



St Mark's School

Transforming lives through the St Mark's Story

Thursday, 5 May 2022

He pānui - Change of Board of Trustees Chairperson

Tēnā koutou,

As governance and boards isn't everyone's cup of tea, I've put the need-to-know information as a key point at the top, and then more details below that. But please do find time to read the detail.

Key point – Lauren Ball, Chair of the St Mark's Board of Trustees has resigned. Clare Pattison is the new Chair and Claire Bourne as Deputy. This will be in place until the elections this September 2022. You can contact the board about that on saintmarksbot@outlook.com.

In detail - Lauren Ball stepped down as Chair of the Board of Trustees when she left the board for personal reasons at the end of last term. Lauren has been an integral part of establishing functioning governance of the school. She was part of the Special Character working group set up in 2016 after the school was placed in statutory management in 2015. She was also part of the first Board of Trustees elected after that time. In 2019 Lauren was unanimously appointed Chair unopposed and has made an incredible contribution in that role. During her time, we have developed a strong board with contributing, active sub-committees. We have members with skills across education, law, finance, property, policy, and human resources. Lauren leaves the board in a strong position after many years contributing to its development. Thank you, Lauren, for all your time and effort. You have truly set the board up for success.

At the extraordinary¹ meeting of the Board on Monday, 2 May 2022 I was appointed as Chair, and we confirmed Claire Bourne will continue as Deputy Chair.

I am truly excited about being Chair. I have been on the board since 2018 when I was appointed as a Board of Proprietors Representative, and I am also the Chair of the Joint Property Committee between the Board of Trustees and Board of Proprietors. I have a professional background in governance, strategy, and policy, as well as a Graduate Diploma in Theology. I'm a proud old girl of St Mark's and have been a parent at St Mark's since 2013. My youngest daughter Charlotte is in year 7 so I'm still here for a couple of years. I am passionate about the Anglican character of St Mark's and what it is that makes our school different from other schools' that families can choose from. I think there is an opportunity for the board to engage with St Mark's families and alumni to look at where we are heading and what the future looks like for St Mark's.

One of the reasons I was happy to accept the position of Chair is because Claire Bourne remains as Deputy Chair, and we will be working as a strong team. Claire brings welcome rigour and professionalism to the board. Claire was elected to the board in 2021 and is Chair of the People Sub Committee. She has a professional background in complex human resource management and is on the board of the Graeme Dingle Foundation Canterbury and The Period Place. Claire is also an old girl of Christian schooling and has many years ahead of her at St Mark's as a parent to Minnie in year 2 and Quinn who is at Discovery Junction. Claire is passionate about empowering people and communities, she is the co-founder of two community initiatives; one focused on the transition into retirement (Hono Mai) and the other on connecting rural communities (Whenua Whānau), and since 2015 has been a mentor through the Big Brother Big Sister Foundation to Irihapiti.

These appointments are only for a few months, as Board of Trustee elections are in September 2022. I personally think it is a great time to be part of the Board. Now that the overall board structure and processes of governance are in place, it's time to tackle the strategic issues facing the future of St Mark's. We all play a part in providing our children with educational opportunities that recognise every child's God given gifts and talents. If you are passionate about governance, the long-term future for St Mark's and would like to contribute more, please get in contact with Claire or I at saintmarksbot@outlook.com. We would love to hear from you and talk about the work of the board.

Nō reira, ngā mihi mahana, ngā mihi maioha hoki.
Clare Pattison

¹ An extraordinary meeting just means a meeting that is extra to our ordinary meetings, which are twice a term.