



Easter Festival

Purpose

The Easter Family Festival has been running in Robertson Park on Palm Sunday for 30 years. It is targeted mainly at primary age children and their families, with a large range of games and other activities. There is a stage presentation with songs, puppets, community group presentations and an Easter talk. The vision is to change the way Australians see Easter, by conveying its central story in the context of the church working together in unity. It does this by providing a setting where Christians can share with their non-Christian friends and, in a warm and open way, raise some of the core issues of Easter with them. Everything on the day is free; this can provide real opportunities to explain the gift of life that God gave us at Easter.

The Role in Practice

There are a number of ways to be involved.

- OEC has previously operated a BBQ on the day to provide toasted hot cross buns and Easter tracts to people, but people from OEC have worked at other activities as well. Other activities on the day depend on the volunteers available and their skills. For example, crafts, simple woodwork, face painting and balloon sculpting as well as the stage presentations. Other information which will help equip volunteers for the day is also provided at the training session. In addition, helpers are needed for the administration and prayer tents at the event.
- In addition to volunteering for the actual program, helpers are always needed early and late – even the day before and after – to collect and set up tents, chairs, marquees and a portable stage, and then clean, pack up and return them.
- A small team of interested people from different churches organises the event by way of several planning meetings early in the year. An OEC representative or two, for working with this team would be most helpful.

The program runs from 12-3 on the Sunday afternoon before Easter. Volunteers can be there for an hour, or the whole time, as they are able. It's also now a requirement that volunteers working with children on the day have a WWCC number, which is free and easy to get for new volunteers.

Required training: There is usually a low-key training session for volunteers prior to the event on how to run games and the other activities offered on the day. Games equipment is provided.

What to do next: You will be contacted by the Easter Festival leader