

Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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\$1k in prizes for local 'hoodie' winner

15 year old Torquay local Harry Breer has won \$1000 of prizes in the Great Ocean Road Coast Committee (GORCC) 'Save the Hoodies' photo competition.

The 'Save the Hoodie' campaign was launched in December 2014 to encourage community action in the protection of vulnerable Hooded Plovers, with a particular focus on keeping dogs away from breeding zones

Entrants were asked to help spread the word by taking a photo of themselves with an official 'Save the Hoodie' sign and uploading it to social media.

Local businesses Go Ride a Wave and GBoards generously donated the prizes which include surf lessons, a full length wetsuit and a learn to surf surfboard.

Only 2.5% of Hooded Plover chicks make it to adulthood and there are only around 10 Hooded Plover breeding pairs on the Surf Coast.

GORCC, with support from Bird Life Australia, volunteers the Surf Coast Shire and other partners, has been working to ensure the survival of the precious chicks.

Three chicks successfully fledged on GORCC managed land this breeding season – a record achievement.

GORCC CEO Richard Davies said that community support had been a critical part of the chicks' survival.

"It's encouraging to see three chicks survive this season, thanks to the actions of GORCC staff, our many volunteers, dog owners and the wider community.

"We are pleased with the impact this campaign has had and the positive feedback we have received and GORCC is committed to replicating and improving the program next breeding season.

"We extend a big thank you to every entrant for helping to spread the word and of course to the local businesses who have generously supported this cause," he said.

More information on Hooded Plovers on the Surf Coast can be found at www.savethehoodie.com.au.

- Ends -

Caring for the coast and community

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