



United Way Glenelg

MEDIA RELEASE

LITTLE BOOK BOXES POPPING UP ALL OVER THE COMMUNITY

Local children are now able to read where ever they go in the community thanks to the Little Book Boxes initiative.

20 book boxes are now hosted by a range of local businesses across Portland and Heywood district aimed at increasing early childhood exposure to reading.

A call for donations of good quality second-hand children's books several months ago saw hundreds of books come in for sorting and selection.

Jenny Elliott, one of the South West TAFE VCAL students, spent time sorting the books, ensuring only good-quality and age appropriate books are kept.

"It is fun going through books that I used to read when I was younger. I enjoy sorting through the books to make sure they are in the level range.

Jenny believes the Little Book Boxes are important as it helps younger kids and teenagers read more books with their parents and it will help them with their education.

"It's good to know that kids in our community will have fun reading these books," concluded Jenny.

The South West TAFE VCAL students select 30 books suitable for children from birth to teenage years for each box . The boxes are delivered to businesses and every month Jenny returns to do a health check. The Health Check involves recording the number of books taken, replenishing the box with new books and speaking to the business regarding the response of the book boxes.

The books are offered free and children are encouraged to "take a book, read a book and share a book."

Nicole Angelino Executive Officer of United Way Glenelg and convener of the Little Book Box program said there were "no hard and fast rules" regarding the return of the books to the boxes.

"If the book becomes a cherished favourite in the home then we certainly encourage the child to keep the book. We always welcome donations of books for the boxes to keep them fresh and interesting."

The boxes, made by timber donated from Whiteheads Timber Sales and put together by community volunteers from the Portland Community Garden have become a welcomed presence in many businesses.

Tammy Keiller-Burgess, business owner from Jofflyn's Fish and Chips said the book boxes have delighted children of all ages.

"Children will go to the book boxes, pick a book and ask the book to be read to them by their parent. It's a great way to fit in extra reading and makes the wait a little easier"

The Little Book Boxes are located in the following businesses and agencies; Jofflyn's Fish and Chips Brophy Family Youth Services, Harbour Lights Snack Bar, Active Health Portland, Portland Laser Dentistry The Big O Takeaway, South West TAFE, Narrawong Post Office, Winda Mara Aboriginal Corporation, Heywood Bakery, Dhauwurd Wurrung Elderly & Community Health Service, Radiology Department Portland

District Health, Urgent Care Centre Portland District Health, Short St Takeaway and Cakes, Heywood Rural Health, Brewster Walsh, Oz Child, Portland Fish and Chips Edgar St and Portland Police Station.

If your business or sporting club would like to host a Little Book Box please contact South West TAFE VCAL on 55210465.

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.

- End -

Media Interview and Photo Opportunity

Where: Jofflyn's Fish and Chip

When: 11.00am Friday 1 September 2017

Who: South West TAFE VCAL representative, Jofflyn's Fish and Chip representative and United Way Glenelg.

What: Location of Little Book Boxes.

Why: Increasing early childhood exposure to reading through free books.

Media enquiries: Nicole Angelino 0410 513 305 or mail@unitedwayglenelg.com.au