



13 May 2011

## **FAIRY TALE TRIAL DEMYSTIFIES LAW AT WOLLONGONG COURT**

The only surviving member of the three little pigs will stand trial for murder at Wollongong Courthouse in a light-hearted Law Week play that will demonstrate how the criminal justice system operates.

“The play, to be performed by local lawyers and law students, will examine whether the pig was a calculating killer or acting in self defence when he took the life of the Big Bad Wolf,” said Senior Registrar at Wollongong Courthouse, Kathy Frost.

“The prosecution will reveal details of the pig’s shady past and a witness will testify that the wolf had become a vegetarian on the eve of his demise.

“Ultimately, it will up to a jury of peers to weigh up the evidence and deliver a verdict - and almost anyone could find themselves on the jury.”

Ms Frost said The Trial of the Practical Pig continues a Law Week tradition of using fairy tales to make the law more accessible to young people in the Illawarra region.

“The fairy tale trials, held during Law Week since 2008, are based on fiction but they make clear the different steps involved in real life criminal hearings,” Ms Frost said.

During Law Week, the court will also host a hypothetical exercise that will explore the legal issues that arise when a group of young people drink, take drugs and participate in a fatal street race.

“The issues will be discussed by an expert panel that will include Magistrate Michael Stoddart, a barrister, media, and representatives of the NSW Police Force, the State Coroner’s Court and NSW Health,” said Ms Frost.

“The hypothetical will send a strong message to young and inexperienced motorists that every time they turn on the ignition of their vehicle they are operating a potentially lethal weapon.

“The consequences of reckless driving can be tragic and too often we see lives lost as a result of young people getting behind the wheel when they are affected by alcohol or illicit drugs.”

All Law Week events at Wollongong Courthouse are free and are open to all members of the public.

Law Week runs from May 16 –22. The theme of Law Week 2011 is Law and Justice in Your Community. Other events in NSW during Law Week include open days at courthouses, an open-air expo at Sydney's Martin Place and seminars on family law, domestic violence, mental illness and how the law affects senior citizens.

The incoming Attorney General, Greg Smith said he was looking forward to taking part in Law Week activities.

"Law week promotes the rule of law and what lawyers do to serve the needs of the community," Mr Smith said.

For further information about Law Week and what is happening in your area, visit: [www.lawweek.com.au](http://www.lawweek.com.au).

### **Details of Law Week events at Wollongong Courthouse**

#### **Monday, May 16:**

- Opening Ceremony
- Presentations from the Police Dog Squad and Crash Investigation Unit, NSW Ambulance Service and the Department of Fair Trading
- 'Burn' DVD presented by Legal Aid NSW and cell tours conducted by Corrective Services

#### **Tuesday, May 17:**

- The Night of Our Year 12 Formal – a hypothetical exercise

#### **Thursday, May 19:**

- The Trial of the Practical Pig
- Presentations from the Police Dog Squad and Crash Investigation Unit, NSW Ambulance Service and the Department of Fair Trading
- 'Burn' DVD presented by Legal Aid NSW and cell tours conducted by Corrective Services

#### **Friday, May 20:**

- Presentations from the Police Dog Squad and Crash Investigation Unit, NSW Ambulance Service and the Department of Fair Trading
- 'Burn' DVD presented by Legal Aid NSW and cell tours conducted by Corrective Services