

Celebrating YOU

Headway December Memories

Art, laughter, and festive cheer with our amazing community!

Art & Talent Expo 2025 “Creativity Unfolded”

On Wednesday 3 December, Headway Gippsland proudly hosted its second Art & Talent Expo at the Life Skills Victoria Community Hub in Moe, celebrating the International Day of People with Disability in a vibrant and meaningful way.

The Expo is all about inclusion, creativity, and shining a light on the incredible talents people with disability bring to our community. This year's event was made possible with the support of a Latrobe City Council grant, and we are sincerely grateful for their contribution in helping bring this celebration to life.

The day could not have been more perfect – sunny, warm, and comfortable, creating an inviting atmosphere for the community to gather. As visitors arrived, the space quickly filled with colour, movement, and cheerful conversations.

Outside, the air was alive with music and applause. **The Overcoming Obstacles Dance Crew** brought incredible energy to the stage, drawing smiles, cheers, and crowd participation as their joyful performances unfolded. Musicians **Ned Bracchi, Philip Chalker, Bill Carter and his band,** and **Dean Coffey** added to the vibrant atmosphere, while **Lynne McIntyre** captivated the audience with a powerful demonstration of Filipino Martial Arts. Her performance carried extra meaning after proudly winning three gold medals in the Philippines in 2024.

Inside the hall, creativity was everywhere. Stalls were buzzing with conversation as artists proudly shared the stories behind their work – from candles, gift cards, Christmas trees, resin boards, bracelets, and CDs, to stunning animation, breathtaking photography, and intricate metalwork. What made the space even more special was the sense of connection – artists not only welcomed visitors but also wandered through the hall themselves, admiring and celebrating each other's creations. It was a true reflection of community coming together.

For two young animators, the Expo marked a very special first. Their mother shared:

"I'm so happy the boys were given a space to showcase their animation. They've never exhibited before, and it was really special for them to show people what they love to do. They loved the experience, and we would absolutely love to be part of the Expo again."

Many visitors were lucky enough to go home with a unique artwork or handmade piece — a reminder of the passion and creativity shared throughout the day.

With such an uplifting atmosphere and an outpouring of talent, Headway Gippsland is excited to continue growing the Art & Talent Expo as an annual event. Held in line with the International Day of People with Disability, it offers a meaningful opportunity to come together, celebrate diversity, and share in the joy of creativity, talent, and community.



Christmas Lunch 2025 A Celebration of Community

Held on Thursday 4 December, our **Christmas Lunch** was a truly joyful celebration, bringing together participants, carers, staff, and volunteers to mark the festive season together. Hosted at the Morwell RSL, the day began with a warm welcome, beautifully decorated surroundings, and a room filled with laughter, conversation, and Christmas cheer.

One of the most anticipated moments of the day was the much-loved Christmas hamper draws. Thanks to the generosity of our wonderful local businesses, the room buzzed with excitement as names were called, smiles spread across faces, and festive surprises were shared. These moments of joy were a reminder of how fortunate we are to be supported by such a caring local community.

We would like to sincerely thank the following businesses for their generous donations and continued support:

Dear Delilah Florist

Su Massage

Peninsula Cinema

Divine Nails & Spa

Morwell Newsagency

Yoyo's Cafe

Evolution By Ebony

Lilly Pilly Flower Boutique

Their kindness helped make the day extra special and truly embodied the spirit of giving. 🎄🌟



The celebration also provided a meaningful opportunity to recognise the dedication and commitment of our incredible team through staff and volunteer service awards.

★ **Lyndon Bate** was the standout of the day, celebrating an incredible 20 years of service with Headway. In a speech that was graceful, humble, and deeply moving, Lyndon shared a story from the very beginning of his career – about a participant he supported who, years later, was able to clearly express the profound impact Lyndon had made on his life. It was a powerful reminder of why our work matters and the lasting difference it creates.

🎉 **Pat Moutafis** was delightfully surprised to discover she had reached 15 years of service, a perfect example of how time truly does fly when you love what you do.

🌟 Our CEO, **Jenelle Henry**, was proudly presented with her 10-year service certificate by Chair of the Board, Phil Drummond, marking another wonderful milestone in her leadership journey.

We also celebrated many other valued team members and volunteers whose contributions help make Headway the supportive and welcoming organisation it is today.

Service & Volunteer Awards

- 20 Years of Service: Lyndon Bate
- 15 Years of Service: Pat Moutafis
- 10 Years of Service: Jenelle Henry
- 5 Years of Service: Wendy Matthews, Paul Brew, Vannessa Estigarribia, Shelly Hocken, Victoria Kee, Andrea McVicar, Lora Moulton, Tarryn Ritchie
- Volunteer Recognition: Sue Box, Judith Hall



Thank you for being part of Headway.

This year has been filled with creativity, connection, and community – and it wouldn't be the same without you.

We look forward to sharing more experiences, friendships, and fun together in 2026.



If you'd like to get in touch or learn more about our services, our team is always happy to help.

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