



United Way Glenelg

Wednesday 27 October 2021

MEDIA RELEASE

CLASS OF 2021 ACKNOWLEDGED BY COMMUNITY

Over 150 boxes of cookies have been delivered to the Year 12 Class of 2021 students across the Glenelg Shire to acknowledge and celebrate the incredible efforts made by young people over the past two years.

United Way Glenelg together with Glenelg Southern Grampian Local Learning Employment Network (GSGLLEN) and Youth Affairs Council Victoria (YACVic) worked with local cookie business My Coastal Kitchen to deliver a box of bespoke cookies, each containing an inspirational quote for students to draw strength from, such as "My challenges help me grow" and "Anything is possible."

Nicole Carr Executive Officer United Way Glenelg said while most of us can identify the frustration of 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.

"Scaled-down events or even cancellation of end of year celebratory rituals has occurred so it was important to recognise the perseverance and resilience shown by students."

"While we cannot make it right, we can still celebrate the Class of 2021 and let the students know that as a community we are supporting their incredible efforts."

"Our community is great at finding ways to take care of one another in difficult circumstances. In the coming weeks, it will be important to continue to support the students as they finalise assignments and exams," concluded Ms Carr.

Beyond the Bell Youth Conversations Research Report, published in May 2021 found young people frequently reported a new appreciation for the role played by school in keeping them connected and expressed that they particularly missed the social connections provided by the school and other socially engaging contexts in their community.

Anne Murphy Executive Officer GSGLLEN said this group of graduating students have demonstrated their resilience, motivation and adaptability completing their education during COVID.

"If they can do that, they are capable of anything in the future! We wish them well for the coming weeks and their future post-school."

Karen Walsh Regional Development Worker YACVic said she is happy for the students that a difficult year is over and they've survived!

"I hope that these cookies help connect and inspire."

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

Photo: L-R: Rachael Gleeson, Jet Sandeman, Isabella Bailey and Miranda Steel. Front Tarkyn Smith

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Media enquiries to Nicole Carr on 0410 513 305 email mail@unitedwayglenelg.com.au