

# FOUNDATION DINNERS RAISE TWO MILLION DOLLARS



Mater Dei Foundation Dinners have hit the \$2 million mark after this year's event made \$250,000 on Saturday September 9.

"The Mater Dei community is well known for its generosity. Once again, led by Platinum Sponsor Inghams Enterprises and other significant and ongoing supporters they have shown this", said Development Manager, Debbie Gates.

Members of the organising committee also dug deep. At night's end they realised that they were \$19,000 short of \$2 million and put their hands in their pockets to help make up the difference.

"I know these wonderful people don't expect anything in return for their

generosity, but the parents and guardians of children at Mater Dei would like to express their sincere thanks, not only for their ongoing support, but also for the special love they have for our children", said Garry Saunders, Chairman of the P&F.

On stage students proved the money is well spent with a reality TV send-up of "Dancing with the Staff". They were more at ease than their nervous teachers and rumba'd, waltzed and hip-hopped before performing a rendition of "We Go Together" from the musical "Grease". The Mater Dei choir opened the event and sang two ballads, "The Climb" and "Just the Way You Are" with energy, confidence and lots of waves at the end.

The official entertainer was the crooner with movie star appeal, Tom Burlinson, who performed hits from Frank Sinatra and Nat King Cole under the glow of crystal chandeliers at The Cube, Campbelltown.

League legend, Steve Edge and local solicitor, Jim Marsden are the "Two Ronnies" of the auction business. With a lot of laughter they helped items like four private dinners fetch \$20,000, while the student painting "Dancing Trees" went for \$5,000.

A moving speech by parent Gina Walsh reminded the 600 in attendance of what the event was for. So did the numerous ex-students in the audience, some of whom got up to take a bow as Committee Chair, Phil McCarroll, spoke of what they have achieved.

## SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

We acknowledge and thank the following businesses and individuals for their wonderful support of this event:

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### Committee

Phil McCarroll (Chair), John Adam, Martin Cascarino, Angus Cox, Jim Marsden, Kevin O'Keefe, Tony Fitzgerald, Debbie Gates

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## MATER DEI STUDENT PERFORMERS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Mitchell Anthony, Julia Aslan, Joel Beers, Ethan Campbell, Ebony Capitani, Mischa Castaneda-Abalos, Thomas Crichton, Elizabeth Cross, Zoe Dengate, Jade Di Girolamo, Lily Dobson, Emma-Jane Duggan, Kate Feeney, Victor Fineanganofu, Reilly Galway, Oliver Gooden, Laura Gow, Joseph Gurnett-Attard, Rachelle Hadchiti, Stephanie Hamid, Emma Harrison, Jareer Jaber, Olivia Leadbeater Nathan Leich, Stephan Males, Joseph Marando, Candice Marsh, Clare Marsh, Amie McClymont, Paige McCue-Shore, Andrea Moretto, Jake Nelson, Isabella Nolan, Linda Obeido, Taylah Palmer, Thomas Perrin, Genevieve Ryan, Phoebe Said, Ella Schaefer, Aaron Seeney, Beth Simpson, James Slender, Rebecca Sutton, James Tabone, Sarah Vassallo, Olivia Veneron and Johnny Zarzour

We also acknowledge and thank all the Mater Dei staff and parents and the wonderful staff at The Cube for their support.