



PICASSOS IN THE MAKING: Life Skills Plus clients with their Waste to Art design 'Poochasaurus' - one of the pieces displaying in their art exhibition at The Stables. 100910\lifeskills/49

Life Skills clients show artistic talent

By ANIKA HUME

Mudgee Life Skills Plus clients have been busy all year painting, drawing, moulding and snapping photos guided by local artists.

The results were displayed in a recent exhibition at The Stables in Mudgee.

Almost 30 clients produced more than 50 pieces, including felting art, freehand drawings, paper mache hangings, abstract paintings, memory boxes, photographs, painted ceramics and clay sculptures.

With help from artists like Phyllis Setchell, Heather Hutchinson, Peter Brookes, Colin Jones, Linda Field and Helen Doble, the clients created the work in a number of workshops and tutorials during the year.

Life Skills Manager, Carolyn Peek, said the art immersion project was a chance for clients to interact with artists in the community while gaining skills in using media they have not previously been exposed to.

"It was an opportunity for sensory stimulation that's really increased their self-esteem and has become a source of much pride for them," she said.

Ms Peek said the project also catered for high-needs clients by conducting workshops in *Musical Art*, in which clients moved palm brushes and sponges across the page to the beat of music.

"Using art as a medium of communication has been of great value to some of our clients who are non-verbal and find communicating with others frus-

trating on a daily basis," she said.

"The project's really allowed them to let their imagination flow and explore their understanding of what art can be."

Life Skills client, Maree Thomas, said she had enjoyed the chance to express herself artistically with no restrictions after painting trees on her bedroom walls proved a messy exercise.

"I love painting, and I have been going to painting classes with U3A at Pioneer House every Wednesday for a couple of months now," she said.

"My favourite painting of mine in the display was *Purple Wave* which is a picture that shows a lot of fish swimming in different coloured waves, but I also liked making my clay fish hanging.

"I think the art exhibition was great."



International magician Joel Howlett who will host a magic show and workshop during the school holidays.

200910 MAGICIAN

Holiday fun at library

Mid-Western Regional Council libraries in Mudgee and Gulgong will host school holiday activities over the next two weeks. Events planned for this week are:

Mudgee Branch

Wednesday, September 29.

From 11am, 'Spellbinding Stories', stories and activities. For all ages, free. 3pm to 4pm, 'Bubble & Squeak', crafts. Ages seven and over, \$5 booking required.

Thursday, September 30.

From 11am, Magic Show with Magician Joel Howlett. For all ages, \$15 booking required.

From 2pm, Magic Workshop with Magician Joel Howlett. Ages six and over, \$15 booking required. Book both sessions for \$25. Venue: CWA Hall, 48A Market Street, Mudgee.

Gulgong Branch

Friday, October 1.

From 11am, 'Super Storytelling', stories. For all ages, free. 2pm to 3pm, 'Super Craft Smorgasbord', craft workshop. Ages five and over, \$5 booking required, bring a photo of yourself.

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Turner endorses locust control measures

Minister for Primary Industries, Steve Whan has welcomed the Coalition's endorsement of the Labor Government's action plan and war on locusts.

Member for Orange, Russell Turner, and MLC, Duncan Gay, yesterday toured the Locust Control Centre at Industry and Investment NSW, and backed the govern-

ment's \$18.5 million campaign to reduce the impact of the worst locust plague in decades.

"I'm impressed with the preparation that has been put in place," Mr Gay said.

Minister Whan said in the spirit of bipartisanship, we were pleased to show the opposition our Locust Control Centre

and the preparations to protect crops.

On Friday, NSW Government aerial surveillance in north west NSW unearthed a giant infestation of locusts totalling 265 square kilometres.

"The massive locust finding in north west NSW represents the enormity of the task ahead of us," Mr Whan said.

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Do you know someone who's been studying hard and about to sit for the HSC exams?

Wish a Year 12 student good luck for the upcoming HSC exams with a photo and message to appear in full colour in the Mudgee Guardian on Friday 15 October 2010, for only \$20.

Come in or phone your Features Consultant Barbara on 02 6372 1455 to book your space.

Mudgee Guardian