



MARVELLOUS MATARIKI MOMENTS

Invercargill's city centre was buzzing on Saturday as crowds flocked to celebrate at the Matariki Festival in Esk Street.

City Centre Co-ordinator Kari Graber said she was delighted by the number of people who came into town throughout the day to shop, eat and have fun at the Festival. Feedback had been extremely positive and she hoped to make the Matariki Festival an annual event.

"It was wonderful to see people learning about and trying out traditional Maori crafts such as weaving, poi making and carving.

The Maori artisans were really welcoming and keen to share their art, culture and knowledge with people.

"It was also great to trial the craft market in the big marquee in the middle of Esk Street. People seemed to love it and I have been inundated with requests for more street markets on Esk Street. The food trucks were busy and many of the local eateries were also full, as Festival-goers took time out to enjoy lunch."

Ms Graber said the Star Dome and Fire Show were well received, while street performers, local bands and musicians kept the

atmosphere in Esk Street pumping throughout the day.

"The shop windows looked fantastic, all dressed for Matariki, with many retailers displaying stars, lights and the kites made by hundreds of local children from kits that were given out by the Invercargill Public Library.

"I am so grateful to everyone who participated in and supported the Matariki Festival, which is another part in our strategy to bring people into the city centre, to keep it vibrant and help ensure the future of the city's businesses and retailers," Ms Graber said.



Thank you to the businesses who displayed Matariki Kites made by local children:

- Toi Toi
- Wool World
- Invercargill City Libraries & Archives
- Just Incredible
- The Lollie Shop
- Ambrosia Flowers
- Creativity Plus
- Young Reflections
- Whitcoulls
- Allan White Sports
- Goody Two Shoes
- McKnight & Brown
- WEA – Southland Education
- Bonsai Restaurant
- Pinch of Spice
- K&K
- BNZ



And thank you to all those who provided their skills and talents to make the day an amazing success:

- Steve and Winnie Solomon and whanau
- Oti Murray and the Te Taonga Mauri Cultural Trust
- Verdon College Netball Senior Team A
- Weaving and poi making tutors
- Lady Friday
- Toni Biddle and Jacanita Kerepeti Gilbert of Lipstick
- The Cook Island Drummers and Dancers
- Kelvin Hotel staff
- The Foveaux Choir
- Party Plus
- David McKillop, Harcourts Invercargill
- Awarua Synergy
- Trevor Thayer, Professionals Invercargill