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Making it easier: Chair of Tomorrow:Today Foundation Wayne Weaire, executive officer Barbara Alexander and FCJ College principal David Leslie with some of the school items the vouchers can purchase.

Help for families

Local families struggling to pay for books, school shoes and back-to-school basics can breathe a little easier.

Thanks to the Tomorrow:Today Foundation, 42 local families will share in \$17 000 worth of vouchers to assist in meeting the costs of going back to school.

Tomorrow:Today Foundation chairperson Wayne Weaire and executive officer Barbara Alexander

presented some of the vouchers to FCJ College principal David Leslie on Monday.

"The vouchers will help deliver support to families in the area who are doing it tough and who really need it," Mr Leslie said.

"The vouchers will be given to people who really need it the most."

The Tomorrow:Today Foundation, formed and run by local citizens, has distrib-

uted the back-to-school vouchers to schools throughout the Benalla district for the past five years.

To date, the foundation has distributed more than \$80 000 to families throughout the area.

Mr Weaire said many families were experiencing financial hardship and this support helped them meet the costs of ordinary things such as underwear, lunchboxes,

shorts, pens and pencils.

The foundation secured a donation of \$1000 as part of a Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal Challenge Grant, resulting in another \$2150 worth of vouchers to distribute to deserving families.

Funds were also donated by Bennelong Foundation, Target, Doxa Youth Foundation and the estate of the late Edward Wilson.