

Specialist School students star in short zombie film



• **MOVIE STARS:** Mildura Specialist School students (back row) Zildjian Larkin, 16, Jamie-Lee Lock, 17, Jacqui Clarke (teacher), Tristan O'Connor-Taylor, 16, (front row) Joshua Brockie and Kyle Marriott, both 17, show off the zombie costumes that featured in their short film *Caution Zombies*.

SAVING their teachers from a zombie apocalypse was all in a day's work for Mildura Specialist School's Later Years students.

Acting in their short film *Caution Zombies*, the students used their disabilities to destroy the zombies and save the day.

Entering the Focus on Ability Short Film Festival, MSS are competing against schools across Australia and New Zealand for a major prize of \$5000.

Guided by MSS Later Years classroom teacher Jacqui Clarke, the five-minute film took the students four weeks to put together.

Thinking outside the box, Jacqui is hoping the zombie theme will help the school's entry stand out.

"It's out there for a school to do something like this, so hopefully it gets some attention," Jacqui said. "It seems to make people laugh, so if they are laughing hopefully that means they are enjoying it."

Focussing on the 'disability is not inabil-

ity' message, Jacqui believes the short film project gave the students a sense of empowerment.

"The purpose was to highlight the ability of people with disability, and to show that you can still do amazing things with a disability," she said. "We focussed on the disabilities of three characters, and how they used their disability to overcome a zombie apocalypse."

"Without those disabilities we couldn't be saved, so anyone who didn't have a disability was doomed."

With voting closing on Monday, August 10, Jacqui is urging Sunraysia residents to support the school's entry.

"Please vote for us, it would mean the world!" she said. "Even if we don't win prizes, the comments people leave are really nice, and we read them every morning."

The Mildura Specialist School's entry can be viewed on the Focus on Ability Short Film Festival website www.focusonability.com.au.