

Media Release:
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Auckland band Spacifix lent their trademark sunshine style to the students of Te Atatu's Arohanui Special School this Monday to help with decoration of the *Spectrum Care Sunflower Quilt*.

The band's visit was the culmination of an Auckland wide school campaign teaching children the importance of embracing people with disabilities in their communities.

Five Auckland primary schools, Edendale, Gladstone, Sunnynook, Stanmore Bay and Arohanui took part in the creation of the *Sunflower Quilt*.

The band spent the morning helping the pupils draw sunflowers on squares of fabric which will be sewn together to form the giant quilt.

"It is a treat for me to come here, I probably enjoyed it more than they did" said band member Tonga Vaea.

That feeling was obviously reciprocated with the students cheering when the band members arrived and performing a haka at the end of the session.

The visit was especially significant for vocalist Isileli Filisone, a former teacher aide at Arohanui.

"I've always looked forward to coming back," he said.

The students remain an inspiration to the singer, "They inspire me to do more for them, and more for myself in terms of music and life".

The sunflower theme was chosen because people with disabilities can achieve greatness as does the vibrant sunflower when it is fully supported.

The quilt will be gifted to the United Nations at Sunflower Sunday, celebration of International day of People with Disabilities that is taking place in Aotea Square on 2 December from 10am-12pm.

The public is warmly invited to attend and chalk their own sunflower on Aotea Square in support of people with disabilities.

Spacifix are a group of young Aucklanders writing and performing original music that is simply "world fresh".

The campaign is the initiative of Spectrum Care, an independent charitable trust that provides services for children, young people and adults with intellectual disabilities. The organisation supports people living in residential homes, in the community through out the great Auckland and Waikato areas.

Ends.

For more information please contact:

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