

MEETING PAPERS

MEETING:	Highgate Playgroup AGM
MEETING DATE:	7 September 2024
PREPARED BY:	Rosie Paul (RP)
ITEM:	1.5 - 2023/2024 Chairperson Report

2023/2024 Chairperson Report

What an incredible year 2024 has already been for Highgate Playgroup!

We ended 2023 with a wonderful Christmas party, celebrating the year's achievements and bidding farewell to some of our dedicated volunteers who have helped guide the association. Special thanks go to Annie Chan, our former Chair; Eleanor Penny, our previous Treasurer; and Mayuka Jubber and Duncan Thomas, our past Enrolment Officers. Their hard work and commitment have been vital in enhancing the Highgate Playgroup. I would also like to express my gratitude to Kristina Markoski and Megan Jordan, who have stepped down from the committee but continue to support us in other capacities. Their ongoing involvement is greatly appreciated.

As we transitioned into the new year, we welcomed a few fresh faces to our committee. Yumiko Tokiwa remained with us as an Enrolment Officer and was joined by Shuri Mitteregger and Hiroe Yoshioka, who, together, have formed an exceptional enrolment and purchasing team. We also welcomed Viola Poppe as our new Secretary, Michael Christiansen and Ivy Huang as our Co-Treasurers, Monika Mečević as our Party Hire Coordinator, and myself, Rosie Paul, as your new Chairperson. This dedicated team has been working tirelessly to ensure that Highgate Playgroup remains one of the best playgroups in the state. On behalf of all our members, I want to thank the committee for their continued hard work and commitment.

I'm pleased to report that our membership has grown by approximately 5% annually since 2022, reaching 82 members for the 2023/2024 year (including committee members). Our party hire service also experienced significant growth, generating \$5,080 in revenue this financial year, which has greatly supported our operating costs. Looking ahead to the 2024/2025 financial year, we aim to continue this upward trend in both membership and party hire by focusing on marketing and promoting Highgate Playgroup and its facilities.

Many of us on the committee were relatively new to Highgate Playgroup when we volunteered, and some, like Monika and myself, had never even attended before joining. As we have familiarised ourselves with the playgroup, we've been able to implement a series of small improvements throughout the 2023/2024 financial year. With our increased confidence and experience, we are planning even more improvements for 2024/2025.

One of the main initiatives we've introduced is more frequent member events. In 2024, we hosted events such as "Fire Engine Fun" and "Made to be Messy." For the 2024/2025 financial year, we have

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already scheduled exciting events, including "Magic Dale," a visit from the Swan Valley Animal Farm, "Rock 'n' Toddle," and our end of Year Christmas Party. We plan to continue hosting bi-monthly events throughout the 2025 calendar year to keep our members engaged and connected.

Other improvements made in 2023/2024 include updating the Highgate Playgroup website (<https://highgateplaygroup.org.au/>), acquiring a PO Box (PO Box 8422, Perth WA 6849), and upgrading our membership payment and party hire booking systems to Jotforms and Stripe for a more streamlined experience.

For the 2024/2025 year, alongside our marketing efforts, we plan to enhance our outdoor area, purchase new furniture, and make general improvements to the playgroup facilities. I encourage all members to reach out to the committee with any suggestions or improvements they would like to see for the coming year.

On a personal note, Highgate Playgroup has been a wonderful space for me to grow and develop my skills as a parent, surrounded by a supportive community. It has been invaluable to have a safe and welcoming place to connect with other parents, share experiences, and watch our children grow and learn together. My son, who is almost one, has been attending since he was just four months old, and it has been amazing to see his development through play and interaction with other children. My hope for Highgate Playgroup is that we continue to grow our membership so that more parents can benefit from the support and joy that playgroup provides.

Thank you to all our members for your continued support of Highgate Playgroup. I look forward to another fantastic year ahead!

Rosie Paul

Chair, Highgate Playgroup