

Board Newsletter

Napier Kindergarten Association

May 2021

The joy of teaching, the love of learning

From The President

This year we are presenting at our Annual General Meeting (AGM) 3 nominees for positions on our Board.

The Board is made up of up to 9 people who are:

- A person who is an employee and has been elected by employees AND
- Up to 8 other Board members, elected by Voting members



The following nominees are standing for election at our 2021 AGM:

Lydia Johnston	co-opted, standing for election
Samantha Van Schooten	co-opted, standing for election
Nait Scott	co-opted, standing for election

If elected, they would join 3 other Board members who are part way through their current 2 year terms.

Additional vacancies will remain after the AGM, and we will consider co-opting further Board members following the AGM.

Each nominee is an Ordinary Member and each has provided information regarding their interest in a position on the Board (see over page).

The nominees will be introduced to our Members at our AGM, prior to voting. Members will have the opportunity to ask them any questions they might have regarding their standing for a Board position at the AGM.

Voting

Although we have fewer members standing for election than positions available, we are still required to conduct a vote for each nominee. Each nominee must receive a simple majority of votes in their favour to be elected (ie 51%).

Voting will be conducted by way of written ballot, the results announced the following day.

Who can vote at an AGM

A Voting member is any person present at the AGM who is:

- A kindergarten appointed Voting member (or their proxy)(Napier based kindergartens)
- An appointed Board Voting Member to vote on behalf of the Board
- A Board Member who has been selected to cast a proxy vote on behalf of our two Wairoa based kindergarten communities

Role of Our Board

Napier Kindergartens' Board is responsible for the governance of the Association and its role includes:

- Development of the Association's Strategic Plan
- Employment of the General Manager
- Monitoring of strategic outcomes
- Management of risk
- Monitoring of legal compliance
- Setting policies

Association AGM

Our Association AGM is being held at:

Carlyle Kindergarten,
113 Thackeray St, Napier

Wednesday 23 June 2021
7pm

AGM Agenda

An AGM agenda will be distributed to kindergartens prior to the meeting.

AGM Quorum

We need a minimum of 50% of Voting members or their proxies to be present.

If a quorum of Voting Members is not present, a quorum can be achieved if we have 10 people present who are Voting Members, Ordinary Members or Life Members.

Kelly O'Leary
President



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Proxy votes

If a Voting Member is unable to attend an AGM they may assign their voting power to another Member (proxy) to cast votes on their behalf. The original, written authority assigning the voting power to another Member must be received by the General Manager before the commencement of the AGM. A copy or email version of the authority is not able to be accepted.

Board Nominees:

Lydia Johnston



I am the mother of 3 girls (aged 6, 4 and 18 months), with one child (Emily) who attends one of the Napier Kindergartens and another (Claudia) only 6 months away from joining.

I am thrilled my girls are having the kindergarten experience and the joys of discovery and interaction with the world at large it presents.

I am a full time working mother who is a lawyer for a large tech company and have board and governance experience to bring to this position.

I am passionate about early childhood education and the community it supports. Napier Kindergarten is a crucial part of the community it represents and it is important it does represent the needs of that community.

It has been a rewarding experience joining the board late last year and with a few months under my belt it feels like the board has got its feet under it. I would like to continue to offer up whatever assistance I can to the board of Napier Kindergartens.

Remaining open and engaged with all parts of the kindergarten community is important to me - please feel free for a discussion at any time!

Samantha Van Schooten



My name is Samantha van Schooten and I have been in New Zealand for the past 13 years after studying and working in Early Childhood education in the Netherlands. I currently have one child at kindergarten.

In New Zealand I have worked in hospitality for several years and since 2016 we have been running our own small roofing business. I am responsible for the admin/accounting side and my husband does the manual labour work and manages our staff.

I love living here in Napier and am hoping to be more involved in the education system to make sure our children receive the best educational experience as possible, especially during those early years.

I would love to learn more about the organisation and have a say in the future of the kindergartens.

I have good critical thinking and communication skills, am a team worker, proactive and motivated. I am confident that I have the right skills and experience to be an asset to your board.

I was co opted to the Napier Kindergartens Board in May 2021 and am standing for an elected Board position.



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Nait Scott



There are a number of reasons why I'm interested in standing for an elected Board position on Napier Kindergartens Board.

Firstly, the "self interest" piece.

My eldest son – Oscar – is almost three and has been attending Te Awanga Kindergarten for approximately 3 months now. He is absolutely thriving there. He loves the teachers, the grounds, the other children (except during his hitting phase....) and the activities. I also have another son – Ted – who will no doubt join Oscar there in 18 months or so.

Why I want to be a board member is to support the teachers, the system and the governance of Napier Kindergartens, as it (selfishly) means my two sons are getting to go somewhere where they can truly thrive.

With that out of the way....

Having just moved from Auckland (don't panic, I'm an "original" Hawkes Bay resident – raised in Dannevirke), where I spent approximately 2 years on an Early Learning Centre as Treasurer, I quickly discovered that early childhood centres – whether they be kindergartens, crèches or ELCs – need support from the community. These sectors aren't immune from the commercial and social pressures NZ continue to face, and to be able to thrive these need the support of the local community. Hence my interest to supporting any way I can.

Finally – I think that I have something to offer. Professionally I've worked many years in Human Resources, with particular emphasis on remuneration and company transformation. I've also held numerous governance positions in the past, and can bring a range of skills to the position, and probably most importantly I'm committed to help any way I can.

I was co-opted to the Napier Kindergartens Board in May 2021.

