

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE

For Immediate Release

SHARKPITCH 2025 BRINGS BIG IDEAS BACK TO THE STAGE

United Way Glenelg's SharkPitch is making a triumphant return to a live, on-stage format on **Tuesday 7 October 2025** at the South West Community Church (formerly Star Cinema) in Portland. After 5 years of virtual delivery, the event is once again set to deliver the high-energy atmosphere, face-to-face connection, and spontaneous community generosity that made the inaugural SharkPitch so unforgettable.

Audience members can expect the thrill of seeing passionate local changemakers pitch their ideas in real time, the buzz of pledges being made and matched on the spot, and the powerful sense of unity that comes from rallying behind projects that will shape the future and lives of residents in the Glenelg Shire.

Three local organisations will take the stage to share their vision, inspire the community, and seek the support needed to turn their ideas into reality:

- **Rotary Club of Portland – Mental Health & Suicide Prevention Project**
Training local volunteer facilitators to deliver accredited suicide prevention workshops, reducing reliance on costly external trainers and making mental health support more accessible across Glenelg Shire.
"Thank you all for having the confidence in our project," said Peter Taylor, Rotary Club of Portland.
- **Days for Girls Portland – Health, Education and Community**
An inclusive, intergenerational volunteer program creating reusable menstrual hygiene kits for women and girls worldwide, while building social connection and practical skills locally.
"This is amazing news! Thank you so much for this opportunity," said Liz Clements, Days for Girls Portland.
- **Tyrendarra Sporting Clubs – Community Playground Redevelopment**
Replacing unsafe, ageing equipment with a fenced, all-ages play area at the heart of the Tyrendarra Recreation Reserve, creating a safe, welcoming space for families and visitors.
"We are so excited to receive this news and cannot wait to be involved in the live pitch," said Zoe Rhodes, Tyrendarra Sporting Clubs.

Audience members will hear live pitches, ask questions, and pledge support on the spot, knowing their donations will be matched dollar-for-dollar by Beyond Bank.

Grant Howland, Community Development Manager at Beyond Bank, said there is something unique about the live format.

"There's nothing quite like the buzz in the room when passionate people share their vision face-to-face. Beyond Bank is proud to partner with United Way Glenelg again to help these projects take the next step toward making a real difference in our community."

United Way Glenelg Executive Officer, Nicole Carr, said SharkPitch has become an important platform for local initiatives.

"SharkPitch is all about giving local ideas a chance to shine and rallying the community to bring them to life. This year's projects are inspiring examples of the creativity, commitment, and generosity we see in Glenelg Shire."

Event Details:

Date: Tuesday 7 October 2025

Time: Doors open 4.30pm, event runs 5.00pm–6.45pm, followed by drinks and nibbles

Venue: South West Community Church, Portland (formerly Star Cinema)

Tickets are free but must be booked in advance for a chance to win a night at Annesley House plus breakfast by Cove Fine Foods.

<https://2025SHARKPITCH.eventbrite.com.au>

Photo: United Way Glenelg Executive Officer Nicole Carr in front of the venue for the return of 2025 SharkPitch on stage.

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