

*The Newington Citation acknowledges the considerable contribution made by parents or families to support Newington's vision during and beyond their son's schooling.*

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# **NEWINGTON CITATION 2019**

**Mrs Helen Burton**

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Helen Burton, a Queensland born and educated mother of two to Hugh (ON 2016) and Gus (ON 2018), is passionate about the diversity of thought that empathy and art can bring to the world. In her professional life, Helen is the director of a corporate art collection supporting emerging artists. At Newington, Helen has made an exceptional contribution to the College family over the last six years. Her many tireless hours of work in support of Newington's vision and values make her an outstanding candidate for the Newington Citation 2019.

Helen first became the President of the Women's Auxiliary in 2013. Between the years 2013 and 2015, she generously gave her expertise and time in re-establishing the Support Group as what we now know as New Women. Her vision was to revitalise the group so that it could become a group of contemporary women committed to delivering an inclusive environment where all volunteers and contributions were welcomed, recognised and valued. Today, New Women is a sustainable volunteer support group with over 450 members, welcoming all mothers and significant females of current boys, and has connected hundreds of women across the Newington community.

Whilst Helen achieved many things throughout her tenure as President of New Women, perhaps her most notable achievement was the establishment of the very first Artist in Residence Program (in conjunction with Hannah Chapman, Curator of Concordia Gallery) at Newington in 2013, delivered only through months of planning and hundreds of hours of hard work. This unique initiative, driven by Helen's vision, provides Newington boys with an exceptional opportunity to take creative risks outside the classroom environment with the encouragement and guidance of an accomplished artist. Such exposure to the arts has had significant value for the boys, particularly in relation to opportunities for future study, employment, internships and scholarships.

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Despite standing down as President of New Women in 2015, Helen remained an active participant in the group's activities until her youngest son graduated from Newington in 2018. Helen has also served as the Vice President of the P&F, was a founding member of the communications sub-committee and co-ordinated the second-hand book exchange for several years before spearheading the transition to an online portal. Helen is very quick to point out that such achievements and the significant task of juggling modern family life would not have been possible without the support of her husband Brett, her boys and the very loyal, generous, smart and joyful group of mothers that make up New Women.

Today, Helen continues to volunteer as a RAISE Foundation mentor (a youth mentoring movement focussed on ensuring young people feel heard, valued and supported) and is also actively involved in a Rowing club.

The College is extremely privileged to have had Helen and her family as such dedicated and proactive members of the Newington College community. We congratulate Helen on being awarded the Newington Citation for 2019.

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