Hugh MacKay is a social researcher and the author of 16 books, including the 2013 bestseller The Good Life. His latest book, The Art of Belonging, uses a mixture of social analysis and storytelling to explore the reasons why some communities thrive and others break down and explains how community engagement enriches us all.

We have been fortunate to engage Hugh for a free 40 minute presentation at St Thomas Aquinas Primary School in the Fr Glynn Centre on Wednesday, 9 March 2016 commencing at 7 pm, followed by 20 minutes of questions. There will be an opportunity to purchase both his books after the presentation.

His presentation will draw on the themes from his two most recent books and will examine the difference between “happiness” and “meaningfulness” as sources of life’s deepest satisfactions. He will also explore the role of community in our lives, arguing that as “social creatures” we need communities to nurture us. But the stability and cohesiveness of neighbourhoods and communities are under threat, and many question is: Do local communities matter and, if so, what can we do about it?

Hugh has had a 60 year career in social research and he was also a weekly newspaper columnist for over 25 years. He is currently a patron of the Asylum Seekers Centre and holds 2 honorary professorships. Among other honorary appointments he has been Deputy Chairman of the Australia Council, Chairman of Trustees of Sydney Grammar School and the inaugural Chairman of the ACT Government’s Community Inclusion Board.

In recognition of his pioneering work in social research, Hugh has been elected a Fellow of the Australian Psychological Society and awarded Honorary Doctorates by Charles Sturt, Macquarie, NSW and Western Sydney Universities. He was appointed an Officer in the Order of Australia in 2015.

To make a booking: mail@stbdow.catholic.edu.au

Wednesday - 9 March 2016
Fr Glynn Centre
St Thomas Aquinas Primary School
BOWRAL NSW 2576
02 4861 1768
Bookings essential – there is no cost for the evening (book sales available)