

RYDALMERE

# Flush with funding hopes

## INTERNET CAMPAIGN PLANNED TO PAY FOR DESPERATELY NEEDED TOILET BLOCK

Deborah FitzGerald

CASH-STRAPPED schools are being forced to find innovative solutions to pay for much-needed resources as the traditional parent fundraiser gets a hi-tech makeover through crowd-funding.

Rydalmere Public School has taken to social media with a video aimed at crowd-funding \$100,000 for a toilet block at the school oval.

Principal Bec Zadow said the traditional funding methods of raffles or sausage sizzles were still important but could not raise enough money for a big infrastructure project.

She said the toilet block came with a huge price tag because plumbing would need to be installed from the school down to the sports oval.

She said the Education Department had competing priorities and as the school already had a toilet block near classrooms, there were other schools that had more pressing needs. However, she said the 400-metre trip



Rydalmere Public School students Maria Velazco Zain Eisoussi, and Cynthia Ly racing to the toilet from afar. Picture: PETER KELLY

from the school oval to the toilets meant some children were caught short.

Ms Zadow said a good raffle could raise about \$1000, a sausage sizzle might raise \$800 and a cake stall about \$300.

"At that rate it would be a very long time before we could afford a toilet block.

"The addition of the toilet block on the school oval will mean that the oval becomes a great community resource," Ms Zadow said.

The school is using a parent forum website to launch their campaign which they are hoping will go viral.

Kirsty Dahdah is co-founder of [schoolparents.com.au](http://schoolparents.com.au) and has worked with the school to make the video and

set up its online efforts. She said the website was a purpose built, free platform enabling schools to communicate.

To contribute to the campaign visit [www.chuffed.org/project/nature-calls](http://www.chuffed.org/project/nature-calls)

MAYS HILL

## Plaques mark anniversary

HOLROYD Council presented the Friends of Mays Hill Cemetery with two commemorative plaques as part of its recent 20th anniversary celebrations.

One of the plaques was dedicated to the late Gerard "Gerry" O'Brien, founding chair of the Friends of Mays Hill Cemetery, and the other to commemorate the group's milestone anniversary.

The event coincided with recently completed works including the conversion of the pond to a garden bed.

PARRAMATTA

## Sports grants now available

SPORT and recreation clubs are encouraged to apply for funding through a Parramatta City Council community grants program.

Grants are on offer across two separate categories.

The first is the Parramatta Sport and Recreation Grants category. Other grants are available in the Parramatta Representative Sports Grants category.

Details: [parracity.nsw.gov.au/grants](http://parracity.nsw.gov.au/grants).