



Philanthropy  
New Zealand

*Tōpūtanga Tuku Aroha o Aotearoa*

# Funding our planet's future

## Philanthropy News

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# Message from the CE



Rahul Watson Govindan  
Chief Executive

This edition of *Philanthropy News* delves into the pressing global issue of our time – climate change. These articles highlight the crucial role that philanthropy plays in Aotearoa New Zealand within this space.

This edition of *Philanthropy News* delves into the pressing global issue of our time – climate change. These articles highlight the crucial role that philanthropy plays in Aotearoa New Zealand within this space.

Philanthropy's importance in addressing climate change lies in its ability to adapt and respond quickly, support innovative solutions and fill funding gaps. In Aotearoa New Zealand, our unique national characteristics provide us with a special opportunity to make a difference.

As we consider what a uniquely Aotearoa 'Moonshot' initiative to combat climate change might look like, philanthropy stands ready to support bold projects, such as the development of renewable energy sources like geothermal, solar and wind power.

Additionally, philanthropy plays a vital role in promoting equity and justice in the face of climate challenges, helping communities adapt and build resilience. Vulnerable communities

are often highly exposed to climate change impacts. Philanthropy can ensure climate action addresses the needs of communities disproportionately impacted.

By fostering collaboration across different sectors, philanthropy acts as a bridge, bringing together government, iwi, businesses, and community organisations to address climate challenges at both local and national levels. How might we best bring this strength to address climate change? What changes do we ourselves need to make in mindset in our organisations to unlock this?

Investing in climate change initiatives is an investment in the future of our planet and the well-being of future generations. What a privilege we hold in philanthropy to act as a catalyst for change, and create a more sustainable and thriving future for all. The only question that remains is – will we seize this opportunity?

*Rahul W Govindan*





In May 2024, Philanthropy New Zealand | Tōpūtanga Tuku Aroha o Aotearoa in collaboration with the Joint Centre for Disaster Research at Massey University, will be releasing their updated guide for funders and grantmakers on disaster prevention, readiness, response and recovery. When a disaster does occur, funders and grantmakers play a decisive role in jumpstarting community recovery and long-term resilience efforts. The purpose of the guide is to give practical guidance for funders and grantmakers to make their philanthropy more effective in reducing community harm and increasing community resilience.

The guide will be on our website under the Resources tab, specifically on the [Disaster and Response](#) page.



# Investing in environmental impacts through behaviour change



By Rose Challies  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Terra Nova Foundation

## How can we increase funding support for environmental initiatives and ensure its effectiveness?

We have perhaps the greatest opportunity to make a difference on this planet than at any other time in the history of humankind. The way we take action today, the way we invest in our planet will have profound impacts on the future of our children and future generations. We need to step outside of ourselves to realise this potential and ensure that any investment we make is strategically sound. Here are some guidelines for investing in our environment:

### → Invest in addressing the root cause

The root cause of our current environmental situation is human behaviour. Investment in the establishment, strengthening and protecting of ecosystems is critical, however, if our behaviour does not shift significantly, no amount of restoration will be able to counter that of our own impact. We must be sure to double-down on investment in shifting the way we live, the way we structure and operate business, and the way we collectively look at our communities and place like we never have before.

### → Put our earth first in everything we do in our organisations

We are living beings, we thrive if the living environment around us thrives. We have an opportunity to be role models for the support and investment areas we prioritise. Bring connections to nature into play every day, engage in low-carbon options for operational choices every time, and celebrate the progress made each month. It will be a joyous self-investment – I haven't seen anyone regret it yet!

### → Support the change-makers (rather than the project)

We are in need of healthy, energised and connected change-makers who can lead through times of rapid change. Change-makers by nature often put themselves second, however, we must actively support them so their well-being comes first. There is no better way to do this than to help them pay their bills through support of income or salaries. Mentoring is good too but ought not to be at the expense of paying for a person's living costs. Be particularly mindful of support for up-and-coming young change-makers.

### → Invest in trust and embrace untested ideas

Edging our way forward can sometimes be an effective strategy but we really need to take risks with our investments and trust in those with different ways of looking at the world. We need to be looking and listening to those deeply connected to the earth and understand how they can guide us and try a different way of being and working. This is truly an exciting area and as a funder or philanthropist this can be extraordinarily rewarding. As a trustee of [Seed the Change | He Kākano Hāpai](#) we have proactively provided direct support to early-stage change-makers and been early investors in some of New Zealand's most influential earth-friendly businesses – as [Mindful Money](#) reminds us, we profit in more ways than one from investing in our planet.

## What strategies are most effective in promoting earth-friendly behaviour change among individuals and communities?

Human behaviour is tricky – we are not known for always choosing what is best for us. Here are some examples of strategic action we can support today.

### → Futures thinking of place and people

We must determine the reality of the earth under our feet, seek forecasting and build future scenarios that are based on this. Finding and supporting locals with knowledge, earth wisdom and insight into a 'place' and its people, to capture their realities, is critically important.

### → Investment in significant shifts

It can be helpful to support easy first steps, however, we must also tackle some of the harder issues, e.g. who is using the most water, who is polluting it, what is the transition for people to significantly change this – is it incentivising, sanctioning, peer pressure, supportive dialogue? With major change it is usually a combination of all of these and more. Find those going behind the issues and tackling what is really driving the behaviour. Find those building the way of living and working that creates a new norm. Collective funding and support is a great way to ensure this is well resourced and empowering for everyone involved.

### → Bring joy and well-being into focus

At a time when anxiety and powerlessness can be rife, we can support our environment by engaging people in positive action. Investing in meaningful action that truly has an impact is key. For example, supporting individuals, organisations and communities to get into nature and restore local ecosystems is a win-win several times over. It improves well-being, increases knowledge of place, helps good decision-making and our local environment will benefit. Bring in intergenerational wisdom from local kaumātua, elders and rangatahi | young people and the energy arising can have an enormous ripple effect!

## How can community organisations be supported on their climate journey?

It is commonly agreed worldwide that climate change will most adversely affect our most vulnerable and most of our social issues will increase as a result of climate change. The immediate impact of this is a threat to the survival of our community organisations. Fundamental to the well-being of society, we must ensure that our community organisations are resilient and addressing current and future issues resulting from climate change.

In my role leading the [Terra Nova Foundation](#), we have partnered up with the [Rātā Foundation](#) to deliver a free programme to support community organisations with the know-how and tools to start their climate journey, including strengthening resilience and reducing carbon emissions. Teaming up with [My Native Forest](#) and international award-winner for their work in carbon emissions reduction [Cogo](#), we are running workshops and an online community of practice across the Waitaha | Canterbury and Whakatū, Te Tai o Aorere | Nelson, Tasman regions. The emphasis is on people taking simple, effective steps on their organisation's climate journey – all at their own pace. A key part of this programme is also the sharing of what is effective and how to put it in place with local providers.

## How can we empower the voices of young climate leaders to drive meaningful environmental action?

There is considerable pressure on young people to save the world, both perceived and real. This heavy burden is unhelpful at best and gets in the way of the reality; we will address our rapidly changing climate and the loss of our fundamental ecosystems through collective contributions.

Young people are key to environmental change because it is so personal to their future. They have lived with the knowledge and messaging on our planet (both positive and negative) for most of their lifetime. They are often earth-minded change-makers with little need of encouragement or first-hand experience. They often speak their mind, unfettered by alternative opinion. They often have energy and drive to take action.

We need young people's perspectives across societal decision-making. The acute realities are often soundly brought home by a young person reminding us of their eyes on the future. We need to value that, including paying for it, and not simply bringing someone into a room to get their opinion. They need to be in decision-making positions or at the very least advisors to decision-makers across our philanthropic organisations.

Overall, we all have the opportunity to create a 'positive space' for environmental contributions, whether it is to address human behaviour, restore or protect ecosystems, or bring people together to be connected for the future of their planet. As a [PNZ](#) trustee it has been energising and inspiring to be part of creating space for climate action, resilience and investment in Aotearoa's future and I'm looking forward to the many more opportunities to come!

“  
**We need young people's perspectives across societal decision-making.**

”

*Rose is an international Strategic Change Advisor, trustee of Seed the Change | He Kākano Hāpai, the CEO of the [Terra Nova Foundation](#) and PNZ Board member. She has led on social and environmental impact for over 20 years, driving large-scale change initiatives in the UK and Europe. Rose has a deep connection with the earth and is passionate about philanthropy's role in achieving wise, taiao/earth-grounded change for our future.*



Here are some ways Rose suggests we invest in our young people:

- Collective funding for young change-maker upskilling and know-how
- Supporting understanding of Te Ao Māori, including kaitiakitanga, manaakitanga and all that these engender – it's a gift that keeps on giving
- Creating opportunities for sharing intergenerational knowledge and wisdom
- Encouraging the intertwining of philosophical, scientific, spiritual and well-being thinking
- Investment in the formulation and incubation of young people's ideas.





# Climate change is a social issue that needs a smart, social response



**Suzi Kerr**  
Senior Vice President  
and Chief Economist,  
Environmental  
Defense Fund

The United Nations states that “climate change is the defining issue of our time, and we are at a defining moment”. Climate change is not only an ‘environmental’ issue but an issue of health, food security, children’s education, accessibility of services for elderly and disabled people, forced displacement of people, and more. Populations that are already vulnerable are also being hit more heavily by floods, droughts, storms and extreme heat. They tend to live in the places where climate disasters hit most and, to make it worse, with low incomes they can’t easily invest in adaptation. Climate is an equity issue.

Reducing climate change by reducing emissions is essential – we cannot adapt to the most dangerous impacts. We can reduce emissions faster here in New Zealand and also can inspire, help and encourage others to act globally. We’ve had huge influence outside New Zealand before and can again.

“  
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”



An international group looking for solutions together – building local capability.

Army trucks carrying dozens of people, after Cyclone Gabrielle left thousands displaced in Hawke's Bay. Photo credit: RNZ / Angus Dreaver.



We now know how to stop climate change and the actions we need to take can simultaneously create opportunities and improve human well-being. But governments cannot and will not solve these complex challenges alone – we need society-wide responses. We cannot be complacent – global success is not assured and failure would be catastrophic, literally.

Philanthropy plays a key role in the climate effort internationally. It is less constrained by political cycles so it can be strategic, take a long-term view, provide thought leadership and foster innovation, help local communities help themselves, and mobilise cooperation and generosity.

Adaptation can also make a huge difference and needs largely to be locally driven even if it is globally funded. It tends to be slower than we would like because people don't know how and find it difficult to organise. We've learned a lot about earthquake preparedness and climate adaptation is similar in many ways. Local communities need support to help themselves.

Two factors still paralyse effective climate action: political polarisation and fear. Philanthropy and non-governmental organisations can address both by using their convening power. Their ability to act in an open, transparent way can bring diverse groups together to develop positive visions for resilient low-emission communities and for the country. When people can see the way forward on climate and see that it is both feasible and good for the people and places they love, they can put their energy into action.

What are international not-for-profit organisations and philanthropists doing?

## Here are three ideas that might translate well to New Zealand:



Support community organisations that build capacity and capability that empowers vulnerable groups – e.g. the [Frontline Resource Institute](#) – so these communities can find and support climate solutions that work for them.



Collaborate to jointly support [larger more cost-effective efforts](#) for greater learning and impact. New Zealand arguably has too many small, short-term projects – fund for the longer term and reward those who work together.



Work with the Government and [private sector](#) to leverage their power and influence. Take advantage of existing government programmes and make them really work for those on the ground – for example, using the Emission Trading System to [support regeneration of native forests](#) – as well as trying to influence policy change. Find shared solutions between firms and community organisations for actions that make transformational changes possible – for example, siting of renewable energy and forests in suitable places. And of course, we must always evaluate and learn.

*Suzi Kerr is a Senior Vice President and the Chief Economist at the [Environmental Defense Fund](#). After completing her PhD in Economics at Harvard she was Founding Director of non-profit Motu Economic and Public Policy Research in New Zealand. She is passionate about helping people globally and has taught at universities in Chile, Colombia, New Zealand and the United States. Now she's back from New York, she spends her weekends helping nature to regenerate an area of native forest.*

# Restoring vā: Strengthening climate resilience for Pacific communities in Aotearoa New Zealand

Co-authored by  
Pasifika Funders'  
Network members  
Daleki Fole Finau &  
Hainoame Fulivai

In the fight for climate justice, Pasifika communities in Aotearoa are on the front lines, facing urgent challenges that demand action. Rising sea levels, devastating cyclones, and food shortages threaten their very existence in a dual way (see *Philanthropy News* Issue 85, April 2022), both as Pasifika in diaspora and 'Kiwis'. Despite global initiatives gaining traction, driving the shift towards 2050 and 2030 goals via one size fits all strategies and systems in Aotearoa, the reality is that Pasifika communities lack the necessary support to tackle these pressing issues head-on.

On the front lines, many Pasifika people in Aotearoa endure substandard housing, entrenched poverty, and escalating mental and physical health challenges exacerbated by soaring living costs within colonial systems and narratives. Despite extensive documentation and publicity in Aotearoa, insufficient care and support for Pasifika communities persists, subjecting them to harsh scrutiny and budget cuts where it matters most. Regrettably, the social disparities within our community are widening, leading to diluted narratives that often fail to honour the intentions of our ancestors. Furthermore, this neglect undermines the mana of our indigenous systems' core values: respect, integrity, honesty, healing, and truth-telling. The recording of our histories has devolved into a dismantled and institutionally controlled practice, yet demonstrating our history within indigenous systems remains a vital skill set for ensuring safety and survival, having served our people well for generations.



Right Top: Traditional Fijian Houses – Vale Vakaviti. Photo credit: The Coconet TV.

Right bottom: Tokelau Inati in session. Photo credit: Elena Pasilio.



Pasifika peoples have long known that their ancestral knowledge has helped their ancestors adapt and thrive in changing climates. However, the reality is that the once intimate relationship Pasifika peoples had with the environment has been severed through colonisation. To secure the future of Pasifika communities, there's a pressing need for concrete action. This involves enabling Pasifika-led initiatives that adopt a holistic approach to re-establishing their connection with the environment. This can be achieved through the development and implementation of effective, tailored strategies such as the Te Tokotoru framework focused on healing, strengthening, and responding appropriately. The focus lies in strengthening the resilience of Pasifika communities, enabling them to determine the most effective ways to revive a relationship with the environment that has weakened over time. This entails enabling the Pasifika community to rekindle their passion, enthusiasm, and care for the environment, which may have been overshadowed by the effects of colonisation. Additionally, it involves fostering international collaboration to tackle the widespread impacts of climate change.

The journey continues beyond mere integration of indigenous perspectives. Reviving our hidden histories and weaving ancestral wisdom into collective stories is paramount. Preserving traditional knowledge restores environmental bonds, ignites legacies of reclamation, and honours our profound ties to nature and each other. This demands collective action, prioritising culturally informed approaches, engaging Pasifika indigenous communities, and supporting community-led initiatives for a more just and regenerative future – a shared responsibility for all.

The good news is that Pasifika-led initiatives are emerging to facilitate knowledge transfer of indigenous practices and address climate action needs. In addition, these leaders, founders and initiatives require support to flourish. In addition to prioritising community interests and needs, funders can offer further learning opportunities, access to leading experts from marginalised communities, and invest in sustainable and culturally-led regenerative solutions. We also recognise and highlight that not all climate and general impact evaluation agencies and frameworks provide safety for Pasifika and indigenous knowledge-based efforts and needs its own support system to thrive.

## Key areas for support utilising the Te Tokotoru framework can include:

### HEALING

- **Understanding traditional knowledge**  
Recognise the significance of oral traditions in passing down knowledge.
- **Engaging elders and community leaders**  
Create platforms for sharing

### STRENGTHENING

- **Youth empowerment and education**  
Provide resources for intergenerational learning and incorporate indigenous knowledge into education systems.
- **Community collaboration and partnerships**  
Foster collaborations between Pasifika communities, indigenous organisations, and academic institutions.

### RESPONDING

- **Respect and cultural sensitivity**  
Approach knowledge sharing with humility and value diverse perspectives.
- **Long-term sustainability**  
Ensure initiatives are adaptable to changing environmental conditions.

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**Preserving traditional knowledge restores environmental bonds, ignites legacies of reclamation, and honours our profound ties to nature and each other.**  
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By supporting these efforts, funders can safely support the revitalisation of traditional knowledge and indigenous approaches to environmental stewardship, regenerative practices, respecting indigenous sovereignty and cultural values. In addition, funders **must adopt culturally responsive practices** that uphold indigenous values and protocols. This involves recognising indigenous collective efforts, decision-making processes, engaging with community leaders on their terms, and prioritising approaches aligned with indigenous worldviews.

The PFN website will spotlight Pacific-led climate change initiatives and encourages dialogue with funders dedicated to supporting Pasifika-focused strategic goals and solutions across all levels of decision-making and leadership.

Immediate action is crucial to confront the climate crisis affecting Pasifika communities in Aotearoa New Zealand. Prioritising their voices, empowering them to reclaim traditional knowledge, and backing community-led resilience efforts are essential. Embracing Pasifika indigenous perspectives, implementing culturally sensitive funding mechanisms, and forging authentic partnerships for a fair and sustainable future must be prioritised.

### Specifically, this could include:

- **Indigenous integration**  
 Support the integration of indigenous perspectives into climate action initiatives.
- **Community strengthening**  
 Intentional prioritising of Pasifika community-led projects that enable indigenous peoples to address environmental challenges the ways they see fit.
- **Partnerships**  
 Foster collaborations that respect indigenous sovereignty and incorporate indigenous voices in decision-making.
- **Capacity building**  
 Invest in skills development to strengthen indigenous engagement in climate efforts.
- **Economic resilience**  
 Support regenerative economic development initiatives to reduce reliance on harmful practices.

*The Pasifika Funders' Network was established in 2020 by a team of aiga/fāмили/whānau who work as catalysts for change in the philanthropic sector in Aotearoa, New Zealand and abroad. The network is dependent on the wealth of Pacific indigenous systems and knowledge base to empower and upskill their members, advocate for and amplify Pacific community voice and success stories, and strengthen funder-led 'best practice' at all levels of impact in Pacific communities and lived realities. The network has an accumulated wealth of philanthropic knowledge which spans well over 40 years of working in the sector.*

# Sustainable Business Network: Driving change together

## Sustainable Business Network

### New forms of collaboration are unlocking unprecedented impact and community benefits.

The environment and conservation attracts only a small fraction of charitable income in New Zealand. It amounts to just over 1.5% (\$368 million of a total of \$24 billion in 2021). But between 2017 and 2020 it grew by 48%. Corporate and business giving is about \$84 million, 0.1 per cent of \$77.4 billion in pre-tax profits in 2019/20. That's about a tenth of [the global average](#).

But a quick glance at the news or scientific studies is enough to know much, much more is needed.

Thankfully, new forms of environmental partnerships are stepping up to the challenge. They're leveraging the latest technology for more sophisticated and comprehensive approaches. They're bridging the gap between public and private – between commercial, social and environmental interests.

This is creating a new twist on established forms of environmental projects. A great example is the regeneration of the landscapes and communities around the Puhinui Stream in South Auckland. It's a collaboration between philanthropic organisations, business partners and government agencies. It works under an award-winning iwi-led framework – Te Whakaoranga o te Puhinui. It's informed and enlivened by mātauranga Māori.

The Sustainable Business Network (SBN) is contributing to this movement. Its project is backed by the Milford Foundation, Foundation North, Z Energy and the Department of Conservation. Together, they're helping young people carve out nature-based careers to help rejuvenate the region. The project is applying a range of impact measures. Jobs created. Nature-based employment accreditations achieved. Hectares of restored landscape. It leverages GPS technology, social media integration and video creation.

Meanwhile, there's increasing pressure on small and medium sized businesses to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Another innovative collaboration has provided a free, easy to use assessment. It's been accessed by more than 50,000 people so far. [The Climate Action Toolbox](#) is a partnership between SBN; the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment; the Energy Efficiency & Conservation Authority; Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency; BNZ; Spark and design agency DNA.

SBN has also brought together NZTE, the Ministry for the Environment, Auckland Council, thinkstep-anz and Āmiomio Aotearoa to create the world's first online Circular Economy Directory. This enables users to find products and supplies with 'circular' features that design out waste and keep materials in useful circulation.

Rachel Brown ONZM is CEO and founder of SBN. She says, "Collaborations and co-investment is how really innovative solutions are now being created. It's about using the best from NGOs like ours, bringing the kaupapa and ethical base, combined with the innovative skills of business and the confidence of government support. The marriage of these sectors gives confidence for any investment. The impacts for people, the planet and the wider economy are boundless."

Further partnerships are forming now, offering participating organisations huge benefits while tackling some of the most difficult issues of our time.

*The Sustainable Business Network is Aotearoa New Zealand's largest sustainable business organisation, encompassing more than 500 diverse organisations. It provides training, resources and advice, as well as showcasing best practice and building powerful collaborative programmes of action on climate change, waste and nature regeneration.*



## Sustainable Business Network's five things to look out for in the best projects:

- ➔ **A strategic vision directly brought to life by what happens on the ground. The big picture view of a better future must translate to the little things in how the project does its work.**
- ➔ **Data and communications that demonstrate real impact, including great storytelling.**
- ➔ **Admin that does the detail. Check for comprehensive governance, financial management and health and safety procedures.**
- ➔ **Diverse funding streams. These days projects need funds from government agencies, philanthropy and business to maximise impact.**
- ➔ **Excitement! Good projects get you involved and keep you involved. When you support these grassroots projects with great culture, you become part of the family.**





# The urgent need for philanthropy and funding in climate innovation



**Amy Carter**  
Chief Executive,  
The Christchurch  
Foundation

As the world grapples with the escalating climate crisis, New Zealand stands at a critical juncture. Our pristine landscapes, unique ecosystems, and vibrant communities are under threat from rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and ecological imbalances. To safeguard our future, we must channel philanthropic efforts and funding toward innovative climate action.

## The innovation imperative

In the context of climate change, innovation is not a luxury; it is an imperative. We cannot rely solely on existing technologies and practices to combat the multifaceted challenges posed by a warming planet.

New Zealand, with its rich history of ingenuity and resilience, is well-positioned to lead the charge. However, the urgency of the climate crisis demands accelerated innovation across sectors.

Tui, from Meridian at a Tui Corridor Planting at the Christchurch Adventure Park. Photo credit: Meridian Energy.



## The role of philanthropy and funding

Philanthropy and funding from non-Crown funders play a pivotal role in catalysing change. In the context of climate action, philanthropy/funding can:

### → Seed innovation

Philanthropic funding can kick-start research and development in climate-friendly technologies. Whether it's novel carbon capture methods, sustainable agriculture practices, or resilient urban planning, philanthropy and funding provides the initial spark.

### → Support risk-taking

Innovation involves risk. Philanthropists and funders can provide a safety net for daring projects that might otherwise struggle to secure traditional funding. By embracing calculated risks, we can unlock breakthroughs.

Here in Ōtautahi Christchurch there is no better example of this than Hugh Wilson and Hinewai on Banks Peninsula. For years his model of using gorse to protect re-establishing native bush was deemed to be madness. Imagine what would have happened if he was funded more, earlier.

The Christchurch Foundation's partnership with Environment Canterbury has the goal to establish a funding pool to support innovation – the Green Philanthropy Fund. It has been frustratingly slow to gain momentum, not aided by the current cost of living crisis and economic downturn. Additionally, we are needing to educate people and organisations as to why this is important before we can receive their support. Over time, however, I believe this approach will reap significant rewards for our region in the longer term.

### → Bridge gaps

Philanthropic organisations can bridge gaps between academia, industry, and government. They can foster collaboration, facilitate knowledge exchange, and create ecosystems where innovation thrives.

The Ecological Vision for Banks Peninsula is a leading example of where charities, local and central government and landowners can collaborate and achieve. Bringing a diverse group together took time but is now reaping significant results such as the recent announcement that the Peninsula is now free of wild goats.

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 ”



## The New Zealand context

New Zealand faces unique climate challenges. Our island nation is susceptible to sea-level rise, extreme weather events, and disruptions to agriculture and biodiversity. Yet, we also have abundant natural resources, a vibrant entrepreneurial spirit, and a commitment to kaitiakitanga (guardianship of the environment).

Our Tūi Corridor, initially established through funding from Meridian Energy, does this. It's a landscape-scale planting programme linking Hinewai above Akaroa to the Christchurch CBD. This enabled us to get around 40,000 stems in the ground, all led by top ecologists and Laura Molles, a tūi expert.

The bigger impact, in my opinion, has been the storytelling/public education that has occurred. The idea of biodiversity islands across the plains has long been supported by environmental champions such as Colin Meurk and David Norton.

It was by relabelling this concept as a term that people could engage with – the return of an iconic species – that led to broader collaborative action and grew the pool of funding.

## To harness these strengths, we need targeted philanthropic and funder investments in:

### → Clean energy

Support research into renewable energy sources such as geothermal, wind, and solar. Encourage startups working on grid resilience and decentralised energy systems.

### → Nature-based solutions

Invest in projects that restore ecosystems, protect native species, enhance carbon sequestration, and protect people and property. From reforestation to wetland restoration, these initiatives yield long-term benefits.

### → Farmers are key

We will not achieve anything without farmers at the table, and we should recognise and shout from the rooftops about those who are leading this work. I am personally yet to meet a farmer who doesn't want a healthier farm and waterways.

### → Climate education

Philanthropy can fund educational programmes that raise awareness about climate change, empower youth, and inspire the next generation of innovators.

The Deans Family of Canterbury protected Pūtaringamotu Riccarton Bush prior to European settlement of Waitaha Canterbury. These Scottish farmers recognised the value of our biodiversity, and these Kahikatea are now a critical seed source for regeneration.



### Collaborative action

Philanthropy and funders alone cannot solve the climate crisis. They must collaborate with government agencies, private enterprises, and civil society. Public-private partnerships can amplify impact, scale up successful innovations, and drive systemic change. It is also important to understand who is best to do what.

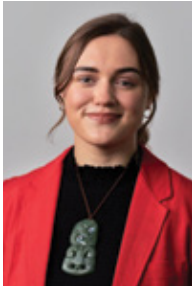
The Christchurch Foundation is now actively planning to replicate the Tūi Corridor across Selwyn and Waimakariri, connecting established populations with the city. Work is already underway to map ideal pathways anchoring off established plantings and remnants. Our role is to tell the story and then collect and pass on the funding from philanthropists and business to reputable local environmental groups and landowners for action.

Innovation in climate action is not a luxury; it is our lifeline. Let us rally behind visionary leaders, support groundbreaking research, and create a legacy of resilience for generations to come. Together, we can turn the tide and build a climate-smart Aotearoa New Zealand.

“  
**Philanthropy and funders alone cannot solve the climate crisis. They must collaborate with government agencies, private enterprises, and civil society.**  
 ”

*Amy Carter is focused on transforming Christchurch, Selwyn, and Waimakariri for future generations. Acclaimed for her innovative philanthropic approach, Amy's community-led initiatives through [The Christchurch Foundation](#) after the March 2019 terror attacks have left an indelible mark. The Foundation's unwavering focus on impact has raised eyebrows and stirred conversations. As a seasoned director, Amy champions social causes and purpose-driven action. Alongside her husband, she holds diverse interests in several Canterbury-HQ'd businesses.*

# Supporting Māori-led climate and environmental initiatives: A call to action



Arohanui West  
Climate Co-lead,  
Climate Action Aotearoa

As we navigate the complexities of a changing climate, supporting Māori-led initiatives is an invitation to be part of a transformative journey – one that respects our whenua and natural resources, and honours mātauranga Māori (indigenous knowledge). Funders have the unique ability to amplify the reach and impact of kaupapa Māori initiatives, leading the way toward a future where our tamariki and mokopuna can thrive.

There are many Māori-led and operated climate initiatives out there – most of them critically under-resourced and underfunded. Despite this, they are overcoming all obstacles and doing the mahi anyway; the need of their communities being far too great to wait for the perfect time to start. An example of this is during Cyclone Gabrielle, when we witnessed the mobilisation of Marae, hapū and community groups at a scale we have never seen before with people coming together to feed, clothe and care for one another in a time of need and uncertainty.

We can only imagine what these critically under-resourced groups and kaupapa could become if they were adequately supported. Now, more than ever, we must recognise that local initiatives and groups working on the ground know what's best for their hapori (community).

## Toi Kai Rawa: helping Māori landowners embrace a low-carbon future

Toi Kai Rawa, a regional Māori economic development agency, is working to unlock the potential of Māori-owned land in the Bay of Plenty. Prioritising a low-carbon future, the organisation works closely with Māori collectives to navigate the intricacies of land development collaboratively. Below is a citation from their website:

Toi Kai Rawa aims to showcase innovative possibilities for Māori collectives, transitioning from low productivity to higher value land use. With the support of a \$40,000 grant from BayTrust, the organisation is running 'discovery tours' tailored for Māori collectives. These tours will focus on horticulture, agriculture, forestry, aquaculture, and papakāinga housing, aligning possibilities with each collective's ambitions and current situation.

Toi Kai Rawa's purpose is to advance the prosperity of Māori across the wider Bay of Plenty by leading approaches to improve Māori prosperity, which includes wealth and well-being. Advancing the benefits of increased Māori social, cultural and community outcomes including income, employment, health and education. Growing leaders through the practice and tradition of succession, youth leadership, good governance, cultural sovereignty and expansion, connectivity and living sustainably with our natural world.

A key goal of He Mauri Ohooho BOP Māori economic development strategy that will be continued by Toi Kai Rawa is for Māori in the region to exceed the national average income levels by 2030. For this to occur Toi Kai Rawa will support a range of strategies, partnerships and initiatives where Māori social, cultural, environmental and economic advancement are at the centre.



Photo credit:  
Para Kore.



### Para Kore: Educating and advocating from a Māori worldview, for a world without waste

Established in 2010, [Para Kore](#) Marae Incorporated is a Māori not-for-profit organisation working towards zero waste. They are passionate about and committed to collective action for a zero carbon, zero waste Aotearoa, New Zealand that honours mana Māori motuhake and regenerates Ranginui and Papatūānuku.

Para Kore work with Marae, schools, kōhanga, community groups and businesses to provide waste education based on Te Ao Māori principles and utilising mātauranga Māori. Through their mahi they seek to strengthen whakapapa connection to Papatūānuku and Ranginui with a vision of 'oranga taiao, oranga marae, oranga whānau' recognising that the well-being of people, planet and community are interlinked.

Led by the amazing mana wahine and descendant of Ngāti Tama, Jacqui Forbes, Para Kore is a great example of a by Māori for Māori approach that has tremendous and tangible outcomes. In their 2023 annual report Para Kore published that they had delivered 865 wānanga, worked with over 800 organisations, engaged with over 11,000 people and reduced 76 tonnes from landfill in between the years 2022-2023.



**Now, more than ever, we must recognise that local initiatives and groups working on the ground know what's best for their hapori (community).**



### Kōkiri ki mua, looking ahead

As climate change becomes more pronounced we are seeing a global shift where the western world is recognising the vital role indigenous peoples and our knowledge plays in nurturing our local landscapes. It is crucial that we remember this knowledge, passed down for generations, is a result of long periods of observation and living in harmony with the natural world. It cannot be mimicked, and must be adequately appreciated and respected.

Funders are in a unique position to support this vital mahi ensuring a tika (equitable) transition for the betterment of all of us. This could be by investing in both internal and external education opportunities to upskill our communities on the causes, consequences and opportunities presented by our changing climate. Or it could be as simple as putting climate change as an agenda item on your next board meeting or having a cup of tea with your local rūnanga or hapū to discuss their worries and aspirations for the future.

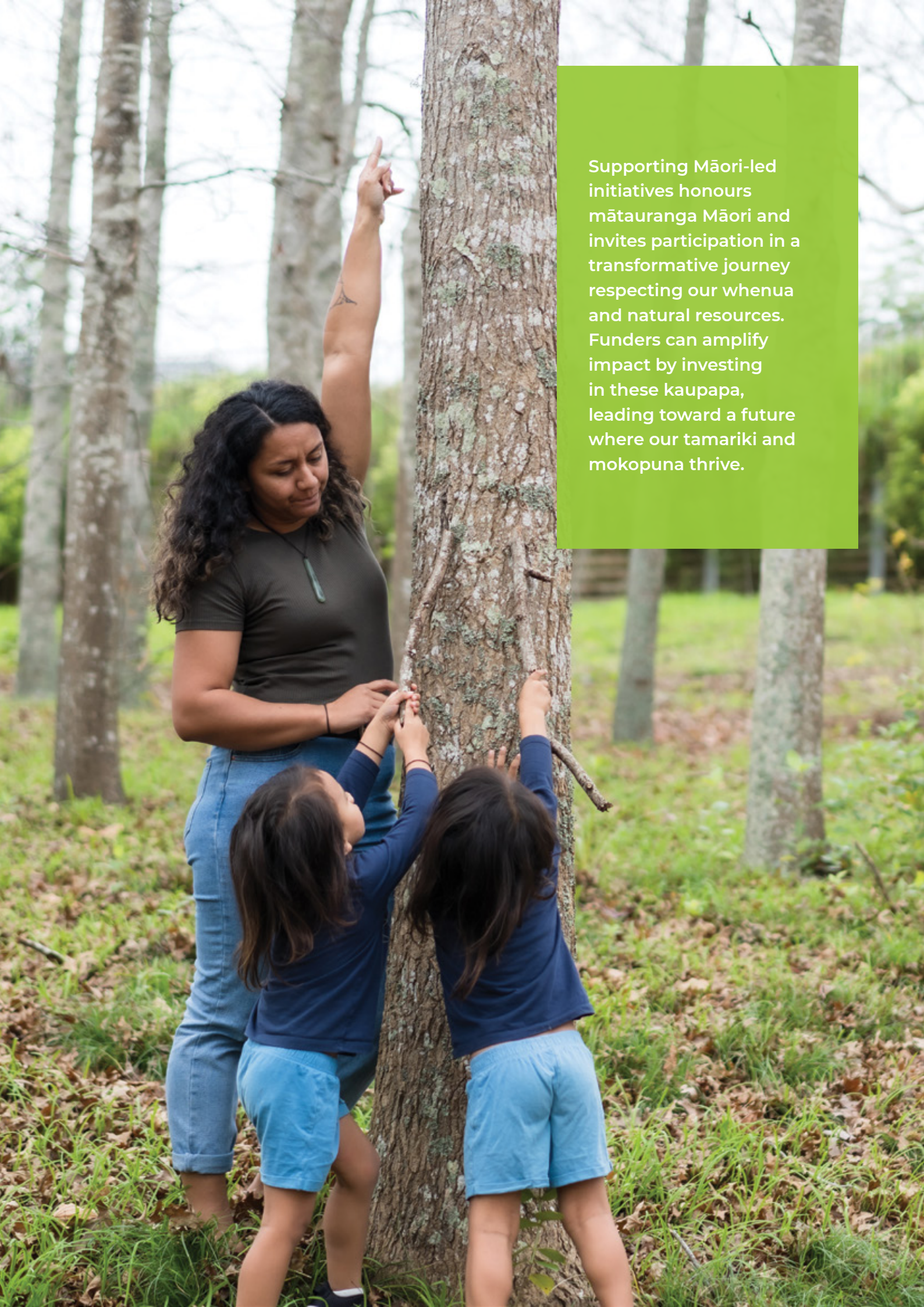
We all have a role to play when it comes to climate action. From the CEO, to the tamariki, to the planners, to the dreamers, to the tea towel holders and cups of tea makers. Aotearoa can be a place where our climate mahi is centred on Te Tiriti o Waitangi and a [Tika Transition](#). Where we nurture our diverse skill sets and work together in partnership to ensure our taiao is protected for generations to come. Together, that Aotearoa is possible.

He iti te mokoroa, nāna i kati te kahikatea – The mokoroa (grub) may be small, but it cuts through the kahikatea.

Find out more about a Tika Transition and access resources for funders here: [www.climateactionaotearoa.co.nz/resources-home](http://www.climateactionaotearoa.co.nz/resources-home)

*Arohanui has a background in waste minimisation, wetland restoration, journalism and communications. She is a climate co-lead for [Climate Action Aotearoa](#), an organisation that supports community funders for a tika transition to a low-carbon society. An uri of Te Arawa whānui, Arohanui grew up in Rotorua immersed in Te Ao Māori and surrounded by the geothermal landscape which fostered her love for Te Taiao. Her fundamental belief is that the well-being of our people and our whenua are interconnected.*





Supporting Māori-led initiatives honours mātauranga Māori and invites participation in a transformative journey respecting our whenua and natural resources. Funders can amplify impact by investing in these kaupapa, leading toward a future where our tamariki and mokopuna thrive.



# Empowering girls and women: The untold climate solution



**Geneva Pritchard**  
Executive Director,  
Move92

Right: Determination, enthusiasm and positivity describe this cohort of youth ready to learn and engage in the workforce of Sri Lanka and beyond.

I recently spent 10 days meeting with women's groups and youth education programmes in marginalised communities in Sri Lanka. It strengthened what I already know to be true; when girls and women gather and have access to education, resources, and a platform for their voices to be heard, the result is indescribably powerful.

But funding girls and women is not just a feel-good way to direct funding. There is also a strong correlation between funding girls and women and mitigating the climate crisis. This correlation usually surprises people, but data backs up that increased funding for both girls' education and family planning can be one of the most powerful ways to reverse the impacts of global warming.

The book *Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming* was compiled by a team of 200 scholars, scientists, policy makers, business leaders and activists. It lists the top 100 ways to reverse global warming, ranking solutions based on the total amount of greenhouse gases the solutions can potentially avoid or remove from the atmosphere. The results are measured in gigatons. One gigaton equals one billion metric tons of carbon dioxide.

The number one solution to reverse global warming is Refrigerant Management, coming in at 89.7 gigatons of carbon. Educating Girls and Family Planning come in at number six and number seven, both at 59.6 gigatons of carbon. Given the intrinsic link between these two solutions, funding that addresses both equals 119.2 gigatons of carbon, far surpassing the number one solution.

Globally, there are currently 130 million girls who are denied the right to attend school. The reasons for this are complex, ranging from lack of family funds to pay for school fees or uniforms; cultural norms that have young girls taking care of siblings, elders or the household; prioritization of educating boys; or the fact that menstruation can prevent a girl from attending school. This number is staggering, given education of girls is the most powerful lever available for breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty, while also mitigating emissions by curbing population growth.







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**If the world had 100% of enrolment of girls in primary school and secondary school, by 2050 there would be 843 million fewer people in the world.**  
 ”

If the world had 100% of enrolment of girls in primary school and secondary school, by 2050 there would be 843 million fewer people in the world. Women with more education have fewer, healthier children. In addition, this is what women want. A global survey found that 214 million women in developing countries want the ability to choose whether and when to become pregnant, but lack access to contraception.

If funding isn't invested in education and family planning, the numbers project a global population of 10.7 billion people by 2050. The impact of this population increase has ripple effects on energy usage, building space, food, waste, agriculture, transportation – all resulting in increasing global temperatures.

A positive ripple effect of education and family planning is that educated girls become educated women. An increasing global trend is more women owning and farming their own land. The data shows if women farmers receive the same resources as men, their farm yields rise, reducing the number of undernourished people by 150 million. In addition, increased farm yields lead to decreased deforestation. Women business owners spend their profits differently to their male counterparts, often investing money into the community, especially towards education

of both girls and boys. This is a proven method to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty, decrease malnutrition in children, and increase the number of girls entering primary and secondary school. It sparks a positive cycle that in turn has dramatic impacts on reversing global warming.

Climate discussions to date often focus on big scalable solutions like changing national policy, reforming industry and developing new technology. The everyday New Zealander may think of things like recycling, solar panels, and eating plant-based. All of these make a difference, and efforts to make small changes should be celebrated. However, it is fascinating and inspiring to know that nurturing and celebrating the promise of each girl in the world can make a difference towards a healthier planet, and brighter future for us all.

*Geneva Pritchard is Executive Director of [Move92](#), a global organisation that connects donors to locally-led organisations in over 13 countries around the world. In 2023, Move92, The Gift Trust and PNZ collaborated to create the New Zealand Global Giving Network – a network to inspire more NZ-based donors to participate in global giving.*

# Climate change – maximising the impact of your dollar



**Emma Lewis**  
Executive Director,  
Nikau Foundation

**Climate change is an intergenerational issue, which requires long-term resources, funding and expertise to address and mitigate.**

Although individuals wish to support climate change causes and action, the challenge comes with feeling empowered to make a real difference when the issue at hand can seem insurmountable. Especially in such tough economic times, donors are looking to make their giving go further and maximise the impact of their philanthropic dollar so they can play a meaningful part in supporting our planet's future.

## Intergenerational giving

Although endowment fund giving models are well-established overseas, they are a relatively new concept in Aotearoa New Zealand. However, what endowment giving offers is an intergenerational focus and a model that invests and grows donations to deliver long-term impact, which makes it an attractive option for donors.

The beauty of giving through an endowment fund is that even a small, one-off donation given today can continue to make an impact for generations to come. It provides an opportunity for donors to be part of something bigger than themselves and to ensure their generosity continues to support environmental conservation initiatives and fight climate change long into the future.

## Making donors' giving go further

The scope of endowment fund giving is also broad. Although many not-for-profit organisations, such as Kāpiti Coast's Ngā Manu Nature Reserve and Wellington's Ōtari-Wilton's Bush, have existing endowment funds to provide a sustainable, future-focused giving option to their supporters, individuals can also establish their own.

An example of this is the O'Dea Illingworth Fund; a fund established with Nikau Foundation through a private bequest, which is dedicated to supporting soil science and funding climate change research and action. Although donor John Illingworth passed away in 2020, his generosity will continue to make an impact through annual grants, forever. The inaugural grants were distributed in 2023 to the Ngā Manu Trust, Victoria University of Wellington Foundation, the Project Crimson Trust, World Wildlife Fund for Nature New Zealand, and the South Wairarapa Biodiversity Group.

## Tapping into community knowledge

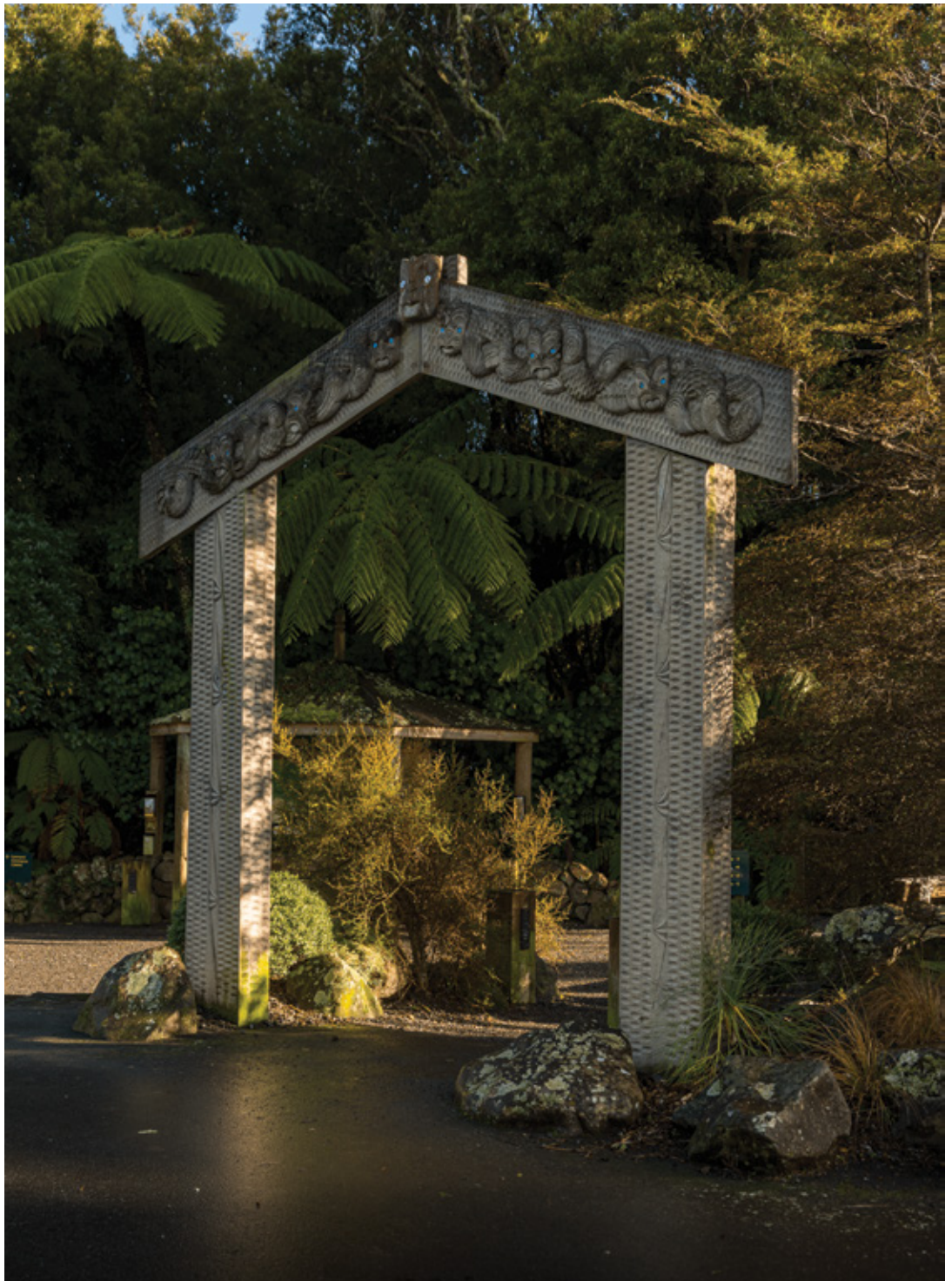
For donors wishing to establish an endowment fund during their lifetime, there is the additional benefit of connecting with the knowledge of community foundations. Although donors want to help reduce emissions and help us adapt to climate change, it can feel overwhelming and prompt questions like 'Which organisations are working in this space?', and 'What kinds of support do these organisations need to grow?'. Community foundations like Nikau are able to facilitate this giving, so it truly makes an impact where it is most needed."

### Give today, to help to manage our changing climate, forever

To find out more about how you can maximise your impact through endowment fund giving, please contact your local [community foundation](#).

*[Nikau Foundation](#) is Te Upoko-o-te-Ika-a-Māui, the Greater Wellington region's community foundation. With a mission to grow generosity, Nikau is now the guardian of almost \$32 million, which is invested and growing to support the people and places of the region, forever. In 2023, Nikau distributed over \$1.2 million to community organisations doing good mahi in a wide range of areas from environmental conservation to food insecurity and youth development.*

Entrance to Wellington's Ōtari-Wilton's Bush.  
Photo credit: Chris Coad.





# Eight tips on starting a climate action focused fund

Chiara LaRotonda  
Community  
Engagement and  
Funding Manager,  
Wellington  
Community Fund

Wellington Community Fund (WCF) opened its Climate Action Fund (CAF) in October 2020. Its purpose was to support community-led movements that address climate change. It was open to organisations that could deliver measurable outcomes around reduced carbon emissions, carbon sequestration, and community and ecological resilience in the greater Wellington region. WCF funded six projects over three years with a spend-down budget of \$2 million.

The fund ended in March 2024 and we would like to share a few insights and recommendations for any funders who would like to offer a similar climate action focused fund to their communities.

- 1 Centre your fund on the communities that already are and will continue to be the most harmed by climate change. Centre your fund in your overarching strategy and make sure it aligns well with your funding priorities and that your governing structures support it wholeheartedly.
- 2 If you do not have strong climate change/climate action expertise at your organisation, get as much of it externally as possible at every stage of the fund: design, assessment, decision, and monitoring/reporting. During CAF's design stage we convened an Expert Advisory Group made up of experts in biodiversity and conservation, political advocacy, community climate resilience, and sustainable transport. This EAG provided crucial advice to our Board around the focus of the fund. WCF also got invaluable advice from Wellington City Council's Climate Team during the assessment and recommendation stage of the fund.
- 3 Get very clear on the timeframes around expected outcomes and on what you can and cannot measure and monitor over the life of the grant. For CAF, no project was able to report on immediate carbon reduction outcomes during the life of its grant; these outcomes will take years if not decades to realise and are dependent on continued sustainable funding. This reality brought up challenges for us in monitoring and reporting over the grants.
  - Note that whilst staff at WCF did upskill quickly, this lack of specific climate expertise was a major challenge over the lifetime of the grant.
  - Consider also how to keep those outcomes front of mind for your organisation's governance and decision-makers over the course of multi-year grants.
- 4 Consider funding climate advocacy if your organisation is able to do so; political advocacy has a unique potential for long-term, large-scale change and does not often attract much philanthropic funding. Note that climate advocacy can be a particularly powerful choice for funders who focus on youth and rangatahi.



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**Centre your fund in your overarching strategy and make sure it aligns well with your funding priorities and that your governing structures support it wholeheartedly.**  
 ”

5 That said, fund climate action in the ways that work best for *your* organisation. Learn what climate action looks like for your region or across Aotearoa; it is a big puzzle and there are many different types of work and ways to think about impact in this space. No matter how much you have in your budget or what your funding priorities are, there is likely a climate action project that is a good fit for you.

- Specifically, understand intersectionality in the context of climate change: how might climate action connect with your organisation's priorities around Te Tiriti o Waitangi, social justice, or social equity?

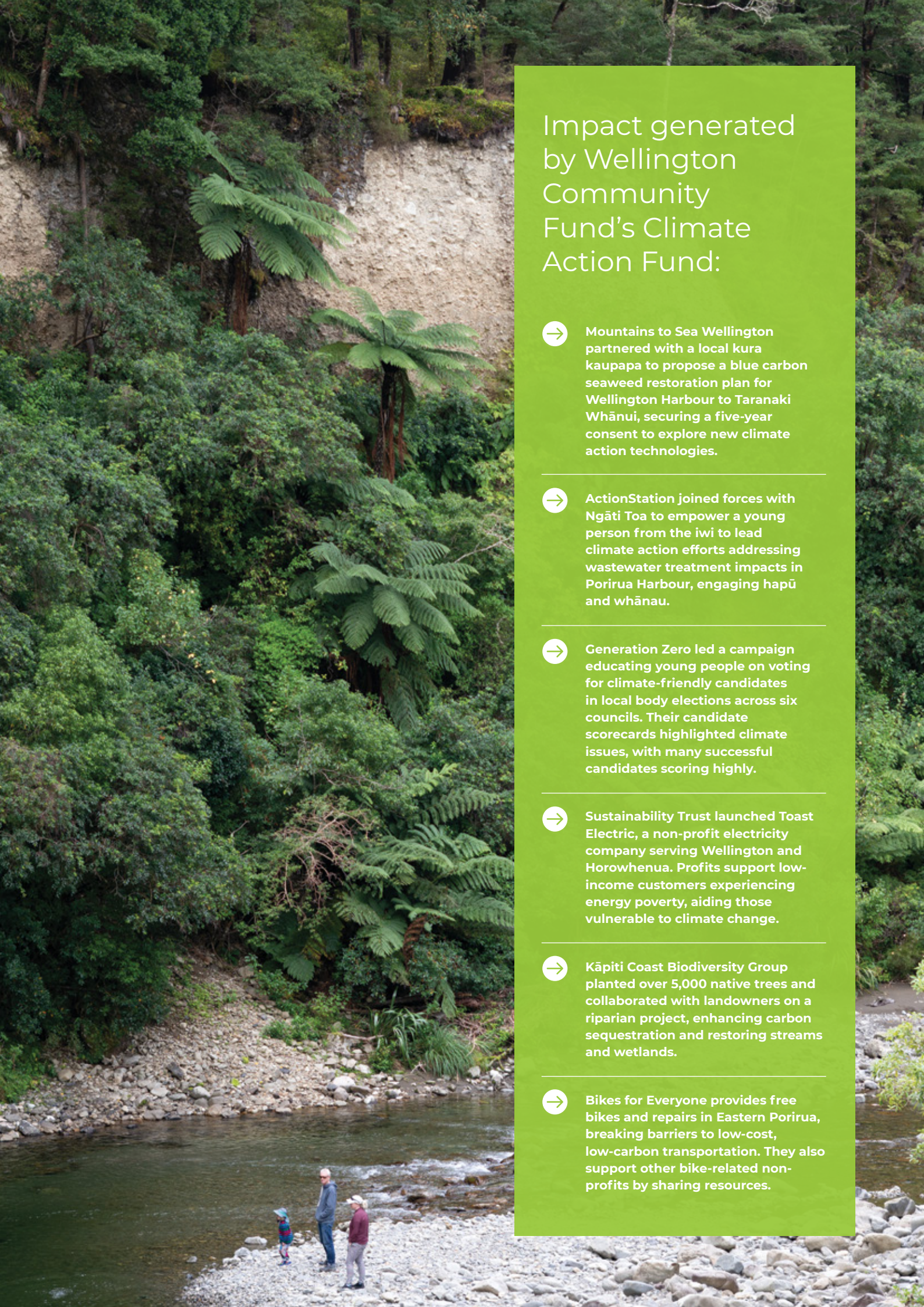
6 Similarly, consider a 'portfolio' approach; CAF funded [six projects](#) that all focused on quite different pieces of the climate change puzzle. We felt confident that at least some of the outcomes would be achieved across all six projects and we are delighted to say that has been the case.

7 Fund collaboratively where possible, especially for things that are new and different as those projects will need a lot of support to see success over time.

8 Start where you are. Fund climate action however you can, for as much as you can, for as long as you can. We are all in this together and we all have a role to play. Contact [Climate Action Aotearoa](#) if you want to learn more about how you can fund in this space.

*Chiara LaRotonda is the Community Engagement and Funding Manager at [Wellington Community Fund](#). With a professional background in mental health, public health, and social work, she was brand new to climate funding when the idea for WCF's Climate Action Fund came about. She is always happy to talk about what she's learned through the design process and day-to-day management of that fund.*





## Impact generated by Wellington Community Fund's Climate Action Fund:

→ Mountains to Sea Wellington partnered with a local kura kaupapa to propose a blue carbon seaweed restoration plan for Wellington Harbour to Taranaki Whānui, securing a five-year consent to explore new climate action technologies.

→ ActionStation joined forces with Ngāti Toa to empower a young person from the iwi to lead climate action efforts addressing wastewater treatment impacts in Porirua Harbour, engaging hapū and whānau.

→ Generation Zero led a campaign educating young people on voting for climate-friendly candidates in local body elections across six councils. Their candidate scorecards highlighted climate issues, with many successful candidates scoring highly.

→ Sustainability Trust launched Toast Electric, a non-profit electricity company serving Wellington and Horowhenua. Profits support low-income customers experiencing energy poverty, aiding those vulnerable to climate change.

→ Kāpiti Coast Biodiversity Group planted over 5,000 native trees and collaborated with landowners on a riparian project, enhancing carbon sequestration and restoring streams and wetlands.

→ Bikes for Everyone provides free bikes and repairs in Eastern Porirua, breaking barriers to low-cost, low-carbon transportation. They also support other bike-related non-profits by sharing resources.



# There's an app for that: Using technology to connect people and impact

Malcolm Rands  
Executive Chair,  
Fairground Foundation

How do we utilise technology to protect the many things we love about our natural world here in Aotearoa New Zealand?

We all know that technological advances such as electric cars and solar panels help the planet, but would you think of an app?

Back in 1993, my wife Melanie and I developed a new way of funding a not-for-profit. We set up an ethical business called ecostore, whose aim was to give us all new ways to walk more lightly on the Earth and at the same time provide an ongoing source of funding for a not-for-profit called the Fairground Foundation. We wanted to create enough funding for the foundation to cover its overheads so that any money it raised would go directly towards the projects it developed.

Whilst still CEO of ecostore my research led me to one of the most successful online fundraising apps in the United States called DonorsChoose, which targets better educational outcomes for students. A notable factor contributing to the app's success is its emphasis on specificity. DonorsChoose guides users to support a particular school, a specific age group, and a distinct subject matter, such as art. Then you may choose to buy more oil paint. A very powerful giving experience. I wondered how I could put this technology to use here in our own backyard.

We've observed that New Zealand is a country of volunteers. That on a weekly basis, there are tens of thousands of Kiwis working in our wilderness and urban centres on various environmental projects – whether they be land regeneration efforts or protecting native species. My experience of managing pests in our local bush on the Tūtūkākā coast of Northland led me to the idea of supporting the many, many other environmental groups across the country that like me, would be finding it difficult to fundraise for the specific needs of their projects.

We believe that there are millions of people across New Zealand and the world who'd love to support them – if only we made it easy, fun and satisfying to do so. The human, emotional experience of giving enabled at scale via technology.

Collaborating with ex-DOC staff and other volunteers, we're developing a clever and fun mobile app called [Bucket](#), which connects donors with specific conservation projects and the real people behind them. You will have the option to give individually or through joining giving circles to collectively enable micro-giving to have macro impact.

Our vision is for Bucket to be the go-to place for conservation giving, making it easy to find causes donors personally care about and for doers to build a community of supporters. This is about bringing like-minded people together in the conservation space, creating opportunities for impactful giving and at the same time building a strong sense of connection and agency.

We are now looking for partners to help us complete our journey and deliver Bucket not just to New Zealand but to the world. Our natural world needs support and we believe that if supporting the projects you love is easy then it's much more likely to happen.

Right: Melanie and Malcolm Rands.



*Fairground Foundation's purpose is to create a better world. We identify social and environmental issues that are difficult to solve, and with courageous leadership and on-the-ground action, we tackle these issues head-on. We will prove it is possible to do good AND create jobs and we will inspire others to do the same.*



# NEXT Foundation's approach to conservation



**Bill Kermode**  
Chief Executive,  
NEXT Foundation

Right: Rotoroa Island has been transformed with more than 400,000 native plants and the return of native species.

Taking the goal of a predator-free New Zealand from a pipe dream to an achievable target has been made possible by committed partnerships, passionate people, and systemic shifts. NEXT's financial and strategic commitment in environment has been a significant contributor to that shift.

NEXT was designed upfront to be a "sunset" foundation, committing its entire \$100m within 10 years with a view to achieving maximum impact.

NEXT has looked to bring strategic focus, build collaborative partnerships and back systemic projects and leaders in system change. Choosing to concentrate our efforts on a specific area within the environment (in our case, predator-free New Zealand), we aimed to maximise impact, address root causes, and ensure there is a plan for sustaining the gains long-term.

Rotoroa Island (a pre-NEXT project) now exemplifies an ecosystem that has been transformed – it has more than 400,000 native plants, has seen the return of native species and is a crèche for young kiwi and takahē.

Predator eradication to bring back our native birdlife and restore biodiversity has been NEXT's primary focus. By dedicating resources to this crucial aspect of conservation, the Foundation played a significant role in bolstering the Government's confidence to set an ambitious national target of a 'predator-free country by 2050'. This commitment to eradicating predators addresses a root cause of environmental degradation and sets the stage for broader biodiversity gains.



Bringing back our birdlife extends well beyond just eradication of rats, stoats and possums. The widespread suppression efforts undertaken by communities large and small across the country yield massive environmental and biodiversity gains. And they provide tangible feedback and rewards for those involved, fostering a sense of accomplishment and ownership within local communities.

NEXT projects have been about eradication, permanently, rather than just suppression. For example, in Taranaki Mouna, NEXT worked closely with Taranaki iwi leaders and DOC to build the Taranaki Mouna entity from ground zero. With the goal of transforming the mountains, ranges, and islands of Taranaki, Taranaki Mouna envisioned 'He Kawa Ora' or 'Pathway to Restoration for Life'. The project was an early initiative in landscape-scale ecological restoration over 34,000 hectares of national park.

Over NEXT's life, goats have been completely removed from the Mouna; rat, stoat and possum control has been introduced, and the return of endemic manu (birdlife) and forest rebound has been remarkable. These have been collective efforts.

Key to success in NEXT's conservation efforts has been the Tomorrow Accord with the Government. This landmark agreement is for use by any philanthropic organisation, ensuring a sustainable endgame for conservation projects and giving the confidence to invest in the upfront costs. It contracts that once pre-agreed conservation project milestones are met, the Crown will at a minimum maintain those gains. The Accord paves the way for effective collaboration between the public and private sectors in tackling large landscape environmental challenges.

A distinct feature of NEXT's approach is its time-limited sunset set-up. It's been our experience at NEXT that imposing a deadline on projects compels swift action and prioritisation of high-impact initiatives – creating momentum and reinforcing the push for resources to be allocated to projects with the highest potential.

The regional predator-free focus has now unlocked broader, and national, climate benefit opportunities. Healthier forests resulting from predator eradication sequester more carbon than decaying forests. That benefit can be measured and quantified – generating potential carbon credits. Those carbon credits could be monetizable, and in our national parks, then contribute to our national climate obligations under the Paris Agreement. When that uplift is delivered across large landscape areas like Fiordland, the carbon and biodiversity benefits are nationally significant, and at a lower cost than current climate obligation plans. Eradicating predators can directly support climate mitigation.

Members of the ZIP team check an AI camera. Photo credit: Peter Young.



“

**At NEXT we have found that a strategic, timebound approach can be an effective one in the fight against environmental degradation.**

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Driving transformative change through the NEXT Fellowship – backing leaders in system change – was another way we looked to extend conservation efforts. The Fellowship vision was to build, connect, and grow a community of inspiring individuals who are (or have the potential to be) catalysts for system change. We backed three cohorts of Fellows, with a total of 18 Fellows. These Fellows achieved significant milestones across a range of areas including water catchment restoration, digital inclusion and empowerment, and biodiversity.

NEXT Fellow Abbie Reynolds delivered a unique piece of work on the intersection of biodiversity and climate; Fellow Rachel Devine influenced changes in proposed government legislation to make environmental information more comprehensive and accessible; and Fellow Kirikowhai Mikaere (Tūhourangi, Ngāti Whakaue – Te Arawa) developed a globally recognised indigenous data strategy and micro-credential system. This will enable greater agency for indigenous peoples over their data, and their perspectives being included in AI development and algorithms.

In addition to investing in environmental initiatives and leaders, wherever possible we used our relationships and influence to get others involved, multiplying investment in the environment six times through supportive co-funding.

On the topic of leveraging generosity, I am inspired by NEXT benefactors Annette and Neal Plowman, who encourage all New Zealanders in a position of privilege to use their wealth to make a difference for future generations.

“Neal and I encourage everyone who is in a privileged position to give away at least half of their wealth during their lifetime,” states Annette.

At NEXT we have found that a strategic, timebound approach can be an effective one in the fight against environmental degradation. By concentrating efforts on predator eradication, leveraging partnerships, backing leaders and adopting a time-limited strategy, we have hopefully made a substantive and enduring difference for Aotearoa New Zealand.

You can check out the [NEXT Review](#) – including [milestones](#) and our many lessons – on the [NEXT website](#).

Manaaki whenua, manaaki tangata,  
haere whakamua

Care for the land, care for the people,  
go forward.

*Bill Kermode is the Establishment Chief Executive of the Centre for Strategic Philanthropy. He has been [NEXT Foundation's](#) Chief Executive from launch in 2014 to sunset in 2024. He was a director of the Edmund Hillary Fellowship, and is a trustee of Biome Trust. Bill's previous career was in private company investment, where he was director of various private companies. He is a graduate of Massey and Oxford Universities.*





Over 10 years, NEXT has seen the rise of a national predator-free movement and observed the following systemic shifts.

#### Shifts from

- Significant activity in predator-free efforts, largely isolated, sporadic, and small scale. No unifying vision.
- Underinvestment in research and development (R&D). Lack of investable organisations.
- Mindset limited to a belief that eradication is only possible at island scale.
- No social movement.

#### Shifts to

- Coordinated activity, joined-up approaches at large landscape scale and a unifying national vision of New Zealand being predator-free by 2050.
- Start-up and stand-up of R&D organisation ZIP and Predator Free 2050 Ltd. Increased focus and public/private investment.
- Mindset breakthrough – eradication is possible on the mainland at landscape scale.
- A national predator-free movement.

# Links

[philanthropy.org.nz/new-page-20](https://philanthropy.org.nz/new-page-20)

[terranova.foundation](https://terranova.foundation)

[seedthechange.nz](https://seedthechange.nz)

[mindfulmoney.nz/learn/want-to-make-your-money-grow-evidence-shows-investing-ethically-is-the-smart-money-choice/](https://mindfulmoney.nz/learn/want-to-make-your-money-grow-evidence-shows-investing-ethically-is-the-smart-money-choice/)

[ratafoundation.org.nz/](https://ratafoundation.org.nz/)

[mynativeforest.com](https://mynativeforest.com)

[cogo.co](https://cogo.co)

[philanthropy.org.nz](https://philanthropy.org.nz)

[thinkbeyond.co.nz/](https://thinkbeyond.co.nz/)

[edf.org](https://edf.org)

[un.org/en/global-issues/climate-change#:~:text=Climate%20Change%20is%20the%20defining,scope%20and%20unprecedented%20in%20scale.](https://un.org/en/global-issues/climate-change#:~:text=Climate%20Change%20is%20the%20defining,scope%20and%20unprecedented%20in%20scale.)

[frontlineresourceinstitute.org/](https://frontlineresourceinstitute.org/)

[tfciguide.org/#mission](https://tfciguide.org/#mission)

[business.edf.org/](https://business.edf.org/)

<https://waro.nz/>

[philanthropy.org.nz/pasifika-funders-network](https://philanthropy.org.nz/pasifika-funders-network)

[rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/512030/pacific-islanders-have-long-drawn-wisdom-from-the-earth-the-sky-and-the-waves-research-shows-the-science-is-behind-them](https://rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/512030/pacific-islanders-have-long-drawn-wisdom-from-the-earth-the-sky-and-the-waves-research-shows-the-science-is-behind-them)

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