

NOMINATION PAPER

Committee members – 2026 Elections/Re-Elections



Nominees and proposers must be financial members and have signed this form before forwarding to VAGTC.

If a school/institutional member wishes to nominate a staff member to be on the committee, who does not hold their own personal membership; this staff member would need to have confirmation on formal letterhead, from the head of the school/institution, that they have been deemed the official representative of their school with their authority to nominate for a committee position.

If a school/institutional member wishes to nominate a non-school/institutional member for a committee position who holds their own personal membership; the school/institution would need to nominate a staff member and thus would need to provide confirmation on formal letterhead, from the head of the school/institution, that the staff member has been deemed the official representative of their school with their authority to nominate an independent person for a committee position.

If a school/institutional member wishes to attend the AGM and vote for a nominated member to be on the committee; this staff member would need to have confirmation on formal letterhead, from the head of the school/institution, that they have been deemed the official representative of their school with their authority to cast a vote on their behalf for a committee position.

If known please include a VAGTC member number for nominee, proposer, and seconder.

This form must be completed within the VAGTC committee files on googledocs or returned by email as an offline document to secretary@vagtc.org.au by 5.00 pm on 4th November 2025

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I/we hereby nominate:

Name: _____ Kathy Harrison _____ Member # __316_____

Proposed by: _____ Claire Reid _____ Member # _____375_____

Seconded by: _____ Victoria Poulos _____ Member # __523_____

I _____ Kathy Harrison _____ accept the nomination for the position of VAGTC President.

Signed: _____ Kathy Harrison _____ Date: __03/11/26_____

Please provide a brief statement (approximately 100 words) highlighting what you would bring to the Committee in the position and category for which you have been nominated. In the event of an open election occurring, this statement would be made available to VAGTC members.

If completing an offline/static version (word doc), please email a copy of this statement to: VAGTC Secretary secretary@vagtc.org.au by **5.00 pm on 4th November 2025**

STATEMENT:

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Kathy is a curriculum writer for the Victorian High Ability Program and teaches VHAP Mathematics through Virtual School Victoria. With 15 years as Coordinator of Gifted Education at the Compass Centre and Exemplary Teacher at Methodist Ladies' College, she brings a wealth of experience to gifted education. Kathy was awarded the Australian Mathematics Trust Teaching Award in 2018 and has completed postgraduate research on the use of ICT with gifted learners. She is a skilled presenter, coach, and consultant, regularly contributing to seminars and conferences. A passionate advocate for gifted students and broader social justice, Kathy volunteers across various causes and strives to inspire students to think critically, act ethically, and use their talents to create meaningful change.



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I/we hereby nominate:

Name: _____ Victoria Poulos _____ Member # 523

Proposed by: _____ Claire Reid _____ Member # 375

Seconded by: Amy Horneman Member # 1455

I, Victoria Poulos, accept the nomination for the position of *VAGTC Vice-president*.

Signed: __ *V. Poulos*

Date: __25/09/2025

Please provide a brief statement (approximately 100 words) highlighting what you would bring to the Committee in the position and category for which you have been nominated. In the event of an open election occurring, this statement would be made available to VAGTC members.

If completing an offline/static version (word doc), please email a copy of this statement to: VAGTC Secretary secretary@vagtc.org.au by **5.00 pm on 4th November 2025**

STATEMENT:

In the Vice President committee role, I would bring leadership and international experience as the Australian ambassador for the Asia-Pacific Federation of Giftedness and the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children. As a lecturer, tutor, and researcher in gifted education at UNSW, and Gifted and Talented Leader at Crest Education, I combine academic experience with practical school-based leadership. I am committed to supporting the president by providing reliable consultation, oversight, and encouragement. Known as a collaborative team player and attentive listener, I value partnership, inclusivity, and shared vision, ensuring the committee works effectively toward its goals.

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I/we hereby nominate:

Name: _____ Adeline Lim _____ Member # _____ 628 _____

Proposed by: _____ Ruth Evans _____ Member # _____ 317 _____

Seconded by: _____ Claire Reid _____ Member # _____ 375 _____

I _____ Adeline Lim _____ accept the nomination for the position of *VAGTC Treasurer*.

Signed: _____ *Adeline* _____ Date: _____ 12 October 2025

Please provide a brief statement (approximately 100 words) highlighting what you would bring to the Committee in the position and category for which you have been nominated. In the event of an open election occurring, this statement would be made available to VAGTC members.

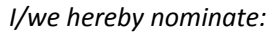
If completing an offline/static version (word doc), please email a copy of this statement to: VAGTC Secretary secretary@vagtc.org.au by **5.00 pm on 4th November 2025**

STATEMENT:

I am an experienced educator in Commerce and Mathematics with over 20 years of teaching experience across both public and independent sectors. In my previous roles (GATE coordinator, High Achievers Program Coordinator, VCE Coordinator), I have led and taught Gifted and Talented programs, as well as overseen VCE programs to enable students to succeed.

Originally from Singapore, I bring an international perspective on gifted education across the Asia region. I have a strong interest in ability grouping and streaming, and am a passionate advocate for gifted education in every educational setting I have worked in. My master's thesis (The University of Melbourne) examined the complex issue of perceived inequity associated with streaming and ability grouping within schools.

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As the current secretary for VAGTC, I have demonstrated commitment to the role and our organisation. I have been (relatively!) organised and efficient, and worked well with other committee members in various capacities. I look forward to continuing to serve the gifted parent body and educator community if I am reinstated for another year.

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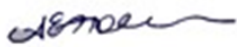
I/we hereby nominate:

Name: Amy Horneman Member # 1455

Proposed by: Claire Reid Member # 375

Seconded by: Victoria Poulos Member # 543

I Amy Horneman accept the nomination for the position of *General Committee member*.

Signed:  Date: 30/09/2025

Please provide a brief statement (approximately 100 words) highlighting what you would bring to the Committee in the position and category for which you have been nominated. In the event of an open election occurring, this statement would be made available to VAGTC members.

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STATEMENT:

I continue to be dedicated to the pursuit of advocating for gifted and talented learners and bring to the general committee:

- Capacity to write and deliver parent and educator seminars
- Capacity to run student voice events
- Willingness to assist with publications where necessary (writing, sourcing articles for Vision, editing FAQ and resource books)
- Willingness to assist with Consult line inquiries
- Attendance at committee meetings where possible
- 'However I can help' within the time I have available

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I/we hereby nominate:

Name: __Dr Bernadette Sheedy_____ Member # __384_____

Proposed by: __Victoria Poulos_____ Member # __543_____

Seconded by: __Laura Wilcox_____ Member # __1655_____

I __Bernadette__ accept the nomination for the position of *General Committee member*.

Signed: __Dr Bernadette Sheedy_____ Date: __22/9/25_____

Please provide a brief statement (approximately 100 words) highlighting what you would bring to the Committee in the position and category for which you have been nominated. In the event of an open election occurring, this statement would be made available to VAGTC members.

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STATEMENT:

I have been a VAGTC general committee member for three years, and during that time, I have delivered online presentations to parents and educators and been a tech support person for my colleagues. I have worked as a member of the consult sub-committee and supported VAGTC initiatives such as the Exceptional Exchange. In 2024, I graduated with a PhD in Gifted Education. I am currently the High Ability Learning Specialist at Box Hill High School.

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I/we hereby nominate:

Name: _____ Catherine Cross _____ Member # _____ 320 _____

Proposed by: _____ Claire Reid _____ Member # _____ 375 _____

Seconded by: _____ Ruth Evans _____ Member # _____ 317 _____

I _____ Catherine Cross _____ accept the nomination for the position of *General Committee member*.

Signed: _____
|: *Catherine Cross* _____ Date: _____ 04/11/25 _____

Please provide a brief statement (approximately 100 words) highlighting what you would bring to the Committee in the position and category for which you have been nominated. In the event of an open election occurring, this statement would be made available to VAGTC members.

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STATEMENT:

Catherine Cross is an experienced educator with 30 years of teaching expertise and currently leads, coordinates, and teaches the Gifted and Talented program at an independent college in Melbourne. Passionate about gifted education and neurodivergence, she is committed to supporting students not only academically but also psychosocially, emotionally, and behaviourally. Catherine has strategically shaped her postgraduate studies to specialise in best practice for high-ability learners, earning her the Academic Excellence Award for her Master of Gifted Education. Recognised for her warmth, humour, innovative, and strength-based approaches, Catherine continues to write, present, and contribute to professional publications, establishing herself as a respected voice in the field of gifted education.

CertND, DipCoun, BTeach, BEd, MEd-Gifted(Exc).

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I/we hereby nominate:

I/we hereby nominate:

Name: Christopher (Chris) Ryan

Member # __513__

Proposed by: **Dr Susan Nikakis** _____ Member # __318__

Seconded by: _____ Claire Reid _____ Member # __375__

I, **Christopher Ryan** accept the nomination for the position of *General Committee member*.

Signed: Christopher F Ryan

Date: 29 September 2025

Please provide a brief statement (approximately 100 words) highlighting what you would bring to the Committee in the position and category for which you have been nominated. In the event of an open election occurring, this statement would be made available to VAGTC members.

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STATEMENT:

I believe I would be a good fit for the VAGTC Committee as I bring nearly 30 years teaching and leadership experience. I am currently undertaking studies in Gifted Education through ACU and have Masters degrees in Education and Leadership. I have previously been on the Adolescent Success (formerly the Middle Years of Schooling) Board, as the Victorian representative. While on this committee I was also a part of the conference organizing committee.

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I/we hereby nominate:

Name: _____ Laura Wilcox _____ Member # _____ 1655 _____

Proposed by: _____ Claire Reid _____ Member # _____ 375 _____

Seconded by: _____ Ruth Evans _____ Member # _____ 317 _____

I _____ Laura Wilcox _____ accept the nomination for the position of *General Committee member*.

Signed: _____ Laura Wilcox _____ Date: 04/11/2025 _____

Please provide a brief statement (approximately 100 words) highlighting what you would bring to the Committee in the position and category for which you have been nominated. In the event of an open election occurring, this statement would be made available to VAGTC members.

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STATEMENT:

Laura teaches senior English at Hume Anglican Grammar. She designed the Ariston Extension and Enrichment project for St John's College Preston, providing both internal and external opportunities for gifted students, and was its first co-ordinator. She has also developed accelerated curriculum for the Humanities classroom. Laura co-edits Vision magazine with her colleague Ruth Evans, where she commissions and edits contributions from academic stakeholders and shares practical ideas and resources for teachers and parents of gifted students. Her particular interests include the identification of gifted students, provision of meaningful internal enrichment opportunities within schools, and exploration of innovative approaches to curriculum design.

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I/we hereby nominate:

Michele Linossier

Name: Michele Linossier Member # 631

Proposed by: Michele Linossier Member # 631

Seconded by: Geraldine Nicholas Member # 298

I Michele Linossier accept the nomination for the position of
General Committee member.

Signed: Michele Linossier Date: 03/10/2025

Please provide a brief statement (approximately 100 words) highlighting what you would bring to the Committee in the position and category for which you have been nominated. In the event of an open election occurring, this statement would be made available to VAGTC members.

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STATEMENT:

I bring my energy, experience and interest to the VAGTC, its programs and initiatives. Students, their families and educators who work with them need advocacy and support in a range of ways and that is one of my strengths. In 2026 my professional life will focus more in the gifted and talented area and therefore I will have greater time and focus in the VAGTC space. I am looking forward to and am energised by this.

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I/We hereby nominate:

Name: _____ Ruth Evans _____ Member # ____317_____

Proposed by: _____ Ruth Evans _____ Member # ____317_____

Seconded by: _____ Claire Reid _____ Member # ____375_____

I, Ruth Evans accept the nomination for the position of *General Committee Member*.

Signed: _____ Ruth Evans _____ Date:

____7/10/25_____

Please provide a brief statement (approximately 100 words) highlighting what you would bring to the Committee in the position and category for which you have been nominated. In the event of an open election occurring, this statement would be made available to VAGTC members.

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STATEMENT:

I am an Enrichment Programs Facilitator at Mentone Grammar, and a parent to twice exceptional twin daughters.

I have enjoyed working with Laura Wilcox and Susan Nikakis on the Publications team, and would like to re-nominate to continue in my current role, primarily editing *Vision* magazine. I am passionate about supporting gifted students and their families to access the advocacy, resources, advice and programs they need. I hope to forge partnerships with schools, education departments, professionals, universities and other associations and charities to advance the cause of gifted education.

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I/we hereby nominate:

Name: ____Susan Nikakis____ Member # ____318____

Proposed by: ____Claire Reid____ Member # ____375____

Seconded by: ____Ruth Evans____ Member # ____317____

I ____Susan Nikakis____ accept the nomination for the position of *general committee member*.

Signed: ____Susan Nikakis____ Date: 6/10/25____

Please provide a brief statement (approximately 100 words) highlighting what you would bring to the Committee in the position and category for which you have been nominated. In the event of an open election occurring, this statement would be made available to VAGTC members.

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STATEMENT:

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Dr Susan Nikakis.



Dr Susan Nikakis, currently works for Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) where she recommends, delivers and develops process and systems improvements such as pedagogical changes to cater for the education of gifted students. She has established many new effective improvement plans as part of the Excellent Education Learning Diversity faculty. **Susan passionately believes in modelling best-practice teaching for all students plus the next generation of educators.** She has spent a large proportion of her career contributing to the educational needs of gifted students in numerous educational settings. She taught English in six Secondary Schools working in several senior leadership roles including Deputy Principal. She currently works at Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools, James Gould House, as a Senior Gifted Education Officer. She has been a Director of the Australian Association for the Education of Gifted and Talented students and is currently the Co Vice President of the Victorian Association for Gifted and Talented Children. She advocates passionately for the rights of all students to be taught appropriately, thoughtfully, and justly.

Dr Nikakis has delivered papers and keynote addresses at international and national conferences where the gifted student is at the core of every presentation and rigorous discussion.

Dr Susan Nikakis' research portfolio and current educational experience has been nurtured through more than 30 years of teaching and learning in various educational settings. She advocates passionately for the rights of all students to be taught appropriately, thoughtfully, and justly.

Dr Nikakis has written and edited textbooks centered on the education of gifted students. Writing with other passionate gifted experts

Nikakis, S. (2011). *Expert Educators*. Heidelberg Press

Nikakis, S, (Ed.). (2012). *Let the Tall Poppies Flourish*. Heidelberg Press

Nikakis, S. (Ed.). (2016). *Giftedness and creativity*. Heidelberg Press

Nikakis, S (Ed.) (2023) *Differentiation for gifted secondary students*. Amba Press

Nikakis S. and Lowrey, R. (2025) *2 Quick 2 Quirky. Teaching gifted twice exceptional students*. Amba Press