



**SPELD New Zealand Inc
Te Rōpū Whakaoho Matauranga
Nominees for Board and Professional Standards Committee
for 2022 AGM**

Nominees for SPELD NZ Inc Board Members

Penny Thomson

Position nominated for: Board Member



My name is Penny Thomson (she/her). I have been on the Board since 2019 and am standing for re-election.

I am a mother to two delightful dyslexic children, and they are the reason I got back into teaching as a SPELD NZ Teacher. After I finished school, I completed a BSc (Hons) and worked in environmental planning. I later trained and worked as a secondary school Social Studies and Geography teacher.

Once children arrived on the scene, I became a full-time parent taking roles on various Plunket and kindy committees. After my eldest started school my suspicions that he could be dyslexic were eventually confirmed, but I was frustrated and surprised at how little his teachers seemed to know about dyslexia. I didn't know much about dyslexia either however my late mother had been both a new entrant teacher and a SPELD NZ teacher and I had assumed that the things she talked about were common knowledge for all primary teachers. How wrong I was! In the meantime, I had a miserable child and I needed answers. The 'answers' have included an alphabet soup of diagnoses and very little in the way of support within the school system.

My son started receiving SPELD NZ tuition in 2014. His SPELD NZ teacher was amazing, he started to make progress and gradually became a little happier at school. This was the catalyst I needed to undertake SPELD NZ's Introductory Course in SLD, which led to the Level 5 certificate course. At the time I was wanting to better understand and advocate for my own children, however, I ended up having my arm twisted and became a SPELD NZ teacher myself. In addition to being a SPELD NZ Teacher, I am the Convener for SPELD NZ's Canterbury Local Liaison Group

In my free time I enjoy messing about with the animals on our lifestyle block west of Christchurch. I also enjoy art and craft, especially felt making with wool from my own sheep, and getting out in the hills with my family, particularly if it's on a mountain bike. I re-started track cycling three years ago when my child began. This year I was thrilled to win gold in the individual pursuit as part of the Canterbury team at the Master's Track National Championships.

David Ward

Position nominated for: Board Member



My name is David Ward. I have been on the Board since 2019 and am standing for re-election.

I have been keenly interested in the area of dyslexia for many years, especially because it has emerged as a feature for many across my wider family.

Prior to my retirement and move to Hawke's Bay last year, I was Head of Learning Support at King's College in Auckland for 17 years. I enjoyed strong support from the college to develop my understanding of learning differences, and also to develop a programme of support for students at the school. Prior to starting at King's in 2001, I was Head of Physical Education and Sport at Awatapu College, Palmerston North. Before that I taught at Huntley School in Marton, and at Kuranui College in Greytown. Later in life I completed a Cert in TESSOL teaching at Auckland University.

During my years of teaching, attended the International Dyslexic Conferences in Seattle and New Orleans, USA and SPELD NZ Conferences in New Zealand. I was fortunate to win a King's College Myers Scholarship which allowed me to travel to visit the Gow School and Landmark Schools in Buffalo and Boston, USA. Both schools educate only dyslexic students. In 2003, prior to the government recognizing dyslexia as an issue for learners, I travelled to Australia and England to visit schools which have strong learning support programmes, so I could instigate a similar approach at King's.

I was fortunate to have been mentored by educational psychologists Lyn Berresford and Lindi Hansen. I took a proactive approach to growing my own expertise, and in helping my colleagues at King's to develop a pathway for our students. I met with and worked alongside Neil McKay, Gavin Reid, Ronald Davis, Linda Silverman, Winifred Dore, Laughton King, and Tom Nicholson.

Personally, I enjoy sport and working with buildings and properties. I have been involved in supporting a refugee family and am Chairperson of *VoicesNZ* which selects and sends students to the APEC/CEO meetings annually.

I enjoy being part of SPELD NZ, making a contribution wherever possible.

There being more vacancies than nominees for the Board Member positions vacant, Penny Thomson and David Ward are automatically elected.

No other nominations were received by the due date. However, pursuant to Rule 11.6 b) of the Constitution nominations may be made from the floor of the AGM. Mandy Ostergren now offers herself for election.

Nomination from the Floor of the AGM

Mandy Ostergren



Mandy's involvement with SPELD NZ began earlier this year, when she joined SPELD NZ seeking help for one of her sons. She saw the call for new Board members in the Record magazine, and is keen to offer her services. Mandy became involved in education through her children, and has had committee roles at her children's Playcentre and Rudolf Steiner Centre. She also has experience as an Education Support Worker.

Mandy lives in the Hawkes Bay with her family. In her spare time, she enjoys biking, family activities and Health and Wellbeing

Nominees for SPELD NZ Inc Professional Standards Committee

Nicole Johnson

Position nominated for: Professional Standards Committee Member



Nicole has been working as a SPELD NZ Assessor training since 2012. Since 2020 she has assisted with Assessor training and mentoring. Nicole was seconded to the Professional Standards Committee as an assessor representative. She is passionate about working from a strengths-based perspective and her goal is always to strengthen the mana of our clients and their families.

As well as assessing and PSC work, Nicole is currently finishing my Masters in Educational and Developmental Psychology and raising three beautiful children with husband Joel.

There being only one nomination received for the Professional Standards Committee vacancy, Nicole Johnson is automatically elected.