

2023 BOARD CHAIR ANNUAL REPORT

Presented to the 2024 APM

The Board wishes to note the 2023 passing of Jega Jegathesan and Nathan Harvey. Jega was the Willetton SHS Manager of Corporate Services and had provided over 40 years of service to the school. Nathan was the Head of our Languages Learning Area and a former student of WSHS. Both Jega and Nathan were passionate about education and the WSHS community. They both exemplified the dedicated staff that WSHS is privileged to enjoy. Thank you both.

Setting aside those two sad events there is much to celebrate about 2023. After some inevitable delays the new build was completed on time for the arrival of students in the 2024 school year. This facility will provide some relief for the scarcity of teaching space in our ever-growing school.

WSHS students also enjoyed success in a range of areas in 2023. Students from the Specialist Basketball program continue to impress both during their time with us and in their post-school sporting careers. Our students again made significant contributions in the field of community service and in artistic endeavours. In the field of academic performance WSHS has once again proven our students are among the best in the State. Considering WSHS's long history of outstanding academic achievement, it is amazing to be able to say that 2023 was WSHS's best year yet. In our 2023 Year 12 cohort, we had three students attain the highest possible mark of 99.95 in the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR). From almost 10,000 students who sat ATAR testing in 2023, only 17 achieved this feat. We also had a record number of 15 students achieve an ATAR of 99+ and a record-breaking median ATAR of 96.7. 27 WSHS students achieved results in the top 1% of the State. These results are simply outstanding and explain why the demand for positions at WSHS is so high. Congratulations to all the students who put in the effort to achieve their personal best!

The Board wishes to thank the teachers of WSHS for their significant contribution to the student outcomes of 2023. Our teachers are at the core of our school, each day inspiring and bestowing their knowledge upon our students, and clearly, they are doing an exceptional job. Our school leadership and support staff are also due thanks for their efforts. Targets are not achieved without careful planning and dutiful execution. Further thanks go out to our volunteers who ensure the WSHS community gets the little extras that can make all the difference. In this regard, we should give special thanks to the staff of the second-hand bookshop which has ceased operations in 2024. Steve Savage has given 20 years of service to the second-hand bookshop. Steve and his team have provided an excellent service however technology has changed the learning landscape, meaning that the demand for second hand hard copy books has substantially reduced. Let's not forget the Board members who are themselves volunteers. Thank-you to the outgoing Board members for your contributions during your time on the School Board. Thank-you also to the continuing Board members. Welcome to the new incoming members. I take this opportunity to express my personal gratitude to Erik Pretorius and Divakar Subramaniam, the current Secretary and Treasurer respectively as well as to their predecessors during my time as Board Chair. I'm also ever grateful for the invaluable assistance provided to the Board, and to me, by Helen Wong and Kathryn Young. Finally, it has been an absolute pleasure working with Trevor Hunter in whose hands the school has gone from strength to strength.

In closing, congratulations to the students of WSHS, and their parents, for all the positive outcomes in 2023. Every success of the students has no doubt been earned and should be a source of pride to them and their families, as it is to the rest of the WSHS community. For the outgoing year 12s of 2023, we look forward to seeing further success in your lives beyond WSHS.

David Harwood
Board Chair