



ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, HAWERA - TRUSTEE BIOGRAPHIES

Robbie Bird – staff trustee

I have had a long association with St Joseph's School in a number of different roles. I've taught for 16 years at St Joseph's and my wife, Maree, has taught here for several years. All three of our children attended St Joseph's.

Previously, I served seven and a half years as the staff trustee on the Board. I was re-elected this role in Term 4, 2019. Being a passionate teacher, I felt it important to have a voice at the table, while changes and challenges take place within our school and the wider education sector. I am on the Board's property committee and look forward to working with others on property developments in the coming years.

Julie Buijtendijk - parent elected trustee

I am a born and bred Hāwera girl and attended St Joseph's School myself. My children Vander and Willem are the fourth generation of our family attending St Joseph's School.

As a Clinic Supervisor at Taranaki Veterinary Centre I work full-time, so I rarely get a chance to be about during the day. Being on the Board is a way I can be more personally involved with St Joseph's. I am on the recently established Board communications committee to ensure the Board connects with the community and keeps everyone better informed of future governance developments.

Being on the Board is a real privilege and an opportunity for me to share in not only my children's education, but in the education of all families at the School. I'm a highly organised, positive person with attention to detail and I offer strong leadership and management skills at Board level, obtained throughout my working career. My aim is to ensure we do our utmost to help all students learn to the best of their abilities. I also want to ensure staff are supported and encouraged and that we do our very best to assist them to work to their full potential.

Karee Duncan – acting principal and trustee

Born and bred in Taranaki, I have lived most of my life in Hāwera. I'm married with four children: three in the workforce and one at university. I began my teaching journey with my children at play centre, before relieving for many years for South Taranaki's Free Kindergarten Association. Nine years ago I moved into the primary education sector, teaching at St Joseph's Pātea and Kakaramea Schools.

I believe strongly that parents are their children's first teachers and that good relationships are essential between parents, children, whanau and colleagues. I'm excited to have the opportunity to lead St Joseph's this year.

Anna Hornby - proprietor's representative

I am a Proprietor's appointed representative on the Board of Trustees and on the Board's finance committee. Since arriving in New Zealand in 2008, I have been involved in the St Joseph's Parish. My three boys attend St Joseph's School and it gives me great pleasure to see them growing up supported by the Catholic faith.

Previously being involved with Children's Liturgy and Family Masses, I enjoy supporting the Parish in nurturing the faith of young Parish members and families. This led to my involvement with the St Joseph's Board. It is a privilege to be able to make a difference to our faith community.

Mark Hughson - parent elected trustee

In 2016, the Principal at the time asked me to stand for the Board, to offer my financial expertise and skills. I currently lead the St. Joseph's Board finance committee. I own a Chartered Accountancy business with offices spread throughout Taranaki. I also have an interest in an Auckland based, commercial property management/syndication Company.

My association with St Joseph's spans 25 years. I currently have two sons at the school - Harley in Miss K's class and Heath in Mrs Lagan's room. I strongly believe St Joseph's is the best primary school in Hāwera, setting its students up to achieve their best in where ever they choose to go from here.

Anita Jordan - proprietor's representative

I am a Proprietor's appointed representative serving my second term on the St Joseph's Board. As a member of the Board's health and safety committee I can help safeguard the welfare of all school participants.

My husband and I have three boys - Liam, Tyler and Dylan who attend St Joseph's and are involved in the wider Parish community. I believe a strong relationship between our School and the Parish underpins our Catholic character, leading to better overall student outcomes. I will focus on strengthening relationships within the wider Catholic community and believe a strong School with solid student achievement goals is integral to achieving this.

Ricson Torres - proprietor's representative

I have lived in Hāwera for 10 years and, with my wife Joy, have 2 boys - Johann and Joaquin. Joaquin is in Year 2 at St Joseph's. Back home in the Philippines, Catholic schools like St. Joseph's are private and expensive. However, my parents worked hard to send my siblings and me to a private Catholic primary school. We are fortunate NZ Catholic schools are all state-integrated. Filipino Catholicism was shaped by local indigenous cultures, having 2000 inhabited islands and having been a Spanish colony for 300+ years. Feasts and rituals, as forms of Catholic devotion, are however distinctively Filipino.

I am a control system engineer at a multinational company and the main automation contractor for major oil & gas sites in Taranaki. The state-integrated BOT structure is new to me, however I've learned a lot about governance. The NZ oil & gas industry safety-at-work culture is world-class and I can offer that experience to the Board health & safety committee. As a Proprietor's appointed representative I also support Catholic character so that St. Joseph's continues living the teachings of Jesus Christ in its curriculum, programmes and activities.

John Wyatt - proprietor's representative

My wife Kristina and I moved to Taranaki in 2017. Kristina is a vet at Taranaki Vet Centre and I contract milk 320 cows at Auroa. I became involved with St Joseph's School through the Parish and joined the Board as a Proprietor's appointed representative towards the end of 2019. I am also on the Board's property committee.

By being on the Board I can contribute to the wider community, by helping to ensure the School is prepared for the future. We currently don't have children attending the school, although our son will hopefully be starting in a few years.