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HANDSON LEARNING



NEWS

Quarterly

December 2023

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Conference
2024
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 13

54 reasons

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Season's greetings

Congratulations Hands on Learning (HoL) students and artisan-teachers on a wonderful 2023. It's been inspiring to see the connection you have built across your teams and your schools, and your pride in the meaningful projects you have accomplished that make a real difference across your communities.

We are grateful for the support and investment of school leadership teams and extend a sincere thank you to our valued philanthropic supporters for your ongoing generosity.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful 2024.



Welcome Humpybong State School

It is fantastic to have Humpybong State School in Queensland join the HoL family in term 4 in 2023 and see them move fast to establish their HoL precinct.



The can do resource: Our cover

Hawkesdale P-12 College's prodigious HoL team has had a productive year building connection and lending a hand across their local community.

In collaboration with the Hawkesdale and District Development Action Committee, the HoL team crafted 45 pallet Christmas trees that have transformed the main street of town with festive cheer. "The community's response has been overwhelmingly positive, with residents expressing joy at the sight of these handcrafted trees lining the streets," according to artisan-teacher Shannon Drysdale.



Vale Peta Murphy

We are extremely saddened by the passing of Peta Murphy, MP for Dunkley, who was a graceful fierce advocate of HoL. From her maiden speech, through multiple school visits, private members motions, interviews with HoL alumni, to petitioning Education and Shadow Ministers for their time and attention, Peta never stopped advocating for Hands on Learning to be in every school in the country.



Taking time in Tasmania

Hillcrest Primary School welcomed Roger Jaensch, Minister for Education, Children and Youth of Tasmania with a tour of their HoL space including the worm farm!

The Hon. Julie Collins MP, member for Franklin and Federal Minister for Housing, Homelessness and Small Business joined the team at Dover District School as they opened the last day of the HoL Student Celebration with a live cross from the most southern school in Tasmania.

Ballarat bonanza

Ballarat is booming with enthusiasm to support and elevate students in the Hands on Learning program.



“HoL is all about getting your hands dirty. I find it hard to sit in class. When I walk in on a HoL day I know it’s going to be exciting. It is going to be fun. You learn teamwork. You can’t crack it with people, you actually have to work as team. My patience is improving, I’m learning to work with a mix of people, keep calm and get the job done together. I’m inspired to go to school on a Wednesday because it is HoL day.”

Mason, Year 8



Woodmans wonder

Delivering a 20 seat Yarning Circle according to the specifications of the school’s First Nations Group is a real value add at Woodmans Hill Secondary College.

Featuring donated Stringybark gum from the local community, the twenty posts have been debarked and concreted in, spanning a five-metre radius from the centre. All are precisely 1.6 metres apart.

“Hands on Learning is amazing. For the students involved the impact has been huge. Attendance has increased and students have incredible pride being part of HoL,” Assistant Principal Shannon Ross adds.

“We have a waiting list of students keen to join and a considered intake process guided by year level teachers, self-referrals from students, and the final say of Luke and Kara our artisan-teachers following student interviews.

It’s such a worthwhile investment for our school. The right people is key. Artisan-teachers can’t just be appointed to fill a teaching load, they must be invested.”



DAMASCUS COLLEGE has worked hard to make their workspace more homely with the addition of their new tables and benches designed and built by the HoL students. No better setting to share a meal every day!



Their birdhouse, adorned with found objects collected from the area, have now been installed throughout their local bushlands.



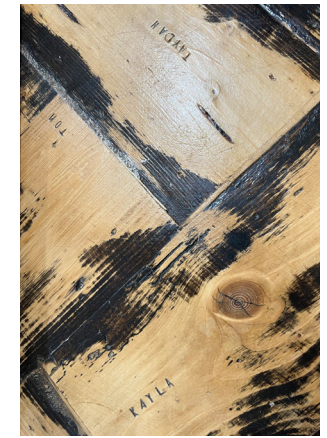
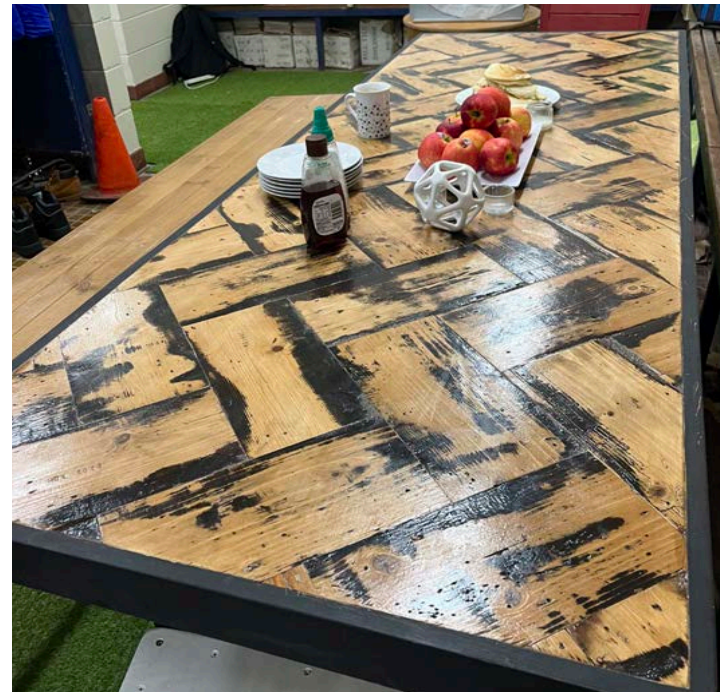
The team at **MOUNT CLEAR COLLEGE** know that a pop of colour goes a long way to cheering up the HoL precinct.

Real refresh

Wet winter days did nothing to dampen the determination of the Phoenix P-12 Community College HoL team to refresh the 20-year-old garden beds of the primary school campus ready for summer planting. "This project delivers all the ranges of construction, from basic setup, to the planning, regulations and financial side of things, allowing students to collaborate and experience what is involved in a serious project. These students have grown so much, they are asking what they can do next for each stage of work. You set out tasks and they collaborate and work it out. It's been amazing to see them fulfill their leadership potential and create some amazing projects," reports Daniel Knaggs, artisan-teacher.

I've grown pretty good relationships in this program learning how to do laser levels, and work out the right heights for corner posts. I've built connection. I used to behave like a bit of an idiot before, being in HoL has helped me with work, schoolwork, and having ownership with what I've done."

Zeke, Year 8



The heart of HoL

This beautifully crafted table has pride of place at Mt Rowan Secondary College. As one of the team's first projects, its construction was driven by need and the desire to build something from scratch. "Finding a way to come together as a group and share food was a real priority to build a strong group dynamic. It's such a nice project. We have been at it all the time. It is high quality, it's impressive for those that are new, and powerful for those that have been part of it to have a sense of ownership over it. And because we have included their names, there is a real sense of pride. Our students were surprised at the quality of what we can make in here out of second-hand materials," Mark Feltham, artisan-teacher said.



BALLARAT SPECIALIST SCHOOL'S Hands on Learning garden area was the main talking point at their local Farm Fest market. Being creative with materials and design, the students use this space to sell their own brand of handmade wares.





Balanced mindset

Family, fun, productivity and pride are the very strong vibes radiating from the HoL team at Leongatha Secondary College.



Making a stage for the end of year graduation.



"It makes us think we are able to do something, we are not scared to make a mistake, it gives us a boost of confidence,"
Lucas, Year 9.

Keeping their space secure - HoL team constructs a protective cage for valuable program tools and equipment.



Nothing like fresh produce for morning tea.

"Being in HoL balances our mindset. We are still learning stuff in here. It's teamwork, but it feels like a family, and you learn to socialise and talk. You get to experience adulthood, learn to be independent, and it teaches us how to lay out what to do with our day,"
Jasmine, Year 8.

Always in season

Belonging and working together to value add a sprinkle of magic across the community is at the heart of Hands on Learning year-round.



PALLET POWER

Benalla P-12 College certainly know how to add sparkle to the main street of town.



RAISING AWARENESS

Rainbow's HoL team supported the Red Rose Foundation with a very red table and chair outside their Neighbourhood House, raising awareness of domestic violence and keeping the issue visible.



SEAT OF KNOWLEDGE

Check out the refurbished 'seat of knowledge' that Rainbow's HoL crew delivered for the new Rainbow Lake adding that little extra magic to the local community.



THE PERFECT SPOT AT CRICKET TRAINING

Imagine how good it feels to take a break at cricket training sitting at these striking tables you built with your mates from timber sourced from your grandfather's farm?

The Hawkesdale Cricket Club installed new state of the art training nets, with the Hawkesdale P-12 College's HoL team stepping in with these stunning tables to create a welcoming space for players and spectators alike.

For Year 7 student Blake, "The best thing about making the picnic tables for the cricket club was going out to my Grandad's farm and showing everyone where the wood came from. They are such a great spot to sit when I am at cricket training."

And why does he love being part of HoL? "Because I get to build stuff, hang out with friends, and not sit in a classroom all day!"

MEETING THE CREATIVE CHALLENGE

These imaginative pencil-shaped posts enhance Hawkesdale Family Daycare Centre, fostering a playful and engaging environment. The craftsmanship and attention to detail are a testament to the Hawkesdale P-12 team's skill and dedication.



Darraweit Guim was the hardest hit town in Macedon Ranges Shire in the 2022 Victorian floods. An exceptional 82mm of rainfall and subsequent flooding of both creeks washed out the main road and destroyed 15 homes and the historic primary school.

TEAMING UP

Hearing the impact of the floods, the HoL teams from Mount Eliza and Craigieburn Secondary Colleges stepped in to lend a hand to the delight of the primary school students. Mount Eliza Secondary College built a mud kitchen, featuring saucepans and utensils, and pots with decorative flowers. The energetic crew then packed up the school bus and drove two hours to deliver and install the mud kitchen. Craigieburn Secondary College's expert team did an amazing job building the sandpit for the mud kitchen to sit in.



"When you have a good meal to eat, it's one thing you don't have to worry about for that day and will help you think better and get some sleep."

Summerdale student, Grade 6



THE POWER OF A GOOD MEAL

Students at Summerdale Primary School's HoL Café have been busy preparing meals for a local Launceston charity - Strike it Out, who provide nutritious meals, food packs and emergency accommodation for local homeless people. The students worked together to make a variety of muffins (some flavours students' own invention) and individual serves of a vegetable packed, beef pasta bake.



LENDING A HAND

These wicking garden beds installed at the local Neighbourhood House have been built with extra care and attention by the impressive team at Pyramid Hill College.



LOCAL LOVE

Equipped with their toolbelts, courtesy of Bunnings 'Trade Skills for Teens' program, Horsham Special School's HoL crew built a raised garden bed for their local Kurrajong Lodge to the delight of residents. The team visit the nursing home every month, lending a hand with the gardening and spending time with residents, and knew the Lodge's Blue wing needed more fresh produce!



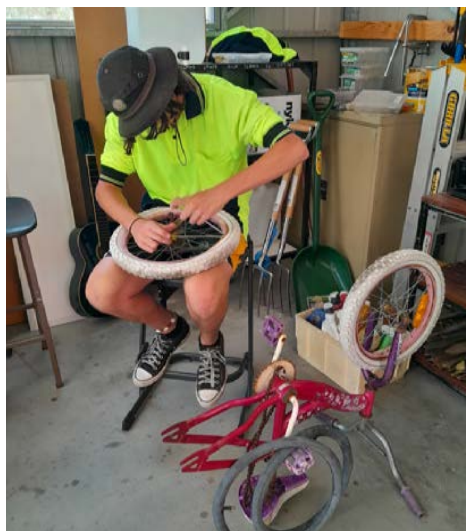
VERY LUCKY WOMBATS

From small connections, awesome things happen. Back in Term 3 Bayswater Secondary College's artisan-teachers joined their local HoL network meeting at Rowville Secondary College. Keen to see what was happening at other schools, the Bayswater crew took an excursion to visit local HoL teams. The students were inspired by St Francis Xavier College Officer's partnership with Locky's Legacy Wildlife Shelter. During Term 4, Bayswater's HoL students undertook a friendly competition at school to build and decorate the best wombat kennel. Working in two teams, each team had to construct a wombat hutch from scratch utilising pallet timber, hardwood posts, and a ply framed lid. The Bayswater crew then travelled to Locky's Legacy to deliver their ingenious hutches.



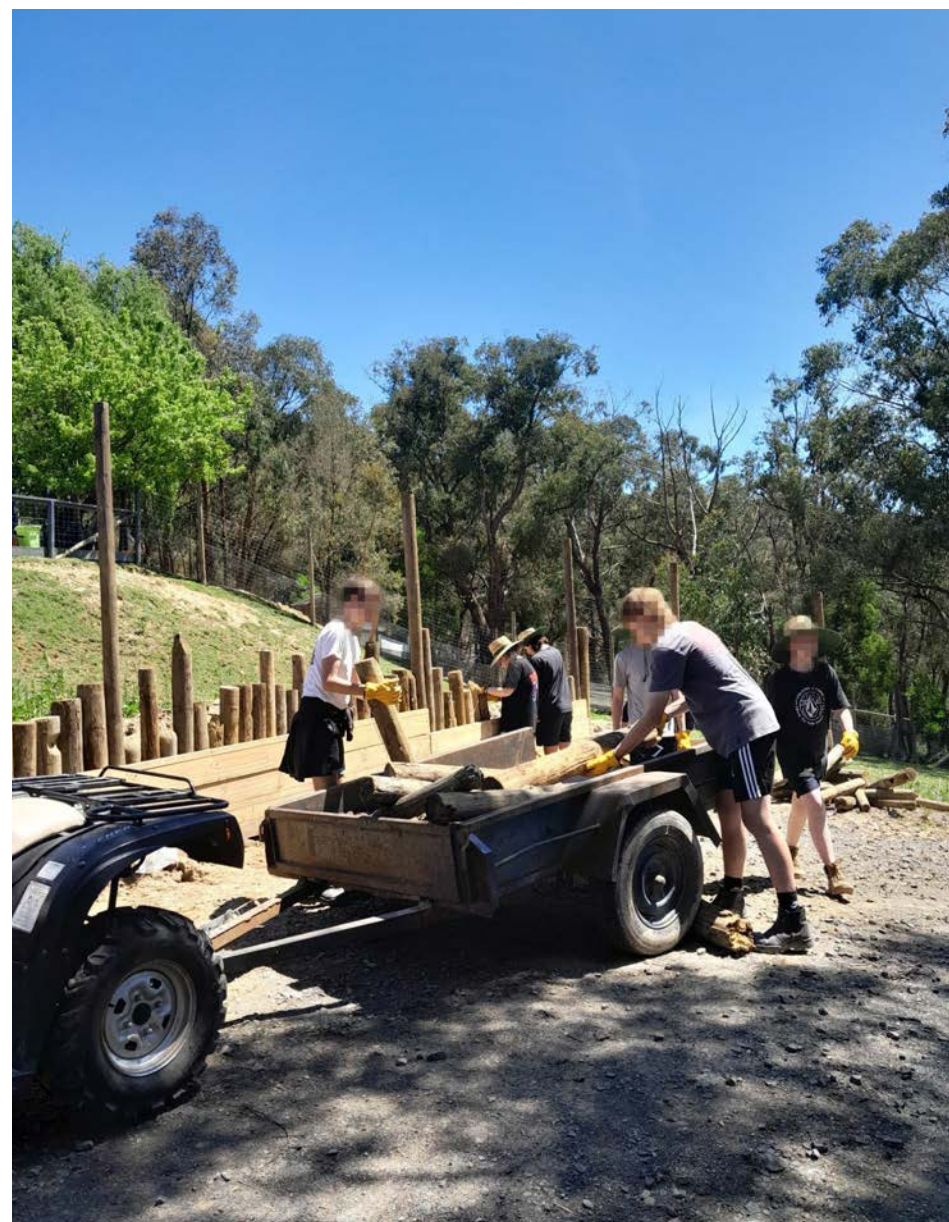
CELEBRATING LOCAL HEROES

Week in week out, Meals on Wheels volunteers dedicate their time to support their local communities. Is there is a better way to celebrate their efforts than a festive carvery complete with the most succulent turkey imaginable, glazed ham, and a full medley of vegetables, finished with a desert brownie? Even better, St Marys HoL Café team ensured absolutely everything was gluten and dairy free as one of the volunteers has celiac disease.



EXTRA SPECIAL WHEELS

Bribie Island State High School collected old bikes and refurbished them to donate to local families in need for Christmas.

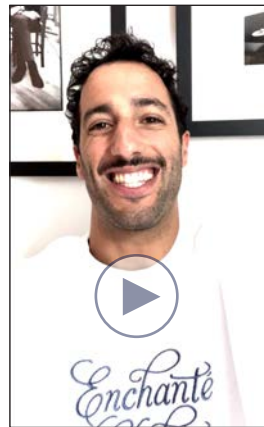


FABULOUS FENCE

St Francis Xavier College Officer's HoL crew constructed this striking new fence, and were blown away by the hutches that the Bayswater Secondary College students had built - immediately committing to building bigger and better ones next year. Those lucky wombats.

The most wonderful time of the year

HoL students celebrated together around the country this November. 1102 students from 85 schools registered for the week-long online celebration sharing their great work during 2023.



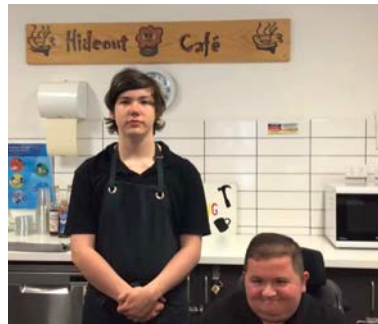
Watch our end of year message from our Ambassador Daniel Ricciardo



Congratulations and thank you to our talented hosts.



Chloe and Lara
Lowood State High School - QLD



Cameron and Dylan
Creekside P-9 College - VIC



Conner and Lizzie
Benalla P-12 College - VIC



Archie and Abbie
Batemans Bay High School - NSW



Chloe and Taylia
Dover District School - VIC



Leading the way

Nestled on the picturesque Sapphire Coast in southern NSW, Batemans Bay High School joined the Hands on Learning family in 2016. HoL School Support Manager Marc Jackson reports the program is incredibly popular with students, currently running two days per week, with plans to implement a third soon.

A sign of a healthy HoL program is the number of student driven referrals, and at Batemans Bay High, students regularly visit the precinct with completed forms in hand wanting to join the program.

So why is it that HoL is so popular with the students at Batemans Bay High School?

Artisan-teacher, Kaine Malone explains, "Failure isn't feared here....HoL is a place where the students feel safe and can try new things without worrying about not getting it right the first time."

Ben Love has been an artisan-teacher at the school for a little over three years and explains that big, group projects are essential for student growth, building positive group dynamics and school/community connection.

Ben and Kaine like to mix things up in between the bigger projects by allowing students to lead the way on smaller, individual works. These tend to act as a 'reset' button for students to re-engage.

They do their research and ultimately build their pieces to take home. "It's much easier to motivate when you offer students the freedom to choose what they want to build, then we simply support and guide them along the way" Ben explained.

On the school project front, the HoL team recently completed a large storage box to securely house the school's mega sized chess pieces and are also in the early stages of building a 10m x 2m deck off one of the school's learning spaces.

Deputy Principal, Caroline Preston loves to drop into the HoL precinct to see what the students are up to. "Hands on Learning at Batemans Bay High is a remarkable program that reaches disengaged students and allows them to shine. Whenever I visit the HoL area it is so wonderful to see our students so happy and connected. It has become an essential part of our pathway offerings for our students and a program that has both individual success stories and collective success for our school".


While the students are learning valuable practical skills through project building, Ben went on to say, "...they're also picking up essential qualities like compassion, teamwork or sharing through preparing a meal for someone else... skills that will help students long after they've finished school."

With plans well under way for additional secure storage for the group next year which will allow them to safely store materials and projects, exciting times lie ahead for the HoL team at Batemans Bay High School!



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