



STANLEY BAY SCHOOL

Matthew Crawford - Presiding Member and Legal Portfolio



My wife Charlotte and I have two children in years 3 and 5 at Stanley Bay School. The school was a large factor in us settling in the area, on good advice from friends who live here. We are glad we did.

We previously lived in London and then the Cayman Islands, where all the children were born. I now work as a barrister. I am originally from Matamata in the Waikato.

Josh Wilson – Finance Portfolio



After growing up in Devonport, I returned here with my wife Sophie eight years ago and we feel very lucky to call it home. We have two boys at school, Tom (Yr 5) and Hugo (Yr3).

I was previously the Treasurer of the Devonport Community Creche where I gained an insight into Ministry of Education governance and funding processes, and the difficulties of balancing a very tight budget while meeting the needs of the community. My day job is portfolio manager and chief investment officer at Clarity Funds Management.

As a father of three, I understand that all children are different and have individual learning and cultural needs. I would like to see Stanley Bay School as a place that attracts and retains great teachers and where everyone is encouraged and supported to reach their potential.

Catherine McNellan – Communications Portfolio



I have one boy left at SBS, Roman in year 3 and since moving here I've been blown away by how strong the school community is and what a unique opportunity that gives SBS to raise the bar for its pupils.

I'm a marketing and communications professional, mainly in the tech sector but what gave me insight and a passion for education was policy implementation, working for the UK Department of Education. I led communications for Extended Schools - a national transformation programme across 23,500 schools aimed at raising achievement.

I worked with schools, local authorities, education ministers and Ofsted (UK equivalent of ERO) and as part of the team that developed the National School Improvement Planning Framework. I've seen the impact that strong communications and community engagement can make first-hand and am keen to add value in this area.

Anthony James (AJ)



I'm Anthony James (AJ). My wife Laura and I will have all our children at SBS this year (Maddie & Julie in Yr 4, Annie in Yr 2 and Lottie in Yr 0). Originally from Sydney our family have now been living in Devonport for 12 years and proudly call Stanley Bay home. The community spirit and safe peninsula was a big draw card, along with Laura growing up here and being SBS Alumni herself, meant we were keen to return to the area.

Professionally I have a Masters in Engineering Management and a Bachelor in Civil and Environmental Engineering. I've previously worked overseas in Australia and the UK but since returning to NZ I have been employed at Beca, delivering a variety of infrastructure projects around Auckland for over 11 years.

I hope to bring a practical, fact based and pragmatic approach to the role. My skill base and experience align to the school's Property Portfolio alongside Health & Safety and Risk Management. I hope to bring an experienced perspective on procurement of new physical works and asset maintenance. I can offer an energetic and hands-on approach to help deliver on the school's capital works objectives, maintenance, and environmental needs. One goal is to facilitate more interest from our school community in delivering these objectives in a fun and engaging atmosphere, giving support to all those who are willing to give it a go... school working bee's and all.

Helen Vykopal



I am Helen Vykopal. My whānau is originally from Ireland and Scotland, I grew up in London and then made my way to New Zealand with my husband Bret. I have one child at Stanley Bay and my twins are just about to join in May which we are all excited about! I worked as a psychology teacher with year 12 and 13 students before training as a clinical psychologist. I have spent much of my working life as a psychologist in and around schools on the North Shore.

I have spent the past 15 years working at the coal face with tamariki and whānau and government services such as the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Justice, Oranga Tamariki, DHBs and ACC. In my experience a primary school with effective leadership, valued staff and a strong community, creates a special place for our young tamariki to reach their potential and traverse whatever difficulties they may face, now and in the future. Given my experience as both a parent, and a child and family psychologist, I have a clear understanding of what matters most for our tamariki in their early years, and how primary schools in particular can work to provide the best life outcomes for them.

I have previously held a clinical governance role in a psychiatric service at the North Shore Hospital during a transition period to a new building with high levels of medical risk due to organisational challenges. I can facilitate change management and have effective conversations in challenging environments. I am able to identify and reflect on process occurring that may not be obvious to everyone. I like to work in teams towards common goals and most importantly I hope to bring a sense of humour. I have a strong drive to contribute to the Stanley Bay School community.