Thank you for supporting us again with this great Community event

This year we changed things around a little bit to try and create the ideal atmosphere within the school surroundings, provide more entertainment, great food, and plenty of variety with our stalls. All we needed was good weather and everyone to come along. I think you will agree it turned out to be a fantastic event and we have been so buoyed by the positive response. I still get people coming up and saying how much they enjoyed it and are so appreciative of the effort that went into it by the organising committee. Just as important as the feedback we received from all the school children, their parents, and teachers, we were also congratulated and thanked by the older parishioners. They mentioned that it brought back many good memories of past fetes when they were involved in the school. So I'm rapt to know it generated such strong community spirit and engendered a real sense of one community.

Certainly some of the highlights included the great food stalls, the St Martin's Got Talent production, which was outstanding and attracted a lot of interest and focus meaning people could sit, watch, talk with others, and enjoy some fine food and beverages. It certainly gave parents an opportunity to relax and soak in the atmosphere whilst the children enjoyed the rides and the Haunted House.

With a large variety of kids and adult craft stalls, book stall, plant stall, toy stalls, cake stall, gift stall, fruit & vegie stall, white elephant stall, Mystery Jar, Hair Spray, fairy floss, second hand clothing, chucka choc, spinning wheel, football, soccer, music school, and Prep shortbreads there was no shortage of things to see, do, and buy.

The fete produced an overall profit distribution of $18,000 which was a great result. This will be distributed 50/50 equally to the school and the broader parish as was agreed between Fr Michael and Trish Stewart. The school will use their $9,000 towards purchasing iPads for student education needs. The parish will use their $9,000 towards meeting part of the cost of the new unisex accessibility toilet which has recently been constructed in the church for the benefit of the local and wider community. A presentation to the school is planned for the final school assembly, after the prayer service, on Wednesday 18th December at 12:30pm in the church. A presentation to the parish is planned for Sunday 22nd December at the close of the 10.00am mass.

The organising committee comprising Marita Anderson, John Calabrese, Adriana Cargin, Kerri Heron, Michel Kowalski, Marita Toms, and myself (John Lunardi) met throughout the year and put in many hours towards making this event possible.

Once again I want to particularly thank the families of the organising committee for allowing us to devote so much of our time throughout the year at meetings and elsewhere working on this project.

Many people contributed to making the fete a great success and I want to express my gratitude to the school and parish leadership teams who gave us tremendous support. Trish Strewart, Marg Cox along with all the great teachers at St Martin Of Tours, and the fantastic people in the office – Mary Milione, Karen Livingstone, and the other support staff - were always there to help leading up to the fete as well as on the day. Many thanks to Fr Michael, Itria Frijo, and all my colleagues on the Parish Pastoral Council who encouraged and assisted us with whatever we needed or asked for in terms of facilities and help with stalls. Thanks to Gerard Mullens for organising a very generous donation of fruit for the fete.

A big thanks to Marg Cox for helping us on the Saturday and organising a skip so we could clean out and reorganise underneath the Community Centre. It is great to be able to go in there again and find things readily. So much old stuff had accumulated there over the years and needed to go.
St Martin of Tours Fete 2013

Many thanks to Narelle Holland and the Entertainment committee which formed to produce the St Martin’s Got Talent show for the Fete. We had great feedback from the auditions and were excited about what we could expect at the Fete. From what we got to see and all the feedback it was fantastic and one of the major highlights.

Thanks to Bryan Collins at Parade College for the loan of the stage for the St Martin’s Got Talent show.

Thank you to all the parents, parishioners, school and parish staff that gave a donation of time or goods. Without the donations and volunteers we couldn’t have succeeded in putting on this event.

Once again the Knights of the Southern Cross did a superb job for us in counting the money and once again it proved to be a smooth operation.

The committee is appreciative of the work done by all the stall coordinators and their volunteers. All the planning and preparation comes to nothing without their support and time both leading up to the fete and on the day.

Finally I need to let you know that it is time for me to pass on the “baton” and say thank you. I’ve had a fantastic time these past three Fetes working with other parents who have all been sensational to work with. At the end of it all it is made worthwhile seeing how much enjoyment it gives to the children and adults alike. The end of 2013 marks the close of a 46 year era for myself personally and two generations of my family. At this time in 1968 I graduated as a Grade 6 student. So much has changed at St Martin of Tours in that time but that is another story. Whilst I will still be around to help as a past parent and ongoing as a parishioner I hope others in the school community who are younger, more energetic, and enthusiastic can get involved in future fetes and continue this great tradition that helps define our whole community. Planning for the 2015 Fete will start in June 2014 and I encourage any new people to join the 2015 planning committee.

My sincere apologies goes out to anyone I have missed thanking but I want to end by acknowledging the many sponsors below who donated goods and services to the fete.

John Lunardi
Chairperson

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Target Northland
Science Works
Watsonia Beauty
Melbourne Museum
Liberty Petrol
Mitre 10 Heidelberg
Mooney Valley
Dan Murphy’s Polaris
Woolworths Greensborough
Watermark
Officeworks
Spotlight Preston
Bulleen Swim School

Diggers Club
Inspired by kids Photography
Globe
Watsonia Pharmacy
Rebel Northland
Watsonia Cycles
Yamaha
Funfields
Woolworths Northland
Woolworths Heidelberg
Screaming Seeds
Disney
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