

BIRKDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL
Candidates Profiles Election of FIVE (5) Trustees

Marco Douglas

My name is Marco Charles Douglas and I am originally from Cape Town, South Africa. We have lived on the North Shore for the past 8 years and the Birkdale community has been our home ever since. Both our children attended local kindergartens and our youngest daughter is currently a student at Birkdale Primary School. We are firm believers that supporting local schools will create closer knit families and friendships which in turn will create strong communities.



I hold a Bacc degree from Massey University. I currently run my own accounting practice and am also a registered tax agent for the IRD. I hold a two-year Diploma in Theology and a 3yr Christian leadership Certificate which I acquired whilst serving as youth pastor and secretary of the MEC (SA) youth executive board. I have been involved in youth work for several years and still try to find ways to make an impact on the younger generation. Currently, I serve on the committee of Birkdale North music school where my kids attend. I also served as treasurer for the Parents Teachers Association at Birkdale North Primary School.

My interest to the Board of Trustees is that I believe that education is the key that opens the doors to endless possibilities. A great leader said "education is the greatest tool you can use to change the world" so being able to serve as part of the governing body to make sure quality education is delivered in the school and community will be a great honour. I am passionate about young people and believe that as the times change, we should bring fresh and relevant ideas to amalgamate with these changes. In doing so the young people will remain engaged and interested in their learning and future education. When we come together to form strategies to advance the school to a higher level, teamwork is of the utmost importance. Putting oneself aside, but to place focus at what will be the best outcome for children, to prepare and equip them the best possible way for the future.

I hope that I have delivered in giving you a glimpse of who I am, what I believe in and the energy I will bring if chosen to serve you as parents and your children on the Board of Trustees. Thank you for your time.

Naku, na nga manaakitanga
(Yours faithfully with best wishes)

Marco Douglas

Ebony Duff

Tēnā tātou kātoa

My name is Ebony Duff and I am grateful to be nominated to stand for election to our Birkdale Primary School Board of Trustees.



I was raised in Kaitiāia and then moved to Auckland to attend Westlake Girls' High School. I am of Te Aupouri, Te Arawa (Ngāti Rangitihī, Tūhourangi) and Ngāti Te Ata descent but have lived on the North Shore for a large part of my adult life.

Both my two children have attended the school from new entrant level. Kendyl is in now in Year 5 and Bowen in Year 4. They have directly benefitted from the hard-working, dedicated and encouraging teachers at Birkdale. As a family we are actively involved in sports activities within the school and our local community.

I am a qualified barrister and solicitor and have worked in legal practice, and also in government and Auckland Council on policy and strategy matters. I now work in the media sector at the local-grass roots level, as head of a not-for-profit organisation advocating for 20 regional Māori Radio Stations across the country. As well as advising a number of boards, council committees and charitable entities, my experience as a governor also includes serving as a trustee on Rūnanga (iwi governance) and school committees.

The changes that may result from the Government's consideration of the Tomorrow's Schools Independent Taskforce would have a massive impact on how our school is run. These would perhaps be the biggest changes in over 30 years. In general, I am supportive of any changes that better support principals and staff, and that will help boards better focus on our children's well-being and achievement.

My direct contribution as a school trustee would be to:

- provide effective governance decision-making, policy advice and review;
- continue relationship building between the Board, staff and parents;
- ensure maintenance of staff and student health and safety and well-being;
- communicate and raise our profile throughout the wider community;
- seek alternative funding streams/draft funding applications for projects; and
- talk with Ministers, local councillors, and community leaders.

Nō reira, tēnā koutou kātoa.

Fiona Kemplen

My name is Fiona Kemplen and I am standing for the Board of Trustees for Birkdale Primary. My children are in the early years of primary school and they are really enjoying our time at Birkdale Primary. We have 2 boys enrolled; Findlay is in Year 1 and Lewis in Year 4. I am married to Stratton and much of my time is spent between family commitments and working full time for Edge Creative, an events and communications agency in Auckland.

As the kids are still young we have a significant future at the school. The primary has been part of our life since moving into the area seven years ago as we live on the doorstep and we've been regular visitors to the grounds outside of school times since the children were very young.

Personal Background

I'm born and brought up in Edinburgh and have been in Auckland for 12 years, landing back here, marrying Stratton to settle into the kiwi way of life. Since Lewis joined the school both Stratton and I have been active members of the core fundraising team. Stratton is also a regular contributor to aiding Bruce with the upkeep of the grounds.

Professional Background:

I spent 15 years in the film and television industry as an assistant director, in the UK, Australia and NZ. The past 11 years working in the events industry as a project manager specialising in internal communication.

I don't have specific board experience however I am frequently working with corporate boards and senior stakeholders, grasping their policies, strategies and protocols.

Core skills & attributes:

project management
honest & open
pragmatic

Why Board of Trustees:

I believe the board needs a broad and diverse range of individuals who can represent the school community fairly and justly in an ever changing and evolving education environment. I'm not afraid to have my voice heard and would relish the opportunity to build on the fantastic work the existing Board has done. We must strive to create a stronger sense of community and inclusion. We have to work on board visibility, transparency, continued high quality communication and collective leadership.

I asked the boys why I should be considered and they said because "you're nice, clever and caring"!

I appreciate you taking the time to consider me for a role as a trustee and I consider it a privilege to represent the parent and school community.

Jet Li

My name is Jet Li and I am standing for the Board of Trustees for Birkdale Primary School.

Personally, I am the father of Frida Li (year 4) and Dean Li (year 2) who are currently studying at the school. Since they started school, my family has been part of the school and the local community, where we developed our strong sense of belonging. We love our school and we enjoy making contributions to school life including being weekly swimming parent helpers and making dumplings for school gala.

Professionally, I am a Police officer currently based at North Shore Policing Centre. I have been working for NZ Police for the last 8 years. In year 2007, I gained a Bachelor Degree majored in Information Technology and E-Business from AUT.

I would like to stand for our School Board Trustee for three main reasons:

Above all, as a parent, I am concerned about our school and education. As a key stakeholder, I am willing to share my feedback and advice based on a parent's real needs and day-to-day experiences.

Secondly, Auckland is the world's Top 3 diverse metropolis and Birkdale Primary School is in the heart of a multicultural community. As an immigrant in Auckland, I understand how difficult it is for the new settlers to engage in the school environment, for instance, lack of knowledge about NZ educational system, the different educational and parenting styles between NZ and Asian countries as well as the lack of confidence due to the cultural and language barriers, etc. My skills and experience would contribute to cultivate the mutually-respectful and supportive school values so as to enhance the development under the inclusiveness in the long run.

Last but not least, as a public servant working for the community in a statutory role, I have my sense of social responsibility to contribute to the role in good use of my professional knowledge on the law changes, updated trends and circumstances in local community.

In conclusion, I am willing to serve on the Board of Birkdale Primary School. It is my privilege to work representing us, our children and the local community. I believe that I am able to contribute to the good governance of the school. With all of the good faith and efforts, the Board of Trustees will perform professionally, ethically and with integrity at all times.

Thank you.

Brenda Young

Ko te manu e kai I te miro, nana te ngahere,
Ko te manu e kai I te matauranga, nana te Ao.

Ko Kohuroa te Maunga
Ko Paerengarenga te Moana
Ko Waitononi te Awa
Ko Kurahaupo te Waka
Ko Ngatikuri Iwi
Ko Whakakohatu Hapu
Ko Waiora te Marae
Ko Brenda Young ahau

E noho ana ahau ki Birkenhead, North Shore.

Toku wha aku tamariki. Winton te matamua o te whanau, ratou ko Ezra, ko Joelle, ko Hamiora o te potiki o te whanau. Ko Samuel Dick rangatira hoa. Ko Muriwhenua ahau. No reira tena koutou tena koutou tena tatau katoa.

Sam and I and our two eldest children moved to Auckland 13 years ago, from Kaitaia. I work for Te Puna Hauora Social services and Sam works as a registered drain layer for Pipeworks an umbrella company for Fletchers.

Winton our eldest is a builder, we are waiting for his graduation, to become qualified. Winton plays league for Northcote Tigers reserves as second row. Ezra 15 years old, is in year 11 at Northcote College and enjoys tag and has been fortunate enough to be selected for NZtag20 u16's mixed team competition in Australia later this year. Joelle 10 years old, is in year 6, she is in Te Puawaitanga at Birkdale Primary School. Joelle is very creative and enjoys art and drawing. Hamiora is 8 years old, and is a year 4 in Te Puawaitanga. Hamiora likes to read books and enjoys playing with his friends at school.

I have had previous experience as a board member. In 2007-2009 I was the secretary for Onepoto Primary School, under the chairperson Brenda McPherson. I have previously been a board member at Birkdale Primary school, as Maori representative in 2015 and 2016, under the chairperson Anneka Anderson. On occasions, I attend Northcote College Board meetings. I have an invested interest in education for my children, to reach their fullest potential and be the best they can be. Being on the board is about governance and decision making of an organization and seeks to ensure the best interest of stakeholders in all types of management decisions. I want to be able sit at the table and make decisions not only for my children but for all children.

Anneka Anderson

Kia ora,

My name is Dr Anneka Anderson, I have been the chairperson for the Board of Trustees for the last three years. I would like to re-nominate myself as a candidate for the forthcoming Birkdale Primary School board of trustees' 2019 election.

I am the mother of two amazing boys- Lachy and Caden, who attend Birkdale Primary School. Lachy is in Mahoe, Te Puāwaitanga, and Caden in Kōwhai. As the current chairperson of the school's Board of Trustees and an elected parent trustee, I have experience in strategic planning, developing the school charter, monitoring the school's performance and providing a parent perspective to each of these aspects. I am a Director of teaching and Senior Researcher in the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, University of Auckland. In addition, I undertake medical research.

As part of my teaching portfolio I design and implement educational curriculums, courses and assessments. Develop teaching practices of teaching staff and goals to improve the learning and achievement of students as well as to monitor achievement outcomes. I believe that these skills are directly applicable to the Board of Trustees in relation to strategic planning, setting priorities and goals for improvement of learning and to monitor and evaluate these outcomes.

My research is focused on health inequities with New Zealand. I work within a number of different contexts including rheumatic fever, tuberculosis, aging, neonatal health care and community health promotion. My research is participatory and community driven, meaning I work in partnership with a diversity of people including: children, elderly, community organisations, patients, health practitioners and health services. In addition to being able to work well with people I also undertake translational-based research, meaning that I use evidence-based data to create recommendations and policies to improve health service provision and national health outcomes in New Zealand. I believe that being able to collect, analyse and apply data from a variety of information sources into written policy documents has been and will continue to be of value in my role on the Board of Trustees.

As a mother, current BOT member, and lecturer I am passionate about and committed to the health, well-being and education of our children, our whānau, and our community. If re-elected, I will do my utmost to ensure that these values and the current high standards of our school are maintained, and where possible, improved.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sam Benner

Kia Ora, my name is Sam Benner, and I've served on the board at Birkdale Primary since May 2017, deputising as chairperson on occasion.

In my spare time, I head up a team at LottoNZ, and no, I don't have the numbers for Saturday.

I'm a proud resident of Salisbury Rd and Birkdale for the last 14 years. I currently have two children at Birkdale Primary, and have enjoyed watching my sons grow and develop in the unique and caring environment Birkdale Primary provides its students. We are very fortunate to have the services of an amazing principal and her wonderful team who have fostered our core values of kaitiakitanga and manaakitanga amongst our children, and I believe the board has the ability to offer further support to Adrienne and her team to allow them more time to focus on our kids.

Being a school board member involves many hours reviewing policy, educational data and legislation, but it is our responsibility, and a key part of ensuring our children can learn and grow in a safe environment.

As a board member I'd like to see us further champion engagement with our wider community. Both in terms of the way we communicate with parents, but also in the way we engage with wider community organisations. I'd like to see the school's profile raised, and many more of our wonderful stories told to a wider audience to aid with our fundraising efforts and our own standing within the community.

We are educating our children now for a future much different to our present. Fostering curiosity in a caring and safe environment remains at the core of our charter and I feel this is the best way to prepare our kids for whatever challenges they may face in the future. Technology and education in the digital space is becoming more and more important and I feel that our plans to develop curriculum here are a step in the right direction.

As a new board member I quickly realised equity in education was a strong legislative priority. Now, two years later, I'm very firmly of the opinion that this should remain a priority for any school board. Every child deserves the opportunity for a great education and while we will always have our challenges, our greatest will be to make sure every child can reach their full potential.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tate Gibbes

My name is Tate Gibbes, I have been a parent representative on the Board of Trustees for approximately 18 months now and have enjoyed working with both the board members and exceptional staff of Birkdale Primary School.

I have 3 children, who have all attended Birkdale Primary School, my youngest still currently a student in year 5.

I work in the architectural industry, and have used my experience and skills to be involved with the Library rebuild project as well as many other property issues as they have arisen. I have enjoyed my experience so far and look forward to continuing to serve the school, children, and families if elected to the board again.

Thank you for your consideration.

Shannon Leilua

Talofa lava, Kia Orana kotou te katoatoa, Kiaora.

My name is Shannon Leilua, I am a local parent, and am training to be a teacher on the Huarahi Māori programme at the University of Auckland. I have one child who currently attends Birkdale Primary School and another about to start. I have a very multicultural background, I was raised on the North Shore from birth by my grandparents. My grandmother was from the East Coast in Gisborne a fluent speaker of te reo Māori, and my grandfather a full blooded Samoan and a very highly regarded chief, he was from Western Samoa, a place where I would spend a lot of time during my upbringing.

I am a current student of the University of Auckland completing a bachelor of education. I also have a Certificate in Whānau Development completed at Massey University. My education and upbringing enhance my knowledge with working with families across the board also to strengthen the work that I do within three communities, those being: Northcote, Glenfield and Beach Haven. I have also worked across East, West and South Auckland with my work within the church. I am a Registered Minister with the Ratana Established Church. In this role, I am often called in to support families in need, I also advocate for families with Child Youth and Families.

I believe myself to be a positive leader within the community. My connections with Māori and Pacific families allow me to liaise and be that voice for these families within the community. These are skills I can bring to the Board of Trustees.

I am thankful to my grandparents that raised me in a multicultural household learning customs and protocols of my heritage, also laying down the foundation that makes me proud of who I have become. I believe that I would be an asset to the Board of Trustees within Birkdale Primary School to make positive and important decisions for the benefit of the children attending the school.

Faafetai tele lava, Ngā mihi, Kia manuia