

No Rain on this Parade

The heavens may have opened up but so did the hearts and wallets of the New Farm community to make this year's New Farm State School Fete the most successful on record.

Anxious parents may have eyed the radar on their Apple I-pods as scuds came and went but sausages sizzled, burgers flipped, cakes were sold and more water hazards than were bargained for, negotiated on the Year 2 putt course.

P and C president Mary Barram said from the moment the school was approached by Space Property Agents to be a major sponsor to the dismantling of the last borrowed marquee – this Fete was about community support.

"I don't think anyone told our sponsors this was a downtime," Ms Barram said.

"This year's sponsorship was unprecedented and thank you seems such a small word to say to everyone who supported us – we are quite overwhelmed and moved by the spirit of this community."

Principal Virginia O'Neill described her 2009 Fete experience as an occasion she will remember as one of those special events in her lifetime.

"Rain is no deterrent to an excellent Winter Solstice Fete," Mrs O'Neill said.

"What a huge team effort - brilliant, well organised, heaps of helpers - all in all a very high standard performance - A+ on the Report Card.

"Please pass on my congratulations to everyone involved. The bonus is the community support and the money raised for school projects - I'm sure a record for a middle sized school. "

Teneriffe's Simon Colley was never more pleased to be called to the principal's office.

The Healthworks personal trainer may have to wait four more years for his daughter to attend school but was so impressed by the manners and enthusiasm of students selling raffle tickets at Coles – he bought a ticket from each.

One was luckier than the others – winning Simon a dinner for 10 people in his home cooked by celebrated chef PJ McMillian from Harveys, with produce supplied by James Street Markets, a bottle of 1992 Grange Hermitage from Chalk and Cheese, flowers from the Flower Trap, also in James Street Markets and wait staff from award winning Caxton Street Catering.

SPACE Auctioneer Nick Penklis called the live auction amid a sea of umbrellas.

As the rain teemed down past and present parents and dedicated fete goers bid voraciously for donated wares as varied as a Sachs and Lane Veneer breakfast table valued at over \$2000, an I Eames rocking chair from Living Edge to Pack Mate crates from Donovan Hill Architects and Small Australian Projects and a cow hide rug from Great Dane Furniture.

Unique Mendi Province artisans' tribal baskets from PNG fought for attention from an original Darren O'Brien ceramic platter and an original framed fete poster by talented artist Michael Phillips whose clever design branded the fete right from the start.

In the wash up we can report we sold 900 sausages, 500 hamburgers, 50 vegeburgers, 100 bacon and egg muffins, 200 serves of curry, 200 serves of sushi, 120 slices of pizza, 400 Belgian waffles, 400 fast coffees, 160 jars of preserves, 60 bunches of flowers, 180 lucky dips, 262 ride passes and 370 individual tickets plus a mini-mountain of cakes and homemade sweets.

But what about the bar sales you ask? Well we'll leave that alone - it would be too indiscreet to mention.

Thank you to everyone who braved the rain.

PS: If you missed out on the Joanne Currie painting donated by Fireworks art gallery, the exhibition is still running and Michael Eather would be more than pleased to show you her other works.