

# NEXT ANNOUNCES NEW FELLOWSHIPS

DECEMBER, 2021



## **NEXT Foundation has announced its third cohort of Fellowships.**

NEXT has announced a new cohort of NEXT fellows – Roopu Tuatoru, with a focus on the environment, sustainability, climate change, rangatahi, capability building and Te Ao Māori data as contributions to making impact and leadership development.

The six recipients will be supported for a year developing their leadership skills and connections and understanding of innovation and system change under the guidance of Jan Hania, who leads the NEXT Fellowships.

“We are excited about supporting this group of leaders, who come from diverse backgrounds but all share a passion for making Aotearoa New Zealand a better place for our land and our people,” Jan Hania says. “This is at the very crux of what NEXT is about.”

“They are passionate, driven, and with open minds on tackling the big issues facing Aotearoa New Zealand. Between them and individually, they already have a wealth of knowledge, networks and experience and that was important in our selection process. Through the NEXT Fellowship programme we will introduce them to national and international leaders in their area of interest, the NEXT fellows alumni, work with them on systems change, the role of strategic philanthropy and enable them to develop their skills and approaches across the board.

“It’s a privilege to walk alongside the fellows as part of the NEXT Fellowship programme, and just as privileged to have fantastic leadership supporting the Fellowship from Annette Fale, Shelley Campbell, Eddie Tuiavii and Mike Ferrand – it really is a team effort.”

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## THE FELLOWS



### **ABBIE REYNOLDS**

Climate Change and Sustainability advocate

#### **Why am I interested in the intersection of the climate and biodiversity crisis**

After more than a decade in corporate sustainability, working to accelerate climate action, through various businesses, then the Sustainable Business Council and the Climate Leaders Coalition, I realised that the biodiversity crisis was as serious, if not worse than the climate crisis. It also became increasingly clear that some of our lowest cost climate mitigation and adaptation tools would come from nature, and also be good for biodiversity.

That led me to do a stint at Predator Free 2050 Ltd to be part of Aotearoa's efforts to address our declining biodiversity. I love our native forests and our birds, and the deep community engagement in conservation I saw while at PF2050 Ltd made me realise I'm not the only one. I also saw a chance to leverage the lessons from catalysing action on the climate crisis.

The NEXT Fellowship gives me the opportunity to engage with change agents working at the intersection of the climate and biodiversity crises, and use systems change thinking to catalyse positive action.

#### **Abbie's project**

Using Systems Change approaches to identify and catalyse action at the intersection of the biodiversity and climate crisis.



### **RACHEL DEVINE**

Sustainability Leader and Environmental Lawyer  
Minter Ellison Rudd Watts

#### **Why I am interested in environmental data**

Access to environmental justice is contingent on a right to access environmental information. There is a wealth of information held by central and local government about the environment but in practice this information sits in a black box. It is difficult and costly to access.

I imagine a future where people can easily find out what is impacting the environment and they can use that knowledge to improve their lives and the planet. The NEXT fellowship will support me in encouraging the system change underway to be designed so that the public has the right to access environmental information without barriers, starting with resource consent data.

#### **Rachel's Project**

Encouraging law change underway to enable environmental data collected through resource consents to be easily accessible by the public.

## THE FELLOWS



### **IZZY FENWICK**

Sustainability Design Principal DNA; Engagement Director The Aotearoa Circle

#### **Why I am interested in empowering the next generation to influence today's decision makers**

"We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them." – Albert Einstein

There is a desperate need for change if we want to ensure Aotearoa, its natural resources, businesses, and people, are going to thrive in this ever-changing world. Despite most New Zealand leaders knowing about this need for change, there has been little urgency.

We need bold and innovative thinkers pushing the boundaries – thinkers whose future depends on the decisions we make today, thinkers who haven't been influenced by the current system's challenges. My experience in this came when I addressed Auckland's leaders at a conference earlier this year. When I finished on stage, one of our prominent leaders said to me "You young people can be bold because you haven't been burnt yet". My "boldness" was calling attention to climate change - that isn't a bold idea, it's a fact that requires urgent attention.

I believe the combination of youth innovation, an intergeneration mindset and lived experience, holds some major untapped potential. Our leaders need to change the way they think about the future. They need to have a 25, 50, 100-year plan, not a 5-year strategy.

They need an intergenerational approach; especially when it comes to considering our biodiversity, climate change, waste streams and land use. This is why I plan to build a bold network of talented and motivated Rangatahi, our future leaders, who alongside our current leaders, can shape a prosperous and proud future for New Zealanders.

#### **Izzy's project**

To foster, enable and empower the next generation to influence today's leaders and drive an industry transition to legacy driven prosperity.

## THE FELLOWS



**KIRIKOWHAI MIKAERE (Tūhourangi,  
Ngāti Whakaue - Te Arawa)**

Iwi Māori Data Specialist

**Why am I interested in growing indigenous  
data capability?**

I am currently the Pou Arahi for Te Kāhui Raraunga Trust, the lead technician for the Data Iwi Leaders Group, founder of Te Wehi - Development by Design, and have been working in the Maori statistics, information, and data space for nearly 20 years.

In that time the space, players and prominence of data has changed dramatically and the need for greater capability and capacity has become urgent. There is a severe shortage of relevant and authentic indigenous data, as well as indigenous data expertise and capability.

Indigenous data collectors, collators and curators are needed to re-design data to be more responsive to indigenous peoples, to regenerate indigenous biodiversity, and to future-proof a more dynamic data eco-system that benefits all. I believe enhancing indigenous data capability and capacity will identify innovative actions for global impact and systems change.

The NEXT Fellowship will enable me to connect with leading indigenous practitioners and knowledge holders, as well as micro-credential

designers, and then develop an indigenous data micro-credential that educates a network of indigenous data designers and innovators.

**Kirikowhai's Project**

To develop a globally recognised indigenous data micro-credential that educates a network of indigenous data designers and innovators.

## THE FELLOWS



**RACHEL TAULELEI (Ngāti Tuwharetoa, Ngāti Raukawa-ki-te-Tonga and Te Atiawa)**

Māori business leader with sustainability focus

**Why I am interested in creating a curated platform to identify, connect and upskill key aspiring indigenous talent, dial-movers and change-makers to raise the bar on indigenous acumen and therefore the future impact of our people**

Aotearoa is on the cusp of an unprecedented situation as it pertains to future prosperity for Māori and this future demands a unique set of responses.

Responses that are demonstrable, and find their sense, strength, motivation, and direction in te ao Māori.

The practical application of a te ao Māori belief-set will open the door to a more productive and sustainable Aotearoa economy through improving economic and social inclusion and diversity.

And while realising inclusive economic growth in the face of change requires interventions in multiple systems, it also fundamentally requires a new and more relevant definition of what it means to be capable and holistically successful.

I am committed to optimising the future for Māori through intention, and a deep investment in influence. To identify the dial movers – that pipeline of new capability and effective voice – and to match them with positions of impact.

The key is for this to happen by design, not default, and at pace.

*Pou hihiko, pou rarama  
Tiaho i roto, marama i roto*

Be ambitious and clear-minded.  
Be shining within thee and brightness upon.

**Rachel's Project**

To amplify the power and relevance of indigenous acumen. In doing so architect the influence and impact of Māori.

## THE FELLOWS



### **SEAN ZIELTJES**

Project manager Taranaki Mounga

#### **Why I am interested in rural communities, urban planning and catchment restoration**

I come from a dairy farming family based in Tataraimaka, Taranaki; currently operating as a heifer grazing and beef finishing unit. I am the project manager for the Taranaki Mounga Project – a landscape scale environmental restoration project for the mountains, ranges and islands of Taranaki. The project has evolved over the last five years to a delivery model that prioritises building community around the challenging issues we are required to tackle in achieving the aspiration to restore these special landscapes. I also provide planning and resource management advice to a number of iwi, hapū, Councils and landowners primarily in the Taranaki region.

I believe that any solutions to the ‘wicked’ challenges facing our communities must start from rebuilding our relationship with the natural world. We all have a role to play in this. Our rural community as stewards of nature and the food that connects us back to the land. Our urban community as areas where lots of people interact stimulating innovation and increasing our collective wealth. I believe somewhere in this is our collective opportunity to build a better, more resilient, equitable and healthy community for our kids and their grandkids.

The NEXT Fellowship will enable me to distil the success factors from Taranaki Mounga and consider how to apply these in addressing other environmental challenges.

#### **Sean’s Project**

Achieving a basis for the restoration of land and water in the Waitara catchment through focussing on key issues of leadership, integration, policy and plan settings, and transparency.