



THE 2018 MID STORY

MY ISLAND DREAM

MID2018 | September 22, 2018

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2018 MY ISLAND DREAM ARTISTIC REPORT

The My Island dream Program (MID) was established to support and facilitate traditional Pacific Island Dance practice throughout schools in the Western Suburbs of Melbourne. The framework developed is based on a biennial community engagement program which was delivered in 2016 and 2018. Each year has seen a different model developed to respond to the specific community and school needs.

The aims of MID are too:

- Work with the young people and for the young people to coordinate a biennial event that celebrates the diversity of traditional Pacific Island culture in the Western Suburbs of Melbourne, providing an exciting cross-cultural platform for audience and performance development.
- Deliver community support that facilitates opportunities for arts and cultural performance and skills development through a series of projects, rehearsals, workshops and events.
- Provide further performance opportunities with other festivals and events where appropriate and connect groups/schools.

The objectives of MID are:

- An increased awareness of the value of traditional Pacific Island Indigenous cultural practices as an integral strategy in community wellbeing and a pathway to improved employment and further education and training for individuals, particularly disengaged youth.
- The preservation of culture by traditional intergenerational learning methods that strengthen the relationships between Elders, young people and schools.
- Sustainability of MID as a biennial event in Melbourne for all schools in Victoria to take part in.
- To provide an integral strategy to create pathways for cultural understanding, appreciation and respect between Pacific Islanders and non-Indigenous Australia.
- Undertake independent evaluation through: Data collection, Qualitative and rich media, Structured feedback and review, Critical reflection, Regular, rich reporting.



MITCH TAMBO , True Culture.com,
performing at MID2018





VAIUSU AND WESTSIDE PASIFIKA YOUTH
COMMITTEE PRESENTS

MY ISLAND DREAM

MID is a celebration of culture created with the youth and for the youth. A ten-week educational program run within schools teaching our young people about Pacific Island values and culture.

MID2018 hosted 13 schools and over 270 students who came together to showcase traditional Pacific Island dance, music and history.

Starting early June the MID Coordinator and WSP4C held weekly meetings to gain an understanding of what the young people wanted and what we could create. The MID committee was made up of Vaiusu director Fipe Preuss, Brimbank Youth Worker Martha Metuisela the WSP4C with occasional visits from school student representatives and supporting youth workers. Through these meetings the MID committee (MIDC) decided that there was a need for 2018 to be larger in venue capacity and school registrations. MID2016 proved that there was a need for a professional platform for the young people to work towards and that guidance from artists and youth workers be an option for schools to take up.

Due to funding accountabilities MID's funding was to support Brimbank Young people and to help strengthen the Brimbank community. The MIDC discussed the young peoples needs and hoped to create a platform the community can feel welcome and be a part of.

A tiered approach was taken to school registrations to ensure Brimbank community had the initial advantage of registering their school first, then followed by open registrations for all schools within Victoria.

Due to funding restrictions there was a limited time the organisers could occupy the Enjoy venue for the event.

Working the timelines back from this the MIDC created our performance run sheet to understand maximum school registrations for 2018. The maximum schools goal was achieved within the two months of open registrations. and the Enjoy venue was sold out two weeks before the show.

MID2016 was created for Brimbank students only. As it was the first event of its kind in Brimbank it would not be open to visitors or other dance groups from neighbouring communities. Rather,

the focus would be on supporting local school groups and providing them with a safe space to perform publicly in front of their community.

This also meant the MIDC could learn, grow, evaluate and reflect on their experiences internally before opening up their doors to the wider community.

The date Saturday 22 September 2018 were determined as it fell at the closure of term three, while the venue site was chosen for its capacity as we were advised it could hold 2000 persons, their technical production capabilities and the need for an indoor venue due to the unpredictable Melbourne weather around September made Enjoy Venue the obvious and only choice.

The MIDC also wanted MID2018 to offer professional staging for the young people.





LAKEVIEW SENIOR COLLEGE

PRE-MID REHEARSALS AND SUPPORT

After the success of 2016 performances many schools opted to host the rehearsals during school lunch hours and afterschool practices.

The Sunshine, Visy Cares hub supported afterschool rehearsals for three of the schools and also hosted the MIDC for weekly meetings.

Hume City Central College requested a Vaiusu preferred artist and was allocated local Samoan artists Juliana Lologa to help lead their MID journey with support from Karen Sooaemalelagi as their contract MID youth worker.

Hoppers Crossing Secondary school also requested artist support and Noelani Le Nevez, director and founder of Nuholani Dance Group was allocated to their school to help support their MID journey.

All other registered schools preferred to be supported by a member of their local community. Many parents, family members and local community leaders took part in supporting the young people's journey whether through rehearsal performance and cultural understanding or to traditional adornment creations and teaching the youth on these practises.

Each week leading up to MID2018 schools were asked if youth workers or artist support was needed. By the final three weeks most schools requested the MID Youth work support. This also gave the MIDC an opportunity to touch base with the students to understand any concerns and answer any questions about the performance day.

MID team

Fipe Preuss, artistic director of Vaiusu secured the funding, developed appropriate models of community engagement and provided mentoring and support to partnering co-producers Westside Pasifika Youth Committee. (WSPYC).

Westside Pasifika Youth Committee is a group of young Pacific Island women who have worked on numerous local government projects to help support youth in the Brimbank region. They are the original concept developers of My Island Dream and in 2016 worked along side Fipe Preuss and Naomi Thyers to create the inaugural My Island Dream.

Vaiusu engaged with local Pacific Island preferred artist to support schools if requested by school coordinators or Principal. The curated preferred artist list was provided to schools if requested.

Martha Metuisela, founder of WSPYC and Brimbank City Council Youth worker was also contracted by Vaiusu to help continue to develop and support all schools registered for MID.. At the event Martha also directed the show as part of the technical production team. Directing the sound and lighting.

Vaiusu, also engaged CMY Youth worker, Sefita Rasolosolo (Sef) who supported Wyndham schools. Also with Karen Soaemalelagi Youth worker for Hume City Central and Faustian Osa Youth support for Victoria University Secondary College.

My Island Dream also had 80 volunteers supporting the activities leading up to the main event and also on the ground during the day.



EVENT CREW

Ticketing and front of house coordinator Glen Reiss also Co-director of Vaiusu worked closely with a group of volunteers to manage crowd control and any ticketing issues that occurred.

With a sell out show we had over 200 people on a waiting list for tickets.

Volunteer coordinator Heidi Leung arranged any volunteer support needed on the ground for the event. Working closely with the WSP4C to keep the event running smoothly. We had over 80 volunteers supporting the program and a volunteer & schools check-in area was set up in the outdoor stalls area. Also as this was GA ticketing system a strategy was in place to ensure 2000 people entered and exited the building quickly and safely.

As schools arrived they were greeted by Diana Foliaki and MID youth workers. Each performer received a wrist band and a welcoming committee created by DRAM FAM.

Volunteers are an important support for any festival and prior to the event we held our MID Volunteer information night. with EDM's communicating important information to all registered volunteers. We had over 30 volunteers attend this evening and 60 volunteers on the ground for the event. The volunteer info night created a team connection for all the volunteers and key to the success of the event.

The community had such a strong level of ownership and determination around the delivery of the event.

Participants Total 2018

Performers 280, P1: 95% Other: 5%

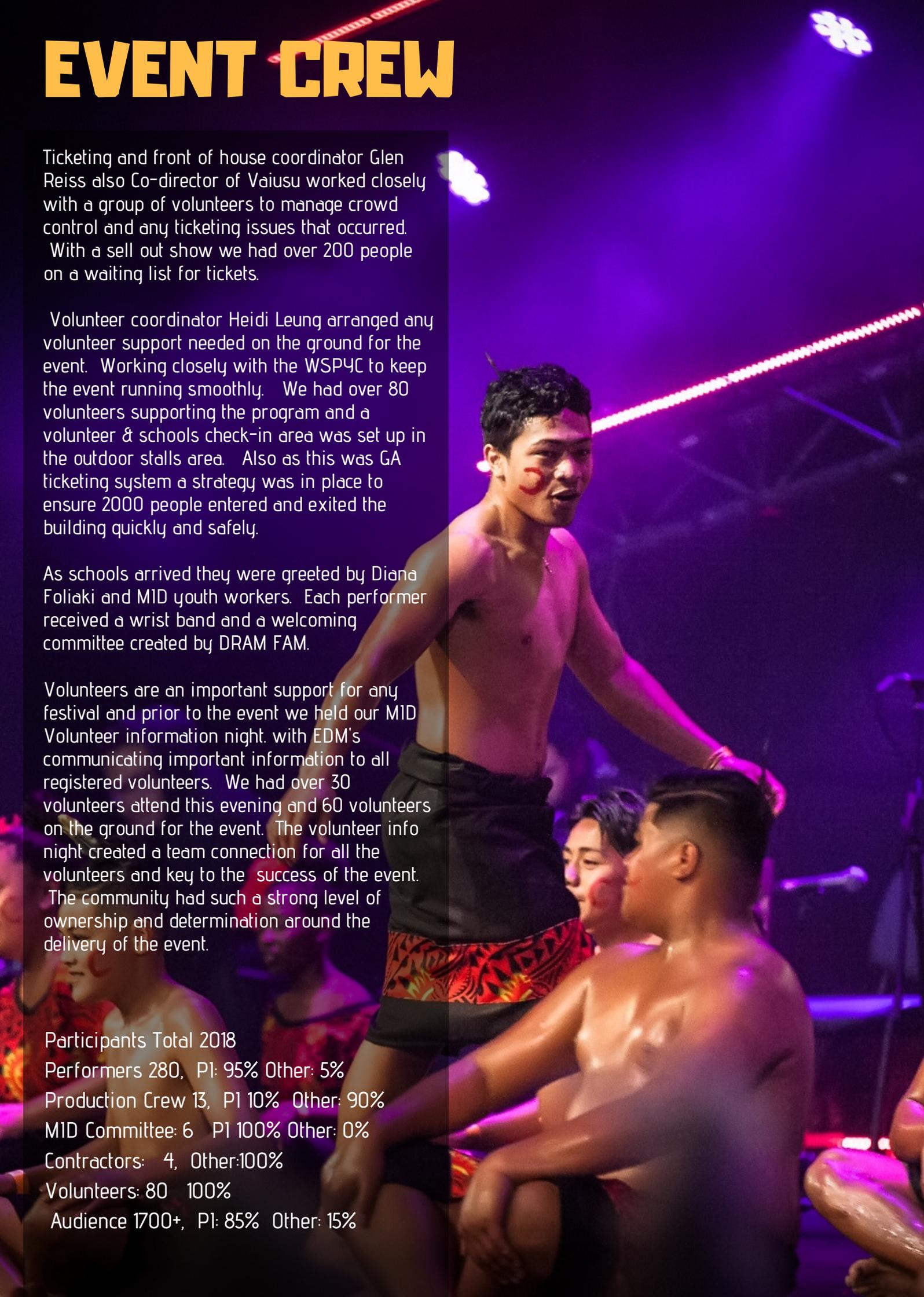
Production Crew 13, P1 10% Other: 90%

MID Committee: 6 P1 100% Other: 0%

Contractors: 4, Other:100%

Volunteers: 80 100%

Audience 1700+, P1: 85% Other: 15%



MY ISLAND DREAM PERFORMERS

MID2018 hosted students from 13 Melbourne based schools, from the City of Brimbank, City of Wyndham, City of Maribyrnong and Hume City. Over 270 student performers were registered to representing all Pacific Island cultures to a sold out venue.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOL AND REGISTERED PERFORMERS

25	VU SECONDARY COLLEGE	Samoa, Tokelau & Tonga
25	HOPPER CROSSING SECONDARY COLLEGE	Samoa, Tahiti
10	HUME CENTRAL SECONDARY COLLEGE	Samoa
15	TARNEIT P-9 COLLEGE	Tonga & Samoa
42	SUNSHINE SECONDARY COLLEGE	Samoa & Tonga
18	ST ALBANS SECONDARY COLLEGE	Samoa & Tonga
<hr/>		
7	FIDATRIX MUSIC & MANUSINA DANCE GROUP	Live Music and Samoa
32	WYNDHAM CENTRAL SECONDARY COLLEGE	Tonga
16	LAKEVIEW SENIOR COLLEGE	Tonga & Samoa
10	STAUGHTON COLLEGE/MELTON COLLEGE	Samoa
40	THE GRANGE P12 COLLEGE	Pasifika Mix
33	BRAYBROOK SECONDARY COLLEGE	Maori, Samoan, Tongan

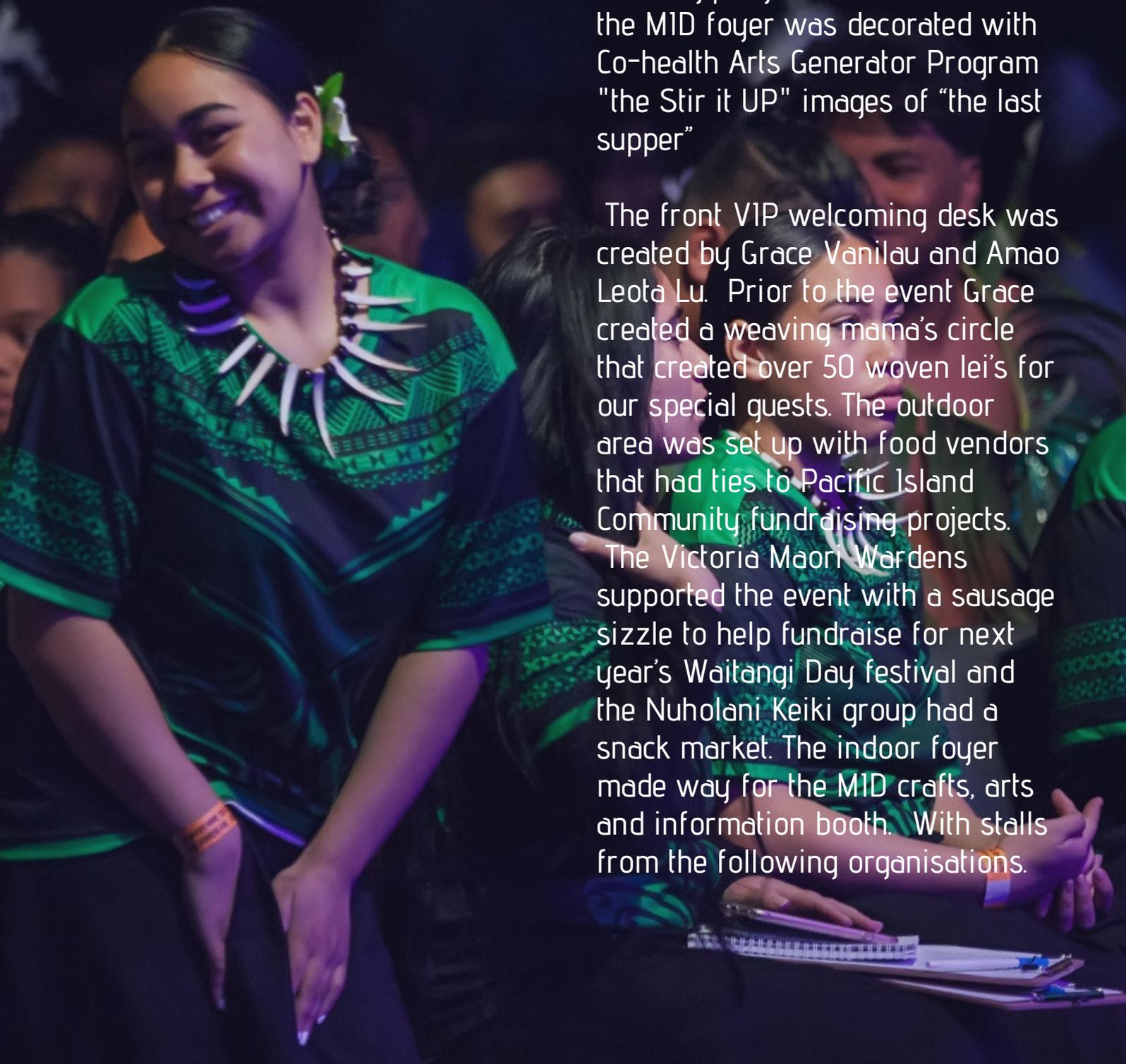


THE MARKETPLACE

MID Market place was curated by the MIDC and coordinated by Irihipeti Waretini. It was occupied by local Pacific Island small craft and arts businesses and also information booths for other youth working programs. The walls of the MID foyer was decorated with Co-health Arts Generator Program "the Stir it UP" images of "the last supper"

The front VIP welcoming desk was created by Grace Vanilau and Amao Leota Lu. Prior to the event Grace created a weaving mama's circle that created over 50 woven lei's for our special guests. The outdoor area was set up with food vendors that had ties to Pacific Island Community fundraising projects.

The Victoria Maori Wardens supported the event with a sausage sizzle to help fundraise for next year's Waitangi Day festival and the Nuholani Keiki group had a snack market. The indoor foyer made way for the MID crafts, arts and information booth. With stalls from the following organisations.



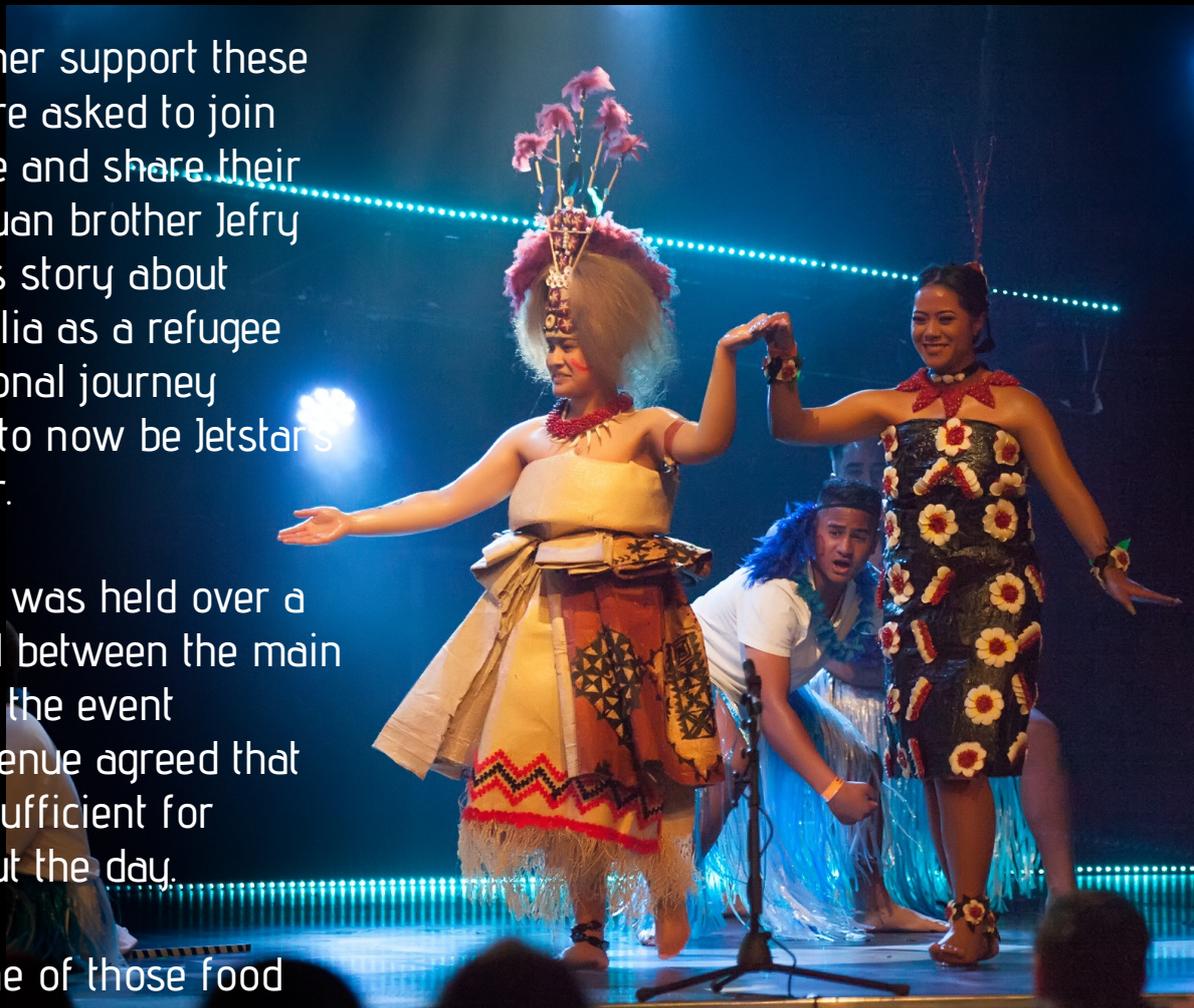
THE MARKETPLACE, continued

The New Way Finders, Kinga's Art, Arawa Designs, 350 Pacific, True Culture, Miss Samoa Victoria, Free West Papua, PICAA and the Enjoy coffee shop and the food stalls outdoors were Maori Wardens sausage sizzle and Nuholani Mama's fundraisers

To also help further support these groups some were asked to join our MC's on stage and share their story. West Papuan brother Jefry Chikwa shared his story about landing in Australia as a refugee and his inspirational journey that has led him to now be Jetstar's airplane engineer.

As the MID event was held over a 3hour period and between the main meals of the day the event organisers and venue agreed that four food stalls sufficient for snacks throughout the day.

Unfortunately, one of those food venders pulled out just prior to the event. All remaining food venders sold out of their foods.





MID SUPPORTERS

Living Koko Pty Ltd	Office space, marquees, logistical support, staffing, gift packs and funding
Buddha Bouquet	Gift packs and thank you gifts for members of the community
Charis Mentoring	Auspice of Brimbank Community Grant
Freeza Victoria	Volunteers, photography documentation, stall holder support
Co-health arts generator	Exhibition support, Video documentation
Drams Fam	Youth Engagement support
Visy Cares Hub, Brimbank Youth Services	Meeting spaces, rehearsal spaces for young people, marketing support
CMY	Youth support in Wyndham area
Staffing and volunteers	

FUNDING

Brimbank City Council was the significant sponsor of the event through their Community Strengthening Grants program.

Freeza also contributed funds through their youth events programs.

MID was proudly sponsored and supported by Living Koko Pty Ltd and Vaiusu through funding and staffing.



MEDIA AND MARKETING

The marketing campaign for MID2018 utilised social media platforms to engage audiences on both a local and national level. The bulk of social media content was produced and delivered by Fipe Preuss with support from WSP4C.

Leading up to the event the young people were encouraged to create promotional videos about their group and their journey. This was then shared through MID facebook, Instagram and Vaiusu's pages. The lead up to the event was heavily documented on Instagram which generated significant engagement through likes and reposts.

Through an event mentoring session WSP4C learnt the fundamentals for creating a media release. The release was distributed before the event, focusing on the story of MID and the young people taking ownership of their event. This yielded interest from PBS radio program "Our stories" and through local councils newsletters and star weekly.

Showcasing the schools and sharing the benefits of such a process of for the youth by the youth programming.

Further promotion was held within the schools with posters and flyers distributed and sent home with students for parents. Promotional posters were also displayed in local libraries, train stations. The WSP4C took to the streets to hand out flyers and posters to students and talk one to one on about the program. This saw a great increase in registered schools and local community interest.



#MID2018

Melbourne's biggest Schools Pasifika event is a non-competitive cultural exchange platform created for and by Pasifika Youth. Our vision is to bring together schools from the Western suburbs to celebrate and honour our diverse Pasifika cultures.

We celebrate variety too so bring your DANCE, LIVE MUSIC, CHOIR, COMEDY, DRAMA, FILM to MID2018

Limited spots available...
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
Grab your friends and make sure you register TODAY!



CALLING ALL SCHOOLS
WHATCHA WAITING 4?
JOIN MID2018 NOW
[WWW.VAIUSU.COM](http://www.vaiusu.com)



MID2018

Saturday 22 September 2018, 3PM
Enjoy Venue, 41 Lance Rd Sunshine

Melbourne's biggest Schools Pasifika event is a non-competitive cultural exchange platform created for and by Pasifika Youth.

\$10GA \$30 FAMILY PASS
GET TIX [WWW.VAIUSU.COM](http://www.vaiusu.com)

MIDFAMSPAM

MIDFAMSPAM was MID2018 weekly email communication that all registered schools, their teacher support and students who had registered for more information.



MID2018 PRE-PERFORMANCE TIMELINE

27 JUL **REGISTRATIONS CLOSE**
 School registrations close on the 27th July 2018. Get your applications in quick. We have a couple of performance spots left and lots of schools showing interest. Remember it is first in first served!

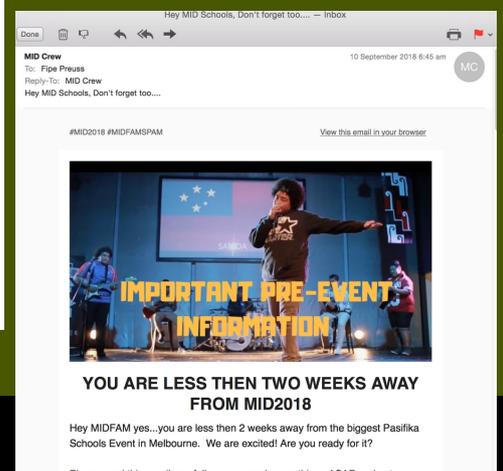
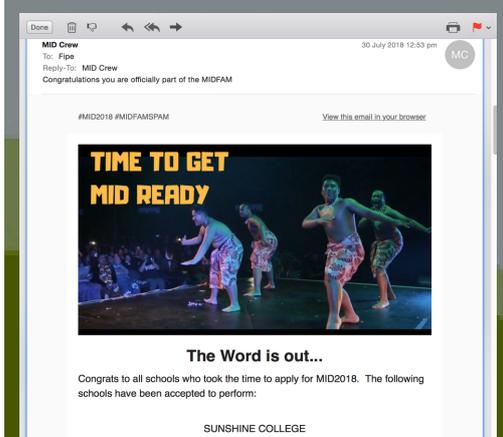
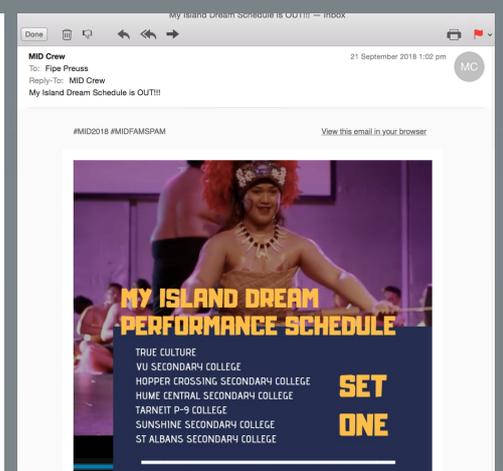
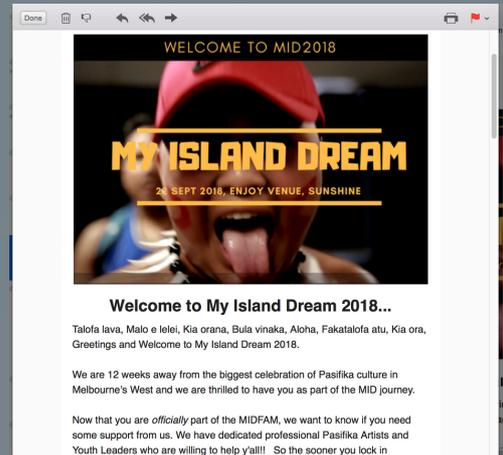
27 JUL **SCHOOL REGO FEES DUE**
 Your school registration fee of \$30 is due 27th July. Please deposit your non-refundable Rego Fee into the following account, once received your performance slot will be locked in!
Account Name: AMATAGA PTY LTD
BSB: 063 020
ACC: 1057 0764

30 JUL **PERFORMING SCHOOLS**
 We will announce all schools performing at MID2018
 If you requested an artist to help your school they will be allocated by this date!
 If not send us a quick email!

15 AUG **WHATS YOUR STORY?**
 We need to know the story behind your performance. What is it about? Why did you choose it? What does it mean to you?
 Start getting your music ready and your costumes sorted!!!

30 AUG **PERFORMERS TIX DUE**
 This week Martha (MID Crew) will be coming around to each rehearsal to collect your \$5 performance fee.
NO FEE = NO ENTRY - Don't be the only one who misses out.

30 AUG **PERFORMANCE MUSIC IS DUE**
 We need your music early to test it through our sound system. **WE WILL NOT ACCEPT MUSIC ON THE PERFORMANCE DATE.**
 Remember you have a 10min performance set. Please respect everyones time slots and do not go over the set time.
www.vaiusu.com





BRAYBROOK SECONDARY COLLEGE

HIGHLIGHTS

The excitement and enthusiasm of the local community to get behind such an event exceeded all expectations. For many this was the first time they had attended My Island Dream. Organisations and individuals were incredibly generous with their time and knowledge to pull the main event together. It became very evident to the organisers that this event was something the young people had longed for and they utilised the opportunity to showcase the best of their cultural and artistic talents.

HIGHLIGHTS continued...

There was also a strong sense of cultural pride and authority from within the community and this was evidenced by the intergenerational participation to support the young people on their journey to MID2018. The result was a magical afternoon of traditional dance.

The solo representation of Tarniet P-9 College by Jasmine Tuakana and the support from the community was also a major highlight for the event.

Due to transport and other challenges the students of Tarniet P-9 were unable to attend MID.

Jasmine arrived solo with her teacher and made the decision to represent her school. The community were up out of their seats cheering her on and there were few dry eyes in the audience.

Another highlight was the energy, laughter and support the DRAMS FAM team gave to MID2018. Arriving early and keeping the young people energised and feeling positive about the event and their performance.



HIGHLIGHTS continued...

For the organisers the level of participation and engagement from the community was the main highlight. The program had definitely matured and grown into itself and found the right balance of craft/arts/info markets stalls and performances. As well as opportunities for the Young people to grown into the event.

Martha Metuisela was on the ground within schools and then moved into a show director role on the day of the event there was also a level of training and mentoring that was provided to her by Fipe Preuss.

Another highlight for the community was the knowing that some schools had performers from different cultural backgrounds dancing and representing. One school had Africa males performing, others European/Australia and another a young Syrian girl. Also the majority of the teachers and principals that supported the students coming to MID were not of Pacific Island descent and gained great relationships with the Pacific Island community especially the parents. One teacher advised that it was the first time that she had met a number of the parents who's kids were performing.



HIGHLIGHTS continued...

The Know your roots organisation from Shepparton, organisers for Pasifika Festival (Shepparton) attended the event and hired a bus to bring over 30 young people to experience the event. Shepparton is 185 kilometres north of Sunshine and after experiencing the event KYR are keen to engage with My Island Dream future events and hopefully on a regular basis. The organisers see this as a huge win for the Pacific Island community of Victoria as we continue to grow and strengthen our cultural connections.





CHALLENGES

A few of the student leaders had difficulty organising their dance groups internally. As a few of the schools opted for no specialist artist or youth worker it became more apparent closer to the event that the youth workers needed to be within the schools for clearer communication and to support the young people and teachers more.

Vaiusu would like to work on strategies around the engagement of young people through the schools and continue the MID cultural connection programs.

With most members of WSP4C having left school and in the workforce we had a smaller but extremely dedicated youth team for events management. WSP4C were transitioning into work/study life and managing family commitments and other projects therefore managing schedules and insuring everyone was up to date was a challenge.





SUMMARY

The MID2018 event was a great success, bringing the community together for an afternoon of culture and arts that made all present incredibly proud. Vaiusu recognises the great capacity to develop new skills with some of the school students. It provided a foundation for the necessary training and opportunities needed for it to grow into a more independent self-determined event for the community.

There is still a need for financial viability and security that must be addressed for the future of the event to be delivered at such a scale, however organisers were able to break up the event to different elements to provide some real on the ground training and support, ensuring all areas of delivery were greatly developed and enhanced by local engagement. The artistic model that will continue to be developed for My Island Dream now includes a wide range of artistic and cultural activities that can take place throughout the year both in and out of schools.



BRAYBROOK

SECONDARY COLLEGE



Written by Fipe Preuss

Creative Producer | Storyteller through movement | Chocolate Maker |
Community Cultural Development Practitioner

Artistic Director at Vaiusu - the creators space
www.vaiusu.com

Owner, Living Koko Pty Ltd
www.livingkoko.com

Co-director Nuholani Polynesian Dance
www.nuholani.com

Event Director JamGrass Music Festival - www.jamgrass.com.au
Creative Producer - MID2018 <https://vimeo.com/190203172>

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