

## Essay by Afsana Alam

On 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2007 I have attended the Beach Bonanza Carnival. The Carnival was the best multicultural event I have ever been to. It gave me the most pleasant experience that I ever had and I am sure I will never forget the event for its thrill, excitement and learning outcomes.

The Beach Bonanza affected me in many ways. The most significant thing it did to me was to develop my social skills a great deal. Another way the Beach Bonanza affected me was by *improving my sporting skills*. It also helped me realise how many cultures there are throughout NSW. I met many other students from various schools and became very good friends with them. I have participated in all the sporting games that were played that day. The fast moving and changing pace gave me unparalleled thrill and excitement and also improved my stamina. In effect it gave me a view of the wide world where many cultures with many faces can get together, become friends and, live and play in harmony.

It was the first time I have been to a Beach Bonanza Carnival and I was glad I was there. The relief I had from school and work (thank goodness) to come to the Beach Bonanza was really worth it. I had the most unforgettable experience.

If there were many other carnivals, I would have said that the Beach Bonanza Carnival was the best because I doubt that any other carnival would be as *entertaining* and enjoyable as the Beach Bonanza Carnival was.

In the end of the Beach Bonanza Carnival everyone was given a bag containing pamphlets with information on the safety rules about many things. It had safety rules for getting into the water. It also contained what to do when stung or hurt by a sea-creature, what to do when in trouble, what to look for to avoid trouble, and whom to go to for assistance when in need. It helped me interpret and understand the meaning of the term F-L-A-G-S (**F**ind the flags and swim between them, **L**ook at the safety sign, **A**sk a lifesaver for some good advice, **G**et a friend to swim with you, **S**tick your hand up for help).

From having all of these experiences which have affected me greatly I spiritually and physically became a better person. I advise people to attend the Beach Bonanza Carnival next year if there is one, but too bad I won't be able to attend because I will be in year seven next year. But believe me if you don't go to Beach Bonanza next year, you will never know what you are missing out on.

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