



FLEXI MEDIA

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FLEXI FEST

2024

SPECIAL EDITION

An Interview With Sally

Sally has been our cook at Noosa Flexi for 12 years, serving food to hungry young people and staff alike. It's safe to say she's the most beloved staff member here. Having recently retired from the kitchen, we decided it was high time we interviewed her.

What's your most memorable moment from your time here at Flexi?

"Years ago, when I was the cleaner, I was cleaning the toilets, and there was an ex-student called Goggles. I was asking him about his new job at the Coffee Club in Buderim. He came out of the toilet, and I said, 'How've your shifts been?' But he thought I'd said something else! Then we both realised—oh my God!"

What TV show have you been watching recently?

"Dancing with the Stars. That's really daggy! I like the people in it, so that's why I'm watching it. I don't think you ever have to be bored; there's a gazillion things to watch on Netflix. There's even an old station where you can watch real old films and relive your childhood, like, you know, Audrey Hepburn."

What was the first record you bought?

"Hmm. I'm not really sure. But the other day, I was in an op shop and nearly bought a record called Popcorn—it was really daggy! It took me straight back to when I bought that album. I've recently bought a record player and am playing old records again. But honestly, I can't remember my first one."

So with that in mind, what's your favourite record to play on your record player at the moment?

"Oh, I don't know. I've got a bit of Boz Scaggs, Steely Dan, and a bit of George Benson. And then, of course, tragic eighties dance music like Wa Wa Nee and that disco sort of stuff."



By Kobi Berger

Tahlia talks about Flexi-Fest

For this special edition of the Flexi Media Mag, we're putting the spotlight on Flexi-Fest. First up, we caught up, prior to the event happening, with the young person who originally proposed the idea for the festival, Tahlliah Betzien.

Hi Tahlliah, what is Flexi-Fest?

"Flexi-Fest was initially organised to raise awareness and gather support to expand the music room into a multipurpose music and media space. It has since evolved into a class project focused on creating a whole-school community event where everyone can come together."

What is the main theme of the festival?

"The main theme of Flexi-Fest is music and there will also be woodwork and art displays."

What has been the most challenging part of organising the festival?

"The biggest challenge has probably been staying flexible with the original idea as it developed, and finding the right time to organise the entire event."

Tell us about the music performances at the festival.

"The music performances will be given by young people from our school, and possibly some from Gympie as well."

Can you tell us a bit about the art and woodwork that will be on display?

"Like the music performances, the woodwork and artwork are made by young people and will be displayed throughout the school."

How do you think this festival will influence future student events at this school?

"I believe this event could inspire students to pursue their own ideas."

What has been your favourite part about organising Flexi-Fest?

"My favourite part has been seeing my creative ideas, as well as those of my peers, come to life and working alongside



Super Quick-Fire Questions

Flexi-Fest Edition

For this special Edition of Flexi Music Magazine we had our interviewer, Ruby, walk around the fesitival and ask attendees quickfire questions here are some of their responses.

Amelia:

If you could have any music artist perform at Flexi-Fest, who would it be?

“Fiona Apple.”

Which teacher do you think would make a great pop star?

“Dave.”

If you could go see any music artist in concert, who would it be?

“Fiona Apple.”

Piper:

If you were to organise your own festival, what would the theme be?

“That’s a really good question. I think it would be a festival similar to this one, with art and music and stuff.”

If you were to have an artist paint or draw your portrait, who would you want?

“Van Gogh.”

Neil Kelly:

If you could have any brand sponsor Flexi-Fest, who would it be?

“I would probably encourage the Noosa Shire Council to come and sponsor our event because this could be happening on the main street of Noosa, and people would love it, wouldn’t they?”

“Organising events likes this gives young people new roles and responsibilities and teaches them life skills”

Why do you think it’s important for young people to organise events like this?

“Because it builds a lot of confidence, especially for our performers, who need an audience to close the loop between performing and receiving feedback. I think it’s really important for young performers to have that experience, but obviously, there are also a lot of other young people handling logistics. Those are great skills to develop—if you can organise something like this, you could even consider a career in event planning.”

If you could see any music artist in concert, who would it be?

“Well, my next concert is Crowded House, which I’m going to see in December, and I’m really looking forward to it. I’d also love to see Xavier Rudd next time he’s touring, as well as Midnight Oil and Roy Orbison.”

Cait:

Which teacher do you think would make the greatest pop star?

“Dave.”

If you could have any music artist perform at Flexi-Fest, who would it be?

“I’d probably say Lil Tjay or NBA YoungBoy.”

Why do you think it’s important for young people to organise events like this?

“I think it gives young people new roles and responsibilities and teaches them about life skills, like structuring events and managing certain details.”

Bok:

If you could go and see any artist in concert, who would it be?

“Hatsune Miku.”

What are you most excited about for Flexi-Fest?

“The yummy food.”

Miller:

Which teacher do you think would make the greatest pop star?

“Bainsey, for sure.”

If you could go and see any music artist in concert, who would it be?

“Nirvana. But that’s not possible now, obviously.”

Would you like to see Flexi-Fest come back?

“Yes.”

Jacob:

If you could have any brand sponsor Flexi-Fest, what brand would it be?

“Coles.”

Why do you think it’s so important for young people to be able to organise events like this?

“It teaches them independence and life skills.”

If you could get any artist to paint or draw your portrait, who would it be?

“Alex the artist.”

Stella and Thaiger:

If you were to have your own festival, what would the theme be?

[Thaiger Answered] “The only festivals I go to are punk rock, so probably something like that.”

If you were to have your own band, what would it be called?

[Thaiger Answered] “I don’t know... maybe Skittles.”

What were you most excited for at Flexi-Fest?

[Stella Answered] “The food.”

Athea:

What were you most excited for at Flexi-Fest?

“Probably just performing, as it was my first time.”

If you could have any artist perform at Flexi-Fest, who would it be?

“Probably Beabadoobee.”

Which teacher do you think would make the greatest pop star?

“Oh ,100% Dave.”

Scott:

If you could form a band, what would the band be called?

“The Flexi Bananas.”

Fynn:

What was the best part about Flexi-Fest?

Ooh, the live music.

MP:

If you were to organize your own festival, what would the theme be?

“I like the idea of a tropical zombie.”

Why do you think it’s important for young people to be able to organize events like this?

“It gives them a chance to express themselves, get some skills, communicate, and show the community what they need as well.”

Would you want Flexi-Fest to come back?

“Yeah! 100%.”



Flexi-Fest Review

By Ruby

On the 12th of September, Noosa Flexible School held its much-anticipated Flexi-Fest.

Bustling crowds of students, parents, and visitors alike gathered around the basketball court where the band was playing. Throughout the school, interactive stalls were set up, with activities like face painting, badge making, and hat decorating, all run by students and teachers together. A stall displaying woodwork showcased handcrafted chopping boards made by students, which were available for purchase, and a handmade white sun chair crafted by one of our own students was raffled.

Food was provided to guests by our chef Ben, with students and teachers working the grill. Among our own students, we had wonderful guests from Hemmant and Gympie Flexi, joining in the festivities. To say Flexi-Fest had a lot to offer would be an understatement.

Organised by both students and teachers, from the original idea of Tahlia Betzien and Warbu class led by their teacher, Dani, Flexi-Fest was envisioned as a festival to showcase the talents of our students—and it succeeded brilliantly in its goal.

The event began with a Welcome to Country from Leaf followed by our fantastic MC, Caitlyn, who introduced the band.

Rather than a fixed lineup, the band was an ensemble that switched members in and out depending on the song, highlighting a range of talents. Our performers included: Amelia (bass), Athea (vocals), Brashen (guitar and bass), Ella (bass), James (bass), Jasper (drums), Jeremiah (drums, guitar, and vocals), Kobi (guitar), Lindsay (guitar), Sophia (guitar, vocals, and keys), Summer (drums), and Tara (drums). Honourable mentions go to MP and Meika, who DJ'd a dance-worthy set after the band performances concluded.

"Flexi-Fest was envisioned as a festival to showcase the talents of our students—and it succeeded brilliantly in its goal."



"The confidence shown by newer students in standing up to perform was particularly worth applauding"

It's easy to say the performances by our young people were outstanding, and the confidence shown by newer students in standing up to perform was particularly worth applauding.

Supported by Darren and all the young people of the music room, they really took Flexi-Fest to a new level. Here was the setlist for Flexi-Fest: Zombie - The Cranberries, Vampire Empire - Big Thief, The Forest - The Cure, About a Girl - Nirvana, Cologne - Beabadoobee, Beautiful Boy - Esha Tewari, Stronger Than Me - Amy Winehouse, Tennessee Whiskey - Chris Stapleton, Lonely Boy - The Black Keys, and I Shot the Sheriff - Bob Marley/Eric Clapton. Each performance was exceptional, earning resounding applause from the audience every time.

Overall, Flexi-Fest went off without a hitch and was praised by students, teachers, and guests alike. It's easy for me to sing the praises of this event, especially after seeing the positive energy from everyone in attendance. There is already a large interest in bringing it back next year. So, if you're reading this and want to see Flexi-Fest return, or if organising a festival yourself sounds exciting, make sure to let your teachers know—events like this only happen thanks to the amazing organisation and leadership of young people!

Finally, a huge thank you to everyone who participated in Flexi-Fest, whether through organising, performing, or simply attending. It was the entire Flexi community that made this event such an outstanding success.



Musician Spotlight

Brashen is a bassist and guitarist who plays in many of our bands here at Flexi. He is also a member of 'The Dirty Birds', a band with fellow young person at Flexi, Jeremiah.

Those who know Brashen, will know he has a wide range of musical tastes but, in particular, is a big fan of Nirvana. In spite of this, Brashen is always happy to play music with anyone here at Flexi and support their music and chosen genres.

Brashen played in every band at last years graduation and played in multiple bands on both bass and guitar at our recent Flexi-Fest.

Believe it or not, Brashen is still only in year 9 and so still has a few years left at Flexi to develop his skills further. Next year, Brashen is planning to enrol in our Certificate II in Music.



Brashen



NOOSA FLEXI MEDIA

Noosa Flexi Media magazine is
produced by young people at Noosa
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Want to contribute to the next edition?

We are looking for young people to
contribute to the next issue. Let us know
if you are interested.