

# Council applauds fund

## Bannister Downs launches Hand in Hand Project

TARI JEFFERS

BANNISTER Downs Dairy is giving back to the community.

Dairy owner Sue Daubney has announced the Northcliffe-based business is going to provide grants to clubs, groups or individuals in the Shire of Manjimup.

Mrs Daubney said those involved with the business recognised in 2013 the need for financial assistance opportunities to people in the region.

The program – called the Bannister Downs Hand in Hand Project – provides people the opportunity to apply for

grants of up to \$3000. The business has been setting aside \$1000 a month since July last year for the project.

“We saw an opportunity to offer something back to our community that was very attainable and easy to apply for,” Mrs Daubney said.

Eligible recipients are available – but not limited – to sporting clubs, school projects, community events and start-up businesses.

Applicants need to show evidence of planning, accountability, community benefit and level of organisation for the project or event.

Mrs Daubney said the tool was in place for other businesses who also wished to contribute to the fund, and become part of the team who assess the applications and donate the money.

At the council meeting on Thursday, Manjimup shire president Wade DeCampo, and the councillors expressed their pleasure at the establishment of the community development fund.

“This is a community-spirited opportunity for local groups and individuals, provided by a local business and I congratulate Bannister

Downs for pursuing it,” Cr DeCampo said.

“I hope to see other businesses taking part in the fund and we’re all very much looking forward to seeing the projects that come out of it.”

Mrs Daubney said while the fund would start out with a small annual budget, she hoped Hand In Hand would grow within the community and grow with the company and any other businesses that wanted to get on board.

Visit [www.bannisterdowns.com.au](http://www.bannisterdowns.com.au) for more information about the project, how to donate to it or how to apply.