

The HU4K Focus



June 2023

Welcome to our second Hands Up 4 Kids newsletter for 2023.

Hands Up 4 Kids welcomes all new volunteers and sends a greeting to all current volunteers.

This term we have had two Volunteer Networking Events that focused on understanding the work Chaplains do in schools. One event was held in Margaret River, for Margaret River and Busselton volunteers with guest speaker Chaplain Lynette Wallis. The second event was held in Bunbury for volunteers from Bunbury, Donnybrook and Harvey. Guest speakers were Chaplains Emma Strong and Benn Gladden. An overview of the Bunbury event and photos of both events follows.



Chaplain Benn presenting at Hudson Road Family Centre and volunteers.



Margaret River Primary Chaplain Lynette and volunteers from Margaret River and Busselton

Volunteering Network Event (Hudson Road Family Centre)

On the 15th May, HU4K volunteers attended an informative session provided by two school chaplains, Emma Strong and Benn Gladden at Hudson Road Family Centre.

Emma and Benn provided informative insight into the daily activity of a chaplain and the role they play within the school environment, both primary and secondary. Chaplains are available to not only students, but also school staff and parents, providing a supportive and approachable environment for all.

Some of their roles include running clubs like a Breakfast club, which ensures children have something to eat during the day. Foodbank donates necessary food items for related clubs. Some other clubs may be a cooking club, disco, bike riding club and providing parental information courses.

The chaplains provide a welcoming environment for children with card or board games and music to break down barriers and offer a relaxed environment. This allows the chaplain to develop a repertoire with the child.

A question was asked as to the connotations of religion attached to the role of chaplain, however, although Youthcare employs the chaplains, they are not there in a religious capacity and do not teach the subject in the school environment. The chaplains are there to connect, listen and offer advice if and when needed. They also have been trained to refer to health professionals if/or required.

Connecting with children and being a constant in their lives is not very different from what we do as volunteers for HU4K.



**Did you know Hands Up for Kids has an online social presence with a Facebook page?
If you are a Facebook member, look us up on Facebook: [handsup4kids](https://www.facebook.com/handsup4kids).
You can follow us and join in the conversation.**



Neville with a student from Picton Primary School

Our own HU4K hero

Many of our volunteers would know of Neville Eastman, a long term HU4K volunteer at Picton Primary School and Djidi Djidi Primary School. A recent article by Breanna Redhead from the South Western Times (11 May 2023) showcased Neville volunteering at Picton Primary School. The article talked about the benefits of reading and focused on the great work Neville has been doing over the years assisting students in improving their reading skills. Neville's connection to Picton Primary School extend right back to when his grandmother attended Picton Primary 130 years ago. The article highlighted the invaluable work Neville does within our community, not only HU4K but also with Bunbury-Leschenault Rotary Club.

A Day in the Life of a Coordinator

Have you wondered what the day in the life of a HU4K Coordinator might look like? HU4K Focus asked Lorraine Schram and here is what she said:

Well, most days, first I check emails to see if I need to act upon a H4K matter before I tend to other activities. I do some tutoring with needy children as well, delivery to schools with Foodbank breakfast goodies.

One very busy day 2 weeks ago, began at 8 am with a trip over to Foodbank, collected 2 trays of fruit, 2 cartons of long life milk, yoghurt and a tray of bread for Brunswick Primary.

Then off to an hours tutoring with a young lass, followed by driving to Brunswick to deliver Foodbank, stayed there and did reading with class 2/3, stopped and had a quick coffee with staff at recess break. Back in the car, over to River Valley and Dardanup schools to take photos of registers to see how first 2 terms reading has been going. Then to Kingston and Treendale schools to do the same.

Last for day, another hour tutoring, then home to tend to household duties and cooking dinner. Not every day quite this hectic, this term will finish this week with tutoring, reading at Brunswick and delivery to all 5 schools mentioned above, a thank you gift to the schools H4K coordinators. AND I LOVE IT!

Cheers all

Many thanks to Lorraine for providing this insightful segment.



Introducing our new "Spotlight" segment. A fun article where we ask a member of our community six questions and their answers. Our very first participant is Trevor Pengilly, HU4K volunteer at Treendale Primary School. Thanks to Trevor for joining in the fun.

How long have you been a HU4K volunteer? I am in my 6th year.

What do you like most about being a volunteer? The joy of seeing the kids progress.

Where did you grow up? I grew up in Fremantle with 5 sisters and 3 brothers.

What was your favourite childhood book? Believe it or not, I hated reading. So no favourite book.

If you were stranded on a desert island, what would you take with you? My wife and dog.

Any tips or advice for new HU4K volunteers? Be friendly with the little ones. Always remember that they're not all on the same level.

Fun Fact: The Biblioteca Joanina in Portugal has an unusual method of keeping their books clean. A swarm of bats live in the library and feed on book-eating insects at night, helping to preserve the 300-year-old building and the many books it harbours.

Boys and Reading

A recent article examined the reading gap and differing attitude towards reading between girls and boys in year 4. The results published in the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study.

The study showed Australian girls on average scored higher positivity towards reading than boys. Attitudes to reading was measured in the study which correlated that attitude is closely linked to motivation. The article suggests a societal difference; for example boys may be encouraged to go outside and partake in hands on play, whereas girls may be directed towards reading a book.

In closing the article recommends modelling good book behaviour to encourage more boys to read.

Tips included:

- sharing books on topics boys like to read about
- show them reading can be for fun by modelling
- encourage reading of any type of book whether it be fiction, non-fiction, comics or any other format

10 ways to help the boys in your life read for enjoyment (not just for school), The Conversation, Merga Margaret Kristin, University of Newcastle, May 2023.