

# FILM REVIEW

## The Grown-Ups

Directed and Written by Maite Alberdi

This is a Spanish film with English subtitles about a group of people with Down Syndrome. It showed at the 2018 film festival in Melbourne, Launceston and Canberra. Keep an eye out for it and read the IDFA Film Review by Guy Lodge:

<http://variety.com/2016/film/reviews/the-grown-ups-review-1201924620/>

The film consists of a group of actors or people playing themselves who have been attending the same school/day service for over 20 years. At the day service they are taught about independence but pay a pittance for their work. At home, their family expectations have not changed since they were children. The actors dream of love, marriage and having a place of their own, their dreams shaped by what they see their family members doing. Community inclusion and equality are far from being realised.



# REMEMBERING JOAN

Dr Justine Joan Sheppard died on 31st March 2018 after living with cancer.

Joan was an honorary Adjunct Associate Professor in the Communication and Communication Disorders program, Department of Biobehavioral Sciences at Teachers College, Columbia University, and has presented many training workshops in the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Europe. Dr. Sheppard, working with her clinical and research colleagues, developed the Dysphagia Disorder Survey and associated tests and assessment tools specifically for children and adults with developmental disability. She conducted many training sessions in Australia and presented at ASID and IASSID conferences. She will be remembered by many colleagues for her insightful and meticulous work and her generous nature. She was a colleague, mentor and friend to many and will be sorely missed.



# ONLINE RESOURCE

## **World-First Online Resource to Support People with Intellectual Disability Understand End-Of-Life**

*Talking End of Life...with people with intellectual disability* (TEL) is a free online resource that shows you how to teach people with intellectual disability about end of life. It is designed for disability support professionals (DSPs) but is also helpful for families, health professionals, and educators. With assistance, people with intellectual disability might also find the TEL information helpful.

TEL comprises 12 modules, on topics like funeral wishes, what death is, and cultural beliefs. Each module includes activities, case studies, videos, resources and links to the research. TEL also offers a set of additional website resources and videos.

TEL reflects 10 years of Australian research on end of life and people with intellectual disability. The project leaders are Professors Roger Stancliffe and Josephine Clayton from The University of Sydney, Dr Michele Wiese from Western Sydney University, Ms Gail Jeltres from Unisson Disability and Professor Jennifer Tieman from Flinders University and CareSearch.

TEL is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health under the Public Health and Chronic Disease Grant Program.

You can find TEL at <https://www.caresearch.com.au/TEL/>

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# THE ROCKHEADS



The Rockheads are a rock band based in the Barwon Region, Victoria and they are made up of young people with a disability who expressed an interest in music and how it could support them to be more involved in the community. They have been rehearsing and performing for three years. The members come from a number of councils and shires in the G21 region of South West Victoria – Geelong, Golden Plains and the Surf Coast. The concept for the group emerged from a research project into making community music accessible to young people living with disability.

The group was initially brought together by music therapist, Melissa Murphy, and Scope's Community Inclusion Officer, Emmanuel Pimentel. Melissa is an experienced music therapist with over 20 years of experience working in the disability sector with children and adults. She started the project as part of her PhD research into improving social connections for young people with a disability after they leave school and transition into adulthood. See <https://bit.ly/2Kf85MY>

The initial project that was the germination of The Rockheads was called Linking In and Grooving Out and it had the aim of bringing together a group of young people with a disability once a week for a jam session and other musical fun. A key part of the jam sessions and rehearsals was that they be held in a community setting to increase the opportunities for social connections. These sessions allow the members to express themselves creatively, improve their social connectedness, make decisions and to work collaboratively. As the research progressed, the band members expressed their interest in making The Rockheads a permanent fixture in their lives beyond the conclusion of the initial project.

Melissa (now Dr. Melissa!) worked with Emmanuel to set up the band as a sustainable ongoing group. An important part of the band's charter is that it is open to all local people with a disability, not just people supported by Scope. This helped to develop new contacts and community networks. The band also rehearses in community spaces such as The Fort Youth Drop In Centre and The Salvos site in Corio. The initial members made up an organising committee to decide on what type of music group they wanted to be, what type of music they would play, who could join up, and where they would rehearse. Most importantly, the group decided on the name "The Rockheads"!! The band has a core of 6 people with a disability and the stability of consistent supports who buy into the philosophy of the band and also includes Mel and Emmanuel. A feature of the band is the camaraderie and shared experience and no one band member is more important than another. The band play a variety of music including some original songs written by members of the band and cover songs based on member's preferences.

The Rockheads meet each week in Geelong and often invite community members to join in – it is not uncommon to have people from the community wander into the bandroom and start dancing or singing and making requests!

The band is always proactive in looking for sponsorships and grants and they wish to particularly thank the Rosaleen and Ron Raitman Family Grant and the Geelong Community Foundation. The Rockheads have performed numerous gigs including the Having a Say conference in Geelong in 2017 and 2018, the International Day of Disability Event for the Surf Coast Shire and Disability Pride at the Victorian College of the Arts. For more information see the blog at <https://www.scopeaust.org.au/rockheads-rock-costa-hall-geelong/> or contact Emmanuel Pimentel.



*"I like music with my same support workers. They know my music. I like music because I play the bass."*

*Joel Green*



*"I like the band. The people are very nice. I like singing."*

*Tom Lock*

### **For further details**

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