



NEXT STORIES

NEXT
FOUNDATION
Investing in our land, our people

Guided by stars

BY BILL KERMODE

Kia ora koutou, and welcome to the third issue of NEXT Stories.

NEXT was formed eight years ago and I've been musing over recent months how much has changed during that time.

We have witnessed Covid-19 change the world – alongside the emergence of new ways of being, working and living. In New Zealand we have seen the continued rise of the predator free movement; heightened focus on the critical first years of a child's life; and last year the inaugural Matariki public holiday was announced – speaking to our nation's unique shared identity and the importance of tikanga Māori. It seems fitting, that the theme of this issue of NEXT Stories is, 'Guided by stars.'

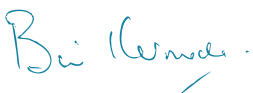
In this set we have four articles, starting with NEXT's vision, objectives (our guiding star in each focus area) and values; then continuing on to NEXT's team and community; and then NEXT friends – including our partnership with PwC New Zealand. This set is very much about all the wonderful people who bring the NEXT vision to life.

The fourth article shares the story of the NEXT Fellowships introduced in 2019. Two cohorts of Fellows have been supported to date and we are delighted to have announced the third cohort in 2021. All Fellows have interests aligned to NEXT's priority areas of environment, education and strategic philanthropy but our aspiration is to identify, back, connect and grow change-agents who are or will be leaders in the strategic philanthropic way of doing things.

Central to NEXT's vision is 'Our land and our people' – reflecting the philosophy of NEXT's founders, Neal and Annette Plowman, a humble couple who personify and inspire generosity. As I share in the first Story of this issue, my hope for NEXT is that Annette and Neal's legacy inspires other inspirational Kiwis to become leaders making the difference they want to make for our children, grandchildren and future generations.

Thank you to everyone involved in the creation of these stories, and in particular Trevor Gray and Annette Culpan. As always we welcome your feedback.

Ngā mihi nui,



Bill Kermode
CEO NEXT Foundation



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The takahē (*Porphyrio hochstetteri*), is a spectacularly coloured flightless endangered New Zealand native bird with a distinctive bright red beak. For many years it was thought it was extinct but following a huge conservation effort under the Department of Conservation's Takahē Recovery Programme there are now around 440 in existence. One of the environmental initiatives NEXT supports, Rotoroa Island is part of the programme and this cover shot was taken by James Gow on the island.

For more information go to the NEXT website
WWW.NEXTFOUNDATION.ORG.NZ

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