

Hocus Focus film making magic

SWAN HILL has its very own collection of movie makers and if the cards fall in their favour they could be jet setting to Hollywood.

Hocus Focus Media (HFM) is a local film making group made up of seven young adults with intellectual disability, who share a love of filmmaking and performance.

As part of the curriculum, students were required to participate in planning, writing, acting and filming a five-minute short film that was entered into the national NOVA Focus On Ability film contest.

The movie was shot earlier this year at the Pioneer Settlement and according to HFM founder Meagan McGregor, the students have amazed her with their commitment and ability when it comes to all aspects of filmmaking.

"About 18 months ago I was approached by Jeanette young about starting up a filmmaking class," she said.

"Jeanette came with extensive experience in the field of disability and is a talented performer and I'd always admired her work so I was keen to find out more.

"I was initially nervous about what to expect from the students and just how much they would be able to absorb the concepts.

"But I was literally blown away by their talent, their eagerness to learn and their ability to not only pick up new concepts but actually expand upon them in ways that I would never have thought about myself."

The group is funded by Pioneer Advantage Inc, a local trust provided by parents of the students.

Through projects, the group is directed in filmmaking processes by Mrs McGregor, while Jeanette Young focuses on the on screen performances.

They are provided with their own video cameras so they can keep honing their skills outside of class times.

Ms Young said the two day



Hocus Focus Media group members are thrilled to be announced finalists in a national film making contest. **Pictured Top row:** Carl Goodbody, Kye King and Jono Wright. **Middle row:** Destiny Ward, Harry Gorman, Elyse Sherman and Jeanette Young (teacher) **Front row:** Meagan McGregor (teacher) and Ashleigh Martin.

film shoot took place in March on the worst day of the year the region had experienced weather-wise.

"We had everyone dressed up in period costumes and the heat was really bad," she said.

"Then the wind came and it was hot and dusty but the guys were completely professional and continued on.

"The fact they were able to complete the film is a credit to them."

Kye King is one of the film making group members and he said he was amazed when he heard the news that the film had been selected as a finalist.

"I was so happy because we worked really hard and I was amazed to think that it was considered good enough to be a finalist," he said.

"The whole filming process was enjoyable but you spend a lot of time waiting around in costume and that can be hard but you start to expect that - it's just part of it.

"It will be amazing to be recognised for doing so well and it's very satisfying really.

"I would ask that all of Swan Hill community get behind us and wish us luck."

The film is called Different But The Same and the film crew is asking for the sup-

port of the community to vote online.

"There are two major prizes in our category," Mrs McGregor said.

"One is the judges choice which awards an opportunity to a student to study in Los Angeles, but the other is voted by the public.

"First prize for most online votes is \$10,000 and that would just mean so much to our budget conscious group.

"We are asking everyone to take a look at our film and if they like it we hope they will take the time to cast a vote."

The film also stars Mitchell Blaine, 12, who plays the part of Billy Lid, the catalyst for the film's plot.

"We are so thankful for the support we received in making the film," Mrs McGregor said.

"The Pioneer Settlement allowed us to film there and opened up areas that are usually locked so we had the most amazing set to work on.

"We also had a string of volunteers who helped on set to ensure we could complete the film in a very short period of time."

Anyone wishing to view the film can visit the Hocus Focus Media page on Facebook.

Are you caring for someone with a life limiting illness?



The Loddon Mallee Regional Palliative Care Consortium, in partnership with Carers Victoria, is running a 3 hour workshop in Swan Hill on 11th August at the Education Centre, 62 McRae Street, starting at 9:30am.

We will be discussing handy hints and tips for Carers with the aim of making your caring role a little easier. It will cover the emotional, as well as practical aspects the carer needs to consider. Content for the workshop and 'Carer's Guide' has been put together from advice gathered from previous carers in the Loddon Mallee Region.

This workshop is not suitable for the person with the life-limiting illness

If you would like to attend please register by calling Kay How Kee 5454 9215 or Susan Morgan 5454 9214. Otherwise you may email us at palcareconsortium@bendigohealth.org.au



Gourmet Fresh, that's The Gourmet Chef!

Quality catering cooked fresh on site

Mobile caterers who travel to you! Specialising in weddings, christenings, conferences, corporate events and social functions from 40 people to 1000 with menus tailored to your needs.

1300 785 995



www.thegourmetchef.com.au E info@thegourmetchef.com.au

Harvey Norman

MEGA DEALS

DESKTOP COMPUTERS FROM \$298

Acer, Intel Pentium processor, 4GB ram, 1TB hard drive

DT.B3YSA.001



LENOVO 15" LAPTOP
Intel i7 processor, 8GB ram, 25GB solid state hard drive

80T00TJAU

\$798



ASER ASPIRE 13" LAPTOP
Intel i5 processor, 8GB ram, 25GB solid state hard drive

NX.GCKSA.008

\$898



DISHLEX STAINLESS STEEL DISHWASHER
AWESOME VALUE!

DSF6306X

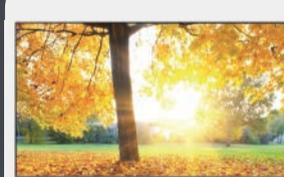
\$599



SAMSUNG 400L STAINLESS STEEL FRIDGE
GREAT PRICE!

SR400LSTC

\$749



SAMSUNG 55" LED SMART TV
4K SMART - 200HZ

UA55MU7000WXXY

\$1950

Harvey Norman

SWAN HILL

SWAN HILL 68 Nyah Rd

5032 0500

harveynorman.com.au