



Sunbury Community Health's Chris Koulos and Play Connect group member Shantelle Grant with Maddi, Elli and Harvey. (Supplied)

Inspiration out of the blue

The amazing things people with autism can accomplish are being put firmly in focus as part of Autism Awareness Month events in Sunbury and the Macedon Ranges.

Four weeks of activities designed to promote understanding began with a "blue tie" event, including the unveiling of the I CAN Capture Blue photo exhibition, at Woodend's Colenso café last Thursday.

Blue is the worldwide colour for autism spectrum disorder (ASD), a condition characterised by difficulty in communicating, forming relationships, using language and understanding abstract concepts.

Macedon Ranges Central Victorian Autism Network and Sunbury Play Connect member Shantelle Grant says the "uplifting" exhibition

features photos celebrating what people with autism can do, rather than a focus on the things they might struggle with.

A family barbecue was held at Kyneton's Mechanics Reserve on Saturday. Other events will include an autism expo at Romsey Community Hub from 9am-5pm on April 16, the screening of a documentary on specialist schooling at Barringo in New Gisborne from 6pm on April 21 and a family day at Sunbury's Village Green from 11.30am-2pm on April 30.

Sunbury Community Health is also hosting free workshops for parents of young children with ASD, outlining strategies for language development, play skills and positive behaviour support, from 6.30pm on April 7, 21 and 28. Details: 9744 4455