

Meadowbank Public School P & C
P&C Meeting : 16 September 2025

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Venue: School Staff room

Meeting commenced (time): 7:30 pm

In Attendance: Jemma R, Cecilia P, Oyu T, Ali M, May W, Darren D

Online: Laura T, Nicole I, Rachel B

Apologies: Craig E, Michelle W, Lisa T

Welcome: Cecilia P

- Welcomed all and acknowledgement of Country

Minutes of the previous meeting accepted: Oyu T, Ali M

Correspondence: Laura T

- **Ryde Rotary event** – Early education and reading program on 23 Sept. Agreed to share via email/WhatsApp due to timing.
- **Men's mental health group** – Request to share in parent chats. Members agreed, provided the group remains non-political and non-religious.
- General reminder: All shared content must remain apolitical and appropriate.

President's Report: Jemma R

- **AGM & Executive Nominations:**
 - All executive positions will be open for nomination at the AGM (Tuesday 18 November).
 - Jemma clarified with the P&C Association that members can hold positions longer than three years if re-nominated. The constitution overrules the by-laws.
 - Importance of encouraging new volunteers. It was suggested to also contact parents who attended meetings in the past.
 - Reminder: minimum of two prior meetings required for nomination eligibility.
 - Next P&C meeting confirmed for **21 October 2025**, providing an additional opportunity for eligibility.
- **Engagement & Communication:**
 - Nicole proposed to create a WhatsApp P&C group as a Q&A forum for interested parents rather than creating new groups. The idea was welcomed. The P&C will use the existing Meadowbank P&C WhatsApp group. This will be advertised in the newsletter and through the parents groups on Whatsapp.
 - Suggestion to run role "blurbs" in the newsletter to explain expectations of executive roles.
 - Rachel enquired if the meeting time could be changed to make the meetings more accessible. Previous enquiries into the meeting time had not yielded any better outcomes.

Treasurer's Report: Oyu T

The report covers the time frame from 18 August - 15 September 2025:

- Account balance remains healthy (~\$150,000).
- Canteen margin dropped by 2% due to staffing costs but still sustainable. Oyu will monitor the margins until the end of the year.
- Uniform shop operating normally.
- **Father's Day Stall:**
 - Income: \$4,410
 - Expenses: \$2,231
 - Stock on hand: ~\$700 for reuse
 - Net profit: ~\$2,900
- Membership payments list updated.
- Large transfer of ~\$19,000 for the sandpit processed in split payments due to daily bank limits.
- Treasurer willing to continue in role if no nominations are received at AGM.

Treasurer's Report was accepted by: Ali M, Jemma R

Principal's Report: *Cecilia P*

- Excursions, camps, and cultural events ongoing this term: County fair and Ancestor Appreciation Day next week. Thank you to parents for getting their children ready for these events and camps.
- **Teacher Recognition:** Two staff members received Rotary Teacher of the Year awards: Melinda Emeleus and Sky Evans.
- **Hermitage Road Works:**
 - Roadworks commenced with limited communication to the school.
 - Council advises most work will occur weekends/school holidays, but disruptions noted.
 - Works now estimated to last three to four weeks instead of 12 weeks.
 - School and P&C continue to push for clearer communication.
- **Oval Works:** Stage 1 is now complete. The Stage 2 works on the oval will include removing the running track to improve usability and reduce maintenance; funded jointly by school and infrastructure.
- **Acknowledgement:** Thanks to the P&C for running a successful Father's Day stall. It was especially pleasing to see the kids be able to go up to the stall and choose the presents for their father figures, rather than pre-wrapped presents prepared behind the scenes.

General Business:

- **Nicole wrapped up the Father's Day Stall:**

Overall outcome:

- Very successful event, raising ~\$2,900 profit.
- Over 400 students purchased gifts.
- Community response overwhelmingly positive, with many parents expressing gratitude for the stall and appreciation for recognising fathers.
- 11 volunteers supported on the day, including mums, dads, and grandparents. Many said they couldn't commit regularly but were happy to take a day off for this special event.
- 4 boxes with stock in P&C store room. Nicole will sort the stock next year for Mother's Day.

What went well:

- **Volunteers** – strong turnout, positive energy, enjoyable atmosphere.
- **Gift bags & stickers** – streamlined process, saved time on the day.
- **Stamp system** – clear and simple for children; reduced confusion over payments and change.
- **Gift selection** – novelty and gadget-type gifts were very popular (e.g. “I love Dad” mugs, mini phone fans, handheld massagers). Dads reported being happy with whatever their children chose.
- **Supplier** – “Smart Gift Ideas” website was easy to work with.
- **School support** – teachers and staff, including Jeff and Cecilia, were highly supportive and helpful.

Challenges & Suggestions:

1. Communication & Logistics

- Difficulty with communication between the stall organiser and P&C president.
 - Suggestion: hold short Teams check-ins during planning, and nominate a clear contact person for logistics.
- Float/cash organisation – confusion on the day about who to collect float from.
 - Suggestion: Treasurer to prepare and hand over float in advance.
- Parents arrived before 9am wanting to buy/pay, creating pressure before stall officially opened.
 - Suggestion: consider relocating to the hall where parents don’t have direct access.

2. Second Day Stall Misunderstanding

- Some parents expected a second stall day. Clarification: future stalls to be advertised as **one-day only**.
- Only exception: a few prepaid gifts held aside for absent children.

3. Advertising & Awareness

- Despite being advertised via newsletters, WhatsApp, and Facebook, some families still said they “didn’t know.”
 - Suggestions: posters at school gates, notices on school TV screens, clearer signage.
- Acknowledgement that some families rely on children as messengers and may miss official channels.

4. Equity & Inclusion

- Some children became upset if they forgot money or parents chose not to send it.
- Suggestions included:
 - Small allocation of P&C funds (e.g. \$200–300) to cover a few children each year.
 - Teachers to be briefed so they can quietly guide upset students to a backup option.
 - Consider adding one very low-cost/free item (e.g. bookmark, colouring sheet, pen) so no child leaves empty-handed.
- Counterpoints:
 - Risk of fostering dependency or expectation that P&C will “cover costs.”
 - Some parents deliberately don’t give children money, and may not want their child to choose a gift.
- General consensus: cautious approach; adding physical reminders (posters, newsletters) are the fairest way to prevent children missing out.
- Rachel reminds P&C to consider other families’ situations and to be mindful of the language used. She emphasised the importance of being welcoming and kind if the P&C wants to

encourage more parents to join and be active.

5. Grade Order & Stock Availability

- Kindergarten and Year 1 often shopped last, leading to concerns about missing out on popular stock.
- In reality, every child was able to buy something (700+ items ordered for 600 students), but some “novelty” items sold out early.
- Suggestion: rotate class order each year so younger years aren’t always last.

● **May shared Book Week Fundraiser results:**

- Total raised: \$709 (including online donations).
- P&C to match funds, providing \$1,419.40 for new library books.

- **Athletics Carnival:** Suggestion to hold earlier in term to allow flexibility in case of weather cancellations. Cecilia will take the feedback on board for next year’s planning.
- **Facilities Hire Subcommittee:** The school will schedule meetings in Term 4.
- **Site Access:** Concerns raised about unauthorised weekend use of basketball courts. School to investigate and liaise with security.
- **Upcoming AGM:** Encouragement for parents to attend October meeting to establish eligibility for nominations.

Questions on Notice:

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Meeting closed (time) 8:40 pm

Next Meeting date: Tuesday 21 October 2025