



United Way Glenelg

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MEDIA RELEASE

Community recognises tough year for Class of 2020

Close to 200 boxes of cookies will be delivered to Year 12 students across the Glenelg Shire in the coming weeks as a small gesture to acknowledge the resilience and strength gained from such a challenging year.

What would normally be a year of emerging adulthood rituals including celebrating turning 18, obtaining a driver's licence and celebrating graduation with friends has been impacted by what can only be described as a one-in-a-lifetime pandemic.

United Way Glenelg is working with local cookie business LeJovi in conjunction with Principal of Bayview College Dr Michelle Kearney to create a box of bespoke cookies, each containing an inspirational quote for students to draw strength from, such as "Absorb the colour of life", "Your path is yours" and "Oh the places you'll go."

Though most of us can identify with the frustration due to current COVID-19 restrictions, few of us understand what it's like to be deprived of what should have been some of the most important moments of Year 12, said Nicole Carr Executive Officer United Way Glenelg.

"While we cannot make it right, we can still celebrate the Class of 2020 and let the students know that as a community we are supporting their incredible efforts."

"Our community often finds ways to take care of one another in difficult circumstances. We're seeing that now more than ever, in ways too numerous to list. In the coming weeks, it will be important to continue to support the students as they finalise assignments and exams," concluded Ms Carr.

School principals have witnessed incredible examples of perseverance and determination from the students and thrilled to have them recognised by the community.

Principal Dr Micheele Kearny said the class of 2020 are resilient people of hope buoyed by the incredible support and encouragement of their dedicated teachers.

"I am confident that these young people will in turn create a positive change in the community and their chosen fields of endeavour."

Meridith Walker, Principal at Casterton Secondary College said the staff have watched, with pride, as their Year 12 students grow from tentative Year 7 students to the confident, resilient, courageous young adults they are today.

"We congratulate them for the strength that they have shown throughout a very challenging 2020 and wish them all the best in the coming years."

United Way Glenelg is also inviting community members to leave a positive message of support for Year 12 students on a pinned post on their facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/unitedwayglenelg>

This initiative is funded by United Way Glenelg COVID-19 Impact Fund. If you would like to donate please go to https://www.givenow.com.au/uwg_covid19_impact_fund

Photo: Portland Secondary College students - Zoe Packwood, Noah Tyrrell, Tyler Meade, Rozetta Punton & Dana Mueller

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