

“Bi-Polarities” - A journey with mental illness

By NICK BENDEL

AN ART exhibition has increased awareness of mental illness and raised money for therapeutic art classes, according to its organiser.

Ned McDowell declared last Thursday's Town and Country Club event a "great success" after it attracted more visitors and sold more paintings than he had expected.

Mr McDowell had expected 100 people, but guessed over 200 attended. He was also surprised to have sold 39 of his 49 artworks.

Mr McDowell said 30 per cent of the money raised by sales would be donated to Beyond Empathy, a not-for-profit group that uses art to enable change in the lives of people affected by mental illness.

He said he had yet to count how much money had been raised.

But art was not the exhibition's main purpose, Mr McDowell said. Rather, it was intended to raise awareness and understanding of mental illness.

Knowledge fostered understanding and negated prejudice, he said.

Mr McDowell said mental illness affected everybody. If people weren't sufferers, they would have a friend or family member who was.

Mr McDowell said he planned to hold another exhibition during 2012 Mental Health Week.

Last week's exhibition also included art from the therapeutic classes that have been running at Fairview Retirement Village for the last seven weeks.

"They loved the Fairview art," Mr McDowell said.

"One person wanted to buy them but at the moment they're not for sale."

Volunteers are always needed for the Fairview art classes. Interested parties should phone Fairview on 6752 9200.

You can view these exhibition photos and many others at www.morechampion.com.au



Ned McDowell



LEFT: Donnella Smith, Glen Crump and Yvonne Rice.

BELOW: Max and Maddy Von-Gavel enjoy looking at the artworks.



Coming events

Are you planning a social or community event? Make sure you tell the *Champion* about it - phone the editor, Cady Andersen on 6750 6600 or