



United Way Glenelg

MEDIA RELEASE

Donations of children's books needed to grow greater readers in Glenelg Shire

A community coalition is calling for donations of good quality second-hand children's books to fill Little Book Boxes with the aim of increasing the rate of early childhood exposure to reading through a program called Growing Greater Readers Glenelg (GGRG).

GGRG is a community-wide and multi-dimensional response to reducing the high rate of local children who are entering formalised education with low literacy skills and low or no exposure to books or reading.

Convened locally by United Way Glenelg, it is tapping into the experience and success of Southern Grampian local action group of Beyond the Bell who initiated the program.

United Way Executive Officer, Nicole Angelino said the premise is to fill Little Book Boxes with children's books and place in public venues where families congregate all over the Glenelg Shire.

"Once the Little Book Boxes have been established, families will be encouraged to "take a book, read a book and return a book" in any of the Little Book Boxes locations."

"While the Imagination Library, coordinated in partnership with Portland Aluminium, is making a real difference to children accessing books in the home every month, we also need the whole of community response when making long-term cultural shifts in attitude to literacy," said Ms Angelino.

"United Way Glenelg & Beyond the Bell continues to look for these opportunities, such as the Little Book Boxes,"

"Children will be able to read books wherever they go in the community."

The project will be coordinated by South West VCAL students who will pick up donated books, sort and fill the book boxes and place them out in the community.

Drop off points for the donation of good quality second-hand and new books are located at Portland Library, Port of Portland, Portland Aluminium, All Saints Outreach, Lifeline Opportunity Shop, RSPCA Op Shop, South West Tafe and Portland Secondary College.

If your business would like to host a Little Book Box please contact South West Tafe VCAL on 55210465.

The community coalition, made up of members of United Way Glenelg, Glenelg and Southern Grampians Local Learning Employment Network, Glenelg Libraries and South West Tafe have led the charge, gaining resource support from individuals, community groups and businesses such as Whiteheads Timbers, Portland Community Garden and South West Tafe VCAL students.

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Media Interview and Photo Opportunity

Where: South West Tafe, Hurd Street Portland.

When: Friday 23 June 2017, 1.30pm

Who: The Little Book Boxes Community Coalition

What: Highlight the drop off points for the donation of second-hand and new books

Why: A community initiative to encourage the donation of books for Little Book Boxes

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