**31 March – Trans Gender Day of Visibility**

Community members and representatives from local organisations gathered together on Friday 31st March at Manna Gum Community House for a group photo showing support and solidarity for trans gender people on the Trans Day of Visibility.

“Inclusion is a fundamental value for a Neighbourhood House,” says Rebecca Matthews, Manager at the Community House. “Manna Gum Community House is fully committed to treating all community members with respect, kindness and fairness in a welcoming and safe environment. This includes all LGBTI+ people. Trans people, you are loved and welcome here.”

Trans Day of Visibility is an annual international celebration of trans pride and awareness, recognising trans and gender diverse experiences and achievements.

Other organisations and individuals who were unable to attend prepared the following statements:

My name is Scar, I am an incredibly proud transgender person who has lived in the Foster and Fish Creek communities for a substantial part of my formative years. I would like to use this opportunity to thank these beautiful communities, I have experienced so much love and support over the years. Sadly as transgender people we can experience a lot of discrimination and judgement in our lives, so to have the active support of my community means the world. My advice to people is to listen to transgender people, to learn and educate yourself and to not be afraid of making mistakes, because all we ask is that you try. With love, scar

We are the proud parents and siblings of scar. Among their many qualities scar is an extraordinary, strong, resilient and determined individual. Transgender people face many challenges and bias but scar lives and loves in their truth and that is truly inspiring. Please be kind, please ‘see’ and respect people for who they want to be, see beyond the binary, embrace diversity, validate each and every gender identity, reach into your heart and celebrate our incredibly beautiful trans community.
Sam, Adam, Maxi and Faith Park-Deere

Foster Medical Centre values diversity and inclusiveness; we support the highlighting and celebration of the LGBTQI+ community on Trans Day of Visibility on March 31st

As President of Neighbourhood Houses Gippsland, I’d like to take this opportunity to stand up for, and recognise our trans community members on this day of Trans Visibility. All too often we stand by, silent, as members of our community negotiate a world of prejudice, of ill informed comments, of unjustified hatred- the loneliness of silence hurts. Neighbourhood Houses are founded on the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion- we welcome everyone,  no matter who they, no matter who they want to be. Today , and every day, we stand by and with our Trans community. – Alyson Skinner

The Uniting Church celebrates all God's people as beloved and made in the image of God. As

a minister in the Uniting Church, I stand with others in our community in support and

solidarity with transgender people and the LGBTIQ community. I continue my commitment

to seeking to create places of welcome and inclusion for all people.

I offer this prayer for all those who struggle to find places of welcome and acceptance.

A prayer

For all who struggle to find their identity

in a world that tries, often without success,

to find a suitable box in which to fit them,

grant them courage to become

the people you want them to be,

not constrained by this world’s wisdom,

but allowed to grow and become themselves

in your Spirit’s power. Amen.

(Source: John Birch, faithandworship.com)

Rev Veronica Bradley, Corner Inlet Uniting Church Parish

(it’s no) drama is a Gippsland arts company dedicated to access and inclusion. We work to enrich the lives of participants in our regional community and strive to promote respect for all people. At (it's no) drama we believe in the importance of people's unique identities and value their lived experiences. On today's Trans Day of Visibility, we support transgender, gender non-conforming, and intersex communities and their rights. Samara Cunningham (Artistic Director)

At the core of everything, all we want is to be valued, seen, and appreciated for who we are. The diversity of our society makes for a rich and beautiful tapestry. Inclusion is the weaving of these threads together to create the beauty and strength of community. We all have a part to play. Welshpool and District Primary School

Inclusivity is vital to promoting equality and fairness in society. No matter what our differences may be, every person deserves to be included and accepted with open arms regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity. Only by recognising and embracing our diversity can we truly create a harmonious world for all. Toora Primary School.