

HANDS ON LEARNING



Hands On Learning Australia

# ANNUAL REPORT

2012-2013





**Her Excellency  
Quentin Bryce AC CVO,**  
Governor-General of the Commonwealth  
of Australia is our Patron

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# WELCOME

Hands On Learning is all about people and relationships and how we thrive when connected with others.



*Max, Year 10, Frankston High School*

We are delighted to have Max from Frankston High School to introduce our Annual Report and share his perspective on learning and achieving during this year.

**W**elcome to the Hands On Learning Australia (HOLA) Annual Report. I'm Max and I've been doing Hands On at Frankston High since I was in Year 7. It's the reason I'm still at school today.

Hands On Learning (HOL) gives me relief from the stress of school. Helping out around school feels like real work instead of writing in a book or just sitting in class. You get the chance to get to know the teachers and other kids really well and the chance to see what you can do... Real things. Last year we built a huge deck around this tree outside the principal's office.

Each time I go past I think: This is brilliant. If I can do that, imagine what else I can do? You get a real confidence boost. We also built a chook shed for a charity that supports intellectually disabled people. We went to a celebration BBQ and they kept showing us all the eggs they got. It was great to see they were so excited about something we built.

I'm happy with what I've learnt and achieved and I hope you enjoy learning a bit more about Hands On Learning.



# A MESSAGE FROM RUSSELL

## OUR FOUNDER

Welcome to the inaugural annual report for HOLA. It has been an inspiring year and it is deeply gratifying to have reached the point in our organisational development to be issuing an annual report, to be partnering with 24 schools, and to be working closely with such generous philanthropic supporters who make it possible to help more kids, in more schools, ignite their passion for learning.

In 2012-13 HOLA secured exciting new multi-year partnerships to support our core capacity and seed fund the establishment of the HOL method in new schools within prioritised geographic areas across Victoria. We are very grateful to our valued supporters for assisting us to survive and thrive, and to help disadvantaged schools overcome the barriers they faced in tackling the vital issue of engaging those kids who are struggling most with staying at school. The offer of guaranteed support over several years has enabled these schools to embrace the HOL approach and better cater to the needs of these young people, and honour the commitment of public education to engage each individual to help them succeed.

Our statewide network of artisan-teachers is the heart and soul of HOLA. Week after week these people build strong, genuine relationships that provide the platform for kids to grow their confidence and self-esteem, to engage in real work, and develop pride in their achievements. Past students tell us they could easily have gone down another track in their lives had it not been for the friendships and respect they formed through HOL. I pay tribute to the outstanding work of the HOL artisan-teachers and the way their warmth,

inspiration, and energy makes a huge difference every day to the kids who would otherwise have fallen through the cracks.

We all learn in different ways and have unique talents, so I would like to acknowledge the support of every principal and leadership team at HOL schools whose determination to improve outcomes for all of their students will have an enduring positive impact on their lives, and the community.

### A NEW ERA

I would also like to announce a new phase of HOLA's evolution as I transition from CEO to Founder. I feel extremely fortunate and privileged to have HOLA in the safe hands of the experienced leadership team who have been overseeing the successful delivery of HOL for many years. I am in a rare position to seamlessly make this move, yet still maintain my supporting role within the organisation.

A strategic review during 2013 has culminated in the appointment of a new Board of Directors and the adoption of a new shared leadership model. A majority of independent directors have joined our three executive leaders to put stability, collaborative teamwork, and transparent governance at the centre of everything HOLA does, placing Hands On Learning in a strong position to tackle this next phase of significant growth and opportunity.

HOLA has grown from a visionary approach to working with disengaged kids at Frankston High School in 1999 to an innovative method used across Australia to help prevent early school leaving. Its development from a

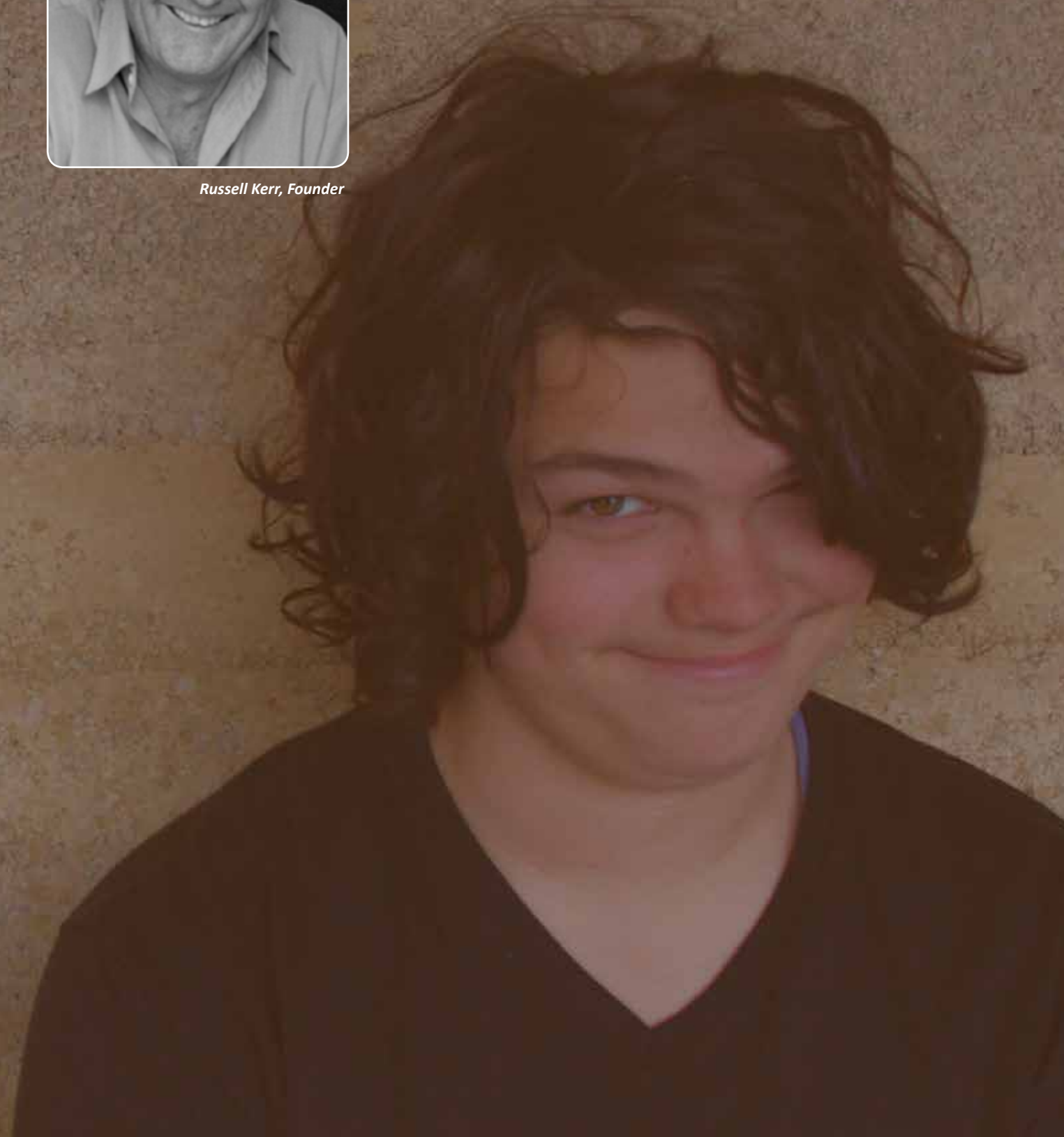
single school program to a progressive harm prevention charity that supports hundreds of kids each year has been achieved through a flat, shared approach to leadership. This new Board structure applies the principles of respectful relationships and teamwork that are at the core of the HOL method to the organisation itself.

Directors Professor Johanna Wyn (Director of the Youth Research Centre, The University of Melbourne), Clare Shearman MBA (co-coordinator of SEEC), Angela Pollard (Principal of Mt Eliza Secondary College), Adam Cameron CPA (Finance Director of Hardie Grant Publishing), and small business owner and former HOL student Billy White bring a wealth of expertise in the education and not-for-profit sectors and join executive directors Cameron Wiseman (Finance), Lisa Vagg (Communications), and Dr Richard O'Donovan (Operations) in a new structure that facilitates information sharing, strategic analysis, and collaboration. In this way the reality of what happens at the operational level is consistently factored in to all significant strategic decisions.

I would also like to pay tribute to the valuable contribution of our former Director Professor Jack Keating and sincerely thank other past Directors Duncan Brown, Ian Ward-Ambler, Alex Haynes, Ian Claridge and Julie Dal Santo for their individual and collective dedication and commitment to the purpose and achievements of HOLA to date. We look forward to continuing these valued relationships into the future as the success of HOLA is the genuine product of the support and contribution of many people. Thank you all.



*Russell Kerr, Founder*



# WHAT IS HANDS ON LEARNING?

HOL is a targeted in school intervention where two artisan-teachers work collaboratively with small groups of cross-age students. They form strong, long term relationships by engaging in significant creative building projects around the school and local community.

HOL is made up of four fundamental elements that build a platform for young people to grow confidence, engage and achieve at school.



## A place to belong

A physical sanctuary at school.



## People to belong to

Small teams working together, sharing meals and building strong relationships.



## Real things to do

Engaging in creative and meaningful projects.



## Giving back

Making valuable contributions to their community, building self-esteem and connection.

# OUR PURPOSE

We work to prevent early school leaving by creating opportunities at school for vulnerable young people to be more engaged, discover their talents and experience success.

# HUGE NEED

In Australia, 21% of students do not complete secondary school.

## What government funding could achieve:

Deloitte Access Economics estimates HOL expanding to 5,000 students would cost \$11.5M and save Australia \$2.6 billion

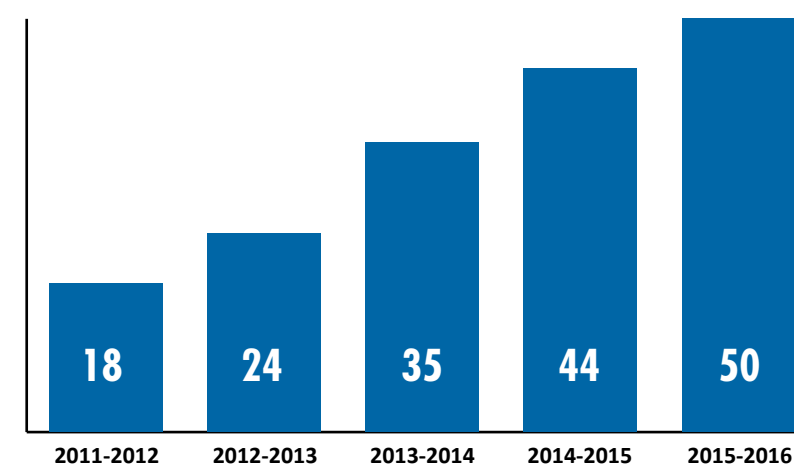


# OUR PLAN GOING FORWARD

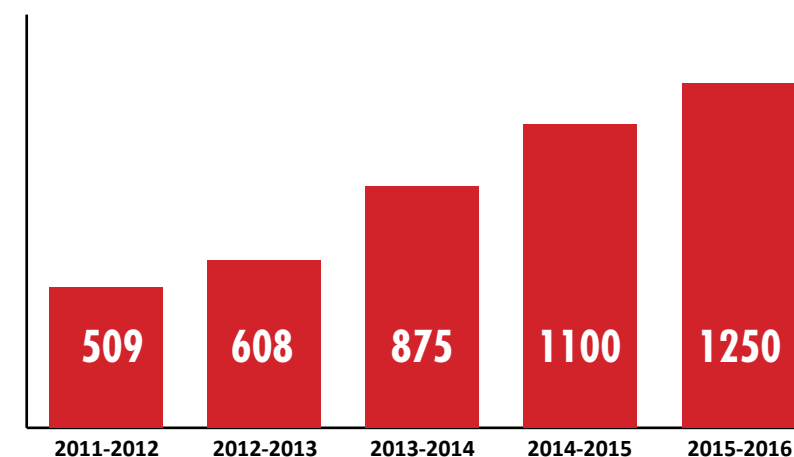
Over the past 12 months HOL grew into eight new schools, and together with our existing schools, supported 608 students.

We have laid a solid foundation to achieve our strategic goal of more than doubling the number of students we support to 1,250 in 50 schools by 2015.

Projected SCHOOLS using HOL by 2015



Projected HOL STUDENTS by 2015





# IMPACT

## THE KIDS WE HELP

Students present with a variety of issues, predominately disruptive behaviour and social isolation.

School primary referral reason	% of Reasons
Withdrawn/Shy/Lacking Confidence	21.4%
Attention Seeking/Impulsive	19.3%
ADD/ADHD/ODD	17.6%
Aggressive – Physical/Verbal	15.9%
Disability (PSD funded)	10.9%
Victim of Bullying	9.5%
Unable to Sustain Friendships	3.7%
Other...	1.7%
Total:	100.0%

Other background behavioural issues	% of Issues	% of Students
Disruptive Classroom Behaviour	26.3%	47.8%
Disengagement from School	25.1%	45.6%
Failure to Meet Learning Potential	10.6%	19.3%
Social Isolation	8.4%	15.2%
Aggressive Behaviour	6.5%	11.9%
Bullying - Perpetrator	5.1%	9.3%
Bullying - Victim	4.1%	7.4%
Non-attendance Issues	4.1%	7.4%
Chronic Truancy (School Refuser)	3.9%	7.0%
Anger management issues	3.5%	6.3%
Substance Abuse	2.6%	4.8%
Total:	100%	182%*

\*Up to two background behavioural issues were recorded for each student

## MEASURING OUTCOMES

### Skills for the 21st Century

Students thrive in HOL, developing critical skills and abilities they will need to succeed in work and life:

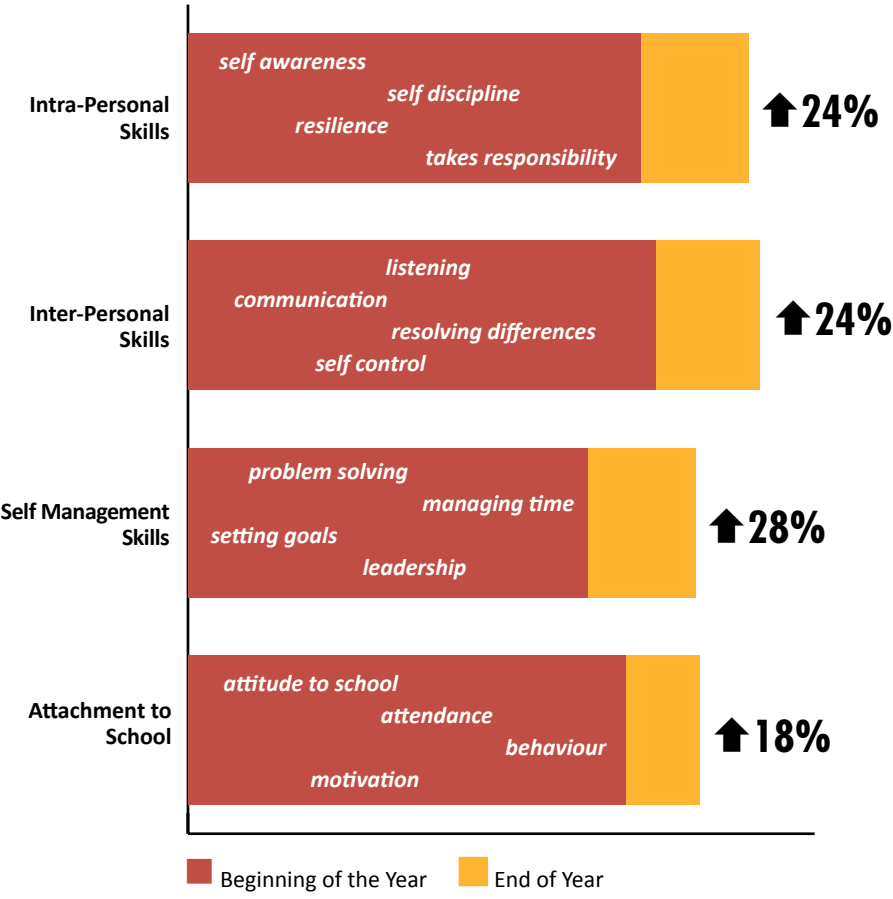
- collaboration
- problem solving
- communication
- resilience
- empathy

### Building wellbeing and engagement

HOL builds the wellbeing and engagement of vulnerable students.

The following chart illustrates baseline data collected to track the progress of vulnerable students from when they first enter HOL and then again at the end of the year, showing students have improved across all domains of concern, most notably in the areas of intrapersonal, inter-personal, self management skills, and attachment to school.

Impact of HOL on vulnerable students 2012 data set





# IMPACT

## THE DIFFERENCE WE MAKE

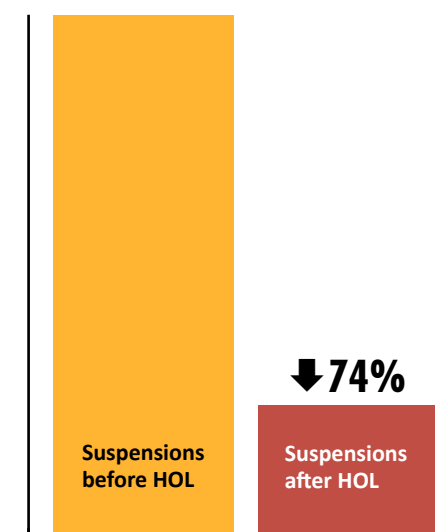
### Lower absence rates and big reduction in suspensions

Lower absence rates for HOL students and a dramatic 74% reduction in suspensions were key findings from an evaluation of HOL at Benalla P-12 College in North-east Victoria, by the University of Melbourne's Youth Research Centre. Follow this link to read the full report: [http://handsonlearning.org.au/UniMelb\\_HOL\\_case\\_study\\_May\\_2013.pdf](http://handsonlearning.org.au/UniMelb_HOL_case_study_May_2013.pdf)

The case study focused on the impact on academic improvement and engagement with learning and found comprehensive evidence to confirm the nexus between educational success and:

- the young person's feeling that he/she is cared for by people at the school
- the young person's feeling that he/she is part of the school
- increasing opportunities for the young person to demonstrate competence and to experience autonomy, acceptance by peers and support from adults
- learning strategies that are participatory.

#### Suspension rates pre- & post-HOL comparison, Benalla College 2012



### Ground-breaking national research

HOL is the subject of a seminal national research project using evidence from proven programs to identify and measure what works to keep young people connected to education and/or support their pathways into work, leading to the creation of the first large-scale national evidence archive for the sector. The Building Futures for Young Australians national research project is funded by the Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Scheme 2012-14 and led by the University of Melbourne.

### Philanthropy and education lead case study

HOL has featured as a lead case study in Australia's first national analysis of the impact of philanthropy in education for two years running. Leading Learning in Education and Philanthropy (LLEAP) is a three-year research project by the Australian Council of Education Research, with the support of the Ian Potter Foundation. Read more [http://acer.edu.au/documents/case\\_study/HandsOnL-2013.pdf](http://acer.edu.au/documents/case_study/HandsOnL-2013.pdf)

### \$12 return for every \$1 invested

Independent research by Deloitte Access Economics (DAE) released in September 2012 highlights a \$12 return for every \$1 of investment in HOL.

The DAE analysis found that when considering workforce outcomes alone HOL punches well above its weight, with the net economic benefit of HOL between 1999 and 2012 being \$1.6 billion. The news made page three of the Saturday Age and Sydney Morning Herald and was a top five online article of the day. SBS news and Channel 10's The Project also ran feature stories.

Follow this link to read the full report: [http://handsonlearning.org.au/DAE\\_investing\\_in\\_preventing\\_ESL\\_via\\_HOL\\_September\\_2012.pdf](http://handsonlearning.org.au/DAE_investing_in_preventing_ESL_via_HOL_September_2012.pdf)





*It helps me concentrate a lot. There's not the pressure: no exams or "you better study". It's easier to do homework at night because my brain is still fresh.*

GEORGIA, YEAR 8



*It's like a reward. I do my work quicker. It gets me back in focus because I'm distracted in class. Hands On is the day I can talk and walk about and it gets all my energy out. I'm more settled when I do it.*

ZAC, YEAR 8



*It's helped because now I'm always in class. Before I was always trying to get out of class, but now I don't have to. I've made some new friends.*

GRACE, YEAR 9



*It's helped me with concentration. It's helped with talking with people. I don't worry as much.*

YASMINE, YEAR 8

*It's OK because I still catch up with work. I now know what trades I'm interested in. It's better at school. Gives me a break. It's more enjoyable. I was bored before.*

JYSEN, YEAR 9

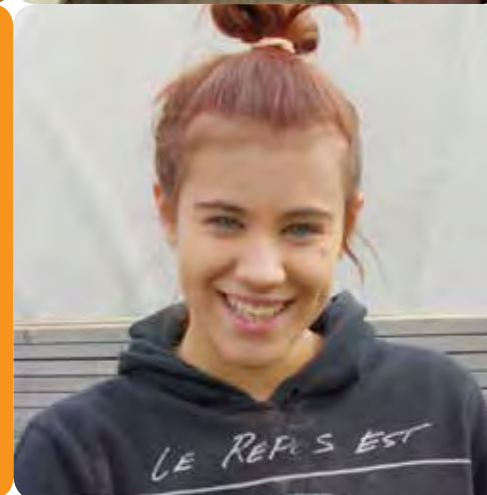


*It's helped me be with others better, like now I stop and think (before I do silly things).*

LOCHIE, YEAR 8

*It helps me look forward to school. It helps me in school on Tuesdays because I'm looking forward to Wednesday HOL, then Thursdays are OK and tomorrow's Friday. I'm not grumpy at school anymore.*

JAKE, YEAR 9



*Now I'm going to most of the classes. Before I was always wagging. The classes are more fun now, more interesting. I understand more in class now.*

BEN, YEAR 8



*It's better than going into Wellbeing. It helps me with talking with other people. I'm more relaxed.*

JED, YEAR 9



*I'm a lot better in class, like in Maths. I've got more motivation. It's helped me growing up, getting along with people, before I never wanted to make friends and felt suicidal. Now life's great. I want to get my power drill ticket next (at Hands On). I might be able to help Dad someday.*

BRODIE, YEAR 9



# 2012-2013 HIGHLIGHTS

## More students and more schools

608 students participated in HOL, with eight new schools adopting the HOL method and 24 running HOL during the financial year.

### SCHOOLS RUNNING HOL DURING 2012-13

#### ■ New Schools

Bellarine Secondary College, Drysdale

**Belvoir Special School, Wodonga**

Benalla P-12 College

Carrum Downs Secondary College

Collingwood Alternative School

**FCJ College, Benalla**

Frankston High School

Gordonvale High School

**Kooweerup Secondary College**

Kurnai Secondary College, Churchill

Kurnai Secondary College, Morwell

**Lorne-Aireys Inlet P-12 College**

Lowanna Secondary College, Moe

McClelland College, Karingal

Mornington Secondary College

**Narre Warren South P-12 Secondary College**

**Newcomb Secondary College**

**Noble Park Primary School**

Northern Bay College, Corio

Sale College, Sale

**Somerville Secondary College**

St Francis Xavier College, Berwick

Traralgon Secondary College

Wangaratta High School



*Team work in action at Kooweerup Secondary College*



*Building a timber wave for the surfboard rack area at Lorne-Aireys Inlet P-12 College*



*Belvoir's HOL team establishing garden beds at the school's bush block*



## FORGING NEW REGIONS

**M**ulti-year partnerships led by philanthropic organisations like The Ian Potter Foundation, Newsboys Foundation, Rali Foundation and Gandel Philanthropy will seed fund schools to help establish HOL in targeted geographic regions such as Northern and Western metropolitan Melbourne and the Wimmera. These new long-term commitments will increase the number of kids doing HOL to 1,250 by 2015 and inject philanthropic funding directly into disadvantaged schools and thereby help improve outcomes for their most vulnerable students.

A new three-year partnership with Gandel Philanthropy will help expand the HOL method into the Northern and Western regions of Melbourne, where in some pockets, the number of young people leaving school prematurely approaches 40%.



At the instigation of the Wimmera Southern Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network, three Wimmera schools visited Frankston to experience HOL up close and personal.

Hopetoun, Murtoa and Horsham Secondary Colleges will start HOL next financial year to form a Wimmera cluster of schools supported by a three-year flagship grant from the Newsboys Foundation.



## CATALYST FOR LOCAL SUPPORT

HOL has provided a doorway into schools and a vehicle for the local community groups to help lift the outcomes of vulnerable kids, while at the same time building increased pride and connection amongst these young people.

### Geelong

Over in the Geelong region the combined forces of Give Where You Live, the Geelong Community Foundation, Bokhara Foundation, Collier Charitable Fund, the Gwyneth Raymond Trust and Cooper Investors are making it possible to expand HOL at Northern Bay Secondary College and introduce it to Newcomb Secondary College.



### Benalla

Benalla's Tomorrow: Today Foundation (TTF) increased support for local students by subsidising HOL at both secondary schools in 2013. Benalla College has been running HOL since 2010 with the support of TTF, and HOL started at FCJ Catholic College this year.



### Mornington Peninsula

Local Foundation 59 has supported HOL at Mornington Secondary College for the past three years and is committed to helping establish HOL at more schools on the Mornington Peninsula into the future. The first was Somerville Secondary College in Term 1, 2013.





## CORPORATE VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers from the business world provided students with a whole new perspective — from the importance of completing the job at hand, to life after school and work. Students appreciated these alternative insights and some developed new aspirations.

### Rejuvenating a much loved local park

HOL students at Northern Bay Secondary College enjoyed a helping hand from an energetic band of Goldman Sachs volunteers who joined them in May to restore the You Yangs Regional Park's visitor amenities.



### Many hands make light work...



HOL students at Frankston High school and McClelland Secondary College were delighted to have volunteers from Hardie Grant Publishing join them for the entire day building rammed earth walls, working in garden-beds and testing homemade burgers.



## CONNECTING SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Principals reported significantly improved engagement with parents of HOL students who otherwise have had either negative or no contact with the school.



Pizza family nights have been incredibly popular at McClelland College with parents appreciating the opportunity to witness and celebrate their child's success at school.





## GROWING CONTACT WITH PRINCIPALS

Communication with school leaders increased, ranging from high profile presentations at annual conferences, speaking at local regional meetings, to regular one-on-one presenting of quality assurance reports to the principals of HOL schools.



Mount Eliza Secondary College Principal Angela Pollard and former Age newspaper Education editor Denise Ryan captivated an audience of 200+ principals from across Victoria with a passionate presentation about HOL at the March 2013 Victorian Association of State Secondary School Principals annual conference.



## SUPPORTING CALD STUDENTS

A partnership with the Southern Ethnic Advisory and Advocacy Council (SEAAC) to pilot the HOL method at Narre Warren South P-12 College in Melbourne's South East bridged cultural barriers and allowed SEAAC to support recently arrived students from refugee and culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds (CALD) at school.

## INTERNATIONAL STAGE

HOL came under an international spotlight in March 2013 with Founder Russell Kerr an invited keynote speaker at the Gulf Comparative Education Symposium in Oman showcasing innovation in the provision of 21st century education for disadvantaged students.



## POWERFUL TEAM BUILDING

HOL artisan-teachers expanded their professional knowledge and shared ideas and experiences with colleagues from across the State at the 2012 HOLA annual conference in December in North East Victoria.

With 91% of attendees rating it excellent or very good it was a genuine and powerful team building exercise.





## FUN ANNUAL EVENTS

Radical design, recycled materials and inspirational teamwork were on display as teams from Melbourne metropolitan schools battled it out at the annual HOL Billy Cart Derby (each Winter) and HOL Raft Race (each Summer).





## BUILDING SUCCESSFUL TRANSITIONS

HOL was piloted at Noble Park Primary School in 2013 to help keep vulnerable primary kids connected to school as they prepared for the transition to secondary school. Grade 6 students got a taste of what they are capable of as team members and as individuals by working with positive mentors on real, practical and creative activities, that build confidence and self-esteem.

According to HOLA's Steve Sowinski it was a real treat working with the students to design and construct a wood fire pizza oven for the school community to use. "They exhibited maturity and a willingness to learn beyond their age. I congratulate them and the staff and I hope the school community will enjoy the pizzas well into the future."



*What MAIMLA had to say...*

*I feel good being in the HOL team because I enjoy making things for the Pizza oven. I liked mixing the cement and covering the dome with it.*



*What FATIMA had to say....*

*Hands On Learning is all about learning new things and having fun.*



*What LA MA SA BE had to say....*

*I get to work with other people who I normally don't work with. I also like doing the Focus Plan because it helps me with things that I am not good at.*



*What RA HI LAR had to say....*

*I enjoyed working with new friends I made during the program. And doing things I thought I couldn't do especially pulling out nails, mixing cement, sand and lime.*

## ONGOING TRAINING

HOL artisan-teachers benefited from a vibrant State and local network that enabled them to support and inspire each other — and receive regular practical training and professional development throughout the year.

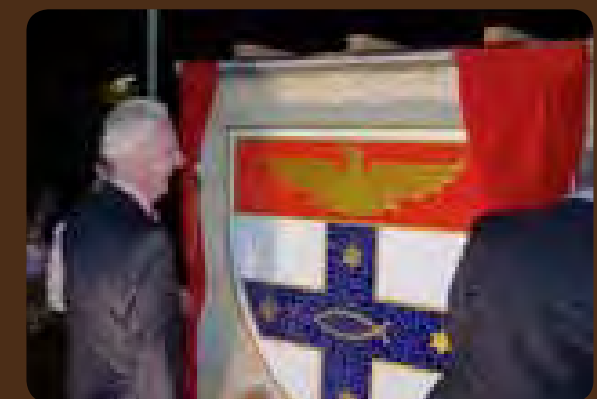


## GENEROUS GEELONG

The level of local community support for HOL was loud and clear at a special Geelong fundraising event in May, hosted by Mayor Councillor Keith Fagg, bringing local government, community, business and leaders together to grow the cluster of local schools running HOL to six by 2015.



## CELEBRATING FIVE YEARS

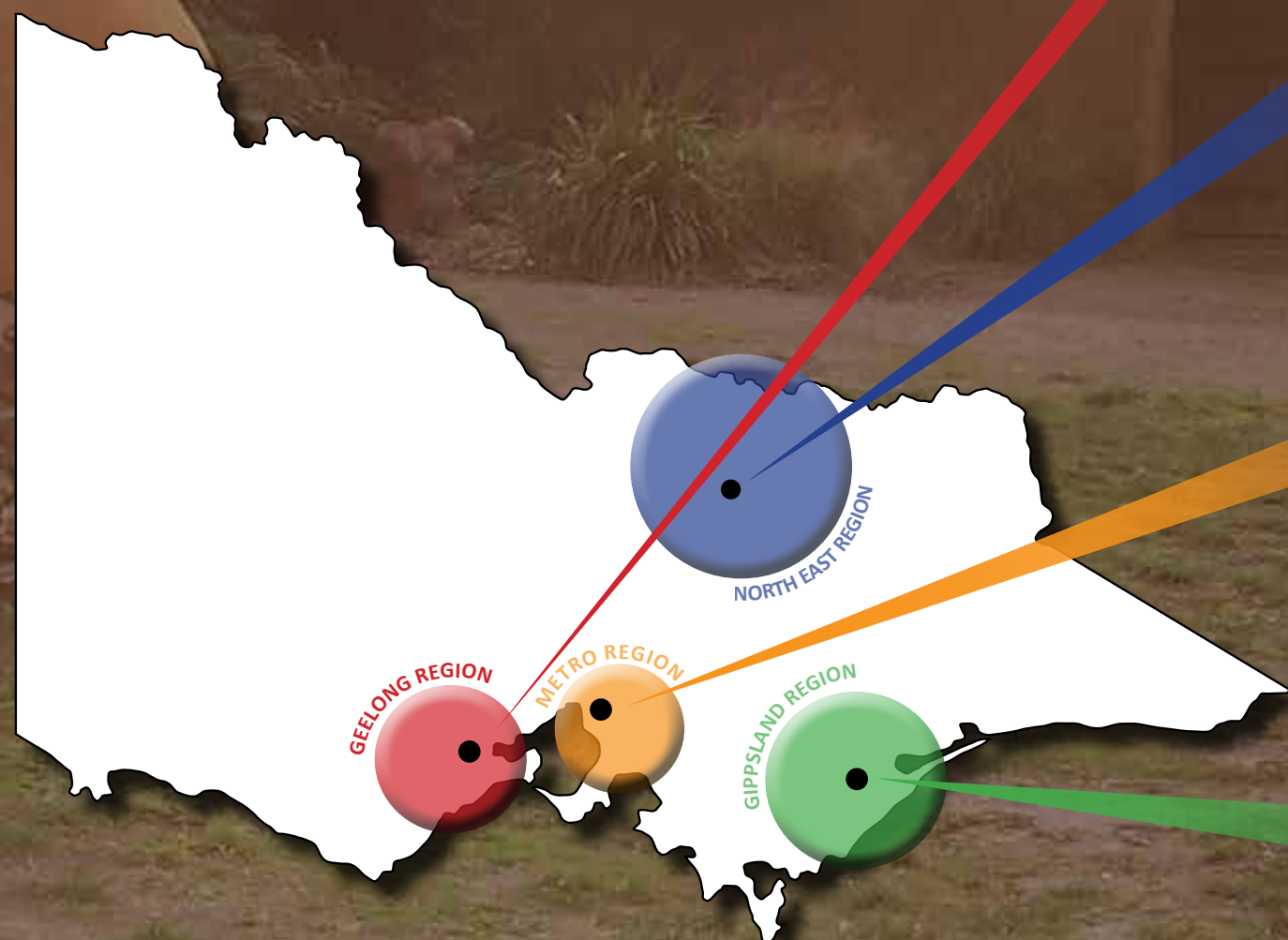


St Francis Xavier College celebrated the achievements of the first five years of its HOL students when Education Minister, The Hon Martin Dixon MP, officially unveiled the stunning mosaic school crest - a feature of the Berwick campus entrance, designed and built by HOL students at a special family celebration evening in August 2012.



# WHERE WE ARE

During 2012-2013 HOL grew in geographical clusters of schools in metropolitan Melbourne, Gippsland, the North East and Geelong regions.



Northern Bay College's HOL students have literally been giving back to the local community, designing and building six horse jumps for the Little River Pony Club. They were in place for an inter-club competition in June and were a welcome addition.



A very satisfied Brodie tests the seating he helped build at the new Junior School Centre at Benalla P-12 College. The practical caged rock design blends in with the environment and proved challenging for students without being too technical. Another primary campus was so impressed HOL was engaged to build seating using the same design for their community pizza oven.



Preparing and sharing food is a big part of a day in HOL. Beginning with breakfast and during lunch, it's a real family environment at Mornington Secondary College with lots of talking about projects, rosters, food, friendships and who will do the dishes.



The HOL team at Sale College demonstrated just how handy it is, designing and constructing a footpath to counter a water-logged part of the school and make it possible for students and teachers to get around and stay dry.

## GEELONG REGION HOL SCHOOLS:

Corio – Northern Bay College  
Drysdale – Bellarine Secondary College  
Lorne – Lorne-Aireys Inlet P-12 College  
Newcomb – Newcomb Secondary College

## NORTH EAST REGION HOL SCHOOLS:

Benalla – Benalla P-12 College  
Benalla – FCJ Catholic College  
Wangaratta – Wangaratta High School  
Wodonga – Belvoir Special School

## METRO HOL SCHOOLS:

Berwick – St Francis Xavier College  
Carrum Downs – Carrum Downs Secondary College  
Collingwood – Collingwood Alternative School  
Frankston – Frankston High School  
Karingal – McClelland College  
Mornington – Mornington Secondary College  
Narre Warren – Narre Warren South P-12 College  
Noble Park – Noble Park Primary School  
Somerville – Somerville Secondary College

## GIPPSLAND HOL SCHOOLS:

Churchill – Kurnai College  
Koo Wee Rup – Kooweerup Secondary College  
Moe – Lowanna Secondary College, Moe  
Morwell – Kurnail College, Morwell  
Sale – Sale College  
Traralgon – Traralgon Secondary College



# Metropolitan Melbourne

From Collingwood to Berwick, across to Narre Warren and Noble Park, down to Frankston, Somerville and Mornington, metropolitan Melbourne is the birthplace and home of HOL.

## METRO HOL SCHOOLS:

**Berwick** – St Francis Xavier College

**Collingwood** – Collingwood Alternative School

**Frankston** – Frankston High School

**Karingal** – McClelland College

**Mornington** – Mornington Secondary College

**Narre Warren** – Narre Warren P-12 Secondary College

**Noble Park** – Noble Park Primary School

**Somerville** – Somerville Secondary College



*Isobel and Bree keep an eye on the HOL herb garden at Somerville Secondary College.*



“Hi I’m Issy, I work in Hands On Learning at Somerville and McClelland Colleges. I’ve been involved in Hands On Learning now for about five years. The reason I got involved in the first place was because I saw that there were a lot of kids that were in school that were just not coping with school. They didn’t feel that was their strength and I could see that Hands On gave them the opportunity to really shine. I’ve seen kids that have struggled in the classroom academically, struggled with the format of sitting down and writing, struggled with maths and a lot of subjects they were given. When their real strength was working with their hands in tactile way. So give them a saw, give them something to render, give them something practical to do, something to cook, that’s where their real strengths lie. So we have seen lots of kids really benefit from the program and I’m really stoked that I can be involved in that.”

**Isobel Evans**

*HOL artisan-teacher McClelland College and Somerville Secondary College*





“ We track the students, the data and their incidences and suspensions. And negative incidences since they joined HOL are greatly reduced. We keep plans for each of the students and regularly test them for how they are feeling about school and the longer they are in HOL the more connectivity they have with the school, the happier they feel, the safer they feel, the more secure. They build confidence, that builds self-esteem, builds aspiration. Early on we ask them how long they feel they will be at school, maybe it’s 12 months, maybe 18 months, after they have been in HOL for a while they are planning to do something a lot longer in school than they originally were. ”

**Anthony Rodaughan**  
*College Principal Kurnai College, Morwell*

*Sale College’s HOL team has an impressive track record helping out around the school.*

# Gippsland

Gippsland has been a strong centre for HOL since it was first established at a cluster of schools in the region in 2009.



## GIPPSLAND HOL SCHOOLS:

- Churchill – Kurnai College
- Koo Wee Rup – Kooweerup Secondary College
- Moe – Lowanna Secondary College
- Morwell – Kurnai College
- Sale – Sale College
- Traralgon – Traralgon Secondary College



# North East Victoria

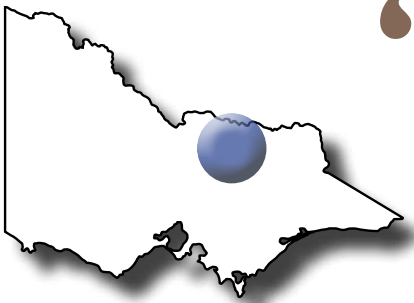
Benalla’s Tomorrow:Today Foundation was instrumental in establishing HOL at both Benalla P-12 College and FCJ Catholic College. In 2013 the North East cluster continues to grow with Wodonga’s Belvoir Special School joining Wangaratta High School and the two Benalla Schools.

## NORTH EAST REGION HOL SCHOOLS

- Benalla – Benalla P-12 College
- Benalla – FCJ Catholic College
- Wangaratta – Wangaratta High School
- Wodonga – Belvoir Special School



Preparation and testing of the billy carts are taken very seriously by the HOL team at Benalla College.



“ This is my fourth year at the College doing HOL. Over that period of time we’ve had some great successes with kids. We had one girl that came to us in Year 9 who came from a difficult home and she’d had trouble with school, she was recommended to us for being dysfunctional in class. She came to us and we built up a great rapport with her. She actually spoke at the Tomorrow:Today AGM and just blew the people away. The people from Melbourne who came up were absolutely astounded by what she said and offered her work experience placements in Melbourne if she wanted them. She’s actually gone on and

this year she’s completing Year 12. I get such a kick out of that sort of thing, there’s a kid who might not have even finished Year 10 and she’s now finishing Year 12, I think that’s a great success. I enjoy working with the kids and building up relationships with them, I’ve learnt early on in the piece that so much about getting them to have a successful day is building up a good relationship with them, and if you’ve got that you can go on and do so much more. You go away at the end of the day and think well, god, we’re really achieving something here, it’s so rewarding, it’s great.

**Ed Bishop**  
*HOL artisan-teacher, Benalla*





“It’s really important that we as a school ensure that we are catering and providing programs for the diversity of our students... when they go back into the classroom and they work with their peers and work with their teachers, they’ve got a tool kit around how it is you communicate...”

**Alison Murphy**  
*Principal Bellarine Secondary College, Drysdale*

*The HOL team at Northern Bay College are justifiably proud of the horse jumps they built for the Little River Pony Club.*

Shane Reed’s son Dylan is a Year 9 student at the Goldsworthy Campus of Northern Bay College. Dylan started HOL in Term 3 2012:

*“During his time in the program I have noticed a great improvement in both Dylan’s capabilities and his attitude towards his approach to his schooling. Dylan is now more open to trying new things and is able to work in groups to achieve his goals. I have noticed that he is more willing to challenge himself and to improve himself in all aspects of his schooling. His reading and writing skills have improved and he is happy just to give things a try regardless of the outcome.*

*He has learnt new skills to overcome most things and he has also learnt how to tackle problems in a logical manner. He has made good friends and finds the teachers of this program very helpful both in and out of class. He seems to enjoy going to school a lot more and I believe this is directly related to his time in the Hands On Learning program.*

# Geelong

HOL started in Geelong at Norlane High School (now part of Northern Bay College) in 2010, followed closely by Bellarine Secondary College. Lorne-Aireys Inlet P-12 College began in 2012 and philanthropic support made it possible to establish HOL at Newcomb Secondary College in 2013.

## GEELONG REGION HOL SCHOOLS

- Corio – Northern Bay College
- Drysdale – Bellarine Secondary College
- Lorne – Lorne-Aireys Inlet P-12 College
- Newcomb – Newcomb Secondary College



# THANK YOU TO OUR KEY SUPPORTERS

Hands On Learning Australia is a not for profit harm prevention charity with DGR status. Our funding comes entirely from philanthropic foundations, trusts, corporate supporters, and individual donors. We sincerely thank our partners for their greatly appreciated support that allows us to survive, thrive, and continue supporting vulnerable young people in our schools.



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Ian Ward-Ambler

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# HANDS ON LEARNING

## OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**HANDS ON LEARNING AUSTRALIA**  
**ACN 130 433 288**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**30TH JUNE 2013**

**PAUL ANDREW FOX**  
**CPA**

Certified Practising Accountant  
Registered Company Auditor  
ABN 22 634 691 548

**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION**

To Hands On Learning Australia,

As lead auditor for the audit of Hands On Learning Australia for the year ended 30 June 2013, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- (i) No contraventions of the independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit, and
- (ii) No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



PAUL ANDREW FOX  
Certified Practising Accountant  
Registered Company Auditor No. 295584  
PO Box 552, Dromana, Victoria, 3936  
Telephone: (03) 5987 1908

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2013



# CONTACTS

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