



**MEDIA RELEASE: TUESDAY, 10 JULY, 2018**

**Great turnout for Sensory Friendly Screening at Euroa Community Cinema**

Over 50 people attended the Euroa Community Cinema recently for a Sensory Friendly Screening of *Duck Duck Goose* [PG].

Sensory Friendly Films create a more relaxed environment where children can get up and move around, and where the lights will be turned up and the sound turned down.

This is part of Council's efforts to remove barriers faced by families living with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and other sensory needs when attending general screenings.

Cinema volunteer Brendan Paterson said the Sensory Friendly Screenings are a fantastic opportunity for those with an ASD to more comfortably enjoy social and recreational opportunities.

"As a dad of a 14-year old with autism and previously a teacher in a school set up solely for students with autism, I have become very aware of how limited social and recreational opportunities can be for children with autism, and especially those in which they can take part in alongside peers without autism," Mr Paterson explained.

Mr Paterson said the Euroa Community Cinema has the advantages of being relatively quiet and very easy to access and facilities such as the kiosk and toilets that are also very accessible.

"We have volunteers on hand who are easily accessible during a screening to offer help where needed and even customise the sound, lighting and heating levels to suit requests," he said.

"\$10 for a movie ticket is also very affordable; Many families with a child with an ASD have significant and ongoing costs relating to their child's care, and often one parent may need to give up work and an income to care for their child."

Mayor Amanda McClaren said it is fantastic to see the Euroa Community Cinema provide great opportunities for all children, particularly during school holidays.

"We have an amazing group of volunteers who give so much to the facility and we appreciate all that they do," Mayor McClaren said.

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