



AGM 2021

Candidate Profiles for Board Nominees

The Cerebral Palsy Society's Constitution allows for nine board member positions and also requires 50 percent of previously elected board members to stand for re-election at each AGM.

Here is a breakdown of our current board members:

- **Emma Lovett** (Current Board President, elected 18 Oct 2020) – **Standing for re-election at the 2021 AGM**
- **Renata Kotua** (Current Board Vice President, elected 18 Oct 2020) – **Not standing for re-election, retains her position on the Board until 2022 AGM**
- **Merryn Straker** (Current Board Treasurer, elected 18 Oct 2020) - **Not standing for re-election, retains her position on the Board until 2022 AGM**
- **Meg Smith** (Current Board Secretary, elected 18 Oct 2020) - **Not standing for re-election, retains her position on the Board until 2022 AGM**
- **Reuben Woods** (Current Board member, elected 18 Oct 2020) - **Standing for re-election at the 2021 AGM**
- **Daniel Clay** (Current Board member, Co-opted to the Board to fill a vacancy Dec 2020) - **Standing for re-election at the 2021 AGM**
- **Pippa Huddleston** (Current Board member, Co-opted to the Board to fill a vacancy Dec 2020) - **Standing for re-election at the 2021 AGM**

Please find the biographies submitted by the 2021 nominees. Biographies have been provided alphabetically by first name:

- **Daniel Clay**
- **Emma Lovett**
- **George Hewitt**
- **Katherine Thomas**
- **Murray Waring**
- **Paddy Tollan**
- **Patricia McQueen**
- **Pippa Huddleston**
- **Reuben Woods**
- **Thane Pullan**

Daniel Clay

Kia ora koutou

I am a member of the current CPS Board, and would like to continue on the Board to help maintain the momentum of improving member services and provide stability and continuity to the governance team.

My fun loving 9-year old daughter is a power chair user and lives with CP, empowering me with a thorough understanding of the challenges and successes of living with CP. My current board position has facilitated opportunities to connect with adults with CP, enabling me to build my knowledge of their needs and goals. This insight and experience motivate me to promote solutions that address the systemic issues and challenges that CP can create for families and individuals.



The new CPS Board has made several bold and positive changes to the strategy and investments of the CP Society, which I believe were necessary from both a member focus and good governance perspective. We are focussed on transparency and good governance. I am proud to have been part of these changes and hope to continue to provide my time and expertise to implement the remaining changes and new strategy. With the majority of the current members being new to the Board, such as myself, maintaining continuity is important to the stability of the Board and to keep the momentum to achieve even more improvements to member services.

I have been an active Board member, and am the director of one of the two remaining investment subsidiaries, Cerebral Investments Ltd. These positions are unpaid voluntary roles, but could not be for a better cause and I am happy to utilise my professional experience and expertise to benefit the CP community.

I am currently Chief Executive Officer of an iwi owned property development and investment company. I have held directorship positions on various company and charitable trust boards. Prior to this I was a practising lawyer for 20 years with two national commercial law firms and a partner in both firms over 10 years. This experience provides me with the skills to provide the oversight and insight into shareholder/member facing organisations such as the CPS, investment companies (such as the CPS's commercial subsidiaries) and a client (member) focus. My legal background also provides me with the ability to ensure good governance practices are maintained and risks and compliance are managed well.

Emma Lovett



I live in Waiuku, South Auckland and am mum to Reid (6 years with CP). I was born in Hamilton, grew up in Raglan and come from Ngai Tahu descent. I can personally relate to many families who travel through the hurdles medically, financially, educationally, and emotionally.

I am entrepreneurial, the Founder & Director of New Zealand business Adaptive Footwear Ltd, ex Senior Customs Officer, Learning & Development advisor and my previous experience is in Child Protection government roles.

I was voted onto the CPS board in October 2020 and appointed to the role of President and Chair.

During this time, we as a board have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to create a new strategic direction for the Society. This has included moving away from investments we did not feel met the objectives of the Society or benefited our members directly.

The Society is now in a great position to move forward with advocacy and collaboration and to start being seen as a bold player in the disability space. I am a member of the current CPS Board, and would like to continue on the Board to help maintain the momentum of improving member services and provide stability and continuity to the governance team.

A significant amount of work has been put in by the current board with the positive outcomes only just starting to take effect. However, there is still more work to be done. If I am re-elected I will continue to seek out opportunities for CPS and look at innovative ways we can continue to move the Society into the future.

George Hewitt

Kia ora,

George here, I am 25 and live with CP.

I'm putting my name forward because when I was at younger I didn't know anyone with CP. I want kids growing up with CP to know people they can relate to and see opportunities in the life's they lead.

I have non-profit experience working for CCS Disability Action promoting Accessible Housing, youthfulness at 25 and living with CP, I can share a unique understanding with youngsters growing up in a similar situation.

I have a keen interest in disability sport and its positive impact on lives; I am based in Auckland, but grew up in the Manawatu/Wairarapa. I have strong connections to rural New Zealand and can help people growing up in the regions that may struggle to find the opportunities others have in our big urban centres.

If elected onto the board, my goal will be to build stronger relationships and connections with our members who live with CP in regional communities.

I believe the CP Society can use its members and resources to create a greater voice in the disability services sector, for the 7000 people living with Cerebral Palsy in Aotearoa.

I bring unique attributes to the table, including:

- Established networks in the disability and sporting sectors.
- Established connections with current and potential members.
- A knowledge of advocacy and a drive to raise awareness for CP in the wider Aotearoa Community.

I want to encourage the next generation to get out of bed and never for one moment think that they have a disability that will deflate their dreams.

Ka pai for considering me to represent you, I look forward to helping create a better society for you all.

Nga mihi,

George



Katherine Thomas



I'm Kat and I would like to be considered as a board representative for the Cerebral Palsy Society. I have been a whanau member of CPS since my daughter Ella was about 3 years old. In the years of our membership, we have had significant support in Ella's early years that I am grateful for. Ella is now 8 years old; I find that I move between being her parent advocate as well as her ally to identify ways to be part of her community. In my professional life I teach and study in the Faculty of Education at the University of Auckland and my papers focus on inclusion and diversity. It is refreshing to see our future teachers take genuine consideration of these issues. I am a theatre practitioner and am undertaking my PhD in theatre as a tool for social change. In the last year I directed Squeaky Wheel, which was a documentary theatre piece about living with cerebral palsy, inclusion and our team collaborated with some incredible CPS members across the country as we developed this show. I believe strongly in taking action on issues and moving things forward toward more hopeful futures.

Murray Waring



Hello one and all, I'm Murray from the rural Community of Pukekohe south of Auckland and I have Cerebral Palsy.

I'm nominating myself knowing I can make a difference not only for those of us who have CP, but also to those of you who support us regardless of the role you play.

Approaching my 49th year in March, I know how hard it is to fight for what is right along with being humbled for all the good things that come our way. Given the chance I'll be at your side as I am approachable and easy going with a sense of humour when the time is right to use it.

Although I'm a Kiwi, I've had the privilege living in the Middle East/UK for a number of years. A few highlights have been the only Student with a Disability at a Middle Eastern International School with 1,200 other Students from all over the World and seeing the majority of the World first-hand like Africa with Family, Friends and on my own. Work wise, I enjoyed been a Disability Awareness Advisor mainly in the Travel industries over the years which was interesting, especially when my ideas/suggestions were adopted.

Bearing in mind what I said above and given the chance to represent you I will ensure the CPS continues to support you as it is vital to harness one's abilities rather than their disabilities as I for one believe it is a case of when not if.

Paddy Tollan



Hi My name is Paddy Tollan. I have Cerebral Palsy. I work as an IT professional for a health care facility. I'm currently studying for qualifications in cyber security.

In my spare time I enjoy reading gaming and brewing as well as tinkering in my man cave.

I live with my wife and two cats Linux & Rocket. I am passionate about better outcomes for people with Cerebral Palsy, ensuring we can take our place in society and make a meaningful contribution.

I have previous experience with governance having served on the local advisory committee for my local CCS branch.

Patricia McQueen



Hi there,

My name is Trish McQueen and I have Cerebral Palsy. I am standing for the Cerebral Palsy board this year. I have lived experience of living life with Cerebral Palsy. I believe all people have the right to have live the life to the full.

I have a lot to offer especially around therapy for adults who are coming into older life and I would like to see therapy being offered to people from soon after birth.

Trish McQueen

Pippa Huddleston



Kia ora,

I have been on the board since December 2020 and have thoroughly enjoyed representing you all in shaping the future of the CP Society. I am truly excited about the potential of the CPS and believe we can achieve great things as a team.

I bring not-for-profit governance experience, a youth perspective and I live with CP – creating a unique voice on the board. I am based in Hamilton, but have lived in Hawke's Bay and Christchurch, so am able to advocate for our regional members.

If elected onto the board, my goal will be to build stronger relationships with our members who live with CP so I can better represent your viewpoints. I believe the CP Society can become an exemplary charity in the disability sector in terms of:

- the services we offer members;
- our research outputs; and,
- leading projects in the advocacy space.

To do this, we need to be in tune with the wants and needs of our members, and be innovative in the way we operate.

Thank you for considering me to represent you, and I look forward to working with you to create an awesome organisation.

Nga mihi,

Pippa

Reuben Woods

Kia ora koutou, I am a senior corporate partner at global law firm DLA Piper. I was born and raised in West Auckland and am from Ngāi Tahu. I have three fantastic children - daughter Phoebe and identical twin boys Nico and Quinn. Nico has spastic diplegia. My partner Ilse is a doctor at Auckland Hospital.



I am ranked by the global legal directories (Chambers and Legal 500) as one of New Zealand's leading corporate solicitors, and was named in NZ Lawyer's "most influential" list in 2021. I act for private equity funds, venture capitalists and on M&A transactions and capital raisings. I also advise boards on director duties and governance issues, including in situations of insolvency.

I was appointed to the CP Society board last October, and the last year has been a very busy one for the board. My focus has been on understanding the concreting business, landscaping business and air-conditioning business owned by the CP Society. We have managed to sell the concreting business and landscaping business, and the insolvent air-conditioning business has been put into liquidation. There remains quite a bit of work required to finally tidy up these entities, and to deal with the residential property still owned by Cerebral Investments Limited. However, I'm proud of the work we have managed to get through in terms of exiting the CP Society from these activities - while it has taken lot of work and time, it will allow future boards to focus on the things that matter to members. The board has also worked hard on a new strategic plan and we look forward to being able to refine and drive this refreshed strategy in the next year and beyond.

While we have managed to get through a lot of work, there remains a lot to do.

My intention, should I be re-elected, will be to finish the job by working to secure and liquidate all remaining CIL assets, getting value back to the CP Society and winding up those entities.

I have spent over 10 years on non-profit boards. My interests include surfing, rugby, music, food, but all interests currently seem to give way to my kids' interests!

Thane Woods



Hi there,

I run disability-oriented websites, sell disability themed merchandise, develop accessibility software and serve on the board of the Hapai Foundation. I have Athetoid Cerebral Palsy. People may know me as a comedian but I am happily retired from that work. I'm will represent the interests of adults with Cerebral Palsy but believe it is essential for an organization to look after people of all ages, including children. The Cerebral Palsy Society of New Zealand is an excellent organization that has benefited me greatly and I hope to make it even better by getting feedback from the membership.

Regards,

Thane Pullan