

GRANT DETAILS

1/ Organisation: Vision Australia (Ballarat operations)

Grant Project: **Feelix Library Services.**

Reading for most of us is one of life's greatest pleasures; however for a person with little or no sight, this task can often seem insurmountable. For children it can pose even greater problems. Without the early intervention of literacy and exposure to the world of books; imagination and story-telling, children can face developmental problems as well as isolation from family, friends and peers. With just 5% of the world's information available in accessible formats, simply going to the library to borrow a book is not always an option for a child who is blind or has low vision.

Feelix kits contain an original storybook annotated with braille, an audio CD of the story, some tactile aids to transport the child into the world of the story as well as a handbook with tactile graphics so the child can read to themselves or share with family and friends. These kits can be borrowed for up to a four week period.

This grant will provide Feelix Library Services to 11 children who are blind, have low vision or a print disability aged below 7 years of age.

The most important benefit is that children who require the use of these early literacy 'reading' books will ensure they have the same opportunities to learn as other children.

2/ Organisation: Delacombe Primary School

Grant Project: **Boys, Books, Blokes, Bytes and Balls (B5)**

This very clever B5 program brings boys together with their family and their schools. It links staff, parents – fathers, male students in years 5 and 6 from Delacombe primary School and staff, parents – fathers, male students in years 7 and 8 from Ballarat South Community Learning precinct and also includes Delacombe Uniting Church, Highlands LLEN, Central Highlands Regional Library Corporation. This is a great example of organisations working together to address a common issue.

The program seeks to improve male student opportunities, to become involved in a wide range of pro-social activities and encourage participation of family members, particularly fathers. It also aims to increase student correctness to school, to develop literacy skills, facilitate partnerships and to strengthen the transition process from Primary to Secondary School.

3/ Organisation: Ballarat East Community Men's Shed.

Grant Project: Toilet Upgrade.

The existing Toilet at the men's Shed was built in 1950's and has only had superficial updates until now. Most notably, there is no provision for a separate female Facility. The grant will correct this anomaly and upgrade the facilities.

There are regularly women in attendance and involved in music programs, drawing classes, the monthly community market and visitors.

This grant is for materials only as the Men's shed will employ their volunteer skills to complete the refurbishment works.

4/ Organisation: BRACE

Grant Project: Positive Partnering

Utilising the two local BRACE Opportunity Shops known as the Bargain Browsers, Positive Partnering will equip a pool of volunteers with the required skills and knowledge to become Mentor/Trainers for people with a disability in the retail environment. The volunteers will work 1:1 with students initially to induct and orientate them to the store and its operational procedures, and then to support and mentor them to develop their employability and retail skills. It is expected that the level of support will reduce over time as the students develop their skills, independence and self-confidence in the retail environment and ultimately allowing them to find ongoing employment within the community.

5/ Organisation: Ballarat Lyric Theatre

Grant Project: Complete, restore, repair, re-fit and preserve the professional costume set for the full cast of characters in the stage show 'Eureka' to be staged in early 2013.

The costumes are from the original successful Melbourne production of 'Eureka' staged in 2004.

In addition to the restoration, repair and re-fit of costumes, the grant covers the cost of new Red Coat Soldier Uniforms and the purchase of four theatrical Enfield rifles. This grant will ensure the show is portrayed to a high standard and in an authentic manner in the tradition of other successful Lyric Theatre productions.

6/ Organisation: Ballarat YMCA

Grant Project: Wendouree West Youth Centre vacation program.

Typically school holiday periods are the times that many young people get into trouble due to boredom and restlessness. YMCA Youth Services will conduct school holiday activities from the Wendouree West Youth Centre during January 2012. The YMCA work alongside the young people to develop holiday activities that provide care and education, build social skills and experiences, increase self esteem, self awareness and inclusion.

The design of the program will include a combination of excursions, incursions and centre based activities. The process of designing the program improving their decision making, coordination and team working skills, as well as working within a budget. A pilot program conducted in the September/ October period for 4 days, included a 'Masterchef' activity with local dietician, for example. The activities also provide necessary respite for families.

7/ Organisation: Lead On Ballarat

Grant Project: 'Mikes for Musos'.

Right Click Records is an initiative of Lead On Ballarat and is a youth run record company aimed at promoting local young artists who wish to expand their musical careers.

This grant will cover the cost of five new microphones, each specific to a particular need such as a drum microphone, vocal and acoustic microphones.

The new microphones will provide a necessary improvement in sound quality and will be an ongoing use and benefit to the organisation and its members.

8/ Organisation: Community Radio Voice FM

Grant Project: Storage units for the ever expanding record library and reception area.

The Shelf Units for their Library area will streamline the small storage space available for Voice FM's vinyl and growing CD collection; all of which needs to be appropriately catalogued and stored in an easy available form to be accessed by the stations many volunteer presenters, all 150 of them.

Coincidentally these units are being built right here at the men's Shed and is a great example of sharing and supporting between quite different not-for-profit groups.