

Centre helps needy families

LISMORE Neighbourhood Centre recently applied for a share of the \$25,000 NORTEC Community Grants Initiative, launched in July this year.

They were overjoyed when it was announced recently that their application for funding was granted and they received \$4100, which will go towards much-needed food parcel distribution to the area's growing number of economically disadvantaged families.

The food items are provided as part of a formal agreement between Foodbank NSW and the Lismore Neighbourhood Centre.

Foodbank NSW is a not-for-profit, non-denominational organisation which collects surplus, salvaged and donated food and grocery products from food manufacturers, distributors and retailers and distributes it to charitable welfare agencies and people in need.

The goods are freighted to the centre at a subsidised rate of \$1 per kilo.

Community Catering is run by Carol Johnson and fellow volunteers, who pack food parcels for distribution to individuals and families in crisis.

Paul Cruickshank, from the



HELPING HAND: NORTEC Lismore branch manager Julie Rowling and NORTEC marketing co-ordinator Michelle Dowding present the cheque to Jill Hepburn, of the Lismore Neighbourhood Centre, watched by Katie Swainson, Jeannette Tyler and Paul Cruickshank.

Neighbourhood Centre, said: "The \$4100 will go a long way in assisting disadvantaged persons and families in our area and we are grateful to NORTEC for the grant allocation. We rely on funding and donations like this to enable us to continue our work in the community."

NORTEC Lismore branch manager Julie Rowling said: "Working together with other not-for-profit organisations in our community is a way for NORTEC to reach those people in our community who really need assistance. Through activities like the Community Grants

Initiative, NORTEC actively assists disadvantaged community members and our region as a whole."

Over the past year the Neighbourhood Centre has distributed thousands of food parcels to residents, with special emphasis on families with young children.