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Artist with nowhere to go

Poor Sandy is the pride
of Darling, and painting
is his life: But who will
help him to really learn?

by KAREN STANDER
Weekend Argus Reporter

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A POVERTY-stricken Boland community is determined to send a teenager with unusual artistic talent to art school in Cape Town.

Sandy Esau's artistic talent is the pride of the desperately poor Darling community where unemployment is a major problem.

His proud mother, Mrs Maria Esau, is determined that her son should use the talent he inherited from his father, who died when Sandy was a young boy — but the family is struggling to survive themselves.

With six children still in the home and only one with a job, the family ekes out an existence in a tiny two-roomed house and every month is a nightmare.

"If I pay the rent then there isn't any money for the water," Mrs Esau said this week.

Sandy, 18, is only interested in his art. He spends all day long painstakingly drawing and painting with equipment provided by the local school, Vooruitsig Primary. His brushes are worn and the only paint he can get is powder paint.

His paintings adorn the walls of the school's foyer and a large painting of a lion has pride of place behind the desk of the principal, Mr August J Engelbrecht.

Mr Engelbrecht said Sandy was very dedicated to his art and would grasp any opportunity offered for him to study further.

Sandy was in Std 7 at the school until recently, but he decided that he was wasting his time.

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