

Well another year has come to a close and thanks to every single person involved in HU4K, we have grown to 120 active volunteers in 11 partner primary schools in the 30 months since we began in June 2012. Congratulations to you, the reading volunteers, on your excellent recruiting skills and for the outstanding job you are doing in helping so many young children become confident readers.

We have achieved a number of milestones recently with incorporation, becoming a registered charity, registering a domain name, winning or named a finalist in high profile awards, conducted our first AGM, and have attracted much needed grants. Just wait until you see our colourful promotional materials made possible by Lotterywest and Rotary Club Grants! You will love them!

Both Investing In Our Youth Inc and GSEDC will be stepping back now that we're incorporated. They have played vital roles in the embryonic stages of HU4K and we sincerely thank both organisations for their support and faith in the program.

I am really looking forward to working with our new Board team and continuing to work alongside the dedicated Jan A, our partner schools and our sponsors and hearing more exciting success stories from our volunteers about their young students.

Have a well-earned rest. We'll see you in the New Year when together we'll further expand our vibrant, successful organisation, working to help more local students reach their full potential!

Happy New Year everyone.
Jan Pedersen, Hands Up 4 Kids Chairperson

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Annual General Meeting

The HU4K AGM held on 27 November 2014 at the Bunbury City Library was well attended.

Following is the new Board of Management:

Chairperson: Jan Pedersen

Vice Chairperson: Ian Pigott

Secretary: Marc Vanderplank

Treasurer: Lee Mead

Board members: Helen Foan, David

Parsons, Shahn Paganini, Giuliano Cantoni.

Ex- officio Members

Regional Coordinator: Jan Akaczzonek

SWDC Representative: Anna Oades

SW Regional Education Director: Neil Milligan

Patron: Stephen Foster

Auditor appointed: Ian Craig JP

If you would like to obtain copies of Minutes of Meeting or reports from the AGM, such as, "Investing In Our Youth" by Carmen Gregg, and/or a Jan A's Regional Coordinator's report presenting an overview of HU4K from inception to today, please contact Valerie Rowe 0401 299 058, Valerie@bluevista.net.au

Chef's Long Table Lunch

HU4K has been accepted as a funding recipient of the 2015 Chef's Long Table Lunch. The grant, of \$1985, is to be used to purchase equipment.

If you, your family, or friends, are making a booking, we ask that you register under HU4K so that the booking is recognised as being associated with HU4K and that you can be assigned to a HU4K table.

Consider the ticket price as a donation to charity with benefits, such as fabulous food and drink. Many of the dishes are prepared by local Chefs and accompanied by local wines.

Tickets to the lunch may be a welcome Christmas gift.

As beneficiaries, HU4K are expected to provide assistance on the day of the lunch. We will be calling for volunteers closer to the time.

The Chef's Long Table Lunch is held on Sunday 22 February 2015 on the Bunbury Inlet foreshore. www.chefslongtable.com.au/

End of Year BBQ

The end of year BBQ was well attended and enjoyed by all attendees. Keep an eye out for our first get together in 2015.

Stephen Foster becomes first HU4K Patron

We are honoured to have Stephen Foster accept the position as our first HU4K Patron.

Stephen played a vital role in the formative stages of HU4K, exploring how HU4K might be structured and who might be the original Steering Committee members.

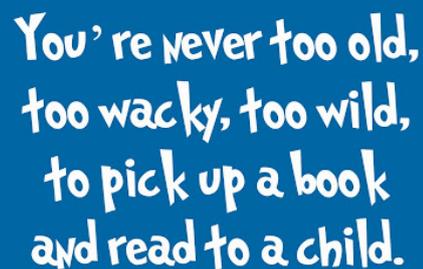
Stephen encouraged Rotary members to support the development of HU4K, and was responsible for Governor McCusker and his wife seeing HU4K in action.

He is also responsible for regular community articles in local press inviting volunteers to join HU4K.

WA Achievement and Community Awards

HU4K were nominated as a finalist in the Regional Achievement and Community Awards. The winners were announced at the Award night in Perth on November 14th.

Unfortunately, on this occasion, we were not winners. As one of the four finalists in our category we were presented with a certificate at the ceremony which was held in the Perth Convention Centre. During the presentation, a short video about HU4K was shown to the 400+ attendees, which provided fabulous exposure for our organisation.



-Dr. Seuss

Carolyn Switzer, HU4K Volunteer, tells us a little about herself...

*...Hands Up 4 Kids is a joy.
No preparation needed – just*

a willingness to be there and engage a child with a book....

It was a photo of an adult and child reading together that attracted me to the article about Hands Up 4 Kids in the local paper. I have always loved books and especially loved choosing books for my pre-school children (now in their forties). I still have a small collection I keep for my grandchildren's visits. *"Where the Wild Things Are"* by Maurice Sendak and *Wilfrid Gordon MacDonal Partridge* by Mem Fox are two of my favourites. Perhaps you have read them too? The sound of the words and the power of the story are spellbinding. This is an experience I want every child to have. Two grandchildren are two hours too far away.



Carolyn Switzer
Volunteer at Maidens
Park Primary School

When I was a student at Curtin University one of my favourite subjects was developmental psychology and for practical experience I volunteered as a literacy tutor at the High School in Fremantle. I was allotted a couple of reluctant readers and found it so rewarding when I discovered that reading parts in a play was something they would enter into with gusto.

During my career in environmental management I vowed that when I retired I would go back to this experience with kids that I got such a kick out of. I first volunteered in a school mentor program and spent individual time with a charming Grade 5 boy and a Grade 4 girl – who needed some extra attention. After a couple of years I found the preparation needed and the lack of practical support in the school a disincentive.

Hands Up 4 Kids is a joy. No preparation needed – just a willingness to be there and engage a child with a book. And, such a wonderful variety of small human beings to take an interest in!

Lotterywest Organisational Development Grant

HU4K have been awarded a Lotterywest Organisational Grant. Funds from this grant enable HU4K to have significant design work undertaken - including logo, website and brochure design.

The logo has been used for a few months and is displayed on this newsletter heading.

The website and brochures are "works in progress", and are close to completion.

Included in the grant allocation is a training booklet for volunteers and a training manual for Zone Coordinators. A training CD is in the planning stage and we have taken possession of a quantity of very attractive desktop promotional signs which we will be asking local business to display on their counters. These signs are currently in place at the Australind Library and NAB's Victoria St branch.

HU4K now has teams of volunteers in 11 local schools, including Clifton Park Primary joining in this term.

The support from our volunteers and partner schools means that the work of helping our young children become better and more confident readers is continuing.

We continually endeavour to increase our volunteer numbers and have undertaken promotional events at local shopping centres. The information stand at Centre Point shopping centre for National Literacy and Numeracy Week (28-30 August 2014) resulted in 20 people registering an interest in becoming a HU4K volunteer. A similar

event at the Australind Shopping Centre on (7 October 2014) resulted in 10 prospective volunteers.

Thank you to the volunteers who were able to help out and provide the public with first hand accounts of their volunteering experience.

Special thanks also to Jan P for her organisation of the Literacy week event, and to Nicole West and her students at Parkfield for the eye catching and very effective display board.

Bunbury Leschenault Rotary Club District Grant 2014

Once again, the Bunbury Leschenault Rotary Club (BLRC) has demonstrated its support of HU4K by not only submitting a grant application but securing the grant and also adding to the amount. It was a real pleasure to attend the BLRC October 8th. 2014, meeting to accept the cheque for the District Grant, and be able to update their members on our activities. The welcome surprise was when told that the club had added to the grant amount to bring it up to \$4500.

Our grateful thanks go to Anna Oades, and her team, for the consistent and generous support shown by the Bunbury Leschenault club since our inception.

Australind Shopping Centre

We extend our thanks to Asher, Paul and staff members of Vukelic Property Group (VPG) for their continued financial support. HU4K have been the recipient of the second of three annual contributions of \$5000 from VPG.

VPG’s sponsorship not only assists HU4K financially, it also raises awareness about HU4K and makes us competitive when applying for grants.

Encouraging HU4K Survey Results

A survey was undertaken earlier this year to gather information from school children regarding reading at home, and reading with HU4K volunteers. The 205 students, from 5 schools, who participated in the survey, came back with encouraging results, as may be seen in the following table.

	Agree	Unsure	Disagree
I do “home reading” every day	103 51%	43 21%	56 28%
I like reading at home	155 76%	23 11%	26 13%
I enjoy reading to the volunteers at school	158 77%	28 14%	19 9%
I think my reading has improved since I started reading to the volunteers	143 72%	44 22%	12 6%
I think I am better at trying new words since reading with the volunteers	104 67%	42 27%	10 6%
I hope to continue with the HU4K program next year	111 76%	20 14%	14 10%

A follow up survey is due to be carried out in mid December 2014 - the results of which will be published in the next HU4K newsletter.

School Term Dates

2014

Thursday, 18 December marks the end of term for 2014.

2015

Semester 1

Term 1 Monday 2 February -
Thursday 2 April

Break Friday 3 April -
Sunday 19 April

Term 2 Monday 20 April -
Friday 3 July

Break Saturday 4 July -
Sunday 19 July

Semester 2

Term 3 Monday 20 July -
Friday 25 September

Break Saturday 26 September -
Sunday 11 October

Term 4 Monday 12 October -
Thursday 17 December

Source: <http://www.det.wa.edu.au/termdates>

Name the HU4K Newsletter Competition

Suggestions are requested for a name for the new look HU4K Newsletter. Please email, handsup4kids@gmail.com or post your ideas to PO Box 715, Bunbury, WA 6231, by 28 February 2015. Use the following format for your submission -

Newsletter Name:

Your Name:

Telephone number:

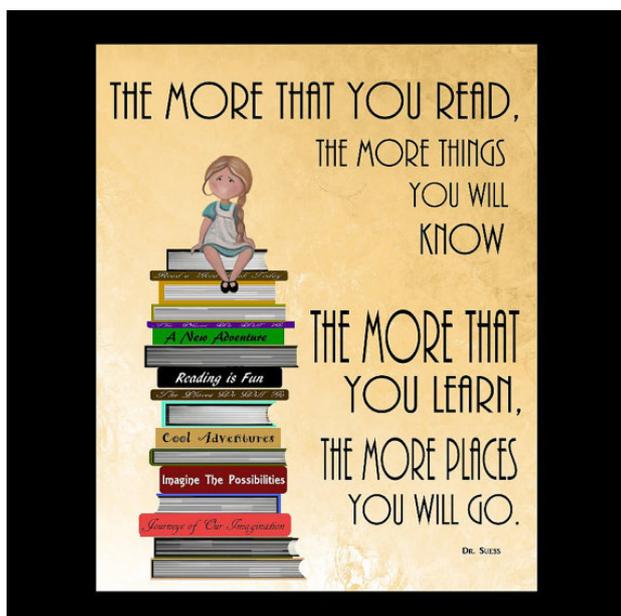
The winner will be advised by telephone, and acknowledged in the next HU4K newsletter.

Expressions of Interest for Volunteer Zone Coordinators

HU4K are seeking expressions of interest to fill three volunteer Zone Coordinator roles. If you are interested in finding out more about these positions, please contact Jan Akaczonok using the HU4K contact details at the end of this newsletter.

Thank you...

- To all HU4K volunteers – everything you do - whether attending school each week, manning information stands, delivering pamphlets, etc, we are truly grateful for your time, energy, and generosity
- To our sponsors and supporters – as afore mentioned, and those who's logo is displayed on this newsletter
- To Heather Wade for editing and publishing Issues 1-3 of the HU4K newsletter. Heather has passed the newsletter reigns over to Valerie Rowe



Do you have attentive listening skills?

Attentive listening requires paying attention to non-verbal messages as well as to spoken messages, reading body language, and interpreting tone of speech. There is also an element of hearing with your heart as well as your head/ears.

Are you a good listener? Complete the following short quiz and assess how you rate in this skill.

		Yes	No
1	Do you watch facial expressions when you talk with others?		
2	Does your facial expression and body language indicate you are interested in what the other person has to say?		
3	Do you use appropriate eye contact?		
4	Do you show that you are listening by nodding your head, saying "yes, OK", and giving other feedback?		
5	Do you avoid interrupting when another person is talking?		
6	Do you maintain a comfortable distance from the speaker – not too far or too near?		
7	Do you paraphrase the other person's comments to check out your understanding of what he/she is saying?		
8	Do you reflect feelings behind verbal messages, such as "You seem concerned"?		
9	Do you refrain from ending sentences for other people?		
10	Do you show respect for another's opinion, even when it is different from your own?		

Total of **Yes** answers

If your total of Yes answers is:
 Eight or more - you are doing a great job. Keep up the good work.
 Six-seven - you are better than average. Be mindful of your No answers and work toward being a Yes by practising good listening skills.
 Five or less – some work could be done to improve your listening skills. Obtain relevant information from the library or internet regarding listening skills. Find a mentor who is a skilled listener. Practise with friends and family. Ask for constructive feedback.

Newsletter Contributions

Suggestions for newsletter content are welcome, please email or post your suggestions to the following contact details.

HU4K Contact Details

Post: PO Box 715, Bunbury, WA 6231
 Mobile: 0499 240 371
 Email: handsup4kids@gmail.com

