



NEXT STORIES



NEXT team and community

Creating a legacy for future generations

‘Ka rongō i te ia o te aroha,
he ngākau māhaki’

*To feel genuine intentions is to
understand a charitable heart*



The importance of people

- The NEXT team and community aspire to make a transformational difference for future generations of New Zealanders
- NEXT is a strategic Foundation and over time the NEXT community has evolved
- One of the hopes of NEXT is to create 200 champions, to amplify impact in the areas of environment, education and strategic philanthropy

NEXT team

The NEXT team aspires to make a difference for New Zealand and future generations, through their involvement with the Foundation. Of particular interest are the focus areas of environment, education and strategic philanthropy.

MOTIVATIONS FOR INVOLVEMENT INCLUDE

- To 'tune into' and bring to life the hopes of NEXT founders Annette and Neal Plowman
- The opportunity to make a difference and effect change at scale for future generations. For example through large landscape scale conservation
- To encourage and empower others who wish to be involved
- To utilise professional skills for-purpose and extend these skills
- To inspire thoughtful generosity

TEAM HIGHLIGHTS AND LEARNINGS

Highlights for the team include the generosity of people involved, including volunteers; engaging with and seeing the projects grow to become self-fulfilling and locally owned (applicable in the environmental space); helping to catalyse a MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) between Philanthropy NZ and the Ministry of Education; increased Māori engagement and involvement; and the depth of partnerships.

NEXT is a learning organisation, and the NEXT team is committed to reflective practice, curiosity and adaptation.

Lessons for the team include

- Good people will generously contribute to causes they care about
- Contributing to changing eco-systems is complex and requires good timing
- It is important to be humble, build equitable relationships and listen to people on the ground
- Measuring the differences made can be hard
- Good communication matters, 'So much of it comes down to communication – how you communicate with the projects, the board and internally'



BILL KERMODE
Chief Executive



FRANK JANSSEN
Education Director



DEVON MCLEAN QSM
Environmental Advisor



JAN HANIA
Environment Director



POLLY HUDSON
Communications Director



CHRIS SIMCOCK
Investment Advisor



STEPHEN HALL
Environmental Operations Manager



SUSAN RAYFIELD
Team Support and Events Manager

'People get involved with NEXT as they care about NEXT's focus areas of environment, education and strategic philanthropy – they want to make a contribution.'

Bill Kermode
NEXT FOUNDATION

'This was an opportunity to make a difference for biodiversity in New Zealand. The fundamental question is what kind of world are we leaving our grandchildren.'

Devon McLean
NEXT FOUNDATION

'As my children became older, I wanted to do something meaningful that utilised my skills and experience. New Zealand is a generous nation. We are moving into a time of the biggest intergenerational transfer of wealth and NEXT has an opportunity to influence.'

Polly Hudson
NEXT FOUNDATION

'I find sustenance and restoration through time outdoors. Yet our forests, lands and rivers are ill. We are the teina (younger siblings) and the environment constitutes the older tuakana (older sibling). We need to act with purpose and protect nature as if it were kin.'

Jan Hania
NEXT FOUNDATION

NEXT team

NEXT founder Annette Plowman making a rare public appearance and speech at the NEXT fifth birthday celebrations.



'The people involved in NEXT, Neal and Annette, the board, the management – we are all in this in a harmonious way. Trying to make this a great legacy for the Plowmans. I just pinch myself. It's an extraordinary opportunity. I feel very lucky.'

Frank Janssen
NEXT FOUNDATION

'The first learning would be the complexities and breadth around contributing to eco-system change. That involves multiple initiatives, angles, people and conversations. Also timing is important and it's not about a particular programme solution.'

Bill Kermode
NEXT FOUNDATION

'Neal and Annette, who are extremely humble and private, attended and spoke at the five-year celebration. It was an honour to have them there. They were presented with a gift from iwi representing the Taranaki Mounga Project. That is a moment that sticks with me – we often speak about partnership in the context of the Treaty of Waitangi, and for me this was a genuine expression of how partnership works in practice.'

Polly Hudson
NEXT FOUNDATION

'We need to operate more collaboratively. If we are to solve these complex issues we must be prepared to share power, to enable others to have authority at their place and support them.'

Jan Hania
NEXT FOUNDATION

NEXT founders Neal and Annette Plowman accepting a gift from Taranaki iwi.



The NEXT Community

Over time the NEXT community has grown through a series of conversations, convening and events. The natural network of NEXT is the business sector. These business relationships have been leveraged and the community has evolved to include change-makers, philanthropy, government, iwi, social entrepreneurs and others. One of the hopes of this community is to create 200 champions and augment impact on key issues.

KEY EVENTS

NEXT events are central to building the community and provide a platform for learning, connecting and inspiring.

- NEXT Outlook Breakfasts are quarterly thought leadership events and bring a powerful speaker to share on a specific topic
- The NEXT Short Drinks is an opportunity for people to meet with others who have a shared interest and typically come from a different community
- The NEXT Hui is held every two years and brings together the organisations NEXT supports, those who contribute to them and individuals in areas of shared interest



NEXT Outlook Breakfasts provide a platform for thought leaders, and bring a diverse group of the community together.

NEXT OUTLOOK BREAKFASTS

NEXT Outlook Breakfasts are quarterly thought leadership events and bring a powerful speaker (or speakers) to talk on a topic of interest. The event introduces new people to the network, 'The audience is a mix of business, for-purpose, government, philanthropy and others.'

People come together from a breadth of backgrounds, for a common and aligned purpose. Speakers have ranged from the late Sir Rob Fenwick to environmentalist Jan Wright, Judge Andrew Becroft and Professor Richie Poulton.

At an early Breakfast, Chair of Taranaki Mounga Jamie Tuuta, spoke on growing up where 'everything was about the marae', the responsibility of serving community and how children 'are the ones that keep you grounded.' He cited his ancestors as risk-takers, entrepreneurs, innovators and explorers; and framed the post-Treaty settlement era as one of opportunity.

Jamie challenged the audience on the language philanthropy (which he perceived as foreign and elitist) and shared on the importance of aligned values for collective benefit. He conveyed that 'our greatest asset is human capital' and moving the needle on key issues (such as Taranaki Mounga) could happen when government, iwi, philanthropy and others came together. These messages resonated with the audience.



NEXT Outlook Breakfast in the capital.

'My address at a NEXT Breakfast was on our nation's biodiversity. I spoke about Te Manahuna Aoraki and how success comes from the efforts of many. NEXT organise things in fresh ways, give the opportunity to network and the events educate the mind and engage the heart. I finished my address by speaking about the wrybill – an endangered bird that breeds on the braided rivers that flow into the Te Manahuna lakes (Tekapo and Pukaki). It is the only bird in the world with a bill that curves to the side – an evolutionary adaptation that enables it to reach under river stones and feed on larvae. These vulnerable little birds spend half the year in Canterbury and then migrate to the Firth of Thames and Manukau Harbour. We protect them as they nest on the stony riverbeds of Te Manahuna and then they fly north to Auckland to feed on mudflats. Protecting them is a collective challenge – Aucklanders too must help these birds thrive.'

Jan Wright
TE MANAHUNA AORAKI CHAIR

'The community is people who are interested in helping the country. I speak with a lot of people who want to be involved somehow. For me, it's mainly business people (that is my contact base). People are basically good and want to do something to help.'

Barrie Brown
NEXT FOUNDATION

The NEXT Community



A full house at a NEXT Outlook Breakfast in Auckland.

'The NEXT Breakfasts bring people together with a common interest, they are excellent. When I spoke, I shared the story of Manaiaakalani, how it came to be and NEXT's role. I've only missed one of these events – they are compelling, a binder and connector (plus you get a good feed). I encourage NEXT to keep these going. I am always interested in Māori relationships and Te Tiriti (The Treaty of Waitangi). A stand-out speaker for me was Jamie Tuuta (Chair of Taranaki Mounga), it was interesting and challenging. NEXT is unafraid to dance into territory that others don't want to go. NEXT backs the people.'

Pat Snedden
MANAIAKALANI

'The beautiful thing with the NEXT community is you have a huge amount of passionate, purpose driven inspiring individuals who go above and beyond. They care and once people care, they will go out of their way to do what needs to be done. What we have learned (this is common sense) is the greatest asset we have is people. If we can engage, inspire and get people to care – that will be huge for sustaining the work.'

Jamie Tuuta
TARANAKI MOUNGA CHAIR

'When I think about the hui and events – those who were there in the beginning were largely business people. However NEXT has recognised that a top down approach is not necessarily the way to go. NEXT is listening more to communities now and to the organisations, particularly as the number of projects has grown and also grown into the social equity and first 1,000 days space, that has brought a broader range of people in.'

Bridget Best
NEXT FOUNDATION

The NEXT Community

STRENGTHS OF THE NEXT COMMUNITY INCLUDE:

- People come together from a breadth of backgrounds, for a common and aligned purpose
- Those involved genuinely care, have a track record of 'getting things done' and are well networked
- Members of the community facilitate access to institutions like government, philanthropic organisations and more, 'Where it leads can be diverse. It can be access to a conversation we need to have, for example to change a regulation'
- Being able to leverage a wide range of connections, 'from high-net-worth individuals, to philanthropy, to iwi, business leaders, environmentalists and many others'
- The events create linkages to a range of people and influencers, and are inspirational
- There is a democracy of ideas, 'Graduates out of university can contribute in just as meaningful a way as others'

LEARNING AREAS AND POTENTIAL OF THE NEXT COMMUNITY INCLUDE:

- The potential exists to do smaller, more focused events and convene on a particular topic
- A learning is for the NEXT community to expand the core; grow thinking; include people from other sectors; increasingly include tangata whenua; and 'do more on marae'
- Bring education partners together to explore insights, lessons learned and shared goals; and support the shift from a competitive to collaborative mindset
- Continue to genuinely listen, reflect and learn
- Adopt a broader system lens and advocate on key issues

'NEXT is in a unique position where we can bring together a diverse audience. Our "friends" include politicians, philanthropists, entrepreneurs, iwi, business leaders, environmentalists, educationalists young leaders, creatives and more. A NEXT Breakfast brings them all together – and wonderful relationships develop as a result. The purpose of these events is usually to inspire and inform about our focus areas in the environment and education. We also hope to inspire people about strategic philanthropy – if they are in a position to set up a foundation: what would it look like; who would they partner with; and what difference would they like to be making to Aotearoa?'

Polly Hudson
NEXT FOUNDATION

'An opportunity for NEXT is to find ways to integrate Māori into this process. NEXT could do more on marae. Have people experience what sophisticated hospitality looks like from a Māori point of view . . . move confidently out of the space you control, into a space where others are providing the hospitality. When you move into that space and feel comfortable you become open.'

Pat Snedden
MANAIAKALANI

'From a Te Ao Māori point of view we don't break things up into environment, education and social. We look across things. When you take single areas, you may be doing good in one area and creating harm in another. To leverage all the good, a broader lens is needed. For example what impact does housing have on education? There are many complexities and factors that impact education outcomes. A systems level approach might enable better impact.'

Rangimarie Price
AMOKURA IWI CONSORTIUM

'While I cannot endorse any particular organisation, I can say that the NEXT community is a highly motivated, interested and expert group of individuals who have a concern that our next generation of children do better. They are committed to ensuring that those that are often disadvantaged or marginalised get the best start in life they can. I would lay down a challenge. NEXT could become a powerful advocacy and lobby group. Where they are well connected and have established their own expertise and reputation, they could be together a real force for good - making submissions to select committees; visiting the Ministries; pressuring the Minister of Education . . . becoming a pressure group for change.'

Judge Andrew Becroft
FORMER CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER



Rangimarie Price – Former Amokura Iwi Consortium CEO – suggests a broader lens is needed to leverage all the good.

The NEXT Community

'I get the sense NEXT want these events to be developmental and they make the effort to create learning opportunities. Rangimarie Price and I spoke at a NEXT Breakfast about transforming Tai Tokerau for good (Te Pai Roa Tika) and the role of philanthropy in taking an impact investment approach and working in partnership with iwi. It's part of an emerging conversation in New Zealand philanthropy about two broad themes – how do we use our balance sheets for good and secondly what does a model of philanthropy that is relevant to the context of Aotearoa look like.'

John McCarthy
THE TINDALL FOUNDATION

'At the hui I had the privilege of meeting and speaking with Annette and Neal Plowman. Although I am involved in the conservation work, I have really enjoyed learning about NEXT's education projects. Many years ago I was a teacher in Otago and so loved hearing about this work. One of the things I was most impressed by at a NEXT event was how people had to report on their projects in 90 seconds.'

Jan Wright
TE MANAHUNA AORAKI CHAIR

'I would love to see more convening (whether it's led by NEXT or others in the community) with a focus on particular needs and on how NEXT could contribute. We need to do more of that.'

Bill Kermode
NEXT FOUNDATION

'The NEXT community is mindful and deliberate about mapping connections between people and organisations and objectives . . . capitalising on the whole being more than the sum of its parts. The community is already diverse, however there is something in taking it further. Who are those other people who could be in the room? There is always more work to be done on including tangata whenua in a meaningful way . . . It's making sure you have the balance.'

Mika Austin
NEXT KAIHAUTŪ

The Plowman Medal

The Plowman Medal is a prestigious award, given to members of the NEXT community, for outstanding services to philanthropy. It is awarded by NEXT founders Neal and Annette Plowman. NEXT wishes to acknowledge recipients of this Medal including (to date) Devon McLean; Margaret Bendall; Barrie Brown; Frank Janssen; Mike Ferrand; and Ewen Anderson.

'The Plowman Medal is a way for us to honour and acknowledge those people who have shown leadership in strategic philanthropy in our areas of interest. The fact that Neal and Annette are willing to put their name on it (when everybody knows how humble and private they are) means a great deal to the recipients.'

Bill Kermode
NEXT FOUNDATION



Plowman medal recipients include from left Frank Janssen, Mike Ferrand, Barrie Brown, Margaret Bendall, (with Annette and Neal Plowman) and Devon McLean.

NEXT Champions

NEXT aims to create 200 champions from its diverse community. Purpose-driven folk who are passionate and caring for the good of the country. By backing these people, innovative change will be inspired and sustained.

As NEXT Chief Executive Bill Kermode puts it

“Our Champions are NEXT’s front line in our areas of interest. I’ve found them personally inspiring, for the ways they’re engaging and connecting to catalyse impact.”

Examples of NEXT Champions profiled so far are at www.nextfoundation.org.nz/?s=champions

‘Their (Annette and Neal Plowman’s) example gave me the confidence to think more broadly about the effectiveness of my own community work and contributions. And not to be afraid to try to change the system if you think it should be better!’

Phillippa Wilkie
CHAPMAN TRIPP

‘This is the first time I have worked in the philanthropic sector and I am personally inspired by the Plowmans. I love that they are not only so generous but they are also hardheaded in their desire to see that their generosity produces results.’

Jan Wright
TE MANAHUNA AORAKI CHAIR

‘There is no doubt that knowing Neal and Annette and seeing the establishment of the NEXT Foundation with their generous donation, sowed the seeds for my wife and I to establish the Ipipiri Trust to preserve Elliot Bay, an iconic Northland surf beach.’

Geoff Ricketts
NEXT ADVISORY PANEL

‘Annette Plowman spoke at a NEXT event last year and said perhaps the most important thing to give is your time. That really stuck with me - it can be easy to feel defeated when the problems are so big, but she reinforced that the collective action of many individuals is valuable. Time is something we all can give.’

Laura Lee
FORMER PwC NEXT YOUNG LEADER

‘I think of it as networks. If we can create 200 champions for NEXT, then we will be able to make the sort of difference that we want to make and will have a powerful community backing all of those organisations. That is the way I think of that community building.’

Bill Kermode
NEXT FOUNDATION

The future

Through the human capital involved with the Foundation, NEXT is contributing to building a movement of champions, focused on ‘our land, and our people.’ At the heart of this movement, is creating a legacy for future generations. NEXT will continue to germinate, adapt and evolve.

‘NEXT is a learning organisation, curious, and open to feedback and adaptation. Looking to the future, we hope to do more in the convening space, build knowledge of eco systems (and where we can have greatest influence) and expand beyond existing comfort zones.’

Bill Kermode
NEXT FOUNDATION



Honouring a dear friend

The NEXT Foundation wishes to honour and remember the late Sir Rob Fenwick, KNZM KStJ. He was a dear friend of the Foundation, a regular speaker at NEXT events (including at an Outlook Breakfast) and a member of the Foundation's Advisory Panel. Sir Rob was an architect of Predator Free New Zealand and influenced the Government to take this up as national policy.



'We are here to plant this copse of trees in your honour and to remember the wonderful man you were.'

You were a giant amongst men, caring for conservation and the good of New Zealand. These trees express NEXT's gratitude for all you did.

We all honour and remember you today, dear Rob.'

Annette Plowman
FOUNDER, NEXT FOUNDATION



For more information go to the NEXT website

WWW.NEXTFOUNDATION.ORG.NZ



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Investing in our land, our people