

12 September 2014

Aurizon's Community Giving Fund helps provide lifesaving equipment for Mackay community

Australia's largest rail freight operator Aurizon is kicking off another round of community grants on 15 September 2014.

The Community Giving Fund program has supported 149 worthy charities across Australia since its inception in 2011.

One of the worthy recipients was the Mackay Surf Life Saving Club who were awarded a grant to expand their first aid training capability.

Mackay Surf Life Saving Club President, Stan Ridland says Aurizon's Community Giving Fund grant will give the volunteer organisation the equipment to run First Aid courses.

"The Mackay Surf Lifesaving Club is a volunteer community based organisation, dedicated to providing water safety and education to its members and the wider community of the Mackay region.

"In 2013, the training arm of the organisation did an audit of its operation and identified that its equipment was starting to get old and with the changes to how training was delivered, that things were starting to become antiquated.

"There was better equipment available, so with consultation with the State body they identified the Aurizon Community Giving program as the perfect fit to help fund the essential upgrade.

"New resuscitation manikins, training defibrillators', iPads, oxygen equipment and training manuals were on the list.

"The first priority is training our members, both new and old. We are regularly called out to deliver First Aid courses to businesses like child care, dentistry, the mining industry and schools."

Aurizon Managing Director and CEO Lance Hockridge is calling on the community to encourage local charities to apply.

"The Community Giving Fund can genuinely make a world of difference to those in need.

“We are calling on all charities and not for profit organisations who have projects based on environment, community safety, education or health and wellbeing to apply for a grant of up to \$20,000.”

“Apply and let us help you to help those who need it.”

The Community Giving Fund opens on 15 September 2014 and closes at 5pm AEDST 24 October 2014.

To apply visit www.aurizon.com.au/community.

