



## ON ANOTHER NOTE

Pittsworth State High School has earned a reputation for ambitious and highly successful musicals. The school entered a 'purple patch' of musicals from the late 70s to the early 21<sup>st</sup> century with a performance put on nearly every year. From 2002 these extravaganzas were held every two years with 'Little Shop of Horrors', in 2004, the swansong of musical mainstay, Rob Raymond.

The first production recorded in the school annals is the 'Pirates of Penzance' hailed as a great success despite the difficulty in finding boys to play roles. The magazine describes them as being 'hammered, cajoled, coaxed and whalloped' into the leads. In the following year the school presented to 'overflow audiences' the classic 'Oklahoma'. Despite the producer being 'felled' by appendicitis, the show went on and a local critic called the production 'excellent entertainment'. There followed a hiatus of nearly ten years before a team of teachers came together to produce musicals for the next twenty years- some their own compositions, some famous Broadway hits.

In 1979 the school performed 'Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat'. The show was driven by Deputy Principal Mike Courtney and Art Teacher Rob Raymond. Mr Courtney was noted as 'persuading the senior boys to join the cast... (as they worried about) their reputations as Amco Shield Team Champions'. Patrons commented on what a boost the show gave to Pittsworth. In the ensuing years John Whybird, Lindsay Proudlock, Graeme Langdon and Sandra Pendrigh brought their talents to productions such as 'Oh What a Lovely War', 'Calamity Jane' and 'Godspell'. In 1981 staff took to writing their own production, 'A Space Oddity', which one review described as a 'prize commodity'. They followed this with 'A Fabricated Romance' in 1982 and 'Big Time' in 1983.

In the 1990s musicals were interchanged with Theatre Restaurants and Rock Eisteddfods and other staff joined the fray including Peter Ross, Annie Wallace, Peter Burton, Michael Ward and Jenny Thomson. The Theatre Restaurant of 1992 featured three plays and in 1996 the staff and students produced two performances – a role in the Rock Eisteddfod and 'another visual, auditory and gustatory delight' in the form of a further Theatre Restaurant.

In recent years students have been taken 'Back to the 80s' and puzzled over the dilemmas of 'Alison' thanks to the talents of Drama Teacher Sarah Christoffel, Peter Burton and Music Teacher (and former Deputy Principal) Dan Norris. There is a rich history of drama, dance and music at our school and the community has always been tremendously supportive of our endeavours.