

March 14<sup>th</sup> 2017

## Young adults with disability teach the art of music to kindergarteners

Five members of local band, The Sugar Bells will get the three and four year olds of Buninyong Kindergarten singing, dancing and strumming their heart out to their favourite instruments when they run a private music session at the kindergarten.

The Sugar Bells is made up of young adults living with a range of physical and intellectual disabilities, supported by disability provider Scope.

On the set list of songs that will be taught to the preschoolers include hit songs from The Sugar Bells' favourite artist Elvis Pressley, and the band's own self-penned songs.

Scope General Manager Anne Cox said the organisation aims to create opportunities for the people with a disability to participate in and be included in the community.

'The Sugar Bells initially began when Scope ran music sessions at our Bakery Hill Lifestyle Options introducing music and learning to play instruments. Initially, everyone was quite shy and timid about performing in front of each other,' said Ms. Cox.

'This has now completely transformed. After a year and a half, the young adults have formed their own band, The Sugar Bells and perform at statewide events with 1200 people in attendance. The development and growth in their self-confidence is truly fantastic.'

'Teaching the music class is a fantastic opportunity for the people we support to be included and leading volunteering efforts in the Ballarat community.

The music class also shows the kindergarteners that people with disability are leaders within the community and that people with disability can be included in all aspects of society.'

The Sugar Bells' singer and percussionist Alan Drinkall, 21 said the session provided him a wonderful opportunity to give back to the community.

'Playing music brings me a lot of happiness and I want to share how amazing music is. Volunteering to teach the preschoolers provides a great opportunity to share this love to the next generation,' said Alan.

**When:** 30<sup>th</sup> March 2017 between 10am to 11am.

**Where:** Buninyong Kindergarten, 208 Learmonth St, Buninyong, Victoria , 3357

**Filming opportunities:**

- Young adults with disability teaching three and four year olds singing and playing a wide variety of musical instruments (drums, maracas, guitars etc.)
- Interview opportunities with Alan Drinkall, the kindergarteners and Scope's General Manager Anne Cox.

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### About Scope

Scope's mission is to enable each person to live as an empowered and equal citizen.

# MEDIA RELEASE



We support people with physical, intellectual and multiple disabilities and developmental delays to achieve their goals.

Across Victoria, Scope provides services to over 6,000 people with a disability across more than 100 service locations.

Scope also works with corporate and community organisations to improve inclusiveness for people with a disability.

Scope's foundations stretch back to 1948, when a group of parents who wanted better lives and options for their children with disabilities established the Spastic Children's Society of Victoria.

Scope acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government.

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