

# School Board Annual Report 2023



**North Dandalup**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

## A summary of 2023 board composition

2023 saw a new composition of school board at North Dandalup. As the incoming Principal, I feel privileged to have been appointed to North Dandalup in my first appointment in the role as Principal. Late in 2022, Gemma Dingle was elected as the board chair when the standing board chair had chosen to leave along with her graduating child. Along with a new Principal and new board chair, there were several parent positions vacant on the board.

Early in Term 2, the school called for nominations to fill the vacant positions on the school board. The number of nominations entered meant that there was no need for an election, and so the composition of the board for 2023 is as follows:

- Gemma Dingle – Board Chair
- Gemma Carruthers – P&C Representative
- Emma Bennett – Parent
- Sophie Stacey – Parent
- Bec Miller – Parent
- Michael Black – Staff
- Marion Drysdale – Staff
- Todd Clark - Principal

We welcomed our first-time members Emma Bennett and Sophie Stacey and also our returning members Bec Miller, Gemma Carruthers and Gemma Dingle. Tenures of board members are now staggered and for differing time periods to promote sustainability of the board.

## Enrolments

We started the year with 23 new families joining us and a total of 143 students – an increase of 18 from 125 in December 2022. Our numbers have remained relatively stable through the year. With a few ins and outs we have a total of 146 as we draw close to the end of 2023. We anticipate this slight upward trend will continue and our numbers will continue to rise into 2024.

K	PP	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
25	21	19	18	15	14	19	15	146

## Training

A strong focus for the board in 2023 was to engage in the relevant training. In Term 2, Gemma Dingle and Todd Clark participated in the online training workshop for Principals and board chairs - Linking School Communities. In Term 3 the rest of the board attended a face-to-face School Board Workshop hosted at Pinjarra Senior High School. The outcome of all board members receiving the Department of Education board training is having consistent knowledge and understanding of the roles and responsibilities of all. The shared experience and expertise have allowed all members to contribute equally. All members are also completing the online Accountable and Ethical Decision Making training and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Awareness training.

## Achievements of the Board

As mentioned, attaining strong governance with a strong board composition was the priority goal heading into 2023. Once our new makeup was secured, upskilling our members with the relevant training was the next goal and has been an achievement that our school board is proud of. Our board functions well and represents our community in a positive, interactive manner.

A significant achievement within the school this year was the development of the 2023 – 2025 Business Plan and the 2023/24 Improvement Plan. The staff at NDPS invested extensive time and effort to create these guiding documents to steer the school's improvement cycle. Each of these plans were viewed and endorsed by the board, with quality discussions around what this means for our students.

Another goal for the board was to promote its profile within the school community. Initial thoughts were put forward to display the names and faces in prominent positions such as the admin building. This has been done with assistance from the school photographers and admin team. This remains an ongoing priority into 2024 with the aim to feature board members' profiles in school publications.

## Educative Topics

A new initiative this year was the introduction of educative topics, presented by the teaching staff from the school. The idea behind this was to focus on the school priorities that featured in the strategic documents and plans developed by the school. By implementing this, the members of the board were empowered to speak with confidence within the community on the key strategies that featured in the school to achieve its goals. Our board members are able to advocate for the strategies employed by the school in their role as a conduit between the school and the community. The educative topics presented in 2023 were daily review, which was demonstrated by board member Michael Black and the program 'Elastik', which was presented by Honor Steinbeck. This initiative has been received positively within the board and will continue into 2024.

## Into 2024

As we look forward to 2024, our first priority will be to again, secure our new board composition for those one year positions and other positions coming to the end of their tenure. We will hold an election for a board chair in our final meeting for 2023, ready to begin in the new year.

The board will look to consolidate on the achievements made in 2023 and continue to function in a way that provides our school with strong governance. Our school board has built a culture of working together and always looking to improve, and this will carry on into 2024 .

Todd Clark

Principal