



**Let's do the Time Warp  
again.....**

***What a blur 2023  
has been!***

With every passing year, the xSJSS Sydney Committee strives to keep fundraising dollars coming in so we can fulfil our aim of donating to special maintenance projects at the school and funds to assist the Sisters of the convent in their day-to-day living.

It probably goes without saying that it has been a tough year for many. Families with mortgages coping interest rate hikes and the general cost of living sky-rocketing and possibly some losing their jobs.

So before recapping the year – we would like to extend our extreme gratitude to everyone who has participated in helping us keep our goals alive, digging deep and giving us support. Without you – we are nothing.

Consequently, our monthly ZOOM meetings suffered as we centered on discussions around rate of return for efforts (we are all volunteers and most of us work fulltime with family commitments) so only two events were organised.

The first was our ever-popular, annual KATI in May. The attendance at this fundraiser was 50% more than the previous year. We love that Word-Of-Mouth is spreading.... Is it about the wonderful prizes? Perhaps it's about the warm camaraderie we share as a group? Or just maybe, it's about the delicious meals served after each Kati? Whatever the reason, we look forward to Increasing our numbers. A big shout out to Heather at the Drummoyne Uniting Church, Five Dock for their continued support.









## Our second event...

which took a lot more planning and manpower, was our inaugural **Spring Market** in October.

The event was the brainchild of our Chairperson, Roslyn Lee who convinced the group that, if we could get ex-alumnae as well as the community involved, it would be a WIN-WIN situation. When the Leader speaks, we listen.

Invitations were made to various groups/individuals to pay a nominal fee for a Stall at the Market to sell their wares and services, whilst the Committee also took up a few of the spaces for our own fundraising. With the help of generous donations, goods and prizes, it was a positive start.

Kudos to the efforts of the "walkers" who spent hours doing letterbox drops around the local area to advertise; our faithful churchgoers who helped spread the word and to Father Joti Bilowalu for allowing us to utilize the hall at his St Vincent's Ashfield parish in Sydney.



The day was blessed with beautiful, warm sunny Spring weather. And, who can resist the aroma from a sausage sizzle? We made ours a bit fancy by having various marinated chicken kebab sticks as an option, ensuring everyone had enough energy to last the distance!







## The story of the day...apart from our huge success

was hearing that one visitor was so excited to get her "sausage sandwich fix" when she received the leaflet drop in her letterbox that she came a week early!

When she finished eating her order and licking her fingers, she came back and asked if we were planning to make it a weekly event. That compliment was GOLD!

Weekly is out of the question, however, annually might work!

Delicious and mouth-watering Island food, Indian food and Chinese food stalls were the biggest hits of the day. The smart shoppers made sure they secured their food orders before venturing further around the fair.



It was a full day with vendors offering manicure pampering, candles and aromatherapy, plants, bric-a-brac, flowers, plants, jewellery, handbags and shoes, cushions and books.



The Cakes and Hot beverage stand attracted friends who whiled away the time reminiscing and having fun.



Then it was Talanoa Time....





It was heart-warming to see lots of new faces at both events this year and from feed-back received, quite a few friendships were renewed and made. As the sun went down and having done a good 10hour shift, it was time to pack up and clean up as the band outlasted us.

On the social/digital media side of life, we were pleased to be able to present one episode of This is Your Life with Marica Tabualevu, with our Special Host Bernadette Rounds Ganilau. It's always a pleasure to be able to listen and share the insights of our sister alumnae in their journey past the gates of high school at Waimanu Rd.

This can be viewed on Youtube link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ljlbj\\_zslrw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ljlbj_zslrw)

We would like to express our appreciation to our monthly "Spotlight" guests who were willing to share their thoughts and inspirations.

Thank you to Monique McPheeter ('87), Monika Bonnar O'Brien ('76), Phyllis Fong ('70), Atela Yee ('84), Fi Moceituba-Kaukimoce (2010), Amrita Gaji Sharma ('81), Bernadette Pyster Lowry ('66), Marlene Chandra ('73), Beverley Croft ('80), Elizabeth Rizzo ('83) and Mary Crombie ('69).

If you want to read their stories – these can be view on: <https://www.xsjss-sydney.com/blog>

The Committee was sorry to say goodbye to Judy Bulatiko and Kathy Johansen this year. Their valuable contributions live on in the form of our website and fb exposure and within the group. And we are delighted to welcome back Yvonne Osborne and a new committee member Phyllis Fong who have brought their individual talents to the team this year.

Also, Sanjita Tesiram, our website and social media guru, has resigned due to heavy work commitments and we thank her sincerely for everything she has done for us this past year and wish her all the best.

If you or someone you know wishes to be a part of this dynamic group, shoot us an email at: [xjsjssfsydney@gmail.com](mailto:xjsjssfsydney@gmail.com)

The xSJSS Sydney Committee wishes you and your loved ones a warm, happy and safe holiday season. We look forward to your continued support in the new year.



**BEFORE.....**



**AND AFTER .....**

