

In honour of International Day of People with Disability, the Belonging in Geelong Peer Action Group (BIGPAG) wanted to promote inclusion and to raise awareness of people living with various disabilities in their local community.

An iconic feature of the City of Geelong are their bollards or statues carved from large poles and placed around the Geelong foreshore area. Each bollard depicts people who have made a contribution to the city over time. Members of the Peer Action Group noticed that the bollards in Geelong, whilst inclusive of gender and race, didn't include people with a disability. Members wanted to make sure people with disability were included and thought this was a great way to become visible in the Geelong Community.

With the support of VALID Community Development Worker, Kylie Fisher, the BIGPAG approached ArtGusto, an already established artistic space for people with disability. ArtGusto was happy to get involved along with year nine students from Geelong Baptist College.

The three groups worked together creating bollards with varying abilities, some visible and others not so visible. Fast friendships were formed throughout the months spent building the bollards and the groups plan on working together again in the near future. Students involved in the project also learned first hand about the diverse nature of lived experience of disability.

The bollards were unveiled at an event for International Day of People with a Disability. People from the Geelong community attended the event and were impressed with the final products. The bollards are transferable, ensuring that the BIGPAG will be raising disability awareness in other communities and bookings inviting them for events are rolling in.

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