



Hi, my name is Mark van Wijk, I'm 33 and have been married to my wife Steph for 12 years. We have three children: Ethan (Year 1, Room 1), Joel (4) & Renee (2). I've lived in Manukau for all my life, in Papatoetoe, Manurewa, Howick & now Botany.

After eleven years working for Carter Holt Harvey, mostly in IT Management, I took the opportunity to be involved in our local community, and for the last four years have been working for BotanyLife Community Church, as the Outreach & Small Groups Pastor.

I am currently the Chairman of BotanyLife Community Trust - a charitable trust that runs community events & programmes for children & adults, as well as community projects in East Auckland, including a number of school makeover projects.

I believe that our schools play an incredibly important role not only in the education of our children, but also as central hubs for families in our community, helping to bring together people of diverse backgrounds & cultures.

I come from a family of teachers, and my father was on a Board of Trustees for 9 years, so I feel like I have a reasonable grasp of the New Zealand primary school system, and would love the opportunity to be a part of this system, by serving on the Willowbank School Board of Trustees.