

MEDIA RELEASE

\$44,000 was raised through the annual SharkPitch event, supporting local projects.

DATE

Wednesday 4 September 2024

SharkPitch 2024: Inspiring stories that is transforming communities

United Way Glenelg is thrilled to announce the resounding success of the 2024 SharkPitch event, a powerful platform that empowers local organisations to share their stories and secure much-needed funding.

"This event embodies the heart of our community," said Nicole Carr, Executive Officer of United Way Glenelg. "It's not just about raising funds; it's about bringing people together to make a tangible difference in our local area."

This year's virtual event raised over \$44,000 to support vital local projects. With more than 65 participants joining from their homes and many attending viewing parties, the event once again demonstrated the power of collective action.

Over the last six years, SharkPitch has raised an impressive \$309,000 for organisations within the Glenelg Shire. This year's success was further bolstered by the generous contribution of \$18,000 in matched funding from AWA Alliance Bank.

The funds raised during SharkPitch 2024 will benefit the following projects:

Heywood Men's Shed: \$11,050
Merino Digby Lions Club: \$20,000
The Salvation Army Portland: \$13,129

The event began with volunteer Warren Finck pitching on behalf of The Heywood Men's Shed, a vital community hub offering support and companionship to individuals facing life's challenges.

"Our Shed is more than just a building; it's a place where people like Bill, who found solace and purpose after the loss of his wife, can come together and find community," said Mr Finck.

"Building a storage extension, will free up space for programs and enhance the environment for all who seek refuge and connection within its walls," concluded Mr Finck.

Shirley Menz represented the Merino Digby Lions Club, passionately advocating for their vision screening program.

"No child in the Glenelg Shire should be held back by undetected vision problems," Mrs Menz emphasised.

"With one in five children facing vision issues that often go unnoticed, our free vision screening program aims to change lives by catching and correcting these issues early. We can give every child the clear vision they need to succeed in school and beyond."

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Peter Stamp from The Salvation Army Portland began his pitch with a heartfelt poem, highlighting the critical work of the organisation's Regional Support Vehicle, Captain Sal.

"On a cold, rainy Tuesday in Portland, Captain Sal offers warmth, comfort, and a bit of hope to those enduring the long wait for their court cases," Mr Stamp shared.

"This service is crucial for vulnerable individuals, including a young mother with a newborn, who find solace in the support provided. However, the continuation of this service relies heavily on public generosity, with funds needed to keep Captain Sal operational and expand its reach to other communities."

All the pitchers were expertly coached by volunteer Debra Crespan, who helped them refine their storytelling skills through an intensive workshop and follow-up support.

For those who missed the 2024 Virtual Live SharkPitch, you can watch the replay <https://youtu.be/4z71VYXhntU>

You can still pledge your support for your favourite project by clicking here <https://www.givenow.com.au/unitedwayglenelg>

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