



I am Elaine Bridge, mother of 4 boys and parent of Willowbank School.

I was born and educated in Marton at co-ed schools until 1986, a small town in the Rangitikei in the middle of the North Island of New Zealand then I went to an independent girl's college in Wellington for Year 12 & 13. This has given me experience of different types of education systems which will stand me in good stead in guiding Willowbank School into the future.

At school I was lucky enough to be able to participate in a wide variety of activities i.e. cultural, artistic and sporting and see these as good learning experiences that help in the development of well-rounded people.

After leaving school I travelled extensively in Europe and worked in many different countries which taught me to respect the many diverse ethnicities and cultures that exist in the world and hope that this will enable me to understand the needs and expectations of the many children attending Willowbank School from other countries.

On returning to New Zealand I married and while working fulltime and parenting I studied at The University of Auckland gaining a Post Graduate Diploma in Business in 2008. My work experience is varied but over the past 10 years I have worked in the Procurement field where I enjoyed the challenge of negotiating contracts and managing supplier relationships.

I moved into the Willowbank area in 2001 and my eldest son started school in 2005, my second son in 2008, and as I have 3 year old twin sons coming along I expect to be part of the school community for many years to come.

My family includes many teachers at all levels of education and I feel the experience gained, albeit second-hand, of the problems faced by teachers and administrators in New Zealand schools will help me in my desire to serve the Willowbank School community and make it an even better school in the future.