



SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS LOCAL ACTION GROUP

NEWSLETTER | MAY 2020

Welcome!

There is lots of work happening in Southern Grampians while the Local Action Group meetings are paused. Read on to hear about Stepping Stones to School, Growing Greater Readers, Live4Life and Youth Conversations.



STEPPING STONES TO SCHOOL

PROGRESS AND COVID-19 IMPACTS

Amidst COVID-19 the Stepping Stones to School (SS2S) initiative in Southern Grampians continues work by formalising connections with kindergartens and steering group representatives. In other regions new SS2S referrals have not been able to occur due to COVID-19.

Energy has been redirected to updating assessment and data collection tools and reviewing and updating all promotional materials to circulate to new clients and stakeholders.

The team are confident that within the next few weeks they will be able to return to working with families face-to-face. There are currently 8 children identified and 1 referral; Hayley Connelly is working closely with families.

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.

FUTURE OF THE WORK

- Working with individual children in 2020
- Development of Southern Grampians Transition Protocol in 2021

GET INVOLVED

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

GROWING GREATER READERS

PROGRESS & COVID-19 IMPACTS

One outdoor book box was deployed to the Anglican Church in Hamilton before COVID-19 restrictions and follow up with other organisations is in progress to install more book boxes in the community when restrictions ease.

Marg is currently working from home in Portland and has assisted United Way Glenelg with the installation of a book box at Portland Primary School. The impact of Covid-19 has been considerable with many businesses that host little book boxes closing or changing operating practices. Planned reading corners and the Teddy Bear's Picnic have been cancelled. The good news is that the Hamilton Library is live streaming Story Time and sharing craft activities for local children. They are also delivering books to elderly and vulnerable people.



FUTURE OF THE WORK

- Installation of the remainder of the outdoor book boxes installed around Hamilton
- Recruit volunteers to oversee maintenance of indoor Little Book Boxes
- Commence evaluation of Growing Greater Readers initiative



The Growing Greater 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.

GET INVOLVED

If you want to know more about the initiative contact:

Kate Roache, BtB EO: eo@btb.org.au | 0491 722 069 OR

Marg Wagner SG Local Action Group:
marg@gsgllen.org.au | 0490 290 304

growing
greater readers

YOUTH CONVERSATIONS

PROGRESS & COVID-19 IMPACTS

Throughout March the engagement plan was progressing well, with focus groups delivered in the primary and secondary school setting. Planning was well underway for community and other stakeholder groups.

As the COVID-19 restrictions tightened in the latter half of March, the final group that was conducted was on 19 March 2020. Unfortunately 8 groups were cancelled that were planned for late March and April, as well as place other group planning on hold.

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.



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, or contact SG Project Coordinator Penny Fraser 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.

FUTURE OF THE WORK

Communication was made with all stakeholders in late March, early April to advise that the project was being paused.

At this stage, with Youth Conversations on pause, we await the relaxing of restrictions relating to COVID-19.

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



GET INVOLVED

If you want to know more about the initiative contact

Penny Fraser: pfraser@btb.org.au OR

Tatiana Resk Wilson: treskwilson@btb.org.au



LIVE 4 LIFE

PROGRESS & COVID-19 IMPACTS

The implementation of Live4Life in Souther Grampians has been impacted by COVID-19 in many and varied ways, including:

- Virtual partnership meetings
- Inability for crew meetings and catch ups in person and at school
- The cancellation of the Launch of the Live4Life 2020 Crew theme at the Sound Check Festival
- Paused implementation of the Youth and teen Mental Health First Aid training in schools and community due to face to face training restrictions

Despite COVID-19 impacts, the partnership and crew have embraced new ways of communicating via zoom and snapchat to support youth mental health.

One highlight was the L4L Crew receiving via the post their L4L Southern Grampians hoodies and a theme related pack! The crew came up with the idea of snapping each other wearing their hoodies.



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.

FUTURE OF THE WORK

Highlights from lockdown include:

- Live4Life Southern Grampians instagram: launch coming soon!
- The crew have been looking at innovative ways to launch their theme. Watch this space to see how they launch their theme for 2020.



GET INVOLVED

For Partnership Group info and involvement contact:

Kerri Pleydell-Sander, L4L Project Officer: 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 | 55518570