

# National Executive Candidates 2027 – 2028

## Curriculum Vitae



**Name:** Robyn Brown

**Nominated for:**

- SCHOOL PRINCIPALS'
- GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

### Relevant skills, attributes and qualifications:

#### Teaching Qualifications:

##### Higher Diploma in Education 1989

1986-1989

Cape Town College of Education - University of Cape Town (Cape Town, South Africa)

#### Other Professional Qualifications:

##### National Aspiring Principals Programme

January - December 2016

**Te Toi Tupu** – Leading Learning Network (New Zealand)

##### GEMS Senior Leadership Course

Sept 2008 – June 2009

MMU (Manchester)

##### Graduate Diploma of Information Technology in Education

Jan 2004 – Dec 2005

Wintec

Waikato Institute of Technology (New Zealand)

##### ICAA Information and Communication Technology

Sept 1999 – Jun 2000

University of Southampton: (United Kingdom)

Recent NZ leadership experience:

Birchville School – Principal

(October 2017 to present)

- Upper Hutt Cluster lead 2023 and 2024

#### NZEI experience:

As the Wellington Principal Council Representative for NZEI Te Riu Roa, I have consistently woven the union's core values into the fabric of my daily advocacy. Guided by *whanaungatanga* (relationships) and *manaakitanga* (care and mutual respect), I have

been a dedicated voice for school leaders, championing the needs of principals across New Zealand while maintaining a sharp focus on supporting my colleagues within the Wellington region. My commitment to *kotahitanga* (unity) was front and centre when I helped organize the 2024 Rural Teacher Conference, and it drove my work on the recent negotiating team for the Principals' Collective Agreement, where I was incredibly proud to help secure a strong, well-deserved win for our leaders.

Furthermore, I have embraced the value of *ako* (reciprocal learning) by actively participating in NZEI-led professional courses and attending the annual Hui ā Tau, where I have forged deeply meaningful connections and learned from seasoned members who hold immense wisdom. This foundation has empowered me to represent principals directly at Parliament, where I have been fortunate to work alongside recent Education Ministers to strongly advocate for the distinct needs and aspirations of New Zealand principals. Through this blend of collective action, advocacy, and a genuine desire to learn from others, I am proud to advance NZEI's mission and uplift the principalship.

## **Background and personal information:**

**Whāia te iti kahurangi ki te tūohu koe me he maunga teitei.**

*Aim for the highest cloud so that if you miss it, you will hit a lofty mountain.*

Driven by the spirit of this whakataukī, I believe my leadership strengths and deep commitment to our profession make me a highly suitable candidate to represent New Zealand principals at the executive level within NZEI Te Riu Roa. I am an **authentic advocate**, a lifelong **learner**, and a **selfless** leader who is ready to bring an **optimistic**, **courageous**, and deeply **engaged** voice to our national executive.

My leadership style is grounded in my ability to communicate openly, effectively, and with a touch of **humorous** warmth. I am an approachable **listener** who thrives on building strong, inclusive relationships across the education sector. In my current role at Birchville School, I pride myself on maintaining excellent relationships with children, teachers, staff, and the wider parent community. I am a strong role model for collaborative, agentic classrooms where student strengths are highlighted and all learning needs are catered to. Furthermore, my extensive whole-school curriculum knowledge, particularly regarding the complex realities of student transitions through the junior years and assessment practices, allows me to understand the frontline challenges teachers and leaders face every day.

I am ready to channel this grassroots connection into strategic, national-level governance. I want to bring this exact blend of educational expertise, empathetic listening, and bold advocacy to the National Executive, ensuring we collectively aim for the highest standards of support, well-being, and excellence for all principals across Aotearoa.

*Nominated by: Heretaunga Branch*