

MEDIA RELEASE

LINKING GENERATIONS TOGETHER CREATES A STRONG SENSE OF WELL-BEING

Young people of Portland had the opportunity to meet and connect with older adults in the community through three intergenerational projects called Generations UNITED.

The concept, developed by United Way Glenelg and funded through their Lewis Court Fund, partnered with Glenelg Southern Grampian Local Learning Employment Network to enable both young and older people to come together and identify opportunities that would complement the day-to-day quality of life of aged care residents.

Students from Bayview College, Heywood & District Secondary College and Portland Secondary College, through the Future Leaders of Industry program, have been linking with the residents of three local aged care facilities; Bupa, Seaview House and Heywood Rural Health for the past four months.

United Way Glenelg Executive Officer, Nicole Carr, said the students were able to facilitate an appropriate project by listening to the residents over morning teas.

“There has been opportunity for Future Leader student’s to learn more about the career pathways of yesteryear, something that is significantly different to today.

“Making these intergenerational connections — linking elders and young people in a variety of ways, has the benefit of reducing isolation, enhancing a sense of belonging of community and civic responsibility for both groups,” said Mrs Carr.

Ollie Marshall, Zane Barker, Sidney Dent, Taylah Purcell, Jack Hernan and Laura Dyson visited Seaview House. It was determined that residents have difficulty hearing staff at their weekly meetings. The solution was to purchase two P.A systems, one being light weight and portable attaching to the waist of the speaker and the other being stationary and larger with two wireless microphones.

Taylah Purcell said the project meant going out of her comfort zone.

“I’ve never done anything like this before. It was great to meet the residents and spend some time listening to their stories,” concluded Talyah.

Kobey Sheedy, Sam Hampshire, Sasha Wright, Taylah Falconer, Reggina Blurton and Dillon Duncan visiting Bupa Portland were faced with the dilemma of too many project ideas, but again, hearing was identified as a major problem. Many of the residents enjoy watching old classic movies but the smaller screens made it difficult to see, so a portable data projector, speakers and a pull up screen was purchased.

Michael Peters, Taylah Nelson, Ali Mitchell headed to Heywood Rural Health where restocking the existing green house was deemed as a priority. This will enable the residents to partake in the recreational and nature based activity of gardening thus reducing social isolation amongst the residents.

Ali Mitchell said being a part of the community project provided a proper understanding of what is needed to run an efficient project. It’s not always a one way street when it comes to doing something good for the community.

“I learnt to consider all options to create the best of both worlds, using our group’s vision along with the resident’s visions at the nursing home,”

“I had the chance to get to know the residents; this was definitely my highlight as they had so much to share with us all. It is a very fulfilling experience in my eyes to donate some time and money to those who appreciate it the most,” concluded Ms Mitchell.

Lilja Radley, Future Leaders of Industry Coordinator said this year’s Future Leaders students have developed many skills throughout the year.

“With the support of United Way Glenelg they have now developed their community leadership skills and supported our Aged Care facilities and their residents in the delivery of these community projects.”

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