



**MEDIA RELEASE
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ECG ARTISTS INSPIRE

'Inspirations' captures the creative passion and imagination of 17 aspiring local artists whose works are on exhibition at the West Gippsland Arts Centre from the 12th – 26th October.

ECG Tutor Heather Woolcock said the exhibition featured a diversity of subject matter, styles, and techniques in traditional and contemporary paintings, drawings, pastel, photography and digital works. The group, aged from 13 to 70 years of age, are from this year's ECG Art Class and for many this represents their first group exhibition.

"This is the second year the ECG Art Class has conducted an exhibition and the quality and breadth of work is excellent. Last year's inaugural exhibition cemented it as an annual event with many of the students selling their works. It inspired many to continue their art with an added sense of confidence and also resulted in many new enrolments from people who saw the work and were inspired to explore their own artistic side.

"This year we have two classes running and ECG is planning to offer a third class this term to meet student demand."

Heather said she believed there was a growing interest in art from mainstream people - mums and dads, working professionals, singles and retired people wanting to explore their artistic side.

"Many people lead very stressful, busy lives and given the opportunity to view the environment and their world from a creative perspective, they connect with the things they love and the things that are important in a whole new way.

"While some of the artists in the group have been painting for several years, many are new to it. The quality of work they have produced and skills they have developed in a relatively short time is evident in this exhibition."

She said 'Inspirations' captures the group's enthusiasm and celebrates what they have achieved throughout the year.

"They come to class to learn and improve their painting and drawing, to be inspired, to inspire one another, and to develop their own individual styles and subject interests."

The group meet at ECG's Smith Street complex at Warragul weekly and exhibiting artists include: Margaret Bartlett, Dorothy Bennett, Lucy Chapman, Patricia Clynes, Glenys Cox, Kaye Dawson, Connie Geiberras, Martin Hagen, Sue Hall, Sasha Mitchell, Karyn O'Brien, Janne Rowe, Rosa Salsce, Glenda Smith, Cheryl Stevens, Joan Trent and Ashlee Warren.

'Inspirations' is at the Warragul Arts Centre until Monday October 26th 2009.

For more information on the ECG Art Class phone ECG on 5623 6075 or visit:
www.ecg.vic.edu.au

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PHOTO Front from Left: Artists Sasha Mitchell, Brooke Aberdeen, Lucy Chapman, and Ashlee Warren prepare work for ECG Art class exhibition, 'Inspirations.'