

## **Nominations for Woodford International School Board Elections**

Voting to be held at the Annual General Meeting on 14 March at 6pm

There are five 5 vacancies to be filled, with 3 parents continuing on the Board in their two year terms. 7 nominations have been received as follows:

**Mesach Boge**, seconded by Titus Kamata

I am from Papua New Guinea and currently employed as Senior Plantation Manager for Guadalcanal Plains Palm Oil Limited (GPPOL) and being in Solomon Islands for last 9 and half years now. I have two children attending Woodford International School and that prompted me to be part of the school board and help drive the school in whatever ways I can assist whether in full or part of a decision making body. I have a Bachelor Degree in Tropical Agriculture from the University of Natural Resource in PNG and a Master of Business Administration from the University of South Pacific. I have a vast experience in management of human resources and assets of GPPOL and I feel that, I can help in the area of Management to Woodford International School as and when given the opportunity during decision making.

**Steve Hamilton**, seconded by Emily Follett

I would like to put my name forward to remain on the Woodford International School (WIS) Board. I recently joined the School Board in September 2017 in a short-term capacity and would welcome the opportunity to continue serving on the Board. Now that I am aware of the various challenges and opportunity's facing the school, I am confident that I can draw on this knowledge and my skill-set to support the strategic direction and governance of WIS in 2018. In terms of myself I am a bit of a generalist, my skills include building productive working relationships, communications, negotiation and management - of people projects and money. I am currently employed by the New Zealand High Commission, with oversight/responsibility for New Zealand's bilateral aid programme in the Solomon Islands. I have a deep understanding of Melanesian culture, am fluent in several Melanesia languages and know how to work effectively in settings like Honiara, I was raised in PNG. My wife Nesleen of 16 years is from Western Solomon Islands and our 3 children, Dorian 18, Bela, 12 in year 7 and Baki, 10 in year 6 have equal stakes in both cultures.

**Tony Kiessler**, seconded by Samantha Clough

I moved to Solomon Islands in late 2015 and my son has attended Woodford since 2016 and is now in Grade 1. I have lived in the Pacific on and off for the past 10 years. I joined the Woodford International School Board in February 2017 in a casual vacancy and was elected to continue for a 1 year term at the 2017 AGM. Since then I led the recruitment of the Head of School and I have actively contributed to the development of numerous school policies and guidelines. My professional background is in health, strategic planning, governance and policy and I help out at the school in any way I can. I hope that you will give me the chance to continue on the Board in 2018. Either way, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on the Board and encourage any parents interested to please also put your names forward to support Woodford!

**Peter Matheson**, seconded by Karen Scholte

I have over a decade of experience in school education policy and governance. My most recent role was as the Board Secretary of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA), a statutory authority with responsibility for developing the Australian Curriculum, administering national assessments (including in literacy and numeracy) and reporting on schooling in Australia. In this role I led a team responsible for secretariat for the Board and its Audit and Risk Committee, corporate risk management and ACARA's corporate policy framework, strategy and planning, legal services, and internal audit as well as advising on national school policy as relevant to ACARA's remit. Prior to this I had other roles with ACARA, the National Curriculum Board and the Australian Government Department of Education and Training. I am a Fellow of the Governance Institute of Australia and a Chartered Company Secretary and have a Graduate Diploma of Applied Corporate Governance as well as a keen understanding of the role and function of a Board. My son Noah Etherington started in Year 3 at Woodford this year. I am very keen to get involved with his school and feel my experience and qualifications will enable me to make a useful contribution.

**Ed McCowan**, seconded by Junior Bale

My daughter, Lily McCowan, attends WIS in Ms Monroe's class (4yr old Kindergarten). I'd like to nominate for the WIS Board. I am a certified Practising Accountant (CPA), have completed a Masters of Business Administration, and am a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. I have 10 years experience as a business professional in private, not for profit and government roles. I was recently employed at the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) in the Sports Governance and Business Capability branch. In that role, I provided specialist support to National Sporting Organisations (NSOs) and their partners in areas such as good governance, strategy, planning, workforce development, technology, inclusion and child safeguarding. I have extensive experience working in developing countries, having been a CFO of an airline in Tonga and previously managed the Australian aid funded sport for development projects in Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific. I would welcome the opportunity to contribute to the growth and development of Woodford International School, if given the opportunity.

**David Patternot**, seconded by Craig Gibsone

David holds a Bachelor Degree from the University of the South Pacific majoring in History/Politics and Management & Public Administration; he is currently the Human Resources Manager for Guadalcanal Plains Palm Oil Limited (GPPOL). Prior to joining the private sector he worked in various roles focusing on government reforms and institutional strengthening. In his role with the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands – Machinery of Government Programme he worked with key government agencies to support their capacity building efforts. As an Under Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) he contributed to a number of key improvement initiatives within MAL and across the Public Service. David is currently a member of the Labour Apprenticeship Board under the Ministry of Commerce, Immigration, Labour and Industries; Vice President on the Board of the Association of Solomon Islanders in Creative Fashion (Organisers of Solomons Fashion Week) and a member of the Interim Committee of the Solomon Islands Human Resources Practitioners' Network. As a parent (Edward: Year 9, Jadon: Year 4 & Kiani: 1 yrs old) and former student (1986-1992) David aims to use his broad experience to

support the growth and ongoing development of Woodford. Additionally David aims to also represent the welfare of the 18 children from GPPOL who attend Woodford and their parents.

**Terath Nyran Shandil**, seconded by Jarendra Prasad

CFO, Solomon Telekom Company Ltd. Chartered Professional Accountant with over 15 years' experience in full finance operations including management reporting and external auditing. The WIS Board is responsible for the school's strategic direction and goals, and school facilities. Being a Woodford parent for 6 years and part of an organisation that used to send a lot of kids to Woodford, I have seen the school go through tough times recently. The School is facing some steep immediate challenges and is at a crucial stage and needs to carefully assess its option and make decisions to ensure the long term sustainability of the school.

Some of the key challenges that I hope to be able to address are:

- Declining student numbers,
- Financial management – review of current fees structure
- Financial management – review of cost base

With extensive experience in various organisations in dealing with revenue optimisation and cost management I have the ability to critically analyse the issues and offer solutions that will benefit the school both in the long term.