

Community projects receive \$26,000 boost

By SAMANTHA ROUGET

MANSFIELD community groups received more than \$26,000 last week, when the Bendigo Bank handed out cheques for projects across the shire.

Recipients were varied – from the Mansfield Secondary College to Up2Us Landcare – but they all had one thing in common: a desire to create a better Mansfield.

The funds build on the almost \$5000,000 that has been returned to the community through the Mansfield and District Community Bank.

Five projects within local groups were given funding at Friday's Mansfield and District Community Bank's Community Contributions morning tea.

Among the recipients of this round's funding were Mansfield Secondary College – in partnership with Mansfield Primary School - who received funding to go towards Hands on Learning (HoL) Project.

"This will give the children the opportunity to success outside of the classroom," Tim Hall, Mansfield Secondary College principal, said.

The HoL program involves 10 students working with two artisan-teachers to complete hands on learning projects around the school and community. For one day per week, they are out of their normal classes to be part of the program.

Participants learn valuable practical and life skills while developing a stronger sense of belonging and connectedness



SCHOOL FUN: Pictured are (from left) Matt Currie (Bendigo Bank branch manager) handing over a cheque to Tim Hall (Mansfield Secondary College principal) and Julie McInnes (Mansfield Primary School principal).

to their school and community.

By building confidence and increasing school engagement, it is hoped that HoL creates positive economic and social outcomes.

John Bilson, president of Up2Us Landcare Alliance, also welcomed funding behind their Powering Up Mansfield Plan.

"We hope to formalise a group and develop a strategic plan," Mr Gilson said. The development of the plan will be the seed to leverage grants for integration of renewable energy initiatives, engage community and establish working groups to facilitate change.

Like Up2Us Landcare Alliance, the Mansfield Men's own strategic plan; and with

the help of funding received at the morning tea, they hope to make the shed a more "attractive" space.

"The Men's Shed isn't just about fixing furniture and building things," Bill Copley, president of the Men's Shed, said.

"It's also about helping men, which is part of our larger strategy to make the space more attractive."

Along with refurbishment works that are set to take place at the Men's Shed, Amanda Swaney, Mansfield A&P Society vice president, announced that they will be completing works at the show grounds pavilion upgrade.

The overarching objective for these refurbishments is to upgrade the luncheon

pavilion to provide a safe and comfortable place where people can gather to eat and enjoy each other's company, seek a quiet refuge and to gather for meetings.

Also among recipients was Mansfield Armchair Cinema (MAC), who hopes to make their cinema a more comfortable environment for the community.

The cinema plans to soundproof some of their walls by installing eggshell sound foam acoustic treatment panel tiles.

"This cinema was set up as a non for profit organisation," James Wilson, co-founder of MAC, said.

"We're punching well above our weight."