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THE LEADER IN RESOURCE RECOVERY

MEDIA RELEASE

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\$13,000 AWARDED TO CAIRNS COMMUNITY GROUPS

Three community groups in Cairns received more than \$13,000 in funding earlier this week to help support services and projects that benefit the local community.

Waste management and recycling company, SITA Australia, alongside the Mayor of Cairns Regional Council, Bob Manning and Councillors presented the cheques at an event in Fogarty Park on Tuesday.

Queensland State General Manager for SITA Australia, Peter Hudson, said through the SITA Community Grants program, the company was looking for community groups that make real, positive change in their local communities.

"Cairns Basketball, Permaculture Cairns and Guide Dogs Queensland are fantastic examples of organisations that are making a real difference to life in the Far North. SITA is proud to support them with more than \$13,000 in funding," Mr Hudson said.

SITA's grant of \$5,000 to Guide Dogs Queensland will fund five electronic GPS Mobility Aids for the blind and vision impaired. The hand-held talking GPS systems will be a huge help to Guide Dogs Queensland clients in Cairns.

CEO of Guide Dogs Queensland, Chris Laine commented: "The GPS devices will change the way of life for our blind and vision impaired clients giving them the tools they need to confidently go where they want to."

For Permaculture Cairns, SITA's grant of \$4,990 will go towards establishing the Cairns Community Garden.

"With the grant we can now fund a series of professionally run workshops to educate the general public in sustainable practices, such as recycling and building organic waste to return to the garden," said Permaculture President, Carol Laing.

SITA's grant of \$3,500 to Cairns Basketball will help the organisation upgrade to an energy smart hot water system.

CEO, Cairns Basketball, David Herbert explained: "With an electricity bill in excess of \$100,000 annually, the system will make a huge difference to the club for many years to come and enable put more funds back into our community activities."

SITA Australia launched the first national community grant program for the waste and resource recovery industry in Australia in October 2013.

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SITA AUSTRALIA (SITA) is a SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT and Sembcorp Industries joint venture, providing weekly services to over 56,000 commercial and industrial customers and more than 3.7 million residents across Australia. SITA's services include domestic, commercial & industrial waste collection; waste assessments; resource recovery and recycling options; processing of organic materials into compost; renewable energy facilities; hygiene services; waste treatment; and product destruction. For more information on SITA, visit www.sita.com.au