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MEDIA RELEASE

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Ryan can't drive... but he sure can beat box

14-year-old Ryan Bayley of Hervey Bay is a gregarious teenager on the cusp of super stardom, thanks to his extraordinary beat boxing abilities.

He also has Spinal Muscular Atrophy, a rare disease that attacks the nerves and weakens the muscles of the spinal cord.

Ryan will be showcasing his skills at the MontroseAccess 75th anniversary Charity Gala Dinner on 23 October at Royal on the Park, Brisbane. Ryan has been a client of MontroseAccess, which provides therapy, respite and recreation for children and young adults with physical disabilities, since he was eight years old.

"We're thrilled to have Ryan perform at our upcoming Gala Dinner," said Chief Executive Officer Darrel Bourke. "We're about focusing on ability – not disability – and Ryan is a terrific ambassador for our services. Plus he's extremely talented."

Ryan took up beat boxing several years ago after seeing it on TV, and has since performed on stage with Australia's most successful beat boxer, Joel Turner. "My voice is one instrument I can play that isn't affected by my disability," he said.

Attached image:

14-year-old Ryan Bayley tries out the latest model from Lamborghini Brisbane, which will be the centrepiece of the MontroseAccess Charity Gala Dinner on 23 October. He's closely watched by Greg Norman's mentor and MontroseAccess supporter, Mr Charlie Earp.

Interview opportunities:

Interviews are available upon request with the Bayley family and MontroseAccess CEO Darrel Bourke.

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Background information:

MontroseAccess (The Queensland Society for Crippled Children) has been providing therapy, respite and recreation services to children and young adults with physical disabilities and their families for 75 years.

MontroseAccess is an independent not-for-profit organisation without political or religious affiliation. Funding is obtained through Government grants and fundraising activities, so we rely on community support to continue our work.

Our clients age from babies to young adults, and have physically disabling conditions of varying severity. The most prevalent conditions we support include:

- Neuromuscular conditions
- Juvenile Arthritis
- Acquired Brain Injury
- Arthrogryposis
- Congenital and Acquired Bone and Joint Conditions.

MontroseAccess is unique in that we also provide support to clients with rare or undiagnosed conditions. For many of these families, we are the only source of assistance and support.

Charity Gala Dinner

The MontroseAccess 'Diamonds & Ice' Charity Gala Dinner is in celebration of our 75th anniversary, and is on Thursday 23 October at Royal on the Park, Brisbane. Guests will be given the opportunity to bid for the 'ride of a lifetime' in a Lamborghini; a weekend at Palazzo Versace on the Gold Coast; and a 0.49 carat classic diamond necklace from Hardy Brothers Jewellers.

Entertainment will be provided by the Swingin' Martinis and beat boxer Ryan Bayley.

The event aims to raise \$20,000 to continue providing essential support to young Queenslanders with disabilities.