



Board of Trustees

WARNER COWIN – BOARD CHAIR



Liz and I have lived in Sandringham for over 10 years now. We are fortunate to have three children at Edendale Molly (Yr 6), Harriet (Yr 3) and Charlie (Yr 2).

I am proudly of Ngāti Porou and Ngāti Pākehā descent, though Liz and I were brought up in Tauranga (in fact, Liz's Dad was my Principal at High School).

In 2013 we started our engineering consultancy business, [Height](#) in Sandringham. It has grown to be a very successful, award-winning business, which we are proud to say is still locally based and employer of local people.

As an engineer, I am very passionate about construction and care deeply about developing and mentoring small, veteran-owned, Māori and Pasifika businesses to win work and be successful in delivering government construction contracts.

My work in the construction sector also allows me to use my skills in tikanga Māori protocols to support iwi and wider community engagement.

From a governance and leadership perspective, I have had multiple experiences from Royal New Zealand Air Officer, UN Peacekeeper to a corporate career with Downer and now a successful founder and start-up entrepreneur.

MARYVONNE GRAY



My name is Maryvonne Gray. I have lived in Sandringham for 17 years with my husband Vaughan Drever and we have three sons Dylan, Jamie and Callum, who have all loved their time at Edendale. Callum is in Year 6 and we have been associated with the school for 10 years now.

It is a wonderful school with fantastic teachers who together make an awesome community which I feel proud to be a part of.

I have been a member of the Board of Trustees for the last three years and in that time the school has seen a huge amount of change including a new principal and senior leadership team.

I have been working on the property committee which has several substantial projects on the go. These include a new roof on the junior block, which has been completed; an interior re-fit of the same block; and exploring options around future use of the swimming pool, with both projects currently in progress.

My work as a communications advisor has been very useful in helping to write Board newsletters to keep the community informed on what we've been doing, and I have contributed to discussions around what we would like Edendale to be known for. The defining factor for this is always how best to support our teachers to give our children the best possible education in a safe and happy environment.

I have learned an incredible amount in the last three years and feel very strongly that continuity and certainty are necessary for Edendale right now. I would love to see some of the projects I have been involved in come to fruition and I also feel it is important for Jonathan to feel supported in his first year in the role, and in the future.

ANNIE UALESI

Kia ora, Talofa lava, Ni Hao, Namaste,

I joined the Board last year when the school asked for more Pasifika parents to get involved.

I love Edendale – I was a student and my family have been neighbours of the school for 50 years.

Two children in our home are students now. It's important to me that Edendale be a place where children are loved and cared for and have fun learning to be the best that they can be.

It's of personal interest to me that our Maori and Pacific children get the best possible start in their learning journey, as the results of our current education system prove that they are not well served. I'm interested in hearing what is important to all parents and carers about their Edendale experience – the school is here to serve you and your children.

I am committed to working with the school to ensure that many more voices from our diverse community are heard and are part of deciding what happens at Edendale. My husband and our little family live along with our extended family in Sandringham.

I am a working Mum. I work for a Pacific social change agency helping government agencies learn how to partner with communities to design solutions to the complex problems in our society, like obesity and diabetes. I am a Samoan Chinese Kiwi.

It's a blessing and honour to serve you as a member of the Edendale Primary School Board of Trustees.

**KATIE HIGGINS**

Our family have lived in Sandringham for over 12 years and have been an Edendale family since 2013 when our eldest son Ollie attended, we now have George in year 4.

Being part of an inclusive and diverse school community is vital to our family. The strange and unique times we are facing in the world really emphasises the importance of being genuinely connected as a community.



I have been involved in education in my whole working life in a range of roles from management, facilitation and itinerant teaching. This work has provided me experiences of working with and for local and central government agencies (including the Ministry of Education, Oranga Tamariki and Auckland Council).

For the past five years I have worked for Toimata Foundation within the National Enviroschools team. My role includes overseeing the facilitation, partnership and strategy development of the Enviroschools programme and network. This work involves experience around environmental education for sustainability and working within a Kaupapa which embeds Te Ao Māori.

Aside from my professional experience, the contribution I bring to the Board of Trustees include having skills around advocacy and meaningful consultation and collegiality with the school and the wider community.

JANE YEE

Kia ora koutou, ko Jane tōku ingoa. I'm mum to Victor (year 4) and Maisie and Jude (twins, year 2).

JANE YEE continued

As a family we have been involved in the Edendale community since 2017 and have been thrilled to see our wonderful school grow from strength to strength in this time.

By-elected on the Board in June 2021, I am excited at the prospect of working with the Edendale School Board to help continue the great work already being done while also bringing fresh ideas and skills to the table.

I have a professional history in broadcasting, digital media and publicity. My strengths lie in effective communication, mediation, forward thinking, strategy, management and problem solving. I consider myself to be trustworthy, reliable and compassionate.

We recently spent ten months living in Los Angeles and our children attended the local elementary school. I was heavily involved in the school community, running fundraisers and as part of the school's booster club (PTA equivalent).

This experience gave me a new appreciation of the importance of whānau involvement and effective fundraising in providing the dynamic and equitable learning journey our tamariki deserve.

Having a child on the autism spectrum, I possess an understanding of the unique challenges that face students who have extra needs in the classroom and on the playground. I hope to be able to advocate for these tamariki and their whānau at a board level.

I am passionate about cultivating a safe and respectful school environment for our tamariki and kaiako, and I believe in honouring the cultural values of all students and staff. I am committed to ensuring the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi are both respected and implemented in all facets of school life at Edendale.

I will be active in supporting the mahi that is already being done to provide our tamariki with an abundance of opportunities to reach their potential and thrive in all aspects of their learning journey. I want Edendale to be a kura that celebrates the diversity of its students, values the expertise of its staff and provides a safe, fun and inclusive environment for everyone who walks through the gates each day.

ANNA FERGUSON

As a parent of a student at Edendale, I am keen to play an active role on the Edendale School Board. I regard this role as an opportunity to be involved in the school community, to help shape the strategy and vision for the school and contribute to the ongoing success of the school for the benefit of current and future students.

I am fortunate that, with a child in Year 1, I will be a part of the school community for years to come and am thrilled to be part of the Board during that time.

I bring to the role of parent representative a range of skills from both my professional career and prior board experience including:

- Effective stakeholder management skills – ability to synthesize diverse viewpoints, address issues and concerns, work through alternative scenarios to reach consensus or agreement
- Flexible and pragmatic – outcomes focused
- Sensitive to the needs of others – ability to recognise and appreciate different viewpoints and needs
- Passionate about diversity, equity and inclusion and an advocate for mental health and wellbeing.

I have prior governance experience, having previously held board roles for two educational organisations as a parent representative (both in Sydney, Australia).

The first of which was a not-for-profit early childhood centre, where I sat on the management committee as a parent representative.

I also held the role of Staff Liaison during my tenure as a parent representative. The second board role was with the Australian Institute of Music Senior Secondary College, where I also held a parent representative role.

In my professional life, I have an established career in Human Resources with 20 years' experience across a range of industries, currently working for Kordia Group, a NZ state owned enterprise, as Executive General Manager, People & Culture.

ANNA FERGUSON continued

Over the past 12+ years, I have been in leadership roles, focused on creating a strong and positive workplace cultures, enhancing engagement and performance, as well as efforts to improve diversity and inclusion outcomes.

ANTHONY TRIGG

I am a chartered accountant with 25 years' experience in commercial businesses and public practice firms. I'm currently head of finance for XPO Exhibitions, the largest private event management company in Australasia. I'm also a managing director in a private company managing residential, commercial and equity investments – providing property management services. I also act as a funding officer connecting community groups with funding providers.

I'm passionate about our Sandringham suburb, I am actively involved in coaching Central United Football club and in the past I have developed finance systems as well as helped with building maintenance for the Sandringham playgroup.

As I am not originally from Auckland I have engaged with the community, creating our own whanau groups and fostering these relationships via cycling groups and community activities.

I love living in Sandringham as it's a vibrant multicultural environment. I have found Edendale School to be very welcoming, inclusive and supportive.

My values of integrity, focusing on learning, development and creating value align well with the values of Edendale School. I believe with my skills in finance, governance and my passion for this area, I would be a great addition to the Edendale School Board.

KUS FAUSETT - Staff Representative

Edendale Primary School is the cornerstone of our community and over the last year I have been lucky enough to have represented the staff on the board.

As a board we have worked together to create a group that functions well and are deeply invested and committed to our tamariki, teachers, school whanau and community. Our collective strength as your board lies in our diversity and our common goal, our tamariki.

The board's role is to work closely with our Tumuaki, to consult with staff, tamariki and our community, to oversee the management of property, finances, the curriculum, administration and how funds are spent.

Edendale Primary School is unique and diverse with a progressive, all-inclusive learning approach delivered by skilled professionals who are nurturers, organisers, planners, mathematicians, coaches, scientists and storytellers.

My role at Edendale affords me the unique opportunity to interact with all of our staff and tamariki, across all age levels, this I feel gives me an insight into what we do well and the challenges we face.

My personal contribution to the board lies in my core strengths. I am approachable, supportive, encouraging, hardworking and take personal responsibility when it comes to getting the job done.

I love this school and what we are able to achieve together, I see kindness and empathy every day and am committed to making our Edendale a positive, happy, inclusive and emotionally safe environment for our tamariki, staff and all who are fortunate enough to be part of this community.

