









Title	Photo	Introduction
<p>Vicki McIntyre Principal</p>		<p>Kia Ora, I am joining TAS from being the Tumuaki at Akaroa Area School. It has been a really busy start to the year. I have been a Tumuaki of both full primary and area schools with over 20 years experience in leading a school and leading change. I am passionate about teaching and learning, student ownership of their place and learning, and enabling others. I have a strong connection to farming and rural communities, Alan and I have always lived rural, across Otago and Canterbury. Great to already make some connections with whānau within the Twizel community. I love the outdoors, enjoy gardening, tramping, farming, sewing and crafts, and spending time with my adult family and my mokopuna Everly. I am grateful for the warm welcome and support to Twizel, and look forward to leading Twizel Area School into the future.</p>
<p>Nyree Schaar Acting Deputy Principal</p>		<p>Kia ora, my name is Nyree Schaar and I am the Acting Deputy Principal. I've been part of the school community since 2012, with both of my children having gone through all their schooling at TAS, giving me a strong personal connection to the school. I'm passionate about teaching Food and Nutrition, Hospitality, and Textiles—subjects that allow our rangatahi to be creative, confident, and hands-on in their learning. After several years of waiting, watching and planning, it's a real privilege to finally be teaching in our beautiful new school and to see the difference these spaces make for our students.</p>

<p>Melissa McLellan Assistant Principal</p>		<p>Kia ora, My name is Melissa McLellan and I am the Assistant Principal and I also teach in the Year 6 classroom with Margaret White. I have been in Twizel for 16 years, but have only been teaching at TAS for 5 years. I am passionate about The Mackenzie Country and moved here for the outdoors and the stunning views. In my free time I will be found spending time with my husband and two boys on a sports field, the lake or at the ski field. I am looking forward to an amazing start to 2026 in our new building and working with an incredible team.</p>
<p>Beth Lemon</p>		<p>Kia Ora, My name is Beth Lemon and I am the New Entrant/ Year One teacher. I have been a part of the Twizel community for 8 years. This is my first year teaching at Twizel Area School. I have three boys who also attend the school. I enjoy the outdoors, exercising and spending time with family and friends.</p>
<p>Isabella Tierney</p>		<p>Kia Ora, My name is Isabella Tierney and I am the Year 2 teacher. I graduated from the University of Otago in December 2025 and I am thrilled to begin my teaching career here at Twizel Area School, especially in this amazing new building! In my free time I love skiing, walking and spending time with my family. I can't wait to explore around the beautiful Mackenzie and familiarise myself with this community.</p>

<p>Olivia McIntyre</p>		<p>Hello! I am Olivia McIntyre, I am very excited to be teaching alongside Isabella in Room 2 as her mentor.</p> <p>Previously trained as a chef then became a teacher in Ohakune. I moved down to the South Island 9 months ago with my partner and daughter. I enjoy being outdoors, spending time with friends and family. I am looking forward to getting to know the Twizel community.</p>
<p>Sharon Reid</p>		<p>Hi everyone, I'm Sharon Reid, and I am incredibly excited to be joining the team at our new school! I'll be working with our wonderful Year 3 students, helping them blossom and discover new things every day.</p> <p>Outside of the classroom, I'm big on family time—you'll usually find us together exploring local sights and visiting new places. I'm looking forward to a fantastic year ahead at our new school.</p>
<p>Olivia Wise</p>		<p>Kia ora, my name is Olivia Wise and I am thrilled to be heading into my fourth year here at Twizel Area School. Having taught across various levels of the junior school, I am particularly excited to be working with our wonderful Year 4 students this year. I have a deep passion for teaching and learning, and nothing brings me more joy than helping our tamariki explore and understand the world around them.</p> <p>Starting the year in our brand-new school makes this year even more special, and I can't wait to see what we achieve together in this incredible new space!</p>

Nicole Cope



Kia ora, my name is Nicole Cope and I am super excited to be teaching Year 5 this year. This will be my second year teaching and I look forward to seeing what 2026 has in store for us! Out of school, I love spending time with my family, spending time at the lakes, reading, and come winter, you'll probably find me on the side of the netball court umpiring! I can't wait to continue exploring this beautiful area I now get to call home.

Margaret White



Kia ora, My name is Margaret White and I am excited to be team teaching in the Year 6 classroom this year with Melissa McLellan. I have also just started in the role of Learning Support Coordinator at TAS which will be a great opportunity to work with staff across the school to support all our awesome students to be the best they can be. When I'm not at school I work as an artist, and I am really looking forward to shortly moving into a new studio space and working towards some exhibitions later in 2026.

Tim Byrne



Kia Ora, my name is Tim Byrne and I have been at Twizel Area School for 1 ½ years. I have taught all areas of Primary and Intermediate and this year will be teaching in year 7. Outside of school I am passionate about sports especially water based sports and have been teaching and coaching swimming for over 15 years. I'm looking forward to a great year in 2026.

Angela Topham



Kia ora, I'm Angela. I'm new to Twizel and loving life in this beautiful part of the country. I spent 22 years on the Gold Coast before returning to New Zealand two years ago, and I'm really happy to now be living and working here. When I'm not at school, you'll usually find me out exploring the local walks, swimming in the lake on warm days, or adventuring with my Jack Russell Terrier, Darren. I'm looking forward to getting to know the students, whanau and our school community

Sandy Nelson



Kia Ora Koutou, Ko Sandy Nelson toku ikoa. This year I am co-teaching Year 9-10 English, teaching Y8-10 Social Studies, supporting some NCEA online learners in the humanities, and continuing work in the curriculum. I am passionate about teaching and learning and about supporting students and colleagues. My husband Dean is in conservation management and is chair of the Hard Labour Committee. Our three adult sons are ex-students of TAS. My out-of-time school interests include time in the back-country and writing. I am currently researching for a book about the huts in Aoraki Mount Cook National Park.

Melissa Neill



Kia ora, my name is Melissa Neill. This year I'm teaching Year 9-13 English and serving as the Dean for Years 7-13. I've been part of the Twizel community for three years and have had the privilege of teaching across all areas of the school during that time. I'm passionate about supporting students to grow in confidence, independence, and resilience as they move through their schooling journey. Outside of work, life is busy and full with two children, and we're excited to be welcoming another one later this year.

Jayne Evans



Kia ora! My name is Jayne Evans, and this year I am teaching Year 7-8 Science, Year 9-10 Mathematics, and Year 7-10 Performing Arts, Music and Drama. I am also the Gateway and STAR Coordinator for Years 11–13. My formal qualifications span agricultural sciences, mathematics, and musical performance, which probably explains why I'm just as happy in a paddock, a classroom, or on stage. I am currently completing a Masters in Education with an endorsement in Special Education and Inclusion. When I'm not at school, you'll usually find me spending time with my son Eli, training for a half marathon or adventure race, biking, kayaking, fishing, hiking, or out on the farm whenever I get the chance. I come from an extensive farming background, so the outdoors have always been in my blood. I am genuinely excited to share my passion for learning and embracing life's experiences with the students of TAS this year, and I look forward to a year of growth, challenge, fun and opportunity together.

Cia Winter



Kia ora koutou, my name is Cia Winter. The teaching and learning process has always been my passion and I enjoy seeing the students in my room grow into well rounded positive citizens who are well prepared for a global community. I see my role as a facilitator bringing out the personal best in all students in my classes, not only in their curriculum learning, but also mastering the Key Competencies empowering them with resilience, curiosity and personal discipline. This year I am teaching Financial Literacy across the Middle School and Business Studies at Year12. I am also teaching Digital Technologies across Yr7-13. As well as that I am also e-Dean for the online learners and a Careers Coordinator.

Heather Dixon



Kia ora, my name is Heather Dixon. I am teaching year 9-11 Science, year 12 and 13 Biology and Chemistry and organising the Duke of Edinburgh program this year. I moved to Twizel with my partner just over two years ago for the mountains, lakes, huts and trails. I am really excited to have lots of year 12s who have chosen Science this year and am looking forward to creating opportunities for students to explore and grow outside of the classroom through the Duke of Edinburgh program.

JK Baterna



Kia ora, I'm Johanna Kristin (Jk) Baterna, your Health and PE teacher for Years 6-13. I joined midway through last year and have felt truly welcomed and supported by the wonderful staff here at TAS.

As a former national athlete, and a proud wife and mum of two wonderful children, sport has played a significant role in shaping who I am. It has taught me resilience, discipline, teamwork, and the importance of a positive mindset. I am passionate about passing on to our students. I aim to create inclusive and encouraging environments where our tamariki can build confidence, show respect, challenge themselves, and grow into well-rounded individuals.



Let's work together to make this year a positive and successful one for our school community.




Dorothy Torrenueva






Hi! I'm Dorothy Joy Torrenueva, teaching Senior Maths and Years 9 & 10. This is my second year at Twizel Area School, and I'm passionate about helping students appreciate maths and training them for external competitions. In my free time, I love exploring the beautiful local lakes!

<p>Dave Buys</p>		<p>Good day, I am excited to join the team at the new school, my area is Hard Materials and my background is marine engineering and construction on oil and gas projects. I look forward to getting our students' industry ready for any trade they might consider.</p> <p>I enjoy fishing and hunting and am grateful to be living in such a beautiful part of the world.</p>
<p>Clare Frost</p>		<p>Kia Ora Koutou, Ko Clare Frost toku ikoa. This year I am teaching Visual Arts and some PE. I enjoy working with all different ages of students and have been fortunate enough to have been heavily involved in many Area School Events. I was instrumental in setting up the National Area Schools Leadership camp which still continues today.</p>
<p>Chelsea Lousley</p>		<p>Hi everyone! I'm Chelsea Lousley, and I have been a member of the Twizel Area School team for five years now. I wear a few different hats here, serving as both the Office Administrator and the Sports Coordinator.</p> <p>While I enjoy keeping things running smoothly in the office, sports are my true calling. There is nothing I love more than the logistics of organising events and, most importantly, getting out and about with our students. Seeing them challenge themselves and enjoy everything our beautiful area has to</p>

		<p>offer is the highlight of my job. I'm passionate about building a strong sporting culture here and supporting our kids every step of the way!</p>
<p>Missy Pickering</p>		<p>My name is Missy Pickering, and I have been part of the team at Twizel Area School for almost 12 months now as the Finance Officer. Over the past year, I've really enjoyed supporting our staff and students behind the scenes and being part of such a dedicated and vibrant school community.</p> <p>The highlight of my time at TAS has been travelling with our students to the National Area Schools Tournament in Invercargill. It was an incredible experience to see our students represent our school with pride, determination, and great sportsmanship</p>
<p>Jane Brophy</p>		<p>Kia ora, I'm Jane, the TAS Librarian. I'm excited to be working with our new Principal, Vicki, with her passion for Literacy and strong support for our school library. Reading encourages empathy, develops concentration, helps increase inferential (deliberation) skills, and gives us a bit of escapism – great for our wellbeing. There is definitely a book for everybody!</p> <p>When I don't have my nose in a book I tend to be pottering in the garden, watching netball or cricket, or listening to a wide variety of music – especially the finest of the 80s and 90s.</p>

<p>Sarah Henderson</p>		<p>Kia ora everybody. I began my journey with Twizel Area School when I dropped my 'first' off at the front gates 19 years ago as a typical nervous parent. He ended up being Head boy and my daughter is currently Deputy Head Girl and in her final year. After working here as a TA for 7yrs, I have stepped into a joint role as SENCO with my best mate Nicola Lyons. We have a strong passion for ensuring all students feel a sense of belonging in their new beautiful school and also the wider community. Inclusion is a word we will be promoting strongly through the classrooms and hallways!</p>
<p>Nic Lyons</p>		<p>Kia ora my name is Nic Lyons, I am a Teacher Aide here at school and also joint SENC (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) with Sarah Henderson. I am very excited about being in our lovely new build and supporting all our Tamariki to have an excellent year.</p>
<p>Elaine Lindsay</p>		<p>Gateway Co ordinator. I introduced Gateway to TAS back in 2008 and am passionate about the opportunities the programme gives our students. I appreciate that all the employers have been incredibly supportive and helped make it such a success. I'm a besotted Granny to 8 Grandchildren and love to travel and spend time with friends and family.</p>

<p>Tessa Smith</p>		<p>Hi my name is Tessa. I am excited to be joining the teacher aide team in our beautiful new school this year. I am looking forward to helping the kids reach their full potential.</p>
<p>Lynlee Officer</p>		<p>Hi my name is Lynlee and I have been a Teacher Aide at Twizel Area School for 17 years. I work with a wide selection of students throughout the school covering Autism through to Braille. I am passionate about helping students succeed and achieve their full potential.</p>
<p>Rob McIntyre</p>		<p>Hi my name is Robert McIntyre. I've just joined the team. I am really excited to work with the kids and the teachers</p>
<p>Toni Usmar</p>		<p>My name is Toni Usmar , I'm extremely delighted to continue working in the role of ESOL at Twizel Area School . The joy I get from helping the students increase their knowledge of our English language is priceless.</p>