

xSJSS – 2022 – THE YEAR THAT WAS.....



“Don’t count the days, Make the days count” – Muhammed Ali

“Don’t wait for opportunity, Create it” – George Bernard Shaw

2022 marks SEVENTEEN years since this xSJSS-Sydney group came together. With a couple of the founding members still on board steering the ship, offering guidance and encouragement, a more dedicated bunch you will not find. Setting and achieving goals to help make the lives of current students in their educational journey as seamless as possible and helping the Nuns in their everyday living gives us a purpose and satisfaction.

Our mission comes with the continuous support of alumnae - those who attend our **FUN** events and those who **DONATE** [<https://xsjss-reunion.square.site/product/donate/8?cs=true>]

This year we are able to pledge funds once again in the new year to assist the Nuns with their living expenses and welfare as well as pay for the school’s Wifi modem. Heartfelt thanks to all for your continued contributions!



Back L-R: Jude, Emily, Adella, Angie, Kathy, Carol, Grace, Kim, Roslyn, Karen

Front: Amy, Pam

Here’s a re-cap of our FUN Times:

FUNdraising Event No.1 - BAREFOOT BOWLING

at our favourite watering hole – Concord Bowling Club in March. Rehashing a tried and successful outing but sadly, Mother Nature had other ideas – even though some were prepared to don raincoats and get muddy feet! So the VO (Very organised) team put **PLAN B** in place with Indoor games and prizes. Beer-Pong (with beer at the Bar) tables were set up. Teams had 60 seconds to land as many ping-pong balls into cups at each end of the tables. The Kailas and side-splitting laughter could be heard in the next have I Ever” Quiz – with some FUN worn my underwear inside out”. “truthfully”- which also brought winner having the lowest score. Prizes



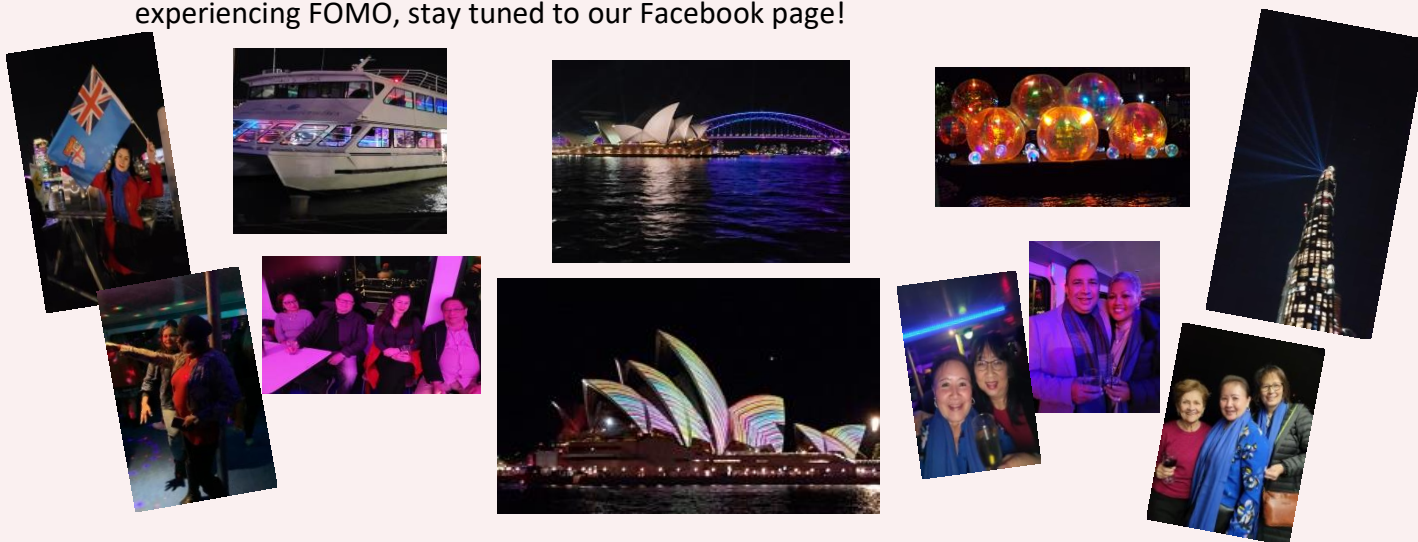
suburb! There was a “Never questions like ‘Never have I ever Participants having to answer rounds of laughter, with the were awarded to winning teams.

Attendees were treated to a scrumptious BBQ Dinner of chicken kebabs, meat patties, sausages, meatloaf, baked ricotta, onions, coleslaw, bread rolls, fruit platters, cakes and sweets. Rounded out the evening with Island sounds through the club’s sound system and guests gravitated to the dance floor.



FUNdraising Event No 2. VIVID – Sydney’s annual Sound and Light show.

A popular event that is always sold out, the evening in June took us back cruising the beautiful Harbour on a crisp Wintry evening. Event Coordinator extraordinaire, Carol, took it up a notch and booked a Dinner and Dance boat. DJs on both levels of the boat, playing music to cater for the different generations. Canapes and drinks between four hours of gym work for those who had the energy and those who wanted to enjoy the romance of the night found space on the top deck, rugged up and absorbed the rhythms below. Wonder what’s in store for 2023 and experiencing FOMO, stay tuned to our Facebook page!



FUNdraising Event No3. KATI, CURRY & KARAOKE

Undoubtedly the highlight for 2022 with an afternoon/evening which was held in August. Needless to say, there were Prizes galore, buffet & singing talent on display!

Accolades aplenty, these are some first hand reviews:

“Well done to you all Ladies” – *Marian Leo*

“Many thanks Roslyn and your wonderful hardworking Committee for a most successful and enjoyable evening. My

first KATI ever and I loved my prize of practical essentials and chocolate bars! The evening reminded me of what could have been had Covid not prevented us from celebrating our 2021 SJSS REUNION back home. Kudos to all you lovely Sydney ladies!!!” – *Maria Handisides*

“Congratulations to the committee for organising a most enjoyable night. A lot of love and care and long hours went into preparing this event. We really appreciate your efforts. We all won prizes in the Kati and/ or the raffle. The food was delicious and it was a wonderful catch up. Thank you so much for your dedication and tribute to our beloved St Joseph of Cluny Sisters.” – *Bernadette Choy Desmond*



We were all chuffed with outside comments from guests of alumunae who said the “felt at home” and very much “included” and looking forward to coming again.

As often said: “The more, the merrier”

In the second year running of ZOOM event - **THIS IS YOUR LIFE**, to celebrate the life and successes of our Alumnae, our gracious guest in April was JENNY SEETO, Head Girl from the Class of '74. It was amazing to hear that Jenny wears so many hats and we appreciate that she is an integral conduit to our Fundraising committee. Her dedication to a cause that is close to her heart is commendable. We take our hats off to you JENNY.



Our second guest in the spotlight in October was the lovely HEILALA TABETE – Class of '97. She provided an interesting, entertaining and engaging hour. Her demeanour and humility in her chosen profession as a lawyer is impressive as it is inspirational. St Josephs is proud to call you one of their success stories.



To both our guests, Vinaka Vakalevu for making time to sit in the HOTSEAT and share your life stories.

We understand that due to time differences/life constraints, many of you may not be able to join in Live – for this we have the session recorded and on Youtube. All recordings can be viewed if you are subscribed to our xsjss-sydney website. We encourage you to check out our past TIYL episodes. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQgPP4nJGEKaP55HWW2PxZw>

The Committee is always on the lookout for interesting, inspiring and engaging alumnae who are not camera-shy and would like to share their story. If this is you or someone you know, feel free to reach out. Email us at: xsjssfjsydney@gmail.com

Another noteworthy proposal from xSJSS Sydney this year was setting up a **GLOBAL ROUND TABLE** in which we invited alumnae worldwide to join in an online ZOOM meeting. The idea is to bring together the spirit of communication, engagement & growth, collaboration and goals which is dubbed the FOUR PILLARS for all our Alumnae groups as we strive for one goal – which is to ensure St Joseph's remains a high quality educational institution.

The GRT is a work in progress and we look forward to continued support from everyone around the world in the coming years. Information will be posted on our FB page and website.

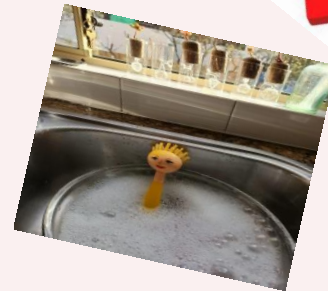
As we say Moce Mada to a year filled with wonderful memories, the team had one last hurrah in November to brainstorm ideas for 2023. Then it was time for a **FUN** evening to sit back with nibbles, bubbles and a mouth-watering Island style Christmas feast with Fish Lolo, Palusami, Kokoda, Chicken curry, Dalo and topped off with home-made Christmas cake, Purini, seasonal fruit platter and Mango Trifle.



And what's a Christmas celebration without a little bit of giving? The **FUN** continued with a Game of White Elephant (aka Secret Santa) Kris Kringle!



And the most sort after pressie of the night ! ☺



If you live in Sydney, love a social life and feel you can spare some of your time to support your sisters in Fiji, come and TEST DRIVE being a member of the xSJSS committee.

We continue to reach out for fresh faces, fresh ideas, from the young and young at heart alumnae that live in our beautiful city to join us for **FUN** and a worthy cause.

Expressions of interest to: [xsjsfjsydney@gmail.com](mailto:xsjssfjsydney@gmail.com)

In closing, we give big warm, hearty WELCOME to our newest Committee member, Sanjita Tessiram who joined us this year and has already proven to be a total gem with fresh ideas. Great to have you on board!

Bring on 2023!

