
Monika Divis

My husband, Siva, and I have lived in Onehunga for over ten years. We have three children, Lydia in Year 4, Davinia in Year 1, and Michael starting Year 0 next year. I was lucky enough to grow up in this diverse and vibrant community and am a past pupil of Onehunga Primary School and local schools.

My love for learning was ignited at Auckland University where I left with a conjoint BA (Psychology), BSc (Statistics, Pharmacology, Physiology), and, MHSc Hons (Psychiatry) and I have relished continuing to learn formally and informally ever since.

I have had various roles in the community, health, and education sectors. My senior positions in organisational development have focussed on ways to implement best practice and innovative or unconventional solutions to learning, leadership, quality, and performance. Over the past ten years I have evaluated and judged on regional and national business excellence awards (Westpac Auckland Business Excellence Awards, NZ Franchise Awards, NZ Business Excellence Awards). Through this experience I have gained unique insights into the challenges that a cross-section of businesses have confronted and the capabilities required to successfully navigate these challenges.

I have held Board (Mother's Helpers, NZ Business Excellence Foundation) and Advisory roles (Weltec, MIT, CMDHB) which have given me an understanding of the complexities and differences that exist between governance and management. My education advisory positions have focussed on strategies to engage learners and participation in learning. I see the role of the school board being to represent families and provide direction and support to the Principal and her management team.

Onehunga Primary has gone from strength to strength. I want our school to build on its strengths and create an environment where our children feel secure to try new things, encouraged and inspired to pursue their interests and to develop skills that serve them well in their lives. I have enjoyed being involved with the school and am committed to continuing to develop an effective partnership between our school and our families. I would like to see our children forming strong and lasting friendships and a sense of belonging and connection with their community. Together, we can ignite their curiosity about the world around them and impart a desire to continue learning. Onehunga Primary is a great platform for our children to develop strength of character and grow confidence to be the best they can be.



Sisilia Eteuati

Talofa lava,

Both my two children are at Onehunga Primary School - my son Tigiilagi started in 2017 and my daughter Tanifatea started school this year. I am passionate about recognising all children's potential and helping them to reach it and laying the foundation for academic and cultural excellence. One of the things I love about OPS is the diversity in the school roll and I think it is very important that that diversity is reflected in the school board. I believe in the concept of aroha as listening to others and empowering and enabling their voice. If I was elected as a parent representative that's how I would view my role - listening to you as parents and ensuring issues you wanted raised are reflected so that we are all working together to ensure our school is achieving the very best for our kids.



I am a lawyer by profession and have worked in governance and I currently work as Chief Legal Counsel for a government department. I have previously been a member of a board of trustees with the Aoga Fa'aSamoa (a full immersion Samoan preschool). My children are bi-lingual, which is important to me having grown up in Samoa before coming to Auckland to do my law degree. I believe strongly in the importance of creative pursuits and continuing education and I have a Masters in Creative Writing with honours from the University of Auckland and have written for the School Journals series that is in our schools. I am also a single parent who comes from a family of teachers and I think their role is undervalued and underpaid and I am keen to ensure they have appropriate support and manageable workloads. I hope to draw on all these experiences, as well as those you have had, to make sure OPS is a place where all our kids can be happy and can thrive.

Kim Ford

My name is Kim Ford. My daughter is in year 3 and my son has just started in year 0.

I have worked in senior levels of Human Resources within the hospitality industry for over 15 years. I have worked through brand changes, renovation, construction – all manner of challenges to staff, guests and stakeholders alike. This keeps me on my toes, thinking strategically, and considering the impacts and resolutions that issues have across a variety of groups.

WITHDRAWN



Working full time, unfortunately I don't have as much time as I would like to be able to be at school on a regular basis but I do believe I have unique perspective and a skill set that would be useful to the continued progression of the school.

I look forward to being able to contribute to the OPS and the wider Onehunga community, as a Board of Trustee member.

Mark Garland

So who am I?

Hi, I'm Mark. My family has been part of the Onehunga community for 10 years and my eldest daughter is in Year 2 and is loving her time at Onehunga Primary. My son will be starting at the end of the year followed by my youngest daughter in a couple of years so my family will be involved in Onehunga Primary for the next 10 years or so.

And why do I want to be involved with the Board of Trustees?

I'm passionate about getting my children, their friends, their classmates and the wider school the best education they can get. Onehunga is a great school and a key part of the community, but faces growing challenges to keep the quality of education at a high standard, and you want people on the Board who really want to make a difference. I also think its good to give back to your community where you can.

And what do I have to offer?

My background is in marketing, and in particular understanding what really drives people and then creating strategies to drive change. This has often involved working in teams to deliver shared goals, and understanding others viewpoints. This is critical without losing sight that the Board's role is to deliver governance to provide the best quality of education possible. Specifically, I can provide guidance on improving communication with parents – using language that most caregivers will understand.

Veronica Tone Graham

Kia Ora, Talofa Lava and Greetings!

I'm Veronica, I'm Samoan (Vaimoso, Lufilufi) and I was born and raised in South Auckland (Mangere), and lived in Samoa from age 12-17.

I am a mother of 3 children, Christian in Room 12, and Matthias in Room 4 and I have a lovely little 6 month old girl Tausala, currently enjoying my maternity leave with me :). In terms of working experience, I have worked for Legal Aid Services, Tenancy Services, and for Oranga Tamariki (previously Child, Youth and Family) as a solicitor for the Onehunga and Otara offices.

I hold a BA (Arts) and LLB (Law) degree, which I completed some years ago, but after working at Oranga Tamariki I felt strongly compelled to retrain in order to work hand in hand with the families who were engaged with state care. I returned to university as a mature student, and completed an Honours degree in Science, and am currently undertaking a Doctorate of Clinical Psychology at the University of Auckland. In a nutshell, my doctoral thesis looks at young people on remand in New Zealand, and how remand can act as a pipeline to adult prison. My thesis looks at a tool that could reduce the number of children remanded to youth justice facilities – so that they can stay engaged with the protective factors in their lives (family, education, culture, sports etc), and be better supported toward a future where they might flourish.

I have a heart for those children who are struggling academically in school, and recognise that many come from my own cherished Pasifika community. I'd like to be part of a solution of improving the learning of Pasifika and Maori children.

Finally, I also believe that part of education should touch on inward-focused learning about ourselves (e.g. how our emotions, thoughts, behaviour and mood are all linked) and our relationships – so that we might arm our children with robust tools to deal with life challenges (present and future) when they threaten good mental health.

I don't have any experience with education boards, but am really keen to learn, grow and contribute.

Thank you, la Manuia

p.s. My husband Justin is also running – you can vote for him, but just so you know... I wear the pants :)



Justin Graham

I am an Onehunga resident together with my wife and 3 children. I have previously lived in Mangere, Mt Eden and Kawhia. I have worked for an International Accounting firm, the NZ Army as a UN Peacekeeper, and am now self-employed as a Barrister Sole in Manukau. I have an interest in Care & Protection proceedings for children and representing men in Domestic Violence proceedings such that they may commit to a violent-free future.

I was a board member for a Trust in South Auckland for about 6 years which operated day-cares. I am currently a board member for a Trust in Te Papapa operating a day-care. I am committed to assisting the board/school with any issues that face our students at OPS, and in providing a safe and caring environment for their primary education such that they may reach their full potential.

I have a BMS (Waikato) in accounting, and an LLB (Waikato). I support Maori and Pacific families, hence my practice through the Manukau District Court, and support wide ranging initiatives to promote long term advancement of their future well-being. My wife may also be running, so I would appreciate your vote over her 😊, although she is more competent than I will ever be!!!



Nicholas Lee

I have lived and had a business in Onehunga for 17+ years. My two children are both at Onehunga Primary (Y1+Y4) and as a school parent I have been encouraged by the development of the school by Viki, her team and the outgoing BOT. Currently, I'm actively involved in advocating for Onehunga via the Manukau Harbour Restoration Society (MHRS) and The Onehunga Enhancement Society (TOES).

My personal interests are urbanism, cycling and action against climate change. Onehunga is in the midst of a transformation as core hub for the city. A strong school is an important part of this process. I am also interested in how to improve access to digital education in Onehunga and South Auckland. I have a background in mathematics and at work I am a director of several businesses. This has given me experience in digital technology, supply chains, operations and logistics, project management and property development.

Diane McClymont

Hi, my name is Diane McClymont. My husband, Stephen, and I have lived in Onehunga for over 16 years. We have three girls - two who are still here at Onehunga Primary School (OPS) in year 4 & year 6 and one who has just started high school.

I love this community and have been highly involved in many different community groups over the years. I have been a board member here at OPS for the last three years and have thoroughly enjoyed working closer with the leadership to keep the school moving forward with great outcomes for all our children.

I currently work as an office manager and also run an after school art class. Before children I had a career in Graphic Design and a few years ago I completed a Diploma in Child and Adolescent Psychology. My passion is giving children creative outlets. I have enjoyed working with the kids at OPS on a number of artistic projects and in the choir. I am also enthusiastic for families to feel connected and supported within a strong community.

I would love the opportunity to represent OPS families on the board again. I value our diverse, inclusive environment in which our children learn and grow. I enjoy helping where I can - so I hope to continue progressing our building projects and help new board members with their role. Thanks so much.





Claire McConachie

Hello Onehunga Primary School Community,

My name is Claire McConachie and I am standing for the Onehunga Primary School Board of Trustees for the first time.

I have two boys at Onehunga Primary who are in Years 1 and 3. I am a Secondary School teacher at Epsom Girls Grammar School, where I am the Learning Area Director for the Health and Physical Education Department. Prior to this, I worked as a Dean at Epsom Girls and this role involved being responsible for the pastoral care of groups of students across all year levels. I am currently half way through completing a Masters in Educational Leadership.

I believe that schools play a broad and important role in education, not just in teaching our young people knowledge but helping them develop many other skills and dispositions they need to be successful community members. I am interested in helping all children succeed and have positive schooling experiences. Involving families in the education of their children and keeping them informed with what is going on within school classrooms and the school community is also important to me. I would like to support Onehunga Primary School to continue to be an important part of the community that we all live in.

I am excited about the introduction of the Friends Resilience programme at Onehunga Primary School, as I have seen how important it is for young people to develop resilience and positive self belief...clearly I am a little bit biased, as these concepts are at the heart of my subject area, the Health and Physical Education curriculum!

We have lived in Onehunga for 9 years and enjoy the diverse community that is also reflected in the great staff, children and families that are part of Onehunga Primary School. In my spare time you can find me cheering loudly on the side lines of my children's soccer games, drinking coffee and squeezing in some exercise when I can.

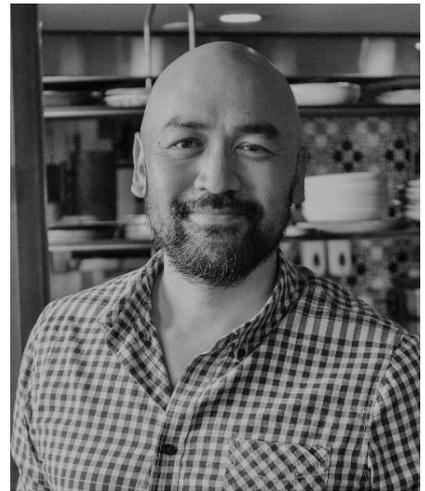
Charles Pludthura

My name is Charlie Pludthura. I've lived on Grey St for more than 10 years with my wife Jade, my son Rico (Yr 5) & daughter Elise (Yr 3). We couldn't imagine a better place to raise our family than Onehunga and feel lucky to be able to send our two kids to Onehunga Primary.

I truly believe we have a great local school and community. As a Dad, I have been involved in the Onehunga community as a coach for an Onehunga year 5/6 touch team at College Rifles and currently co-coach a 9th grade Onehunga Sports soccer team.

I began my career in law and education, then worked successfully in corporate management for over 15 years in the UK, Australia and NZ. I have an MBA, a Masters of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree. My career and education have gifted me with a broad range of skills relevant to school trusteeship including experience in Law, Marketing, IT, Finance, Public Relations, HR Management and board experience.

Being part of the School Board would be a real privilege, and an opportunity to share in not only my own children's experience at OPS but also in the experience of the families around me. I hope to help ensure OPS moves with the times and continues to challenge and recalibrate what it does by refreshing with new ideas and enthusiasm. I am genuinely passionate about quality education and improving outcomes, giving all our children the chance to become digitally capable and literate, seeing schools use resources efficiently and effectively, the prevention of bullying and loneliness in schools and ensuring our commitment to a bi-cultural and multicultural diverse community.



Richard Sami

I was born in Niue, in the Pacific Islands, and grew up in Mangere. I was educated in South Auckland and graduated with a BCom in Marketing and Management from Auckland University. I have lived in Onehunga since 2000 where my son Benjamin was a previous student who departed Onehunga Primary in 2010. Some of his previous teachers are all still teaching at Onehunga Primary. My 8 year old daughter Nieve is in Room 13 at Onehunga Primary. I am a police officer holding the rank of Senior Sergeant based at Auckland City.

I was co-opted to the Onehunga Primary Board of Trustees in 2017 and have enjoyed my time contributing to the Onehunga Primary School community as a board member. I would like the opportunity to continue in this role in the next Board of Trustees.



Ann-Marie Wickman

My name is Ann-Marie Wickman and I have a personal connection to the Onehunga community having lived in this diverse and vibrant suburb with my husband Colin and two children, for over 15 years, we love being a part of the rich, strong, community that we have grown to love and know as our home.

Both my husband and I have been actively involved with the wider community during this time and with the school for over seven years. We have two school aged children, one of which is at Onehunga Primary. From fundraisers, to sports, FotS, to helping with working bees, we are dedicated to doing our part and making a difference.

I initially trained as a Primary school teacher and following a few years teaching, I then travelled overseas. I now own an Event Management business, which gives me the flexibility to be involved with our school and to give back, an area I'm extremely passionate about.

I have a strong desire to see that all children succeed in life. I believe that quality education is the key to tapping into the potential that our children possess and that every child has areas that they can excel at, whether this is academic, artistic, creative or sporting. We want to create a sense of pride and self-achievement resulting in self-motivation for our children. At the same time, we really want our children to become good, confident, caring young people, who are given the tools to make strong, courageous decisions, setting them up to be great citizens of New Zealand.

I was elected to the Board in 2016 and have recently taken on the role of board chair. I have loved observing some of the great successes the school, teachers and children have been part of during that time.

During my term on the board I have gained an extensive amount of knowledge around key building projects, opportunities, needs and challenges that the school is currently facing as the community changes and continues to grow.

Decisions made during the next term of the Onehunga Primary School Board will make a difference to future generations. I would like the opportunity to continue with my work on the board to see these projects through. I am dedicated to the school, your children and our teachers.

