	Ht	Time	Ht	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
0522	1.03	0042	4.32	0517	1.58	0101	6.51
1133	3.78	0713	0.82	1137	5.84	0709	1.13
1721	1.66	1312	4.23	1727	2.14	1326	6.44
2314	4.20	1919	1.30	2330	6.28	1920	1.64
SAT 16	WED 20	SAT 16	WED 20	SAT 16	WED 20	SAT 16	WED 20
Time	Ht	Time	Ht	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
0553	0.89	0109	4.24	0548	1.33	0128	6.42
1200	3.95	0736	0.91	1206	6.08	0733	1.23
1753	1.50	1335	4.25	1758	1.89	1349	6.44
2345	4.30	1948	1.32			1946	1.69

Bikes are 'goers' for Dads

TOM Price in WA, located 1547 kms from Perth, is a mining town surrounded by expanses of iron ore hills in every direction.

It's also the hub for the dads' club at the local BMX track, which is enjoying some attention as a place where the dads are giving BMX a go.

George Saville, who claims to be quick approaching 40, had never ridden a BMX before.

The thought of riding to keep fit was appealing; particularly upon moving to Tom Price where he'd heard about the infamous dads' club.

His two sons, Jacob, 10, and Ethan, 8, are keen riders and had been hitting up the Karratha track for some time.

Like many young riders, they were very supportive when it came to their dad giving it a go.

"The dads looked like they had the same fitness level as myself and were pretty much the same age" Saville said.

"So I thought, well this looks all right". When he first hit the track, he found that he couldn't make it around the whole track without having to take a rest.

"Then we got on the gate for the first race.

"There were seven new dads who'd never ridden before and Kero [Club President], who's been riding for several years and when he was a kid.

"The adrenaline started pumping and we all blasted out of the gate and I made it two thirds of the way around the track.

When I went through the rhythm section for the first time ever, I found it a bit harder than it looked. I came straight off, knocking the guy next to me down" he laughed.

George had an ACL ligament replaced in his left knee 12 months ago and is still improving.

He found that his right leg does all the work and by the time he's at the end of the track, it feels like it's on fire.

So apart from his knee feeling sore after a race, he pushes the matter aside and is keen to get back on the track, doing



George Saville is one of the dads giving BMX a go in Tom Price.

it for the dads. He doesn't have time for excuses. The kids reflect it's fantastic when the mums and dads hit the track. Many dads realise how hard it is for the kids.

"I like the people I meet, new friends, the fitness and the best thing is the fun you have," Saville said. "All the dads are loving it with the bond strengthening as they share the sport together.

"Some people are worried about look-

ing stupid by diminishing off [but] everyone falls off some time but you're going to miss out if you don't give it a go".

George bought a strong bike that was heavy since he wasn't "slightly built" with the safety gear and spent \$800 all up.

Now he just needs to focus on making it full speed around the whole track.

"I just want to encourage everyone to give it a go and it's all about fun" he said.

- Delphine Jamet

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1260
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