The HU4K Focus



Hands Up Kids

March 2023

Dear volunteers and friends,

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2023. It is wonderful to see most schools have returned to standard operations this year. Our zone coordinators are reporting our volunteers are operating in most schools.

We are very lucky to have Suzanne Gratwick to be editing and producing our newsletter. Suzanne recently volunteered herself for this role and we are very grateful. If any volunteers have any questions or suggestions, please contact Suzanne to help keep our newsletter relevant and vital. (email: suzgratwick@gmail.com)

A reminder for all to check the expiry on your Working With Children's Check. The easiest way to renew is online before the expiry date.

Most schools have an electronic sign in system now. It takes a little getting used to but hopefully will be useful in the future as reports are easily downloaded. Zone Coordinators are able to ask for a download of our HU4K volunteers list a couple of times per term to view and assist any volunteers.

Congratulations to Jan Pedersen on being named as City of Bunbury's Citizen of the Year at this year's Australia Day Ceremony. We are so fortunate to have her so passionately involved with HU4K, in amongst her other community interests and commitments. Congratulations, and thank you, Jan.

Don't forget to **talk to your friends** and acquaintances about volunteering for HU4K. New volunteers are always welcome. Just pass on Jan Akaczonek's contact. (0499240371). Of all the many and varied ways of promoting HU4K to the community to find new volunteers, we have found 'word of mouth ' to be the most effective. So don't be afraid to share your experience.

Congratulations and thank you for continuing to be a valued part of our HU4K's community. I look forward to seeing you throughout the year. Kind regards,

Helen Foan, Chairperson

Welcome

Welcome to all our new volunteers. Happy volunteering from the HU4K community. Your time is greatly valued by all in our community and we thank you for joining Hands Up 4 Kids.



Hands Up 4 Kids 10th Anniversary celebrations. Featured are photos of Australind, Kingston and Maidens Primary







Thankyou

We wish to gratefully acknowledge the support for our 10th year celebrations, City of Bunbury events grant; Bunbury CWA; and the Bunbury Leschenault Rotary Club

Did You Know?

Research has proven that impoverished children in Australia are more likely to start school at a literacy disadvantage, and lacking these literary foundations hinders overall future cognitive development as these children progress through higher levels of education.

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority data indicates that children living in poverty have around a 30% negative difference in educational outcomes based on Year 12 graduation rates and standardized testing scores. Technological advancements and increasing skill-level requirements for jobs will only further contribute to the financial burden for impoverished families and will surely lessen educational outcomes.



Dear reader, we need you. The greatest way to attract new volunteers to HU4K is via
 word-of-mouth recommendations. Please, share your experiences with people you
 meet and encourage others to join. No other advertising is as valuable or successful as word-of-mouth recommendations. Please pass on to prospective volunteers HU4K phone number: 0499 240 371 OR email: handsup4kids@gmail.com

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Between the pages of a book is a lovely place to

A Few Changes:

Dianne Martin has retired from the Zone Coordinator's role. Sincere thanks to Dianne for the many years she has spent looking after her team of volunteers and for her dedication and commitment to the program. Fortunately, we have not lost Dianne altogether as she continues to volunteer at Cooinda Primary school. Thank you, Dianne.

HU4K extends a warm welcome to Mary Cain who has taken over from Dianne as Zone Coordinator. Thank you, Mary.

We also warmly welcome back Lorraine Schram, who is back from leave.

HU4K community wishes Carolyn Switzer a very speedy recovery. Many thanks to Colleen Fogarty who has agreed to fill in for Carolyn.



Many thanks to Geoff and Elspeth Binckes for the donation to cover the reprinting of HU4K volunteer brochures. Your donation is greatly appreciated and a valuable contribution towards sharing the message and attracting new volunteers.

EDUCATION INFORMATION

A recent report by the Grattan Institute examined the performance of Australian students in literacy and numeracy.

Disadvantaged children tend to start school well behind their advantaged peers, and the gap only gets wider with every year of schooling.
It concluded "about two in five students do not meet the Australian national proficiency standard in reading or

maths by the time they are 15".

The report does bring to the fore the benefits of small group tuition, offering it as a solution to the problem. Consistency is key to the solution, with short, ongoing focused sessions. This culmination of additional learning assists disadvantaged students to catch up to their peers over time.

Hands Up 4 Kids volunteers provide our schools and students consistent small group work to assist with literacy, which does have an onflow effect to other components of the curriculum.

Hands Up 4 Kids volunteers offer immeasurable value to the next generation, giving them the building blocks (Ref: https://grattan.edu.au/education) of the future.



***** Congratulations!

The HU4K community congratulates our founding and board member Jan Pederson as recipient of the Citizen of the Year award for Bunbury. We are truly delighted for Jan and couldn't think of a more worthy recipient. Glad you are one of us!

HU4K community send a hearty congratulations to Jan. In addition to HU4K, Jan also volunteers with Alliance Housing and Chefs Long Table Charity lunch.



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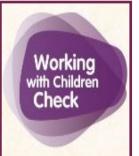
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To all volunteers – please check your WWCC (Working With Children Card) is still valid

Working with Children check – changes are coming. There are amendments to the law that will come into effect July 1st 2023. If you require any assistance or advice, please contact your Zone Coordinator or Jan Akaczonek.

Renewal of your WWCC can be made online via their website: workingwithchildren.wa.gov.au

Please note, after two consecutive online renewals, your next renewal requires you to lodge a WWC Check application form at an authorised Australia Post outlet and have an updated photo taken.



Eaton Family Centre are looking for any volunteers who would be willing to help out in a volunteer capacity during school holidays. If you miss volunteering when the school holidays arrive, then this is an ideal activity you could participate in. Volunteering may involve reading to children (ages 5-9) a book and assisting with a craft session.

Please contact Jan at the Eaton Family Centre, if you would like to be involved. Phone 9725 0000