

# The HU4K Focus



## A few words from our President...

WOW! Our 17<sup>th</sup> Hands Up 4 Kids Partner Primary School is about to get underway. Dalyellup Primary School will commence as soon as we have a volunteer team in place.

\* We've responded to a Rotary Club approach to consider establishing a regional HU4K operation, so that's in train –  
 \* Special thanks to our 2 literacy specialists who provided some excellent information at our recent refresher morning - see more details in this newsletter.

\* Total volunteer numbers are climbing steadily – over 160 now and with Dalyellup schools, this is set to accelerate.

\* Special thanks to everyone who brings in their friends and neighbours who all make up our formidable team of volunteers helping young kids become confident readers.

**Jan Pedersen**  
**Hands Up 4 Kids President**

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## ARE WE REALLY MAKING A DIFFERENCE?..

### Some disturbing facts about literacy levels of Australians

Figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics show that 44% of Australian adults don't have the literacy skills they need to cope with the demands of everyday life and work.

***So in case you were wondering if you are making a difference – here's some proof!***

## Follow on from Rotary District Conference March 2016



Jan A and Jan P were guests of the Rotary Club of Margaret River (MR) in April where members were very interested to learn more about how HU4K and what is being achieved.

Following lively discussion an additional MR HU4K Zone will be formed, with possible extension to Augusta, Cowaramup and Karridale in due course.

MR Primary school in very keen to introduce the program. They have 1,000 students this year. If you have friends



in the MR district who might like to join the MR HU4K volunteer team, when formed, or if you know someone whom you believe would make an excellent Zone Coordinator, please talk to Jan A.

The MR Rotary Club will auspice and support developments, just as the Rotary Club of Bunbury Leschenault has done here in Bunbury.

Our thanks to Marilyn Hopkins, President of the Rotary Club of MR who first heard about HU4K from our presentation to the 2016 Rotary Conference in Bunbury. Thanks too to Astrid Horak, Rotary Club District Vocational Director.

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## REFRESHER SESSION – Phonics and Dyslexia

Over 60 volunteers gathered at Hudson Road Family Centre on Monday April 10 where they were treated to two fantastic presenters sharing their knowledge around PHONICS and DYSLEXIA in layman terms and– *HOW VERY ENLIGHTENING THEY WERE!*



**Christine Scanlan** Deputy Principal at Maidens Park. Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education and long-time supporter of HU4K spoke to notes she distributed around

### “Helping Children Read with Phonics.”

Ask for a copy of the notes as these will be excellent reference materials in your helping young children read.

We’re hearing many positive comments echoing through town with many of you telling your School Coordinators about this successful, interesting event.



**Maureen Tepper**, retired Head of Specialist Support Services Dorset UK, (and a string of qualifications) informed us about “**What is dyslexia? What should I know and is there any- thing I can/should do?**”



Very enlightening and useful information!

## Lots of Lively Chatter at the Refresher Session



A chance to swap stories with HU4K Volunteers from other schools.

## HERE’S OUR HU4K PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENTAL HISTORY

*(In case you’re new to HU4K)*

**“We’re born and bred in Bunbury.”**

- 2012: Pilot Schools - Maidens Park, Parkfield, Kingston/A'lind; Australind
- 2013: Carey Park, Cooinda; Djidi Djidi, Brunswick Junction
- 2014: Picton, Tuart Forest, Clifton Park
- 2015: Adam Road
- 2016: Eaton, Treendale, South Bunbury, Bunbury
- 2017: Dalyellup ..... and more to come

### YES, YOU ARE REALLY MAKING A DIFFERENCE:

A survey by the Australian Industry Group, carried out as part of their National Workforce Literacy Project in 2010 found that more than 75% of employers reported that their business was affected by low levels of literacy and numeracy.

## Recruiting Dalyellup & Gelorup Volunteers

Thanks to those who spent time staffing our information table at the Dalyellup Shopping Centre on April 7 - Helen Ewers, Steve Doddy and Dianne Martin and of course Jan A. (Isn't our promo table cloth just fantastic?!) While only 6 people listed their

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names, the GELORUP GAZETTE will feature an article to be letter-box dropped to some 4,000 homes next week. THANK YOU



Gelorup Gazette, The Dalyellup Over 50 Walkers Club and the Shire of Capel who sponsor the printing of this

monthly newsletter. Satterley's have also offered to include a small article in their Quarterly Newsletter which goes to all homes on the Dalyellup Estate- late May/early June - That'll be good timing for "a reminder."



### VANESSA BORDIN –

third year Primary Educ. Uni student completing her 20 hours community placement joins our HU4K team at Brunswick PS.

### Vanessa writes...

"I first heard about Hands Up 4 Kids from a peer at university who had previously volunteered with the program and gained some great experience. I have always enjoyed reading and since beginning my educational studies I have witnessed first-hand how important reading is for a child's development.

Volunteering with Hands Up 4 Kids has provided me with experience and skills I can utilise in my future career as a teacher. The time spent with the students is not limited to reading, we have reviewed sight words and practiced their developing hand writing skills. It has been fantastic to see the enthusiasm and positive attitudes that the children have about the program.

When walking into an upper primary classroom on my first day I recall students asking the teacher if they could be the first person to come and read. I was impressed with their eagerness.

*I found volunteering with Hands Up 4 Kids a really rewarding experience which enabled me to see the students developing and improving their skills each week."*

VANESSA- PLEASE TELL YOUR FELLOW STUDENTS ABOUT THIS OPPORTUNITY & A BIG THANK YOU from all of us and your Brunswick PS students!

## TALLYING 2016 HU4K VOLUNTEER HOURS AT OUR PARTNER SCHOOLS

Together in 2016, we delivered a massive **3,851.5 hours** to helping students at Partner schools, which equates to **\$125,352** when applying the widely accepted volunteer rate of \$35 p/hr. WELL DONE!



Of the 16 Partner Schools operating in 2016, 7 schools had 10 or more volunteers (the largest was 15 volunteers who clocked up a whopping 533.5 hours at Maidens Park PS!) 6 schools had 8 or 9 volunteers and 3 had fewer than 7, the lowest number being 4 at Treendale who were just starting out. The average works out to 9 in a team.

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**YES, YOU ARE REALLY MAKING A DIFFERENCE!**  
The Australian Early Development Census shows that 24% of five year old children starting school in Western Australia are developmentally vulnerable or at risk in their language and cognitive skills.



**HU4K THANKS TO BARBARA CLEWS of Barb Clews & Associates** who wrote the copy for our

original Handbook and has just incorporated a few minor updates for reprinting these – at no additional charge to HU4K. **SINCERE THANKS BARB FOR YOUR ON-GOING SUPPORT!**

**DAVID BYATT of Moshi Moshi Marketing** who attends to updating our web-site (when we provide him with information) we worked closely with David in designing our logo,

website and promotional materials. He too is continuing to support us at no charge!  
OUR SINCERE THANKS TO YOU TOO DAVID.

**SOS EQUIPMENT** who sponsored the printing of the original Handbook and yes, they are extending their offer to sponsor the printing of 1,000 additional booklets. *THANK YOU.*

**OUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR Valerie Rowe.** Unfortunately Valerie is relinquishing the position as she plans to travel this year, so it is back to the Jans to put this edition together. We openly support all volunteers maintaining their leisure and family pursuits so best wishes for safe travel Valerie.

**Volunteer Editor/s needed!** – What about an editorial team of 2 or 3 people with a flair for writing and reporting? Interested? Offers to Jan A a.s.a.p. p-l-e-a-s-e.

**SPONSORS SOUTH 32. Worsley Alumina 2016 recruitment:**

**South32** twelve months sponsorship of \$5,000 to enable the recruitment of more volunteers and offer HU4K services to more local Primary schools during 2016 has now concluded. We had hoped to involve more South 32 employees as volunteer readers, but this was not possible due to distance, work schedules etc We are grateful to South32 for enabling us to recruit Zone Coordinators to strengthen our strong relationships with every volunteer and recruit additional volunteers as well as opening up more HU4K Schools

**THE VILLAGE AUSTRALIND** thanks for allowing us to display our HU4K recruiting banner in one of the vacant shops in clear view of passing shoppers. The Village Australind has been a strong supporter and past sponsor for 3 critical developmental years of establishing HU4K. We are indebted for your support.

**ROTARY CLUB OF BUNBURY LESCHENAULT** – who are our staunch supporters, helping out in many ways, including regular financial support, offsetting school contributions where needed and members joining the Volunteer reader ranks.



**A SPECIAL GET WELL MESSAGE TO A VIP BOARD MEMBER and HU4K Volunteer reader, David Parsons** long term and much valued HU4K reading volunteer who helps out at Kingston PS and assists with survey data etc.. Get well David! – Board members and ‘your students’ are asking when you will be back! They loved you David and we all miss you!

## SOME SNIPPETS.....

**Heather Smedley, former Deputy Principal of Australind Primary** is celebrating her recent retirement. Heather has been a consistent and enthusiastic supporter from the very start of HU4K when Australind Primary School was one of the 4 schools involved in the 2012 pilot.

**BOARD PRESENTATION Board presented a Book Award to a deserving student at Maidens Park** – the school where HU4K took its first tentative steps as a partnership program. At the Maidens Park Year 6 Graduation the Hands Up 4 Kids Book prize was awarded to graduating student Waylon Hill. Christine Scanlan, Deputy Principal writes:

“Hi Jan,  
*I just wanted to thank you for the presenting of a HU4K award at our graduation today. After the ceremony many people came up and discussed how the program has made such an impact and it is nice to have that recognized in student achievement. The young man who received the award was so proud of his achievement and his parents were there to see him get the award.*

*I was very proud to share that moment with you. Thanks again. Warm regards, Christine”*

**VNE'S COMING UP Term 2 Volunteer Network Exchange will be at Hudson Road Family Centre, and Term 3 will be at Brunswick Junction Primary – Watch for dates.**



## TEACHER SURVEYS (33 returned)

RESPONSES: **OUTSTANDING** far outweighed all other comments in relation to

- i) I value the HU4K program and the contribution of the volunteers
- ii) The school admin team values the HU4K program and the contribution volunteers make
- iii) Students enjoy and value the HU4K program

### CONSIDERABLE

- iv) Although it is difficult to measure the impact of HU4K on students' reading skills evidence indicates that this reading assistance value-adds to the students.

## STUDENT SURVEYS – 334 surveys returned

- i) 80% I like reading at home
- ii) 79% I want to keep reading with a volunteer next year
- iii) 75% I enjoy reading to my HU4K volunteer
- iv) 75% I think I am better at trying new words since reading with my volunteer
- v) 73% I think my reading has improved since I started reading to my volunteer
- vi) 73% I think I am a better reader since reading with my volunteer
- vii) 60% I do home reading every day

## VOLUNTEER SURVEYS (52 surveys returned)

- i) 92% It is personally satisfying to be part of HU4K plus 4% responded moderately
- ii) 92% It is personally satisfying to see children's reading confidence improve plus 2% indicate moderately
- iii) 89% The class teacher values the HU4K program and my contribution and a further 6% indicate moderately
- iv) 89% I believe that the school Admin team values the HU4K program and the contribution of volunteers and a further 10% indicate moderately
- v) 83% It is important for me to be part of a community project and a further 17% indicated moderately
- vi) 80% Students enjoy and value the HU4K program and a further 15% responded "moderately"
- vii) 78% The school is prepared for the program and has strategies in place to accommodate change and a further 9% indicate moderately so
- viii) 75% It is important to me to be part of a team plus 20% indicate "considerable important"
- ix) 70% indicate they do not feel that their presence is a disruption to the class and a

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- x) further 15% feel their presence is a moderate disruption
- xi) 68% I am satisfied with the level of support I receive from the HU4K Coordinator and a further 26% indicate they are moderately satisfied (and 1% not at all satisfied)
- xii) 59% I believe that that the reading skills of the students I work with have improved as a result of the HU4K program plus 28% indicate "considerably important"
- xiii) 45% indicate that more training would not be beneficial in helping them do their job better and 28% indicate more training could be beneficial

## SCHOOL CONTACT PERSON SURVEY (6 returned)

- i) School Admin teams value the HU4K program and the contribution of volunteers: 5 Strongly, 1 Moderately
- ii) The HU4K program is a strategy in the school Literacy Plan: 4 Yes, 1 No, 1 Limited
- iii) Class teachers value the HU4K program and the contribution of volunteers: 3 Strongly, 2 Considerably, 1 Moderately
- iv) The HU4K volunteers have developed a strong partnership with the school, based on understanding and mutual respect: 3 Excellent, 2 Considerable, 1 Moderate
- v) Volunteers have made a significant contribution to the literacy program offered at the school: 2 Yes, 2 Considerable, 1 Moderate
- vi) Evidence indicates that HU4K reading assistance value-adds to the school's curriculum: 1 Significantly, 3 Considerably, 1 Moderately, 1 Limited
- vii) Students enjoy and value the HU4K program: 5 Considerably, 1 Moderately

There are some excellent comments in these responses (despite the low return rate in some instances).

Every HU4K volunteer should be proud of his/her contribution!



**Surveying Schools, Teachers, Students and Volunteers provides vital information to HU4K Board and School Principals. Responses help us identify any areas where changes are needed or where more emphasis or action is required to ensure we are all getting the best outcomes for the students we exist to serve.**

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