

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 1 April 2020

Little Free Library installed at primary school

Libraries may be closed but children can still access books, thanks to a partnership between Portland Primary School and United Way Glenelg.

The Little Free Library, to be hosted and maintained by Portland Primary School, was recently installed on Palmer Street to help fill the gap with the closure of libraries.

"We have fast-tracked this project, knowing there is a need for children to access books," said United Way Glenelg Executive Officer Nicole Carr.

"During these uncertain times, the Little Free Library is building a sense of community and, once everything returns to normal, will provide a neighbourhood book exchange."

United Way Glenelg will supply the books, after disinfecting with wipes.

In some communities across the world, Little Free Libraries have converted to Little Free Pantries, providing necessities such as toilet paper, hand sanitizer and tinned food.

"We're certainly not adverse to the neighbours placing these items in the Little Free Library as well."

United Way Glenelg is encouraging a commonsense approach for everyone to remain safe.

"We do ask that you do not use the Little Free Library if you are unwell."

"However, those people who are well are encouraged to exercise and take their children outside to get some fresh air. People can also take children or dogs for walks, as long as they maintain social distancing with others outside of their self-isolation groups. We encourage you to go past the Little Free Library and take advantage of the books on offer. Maybe you can add some books or jigsaw puzzles for others to enjoy," concluded Mrs Carr.

The project is a collaborative effort, with Port of Portland Operations staff supplying both labour and materials in-kind to build the library, GR Carr Building Contractors installing the box, and United Way Glenelg President and Portland Primary School Art Teacher Ms Marg Wagner painting the Little Free Library in exuberant colours.

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Photo: United Way Glenelg President and Portland Primary School Art Teacher Ms Marg Wagner and Teddy Coffey, 5 years selecting a book from the Little Free Library.