

Sculpture inspires art program

IN a bid to encourage children to explore their creative talents, Beveridge Primary School students have been taking part in a unique sculptural art program sponsored by the major 'Mandalay at Beveridge' residential development.

Chosen for their enthusiasm for the arts, nine students from grades five and six are creating their own ceramic masterpieces to the theme 'My favourite thing about Beveridge'.

The art project runs for six weeks, and to kick-start the process the students were treated to an up close and personal talk from artist/sculptor James Parrett when the unveiling of the striking 'Swerve' sculpture was unveiled at the approach to the Mandalay development last month.

Principal Steven Fernando said he could see the students responding to the project immediately, and they couldn't wait to begin sculpting their designs.

"It's so important for students to have a well rounded education with influences from all different disciplines, so witnessing the students create their own ceramic sculptures and knowing they will be able to display their works to the public is a fantastic confidence boost for the children - they feel so proud," Mr Fernando said.

After completing their very own urban art forms, the sculptures will be displayed in the Mandalay sales centre before being donated to Mitchell Shire Council mayor, Bill Melbourne.



Drawing plans: Beveridge Primary school student Cory Johns enjoyed drawing plans for several sculpture works.

The school will also receive a donation from Mandalay towards new art supplies in the hope of continuing to build on the school's art resources for future projects.

"As a small school we need to work harder to provide our students with a well rounded curriculum which exposes them to the various facets of the arts.

"So this sponsored program from Mandalay has been a wonderful opportunity for our students that have shown a flair for art, to enjoy greater exposure not only to practical art but to artists at the art world as a whole," Mr Fernando said.

He said the children have been inspired to learn more about art, and he was sure that the new art supplies

will go a long way towards creating more projects like the current one to help further the students' education.

Mr Fernando said educational programs are an important building block for students and seeing the Beveridge youngsters actively link art within their community with the work by James Parrett was a valuable learning process for them.

"It's great that the students can draw inspiration from the community around them and create a piece of art that reflects their own town and influences.

"Beveridge itself is a close community so I am delighted that the art program can reflect that culture," he said.

Mandalay project developer, Rod Binedell, hopes that community programs such as the sculpture project will continue to flourish in the years to come.

"Mandalay is committed to fostering community relations with Beveridge in the coming years.

"We understand the importance of neighbourhood unity so we will endeavour to keep on facilitating learning and growth within the local primary school and beyond in the future."

The art project concludes at the end of this month and the students' works will be displayed in the Mandalay sales office throughout July.