



MOONLIGHT MARKET HISTORY

1998 - 2017



In 1998 a lady by the name of Louise Austen came up with the concept of holding a fair at night. Fairs are used by most schools as a way to fundraise, so why not try something different and have one at night? After much talk and debate, the night concept was accepted. The “Moonlight Market” was born. Little did Louise realise what a wonderful legacy she was leaving us. We were also very fortunate to have a Principal (Mr Gwynne, at the time) eager to try something different and put his whole support behind the idea. His enthusiasm was infectious and he was more than happy to accommodate any idea, no matter how far fetched. He was so behind the Moonlight Markets, that at one stage he was going to have the name registered so that no one else could use it. We have been incredibly fortunate that our current Principal, Mr Ingle has been equally enthusiastic and supportive of the Moonlight Markets!



At this time, Falls Road had to fundraise for air-conditioning the school. No government grant was available and so the money had to come from the school parent base. The money raised from the first Moonlight Market started the ball rolling. Our first market was an unexpectedly huge success. A lot of lessons were learnt on this night like - gas bottles? Oops, meant to check they were full. People ran home in all directions to get their gas bottles so the Food Hall could keep going. What do you mean we keep blowing fuses? Oops, should have checked on the power as well. Luckily there were some parents who were sparkies or there could have been a little problem! Once again the Falls Road Community showed how wonderful they are and chipped in to get things right.

Since that first moonlit night, our markets have really made a name for themselves. The money raised in the following Markets ended up paying for the majority of the school to be air-conditioned and filling teachers wish lists for their classrooms. After this had been completed, the money from the next couple of markets was earmarked for enclosing the undercover area, now known as the Moonlight Hall. In the end, we received a grant for much of this work, but we still had to pay for the doors, painting, sound system, stage etc.

From this;



to this;



We have also bought complete reading series for classrooms, books for the junior reading room and computer equipment for the Library.

The P&C also has ongoing commitments for half of the Athletics and Reading Eggs computer programs, Parenting Ideas Membership, and the trophies and medallions for the swimming carnival and sports days.

In 2007, the Falls Road P&C were awarded the inaugural Australian Women's Weekly P&C winner for the state of WA, mainly because of the success of our Markets. We were awarded a trophy and \$2000. The money was spent on the large screen in the front office which displays photos of the children.

In 2007 the Markets paid for the new playground in the Kindy/Pre-Primary area at a cost of \$20,000.



In 2009 the funds raised were used to fulfill 'Teacher Wish Lists' and improved library resources.

In 2011 we raised \$25,000, and along with a grant from the Commonwealth Bank, we were able to purchase the undercover area outside the staff room where the children all eat their recess and lunch.

In 2013 we were fortunate enough to raise \$36,000 which was spent in several different areas. We purchased 5 split system air-conditioners for the Moonlight Hall. Funds were also put aside for the ongoing Nature Play Area (\$10,000), along with items that completed the 'Teacher Wish Lists'

In 2015 we raised \$30,000 which helped to provide the patios outside Room 3 and the Canteen, the extension to the Kindy/Pre-Primary playground for the Nature Play area. We also used these funds to purchase items for the 'Teacher Wish Lists' which included a comprehensive set of microscopes for the science department.

This is the history of our Moonlight Markets. Thank you to Louise Austen who started it all, and thank you to all those who have helped in the past. As you can see, the money raised benefits the children in so many ways.

I look forward to seeing you at the meetings and thank you for your support.

Karen McCann
Moonlight Market Co-ordinator 2017.

originally written by; Nicole Simpson & Catrina Thin, Past P&C Presidents.