

<b>To:</b>	Executive Te Huarahi	HC23/048 15 September 2023
<b>From:</b>	Dr Kirsty Farrant, General Secretary	



**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY**

## Election for Junior Vice 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 [returningofficer@ppta.org.nz](mailto:returningofficer@ppta.org.nz) 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 the PPTA Returning Officer [returningofficer@ppta.org.nz](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:returningofficer@ppta.org.nz) to be received by 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  
JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT  
for the 2024-2025 Association year**

Branch \_\_\_\_\_

PPTA National Returning Officer  
[returningofficer@ppta.org.nz](mailto: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:

<b>GRAEME BRIDGE</b>	
<b>KIERAN GAINSFORD</b>	
<b>LOUISE RYAN</b>	

\_\_\_\_\_ Branch Returning Officer

\_\_\_\_\_ Branch Scrutineer

\_\_\_\_\_ Branch  
(Please Print)

NB One copy of this form must be emailed to [returningofficer@ppta.org.nz](mailto:returningofficer@ppta.org.nz) to be received by the PPTA Returning Officer by **5 pm Friday 20 October 2023**.



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## NOMINATIONS FOR JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT

### 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 Junior Vice President.

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 the next Junior Vice President.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa.

### KIERAN GAINSFORD One Tree Hill College



#### Personal Information

I grew up in Rotorua, and while my heart will always be there, my wife and I now call West Auckland home. Outside of work – and PPTA – I enjoy playing hockey and watching whatever sport I can find on weekends.

#### Professional information

- Assistant HOF Science & TIC Chemistry at One Tree Hill College (taught here since 2021).
- 2017-2021: Chemistry & Science Teacher, Aorere College.
- BSc in Chemistry, BA(Hons) in Political Studies and French.
- Trained through Ako Mātātupu Teach First NZ and the University of Auckland.
- In 2020, I completed an MEd with a focus on the science curriculum, assisted by a Secondary Teachers Study Award.
- Regional Rep for Secondary Chemistry Educators of NZ.

#### Association information

- Two full terms on Executive representing the Southern Ward of Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland, during which time I have served on the Curriculum Advisory, Senior Positions Advisory, and Management Committees.
- STCA negotiating team member (2022-23).
- 2018-2021 Co-chairperson for the Tāmaki Makaurau ki te Tonga (Auckland Southern) ward.
- Branch health & safety representative.

#### Personal statement

Tēnā koutou e te whānau o Te Wehengarua. We have been through a lot, together, over the last 14 months. We know all too well the challenges in our schools, and we all experienced the resistance our government showed towards investing in a sustainable teaching profession. As a member of your negotiating team, I felt this resistance first-hand. Throughout the campaign, nothing made me prouder than our commitment to fighting for a fair deal. We knew that better salaries and conditions were needed for our profession to have a future, so we stuck to our actions despite the difficulties these posed. What we achieved through bargaining was a direct result of our members' power – and we should be proud of it.

However, I know that there is more to do. While we now have a settled collective agreement, I know that the next bargaining round will not be easy. Teacher shortages will not be resolved overnight, and we need to be strategic in how we approach the next negotiations round if we want to make headway on this. The NCEA Review and Curriculum Refresh rollouts leave plenty to be desired and are imposing significant workloads on teachers. On top of this, we face an uncertain political environment, where education issues have become a hot topic. In short, there is plenty to do!

I am up for this challenge. Representing members on the Executive has been a privilege, and I have the experience to help to lead the Association's responses to the complex issues we are facing. I also know that the strength of PPTA Te Wehengarua comes from our democracy. I intend to listen and to ensure that the diverse voices of our 21,000 members are heard at all levels of decision-making. I know both the joys and challenges of secondary teaching. It can be the best job in the world, but there is more to do to secure its future. Waiho i te toipoto, kaua i te toiroa!

## LOUISE RYAN

### Western Springs College



#### Personal Information

I live in Tamaki Makaurau with my partner. I am currently HOD of Media Studies and Assistant Academic Director at Western Springs College Nga Puna O Waiorea.

#### Professional information

My qualifications include: Bachelor of Arts [English and Political Studies]; Graduate Diploma of Journalism; Graduate Diploma of Teaching.

#### Association information

2020 - Present PPTA Executive Member; PPTA Member [2000-2014; 2019-Present]; PSA Member [2014-2018]; Past Chairperson - Northcote College Branch PPTA; Past Chairperson - Pakuranga College Branch PPTA; Current Treasurer Nga Puna o Waiorea Western Springs College Branch PPTA; 2019- Women's Coordinator - TMAC PPTA. As an Executive member I have contributed to/represented the following committees/groups: SQAG - Senior Qualifications Advisory Group, Curriculum Voices Group, Professional Learning and Development Committee, Political Strategy Committee, Middle Leaders Advisory Committee (Co-Chair), Curriculum Advisory Committee, Kaimahi Whaikaha - Workers with Disabilities (Co-Convenor).

#### Personal Statement

Throughout my over 20 years in the education sector, I have witnessed first-hand the significant improvements won by the union to benefit teachers. While obvious examples of this include the ongoing gains won as a part of our collective agreements, in fact it is the ongoing support and advocacy across the public education system that reminds me how important PPTA Te Wehengarua is.

The role of PPTA is crucial in advocating for, and protecting the public education system. Through my time as part of the PPTA Executive I have seen and been involved with so many aspects within the education space: the NCEA Change Package, Curriculum Refresh and RoVE - three bodies of work which will have a significant impact on teacher workload and wellbeing over the next few years. I have had the opportunity to hear from middle leaders about the significant workload issues facing pastoral and curriculum leaders. I have seen the work on ending streaming; the PLD fund and the opportunities it has opened for teachers, the list could go on... important valuable work to ensure that we have an equitable and fair education system for all.

The past four years have been so challenging on teachers, students and the wider community. From lockdowns, significant weather events, industrial action - we have experienced challenging times. And there is further uncertainty ahead. However, what it has reinforced for me is the importance of our public education system and the role that teachers have to play. I have felt so proud to be a PPTA member and an executive member seeing the way in which teachers are prepared to fight for quality education, for their colleagues and for their students.

PPTA has the opportunity to be a powerful voice for teachers at this time. I would see it as a privilege to be able to contribute to the teaching community as your PPTA Junior Vice President.