



# SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS LOCAL ACTION GROUP

NEWSLETTER | MARCH 2020

## Welcome!

The Southern Grampians Local Action Group have paused to reflect on the current structure. There is still lots of work being undertaken in our Shire; updates are below.



## GROWING GREATER READERS

### CURRENT PROGRAM FOCUS

#### 1. Reading Champions

- Attend events to read to children; promote reading focussed events.

#### 2. Library programs

- Offering their own programs to promote reading

#### 3. Little Book Boxes

- Indoor: Over 50 throughout Hamilton and one or two in every outlying community of the Southern Grampians region.
- Outdoor: 1 in every outlying community of the Southern Grampians region; and 8 waiting for installation around Hamilton.

### PROJECT GOAL:

The Growing Great Readers initiative aims to increase the rate of early childhood exposure to reading in the Greater Hamilton region and to reduce the high rate of local children who are entering formalised education with low literacy skills and low or no exposure to books or reading.

### KEY ACTIONS ACHIEVED RECENTLY

- International Book Giving Day / Library Lovers Day - 14th Feb 2020
- Books distributed by LAG members
- Activities held at the library
- Social media promotion
- One outdoor book box has been taken to Churchill Kindergarten; negotiating with Catholic Church and Anglican Church to take one each as well..



## ANTICIPATED SHORT TERM OUTCOMES OF GROWING GREATER READERS

- Get the remainder of the outdoor book boxes installed around Hamilton.
- Engage indoor book box maintenance personnel.
- Engage personnel to commence writing a GGR report including case studies, measurement report aligned with our Program Logic, sustainability report, etc

## GET INVOLVED

Contact Kate Roache, BtB EO: [eo@btb.org.au](mailto:eo@btb.org.au) | 0491 722 069 OR

Marg Wagner SG Local Action Group: [marg@gsgllen.org.au](mailto:marg@gsgllen.org.au) | 0490 290 304

to discuss how you can help to achieve one of the short term outcomes above.

# LIVE 4 LIFE



## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### 1. Southern Grampians L4L Partnership Group

- The end of 2019 and the start of 2020 saw the development of the Southern Grampians Partnership Group made up of Secondary Schools, Educational Institutions and key organisations across Southern Grampians.
- The partnership group come together bi-monthly to support the Live4life program.

### 2. Southern Grampians L4L Crew

- In first term 21 Year 9 students from across the Southern Grampians Secondary Schools were recruited and inducted into the Live4life crew.
- The Crew is now busy working on the L4L launch to be held on Friday 27 March at the SoundCheck Festival which involves all Secondary Educational Institutions across Southern Grampians.
- The Live4life Crew are mental health ambassadors, sharing positive mental health messages.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Live4Life Crew Launch

Friday 27 March 11am

As part of the

SoundCheck Festival

(10am – 1.30pm)

Monivae College, Front Lawn.

## GET INVOLVED

For information about the Partnership Group and involvement:

Kerri Pleydell-Sander, L4L Project Officer:  
[kpleydellsander@btb.org.au](mailto:kpleydellsander@btb.org.au) | 0407 355 646

To hear more about the crew and what they are doing contact

Amie Menzel, Youth Engagement Project Officer, [Amie.Menzel@wdhs.net](mailto:Amie.Menzel@wdhs.net) | 55518570

Life4life is a community grown, evidence based, rural youth mental Health education model. Its aim is to prevent youth suicide. Live4life has been in place in Glenelg for the last 4 years and is now in its first year in Southern Grampians.

# STEPPING STONES TO SCHOOL

## PROGRESS SO FAR

In Southern Grampians, Stepping Stones To School has progressed across 2019 with the establishment of a strong Steering Committee.

Stakeholders include representatives from the Department of Education (DET), Lutheran and Catholic Principal Groups, Foundation and kindergarten teachers, Allied Health and Local Government Early Years professionals. Koorie Engagement Support Officers (KESOs) participate to represent the local Koorie communities and DET.

Recent funding will extend the program in Southern Grampians and possibly into Corangamite and Moyne Shires.

We are currently interviewing for a new Facilitator to work across these Shires along with our staff in Glenelg and Warrnambool.



## THE PROGRAM

A strength of the program is the way that the Steering Committees are working together to increase the communication and working partnerships between preschool programs and schools.

The aim is for each Shire to follow Glenelg's lead and develop a whole of Shire Protocol including reciprocal visit dates and joint professional development around continuity of learning across the sectors.

The Stepping Stones Team engaged individual families and assists in the transition to school process. Over the past 3 years in Glenelg, 55 families have been assisted.

Stepping Stones to School is an innovative project which aims to build the capacity and connection between families, early childhood educators and primary schools so children make a smooth transition from kindergarten to primary school.

## GET INVOLVED

If you want to know more about the initiative and the partnership contact  
BtB EO Kate Roache: [eo@btb.org.au](mailto:eo@btb.org.au)



# YOUTH CONVERSATIONS

## PROGRESS SO FAR

After a slightly delayed start, engagement within Southern Grampians is progressing well, with initial contact from the Project Officer to nearly all identified stakeholders. Some primary schools are yet to be contacted, however they have minimal numbers within the focus age group.

There has been one focus group conducted to date, with another six booked in over the coming weeks and several others in the initial planning phase. Whilst focusing on the face-to-face consultations, there has been a deliberate decision not to widely promote the online survey at this stage, unless a stakeholder particularly wants the online survey rather than a focus group. The online survey will be rolled out more thoroughly in April.

Youth Conversations is a Beyond the Bell regional project; capturing the voice of 1000 youth on community, education, training and employment, both now and into the future.

## GET INVOLVED

It is anticipated that the target of having conversations with 130 youth (100 in person, and 30 online) will be met by 30 April for the Southern Grampians region.

We would very much appreciate you all continuing to promote Youth Conversations through your networks as we gather this vital information from our young people.

## YOUTH CONVERSATIONS



### WE'RE HEARING FROM 1000 YOUNG PEOPLE



**TO UNDERSTAND  
WHAT MATTERS TO  
YOUNG PEOPLE  
AGED 12-19 IN THE  
GREAT SOUTH COAST**



#### WHY?

We're hearing from 1000 young people aged 12-19 to find out what matters to them. Why? So that our work reflects their strengths and hopes, and addresses their challenges.



#### WHAT IS IT?

Youth Conversations asks young people what they think about **EDUCATION, TRAINING, EMPLOYMENT + COMMUNITY**

19-25 year olds are co-facilitating the conversations. Beyond the Bell project officers are supporting the sessions.

These consultations will capture the aspirations, barriers and change young people want to see.



**YOUNG VOICES ARE  
ASKING + ANSWERING  
THE QUESTIONS**



#### WHO'S ASKING?

Beyond the Bell Great South Coast is a not-for-profit organisation that works to ensure that every young person in our region can succeed.



#### FIND OUT MORE

Find out more about the project through Beyond the Bell's Facebook page - @beyondthebellgsc, by visiting [www.btb.org.au](http://www.btb.org.au), or contact SG Project Coordinator Penny Fraser [pfraser@btb.org.au](mailto:pfraser@btb.org.au)



#### WHERE WILL IT BE?

The conversations are coming to neighbourhoods in Colac Otway, Corangamite, Glenelg, Moyne, Southern Grampians & Warrnambool between October 2019 and April 2020.

