



Wonthaggi
Theatrical
Group Inc
EST 1969

ACN A0002395X
P.O. Box 207 Wonthaggi VIC 3995



The pursuit of excellence and innovation in Performing Arts through community engagement

September 2024

To our valued WTG community

I am writing with regards to Mr Kirk Skinner.

Mr Skinner pleaded guilty to sexual offences in proceedings that were ongoing at the time of his death in January. Another of Mr Skinner's criminal proceedings concluded in October 2023.

Mr Skinner had been the subject of protracted and frequently delayed criminal proceedings in the County Court in relation to a number of alleged offences. Since these investigations began Mr Skinner had no involvement at any level within WTG.

Mr Skinner's passing understandably prompted a complex response for many members of our WTG community. Our intent had always been to write to our community once proceedings were completed. As this didn't occur via the legal system we made a statement subsequent to his death. Our commitment to ongoing improvement is partly actioned through inviting feedback. We always welcome hearing from our members. After reflection and community feedback, we acknowledge that the original statement released in February 2024, for some members of our community lacked the transparency and clarity desired. This statement is intended to address these concerns.

Whilst WTG was not involved in the criminal proceedings in either of the cases we acknowledge and understand that victims moved between multiple Performing Arts experiences where they sometimes worked within WTG productions in which Mr Skinner was heavily involved.

We stand behind the victims and condemn any potential instances in which Mr Skinner used his power within his roles as a Committee Member, Treasurer and regular Musical Director to control/ influence victims and WTG's culture.

As our Child Safe Policy states, "WTG has zero tolerance for child abuse". Consistent with that we have removed Mr Skinner's Life Membership and name from our Honour Boards.



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WTG continues to critically evaluate and review our robust Child Safety Policy and connected procedures. Documents outlining these can be found on our website.

We are committed to continuing to uphold and evolve a code of conduct that fosters a culture of respect and inclusion throughout our entire organization. These are our anchors.

Finally, thank you for your continued support of the Wonthaggi Theatrical Group, and for supporting each other, during what has been such a challenging time for our community.

Yours sincerely

Karen Milkins-Hendry
PRESIDENT