

# Local kids thriving through Blue Light Victoria DASH program

Blue Light Victoria recently delivered a DASH Program for Grade 5 and 6 students at Ballarat's Black Hill Primary School.

The nine-week program taught students about what it means to be part of a larger community, and helped them identify their own values, strengths, and responsibilities.

The program culminated in student-led projects where they identified an issue relating to Ballarat's community and how they could work together to solve it.

One DASH program participant said: "Because of DASH I now know that one person can make a difference, even if it's small."

One of the student-led projects focused on littering and its potential impact as a fuel for bushfires. The project included impacts on the environment and native animals including koalas, swans, platypus, and kangaroos.

From there, a "Save our Bush and Lakes" awareness campaign was created, and students developed a four-week advertising campaign to highlight the issue across the community and beyond.



Participation: Students from Black Hill Primary School DASH program. Photo: SUPPLIED

A key aspect of the program was connecting students to their local communities. Blue Light Victoria partnered with Victoria Police, Ambulance Victoria, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), and Triple 000 Victoria, with members of each organisation volunteering their time

to work with Black Hill Primary School students.

Together they created a sense of belonging and connection within the local Ballarat community. One community partner said: "I learnt a lot from the students and realised the potential and the talents these students have, and the contribution they can

make for their future communities and the society as a whole."

Blue Light Victoria, together with Ballarat community partners, would like to congratulate all students at Black Hill Primary School on their DASH projects, highlighting issues within the community and working together to provide solutions.

Blue Light Victoria is a not-for-

profit organisation with a vision to inspire, engage and equip young people to be their best self.

Each year more than 12,000 young people between the ages of 10 and 21 benefit from participating in a Blue Light Victoria program.

To learn more about our programs, visit [bluelight.org.au](http://bluelight.org.au) or email [programs@bluelight.org.au](mailto:programs@bluelight.org.au)



Community: DASH program participants worked with volunteers from organisations including Ambulance Victoria. Photo: SUPPLIED

Learning: Over nine weeks, students found a greater sense of community. Photo: SUPPLIED



Developed by students from the DASH program at Black Hill Primary School, Save our Bush & Lakes strives to create awareness of the impact that littering has as a potential fuel for bushfires and on our environment and native animals.

DASH is a Blue Light Victoria program which enables empowerment and community connection for primary school students.

Blue Light Victoria received grant funding from the Australian Federal Government to deliver the DASH program.

