

MEDIA RELEASE

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BARISTA MACHINE OPENS DOORS TO NEW JOBS OPPORTUNITIES

Portland Bay School secured funds from United Way Glenelg Community Fund to purchase a new barista machine that is providing students with the opportunity to learn the skills and employment.

The school, building on their barista program from previous years, the machine replaces an older machine that was becoming problematic.

"The program, offered to the senior students, provides them with valuable skills that they can use in the future," said School Principal Steve Crossley.

"The students are required to operate the machine, make coffee, and handle money. Students also practice their social skills as they interact with *customers* and work in a team," said Mr Crossley.

Those *customers* are the staff at Portland Bay School who are offered the opportunity to buy freshly brewed coffee through the establishment of a Coffee Club.

Two students who have undertaken professional training through a credited barista course have secured work in local cafes. Twelvelfold Portland and The Art of Tea have employed the two young people.

"Their achievement in securing work stands as a testament to the opportunities the barista program has provided," said Nicole Carr Executive Officer United Way Glenelg

"It is fostering a more inclusive and supportive learning environment. It also helps to break down stereotypes and discrimination by showcasing the capabilities and contributions of students with disabilities," concluded Ms Carr.

Mr. Crossley expressed his gratitude to local cafes and United Way Glenelg's support in enhancing students' employment skills.

Funding for the machine comes from United Way Glenelg Community Fund.

For more information on how you can get support for your project contact United Way Glenelg at mail@unitedwayglenelg.com.au or phone 0410 513 305.

Photo: Portland Bay students Perrin Sellwood & Anthony Bannam can't wait to start their barista course

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