

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 27 October 2021

LITTLE BOOK BOXES MAKE A RETURN IN THE COMMUNITY

Local children are again able to read, wherever they go in the community, thanks to the Little Book Boxes initiative being reinstated after the COVID-19 pandemic saw the boxes removed.

The initiative encourages community members to take a book, read a book and share a book.

Over 30 book boxes are hosted by a range of local businesses across Portland and the Heywood district, aimed at increasing early childhood exposure to reading.

The boxes have all been refreshed by VCAL students at South West TAFE Portland campus, with a fresh coat of bright red paint, making them more visible and vibrant in the community..

United Way Glenelg Executive Officer, Nicole Carr, said that Little Book Boxes is an important community initiative to encourage children to read and the reinstatement of them is welcome and exciting for the community.

'Little Book Boxes are a great way to get more books into the homes of children. They are free to take, and we encourage children to take as many as they want' said Ms Carr.

'All the books are pre-loved, often coming from the homes of older children who received books from the Dolly Parton Imagination Library when they were little.'

2021 has been a challenging year for the students to carry out community projects with restrictions hampering face-to-face learning. The Little Book Box has been one of the activities the students at South West TAFE have been able to carry out throughout the year, with the support of their teachers.

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 Nicole at United Way Glenelg on 0410 513 305.

Drop off point for the donation of good quality second-hand and new books for young readers is South West TAFE, Hurd Street Portland.

Photo: Nicole Carr, Trinity Boers and Dante Nuku.

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