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December 2021

//EO Message

Greetings and best wishes for the festive season. I hope you are all able to take time for self and those closest to you.

Thank-you to all those who continue to carry out significant work in our communities to support children and young people staying connected to education and engaged in their learning. We are looking forward to the continued collaborations in 2022.

The BtB Annual General Meeting was held on November 17, with amazing presentations from Zara Lukeis and Professor Damian Blake on the insights generated by the Youth Conversations Project report. This report is leading us into phase two of the project, and we are now looking for young people from across the region to form a reference group.

Also at the AGM, we welcomed Georgia Quill and Ailiche Goddard-Clegg as directors and the return of Francis Broekman who will continue as chair.

Five episodes 'Sanga and Oops' have now been released and are available to watch on our YouTube channel. The link to these, and a collected version, is below.

We will be taking a break from 24 December and returning 10 January.

Kate Roache

Executive Officer



//Board Update

Board Update:

The BtB Annual General Meeting was held via Zoom on Wednesday 17 November, with fantastic insights from guest speakers Zara Lukeis and Professor Damian Blake on the Youth Conversations Phase 1 project.

Georgia Quill was appointed as a Board Director, Francis Broekman was re-elected, and Ailiche Goddard-Clegg elected, each for a three-year term.

Georgia is the General Manager Community Service at the Department of Justice in Geelong, and has a background in primary health care, local government, women's health, and disability services.

"I am very passionate about education and employment, I have a responsibility for all pathway brokers across the state, it's such a complex place to navigate it's no wonder people give up," Georgia said.

"What has caught my imagination with Beyond the Bell is the collaborative practice that we have at our core. Beyond the Bell looks towards the outcome of the individual, for the family and kids, and what is best for the Great South Coast. They work from a strong foundation, supporting the whole sector, for the betterment of young people and families.

"If I can bring anything to the group it is around supporting collaborative practice, and a knowledge of how the state government works and how we can

“At the core of everything I have ever done is the idea ‘prevention is better than cure’ and this is Beyond the Bell to a ‘T’.”

Francis is returning to the position of Board Chair, continuing his 5-year tenure. He is the current Chief Executive Officer of Brophy Family and Youth Services.

"What's important to me is as a community we continue to build the opportunities and aspirations of young people by providing access to services. Beyond the Bell gives us the opportunity to support young people to find their vocations and develop their aspirations, particularly in rural settings," Francis said.

"Rurally and regionally there aren't as many opportunities, so we need to find ways to provide this. That's where Beyond the Bell comes in, we can provide the community response and provide opportunities and pathways where they might not be available.

"Beyond the Bell is important to build on the existing pathways for young people to give them greater opportunities in the education field and help them find a vocation they wish to pursue.

"We have a number of pilot programs that are ready to be scaled up to provide additional opportunities to young people to find pathways to the vocational interests they wish to seek."

Ailiche is a communications specialist at Deakin University's Hycel, where she supports the development of hydrogen technologies and pathways in the region. A former Beyond the Bell staff member, Ailiche is a passionate advocate for education, partnership, and community connection in the Great South Coast.

"It is a privilege to be able to give back to community through my position as Board Director and help to increase educational opportunities for children and young people in the Great South Coast region," Ailiche said.

"It is an exciting time to be part of the Beyond the Bell Board, with 3-year funding secured, an endorsed strategic plan and major projects delivered including Youth Conversations and Positive Transitions to School.

"I am energized by the opportunity to stay connected to the Beyond the Bell



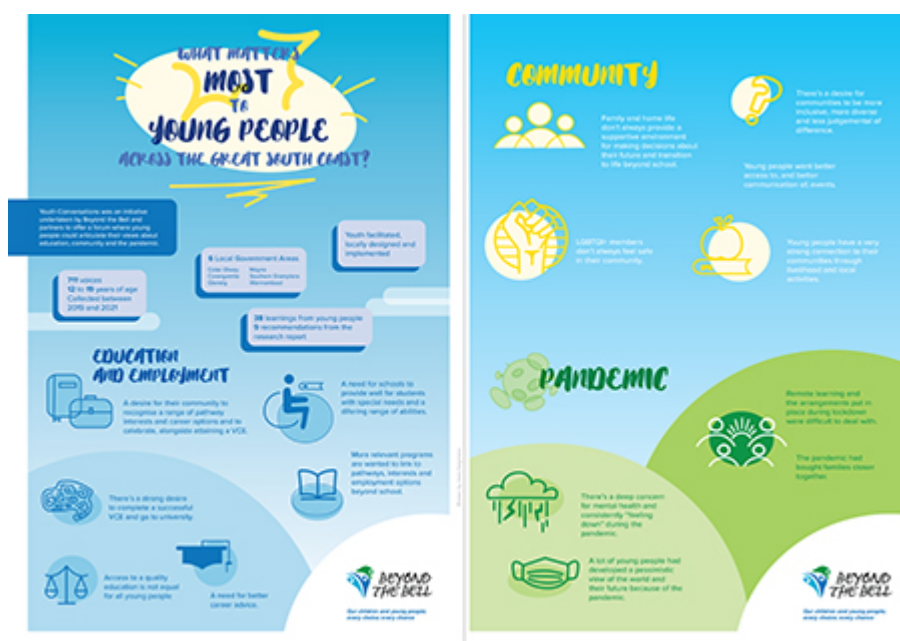


//School Readiness Campaign

'Sanga and Oops' – Get ready for School!

Five episodes of Sanga & Oops, plus a collected edition, are now available to view on YouTube. Watch the videos [here](#).

//Youth Conversations update



Youth Conversations Phase Two is now funded, thanks to a grant from Helen Macpherson Smith Trust, and is beginning to take shape.

After recent media coverage and networking opportunities, Beyond the Bell is

representative from Casterton. They will examine the 9 recommendations from the Youth Conversations Research Project, either via ZOOM or face-to-face, and be actively involved in collaborating with pre-existing initiatives, and designing and implementing actions across regional Victoria locally in their community.

We are currently accepting expressions of interest for the young people's reference group for applications in Feb 2022. Expressions of interest can be submitted to info@btb.org.au.

A poster has been released detailing the key findings from Youth Conversations Phase One. It is available for [download here](#).



//Giving the gift of reading



Beyond the Bell is honouring a pledge to donate \$2000 of books to the community by supporting the Warrnambool City Council Library and Fletcher Jones Family Foundation (FJFF) Christmas book drive.

The 2020 commitment made by the Warrnambool Local Action Group (WLAG)

Glenys Phillpot, past chair of the WLAG, said it is important to make sure children of all ages had easy access to reading material.

“One of the aims of BtB is encouraging reading through people’s lifetime, so we have always distributed books as often as we can,” Glenys said.

“Reading is fundamental to progression of education for all people.”

Marcela Russnak, Service Manager Warrnambool Library and Learning Hub, said the campaign will distribute books to children and young people before Christmas.

“Fletcher Jones Family Foundation has partnered with the library to donate funds to purchase books for families in need around Warrnambool. We are encouraging the community to donate as well, and the money [from FJFF] will be used to at least equal those donations,” Marcela said.

“The \$2000 donation from BtB means that even more families will be reached, and more children will have books in their homes.

“As we know, books are incredibly important for brain development, building imagination, so we are really pleased even more books will be sent out to more families.”

If you would like to join the BtB Warrnambool Local Action Group please get in touch via info@btb.org.au.

//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

**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 / info@btb.org.au



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every choice; every chance*

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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

Want to get involved with Beyond the Bell?

Email info@btb.org.au or call on 0491 722 069 to discuss the possibilities.



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