

MEDIA RELEASE



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Best friends star in photo exhibition

Tony Town, 46, loves his fox terrier called Rocky. “He is my best friend. Every morning he barks to wake me up and then he licks my face”.

The two friends will feature in a photographic exhibition alongside 19 other Toowoomba residents as part of a special initiative by YellowBridge QLD.

The large, black and white portraits will be officially unveiled during a special event on 12 September to mark the start of National Disability Action Week and celebrate the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Each portrait is accompanied by a candid profile that shares an insight into the hopes, dreams and interests of each person.

The exhibition theme ‘My Bright Way’ was created by YellowBridge to welcome the NDIS and what it will mean for its clients living with a disability.

Coral Smith, 34, is proud to be part of the exhibition and enjoyed the experience of having a professional photographer take her photo in a real studio.

“I work at the op shop Collectables two days a week and that makes me very happy,” she said. “My job is to clean the shop, sweep the floor, look after the money and help people. I don’t feel nervous while I’m working, just good”.

Everyone featured in the exhibition has at least two things in common. They have a disability and they have goals they want to achieve.

YellowBridge hopes this exhibition will help the wider community to recognise that people with a disability have dreams and aspirations just like them.

Guest speaker Huy Nguyen is certain to inspire guests further when he shares his story about becoming a humanitarian engineer, social entrepreneur and traveller.

Despite contracting polio at 18 months, Mr Nguyen has worked throughout Australia and Asia helping people with a disability. He has won numerous awards including ACT Young Australian of the Year, Australian Disability Award and the Australian National University Young Alumnus of the Year.

The event is free but bookings are essential. For more information visit www.yellowbridgeqld.com.au or go to the YellowBridge Facebook page.

When Tony is asked what his goals are in life he does not hesitate. “One day I would like to travel,” he said. “But only if I can take Rocky.”

MEDIA CONTACT: Heather Smith, 0403 462 686, heather@wishbone.com.au

YellowBridge QLD is a local, independent, not-for-profit organisation that provides housing, disability support and home services across the Darling Downs.