



West Melton SCHOOL

Te Kura o Papatahora

Driving a Passion for Learning

Board Newsletter

Issue 1 September 2022

Kia ora koutou Whānau,

Wow!, we find ourselves at the end of Term three. With a newly elected Board to take us through the next three years I'd like to take the time to thank a number of people for their contribution to our kura.

Lyndon Endicott-Davies, thank you for your dedication, commitment and hard work over the last 6 years. A significant contribution and time spent on a variety of projects over the years ensuring our often stretched funding goes further than we thought possible - even down to marking out the stalls on the field for the bi-annual Fetes.

Also farewell to Karey Hardcastle and Neil Duncan who were co-opted onto the board in 2020 bringing specific skills and experience that enabled them to hit the ground running. Your contributions and support are appreciated with a number of process updates, reviews and projects completed with your support.

To our incredible team at West Melton, thank you for your adaptability in what has been an ever changing landscape with Covid and subsequent winter flu challenges. Thank you for stepping up and ensuring the smiles at the school gate, akonga learning, connections and our values are lived everyday. This appreciation is extended out to our wider community for your patience, support and understanding during this time and as we head back towards normality we look forward to your continued support.

Congratulations to Stephanie Burkett for being awarded a full time position. Stephanie has been on a fixed term contract working in Ti Kouka this year and is loved by students, staff and families alike. Welcome to our team.

Thank you to all those who put their name forward in our recent board elections. Eleven strong candidates highlights the outstanding level of engagement and support for our kura. For those who were unsuccessful in this election round, thank you for stepping up and offering your services, and as we progress through the terms and school years, there are plenty of opportunities to offer support within our school community.

Finally, please enjoy reading through our September issue of the Board newsletter. There is plenty of information, from introducing the new Board, property updates to the school pool opening and 2023 Fete announcements.

Ngā mihi,

JOHN WILLIAMS (BoT Chair)

Welcome to our new Parent Rep Board Members



John Willats with family Anna, James (17), Oliver (15), Henry (13) and Sam (9)
I'm honoured to be re-elected to the West Melton School Board and will continue to support the school and community through the next term. We have another high calibre board elected and I am excited to work with them in representing you all, driving the strategic direction and growth of our kura. I look forward to meeting those families I haven't met yet. Feel free to say hi if you see me around.

Lissa Birse with family Nigel, Amira (14), Nate (12) and Lillie (11)
Thanks for the opportunity to serve on the school board for another term. There has been a lot of change and disruption recently for the school but the staff and students have shown true West Melton spirit and lived out the school values in every way. Our school is supported by such an amazing community and it's been a privilege to get to know so many families, staff and learners through this role. I'm looking forward to seeing what's next for West Melton School.



Joe Gradwell with family Abbey, Bailey (8) and Harry (5)
It is a privilege to join the Board and continue the great work that has been happening. We are thankful to have a group of great teachers led by Tracey. It is clear there is a lot of passion and pride. I am looking forward to working with the current and new Board members, to continue to provide a great school environment for our tamariki, teaching staff and the local community. My main goal is to contribute to the Board through my education, practical, managerial skills and problem-solving abilities. I am grateful to be voted on to the Board and hope to get to know you soon.

Andrea Innes with Laila (7) and Ethan (10), husband Peter not pictured.
As cliché as it sounds, I really am very thankful to the West Melton parents for placing their trust in me and my fellow Board members as we look forward to the next three years for our school. I'm excited by the prospect of working with the team to help progress this wonderful school, to help facilitate the needs of the community and ensure that our young people have every opportunity to succeed in their learning. I bring to the Board a background in marketing and corporate communications having spent the majority of my career in the legal and education sectors. During this time, I have engaged with leaders and boards to shape strategy and have honed skills that I hope to put to good use for the school.



Steve Hooper with family Rebecca, Summah (11) and Ruby (8)
I am married to Bex, and we have two daughters, Summah (year six) and Ruby (year four). As a family, we relocated from Waikato a little over four years ago and have thoroughly enjoyed living in West Melton and being part of the school community. I'm excited to be involved with shaping the future of West Melton School for all students alongside the fantastic teaching team and staff.

Property Corner

This year has seen a number of projects big and small.

TiKouka upgrade

Our Ti Kouka block upgrade project is currently being finalised and we are hopeful for works to begin in the Christmas holidays. Key upgrades include a refurbished toilet facility block, updated breakout spaces, heating and acoustic refurbishments.

The Balcony outside of Manuka is now complete with an industrial floor carpet to allow additional teaching space and shelter from the Nor West wind, and shade in the summer months. Special thanks to FoWMS for funding the carpet costs in this area.

Shade sails

With summer on the horizon, additional shade sails will be erected supplementing current spaces for all akonga to enjoy. Thanks again to FoWMS for supporting the cost of the sails.

An extension to our perimeter fence on the South side of our Kowhai block will allow for additional quiet space for akonga and as well as an outdoor area for our junior school during the summer months.

Front court upgrades have seen new basketball/netball hoops installed (to be completed ready for term 4). These hoops are relocatable with the insert of a new underground sleeve, allowing for the longer term planned larger court development. Installation thanks to the generosity of Dan Cunningham Builders, with the funding of the hoops from our FoWMS Fete fundraising efforts.

Pool upgrade

An updated pool filtration system complements the heat pump upgrades of last year, and ensures the longer term viability and compliance of this wonderful school asset. To complete the upgrade works, a full resurface paint and seal will be completed in the coming years.

Sports ground maintenance

Special thanks to McClenaghan Contracting and Freeman Irrigation for their generous support of the school grounds works and also to FoWMS who provide volunteer hours as well as funding for various projects.

Bike container and mural

The container is now in place and panels and the door added. All ready to store the 31 bikes being delivered over the holidays. Kathryn Meyers has finished painting the mural and put on two coats of anti graffiti varnish. Kathryn wished to thanks to Chris Fifield for the use of his scaffolding and sourcing the paneling, John Blondell for the use of his shed and tools, Shona and her team from Mitre Ten Mega Hornby and Valspar paint for their generous donation of their product. And lastly all the students and parent helpers who gave up their time to help.

School Pool

Great news - we have been able to work through a number of projects on the pool throughout 2022 and things are looking positive to be open after Show Weekend as normal.

As well as new shade protection - the pool has had a new filter system installed which has been a major upgrade including a new pump shed and roof replacement. The new system will ensure water is circulated fast and efficiently and handle some of the 'non-water' items sometimes found in the pool a little easier. However the cloudy water we have seen in recent summers is a result of fresh sunscreen in the water and not a filter issue so we would appreciate

families ensuring they apply sunblock at home and wait at least 20min before they enter the water to ensure we keep the pool crystal clear.

The work is on schedule to be completed for this coming season, however an impending complete resurface and paint job is scheduled for after this summer.

Closer to opening we will be providing info on key purchases and opening hours etc

Fete

The Board were delighted to hear the Friends of West Melton School (FoWMS) has planning underway for the 2023 Fete. To date the Fete's have raised over \$90,000 for the school and this has been used to add playspaces, outdoor learning areas, shade sails, basketball hoops, as well as tackling some smaller projects that aren't covered by standard Ministry of Education Ops Budgets.

A very special thank you to our Gold Sponsors who have signed up to support the event for the 4th time. Their support provides important seed funding for the Fete team to start planning with confidence by making bookings and promoting the event.



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Thank you also to the wonderful Friends of West Melton School team who volunteer their time each week not only organising the Fete but providing second hand uniform services, Fruju Friday, discos, sports uniforms, hardship funding, extra funding for learning resources and so much more, our kura wouldn't be the same with you.

*Enjoy the term break and
see you for Term Four!*