



## **MEDIA RELEASE: THURSDAY, 9 NOVEMBER, 2017**

### **Access All Areas Film Festival coming to Euroa Community Cinema**

One in five people are living with a disability.

December 3 marks the 10th International Day of People with a Disability and this year's theme is to 'leave no one behind' and empowers people with a disability to be active contributors to society.

Strathbogie Shire Council invites you to celebrate International Day of People with a Disability with an Access All Areas Film Festival screening at the Euroa Community Cinema on Wednesday 29 November at 2pm.

The film festival is an accessible program of quality short films that reflect the lived experiences of people with a disability.

Screenings are running in cinemas across Australia from November 2017 to April 2018 to celebrate the day.

The film is free and will be featured in an accessible format, which could include features such as open captions, audio descriptions and sensory screening kits.

If you wish to attend, please RSVP and provide details of your accessibility needs to Council on 1800 065 993 or email [info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au), as this will help determine the accessible features included in the screening.

There will also be a children's program at 11am, which local primary schools in the region have been invited to attend.

The children's program includes 10 films made by children and some will reflect the lived experience of children with a disability.

The Bardic Studio are the organisers of the festival, since taking over from The Festivalists last year, and are determined that everyone should be included in the representation of Australian society on our cinema screens.

Participation in the festival has been coordinated by Strathbogie Access & Disability Advisory Committee.

The committee works in partnership with the community and Council towards acknowledging and valuing all people, with or without a disability.

Strathbogie Shire Council Mayor Amanda McClaren said the film festival screening is a great opportunity for communities to have an impact on broader social issues.

“These screenings are about giving a voice to people living with a disability and promoting consideration for their needs,” she said.

“Removing barriers to access is crucial to ensuring people feel welcome and included in our communities.”

The Euroa Community Cinema is having a fantastic year so far, having had over 4200 people through the doors.

With support from Council staff, the cinema’s 22 volunteers have coordinated the projection, ticket sales and kiosk for 102 screenings this year.

**-ENDS-**

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