

W I L L E T T O N   S E N I O R   H I G H   S C H O O L

# Newsletter

# 2022

I S S U E   1   -   M A R C H

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**DESIGN:** Isometric Group

# PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

**We had a very positive start to the 2022 school year – all 2648 students were happily ensconced in class by 9.30 on day 1 – no mean feat for our timetabling and enrolment team – many thanks to all staff involved.**

Please remind your children about the mask mandate – a requirement we feel will continue for the foreseeable future. In our *Willo Way*, we care for each other's wellbeing and wearing a mask is one of the many adjustments we all must make. As you are aware, in the event of a positive case here, I communicate with you in the first instance via SMS. Once the case is confirmed by WA Health further detailed information is emailed once it is available.

Our 2021 results are presented with pride in detail further in this newsletter. Families and staff made a huge contribution to the outstanding achievements of our students. Congratulations to all involved.

We welcomed 17 new staff members to Willetton this year. Their introductions are also in this publication.

We are pleased to welcome Andrea Wheeler to the role of Year Coordinator for the

Year 9 group. Andrea has many years' successful experience in Student Services and will be a great asset in the role. At this stage, her appointment is for Term 1.

Our school ball was to be held on 4 March. Unfortunately, both the ball and the dress up fund raiser we have always held the morning of the ball have been postponed until later in the year because of COVID restrictions. Excursions are continuing as part of enrichment of student learning experiences. Sport at recess and lunch time also continues a rostered basis for every year group.

We have also altered the way student photos are taken to avoid large groups gathering. Year 7s are completed, we are

arranging for other year groups photographs in the near future and will let you know when each year group will occur.

I will be sending a weekly email to all parents. I am aware that you are receiving a plethora of information from the school but think that it is important to keep you current with fast changing information.

**While COVID may be changing the way we live at present, it has not changed our commitment to providing all those things which make Willetton what it is today.**

**Trevor Hunter**



# YEAR 11 ACADEMIC AWARDS – SEMESTER 2 – 2021

## THE ARTS

Certificate II Music	Ethan Ford
Dance General	Bianca Harle
Dance General	Alicia Poon
Dance ATAR	Sienna Strle
Drama ATAR	Kelsie Dowley
Media Production and Analysis General	Angel Matthew
Media Production and Analysis ATAR	Emily Sanders
Music ATAR	Matthew Lim
Visual Arts General	Donna Saji
Visual Arts ATAR	Emily Kim

## ENGLISH

English General	Emily Shearer
English ATAR	Kavinraj Punitha Kaanthan
Literature ATAR	Allan Wu

## HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Certificate II in Sport & Recreation	Michael Chuka
Certificate III in Fitness	Andrew Hanson
Certificate III in Fitness	Troy Freestone
Health Studies ATAR	Jade Yee
Outdoor Education	Lachlan Russell
Physical Education Studies General	Lachlan Russell
Physical Education Studies ATAR	Mathew Jophy Meledam
Physical Education Studies: B/Ball General	Patrick Odingo
Physical Education Studies: B/Ball ATAR	Tayah Morgan

## HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

Certificate II Business	Luke Smith
Accounting and Finance ATAR	Brian Chan
Business Management and Enterprise ATAR	Shauwen Ng
Business Management and Enterprise ATAR	Krishna Thakar
Earth and Environment Science ATAR	Olivia Anderson
Economics ATAR	Shauwen Ng
Geography ATAR	Olivia Anderson
Modern History ATAR	Kavinraj Punitha Kaanthan
Philosophy & Ethics ATAR	Jenna Allison
Politics and Law ATAR	Joie Ng

## LANGUAGES

English as an Additional Language ATAR	Amani Fakhirah Binti Azlan
French: Second Language ATAR	Malachy McGrath
Italian: Second Language ATAR	Juseong Han
Japanese: Second Language ATAR	Heejin Park

## MATHEMATICS

Mathematics Essential General	Lachlan Russell
Mathematics Applications ATAR	Jennifer Howe
Mathematics Methods ATAR	Brian Chan
Mathematics Specialist ATAR	Ian Pinto

## SCIENCE

Biology ATAR	Hannah Yap
Chemistry ATAR	Allan Wu
Human Biology ATAR	Chelsea Lim
Engineering Studies ATAR	Robert Lewis
Integrated Science General	Evie Coghlan
Physics ATAR	Allan Wu
Psychology General	Jazmin Kaszala
Psychology ATAR	Sienna Ramsay

## TECHNOLOGIES

Certificate II in Visual Arts: Design	Hee Jin Park
Certificate II in Hospitality	Vi Pham
Building and Construction General	Alex Sinclair
Computer Science ATAR	Farhan Ahmed
Design: Choice of Context ATAR	Hannah Yap
Design: Dimensional Design General	Ben Spencer
Design: Photography General	Bianca Harle
Design: Photography General	Summer Oxley
Food Science and Technology General	Chelsea Lim
Food Science and Technology ATAR	Rui Ma
Materials Design and Technology: Wood General	Joshua Sanders
Materials Design and Technology: Wood ATAR	Evan Dong

## VOCATIONAL EDUCATION & TRAINING

Certificate II in Community Services	Jazlyn Skinner
Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways	Stefania Paliu
Career and Enterprise General	Novisa Ganesan
Workplace Learning	Jack Cleary
Workplace Learning	Ella Doyle

<b>Citizenship Award</b>	Jemma Walker
<b>Vet Dux</b>	Jack Cleary
<b>Dux ATAR</b>	Allan Wu

**CONGRATULATIONS to the**  
**Class of 2021 for outstanding results**  
**Click to view...**

*Congratulations*

# Where are they now...

## HARRY RICHENS



Harry in Year 12 2018



2021 Graduating with honours from Royal Australian Navy College

Harry graduated in the class of 2018 and was accepted into the Royal Australian Naval College (HMAS Creswell) in Jervis Bay.

He recently graduated as an Officer of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and was awarded the Commodore Sir James Ramsay Prize for the

highest academic achievement on the New Entry Officer Course, which was presented by Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Michael Noonan, AO, RAN.

Harry will now continue his service and progress his career in aviation in the RAN.

## MADISON DE ROZARIO CLAIMS 2021 WA SPORTS STAR AWARD

Dual Paralympic champion Madison De Rozario made history as the first para-athlete to win the WA Sports Star Award in a ceremony at Optus Stadium on Thursday night.

Madison was one of Australia's most outstanding performers at the Tokyo Paralympics, winning gold in the 800m T53 and marathon T54 in addition to bronze in 1500m T54.

Not content with just Paralympic glory, she then became the first Australian woman to win the New York marathon in either the wheelchair or open events.

In her acceptance speech, the 28-year-old said she was blown away by the win, which had come amid a rollercoaster year of growth and self-evaluation for many athletes.

Well done Madison.



Photograph: Adam Pretty/Getty Images

## WELCOME BACK ANDREA WHEELER



Hello to all the families of Year 9 students. As of week 3, I am the Year Coordinator looking after the year group for the remainder of first term. I have been in Student Services assisting with the

management of this year group over the past two years and I know they are a great bunch. I look forward to organising socials and club activities with the Student Council once the Covid restrictions lift.

The use of masks, assemblies by livestream and a string of very hot days have been challenges for the Year 9s but they are adapting really well.

We recommend 5-8 hours of study and homework per week for Year 9 students. They have been provided with the Willetton Senior High School diary which includes a good student guide, study and student welfare tips.

Please contact me if you have any concerns about your child at school. When home and schoolwork together we can provide the best educational environment for your child. My email is [andrea.wheeler@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:andrea.wheeler@education.wa.edu.au) and I can be contacted on 93347255.

# WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS



**JOSHUA  
APPLEBY  
- MATHS**

Joshua is excited to be joining Willetton Senior High School as a staff member in the Mathematics Learning

Area. He has just graduated from Edith Cowan University where he completed his Bachelor of Secondary Education. Joshua has grown up playing and coaching soccer and currently plays for Joondalup United. He looks forward to contributing to the Willetton community.



**ALANNAH  
BASSETT -  
ENGLISH**

Alannah is a graduate teacher who has moved to Willetton Senior High School after beginning her teaching

journey at foundation school Coastal Lakes College in 2021. After completing her final practicum placement here in 2020, Alannah was determined to one day teach at Willetton after falling in love

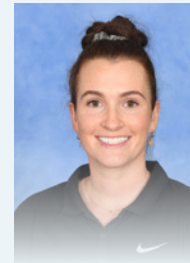
with the school, the students, and the wonderfully generous and welcoming English Department. She is an avid lover of books, language, Greek Mythology, and her cats, and is fascinated by etymology.



**ZOE COLKERS-  
THRING  
- PROGRAM  
COORDINATOR**

Zoe Colkers-Thring is the new Program Coordinator for Learning and Curriculum

Support. She has previously worked in high schools working as a Learning Support Coordinator, Specialist Teacher in a Learning Program for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (Secondary), Education Support Teacher (Secondary) and a Positive Behaviour Support Team Leader. Zoe will be leading strategic change in Learning and Curriculum Support whilst working with Student Services, teaching staff, support staff, families and external agencies to ensure all students are able to achieve success.



**SARAH COSH  
- HEALTH AND  
PHYSICAL  
EDUCATION**

Sarah has been teaching for the last four years. She grew up in Geraldton and moved to Perth for

University. She enjoys playing AFL, basketball, netball and spikeball.



**DIANA  
DOLZADELLI -  
LANGUAGES**

Diana is delighted with the opportunity to continue to be a member of the Languages Learning Area

as an Italian teacher and be part of the Willetton community.

She began her teaching career many years ago at Karratha SHS as a French and Italian teacher, after which she relocated to the metropolitan area and has taught at Balcatta SHS, Hamilton SHS and Canning Vale College.

Diana has a strong connection and love of the Italian language and culture and finds teaching and learning very rewarding.

Her other interests include reading, swimming and walking in the Alps.



## WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS CONTINUED...



### **DR TRACEY FISHER – SCIENCE**

Dr Fisher is a specialist Physics/ Chemistry and general science teacher, with a passion for connecting science to the real world

and making it accessible to all.

She is an advocate for sustainability, protecting the environment and revegetating with native plants.

She enjoys doing tai chi, art, bushwalking and walking her dog.

Tracey is very pleased to be working with the students at Willetton and is enjoying the collegiality in the Science Department.



### **MELISSA ILET – LANGUAGES**

Melissa is thrilled to be part of the Languages Learning Area, teaching French. As a French second language teacher for a few years, she has

taught in many schools in Perth and looks forward to working with the students at Willetton to help them realise their language learning goals.

Melissa has extensive knowledge of the French language and culture from years of travelling and living in France. Her aim is for students to



### **TESSA JENKINSON – THE ARTS**

Tessa joined the Visual Arts team this term and is excited to inspire students to express themselves

creatively. As a former Willetton student, she feels right at home and privileged to be back!

Since graduating from Curtin University mid last year, Tessa has been a relief teacher at Willetton and several other schools. Her goal is to ensure students feel proud of the work they produce.



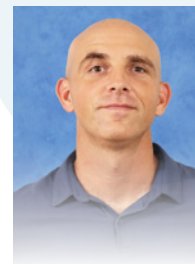
### **JANA NORRIS – ENGLISH**

Jana is excited to be joining the Willetton English Learning Area. For over nine years, she has taught English to all

year levels and is passionate about teaching students to appreciate the power of literature and language. Thinking critically about

texts we're faced with every day is an important skill Jana hopes to help her students master.

Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, helping her (nearly) two-year-old explore the world and you guessed it, reading!



### **DAN OSBORN – LEARNING AND CURRICULUM SUPPORT**

Dan is excited to be joining the Learning and Curriculum Support Centre this term. An

English and Drama teacher, he has taught in both primary and secondary schools in WA, NSW and the UK. Dan is passionate about literacy and, outside of teaching, has written screenplays for the ABC. In his spare time, he enjoys taking on physical challenges such as marathons and ultramarathons.





**GUGA  
PACKIRISAMY  
– ENGLISH**

Guga has a Bachelor of Arts in Comparative Literature and Communication Studies and a Graduate

Diploma in Secondary Education with a major in English and minor in Inclusive Education from Murdoch University.

Guga chose to be a teacher as she is passionate about imparting her knowledge to the next generation. Her objective as a teacher is to cultivate authentic respect, humility, integrity and compassion in teaching and relating to students. She believes in providing avenues for individual strengths to be developed and celebrated, and for individual weaknesses to be identified early and well supported.



**NICHOLA  
REYNOLDS  
– MATHS**

Nichola is excited to join Willetton as a member of the Mathematics team. Over the past seven years, she has

taught a range of mathematics courses and is looking forward to teaching here.

Other than education, her hobbies include ocean swimming, exploring WA with many camping trips and gardening.

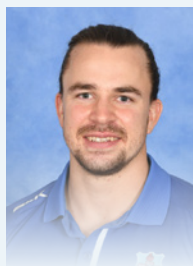


**HALINA SOBKOWIAK  
– LANGUAGES**

Halina is excited to be teaching French and EALD at Willetton this year. The staff and students have made her feel most welcome.

For many years, she taught both French and Indonesian online at the School of Isolated and Distance Education. Before that, Halina started her teaching career in Kalgoorlie. She looks forward to bringing her online experience into the classroom to combine both face to face and online methods.

In her spare time, she enjoys swimming and reading.



**TAYLOR ZEEMAN  
– HEALTH AND  
PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Taylor has been teaching for four years. He was born in South Africa and moved to Australia for University.

Taylor grew up loving rugby union and soccer, but now spends his time playing AFL.

# RELIEF CLEANERS REQUIRED

Willetton SHS is urgently seeking cleaners to join our relief cleaners team. Relief cleaners are needed for morning and afternoon shifts outside school hours, Monday – Friday. Shifts available are 5.30am – 8.30am and/or 3pm – 6pm.

Relief staff will be required to:

- obtain a current Department of Education Criminal Record Clearance
- obtain or hold a current Working with Children Check
- provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination
- provide evidence of eligibility to work in Australia

If you are interested in any cleaning work please submit your CV to HR Support Staff via email [willetton.shs.hrs@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:willetton.shs.hrs@education.wa.edu.au) or alternatively contact us via phone on 9334 7265.



# Gifted and Talented

## ADOPTION NEWS



Miss Elliott and Dr Coble-Neal have collaborated their Year 9 Science and English classes for a special project. They are proud to announce they have adopted Sudin. He is a three-year-old Sumatran Orangutan being sponsored through the Orangutan Project. He was rescued from the illegal wildlife trade just before being loaded onto a ship. Sudin and fellow orangutan infants go to orangutan school each day to learn to be successful orangutans when they are returned to the wild. We look forward to sharing updates on him in the upcoming newsletters. Our long-term goal is for our class could to visit Sudin and his friends to volunteer our time working on this project. For now, we ask you to avoid palm oil products to help protect Sudin and his fellow orangutans' future.

**Tania Elliott** Science Teacher

*L to R: Ashton Phillips, Ethan Cairncross, Kaiara Scott, Moontaha Zamon, Auritu Rahman*

## DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

Students Karthiga Vijayakumares, Elakkiaa Sukumar, Riya Pillai have contacted David Attenborough to discuss his views on the theory of evolution and how species that we know today will change in the future due to factors such as climate change, deforestation, urbanisation.

His manager states David Attenborough doesn't like technology, but he does promise to (hand) write back soon or perhaps provide a brief video statement for the girls. The information will be used in the students Sleek Geek competition for the University of Sydney. We aim to promote the significance of this issue and think that David Attenborough's involvement and endorsement will provide impact as the videos produced are viewed by a great number of academics and students of all ages.

## SNAKES ALIVE

Ione, Amy and Moontaha are this week skypping with Dr Christina N. Zdenek, PhD, Australia's leading specialist in toxicology working as lab manager of the Venom Evolution Lab at The University of Queensland. The students are interviewing her regarding her PhD into the effect of Australian snake venoms upon our blood and the effectiveness of antivenoms. The information will be used in the students Sleek Geek competition for the university of Sydney. We aim to promote the significance of leading Australian female scientists working to change the world for humans and animals.



*L to R: Karthiga Vijayakumares, Elakkiaa Sukumar, Riya Pillai*



## ENERGY CLUB OF WA EXPO 2021

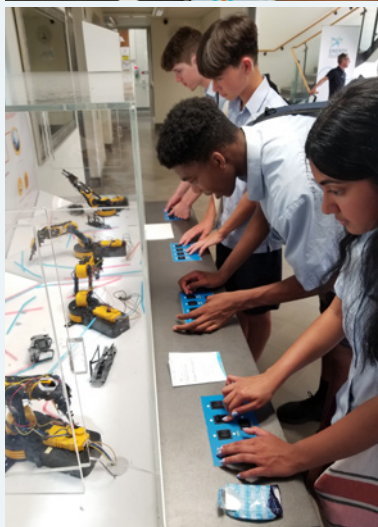
In November 2021, the *Energy Club of WA* held the Next Generation Student Expo Day at the ECU Joondalup campus. Students from 21 schools attended the event, including 24 Year 10 students from Willetton Senior High School. This expo was part of the *Next Generations School Program*, which consisted of four mentor sessions throughout the year.

Mrs Munshi had organised mentor incursions in certain science lessons throughout the year. We learnt about the various aspects of the renewable and non-renewable energy sector in WA and the positive impact that the industry has on our society, while participating in interactive activities with industry professionals.

At the Student Expo Day, we were invited to visit interactive displays and generate points through completion of industry related activities. The whole day was a pleasant experience as we rotated around several exhibitions and interacted with students from other schools. We first got into our assigned groups and were given a 'passport' where we could collect signatures from each exhibition and complete games and quizzes to earn points. The different exhibitions were enjoyable and educational; we had the chance to dress up, assemble subsea engineering equipment, wear VR headsets and more.

We are very grateful for the mentor sessions and being able to participate in the Student Expo Day as we learnt more about energy in the environment, and overall had fun. Winning first prize out of 21 schools was a surprise to our Dream Team and we were rewarded with a Helicopter Underwater Escape Training experience at Jandakot during our summer vacation. Thank you for having us ECWA!

**Helena Poulouse** Year 11



The Winning Team: From left to right, Mr John Yeo – Mentor, Helena Poulouse, Ryan Bringans, Joshua Ibukunoluwa and Jayden Cleary



## HUET (HELICOPTER UNDERWATER ESCAPE TRAINING)



A Helicopter Underwater Escape Training (HUET) is a course that prepares personnel with the knowledge and skill to safely disembark from a helicopter that has made an emergency landing or ditched on to water. This training is offered to helicopter flight crews, offshore oil and gas industry, law enforcement personnel and military personnel who are regularly transported by helicopters over water.



## LEARNING ABOUT TRADITIONAL NOONGAR LAND USE

The Year 10 HaSS classes enjoyed a real treat when Olman Walley visited them to share his knowledge of culture, language and the traditional land use and land care practices of the Noongar people. The students were totally mesmerized by Olman's knowledge, skill and humour. The session concluded with an inspiring and very funny performance on the didgeridoo. It was one hour of HaSS that will not be quickly forgotten!



# The Arts

## MUSIC NEWS

### **Did you know that there are 562 music students at Willetton SHS?**

Many of these students learn through the Education Department's Instrumental Music School Specialists (IMSS) program. Many learn through our piano keyboard program, as an elective or in special classes after school. These students are developing creativity, composition and performance skills. Music students learn to time-manage to cope with after school practice requirements and rehearsals.

### **NEW STUDENTS**

Following our Year 7 Music Information Meeting in Week 1, we've processed around 40 applications for positions in the Year 7 Beginner IMSS classes, and successful students have now begun their lessons in saxophone, percussion, oboe, bassoon, trombone, euphonium, voice and electric and bass guitar.

### **ENSEMBLES**

We have 13 ensembles such as concert bands, choir, orchestras and classical guitar ensembles, who meet each week. Our conductors have done a fantastic job in order to continue rehearsing in a COVID-safe way, and have made some changes, splitting ensembles and using different spaces so that our students can keep rehearsing and developing their instrumental skills.

### **CONCERT DATES**

Concerts have been postponed due to COVID restrictions. Further information will be available as it comes to hand.



*Year 7 student Xin Le Wong (right) leads the flautists in Mrs Thomas's Junior Band rehearsal*



# English

## WILLO STUDENTS EXTEND THEMSELVES INTO LEADERSHIP

There is a new student leadership group here at Willetton SHS.

Halfway through 2021, the school started formalising the Academic Extension Program. Students had always been able to study in academic extension classes in various learning areas but it was decided to name and organise the students and staff into a formal program – AEP for short. One of the most important goals of the AEP is to help extension students in their academic, social and emotional lives and an integral part of that will be the new AEP Student Leadership group.

Last year students nominated for positions as Year 9-11 AEP Student Leaders and we are pleased to announce the inaugural AEP Student Leaders for 2022.

### Year 9

Siddhi Latkar  
Shree Sarvesh Venkataraman  
Tiffany Lin  
Anika Kundal

### Year 10

Joey Yap  
Carrie Soo  
Ruixue Wu  
Saralyn Ye

### Year 11

Dalia Jassim  
Emerlyn Kaur

This group will help plan social and study support events, reward programs, socioemotional support, leadership and growth opportunities for the Academic Extension group and will be involved in school committees. They already have so many ideas and have only just been announced.

Their first job, though, is to help run the selection process for the two Year 8 AEP leaders who will complete the leadership group. Watch this space for an announcement.

Keep a look out for what this group is up to in future newsletters, on the Connect AEP pages and Daily Bulletins. Also remember, they are student representatives, so if you have any ideas, talk to them and they will bring your ideas to a meeting.

**Suzi Franken** AEP Leader



## PRIMO LUX

*Primo Lux* means 'first light' and is the title of an annual poetry collection which has been going since 2004.

It gives students from Year 10 to Year 12 from any school in WA the opportunity to have a light shone on their writing by having it published and read by a wider audience.

Students from our school have had success in seeing their poems selected for publication over many years. Many of these poems have also won prizes.

The following students had their poems published in *Primo Lux* at the end of 2021: Neil Becker, Ryan Kway, Hannah Yap, Phoebe Millgate, Samit Shaikh, Krishha Vasudevan.

**Rob Stevenson** English Teacher



Back row: Ruixue Wu,  
Siddhi Latkar, Saralyn Ye,  
Joey Yap, Tiffany Lin  
Front row: Carrie Soo,  
Anika Kundal

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## Wayward Sky

From horizon to horizon  
Never anchored nor contained  
Drifting

Free

A towering mass of cumulonimbus  
An immense sponge

Haughty cirrus and cirrostratus  
Peer down on  
The world below, so miniscule

Dense nimbostratus barely afloat  
Dark pillows of the sky

Pockmarked altocumulus  
and wispy altostratus  
Leave feathery flyaway  
trails in their wake

Clouds rule the heavens  
Floating above  
So large, so distant

Tomorrow they are gone

**Neil Becker** *Year 10*

---

## Ink on Paper

What are books but ink on paper?  
Or lines of black letters  
on old white parchment?  
No pictures, sounds, motion.  
What power do such words have?  
The answer?  
More than we think.  
The power that lights fires in our heads.  
Feared by some so much  
they burned in stacks,  
like crystals of light even stars envy.  
Their intoxicating scent like roses,  
inextinguishable life, insufferable love  
as bright and bold as the flame above.  
What are books but ink, paper,  
universes, dreams of an extraordinary nature?

**Ryan Kway** *Year 10*

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## Take a Break

Three days

Three days to summit  
Cutting it close.  
Begins in front of a screen.  
Plan, plan, plan.  
Permits, waivers, tickets.  
Take a break.

Two days

Taking a break  
Taking a coffee  
Taking a ride

One day

Start the climb  
Cross the sketchy ladder-bridge  
Scale the cliff  
The higher you go,  
The angrier she gets  
You can't help but look down  
Imagine what could be,  
As your life hangs  
On a pick.

Time to take a break.

**Samit Shaikh** *Year 12*

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## Shopping for Identity

Familiar chatter fills the aisles,  
the sound of those who know  
what they're looking for.  
Maybe they've been given a list,  
or perhaps they simply know  
where to find what they need.  
Can after can, placed on the shelf,  
fresh off the production line.  
A place for everything  
and everything in its place.

Except for the back.

Amongst the derelict remains,  
of those who have been sold before,  
lie the goods without a place.  
They could be one of a kind,  
or simply different.  
Faded labels, unrecognisable brands,  
objects without a home on the shelves.

The forgotten items.

Within this section of the shelves,  
non-conforming bonds are forged,  
uniting those once outcast.  
Labelled as odd and unconventional,  
yet providing solace to lifelong searchers.  
Allowing the occasional wanderer's identity to lie,  
safe, yet hidden, from the mainstream view.

**Phoebe Millgate** *Year 11*

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## Eigengrou

*German: The colour perceived  
in the absence of light*

When I was a child  
I used to watch the old  
incandescent bulb in my room  
slowly dissolve into embers  
suspended in a plaster sky  
before I went to sleep

then I would close my eyes  
and see little white rings  
floating in the corners of my vision  
like ethereal halos  
in a game of Frisbee with angels

other times if I lay awake  
and rubbed my eyes  
sometimes  
ghosts of rainbows  
left iridescent mists  
blooming blots of colour

when I was a child  
I wasn't scared of the dark.

I'm older now –  
the world is larger than my room  
and the lights are dimming.  
will there be any colour left to see?

sight it seems,  
makes you fear  
what's in the dark.

*Eigengrou:*

When our eyes are closed,  
we are unable to perceive  
true darkness.

**Hannah Yap** Year 11

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## Mrs Trump

*"From this day forward, it's going to be only America First*  
When he first brought up the idea I wasn't surprised,  
My husband's an ambitious man, a humble man,  
Building his entire empire up from the small sum of a million dollars  
and with the help of a few of Daddy's friends.  
I witnessed this entire family's transmogrification.  
Passive Democrats to raging Republicans practically overnight  
and at that time I really didn't care.

*"This American carnage stops right here and stops right now."*  
Now I'm First Lady. I had to abandon my fashion, my business,  
my passion, all because of conflict between position and profit.  
I've been reduced to a mouthpiece. A dummy.  
Everyday I have to wake up to controversy, controversy, controversy.  
The wall, the immigrants, the Mexicans, the Muslims  
And every day he fed the bird on which the scouring vultures feasted.  
He loved the attention, the worship. It was tiring.

*"We share one heart one home/ and one glorious destiny. //*  
Opinions, they all wanted my opinion on everything  
and I wasn't even the one who wanted to be their leader.  
The Right made me their trophy wife.  
The Left announced me guilty by association.  
4 years, 1460 days, 2102400 minutes. That's all I have to get through.  
God, I hope he doesn't get re-elected.

*"We will make America great again."*  
The crowd cheers.  
I let my lips widen into place.  
I hate this.

**Krishha Vasudevan** Year 12

## SHOULD OUR CHILDREN READ MORE FICTION?

It is easy to dismiss getting lost in a good adventure, an epic fantasy or a dystopian trilogy as a waste of time that could have otherwise been spent 'learning something'. The fast pace of our world and our schools means that reading stories is all too often a relic of a childhood past. Surely reading non-fiction is far more valuable for today's ambitious student, right?

According to the Harvard Business Review ([hbr.org](http://hbr.org)), reading fiction or stories could be the way to go. Research in neuroscience suggests that reading fiction helps *develop empathy, theory of mind and critical thinking*. These qualities are the basis of the skills managers now look for in employees – emotional intelligence, mental agility, generosity and rational judgement. So, reading fiction is actually an investment in helping your child be future-ready, adaptable to a dynamic world of work.

To help facilitate this, the English Learning Area and the Library have compiled a list of novels suitable for Year 7 and 8 students that cover a range of interests and reading abilities. The list features a blurb for each novel to help you choose and all titles are available from the Library. The novels cover a range of maturity levels within the 11-14 age group so, as always, we encourage you to discuss your child's reading choices with them.

The list is available on the Connect Year Cohort pages or from your child's English teacher.

Happy reading!

**Suzi Franken** English Teacher

## LANGUAGES AT WILLETTON

At least one of French, Italian, or Japanese language is a compulsory subject in Years 7, 8 and 9. Many of our students continue their language until Year 12 where they achieve outstanding results.

Our students are supported by a committed team of teachers, language assistants, Willetton Alumni, and volunteers from the local community. This team provides a range of extension and extra-curricular opportunities, and individualised learning for those students in need.

For the last 11 years, Willetton has been the Department of Education's Teacher Development School for Languages and supports the professional learning needs of languages teachers K-12 in all public schools throughout WA. Our staff are also the Department of Education Curriculum Support Teachers for French Years 7-10.

The benefits of knowing more than one language are endless. We know that a capability in English only is not enough – a bilingual or plurilingual capability is the norm in most parts of the world.

Apart from the practical uses of knowing various languages, this ability opens many opportunities in all aspects of life.

# Languages

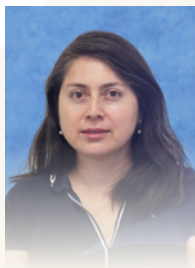
## INTRODUCING...

Below are just some of these proven advantages. Learning languages;

- broadens students' horizons to include the **personal, social, and employment** opportunities that an increasingly interconnected and interdependent world presents
- enhances student's **literacy skills** as they develop the knowledge, skills and disposition to interpret and use language confidently for learning and communicating in and out of school and for participating effectively in society.
- reinforces **numeracy concepts** such as number, time, and space
- enhances the use of **information and communication technology** – accessing live language environments and texts via digital media
- develops **critical thinking, analytical and problem-solving** skills
- supports students to interact in a collaborative and respectful manner, being open-minded and recognising that people view and experience the world in diverse ways
- helps students to notice, compare and **reflect on things previously taken for granted**

We are looking forward to another successful year in 2022.

**Languages Team**



### ELIZABETH GRATESOLLE

Bonjour a tous !,

I'm Elizabeth Gratesolle, the new French language assistant. I'm originally from Peru, and my family also has a French background.

I love the French language and I do also love the Spanish

language as they both are part of my family heritage. I also speak a little bit of German, and like yourself, I'm also a language learner.

I'm happy to be part of the Willetton community. If you see me don't hesitate to say 'bonjour', as I will be happy to reply. Also, remember that I'll be here to give support with learning activities throughout the year.

I wish you a bonne année scolaire



### MARINE WENDLING

I am Marine and I come from France. I am happy to join the team in Languages at Willetton Senior School, as a language assistant. In France, I graduated with a master's degree in Agronomy and Environment. In the future, I would love to become a biology teacher or a

French teacher. That is why, it is a real opportunity for me to experience team teaching with three different teachers at Willetton. Above all, however, I am really enjoying being involved with the students from Year 7 to Year 12 to support their learning of French and to share cultural knowledge with them.



## NATIVE SPEAKER PROGRAM



### MARIA DEL FUOCO

I have always had a passion for languages, and I am very excited to have the opportunity, through the native speaker program, to assist so many talented and dedicated students in their goal to learning another language and culture. The native speaker program available at Willetton is an important way for students to experience the language.



### GIACOMO FALCINELLI

Ciao a tutti! My name is Giacomo, from Milan, I'm twenty-five years old and I have the honour to be a Linguistic Assistant of Prof Carroll for the Italian Language Class. I really enjoy this work, as it allows me to learn the practical basics of my dream job, which is to be an Italian Teacher.

It's a pity not to be able to assist Prof Carroll and her students in person, but at the same time the fact that I'm working with an Australian high school from Italy is so interesting, as it allows me to get to know Australian habits better, even from the other side of the world.



### ROBERTO PIZZIRANI

Ciao, my name is Roberto Pizzirani. I was born and raised in Bari, Italy, I moved to Australia in 1989 after watching Crocodile Dundee.

After 30 years in the corporate world I realized I missed my Italian cultural heritage and decided

to contribute to the education of all these wonderful young minds, particularly the Year 11s here at Willetton, to achieve their goals with learning this great language.

## CLUB VENN

This year marks the seventh anniversary of Club Venn, an after-school Japanese class taught by Willetton alumni.

Club Venn inherits its name from the Venn diagram, believing that mastering languages requires the full combination of reading, writing, listening and speaking. Venn teachers support and extend knowledge gained in class to ensure students are prepared for upcoming assessments and even content in advance for subsequent years of study. In addition, once a term, Club Venn holds a cultural session and presents on particular topics, such as tea ceremonies,

cafe culture, and teru teru bouzu –traditional Japanese rain prevention dolls. We aim to not only aid language development but create more interest in Japan as a whole, inspiring self-study.

Club Venn's main draw card over regular classes is its casual atmosphere and smaller class size. Students can feel comfortable asking any question regardless of its relation to the current lesson.

Club Venn is held at LAN08 and LAN07 for Year 9 and 12 respectively from 3-4pm on Monday, and 3-4pm on Thursday for Year 10.

**Andrew Lee** Club Venn President

## SISTER SCHOOL WEBEX

This term, the Year 11 Japanese classes had the pleasure to talk with Willetton Senior High School's sister school in Japan, The High School of the University of Hyogo, via video call and we were able to converse with one another. It was a great time to practise our Japanese knowledge on the spot, get to know students from Hyogo, and have a great time with one another. It was fun creating conversations with the friendly Japanese students and listening to their English responses. Overall, we were impressed by their English and for me, it was an amazing experience.

**Jahred Saulon** Year 11





# Maths

WE ARE VERY FORTUNATE TO HAVE THREE WONDERFUL, DEDICATED TEACHERS JOIN US IN THE MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT THIS YEAR.



## WHAT DO YEAR 7 STUDENTS THINK ABOUT MATHS IN HIGH SCHOOL?

High school can be very stressful for some. All subjects are harder, and you could get more homework. Most students consider maths hard and stressful, but in high school it is more enjoyable. In primary school you learn things to suit everyone so you may fall behind or be too far ahead. In high school you are more independent and can work at your own pace. Maths in high school is an enjoyable experience where teachers make it fun and educational. You shouldn't get stressed about maths in high school as you can learn lots and still have fun!

**Charlotte Ho**

I have always enjoyed maths, but after arriving at Willetton Senior High School and being able to extend myself, I have fallen in love with it again! We are currently learning about indices and scientific notation, which at first, appears hard and confusing. But after only a couple of weeks, it all starts to click! Everybody partakes in class discussions, where we compare notes, and determine how we arrived at our final answers. I am definitely looking forward to lots of learning this year in maths!

**Daisy Gaunt**

Top: Isaac Harders with his Year 8 class

Middle: Nichola Reynolds with her Year 8 class

Left: Joshua Appleby with his Year 7 class

# Science

## NATIONAL YOUTH SCIENCE FORUM 2022

Last year, I was privileged to be one of two Willetton students selected to attend the National Youth Science Forum (NYSF), a summer holiday program for students passionate about science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The 2022 NYSF Program ran for twelve days in January as a combination of digital and in-person events, enabling participants around Australia to learn about cutting edge research, discover study

and career pathways, visit science facilities and network with like-minded peers.

Throughout the program, I tuned into digital lectures, workshops and panels with leading scientists and experts, covering everything from artificial intelligence and astrophysics to critical thinking skills and STEM business start-ups. Some of my favourite sessions were the virtual tour of the Large Hadron Collider, which included a crash course on particle physics and

career opportunities at CERN, the *Science@Home* experiment session, in which I made pykrete, a composite material made from ice and paper that is many times stronger than regular ice, and the *Dr Karl House Party*, where the brilliant Dr Karl (Australia's most well-known, fun-loving science communicator) delivered an energetic talk on how we can reverse climate change and end COVID-19, followed

by an extended Q&A session answering all the students' rapid-fire science questions.

In the second week of the program, I also had an amazing time attending in-person events in Perth. I spent days at UWA, Curtin University and Murdoch University hearing lectures from students and professors, visiting labs and engineering facilities, and participating in a wide range of group activities. Topics were diverse, including ocean engineering, robotics,





## TEACHING NEXT GEN ABOUT BIOTECH JUST IN HER DNA Caitlin Paroczai

forensic science and even beekeeping. I also really enjoyed a visit to ICRAR (the International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research), where I learnt about the Square Kilometre Array, the world's largest radio telescope, which is being built in the outback of WA, and, best of all, a tour of the Pawsey Supercomputing Centre, where I got to see up close the fastest supercomputer in the Southern Hemisphere (and hear the deafening sound of hundreds of cooling fans!).

The NYSF Year 12 Program has been an inspiring and invaluable learning experience which I would highly recommend to any interested Year 11 students. I thoroughly enjoyed all the digital sessions and in-person visits, which provided many insights into university studies and the bright future of STEM, while increasing my interest in computer science and astronomy as potential careers.

I am grateful to Dr Pitts and Mrs Kulasekera for informing me about the program, and the Rotary Club of Willetton for endorsing my application.

**Allan Wu** Year 12



Perth teacher Pauline Charman is encouraging students to embrace biotech with her social enterprise that helps young scientists learn about DNA barcoding.

Ms Charman — who was a science teacher for 25 years — founded BioBarcode Australia in 2020 after realising there were not enough opportunities for young people to get involved in biotechnology.

“There has always been a lot of robotics and engineering, but this area of biotech where kids get to experience life science and DNA tech is pretty rare.”

BioBarcode’s program involves identifying, mapping and monitoring living organisms using their DNA. Participants learn how to ethically collect samples from specimens, log the information digitally, and use equipment to extract

DNA. Ms Charman, pictured, said the process could be used to identify particular species and plants.

Australia’s biotech industry is estimated to be worth \$8.4 billion, according to IbisWorld, and its market size is expected to increase 3.6 per cent this year.

Ms Charman said it was important that schools start educating young people on biodiversity now, given the industry is expected to continue growing. “Biotech is such an important area because we know farming is going to look different in the next 20–30 years because of climate change,” she said.

BioBarcode is currently running its program in eight schools, including **Willetton Senior High School**, John Curtin and St Hilda’s.

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## HAPPY RETIREMENT

Recently the Science Department farewelled two long standing staff members who are now enjoying well-earned retirement.

Jane Huck began teaching here at Willetton in 2006. Jane has always shown a great passion for teaching, giving her absolute best to help students to achieve excellent results. Researching the best ways to describe and explain complex concepts so students can understand, Jane has produced a plethora of resources, which are used extensively in the Willetton Human Biology program. In the field of Human Biology, Jane was known as *Mrs Google*. Over the years Jane’s guidance and mentoring of colleagues new to teaching Human Biology have been greatly appreciated.

Sue Snow commenced at Willetton in 2002 and soon became a highly valued member of the team, both in biological sciences and being a foundation teacher of Psychology. Sue has a great

reputation as a problem solver, always being willing to find solutions with no fuss. Sue

is also a person who is up for any challenge. Her motto could well be: *Just do it!* This is no better illustrated than when she joined the team taking 30 students to the US Space and Rocket Centre in Huntsville Alabama in 2009. She was the first to get on the simulators to show some nervous students just how it is done! In addition to teaching, Sue also fulfilled her role as a Relief Coordinator when called upon to do so and accompanied students on international tours for charitable missions.

Jane and Sue are greatly missed. We wish them all the very best for the future.



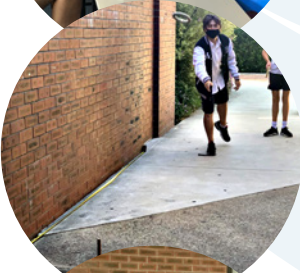
## WORKING OUT GOALS A DIFFERENT WAY: YEAR 12 CAREER AND ENTERPRISE



For nearly 12 years our Year 12 Career and Enterprise students have visited The Hangout wall climbing venue to set goals and learn how to manage or change goals based on what happened or new skills and knowledge to extend a goal.



Due to COVID restrictions, we were not able to attend and appreciate the offer provided by The Hangout business owners, Gareth and Tracey in their final opening before closing the business. They are closing their business permanently.



The challenge created then, was to find another way for students to extend themselves in selecting an activity for setting and reviewing goals and then working through the goal setting process in class.



Alternative school-based activities students worked with to demonstrate their goal setting understandings included:

- Quoits
- Skittles
- The card game, Irish Snap
- Arm wrestling
- Carpet bowls
- Skipping
- Throwing down bails on cricket stumps

Students gained a fuller appreciation of their learning style, be it kinaesthetic, aural or visual on the days of completing their activities or in preparation, viewing how to be successful on you tubes.

Outcomes were achieved in a slightly different class atmosphere with food treats and drinks, learning curves achieved with the possibility now, for students to apply their understandings of goal setting to personal career development and management and to life.

**Ruth Barratt** Career and Enterprise Teacher

# Year 7

## A WARM WELCOME FOR THE YEAR 7 COHORT

Congratulations to our new cohort, who by-and-large have settled in wonderfully to Willetton Senior High School. The students are finding their feet and their voices, making a great contribution to the school community. The biggest highlight students keep reporting is how great the food is from the canteen. Many are also enjoying the new level of responsibility, the expanding social networks, and the diversity of subjects on offer. I am just starting to see some of the great work the Year 7s are producing, and parents can begin to look out for some of their children's first assessment results.

We are running a wellbeing program, hand-in-hand with Dr Jane Genovese's *Study Hacks* book. The focus of the program for our Year 7s is helping the students to settle into high school. We looked first at strategies to help learn their timetable, to keep organised, then how to manage relationships with new peers. Next week we move on to getting along with your teachers.

I strongly encourage all parents to engage their children in conversation about these topics. Is your child feeling well organised? Are they making nice new friends? Are they getting along with their teachers? What can your child do if the answer to any of these questions is no? The book can help, but talking about it will help even more. The sooner your child feels settled at school the sooner they can plant their roots and begin to grow.

I am looking forward to working with you all while these students shoot up.

**Tom Coe** Year 7 Coordinator





## BOARD CHAIR REPORT



We are now well and truly settled into Term 1 of 2022. Firstly, welcome our new Year 7s and many of their families to our school. We congratulate you for making the excellent choice of sending your child to Willetton Senior High School. This school is underpinned by the *Willo Way* of respect, excellence, and care, where all students can have a safe place to learn and grow. So, rest assured that your child is in safe hands with the teachers here in Willetton for the next six years.

As an Independent Public School, the Board provides expertise to assist the school to achieve the best outcome for the students. The Board's primary role is in contributing to the establishment and review of the school's objectives, priorities, and general policy direction. Becoming a parent representative on the Board provides great opportunities to get involved in the school community and therefore the education of our children. On this note, the Board thanks all the parents who have submitted their nominations to be representative on the School Board. I encourage all parents to participate in this election for the parent representative.

The Board also congratulates the Year 12s of 2021 for their results and outstanding achievements. There were significant number of students achieving ATAR in the 90s and achieving certification in the VET areas. For 2021, Willetton was the one of the most successful public high schools in Western Australia. These achievements are a testimony to the hard work and commitment from the staff and the strong supportive relationship between staff and parents that create the most conducive environment for students to excel.

For all the students who are taking the OLNA assessment. I wish everyone all the best for the assessment. Remember you can achieve anything your heart desires provided you don't lose faith in your abilities. It is your perseverance, diligence and determination that will bring you success in life, both now and in the future.

Finally, we look forward to a productive year where the Board continues to work together with the school to support our students' education, and the teachers that lead the way in this journey.

**John Yeo**

### SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

Voting is now open for your parent representative on the School Board. An email containing your unique access code to vote has been sent out, along with the information on each Parent Candidate.

You are encouraged to vote for your representative, with voting closing at 12 noon Wednesday 16 March 2022.

### SCHOOL BOARD ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING (APM)

The School Board APM will take place on a date to be confirmed. Due to current COVID restrictions, external visitors are not permitted on site. The meeting will be conducted remotely, and this facility will prevent the interaction with non-members in numbers. This being the case, if you have a query that you would like addressed at the APM, please forward this to [helen.s.wong@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:helen.s.wong@education.wa.edu.au) by Monday 21 March 2022 and this will be presented to the Board. A response will then be provided in due time.

The 2021 Annual Chair Report and 2021 Annual Finance Report will be presented at this meeting.

### SCHOOL BOARD COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES - EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST NOW OPEN

Members of the local community may be appointed by the School Board in June each year. Terms of appointment are for 12 months. Expressions of interest from the local community are now open [Community Representative 2022](#) and should be forwarded to [willetton.shs.schoolboard@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:willetton.shs.schoolboard@education.wa.edu.au)



# Board



## ENTERTAINMENT MEMBERSHIP FUNDRAISER

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

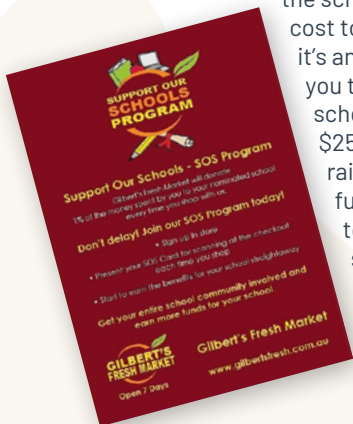
Your Entertainment Membership gives access to thousands of deals, with 20% of your membership purchase going towards a Student Leadership Development Program initiated by the Board. Your support is much appreciated.

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

For enquiries, please contact Helen Wong on [helen.s.wong@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:helen.s.wong@education.wa.edu.au) or 9334 7217 (Mon, Wed and Thurs).

## 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, over \$2500 has been raised, with these funds being put towards student scholarships.



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

From time to time, the school is in need of volunteers to assist in various parts of the school such as the secondhand bookshop, secondhand uniform shop, or parent information sessions. If you would like to put your name on a Volunteers' List or have a special skill you would like to offer to the school, please leave your details with the School Board office.

## SECONDHAND UNIFORM SHOP - SALE!!!

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



## ALUMNI MERCHANDISE ON SALE

Calling all alumni – do you miss your time at Willo? Reminisce about the good old days? You can purchase some great alumni merchandise and keep the Willo spirit alive. For a limited time, purchase any two alumni items and receive the third item free (lowest priced item). We have a range of hoodies, bomber jackets, t-shirt and caps starting from \$25.

Please contact Helen at [helen.s.wong@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:helen.s.wong@education.wa.edu.au) for enquiries or to purchase.



## HOW TO CONTACT THE SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE

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

The School Board office is open on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday during the school terms.

	Trading Hours During school term	Location
Second Hand Bookshop	Wednesdays 9am-11.30am For enquiries phone 9334 7282 during trading hours	Room B23 in the undercover area, next to the canteen Eftpos facilities now available
Second Hand Uniform Shop	Wednesdays 9.15am-11.15am For enquiries phone 9334 7217 during trading hours	In the PAC building

# WILLO PARENT GROUP

The Willo Parent Group was launched in August 2009 and meet for parent information sessions through the year. It is a great way to meet with members of the school community and find out what is happening around the school. Over the years, we have had speakers covering topics such as;

- cyber safety
- food nutrition for teenagers
- study skills
- subject selections for upper school
- support services at school and beyond
- managing stress
- social media and mental health

Suggestions for guest speakers on parenting related topics are always welcome, and can be forwarded to [willetton.shs.schoolboard@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:willetton.shs.schoolboard@education.wa.edu.au)

If you would like to be included in a mailing list to receive Willo News, please email the following details to [helen.s.wong@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:helen.s.wong@education.wa.edu.au) with email subject heading Willo News subscription with the following information.

Parent Name:

Email Address:

Mobile Number:

Year Group(s) of your child(ren):

Suggestions for parenting related: topics (optional)

