



NEXT STORIES



NEXT vision, objectives and values

Guided by stars

‘Tohaina ō painga ki te ao’
Share your gifts with the world



Vision, objectives and values

- NEXT’s vision reflects the philosophy of it’s founders, Annette and Neal Plowman, and their particular areas of interest in environment and education
- Objectives of the Foundation include investing and partnering for impact and inspiring others to make a difference
- In each area of interest, the Foundation has a guiding star, signalling a particular pathway
- The values underpinning the organisation are a constant touchstone. NEXT is on a learning journey and values derived from Te Ao Māori (the Māori world) are becoming increasingly important

Our land and our people

Central to NEXT's vision is, 'Our land and our people'. This reflects the philosophy of NEXT's founders, Neal and Annette Plowman. The aim of NEXT is to create a legacy of excellence for future generations of New Zealanders.

- The vision of NEXT reflects the philosophy of its founders
- Environment, education and strategic philanthropy are interwoven through this
- NEXT acts as a catalytic investor and will influence others to get on board from business, philanthropy, iwi and more
- Consciously building a NEXT community of champions is part of the vision. The hope is to magnify the legacy through inspiring other Kiwi's to make a difference

'The vision is really a reflection of Neal and Annette's philosophy. They want to have their wealth spent for the benefit of New Zealanders. The two most important things are environment and education – our land and our people. There are long lead times. Some of the environment work is twenty years or longer. That is why we have the Tomorrow Accord with the government.'

Barrie Brown
NEXT FOUNDATION

'There was a band in the 1960's called Velvet Underground. It later became recognised as one of the most important and influential musical groups of all time. Rolling Stone Magazine has described their debut album as the most prophetic rock album ever made. There is a saying that, "Only 2,000 people listened to Velvet Underground's album but all 2,000 started a band." That is my ambition for NEXT - that it inspires say 2,000 Kiwi's to make the difference they want to make for New Zealand.'

Bill Kermode
NEXT FOUNDATION

NEXT Board, Scott St John, Bill Kermode, Carol Campbell and Barrie Brown.



NEXT Foundation Vision



Aiming for the stars

As we navigate our direction of travel in each area of interest, NEXT has identified a guiding star, signalling a particular pathway. These guiding stars, derived from NEXT's initial two years' work are:

Focus area	Guiding Star
Predator-free NZ	New Zealand is predator-free by 2050
Healthy Rivers	We want swimmable rivers
Environmental education	All New Zealanders are connected with and have a sense of ownership of their country
First thousand days	There is widespread understanding of the importance of, and investment in, the first thousand days of a child's life
Education leadership	New Zealand has world-class principals and teachers
Teacher excellence	Our teachers receive best practice learning and support
Strategic philanthropy	Aotearoa has a healthy and robust system of strategic philanthropy

'The key focus in environment to date has been around the predator free goal. If we can eradicate pests we can substantially reduce the long-term cost. We want to reverse the decline of biodiversity for New Zealand.'

Devon McLean
NEXT FOUNDATION

'In education, I am most proud of influencing NEXT's focus on learning and development in the critical first thousand days of a child's life.'

Margaret Bendall
NEXT FOUNDATION

'I would hope that strategic philanthropy might become a powerful and accepted way of doing things in New Zealand.'

Bill Kermode
NEXT FOUNDATION



A predator free New Zealand is one of NEXT's focus areas. Photo credit Peter Young.

THEORY OF CHANGE

The NEXT theory of change articulates the long-term outcomes the Foundation hopes to achieve and how it plans to get there:

- The NEXT theory of change continues to evolve
- It provides clarity regarding the Foundation's goals (guiding stars) and the live plan to get there
- For the kaihautū (NEXT navigators on the board of trustees of organisations the Foundation supports), having a theory of change encourages reflection, shared understanding and gives an independent lens when looking at new investments

'The education theory of change is still evolving. It is a living document. It gives a methodology, boundaries and framework that we can operate within, without being overly prescriptive. It means we have all been on the same page about how we look at new investments and provides an independent lens.'

Frank Janssen
NEXT FOUNDATION

'We didn't have the NEXT theory of change sitting there on day one, it's been an ongoing conversation and is a live topic. It's important to know why you are doing what you are doing and what change you think you will contribute to.'

Bill Kermode
NEXT FOUNDATION

'A theory of change helps you step back and look over time at how you are operating. It helps you realise you must continue to adapt as things change and it forces constant reflection. Our theory of change has evolved. For example we have become more aware around the necessity for connection with iwi. Those whānau hapū and iwi connections, and community building, are essential for making a sustainable difference for the long-term.'

Jan Hania
NEXT FOUNDATION

'A theory of change gives clarity of what we are trying to achieve, how we plan to get there and if we are on track. We are presented with all sorts of projects and having this makes it easier for us to see if something is the right fit. I really like the concept of holding the need and the outcomes tightly and the how more loosely. Our theory of change has become more focused – in education it's centred on teacher excellence, school leadership and the first thousand days. It will continue to change and as we look to the future increased input from Māori and Pasifika will be important.'

Bridget Best
NEXT FOUNDATION



Values

Values provide a guide for NEXT, influencing behavior and decision-making. The values underpinning the Foundation are caring for our land and our people; being ambitious; grounded; good partners (inherent in this is respect); and 'doing what we say we are going to.' NEXT is a learning organisation and this applies to their values and principles.

- Integrity is a vital part of this, 'You can't achieve anything without integrity'
- Trust is your most valuable commodity, 'You can only go as fast as trust'
- Additional NEXT values include being open to learning (humility is hopefully part of this); collaborative; and guided by evidence/science
- NEXT is on a peregrination and values derived from Te Ao Māori are becoming increasingly important
- When things get hard, values can assist in guiding decisions, generating trust and ensuring common understanding



Values derived from Te Ao Māori are becoming increasingly important to NEXT. Photo credit Daniel Lee.

'Values are what underpins getting to answers. You can't achieve anything without integrity and that comes from living your values - they are the road that helps you get where you want to go. Also, values derived from Te Ao Māori are becoming increasingly important for us and that is part of the journey we are on.'

Bill Kermode
NEXT FOUNDATION

'What are the values that underpin NEXT? We always spoke of partnership and collaboration and we always said NEXT would have a learning culture. Developing an understanding of what partnership really looks like has been part of NEXT's growth, and Te Ao Māori has a huge amount to offer in that space. At the core of partnership, always, are relationships - relationships matter, people matter. In Aotearoa, our unique cultural responsibility increasingly influences how people work together; NEXT has understood that New Zealand is moving more towards a bicultural society and that there have been massive changes here, even during NEXT's lifetime.'

Margaret Bendall
NEXT FOUNDATION

'In NEXT we are all spread out and having a common understanding of values means we can be on the same page. On the environment side there is a strong partnership with iwi, for example with Taranaki Mounga. My sense is Te Ao Māori values are more integrated on the environment side. Yet with social equity work and the first thousand days, there is recognition that those most effected are Māori and Pasifika and therefore indigenous values are important. We are learning.'

Bridget Best
NEXT FOUNDATION

'When it gets hard, values help navigate that. If you live your values you will build the trust required to do the hard stuff together. And we are always learning within the contexts we operate in, and helping enable that learning to be taken up within that system. We aspire to enable the success of others - whakamana - if we and our partners are looking to lift the wellbeing of nature and others, we will all succeed.'

Jan Hania
NEXT FOUNDATION

For more information go to the NEXT website

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 NEXT Foundation

NEXT
FOUNDATION
Investing in our land, our people