

SOUTH ARM PRIMARY SCHOOL



Creating Our Futures

SOME PIG-HEADED FUN

PIGGERY, by Sow Farm Productions, is an amateur comedy review performed by adults in the community to raise money for South Arm Primary School.

Each year there are four or five performances at the Calverton Hall, South Arm.

Piggery started in 1981 because of a need to raise \$500 for curtains for the classrooms. Mark Cuthbertson suggested putting on a show to raise the funds.

The first show was quickly sold out, so they added extra performances.

Since then Piggery has gone from strength-to-strength, putting on performances every year.

The name came from the way people talk so quickly that South Arm sounds like "sow farm", and as a sow is a female pig it was decided to name the production Piggery.

Usually, the shows don't have anything to do with pigs, but the titles always reflect the central theme. *Pig Brother*, *Piggyback Mountain* and *Desperate Housewines* have all featured as names for shows. Normally there are about 40 skits in a show; one long skit about 15 minutes long, and a few shorter ones.

People become involved in Piggery for a variety of reasons. Some parents or community members join because



NO PLAY INTENDED: A colourful performance during one of the scenes in a previous Piggery production.

of ties to the school, but many of the present cast have no direct ties to South Arm Primary.

Andy Quinn joined 20 years ago because he went to a show and thought it looked like a lot of fun.

Crew and cast members are also involved because they

meet new people and see people that they wouldn't see the rest of the year, because it feels rewarding, it's for a good cause and it's lots of fun.

Although Mark Cuthbertson no longer lives in the area, he continues to perform in Piggery because of the strong community spirit and ties.

New people are always encouraged to join.

Piggery cast members spend up to three months developing skits and preparing for the performances.

Director Therese Soul says she likes to think Piggery is so successful because it gives people a chance to have a

laugh and escape their everyday life.

"It gives audiences an opportunity to relax and unwind and they can have a laugh at the people on stage," Therese said.

By Rose Bowerman, Sarah MacDonald, Clare Spotswood and Chelsea Stewart

Cool jungle gym

SOUTH Arm Primary School has updated and improved its playground for the benefit of students and the community. There was money available from the State Government to upgrade playgrounds and this was used as well as money raised by Sow Farm Productions. In 2004 a group of students visited other playgrounds and helped to choose equipment for our new playground. Equipment was chosen which would be challenging for the Grade 5-6s, and that the younger students would want to play on. Student comments about the playground include: "It's cool", "I like the jungle gym because of all the challenges on it", and "It's awesome."

By Braddon Longo and Hamish Sellers

Active challenge

A PROGRAM called Active After School Communities helps kids and others in the community to be active while having lots of fun.

This is available free of charge twice a week to all primary school children in our area. Some of the activities held over the last three years have included BMX riding, golf, surf lifesaving, trampolining and party games. A lot of activities are run by community members who, once trained, can deliver programs to the kids. Supervisor Anita hopes funding will be approved for another three years as the program is an exiting opportunity for kids to see their friends, have fun and keep active.

By Adrian Flounders, Austyn Leggett and Connor Lees

Full marks for Magic 100 Words program

THE Parent Literacy Program at South Arm Primary started about five years ago.

It involves teachers, parents, grandparents, community members and students working together up to three times a week to improve students' literacy skills.

Parents and community

members initially do training in a group with a teacher and then continue to meet regularly to discuss strategies.

The parent literacy program is based on teaching and learning strategies in the Bridges and Unlocking Literacy programs. The main aim is to give students extra one-on-one at-

tention which they may not get at home or in the classroom.

Each half-hour session involves reading, writing and spelling, including learning the "Magic 100 Words" and working on sounding.

Both parents and teachers have noticed an improvement

in children's literacy as a result of the program.

Parent tutor Wendy Huxley said: "I've been doing it for a long time and it makes a big difference to the children."

By Bradley Bryant, Chris Dennison and Braddon Longo

Special thanks

This page was an initiative of Grade 5/6 at South Arm Primary School. The school thanks the businesses who supported this page, and Bradley Bryant, Chris Dennison, Corinne Knibbs and Clare Spotswood for organising the advertising.



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