

Tuesday, 8 June 2010

Page: 10 News CK1

Circulation: 84,390

Area of Clip: 149.56 sqcm

Clip ID: 1056419937

Region: Vic Suburban



Drawing on the precious gift of life

People | Emma Schmidt

LIFE is short, says 18-year-old Melina Karina. At 13, Melina was diagnosed with leukaemia.

Despite losing her beautiful black hair, not once but twice, permanently losing part of her hearing, and enduring an operation and months of chemotherapy, the bright Glen Eira College student knows how precious life is.

"I'm glad I became sick because it has changed my life," Melina

said.

"Life is very precious – now I don't take it for granted."

The Chadstone girl was hard at work last week completing her final year 12 folios in visual communication and design studio arts, dedicated to her cancer experience, with self-portraits and explorations of her thoughts and feelings during her illness.

"Saying things through words is difficult, but painting and photos is better," Melina said.

"I want to do art therapy (at university) because I have known art therapists at the Royal Children's, and I want to work there, too."

To help Melina achieve her dream of becoming an art therapist, cancer support charity Redkite awarded her a Dare to Dream Scholarship.

Melina used the money to buy a camera to help with her folio.

Details: redkite.org.au



Melina Karina's studio arts folio is dedicated to her cancer experience.

Picture: CARMELO BAZZANO. N49WG502