

To:	Executive Te Huarahi	HC23/047 15 September 2023
From:	Dr Kirsty Farrant, General Secretary	



PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Election for President – 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 20 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 17 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 20 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 20 October 2023. **Returns not received by 5 pm Friday 20 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 20 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 20 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 20 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 20 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 20 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
PRESIDENT
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:

CHRIS ABERCROMBIE	
JACINTA GRICE	

_____ 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 20 October 2023**.



**Notification of the result of the election for
PRESIDENT
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:

CHRIS ABERCROMBIE	
JACINTA GRICE	

_____ 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 20 October 2023**.

NOMINATIONS FOR PRESIDENT

CHRIS ABERCROMBIE

James Hargest College



Personal Information

Tēnā koutou katoa. Ko Chris Abercrombie ahau. I am a Head of the Department of History and Teacher of Social Studies based at the very bottom of the South Island in the wonderful city of Waihōpai Invercargill. I live here with my wife Diana, my mother-in-law Gwen and our three children Winsome, Hector and Sullivan. We are also excited to be welcoming a new baby to the

family around the end of October. As you can imagine, our household is extremely busy but one that is always exciting and full of fun and laughter.

Professional information

I have a BA in History and Classical Studies from Otago University and a Graduate Diploma in Teaching from Dunedin College of Education. I have taught at Diocesan School for Girls, Howick College, Buller High School, and Cromwell College. I am currently the TIC of History at James Hargest College. Other roles I have held include: Committee Member Auckland History Teachers' Association, Founding Member Central Otago History Teacher Cluster, Otago/Southland Executive Member NZHTA, National Secretary NZHTA, and a member of the Murihiku Māori History Project.

Association information

I first became a member of the PPTA while a student teacher and I became more actively involved in the Association as a teacher. Branch Chair at Cromwell College from 2009-2014; Regional Secretary for Otago from 2010-2013; Surplus Staffing Nominee since 2012; Regional Chairperson for Otago for 2014; Regional NET Representative for Southland in 2015; Executive Member for Southland 2016-2021; Junior Vice President 2021 – now; Acting President Term 2 2021, 2023. As an Executive member I've held the role of Financial Liaison Officer and I have also served on the Management, Political Strategy, and the Curriculum Advisory Committees. I believe in ongoing professional development and have been committed to upskilling in a range of areas; the last being my completion of Mahi Tika Level 3.

Personal statement

Having had the experience of working in a range of schools and in different areas of Aotearoa New Zealand, I have dealt with the variety and breadth of pressures that we as educators face. With the continuing impacts of Covid, the NCEA change package, the Curriculum Refreshes, and the prolonged industrial round – we find ourselves having to deal with an ever-increasing workload. In my roles as JVP and acting President, I feel that I have gained the experience needed to fight for members at this time of great change. I have been a strong voice, one that reflects the diversity of experience of teachers in Aotearoa New Zealand. I understand the many obstacles and concerns we face in our daily working lives, but I still believe teaching is an amazing career. It is a career that I love, and I'm energised by the joy and sense of pride that we all have as teachers within our classrooms and schools. We are on this journey together and if we continue to move forward together as one, success will take care of itself. We must continue to ensure that every teacher - from the top of Te Tai Tokerau to the very bottom of Te Waipounamu - has what they need. Support for teachers should not be dictated by the postcode lottery. By investing in our teachers, we are investing in the future for all New Zealanders. When we stand together in solidarity, we bring out the best.

JACINTA GRICE

Hillmorton High School



Personal information

Married to Craig Sixtus.

"Ehara taku toa, i te toa takitahi, he toa takitini."

My strength is not as an individual but as a collective.

Professional information

I have worked at Hillmorton High School for over 30 years. I set up and manage Upland Unit which has a roll of 35 ORS

funded students and a multi-disciplined team. This year I graduated Level 5, Te Ahu o Te Reo ki Ngāi Tahu. I completed the Diploma in the Education of Students with Special Teaching Needs, University of Canterbury, 2011.

Association information

Regional: Canterbury Executive representative of 20 years.

Active on Canterbury committee since 1993. Currently, responsible for project managing big events and meetings like the Paid Union Meetings in the Town Hall, the AGM, the service awards that honour our members who have made significant contributions to PPTA, and assisting with the organisation of Māori Teacher Dinners (Whakawhanaungatanga).

National: Working actively within Waitaha/Canterbury and nationally to create and establish robust support systems for Māori within the Union.

National Women's representative: Created the Kate Shepherd Ball at the national Conference on the centenary of the Women's Vote. Hosted the first women's summit in Wellington. Attended an Australian Education Union Conference.

Currently the convenor of Te Rōpū Mātua the governing body of Executive and Te Huarahi. 20 years on the Association Standing Committee with oversight of the budget and the business of PPTA. Convenor of the Conditions Standing Committee which oversees teachers' conditions in the collective agreements. PPTA rep on Teacher Development Aotearoa Board.

The sole PPTA rep on two sub-committees of the Accord for NZEI, PPTA and the MoE to review "The Careers Pathway for Teacher Aides" and "How to Fund Teacher Aides to Schools".

Personal Statement "Ka tika ā muri, Ka tika ā mua", *"Past stability ensures future stability"*.

With 30 years of commitment to NZPPTA Te Wehengarua I have the skills and enthusiasm to lead the mahi of upholding and improving quality public education. As a confident public speaker I will ensure the professional voice of teachers is known and heard. I am actively engaged in fostering diverse and inclusive environments within the education sector. I have led PPTA Activism successfully. I am truly passionate about education, coaching and advocacy. I am excited about the opportunity to bring my experience and dedication to the role of President. I am well known for thinking outside the square to develop innovative solutions.

Teachers were united to settle the collective agreement.

However, the pay and conditions were a catch up not a pay increase and work still needs to be continued. There are many big issues that are looming. For example: Compulsory teaching requirements for maths, reading and writing; Charter schools; Bulk funding; Destreaming in secondary schools; Commitment to te tiriti Māori; Low trust performance appraisals.

Underfunding change needs managing to ensure we have a world class education system and a high trust model of respect for educators. Teaching needs to be a first career choice for top graduates with better working conditions and remuneration.