

HANDS UP 4 KIDS

READING VOLUNTEERS

— BUNBURY & SOUTH WEST WA —

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Hands Up 4 Kids Wins Children's Week Award

Hands Up 4 Kids was selected as the Meerilinga Young Children's Foundation winner of the Communities Award for Children's Week 2013 and it came with a cheque of \$2000. The award ceremony was held on Universal Children's Day, Wednesday 23 October, at the State Theatre Centre in Perth. Many thanks to Jan Pedersen who put forward the nomination and to all of our volunteers, students, teachers, school support staff and our committee members whose wonderful efforts the award recognises. To learn more about the Foundation, visit their website at www.meerilinga.org.au



Jan Pedersen, Committee Member; Brigid Agnew, Parkfield; Jan Akaczonek, Bunbury Regional Co-ordinator HU4K & Carolyn Switzer, Maidens Park.

New Schools

Since our last newsletter we have welcomed two new schools to our partnership. Djidi Djidi now has its team operating and Brunswick Junction is just beginning with four volunteers registered. The call is out in Brunswick and surrounds for additional team members with brochures, posters and newspaper notices spreading the word. Hopefully, Glen

Huon Primary will be joining us in Term 4 bringing the number of schools to nine.

We now have 90 people on our books with availability fluctuating due to various reasons such as health, travel, paid work and family responsibilities.

Act Belong Commit

In October, we signed on to become an affiliate of Act Belong Commit which is a comprehensive health promotion campaign that encourages individuals to take action to protect and promote their own mental wellbeing and encourages organisations that provide mental health activities.

Free Computer Training for Volunteers

Paul Coffey, a Parkfield team member, has kindly agreed to conduct beginner classes for anyone who is interested. The classes will be small and informal (no exam at the end) and will be conducted at the Bunbury City Library. If you would like to learn the basics or perhaps learn a bit more, please contact Jan Akaczonek. If you are in the Brunswick Junction area, the Community Resource Centre also conducts regular small group computer training sessions.

Surveys

A big thank you to everyone who took the time to contribute to the recent surveys. The information gained was invaluable and will assist with the planning of the program and will be used to support funding applications. Below are some quotes from the surveys.

205 students responded from 5 schools.

- The ladies are really nice and I know I am getting better because they tell me "great job."



HANDS UP 4 KIDS

Helping young children overcome barriers to reading and comprehension - enabling them to achieve academic success.

- I have got better since Mrs J taught me how to read.

34 Volunteers responded from 5 schools

- I am thoroughly enjoying my participation and do sincerely hope I am making a little difference.
- A more comprehensive introduction to the requirements of the task would be helpful and establishing goals and protocols with the class teacher is essential.

21 Classroom Teachers from 5 schools

- I have personally moved whole class timed activity to accommodate and I am finding the HU4K program a delight.
- Children love reading to the HU4K volunteers. The volunteers are able to talk about the book and spend valuable "sharing" time with each student. The students love our visitors.

5 responses from the school's HU4K allocated contact, generally the Literacy Coordinator or a Deputy Principal

- 80% thought the program has made a considerable contribution to literacy at the school.
- The HU4K program is not yet a strategy in the school literacy plan because it is new but will be in the future.

Business Supports HU4K

We are delighted to announce that Vukelic Holdings through the Australind Shopping Centre has committed to supporting us with a donation of \$15,000 over 3 years. The company recognises the value and potential of the program and that by providing financial support the company will be contributing to the community and help young people realise their full potential. Thank you to Paul and Asher Vukelic and the Australind Shopping Centre.

Bunbury-Leschenault Rotary Club

Additionally, we have received a cheque for \$1000 from the Bunbury Leschenault Rotary Club which has been our champion from the very beginning. We are very grateful to the club which has been working on our behalf by promoting the program and instigated the recent visit to Parkfield Primary by the Governor, Malcolm McCusker and his wife.

Whilst at the school, Mr and Mrs McCusker were given information about Parkfield and HU4K and

witnessed the children read to their volunteers. Thank you to Parkfield Primary School for hosting the visit and for the tasty afternoon tea.

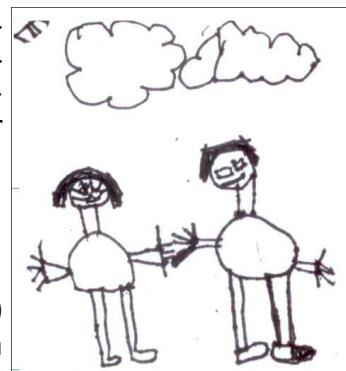
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Debra Boyd, Maidens Park with Jenny & Paul Coffey, Parkfield, at the Term 3 morning tea



Open School event at Djidi Djidi. New volunteers find out about the HU4K programme and sign up to help.



Drawings from Year 1s at Kingston thanking David Parsons who listens to children read twice a week.

