



# Art works!

THE rural theme in the streets of Piopio continues thanks to several large scale artworks designed by local pre-schoolers and primary school students.

During the past 12 months, the Aria Toy Library has undergone a major upgrade to improve the outside appearance of its Moa St Building.

To further improve its street appeal, library co-ordinators and Project Piopio Trust members invited local children to create artworks to display on the south end wall of the building.

A 'Rural Themed Art Competition' was held attracting 85 entries from Curious Keas, Piopio Playcentre, Piopio Primary School and Aria School.

To help the children create their masterpieces, local artists Jo Gallagher and Dawn Mann joined Lisa Lyford (toy library) and Nicky Atkinson (Project Piopio Trust) for eight lunchtime painting sessions at Piopio Primary School to teach and assist

children with their pictures. Fellow artist Peter Holbrook helped the students and teachers at Aria School.

Mrs Atkinson says it was great to see the children working with local artists to create "wonderful works of art".

"The children watched the artists during their demonstrations and put the skills they had been taught into practice in their paintings.

"I think they all went away from the experience with some new technique because the quality of artwork [entered into the competition] was so high it was difficult to choose the winners."

Along with the artworks on the toy library's wall, other pieces will be displayed on the town's Mustard Seed Op Shop building, Atkinson & Associates vet clinic shed, in the Gallery Garden on Moa St and near the top of Kea St.

Mrs Atkinson says every painting entered into the competition will be



**DEERE ME:** Lachlan Lyford's tractor painting will be one of many large-scale artworks designed by local pre-schoolers and primary school students displayed on buildings in Piopio following an art competition run by the Aria Toy Library and Project Piopio Trust. PHOTO MARK HAMILTON.

displayed either on a building, canvas or on a banner at each child's respective schools.

"We were hoping this project would draw out some of the local children's creativity and talent, enabling us to display artwork that illustrates life here in a rural community and create something we can all be proud of . . . and it has.

"Project Piopio Trust applied for funding to help make this vision a reality and we are very grateful to the Creative Communities assessment committee who recently granted us the full amount of our request for this project."

The selected artworks which the judges found suitable for the main street will be erected today.

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