



# 10 years of milestones

From 2014–2024, NEXT invested more than \$100 million in support of environment, education and strategic philanthropy in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The Foundation backed and met incredible people, witnessed inspirational achievements, and supported work that shall endure long after sunset. The following list of milestones is a snapshot of some of the accomplishments that made NEXT proud.

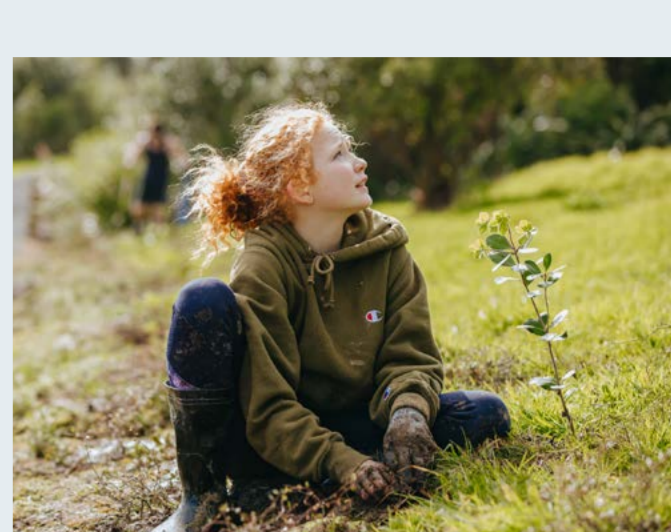
## ENVIRONMENT

### 1. RISE OF THE NATIONAL PREDATOR FREE MOVEMENT

NEXT helped to catalyse the national predator free movement. This was achieved through joined up activity, a unifying vision and system change investments. Mike Slater (formerly of DOC) observes, 'NEXT has provided the building blocks, that now with the will of everybody including the Crown, we can go on to deliver an entire predator free Aotearoa.'

### 2. ROTOROA ISLAND

This pre-NEXT project involved the long term leasing of the island from the Salvation Army, forming a trust, building a conservation plan and enacting it. The Trust has created an 82ha predator free public conservation park and wildlife sanctuary in Auckland's Hauraki Gulf. The ecosystem has been transformed with more than 400,000 native plants, the return of native species, and is a creche for young kiwi and takahē restoration.



### 3. ABEL TASMAN NATIONAL PARK

Through Project Janszoon 20,000 hectares of stoat control was established, wilding pines eliminated and native species reintroduced (including kākārīki, robin, whio, kāka and pāteke). This was the first time the NZ Government had partnered with philanthropy in a national park restoration of this magnitude.



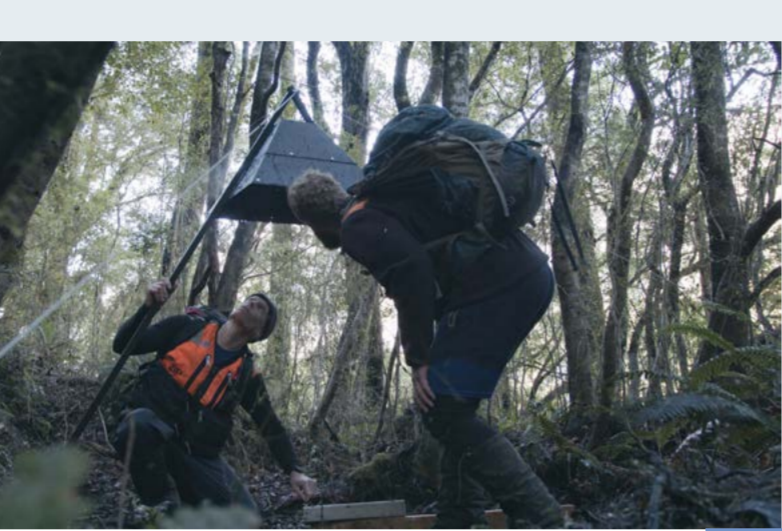
### 4. THE TOMORROW ACCORD

Establishment of the ground breaking Tomorrow Accord between the NZ Government and NEXT. The Accord is structured flexibly and available for use by any philanthropic organisation. It will ensure that once predators are down to agreed levels (or other milestones achieved), the Crown will maintain those gains. At sunset, handover to DOC had begun in Taranaki, Abel Tasman and South Westland.



### 5. BACKING R&D

NEXT co-funded and supported R&D breakthrough organisation ZIP (Zero Invasive Predators) through feasibility, stand-up and on to Government adoption of the technology. This has enabled a transformational step change for biodiversity here. The ability now exists to completely eradicate rats, stoats and possums from the mainland.



### 6. LEVERAGED INVESTMENT

NEXT leveraged additional funding from others multiplying NEXT's investment in the environment six times over. Bringing in supportive co-funding was an integral part of the NEXT way of doing things.



### 7. A WORLD FIRST

NEXT provided the model and influenced the Government to start up Predator Free 2050. Lou Sanson of DOC commented at the time, 'When the Prime Minister announced Predator Free 2050 that story exploded around the world. I believe it will be viewed as being up there with giving women the vote.'



### 8. TARANAKI MOUNGA

He Kawa Ora! Back to life! NEXT convened diverse stakeholders around Taranaki Mounga and with Taranaki based iwi leadership and then DOC built Taranaki Mounga governance 'from ground zero.' This resulted in a number of significant biodiversity outcomes, and a pathway for many more. The consortium includes eight local iwi, philanthropy, government, business, and community. The restoration covers more than 34,000 hectares and has influenced an array of regional outcomes.

### 9. FIRST PREDATOR FREE CAPITAL CITY

NEXT backed the formation of Predator Free Wellington, with ownership across community, iwi, local government and philanthropy. In 2023 Miramar Peninsula achieved the project's first zero predation goal and now sights are set on expanding through the rest of Wellington city. With 97% ratepayer support, Pōneke Wellington is on track to become the first predator free capital city in the world.



### 10. BACKING PREDATOR FREE SOUTH WESTLAND

This ambitious project will see the elimination of possums, rats and stoats from 107,000 hectares of forest, townships and rural land bounded by rivers, alps and sea. The partnership is on track to achieve its predator elimination goal by mid-2025. Nature is thriving through the project area.



### 11. TRANSFORMING TE MANAHUNA AORAKI

NEXT went on to convene and build the coalition to transform and enhance biodiversity across 310,000 hectares in the upper MacKenzie Basin and Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park. This was the Foundation's third joint venture with DOC and the most ambitious. The area is home to many endangered species, including kea, piwauwau (rock wren) and the kākī.



## EDUCATION

### 12. SHIFTS IN THE NEW ZEALAND EDUCATION SYSTEM

An external independent review of NEXT investments in education found benefits to the education system from the organisations NEXT supported and to the wider system. Shifts included strengthened principal leadership and teacher digital skills, greater access to digital devices and learning, more skilled teachers in areas of shortage, and improved learning outcomes for Māori and Pasifika learners. System benefits included improvements in innovation, teaching, leadership, collaboration and R&D.



### 13. BRIDGING THE RESEARCH GAP

NEXT backed start-up The Education Hub alongside other givers. Their reach has now extended to more than 900,000 interactions and they are leading in bridging the gap between education research and the classroom.



### 14. SCALING MANIAKALANI TO 120 SCHOOLS

The kaupapa of Maniakalani is proven to accelerate learning gains in writing and reading and focuses on low decile schools. And the benefits persist into secondary school and across some of our poorest communities. With NEXT support, Maniakalani scaled to 120 schools nationally.



### 15. GROWING STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP

Nationwide expansion of Springboard Trust's Strategic Leadership Programme for Principals, with a priority focus on low decile schools. Over the years of NEXT support, Springboard has reached 750 principals with a year long programme delivering stronger strategic leadership.

### 16. TACKLING EDUCATION INEQUITY

Ako Mātātū: Teach First NZ is focused on addressing education inequity through accelerated teacher training for graduates and people changing career. During the period of NEXT's support, over 400 teachers have trained (or are training) in this kaupapa, including 108 Māori and 78 Pasifika participants.



### 17. BUILDING THE FUTURE WORKFORCE

During the years of NEXT support 3,500 teachers completed their Postgraduate Certificate in Digital and Collaborative Learning with The Mind Lab. And since 2019, over 30% of learners on this programme have been Māori and Pasifika. An external review confirmed significant improvements in teaching practice.



### 18. RECOGNITION OF THE CRITICALITY OF THE FIRST THOUSAND DAYS

Greater recognition of the importance of the early years in a child's development has been achieved through seeding and supporting initiatives such as Talking Matters, SPACE and Tamariki Wellbeing. 85% of brain development occurs in the first three years of life, creating the educational foundation blocks.



### 19. BACKING START-UP TALKING MATTERS

Talking Matters builds language-rich environments for babies in the first thousand days through evidence-based practice change. NEXT supported start-up, strategy, implementation, and advocated with other funders so the work could endure.

### 20. EARLY YEARS INNOVATION

The Foundation backed early years innovation, including Tamariki Wellbeing, who supported key government agencies towards a more collective approach to investing in the first 1,000 days. Manager Aimee Hadrup described the NEXT investment as catalytic, 'There was flexibility and trust. We drew on neuroscience, whānau lived experience and mātāuranga Māori.'



### 21. BUILDING THE EVIDENCE BASE

The evidence base within the New Zealand education system has been enhanced and strengthened. Examples of this include via The Education Hub, Maniakalani, and Springboard.

## FELLOWSHIP

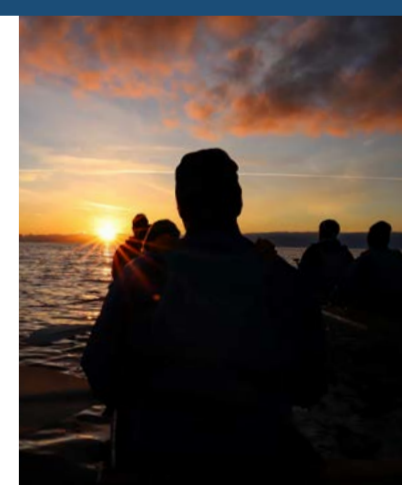
### 22. LEADERS PUSHING INTO NEW FRONTIERS

Many of the Fellows made profound life changes and pushed into new frontiers personally and professionally. Strong trust was built between participants, collaborations formed and the Fellows grew in confidence, courage and resilience. For example Fellow Leslyne Jackson who led Manaaki Tairāwhiti, grew the community and government engagement beyond anything first envisaged, developing data translation and community voice methods now being implemented elsewhere.



### 23. WATER CATCHMENT RESTORATION

NEXT Fellows advanced a number of water catchment restoration projects. Sean Zieltes progressed water catchment restoration at sites in Taranaki; Alison Dewes worked with leading farmers, industry and government to restore ecosystem health in the Waikāi Estuary (raising over \$8m in the process); Naomi Aporo set a platform for restoration of waterway health within Motueka and became the Māori Director of the Our Land and Water Science Challenge, influencing millions of dollars of investment in adapting farm systems and inclusion of mātāuranga in waterway improvement systems; and Andrew Schollum developed and implemented a framework for waterway restoration enabling real time monitoring and reporting.

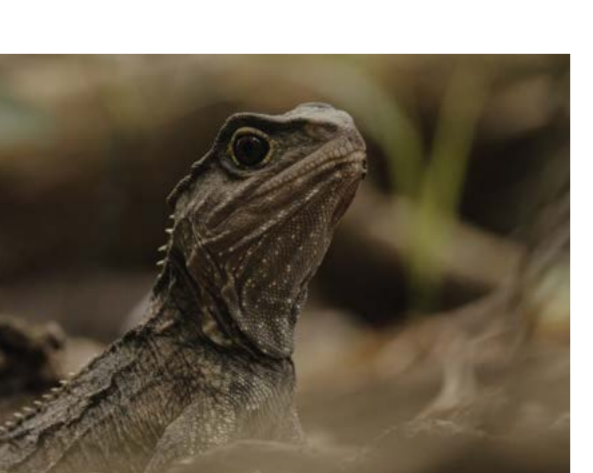


### 24. TRANSFORMING THE FUTURE

NEXT Fellows are working to transform the future. Dr Eruera Tarena of Tokona Te Raki, is aiming to achieve equity in education, employment and income for all Māori within the Ngāi Tahu takiwā, and beyond, developing and implementing a Māori systems change framework and wānanga (school of learning). Another Fellow, Izzy Fenwick, founded Futureful: a game-changing online job site where people and organisations are matched through a purpose led commitment to a better world. Jimmy McLaughlan developed a system of enabling criteria for scaling social impact initiatives.

### 25. PROGRESSING INDIGENOUS DATA SOVEREIGNTY AND DIGITAL INCLUSION

A number of NEXT Fellows are strengthening digital inclusion and empowerment. For example, Kirikowhai Mikeare (Tūhourangi, Ngāti Whakaue – Te Arawa) developed a globally recognised indigenous data strategy and micro-credential system which will contribute to indigenous peoples having greater agency over their data and their perspectives being included in AI development and algorithms.



### 26. SOLUTIONS FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE

NEXT Fellows generated solutions in the area of environment. Abbie Reynolds in Roopu Tuatoru delivered a unique piece of work on the intersection between biodiversity and climate, including the barriers and enablers to joint action. Rachel Devine influenced changes in proposed government legislation to make environmental information more comprehensive and accessible.



### 27. CHAMPIONING THE CRITICALITY OF THE EARLY YEARS

NEXT Fellows including Thalia Wright, Leanne Dawson and Andrew Sharp championed the criticality of the first thousand days in a child's life. These Fellows are ensuring evidence based approaches are scaled, exploring systems leadership and putting relationships at the very centre.

## STRATEGIC PHILANTHROPY

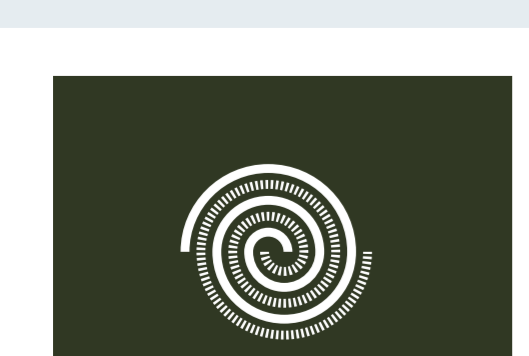
### 28. ENLIVENING STRATEGIC PHILANTHROPY WITHIN NEW ZEALAND

The Foundation role modeled a hybrid strategic and uniquely Aotearoa model of philanthropy and seeded this approach, for other givers to consider. This drew on the best of the world and the best of Aotearoa New Zealand. NEXT shared its actions and its learnings with any others interested in the strategic philanthropic kaupapa, through events, videos, publications and sharing contacts.



### 29. ELEVATING GRANTEE VOICES

As a committed and business-like organisation, granting to improvement, NEXT provided grantees with a confidential forum to share feedback on how it was doing as a funder. Two independent evaluations of NEXT from a grant partner perspective were undertaken over the life of the Foundation. This increased equity in the relationship and provided valuable learning insights for NEXT.



### 30. THE CENTRE FOR STRATEGIC PHILANTHROPY

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