



# NEXT STORIES

**NEXT**  
**FOUNDATION**  
Investing in our land, our people

# Reflections at sunset

BY BILL KERMODE

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

NEXT was launched ten years ago and as we approach our ten-year spend down, I've been reflecting on the last decade of giving. It has been a time of change, steps forward and much learning.

At sunset, NEXT has supported the rise of the national predator free movement; strengthened leadership from inspirational organisations within the New Zealand education system; and catalysed the development of strategic philanthropy within Aotearoa. That said, I'm very conscious that any achievements are collective and have only been possible by working in a joined up and relational way with community, iwi, government, philanthropy, investors, business, friends of NEXT, and many more.

For as in good business, effective philanthropy is based on good relationships and the social capital of trust. However, whereas good business strategies are ideally yours alone (from a competitive perspective), maximising success in philanthropy inevitably involves collaborative strategies across multiple groups and multiple sectors.

In this final set, we have four Stories: starting with what has been achieved, learned and looking to the future; then sustaining the gains beyond sunset; and onto the NEXT Fellows, and profiling our latest cohort of leaders.

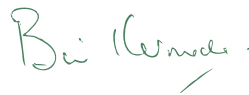
The fourth shares the story of the Centre for Strategic Philanthropy. Established in 2023, with the support of five founding funders, the Centre has a bespoke offering focused on

supporting individuals and families who approach their giving in a strategic or business-like way. If philanthropy is the venture capital of social and environmental change, the need to take action and be generous has never been stronger.

At NEXT's sunset, it is my hope that the stories and actions of Annette and Neal's generosity may inspire others to make their own generous contribution towards a better Aotearoa New Zealand.

Thank you to everyone who has walked alongside NEXT over the last ten years and welcomed me into this special sector. It has been a privilege and a learning journey. I'm delighted to say that together we have made a lasting difference, for the land and people of Aotearoa New Zealand.

Ngā mihi nui,



Bill Kermode  
CEO NEXT Foundation



*Thank you to the team behind the NEXT Stories. These are researched and written by Annette Culpan. Designed by Laura Forlong. This issue was subedited by Jess Fowler. This publication was printed by SCG on FSC and PEFC certified paper stocks (sourced from responsibly managed forests) and uses vegetable-based inks. SCG is a net carboNZero certified organisation and holds ISO14001 Environmental Management certification.*

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Tūi are endemic to New Zealand and important pollinators of many native trees. Belonging to the honeyeater family, they feed mainly on nectar from flowers of native plants such as kōwhai, puriri, rewarewa, kahikatea, pohutukawa, rātā and harakeke/flax. These beautiful songbirds are famous for their melodies and iridescent plumage.

*Photo credit Rachel Stewart.*

For more information go to the NEXT website

**[WWW.NEXTFOUNDATION.ORG.NZ](http://WWW.NEXTFOUNDATION.ORG.NZ)**

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