

It is with sadness that we farewell a much-loved staff member, Michelle Norton, who passed away on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2020. Michelle joined Wellesley in 2000, in Year 7, and soon became an integral part of the Wellesley community.

Michelle was the loved wife of Peter (Chick), and treasured mother to Adam and Kember and mother-in-law to Natalie and Phil. She was also the adored Nanny of Sianna, Cleo, Lucia and Thea, not forgetting Boston, her adored West Highland terrier dog whom, so we are told, has no doubt he is human!

Michelle's son Adam is also a Wellesley old boy, attending the school from 1986 – 1993 and her daughter was married at Wellesley in 2010.

Michelle was raised in the Hutt Valley and attended Wellington Teacher's College. She worked at various schools, including Wainuiomata Intermediate where she was a senior teacher in her 2<sup>nd</sup> year and Hutt Intermediate where she was Dean of Year 7 before coming to Wellesley.

Michelle was a vibrant, passionate teacher, a team player and a straight talker with huge empathy and a strong presence. She saw what needed doing in every situation and did it without fuss or the need for acknowledgement. She was respected for her strong sense of justice, her honesty, and her excellent judgement.

Michelle ensured the needs of any boys in her care were her top priority and always had a quiet eye out for anyone who might be struggling, whether they be a student or a colleague. She was well known for her optimism, decency, and kindness.

Michelle's energy extended beyond the classroom and she was responsible for establishing, nurturing, coaching, and managing Water Polo teams at Wellesley. She was also one of the pioneers of the school's senior multisport programme which continues to provide worthwhile and hugely enjoyable activities for boys who prefer this to mainstream sports. Michelle's organisation of the Year 7 West Coast camps was legendary, and only the esteemed, now retired Steve Girvan attended more West Coast camps than Michelle! She also threw her endless efforts behind the Brookfield Camps, the Student Council, school productions, arts festivals and all the many events held over her years at Wellesley.

Michelle was a model of courage and integrity and demonstrated this right to the end. She was a much loved, dedicated, calm force behind the scenes who has left a lasting legacy and is missed by us all.

'Amat Victoria Curam' – Victory through care. Michelle and family, you will always be part of the long-held tradition that is Wellesley.

