



CELEBRATING 100 Years 1910 - 2010

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An open letter from Geelong High School Council to the school community regarding the Winstanley Building

Dear Parents, Students and Members of the Geelong High School Community,

I write to you asking for your support in regard to an on-going issue of serious concern at Geelong High School. Unfortunately, thus far the efforts of School Council have been unsuccessful in having the matter, which I outline below, addressed, and so we call on each member of the school community to add their voice to our request for action.

From regular updates in the Parent Bulletin, your own observations, and very likely, comments from your children, you will be aware of the inadequate nature of one of our major school facilities – the Winstanley Building – and the on-going concern about this at the school.

While the building, which was opened in the mid 1960s, is externally structurally sound, the internal condition, layout and amenities have **not seen any significant upgrades in its 44 year history**. In fact, an upgrade was to have taken place as part of the Geelong High School Masterplan – Stage 1 of which saw a new science and gymnasium complex built and opened in 2004. Stage 2 was to have followed, with the Winstanley Building renovated and upgraded, in keeping with current acceptable educational standards.

However, shortly after the completion of Stage 1 of the Masterplan, the Education Department changed its planning and funding model, leaving our school in a state of limbo in relation to the desperately needed (and expected) Winstanley Building upgrade. Effectively, **Stage 2 was cancelled**, with *nothing offered to replace it*.

Five years have now passed since that time, when classrooms that were originally designed as science rooms, were **temporarily** reallocated to accommodate a range of other classes; and the facilities in all areas of the Winstanley Building have continued to deteriorate.

The Geelong High School Council firmly believes that this situation is not acceptable, and that it is time to demand progress on the matter.

We believe that the education of the students at Geelong High School should not be treated with the disregard that has been apparent in the lack of action from the Education Department to date.

Therefore, I offer for your consideration the attached letter. If you support the sentiments expressed therein, please sign the letter and return it to school (via your child), in the envelope provided. If, however, you wish to express your own ideas about the situation please feel free to

write your own letter. Again, please return your letter to school (via your child), in the envelope provided. Once our students have brought back the signed letters we will package them at the school, and post them to the office of Bronwyn Pike, Victorian Minister for Education.

We certainly need to impress upon Minister Pike that we take seriously the quality of the educational environment provided for our students, and that we expect better from our public education system in Victoria.

Should you have any other comments or suggestions that you feel could be helpful to us please don't hesitate to contact the school, and your message can be forwarded to me. I would certainly be very pleased to hear your thoughts on this difficult issue.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to a strong show of support from our school community in this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Georgina Ferencz,
President of Geelong High School Council