

Moomba parade brings thousands to the city for festival finale

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Flamenco dancers, Chinese dragons Vietnamese and Bharatanatyam performers - the 2016 Moomba parade was a colourful celebration of a vibrant and multicultural city out having a good time.

Thousands of spectators lined the streets as the finale of the four-day Moomba festival wound its way down St Kilda Road, starting near the Shrine of Remembrance and culminating at Linlithgow Avenue.

Presiding over the annual parade were the monarchs - the Melbourne Cup winning jockey Michelle Payne and her brother, strapper Stevie.

"We are just thrilled to be out here," Michelle Payne said.

The siblings reigned supreme on the traditional red and gold throne, while community-designed floats vied with professional performing troupes, amateur dancers and school groups.

More than 1800 performers took part.

The program kicked off with waterskiing and wakeboarding events on the Yarra on Friday and concluded with a fireworks on Monday night.

The four days of festivities included a "kids zone" where children could design a float, create puppets and learn circus skills. There was also the traditional Birdman Rally, a Battle of the Bands and performances by musical acts including British India, Tim Rogers & The Bamboos and Shepparton Indigenous rapper Briggs.

Moomba was first staged on the Labour Day weekend in 1955 and takes its name from an Aboriginal word that roughly translates as "let's get together and have fun".

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