



City of **HOBART**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

26 May 2017

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### **The Ability to Create ‘my strongest memory’ art exhibition**

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At an official launch today, the Acting Lord Mayor of Hobart, Alderman Ron Christie opened an art exhibition that showcases the talents of people with a disability and those who are ageing.

“This unique exhibition involves six groups who have come together to display the diversity of work that artists with varying degrees of ability can achieve.

“*Ability to Create* is about showcasing the amazing talents and abilities of those living with physical and intellectual disabilities, and those who are ageing.

“It is a great opportunity for the wider community to see what can be achieved when people are supported and encouraged,” said Ald Christie.

The City of Hobart’s Social Inclusion Strategy recognises that diversity in the community is one of its great strengths and recognises that all citizens of Hobart have a right to participate fully socially, culturally, economically, physically and politically in the life of their community.

The City of Hobart’s Equal Access and Positive Ageing Strategies also provide a framework to promote the rights of people living with a disability or who are ageing.

The Chairman of the Council’s Community, Culture and Events Committee, Alderman Bill Harvey said: “As part of the community inclusion work carried out by the City, we are always looking for community partnerships with both individuals and agencies, to ensure that we are working towards community capacity building, community resilience and a culture of participation.”

“In 2013, we were approached by Freddy Lee-Mount, a community member living with a disability. Freddy was committed to an idea of celebrating the ability and talent of people living with a disability in Hobart.

“He wanted to create awareness of the talent and skill nestled amongst those with differing levels of ability in the visual arts,” said Ald Harvey.

This year, artists were invited to reflect and share ‘my strongest memory’ by depicting with colour and mood, and representing emotions we feel, and how our mood changes in waves.

Surviving acquired brain injury and the feelings of being in a coma are also shared in a sound scape.

Participants this year include Parkside Foundation, Mosaic Support Services, Oak Tasmania, the Southern Support School - celebrating the living insights and unique perceptions of artists, along with art groups who work from the City's positive ageing facility, Mathers House.

This inspiring exhibition opens at the Waterside Pavilion, Mawsons Place today, Friday 26 May 2017 and runs until Monday 29 May. Opening hours are 11:30am-4pm on Friday; 10am-4pm Saturday and Sunday and 10am – 1pm Monday. Entry is free.

## **ENDS**

### **For interview:**

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