

# creative times

## Brightening the world with murals

GENTLE hands carried three murals through the corridors of Chatham High School to the back of a truck. The journey of hundreds of metres is the first leg of transportation that will take the artworks to their final hanging place in The Great Room.

The Great Room is located within Valley Industries in Elizabeth Avenue, Taree. It is a place of community with one big, blank wall, according to Valley Industries deputy chief executive officer, Tracey Tattersall.

"It is a communal area that needed something bright and beautiful," Mrs Tattersall said.

And so staff discussions began regarding how to best dress the space and according to Mrs Tattersall, it was then that Valley Industries support worker, Sue Payton, presented the idea to contact Chatham High School and commission them to create a mural.

Mrs Tattersall said Valley Industries presented the school's visual arts and photography teacher, Rebecca Humphreys with the theme of the sea and the request that the art be colourful,



**Above: The students hard at work, and right, Michelle Pellew, Rebecca Humphreys, Mark Jefferies, Trent Jennison and Damien Hering with the art works prior to their placement in the Great Room at Valley Industries' Elizabeth Avenue premises.**

bright and calming.

The school embraced the project and work began.

More than 50 Chatham High School year eight students worked on a rotation schedule to create the murals. There is the large vertical mural measuring six metres by three metres and two horizontal murals measuring three metres by one-and-a-half metres.

Based on the Valley Industries brief, Mrs Humphreys said the murals represent the students' study of the sea and styles of Australian artists, Ken Done AM and JoAnne Hook.

Ken Done is known for his design work which features simple, brightly coloured images of Australian landmarks. His art has also adorned a very popular range

of clothing and homewares that are sold under the "Done Design" brand.

JoAnne Hook is an award winning artist whose work reflects a love of colour, pattern and design. She is inspired by the lush surrounds of reef and rainforest and her unique style has secured her numerous commissions from various international hotels,

Australian Airlines, and international companies, such as IBM Japan.

Mrs Humphreys said the students were directed to seek inspiration from the artistic style of the two artists and she is happy to say that the result is something that is "bright and beautiful".