



Candidate statements | 2025 elections

Primary principals sector

Douglas Andrew BLACK



Location: Paeroa

Academic qualifications

Bachelor of Arts

Post Graduate Certificate in Education

Master of Education

Current position

Principal at Elstow Waihou School - 3 1/2 years as Principal at a rural Primary School just outside of Te Aroha in the Waikato.

Active teaching experience

Teacher, Faculty Leader (Arts), Deputy Principal and Acting Principal at Alfriston College 2005 to 2014

Principal at Paeroa College 2014 to 2018

Principal at Elstow Waihou Combined School 2021 to current

Governance experience

Board of Trustees member (over last 10 years for various terms) Ardmore School, Tirohia School, Karangahake School, Netherpton School (current)

Principal Board member Paeroa College, Elstow Waihou School, Alfriston College

Governance Advisor for NZSTA 2020 to 2021 (18 months) and current NZSBA provider

Member of Teaching Council Competency Authority

Personal interests

Lifestyle block farming, kids (3 boys of my own), cars (I race in a 'Lemons' racing series with a team of friends), travel, reading, retro computers!

Profile statement

Tēna koutou,

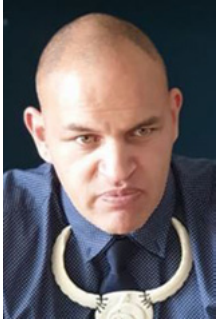
Teachers deserve a council that promotes, supports and provides value to support the development of our profession. I'm a 'lifer' in education with a strong belief in equity. I've worked as Principal and Senior Leader in both Secondary and Primary schools and am a current rural Primary Principal.

I believe that I can influence education positively and I've had the pleasure of working with a number of schools as a board member both in the Primary and Secondary sectors. I also spent 18 great months advising on governance for NZSTA and still provide support for boards on an as needs basis.

I've loved my time as a Primary Principal and plan to stay for a lot longer. Primary is a wonderful, high achieving sector with amazing professionals that deserves a positive profile.

My broad experience of education can help to develop TC into what it needs to be!

Anthony DE THIERRY



Location: Nelson

Academic qualifications

Poumanawa Matauranga Whakaakoranga, Poutāhū Whakaakoranga (Post Graduate Diploma in Education (Māori Medium)) Poutāhū Whakahaere (Post Graduate Diploma in Māori and Management).

Current position

Tumuaki since 2019

Active teaching experience

2004 - Bi-lingual Teaching Scale A Teacher - New Entrants Years 1 - 2

2006 - 2012 - Bi-lingual Scale A Teacher of Te Reo Māori Whānau Enrichment Unit (Years 7 and 8)

2012 - Year 6 - 8

2013 - 2014 Year 4 - 6

2016 - 2018 mixed years

2018 - Present NCEA Wharekura

Governance experience

2018 Acting Tumuaiki member of Board of Trustee Member

2019 - present Tumuaiki member of Board of Trustee member

Personal interests

Whānau

Hāhi

Education

Reo Māori

ICT

Music

Cultural Activities

Basketball, Wrestling, various Martial Arts

Entertainment

Profile statement

Kei aku nui, kei aku rahi e rere ana ngā mihi ki a koutou katoa,

Ko tāku he mea mangai mō ngā tamariki mokopuna katoa Māori mai, Taiwi mai. Ko te mana nei ko te Matatū Aotearoa he ohu whakaae ki ngā pūkenga ka noho hei pouako, he mea nui tēnei haepapa.

Ko taku anō he arahi i tēnei kawenga, he mea tautoko i ngā kura me ō rātau whiringa pouako, nā, ka kitea he tukanga, he punaha anō pea hei tautoko.

Heoi anō

Brendon John FIEBIG



Location: Morrinsville, Waikato

Academic qualifications

Post Graduate Diploma in Education (Primary)

BA (Sociology & Education)

Current position

Principal of Tatuani School, Morrinsville, Waikato

Management & Governance of the school, Curriculum Lead, Leader of Learning

I have been in this position for 1 year, but this is my 6th Principalship in total, in schools in Gisborne, Auckland, and Rarotonga.

Active teaching experience

January 2024 - Current, Principal, Tatuani School, Morrinsville.

January 2022 - Dec 2023, Principal, Makauri School, Gisborne.

January 2018 - Dec 2021, Team Leader/Teacher, Morrinsville Intermediate.

January 2016 - Dec 2017, Principal, Apii Te Uki Ou, Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

July 2014 - December 2015, Principal, Waitoki School, Auckland.

January 2013 - July 2014: Teaching Principal, Tapora School, Auckland.

January 2011 - December 2012: Teaching & Learning Advisor, Cook Islands Ministry of Education.

July 2009 - January 2011: Deputy Principal, Birkenhead School, North Shore.

July 2006 - July 2009: Teaching Principal, Ngatapa School, Gisborne.

Jan 2004 - July 2006: Teacher, Stanley Bay School, Devonport, North Shore.

Governance experience

January 2024 - Current, Principal, Tatuani School, Morrinsville.

January 2022 - Dec 2023, Principal, Makauri School, Gisborne.

January 2016 - Dec 2017, Principal, Apii Te Uki Ou, Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

July 2014 - December 2015, Principal, Waitoki School, Auckland.

January 2013 - July 2014: Teaching Principal, Tapora School, Auckland.

July 2009 - January 2011: Deputy Principal, Birkenhead School, North Shore.

July 2006 - July 2009: Teaching Principal, Ngatapa School, Gisborne.

Personal interests

My interests are Sport (Football & Cricket), Music (I play guitar, drums, and a little bass and ukulele), Travel, Physical fitness and the arts

Profile statement

I am a seasoned educator with 20 years of experience, including 17.5 years in school leadership across diverse regions such as Auckland, Gisborne, Waikato, and the Cook Islands. I am currently into my 6th principalship. I am skilled in performance management, mentoring, and coaching, and getting the best out of my staff. As a teaching and Learning Advisor in Rarotonga I coached, mentored, and trained local teachers and School Leaders, including performance and disciplinary meetings. I am committed to upholding the highest personal and professional standards for myself, and expect likewise from others. As role models teachers must strictly adhere to a clear set of standards and guidelines. My goal is to ensure that mana is returned to the teaching profession, that we produce outstanding trainee teachers, and all teachers maintain the highest of personal and professional standards, and deliver exemplary teaching and learning programmes.

Stacey HONEYWILL



Location: Oamaru

Academic qualifications

Bachelor of Education

Current position

Tumuaki at Te Pākihi o Maru

Te Pākihi o Maru (formerly Oamaru North) was a under Statutory Management when I accepted the role of Tumuaki. In the 4 years that I have been there I have led significant change management to provide a positive and culturally sustainable learning environment.

I have vast experience in:

- Visionary leadership
- Team leadership and management
- Strategic planning
- Change management
- Governance
- Funding applications
- Effective communication
- Community relationship building
- Curriculum development
- Data analysis and assessment
- Budgeting and resource management
- Equity and inclusion
- Development of Policy and Procedures

Active teaching experience

2008 - Weston School

2009-2015 - Palmerston Primary School

2015 - 2020 - Tumuaki, Waitati Primary School

2020 - current - Tumuaki Te Pākihi o Maru

Governance experience

Te Akatea - Vice President (current member of the Executive)

Kati Huirapa ki Puketeraki - Executive

Moeraki Runaka - Executive

Combined Runaka Education Roopu - Executive

President of Otematata District Club 2023

Recently appointed to the Board of the Otago Community Trust

School Board

Personal interests

My interests include promoting education, particularly in culturally significant contexts, as well as engaging in recreational activities that celebrate heritage and identity. I enjoy supporting and organising community events. To maintain fitness and well-being I swim, wakeboard and enjoy reading and spending time with whānau and friends.

Profile statement

I am deeply committed to advocating for equity and opportunity for Māori in education. I believe in honoring Te Tiriti o Waitangi and He Whakaputanga by ensuring that Māori students have access to culturally sustainable learning environments that affirm their identity, language, and heritage. I am dedicated to working alongside whānau, iwi, and educators to create a future where Māori success is celebrated and education becomes a powerful tool for self-determination and empowerment.

I am eager to bring my leadership skills to the board, contributing to its strategic vision and collaborative decision-making processes. With a strong background in fostering inclusive environments, driving innovation, change management and aligning teams toward shared goals, I am committed to supporting the board's mission and values. My experience in empowering others, navigating complex challenges, and building strong relationships will enable me to add value to governance and policy discussions.

Gary MARSH



Location: Dunedin

Academic qualifications

Bachelor of Education

Diploma of Teaching (Primary)

Current position

Principal at Balaclava School in Dunedin for the last 10 years.

Active teaching experience

Taught for 16 years in Central Otago at a variety of schools, including teaching in South East London during the traditional OE.

Reading Recovery, ALiM and MST trained.

Governance experience

11 years on Board of Trustees - 10 as a Principal.

Personal interests

Bogan - owner of a 1966 Mark 1 Ford Cortina, a wannabe surfer who plays in the whitewash, spending time with my 19, and 17 year old children and attending live music concerts.

Profile statement tement

Kia ora Colleagues,

Why vote for me?

- I am a teacher and principal of 25 years who is focused on making outcomes better for our profession - 10 years as principal at Balaclava School in Dunedin

- Member of the Otago Primary Principal's Association Executive

- I am passionate about teaching and learning across the sector

- Our profession needs better promotion - to be a career more aspire to

- With all the changes occurring in our profession we need to ensure policy from Wellington is accurate, timely and for the better of our students and profession

- I have no political aspirations - I'm in it for the right reason to improve outcomes for Tamariki, Kaiako and Tumuaki

- I am proactive and look for positive outcomes

I would appreciate your vote!

Ngā Mihi Nui,

Gary

Patrick William Christopher NEWMAN



Location: Whangarei Te Tai Tokerau

Academic qualifications

Ko Hikaroroa te mauka

Ko Waikowaiti te awa

Ko Kaā waka; ko Uruao, ko Araiteuru ko Takitimu hoki

Ko Waitaha, Mamoe, Kai Tahu ka iwi

Ko te hapū ko Kati Huirapa

Ko te Marae te Puketeraki

Ko Pat Newman ahau

MNZM. T.T.C. Dip Ed(Waikato) B.Ed.(Massey) Dip Tchg. ANZPF. FNZEI

Current position

Principal Hora Hora School Whangarei

Active teaching experience

1976-1976: Opotiki Primary, Bay of Plenty, A Scale(BT)

1977 - 1978: Pakuranga Intermediate, Auckland, A Scale(BT)

1979 - 1982: Bay of Islands Intermediate, Te Tai Tokerau, A Scale(BT)

1981: Tutamoe, Te Tai Tokerau , Principal Seconded 1 term

1982-1985: Arohena, King Country/Waikato Principal

1985-1987: Tirohanga, King Country/Waikato, Principal

1988-1990: Omarama, Central Otago, Principal

1990-1999: Seddon, Marlborough, Principal

1999-Now: Hora Hora, Te Tai Tokerau, Principal

Governance experience

1981 - Now

Experienced principal of schools, isolated rural to city.

1995 - 2007

Elected National Executive, NZPF. Membership Convenor. Organised original Email Tree. NZPF Representative NZEI Negotiating team for two principal collectives.

1996 - 2022

Te Akatea - Maori Principals.

1973 - Now

NZEI Member, have held various offices at a local/regional/national level. FNZEI

2005 - 2006

National President New Zealand Principals' Federation, Public Spokesperson for NZPF.

2007

Immediate Past President New Zealand Principals' Federation

2007 - 2023

President of Te Tai Tokerau Principals

2023

TTPA Immediate Past. Spokesperson

2007 - 2010

Team Solutions Advisory Board

2002 - 2006

Member NZ Principal Leadership Council Massey University

2007 - 2014

Treasurer Hikurangi Rugby Northland

2008 - 2016

Elected Principals' Representative Teachers Council. Chair Audit Risk Committee. Complaints Assessment Committee Member.

2019 - Now

Elected by NZ Primary Principals to the Education Council of Aotearoa. Currently member Risk and Audit Committee.

Personal interests

Slayer of Political Soothsayers!

Reading Fiction - this could include much from MOE these days, camping, politics, Television, wine beer tasting in various formats, fishing (If you call my results such) and food!

Profile statement

Our profession as a whole, our role within the profession as principals, is under attack to a degree that I have never encountered before.

Six Council members including the Chair will be appointed by the Minister, but only after approval by the Honors and Appointments Committee lead by Luxon, Seymour and Jones.

Who will be appointed? This makes your vote so so important. This is a time for real experience and real fortitude in your representative. Most of you know that I certainly fit that description!

In my time on NZTC, I have very strongly advocated for Primary Principals at the table, where Principals needs and views could easily be swamped!

The next 3 years is about you having strong, experienced advocacy. It's about you having a representative with the experience, courage and the passion to ensure principals and our profession are heard strongly. It's about making that difference.

Michelle RYAN



Location: Matamata, Waikato

Academic qualifications

Diploma of Teaching (ECE), Bachelor of Education, Master of Educational Leadership

Current position

I am currently the Principal of a U4 contributing school in the rural town of Matamata, in the heart of the Waikato. I have held this position for the past 5 years. Our school community is 48% Maori students with a high number of neurodiverse learners.

Active teaching experience

Active teaching experience: Kindergarten Teacher at Miropiko Kindergarten 2001-2003

Scale A teacher Rhode Street School 2004 - 2014,

Assistant Principal Rhode Street School 2006 - 2014

Foundation Deputy Principal Endeavour School June 2014 - 2019 -

Principal Firth Primary School Principal - 2020 - present

Governance experience

ACET Governance group 2006

NZEI Te Riu Roa Waikato Branch Secretary/Treasurer - 2006 - 2019

NZEI Te Riu Roa - Waikato Area Council - Secretary - 2007 - 2018

NZEI Te Riu Roa Primary Teachers Negotiation team - 2019

Matamata Principals Association Chair - 2023 - present

NZEI Waikato Area Council Chair - 2024

Personal interests

I am keen sports person and play socially both Netball and Touch Rugby. I have a specific love for the beach and enjoy spending time with whanau.

Profile statement

As a principal I am committed to embracing cultural values, demonstrating excellence and fostering mutual respect to uphold and advance the mana of the teaching profession. I believe strengthening public perceptions of educators is a critical step forward as our profession comes under increasing political and social pressures. Educators must be recognised for their knowledge of the communities they are responsible for, and therefore what is required for all tamariki to achieve equitable education outcomes. I am committed to a Te Tiriti o Waitangi based education system, which is led by educators. As a principal I have a clear understanding of what is good for ākonga and see the work of professional teachers in meeting learner needs and diverse community challenges. I will contribute 20+ years of experience from early childhood, and classroom teaching, principalship and governance roles to the board, working for a professionally led, quality public education system.

David Anthony SCOTT



Location: Christchurch

Academic qualifications

Master of Education (Educational Leadership) - Distinction, The University of Canterbury

Post Graduate Certificate in Education, Leeds Metropolitan University

Bachelor of Science (Hons) - First Class, The University of Greenwich

Current position

Headmaster

Medbury School

To lead Medbury School towards achieving its strategic vision in a manner consistent with the Medbury School Mission Statement. Through the pursuit of educational excellence, effective management of staff, and ensuring the design and delivery of an educational programme that enriches each boy's learning, building strong relationships with parents, whanau, staff, and boys.

In post since January 2023

Active teaching experience

Middle School Principal - Kristin School - January 2016 to December 2022 | www.kristin.school.nz

Deputy Principal - Scots College - January 2014 to December 2015 | www.scotscollege.school.nz

Director of Boarding - Scotch College, Adelaide, Australia - January 2011 to December 2013

Boarding Housemaster & Teacher - Christ's College - January 2001 to December 2010

Director of Rugby and Teacher - Latymer Upper School, London - September 1997 to December 2000

Teacher - Colfes's School, London - September 1993 to December 1996

Governance experience

Primary Sports Canterbury - Independent Director - 2024 to present

Medbury Foundation - Board Member - January 2023 to present

Medbury School Trust Board - Ex-Officio (Headmaster) - January 2023 to present

Personal interests

I have a keen interest in maintaining an active and healthy lifestyle. I see this as an essential part of my professional life in inspiring the well-being of students, fellow staff and the school community. Following an active team sports career, my focus shifted to triathlon and multi-sport. I have run many marathons and half-marathons and completed several half-ironman and Ironman triathlons. I have also completed the NZ Coast to Coast and numerous other multi-sport races. In August 2012, I ran seven marathons in 7 Australian cities in 7 days to raise scholarship funds for Indigenous education (Yalari). In 2018, I ran the Great Wall Marathon in China to raise scholarship funds for students who would not normally be able to attend to attend Kristin, raising \$50,000. I am also a keen road cyclist and have competed in many events. In October 2022, I completed the Tour Aotearoa (bike packing), the length of New Zealand (over 3000km) in 21 days, unsupported, to raise money for The New Zealand Lung Foundation (raising \$9,000). As you can see, community service is very important to me, and through my various sporting and community interests, I have raised well over \$150,000 for different charitable causes.

Other interests and hobbies include scuba diving; I am currently working towards obtaining PADI (Scuba) Dive Master status and am a keen wreck diver when time allows. I play golf and squash. I enjoy reading and have a particular interest in Second World War history. I love film and theatre and am an aspiring amateur cook!

Profile statement

An innovative, energetic, and highly experienced future-focused Principal and educational leader, I thrive on challenges and love facilitating those 'aha moments' that change mindsets and open up new possibilities. I'm passionate about education and helping young people realise their potential to be the best versions of themselves. I enjoy partnering with staff, students and communities to drive results, increasing outcomes and engagement. I am a champion of holistic values-based education and believe my extensive school leadership experience and skills make me an ideal fit to represent the Primary Principals Sector.

Lynda Maree STUART



Location: Mt Eden Auckland

Academic qualifications

Bachelor of Education

Masters of Educational Administration and Leadership

Current position

Currently Principal of May Road School in Mt Roskill Auckland

Active teaching experience

Teaching New Windsor School

Sunnyvale Primary

Various relieving positions over years of young children

Owairaka District School - Scale A teacher/ Senior Leader / Assistant Principal

1999 - 2002 Finlayson Park School - Literacy Leader/ Deputy Principal

2003 - 2006 Owairaka District School Deputy Principal

2006- current Principal May Road School

also 2017-2019 (three years) President New Zealand Educational Institute Te Riu Roa

Governance experience

Staff Rep on Board of Trustees at Owairaka District School

Member of National Executive (governing body) of New Zealand Educational Institute Te Riu Roa 2013 - 2022 - inclusive of chair of Finance Committee.

President New Zealand Educational Institute Te Riu Roa 2017-2019

Previously on NZ Teachers Council in the last 5 months of its existence as the NZEI Te Riu Roa representative

Education Council of Aotearoa New Zealand 2014-2016

Foundation trustee of Aotearoa Educators Collective

Member of May Road School Board of Trustees

Personal interests

Family

Walking

Reading

Movies

Activities with friends

Profile statement

Ko Lynda Stuart toku ingoa

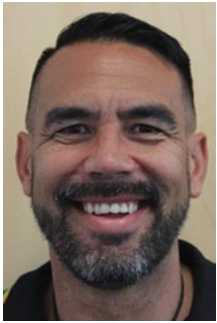
I am currently the Principal of May Road School in Mt Roskill. May Road School is in the heart of Mt Roskill, Auckland and is a U4 school in the midst of a new housing development.

I began my journey as a Principal in October 2006. I have held many senior leadership positions in a variety of schools during my career and within the education sector. I have had the opportunity to speak and facilitate at both national and international conferences about education in Aotearoa.

I have held a wide variety of governance roles, inclusive of the NZ Teachers Council, Education Council of Aotearoa New Zealand, and am a former President of the New Zealand Educational Institute Te Riu Roa.

I have a strong commitment to working with diverse communities and embracing the language, culture and identity of each child.

Luke Teamaru THOMPSON



Location: Paerata, Franklin, South Auckland

Academic qualifications

Bachelor of Education

Graduate Diploma of Teaching

NZ Certificate in Level 1 and 2 Reo Rua

Current position

Principal at Paerata School currently - 2015

Franklin Principals Association - AIMS representative, Sports Representative.

Active teaching experience

Current - 2015 Principal at Paerata School

2014 - 2013 Deputy Principal at Valley School

2012 - 2011 Principal at Mercer School

2010 - 2008 Professional Sportsperson

2008 - 2004 Teacher Otatau School

Governance experience

Board of Governors - Paerata School Currently - 2015

Board of Trustees - Mercer School 2012- 2011

Personal interests

A keen fisherman, martial artist, rugby player and golfer.

Community Involvement:

Pukekohe Junior Rugby Coach 2023- 2018

Xtreme Martial Arts Instructor for over 25 years.

iTKD HP Panel - Employment of NZ Coaches and Management Teams for TwaeKwon Do.

Self Defence instructor working alongside NZ Police and Franklin Silver Lining Trust.

Profile statement

As an experienced and dedicated educational leader, I am passionate about fostering a thriving learning environment where every learner feels valued, empowered, and inspired to achieve their full potential. I am committed to achieving the best outcomes for all learners, developing and strengthening high-performing school teams, and building authentic whānau and kura partnerships that strengthen communities.

I believe high-trust and respectful relationships are the foundation of effective school organisations. They are critical for improving student outcomes, managing change, and building a strong, positive culture that connects whānau, students, staff, and the wider community.

I aim to bring this leadership perspective to support and strengthen the teaching profession of the Teaching Council. With a focus on equity, evidence-based practice, and Te Tiriti o Waitangi, I am dedicated to ensuring that teaching standards, professional growth, and system-level leadership reflect the aspirations of learners, teachers, and whānau across Aotearoa.