



Art sale boosts project

COLLECTING fine art is not always a personal indulgence.

Pick up your favourite oil or watercolour canvas at an exhibition at the University of Western Sydney and help African refugees get a proper schooling in the process.

Students at UWS have organised an exhibition and sale on Friday, June 8 entitled Art for Refugees, in aid of refugees living in Australia who struggle at school.

The night, held at the university's Parramatta campus, promises a mix of great works donated by Sydney artists, with entertainment by an African drummer group.

Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation project officer, Eric Brace, said children arriving in Australia sometimes struggled to integrate in class.

"Putting oneself in the shoes of a young

person who has spent over 10 years in a refugee camp and then have to confront Australian schooling is a fairly daunting proposition," he said.

Mr Brace singled out refugees from Blacktown's Sudanese community.

UWS students will be trained to conduct skilled tutorials with students from Years 7 to 11 in the hope of bringing them up to speed with the education system.

A community liaison officer, funded through the university, will help encourage schools to participate.

The exhibition, at the Sir Ian Turbott Auditorium, cnr of James Ruse Drive and Victoria Rd, Rydalmere, starts at 6pm. Tickets are \$15, including wine and canapés. Pay online at <http://ipay.uws.edu.au/pgrp-show.asp>.

All proceeds go directly to aid refugee initiatives in Australia.



Blacktown's growing Sudanese refugee community is just one group to benefit from Art for Refugees exhibition and sale.