Engaging youth homelessness

PORTLAND Secondary College Reengagement Program students have been working to improve Portland’s understanding of youth homelessness this term.

Their most recent contribution has been introducing the community to Brophy Family and Youth Services Portland’s new youth homelessness support worker, Shannon Ross.

Mr Ross started at Brophy three weeks ago and said he hadn’t been involved with the project but was looking forward to helping make a difference in the Portland community.

“I’m still getting my head around it at the moment. It’s an interesting job,” Mr Ross said.

As part of a project for their VCE studies, a group of reengagement program students started by improving their own understanding before informing the wider community through the Portland Secondary College newsletter, speaking to the Glenelg Youth Network, designing a banner which has been brought to life by Portland Signworks (now hung at the end of Julia St), and written a cookbook. With funding from United Way Glenelg, The Couch-surfer’s Cookbook has been professionally printed and goes on sale this week in the PSC office.

Reengagement Program lead teacher Kara Young explained how the students had created all the recipes in the book, which help people on low-incomes craft affordable and nutritious meals. The book also includes advice and contact information useful for people who don’t have a home.

“The book sales will go towards providing an extra place in the program,” Ms Young said.

PORTLAND Secondary College Reengagement Program students Michael Carlyon, Matt Irvine and Dillon Berry with their new banner and the new Brophy Family and Youth Services Portland youth homelessness support worker, Shannon Ross.

Picture: ELLY HATELEY 131205eh07