



Dear Principal

RE: INVITATION TO NURTURE THE HEART OF BALLARAT - PLANTING SEEDS OF COMPASSION

We are writing to invite your year 6/10 students to participate in an authorized project between the City of Ballarat and Compassionate Ballarat.

Council's Parks and Gardens Team have agreed to plant a garden bed with the logo of Compassionate Ballarat as a visual image of this project, and we are asking for 4-5 compassionate wishes from your school which will be captured in a printed book and shared with compassionate cities across the world.

At a time when many people in our city are struggling, the purpose of this project is to plant seeds of compassion to promote Ballarat as a caring city underpinned by the compassionate wishes of its future leaders.

What are we asking of you?

To bring your year 6/10 class together in an appropriate RE or Wellbeing classes, using our teachers' guide to facilitate a discussion and collect 4-5 compassionate wishes for our city, and returns them to us via email. The guide is designed to ensure that this process will only take up time in one of your classes.

As you are likely to gather more than 4-5 wishes in this session, we also invite participating schools to create a garden or a planter box to 'plant' the other wishes captured in your school to formally recognise your participation in this project – images of the individual school plantings will be captured and shared through local, national, and global Charter for Compassion social media as part of this project.

What is the timeframe?

- Letters to schools – Mid-June 2024
- Collection of Wishes & Planting of Garden – late-July 2024
- Creation and Launch of book – Mid-late August 2024

How will you be supported?

Attached is a one-page curriculum guide to walk you through your engagement with the students to collect their wishes. Dr Lynne Reeder and Mary Darcy will also be available to take phone calls to clarify any questions that your teachers may have.

What are the Sought Project Outcomes?

A book that will inspire and reassure all those living in Ballarat - the students' wishes will be collated along with images of the garden into a booklet that is written up with the project background, information on the Charter for Compassion, Compassionate Cities, and the curriculum guide. In this way this book will also act as a valuable demonstration project for other compassionate cities. The printed book will also be widely distributed across Ballarat.

Please contact us with any questions:

- Dr Lynne Reeder – Adjunct Research Fellow, FedUni – ph) 03 5327 6943
- Mary Darcy – Registered Psychologist - ph) 0407 041 998

Lynne and Mary are both members of Compassionate Ballarat – more information on the work of Compassionate Ballarat here: www.compassionateballarat.com.au

Warm regards

Lynne Reeder and Mary Darcy on behalf of the Compassionate Ballarat Steering Group

Ben Kelly

Mary Hollick

Annie De Jong

David Deutscher

Michelle MacGillivray

Madonna Quixley

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