Learning for the young and not so young

BY FIONA BUCK

Yarrawonga Neighbourhood House Inc celebrated Adult Learners’ Week last week with a special Digital Literacy session followed by a delicious lunch.

Adult Learners’ Week promotes life-long learning, which can support improved workforce participation and productivity for adults through increased participation in education and training.

It is celebrated through activities that raise awareness of adult education and promote participation in further learning.

Community Programs Coordinator Debbie Cooper said there were many ‘senior-oriented’ programs held at Yarrawonga Neighbourhood House including a Senior Digital Literacy Group.

“We have four Year 9 students from Yarrawonga College P-12 who volunteer with this group every Wednesday to provide IT support,” Debbie said.

“This is a fabulous program and we are starting to see some real connections being made between students young and old.”

Senior student Bill Mitchell told the Chronicle he was learning “a lot” by coming to the Digital Literacy sessions and listening to the college students.

“The kids are really good; they are very helpful and talk at the right speed for us,” Bill said.

Another Senior student, Lorna Brown, praised her one-on-one helper from Yarrawonga College James Ratcliffe.

“James is terrific,” she said.

“He is marvellous with helping me.

“If I have just bought an iPad and I don’t know how to use it and he is taking me through all the steps.”

Year 9 student Caleb Cooper said he enjoyed helping out at Yarrawonga Neighbourhood House.

“We interact with very different people,” he said.

“We are learning more things by teaching ourselves plus the older people teach us stuff from their personal experiences.”

Training Assistant Belinda Webb said the response to the various senior programs offered at Yarrawonga Neighbourhood House has been terrific.

“Everyone is very interested in learning, no matter what their age is,” Belinda said.

“As well as the Digital Literacy sessions there are short courses, certificate courses and various craft groups; something for everyone.

“The students from Yarrawonga College are excellent and they have built a great rapport with the adult learners.”