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MEDIA RELEASE

SHIMANO CHILDREN'S CHARITY FISHING COMPETITION 2018

"Great weather conditions with the sun shining and beautiful Kiama Harbour greeted children and their parents for the annual Shimano Children's Charity Fishing Fundraiser".

Kiama Game Fishing Clubs 17th annual Children's Charity Fishing Competition raised \$2,508 from 124 entries in 3 divisions: U6; U11 & U16 (including Charity raffle) and \$500.00 from Minnamurra Lions Club's Charity Barby to make a *total for the Fundraiser to \$3,008 towards the provision of air conditioning for the Dream Big Dance Studio. Dream Big Dance classes specifically cater for children and adults with disabilities and offer a range of fun and engaging activities. The classes are attended by students across the Illawarra with many students from Peterborough Special School enjoying the after school activities.*

"Interestingly, this year saw an increase in the under 6 division with both boys and girls sharing in the top 6 heaviest fish. The top six competitors in each of the three divisions won a Shimano rod and reel".

Whilst every child competing was a winner, first place in U/6 division went to Nate Spinks with a 420 gram Flathead; Kyan House with a 360 gram Leatherjacket won the U/11 and Jackson Tikkeros with a 1kg Red Morwong winning the U/16 division.

The Competition was held at Kiama Harbour, to provide a safe area for Children to fish and always provides a variety of fish species for children to catch. This year was no exception with over a dozen different species and for first time a Flounder.

The main aims of the Competition are based on encouraging children to participate in a healthy outdoor activity of fishing, plus teach kids the concept of "Catch n Release" that is actively practised by Kiama GFC. In doing so, they also get a great vibe from donating funds to such a deserving Children's Charity Peterborough Special School who cater for Children throughout our Community.

"We had many positive comments from parents and seeing the smiles on children's faces is a great endorsement for the event. It's certainly a great day, when you see so many children out there fishing with the support of parents and in some cases grandparents having so much fun".

Once again, SHIMANO were our major sponsors providing Rod n Reel combo's for prizes and raffle plus stickers for our "Bunning's buckets "given away to each

child that entered. "Our Club committee again voted keep the entry fees low, so no child could be prevented from entering, yet contribute to the Fundraiser".

BUNNINGS Shellharbour also backed up again this year to provide the plastic Buckets that are so necessary to this event, as each child uses them to bring their fish to our weighing area. The catch and release concept could not be used without their help, as children bring their fish in a bucket of water to be weighed and then taken back to harbour and released.

TOYWORLD Kiama also a regular sponsor of this event provided "Boogie Boards" and other toys for our Charity Raffle. OCEAN STORM FISHING TACKLE also a regular sponsor supplied gift vouchers and RED ROOSTER Kiama also added gift vouchers. "My thanks to you all, our Kids Comp wouldn't be the same without your valued support, it's great to see the look in the children's eyes as they sign in and check out all those great prizes! "

KIAMA LEAGUES CLUB; BUSHBANK WEDDINGS; EYESTORE KIAMA; ILLAWARRA FINANCIAL GROUP; and KIAMA HARBOUR BOAT OWNERS, who added direct donations whilst KIAMA COUNCIL assisted via a donation towards advertising the event. ROSEBANK MEATS provided sausage sanga's for the Charity Barby Q.

Minnamurra Lions Club assist with the Charity Barby Q and keep parents and children satisfied with food and drinks, further boosting our donation.

Our appreciation to Kiama Surf Life Saving Club for use of their Rescue Boat shed as Competition HQ.

"Many thanks to our Club Committee and regular helpers who make this event happen! Gai Deleverre, Nick Hodgkins, Karen Rossiter and Matt Cameron who was our Weigh Master for the event. Plus of course, all the Barby crew from Minnamurra Lions Club, a great asset to our Community. Local Member for Kiama Gareth Ward again assisted with the Presentation and Charity raffle draw.

"We look forward to bringing you this fantastic event in 2019".

For any further enquiries contact: Mark Way President Kiama GFC (0427377865)