

Sullivan were ecstatic when they discovered they'd been nominated for ArtExpress.

The two McAuley Catholic College Higher School Certificate students had spent most of the year working long hours to make sure their artworks were the best they could be.

"I was so, so excited," Grace recalled when she found out about her nomination.

"I was screaming when I saw it on the computer, I honestly didn't think I had a chance.

morning really paid off, it's the best feeling."

Ruby added that she'd been incredibly excited about the opportunity too.

"I was really surprised because there are so many students in the state," she said.

Ruby's artwork, Look My Way, centred around Australia's first inhabitants and the history of Australia.

"It just shined the light on what had happened in the past, like the stolen generation and the referendum," she said.

impacted her.

"I've just been shocked about what has happened," she said.

For Grace, there was a single moment in her life that changed everything.

"My grandmother had an accident after my 16th birthday and that really changed my life and it brought me to realise that I should really enjoy life and don't worry about the bad things, and that's where I found my passion for art," she said.

It was this experience,

Grace.  
"It is about my journey through school, the challenges I endured, it's a bit chaotic," Grace said.  
The whole process of creating A State of Grace, a way to let go of some of the more difficult things in her past.  
"I was letting it all out, it was my final goodbye to all these memories and bring in this new aspect of life as my passion for art," she said.  
Now it's all about waiting the 18-year-old.

## Social inclusion night is huge hit

GRAFTON Showground was bustling with people eager to enjoy the Social Inclusion Markets and Twilight Cinema.

Organiser Jason Kingsley said the Friday night event had been a great success.

"It's the second time we've run the event. We ran it last time as a daytime event and we had about 23 stall holders but this year we got 50," he said.

"We had over 1000 people through the gates in the last hour and then after the markets we had a free outdoor cinema."

Mr Kingsley said the event celebrated Social Inclusion Week and International Day of Persons with Disability.

"It's to embrace social



**EFFORTS RECOGNISED:** Sandra Lewry from The Jungle Gym Cafe with Liz Gardiner from CV Forward Steps. PHOTO: CAITLAN CHARLES

inclusion and to encourage communities to reconnect," he said.

As part of the event, CV Forward Steps presented an business award recognising

those who cater for people with disabilities, special needs and/or medical conditions.

The award was presented to Sandra Lewry from The Jungle Gym Cafe.

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