

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**DATE**

Friday 4 April 2025

**Poly Tunnels Boost Community Food Security in Portland**

Two new poly tunnels have been successfully installed at the Portland Community Garden, providing a significant boost to local vegetable production and volunteer engagement. This initiative was made possible with the support of a \$5,500 grant from the United Way Glenelg Lewis Court Fund.

Designed to extend the growing season and provide year-round access to fresh produce, the new tunnels double the garden's existing capacity. The project has brought together a diverse group of volunteers, from experienced growers to enthusiastic first-timers, with everyone contributing to the construction and planting.

United Way Glenelg Executive Officer Nicole Carr said supporting grassroots food security initiatives was an important part of the organisation's work.

"We're proud to support the Portland Community Garden with funding from our Lewis Court Fund," Ms Carr said. "This project not only puts more fresh food on local tables, but it also creates a space for people to connect, learn, and contribute meaningfully to the wellbeing of their community."

The garden already plays a valuable role in supporting community health and inclusion. With the new tunnels in place, volunteers will be able to grow a wider range of vegetables and share surplus produce with those in need.

Portland Community Garden President Wayne Barrett said the tunnels were a welcome addition to the garden's infrastructure.

"The new tunnels allow us to grow more food, more reliably, and bring more people into the garden," Mr Barrett said. "It's not just about growing vegetables – it's about growing community, and we're grateful to United Way Glenelg for helping make that happen."

The project will continue to engage volunteers and local partners, with future harvests destined for individuals, schools and community groups across Glenelg Shire.

For information on how you can be part of the Portland Community Garden, contact Wayne Barrett, on 0419 351 558 or [wayne@portlandseaview.com.au](mailto:wayne@portlandseaview.com.au)

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Nicole Carr, United Way Glenelg Executive Officer  
Phone: 0410 513 305 Email: [mail@unitedwayglenelg.com.au](mailto:mail@unitedwayglenelg.com.au)

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