



DEVELOPING LEARNERS FOR LIFE

1 SEPTEMBER 2025

# Waikite Valley School

1090 Waikite Valley Road, RD 1, Rotorua 3077 Tel 021 294 9633

[www.waikitevalley.school.nz](http://www.waikitevalley.school.nz) [office@waikitevalley.school.nz](mailto:office@waikitevalley.school.nz)

*We are: Confident, Optimistic, Unique, Respectful, Adventurous, have Grit, Enthusiastic*

Kia ora whānau,

Well done to all those who presented at our school speech competition last Tuesday—really super speeches! A big thank you to Susan Atkinson and Phil Hawkin for judging.

We currently have approx 50-60 animals registered for Pet Day—amazing! If you haven't already, please let Kelly know your intentions for Pet Day (attending/not attending, animal type).

## Contact details

Just a reminder to let Kelly in the office know of any changes to your child/rens records such as:

- Emergency contacts
- Medical records
- Dietary requirements

**JUST A REMINDER:** Remember if you have any questions and concerns about your child/ren please don't hesitate to get in contact with me.

Kind regards

Sue Ratcliffe (Principal) [principal@waikitevalley.school.nz](mailto:principal@waikitevalley.school.nz)

## Notices to be returned :



**Pet Day Indication Form - please return a.s.a.p.**

### September

Mon 1st - Fri 5 AIMS Games  
Wed 3 Yr7 & 8 Technology  
Tue 9 Reporoa Valley Cluster Speeches Yr5-8  
Voting Closes for the B.O.T Elections  
Thur 11 Student Leaders day,  
PET DAY VACCINATIONS 9.00am  
Tues 16 Rip, Grip & Whip  
Wed 17 Yr 7 & 8 Technology  
BOT Meeting -new board  
Thur 18 Jack Te Nahu Speech comp  
Fri 19 END OF TERM -Tabloid day

### October

Mon 6 TERM 4 BEGINS  
Wed 8 Craft Day  
Thur 9 Pet Day  
Fri 24 Group Day  
Mon 27 LABOUR DAY- school closed  
Tue 28 MOE Maths Day 2-Teacher only day-school closed

# PET DAY 2025

Thursday 9th October 2025

**ANIMALS MUST BE BORN BETWEEN 20 JULY AND 25 SEPTEMBER**

You will have the choice to rear and train a kid, lamb or calf. The Pet Day indication form has been sent home for you to indicate what type of pet you are entering for the day.

If you would like a booklet on rearing a calf, kid or lamb this is also available from the office. Ask your child/ren to come and get one - included in this book are the details for training for each event at Pet Day and some handy hints on competing.



The day before pet day (**Wednesday 8th October**) will be our school craft day where all students will make either a flower craft, play-dough model, painting or other construction to demonstrate their skills. More details to follow. These will be judged after school and displayed on pet day (**Thursday 9th October**).

The calves/lambs/kids that are awarded a place (1st & 2nd) in their ring have the opportunity to represent our school at the Group Day (**Friday 24th October**) hosted by Reporoa Primary School.

*Please Return all Pet Day and Speech Competition cups to the Office A.S.A.P.*



# **Waikite Valley School Board of Trustees**

## **Nominees**

We have 6 nominees for the Board of Trustees Election. Please see their candidate statements below.

Thanks for returning your voting papers, keep them coming!

If you have any questions please contact Kelly Curtis (Returning Officer) at the school office, ph 0211456420 or email [office@waikitevalley.school.nz](mailto:office@waikitevalley.school.nz).

**Election Day - Voting closes 4.00pm Wed 10th September**

### **Samantha Dinning**

Kia ora koutou,

My name is Samantha Dinning, and I'm proud to put my name forward for the Board of Trustees at Waikite Valley School.

I've been part of the Waikite Valley community for nearly 20 years, having moved here as a child myself. Now, as a parent of four tamariki: Breeana, Maverick, Jackson, and Bonnie, I feel deeply connected to our school. With a child in each classroom and one more ready to start their journey in a few years, I have a strong interest in supporting the long term success and wellbeing of our kura.

Over the years, I've seen firsthand the positive impact that strong leadership, community involvement, and a caring environment can have on children's learning and confidence. I

want to help ensure every child at Waikite Valley School continues to thrive in a space where they feel supported, valued, and challenged to grow.

I'm approachable, practical, and passionate about representing the voices of whānau. I bring a balanced perspective, strong community ties, and a genuine commitment to helping our school continue to be a place we're all proud of. I would be honoured to contribute to the governance of Waikite Valley School and help shape its direction for the future.

Ngā mihi nui,

Samantha Dinning

# JESS MITCHELL

## CANDIDATE STATEMENT; WAIKITE VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Kia ora koutou, I'm Jess, a local parent, education advocate, and Strategic Director of Designally.

Our whānau live here in Waikite Valley, with our nearly 7-year-old at Waikite Valley School and our 4-year-old starting next year. I'm personally invested in helping our school thrive – not just for our tamariki now, but as caretakers for future generations too.

Professionally, I bring experience as a secondary teacher, design strategist, and education-focused innovator/industrial designer. I've worked on projects improving learning environments, supporting inclusive education, and tackling issues like posture, myopia, digital overuse, and food poverty in schools. I've also contributed to national policy work improving conditions for learners.

From leading student exhibitions with Weta Workshop to running Silver Duke of Ed to shaping classroom tools used across Aotearoa, I've seen the power of purposeful mindsets and strong leadership in education.

I believe good boards listen, reflect, and lead with integrity. I'd be honoured to support our school's continued success through a lens of strategic thinking, innovation, care, and community.

Ngā mihi,  
Jess Mitchell



### QUALIFICATIONS

Bachelor of Design with Honours  
(BDes (Hons)), Industrial.  
Massey University New Zealand

Post Graduate Diploma Teaching Secondary  
(GDipTchg(Secondary)). Massey University New Zealand

Certificate of Human-  
Centered Service Design.  
IDEO U

Design Kit: The Course For Human-Centered Design  
IDEO U

### ONLINE

LinkedIn Profile: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/findjessmitchell>

Portfolio Website: [findjess.com](https://findjess.com)

Designally Website: [designally.nz](https://designally.nz)

Designally Instagram: [@designallynz](https://www.instagram.com/designallynz)

### ACCOLADES

Best Awards Industrial (Product) Judge 2025

Best Awards Winner 2018 Product: Bronze

Emerging Business Leader Finalist 2025

(Tompkins Wake Rotorua Business Awards)

Excellence Category Finalist Professional Services 2023

(Tompkins Wake Rotorua Business Awards)



## Board of Trustees Candidate Statement – Ben Klein



Hi, I'm Ben – dad to two girls in Years 2 and 4 at Waikite Valley School. We live locally and run a cabin rental business. I grew up on a dairy farm, so I know the value of hard work, responsibility, and pitching in when it matters.

I'm putting my name forward for the Board because I care about our school and want to help it continue to be a place where all children feel safe, supported, and encouraged to grow. I'm very honest, practical, and a good listener. I believe in open communication, fairness, and working as a team to get things done.

In my spare time, you'll find me water skiing or enjoying the outdoors with my family. I'd be proud to represent our school community and contribute wherever I can.

**Vote now!**

Voting is now open for school board elections.  
Contact your school for more information.

Kelly Curtis- C% 1090 Waikite Valley Road, RD 1  
Rotorua 3077 or [Office@waikitevalley.school.nz](mailto:Office@waikitevalley.school.nz)

 **SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS**

## Karl Sluifers

Hello, my name is Karl Sluifers, and I am seeking a position on the Waikite Valley School Board of Trustees. As a father of two daughters, my youngest attends Waikite Valley School, I'm personally invested in our school's future.

I believe our school is the heart of our rural community, and I am committed to contributing to its ongoing success. My background in sales has equipped me with strong communication and collaboration skills, which I believe are essential for a trustee. My work is centered on listening to people, understanding their needs, and working together to find effective solutions. I'm skilled at building trust and fostering positive relationships, and I am confident these skills would be a valuable asset to the board.

If elected, I will be an approachable and dedicated voice for our parents, teachers, and students. I will ensure your ideas are heard and work collaboratively with fellow trustees to make well-informed decisions. My goal is to help create a safe, challenging, and inspiring environment where all our children can thrive. I am committed to being honest, enthusiastic, and always focused on what is best for our kids

Kind regards

Karl Sluifers



## Denise Temata

Hi there,

My name is Denise Temata.

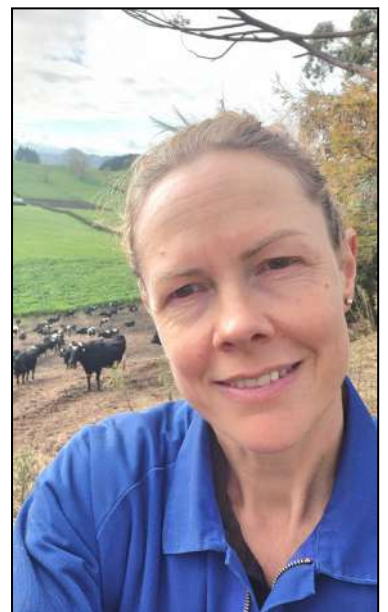
I am currently on the board as a parent representative and would like to continue this role should I be elected.

I grew up in Waikite Valley and spent my primary/intermediate years here at Waikite Valley School. My two children, Jacob and Kayla are now also enrolled here, hence I have a strong connection and commitment to ensuring our policies are current and meeting our needs.

We have a great school and community and I will do my best to continue its success for the benefit of all our children. I love to see all children thriving and succeeding in life.

I look forward to the many challenges and achievements the future brings. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Denise Temata





Hi, I'm Kate – a Waikite Valley resident, parent of four, and local farmer.

I'm really passionate about education and the difference it can make in a child's life. As a primary school teacher, I've seen firsthand how important it is for kids to feel supported, safe, and confident in their learning environment. Every child deserves a positive start to their education, and I want to help ensure our school provides just that – a place where they are encouraged, challenged, and inspired to reach their full potential.

I have a Marketing degree that's given me strong communication, planning, and teamwork skills—key for working well with teachers, parents, and the community to make good decisions for the school and its students.

My own children are involved in both the school and kindy, so I'm deeply connected to the community and invested in its future. Supporting our local community is very important to me, and I'm committed to contributing my time and energy to ensure the school continues to thrive.

When I'm not chasing after my four busy kids, I enjoy spending time outdoors with my family. We often go on bike rides together, and I also love going for a run. On the farm, I help with the animals and manage the administration side of things, which keeps me busy and engaged with different aspects of rural life.

If I'm elected as a trustee, I will bring enthusiasm, a listening ear, and a strong commitment to making our school the best it can be. I believe in fostering strong, positive relationships with teachers, parents, and students, and in working together to create a learning environment where every child feels valued and supported.

I want Waikite Valley School to be a place where kids feel safe, excited to learn, and proud to be part of their school community.

Thanks for considering me.

Ngā mihi,

Kate Waterworth



**DRY DOUGLAS FIR**

# **FIREWOOD**



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**ALL PROCEEDS GOING TOWARDS OUR NEW  
PLAYGROUND AT WAIKITE VALLEY SCHOOL**





## Term 3 , Week 7 Values Assembly

RESPECT  
OTHERS



*Grit*

*Unique*

Pod 1 - Mya Ngahine & Alexia Fear



Rm 2- Jesith Hettiarachchige & Ollie Oldfield



**COURAGE**

**Adventures**

Rm 3 - Hunter Martin & Mariska Versteynen



Rm 4 - Ellie Burns & Ryder Trumper



Waikite Valley Intermediate Grade -  
Searancke  
Fairplay Trophy



Waikite Valley Minis -  
R.J.H. Minis Achievement Award



# Waikite Valley School Speech Contest Winners & Placegetters 2025



Years 1, 2 & 3



Year 4



Year 5



Year 6



Year 7



Year 8



# Junior Tough Guy & Girl











# **JUNIOR TOUGH GUY AND GAL CHALLENGE**

## **EXTREME OFF ROAD RUNNING EVENT**



PLEASE SUPPORT THE BUSINESSES THAT SUPPORT US



100% MADE OF NEW ZEALAND

