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MARYSVILLE

# triangle news



**We Serve**

NARBETHONG & GRANTON

BUXTON & TAGGERTY

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President Glenn McFadzean

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## Students draw courage from international inspiration

Murrindindi Shire Council and the Community Building Initiative (CBI) are playing a small but significant role in a project that has brought students from Kabul to Kinglake.

While their worlds may be thousands of miles apart, there is a common theme and that is assisting each other in times of adversity and recovery.

*1000 Pencils: from Kinglake to Kabul* is the result of a unique writing program created in the aftermath of the February 2009 bushfires. Author Neil Grant and teacher David Williams worked with some 80 fire-affected students from the International School of Kabul to produce the book which has highlighted the experiences of students in the face of adversity.

The book has been an outstanding success in many ways, so much so that the book and its contributors featured at this year's Melbourne Writers' Festival.

To celebrate the book's achievement, a small group of Kubul students have spent time in Kinglake sharing their experiences with students and strengthening their friendships developed through the program.

Mayor Peter Beales said it was an important project that the Council was proud to be associated with. "To see young people, especially with such diverse cultures, sharing their life experiences because

of a common bond shows that hope always grows from adversity," Cr Beales said.

"The CBI needs to be congratulated for their support of this project, and I hope that the young people who have come together in Kinglake continue throughout their lives to keep in contact with each other."

Council and the CBI hosted a welcoming function at the Kinglake Rebuilding Advisory Centre with students, parents and community leaders hearing first hand how writing has played an important role in the recovery faced by young people.

"I wish the students all the best. There have been some wonderful life-long friendships created," Cr Beales said.

"I feel honoured that as a Council we have been able to assist in this important project."

More information on the project can be found at [www.1000pencils.com.au](http://www.1000pencils.com.au)

**Photograph:** Mayor Peter Beales joins (from left) Maddy Wahlberg, Laila Gharzai, Sabrina Omar, Elaine Gordon in sharing the wonderful outcomes of *1000 Pencils: from Kinglake to Kubul*.

