

IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE

Traralgon College's new pizza oven is a genuine community effort, built by students and constructed entirely of recycled materials donated by generous locals.

Year 7 students Levi and Riley celebrated the support of the local community and the chance to learn in a different way at school this year as part of Hands on Learning (HoL) – enjoying the fruits of their labour with their families and local community at the grand opening of the new pizza oven they helped build.

"It's so much easier to understand maths when you have to measure how much concrete you need," Riley said, while his mum celebrated how "HoL is the only day every week Riley bounces out of bed!"

College Principal David Mowbray, describes HoL as one of the few places at school where you get to see the product of your labour.

"We need to keep finding ways at school that cater for the stimulation and learning needs of all students. HoL provides one of those paths for us to achieve that. It's been running at Traralgon College for nine years and the kids actually love it."

Hands on Learning
enewsletter

December 2017

BATEMANS BAY HIGH SCHOOL, NSW

Welcome: One very **BIG** year

2017 was the year Hands on Learning (HoL) merged with Save the Children, the PM came to town, we were named one of the best education programs in the world, and HoL launched in Tasmania.

We would be hard pressed to fit more into a year. In April, Hands on Learning became part of Save the Children, Australia's largest aid and development agency dedicated to helping children. It's been a seamless transition that has meant no change to the HoL methodology and has had little impact to the way we operate bar the support and infrastructure advantages of being a dedicated unit within the Australian Programs arm of Save the Children.

By the middle of the year, the Prime Minister popped into HoL at Bateman's Bay High School, taking the opportunity to experience first-hand the power of learning by doing as he helped the HoL team with their framing project.

In October, HoL was recognised by Finnish global education non-profit HundrED, as one of its 100 most inspiring education innovations in 2017, www.hundred.org. HundrED creative director Saku Tuominen said Hands on Learning clearly stood out as a project that "needed to be shared with the world." Researchers investigated 1000 education innovations to identify the top 100 from 41 different countries, with Hands on Learning among six innovations from Australia. [Read more...](#)

And certainly not least, in Term Four, Huonville High School became the first school in Tasmania to embrace the HoL methodology.

None of this would be possible without the artisan-teachers and volunteers who work alongside and support the young people who are part of HoL every day, our school leadership partners, and our philanthropic supporters – we recognise and celebrate your contribution and sincerely thank you all.

All the best to you and your families for 2018.

School Education Engagement Team

Selected for
hundrED
2017

STRONG EVIDENCE

Measuring effectiveness and impact

Connection Capacity Meaning 2017

The Connections, Capacities and Meanings (CCM) framework used in 2017 emerged from our participation in a world first Australian Research Council/University of Melbourne project looking to find a way to more accurately measure the impact of programs like HoL that seek to help young people stay connected to school.

Traditional measures such as attendance and retention are unable to distinguish between students who are doing well in school, and those who are barely managing to turn up, whereas CCM provides a way to highlight the difference in attitude to school that HoL can provide.

- pre-HoL STUDENTS: HoL students surveyed at intake about their experience of a typical school day prior to starting HoL.
- current-HoL STUDENTS: HoL students completed another survey after participating in HoL for a duration of three school terms.

CONNECTION



CAPACITY



MEANING

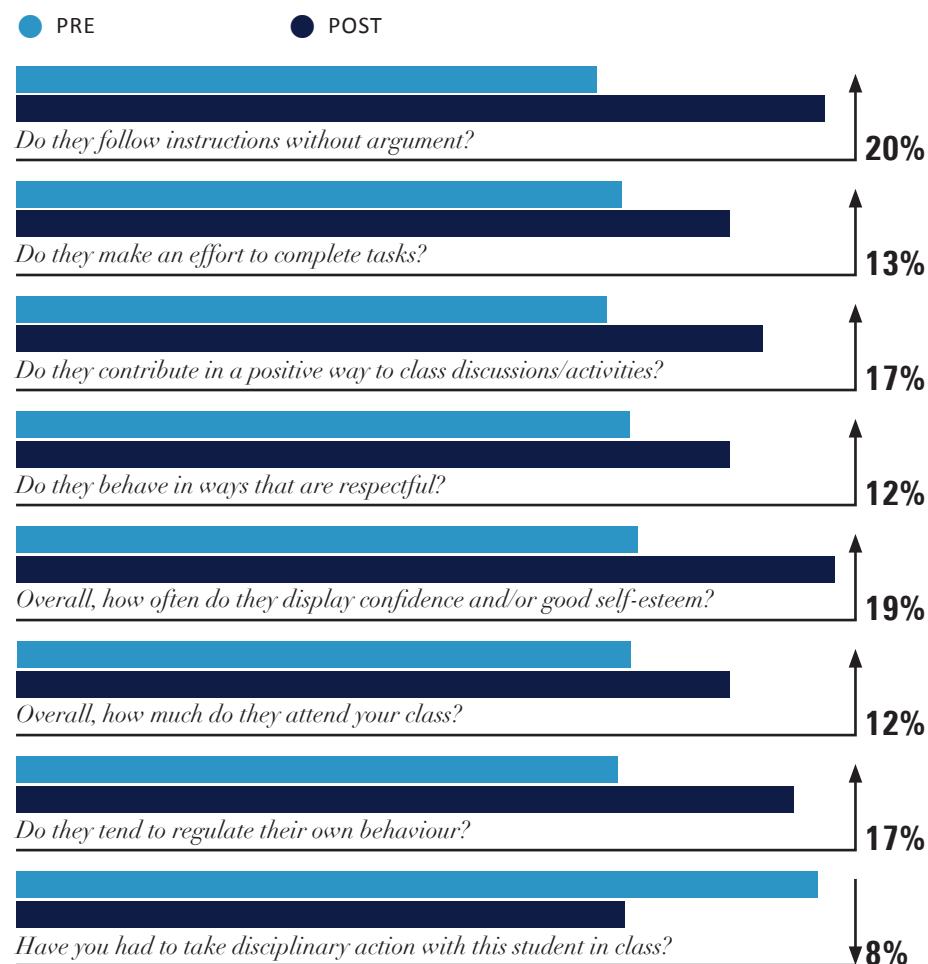


ENJOYMENT/HAPPINESS



Teachers rate the impact of HoL

Teachers have provided information about students' level of engagement and motivation in the classroom prior to joining HoL, and after participation in the program for a duration of three school terms. The graphs below highlight the strength of HoL in helping students develop practical strategies they can deploy back in the classroom. HoL empowers students to shift behaviours that have become barriers to learning. Through participation in the HoL program, students are equipped with transferable skills they need to not only experience success at school, but throughout future training and employment endeavours.



STUDENTS MAKING THEIR WORLD A BETTER PLACE

In the South West Victoria, Hands on Learning students from Brauer College gifted their time and energy to make a difference to their local environment, working in teams to install nine kilometres of fencing for a 'shelterbelt supermarket' of native tree seedlings.

A hot day, lots of walking, and hard work didn't get in the way of getting the job done according to Lisette Mill of the Basalt to Bay Landcare Network. "We were impressed with the way the kids just went for it. We ran out of wire because the kids didn't want to stop, they wanted to complete the job and cut their lunch break down to ten minutes so they could keep working."

For Year 8 student Fenton that's easy to explain. "It's more fun when you are actually doing stuff. We are learning area and perimeter at school and this helped me, it makes more sense than

maths class – and I'm actually doing bit better in maths now. The difference is you get the chance to learn in a fun way."

"These are skills the students will have forever and it is public land and a place where as the students grow older, wherever life takes them, they will always be able to come back and see their trees and fence and feel connected to this part of the world. These are students who are immensely attracted to practical things and what they do has a legacy effect."

Lisette Mill, Basalt to Bay Landcare Network

Propagation cold frame



BRAUER COLLEGE

Nesting boxes



BRAUER COLLEGE



STUDENTS MAKING THEIR WORLD A BETTER PLACE



Primary school support

Warrnambool College lent a real helping hand to the HoL team at Warrnambool West Primary School, delivering seedlings for the school's vegetable garden.



Tennis pavilion refurbishment

Working out in the community like painting the verandah poles of the tennis shed at the Mortlake Recreation Reserve feels really good, according to Year 8 student Kaylee. "When I'm with my family I can say I did that."

For Luke, hands on projects make school a bit better. "I'm always looking forward to Wednesday, so it makes the other two school days go quicker. For George, the measurement they have been doing for their HoL projects builds confidence, "You don't really notice what you are learning, then back in class you know what you are doing because you did it in HoL. I used to struggle in maths and now I can do it."

Throughout the Wimmera, in Western Victoria, students participating in the Hands on Learning program have steadily made their community a better place during 2017. With a helping hand and good dose of elbow grease, real projects are creating real change.



New fence

The HoL team built and painted a new front fence for the town's historic Yurunga homestead.



Garden beds

The team donated their time to the Jeparit Tennis Club and the Jeparit/Rainbow Football Netball Club. The boys fixed and prepared the deck, mowed, weeded and cleaned the exterior of the shed before having a BBQ lunch by the river. Thanks to this work and other community projects, like the restoration of Schneider Park, the Dimboola Memorial Secondary College HoL team has been nominated for a Tidy Towns Student Leadership award. Well Done.



Skate park picnic tables

The HoL team at Hopetoun constructed a steel picnic table and installed it at the local skate park for all to use. They have also landscaped a garden at the Hopetoun Community Hospital with mulch and shrubs and prepared the show grounds pavilion for show day.



Tennis rebound wall

The HoL team at Warracknabeal have installed and painted a rebound wall for the tennis players to practice on at the Memorial Park Reserve.

LEARNING IN DIFFERENT WAYS – HOL EVOLVES: HOLSPITALITY

First piloted in 2016, Holspitality is now running alongside traditional Hands on Learning at three schools in Melbourne's west developing enterprise skills, boosting basic numeracy, and increasing school connectedness. The feedback is consistent. It's the hands on approach, working with your hands, engaging in something meaningful, building on your strengths, that students love.



But First Coffee: Brookside P-9 College

As the energetic Holspitality team put finishing touches on their But First Coffee café, they have been trialing recipes for banana bread, lemonade scones and choc chip cookies so they can hit the ground running in 2018. Support has come not only from SFYS and the Dennis Family Corporation's Modeina Community Fund, but the school's traditional HoL team have built fabulous new outdoor tables and seating for the café to encourage families to grab a coffee at school drop off. Students are buzzing with the new skills they are developing – food safety, marketing, balance sheets and basic profit and loss.



The Hideout Café: Creekside College

HoL Hospitality team have operated the hugely popular Hideout café since Term 2, serving queues of students at recess and lunchtimes. They finished 2017 organising all the catering for their end of year celebration for approximately 50 people including teachers, parents, grandparents and siblings. The engaging and positive night included presentations of barista and food handling certificates and reports from parents about real and significant increased connection to school among students.



Next Stop Café: Springside P-9 College

Hands on opportunities at Springside are keenly sought after with 50 self-referral applications to learn in a different way at school. The Hammerheads Building crew have now completed a fabulous outdoor deck area at the front of the former Z Class tram that will become the home of the Hospitality team's Next Stop Café in 2018, while the hospitality crew have widened their repertoire from coffee and slices, to include beef and chicken burgers to the delight of student and staff customers.

Q & A with HoLspitality students

Q. WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES HoL MAKE?

"It motivates you to come to school because you have a team that you can't let down. It is a responsibility." Ebru, Year 8, Creekside College

"Some of my friends are good in class, but so many kids are better being hands on. It gives kids confidence who don't have it, here they can do it well and it boosts their confidence and makes going back to class easier." Jeremiah, Year 9, Brookside P-9 College

Q. WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT BEING IN HoL?

"I feel like it helps with my confidence. I used to be really shy and not talk in class at all and this has helped." Ebru, Year 8, Creekside College

"It's so good to have a break from the stress of exams and assessments. In class you don't really get to do team things that you need in the real world like you get to do here. It helps us enjoy school more. We have to go five days and I work at school the whole week so I can get to HoLspitality on Friday." Tegan, Year 9, Brookside P-9 College

"I love it. I can't wait for Friday. I'm so happy. It makes me feel confident, it makes me feel part of it and I can't wait to get my hands on things and get working." Sienna, Year 9, Springside P-9 College

VALUABLE SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE

EMPOWERING STUDENTS AND **BUILDING SCHOOL PRIDE**

How good is it to see students building significant, highly visible projects on school grounds, developing their own (and others) pride in the school, as well as pride in themselves? HoL becomes a hook that keeps these students connected to school by catering to the different way they learn, and supporting them to fully participate in school life.



MANOR LAKES P-12 COLLEGE

Outdoor seating

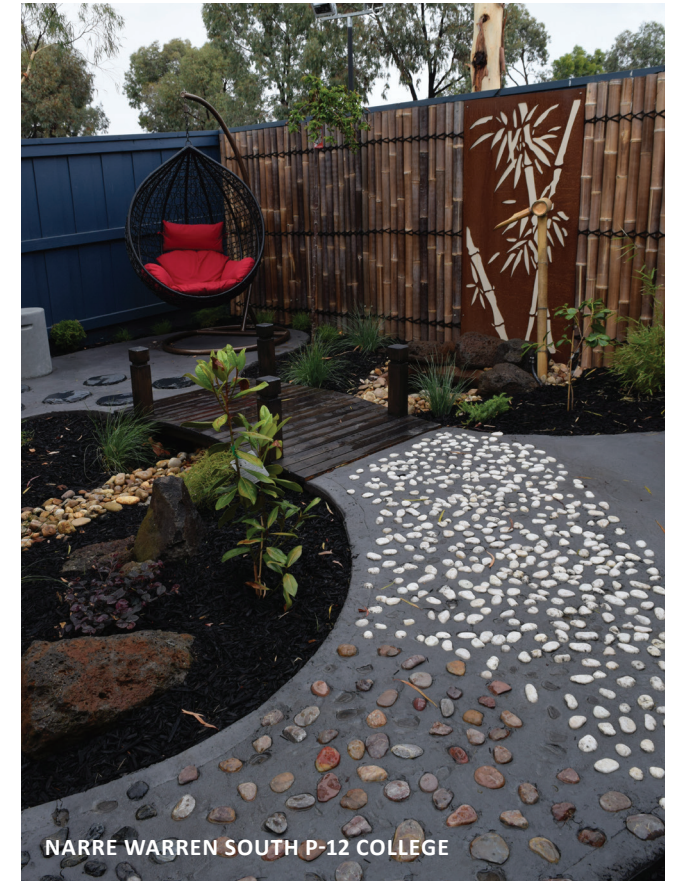
The HoL team at Manor Lakes P-12 College hit the ground running, starting Hands on Learning early in 2017 and building and installing outdoor seats at the school by the end of Term 3.



ROSEBUD SECONDARY COLLEGE

Community Fitness and Pump Track

Rosebud Secondary College are to be congratulated for the work involved in the Community Fitness and Pump Track. This project has been a huge undertaking and a fantastic community collaboration.



NARRE WARREN SOUTH P-12 COLLEGE

Japanese Zen Garden

Narre Warren South P-12 HoL students have created a serene enclosed space with textured pathways, well selected plants, seating and solar powered running water. A space promoting wellness and benefiting the whole school.

VALUABLE SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE

Athletics Track Seating

Instead of a grass covered slope, on sports days students and their families now have a 24 metre long seat that can accommodate 120 people, complete with drainage to ensure the area is dry under foot thanks to the HoL team at Somerville Secondary School. This two-tiered seating is a great example of the core elements of Hands on Learning – teamwork, real things to do and a chance for students to give back.

It's also a real testament to the power of community – becoming the catalyst for significant donations of materials and volunteer skills to the school. According to Assistant Principal, Lynn Motteram, "The best part is the genuine community partnerships Hand on Learning fosters. Many people have made this project possible, from our school and the local community. Our own student representative council raised approx. \$2000 over the last two years, we had a grant from Foundation 59 and we have had a wonderful group of volunteers coming in each week to help guide and pass on their various skills to the HoL students, Merv, Ric, Ross, Dave and our newest recruit John, also from the local community. An amazing offer of help and machinery also came to us from Dave, another Mornington Peninsula local who owns a Jim's Diggers franchise.

In short our Hands on Learning team and local community worked together to deliver much needed infrastructure for our school, in time for Athletics day and within budget."



Sprinkler system cover

At Mortlake it's great to start with pride in your own place!



Safety barrier

The HoL team installed 40 posts as a safety barrier alongside the walk path near their HoL Hut.

SKILLS FOR SUCCESS

The power of teamwork, problem solving and communication



Hands on Learning provides a unique opportunity for our future workforce to develop soft skills, also known as employability or enterprise skills, such as communication, teamwork, and problem solving at school. Not only are these skills highly transferable between industries, but according to Deloitte Access Economics soft skill-intensive occupations will account for two thirds of all jobs by 2030.

[Read more...](#)

It would be difficult to find a better way for students to develop explicit team work, problem solving and communication skills than by engaging in fun and real building projects. In the middle of the year, HoL schools in West and South East of Melbourne competed with teams from other HoL schools in a billy cart derby racing their own innovations. To conclude the year, 150 HoL students from eight schools in the South East of Melbourne worked intensively to fashion and race a raft constructed completely from recycled materials.





BUILDING PRACTICE EXCELLENCE

Hands on Learning Conference 2017



HoL alumni stole the show at the 2017 HoL Conference with a down to earth account of the impact of participating in HoL. Brothers Nick and Alex Bull, part of the HoL program at St Francis Xavier College in Berwick, joined Toby Hearty formerly of McClelland College in Frankston, to describe the role HoL played in enabling them to finish Year 12. Toby was nominated for the Master Builders Apprentice of the Year citing the leadership and teamwork skills he developed in HoL as the catalyst.

Keynote speaker, clinical psychologist Andrew Fuller focused on the secrets of engagement, while boys education and middle school expert Dr Ian Lillico put theory into practice with a complex behaviour workshop, and the HoL School Support Team led a practical workshop with new project ideas.

We are happy to report that ninety-one of the 120 delegates rated the conference held this year at the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art as excellent or very good.



OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION

Our artisan-teachers are the heart and soul of Hands on Learning and there is no finer embodiment of the belief that all young people have the right to discover their talents and experience success than the first HoL artisan-teacher, John Eldridge. Last year we presented the inaugural John Eldridge Medal to the man himself - and this year it was awarded to Isobel Evans for her outstanding contribution to HoL.

Isobel Evans is one talented artisan-teacher who has had incredible impact on the lives of so many young people. As well as being handy on the tools, hardworking and willing to learn new skills, Issy is renown for her kindness, consideration, patience and creativity. She has demonstrated sensitivity and professionalism when working with other artisan-teachers, parents, school leadership and wellbeing teams. Issy understands the students in her care and is a very positive advocate for them when supporting their progress and ongoing achievements in the program and their school community. She has a comprehensive understanding of how the HoL methodology works and has shared her many years of experience with both new and experienced artisan-teachers. We have all benefited from her contributions to cluster meetings, conferences, student and family events.

**CONGRATULATIONS ISOBEL,
YOU REALLY ARE QUINTESSENTIAL
HANDS ON – PRACTICAL,
CREATIVE, SUPPORTIVE AND
COLLABORATIVE.**

LONG TERM CONTRIBUTIONS

We recognise and appreciate the significant contribution of ALL HoL artisan-teachers. This year there's a group who are celebrating supporting young people participating in HoL for five years or longer and we would like to highlight their long-term contribution:



SANDY WILLIAMS

Sandy Williams is a real doer. Plain and simple. In her seven years as an artisan-teacher at Traralgon College she has turned her hand to an incredible range of practical projects, with an ability to adapt and change, and a persistence that has served her well - rain, hail and sunshine. Sandy knows her students and their families and watches out for her HoL kids constantly. A quiet achiever who never blows her own trumpet, Sandy is ultimately there for the kids and we celebrate her long-term contribution.



STUBBSY

Michael 'Stubbsy' Stubbe, started working at Kurnai College at the very start of HoL. As with most HoL startups there's not much infrastructure, not many tools, small budgets, huge projects and students looking for something real to do. Stubbsy soon recognised that these kids need real, useful skills so he put his energy into helping the kids build a fantastic hut, (with air conditioning and a proper kitchen), in turn growing their skills for the future. There's a chook house that mirrors the hut, worm farms, plant propagating area, and greenhouse. The students cut the lawns at the school and maintain the plants, build moveable garden beds, carpentry, welding, the list goes on. Stubbsy always has a full hut. He has a passion for these young people that shows, giving them the confidence to try anything they want plus a commitment to helping kids in need. Stubbsy is greatly appreciated by the school community and HoL, we thank him for his long-term contribution.



JOHN HOOGERBRUGGE

John is an artisan-teacher with a multitude of skills. At St Francis Xavier College (SFX) in Berwick he helped with the moving of the HoL compound to the new facility, which was a huge move. He has partnered with Allan to run a smooth HoL operation that has seen many students experiencing the HoL program. With his quiet and patient way that he works with the students, John manages to always talk them round and be there when needed. HoL usually teams up with SFX and schools that participate in the HoL billy cart derby, and John is always Mr Reliable. All of us appreciate John's dedication all these years and celebrate his long-term contribution.



GRAEME FERGUSON

A fine example of a "tradie" who joined the HoL team and made a career of working with kids, bringing an attitude to schools of "Why can't we do this?" and making it happen! Mad about soccer, and a local coach on the Mornington Peninsula, Graeme has brought his coaching talents and plastering trade skills to both McClelland SC and now Mount Eliza SC where every student has been seen covered in plaster and a broad smile on their faces! Graeme has gone on studying and now works full-time at the school supporting its VCAL and HoL programs. Graeme has shown persistence, common sense, empathy, and the practical ability you need to work with students and colleagues in HoL. All of us at HoL celebrate his long-term contribution!



IT IS POSSIBLE

HoL Camperdown College has achieved an enormous amount in its first year, saving the school considerable \$ by completing valuable projects, and celebrating real impact on student achievement with their first student graduating from HoL and re-entering the classroom full time.

Not only did the team establish a place to call home at the school, but their innovation and hard work around the school has genuinely meant significant budget savings for the school. Two projects stand out with the biggest a modern refurbished Junior Campus Sick Bay, saving the school almost \$5,000 that was the source of immense pride among the HoL team and a morning tea provided by Junior Campus staff. The team also innovatively produced 120 whisper phones for use by the Prep-Year 2 students in their literacy program for a third of the price they are available commercially.

The best thing for Year 8 student Poh was building the new sick bay. "I liked it because we got to learn so many new skills and my favourite was putting the sink in and tiling the wall."

But now Poh's ready to 'graduate' and go back into the normal classroom full time.

"Mostly it's my HoL Focus Plan that helped me do it. I have learnt to really focus on the task, not get distracted, and keep on track. Last year I wasn't doing my work. HoL has helped me to focus so much more in class so I can get the work done."

