

WILLETTON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

# Newsletter

## ISSUE 3

MAY 2023



# PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

What a long time it seems since the holiday break, second term is always challenging, particularly for senior school students and staff. Exam preparations are well underway, and examinations are on the horizon. We wish all students every success and remind them that life balance is important - exercise, diet and relaxation are all part of the healthy lifestyle we all aspire to achieve.

We will be distributing more RAT tests through assemblies. It is a reminder that Covid is still with us, and with the flu season fast approaching, a timely reminder that if your student is unwell, for the welfare of our whole community, please do not send them to school.

At the end of last term, we farewelled Hope Jobe (Student Services) and Tania Elliott (Science), both have made a valuable contribution to our students. Huge thanks are due to our HR teams who have worked hard to ensure continuity of staffing and have been able to avoid the disruptions to programs other schools have experienced.

Thanks to parents and staff for another successful teacher/parent interview day. I will soon be surveying parents for their feedback on preferences around remote in contrast to face-to-face interviews. Along with staff feedback, your opinions will inform our plans for 2024.

Our busy and caring environment continues to support our students to achieve their best in all areas and makes me very proud to be part of the Willo Way. On that positive note, I am pleased to report that I recently took a former Coordinator of Regional Operations around our school, and she was amazed by features such as the quiet working atmosphere, politeness of the students, cleanliness of the grounds, the gardens, the quality of our art works and the general condition of our facilities. We are a school community where great is the baseline we expect every day.

**Trevor Hunter**

## HEAD BOY AND HEAD GIRL

The beginning of Term 2 has undoubtedly been hectic for staff and students alike. As Head Boy and Head Girl, we have also been active around the school, attending various meetings and events, and we take this opportunity to share some of the work we have done.

Earlier in the term, we were invited to participate in the Year 7 and 10 ANZAC ceremony where we had the honour of laying the wreath. ANZAC day is an essential moment of commemoration and remembrance of the ANZAC troops, their service and sacrifice, and we thank Miss Senasinghe and the Year 10 Councillors for their huge effort in ensuring a successful event.

We have also attended three Executive Student Council meetings, during which student leaders from all year levels come together to discuss improvements and develop projects in three major areas of focus: student leadership, school spirit and inclusivity. Attending these meetings is always a valuable experience for us as we are given the

opportunity to use our knowledge as student leaders to mentor young leaders and help them use their voices to make an impact in the school community.

Looking ahead, plans for the Semester 1 councillor forum are well underway and we are very excited about this opportunity for all student leaders to improve their leadership skills, and look forward to seeing the projects that will come to fruition through it.

As we move forward in the term, students are beginning their exams and final assessments for the semester. We wish everyone the best of luck for the rest of Term 2 and remind you to take care of yourselves in a period of intense pressure. Remember that you are surrounded by a caring cohort, and have school staff and other services available to you at any time should you feel overwhelmed.

**Bryan Yemane and Mehvish Mehboob**



# Congratulations...

## BEN HENSHELL

Former basketball program student, Ben Henshell has secured a two-year contract to play for the Perth Wildcats from 2023.

Graduating in 2021, Ben was accepted into the Australian Institute of Sport for 2022.

Having represented WA and Australia on multiple occasions, Henshall was named WABL Male Player of the Year in 2021.

The 18-year-old guard was a standout in the 2023 U20 National Championships, helping WA to the Gold Medal victory, and was also awarded the Bob Staunton Medal for the most outstanding male player of the tournament.

Ben wore the Australian team's green and gold singlet in February 2023, as part of the Australian Boomers team in the final two qualifying matches for the FIBA Basketball World Cup.

Having watched the Wildcats growing up, Ben has said he's excited to get the opportunity to suit up with the Wildcats team.

"It feels awesome, I've been watching the Wildcats play for a long time, so it feels amazing to finally get to suit up and play with all the boys," he said.



## MADISON DE ROZARIO

Former student Madison has won the London Marathon for the second time after her win in 2018.

Her win was made even more of an achievement with a margin of only one second, in a course record time edging out defending champion Manuela Schär of Switzerland.

Madison's achievements include;

- runner up in the Boston Marathon in 2023, just six days before her success in the London Marathon
- the first Australian athlete to win four Gold medals in any Para sport at the Commonwealth Games
- the first Australian woman to win the 2021 Tokyo Paralympic Gold medallist in the T54 marathon
- the first Australian athlete to win the New York City Marathon in 2021
- named the 2021 WA Sports Star





# GENERAL

## READING CAN TAKE YOU ANYWHERE

Our Library is promoting the 2023 Premier's Reading Challenge. Registrations opened Monday 8 May 2023, and the challenge runs until 8 September 2023. Students from Kindergarten to Year 10 can register online and include their school in the registration.

<https://www.premiersreadingchallenge.wa.edu.au/>  
Create an account and then sign in.

Students can access over 7,000 book titles, which can be logged onto the students' bookshelf. While the aim of the challenge is for students to log a minimum of 12 books, students can log more. They can log a book that is on the booklist or add a book. By logging books, students can be in the running to win fantastic weekly prizes. The prizes include experiences such as a zipline from Matagarup Bridge. All students who log a minimum of 12 books over the challenge are also in the running for an end-of-year prize.

We ask parents to encourage a love of reading in their child, and the following are some suggestions:

- Discuss the types of books your teen likes to read, such as fiction, non-fiction or poetry. Share the types of books that you enjoy reading.
- Continue to role-model reading different formats and talk with your teen about these.
- Develop an interest in what your teen is reading and ask questions.
- Discuss the value of reading for information and learning, and the value of reading for pleasure.
- Encourage your child to bring their Smart Rider to school to borrow books from our Library.

If you speak a language other than English in your home, it is important to support your child/ren to read in your family's language. Research shows that children who continue to develop their first language will acquire additional languages at a faster rate.

Bilingual books in English and other languages are available at most public libraries and you can add books in other languages to the reading log and these will be counted as part of the challenge. Our students have access on their devices to ePlatform which offers online book titles, and these can be easily translated into many different languages. The library staff can assist with showing students how to access this resource.

Please contact Mrs Coten in the library for any assistance registering for the challenge.



## DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S INTERNATIONAL AWARD

Congratulations to the following students who have achieved their Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Ed Awards so far this year.

There are nearly 300 Award participants currently registered with the Willetton Senior High School Award unit. A reminder to participants that support is available through Year Coordinators and Award Leaders as required. Year 12 students who plan to finalise their current Award for WACE will need to be signed off by October 20. Gold participants who aim to be part of the 2023 Gold Award Ceremony at Government House, need to be signed off by August 26.

The Award is open to all participants in Years 9 – 12. Year 8 students will be invited to sign towards the end of Term 3 this year. Prospective participants should see their Year Coordinator, Ms Kimberley Atkinson or myself for information regarding getting started with Duke of Ed.

For more information on Duke of Ed, please consult [www.dukeofed.com.au](http://www.dukeofed.com.au)

**Judy Gauci**  
**Award Coordinator**

**2023 Duke of Ed Awards (as of March 15)**

Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Alumni
<b>Bronze Awards</b>				
Mia Carter	Krithick Saran Veeramuthu	Nila Mansouri	Jac Davern	Sarah Mohd Raya (Class of 2022)
	Karthiga Vijayakumares		Trisshul Prem	
	Ryu Ichihashi		Ryan Coutts	
	Riya Pillai		Daniel Miller	
	Elyssa Cole		Jack Hodgen	
	Calleigh Phan			
	Zarah Talib			
	Alexander Kervin			
	Yuxuan Wang			
	Nur Aliyah Mohammed			
	Taufiq			
	Elakkiaa Sukumar			
	Alphi Santhosh			
	Muhammad Al-Rafi			
	Ashleigh Blackwood			
	Daine Richy John			
<b>Silver Awards</b>				
		Abby Rai	Melody Furness	Philip Lew (Class of 2022)
		Aleena Mathew		
		Yanchen Du		
		Brandon Ho		
		Isaac Ngui		
		Melissa Sutherland		
		Naimish Aggarwal		
<b>Gold Awards</b>				
			Mehvish Mehboob	
			Byan Yemane	
			Rachel Cheong	

## HELP AVAILABLE

In our current challenging times with rising costs, our Willetton school community is aware and listening.

Families are able to make contact with Ruth Barratt on [ruth.barratt@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:ruth.barratt@education.wa.edu.au) or students may visit in the HaSS office to discuss stationery needs to help with class work.

Backpacks may also be available for students through the organisation, Dandelions WA Inc.





# GIFTED AND TALENTED

## EXMOUTH ECLIPSE

For about the last twenty years, I have been inviting every one of my students to the 2023 Exmouth eclipse. Luckily, they all didn't show up, instead I had the great pleasure of sharing the amazing event with three of my past students.

In the lead up to totality, the sky gradually darkened, the air cooled and tiny crescent shaped shadows appeared on the ground as the sun shone through the trees. Once the moon moved in front of the sun's disc, the sky went black and the stars and planet Jupiter suddenly appeared. It lasted for a mere 50 seconds, then a bright point of light shot through a valley on the moon creating the diamond ring effect, signalling the end of the total phase of the eclipse.

Many thanks to Year 9 Gifted and Talented Program student Taryk Edalere and his family for inviting me to share their camp site in Exmouth.

The next Western Australian Eclipse is in Kununurra on 22 July 2028. I'll be staying at the Kimberleyland Caravan Park and I hope to meet as many Willetton students as possible at this unforgettable event.

**Darren Hamley**  
**Gifted and Talented Education Coordinator**





## FUTURE CAREERS EXPO

The university/ careers expo was a great success at achieving its aim of getting students in the Year 9 Gifted and Talented cohort to ponder their career paths later in life.

The universities offered career information ranging from requirements and courses to onsite responsibilities and roles. The careers being inquired were as diverse as military engineering to criminal psychology.

There was seemingly a career accommodating everyone's interests and curiosities. Some of the comments of the students were:

*It's only 3½ years to get that degree?*

*Look I get a guaranteed job at the completion of my degree!*

*Wow ECU has a criminal psychology program!*

*It looks like the future workforce is in good hands!*

**Aiden Turner**  
**Year 9**

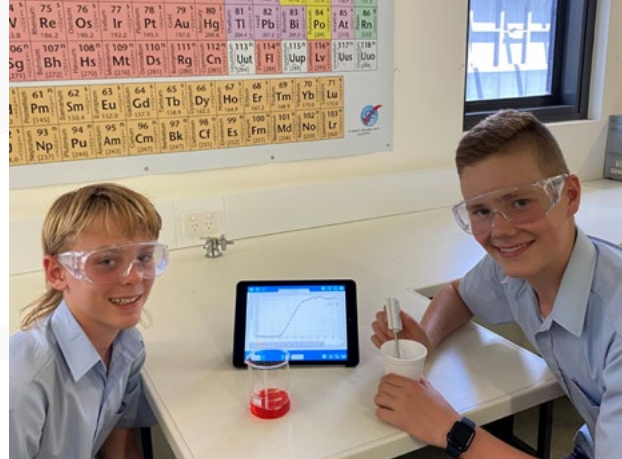




## SCIENCE

The Year 9 Gifted and Talented Science class were using the new science PASCO electronic sensors to measure the temperature changes as two chemicals were added. In this reaction the temperature of the liquid in the insulated cup became hotter. Students, Declan Walsh and Mitchell Bass, identified this as an exothermic reaction.

**Tracey Fisher**  
Science Teacher



## YEAR 8 HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

During Semester 1, Year 8 Gifted and Talented students learned about some of the tectonic and atmospheric forces that are responsible for the damage and destruction of the environment and loss of lives around the world each year. Potential natural disasters can be mitigated through better building design and construction, transport routes, strategic emergency planning.

Utilising these strategies students set about designing models of cities that could withstand a range of natural disasters such as bushfires, cyclones, tsunamis, floods, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. Their models incorporated a wide range of city design and technological strategies to reduce the potential impact of tectonic movements and extreme weather events. Some of the students elected to create physical models and others chose to use computer programs to generate their disaster-proof cities.

**Jenny Chow** HaSS Teacher



## ROBOPRO

In March, Chuqi and I went to the 2023 RoboPro Drone Competition. We participated in the advanced category which involved coding a drone to fly through a maze, using logic to guide the drone to solve the maze by itself. We worked hard to fix the bug in the program during the testing round, giving up speed for accuracy in the end to make the code worked. Although Chuqi and I did get full points, we did not win as the other teams had much faster times.

**Jayden Jeow and Chuqi Zhang**  
**Year 8**





## MATHEMATICS

The Year 7 Gifted and Talented students have been exploring the Pythagorean Theorem as part of their extension Mathematics program. They were given the opportunity to present their findings to the class which provided them with the opportunity to deliver a presentation without the pressure of an oral assessment. Some of the students jumped at the chance to practise their public speaking skills.



*Abdul Hamdan and Inesh John Jo*



*Siddharth Nair*

Many of the students enjoyed the challenge of the Tug of War with Integers game with students taking turns to throw two dice, one with positive integers and one with negative integers. Students then have a choice to add or subtract the integers that they roll and move the counter that number of places on the number line. If the counter reaches -13, Negative has won. If the counter reaches 13, Positive has won. This game created much discussion of how to achieve

the highest or the lowest integer. It is vital that students learn to mathematically justify their decisions and this game gave them the opportunity to use some critical thinking and problem solving by applying all possible combinations to the given task.

**Kerri Kalotay**  
**Mathematics Teacher**



*Aarya Kadu and Alexa Ingram*



*Cirrus Tuladhar and Siddharth Nair*



*Razia Sunil and Nessa Risen*



*Darren Vinod and Lucas Lau*



*Emily Kim and Lori Wen*



*Dev Patel, Cirrus Tuladhar, Sanjit Saluja  
and Forrest Le*



# ACADEMIC EXTENSION

## YEAR 8/9 MOVIE NIGHT

The Year 8 and 9 AEP movie night was a huge success. 115 people came and enjoyed themselves. They picked the movie Sonic the Hedgehog 2, which people enjoyed more than they originally thought they would.

We love how so many people came and had a good time. Students were crowding the front entrance just to get in, and then flooded in once the doors were open. Everyone enjoyed the masses of food supplied as part of the ticket.



*AEP Leaders preparing the snack food for the movie night*

Lucky winners received \$50 and \$30 Hoyts vouchers, and \$10 Coles vouchers.

We are proud to have done something that everyone enjoyed. Big thanks to Ms. Franken and all the student leaders that helped organize such a huge event. Thank you also to Ms Packirisamy, Ms Durup and Mr Coe for joining us for the evening.

We are planning a Year 10 social event for Term 3.

**Mitchell Jordan-Peters**  
Student Leader



*Lucky winners of Hoyts and Coles vouchers*

## NEW RESOURCES

As part of our commitment to helping improve student academic and wellbeing outcomes, we have purchased some new resources for students and staff to use. These are found in the library on the study skills wall by the photocopier and are available to borrow. Let us know if there are any other resources you think could be handy and we will look at purchasing them.



Study skills resources for students



Teacher resources

On this resource wall, we also place summaries of study skills sessions and strategies, weekly study planners, tips for writing and even recipes to help maintain a healthy approach to revision.

## PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOR TEACHERS

Our teachers are a crucial part of why our AEP program is such a success and helping them keep their skills and knowledge at the cutting edge is important to us.

This term will see one teacher from each AEP learning area complete the mini-Certificate of Gifted Education at Christ Church College, delivered over two days by leaders in the field, UNSW's Gifted Education Research resource and Information Centre. Gaining this knowledge will help our AEP teachers deliver curriculum that is tailored to the high ability students in Academic Extension.

AEP leader Suzi Franken will also attend the Ignite the Spark conference on gifted education with a focus on excellence and equity, run by GERRIC and the NSW Department of Education.

Staff members attending will share their new-found knowledge with colleagues across the school to deliver great opportunities for our students.



The poster features a lightbulb icon with the text "IGNITE THE SPARK" in large, bold letters. Below this, a yellow box contains the text "Excellence and equity/ Creating opportunities". On the right, a circular inset shows a group of people in a classroom setting. The UNSW and GERRIC logos are in the top right corner.

**IGNITE THE SPARK**

Excellence and equity/  
Creating opportunities

UNSW GERRIC

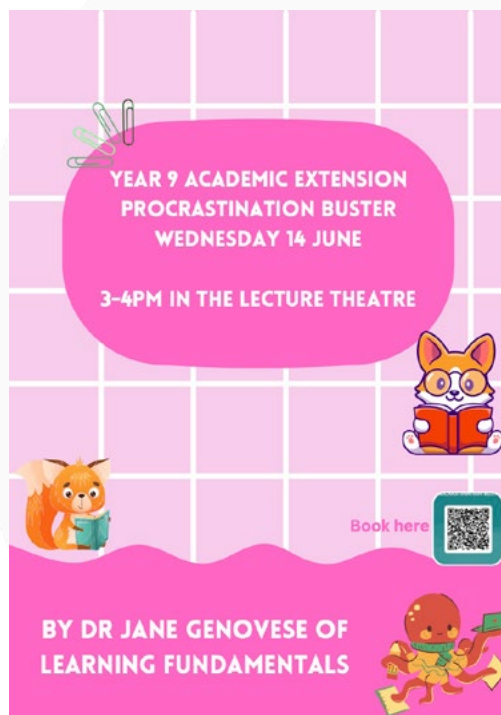




**YEAR 10 EXAM PREP SESSION**  
**MONDAY 15TH MAY**  
**3-4PM IN THE LECTURE THEATRE**

Book here 

**DR JANE GENOVESE OF**  
**LEARNING FUNDAMENTALS**



**YEAR 9 ACADEMIC EXTENSION**  
**PROCRASTINATION BUSTER**  
**WEDNESDAY 14 JUNE**  
**3-4PM IN THE LECTURE THEATRE**

Book here 

**BY DR JANE GENOVESE OF**  
**LEARNING FUNDAMENTALS**



**YEAR 8 ACADEMIC EXTENSION**  
**MEMORY KICKSTART**  
**WEDNESDAY 31ST MAY**  
**3-4PM IN THE LECTURE THEATRE**

Book here 

**DR JANE GENOVESE OF**  
**LEARNING FUNDAMENTALS**



**AEP**  
**STRETCH**  
**SESSION**

Chill out before exams!

Wednesday 7th June  
 3-3.45pm

**FREE!**

**BOOK HERE**

Small Gym  
 Please wear comfy clothes  
 and bring a water bottle.



## STUDY SKILLS AND EXAM PREP SESSIONS

To follow up on last term's parent session on supporting study skills, we have some great study skills and exam prep sessions for all AEP students this term.

Students should use the QR code to book. Spaces are limited. These are also advertised around the school, on the Student Sharepoint and on Connect.

## TERM 2 TUTOR SQUAD

Tutor Squad for Term 2 is jampacked with events that will help your child with their study, even during exam weeks.

It's a weekly session in the library where AEP students from Years 8-10 get help from AEP Year 10 students as well as and Year 11 and 12s who used to be in AEP. We start with a snack and then have a teacher presentation on something useful.



*Students busy at work with their tutors*

## MOZART FOR THE MIND

In Week 2, Ms Barratt of HaSS fame presented a session on Mozart for the Mind, and how listening to certain music – classical, soundtracks, no lyrics – can help calm our minds and make studying and revision so much easier. Here's a link to find out more about it: <https://youtu.be/7JmprpRisEY>



*Ms Barratt's Mozart for the Mind presentation*



## PEARLS OF WISDOM

The schedule for Pearls of Wisdom – presentations by teachers – is pictured here:



## Pearls of Wisdom Term 2 2023

Wk	Date	Topic	Presenter	Venue
1	26 April	No Tutor Squad	-	-
2	3 May	Mozart for the Mind	Ms Barratt	Library
3	10 May	No Tutor Squad - PTO		
4	17 May	The Colon	Ms Durup	Library
5	24 May	How to Win Friends & Influence People 2	Mr Harvey	Library
6	31 May	Exam weeks - No Tutor Squad Year 8 Memory Kickstart instead	Dr Genovese	Lecture Theatre
7	7 June	Exam weeks - No Tutor Squad Stretch and relaxation session instead	Ms Abrol	Small gym
8	14 June	Exam weeks - No Tutor Squad Year 9 Procrastination Buster instead	Dr Genovese	Lecture Theatre
9	21 June	Marking the Text	Ms Packirisamy	Library
10	28 June	Types of Sentences	Ms Franken	Library

Students should RSVP using the QR codes on the posters around the school and on Connect.

# THE ARTS

## NEWS FROM THE ARTS

A wonderful term where the students' education culminates in performances, showcases and exhibitions. This is where the student's and our staff celebrate their achievements and applaud their hard work and commitment to learning.

Please join our school community to acknowledge the achievements of our Arts students. Keep the following dates open.

### DANCE SHOWCASE

Week 8 Wednesday 14 June

Two shows 6:00 pm and a repeat show at 7:30pm

Ticket \$8

### DRAMA SHOWCASE

Week 10 - Monday 26 June in the evening

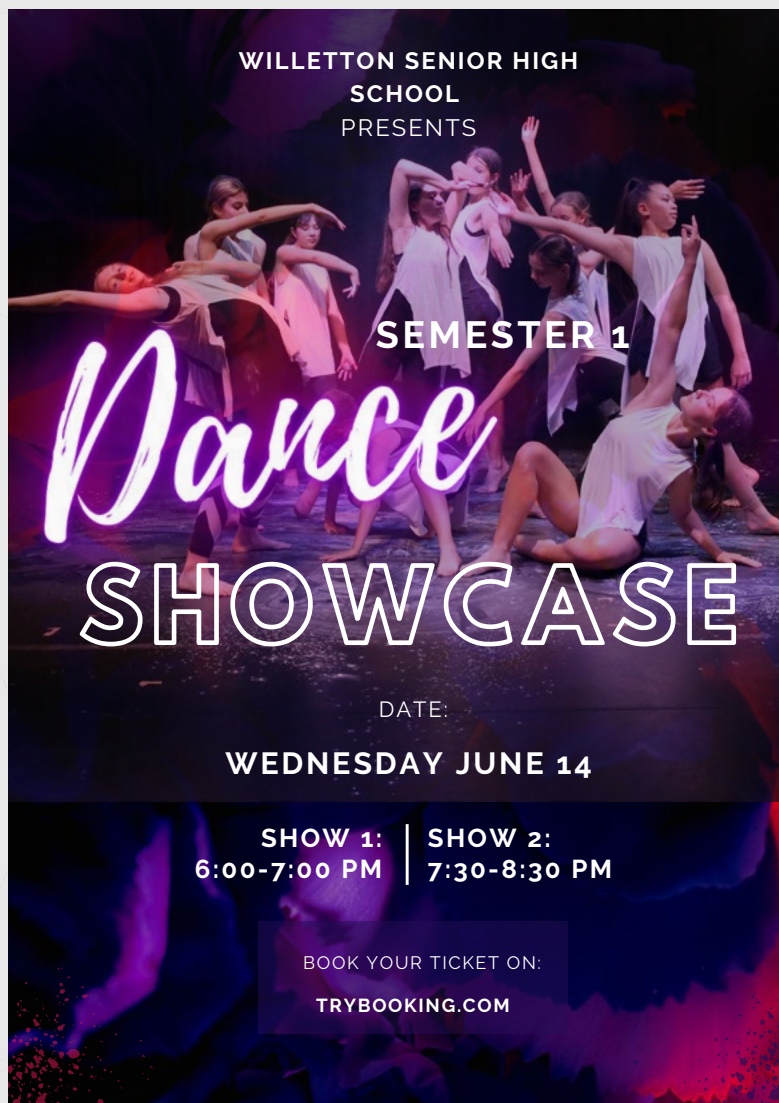
Year 10 Drama Showcase

Calendar update: Term 3 week 2 Thursday 27 July 6:00 to 7:00 pm.

### MUSIC SHOWCASE

Week 10 Performances - Tuesday 27 and Wednesday 28 June in the evening.

Time and cost TBA

A poster for the Willetton Senior High School Dance Showcase. The background is a dark stage with purple and blue lighting. Several dancers in white and black costumes are captured in dynamic poses. The text is overlaid on the image.

WILLETTON SENIOR HIGH  
SCHOOL  
PRESENTS

SEMESTER 1

*Dance*  
SHOWCASE

DATE:

WEDNESDAY JUNE 14

SHOW 1: | SHOW 2:  
6:00-7:00 PM | 7:30-8:30 PM

BOOK YOUR TICKET ON:  
[TRYBOOKING.COM](http://TRYBOOKING.COM)

## PERFORMING ARTS PERSPECTIVES

We are excited to congratulate 2022 graduate Sienna Strle who was invited to audition for the 2022 Performing Arts Perspectives. Sienna was successfully chosen and on Monday 27 March performed at the Perth Concert Hall along with other top Performing Dance, Drama and Music students. The feedback from Sienna was that it was such an amazingly positive experience and all the students involved have kept in regular contact. One of our specialist teachers April Vardy choreographed the evening and was a mentor to the students.



## DANCE

Our Year 11 and 12 General and ATAR Students who had the awesome opportunity to dance with Una Genuino who owns and runs WA's premier hiphop crew The Society. Una takes her competition team to worlds in Mexico in two weeks, we thank her for her energy, passion and dedication to excellence. The students can't wait to show you what they've been working on. See you at The Dance Showcase.

**McKenzie Goldsmith**  
Dance Teacher



## MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN

Speechless. Utterly speechless. That was my overwhelming reaction as I stood backstage, basking in the afterglow after our two breathtaking performances of Mother Courage and Her Children.

For most of us as Year 12s, this was our final scripted performance in the theatre at Willetton. It has been an incredible experience, and we've loved every second of it.

The performance focusses on a war-torn Eastern Europe landscape where Mother Courage, an avid capitalist, journeys through the ravages of war with her children. It's a gripping tale that showcases the resilience, sacrifice, and moral dilemmas faced by individuals in times of conflict.

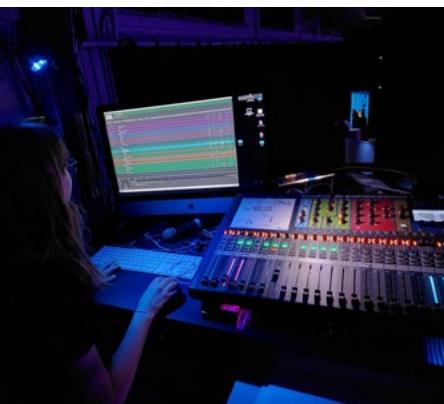
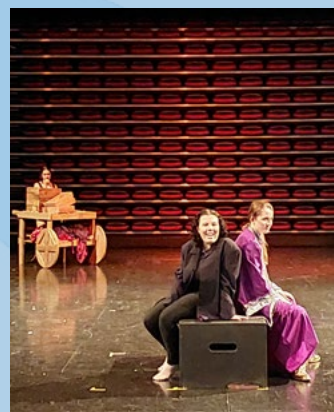
We opted for a unique and challenging stage space of traverse where the audience is placed either side of the performance space. Through marketing (Gage, Mischa, Tahlia and Tyler), set design (Keira and Keeley), lighting design (David), costume design (Hannah and Amarni) and sound design (Xavier and Oliver), we aimed to craft a thrilling dinner theatre with the ATAR students each directing two out of the 12 scenes.

It was a bumpy ride, but the ups and downs provided the fruitfulness we earned when we stood out on stage and presented our work.

As always, it was an amazing experience which pushed our love for drama and the performing arts further into our hearts, creating memories that will never be forgotten and bonds that will never be broken.

**David Phillips**  
**Year 12**









## OLD MOTHER HUBBARD

A deluge of painful puns, puzzling plots, cheerful songs and out-of-the-world pantomimes, this play really puts the drama in drama.

For Year 10s, this production is our first here at Willetton Senior High School and we all enjoyed every minute of it.

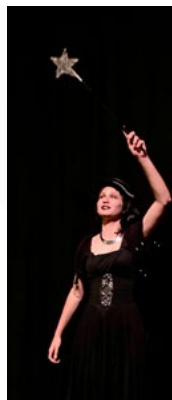
The performance follows Old Mother Hubbard as she decides that she and her dog need a break, so she plans an arranged marriage for her daughter, Polly, with the wealthiest man in Nursery Rhyme Land, Duke Ferdinand, but Polly is in love with Dick, the poor woodchopper's son. Unfortunately, they fall into the clutches of the evil Witch Hepzibah who requires a pure young maiden to make her young again so she can rule as queen. Characters find treasure, encounter betrayal and experience true love.

Thanks to the help of senior drama captains (Bronte, Emily, Mischa and Jacinta), Sound and lighting companies, director (Mr Brand), Jen (our stage manager) costumes (Mischa), Publicity (All cast) and set designs and props (front of house and Gage), our performance was able to take our audience into a world of pure folklore fantasy.

Although there were ups and downs due to the presence of COVID, and the production was struggling to get back on its feet for a while, it was worth it to finally perform and really enlighten the audience after all our work.

It was a fantastic experience which enhanced our love for drama and the performing arts. Even more, thanks for all the memories made and skills we established that will help us in future projects. Drama will always be in our hearts.

**Anushree Patni**  
**Year 10**





## BREAK CLUB

Term 1 saw our first ever term of Break Club kick off under the guidance of our resident break dancer Carlos “Pepito” Estigarribia.

Students from Years 8 – 12 have been working hard each week to improve their strength, confidence, break skills and determination. Break is a challenging dance style and students have been making amazing progress.

Please feel free to come and join Wednesday afternoons 2:45 – 3:45pm in the Dance Studio.



# ENGLISH

## PREPARING TO STUDY YEAR 11 AND 12 ATAR ENGLISH AND/OR LITERATURE

One of the most important thing students can do to prepare for studying ATAR English and/or Literature is to ensure they read widely, regularly, and at the required level of complexity. Strong reading comprehension skills, having a bank of texts to refer to and discuss, and having a good understanding of the world we live in are all keys to success in these courses.

To assist Year 10 students prepare for the reading requirements of ATAR English courses, we have established a shelf of recommended texts in the school library for students to borrow. All students who intend to study these subjects in Year 11 and 12 are strongly encouraged to read texts from this selection, which includes the Year 11 ATAR English set novel, *The Book Thief* by Marcus Zusak and Literature texts such as *The Secret River* by Kate Grenville.



Parents, we encourage you to discuss you child's personal reading with them and ensure this is an area they are focusing on this year. Please note, some of the texts on this shelf deal with mature issues and ideas so you may want to guide your child in their selections.

**Susan Appleton**  
**Head of Learning Area – English**

## HOMEcoming POETRY

Year 12 ATAR English students reflecting on family, memory, legacy, identity and place in poetry spring boarded from our study of Homecoming.

### WELCOME HOME

Dad doesn't remember much  
Doesn't want to remember much  
Buried bodies fishing rods farms and cemeteries  
Is that all I would ask  
All he would say is 'life was tough'

Days on end sleeping on a boat  
Sickness and tiredness  
Dreaming of land dreaming of home  
Mum are we there yet?  
The youngest would cry

Flash forward Thailand camp  
We all looked similar spoke my dad  
Hungry restless dirty  
Mum are we there yet?  
No comment no reply

Flash forward the country called Australia  
Finally in reach feel the air feel the dirt  
Satisfied calm clean  
Mum are we there yet?  
Yes, my sweet Emily welcome home

\*Story of my dad and his family's journey as refugees  
escaping from the Vietnam War

By Asha Le, Year 12

### "TIME, BY TIME, THE SWEETNESS IS FORGOTTEN, BUT NOT BY MEMORY"

I hail from a forgotten place,  
Where soil and oil interlace,  
But wealth and ease were not the case,  
Amidst tyrants who ruled with disgrace.  
A land of gentle hearts and souls,  
But cruel rulers made them blind,  
Their culture's beauty was left behind,  
As greed and power governed their mind.

Once, our rivers flowed so sweetly, with an embrace,  
And fruits were given with cheerful grace  
But now our land is left to beat,  
A deserted wasteland, incomplete.  
Where are the figs, olives, and pomegranates?  
Where are the dates, oranges, and lemons?  
Where are the birds and love that were innate?  
Where is the richness that once embellished this sacred  
land?  
This is my home; this is Iraq,  
A place that many have turned their back,  
Where evils seek to creep in fact,  
But as long as there are good, who knows,  
We all endure,  
for hope beams, and love will last.

By Rusul Haroosh, Year 12



## CONVERGENCE

When I was born, two sides were formed  
Two cultures, vastly different  
I thought that maybe I had to choose  
Which one to be and which one to lose

But as I began to settle in  
I realized there was no need to pick  
The multiculturalism of my new home  
Made me realize they were both my own

It took migration for me to see  
There was no need to overcomplicate  
Who I am, as in actuality

**By Mark Kuminov, Year 12**

When I was only seven years  
We migrated across the globe  
In the new land, I had to reassess...  
Which culture is mine, which one to suppress...

It became clear these clashing customs  
Could come to co-exist  
As the differences were to be tolerated...  
My diverse backgrounds celebrated...

I'm at last proud of my duality



## NOVUS LUX WINNERS

We are pleased to announce that not just one, not two, but eleven Year 8 students have had their poems from Year 7 published in the inaugural Novus Lux Poetry Anthology. The students received a certificate and a copy of the complete anthology at their latest year group assembly. Special congratulations to Sadie De Bari who was the overall Runner Up and received a \$100 gift voucher.

We congratulate them on their achievements.

### Congratulations to:

- Sadie De Bari – Runner Up
- Yana Bhatt
- Ronak Mann
- Olivia Lin
- Jaylene Low
- Maximilianus Kriswahyundi
- Benedict Kalyana
- Bavishya Suresh Kumar
- Liam Wieman-Lee
- Gregory Rusli
- Fay Qu

**Daisy McCauley**  
**English Teacher**

# LANGUAGES

## ITALIAN AND FRENCH EXCURSION

In April, our Year 10 Italian and French students took an excursion to the University of Western Australia. As someone who has never been there, I was very excited to see what the campus was like. First arriving I found the campus significantly large but was amazed by the beautiful greenery and all the architecture.

Our students joined a few other schools in a discussion with some of the French and Italian teachers and current Uni

students, talking about the great benefits and beauty of continuing to study a language into ATAR and our future lives. Following that, our language students took a nice walk around some of the buildings and explored, there were so many pretty spots. At lunch we were allowed to roam around the area and were welcome to all of the delicious food options available, I really loved the environment, the people and I overall very much enjoyed the experience.

**Liliana Candeloro**  
**Year 10**





## YEAR 10 JAPANESE EXCURSION TO CURTIN UNIVERSITY

During Term 1, 75 Year 10 students studying Japanese packed their bags and boarded buses for an excursion to Curtin University.

The first activity on our schedule was a presentation given by one of the student ambassadors from Curtin. She talked about the courses that Curtin provided including degrees in medicine, engineering, media and the languages. She also explained the prerequisites required and the possible pathways to study our preferred course(s) at Curtin University.

We were then greeted by a group of student ambassadors who introduced us to the Race Around the University activity. We were divided into groups of four to eight people and handed a double-sided page with questions about specific locations on campus that we were supposed to figure out using only descriptions and a map. We learned about the expanse of the campus, with multiple buildings and places practically everywhere, and how they all produced a different ambience.

After that, we had a question session with the student ambassadors as well as two Willetton Senior High School alumnus who were studying at Curtin. Many Year 10 students asked interesting and detailed questions regarding university life, studying at Curtin and what we should aim towards in senior school. This session was informative and gave us all an idea about what was offered by Curtin.

We were then given a presentation about studying Japanese at Curtin from Dr Hiroshi Hasegawa. The presentation included some university jargon that we were introduced to, as well as some common questions and answers about studying Japanese. Dr Hasegawa was a very entertaining presenter, and we were all inspired to continue studying Japanese especially after he told us about the student trips to Japan that took place every year.

Our excursion to Curtin University was extremely useful as it gave us a better understanding of what we can do at university, how university life would be and most importantly what subjects we would need to be able to choose to study the course(s) we desired. It also enabled students to clarify their doubts regarding university and be clearer about what their personal aspirations would be in the new and far future. It was a fantastic day, and all the Year 10 students were grateful to the school for organising it.

**Krithick Saran Veeramuthu and Siddharth Rajan**  
Year 10



# MATHS

## INTRODUCING OUR NEW MATHEMATICS TEACHERS



### ALAN GIBBONS

Alan is starting his career in teaching coming from 15 years in the Engineering sector. He decided to change his career to share his passion for learning and working with and developing young adults. Having years of experience as a mechanical engineer he has many ideas about how to make mathematical content relatable to what is needed in the workplace, and to things encountered in everyday life. Other than mathematics Alan enjoys all things sport.



### QING HONG

Qing is thrilled to return to Willetton this year after completing her final placement here last year. It's been such rewarding experiences for her to see a few familiar faces when she walks around the school. Qing hopes that the teaching and learning journey of 2023 will be unforgettable for both her students and herself.



### BEN LINES

Ben is pleased to be joining the Willetton staff. He began his teaching career at Morawa DHS and Katanning SHS in rural WA. In these schools he was a coach of country week boys AFL teams. After returning to Perth for a year and working in an independent school, Ben took the opportunity to teach in UK where he taught Mathematics and Science in South London schools. Since returning to Australia, he has taught at Lakeland SHS and Kalamunda SHS. Ben has a young family and enjoys competing in trail running events. He looks forward to contributing to the mathematics education of students and the Willetton community.



### NAMITHA REGI

Namitha has a Master of Technology in Computer Science Engineering and a Master of Teaching with a major in Mathematics from UWA. She is excited to start her teaching career at Willetton and to be part of the Mathematics Learning Area. The staff and students have made her feel most welcome. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with family and friends. Her hobbies include travelling, gardening, and sewing.

## EXPLORING MAGIC SQUARES

Students in Year 8 explored magic squares in Maths. They worked in groups to figure out the technique of arranging numbers (integers or fractions) into magic squares.





# SCIENCE

## FIELD BIOLOGY IN MUNDARING

On 11 May, Year 11 Biology students were provided with the opportunity to visit the Perth Hills Discovery Park in Mundaring. The students explored the vast world of field biology while completing theoretical and practical work, while being treated to stunning views of the forest and Mundaring Weir.

The theoretical work included filling out a booklet based on information learnt along the journey through the park, namely different ways to measure populations of different organisms. The practical work involved students getting to know what real field biology work included, like setting a trap used for collecting population data. Students utilised various tools and equipment for flora species, which meant the data collection of tree canopy cover, humus content, plant cover and litter depth.

The theoretical and practical work increased our work ethic and interest in biology.

**Hayden Osterberg**  
Year 11





## YEAR 11 HUMAN BIOLOGY HEART DISSECTION

Year 11 students dissected a sheep's heart as part of their learning about the Circulatory System. This heart is a commonly dissected mammalian heart as it is very similar to a human heart, in that they both contain four chambers, and are similar in size.

Students learned about the heart as an important organ in our body, the many different external and internal structures associated with the heart through hands-on dissection and the functions of the different structures inside of the heart.

## HEART DISSECTION IN YEAR 9 MODIFIED SCIENCE







## YEAR 7 STUDENTS HAVE A CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH A SQUID

Year 7 students carried out a squid dissection as part of their Classification topic in Biology, this term.

Congratulations to Mrs Davies students who found a record 31 fish inside their squid and another group who found a baby squid.

The squid is an amazing organism with a lot of adaptations that help it to survive.

### INTERVIEW WITH A SQUID:

#### 1) What is the phylum you belong to?

Mollusca

#### 2) A garden snail is a Mollusc and it has a shell on its back. Why are you in grouped in that Phylum when you don't?

My shell is internal and called a pen

#### 3) Why do you have an Ink sac?

It is filled with ink and to create a smoke screen to hide from my predators

#### 4) What other special features do you have?

I have a Siphon. I squirt out water from this it to help me propel backwards by jet propulsion. I also us this to squirt out the ink.

I also have coloured freckles (chromataphores) to show what mood I'm in. I'm red when I'm angry and am in the mood for passion. I turn white when I'm scared.





## YEAR 7 STUDENTS MAKING SLIME

Students enjoyed making their own slime and best of all, playing with it and stretching it. The characteristics of solids and liquids were explored in a fun way.

A chemical reaction occurs between the glue and the borate ions, and slime is the new substance formed. Instead of flowing freely as before, the molecules in the slime have become tangled and create what is slime.

**Gloria Wynhorst**  
Science Teacher



# VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING



*The Ritz-Carlton, Perth and Willetton Senior High School staff on a tour of the kitchens*

## CREATING A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE RITZ-CARLTON, PERTH

Vocational Educational and Training (VET) staff Brad Curran (Certificate II in Hospitality); Jemma Holland (Work Experience Coordinator) and I were invited to The Ritz-Carlton, Perth during the school holidays to meet with The Ritz-Carlton Director of Human Resources Angela Wong, Assistant Human Resources Manager Ana Katrina Lim, and Executive Chef Alberto Cuzzit to explore the creation of a partnership in the areas of student work experience, and school staff work shadowing opportunities to gain industry currency in hospitality.

Willetton staff were treated to a delicious coffee, and a tour of the Ritz-Carlton's amazing commercial kitchens and function areas. The array of pastries and other desserts we saw being prepared were very tempting and made us a little envious of the treats that awaited the hotel guests!

We thank Angela, Ana and Alberto for their time, and we are looking forward to working in partnership with The Ritz-Carlton, Perth to provide hands-on and exciting training opportunities for our students and VET staff.

**Sue Holland**  
**VET Head of Learning**

## ADVENTURES WITH ANCHORS AWAY AND POLITICAL PLANNING

Taking up the challenge to empower themselves to set goals and plan for their future after Year 12, students participated in work experience with the Australian Navy on Garden Island and at the offices of local MLA for Jandakot, Yaz Mubarakai.

Students, Annabelle Frank, Georgina Geer and Letitia Josonen ventured to Garden Island. They participated in a tour of a submarine and went inside the submarine simulator and looked at actual torpedoes. Key to being in the defence forces is a healthy level of fitness, which was also part of their day, physical training. Interacting with naval personnel, including clearance divers and medical staff, also provided ideas of the range of possible work in the Navy.

For Annabelle, this has confirmed a direction for application to the Navy as a future career. She will be seeking a Defence University Sponsorship for education and training to become a nurse in the Navy. Letitia will be training to become helicopter aircrew.

David Phillips enjoyed developing an understanding of policy for government initiatives and the research and the preparation required. He also learned a little of the process of the implementation of policy and the behind the scenes work it involves. Discussion with his supervisor, Rebecca Misich included the pathway to get into politics, including the value of participation in the WA Youth Parliament.

It is exciting for these students to see the inside of what their future career direction could be.

**Ruth Barratt**  
**Work Experience Placement Teacher**



*David Phillips with Supervisor Bec Misich at the offices of MLA for Jandakot Yaz Mubarakai 2023*



# STUDENT SERVICES

## YEAR 12

It has been a fast and furious first semester for all Year 12 students. On the whole, it is pleasing to see that students are generally tracking towards the end of the year as expected and, in many cases, there have been improvement in results and attendance. We encourage everyone to keep doing their best and to make sure wherever possible, strong attendance is maintained, particularly as we head into winter where colds and flu are more common.

Congratulations to the following Year 12 students, who were acknowledged by class teachers for consistent effort and/ or improvement during Semester One this year. Students who received multiple certificates are indicated with a number next to their name.

Brianna Abbott	Abby Davies	Mischa Hartl	Jivitesh Malik	Tahlia Padayachee	Talia Sandell
Teresa So-Yeon An	Gabriella De Castro	Tyler Hewitt	Taha Malik	Danny Pan	Pav Sathasivam
Alisha Azzahra	Brielle De Jager	Jessica Hickey	Indiana Malinton	David Phillips	Gayathiri Sekar
Lachlan Babaeff	Kimberly De Souza	Emma Htut	Daniel Marshall	Edward Potter	Sandeka Sembukige
Alan Baiju	Rythn Deiveegan	Georgia Hunt	Brooke Marshall	Sacha Poulet	Arian Shahnam
Tanaya Baker	Kalvin De Visser	Katherine Hustwick	Sophie Martin	Rudhra Prabhanya Vengur Prabhakar	Darrell Soka
Sage Barnett	Ben Dunkley	Clair Im	Jerone Mathews	Hannah Raphael	Aidan Steed
Neil Becker	Georgia Elsey	Elsa Joseph	Connor May	Jade Regel	Ryan Sun
Jessica Black	Huma Fathima	David Jun	Mehvish Mehboob	Kirby Roach	Aathira Suresh
Ella Buckley	Kaelyn Feng	Emerlyn Kaur	Athena Mendoza	Caleb Rochester	Jael Teoh
Sasha Caulfield	Liam Ford	Nehan Khan	Abuzar Muddassar	Christopher Rodrigo	Jesna Thomas
Eunice Chai	Phoebe Forster	Ee Jay Kho	Xavier Nelson	Mia Rumsey	Aisha Thompson
Kah Yee Chan	Aishveena Gill	Mark Kuminov	Kian Ng		Teon Tong
Natasha Cheetham	Erwin Godin	Angelynn Leduc	Timothy Nurse		Joann Jo Varghese
Huan Yi Choo	Gage Gurney	Jeremy Lee	Mei Ling Ong		Imogen Walsh
Sienna Collier		Keira Lilley	Caleb Osborne		Alisha Westle
Hannah Cooke		Nathania Lo			Zachary Williams
		Jasmine Long			Joel Wilton
		Yan Kiu Lueng			Puyue Yang

It is great to see, once again, so many students from the Year 12 cohort recognised by their teachers. Keep up the great work everyone. We know teachers find nominations hard, as there are a lot more of you maintaining great attendance, trying your best and working hard. Perhaps we will see another set of names on this list next semester.

Good luck to all Year 12 students for upcoming midyear ATAR examinations and Externally Set Tasks.

**Judy Gaudi, Lana Warner-Gillon and Brad Spicer**  
Student Services

## YEAR 11

The Year 11 cohort have settled well into Senior School. In a few weeks the students completing the ATAR pathway will experience their first set of examinations and I wish them all the best. All of the Year 11 cohort are working with a renewed sense of maturity and dedication as they all realise they have come to the most important two years of schooling.

Student Councillors have been busy completing sizing sessions for all Year 11 students in preparation for leavers jackets. Jacket designs will be revealed in the next few weeks and students will have the opportunity to vote for the final design. Students have also recently voted for a design for their senior status badges.



2024 Ball preparations are underway, and group of Student Councillors came to Crown Towers Year 12 Ball in February and saw the initial arrival of the Year 12 students, the room set-up and are now busy making plans for the theme and table centre pieces for their own Year 12 Ball next year. The next social function we have is on Thursday June 22nd, at Optus stadium, with food, music and dancing.

Harmony Week was a great success this year and the Year 11 students made plaited orange wrist bands and bag tags to distribute. Three of our students addressed the school with a wellbeing message during a live broadcast to showcase their home languages; we had Zoraiz speaking Urdu, Irdina speaking Malay and Sowmya speaking Telugu.



We held a Free-Dress Day and Bake Sale last week to raise money for Youth Focus WA and it was a huge success, raising over \$1500 for this worthy cause.

This semester seems to be flying by and soon it will be mid-year. I encourage all of the Year 11s to remain focused and apply themselves to ensure their future success.

## YEAR 10 ANZAC SERVICE

The Year 10 ANZAC Day assembly took place on the 25 April, in honour of the brave soldiers who have served and sacrificed for our country. The assembly started with the opening sounds of the Pipe Band, setting the tone for the ceremony.

The opening address was delivered by the Year 10 Councillors, Zoe, and Liliana, who welcomed everyone and reminded us of the importance of ANZAC Day. Following this, Carlito Ciavarella in Year 9, delivered the Welcome to Country, recognizing the traditional owners of the land.

Mr Trevor Hunter gave an official welcome, followed by a moving reading of In Flanders Fields by Shannon and Ashleigh. Emily Yap, winner of the Australia Simpson Prize Competition, was introduced and presented her award. She then delivered an excerpt of her winning essay and spoke about the service of Australians in World War I. Congratulations to Emily for her impressive achievement.

Chloe Cho then spoke about the significance of the wreath laying by our Head Boy and Head Girl, Byan Yemane and Mehvish Mehboob. Karthiga delivered The Ode, followed by a minute of silence observed by all present.

The Last Post was played by Ms Templar and her trumpet students. The National Anthems of Australia and New Zealand were then sung by the incredible Jewel Mathew, bringing the ceremony to a close.

The Catafalque Party, organised by Year 10 Cadet, Aliza Rizvi consisted of both Year 11 and Year 10 students, Sai Kotika, Harshini Sri Kollati, Athvaidha Sentil Kumar, Leon Mkala and Jude Bloxham. Angelina delivered the closing remarks and acknowledgments, expressing gratitude for the sacrifices made by the soldiers.

The ceremony ended with the Pipe Band playing, bringing a solemn and respectful end to the assembly. It was a fitting tribute to the brave men and women who have served and sacrificed for our country, and it left a lasting impression on everyone present.

I would like to thank the Year 10 Councillors who put in an amazing effort to organise this assembly in a very busy term. Their mature and responsible approach led to this successful assembly.

**Natasha Senasinghe**  
**Year 10 Coordinator**





## YEAR 9 PEER LEADERS

The Year 9 Peer Leaders have been on a roll, and we don't intend to slow down.

All 63 of us went on a training day and learned many useful skills on leadership. We learned the tricks to giving feedback, the qualities of a good leader, and how to lead a team.

So far, the Peer Leaders have had the opportunity to work on Orientation, Immunisations, Student Tours, and Blue Bins. We have been working vigorously, meeting new people, giving tips and also getting some exercise.

We look forward to practising our leadership skills through the many jobs that we have to come, including: Year 7 Swimming Carnival, Athletics Carnival, Orientation and much more. Willetton is doing an amazing job at raising the leaders of tomorrow.

**Adam Jaid**  
**Year 9**



## YEAR 8 STUDENTS WORKING ON THEIR WELLBEING

We pride ourselves on the safe, inclusive and positive community we uphold at Willetton Senior High School and applaud our year 8 students for their efforts in showing kindness and support for each other.

This sense of community, and upholding the Willo Way, does not come without effort, and our Year 8 students have been active this year in upskilling themselves with a range of strategies they can use to recognise bullying and respond when they see it to protect themselves and others. Last term our Tutor Group Teachers lead the cohort through a series of activities around what bullying looks like and feels like, and how we can show support and respond safely when we see it happening. This will be followed up this term with a session specific to Cybersafety.

We are empowering our students with the skills they need to actively participate in shaping the community they are part of by standing up for positive values. It is very important that we support our youth by reminding them that asking for help and reporting on negative behaviours is not a weakness but a strength, and that even though we want them to develop the skills required to peacefully resolve their own conflicts, it doesn't mean they need to go it alone.

We recognise that many teenagers shy away from talking about antisocial behaviour because they worry about being branded a 'snitch'. It is so important that we, as their family, teachers and mentors, help them to recognise that talking about antisocial behaviour is beneficial for themselves and those participating in the negative behaviours. Talking about these issues helps our youth to develop empathy, it helps them to work through problems they might be having, and it very often prevents future harm by de-escalating situations before they get any worse. Even if your teen is not a big talker, you are doing them a great service by asking them about their day, friends, and problems. It reminds them that you're there when they really do need to talk.

Of course, our students are also encouraged to talk to the staff in Student Services, who are always ready and willing to help them through their problems, whether they are related to bullying or otherwise. We also remind our students and their families that there are a variety of resources they can access for support if they aren't ready to talk about their problem or aren't sure what to do about it. These include kidshelpline, headspace and ReachOut.

It would be remiss not to mention Cyberbullying. As our students reach an age where they gain access to and spend more time on social media, they are unfortunately going to be at increased risk of harmful online behaviours. While parents can feel at a loss sometimes working through this new phenomenon, your involvement is paramount in supporting young people as they learn to develop a healthy relationship with technology. If you'd like some help with this, please access our SchoolTV series on Cybersafety, or visit eSafety.

Thank you to our Year 8 cohort, their families, and every member of the Willetton Senior High School community for everything you do to make our school a safe and happy place.

**Thomas Coe**  
**Year 8 Coordinator**



# SCHOOL BOARD

## SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

The next School Board meeting will be held on 14 June 2023. A list of Board meetings for this year can be found on the school website, under the School Board information.

## SCHOOL BOARD COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

It is with great pleasure that the Board has appointed four community representatives to the Board for the next 12 months. We are so pleased to have members of the community keen to contribute to our school. We welcome back re-appointed members Simran Vijayakumar and Andrew Tan who have been a great asset to the Board, and we look forward to working with newly appointed members Michael Lee and Arun Thavasi. Watch this space for more information on Michael and Arun in our next issue! We are fortunate that with the range of skills of our community representatives, we will benefit from their expertise to maximise learning opportunities and outcomes for our students.

## ENTERTAINMENT MEMBERSHIP FUNDRAISER



Entertainments memberships continue to be available for purchase through the School Board.

Your Entertainment Membership gives access to thousands of deals, with 20% of your membership purchase going towards a Student Leadership Development Program initiated by the Board. Your support is much appreciated.

Your savings from dining out a couple of times will quickly pay for the cost of your membership!

Purchases may be made at <https://subscribe.entertainment.com.au/fundraiser/904a46>

For enquiries, please contact Kathryn Young on [kathryn.young@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:kathryn.young@education.wa.edu.au) or 9334 7236.



### SUPPORT OUR SCHOOLS PROGRAM

We have registered with Gilbert's Fresh Market, Southlands to be part of ..... the Support Our Schools Program. Please sign up with them and for every purchase you make in store, 1% of your purchase spend will be donated to the school. It does not cost to sign up, and it's an easy way for you to support the school. To date, nearly \$3,000 has been raised, with these funds being put towards student scholarships.

### SECONDHAND UNIFORM SHOP – SALE!!!

For a limited time, the secondhand uniform shop has a sale – purchase a blue (junior) school shirts or junior sports tops for \$10 and get a second one free. This is also a great time to check out the rest of our secondhand uniforms – everything is \$10 each, except for the school dress (\$15) and the school jacket (\$20). We also have ballet and tap shoes for just \$10 per pair.

### SECONDHAND BOOKSHOP

We stock a wide range of local school resource books, Year 11 and Year 12 textbooks, dictionaries, revision/exam papers and class pads, priced at ½ to 2/3 the recommended retail price.

Books can also be left at the bookshop to sell, on a consignment basis.

	Trading Hours during school term	Location
<b>Secondhand Bookshop</b>	Wed 9am-11.30am  For enquiries phone 9334 282 during trading hours	Room B23 in the undercover area, next to the canteen  Eftpos facilities available
<b>Secondhand Uniform Shop</b>	Wed 9.15am-11.15am  For enquiries phone 9334 7217 during trading hours	In the PAC building

### HOW TO CONTACT THE SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE

To find out more about the School Board or how you might get involved, please contact Kathryn Young, School Board Executive Officer on **9334 7236** or email [willetton.shs.schoolboard@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:willetton.shs.schoolboard@education.wa.edu.au).



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# ALUMNI NEWS

## Where are they now?



### NATALIE PAGE

Natalie graduated from Willetton in 1986.

She says of the most valuable things learnt at school was touch typing. Her Mum 'made her' attend typing classes, on a typewriter, before school and it has turned out to be a really handy skill to have.

When Natalie finished school, she went straight to Curtin Uni and completed a Bachelor of Science (Nursing). Along the way, she also picked up qualifications in Tropical Medicine (from Liverpool in UK), Midwifery (KEMH), Child Health (Curtin) and Master Public Health (International Stream - University of Melbourne). For most of Natalie's school life she wanted to be a physiotherapist, but at the last minute changed her mind to study nursing and has never regretted that change. At the time, there was widespread famine in Ethiopia and it had a significant impact on her and the decision to work in health. As this is written, again Ethiopia and the surrounding countries are in the grip of the worst drought in 40 years and experiencing significant hunger.



Natalie is now living in Perth, but has lived and worked in 16 different countries and rural areas of Western Australia, as a nurse/midwife. Most of that time, working with a humanitarian aid organisation, in countries affected by conflict or disaster. Sometimes programmes are set up because of civil war and a failing health system, on other occasions a tsunami has literally washed away all of the health infrastructure and resources or refugees have come across borders to seek refuge and need access to health services. She has learnt so much from each country but mostly that we have more in common than we have differences, we all smile the same way, and all want the same things from life - to feel safe, to look after our families and have access to healthcare when needed.

One of Natalie's learning experiences was in Yemen, studying Arabic. Other than Japanese classes at school, she really enjoyed the insight into culture that learning a language gives and will be forever grateful for the patience of people as she stumbled along. Natalie now has enough Arabic to get into trouble, but not always enough to get out of trouble!



Midwifery and nursing has opened many doors and opportunities for Natalie, she feels lucky to have landed in a profession that she loves, that has taken her around the globe, stretched her and given her glimpses into people's lives at some of their most vulnerable moments. Doing what you love is not necessarily always easy but for Natalie it has been extremely rewarding.



## MEGAN DEL BORRELLO (NE RISEBOROUGH)

Megan graduated in the class of 97.

She studied Marketing Communications and is a marketing and business strategist and entrepreneur and an advocate for female entrepreneurs.

In 2014 Megan started Gloss Marketing Communications, working with clients across fintech, food & beverage, fashion, not for profit and professional services. In 2017 she started Behind the Brands, now We Are Emersyn, an acceleration platform advancing female founders as they launch, build and scale. The capability-building programs leverage education, community, mentors, advisors and a wider network of support.

Megan has presented at Google Women Techmakers, Accelerator for Enterprising Women, Centre for Entrepreneurial Research & Innovation, Port Hedland Chamber of Commerce, Curtin Ignition, Women in Business Forum & City of Canning.



## ALUMNI EVENT

### YOU ARE INVITED

We are hosting a gathering at Willetton Senior High School for Alumni to mingle and catch up with each other on Friday 6pm, the 16 June. Come along for a night of fun and networking. Finger food will be provided. Make sure to RSVP to our Facebook event or email [willetton.shs.alumni@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:willetton.shs.alumni@education.wa.edu.au), and see you there.



**WHS**

# Alumni 2023

FRIDAY 16TH JUNE 2023  
6:00 – 8:00pm

Come back to Willetton SHS and  
reunite with old school friends

## Please RSVP!

- FACEBOOK WILLETTON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI
- [WILLETTON.SHS.ALUMNI@EDUCATION.WA.EDU.AU](mailto:willetton.shs.alumni@education.wa.edu.au)