



Drummer Andrew Hewitt shows his style to an enthusiastic workshop group

## Music with a purpose

by Nick Patrick

**A**ndrew Hewitt has been playing drums for years and now the 34-year-old has decided to pass on some of what he has learnt to others.

With help from the Spastic Centre of NSW, Mr Hewitt recently presented a hands-on drums and percussion workshop for kids who, like him, have Cerebral Palsy.

The workshop attracted around 35 participants and was considered a huge success.

'The most rewarding part was the smiles on the kids' faces,' Mr Hewitt said. 'I learnt a bit from the workshop to improve it for next time... the kids' reaction was much better than I expected.'

Mr Hewitt has been doing the rounds in various bands since his first professional gig in Tasmania in 1989.

'My outlook on life is that life is too short to sit around and do nothing,' he said.

'Being born with a physical disability has helped me thrive to exceed all barriers placed before

me. Just because I have a disability, doesn't mean I have to stop functioning in life.'

Mr Hewitt has just been included in April's issue of *Modern Drummer Magazine* – one of the top selling drum magazines in the world.

'This is a huge achievement, as not too many Australians get into *Modern Drummer*,' he said.

One of his biggest inspirations is Rick Allen, the drummer for American rock group Def Leppard. Mr Allen runs an organisation called Raven Drum Foundation, providing drum workshops across the US. Adding to what is proving to be an exciting time for Mr Hewitt is the announcement that he has been made Raven's 'Spirit of the Month'.

The workshop is part of a new dedication to his music. Mr Hewitt worked for 14 years in IT but has discarded the day-in, day-out grind in front of a computer screen. He has thrown himself fully into drumming, doing a little web-design work when he can fit it in.

'I'm going to try and get some government funding so I can do some more similar workshops at other schools,' he said.

'I would find doing that much more rewarding than working with a computer anyway.' ☑

For further information:  
[www.drummerstix.com.au](http://www.drummerstix.com.au)

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