



Local wins city exhibition prize

■ Prestigious state art award goes to Martin Howell

By **PAM ZIERK-MAHONEY**

ONCE again Mansfield has shown it has talent among its young residents.

Martin Howell has won a first time prestigious art award through the State Trustees' Connected 11 art exhibition in Melbourne.

The \$500 acquisition prize was this year introduced and sponsored by the Office of Public Advocate.

Martin was one of two local artists to have a piece of art accepted from

a range of paintings and works produced through the classes at the Yooralla Centre (formerly Central Access).

He described his painting - 'Sight Seeing' - as a beach scene with beach houses, people and flags.

An excited Martin said last week it was fantastic that he had been chosen to win this award.

"When we visited the exhibition last week it was exciting and really good to see all of the works," Martin said.

"I am hoping to enter another piece of artwork again next year."

The other Mansfield artist to have a piece accepted for this year's Connected 11 was Jordan Weaver.

However, it was Martin's painting on fabric that won the award.

"The exhibition finished on Sunday and we are now waiting to see if either Martin or Jordan have won a people's choice award as well," Yooralla community connections officer Leanne Robson said.

The annual Connected exhibition is a highly celebrated art show and art prize open to new and

emerging Victorian artists with a disability or an experience of mental illness.

When Connected first began in 2003, 22 artists were featured.

Since then the exhibition has grown steadily with Connected 11 featuring more than 140 works selected from 610 entries including paintings, photographs, ceramics, 3D work, animation and poetry.

The pieces selected for exhibition are chosen on their artistic merits - not on the artist's personal circumstances.



ADVANCING ARTIST: Mansfield artist Martin Howell with a piece of his lino cut work - but has won a prestigious art award for another of his works.