

Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018



## Media Release

# Haven garden launch tonight

A new garden that has been built for young people at the Haven will be launched this evening.

The garden to be known as "Luscombe's Corner" was designed by Louise Costa and constructed by volunteer Rod Luscombe from donated pallets and bins. Billabong nursery have donated many of the plants for the gardens that will provide food for the growing number of young people attended each evening.

It includes a stage, fire pit, seating and native and vegetable gardens. Some 200 young people from all walks of life are registered to attend the Haven in Wyndham St to make friends, meet role models, participate in activities and cook and share meals.

A mural developed for youth week with funding from the Department of Health and Human Services will also be officially launched. The mural was designed by Haven kids and produced by artists Sophie Wilson and Davidson Lopez on stainless steel donated by J Furphy and Sons.

The Haven is an initiative of the Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Project. While primarily funded by the Department of Education it relies heavily on volunteers and donations to provide for the many young people finding their way to the venue.

The Haven is open Monday to Thursday from 4pm to 8pm. Young people aged 12 to 24 years are welcome with no bookings required. Activities include movies, learning new skills and guest speakers.

Greater Shepparton Lighthouse is a community-lead initiative that aims to improve the wellbeing and educational outcomes from young people from conception to career in the municipality.

It is a movement that has so far seen 400 volunteers enlisted to support children with breakfast, homework, mentoring, and reading.

Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Executive Officer, Lisa McKenzie, said volunteers provided wonderful mentors and role models.

"Time and again young people tell us they need more trusted adults and mentors in their lives to discuss issues, assist with ," she said.

For more information about the Haven call the Haven manager Konrad Fepuleai on 0487 315 999.

**Release ends**

