



# Wheelie bin movie shows

**Sarah Aitken**

THANKS to a solar-powered wheelie bin people in Tennant Creek will see themselves on the big screen this weekend.

The bin houses a portable solar cinema, part of the Desert Harmony Festival and will show films created during workshops run over the past four years by national arts organisation Beyond Empathy.

Joshua Thomason, a community development worker with Beyond Empathy, said: "As a far as I can see, it's the first time something like this has been done in Australia."

"Cinema brings people together, particularly in a town like Tennant Creek, which doesn't have a cinema."

A recycled truck battery, charged during the day by a solar panel, will power the cinema at night.

Happily, the weather



Braden Ward, Cleveland Stokes, Cameron Noonan, Joshua Thomason, Juvarn Thebus and So You Think You Can Dance choreographer Travers Ross. Picture: Polly Armstrong.

forecast for Tennant Creek this weekend is fine.

The battery, a dvd player, a projector and a small sound system are all housed in a wheelie bin which will be moved to show the films at different spots around town.

Mr Thomason said: "I've spent so much

time in Tennant and with so much sunshine it's silly not to try to harness it".

"There are growing concerns about environmental issues, so we're putting solar in action and showing people its application in fun and creative ways."

Mr Thomason is expecting large crowds at

the various screenings.

"The kids are really excited about it," he said.

"It's daunting but they're extending themselves beyond the shame factor."

"I really want the community to be proud and recognise the talent that exists in the young people in Tennant Creek."

When the Desert Festival finishes Mr Thomason hopes the wheelie bin will stay with Barkly Arts to be used as a fundraising and entertainment tool.

"It's a legacy, it's something we can leave behind after years of workshops," he said.

"It's promoting that environmental message at the same time as giving young people a voice and we hope that it will replicate into other communities."

The first solar cinema show is at Peko Park at sunset on Sunday.