

# HANDS UP 4 KIDS

## READING VOLUNTEERS

— BUNBURY & SOUTH WEST WA —

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### TERM 2, 2013

Welcome to the first Hands Up 4 Kids (HU4K) newsletter.

In her March 2013 report, HU4K co-ordinator Jan Akaczzonek, stated:-

“The start of the 2013 school year has been very rewarding with the level of publicity we received resulting in increased numbers of volunteers. This has given me the opportunity to meet many wonderful caring, community minded people who are the backbone of Hands Up 4 Kids.

Our goal for first term 2013 was to introduce Carey Park PS and consolidate and build up numbers in existing teams.

I am happy to report that Carey Park is operating with a full team of 15 volunteers. Carey Park has received great support from the staff and community with several volunteers having long time links with the school. We were also helped by the amount of publicity given to the open event day and public support by Nola Marino and John Castrilli.

The other schools are gradually building on their numbers. Maidens Park PS has 20 volunteers, Australind PS has 14, Kingston PS has 11 and Parkfield PS has 14. Our volunteers come from all walks of life and range in age from 20 to 70+.

These figures show an increase of over 100% on the end year 2012 numbers.”

The news gets better. The current numbers are Maidens 21, Carey Park 18, Australind 14, King-

ston 11 and Parkfield 14. Another school, Cooinda, started the programme in Term 2.

Jan has been busy promoting HU4K at Australind Shopping Centre, Australind Lions Club, Edith Cowan University, Bankwest, Forum Shopping Centre and at the Senior Citizens' Expo resulting in more HU4K volunteers.

### VOLUNTEER PROFILE

#### HELEN EWERS



I was schooled in the 50's. Education was quite basic then compared to now. Many manual jobs existed that did not require one to be a good reader. Today's sophistication and technology is vastly different. A good percentage of jobs/careers require one to have at least 12 years of schooling or a tertiary education of some form. The one core aspect is one's ability to read - to interpret, understand or comprehend the written word.



### HANDS UP 4 KIDS

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

It is my belief that education is a vital aspect of our life. At the core is the ability to read, comprehend and understand.

- Reading enables us to communicate, gives us pleasure, gives us skills that enable us to explore every aspect of our world if we wish, so we can understand.
- Reading assists us to acquire knowledge and in turn helps us discern things in our life. Also it exposes us to all sorts of different experiences.
- Reading gives us confidence in ourselves. It also gives us a fuller life as it stimulates our thinking.
- Reading is basic to every day living, whether at school or at a job or at study or entertainment or to just be able to fill in a form.

I decided to join Hands Up for Kids following a visit to the Maidens Park School and hearing the principal share the ideas that were being used at the school to assist children in reaching their full potential. The one that stood out to me was the early reading assistance programme. This programme reinforced the belief in the importance of the ability to read and the earlier the better, because it could set one up for life.

I thought if one hour a week from me could assist in this endeavour to make a difference in a child's life, I am very happy to be involved.



## TERM DATES

Term 2 concludes Friday 5 July

Term 3 commences Monday 22 July

## MONEY CAN'T BUY THIS -

### A VOLUNTEER'S STORY

In this day and age when suspicion and mistrust seem to be endemic in our society, it is heart warming to hear this anecdote.

After listening to one of his readers, the volunteer and child were walking back to the classroom when unbidden, a little hand clasped his. In companionable silence they continued on to class.

If you have a story you'd like to share, please email [hwade@bigpond.com](mailto:hwade@bigpond.com) or send to Heather Wade, 41 Australind Rd, Australind, WA, 6233

A husband and wife Canadian couple is joining the Cooida team – they are travelling and will only be able to work with the program for the month they are here.

Perhaps they will inspire a Canadian version of HU4K!



Bruce, Corynne, Debra & Robyn networking at Maidens Park Term 1 afternoon tea.

## HU4K'S AIM

*The aim of Hands Up 4 Kids is to attract community volunteers to help raise the literacy standards of young students struggling to achieve satisfactory literacy levels.*

Teachers and volunteers have noticed significant improvement in many students' reading levels. Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who continue to make it happen.