



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 UALESII

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.

STANLEY FINDLAY

My wife, Kiley-Anne, and
I moved to Sandringham
in 2010. We have made
great friends in the
neighbourhood and
really enjoy living in this
community.



Since moving here we
have had two children
both of whom are now
pupils at Edendale. We
chose Edendale
because it felt right for us.

The culture felt positive and inclusive and the kids
seemed happy and engaged. We loved the art and
music programmes as well as garden to table. I feel
really fortunate to have the option to send my kids
to a great local school with the other kids in our
neighbourhood

I wanted to contribute in some way so in 2018 I
went along to a board of trustees meeting. I was
impressed with the commitment of the trustees to
making a positive difference to the educational
outcomes for all of the children. So, I put myself
forward to help and was co-opted to the board of
trustees for a period of three years. I put my hand
up to serve because I would like this school to
provide experiences for its pupils that reflect the
values and priorities of its families and the
community. I would like teachers to want to work
here and families to choose to send their children
here. I want all Edendale pupils to have the
strongest possible start to their learning careers and
to be prepared for success when they eventually
move on. I would like the children to appreciate the
warmth and richness of belonging to a multicultural
community. I would like Edendale kids to care about
the health of the planet and to be aware of the part
they can play in improving that.

Being a trustee has been a steep learning curve for
me. One of the most important things I've learnt is
that Edendale's outcomes are not arrived at by
accident but rather are intentionally created through
the hard work and dedication of passionate faculty,
staff and management and with the support of a
board of trustees working in unison.

In terms of my day job, I am working on my career
as a musical genius who writes anthems that make
people sing and dance (this is taking longer than
expected so, in the meantime, I work as a
commercial lawyer practicing primarily in large
corporate organisations).

BEN HASLER



Fran and I have lived in Sandringham for 13 years now and value the community we live in.

We've seen Sandringham and the wider area flourish in its diversity and enjoy bringing up our three children in such a multicultural environment.

Olivia and Francesca (Frankie) are both attending Edendale School. They are recognised by Edendale as individuals within the school, and are supported to grow both academically and as people. Their growth is a testament to the great teaching and support staff of Edendale.

I feel grateful to have served on the Board for the last 3 years and re-elected again in June 2019. I've held several technical and management roles within the IT industry throughout my career.

I currently work as a manager at Microsoft supporting teams of talented people to deliver projects and support to customers in NZ. Working at Microsoft, I see the impact Information Technology has on industries, economies, communities and people. Information Technology influences our children's lives daily and preparing them for a future that is increasingly driven by technology is where my passion lies.

We value Edendale School as one of the anchors of our community and I'm excited to have the opportunity to sit on the board again. I believe that my contribution as a member of the Board will continue to positively impact the future of our school, our students, our teachers and our community.

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 Enviroshools team. My role includes overseeing the facilitation, partnership and strategy development of the Enviroshools 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.

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.