

# Service learning in Lutheran schools

## Snapshot! Service learning stories from our schools Tarrington Lutheran School Tarrington Vic

At Tarrington Lutheran School, students are called to serve on a daily basis. Not only are children encouraged to serve each other in the way they interact with each other but they are also immersed in serving others in a much wider context.

At school, students are given opportunities to serve others by becoming leaders. Each term, a Student Representative Council (SRC) is elected from the Year 3 through to Year 6 group and their responsibility is to represent the students. They organize the raising of money for specific purposes; lead weekly assemblies as well as initiating school projects.

Being the 'leaders' of the school, the Year 6 students are given an increased level of responsibility and opportunities to serve. We have a daily whole school fitness program that is led by the Year 6 students. Each is responsible for a group of 7 or 8 multi aged students, where they instruct, model and encourage. We have found that this level of responsibility is giving students an element of ownership, empowering them in becoming effective and positive communicators and contributors.

Our Parents and Friends Association's (PFA) major fundraiser is catering lunch for the Hamilton's Senior Citizens every month. The Year 6's are given the task in helping with the catering by means of serving food and clearing tables. Before this takes place, the PFA carefully and thoroughly show the students the etiquette of hygiene, setting a table, serving food and clearing tables. In this way, students are also learning the proper methods used in catering. The Seniors enjoy meeting and talking with the students and over the course of the year, the students and the Senior Citizens develop positive relationships.

We have a number of events held throughout the year that focus on supporting organizations. These are planned fundraisers but there are occasions when we are called to act immediately as was the case after the Black Saturday bushfires. Students and staff worked together to organize a Community Bushfire Fair on the school grounds where each class held a stall and invited other groups and organizations to be part of this important fundraiser. The event was a huge success with approximately \$10,000 raised over 3 or 4 hours on a Friday evening. The Tarrington community, particularly the students, felt a sense of accomplishment as they were able to help and support the victims of the bushfires in this way.

We are finding that these areas of leadership that focus on serving are also giving students ownership, self-worth and an increased level of positive well-being. These are important and necessary attributes for students to acquire as they grow up to be people who are positive and meaningful contributors to the community.

**Tony Peters**  
**Principal**  
**Tarrington Lutheran School**