

Apple and Grape Harvest Festival - Update

Last Saturday the Festival Mascots Jono and Bella, several Young Ambassadors, Festival Directors and some wonderful volunteers made the trip up the highway to Toowoomba for the Carnival of Flowers. The Committee won the best visiting float award in 2009 and decided this year to enter again. Early in the morning the empty trailer, kindly donated by Jason Wilmot from Wilmot Removals, arrived in Toowoomba. The team got busy and worked together to ensure the float met all the criteria and also kept to the 2012 Festival theme "Rio Carnival".

Keith Barnett, Festival President said "We started with the bare trailer and concrete form boards from Stephen & Loretta Williams that turned into fabulous flower pot holders. Matthew Cronk from B & B Machinery in Drayton organised the Massey Ferguson GC2400 tractor that pulled the float with the Mascots and Young Ambassadors on board."

Trevor Fitness the Festival Stall Director drove the shiny red tractor while Zoe Dunlop, 2010 Festival Fundraising Ambassador, joined Gianna Zanatta, Mc Donald's Young Ambassador, Mackenzie Elliott, Power Tynan Young Ambassador and Courtney Dachs, Southern Belle Young Ambassador on the float. It was a very hot day but Liz Duell the YA Director, the girls and the Mascots still waved and smiled to the tens of thousands who came to enjoy the parade.

By the end of the day Jono and Bella's special carers and others were exhausted but delighted to take out first prize again in the Visiting Floral Float Award and Jono and Bella stole third place in the Character Category.

Once again The Carnival of Flowers organisers are to be commended for their Grand Parade. Jenny O'Connor, Festival Secretary, would like to give a special mention to Meagan Fessey, Event Producer for j2 ideas and events, who has assisted many groups through the entire parade process in a professional manner but with a compassionate ear for all our problems. Megan has been involved for numerous years and the 2011 Carnival of Flowers will be her last with the parade creative team. "The Apple and Grape Harvest Festival committee wishes Meagan well in her new career, she will be missed by all." said Jenny.

With only five months to the 2012 Festival it has been very busy for the Young Ambassadors, the very next day after the Carnival parade the girls were out at Sutton's Juice in Thulimbah as part of their training program. They have now spent several training sessions with Marella Pinchbeck in deportment and etiquette, completed their Toastmaster Speechcraft course and have been out and about with all sorts of fundraising activities. It is with much regret that Jessica Johnson has withdrawn from the Apple and Grape Young Ambassador's program. The Apple and Grape Harvest Festival committee thank Jessica and her sponsor Rodney Abraham and Kellie Thompson from Granite Belt Fruit Freighters and wish Jessica well for the future.

The committee is still looking for a Marketing Director to promote the Festival. Can you fill this spot? Keith Barnett said "we are looking for someone who can step in and take over the marketing plans of the Festival. With only five months until the Festival starts we really need someone to get the word out there. If you have experience in this area please contact us info@appleandgrape.org , we would love to hear from you."

Don't forget October 15th is Stanthorpe Races day when the Young Ambassadors will be formally introduced to the community. See you there!