

Ms Heather McRae (2006 - 2009)

Heather was raised on a farm in north Wairarapa, attending the local schools. She graduated from Massey University with a Bachelor of Science with a double major in chemistry and biology, earned a Diploma in Teaching (with distinction) and later gained a Masters in Educational Administration (with first class honours). Heather has run five marathons, was awarded a "blue" in netball at university, and has three adult children. She continues to love sport, in particular netball, athletics and multi sports, and has a strong affinity with the arts.

Heather began her career teaching science, chemistry and maths, then became a Dean and Head of Department for Science, at Awatapu College in Palmerston North. Heather then worked at the Palmerston North College of Education, followed by the NZ Ministry of Education in Wellington where she advised on the development of the curriculum and professional development of teachers, ranging from years 1-13.

From 1996-2002 Heather consulted internationally with the Multi Serve Education Trust, which is New Zealand's leading exporter of education, providing educational services to public and private education providers, mainly in Asia and the Middle East. Her roles with Multi Serve included Director of International Educational Operations and Manager of National and International Curriculum Projects. Heather's work internationally culminated in assisting with the establishment of an International Baccalaureate accredited school, Western Academy, in Beijing, China. In 2002, Heather was appointed Principal of Western Academy's High School and Curriculum Director for kindergarten through to year 12. In 2004 Heather returned to New Zealand and took up her position at Pakuranga College as Associate Principal, becoming Principal in 2006. Heather received a Sir Woolf Fisher Trust Scholarship, which enabled her to undertake the Hillary Leadership Programme run by the NZ Leadership Institute at the University of Auckland.