
BLESSING BAGS NEWS

We are recruiting!



We are an organisation that is built off the back of an amazing dedicated team of compassionate and hardworking volunteers.

We are currently seeking likeminded passionate people to work with us.

Please don't hesitate to contact us to get involved!

More information about specific positions can be found in our organisation update section on page three.

MEET OUR MEMBERS: KELSEY WALTON

Hi! My name is Kelsey and I have been part of the blessing bag team for over two years.

I began volunteering with Blessing bags because, as a student nurse (currently completing a bachelor of nursing and midwifery), I have witnessed people at their most vulnerable. I have seen people admitted to hospital, who can't afford their medications, and are not able to get better. I have seen victims of domestic violence and I have seen refugees who feel so isolated and scared.

Coming from these experiences, I thought I need to help those in need and who are more vulnerable than I am in some way. I had heard about Blessing Bags before it kept popping up on my newsfeed of Facebook, so I thought why not see what they are about? And I have never looked back.

Blessing bags help those in need and that is what I wanted to do. The founder Laura makes this organisation such a positive place and welcomes everyone with open arms. The positivity of Blessing Bags is a key reason I have stayed as it makes volunteering fun, and I have never wanted to miss a bagging up day



My role in Blessing Bags is very diverse. I help where I can and with what is needed. From writing notes of love, to dropping off bags made at bagging up days to different organisations, to helping organising and running fundraising events. Blessing Bags allows you to help the homeless and the vulnerable with a group of people that all likeminded and passionate about making the world a better place.

ORGANISATION UPDATE

Bagging Up day

We had a bagging up day this month that produces 449 bags for distribution to: Lifegate Frankston, Salvation Army, Tamminya House, Community Support Frankston, Launch Housing and Father Bobs. Our next Bagging Day is on Saturday 20 October 2018. We always love seeing new faces so please send us a private message on Facebook or Instagram, or send us an email at: blessingbags@hotmail.com.

A special shout out to the amazing Kerry Dell and her workplace for their very generous toothpaste donation! We are continuously blown away by the generosity of the local community!

Senegence Fundraiser

This month, one of our incredible core members, Sammi hosted a fundraiser on behalf of Blessing Bags. Sammi is a Senegence representative, a company famous for their long-lasting lip colours. 15% of all her September sales went directly to Blessing Bags!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Sammi for her hard work and generosity and to everyone who contributed by purchasing a lipstick. We are always inspired by the level of community involvement and can't thank everyone enough for their continued support!

Bagging Session at St Macartans Parish

On Friday the 21st of September a member of the Blessing Bags team, Kelsey went and visited the St Macartan's youth Ministry in Mornington. The night began with Kelsey explaining what Blessing bags stands for and does in the community. After this introduction the children all had a shot at making blessing bags and writing notes of love. All participants were enthusiastic and did an amazing drop. With over 50 bags made up and 150 creative notes ready to be distributed. Blessing bags also received a generous donation from St Macartan's parish and primary school on the night, which we can't be more thankful for. These donations will be valuable for many people. The night was a great success and we would like to thank St Macartan's youth ministry for having us!

We are Looking for New Team Members!

Are you passionate about helping those less fortunate and connecting with other people who share this vision! If so, we would love to have you join the core team at Blessing Bags! We currently have vacancies for an administration officer, accounts officer and casual volunteers.

As we continue to grow as an organisation, it is essential that we have more help so that we can extend our services to those in need. Feel free to send an expression of interest to blessingbags@hotmail.com.



IN THE NEWS: SEPTEMBER 2018

To Read

The *Guardian* newspaper series 'Behind Life on the Breadline' explores what it is like to be living below the poverty line in Australia. With three million people living in poverty in this country, it's an issue that is plastered with stereotypes of laziness and greediness. What we don't scrutinise are the government policies that place people in compromising positions who have medical conditions (both physical and mental) that prevent them from working.

The series also addresses Australia's broken welfare system: Newstart payments haven't increased since 1994, but our cost of living sure has. People relying on payments are not able to live properly and comfortably day-to-day, often having to make sacrifices to pay the bills.

The project is designed to have an authentic voice. Pieces are often left with minimal, to no editing. The aim is to give people a voice, rather than having politicians or commentators speaking about them.

The series is an ongoing project. Follow this link to read the stories of everyday Australians living below the poverty line:

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/may/17/behind-life-on-the-breadline-a-leap-into-the-unknown-with-brave-new-writers>

To Watch

Last month, SBS released the second season of their controversial three-part documentary 'Filthy Rich & Homeless'. This season, we follow five high-profile Australians experiencing homelessness for 10 days.

The series has been met with controversy, particularly for not addressing the reasons why we have an increase in people experiencing homelessness in Australia.

The show has two main ambitions: to entertain and to inform.

Filthy rich and homeless is now available on SBS demand.

To Do

In relation to the article published on our [website](#) a couple of months ago, the Public Housing Defence Network is hosting an event *Housing in Crisis: Stop the Public Housing Sell-offs* on Thursday October 4, 7pm at Brunswick town hall. A full panel of speakers will discuss what we can do to defend our public housing.

If you are appalled by the privatisation of public housing, or don't know much about the issue and want to learn more, come along! Details can be found on the [facebook event](#).

A team of three volunteers produces this newsletter: Hayley Gould, Kelsey Walton and Christine Semerdjian.
