

To:	Executive Te Huarahi	HC23/051 15 September 2023
From:	Dr Kirsty Farrant, General Secretary	



PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Election for Executive member – Manawatu-Whanganui Region – 2024-2025

Instructions for the Conduct of the Election

Candidate Information

Names and personal details of the candidates in this election are **enclosed** with this circular.

Enclosures

Also please find **enclosed**:

- a) *a branch electoral roll for your branch which states the numbers of voting papers being issued to your branch and which lists eligible members;*
- b) *form for notification of result – two copies;*
one copy should be emailed to returningofficer@ppta.org.nz by **5 pm on Friday 27 October 2023**. The other is to be retained by the Branch Returning Officer – see paragraph 10;
- c) *guidelines for conducting the election.*

Who May Vote

Every full member who at 6 September 2023 was recorded as financial as shown on the enclosed electoral roll and those who were not full members or financial as at 6 September 2023 but have contracted to pay full subscriptions between then and 20 September 2023 may vote. This includes pro-rata (part-time) and relieving teachers who are entitled to full membership and who have contracted to pay the appropriate subscription rate for such persons.

Who May Not Vote

Student members and honorary members are not entitled to vote.

Appointing of Returning Officer/Scrutineers

If it hasn't already done so, the Branch is to appoint a Branch Returning Officer and such number of scrutineers (at least one) as the Branch considers necessary to assist the Branch Returning Officer in the proper conduct of the ballot.

Neither the Branch Returning Officer nor any scrutineer is to be a candidate in this election, although candidates can appoint scrutineers if they wish.

Checking the Electoral Roll

Before distributing any ballot papers to members, the Branch Returning Officer and scrutineer(s) are to check the **enclosed** electoral roll for completeness and accuracy. If there is any doubt regarding the eligibility of any member to vote, or where insufficient voting papers have been supplied (because of new members joining) please communicate *immediately* with the National Poll Clerk, Christine McNicol – cmcnicol@ppta.org.nz or phone (04) 913 4235.

Conduct of Election

Within each Branch, the election is to be conducted under the direction of the Branch Returning Officer. The Branch Returning Officer is to ensure:

- a) When individual ballot papers are distributed to eligible members that each member acknowledges receipt of her/his voting paper by signing the **enclosed** electoral roll.
- b) That arrangements are made and advertised to allow eligible members who are absent because of illness, work or other commitments, disability, etc. to cast a special vote.
- c) That eligible members are aware of the day on which voting within the Branch is to close. For this purpose it is suggested that a special meeting be convened on or about Tuesday 24 October 2023 to enable members to cast and deliver their votes. This would then allow for the Branch voting to be counted and for the return of results to be emailed to the National Returning Officer by **5 pm Friday 27 October 2023**.
- d) That voting is secret and that a ballot box is provided for members to return their votes.

Counting of Votes

Instructions on how to vote appear on the voting paper. However, in deciding whether a particular vote is valid or not Branch Returning Officers and scrutineers should accept any voting paper which indicates clearly the intention of the person voting. Where the number of votes cast *exceeds* the number of ballot papers issued, the election is to be declared void and the National Returning Officer advised *immediately* by telephone.

Return of Result

One copy of the form of notification of results, properly countersigned, is to be emailed to returningofficer@ppta.org.nz by *Friday 27 October 2023*. **Returns not received by 5 pm Friday 27 October 2023 risk being disallowed in the final count.**

Custody of Ballot Papers, etc.

The Branch copy of the form of notification of results, all ballot papers counted, the electoral roll and any other document associated with this election is to be retained by the Branch in safe custody for at least one year (i.e. until 27 October 2024). This requirement is in case of a disputed ballot.

Individual Voting

Any financial member who does not wish to participate in the voting being arranged within the Branch may exercise his/her vote by email and may email his/her voting paper direct to the PPTA Returning Officer, returningofficer@ppta.org.nz, so that it is received no later than 5 pm on Friday 27 October 2023.

Small Branches

In small Branches where there may be difficulty in appointing a suitable person as either Returning Officer or scrutineer and, at the same time, preserving the need for the ballot to be a secret one, members should vote as individuals and email their voting papers directly to the PPTA Returning Officer, returningofficer@ppta.org.nz, to be received no later than 5 pm on Friday 27 October 2023.

IMPORTANT

- i) Ensure that every eligible member has the opportunity to cast a secret ballot in this election.
- ii) Ensure that the forms of notification of the result are countersigned by the Branch Returning Officer and scrutineer(s) and that one copy is emailed to returningofficer@ppta.org.nz to be received *before 5 pm on Friday 27 October 2023*.
- iii) Retain the Branch copy of the notification of result, the electoral roll, the voting papers counted and any other document associated with this election *until 27 October 2024 or longer if required by the National Returning Officer*.

Dr Kirsty Farrant
National Returning Officer

National Election – Guidelines for Branches

1. The Branch Secretary shall inform the Branch that voting is to take place. Information provided about the candidates for the positions should be displayed to members.
2. The Branch Secretary shall check the printout of Branch members and note any discrepancies. These should be forwarded to National Office immediately.
3. Upon receipt of election material and ballot papers, the Branch shall appoint a Returning Officer (normally the Secretary) and a scrutineer, *neither of whom are to be candidates in that election*.
4. The Branch Chairperson and Returning Officer shall nominate the day on which/by which voting will take place and will inform the members of the date in advance.

NB It is recommended that ballots be issued and returned on the same day with provision made for special votes for persons who cannot be present that day or over the voting period.
5. The Branch Returning Officer shall ensure the fair conduct of the election in all respects:
 - a) The procedures set down must be followed;
 - b) Members must be fully briefed using authorised information sent by National Office or the region. Information about candidates should be clearly displayed and available to all members;
 - c) All reasonable steps must be taken to prevent prejudicial remarks from being made about a candidate. Opinions expressed publicly must be in objective terms and should relate to the candidate's ability to fulfil the requirements of the office. Derogatory statements of a personal nature are unethical and contravene the Code of Ethics.

Conducting the Election

Elections shall be conducted by secret ballot.

The Branch Returning Officer shall:

1. Issue a ballot paper to each member, who then signs for it on the Branch roll provided. Accommodation must be made for absent members to cast a special vote.
2. Destroy any unsigned ballot paper after confirmation by the scrutineer that all members eligible to vote have been issued with a voting paper.
3. Provide a ballot box which is clearly labelled and easily accessible to members. Reasonable steps should be taken to ensure security.
4. Tally the votes with the scrutineer as soon as possible. The results are to be recorded on two tally sheets, one to be forwarded to National Office, the other to be retained by the Branch with the voting papers.

NB Any member has the right to return his/her voting paper to the National Returning Officer by email or in an envelope marked: The PPTA Returning Officer, Freepost 103122, PO Box 2119, Wellington, and post it to that address to arrive by the closing date for the election.
5. Ensure that the Branch copy of the tally sheet is publicly displayed to members for a week.

NB *The ballot papers, the Branch tally sheet and the signed Branch roll are to be kept by the Branch Secretary for at least one year before being destroyed or longer (if directed by the National Returning Officer).*



**Notification of the result of the election for
EXECUTIVE MEMBER – MANAWATU-WHANGANUI REGION
for the 2024-2025 Association year**

Branch _____

PPTA National Returning Officer
returningofficer@ppta.org.nz

We the undersigned, hereby declare that at the election conducted by this branch, the candidates received the number of votes set opposite their names:

GRAEME BRIDGE	
REBECCA HOPPER	

_____ Branch Returning Officer

_____ Branch Scrutineer

_____ Branch
(Please Print)

NB One copy of this form must be emailed to returningofficer@ppta.org.nz to be received by the PPTA Returning Officer by **5 pm Friday 27 October 2023**.



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NOMINATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE MEMBER – MANAWATU-WHANGANUI REGION

GRAEME BRIDGE

Waiopahu College

Personal Information

Age 62. I am currently teaching Visual Art at Waiopahu College in Levin.

Professional Information

Diploma of Fine Arts, School of Art, Otago Polytechnic 1983 – 1985; Diploma of Teaching, Christchurch College of Education 1987; I am currently teaching Visual Art at Waiopahu College in Levin. I have taught previously in the following schools: Aquinas College, Tauranga, HOF Arts 2003 – 2018; Marist College, Auckland, HOD Art 2001 – 2002; Bethlehem College, Tauranga, HOD Art 1994 – 2001; Otumoetai College, Tauranga, 1993; Burnside High School, Christchurch, 1991 – 1992; St Peters College, Auckland, 1988 – 1990.

Association Information

Executive Member for the Western Bay of Plenty and Hauraki Coromandel Regions and their respective Regional Committees. 2006, 2010 – 2011, 2014 – 2018; Regional Chair for the Western Bay of Plenty 2012 – 2014; PPTA STCA Negotiation Team 2010 – 2011, 2015; PPTA ICT Advisory Committee 2005 – 2015, 2018; PPTA Area Schools Advisory Committee 2010, 2015 – 2018; PPTA Secondary Teachers Sabbaticals Selection Panel 2017 – 2018; PPTA Middle Management Taskforce 2016 – 2017; PPTA Curriculum Advisory Committee 2010 – 2011, 2015 – 2017; NZQA NCEA Workload Advisory Group 2014 – 2015; PPTA Area Schools Study Awards and Sabbaticals Panel 2011; Executive representative for Health and Safety 2010, 2015; PPTA Western Bay of Plenty Regional Treasurer. 2004 – 2007, 2009. Branch Chair Aquinas College 2003 – 2006 and 2007 – 2010; Branch Chair, Bethlehem College 1998 – 2001; Branch Chair, St Peter's College 1989 – 1990; PPTA's Employment Related Education Training – Stage Three; CTU's Health and Safety Representatives Training – Stage Three.

Personal Statement

We want to see education moving forward. We want to make that point of difference in Aotearoa. We want to be motivated to strive for the greater good.

With so much change just around the corner, will it really make the difference that we are hoping for or are we just like a ship sailing in the dark in uncharted territory?

Tēnā koutou, my name is Graeme Bridge, and I am standing for the PPTA Executive and representing the Manawatu / Whanganui Region.

When moving forward I like to have clarity and a purpose and I do not make empty promises.

I will do whatever it takes to represent your interests.

I will always strive to protect the values that we as teachers live by. I believe that we need open dialogue with no hidden agendas.

I am someone who perseveres and follows through to completion.

In the last 16 years I have spent 8 of them as an executive member and twice been a member of the Secondary Teachers' Collective Agreement negotiating team.

I have always worked to protect and preserve your interests, representing PPTA in various forums, and will continue to do so.

I look forward to being your representative and Executive member for Manawatu / Whanganui Region.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa.

REBECCA HOPPER

Palmerston North Girls' High School

Personal information

Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa. Nga mihi nui ki a koutou katoa

My name is Rebecca Hopper. I am a teacher at Palmerston North Girls' High School. I have been in this profession for 32 years.

Professional information

Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (major: Plant Breeding and Agricultural Botany) Philippines; Diploma of Teaching (Palmerston North College of Education); Higher Diploma of Teaching (Massey University); Postgraduate Diploma in Education with Education Administration endorsement (Massey University).

Association information

- Regional Women's Representative: 2003 to 2007
- Branch PNGHS Chairperson: 2007
- Regional Secretary: 2007 to 2021
- Regional Chairperson: 2022
- Region's Executive: 2023
- PPTA executive diverse culture representative for CTU.

My journey within the PPTA began in 2003 when I took on the role of Regional Women's Representative. During my four-year tenure, I actively worked to promote work-life balance among our female members, a project promoted by the national PPTA and other unions. I have also organised Women's Network regional forums. My dedication and advocacy skills led me to take on the role of Branch Chairperson in 2007.

In 2007, I was appointed as the Regional Secretary, a position I held for an impressive 14 years. As the Regional Secretary, I efficiently managed administrative tasks, coordinated regional activities, and ensured effective communication between members and the executive team. I have seen the continuity of the region's representation at the national level in this role. My commitment to representing members' interests and addressing their concerns has been unwavering throughout this tenure.

My biggest achievement as a Secretary was initiating the recognition of members of 30 or more years of membership. This is now a permanent fixture for the Manawatu-Whanganui Region.

Personal statement

I am dedicated and a passionate advocate for the members of the PPTA. With a strong background in education and extensive experience within the organisation, I have consistently demonstrated my commitment to representing our region's voice at annual conferences since 2003.

My passion for representing the members extends beyond my role as an executive.

I would like to continue this advocacy for the members at the national level.

I firmly believe that teachers deserve a strong advocate who will fight for their rights and interests on a broader scale.

With my extensive experience within the PPTA and deep understanding of the challenges faced by teachers, I feel I am well-equipped to represent the members' voices at the national level.