

ACN A0002395X P.O. Box 207 Wonthaggi VIC 3995



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

27 February 2024

To our valued WTG community

Re: The passing of Mr Kirk Skinner

I am writing with regards to the passing away of former Committee Member, Treasurer and regular Musical Director for WTG, Mr Kirk Skinner.

Mr Skinner's passing has understandably prompted a complex response for many members of our WTG community.

We stand behind the victims.

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 has had no involvement at any level within WTG.

While one of Mr Skinner's criminal proceedings concluded in October 2023, another proceeding - which involved Mr Skinner pleading guilty to sexual offences - was ongoing at the time of his death. Whilst WTG has not been 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.

Our intent has always been to write to our community once proceedings were completed. As this didn't occur via the legal system we make this statement now.

As our Child Safe Policy states that "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 has a robust child safety policy and connected procedures which we continue to critically evaluate and review. Documents outlining these can be found on our website.

We continue to operate under and evolve a code of conduct based on respect and inclusion throughout our entire organisation.

These are our anchors.

Our commitment to ongoing improvement is actioned through inviting feedback. We always welcome hearing from our members.

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

Yours sincerely

K. Millins Meerby

Karen Milkins-Hendry PRESIDENT

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