



## Engaging with the Community

*The Interlink program provides planned activities for adults with intellectual disabilities. The program is run by Ranges Community Health Services and held at Kallista Community House.*

The program aims to provide an opportunity for participants to interact and develop their individual physical, emotional, social and intellectual potential and further their independence. It is also an opportunity to engage with the Community.

We provide a varied program but as our clients are particularly good at Art & Craft we do lots of art projects and gain great ideas from our school holiday trips to Zart Art and our visits to the Zart Art Student gallery.

Last year we became aware of the Hills Community Gardens in Cockatoo and the Sensory garden they were planning and we were invited to decorate eight bollards which would form the entrance to their new sensory garden.

Casey Cardinia Community Health are involved with the Community Gardens and provided us with coordination and support throughout the project. The Community Gardens committee provided the treated pine bollards and some of the paint and had

them delivered to us at Kallista Community house.

For the design we used the animals from the "Arty Animal Outlines" book which we purchased from Zart. We added a river, mountains, tree ferns and gum trees to reflect the wildlife and landscape in the hills. The colours were chosen out of the leftover outdoor paint which people donated for the project and highlighted by a few bright colours which we purchased.

We undercoated them in white fence paint and left the bottom third blank as this part would end up in the ground. Then we drew the design on using a fine point marker pen.

The eight bollards were laid out on tables so that each client was able to choose a section to paint without having to lean too far over them. As the pattern on the bollards matched, some parts of the background were easier to do as paint by numbers. Some of the colours were mixed and then labelled to indicate where they were used i.e. Mountain green, grass green etc.

Originally we had decided to do a similar design on the back including a rainbow but as the front took so long to do we decided to do something simpler on the back. We kept the rainbow then did a hand outline for each

client to decorate themselves and used an alphabet stencil so we could include all the names of those who contributed to the artwork.

As Graffiti paint is necessary and expensive to buy, the Community Gardens committee purchased the paint and painted them for us.

The installation was undertaken by volunteers from the Green Corp program.

On Wednesday the 29th of June 2011 the Community Gardens hosted a thank you lunch for our group and it was exciting for our clients to see their hard work in situ.

*Angela Ferguson*

**Ranges Community Health Service**

