

Candidate Statements:

Ellyn Brunskill

Greetings, my name is Ellyn Brunskill and I have been an Aquinas Mum for 8 years now with two wonderful young people attending this great school. I've been married to Paul for nearly 25 years, and we have lived in the Tauranga all that time.

I would love to serve Aquinas School Board by representing the School, and I believe I can add my congruent values with those of the college. I am thrilled with the education that my, now year 13 son, has received and would like to give back by serving and contributing to the Board governing the school, as well as in making important decisions for the future of Our Young Students.

Specifically, through potentially being a parent representative, I would offer a primary focus on areas which affect the success of relationship building, self-respect and care for oneself which reflect on others in our youth community. I believe this is the most powerful way to give support to our students.

For 16 years, my husband and I have started and owned a New Zealand Sport business, and for more than 20 years I have been involved in the Financial and Strategic Management of this business as well many other small businesses throughout New Zealand, Australasia and the USA. I have loved working in business, analysis, management, and entrepreneurship and in recent months, I have decided to take on a new challenge of studying Real Estate as a Licensee. I also served on a non-profit committee in Tauranga for 2 years wearing many hats and roles. Here, I also was very involved in raising thousands in funds for necessities and growth of the organisation.

I am sure I can bring sound knowledge, wisdom and experience to the Board and to the School in the areas of Finance and Fundraising, Over-arching Strategy in a multitude of areas. I would also offer my golden experience and learning from successes and failures of 17 years of parenting as well as of my kind and compassionate values that come from those experiences.

I would see it as a true privilege to serve Aquinas College in this way.

Scott Kahle

Kia Ora, my name is Scott Kahle, I'm the current Chairman of the Aquinas College Board of Trustees. I have been on the board for a 3 year term now and 2.5 years of this as chair.

I would like to continue on the school board which will also coincide with my daughter's time at Aquinas currently in year 9, with two older children at Aquinas also.

I feel I'm an active contributor to the school community via involvement with sports, sponsoring school events/initiatives and through school governance.

Like any Governance board it is important to have a succession plan and also look at skill sets and competencies to support the organisation you are governing.

We are fortunate at Aquinas to have some great expertise on the current board with a mix of strengths in business acumen, education, legal, construction with a good dose of common sense.

We are also well supported in our Special Character from our Proprietors appointed representatives. I would like to thank and acknowledge the strong contribution that James Houghton and John McKay have provided to the school over the years and to our retiring Proprietors representative, Mary Washer. We wish them all the best and thank them for their service.

I am also grateful to those current board members who will re-stand and the opportunity it also presents to gain new energy and expertise.

As a board we have seen a lot of change at the College and the recent highlights would be:

- The appointment of our principal, Matt Dalton
- The continued success of the school's academic standards
- Increased engagement in our whānau group and focus on becoming more culturally responsive
- The sustainable financial position the school is now in
- The continued efforts our dedicated teaching and wider support staff apply to the school.

Personally, I feel it's important to have some on-going continuity of the board and be able to support new board member's and the school with a strong understanding of our schools budget position, helping support setting the school up for future role growth and continuing to deliver on our strategic plans.

Governance contribution is very important to me. Outside of the school board I'm also a Board member for a local charity and an independent Director of the Bay of Plenty Rugby Union.

I would value your support in my application to continue to help serve and support Aquinas College.

Nga mihi, Scott Kahle

Annmarée Kane

My name is Annmarée Kane and I am Mum of Kenya in Year 11. It is a privilege to put my name forward as a candidate for the Aquinas College Board of Trustees in 2019. Kenya has attended Aquinas College for a year following our move to Tauranga from Victoria, Australia. Before we moved across the Tasman our home was Ararimu in South Auckland.

In 2013 I was elected onto the St Patricks Primary School Board. St Patricks is in Camperdown, which falls within The Catholic Diocese of Ballarat. It was rewarding to be able to contribute to our wonderful school and I learnt a lot about the business of running a school during my time on the Board. I was only able to complete a year of my three-year tenure as we moved out of the district. One of the projects I was involved in during my time there was to set up a "Foodbank". We cooked and kept a stock of meals for distribution to those in our school community to support them in times of need. Nearly six years later "Foodbank" is still distributing meals, a legacy I am proud of.

As a family we have been involved with five other Catholic Schools so have experienced a variety of schools from primary to secondary, both co-ed and single sex. These included Emmaus, a primary school only six years old through to Loreto College Ballarat with over 140 years of history and

tradition. Each school was unique and has given our family many wonderful experiences.

Professionally I have held a variety of roles in the construction industry including time working as a Practise Manager for two companies. My husband Kerry and I also ran our own engineering business for many years on both sides of the Tasman. All these roles have fine-tuned my business and financial management skills and give me plenty of experience to offer Aquinas College.

Personally, I have a passion for sustainability and eco-friendly, toxin-free living. I like to share my green knowledge with others through my book "Living Green" and a blog. I would like the chance to support sustainability initiatives within the College community.

Thank you for opportunity to be considered for the Board of Trustees,

Colleen Lowe



Kia ora, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the Board members who are leaving in June after their sterling contribution and long-time commitment to our school and its community.

Thank you for taking the time to read my introduction, as I seek re-election as parent representative on the Aquinas College Board of Trustees.

I am Colleen, originally from Tokoroa, and have found myself here in the sunny BOP with my husband Steve, and son Tewi (who is currently in Year 11). I have enjoyed my involvement with our community, including time on the St Mary's Catholic School and Aquinas College PTA's, and more recently on the Aquinas College Board of Trustees for the 2016-2019 term.

In that time, we have worked collaboratively on some significant projects, including streamlining our strategic plan to ensure our focus is on what really matters, appointing our Principal, reviewing our culturally responsive practices, engaging in a robust reviews from ERO and the Diocese, and trying new ways of connecting with our community and staff.

I am keen to be part of the 'next steps' at Aquinas College. It is important we continue to:

- Focus on why we have our College – our special character, our Integration Agreement with the Ministry, and our commitment to our school's vision.
- Keep our students at the centre of our decision making, and critically evaluate how we are growing them as leaders and confident contributors, who are proud of who they are and where they come from.
- Develop our cultural responsiveness and inclusivity.
- Improve our connectedness and representation with our stakeholders.
- Foster the wellbeing of our students and staff.

My background includes education (classroom teacher, senior management, and independent consulting), and accounting/auditing. I am currently enjoying my Business Manager role in a local company.

I appreciate your time, Nga mihi nui.

Steve McGregor



My name is Steve McGregor and I am standing for the Board of Trustees at Aquinas College.

My wife Stephanie and I have been involved with Aquinas for the past 6 years through our children Hannah, in year 12, and Harrison in year 10. We are extremely fortunate to have a Catholic College in Tauranga and I believe that I can play a positive and progressive role as a board member over the coming board term.

I work as the Manager of Z Energy's Lubricants team importing and marketing the Caltex brand of oils/lubricants nationally. In my role I am charged with ensuring that all aspects of our business are functioning to the highest level and to ensure strategies and targets are met. This involves in-depth people management and ensuring we have the structures and processes in place to achieve our key objectives.

My prior experience with a school board was with Pahoia School where I served two board terms, my final term as Board Chair. During this period, we successfully integrated the school from single classrooms into collaborative learning spaces, we introduced an ICT vision based on an Apple platform, we built a new school hall/gymnasium and we also received a very positive ERO review from the Ministry of Education.

My current involvement with Aquinas College is as chairman of the Rugby Committee. I am passionate about sport and the role sport can play in increasing the self-confidence and leadership qualities of our kids.

Regards, Steve

Soi Pearson

Malo e lelei!

Ko hoku hingoa ko Soifua Tupou Pearson. Mum to Dominic (Year 11, TBC), Marcus (Year 9, Aquinas College), Malia, Evelingi (Year 7, Pyes Pa Road School) and Sammie (Year 5, Selwyn Ridge Primary School). While I am Tongan born, raised between NSW, Tonga and West Auckland, I choose Tauranga Moana to be home for my children and I. Our fāmilī have been a part of the Aquinas College whanau since 2016 and have actively supported the school in various capacities mainly in sports and cultural activities.

I currently work as a Whanau Mentor for The Salvation Army, am going into my fourth term as a trustee for Selwyn Ridge Primary and a board member for He Kaupapa Kotahitanga Trust which governs Awhina House, our new shelter for homeless women. My experience in governance over the last 10+ years is varied - mainly as a school trustee and in the community NGO sector at a local and regional level.

My interest in joining the Aquinas College board stems from having a heart to serve my community - whether it be on the fundraising bbq, parenting programme facilitator, Positive Lifestyles Programme facilitator, festival organiser, Whanau Ora Coordinator, football club committee H & S Officer, basketball committee member, Pasifika dance tutor, adult literacy support, board secretary, board Chairperson, or Dom's mum, the taxi driver.. community is where you'll find me, doing something.

Throughout my own experience at policy level through to frontline staff, I can appreciate the importance of having policies which are relevant, responsive to its community's realities, inclusive of all its stakeholders while being true to an organisation's values and mission.

Malo 'aupito for your time and considering my nomination.
Faka'apa'apa atu, Soi Pearson

Chris Phayer



Back for more! A current Board of Trustees Parent Representative, since 2016, and it's a privilege to offer service and continuity for another term of governance.

Admittedly a POM but, living in NZ since 1994 and surrounded by Kiwis at home, my wife Jo and daughters Jessica (Waikato Uni) and Ella (yr 13), it's a sure thing that I'm here to stay ☺. Our girls served their "apprenticeships" at St. Thomas More, where I also served my time on the BOT for 6 years, before Jess capped her stay at AC as Head Girl in 2018 and Ella is currently on the Student Executive. Proud is an understatement.

I believe the opportunity of good quality education for every child is a key to their future success and therefore it should always be available for our Aquinas families and whanau to take advantage of. Add a commitment of support for our Catholic community of students and families, and involvement with the strong foundation of service initiatives and programmes at AC and the achievements of the many can be outstanding.

I'm a self-employed Chartered & Registered Building Surveyor and Quantity Surveyor, with wide ranging experience in the construction industry, including consultancy, contracting, assessment of "leaky and defective" homes & schools, and project evaluations for the Christchurch rebuild work.

Away from work, sport is a passion and I have coached football at AC since 2013; currently co-coaching Senior Girls 1st XI. I believe the best of my personal attributes are being conscientious, honest, reliable, and providing a sense of humour (at least I think I'm funny ☺). I'm proud to have served our school and teaching community, but there is still work to be done, including decisions for our future campus and our community review of the AC Graduate Student Profile.

Aquinas College has a critical role of providing opportunities, guidance and hope for the futures of our next generations, with aims of inspiring and empowering all of our tamariki (children) to strive for success, in whatever they do. This can be aligned with a powerful understanding that caring for all members of our society will provide positive outcomes for all and a greater level of achievement and mutual satisfaction in the wider community.

Rod Way

Occupation: Husband/Father
Partner|Business Advisor – Advantage Business Limited

I am pleased to be putting myself forward as a candidate for the Board of Trustees at Aquinas College. I am married to Jodi and we have three children at Aquinas – Sam (Year 11) Charlie (Year 9) Gabbie (Year 8).

Our lives are focused around the college and ensuring the kids (ours and the "extended family" of kids that we come across) have the best opportunities they can possibly have. We encourage this through involvement in school sports, activities and on-going support for them to ensure they get the best outcome for their efforts and their own education.

Jodi and I have both studied at tertiary and post graduate level – myself in agriculture and then in business. We both know the value and essence of good education and that the rewards will be determined by the effort put in. Our kids have amazing teachers and resources available to them – which is a privilege many children won't realise until later in life.

I am passionate about assisting organisations to achieve their objectives – supporting people, strategic thinking and leadership to ensure the best possible chance of success.