



We welcome all parents and interested community members to our meetings - please feel free to come along and ask any questions.

Waitara parents: supporting your child's school experience

Meeting: Waitara Public School P&C General Meeting

Chaired by: Samantha Duque (Joint Secretary)

Attendance:

| Attendees | | Attendees | |
|------------------|----|--------------------|-----|
| Dany Fitzgerald | DF | Cassandra Patton | CP |
| Pam Chevalier | PC | Neha Dasgupta | ND |
| Samantha Duque | SD | Sujan Amin | SA |
| Cynthia Tombs | CT | Swati Garg | SG |
| Madeleine Ho | MH | Robert Lu | RL |
| Mayur Gehi (Max) | MG | Yeru (Cecilia) Cai | YC |
| Tammy Lavis | TL | Neha Dasgupta | ND |
| Avani Mittal | AM | Ankita | Ank |
| Eason Wang | EW | | |

Apologies: Josh Quinn (JQ), Su-Anne Foo (SAF), Kate Barratt (KB)

Location: Staff Room

Date and time: Friday 6th June 2025
 (started at 9:35AM / closed at 10:46AM)

Minutes by: Neha Dasgupta

General Enquiries waitara-pca@outlook.com

Treasurer waitara-pca.treasurer@outlook.com

Uniform shop waitara-pca.uniformshop@outlook.com

1. Welcome

SD declared a quorum, read Acknowledgement of Country, and welcomed members to the meeting.

2. Minutes from previous meeting

That the minutes of the prior General Meeting be accepted as true and correct.

Carried (Moved by CP, 2nd by MH)

3. Business arising

Election of President

- Motion to appoint Amy Hill to President Role.
Carried (Moved by TL, 2nd by CT)

4. Correspondence

Northern District Council of P&C Associations

- We have been invited to attend the NDCA meeting on Monday 16 June 2025 to meet counterparts from other P&Cs and discuss broader issues facing schools within our district. Looking for a Waitara P&C representative to attend and report back to our next meeting - no experience or qualifications required! Please email if interested.

P&C Federation 2025

- Annual Federation Conference will be held in late 2025
- Special meetings – we draw member's attention to the Federation protocol for calling special meetings to vote on items outside of formal meetings.
- Courage Quest – currently evaluating the optimal way to provide digital support to children aged 8-12 with anxiety. AH has shared with Lisa Lloyd who has included within the school newsletter.
- Grants – No grants specifically matched Waitara, but seeking a grant that may support the cricket nets.
- Safety crossing at Burdett St and Palmerston Rd. AH has submitted a request and Hornsby Council have e-mailed to confirm.

5. Reports

President's Report (SD for AH)

I have put forward myself for President to lead this team of exceptional people. I thank you all for your contribution and congratulate you on the first success of the year, the Mother's Day Stall. It has been a while since I could assist face-to-face and it was a wonderful reminder of what it means to the children.

It has been a great start to the year for the opportunity to contribute to the purchase of percussion instruments for the band. The P&C look to contribute to any projects that enhance the children's experience such as sport, music, playground equipment or technology. The cricket nets are a goal on the horizon. Waitara has a strong passion for cricket for many students, boys and girls. The nets will also mean the playground can be safely opened up for other students to practice other sports.

Looking forward, Waitara celebrates 100 years in 2027. The P&C will be working closely with the executive to celebrate this event. I would like the team to start brain storming ideas including any celebrity connections that would be meaningful to the children.

As President, please know I am happy to be approached, questioned or listen to feedback on anything. I check in with email when I can, but you can also message or phone me. I will get back to you. Please do not worry about making mistakes, I am sure I have made them before!

Being part of this committee is so important for me, I can truly say whatever efforts you put in, you are rewarded ten fold.

Thanks, Amy

Treasurer's Report (SA)

For the period 1 October 2024 to 31 May 2025 (FY25 YTD)

1. Uniform Shop Sales \$123,811 [prior \$115,223]
2. Uniform Shop Cost of Goods (\$77,737) [prior \$69,457]
3. Trading Profit
4. Donations to Waitara Public School -\$100 [prior \$87,390]
5. Bank Account Balance \$215,667 (prior \$106,687)
6. Inventory on Hand \$75,736 (prior \$97,944)
7. Accounts Payable \$14,599 [prior \$5,367]
8. Fundraising - [Mother's day collection \$6,370 prior \$6,157 (expenses \$3,403 prior \$4,757)]
9. Stocktake - coming up for end of financial year
10. Auditor Engagement
11. Membership Fees – 26 paid up members, which is great to see.

Uniform Shop Report (CP and CT)

- Winter Sales have been steady, and it was extremely busy at the beginning of term
- Shelves and additional storage still a work in progress
- Standing signage / queue barrier – CT requested approval to purchase a standing sign / queue barrier to prevent customers entering the serving area before the official store opening time. This will allow staff to set up properly without interruption / delay, and improve traffic flow.
- Girls' pinafore has increased in cost and may need to increase in sale price
- Volunteer discount – CT would like to offer regular volunteers an incentive for their time, up to 20% off uniform shop purchases. SD will check with the Federation and discuss with AH.
- School arranged for new photos to be taken of students in uniform. These will be published online.

Community Engagement Report – TL

Mother's Day Stall held on Friday 9th May 2025 from 9am to 1pm. Over 1400 items were sold, with lower priced items being most popular, especially hand cream, soap and faux flowers (also a big hit last year). Water Bottles were the most popular higher price item, Profit of \$2,029 based on cost of goods sold. Massive thanks to our 24 volunteers who helped on the day, and those who counted and sorted products beforehand.

Upcoming Activities

- Term 3 Father's Day stall – plenty of stock from prior year, will follow Mother's Day format. P&C Lead TBC, please email if interested
- Term 3 SASS Recognition (Morning Tea supplied by P&C)
- Term 4 P&C event – TBC, we are currently workshopping ideas. DF suggested an outdoor picnic with BBQ to involve whole community. Other suggestions included movie night / colour run.

- Term 4 Teacher appreciation (Morning Tea supplied by P&C)

Principal's Report (DF)

It has been another full and productive term at Waitara Public School, with plenty of highlights and some challenges along the way.

Whole School Museum Excursion

One of the standout moments this term was our Y1-6 school excursion to the Australian Museum. It was a wonderful opportunity for students across all stages to engage with history, science, and culture in an interactive and inspiring environment. The feedback from both students and staff was overwhelmingly positive, and we thank our parent volunteers who supported the day.

Peer Support Program

We have launched our Peer Support Program for the year with a focus on Collaboration. Students across all year groups meet in small, mixed-age groups each week to explore skills around teamwork, communication, and positive relationships. It's always a joy to see our older students step up as leaders and role models for their younger peers.

Athletics Carnivals

We recently held both our Athletics Carnival, and it was wonderful to see students giving their best effort, supporting each other, and displaying outstanding sportsmanship. The days ran smoothly thanks to our dedicated staff and parent helpers. Selected students will now go on to represent the school at the upcoming Zone competition.

Selective High School & Opportunity Class Tests

This term has seen a great deal of confusion and parental concern around the Selective High School and OC placement processes. As a school, we want to clarify that these tests are managed externally by the High Performing and Gifted Education (HPGE) unit. While we provide support and supervision for students on test days, the processes, results, and communication sit with the department's central unit. We have advocated for clearer communication to be shared directly with families to reduce the pressure and frustration placed on schools.

HPGE Groups

We have also continued our focus on high potential learning within the school. Dedicated HPGE groups are running in Writing for students in Years 3, 4, 5, and 6, allowing students to extend their creative and persuasive writing skills. In addition, a Mathematics Problem-Solving group is underway for Year 2 students, supporting early development of critical and creative thinking in numeracy.

Debating & Multicultural Public Speaking

Our students continue to shine in external opportunities. We have teams actively participating in the Premiers Debating Challenge, and many students have represented the school in the Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking competition. Stage two winners were announced this week. These programs build confidence, clarity of thought, and respectful discourse – key skills for future success.

Cricket Nets Update

We are continuing to advocate for the installation of cricket nets on the upper playground to better utilise our limited open play space. The P&C and school have both committed funds toward the project, and we are currently waiting for final approval. We understand this is taking time but are following up regularly and remain optimistic about a resolution soon.

Artificial turf

Use of artificial turf on sports fields now requires a REF (Review of Environmental Factors). This would require an external consultant. Anticipated cost is approx. \$8K and the process usually takes 2 months. Issues with neighbours, so keeping a 1.5 meter gap, and a Heritage statement is also required.

Photos on the Website

You may have noticed a fresh update to our school website, including some new student photos in uniform to better showcase our school's identity and offerings. Thank you to those who assisted on the day. Stephen has been employed to work on our website and create photos for the school. Students were asked if they wanted to participate, some were not interested.

Kindergarten 2026 Transition (PC)

The school is actively working on ways to improve the transition of preschoolers into 'big school', including closer collaboration with local preschools and childcare centres, increasing contact points prior to commencement and better understanding of each child's individual needs.

Reports accepted as true and correct (Moved by TL, 2nd by CP)

6. General Business

- Election Days – in future, school will notify the P&C if Waitara PS is a polling site, so we can consider hosting a fundraiser (sausage sizzle / cake stall / similar)
- Whats app Chats – concerns from parents about content shared on groups. We ask all P&C members and associates to monitor their class/year level groups for inappropriate posts and refer participants to the school, or to the guidelines available on the school website. The school is open to questions and clarification on any matters raised.

Next Meeting

❖ **Wednesday 20th August 2025, 7pm via Zoom (Term 3, Week 5)**

Meeting Closed at 10:46AM