

National Executive Candidates 2025 – 2026

Curriculum Vitae



Name: Barb Curran

Nominated for: National President
Vice President
Primary Teacher Representative
General Seat

Relevant skills, attributes and qualifications:

Graduate Diploma of Teaching and Learning (Christchurch College of Education) 2002
BA Smith College (USA) 1989
MA College of William and Mary (USA) 1994
Te Ahu o te Reo Māori Taumata 1 – 4 2021-present

Associate of NZEI Te Riu Roa - 2016, Fellow of NZEI Te Riu Roa - 2023

NZEI experience:

2016-present National Executive
2021—present Primary Teacher Representative
2015-2020 General Membership

Liaison Roles

Ōtākou, Waitaha, Tamaki Makaurau

Committees

Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, Professional Practice, Leading the Profession, Mātauranga Māui, Governance, Internal Leadership, External Leadership

PTCA Negotiation Team Lead 2021-22, Member 2015-16

PTLT Member for Waitaha Canterbury 2012-2016

NZEI Te Riu Roa representative – TeachNZ Sabbaticals and Study Leave for Primary Teachers and Principals 2020-2024

I have also represented NZEI Te Riu Roa on working groups and at national and international conferences. I have also held roles at Branch and Area Council level.

Other background and personal information:

Mauri ora ki te whānau o te Riu Roa.

Ko wai au?

Nō Aerana, nō Ingarani ōku tīpuna

I tipu ake au ki Massachusetts

E noho ana au ki Raukapuka

Kō Barb Curran tōku ingoa

He tangata tiriti ahau.

He kaiako au ki te kura tuatahi o Pleasant Point.

No reira, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa.

Tūwhitia te hopo, mairangatia te angitū - Feel the fear and do it anyway!

After 22 years of membership in NZEI te Riu Roa, 21 years of activism and 9 years as a member of the union's National Executive, I have decided that it is, indeed, time to tūwhitia te hopo, mairangatia te angitū and put my name forward to serve as National President. I do not take this step lightly, but rather out of a strong belief that I have the skills, passion and experience needed to take on this role. We are in the midst of challenging times economically, politically and socially. I believe that our union can and should be in the forefront of finding and advocating solutions for these issues. Together we have built a strong strategic plan to do this and I am ready to lead us forward in this mahi.

My priorities include:

- Continuing our work to embed Mōku te Ao as our way of working, ensuring that all our work is strongly connected to our pou.
- Strengthening the role of the NLGs as leaders in education.
- Building on the Area Council initiatives with Work Site Representatives to activate and empower those in these crucial roles.
- Utilise digital tools and new ways of organising to connect people from throughout Aotearoa to advocate for quality public education.
- Advocate for a system that works for all tamariki.
- Use political pressure and the next round of collective agreements to fight for long-standing issues like Learning Support, Support Staff funding and job security, pay parity for ECE and class sizes/ratios.

I live in Geraldine in beautiful South Canterbury, and teach at Pleasant Point Primary School. This year I have a Year 4 and 5 class who keep me on my toes! I love to read, swim, and cook. Most of my family is in the USA, including a niece and nephew who hold half my heart each.

I have the support of my School Board, Principal, colleagues, Branch and AC to undertake this work, and would very much appreciate your support as well.

Ki te kotahi te kākaho, ka whati; ki te kāpuia, a kore e whati.

When we stand alone we are vulnerable, together we are unbreakable.

Nominated by: South Canterbury Branch