

Robot challenge

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"Our robot will compete with others in a series of tests and competitions, with the winners heading to the USA to compete at a global level," said Mr Druce.

"We are 'rookies' this year but we fully intend to give this our very best shot.

"We are keen to see this become an annual part of our education program."

"It has been great to see the team members stepping up to do what they can do to raise some money," Mrs Doust said.

"In December we had a very successful cherry drive and a cherry guessing competition.

"We believe that the students need to pitch in and help make this opportunity happen and they were only too happy to roll up their sleeves."

Mrs Doust said the support from the business community had been "exceptional".

"When we approached several local companies last year, without exception, everyone said 'yes' to our request for support as they could see the importance of this education program and how it would significantly contribute to the skills development of our students," she said.

"Along with Google's incredibly generous support we sincerely thank our local sponsor who include; Namoi Cotton, Cotton Seed Distributors, Santos, Cotton Grower Services, Cotton Research and Development Corporation, Narrabri Shire Council.

"Only four schools in rural NSW will be participating in the competition and without all of our sponsors, Wee Waa High School couldn't have done it."



ABOVE: HoverMatt and HoverJack from left to right donated to the hospital by Namoi Cotton. Pam Challachor, Helen Revell, Anne Weekes from the Hospital Auxiliary; Kylie Greste, Helen Haire Nursing Staff ; and Rachel Cruikshank (Namoi Cotton).

Bore fix in the offing, if funds are found

Funding is 'real problem'

Some of Narrabri Shire's troublesome water bores are in a position to be fixed, but money looks to be an issue.

Narrabri Shire councillors heard at a meeting last week that the Gwabegar bore will need replacing, while the one at Pilliga should be able to be repaired.

"Our real problem is the funding," said acting director of infrastructure delivery Alan Lawrance.

"We've contacted the federal government to ask for emergency funding, but they asked us to look into our [existing water augmentation budget] to see what savings we could make before they would consider funding."

The council last year spent nearly \$150,000 on an assessment of the bores which found the Pilliga and Gwabegar bores in 'an imminent state of collapse' though a second opinion on Pilliga was more promising.

Meanwhile, tenders for the complete replacement of the Bellata bore closed last week.

"The problem with the bore is that there's a pump jammed down inside the bore," Mr Lawrance said.

"We're pumping above that level but it's not a satisfactory arrangement. The rest of the lining has failed as well."

The new bore would be within 20 metres of the old one, and funding was also being sought.

"The ideal time [to do the work] would be moving into winter so we can capitalise on the cooler weather period," Mr Lawrance said.

Donation aids Wee Waa hospital new equipment

Centenary cabaret celebrations changed to later in the year

Wee Waa Hospital staff have expressed their appreciation to the Auxiliary and Namoi Cotton's combined efforts.

Patients of the Wee Waa Hospital will benefit greatly from the new 'hover mat' and 'hover jack air'- lift transfer systems now in place.

The funds for the new equipment has generously been donated by Namoi Cotton, with a total cost of \$11,683.82.

This system has many benefits to both the hospital's patients and its staff.

The 'hover mat' system is used to

assist with lateral and re-positioning of patients anywhere in the hospital.

This means that patients can be gently and safely lifted from floors or chairs or between beds.

The 'hover jack' system then allows patients to be elevated up and transferred to beds or trolleys.

Staff use less exertion, about 15 per cent of a patient's body weight, to move patients safely and comfortably.

The Auxiliary has also announced



that it will reschedule its 100-year celebrations for the hospital until later in the year to allow more planning to go into the event.

Helping hand for Wee Waa student



Ten of this year's Narrabri Education Foundation recipients were able to make the presentation function at the Narrabri Shire Council chambers recently. They were, from left, Connor Richardson (studying sport and exercise science and sport management), Jacob Shields (business and commerce), Kurt Campbell (metal fabrication), Chelsea Johnson (social science), Sally Maher (animal science), Tara Langfield (art and science), Georgia Gordon (virtual and visual arts), Josephine Kirkby (arts), Luke Hensley (information technology and computer science) and Bruce and Robyn Loder Scholarship winner Ben Holmes (mechanical and mechatronics engineering).

Wee Waa resident Georgia Gordon was one of 18 lucky Narrabri Shire students who were recipients of the annual Narrabri Education Foundation study grants recently.

Georgia was one of 10 of the students on hand for the presentation at the Narrabri Shire Council chambers on January 28.

It was the 15th such allocation, and a record amount of \$30,000 was given out to help students with their tertiary study expenses, thanks to the generosity of sponsors and donors.

Georgia will go to Southern Cross University at Lismore, where she will study Virtual and Visual Arts.

Those present at the function heard from one of last year's recipients, Tim Rex, who is studying the trombone at the James Morrison Academy of Music in Mount Gambier, South Australia.

He has been able to use the grant to help with rent and other living expenses, and as was pointed out at the function, he has done plenty to help himself as well.

NEF chairman Horst Merten said it was also great to see graduates come back to the region - a dentist and agronomist among previous successful candidates.

It was not a requirement but "when you have local kids who come back, they want to come back".

Federal Member for Parkes Mark Coulton, who attended the function, was full of praise for the scheme. "It must be a great comfort to know as you're heading off to the next stage of your life and education, that the community ... is supporting what you do," he told the students.

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