

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**DATE**

Tuesday 1 April 2025

**HEADLINE**

**Portland BMX Club new clubrooms and canteen thanks to Sharkpitch**

The Portland BMX Club is celebrating the completion of its brand-new clubrooms and canteen—thanks to a standout pitch at United Way Glenelg's 2023 SharkPitch event.

Driven by the passion and leadership of young club members Jack Thorp and Stella Middleton, the project received support through the SharkPitch initiative, which gives local community groups the chance to bring their big ideas to life.

The event continues to be made possible through the generous and long-term support of Beyond Bank and Powerhouse Productions, who have backed SharkPitch since its launch in 2019.

"SharkPitch is about backing local people with big ideas. Jack and Stella spoke with heart and conviction, and seeing this new facility completed shows the power of community collaboration," said Nicole Carr, Executive Officer at United Way Glenelg.

"The new space means we can safely host larger events and better support our riders and volunteers. We're incredibly proud and grateful to everyone who made this possible," said Maddy Sutton, President of Portland BMX Club.

"The upgraded facilities now provide a safer, more functional space for club events, training sessions, and community gatherings—supporting riders from as young as two years old to adult competitors," concluded Ms Sutton.

The Portland BMX Club is hosting a free Come and Try Day on Wednesday 9 April 4 PM for balance bikes & 4:30 PM for ordinary bikes. Riders of all ages and abilities are encouraged to head down to Alexandra Park, Park Street Portland, to check it out, meet the team, and get involved. For more info, contact Ms Maddie Sutton on 0409 618 405.

Looking ahead, United Way Glenelg and its SharkPitch partners will soon be on the lookout for the next three community projects to pitch in 2025. Expressions of Interest will open in July 2025, with Beyond Bank and Powerhouse Productions continuing their proud support of grassroots changemakers in the Glenelg Shire.

**ENDS**

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