

Committee Nominations for 2024 AGM (nominees to hold these positions for 2025)

<p>President Nominated by: Claire Reid Seconded by: Victoria Poulos</p>	<p>Kathy Harrison (316)</p>	<p>Having taught gifted students in diverse settings, managed gifted education programs, engaged in curriculum development, and led teachers' professional learning, I bring considerable experience in gifted education. Currently, I work as a curriculum writer and teacher in the Victorian High Ability Program. National and international conferences have given me the opportunity to showcase work alongside colleagues. As a parent and grandparent of gifted individuals, I offer a unique perspective from both educator and parent viewpoints, actively advocating for the gifted in all settings. Through expertise in online education, Master research in ICT for gifted learners, and leadership as the President of the VAGTC, I have endeavoured to contribute to the field. In collaboration with our dedicated committee, I have developed resources, liaised with the Department of Education and Training, and secured agreements for parent seminars. My overarching goal is to make the world a better place through helping individuals, advocacy for systemic change, resource development, education, and community-building, ensuring that gifted children have the opportunity to thrive.</p>
<p>Co-Vice President Nominated by: Claire Reid Seconded by: Kathy Harrison</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 was instrumental in organizing a MACS sponsored gifted certificate. She supervises Doctoral students at the University of Melbourne and is the current Co Vice President of the Victorian Association for Gifted and Talented Children (VAGTC). which she sees as assisting all gifted students and their parents around the state with the many varied challenges of being gifted. Susan has written and edited four books centred on the education of gifted students. She is currently writing and editing a book for book teachers and parents on catering for twice exceptional students. She has delivered papers and keynote addresses at both international and national conferences. Next year she is delivering a paper at the World Gifted Conference entitled 'Assisted gifted learners flourish through higher order questioning'. She believes that catering for the learning needs of the gifted is a matter of justice.</p>

<p>Co-Vice President Nominated by: Amy Horneman Seconded by: Claire Reid</p>	<p>Victoria Poulos (543)</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>Secretary Nominated by: Kathy Harrison Seconded by: Victoria Poulos</p>	<p>Claire Reid (375)</p>	<p>In my two years as VAGTC secretary, I have learnt a lot and made some wonderful friendships on the committee. I have endeavored to meet the requirements of my position at all times, behave with integrity, and uphold the values of VAGTC. I would like to stay on in the role and continue to act in an administrative capacity to facilitate the smooth running of VAGTC as we serve the gifted community and work for the betterment of circumstances of gifted students in Victoria and beyond. I believe I have the necessary skills and will continue working to improve where I can.</p>
<p>Treasurer Nominated by: Seconded by:</p>		

<p>General committee 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>General committee Nominated by: Claire Reid Seconded by: Victoria Poulos</p>	<p>Bernadette Sheedy (384)</p>	<p>I have been a VAGTC committee member for two years. In that time, I have been a member of the Consult group and have delivered presentations to parents and professionals. I have written articles for the VISION journal and have worked with the VAGTC committee members to raise the profile of the organization. In September 2024, I completed my PhD which focused on Gifted Education during the COVID-19 lockdowns and. As a passionate advocate for gifted students, I am also employed as the High Ability Learning Specialist at Box Hill High School, and I have held similar positions at two previous schools.</p>
<p>General committee Nominated by: Claire Reid Seconded by: Victoria Poulos</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>General committee Nominated by: Claire Reid Seconded by: Victoria Poulos</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>General committee Nominated by: Victoria Poulos Seconded by: Claire Reid</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>
<p>General committee Nominated by: Victoria Poulos Seconded by: Amy Horneman</p>	<p>Catherine Cross (320)</p>	<p>Bringing 28 years of teaching experience, 10 of which have been devoted to Gifted Education with a specialization in Twice-Exceptionalism. Through enthusiasm, commitment, advocacy and humour, I endeavour to raise the profile of the unique characteristics and needs gifted individuals hold in order that educational, professional and health services may better grasp Australia's best 'natural resource'.</p>

<p>General committee Nominated by: Susan Nikakis Seconded by: Geraldine Nicholas</p>	<p>Micelle Linossier (Life Member)</p>	<p>Michele Linossier is a passionate advocate of students needing extension and enrichment. She began her journey in gifted education in the early 90s and has worked in both the Catholic and Independent education sectors. As the Extension Studies Coordinator at Scotch college from 2001-2022 she created a comprehensive program addressing students of high potential and high performance across the board as well as across a range of specific domains and dual exceptionality. Michele is the Co-chair of the Boroondara Gifted Network - a group of 20 schools who provide extension opportunities amidst the social emotional benefit of like minds. The BGN provides collegial and inclusive Professional Learning and has run the Melbourne hub of the GALESS International student research conference for the past two years. She is a LIFE member of the VAGTC and has served on both State and National professional associations.</p>
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