

Region's reading program proving fruitful

BRENDAN BUNWORTH

BEYOND the Bell's Growing Greater Readers program is supporting 2017's International Book Giving Day by inviting book-lovers to get as many books into the hands of children as possible.

Individuals are invited to gift a book to a friend or family member, leave a book in a waiting room, café, park, or other public place for children to read, or donate a used book to a local library, hospital or to an organisation that distributes used books to children in need internationally on February 14.

The Growing Greater Readers team will be gift-wrapping books with a special Book Giving Day

tag that indicates the appropriate age to match the book inside. These tags can be collected from the Hamilton Library for anyone wishing to wrap and distribute their own books. Donations of new or as-new books can also be left at the library for the team to distribute.

Beyond the Bell's regional planning coordinator Adele Keneally said that while the focus of the day was on giving books to children, she encourages people to give books to adults as well.

"One of the things we know about literacy is how important it is for children to see that the adults around them value reading to actually see them sit down with a book," Ms Keneally said.

"And of course, being Valentine's Day, what better gift than to share the love of reading."



SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS Youth Network Support Marg Millard is a strong ambassador for the Beyond the Bell's Growing Greater Readers Program. Photo: TARA FRY.