

Waverley College Parents' Association

Term 4: Monday 10 November 2025

Minutes

Meeting Location: College Library

In Attendance: 18 Parents plus teaching staff.

Meeting commenced: 7:00 pm

1. President: Louise Lakomy

- a) Welcome.
- b) Quorum as required under the Constitution is in attendance.
- c) Minutes of previous meeting accepted by the Meeting as an accurate record.
- d) Notified apologies:
 - Daniela Strbac
 - Peter Sertori retiring as treasurer
 - Mande Ilic
 - Claire McGaffney
 - Eileen Trinca
 - Nicole Draper
- e) Business Arising: None

2. Parent Impact Award.

Rozy Dorizas announced the Parent Impact Award for 2025 - awarded to **Paula McCabe**.
Congratulations Paula!

3. Principal: Graham Leddie

- a) Strategic Plan Launched.
- b) Wellbeing Frameworks has been refreshed.
- c) Master Plan: The Science Building has obtained planning approval. The approval includes several auxiliary projects in addition to the Science Building including new toilet blocks. The Science Building requires further funding before it can start – fundraising continues. The new toilet block supported by the Association is ready to go and design and planning will be commenced in the immediate future.
- d) Plan for immersion to Kenya next year as part of Well Being.
- e) E-bikes are still an issue. Further police visit is planned.

- f) Federal Government Social Media restrictions to be managed.
- g) 1520 enrolments next year. The College's aim is to limit fee increases where possible.

4. Deputy Principal: John Allen

John introduced himself and his initial impressions. John has felt very welcomed by the College.

5. Other Business:

- a) A parent has suggested the inclusion of Co-Curricular reporting in student school reports. The issue was discussed at length in the meeting. There is little demand from parents for such reporting and it will place strain on Teachers and staff. The College will look into it further, but it is unlikely there will be changes to the current reporting system.
- b) Melissa Mecalean (parent) has suggested that given that Drama will not be offered to year 9 next year due to lack of uptake by the students, that the College run a Short Film Festival. See attached proposal that was presented by Melissa at the meeting. The reasons for few boys enrolling in drama was discussed. The College fully encourages drama and the arts and is very disappointed by the lack of uptake in drama for this cohort. The College will consider Melissa's proposal. The Committee offered to lend support if the initiative is endorsed by the College.

Meeting closed: 8.15pm

Next meeting: Tuesday, 24 February 2026, 6:30pm at College

Waverley College Short Film Festival

Proposal

Establish a **Waverley College Short Film Festival** — an annual event designed to re-engage students with the creative arts, encourage student collaboration, and showcase the school's commitment to fostering creativity and communication.

Background

In recent years, enrolments in Drama, Multimedia and other elective creative arts subjects have declined. This trend mirrors a broader cultural shift among boys towards more commercially or technically focused pathways. Long term, these trends risk the narrowing educational experiences and diminishing the holistic, values-based education that defines Waverley College.

The arts offer an accessible and relevant way to reconnect students with creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration. Short Film combines performance, writing, design, technology and storytelling, which are skills that align with both the arts and digital literacy goals of the school. In the future, student engagement in the creative arts enhances the kind of skills needed for the workplace.

Festival Format

The **Waverley College Short Film Festival** would be an annual event open to students from Years 7–12 (option to include junior school). Students would work individually or in small teams to produce short films (1–5 minutes) that respond to a given theme or prompt. The festival would culminate in a screening evening held in the Performing Arts Centre, open to students, families, and the wider school community.

Objectives

1. **Reignite interest in Drama, Multimedia and the Arts** by offering a fun, real-world creative challenge.
2. **Showcase student voice and talent** in storytelling, performance, and production.
3. **Encourage cross-disciplinary collaboration** between Drama, Multimedia, English, and Music.
4. **Develop transferable skills** such as teamwork, problem-solving, leadership, and communication.
5. **Strengthen community engagement** and pride in the school's creative achievements.

Proposed Timeline

Term 1:

- Festival theme announced (e.g., “Courage”, “Identity”, “The Future”).
- Workshops offered on scriptwriting, directing, editing, and acting. (optional: to discuss)

Term 2:

- Students develop, shoot and edit their films
- Optional mentoring sessions with industry professionals (parents or alumni working in media invited).

Term 3:

- Submission deadline; films reviewed by a judging panel (teachers, alumni, industry guests).
- Screening night held in the Performing Arts Centre with awards presented for categories such as:
 - Best Film
 - Best Performance
 - Best Editing
 - People’s Choice

Resources Required

- Formation of a Film Festival Committee with a nominated coordinator who can collaborate with the College. Tasks will include:
 - Budgeting: Modest initial budget (\$1,000–\$2,000) for prizes, marketing, and event costs.
 - School liaison
 - Marketing
 - Fundraising
 - Rallying community involvement: Invite alumni, parents, and local filmmakers as mentors and judges.
- To discuss – school contribution:
 - Drama/Multimedia/English teachers’ involvement
 - Technical support: Use of existing camera and editing equipment.
 - Venue: Performing Arts Centre (existing infrastructure)

Next Steps

- Approval from school leadership to proceed.
- Formation of committee in Term 4.
- Launch and promotion early 2026; inaugural festival screening Term 3, 2026.

