

# *C*andid *with the* Candidates

CAMBRIDGE BUSINESS  
CHAMBER

**Welcome to Candid with the Candidates, hosted by the  
Cambridge Business Chamber in collaboration with  
the Cambridge News**

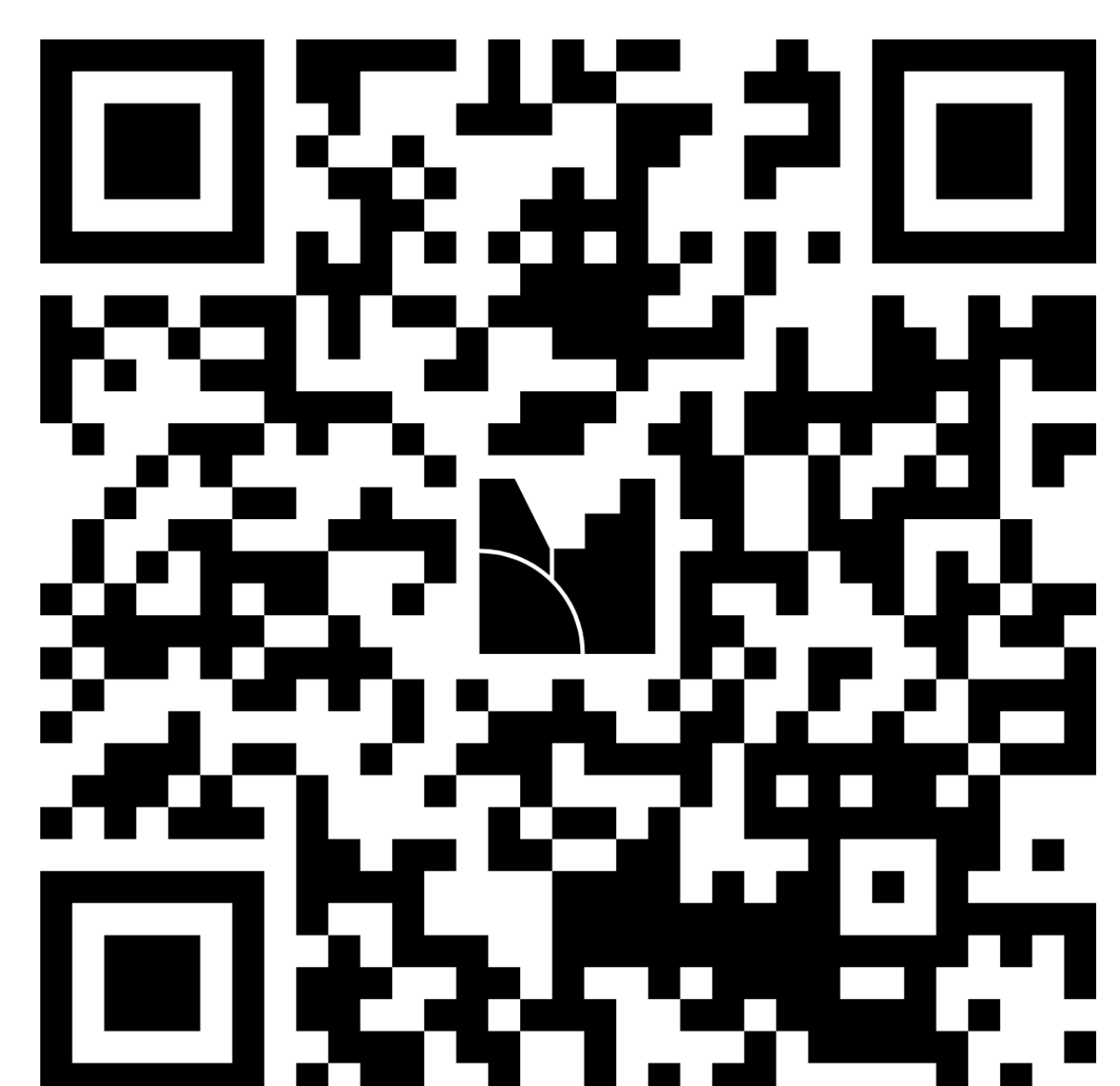
## Information Pack

Within this pack, you will find the following resources  
prepared for tonight's forum:

- Candidate biographies and photographs
- A skill matrix
- Details on the referendum on Māori wards
- Guidance on the Menti system, which will be used for audience questions and voting this evening

To participate, please scan the QR code provided to begin submitting your questions. Should you experience any difficulties, kindly raise your hand and a member of our team will assist you.

Go to  
[www.menti.com](https://www.menti.com)  
Enter the code  
8823 1022  
or scan the QR code





# Cambridge News

FREE

cambridgenews.nz

AUGUST 7, 2025

## They want your vote

### For Mayor



Susan O'Regan



Mike Pettit

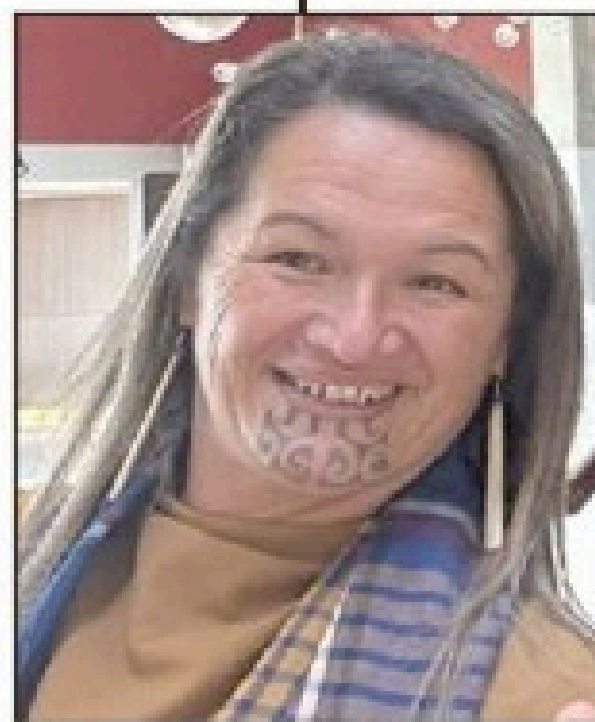


Clare St Pierre

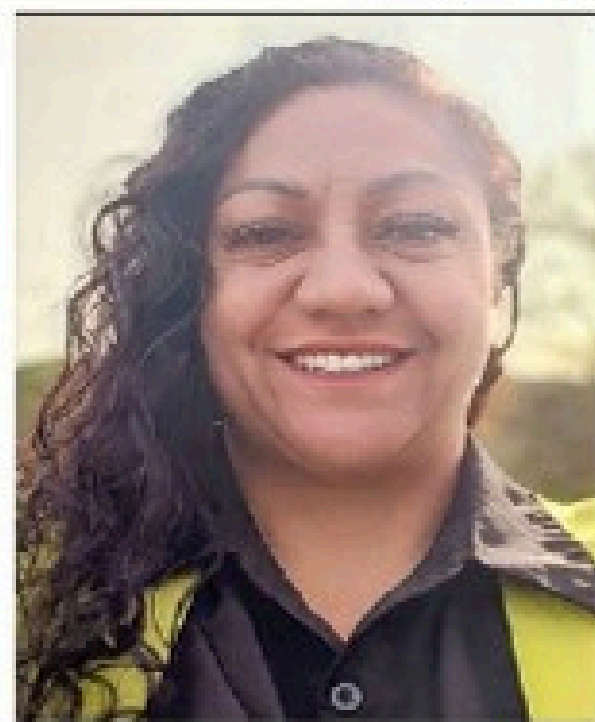


LOCAL CHOICE

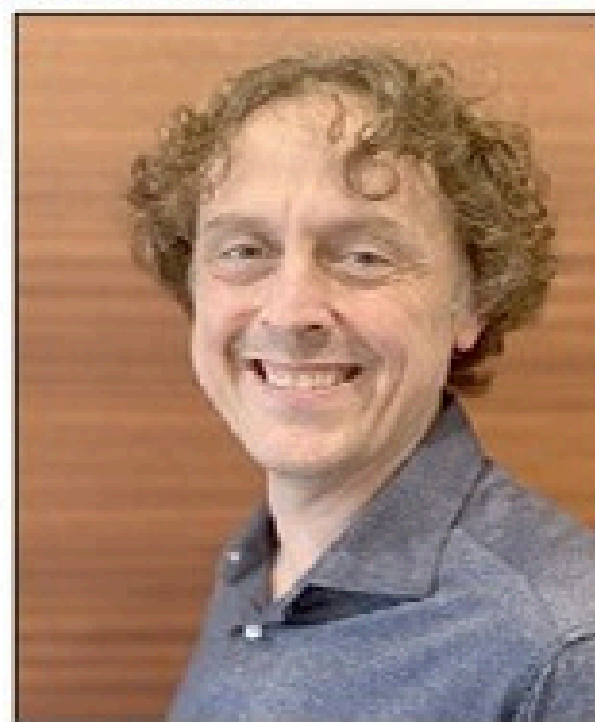
### For Council



Dale-Maree Morgan  
Waipā Maori



Yvonne Waho  
Waipā Maori



Aidhean Camson  
Cambridge



Mike Cater  
Cambridge

### For Council



Philip Coles  
Cambridge



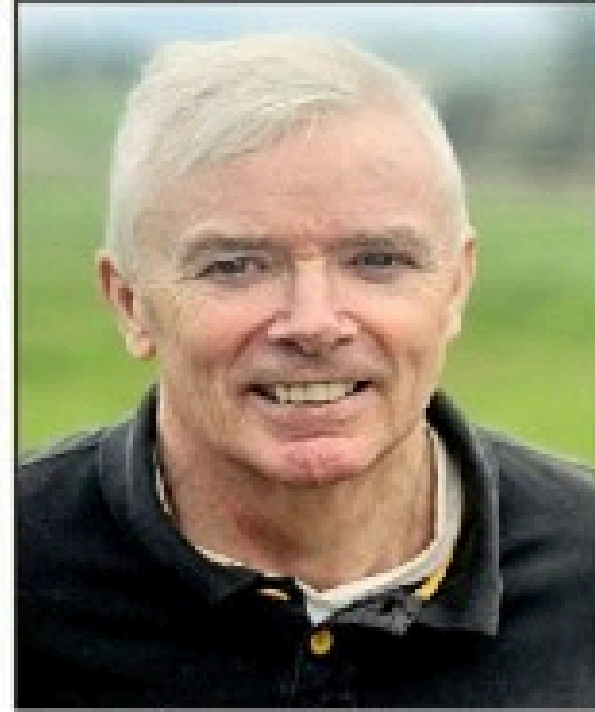
Jo Davies-Colley  
Cambridge



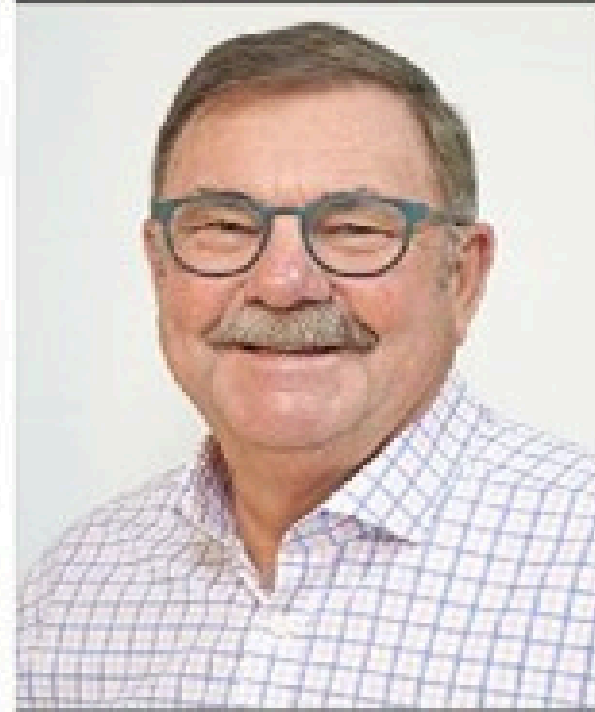
Roger Gordon  
Cambridge



Ian Hayton  
Cambridge



Stuart Hylton  
Cambridge



Pip Kempthorne  
Cambridge

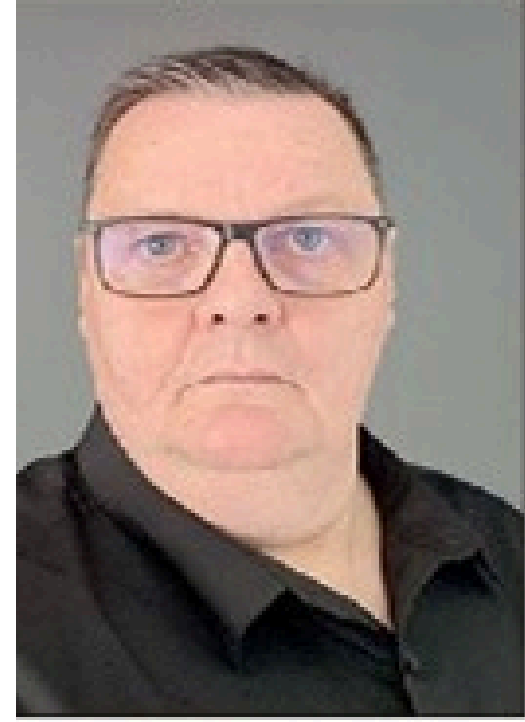


Karla Lugatiman  
Cambridge

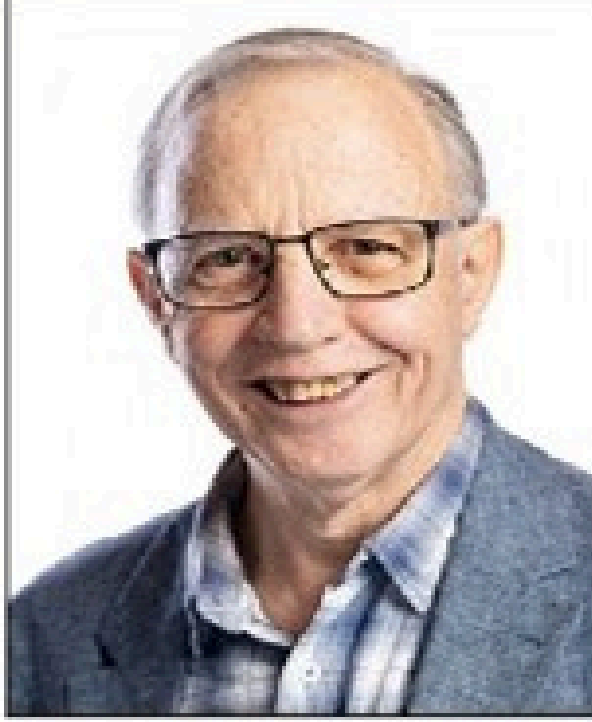


Dave Marinkovich  
Cambridge

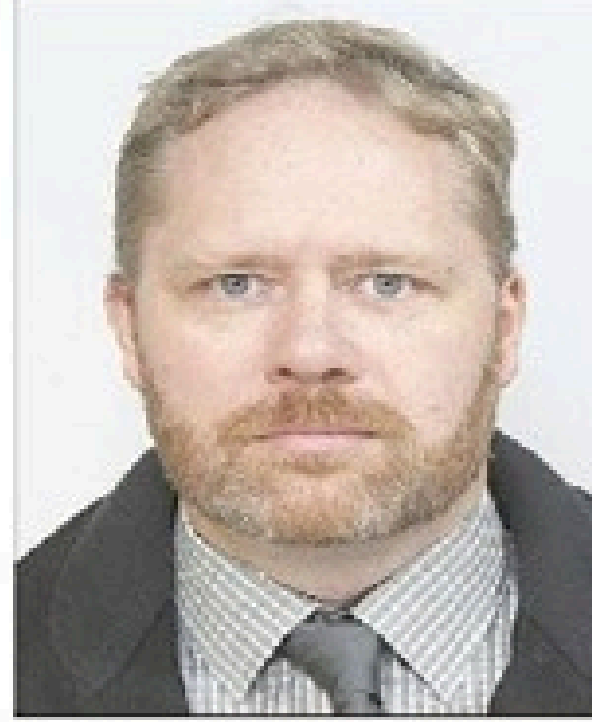
### For Council



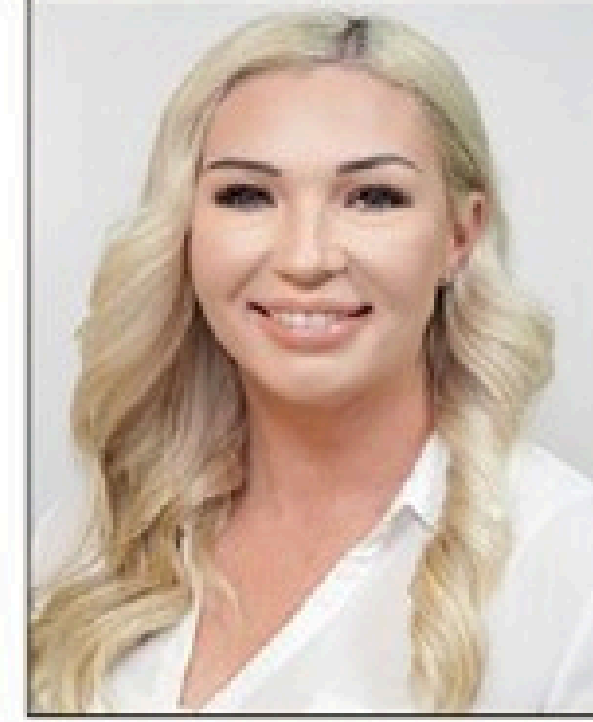
Stuart Matthews



Barry Quavle

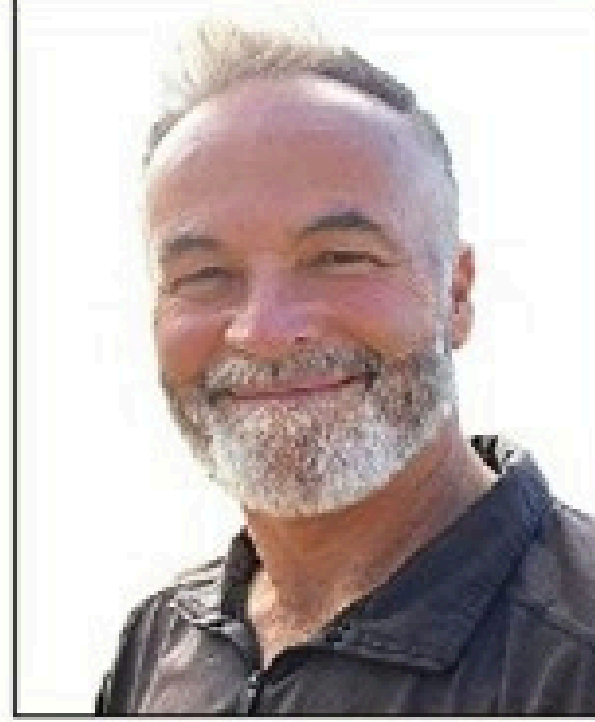


Don Sanders



Hope Spooner

### For Regional Council



Clyde Graf



Stuart Kneebone

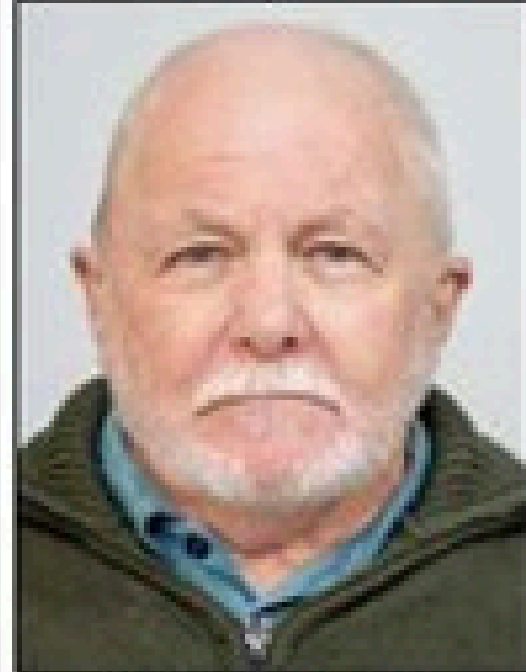


Garry Revmer



Liz Stolwyk

### For Cambridge Community Board



Graeme Allen



Curt Christiansen



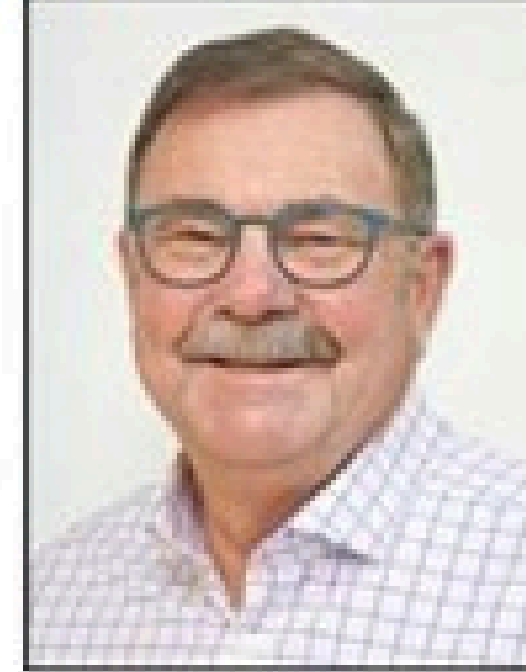
Stewart Dromgool



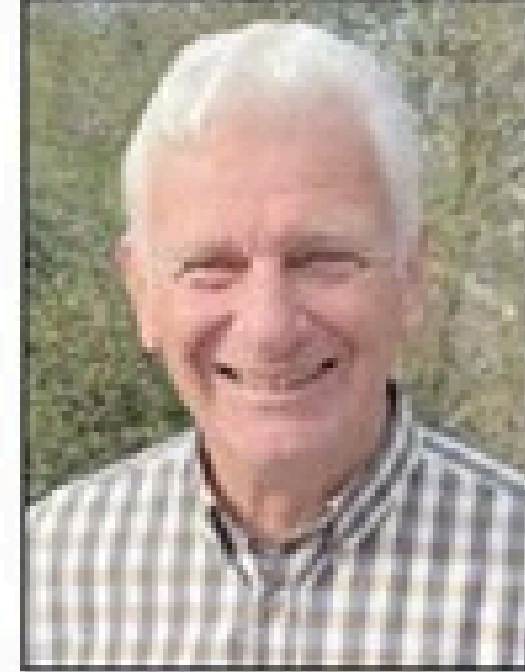
Charlotte FitzPatrick



Mitchell Jordan



Pip Kempthorne

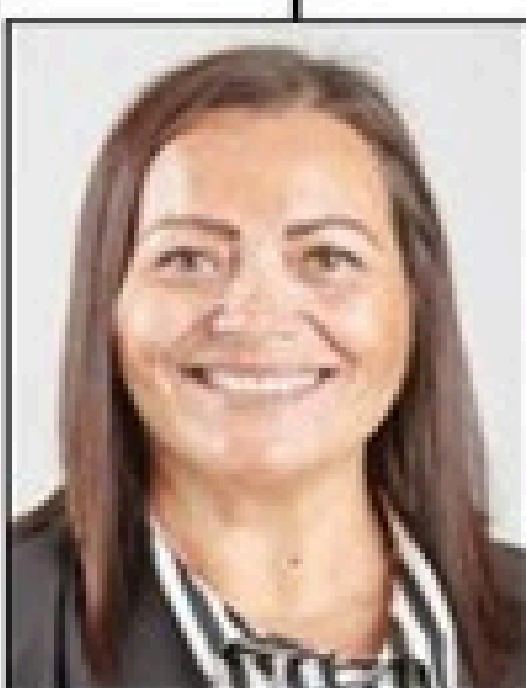


Chris Minneë



Karen Morris

### For Cambridge Community Board



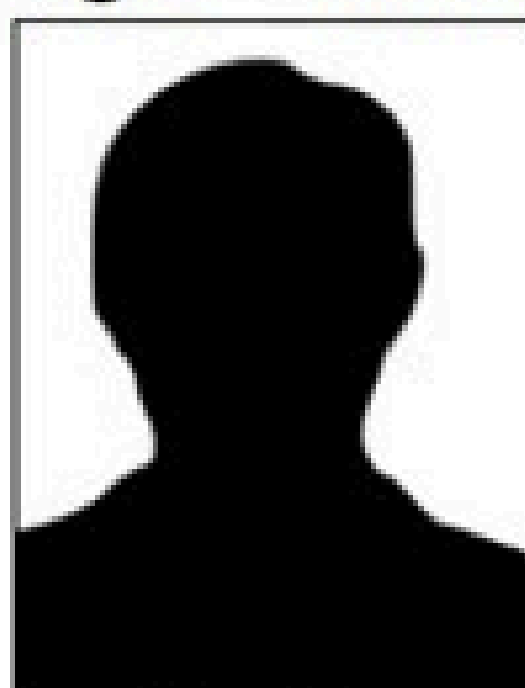
Corren Ngerengere



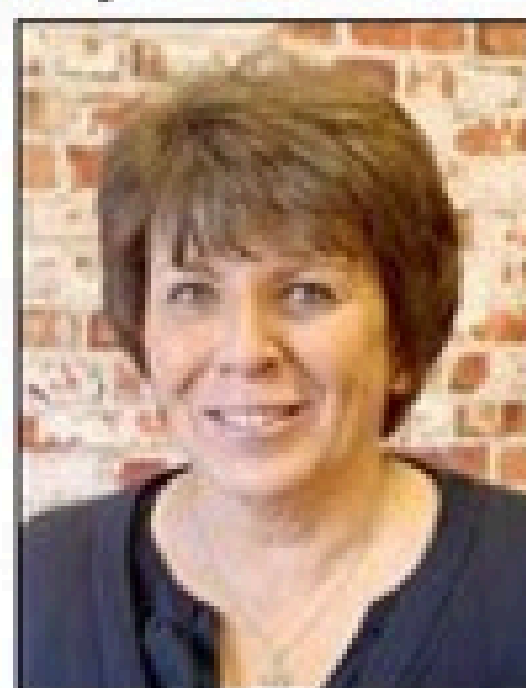
Selina Oliver



James Slyfield



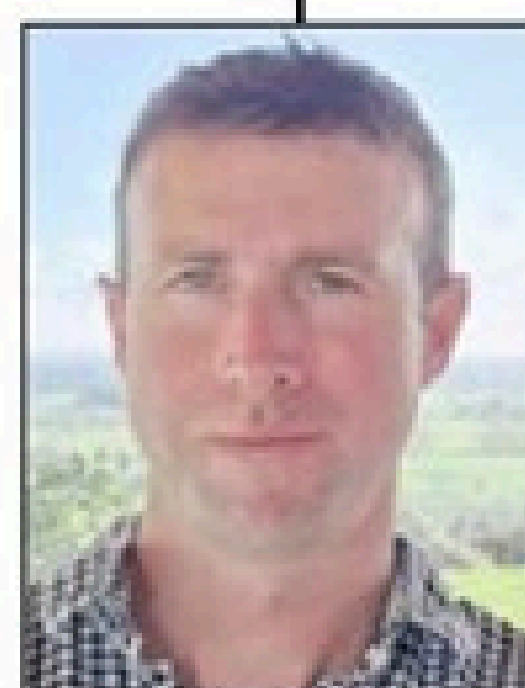
Te Hiiri Taute



Gerda Venter



Les Bennett  
Maungatautari Subdivision



Andrew Myers  
Maungatautari Subdivision



LOCAL CHOICE



# SKILLS MATRIX

as completed by the candidates

as completed by the candidates

CAMBRIDGE BUSINESS

# CHAMBER

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# SUSAN O'REGAN

## Mayor Candidate

### Background

Susan O'Regan is the Mayor of Waipā, a business owner, farmer and mother of five. Born and raised here she comes from a family with deep roots in both farming and public service. Susan holds degrees in Law and Political Science from University of Otago. She began her career in the Beehive as a Ministerial Assistant before moving into family law, practicing in both Auckland and the Waikato. She went on to establish her own successful chambers in Te Awamutu and closed these in 2010 to focus on family and farming. Together with her husband, John Hayward, Susan developed their 240-hectare Roto-o-rangi dairy farm; Judge Valley Dairies, into a nationally recognised example of sustainable farming. The farm has received major accolades, including Waikato Supreme Award at the Ballance Farm Environment Awards and top honours in the Dairy Business of the Year awards. Alongside her professional career, Susan has contributed extensively in governance. First elected to Waipā District Council in 2016, she served two terms as a councillor, the second as Chairperson of the Strategic Planning and Policy Committee, before becoming Mayor in 2022. As Mayor, Susan plays additional key roles in regional initiatives such as Waikato Water Done Well and the Future Proof partnership, which brings together iwi, councils, and central government. She is a Crown appointee to the Waikato River Authority, a trustee of Sport Waikato, and a member of the LGNZ Electoral Reform Working Group. Alongside her public service, Susan is a proud mother of five. She balances the responsibilities of leadership with the realities of family and farm. Her life reflects a strong blend of professional achievement, farming success, community service, and family commitment. As Mayor of Waipā, I bring proven and unparalleled experience to the role. I understand the realities of leading a complex organisation, working with elected members, and delivering for the whole community. As a collaborative leader, I am skilled at building consensus as evidenced by unanimous support on key matters such as the Long Term Plan and regional water reform.

Calm, decisive and steady under pressure, I am also a strong advocate, ensuring Waipā's voice is consistently heard at both regional and national levels. With a strong background in law and governance, I apply sharp legal and analytical skills to decision-making, always with integrity and fairness. I'm not afraid to front tough issues or bring about change, whether it is addressing financial pressures or calling for rests to projects like Cambridge Connections. Relationship-centric and approachable, I work to ensure all voices across Waipā are represented. Grounded and resilient, I combine vision with action, providing the trusted leadership needed for the role.

### My Key Priorities

Ensure the transformation and reshape/resize of the organization is successfully undertaken  
Develop a plan for Waipa's financial sustainability including finding efficiencies and investigating alternative funding options  
Ensure a smooth and successful Water reform transition  
Get the reset of Cambridge Connections right  
Respond to growth so that Waipa still feels like Waipa  
Advocate for Waipa in all aspects of reform  
Lead the creation of an effective and meaningful Seniors Forum  
Establish a Youth Council or Forum using co-design principles

### Why I am standing

I care deeply about Waipā – its people, its places, and its future. I want to ensure it continues to be a place where our children and grandchildren can thrive – a place to raise families, build businesses, enjoy life, and grow older with dignity. Over the past three years, Waipā has faced enormous challenges. Government reforms, unprecedented growth, financial pressures, and big decisions about our future have meant extra demands on councils and communities. In times like these, it matters to have leadership that is experienced, values-driven and community-focused. I have worked hard to provide balance between meeting the needs of our people today and preparing responsibly for the future. I am seeking re-election as your Mayor because I believe stability and proven leadership in local government is more critical now than ever before.



# MIKE PETTIT

## Mayor Candidate

### Background

I grew up in Russell, Bay of Islands, then studied at Auckland Teachers College. I did my OE before starting my teaching career up north. I gained my first principal's position at age 26 and have been a principal ever since. I have lived in Cambridge since 1998. I bring a deep understanding of our district's values and challenges. I'm a father, husband, and now grandfather. My interests include sport, anything to do with the water, and have done a lot of volunteer work, including trust boards, community projects, coaching and environmental planting. I have always advocated for grassroots leadership, and I'm committed to serving the community. I'm a lifelong educator, community leader, and proud Waipā local. From my early days as a teacher and principal to my service on the Cambridge Community Board and Waipā District Council, I've always made it my goal to put people first.

I bring over 15 years of proven leadership in local government, alongside my 30 years experience as a school principal, the last 17 years at Cambridge Primary School. My leadership style is grounded in strong relationships, smart strategic planning, financial acumen and genuine engagement. I build cultures of "we, not I." I've served three terms on the Cambridge Community Board (two as Chair), and two terms as Cambridge Ward Councillor. I understand how to get things done, and I know how to listen. As your mayor, I will bring extensive governance and leadership experience, and a deep commitment to community wellbeing to this role. I'm proud to call Waipā home, and I'm ready to lead a smarter, stronger council that delivers results for our district. Find out more about me at: [www.mikepettit.co.nz](http://www.mikepettit.co.nz)

### My Key Priorities

My key priorities are simple: build stronger relationships, drive smarter investment, and deliver practical solutions that benefit everyone. I'm not here to sit on my hands; Waipā needs change, and I'm here to lead a more practical, realistic and stronger council that delivers results. That means: · Ending double-digit rate rises by making savings within the Council, refining our procurement practices and scoping infrastructure projects more strategically. · Advocating for mixed funding models to reduce pressure on rates. · Ensuring Waipā is more than just roads and footpaths. Our amenities must reflect the district's needs of more families, elderly, businesses ensuring vibrant communities. · Strengthening partnerships between Council and community groups, so we're not just consulting at the end of a project, but taking people on the journey from the start. Learn from each other and a greater focus on working together. · Driving efficiency and transparency in how the Council operates, especially as we navigate changes after Waikato Waters Done Well comes into effect in July 2026. Find out more about my plan at: <https://www.mikepettit.co.nz/my-plan/>

### Why I am standing

I'm standing for Mayor because I believe Waipā deserves a strong collaborative leader that delivers better outcomes across our district. I want to connect the Council with our community in a way that's open, honest, and focused on positive outcomes. I've seen what works and what doesn't, and I know we can do better for the present and future generations. I'm here to lead with knowledge, understanding, empathy, and action and together, we can protect what makes Waipā special. I'm stepping forward because I believe we can make Waipā better, and with your support I'm ready to lead that change. Relationships. Results. Realism. That's what I stand for!



# CLARE ST PIERRE

**Mayor Candidate**

## **Background**

Clare was born in the district and has 12 years' experience as a Waipā elected member. She had a career with the ANZ Bank, covering lending, operations, system development and research, and was a founding member of Pirongia Heritage & Information Centre, Pirongia Tourism, Pirongia Te Aroaro o Kahu Restoration Society and Taiea te Taiao (Maungatautari to Pirongia ecological corridor project). Returning Kōkako to Mt Pirongia which won national awards was a special highlight as was gaining her private pilot's licence. Clare also has developed an acclaimed food forest on her small Pirongia property.

Academic qualifications in management, finance systems and controls, Resource Management decision-making, climate change, sustainability, and governance. Business brain and analytical skills, speed reading and research skills, innovative and futures thinking. Accomplished collaborative leadership skills involving diverse entities and iwi/mana whenua groups which lead to economic opportunities and inspire hope. Involvement in broad range of community organisations. Strong principles of integrity, transparency and accountability

## **My Key Priorities**

1. Fixing the finances by finding efficiencies, controlling opex and closer management of growth debt.
2. Greater transparency of council business and keeping council accountable to the community.
3. Affordability focus.
4. Collaborative partnerships to advance community projects.

## **Why I am standing**

I'm standing for Mayor because I'm concerned the current financial direction is unsustainable and I want to lead change on that front — at keeping rates affordable, expanding the financial tools available and the rules set for using them, achieving stronger buy-in for council actions and facilitating partnerships to allow community aspirations to be achieved - together.



# AIDHEAN CAMSON

Cambridge Ward Candidate

## Background

I bring 25 years of global infrastructure leadership, delivering major programmes across the water, transport, energy and urban development sectors. I've worked with and built teams across the globe and personally delivered projects in six countries. Now based in Cambridge, I want to apply that experience to work for our community.

My experience in long-term planning, financial oversight, and risk management gives me the tools to navigate growth wisely. As Waipā District evolves, we need smart, future-focused decisions: balancing housing, infrastructure, environment and heritage.

## My Key Priorities

- 1) Improve transparency
- 2) Test the true cost of capital projects
- 3) Guide change before it guides us

## Why I am standing

I'm passionate about ensuring well-managed development, quality services, environmental protection and inclusive decisions which reflect the needs of all residents. I believe strong governance means listening first, acting transparently and ensuring every ratepayer dollar delivers value. Throughout my career, I've worked with diverse teams, earned trust through collaboration, and stayed focused on measurable results. I'll bring that same approach to council, clear thinking and a commitment to represent the needs of the people who live and work here.



# MIKE CATER

**Cambridge Ward Candidate**

## **Background**

I currently lead a team of 10 people in a successful well-established local business and have done so for over 9 years. My early roots lie in high-end customer service, before moving in to the media industry. I hold a BA degree, coupled with a qualification in small business management. I have held leadership positions since a young age, from assistant managing a fast-paced KFC restaurant as a youngster, to managing/directing crews for locally produced tv shows for community television here in the Waikato. I still contract out as a cameraman to national production houses for jobs as part of a team in the corporate, cultural and entertainment sectors.

25yrs living in Waipa – I understand the people and the place. I possess a leadership style that is not afraid to make decisions, and to take responsibility for those decisions. I am also comfortable to ask the opinions of those who do the job what they feel the best way to achieve the necessary outcome is – i.e. I don't know it all! I am not afraid to take action and stand up when it counts. I have the ability to collaborate and as a part of Better Waipa, our combined skillset sees a 'many heads are better than one' approach, covering many bases. I am of strong moral fibre – our own business mission statement is 'honest service, driven by trust and confidence.' – a mindset I would like to see employed by our future Council. The ability to listen and a strong desire to make change for the betterment of our people make me one of the right people for this role.

## **My Key Priorities**

As a team, Better Waipa have identified a number of matters that I, and we, believe are key:

- Addressing escalating debt levels
- Unaffordable rate increases
- Ensuring local businesses thrive
- A lack of transparency and meaningful community consultation
- A back-to-basics approach for Waipa District Council to focus on core services

## **Why I am standing**

Our council is currently out of touch with its communities. I am standing to return basic principles of user-centric service, reflecting value for money for the rate-payers and employing common sense in the decision-making process. I want to hear the needs of our communities and act accordingly driven by a genuine desire to do what is best for the people of this region, as voiced by the people of this region. I stand with Better Waipa as we know it takes a team of like-minded individuals, united in their goals, to effect positive change.



# PHILIP COLES

**Cambridge Ward Candidate**

## **Background**

Our vibrant community has been home to Philip’s family for multiple generations. It’s because of this Philip wishes to have input into a pathway where the community collectively contributes on a direction which will determine the future for our community. Philip enjoys networking which helps connect with the community and businesses along with being a member of Cambridge Rotary and a committee member of the Safer Community Trust and Friends of Resthaven Foundation along with being President of Cambridge Greypower.

During Philips time in Public Life, he has always made myself accessible and been involved in the Community which helps get a clear understanding of the pressing issues to be addressed.

## **My Key Priorities**

Future River crossing and other Transport strategies that will define the future of our Town. Keeping the future of our town thrive and safe while the community grows and providing faculties and opportunities develop while growing and maintaining infrastructure for our expanding business continue to succeed.

## **Why I am standing**

Philip thrives on connecting and working along side the Community over the years and seeing our residents cherish where we call home along with welcoming our many visitors to our piece of paradise.

# JO DAVIES-COLLEY

**Cambridge Ward Candidate**

## **Background**

I have lived in Cambridge for 13 years and have a background in the health sector, having worked as a hospital midwife on high-risk antenatal wards for many years. That role taught me resilience, calm decision-making under pressure, clear communication, and the importance of listening with empathy, all skills I now bring into community leadership. For the past six years, I have served in local government, including three years as Chair of the Cambridge Community Board. During this time, I've gained extensive governance experience, leading the board to advocate effectively on behalf of residents and building strong, collaborative relationships with local organisations, community groups, and residents. I've represented the people of Cambridge at the Council table, at independent consent hearings, at public meetings and conferences, in the media, and on numerous Council and community committees, always ensuring the voice of Cambridge is clearly heard and considered in decision-making. I've also attended nearly every Council meeting over the last 3 years, worked closely with Council staff to understand policy, planning, and operational processes, which has all strengthened my ability and knowledge of how Council works. I've been honoured to speak at and help run Cambridge's Anzac Day and Armistice Day commemorations for the past six years, ensuring these important events are marked with the respect they deserve. Alongside this, I volunteer at many community events, and sports clubs, and I love being actively involved in Cambridge life. I genuinely enjoy connecting with people, listening to their concerns, and having meaningful conversations about the issues that matter most to our community. My husband is a local large-animal vet, managing one of the town's busiest vet practices, and we have three children who all attend local Cambridge schools. I bring a positive attitude and while I acknowledge we have our challenges, I truly believe Cambridge is the best place in the country to live, and I want to see it continue to thrive into the future.

I bring six years of proven leadership on the Cambridge Community Board, including three as Chairperson, where I've consistently advocated to Council on behalf of residents. I'm approachable and well connected across our community, committed to representing Cambridge with integrity and common-sense decision making. I understand the need to manage growth wisely, ensuring roads, services, and infrastructure keep pace with demand while preserving our small-town charm. I'm focused on sensible spending and the responsible use of ratepayer money, while keeping service levels strong. I've championed projects like Cambridge Connections, advocating strongly to Council for transparency and accountability to reflect long-term community needs. Above all, I'm friendly and approachable, community-focused and dedicated to keeping residents engaged, connected, and well represented at the Council table.



# CONTINUED

## Cambridge Ward Candidate

### My Key Priorities

Sensible Spending & Affordability:

I'll focus on keeping rates affordable by making every dollar count, prioritising essential services, cutting non-essential extras, and ensuring Council delivers the best value for ratepayers while making sure levels of service do not drop.

Growth & Infrastructure:

I'll make sure growth is managed sensibly, with safe roads, quality parks, and essential services that keep pace with our community, while protecting Cambridge's unique small-town character.

CBD & Traffic:

I'll keep pushing for practical, affordable solutions to ease parking and traffic pressures in our CBD, so it works better for locals and businesses alike.

Community Projects:

I'll continue to champion projects like Cambridge Connections and the library refresh, demanding transparency and accountability so they meet our community's needs for the long term.

Community & Partnerships: I'll stay accessible and engaged, listening to residents and working with local businesses and groups to deliver better outcomes for Cambridge.

### Why I am standing

To Give Cambridge a Strong Voice – I want to continue to effectively represent residents' views at the Council table, no matter the issue.

To Build on Experience – After six years on the Cambridge Community Board, including three leading as Chair, I want to turn my strong advocacy skills into decision making around the Council table.

To Advocate for Transparency – I want to continue to push for openness in Council projects and decision-making, like Cambridge Connections, and major community developments.

To Protect Community Interests – I want to continue to address issues that affect residents directly, such as rates, traffic, infrastructure, and local amenities.

To Support Growth with Balance – I want to have a role in guiding Cambridge's growth while preserving the town's unique character and charm.

To Encourage Collaboration – I want to continue to work constructively with Council staff, build on the strong existing working relationship I have with them, and advocate strongly for better outcomes for the Cambridge community.

To Continue Representing All of Cambridge – I want to continue to ensure all areas, especially Leamington residents who often tell me they feel overlooked, are heard and represented in Council decisions.

To Strengthen Community Wellbeing – I want to continue to champion initiatives that improve quality of life, maintain key services, and future-proof important facilities like the library.

# ROGER GORDON

**Cambridge Ward Candidate**

## **Background**

Six years as Waipa District Councilor representing the Cambridge Ward (95% attendance on all major committees) following three years as a Cambridge Community Board Member. Five years as CEO of Destination Cambridge Inc. Ten years as CEO of Rotorua Chamber of Commerce. 20 years as Managing Director and principal shareholder of Prestige Hotels Ltd. 8 years as International Marketing Director of a Tertiary Institute. Tourism Consultant for a number of major organisations and banks. Author of five books on aspects of hotel management for HCITB. Chair of Board of Trustees for two schools. Past Chair of SKAL Rotorua and of Rotorua Promotions Society. Life Member of Jaycees International. Member of Rotary and Cambridge Grey Power. Full detail is on my web site [www.rogergordon.co.nz](http://www.rogergordon.co.nz).

What you can expect from me as your Councilor: I have integrity and will be true to my beliefs. I will ask the questions that need to be asked and I'm not afraid to voice and vote against any motion if I believe it's the correct thing to do. I have a strong business and governance background and will apply business skills and acumen to the Council environment. I am an accredited Commissioner for Resource Management hearings. I am passionate about Cambridge having shown my support for Destination Cambridge and the now closed i-Site. I have a strong work ethic and have attended the highest number of meetings of any sitting Councillor. I am an independent thinker and I am willing to say what I think I commit to being inclusive and strongly advocate for a better voice for Seniors in Cambridge. I am approachable with good listening skills and have helped with several individuals and social/community organisations in Cambridge I have a positive approach to change.

## **My Key Priorities**

A timely conclusion to Cambridge Connections – bridge location, parking, public transport, and northern access from Tirau Road. Greater Transparency of Council discussions and deliberations. An efficient and effective roading network – no more speed bumps, less congestion, and a rational approach to cycleways. A more affordable rating regime that reflects a back to basics approach.

## **Why I am standing**

I am honest, reliable, and have a strong sense of integrity. I value the opportunity to contribute to the Future of Cambridge. I have governance and strategic planning experience plus a commitment to represent those that elect me, the people of Cambridge. I have enjoyed the last six years and although there have been frustrations, I believe I have contributed positively from a Cambridge perspective. This next three years will be a period of considerable change. The Three Waters move, the conclusion of Cambridge Connections, the new Resource Management legislation, the government back to basics approach for local government will all mean considerable change. I would like to be part of managing that change.



# IAN HAYTON

**Cambridge Ward Candidate**

## **Background**

With over 35 years of experience in Information Technology, I have built a career defined by leadership, accountability and delivering results. From starting, running and successfully selling my own business, to leading multi-billion-dollar transformational projects delivered on time and on budget, I understand both the challenges of small business ownership and the complexities of large-scale operations. This background has given me a strong foundation in strategic planning, financial discipline, and project delivery skills that are directly transferable to effective local governance. I know the importance of making clear, well-informed decisions, ensuring value for money, and working collaboratively to achieve outcomes that benefit the wider community. Now, standing with the Better Waipā Team, I am committed to applying this experience to address Waipā's most pressing challenges.

Proven Leadership: Over 35 years in Information Technology, managing and supporting both large and small teams across multiple disciplines as well as geopolitical boundaries. Financial Discipline: First-hand experience managing budgets and delivering value for money, ensuring financial responsibility and accountability skills directly relevant to addressing council's escalating debt and rising costs. Strategic Thinking: A track record of planning and delivering complex projects gives me the ability to see the bigger picture, make practical decisions, and focus on long-term benefits for the community. Problem-Solving Approach: Whether in business or large-scale programmes, I am skilled at identifying challenges early, bringing people together, and finding workable, common-sense solutions. Community Focus: I am not a career politician. I represent the voice of residents who want transparency, fair rates, strong infrastructure, and a council that returns to the basics of serving its community.

## **My Key Priorities**

As part of the Better Waipā Team, we have identified several key objectives that we believe are essential for the future of our community. These can be summarised as:

- Escalating debt levels that must be addressed
- Unaffordable year-on-year rate increases
- Ongoing traffic congestion across Waipā
- A lack of transparency and meaningful community consultation
- The need for Waipā District Council to return to the basics and focus on core services

## **Why I am standing**

That's a very good question. I'm not what you might consider the usual candidate, and under normal circumstances I probably wouldn't be standing for local government. The fact that I am doing so reflects just how strongly many in our community feel about the direction of the Waipā District Council. So standing with Better Waipa as real change takes a team, not just one individual

# STUART HYLTON

Cambridge Ward Candidate

## Background

I've called Cambridge home for over 15 years, raising my family here while building a career in infrastructure and asset management across both the public and private sectors, in New Zealand and internationally. I've led major projects as an executive, manager, and consultant, always focused on delivering real results and better outcomes. After a serious accident a few years ago, I was given the chance to rethink my path. Now, I want to put my global experience and local knowledge to work for Waipā, bringing practical solutions, strong governance, and a commitment to making every dollar count.

I bring 20+ years of hands-on experience in planning, infrastructure, and governance, the kind of real-world expertise Council desperately needs. I know how to cut waste, fix what's broken, and keep projects on track. Having worked with both councils and the private sector, I won't be fooled by glossy reports or unrealistic forecasts. I'll ask the hard questions, demand accountability, and make sure ratepayers get real value for every dollar spent.

## My Key Priorities

Stop runaway rates. Keep council focused on essentials, cut the nice-to-have spending, and demand value for every dollar. Fix infrastructure. Not just plan it, deliver real results on roads, water, and transport instead of endless reports and delays. Back local business. Remove red tape and make it easier for businesses to thrive, creating jobs and growth for Waipā. Accountability you can trust. Straight answers, open books, and decisions made with the community, not behind closed doors.

## Why I am standing

I'm standing because Waipā families and businesses can't keep carrying the weight of skyrocketing rates. Since 2023, they've already jumped over 20%, with another 26% locked in. That's simply unsustainable. As your ACT Local candidate, I stand for real change and lower rates, putting core services first, cutting waste, and making council accountable. I want a council that delivers value, not excuses, and one that respects the ratepayers footing the bill.



# PIP KEMPTHORNE

**Cambridge Ward Candidate**

## **Background**

I have been involved in starting and building some of New Zealand's leading Executive Recruitment and HR Advisory businesses in New Zealand, including Morgan and Banks, Momentum Consulting Group and H2R Consulting. I have also been a shareholder and director of an import and distribution business and acted as an independent director for a sizeable manufacturing business with global reach. I have been an Advisory Board Director for a number of entities in the recruitment sector and service companies. I have continued recruiting CEOs and directors for clients throughout Australasia. In the past three years in have been a Mentor for Business Mentors New Zealand, giving back to the community as well as being a board member and Vice President of Tieke Golf Estates in the Waikato.

I believe that my professional experience of over 40 years connecting people with ideas and my ability to get things done through effective collaboration, and quickly understanding the key drivers for success in a wide range of organisations is of value to our community, the Council and how it works. I truly believe that I can add considerable value to the governance group at Waipa District Council. I bring to the table business qualifications, an ability to understand the financial implications of any proposal along with a real commitment to see our people and the district to succeed.

## **My Key Priorities**

For the Council:

1. To be much more customer centric and truly represent interests of the residents.
2. To communicate with us in a language that we can understand.
3. To manage today's pressing needs while strategically preparing for future demands.
4. To give our community a voice in their future and to transparently share information so that we can all understand why decisions are made.

## **Why I am standing**

To give a voice to Cambridge residents and to make sure that we have a town and a district this is better of in the future.

# KARLA LUGATIMAN

**Cambridge Ward Candidate**

## **Background**

I am originally from the Philippines, migrated here to New Zealand in 2011, and have been a resident of Cambridge since 2016. I am a Registered Nurse with 17 years of experience, currently working as a Nurse Educator since 2017. I am also the Operations Manager of our local family business in Cambridge. I also serve in a local Church in Cambridge as an Administrator and a Treasurer, and I also mentor others in leadership and stewardship. I have also led teams, ministries, and initiatives that help support people, families, and communities. These roles have given me experience in healthcare, education, business, finance, and community leadership - all of which shape how I approach problem-solving and decision-making.

I bring strategic thinking and vision that will allow me to see the bigger picture and plan for sustainable growth. I also bring financial literacy and budget oversight that will allow me to promote financial stewardship and help ensure that our rates are used wisely. I also bring business insights and different industry perspectives with hands-on experience in operations and understanding what businesses need to thrive. I also bring community engagement and representation from business owners to families, migrants, and community groups.

## **My Key Priorities**

- Support youth, families and households and help strengthen community connections and collaborations.
- Champion local businesses by promoting policies that will help them grow and thrive.
- Sustainable growth and planning to make sure that Waipa grows in a way that protects what makes our district beautiful and special while embracing opportunities.
- Wise financial stewardship to ensure council budgets deliver real value and do not overburden ratepayers.

## **Why I am standing**

I am standing because I care about Waipa, and especially Cambridge, as the place my family calls home. I am greatly blessed, thankful, and humbled by this opportunity to serve and give back to the community where I can use my skills and experience to make a difference. At the council, I hope to represent the people and to ensure that every decision is made with wisdom, integrity, and grace for the future of everyone who calls Waipa home.



# DAVE MARINKOVICH

Cambridge Ward Candidate

## Background

Dave is currently employed locally at Shaws and has been in the aviation industry flying helicopters commercially for almost 2 decades. During this time he has held a number of management and leadership roles both here and overseas. He also has a background in the mechanical trades and military with the NZ Army which saw him complete operational tours to both East Timor and Iraq.

I bring real world experience with calm leadership, integrity and common sense. I have built great connections across all levels of our community which will give me a grounded perspective when it comes to decision-making.

## My Key Priorities

- Reconnecting the community with council ensuring ratepayers feel heard, respected, and involved in the decisions that affect them.
- Practical, Responsible Spending.

I'll advocate for common-sense financial decisions that prioritise key infrastructure, reduce waste, and ensure every dollar is working hard for our communities.

- Future-Focused Decision Making.

I'm committed to making smart, forward-thinking decisions that don't just solve today's problems—but set us up for long-term success.

## Why I am standing

I'm standing for council because, like many, I've often found myself questioning the decisions being made and feeling that the community's voice isn't always heard. Instead of just criticising from the sidelines, I've decided to put my hand up and bring my skillset to the table—to make a difference and have a positive influence on the direction our district takes for the future.

# STUART MATTHEWS

**Cambridge Ward Candidate**

## **Background**

Stuart has a professional background in business journalism and managing creative teams at publishers and agencies in the Middle East and UK. He returned to NZ in 2018 to look after his mum and get involved in the community. He spent four years as a trustee for Cambridge Community House, where he saw first hand the valuable work professionals and volunteers do improving the lives of people in Cambridge. He works part-time as a SESTA driver.

I bring extensive experience of managing project teams with diverse opinions, in an environment of tightly constrained operational budgets. I've spent years mining reports and studies for useable information and can scythe my way through spin.

## **My Key Priorities**

Rid the council's operational budget of reliance on debt, Champion the work of the community and volunteer organisations that hold the district together, and Reduce the number of gaming machines in Waipa.

## **Why I am standing**

I'm as fed up as everyone else. But I believe you have to build the community you want to live in. Getting involved with the organisations that can make a tangible difference to people's lives is the most direct way to make positive changes happen.



# BARRY QUAYLE

Cambridge Ward Candidate

## Background

I am the immediate past Chair of the Regional Council and Chair of the Finance Committee. Served two terms as Councillor. Former General Manager of Fieldays and Mystery Creek Events Centre in the development years Current member of the Cambridge Menzshed Committee.

I have financial nous, strategic planning abilities and capability to lead a team that is positively responsive to continuous improvement. I am keen on best practice approaches that are modeled to achieve positive outcomes. An understanding of how communities develop and prosper through their uniqueness and mix of traits. A wide diversity of work and life experiences.

## My Key Priorities

- Deal with the 7 very high risks elements (defined by the Auditor General) in the councils long term plan and financials; which in the wash up affects rates.
- Lobby and facilitate funding for on ramps going North at Newcombe Road/Tirau Road and gain NZTA approval. This will deal with the up to 200 trucks daily emanating from the large quarry just consented at Cambridge's door.
- Ensure that a short term traffic solution is provided for the residents and businesses south of the river in advance of the 30 year new bridge.

## Why I am standing

I want to bring my experience and capabilities to drive Waipa District Council to be a top performing council rather than its current position of languishing in the lower quartile. In my view Council is lacking in some core necessary governance attributes and I believe my inputs will improve Council performance.

# HOPE SPOONER

Cambridge Ward Candidate

## Background

Born and raised in Cambridge and now currently raising my family of 4 children in Cambridge. In my younger years I was a volunteer for the Cambridge RDA and was nominated for a Waipā community award. More recently for the past 10 years I've been a volunteer netball coach and have been heavily involved in the local sports clubs in Cambridge. I have run a small business from home and have helped my husband's business to get to where it is today which is a successful concreting company.

I am a team player who values honesty, common sense and trust in all things. A sincerity in wanting to make Waipā the best it can be for everyone. I offer a logical objective and grounded alternative to the challenges facing Cambridge

## My Key Priorities

As a member of the Better Waipa team our key priorities are:

- Making rates affordable
- Transparency and honesty
- Roothing
- Reducing debt and overall spending
- Real community collaboration
- Local Economy

## Why I am standing

I am standing because I have a vested interest in Cambridge being that I have lived here my whole life and am now raising my children here. I want to ensure that it retains its charm, character and natural beauty. Like other members of the Better Waipā team - I am not your usual candidate but I feel that Cambridge and Waipā deserve so much better than what we have had.



# DALE-MAREE MORGAN

Māori Ward Candidate

## Background

Kia ora, I'm Dale-Maree Morgan. My family has been here for 28 generations. I'm a mother, grandmother, and wife to a special effects artist, and I care deeply about the future of our district. Throughout my career, I've focused on supporting people to thrive — particularly in education and business. I've worked in student support roles at Massey University and the University of Waikato, and I've helped develop platforms that back small businesses, like Buy Māori Made, which now connects over 450 Māori-owned businesses across New Zealand. Worked on the successful Taringa Podcast, which shares stories, culture, and knowledge in a fun and down-to-earth way — whether you speak te reo or are just curious to learn more. I'm standing for re-election because I believe in fair representation, strong relationships, and practical solutions. I work closely with iwi, councils, and community groups to make sure everyone's voice is heard — and that includes you. I understand that change can feel uncomfortable at times. But I'm here to listen, to work together, and to make sure Waipā remains a place where everyone feels welcome and where everyone has the chance to benefit.

Continue with partners & stakeholders to unlock opportunities  
Courageous leadership: Address our financial positioning for future preparedness.  
Ward advocacy: Ensuring the Māori Ward is valued, like Rural & General Wards.  
Environmental stewardship: Committed to supporting our Waipā environmental groups. Connecting communities, with cultural understanding, determination to uplift and empower. Together, shaping a future where all voices are heard, every community is valued, and our shared strengths build a resilient, more united Waipā.

## My Key Priorities

1. Fair Representation.
2. Inclusive Decision Making.
3. Social Cohesion.
4. Economic development

## Why I am standing

I'm standing again to continue the steady, practical work this role has undertaken —helping to bring the district's plans and community aspirations to life. Together, we can ensure Waipā remains a place where families thrive, businesses grow, and future generations benefit from the choices we make today.

# YVONNE WAHO

Māori Ward Candidate

## Background

I was born and raised in Te Awamutu and have always called Waipā home. My career has been in banking, youth work, health, whenua, and community services, working alongside whānau to navigate complex systems, supporting housing and papakāinga initiatives, and standing for strong communities where people can thrive. I'm passionate about making sure our voices are heard, our tikanga is respected, and that together we build a fair and inclusive Waipā for everyone.

I've been actively involved in community kaupapa, bringing both lived experience and professional skills to the table. I love our people and this place, and I want to be a voice that truly listens and stands alongside our community. I've walked with whānau, hapū, and neighbours through both challenges and celebrations, and I believe the best outcomes can be achieved when we work together.

## My Key Priorities

- Retain Māori wards to uphold Te Tiriti and ensure Māori voices guide council decisions.
- Build affordable housing and papakāinga to address the housing crisis.
- Upskill rangatahi in trades to create jobs and deliver housing solutions for our future.

## Why I am standing

I want to ensure our voices are heard and valued in every decision that shapes our whenua, our whānau, and our future generations. I am committed to weaving te ao Māori values into Council decision-making, protecting our whenua, enhancing hauora, and creating positive pathways for our future mokopuna.



# Why Māori Wards Make Sense — For Everyone in Our Community

You may have seen the debate around Māori wards. It's a hot topic. But before we make up our minds, here are some simple, practical reasons why saying “Yes” to Māori wards can benefit us all — no matter your background.

## 1. It's About Fair Representation

Just like rural areas sometimes need dedicated seats, Māori communities often miss out on fair representation. Māori wards help make sure all parts of our community have a voice at the table.

## 2. Better Decisions for Everyone

When councils include more perspectives — especially local Māori who have deep roots in the area — they make better decisions about water, housing, environment, and more. That's good for all of us.

## 3. Local People, Local Voices

This isn't about politics from Wellington. It's about local Māori having a say on local issues. Māori wards simply give mana whenua a clearer way to contribute to decisions that affect their own backyard.

## 4. It Builds Stronger Communities

When everyone feels heard, we build more trust in our communities. Māori wards give us a way to move forward together — with less division, not more.

## 5. Nothing Is Taken Away

Māori wards don't reduce anyone else's vote or say. They just make sure that a voice that's often missed is brought into the room. It's about adding value, not taking it away.

## 6. We All Benefit from Māori Values

Māori bring values like kaitiakitanga (guardianship of the environment) and manaakitanga (care for people). When these ideas are at the table, councils can make choices that benefit the whole community.

## 7. Good for Our Future

Younger generations are growing up with a stronger connection to te ao Māori. Māori wards reflect the kind of Aotearoa we're becoming — respectful, inclusive, and proud of who we are.

## 8. We Already Do This Nationally

We've had Māori electorates in Parliament for over 150 years. Māori wards simply apply that same idea locally. It's nothing radical — just catching up.

## 9. It's a Kiwi Way to Do Things

When something's not working fairly, we find a practical fix. That's what Māori wards are — a fair, Kiwi solution to make local democracy work better.

## 10. Because Everyone Deserves a Say

No matter who you are — Māori, Pākehā, new Kiwi or long-time local — we all want to feel heard. Māori wards are one way to make sure no voice is left out.

Let's Vote With Heart, Not Fear - You don't have to be Māori to support Māori wards. You just need to care about fairness and want the best for our communities. Saying “Yes” is a step toward working better together — and that's something we can all get behind.