

INTRODUCING OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2025:

Chairperson: Suzanne Adair

Principal: Bernadette Murfitt



Suzanne Adair (Proprietor's Rep) - My name is Suzanne Adair and my husband, Matthew, and I have four children (Elizabeth, Alice, James and Charles). The youngest is at Sacred Heart Cathedral School. I was appointed to the Board of Trustees as a proprietor's appointee in 2016 and have been the chairperson since December 2018. I have also previously been involved in the Friends of Sacred Heart Committee. I work as a lawyer in the financial services sector. We returned to live in Wellington in 2015 after having lived in Singapore, London and Melbourne for 13 years.



Bernadette Murfitt (Principal) joined Sacred Heart Cathedral School in Term 2, 2016.



Kate Woodbury is the school's Staff Representative, Middle Syndicate Leader and is a classroom teacher.



Ryan Pareja (Parent Rep) is a seasoned IT contractor specializing in testing and analysis, with a career built on problem-solving, planning, execution and continuous improvement. For the past nine years, he's been a proud member of the Sacred Heart community - not just as a parent, but as someone deeply invested in the school's values and future.

Now serving as a first-time Board of Trustee, Ryan brings a listening, thoughtful and hands-on approach. His focus is on enriching and expanding learning opportunities for both students and staff, ensuring that Sacred Heart continues to thrive as a place of growth, curiosity, and excellence. Salamat!



Bekki Pope (Parent Rep) - Kia ora koutou, ko Bekki tōku ingoa.

My partner, Seminar and I are the proud parents of Frankie Manu (Year 5) and caregivers to our teenage niece, Ruby, an ex-student of Sacred Heart. I work as the Manager – Organisational Development at WorkSafe, where I support people and teams to grow and develop. I value fairness, humility, compassion and integrity - principles that align closely with the Catholic character of our school. I'm excited to be part of the Board and contribute to decisions that support every child's learning, wellbeing and sense of belonging.



Jay Manu'a (Proprietor's Rep) joined the Board of Trustees in March 2020, the week after attending my first board meeting, such was the impact I made, the country went into lockdown. I have twin girls Madeleine and Azaria who started at Sacred Heart Cathedral in 2019, so we are a new family to the school. My background is in management, governance and operational policy advice with the Ministry of Justice where I have worked for 17 years. We have been warmly welcomed by the school community. It is a privilege to serve as the proprietor's representative to ensure the integrity of the school's Special Character.



Johnny Asiata (Parent Rep) - Hi, I'm Johnny and I work as a Practice Manager at the New Zealand Defence Force. I look after the engineers - from senior through to junior making sure they're supported and set up to do their best work. I work closely with my colleagues to make sure our day to day work lines up with the bigger goals. I'm easy-going, approachable, and always happy to help out. Outside of work, I'm a proud dad of three. My two younger kids go to Sacred Heart Cathedral School (Year 5 and Year 1), and my eldest is at St Patrick's College Silverstream. Family and community are really important to me, and I try to bring that same energy into my work. I'm also currently learning to play the violin with my daughter which has been a fun (and challenging!) journey we're enjoying together.



Fr Patrick Bridgman (Proprietor's Rep) is the school's parish priest of Metropolitan Cathedral of the Sacred Heart.



Odette Hoera (Proprietor's Rep) - He uri nō Te Whakatohea, Te Whanau Ā Apanui, Ngati Kahungunu ki Tamaki nui a Rua.

I am a Project Manager by trade and mother to son Jackson who has been a student of Te Ahurewa o te Ngakau Tapu since 2019. We are members of Te Wairua Tapu parish ki Pito One and are blessed to have joined the school whānau.

I was appointed to the Board of Trustees in 2022 as a proprietor's representative and feel privileged to have the opportunity to guide and serve the school and wider school whānau.



Lalita Schmidt (Parent Rep) - Talofa lava! As the proud mum of Lyla (Year 6) and a multi-generational Sacred Heart family member, I bring a deep community connection and hands-on school experience running the middle and senior school netball programme and coaching various sports. New to the Board as of September 2025, I also bring professional expertise as an Account Manager at Cello, where I balance strategic planning with practical relationship-building. I'm passionate about championing student wellbeing, strengthening whānau-school connections, and ensuring every child has the opportunity to discover their strengths and feel they belong to our special kura.



Caleb Ware (Parent Rep) - Tēnā koutou katoa. I'm humbled to be able to serve on the Sacred Heart Cathedral School Board of Trustees. My wife and I have two daughters at the kura and love being part of this community. Outside of school, I work as a firefighter, sit on a number of community and iwi boards. In some of my spare time I run dive programmes that help people connect with the moana. I look forward to supporting and contributing to the awesome work of our kura so every child can flourish.