

HARRY NEWS

TEACHING KIDS ABOUT MONEY IT'S A DRAMA

Credit cards, investments, mobile phone bills - it's difficult enough for adults, but for kids it can be a minefield. Enter Michael Walsh, Executive Director of Ethical Investor, (an events management and publishing business), and Paul Johnson, (an events management and publishing business), who have teamed up to produce a play for schools. The result is *Centsational Harry and the Balance of Life*, a school-based drama which will be going nationwide later this year.

Paul Johnson says he "was intrigued but not daunted" when asked by Michael if a play could be written for primary school aged kids on the subject of financial literacy. Michael's background is in the finance industry, as he understands the complexities of financial management in today's world. "Knowledge about something that was so simple has fallen through the cracks" he says. "In the past you had your bankbook, as did children and the bank would stand in your homing nose than what the bank would send a reasonable risk."

Nowadays, we know that things are different. The Federal Government, the Banking Industry and the Department of Education have investigated the problem of "Financial Literacy" and realised that this problem needed to be addressed at the curriculum level. All schools are required to incorporate "Financial Literacy" into their education systems by 2008.

How do you get these children to take an interest? Why theatre of course.



Queensland, there are rewards learning about financial responsibility beyond the material well-being of the individual and family. It is satisfying knowing that a growing social problem is being thoughtfully presented to our children in schools through the medium of theatre, on a nationwide scale and initiated by two local and professional organisations to the Bank of Queensland.

Congratulations to the Bank of Queensland for their sponsorship and commitment to Paul and Michael's idea without the instance of product involvement within the context of the play. It's a nice surprise to see that all banks are just cold entities without a face or a soul. Evans' final reality is an amazing achievement. We truly can be proud of our community members and leaders.

...and trap ... drama for school

SCHOOLS will have a new option to consider in the fast-growing area of financial literacy education when Ethical Investor and Bank of Queensland launch a school-based drama this year.

The play, *Centsational Harry and the Balance of Life*, is designed to inform and entertain students about the tricks and traps of managing money.

It comes at a time when teachers and educators are considering how to integrate financial literacy into next year's school curriculum, as ordered by the Federal Government.

Centsational Harry and the Balance of Life is a production put together by boutique publishing and events company, Ethical Investor, and sponsored by the Bank of Queensland.

Ethical Investor's executive director, Michael Walsh, says the production had been developed with reference to the National Curriculum Framework for Financial Literacy statements.

"The production adapted the widely known seven steps to financial literacy into a format that will enjoy and be enjoyed."



three Brisbane-based actors utilising elements of pantomime, music, dance and physical theatre to convey the message of the importance of financial responsibility in a humorous and upbeat way.

The play's central message is that "money gives you what you want in life and is a vehicle for success", said Ethical Investor's executive director, Michael Walsh. "These days kids have lot more access to money so we have to make the opportunity the point at



"These kids will have a grip on the money and return, diversify savings and investments."

"It's also about money as a commodity in order save the lives of his two mates."

The drama explores this colourful setting of financial goals and the responsibility that comes with using a mobile phone.

The play will use circus, song, dance, mime, percussion, comedy and "pathos to enliven Harry's journey from tragedy to triumph".

According to the drama's publicity material, *Centsational Harry* discovers "balance in the world of money parallels his psychological progress".

... Money show almost on the road



... of lucky year 5 and 6 students...
...ellabah Primary School joined...
... Mayor Merv King to view the...
... Life - a play for kids on how to...
...ances.

... is a collaboration between local and director Paul Johnson; Evans Head based Queensland.

The kids laughed and clapped along while help from his alien friends (named Ali and Ann - gedit?) while being introduced to the concepts of assets, investments and saving.

Mayor Merv King thought the play was an entertaining way to explain financial issues. "The message was there and the kids engaged with it," he said. "Financial education is important for their futures."

Another audience member was Marilyn Perkins of the Northern Rivers Regional Development Board, a group that provides support to both big and small businesses in the region. "There is so little education in financial literacy," she said. "We have a skills shortage in this area. It's great to see primary school students being made aware of their future through the decisions they

Coast and Brisbane then Melbourne and Sydney. It [educational drama] is the best thing in the world but you don't get many opportunities to do it."

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"The product' regarded seven format that you stand," he said. "These kids ideas of risk ings and im tive - mon you learn The ho a startin to finan resource Fin/ by thv the s chi/ n in f

Financial Literacy *The Musical*

Cate Blanchett as an Australian financial services licensed financial planner? Mel Gibson as a budget-conscious ocker? Or perhaps Russell Crowe as a short-tempered, beer-swilling fund manager? Don't laugh; this could well happen in the near future.

A drama based on financial literacy will be performing at schools around the country in response to the Government's initiative to include financial literacy in the school curriculum.

Centsational Harry and the Balance of Life tells the story of Harry, a "colourful ocker character", and his bid to buy a rare commodity in order save the lives of his two mates.

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For more information, visit www.boq.com.au/aboutus or contact Michael Walsh (07 5599 1111), Kym MacDonald (07 5599 1111) or Paul Johnson (07 5599 1111).