

COMMUNITY

# Trail will show off young artists' work

BY NICHOLAS BOYACK

It was a case of thumbs up for some budding artists last week. Petone-based Thumbs Up, which provides training for young people with intellectual disabilities, has created an art trail.

Manager Laura Vonk says art provides her clients with a way to express themselves.

"A lot of our people are non-verbal and are unable to express themselves that well.

"Being able to express themselves through art is a good way of getting their voice heard."

An artist, Joanna Eikenbroek, worked with the group and some of their art skills improved quite significantly.

Having the trail in businesses on Jackson St is a good way of raising awareness about Thumbs Up in their local community, Vonk says.

One of the artists was Brian Mills, who clearly enjoyed paint-



Melisa McAdam, Brian Mills and far right Meryn Green inspect a tactile map of Petone built by members of Eastbourne Menz Shed.



Thumbs Up artists Jessica Gerrard and Brian Mills. Brian's painting of the sun and moon is directly behind him. The work of Thumbs Up artists is on display in a number of Jackson St businesses.

ing. He is interested in the moon and sun and captured both in his painting.

Thumbs Up was also presented with a tactile map of Petone built by the Eastbourne Menz Shed.

Vonk says it will enable blind

clients to use touch to to help them understand what Petone looks like.

The art work on the Petone trail is in the Girl Guides shop, Farmers flooring, TV's, Vibrant, Caffend, Endless Love, Bin Inn, Yahzoo and the Dutch Shop.