

[View this email in your browser](#)



**November 2021**

## //EO Message

As pre-schoolers prepare to move to primary school and Year 12 students finalise their exams, all children and young people across the region are in transition mode for their learning and future ambitions. Beyond the Bell is well positioned to work with communities across south-west Victoria to ensure children and young people can engage in education and successfully transition through key stages of their learning.

Our active work in this space currently is the '*Sanga and Oops*' video series and the '*Stepping Stones to School*' initiative across the region, helping pre-school students make the transition from kindergarten to primary school.

Students have transitioned back to learning at school as they reopened to onsite learning for all - thank-you to those who have supported students across remote learning and through the move back to the classroom. This has been great timing to help our Grade 6 students celebrate the end of their primary years and get ready for life as a Year 7 student.

Well done and good luck to all the Year 12 students transitioning on to work or further study as they finish their formal years of education - we wish them every success in their future endeavours and thank all those who have been their champion supporters.

---

Communications Officer.

We have received a grant from Helen Macpherson Smith Trust to support the work of Youth Conversations Phase 2, extending on the [Youth Conversation Phase 1 report](#) released earlier this year.

Please join us for a celebration of the Beyond the Bell Collective work for last financial year at our AGM on Wednesday 17 November at 4pm - hope to see you there on ZOOM. If you can't make this, please read the [2021 Community Report Card](#).

Take care and stay safe.

*Kate Roache*

Executive Officer





## //School Readiness Campaign

*'Sanga and Oops' – Get ready for School!*

You can now watch the antics of 'Sanga and Oops' as they get ready to transition from kinder to school. The exciting and fun animation series of 5 episodes depicting school readiness attributes is coming to you soon! [View the first four episodes on YouTube now.](#)

---

## //Welcome aboard

BtB is excited to welcome two new staff members to the regional team, on a part time basis.

Rachel Wilks is taking on Youth Conversations Phase 2; Backbone support with Local Action Groups and Community Projects as required, plus Community

region to close the gap between disengaging in education and finding a pathway to finishing school.

*“I left school when I was 15 and became a fully qualified chef by the time I was 18,” Rachel said. “I understand school is not for everyone but there are options for everyone.”*

Rachel was involved as a participant and then facilitator developing the Youth Conversations Report. *“It has been very interesting to see this project from all of the different angles so far, and I am excited to see the project through to completion,”* she said.

Rob Gunstone, a former Standard journalist and photographer, is working as the Communication Officer. He is currently working on strategic communications and specific comms' for project work such as the early years transition animations 'Sanga and Oops' and managing BtB's social media channels and website.

*“It is great to be able to offer my skills to an organisation such as BtB. Helping to provide opportunities for all young people across south west Victoria to find their best education pathway is really exciting, it will be amazing to help share their stories.”*





## //Mental Health Check In

Beyond the Bell continues to support the Warrnambool Youth Council's mental health check-in initiative.

In 2018, the Warrnambool Youth Council saw the need and developed the Mental Health Check In concept, to encourage young people to talk about their mental health.

This year the Youth Council reviewed and updated the images and messaging, created a range of animations to expand the project, and distributed a range of postcards to schools in the Warrnambool area. They also reflected on how the COVID-19 pandemic created disruptions and uncertainty for young people.

Becky Nevin Berger, Warrnambool City Council's Youth Development Planner, said the program was able to 'scale up' when BtB came onboard.

*"The [Mental Health Check In] campaign was refreshed this year with the new set of youth councillors to help keep it engaging and relevant," Ms Berger said.*

*"Beyond the Bell's support has meant we could keep working on the project this year, allowed the animations to happen and some additional funding towards printing and postage of the postcards."*

To find out more about the Mental Health Check In project visit <http://www.w2040.com.au/mental-health-checkin>.

---

**YOUTH  
CONVERSATIONS**

Youth Conversations Project (Phase 2) is ready to begin, with BtB receiving a grant from the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust to help fund the project for the next 12 months.

BtB will seek young people to develop and implement a 'Call to Action' plan for two youth-led initiatives across the region, to enable children and young people to connect to education and engage in their learning.

The actions will align with the Youth Conversations Research Report learnings and recommendations.

Rachel Wilks, who was involved in the initial Youth Conversations Report as a participant and facilitator, will drive the co-designed, place-based work. She will also join The Collaborative Table and co-ordinate youth voice to the Board and Executive Officer.

BtB recently completed the significant [Youth Conversations](#) research project, hearing from 711 young people across the six south west Victoria local government areas (LGA's) who have identified barriers to staying connected and engaged in education. We have an obligation to act on the learnings and recommendations. To do this we need to move to Phase 2 of the project and ensure we are working with young people to explore different initiatives across the region that may break down the barriers for them to stay connected or re-connect and engage in education. While we are doing this work, we can build frameworks for developing capacity of young people to innovate and create initiatives that are place-based responses to their community needs.

In the 2021-2023 Strategy, BtB has identified the importance of our work being guided by the voice and lived experience of young people (12-19 years of age). This project will ensure we are being true to our intent of giving youth voice, agency.

We are currently seeking young people to come together from all 6 LGA's to help plan and act. For more information about this project, please contact Rachel Wilks: [rwilks@btb.org.au](mailto:rwilks@btb.org.au)





## //2021 BtB Community Report Card

The [2020-21 Beyond the Bell Community Report Card](#) is now available on the website. Please download a copy and read about all of the great work the BtB Collective has completed over the last year.

Printed copies of the Community Report Card will be available upon request.

---

## //Membership

Become a member of Beyond the Bell. Membership entitles invitation to special events and voting rights the AGM. Most importantly, membership assists in the delivery of Beyond the Bell activities and programs which are all aimed at supporting children and young people to succeed in education.

**\$10 – Yearly Individual Membership**

**\$50 – Yearly Organisation Membership**

**\$2 – Concession**

(NB: Membership is for financial year 1 July 2021-30 June 2022)

Beyond the Bell  
Great South Coast Ltd



# MEMBERSHIP

**\$50**

Yearly  
**organisational**  
membership

**\$10**

Yearly  
**individual**  
membership

**\$2**

Yearly  
**concession**  
membership

Membership year runs from  
1 July – 30 June annually

Membership entitles invitation to  
special events and voting rights  
at the AGM.

**find out more**  
[www.btb.org.au](http://www.btb.org.au) / [info@btb.org.au](mailto:info@btb.org.au)



*Our children and young people;  
every choice; every chance*



**PURPOSE**  
To actively work with communities to enable children and young people in South West Victoria to engage in education and successfully transition through key stages of their learning.

**VISION**  
All children and young people are connected to education and engaged in their learning.

visit [btb.org.au](http://btb.org.au)

# Want to get involved with Beyond the Bell?

Email [info@btb.org.au](mailto:info@btb.org.au) or call on 0491 722 069 to discuss the possibilities.



---

*Copyright © 2021 Beyond the Bell, All rights reserved.*

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

