



MontroseAccess

MEDIA RELEASE

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From Wheelchair To Muscle Car

21 year old Tom Latcham has had to face more challenges in his 21 years, than most should face in a lifetime. The courageous Toowoomba resident has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) and he's used a wheelchair for almost ten years now. Despite these challenges, young Tom has shown that he's not about to slow down; quite the opposite.

For the past two years, Tom and his dad, John, have been lovingly restoring a 1969 Dodge Dart replica. This 7.2 litre V8 American muscle car is his pride and joy, and just a few days after his 21st, it's almost complete.

Tom's father, John Latcham, said: "Tom's always had a fascination with these sort of vehicles and when we found this one, it had been gathering dust in a shed for 11 years; we couldn't let it go to waste. It's been a real labour of love with an entirely new engine, interior, wiring and transmission rebuild with both Tom and I working to get this machine back on the road. Tom sourced suitable parts from both the United States and Australia"

And when his car is on the road, Tom knows precisely what he plans to do with his set of wheels. A gift from his parents for his 21st birthday, registration at the 2011 one day Powercruise event in Brisbane on January 8th. While Tom might not be able to drive the powerful car, John is more than happy to be chauffeur.

Tom said: "It's been tough to show such patience when all I wanted to do was get in the car and go for a drive. I think the wait will be worth it though and I'm thinking our first big drive will be to Brisbane for the Powercruise event, with an overnight stay at MontroseAccess. Of course we might have to do a few local laps first."

Tom is a client of MontroseAccess. The Corinda based charity offers him therapy and works with his family to support his DMD. It also offers respite and a chance to overnight away from home, providing an ideal destination for his first road trip in a muscle car.

John and Tom have been going to the local drag races, V8's and super cars for many years, so it's little wonder such passion for mechanics has consumed Tom. And with some modifications, their own replica racing car is a shining example of Tom's ability.

"We've got bucket seats for the car so we can travel in comfort. Naturally we just have to choose destinations that are able to cater for Tom and his wheelchair, MontroseAccess is a natural choice," John went on to say.

The father and son duo are wasting no time getting on the road; Tom turned 21 on Wednesday December 1st, and they aim to register the vehicle next week.

For further information or to arrange a photo opportunity, please feel free to contact MontroseAccess' Communications Manager, Adam Harper, on (07) 3717 1184 or 0404 871 360 or email: aharper@montroseaccess.org.au