

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER PROFILES

REBECCA RUSSELL



Joined 2022

Role School Board Chair

WHY DID YOU JOIN THE SCHOOL BOARD?

I was interested in learning more about how the school runs and contributing as a Parent Representative. Since joining, I've learned about what programs are being delivered, how the school uses student progress data to enhance the learning and experiences of our children, the financial operations, the comprehensive process to select an Outside School Hours Care Provider, and so much more! I've really enjoyed getting to know the School Leadership Team, too.

BACKGROUND

I'm a mum to 3 children at Upper Swan and I have lived in the Swan Valley on and off during most of my late teens and adult life.

I absolutely love our school - the community, the grounds, the staff, and everything else that makes Upper Swan special! I also volunteer on the P&C as the secretary to help with fundraising and running events that make our school community great.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO SOMEONE THINKING ABOUT JOINING?

Jump in and join us! It's a really rewarding experience and only involves 5 meetings a year. If you want to learn more, reach out to a School Board member (me, Pam, or someone else) to ask any questions you have.

KARINA BEGLEY



Joined 2021

Role Parent Representative

WHY DID YOU JOIN THE SCHOOL BOARD?

I love learning the 'business' side of the school and gaining insight into how things are run. I like seeing the data behind how our school is performing academically, where the current focus is and what programs are being implemented to enrich the learning experience.

BACKGROUND

I've lived in the Swan Valley for the past 20 years and have always loved the small community feel.

When I had my first child and started to look into what our intake school was, I was so excited to learn that Upper Swan was our local primary school.

This is my tenth year here, and it has been a wonderful school for my children.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO SOMEONE THINKING ABOUT JOINING?

It's an insightful role that requires a minimal time commitment. You get to meet with a varied group of individuals, all with valid and different opinions and experiences to draw on.

DAN FAIRBAIRN



Joined 2024

Role Parent Representative

WHY DID YOU JOIN THE SCHOOL BOARD?

I joined the School Board to stay meaningfully connected to my children's school.

My work takes up a significant amount of my time, so being part of the Board felt like a purposeful way to stay involved and contribute. I wanted to add value wherever I could and support the students, teachers, and the broader school community.

BACKGROUND

I'm the CEO of Sat One Global, a Perth-based company focused on Low Earth Orbit satellite connectivity and space technology. My family and I live in the Swan Valley. I'm a proud dad to two daughters at Upper Swan, Alicia and Sophia, along with my amazing wife, Amanda. We love being part of this community, and I'm really grateful to have the opportunity to contribute to the school that's such a big part of our family's life.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO SOMEONE THINKING ABOUT JOINING?

Do it - you'll be part of something genuinely meaningful. Being on the Board means you get to have a real voice in shaping the future of our school. It's a chance to work alongside passionate educators and dedicated parents who all want the best for our children. If you care about making a difference at a local level, this is where it starts.

CELSEY EDWARDS



Joined 2025

Role Parent Representative

WHY DID YOU JOIN THE SCHOOL BOARD?

I will be spending a lot of my time at the school over the next decade and want to be actively involved in my children's school experience. I enjoy learning about USPS, including goals, achievements, and plans for the future, as well as participating in discussions with other members of the Board in matters important to our children.

BACKGROUND

I am mum to 3 boys. I grew up in the area and am grateful that our boys will get to as well. Upper Swan Primary is a beautiful place that our family has been welcomed into since starting in 2023. I joined the P&C in 2024 and Board in 2025, and enjoy seeing how motivated the entire school community is to positively contribute and participate.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO SOMEONE THINKING ABOUT JOINING?

Come along! Our children spend a lot of time at school, so what better way to get more of an insight into USPS and have the opportunity for discussion with the other welcoming members of the board.

LOUISE DALY



Joined 2025

Role Parent Representative

WHY DID YOU JOIN THE SCHOOL BOARD?

As I did not grow up in Australia, I am not familiar with the schooling here. Joining the Board was an opportunity for me to learn about the inner workings of the school and grow a better understanding of the day-to-day of how the school operates. It's also important to me to instil the value of community in my children, and being involved in both the School Board and P&C allows me to demonstrate this.

BACKGROUND

I have lived adjacent to the Swan Valley since ~2020 and I adore the rural setting whilst still being a part of suburbia. I have 3 children; my eldest son commenced Kindergarten at Upper Swan PS in 2019 and since then, I have thoroughly enjoyed being part of the USPS community.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO SOMEONE THINKING ABOUT JOINING?

I would say if you are thinking about it, then go for it. It's minimal commitment for significant reward, in my opinion. Differing opinions are valuable and the greater the dynamic of members; the greater the accomplishments we will achieve.

CHARLOTTE GOSATTI



Joined 2014

Role Community Representative

WHY DID YOU JOIN THE SCHOOL BOARD?

I joined the School Board because of my passion for the school. It is interesting to see some of the inner workings of the school and to feel involved on some level and share opinions and viewpoints.

BACKGROUND

My children attended USPS 2004-2016, and during that time, I always enjoyed being involved with school activities, including fundraising, excursions, reading support programs, P&C, and supporting events. My connection with the Local Community Centre allows opportunities for collaboration in Community events, and I love being able to stay involved with this school and foster local relationships.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO SOMEONE THINKING ABOUT JOINING?

I would say go for it. There is only a small commitment of time, and it's a worthwhile endeavour. A good School Board is a great reflection on the school.

KAREN CORICA



Joined 2014

Role Community Representative

WHY DID YOU JOIN THE SCHOOL BOARD?

Because I care deeply about the school and wanted to be involved in shaping the experience the children have. It's given me the chance to contribute to decisions that matter, like fees, book lists, sponsorships, and dress codes, while making sure they reflect what's best for our families. I enjoy working alongside the principal and other members to help create a positive, inclusive environment for everyone.

BACKGROUND

I've lived in Upper Swan since 1988, and our family has a long-standing connection with the school. My husband and his sisters attended Upper Swan Primary in the 1970s and '80s, and our four children, Bella, Sophia, Vincent, and Miawere were students there from 2005 to 2017. They loved their time at USPS, forming lifelong friendships and thriving both socially and academically.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO SOMEONE THINKING ABOUT JOINING?

It's a rewarding way to make a real difference in the school community; a chance to have your voice heard, support the students, and shape decisions that impact their learning and wellbeing. You don't need any special qualification, just an interest in USPS and a willingness to work together with others.

PAMELA HAHNEL



Joined 2019

Role Principal

WHY DID YOU JOIN THE SCHOOL BOARD?

Principals are required to be on the School Board. I've enjoyed being on School Boards and Councils in each school I have worked over the past 20 years, as a principal or staff representative.

BACKGROUND

It's my privilege to be principal at Upper Swan Primary School. As principal, my focus is on the conditions, systems and structures for our school to provide a high-quality education and positive experience for every student from Kindergarten to Year 6.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO SOMEONE THINKING ABOUT JOINING?

Please join us at a meeting and see for yourself. The Board are a group of friendly, engaged, and focused individuals. Our meetings are positive, interactive and interesting.

JODIE JONES



Joined 2020

Role Staff Representative

BACKGROUND

I have been a teacher at Upper Swan Primary School since 2018. My own children grew up with connections to the Swan Valley through their schooling and sport. I love teaching in the Valley with its great families and connected community.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO SOMEONE THINKING ABOUT JOINING?

It is only a small investment of time to learn about all the great things that your school is invested in and to celebrate and be a part of our achievements.

WHY DID YOU JOIN THE SCHOOL BOARD?

To connect with the greater school community and to learn about and promote the wider impact of our school programs.

KRISTYN BRAITHWAITE



Joined 2025

Role Staff Representative

BACKGROUND

I have lived in the Swan Valley for over 40 years and have been a teacher for 18 years. My husband, Brad, is a train driver, and I have 2 children who are teenagers. I started my journey at Upper Swan in 2022 and have loved teaching in the Junior Block. I began and have continued teaching Year 3. I enjoy teaching Year 3, as they are independent learners, but still love having fun and listening to my silly voices when I read. The staff at Upper Swan have been supportive and kind, and I love the school community and support from parents and carers.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO SOMEONE THINKING ABOUT JOINING?

You will find it is very informative and lots of fun! Ideas are shared, achievements are celebrated, and you have a different perspective about the school- another positive one!

WHY DID YOU JOIN THE SCHOOL BOARD?

I enjoy learning more about how the school runs and having an opportunity to develop different relationships with others in our community. It is a wonderful thing to have people from different endeavours join and share their ideas and opinions. I enjoy the roles I have at Upper Swan and sharing the learning and achievements of the students and staff in the school.