

# BELBRIDGE SECONDARY COLLEGE

An Independent Public School

## SCHOOL BOARD PROFILES



### **MELESHA SANDS**

#### **Principal**

Melesha Sands is currently Principal of Belridge Secondary College. Melesha's leadership experience includes roles in metropolitan and rural locations, including Kalgoorlie and Mount Magnet and has most recently been the Principal of Swan View Senior High School

Melesha's leadership is based on a strong sense of social justice, a belief that every child deserves an excellent education, and public schools deliver these things. Her background in curriculum development sees a strong focus on teaching and learning and she is committed to the development and empowerment of staff. A strong focus on community, corporate and parent partnerships are the platform for enhancing Belridge students' opportunities into the future.

In 2016 Melesha was in the first cohort of Principals to attend Harvard University and be recognised as a "system leader" for her committed approach to leadership and her strategic approach to student success.



### **SCOTT AMY**

#### **Chairperson**

Scott has over 20 years international experience with leadership and personal mastery in a broad range of industries and sectors including private, public, not for profit and education, in his role as a leadership and organisational behaviours specialists. Initially his interest in people and leadership was borne out of his early military career which saw him working at posting with the RAAF Staff College, Canberra, and No. 2 Flight Training School Pearce.

He has held board positions within the Government Education System for the last 13 years, serving as Board Chair of Currumbine Primary for eight years and a board member of Mindarie Senior College for two, and is currently sitting on the board of Belridge Secondary College for a three year term. Scott has had a strong impact on the boards he has been a part of guiding them all towards the transition into IPS schools.

His professional experience provides a strong insight into the organisation and operations of small and large organisations and has helped establish their goals and desired outcomes as well as maintaining accountability to these goals and objectives. Having a strong working knowledge of how organisations work in regards to goal setting, and designing a culture that supports these goals will contribute to a strong performance in the Government school system and assist BSC grow to a stronger position to be a clear leader in the community.



**JAN NORBERGER**  
**Community representative**

Jan is the former Member for Joondalup and current General Manager for Education and Training at the Australian Medical Association. Prior to entering Parliament in 2013, Jan held numerous senior management positions within both large and small businesses in WA and abroad (East Timor). These included State Commercial Manager for Toll Priority, Group General Manager of Richards Mining Services and Group General Manager of DHL East Timor and Timor Aviation Services.

In 2012 Jan was awarded the WA Business News 40Under40 award in recognition of his numerous career achievements. Jan holds an Advanced Diploma in Accounting and an MBA (Oil & Gas) from the Curtin Graduate School of Business. Jan is currently completing a Master of Finance with RMIT.

Having worked in the Advertising & Marketing, Logistics, Aviation, Mining Services, Training and Recruitment sectors, Jan brings a broad knowledge-base about business needs and opportunities.

Jan started his career serving six years in the Royal Australian Air Force, where he received an Officer Commanding Commendation for outstanding professionalism and service beyond the call of duty.

Jan is married to wife Mira and together they have a son, Daniel, who was born in March 2012.



**Hon. MICHAEL MISCHIN MLC**  
**Community representative**

Michael Mischin is a member of the Western Australian Parliament (elected in 2008), currently serving in the Legislative Council as a representative of Perth's northern suburbs. He is currently the Western Australian Shadow Attorney General; Minister for Commerce and Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, having been Attorney General; Minister for Commerce and Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council before the March 2017 election.

Michael's parents came to Western Australia from war-torn Europe as post WWII migrants and he was born in Subiaco, Western Australia, on 29 December 1958.

He attended Karrinyup Primary School and Scarborough Senior High School. He graduated from the University of Western Australia with Bachelor degrees with Honours in Laws and Jurisprudence in 1982 and practiced in private law firms until 1985, when he joined the Crown Law Department and began to specialise in criminal law.

Immediately before entering Parliament, Michael was a Senior State Prosecutor with the Director of Public Prosecutions for Western Australia.

Michael is an advocate for the ethical treatment of animals and the current patron of the Cat Welfare Society of WA, which operates the Perth Cat Haven. He is an avid reader and a keen student of history.



**ANDREW DORAN**  
**Community representative**

Andrew Doran is the Manager Enterprise Based Training at North Metropolitan TAFE. In this role he is responsible for the contract management of apprentices and trainees across a wide range of trades and occupations.

Andrew has over 30 years' experience in education, industry training and WA State Government policy development.

Andrew lived and worked in Japan for four years teaching at a private university. He has experience in the private sector as Training Superintendent for a mining contractor.

Andrew's recent training leadership experience has included the development of cutting edge skills in the areas of augmented and virtual reality. Andrew has a degree in history and diplomas in education and management



**TOLLA ANDERSON**  
**Community representative**

Tolla is a Foundation Member of the Belridge Secondary College Board, initially as a Parent Member and now as a Community Member.

Tolla is a former NSW Primary Teacher and worked formerly for twenty years in the Federal Attorney General's Department (Australian Financial Security Authority). This position involved constant interaction with the public and community.

Tolla held the position of Secretary of Belridge Secondary College P & C from 2005 until 2014 and oversaw duties until its closure in 2014. Other roles undertaken were School Canteen Volunteer and also a Member of the Belridge Secondary College School Council from 2005 until 2014.

As a Belridge SC Board Member, Tolla has endeavoured to represent the community's viewpoint on the School Board. She is also particularly keen to hear from the current parent community about items they wish to raise with the School Board.



**CATHRYN CURTIN**  
**Community representative**

Cathryn has extensive management experience in the public and private sectors. She has held board positions as a non-executive director on a number of ASX listed companies. Her experience in the private sector includes assisting companies to commercialise new technology.

Cathryn worked for the Department of Education for 17 years including positions of Manager Student Services and District Director. She is currently an Associate Director with the Department of Training and Workforce Development with responsibility for TAFE College Governance and Program Management.

Cathryn has been a registered psychologist for over 25 years and has worked extensively as a psychologist within the education and private sectors. Her experiences include critical incident response, counseling, working with students with special needs, sleep management and alcohol and drug awareness.

Cathryn has psychology, education, and management degrees.



**DEBORAH CHILDS**  
**Parent representative**

Deborah has lived in Joondalup since 2013; her youngest son is now in Year 9 at Belridge Secondary College and she has been Chief Executive Officer and Company Secretary at HelpingMinds since 2014. HelpingMinds is a Mental Health and Carer Support charity organisation that has been operating in WA since 1976. Deborah currently serves as a Board Director for:

- the Western Australian Association of Mental Health;
- the Recovery College of Western Australia;
- Joondalup Primary School.

Deborah is also a Graduate Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD).

Career experience includes small to medium enterprises plus corporate and not for profit organisations including:

- successful start-up transport business;
- five years as Manager of the International Student Program at Otumotai College in Tauranga New Zealand;
- 11 years at Sky Network Television as General Manager Media and Broadcast.

Deborah is passionate about good education for our children and allowing our education professionals to excel in their roles while having the good support and governance of a committed Board.



**ROBERT PIERCE**  
**Parent representative**

Rob has two children at Belridge Secondary College; Seth Year 10 and Maggy Year 7.

He is CEO of Wrays, Intellectual Property (IP) Specialists, one of the largest independent IP firms of intellectual property lawyers and patent attorneys in Australia.

Prior to joining Wrays in September 2012, he held senior financial management positions in the United Kingdom across various sectors at both listed and private entities. He is a Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA) and a member of the Certified Practising Accountants of Australia (CPA). Rob is a Business and Finance graduate of the University of Derby.

He is also a Board member and Treasurer of SEAAANZ (Small Enterprise Association of Australia and New Zealand).



**HEATHER CURRIE**  
**Staff representative**

Heather Currie has been teaching at Belridge Secondary College for the last 4 years in both the Performing Arts and English Learning Areas. She brings a wealth of experience, both as a performer and a teacher, to her current role as a drama and dance teacher. Heather has been part of the Student Services team since 2017 as a Year Coordinator for the current Year 8 Cohort. She is also a member of the Whole School Literacy Committee and the Staff Association.

Heather is passionate about sharing her love of performing with her students. She has positively contributed to the Belridge community with the creation of the Belridge Dance Company and the Belridge Education Support Centre Dance programme. She has directed

and choreographed whole school productions and end of year dance showcases. She has promoted Belridge SC in the community through her students' involvement in community performances such as Relay for Life and Dance for a Cure and has introduced annual tours to Sydney to the Australian Dance Festival.

Heather was instrumental in setting up the BIG (Belridge Inspiring Growth) Project in 2017 which is a whole school programme that targets anti-bullying behaviour and building resilience.

Heather is proud to work at Belridge SC and as a Board member will bring enthusiasm and a commitment to represent the best interests of the staff and students.



**LISA DE PONTE**  
**Staff representative**

Lisa De Ponte has been teaching at Belridge SC since 2013 as a member of the English department, though she has been a member of the Student Services team with her year group graduating in 2015.

Lisa has worked across Australia, initially starting in Lismore, NSW before moving to WA where she spent four years at Northam SHS before moving to Belridge. She has been part of Student Services teams in all locations, worked to create new courses and new positive incentive programs in order to help engage students and encourage their success. She is a member of the Literacy Committee and part of the Instructional Conversations team introduced to the College in 2018.

Originally an international hire, Lisa is a product of both the Canadian and Australian University systems; she holds a four-year BA in English Literature from Canadian Institution Mount Royal and a Graduate Diploma in Education from Southern Cross University, which gives her a unique perspective on the Education system. She is currently in the final stages of her Master of Arts degree, writing an original thesis on Children's Literature. Lisa believes in the power of education, regardless of type or level, and is excited to be part of the Board and help keep Belridge as a great place for staff, students and parents.



**LISA MANNING**  
**Staff representative**

Lisa Manning has been teaching for 33 years with the Education Department of WA, mostly as a Teacher Librarian and S&E Teacher.

She is currently running the Volunteers in the school through the Ed Connect Program. Lisa has worked at Wanneroo SHS, Kambalda SHS, Woodvale SHS and Belridge Secondary College for the last 22 years.

Lisa has a Bachelor of Applied Science from Curtin University and a Graduate Diploma in Education from ECU. Lisa's main focus is Literacy and information literacy, helping students become life-long and independent learners.