



Birchville School Board of Trustees 2018



My name is **Belinda Walker** and I have been a member of the Board of Trustees at Birchville School for the past four years. My youngest children, Joseph and Tom both attend Birchville school so I am very familiar with the school's ethos and success culture.

As well as raising a family I am the International Homestay Manager at Upper Hutt College where I enjoy the opportunity to work with children from a range of diverse backgrounds and cultures. I am passionate about working with and alongside parents, children and families. I have spent the past 25 years working within education and social services, working with children and families in a range of different roles. Many of the children I worked alongside had huge barriers to learning in mainstream education; so I am familiar with many of the difficulties some families can be faced with and how they can be supported.

During my time on the board, we have interviewed and successfully appointed Mr Kenny, our Principal and Mrs Brown our Deputy Principal. Ensuring the school has excellent leaders has proven to be extremely successful; Birchville received a good ERO report last year and we as a board have put together our School Charter and Strategic Plan to ensure the success of the school continues. We have updated the policies and procedures, and made huge changes to how the curriculum is delivered and how the processes of monitoring student achievement are recorded. I have attended many board training sessions and learnt so much valuable information about being an effective board member and about governing and managing the school I believe that all children should be provided with the best education possible to suit their individual needs. It has been a very challenging but rewarding role and I would like to ask for your support in giving me the opportunity to continue to see Birchville School become not just a great school for our children and families but a fantastic school.



Kia Ora, my name is **Helen Waterman**. I am a mother of two - my son is at Birchville, my daughter is at Maidstone Intermediate. Born and bred in Aotearoa New Zealand, we moved back here from England in 2011 to be close to family.

Birchville School has been a truly positive eye opener for us - we have seen that children here have a lot of fun and enjoy themselves, they are treasured and treated with respect. And the physical environment - so much space and views of our beautiful hills, bush and birds! All this, and the inclusive, family feel and at Birchville School has inspired me to be involved and help out however I can.

I have served on the Board for the past two years and during this time I have learnt a lot about our school, and how Board of Trustees work. I am an enthusiastic lifelong learner, am currently studying towards to a degree, and have attended several NZ School Trustees Association workshops. I am on the Birchville School Inclusivity Team, working to find ways to make our school a place that welcomes and includes people of every sex, age, ethnicity and ability. I work for Hutt City Council as a Library Assistant where a large part of my role is working with children in literacy and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) – I also help a lot with homework, and teach and play lots of games of chess! My passions are equality, education, and the environment.

I am strongly committed to honouring the Treaty of Waitangi. I want children and families to get the best possible start in life, as I believe that growing strong, healthy children, both physically and emotionally, is the most important job there is, and parents and teachers should be supported to achieve this - the ultimate goal being happy, creative, productive people, strong communities, and a healthy society. Being on the BOT has been a privilege, and if I am re-elected I will be proud to represent you, and continue to work hard to do whatever is needed to ensure the best outcomes and highest possible academic achievement for our tamariki.



Tena Koutou. My name is **Brooke Douglas**. I have two boys who attend Birchville School, Ellery who is in year 4 and Roscoe in year 3. I also have four Step-daughters, who attend school in Wellington, two at Te Kura o Otari, and two in secondary school.

Watching my children grow and develop is something that is not only exciting to see, but has motivated me to become more involved in learning and education, across the community. I am currently employed as a Police Dispatcher situated within the Police Communications Centre where I have worked for the past ten years. Being a Police Dispatcher can be a highly demanding job. My work skill set includes, excellent decision making, Risk management, interpersonal skills, working well under pressure, and multi-tasking – which also go hand in hand with parenting six children! I am not shy to offer an opinion but always endeavour to show respect, empathy and courtesy to others.

In my time off, I enjoy playing softball, sewing, crochet and baking. I have been involved in kids sports for a number of years as a coach of T-ball and Netball. I find Coaching especially rewarding and enjoy this time as I feel I contribute in a positive way to the community. Nothing is better than seeing children grow in confidence, learn and develop skills and see the team work emerge.

My time at Birchville School has been a very positive one. I see communication, family involvement and dynamic teaching practices as Birchville Schools strengths. I would like to be elected to the Board of Trustees continue the good work of the previous board in supporting the Staff and ensuring Birchville continues to provide a safe, happy environment and quality education for all its students.



Quality education is a parent's / caregiver's wish for every child, regardless of their ability. For our children, that education begins with the Principal, teachers and staff at Birchville School.

My name is **Cameron Thayer** and I have two daughters. Our children are lucky to go to a local school where Robyn and I can be actively involved and support our children's learning. I truly believe that education is the pathway to success - my own education, which includes a degree in Accountancy and further studies to become a Certified Practising Accountant, has allowed me to work in New Zealand, Australia and London. I am the Financial Controller for a Wellington based company and have over 20 years' experience in the finance sector. I have a background in financial control, management, governance and strategy and I would feel privileged to share my expertise with the school.

I have attended all BOT meetings as an observer since October 2015 to gain an understanding of how the BOT works and what they are actively working on. The knowledge I have gained will enable me to start working immediately on any current issues. I will be a hands on member of the board and a voice for the rest of the school as I will listen to other parents / caregivers and ensure their voices are heard. I will treat this opportunity as a learning experience and I will take up every chance to increase my knowledge and strategic skills to understand the huge responsibilities of participating in education.

Outside of work and family time, I enjoy reading, bike riding and I have recently taken up photography again. It is the parent's / caregiver's responsibility to ensure we promote quality education for our children and I am very passionate about this topic. I look forward to having the opportunity to provide input to the board as well as interacting with other members of the school community.



Kia ora e te whānau. My name is **Joel Tait** and I have two children who attend Birchville School. Karanā is in year 5 and Kaea-Rose is in year 3. I also have another daughter, Aaria, who currently attends Te Marua Playcentre, and will follow through to Birchville School as her siblings have.

My interest includes sports, music and kapa-haka, but my favourite pastime is spending time with my family.

My passion for sports led me to coaching children's sports, which I have done for the past four years. Being involved with children, their growth and learning is both a humbling and rewarding experience for me. Coaching has taught me the value in what we can achieve when provided with the right tools and support.

I work for Nosh, a Catering and Event Management Company as their Head Chef. The challenges and demands that come with this role provide me with many skills that would be of benefit if elected for the Board of Trustees. Such as the ability to look at the bigger picture to get the best outcome, work as a team to get things done, to work within budgets, the importance of time-management, the ability to work under pressure and to make decisions to create positive outcomes.

I believe that Birchville School provides a safe and happy learning environment for our children. A place that recognises that all students are individuals with different needs and learning requirements, that offers an understanding of partnerships through embracing cultural diversity, while being committed to providing a quality education. Ultimately I am a parent who just wants the best for our children. I hope to use my skills and enthusiasm to bring value to this position so that it may help enhance our children's experiences and learning opportunities.

“Nou te rourou, naku te rourou, ka ora ait e iwi” – “with your basket, and my basket, the people will thrive.



Lisa Webster, Staff Rep



Anne McPhie, Board Secretary



Robyn Brown, Principal

