

# MEDIA RELEASE

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June, 2011

## Sunshine Coast Talent On Display At Kawana

The Sunshine Coast could well have an army of Michelangelo's in the making. An elaborate art program designed by charity MontroseAccess has been teaching young people from the region with physical disabilities various forms of expressing emotion through the use of different media. And the results have to be seen to be believed.

The program has been designed for clients of MontroseAccess and teaches them the art of drawing, painting, collage, clay modelling, mask making and printmaking. Although it sounds like art for art's sake, the program is so much more. Through the various forms of creativity, the participants are all the while improving their hand strength and developing their fine motor skills with assistance from Occupational Therapists.

MontroseAccess Recreation Officer, Ian Jones, said: "Finding a creative outlet for our clients to express their emotions is also extremely rewarding for them, a few have even discovered a passion for the arts. We are really surprised actually at the level of talent these young people have, considering they have never done any of these sort of activities before and many face greater dexterity challenges too."

Nine participants from various parts of the Sunshine Coast took part in the 14 week program and involved various experts from the coast to assist in the training and development of the budding young artists. Only seven of those were MontroseAccess clients; the program was so appealing that two of their siblings joined in as well.

"The various techniques required to draw, paint, mould, shape and construct these pieces of artwork are all fantastic exercises in fine motor skills, but of course they don't feel like therapy exercises. The purpose of programs such as this is to offer clients a fun, exciting program that helps to improve the quality of their lives while at the same time delivering valuable therapy."

The artwork is now on exhibition and was officially unveiled on Wednesday night at the Lake Kawana Community Hall and will be open to the public for viewing for an entire month. State Member for Kawana, Mr Jarrod Bleijie, attended the opening along with the artists, their families and members of the community.

"It's been very much a community event. White's IGA even donated all of the food and drink for the launch and our clients became waiters and waitresses for the evening, which they thoroughly enjoyed," Ian went on to say.

For more information about the program, you can contact the Recreation Office in charge, Ian Jones, on (07) 5439 1307

**If you would like high res images or to arrange a photo shoot or interview, please feel free to contact MontroseAccess Communications Manager, Adam Harper, on (07) 3717 1184 or 0404 871 360 or email [aharper@montroseaccess.org.au](mailto:aharper@montroseaccess.org.au)**

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