

INTRODUCING Matangi School Board Member

Name: Chris Ballantyne

Where were you born? Edinburgh, Scotland

Tell us about your family: My wife Emma and I have three children at the school, Olivia (Kahikatea 1), Sam (Kahikatea 2) and Hugh (Pohutukawa Pod) - we also have a pet Kunekune - Pickles!

The family at Tayto Park - Ireland's potato theme park (of course), earlier this year.



Current occupation? Infrastructure Planner, currently (among other things) I'm leading the planning of a new crossing of the Waitemata Harbour in Auckland - NZ's largest ever infrastructure project.

Favourite job that you have ever had: Travel Journalist - on my OE I prepared a travel journal for a website documenting my friend and my travels around SE Asia, Oceania, North and South America!

What do you think the best thing is about living in Matangi? Being in the country with a great community and still being close to the good things about town without having to live there.

Do you have a favourite place in NZ or around the world you have visited and why? My favourite place in NZ is my gully at home in Matangi.

What were you like in primary school? I was a pretty good little boy (as I recall), though I did respond in writing to my teacher's comments on my homework which was apparently quite funny!

What three words would you use to best describe yourself - energetic, inquisitive and direct.

If you could be any animal in the world, what animal would you be and why? An eagle, the idea of soaring through the skies is pretty exciting.

And finally, where would you go in a time machine? I'd have to go into the future to see how it all turned out - did we populate the universe? Did we invent the teleporter? Answering questions like that.