

Kind kids make a difference

TAMARA MCDONALD

NORTHERN Bay College students have been giving back to their community — and their good work will be on show at an upcoming expo.

About 150 grade 6 students from Northern Bay College have completed 22 child-led philanthropic projects — including building a vegetable garden for the elderly — in the Corio and Norlane areas.

Students have also created “snuffle mats”, which hide treats for the pets of elderly people to help exercise the animals; hygiene packs for homeless people; and a nesting box for orphaned animals, including possums.

The Geelong Kids as Catalyst Showcase Expo will highlight the work of students from Peacock and Wexford campuses, with Tallis and Hendy students to join the program next year.

Peacock campus grade 6 teacher Jana Mc Elhinney said that as a result of the program, students had become more motivated and engaged, had increased initiative and independence and practised life skills like making phone calls and interviewing people.

“We’re trying to develop philanthropists, developing that inner want to help others,” she said.



Grade 6 Northern Bay students Nyaliep Malow, Kristian Cerovac and Islaiah McIntosh have been part of a program of giving back to the community.

Picture: GLENN FERGUSON

Almost \$6000 was distributed over the 22 projects based on the students’ grant applications, budget proposals, and pitch presentations. The students implemented the projects in partnership with local community groups and charities.

Northern Bay College has

five campuses — four of which are prep to year 8, with its Goldsworthy campus catering for years 9-12.

The college last year launched the Northern Bay Promise initiative, under which parents are assured that their child will progress into tertiary education or employ-

ment if they engage with the program.

A new integrated children’s centre is under construction next to the Wexford campus. Geelong Mayor Bruce Harwood joined Lara MP John Eren yesterday to turn the first sod on the new \$13.3 million Purnell Road Child and Family Centre.

The centre presents an opportunity for an innovative link with Northern Bay College, the council said.

It will include long day care for 92 children, kinder for 66 children, maternal child health consulting suites, multipurpose room for group activities, and a specialist family support

program area. The new centre will replace five existing child-care facilities, and construction is expected to be complete by 2020.

The Geelong Kids as Catalyst Showcase Expo will be held on Monday, September 17 between 10.30am and 1.30pm at GPAC. Entry is free.