

# 2025 Board Elections | Parent Representative

## CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

**ELECTION DAY: Voting closes on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September at 4pm**

Will Viljoen

Clarissa van Emmenes

Bevan Rakoia

Carl Zimmerman

Ben Runciman

Shaun Sutcliffe

Katy Lietze

James Chamberlain

Emma de Laborde

Hayden Briscoe

Rob Stacey

Philipp Potgieter

Paul Shakes

Nathan Smart

Jeffery Orr

Richard Germann

Bruce Cameron

Gareth Pheloung

Sean Embling



## WILL VILJOEN

Kia ora, my name is Will Viljoen, and it's an honour to be nominated as a Parent Representative for the Bethlehem College Board.

I'm a father, a passionate follower of Jesus, and the Pastor of C3 Coast Church in Papamoa. I hold strong Biblical values and believe deeply in raising the next generation to know who they are in Christ and to walk confidently in their calling. I'm committed to seeing our children nurtured not only academically, but spiritually and emotionally as well.

Our kids are shaped by what we model. When we lead with resilience, purpose, and humility, they follow. I believe that children raised in the way of Christ may wander, but the truth planted in them always remains. That's why I'm passionate about partnering with a school like Bethlehem College — one that values both education and faith formation.

I care deeply about fostering a safe and healthy environment for our tamariki. I stand firmly against bullying in any form and believe that strong families — spiritually and emotionally — are the backbone of a thriving school culture. When we support our students and their whānau well, we create a community where everyone can grow and flourish.

Bethlehem College is more than just a school — it's a place of purpose, identity, and calling. I would be honoured to help steward that vision as a board representative.

Ngā mihi, Will Viljoen



## CLARISSA VAN EMMENES

I'm grateful for the opportunity to put myself forward as a parent representative on the Bethlehem College Board. I believe in the vision of this school and want to contribute meaningfully to its continued growth. With two children currently enrolled (Y0 & Y3) and over three years of active involvement in the BC community, I bring not only a parent's perspective but also deep professional experience in communications, marketing, and organisational leadership that I believe would add value at the governance table.

I've built my career helping businesses and organisations clarify their purpose, engage meaningfully with stakeholders, and communicate with impact. I believe clear, values-aligned communication is essential, especially within a school community as diverse, passionate and invested as ours. I bring expertise in strategy, risk management, and public engagement, paired with a calm, considered approach. I'm confident asking hard questions, while also being collaborative and respectful of different viewpoints.

My background includes over a decade of leadership experience across both the private and not-for-profit sectors. I've helped teams navigate change, develop long-term strategies, and create systems that support accountability and alignment. At the heart of it all, is the fact that I care deeply about people, and I know how to bring clarity and momentum to the spaces where big decisions get made.

As a parent, I want to see our school continue to uphold strong biblical values, invest in excellence, and support our children to become wise, courageous and compassionate contributors to the world. I'm committed to working with humility and integrity, representing the voice of parents while also thinking strategically and long-term about the school's future.

Bethlehem College is a special place, and it's because of the people: our teachers, our families, and our leadership. I would consider it a privilege to serve and support the Board during this next chapter, contributing both as a professional and a parent who is invested for the long haul.




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## BEVAN RAKOIA

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My name is Bevan Rakoia, and I have been nominated to stand for the Bethlehem College School Board, responding to a strong sense of responsibility to serve. As a parent, community navigator, and governance professional, I am guided by a sincere conviction to contribute where faith, education, and family intersect.

I believe God calls us to cultivate environments where young people grow in both knowledge and character. I see this as an opportunity to uphold that vision through wise governance, principled leadership, and faithful stewardship.

Bethlehem College has been a blessing to our family. My wife and I chose the school not only for its academic strength, but because of its Christ-centred foundation, strong sense of belonging, and the partnership it fosters between school and home. I have personally witnessed the positive impact of its teachers, pastoral team, and learning environment on our child's confidence and spiritual growth.

Professionally, I manage operations for Data Traffic Limited, providing traffic monitoring services to local roading authorities including Auckland Transport and Tauranga City Council. This work requires precision, compliance, and strategic planning skills that are directly transferable to governance roles involving property, finance, and infrastructure development.

I currently serve as Chair of the Pacific Island Community Trust Bay of Plenty, a regional health and social services provider. I also sit on the board of the Tauranga Hockey Association, where I contribute to long-term planning, capital projects, and inclusive community engagement. My governance style is values-led, collaborative, and always seeking to elevate the purpose and people behind the work.

If elected, I will bring this same heart and discipline to the Bethlehem College Board ensuring good stewardship of resources, transparency in decision making, and a commitment to preserving the special character of the school. I am passionate about supporting staff wellbeing, student achievement, and ensuring that our school remains a place where the bible is lived out in both word and deed.

It would be an honour to serve the Bethlehem College community. I offer my time, experience, and prayerful leadership to help steward the school's mission for this generation and the next.




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## CARL ZIMMERMAN

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As a proud parent of two beautiful daughters who are currently in Year 1 and Year 3, I'm standing for Bethlehem College Board of Trustees because I believe every child deserves access to a thriving, inclusive learning environment. With a deep respect for the work of our entire school staff and a commitment to the voices of parents and whānau, I'm ready to help shape the future of our school.

My wife Louise and I have been married for over 15 years and attend Bethlehem Baptist Church. As parents we love the biblically based, Christ-centred education Bethlehem College provides.

I have been in the Police locally in Tauranga for over 19 years, 17 years on the frontline and I have been a Prosecuting Sergeant for the past 2.5 years. Being a Prosecutor means I would bring strong advocacy skills to this role. Being a Sergeant means I bring strong leadership to this role.

I am a current member the Bethlehem College Parent Teacher Association.

I am also the local welfare representative and conference delegate for the New Zealand Police Association. These roles involve voting on behalf of local staff at National conferences on important issues and receiving and assessing staff welfare referrals which can include sickness, sick family members, internal investigations including possible legal costs.

I have been a committee member of the annual Police and Services Fishing contest for the past 10 years. I help gain sponsorship, run prize giving evenings and help raise money for local charities. This competition usually has between 150 -180 entrants each year and runs over 4 evenings.

I have also previously been a volunteer on the local Wish for Fish vessel, assisting onboard to provide an amazing day on the water for people with various disabilities and their families.

All the above experience gives me the necessary skills required to be an effective Board member. I value transparency, collaboration, and forward-thinking leadership—and I'll bring those to the table as a trustee.

I'm particularly passionate about:

- Ensuring all students feel safe, seen, and supported.
- Strengthening partnerships between home and school.
- Promoting equity in education, so every learner has the tools to succeed.

I'd be honoured to represent our school community and work alongside others who care deeply about our School and the attending children/families. Let's create a school that reflects the aspirations and strengths of us all.




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## BEN RUNCIMAN

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My name is Ben Runciman.

My wife and I have four children at Bethlehem College — from kindy through to high school — and we feel privileged to be part of a community that places Christ at the centre of our children's formation.

Living on campus in Resurrection Cottage gives us a unique closeness to the daily rhythm of school life. Whether it's joining other parents for worship and prayer in the chapel on Monday mornings, praying around the grounds, or being involved through the PTA, we love this place and are committed for the long term.

If I'm elected by you, it will be my honour to serve this community as we continue to uphold the core vision that established this wonderful place.

I'll make myself available at the start of each term at the coffee cart to listen and connect.

Thank you for considering me.




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## SHAUN SUTCLIFFE

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With a strong background in finance, global non-governmental leadership, and governance, I bring a depth of experience and a heart for Christian education to my nomination for the School Board. My professional journey began in the financial sector, where I developed expertise in financial planning. This foundation has equipped me with the strategic and analytical skills necessary to contribute to the financial sustainability and stewardship of any organisation I serve. Over the years, I have applied these skills not only in corporate settings but also in the non-profit sector, where I led International Needs for seven years. Here I initiated significant global programs focused on community development, education, and transformation in some of the world's most challenging environments. As a senior executive

in the global NGO space, I have had the privilege of working alongside passionate teams to deliver life-changing outcomes. These roles have sharpened my ability to lead with vision, integrity, and a deep commitment to service. My governance experience includes serving on the board of the Christian Education Trust (CET) and other boards, where I have helped navigate complex decisions, strengthen accountability frameworks, and support leadership development. I understand the importance of robust governance in ensuring schools are well-managed, mission-focused, and future-ready. Education has always been close to my heart. I firmly believe in the power of Christ-centred learning to shape not just minds, but hearts and character. I am passionate about seeing young people flourish through strong Christian values, excellent academic opportunities, and a nurturing, faith-led environment. Good governance is vital to safeguarding this vision, and I am committed to ensuring that every decision made by the board reflects the best interests of our students, teachers, and families. As a parent, I am personally invested in the success of our school community. My wife has been a primary school teacher for over eighteen years and I have three children attending the primary school and kindergarten. I am also actively involved in the school community by sponsoring BC hockey and coaching both the year 3 and year 6 hockey teams. I believe the role of the board is to uphold the school's mission, support the principal and staff, and work collaboratively with whānau to ensure a thriving, inclusive, and spiritually rich educational environment. I would be honoured to contribute my skills, faith, and experience to the board and help strengthen the foundations of Christian education for future generations



## KATY LIETZE

Kia ora, my name is Katy Lietze. My husband Andre and I have four children who attend Bethlehem College across both Primary and Junior Secondary.

It is a privilege to have our children at BC and as a committed Christian I fully support the Special Character and founding principles of the College. I wish to see Christian spiritual truths and values taught and upheld alongside sound educational practice. I believe education of the whole person is essential if we are to raise our children and young people to reach

their potential and contribute positively to society. This means a balance of academic, sporting/outdoor activities and the creative arts alongside spiritual nurture and growth, emotional support and opportunities for service.

I am an active member of C3 City Church Tauranga where I serve as an Elder and Connect Group leader. Prior to that I was on staff at HTB Church (London) managing the Pastorates department overseeing the 130 Connect Groups that provided pastoral care and community for our church members.

I have served on the Bethlehem College Board of Trustees as a parent elect for the past three years, contributing on both the Audit and Policy subcommittees. I also actively volunteer in



the local community, particularly in the sporting and performing arts pursuits of my children. Professionally, I am a part time self-employed Speech and Drama teacher.

As a Board member I am prayerful, willing to learn and I believe I offer energy, discernment, positive vision and common sense. I have dedicated significant time to this role over the past three years and would consider it an honour to continue serving.

As a former BC student and now a parent of the school I appreciate the impact the College and its dedicated staff has on so many young lives. It would be a privilege to continue to serve the parent body and the wider Bethlehem College community on the Board of Trustees.




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## JAMES CHAMBERLAIN

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As a parent of a child at Bethlehem College, and as a family who lives in the Bethlehem community, I am deeply committed to the school's mission of providing Christ-centred education that nurtures both character and academic excellence. I am standing for the Board because I believe in the importance of wise, values-driven governance that supports families, staff, and students in a rapidly changing world.

My background includes experience in law enforcement, senior roles in government-level risk management, and time as a Deputy Director at the New Zealand Defence Force. I now serve as Managing Director of a cyber security consultancy, working with public and private sector organisations to protect critical infrastructure. I am also a member of the Institute of Directors, reflecting my commitment to sound governance principles and ongoing professional development. These experiences have shaped a strong understanding of leadership, accountability, and resilience, which I believe are essential for effective Board service.

I also bring a deep respect for the role Christian education plays in forming not just minds, but hearts. Like many parents, I want to see my child grow in a community where biblical truth is lived out daily, where learning is meaningful, and where students are encouraged to pursue their calling with confidence and integrity.

As a Board member, I would approach the role with diligence, humility, and prayer. I care deeply about student wellbeing, staff support, and the partnership between the school and its families. I also recognise the responsibility of stewarding the school's vision and resources with wisdom, ensuring that faith remains central in every decision.

Bethlehem College has a powerful legacy and a vital future. As members of this community, my family and I are invested in seeing it flourish. I would be honoured to contribute to that by representing the parent community on the School Board.



## EMMA DE LABORDE

Your Child's Future Deserves a Fresh Voice.

As a Bethlehem College alumna and passionate youth advocate, I'm standing for the Board of Trustees to bring fresh energy, proven youth expertise, and unwavering commitment to delivering better outcomes for your children.

Why I'm the Right Choice for Your Family:

My journey from Bethlehem College student to qualified youth development professional gives me unique insight into what our teenagers and younger children truly need. I have extensive hands-on experience mentoring young people and understand the challenges facing today's students; from academic pressure to mental health concerns and preparing for an uncertain future.

I bring the energy of youth combined with professional maturity, bridging the gap between student experience and school governance. My active faith in Jesus drives my commitment to creating environments where every student can thrive, regardless of their background or beliefs.

Proven Track Record:

- 3+ years as Youth Worker and youth leader at Freedom Centre, organising programs and mentoring teenagers.
- Fitness qualification; as a qualified personal trainer, I understand the importance of holistic student wellbeing.
- Current accounts role; my current role is providing me with financial literacy and organisational skills essential for effective governance.

My Vision:

I believe every student deserves to be seen, valued, and empowered. As your trustee, I will:

- Uphold biblical truth with love and conviction, fostering a Christ-centred environment that encourages genuine encounters with God and strengthens the spiritual lives of students and staff.
- Champion student voice, balanced with sound governance.
- Advocate for wellbeing support, mental health, life skills, and greater awareness of neurodiversity.
- I understand NZ's cultural diversity and will promote cultural inclusion in our multicultural society.
- Support innovative teaching and championing staff wellbeing.
- Bring fresh faith-filled perspectives to traditional challenges.

Why Parents Should Vote for Me:

You want board members who truly understand your kids. My experience working with diverse children and youth, combined with professional training, means I grasp both the



academic and social-emotional needs of today's students. I'll ask the hard questions about student outcomes and push for evidence-based improvements.

My Christian faith anchors my commitment to integrity, service, and seeing the potential in every young person. I'm passionate about making a real difference in the lives of Bethlehem College students, and their families.

Vote for fresh energy, proven expertise, and genuine care for your child's future.

*Emma de Laborde - A voice for your child's tomorrow.*



## HAYDEN BRISCOE

Since March, I've had the privilege of serving on the Board of Trustees at Bethlehem College. During this time, I've witnessed the dedication and talent of our staff, who consistently go above and beyond to support students in discovering their God-given purpose. Prior to this, I served for nine years on the Board at Elim Christian College, including the last two years as Board Chair. I believe my experience serving on the boards of Special Character schools equips me to continue contributing meaningfully to the governance and strategic direction of the College.

My wife Rachel and I have a lifelong connection to Tauranga and are grateful to now call this beautiful city our home. We are proud parents of two children—our 13-year-old son and 10-year-old daughter—who both attend Bethlehem College. The school has been a tremendous blessing to our family, providing a nurturing environment that supports our children's growth academically, in character, and in their faith.

Before moving to Tauranga, we served at Elim Christian Centre in various ministries including preschool, children's church, and leading life groups for young adults and young families. Now, we are actively involved at Bethlehem Baptist Church—volunteering with Easter Journey set design, hosting community connection picnics, supporting Sunday services, and being part of a life group. We also enjoy connecting with other families through school camps and sports such as soccer and mountain biking.

Professionally, I am Head of Operations for a local business that has been in Tauranga for over 50 years, overseeing design, manufacturing, supply chain and distribution from sites based in Tauranga and Auckland. I'm passionate about continuous improvement, problem-solving, and using the gifts God has given me to support team development and add value to the organisations I'm part of.

It would be an honour to continue serving the students, families, and wider Bethlehem College community as a member of the Board of Trustees.



## ROB STACEY

Kia ora koutou, my name is Rob Stacey, and I currently serve as the Pastor of Tauranga Central Baptist Church. My wife, Deb, and I are proud parents of three children who have attended, or are currently attending, Bethlehem College. As a family, we live within the local school community and are deeply invested in its life and values.

I am a passionate advocate for the Christian Special Character of the school and the way it uniquely shapes both the teaching environment and the formation of students. I believe that Christ-centred education fosters not only academic excellence but spiritual depth, character development, and a deep sense of purpose.

Over the past 15 years, I have had the privilege of serving in a range of governance roles, including Chair of the Baptist National Assembly Council, which oversees the 240+ Baptist churches across Aotearoa New Zealand. I have also served as a director on the Board of Bethlehem Tertiary Institute and currently chair a local not-for-profit organisation that supports schools across the Tauranga region. In addition, I have been involved with the board of a freedom business initiative based in Kolkata, India, which works to restore dignity and opportunity to women affected by exploitation.

My leadership approach is collaborative and values-driven, and I bring experience in navigating complex governance issues with wisdom and grace. I am also proud of my Māori heritage (Ngāti Porou) and have found it meaningful to contribute to conversations around Te Tiriti o Waitangi and biculturalism in the various governance settings I've been part of.

It would be a privilege to serve alongside the gifted and committed team at Bethlehem College, and to contribute to the ongoing flourishing of its Christ-centred mission. Ngā mihi.



## PHILIPP POTGIETER

Kia ora. My name is Philipp Potgieter, and I live in Welcome Bay with my wife Monique and our two children, Philipp and Carli. We emigrated from South Africa in 2019 and have found a deep sense of belonging in Tauranga. I am a follower of Christ and have served in full-time pastoral ministry for over a decade—first in the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa and, for the past six years, as a Presbyterian minister here in Tauranga.

My heart lies in Christian ministry with a particular passion for community outreach. I currently volunteer at Kai Aroha, a charity based in Papamoa, and help manage a community

garden on Dickson Road. I believe that strong communities are built through service, compassion, and a shared commitment to Christ-centred living.

I hold a Bachelor of Theology from the University of Pretoria (2011) and completed my Master's degree in 2013 with a focus on sexuality and Christian ethics. In addition to my theological training, I have pursued studies in personal training (Level 3 & 4 Certificates), business (Diploma), and hospitality, and am a certified and experienced barista. I love learning and bringing that same joy of growth and development to the environments I serve.

Between 2014 and 2019, I served on the board of NG Welfare in South Africa, representing the Vaal Triangle region, which included three social work offices, two orphanages, and two aged-care facilities. I also chaired the board of the Vanderbijlpark welfare office, overseeing a team of five social workers. I previously volunteered on the trauma team at Steve Biko Hospital and served for three years as chaplain to the Community Police Forum in Vanderbijlpark.

I would be honoured to serve on the Bethlehem College School Board, where I hope to contribute my leadership experience, community focus, and deep faith in Christ. I believe education is both a gift and a responsibility, and I am passionate about raising children who are spiritually grounded, ethically guided, and future-ready.

We are raising children for a world that does not yet exist. It is our calling to prepare them in faith, character, and wisdom. I believe that Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life—and it is in Him we find the courage and clarity to walk forward. I would love the opportunity to serve alongside you in shaping the future of our school community.

Ngā mihi nui, Philipp




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## PAUL SHAKES

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I am married to Rachel, and we have 3 boys who all had the privilege of an education at Bethlehem College. We greatly appreciated all the opportunities BC provided for our boys to learn and grow in so many different areas. While our boys have completed their schooling, I still have close family ties to the College with a grandson and two nephews currently on the roll and another grandson starting in 2026.

I am coming to the end of my fourth term on the Board of Trustees and it has been a privilege to serve the BC community as a member of the BOT over the past 12 years, the last 6 as Board Chair. During this time, I have grown to increasingly understand and value the important place that Christian Education has in the NZ educational landscape. Bethlehem College is a unique and special place, the ability to continue to deliver a quality education based on Biblical truth and with Christ at the centre of all we do needs to be both treasured and protected. I believe that we need to ensure the College remains steadfastly committed to the foundations on

which it was established while making sure what we provide both inside and outside the classroom addresses the challenges our students face today and equips them for what they will encounter in the future.

I believe I have the capacity and passion as well as skills, qualities and experience to continue to make a positive contribution to the governance of Bethlehem College. I am a Chartered Accountant and enjoy spending time with family and friends. We are also members of and serve at Tauranga Central Baptist Church.

It would be an honour to continue to serve the BC community as an elected member of the Board.




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## NATHAN SMART

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Hi, my name is Nathan Smart and I'm standing for election to the Bethlehem College Board of Trustees because I want to be a strong voice for all students and families, but especially for those who sometimes go unseen - kids who are neurodiverse, like me. With changes to NCEA in the works, having a voice for kids who don't learn the "typical" way will be important at a Board level. I can be that voice.

I'm a proud father of two girls who have done their entire schooling journey at Bethlehem College — Jasmine in Year 10 and Poppy in Year 8. I've lived in Tauranga my whole life, have been part of C3 City Church for over 40 years, and have been married to my wife Ange for 18 years. Ange was a student at BC and has also served and worked for the CET.

I own and operate Smarty's Auto Shop, where we specialise in performance car rebuilds. I love what I do, and I've built a good life — but school was a real struggle for me. I have ADHD and dyslexia, and I know what it feels like to be bright, capable, and creative, but still not fit the mould of the "ideal" student. I also know that with the right support and understanding, kids like me can thrive.

That's why I'm passionate about ensuring our neurodiverse children are not only seen but supported in real, meaningful ways. I believe in the value of the SENCO role and would like to see it well-resourced and recognised as essential to the life of our school. Every child deserves to be understood, encouraged, and given the tools to succeed no matter how their brain is wired.

As a parent, business owner, musician and someone with lived experience of learning differences, I bring a practical, grounded perspective to the table. I'm not here to tick boxes — I'm here because I care deeply about the future of our kids and the culture of our school.

Bethlehem College has a proud history, and I'd love to help shape its future — one where every student has a voice, every family feels heard, and every kind of learner is celebrated.



## RICHARD GERMANN

Hi everyone. I'm applying for the board of Bethlehem College on the recommendation of my wife Tanya, who works as a relief mathematics teacher at BC, and my brother-in-law Paul Shakes who is a current board member. Tanya and I have 3 sons Sam (8), Benji (5) and Zeke (4). Sam and Benji are currently in the BC primary school, and we have applied for Zeke to start in year 0 in 2026.

Essentially, I'm applying to the board because I want to ensure that the special character of the school is maintained. Since Sam started at BC in 2022, I've been amazed at the incredibly welcoming, encouraging and God-focused approach to all aspects of school life. In this ever-changing world, I think the importance of grounding our kids in biblical knowledge and a true understanding of the Christian faith will help them to confidently face any challenge that may accost them. I truly believe that the culture at BC sets it apart as the best school in New Zealand for nurturing young minds.

I believe I have relevant skills to be a board member. I work fulltime as a general physician and nephrologist at Tauranga Hospital where I've been the director of physician education for the last 4 years. I'm the current chairman of Bridge Outreach Limited, a Christian charity op shop on Fraser St. This charity is run by Shoreline Calvary Chapel Tauranga, a church that my family and I regularly attend. My hobbies include playing competitive squash, board games, tramping, camping and watching Formula 1 with the kids. I've also been the coach of the year 3/4 BC Pacers basketball team for the last year or so which has been a lot of fun seeing/helping the young players to improve their skills and teamwork.

If I am elected, I will endeavour to serve the school to maintain/enhance its current character and culture as best as I can for the glory of our Lord.

Ngā Mihi, Richard



## JEFFERY ORR

I deeply value the ethos and legacy of Bethlehem College and would be honoured to contribute to its ongoing mission of Christ-centred educational excellence.

My connection to the school spans generations—I was born and raised in Tauranga, my parents were involved in the original "quick builds" in 1988, and today my wife and I have three children currently enrolled. We are committed to the school's vision and grateful for the impact it has on our family and community.



Professionally, I serve as SEO for a national denominational trust and sit on several local commercial and charitable boards. I also bring governance experience from a previous term as a school trustee, and educational experience from five years as adjunct faculty at a New Zealand Bible college. My background includes significant work in the social sector—particularly in social housing and community mental health—as well as direct involvement with youth and churches both in New Zealand and overseas.

I believe Bethlehem College holds a distinct and vital role in shaping not only the lives of its students but the future of our country. As a parent, I am motivated to support a school environment where faith, character, and academic excellence are equally nurtured.

It would be a privilege to serve on the Board and contribute to the governance and enduring mission of this special school.




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## BRUCE CAMERON

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My name is Bruce Cameron, and I am standing for election as a board member with the Bethlehem College community.

I work in the financial services industry as a financial adviser in Tauranga. My wife Donna works in early childhood education, and our daughter is a student at Bethlehem College. The school's Christian Charter and statement of belief are recognised as guiding principles for its staff, students, and the school community.

I have experience in governance roles and procedures, having served two terms as Board Chair/Presiding member at Tauranga Intermediate and on two primary school boards. I am acquainted with governance practices that support principals and teachers to foster student learning across academic, sporting, and cultural dimensions, and would apply this experience to the board.

With recent changes to the curriculum and NCEA, supporting learning outcomes while maintaining Bethlehem College's distinctive Christian character and educational learning remains a top priority.

Key components of board governance include:

- Clear Communication
- Support of school management, support for educational best practice, and strong learning outcomes for all students
- Collaboration with the principal and other board members
- Effective management of school property and all the learning facilities
- Ensuring effective teaching and resourcing for students and staff across all areas of the school

Bethlehem College's reputation as a provider of quality education is an important aspect of the school and wider Tauranga community and continued focus on maintaining this is



important. Outside of work I enjoy cycling and supporting my daughter's sports and educational activities at Bethlehem College.

Thank you for your consideration and I ask for your vote and support to serve as a member of the school Board for the upcoming term.




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## **GARETH PHEOUNG**

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I have 3 daughters attending Bethlehem College and we are all thoroughly enjoying the quality education and other opportunities that the school has to offer.

Our family recently returned from a one-year term in Cambodia where my wife taught in an International Christian School and I had the privilege of teaching English and working with a team that visited sponsored families in urban slums and further out villages. This experience highlighted to us all the transformative power that education has. It was especially impactful to our girls, and they have a much greater appreciation of how blessed they are to have all the opportunities they do.

I believe that learning in a Christian school from a biblical foundation is a key part in raising children to thrive in the world. Their worldview and mindset is malleable and the school environment is a huge part of shaping this. Because of this we homeschooled our girls for a year before they were accepted into Bethlehem College and we moved our family from Taranaki to Bethlehem for them to attend.

If elected to the board then I would be wanting to continue the heritage that the school has been founded upon and continue to develop the way that the school equips the next generation for our rapidly changing world.




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## **SEAN EBLING**

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Kia ora koutou. As a parent and long-standing member of the Bethlehem College family, it is a privilege to put my name forward as a candidate for the Board of Trustees. With over 25 years of personal and professional involvement in the Bethlehem College school community, I am deeply committed to its values, vision, and special Christian character. I am passionate about ensuring Bethlehem College continues to thrive as a Christ-centred environment where students are nurtured in both faith and learning.

My connection to the College is multifaceted and deeply rooted. With both my wife Rochelle and I being trained at the Bethlehem Tertiary Institute, we have collectively shared 15 years serving on the teaching staff of Bethlehem College in both the primary and secondary schools. I also had the privilege of being involved in the construction of several of the Bethlehem College campus buildings.

Furthermore, I have been involved serving on various school, community, and church-based committees over many years, at both a local and national level.

As a current parent, my connection remains active and personal. My wife and I have had one daughter graduate from Bethlehem College and the other is currently attending. We have cherished supporting them from the sidelines of sports courts, in the audience of outstanding musical events and celebrating academic successes. We are profoundly grateful for how the College's dedicated staff have nurtured our daughters' faith and gifts.

Professionally, I work in middle management at a local secondary school, where I lead curriculum and pastoral care teams. This role has provided me with significant experience in educational leadership, governance, and student wellbeing—all skills directly relevant to the work of the Board.

My Christian faith is the foundation of my life. My family and I are active members of C3 City Church, and I am driven by a desire to ensure the College's Christian character is not only upheld but strengthened. I believe my extensive history with the school, combined with my professional expertise, would make me an effective contributor to the Board. I am committed to serving with integrity, wisdom, and prayerful consideration.

It would be a privilege to serve the Bethlehem College community as a parent representative on the Board of Trustees. Ngā mihi nui.