

.....A GIANT STEP.....

At the Tasmanian Craft Fair 2011

Nine students aged between 6 and 18 and their 5 carers from The Giant Steps School for Children and Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders, have been working with community artists Anne Young and Wendy Thiele over a 3 month period on a quest to create The Giant.

This community arts and health project was instigated as part of Windows On Deloraine at the Tasmanian Craft Fair, to enhance the participating students' creativity, fine motor skills and enjoyment of a new experience. Suitable creative challenges have been found to match student's individual and varying abilities. The Giant and his embellishments are being made with recycled textile materials, much love and care.

"One young man, who is non-vocal, took time to master the elements of weaving. Suddenly, when the penny dropped and with a big laugh he gave a high 5 showing how thrilled he was to be able to do the task" said artist Anne Young. When this was later reported to the Giant Steps Principal Anne Duncan, she was amazed and delighted with the response. Another good outcome with a younger student, who rarely responds positively to physical contact, actually snuggled into the teacher while being instructed in knitting.

"We are making a Giant and embellishing his body with the bits and pieces that the students have made. They will then be able to identify their own "creation" and have a degree of satisfaction and ownership to see it on display. The Giant will step into a window on Emu Bay Road Deloraine during the Tasmanian Craft Fair, 4 to 7th November and a few days either side.

Giant Steps Tasmania is a not for profit, independent, specialist school for children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders. It was the first of its kind to be established in Australia in 1995 by a group of dedicated parents and local community supporters who were committed to ensuring focused and specialised education to suit individualised needs.

For further information please contact:

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