

Philanthropy News

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Amplifying community aspirations

Te whakarahinga wawata ā-hapori

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access to the arts

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A preview of the
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Summit 2021

How Wellington Community
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An interview with trustee
Horiana Irwin-Easthope



**Philanthropy
New Zealand**

Tūpātanga Tuku Aroha o Aotearoa

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From the CE



Tēnā koutou

Greetings to you all. Welcome to this magazine, which has borrowed the Philanthropy Summit 2021 theme of Amplifying community aspirations – Te whakarahinga wawata ā-hapori.

Philanthropy and grantmaking is broad in what it funds, how it operates and what it seeks to achieve. However, the concept of amplifying community aspirations applies to the sector as a whole. Funders are there to support, enable and respond to the changing needs and opportunities.

I would like to thank the contributors to this magazine. I would like to give a shout-out to PNZ's Communications and Marketing Advisor Terri Petersen, who leads its planning and execution.

You will find stories about how funders are amplifying community aspirations through their granting processes, impact investing, listening to experts around how best to support communities through climate action, and more. We hear how funders can support aspirations of the deaf and disabled through access to the arts.

You'll get a feel for what's on offer at the Philanthropy Summit 2021, which runs May 18-20. You've got until 7 April to benefit from the early bird rates. You can find the most up to date programme on the website.

The PNZ team (and hopefully many of you) have got over the disappointment that this year there won't be 600 of us in one place raising the roof with the talking. And as we've been planning we've found some amazing silver linings.

The first is that the 28 (at a minimum) keynote and workshop sessions will all be recorded for you to watch at a later time. This means summit registration will provide you with months of bite-sized professional development to dip into when it suits you. For example, we have a stream of four workshops running concurrently on: Te Tiriti o Waitangi; understanding the basics of the world of Māori; practical ways to fund Māori aspiration; and support for governance seeking better relationships with tangata whenua. Participants can attend one live, but they'll be able to watch the other three at a later time.

Overseas funders can register and watch the wealth of content in their own time zone. We have an option for non-funders to register for the keynote sessions.

We'll have more online interactivity than ever before to open up different ways of conversing on emerging hot topics. You'll get the chance to propose and then vote on subjects and speakers to occupy four unconference slots at the end of day two!

Enjoy the read, and we look forward to engaging with many of you in information sharing, celebration, challenge, inspiration and those ever handy 'how-to' tips at the summit.

Sue McCabe

Impact, equity, Covid, climate change, advocacy amongst the hot topics in 2021 for funders

Funding for impact, towards equity, flexibly to meet a changing environment and in a way that respects the community sector are key topics philanthropic funders and grantmakers are focussed on as the 2021 year gets into full swing.

Funders are also looking at how they can add value beyond the money they grant. For example, using capital to impact invest; their voice to advocate; their procurement of services to support social and environmental outcomes; and reviewing their carbon footprint.

A growing number are undertaking the critical work to look at what Te Tiriti o Waitangi means for them as citizens and their organisations. There is increasing awareness of the need for greater understanding of Te Ao Māori (the world of Māori) before they can engage with tangata whenua with sufficient respect and competence to be able to support Māori aspirations.

There is the evolving community need, particularly in light of Covid, and the growing requirement to fund action against climate change. All these challenges and opportunities are set against the fact that the demand for philanthropic funding and grants far exceeds the available supply – a significant sector discussion point in itself.

Trends, challenges and opportunities, and the strengths and weaknesses of the philanthropic and grantmaking sector, are all laid out every two years in the programme for the biennial philanthropy summit. The changing environment,

learnings from the past, and what we know is coming down the line have driven the programme for the Philanthropy Summit 2021. Two months out, we are updating the programme every day with phenomenal speakers on important topics.

The theme this year is Amplifying community aspirations – Te whakarahinga wawata ā-hapori. Each of the three part-days has a different theme. Day one is focussed on helping funders to support community in addition to their core role of donating money. Day two has a focus on engaging with Māori, and hearing from diverse communities most in need of support to achieve their aspirations. Day three will look at the system supports needed for efficient and effective giving, and then feature hot topics impacting most givers.

Summit 2021 is going to be largely online, but with some opportunity to attend regional viewing parties on day one. While we know people are sad to miss out on this massive get-together of funders, we are also increasingly recognising the upsides. For example, on day two we have a stream of four workshops running concurrently on: te Tiriti; understanding the basics of the world of Māori; practical ways to fund Māori aspirations; and support for governance to play its part.

Participants can attend one of these workshops live, but they'll be able to watch the other three post the summit – over months if they choose – representing considerable professional development. Replicate this concept across the other four workshop streams and you've got a minimum of 22 relevant topics presented in bite-sized chunks to inspire, inform and help you over time. Overseas funders can register and watch this wealth of content in their own time zone.

Another upside is, as well as the full funder programme, we also have an option for non-funders to register for the keynote sessions, to watch live or at a time of their choosing.

It's going to be an amazing few days. We've made them short days, learning from international best practice regarding online events. This summit is the trusted and always highly regarded premier event for the funding sector.

You can find more information and register to take advantage of early bird pricing here - <https://bit.ly/2MRCN5g>.

By Sue McCabe,
Chief Executive, Philanthropy
New Zealand

Shining a light on access to the arts

It's essential that Deaf and disabled artists and writers are seen on stages, in stories, exhibitions and concert halls. It is their right to do so – and it's also part of belonging to a diverse society full of rich and powerful stories.

Called *Up Down Girl*, the play is honest, funny and uplifting – an example of what's possible when we open the doors to diversity. The actor, Lily Harper, wanted to be a star and also share her character's story as she prepares to move out of home for the first time.

Theatre practitioner Nathan Mudge recognised her talent and together, they started planning a production that would give Lily the opportunity to shine.

"When people talk about Down syndrome, some of the things they say can be hurtful," Lily says. "Everyone is different and anything is possible. I want to prove that people with Down syndrome can do anything.

"When I did the show in Palmy, when people were clapping in the audience, it made me feel special. When people picked me to do it in Wellington I felt my heartbeat pounding and I said, 'Yes, go for it!' because this is me and I want to do it."

I tell this story because it's a fine example of the artistic talent of people in our Deaf and disabled communities, who need opportunities and support (professional and financial) so they too can shine like Lily.

This year, Arts Access Aotearoa is celebrating its 25th anniversary. Over the years, this national organisation has evolved and expanded but we've remained true to our core belief that

access to the arts is a fundamental human right. In other words, we believe that everyone in Aotearoa New Zealand should be able to participate in the arts as creators (performers, writers, visual artists), audience members, and gallery and museum visitors.

In particular, we work with people and organisations in disabled, mental health and Deaf communities so we can increase their access to the arts. In addition, we advise the Department of Corrections on its arts programmes and activities, and advocate for the arts as a tool to support the rehabilitative process of prisoners and their reintegration back into the community on release.

It's essential that Deaf and disabled artists and writers are seen on stages, in stories, exhibitions and concert halls. It is their right to do so – and it's also part of belonging to a diverse society full of rich and powerful stories. So bravo to everyone involved in the *Up Down Girl* project, especially Lily, who won Best Emerging Actor in a Play at the recent Central Regional Theatre Awards.

This year, Arts Access Aotearoa is collaborating with Deaf and disabled artists and writers to develop an exciting new initiative, aimed at supporting artists like Lily Harper to make art on their own terms and develop their artistic careers.

The other part of the *Up Down Girl* story is how it provided access to theatre for

Deaf and disabled people. At its Circa Theatre season in Wellington in April, *Up Down Girl* included audio description for blind and low-vision audience members; a New Zealand Sign Language interpreted performance for Deaf people; and a relaxed performance for people with autism or sensory, communication or learning disabilities.

Audio description, sign interpretation and relaxed or sensory-friendly performances and events are three key ways that members of our Arts For All Network are able to increase their accessibility. This Network, facilitated by Arts Access Aotearoa, supports festivals, artists, performing arts companies, literary organisations, museums, galleries, venues and producers to improve their access to Deaf and disabled audiences.

There are six regional networks (Otago, Canterbury, Wellington, Hawke's Bay, Taranaki and Auckland). Driven by the members' commitment and passion, we have recorded a significant increase in accessible services, events and opportunities.

Another way we encourage access to the arts is through a national Creative Spaces Network. Creative spaces are community-based organisations where people who experience barriers to participation can make art, or participate in artistic activities such as theatre, dance, circus, music, film and creative writing.



“Everyone is different and anything is possible. I want to prove that people with Down syndrome can do anything.”

There are more than 80 creative spaces from Southland through to Northland providing a safe, inclusive environment for its artists. Findings from research conducted by Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage in late 2018 showed that key benefits for people attending these spaces were social interaction, increased confidence and communication skills, improved wellbeing, increased creative expression and skills, increased self-esteem and a sense of belonging.

Take, for example, last year’s recipient of the Arts Access Holdsworth Creative Space Award, Arts For Health Community Trust. Based in Hamilton, this grassroots space has been reaching out to its diverse communities since 1997: people experiencing mental distress, students, disabled people, hospital patients, senior citizens – in fact, anyone who wants to use creativity as a means of empowerment and wellbeing.

This Creative Space Award is one of six awards in the annual Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards, presented by Arts Access Aotearoa. These Awards are the highlight of our calendar and celebrate the contribution of individuals, groups and organisations in providing access to and inclusion in the arts. They also acknowledge the achievements and contribution of a Deaf or disabled artist or writer.

Who will be the recipients of Te Putanga Toi Arts Access Awards 2021? The judging process is under way and the date for the awards ceremony is Monday 5 July, to be held in Te Papa Tongarewa.

Photos: 1 Lily Harper and Trudy Pearson in Up Down Girl. 2 Mihailo Ladevac and Thora Hubner perform in Where the Shadows Meet, produced by Hamilton Deaf/hearing company Equal Voices Arts Photo: Michael Smith. 3 Artists engrossed in making art at C.S. Art, a creative space in Invercargill



Richard Bengie

Richard Bengie is Executive Director, Arts Access Aotearoa. His previous roles include Cultural Affairs Specialist at the United States Embassy in Wellington; Manager of heritage icon Old St Paul’s; and an independent events and communications specialist. After completing a B.Ed degree from Victoria College Rusden (now Deakin University Melbourne), majoring in drama and English literature, Richard worked as a high school teacher and then for Arts Access Victoria as an artist-in-residence in psychiatric hospitals and for Access Arts Queensland.

Links

Website: <https://artsaccess.org.nz/>

Facebook: [ArtsAccessAotearoa](#)

Twitter: [@ArtsAccessNZ](#)

Instagram: [arts_access_aotearoa](#)



Justice, law and philanthropy

How does the Michael and Suzanne Borrin Foundation support justice and law through philanthropy?

At the heart of every philanthropist and grantmaker is the desire to make an impact. At the Borrin Foundation we know it is a unique privilege to participate in distributing money to make the world a better place. And we are eager to create a powerful and effective result through our philanthropy.

We believe in making a difference to the lives of New Zealanders through the law. We also believe that law is essential to a flourishing society – one that is just, inclusive, tolerant, and free. Our vision is of an Aotearoa New Zealand where everyone understands the role and value of the law, and everyone enjoys the protection and opportunity that it provides.

The Foundation was set up to support legal research, education and scholarship, and our current strategic focus areas are the criminal justice system and family law. These were also areas of deep concern to our founder, the late Judge Ian Borrin, who established the Foundation with a \$38 million bequest.

Grantmaking decisions are made by the Foundation's Grants and Scholarships Committee, who are leading members of New Zealand's legal profession. Among the factors that are considered in making grants is the potential of a project to: have a significant and enduring practical impact on the lives of New Zealanders; to be a catalyst for change; and to address systemic issues.

How can funders support the intersection of law, justice, and philanthropy?

At the Borrin Foundation we see ourselves as an active participant in the business of solving social problems and seek to maximise the impact of our funding.

Like other philanthropies, one of our challenges is that there are many more worthy projects than we could possibly fund. However, we have chosen to focus on 'areas of profound concern'. These are areas where the law is not serving New Zealanders well. This involves tackling some hard issues and big challenges over a long time.

As we seek to be a proactive and focussed funder, our approach is to fund a smaller number of grants that are of higher value and for the long-term.

How does the Borrin Foundation encourage leadership in the legal community?

Over the last three years of grantmaking, our grants have primarily supported projects. However, we also want to support people in the legal profession to develop on their leadership journey. Last year we ran our first ever fellowship round to invest in an individual who was passionate about using the law to deliver social justice and had a lifelong commitment to justice and service.

The inaugural Borrin Foundation Justice Fellow was Jennifer Braithwaite, who will carry out research on access to justice for children and young people in Aotearoa New Zealand.

This month we launched a new fellowship opportunity for Women Leaders in Law, to support women who are on a journey to becoming leaders in the legal world. A pool of \$50,000 will be available annually.



“At the Borrin Foundation we know it is a unique privilege to participate in distributing money to make the world a better place. And we are eager to create a powerful and effective result through our philanthropy.”

We have also invited proposals for the Borrin Foundation – Community Law Fellowship for lawyers working at one of the 24 Community Law network’s centres. Proposals should build on the fellow’s expertise and allow them to pursue new directions.

Applications for both fellowships close at 12pm on Friday 9 April 2021. More information is available on our website - www.borrinfoundation.nz.

How does the Borrin Foundation support and amplify communities’ aspirations?

Although we are a legal philanthropy, people are at the heart of what we do. We seek to support the talented individuals and organisations who want to make a difference through the law and improve the lives of people in Aotearoa New Zealand.

What excites you about your role at the Borrin Foundation? And being a new Board member for Philanthropy New Zealand?

I’ve been at the Borrin Foundation for a year now – after an interesting start during lockdown last year! At a time when there is a spotlight on systems change,

it’s extremely rewarding to be in this role supporting those who are working towards a more just, inclusive, tolerant and free society.

As a Pacific New Zealander, the Borrin family’s sense of profound gratitude to New Zealand resonates deeply with me. I’m inspired by Judge Borrin’s desire to give back in a way that catalyses transformational change.

“At a time when there is a spotlight on systems change, it’s extremely rewarding to be in this role supporting those who are working towards a more just, inclusive, tolerant and free society.”

I have a legal background and have spent most of my career in policy, so it’s a privilege to be a new Board member for Philanthropy New Zealand and to be part of the strategic discussions around inspiring more philanthropy, supporting better philanthropy and grantmaking, and helping to build a stronger philanthropic and grantmaking sector. I’m particularly excited to be part of the Board’s work with Te Kāhui Pūmanawa to support Māori development and aspirations.

*Tupe Solomon-Tanoa’i –
Chief Philanthropic Officer,
Michael and Suzanne Borrin Foundation*

A preview of the Philanthropy Summit 2021



Philanthropy Summit 2021

Amplifying community aspirations
Te whakarahinga wawata ā-hapori

Summit 2021 is ramping up to be an inspiring conference for philanthropists and grantmakers wanting to learn and explore new perspectives to address the urgent challenges of our time.

We're offering two types of registration. The funders package is for those in the grantmaking space, it offers full access to keynotes, workshops, unconference sessions and the option to attend a regional viewing party. The keynotes package is open to anyone with an interest in philanthropy and grantmaking, and gives access to six online keynotes over three days.

Here's a preview of some of the content you have to look forward to from our exclusive range of keynotes and workshops spanning three days!

Day one

Amplifying impact - Te whakarahinga pānga

Join us on day one to hear from an eclectic mix of international and local keynotes who will share cutting-edge practices supporting funders to contribute to their mission beyond money.

The funder package offers multiple workshops covering topics such as impact investment; social procurement; governance; reducing your carbon footprint; and advocacy.

There will be an opportunity on day one for funders to attend regional viewing parties in Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington and Christchurch.



Daniel Growald



Valerie Rockefeller

Spotlight on a keynote: Outside the funding square

Daniel Growald (Co-Chair of BankFWD) and Valerie Rockefeller (Co-Chair of BankFWD and Board Chair of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund) are two of the keynote speakers in our line up.

Daniel and Valerie are fifth generation members of the Rockefeller Family who have launched BankFWD. Its purpose is to persuade major banks to put an end to fossil fuel financing.

The keynote is made possible by our partnership with NEXUS New Zealand & Pasifika.

A sneak peek into the 'Agents of change' workshop

We are seeing grantmakers and philanthropists making bold decisions to confront social, environmental and racial injustice through advocacy. This workshop will explore how you can engage with policy makers and the public through powerful and safe avenues which advance critical issues.

Christchurch Foundation's Raf Manji, J R McKenzie Trust's Robyn Scott and Todd Foundation's Seumas Fantham will discuss how their organisations work to be agents of advocacy.

Workshops to look forward to:

Trustees speak on governing beyond grants; Hot off the press – the latest case study research on philanthropic impact investing; Funders discuss walking the talk internally through levers like social procurement and reducing their carbon footprint; A deep dive into a new funder collaboration to amplify education equity.

Day two

Reimagining communities - Te whai whakaaro anō ki ngā hapori

Keynote speakers will discuss equity informed and community driven grantmaking to support inclusive, just and prosperous communities in Aotearoa. A key focus of the day will be discussing the implications of our bicultural foundation and challenging the systemic imbalances in power.

Later in the day funders will have the opportunity to engage in workshops to better understand Te Ao Māori and hear a range of different voices on community aspirations.

Spotlight on a keynote: Towards taurite (balance) in Aotearoa New Zealand

You won't want to miss this! Remarkable New Zealanders Jamie Tuuta and Jennifer Te Atamira Ward-Lealand discuss how Aotearoa can achieve taurite (balance) reflecting its bicultural foundation in a keynote session at the Philanthropy Summit 2021.

Jamie's roles include Chair of Tourism NZ; Māori Television; and Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga. His philanthropic engagements include being chair of Taranaki Mounga, a conservation project involving Government, iwi and philanthropy and Ka Uruora Trust, a programme of services supporting whānau to improve their financial wellbeing and achieve financial independence.

Jennifer Te Atamira Ward-Lealand is an actor, director, teacher, intimacy coordinator and Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit. Her journey as a non-Māori to learn te reo Māori and advocate for its importance contributed to her being named Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year 2020.



—
Jamie Tuuta



—
Jennifer Te Atamira Ward-Lealand

A sneak peek into the 'Refugee and migrant communities on achieving inclusion in Aotearoa' workshop

When funding for culturally diverse communities, letting go of the authority allows community knowledge to drive decisions that have meaningful, long-lasting impact. This workshop will talk about taking risks in decision-making and having a strategic approach.

This panel will focus on former refugee and migrant background communities, and their aspirations as Kiwis.

The panel will include Momentum Waikato CEO, Kelvyn Eglinton, Trust Waikato Trustee, Anjum Rahman, and Belong Aotearoa Systems Change Activator, Najira Khanam.

Other workshops to look forward to:

LGBTQIA+ take stock and what's needed for equity; Pasifika voices inform and advise funder on next steps; and possibility from the lens of being disabled.

Day three

Aspiring together - Te wawata ngātahi

Keynotes will inspire you with new perspectives on how to progress system supports needed for impactful giving. Keep your eyes peeled for our ending keynote speaker announcement, they will share their vision of a world where philanthropy and grantmaking as we know it is no longer needed.

Take the leap from knowledge to progress by attending workshops that include sessions on: data and evaluation; how to make seeking funding easier; preparing for and responding to crisis; our Covid response; supporting a sustainable planet; and hear from a philanthropist as to his giving journey and advice on how we can inspire more generosity.

A sneak peek into the 'Data for change: opportunities, limitations and the future' workshop

Data shapes decisions and informs our worldviews. It can help us understand and tackle wicked problems, or send us



—
Kelvyn Eglinton



—
Anjum Rahman



—
Najira Khanam



—
Lani Evans



—
Ben Ritchie



—
Kylie Reiri

down unhelpful pathways if it is poorly collected, governed or understood. Join us for a conversation on the opportunities, limitations and future of data in philanthropy and social change.

Hear from Vodafone NZ Foundation Manager Lani Evans, Nicholson Consulting Analytics Lead Ben Ritchie and Nicholson Consulting Chief Executive Officer, Kylie Reiri.

Other workshops to look forward to:

Philanthropy's role in systems change and getting involved; Making things easier for fundseekers; Governance; Sector readiness for major events/ disasters and sustainable planet.

We can't wait to share the Summit 2021 experience with you. [Register](#) for early bird prices before 7 April.

Realising the dream of Te Puna Hapori – investment for positive impact



Matamata swimming pools.



Hamilton Garden Arts Festival, children dancing.



Te Aroha wetlands, Waikato.

Creators of impact investment products are often so preoccupied with how the investment product meets the risk-return expectations of the investor, we can forget the ultimate purpose of impact investment: to create benefit for society and the environment.

It was therefore an unusual and enlightening request when in 2019, Dennis Turton, Chief Executive of Trust Waikato, came to Brightlight to ask:

“Can you help me create a fund that represents the voice of communities in small-town New Zealand and measures success by beneficiary outcomes?”

Can we reverse the natural order of impact investment funds, focussed on the investor, and take the view of the beneficiary?”

We were delighted to accept this challenge.

As a business, we have learned a lot from our partnership with Trust Waikato. It has been a humbling experience for us all to change our perspective from investor to community. As Dennis says, “If you can’t measure beneficiary outcomes to communities, how can it be an impact investment?”

We have had the remarkable experience of travelling around regional New Zealand simply listening to communities – hearing their needs, hopes and dreams for the future. We learned to appreciate their amazing talents and unrealised potential.

As a result, we have identified a range of community infrastructure investment opportunities that were not serviced by the financial system. Some deals did not meet banks’ credit criteria, some were too small for institutional investors, and most, simply fell through the cracks.

By late 2019, our fund ‘Te Puna Hapori’, which aims to be a ‘wellspring of life for communities’, was born. This fund is a result of listening to communities and its success will be measured by outcomes for communities, through their eyes.

The next stage was to line up investors, which should have been a fairly smooth process, however as we entered 2020, Covid-19 hit and investors were distracted by the market turmoil. In addition, communities across regional New Zealand were hit particularly hard. In response, philanthropic trusts and foundations ramped up their support, once again demonstrating the vital role of philanthropy in times of crisis.

Markets at the best of times fail to direct capital to the greatest need. More so in times of uncertainty and upheaval. That needed to shift.

Remarkably, by the end of 2020, it did shift; market sentiment accelerated toward genuine impact. Trusts, foundations, private wealth, institutional investors suddenly started advising us that they were pivoting their mandate toward impact. Community Finance raised \$50m for social housing.

In 2021, we have a remarkable situation. Investors – particularly in the philanthropic sector, but also institutional – are aligning their portfolio settings to allocate capital in order to generate beneficiary outcomes.

We are now on the front foot to realise the dream of Te Puna Hapori – an investment fund that is community-driven, community outcomes focussed, with market rate returns – in that order of priority.

Moving forward we remain committed to this journey, continuing to educate and align more investors with community impact to make impactful, long-lasting change for the people and places that need it most.

Mark Ingram, Chief Impact Officer,
Brightlight Impact

Increased community need post Covid inspires giving



Sir Eion Edgar.

Philanthropy New Zealand sits down for a chat with Sir Eion Edgar, New Zealand businessman and philanthropist, based in Queenstown.

People's generosity in tough times is a key takeaway from the turbulent year the Queenstown-Lakes District has been through, says philanthropist and businessman Sir Eion Edgar.

"Over 60% of the district's wealth generation comes from tourism. So the tap turning off dramatically affected people's living standards, mental health, employment and business viability."

Sir Eion, a mainstay of the Forsyth Barr Group and experienced board director across all sectors, said the work of volunteers and not-for-profits to meet the increased need had been impressive. The Salvation Army, St John, Happiness House, Baskets of Blessings and others were providing critical support.

"Groups like Baskets of Blessings have been unbelievable. They came out of the need for food for the unemployed and there are about 80 volunteers now involved. We've seen so much good."

Sir Eion was one of a group who established the Greater Needs Fund. It raised more than \$1m, mostly from locals.

"It worked well because the group knew each other and our respective strengths. We knew who was connected to a landlord to talk to them about rent relief, or who might be able to access free transport.

"I admire the people who are not in a strong position financially who make a small contribution."

"It was satisfying as we could help those that were the worst off. It was a learning process in terms of the need. For example, we talked to local medical professionals, who were run off their feet and often unpaid, about the mental health needs."

Sir Eion said the fund's contributors ranged from people donating \$50 to those donating \$50k.

"I admire the people who are not in a strong position financially who make a small contribution. They are often giving more relative to wealthy individuals donating larger sums."

Increased philanthropy will continue to be needed as Sir Eion says times will be tough until the borders open.

"We've had great support from New Zealanders visiting over Christmas. But the reality is February to April are popular tourist months however the streets are bare."

Sir Eion said there was increasing understanding of the importance of philanthropy and encouragement of people to give.

"Covid has meant more people are able to see the community need and how they can do something to help through giving money or time.

"The Wakatipu Community Foundation has been going for just over three years now and it's done a great job of raising the role of philanthropy and getting more people in a position to give to do so."

Sir Eion said there was significant potential for more giving. Donors telling their stories publicly would inspire philanthropy, he said.

"Some people have done well in New Zealand and it's important they give back to the country that gave them their opportunity. I have been lucky and life has been kind. You get enormous satisfaction out of giving."

Sidebar: Sir Eion Edgar will speak in a Philanthropy Summit 2021 workshop about his giving journey and share more insights about the role of philanthropy in a time of community crisis. Sir Eion was given his knighthood for his services to education, business, sport and philanthropy. For his bio and information on the summit, visit www.wakatipucommunityfoundation.co.nz/meet-the-team

Education Partnership and Innovation Platform

Enabling community partnerships

What does the impact of inequity in our education system really look like?

OECD figures show that many New Zealand children thrive at school – but many do not. Variable differences in learning outcomes exist between different social and socio-economic communities. UNICEF’s 2020 Innocenti Report Card records New Zealand as one of the worst countries in the OECD to be a child! Our own Children’s Commissioner, Judge Andrew Becroft, commented recently, “About 70 percent of Kiwi kids do well – some do particularly well and are world leaders. But 20 percent face some significant challenges and disadvantages, and 10 percent face multiple challenges and disadvantages, including material hardship.” Covid-19 has not only exacerbated, but also widened the equity gap.

New Zealand has one of the most distributed and fragmented education systems in the developed world. The locus of control rests mainly at the front line in schools, with principals, teachers, and whānau empowered to make localised decisions. This distributive decision-making makes any desire for wider-scale collaboration and system change extremely challenging.

The Education Partnership and Innovation Platform is focussed on partnerships and collaboration enabling system-level change for leaders in the education sector.

Its purpose:

“Enabled by a sustainable Partnership Platform, we work with leaders to create opportunities for collaboration and innovation that can influence education mindsets to improve equitable outcomes for students (learners) throughout New Zealand.”



Te manu e kai i te miro, nōna te ngahere.

Te manu e kai i te mātauranga, nōna te ao.

The bird that partakes of the miro berry, owns the forest.

The bird that partakes of education, owns the world.

The Platform aims to gather people together, to systematically convene and drive collective action, alleviating fragmentation and duplication. Key stakeholders and partners working as ‘communities in action’ – connecting, collaborating, co-creating, brokering and leveraging high-trust working partnerships. Well supported and resourced, it will not only amplify shared community aspirations and engagement, but provide new opportunities, events and networks to share knowledge, co-create and learn.

The Partnership Platform has long been the vision of a group of experienced social change leaders in New Zealand, namely the Hugh Green Foundation, Perpetual Guardian, Springboard Trust, and The Southern Initiative. What started out as a physical ‘hub’ for education leaders in 2019, has now morphed (post-Covid) into a digital collaboration space as well. The shared physical place and digital Partnership Platform will be made available to those who join the Platform, whether they be stakeholders, members, or delivery partners. A central resource or ‘honeypot’ of \$2 million over the next two years has been provided by a private philanthropist, for those actively working to reduce inequity in education.

“Traditional partnerships bring together the unique resources, influence, and capacities of multiple actors to collectively create added value and so deliver far greater impact than the partners could achieve on their own. Transformational partnerships deliver system shifts so that children, young people and their whānau don’t just beat the odds but the odds change, enabling them to thrive in education and learning.”

Partnership Platforms for the Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations and The Partnering Initiative, 2020

The Education Partnership & Innovation Trust is a joint venture, established in 2020 and registered as a Charity in 2021. The Partnership Platform will connect, broker, and leverage high-trust relationships with key stakeholders working in the education sector to partner and improve equitable outcomes for learners throughout New Zealand. It will provide resourcing (people, time, money, and culture), leadership development, co-location, shared services and support. The Platform is physically based on Level 1 at Hugh Green Foundation's offices, at 8 Gloucester Park Road, Onehunga, Auckland 1061, New Zealand.

Typology of stakeholder engagement platforms



Figure 1: Sources: TPI partnership typology; Building multi-stakeholder platforms with private sector and philanthropy for the sustainable development goals, IICSD and UNDP (2017); Comparative Studies of Multi-Stakeholder Initiatives (Biekart and Fowler, 2016).

The Platform team are working with, and building, strategic partnerships with cross-sector delivery partners who have a track record of impact in education and social innovation. \$2m of funding has been secured for 2021–2022, and a pipeline of projects established.

A Protocol has been co-created to guide those interested in joining the Platform, covering our purpose, principles, the required commitment and alignment, our strategic intent, the management development and support available to all members, how we deal with intellectual property and conflicts of interest, and our overarching Theory of Transformation. For funding and/or support to be approved by the Trust, a completed canvas and business plan are required.

The first five projects underway in the pipeline (scoped and costed, with delivery partners identified) are focussed on: early years education; building the leadership capability of middle and senior education leaders nationwide; working with youth to support their transition after secondary school; and foundational evaluation work for projects in the education sector.

Our Theory of Transformation (Change) focusses on transformational change enabled by partnerships and collaboration. The Platform is underpinned by a deep commitment to be an honourable Te Tiriti o Waitangi partner.

The guiding values, approach, and practices of the Partnership Platform are reflective of this. In essence, it supports the emergence of a collective – rather than competitive – mindset and effort. The Theory describes the evolution of the impact we seek over a 10 year period.



The Platform will be formally launched in April and May 2021, with a series of roadshows, presentations and keynotes arranged, including at Philanthropy New Zealand's May summit.

For more on the Platform please don't hesitate to contact either: Lorraine Mentz on Lorraine@hgfoundation.co.nz or Liz Gibbs at liz.gibbs@pgtrust.co.nz



How Wellington Community Trust is addressing the climate emergency

An interview with Horiana Irwin-Easthope (Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Kahungunu and Rakaipaaka), Managing Director of Whāia Legal, a kaupapa Māori law firm and trustee on Wellington Community Trust's board.

Tell us about yourself?

I'm from the East Coast of the North Island. My marae are in Nūhaka and Tikitiki. I have lived between the East Coast and the Wellington region my entire life. That links into the Wellington Community Trust story. I was approached by someone from Ngāti Raukawa – in Ōtaki – and asked if I would put my name forward as a trustee nominee.

That point is important for me, as I recognise that I while I live and have grown up in the region, I do not whakapapa to the iwi of the broader Wellington region. We have another trustee, Diane Tunoho, who is Ngāti Raukawa. In my view, it is important that the Wellington Community Trust has trustees who whakapapa to mana whenua on the Board.

How did the Climate Action Fund come to be?

The previous Board had a fund unallocated for a specific purpose. The new Board had to think about the best use of this fund. We questioned whether there were specific areas requiring targeted funding. The Board resolved to put some of that funding towards climate action.

Why are you passionate about this fund?

I would describe our Board as progressive, committed to building relationships to mana whenua, and committed to addressing the current climate crisis. Whilst we are of that mind, none of us are working full-time in climate action. I'm an environmental lawyer so I have experience in this subject matter area but I'm not an ecologist nor am I intimately involved with groups who drive climate advocacy. The Board resolved to create an advisory group to help us develop a framework to assist with the distribution of the fund. We engaged an advisory group made up of people from different sectors, including Māori, NGOs, etc. They provided advice on funding focus areas that the Board included in its framework. The focus areas that the Board adopted are advocacy, resilience, and reducing emissions.

It's not always about planting trees or getting fewer cars on the road, it can be less tangible in terms of outcome measurement. The advice we received was that because advocacy is generally underfunded and has the potential to have systemic impact both in Wellington and nationally, we should focus on advocacy, community resilience, carbon sequestration, and ecological resilience which will tap into more physical measures.

“I would describe our Board as progressive, committed to building relationships to mana whenua, and committed to addressing the current climate crisis.”

What would you like to see more of and what gets you excited?

I think it would be great if more funders took up the idea of specifically funding climate action. One thing that we're mindful of is that our fund is a drop in the bucket, and this is a systemic issue. We've had really good discussions with the city and regional councils about how we can partner and align to ensure that we're not doubling up or, at worst, something is going missed. I would like to see more:

1. Funding allocated to advocacy;
2. Alignment with local and central government initiatives so that they can piggyback off one another and partner with one another;
3. Indigenous-led climate action proposals, that not only deal with ecological climate effects but broader social justice issues as well.

What are you looking for from the community when they apply?

Applications that are multifaceted in that they involve a lot of community sectors. That they hit the advocacy or the resilience focal points and involve partnering. We encourage groups who have smaller projects that are \$50k or below to apply for our general grants. We have recently updated our funding priorities to increasingly prioritise sectors of the community that are in most need such as Māori and Pasifika, migrant, and those experiencing disadvantage and exclusion.

How do you ensure that you are amplifying the community voice through this fund?

A big part of pulling together experts from the community for our advisory board was to get advice as to the fund's focus areas. We wanted to build relationships with the communities to better hear the community voice. What we're trying to do in pivoting our funding priorities is recognise that some of the things that we've funded were either well-funded historically from other sources or weren't getting into communities that most need it. We're trying to increase our responsiveness by listening to our communities, seeking guidance, doing research, being available, and hearing what people are saying.

How do you work to ensure diversity, equity, and inclusion?

Wellington Community Trust is a strong advocate for the need to have tangata whenua representation on Community Trust Boards. If we're trying to ensure that our funding is equitable, we need a commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. It starts by looking at yourselves, before you start preaching to others. In our management team, we have Kaitakawaenga Māori Whetū Campbell who is responsible for our Māori strategy at an engagement level. In terms of our funding, we need to be critical of ourselves. Have we applied a diversity and equity lens to our funding framework and criteria? I would say we're moving to a much better place but there's still a lot of work to do.



Horianna Irwin-Easthope (Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Kahungunu and Rakaipaaka), Managing Director of Whāia Legal, a kaupapa Māori law firm and trustee on Wellington Community Trust's board.

“It starts by looking at yourselves, before you start preaching to others.”

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