

**Committee Nominations for 2023 AGM (nominees to hold these positions for 2024)**

<p><b>President</b> Nominated by: Susan Nikakis Seconded by: Catherine Frost</p>	<p>Kathy Harrison (316)</p>	<p>Kathy is a curriculum writer for the Victorian High Ability Program and teacher of VHAP Mathematics through Virtual School Victoria. For 15 years, she was Coordinator of gifted education in the Compass Centre and Exemplary Teacher at Methodist Ladies' College. 2018 recipient of the Australian Mathematics Trust Teaching Award. A passionate gifted student advocate, enthusiastic about social justice and a community volunteer, Kathy hopes to inspire a sense that through our advocacy and action, we can make a difference in the world. She has expertise in developing and presenting VAGTC seminars on a wide range of topics, local and international conference papers, and provides coaching and individual consultancy.</p>
<p><b>Co-Vice President</b> Nominated by: Catherine Frost Seconded by: Claire Reid</p>	<p>Dr Susan Nikakis (318)</p>	<p>Dr Susan Nikakis, currently works for Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) where she recommends improvements such as pedagogical changes to cater for the education of gifted students. She supervises Doctoral students at the University of Melbourne and is the current Vice President of the Victorian Association for Gifted and Talented Children (VAGTC). Susan has written and edited four books centred on the education of gifted students. She has delivered papers and keynote addresses at both international and national conferences. She believes that catering for the learning needs of gifted is a matter of justice.</p>
<p><b>Co-Vice President</b> Nominated by: Claire Reid Seconded by: Kathy Harrison</p>	<p>Victoria Poulos (349)</p>	<p>Years of teaching and home-schooling gifted children, backed with a Masters in Gifted Education, has given me a great understanding of the issues involved with advocating for gifted children. As a parent myself, I can relate to the struggles commonly faced and hope to continue to support parents as they navigate this journey. As a teacher, I hope I can inspire other educators to proactively support gifted students in their context. Lastly, as a researcher for UNSW, 'Asia-Pacific Federation of Giftedness' Australian ambassador, and WCGTC Australian ambassador, I hope I can contribute to the conversations from a wider perspective. I hope to bring the culmination of my experience and skills to the position of vice president and commit to treating everyone in fair and kind manner. I have been nominated for a position as co-Vice President and am happy to stand for either a 1- or 2-year term.</p>

<p><b>Secretary</b>  Nominated by: Susan Nikakis  Seconded by: Kathy Harrison</p>	<p>Claire Reid (375)</p>	<p>I have a long-term interest in the area of Gifted Education, and several years of experience writing programs, running events and teaching in the area. I have successfully completed my role as VAGTC secretary for 2023 and have learnt a lot being part of this committee of committed knowledgeable and passionate educators. I have been lucky enough to co-present and act as tech-support at some of the parent and teacher seminars offered by VAGTC this year, which has been enjoyable and inspiring. I believe passionately that the work we do is so valuable and necessary; I am keen to be a part of the team bringing support and expertise to gifted education in Victoria again in 2024. Gifted students are the future leaders of our country and deserving of every resource and opportunity we can afford them, their families, and their teachers.</p>
<p><b>Treasurer</b>  Nominated by:  Seconded by:</p>		
<p><b>General committee</b>  Nominated by: Victoria Poulos  Seconded by: Laura Wilcox</p>	<p>Amy Horneman (334)</p>	<p>Master of Arts (Applied Linguistics), Bachelor of Arts/Education (Secondary). Amy started her career in education as a Secondary English and German teacher and has ended up delving deeply into the field of Gifted and Talented Education. She is passionate about mentoring gifted and highly able students; developing students in leadership; collaborating with key stakeholders to implement school wide provisions; and fostering positive and effective home-school partnerships, including supporting parents in the joys and challenges of parenting their gifted children. She is currently the coordinator of the gifted education program at Scotch College, and is an active committee member (consultant, seminar writer and presenter) of VAGTC.</p>
<p><b>General committee</b>  Nominated by: Susan Nikakis  Seconded by: Catherine Frost</p>	<p>Bernadette Sheedy (384)</p>	<p>As a passionate advocate for gifted and talented students, I would bring my enthusiasm and expertise to this role. I have worked in the field of gifted education for approximately 15 years, and during that time I have been the gifted and talented co-ordinator at two high schools, and I am currently the High Ability Learning Specialist at Box Hill High School. I was a VAGTC committee member in 2023. I have delivered presentations relating to gifted education for the VAGTC, the Teacher Learning Network and the Victorian Association of Teachers of English. I am currently completing a PHD in gifted education at Deakin University, and I am a member of the Boroondara Gifted Network.</p>

<p><b>General committee</b> Nominated by: Susan Nikakis Seconded by: Kathy Harrison</p>	<p>Karen Glauser-Edwards (355)</p>	<p>As a parent of a high-IQ teenage son, I have first-hand experience of the rewards and challenges of raising a gifted child. Becoming a home educator almost six years ago, my interests lie in the pathways that parents take to meet their high ability child/ren's needs, including the prevalence and practices of gifted home educating. This year has seen me conferred with my Master of Education (Policy in a Global Context) via the Research Pathways, through the University of Melbourne, thus adding to my existing teaching and psychology qualifications (i.e., Bachelor of Social Science (Psychology)(Honours) -Charles Sturt University, Graduate Diploma of Education (Primary) - Monash University, and Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) - Edith Cowan University). My research interests lie in how different societies and educational systems endeavour to meet the needs of high ability children. I have a strong work ethic, and an even stronger desire for the gifted and talented children of Victoria to have their special needs identified and met, within whichever educational setting their parents choose. I have so enjoyed the opportunity of being a Committee Member with the VAGTC over the last 2 years. It has been extremely rewarding to lend a voice to those home educating their high ability children, and advocate for such an under-represented and underserved cohort. As co-editor of VISION Magazine, I have relished in sourcing Keynote Resource contributions from around the world, thus facilitating local access to global knowledge and promoting VISION and VAGTC further afield. I believe that my personal and academic experience will continue to be of immense value to the VAGTC, its members and the wider gifted and talented community of Victoria, and I welcome the opportunity to continue to make a meaningful contribution for an additional two years.</p>
<p><b>General committee</b> Nominated by: Victoria Poulos Seconded by: Amy Honreman</p>	<p>Laura Wilcox (392)</p>	<p>Laura has experience in mentoring gifted and talented secondary students in both school and external opportunities. She would bring her perspectives on fulfilling student potential including encouraging collaboration between like-minded students. She believes in triangulating data to identify gifted students. She has a BA (hons) from the University of Melbourne, a Post Grad specialising in Gifted education from Monash University and a Diploma in Prof Communications from the UNE.</p>
<p><b>General committee</b> Nominated by: Kathy Harrison Seconded by: Claire Reid</p>	<p>Melanie Mulligan (357)</p>	<p>I'm Melanie first and most importantly a mum of 2 beautiful boys. I'm not a teacher or a psychologist but with a gifted child I am slowly learning the basics of both. I want to be able to give back to the community and most of all help shape the future for these beautiful but at times miss understood children. Like everyone I'm busy, so I know the more hands the lighter the work so I am willing to offer some of my time to help where I can and learn along the way.</p>

<p><b>General committee</b>  Nominated by: Mark Smith  Seconded by: Kate Wright</p>	<p>Ruth Evans (317)</p>	<p>I am Mum to identical twin girls aged 14, who are both twice exceptional. I have a master's degree in Inclusive and Special Education from Monash University, with a minor in Gifted Education. I also have postgraduate qualifications in publishing and communications from the University of Melbourne and a Grad. Dip. in Primary Teaching from La Trobe University. I have worked at Mentone Grammar as a Gifted Programs Facilitator for 3 years. During the Covid-19 lockdowns, I decided the best way to add value was by ensuring that my students felt engaged, inspired, and connected. I still make this the focus of my programs, making them as fun and interactive as possible. Previously, I worked for G.A.T.E. ways as a Gifted and Talented Program Coordinator and ran a consultancy in gifted education, founding the Ignite program and supporting homeschooled students. I coached students for scholarship exams and worked as a NAPLAN marker. I also taught English to students from other language backgrounds and worked as an Early Childhood Early Intervention Coordinator, helping families access the NDIS.</p>
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