

EVENTS

Report 2015

P&C Meeting No 4

Wednesday 11th November 2015 (also AGM)

Fundraising during 2015 has been a learning curve!

I have had the big shoes of Event Co-ordination extraordinaire Tanya Taylor to fill, the commitment and very hard work of Jenni Brown and the amazing hours and tireless stamina that Mel Fisher have all done in the past. Being a Kindy Mum new to the school and had never attended a WPS Event I hoped to bring my PA and Conference and Event organising experience along with a passion to help out where ever I could to the role.

In Term 3 and Term 4 there were the following Events:

The **Blokes Footy Night** was attended by around 70 parents from WPS and friends. Given the event was held mid-week and was a game of Rugby League in a dominant Rugby Union area it was very successful. A Father new to school arranged a NSW Blues Jersey signed by all players and coach and this was what helped the event to make a profit of almost \$3,000. It was due to Mel Fisher's experience that the night was so smooth and organised.

The **Fathers' Day Stall** was a success with an increase in the number of gifts sold compared to last year, approximately 912 in total. There were a lot of compliments about the variety of gifts and a lot of kids were happy. A big thanks to Kindy Mum's Emma Mc Goldrick & Saskia Geilen who together we were an enthusiastic and hard working team.

The **Ladies' Melbourne Cup Luncheon** was attended by 54 people and made \$1,800 profit which is a huge effort! A big thankyou to Tanya Taylor, Jenni Brown and friends for organising such an elegant event.

On Friday 27th November we will have our final event of 2015, **A Starry Night Movie & Markets**. We had approximately 500 attendees for the event last year and it made \$8,000. Through encouraging the school community to receive enough volunteers for the night we used email blasts through Class Reps after Newsletter notices were not enough. This is a huge event to organize and the usual suspects of Tanya Taylor, Mel Fisher & Jenni Brown and myself are organizing it.

A big thank you to Jules Nash-Smith and Margie Powell who are always assisting with webstore sales and ticketing for all the events.

DropBox plays a vital role when it comes to coordinating all events. We currently have a setup that needs to be reviewed so that more volunteers can gain access to easily communicate when organising each event.

There continues to be a reduced participation from the school community therefore leading to smaller amounts of money being raised and continued stress on our wonderful volunteers.

Last year Fundraising / Events Reported that overall

- there have been lower numbers of attendees at the events
- a lack of volunteers, with the same small group of people helping consistently
- there has been grumbling about the increased fundraising levy being meant to cover all the fundraising this year

Unfortunately the same could be said this year.

I believe that the school community's availability of time has changed. Many families have 2 working parents with lots of responsibilities and time constraints therefore not being able to commit to a lot of volunteer work. I think we can all agree that the pressures' of raising a family with children in school and keeping a healthy work/life balance is hard. Those you can and do commit a lot of their free time do so tirelessly and with a great heart to do it for the children of Willoughby Public School.

With this view to support and respect all past, present and future volunteers,

I would like to propose :

- that Days, Stalls etc such as Kindy Welcome Morning Tea, Mothers Day Stall, Fathers Day Stall, Grandparents Day/Book Week donation continue. These are events that directly serve the students and families of the school. I have offered to do Internal Events Co-coordinating next year and would gladly do the role.
- that we adopt the suggestion from Tanya to advertise for 2 new External Event Coordinators roles that then organize and assist 'core teams' of approximately 4 for each school event. Those being Family Fun Night, Blokes Footy Night, Parents Party, Ladies Melbourne Cup Luncheon and Starry Night & Markets.
- that the budget and setup of DropBox be reviewed so that more volunteers can gain access to easily communicate when organising each event.
- we communicate to the parents of Willoughby Public School that their voluntary contribution to P&C along with Term fees funds the extra teachers aids, supplies etc. My hope would be that it takes away some of the pressures of Fundraising and those organizing a Fundraising event to instead be P&C Events that is in the spirit of the school's community feel and about coming together. Of course because of a lot of great experience and organising many of them would continue to raise money for the school that can then go towards all the developments needed to resolve our overcrowding. Eg. A top of the line COLA instead of the one included in the plans made and funded by the Government.