



2021 Board Member Election

CANDIDATE PROFILES
ELECTION OF TWO BOARD MEMBERS



2021 Board Member Election Candidates

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The Horticulture New Zealand Board members provide vision, governance and strategic direction for Horticulture New Zealand.

There are no designated seats for product or regional groups on the board.

We are asking you to elect the best two people for the job.



Bernadine BALLE-GUILLEUX

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Tēnā koutou katoa

I seek re-election onto the Horticulture New Zealand board for a second term.

Horticulture in New Zealand is often confined within the bounds of primary sector comparison, although I believe horticulture to be the rising star of New Zealand business generally. As has been made quite clear through the pandemic of the last 18 months, there is a place for our produce in the hearts and minds of health and environmentally conscious consumers globally. Our growers need to be able to fully inhabit this space while doing right by the communities within our borders. Horticulture New Zealand will play a key role in sheltering growers from the cultural tall poppy syndrome that shall eventuate from this privileged position and it is their task to ensure growers have the regulatory framework that may best help them to serve our natural environment, as well as the health of those who eat our produce.

Career:

- Horticulture New Zealand Director 2018-current
- Horticulture New Zealand Vice President of the Board 2019-current
- FMCG-fresh produce marketing with authentic grower provenance
- Vehicle Manufacturer Industry Advocacy on European Union environmental regulation
- Consumer insight consulting in various sectors across Europe (car manufacturing, luxury goods and FMCG retail)

Education:

- Bachelor's degree in International Business (Auckland University of Technology)
- Bachelor's degree in Sociology (Rene Descartes, Paris V University, France)
- Post Graduate Diploma in International Management, (ESSCA Business School, Hungary and France)
- Master's degree in Strategic Marketing & Communication (Sciences Po Paris, Political Sciences University, Paris France)

My contribution to the board has been a leading example for diverse voices around the table, and my focus continues to see that our advocacy extends positively into the court of public opinion. Influencing policy is done both in front and behind the media screens, an act that advocacy organizations such as Horticulture New Zealand must continually balance with integrity and finesse.

As a member of a multi-generational vegetable growing family, I have an inherent understanding of the traditional grower mind-set, along with empathy and respect for their experiences. Alongside governance roles, I work actively across regions in both fruit and vegetable sectors which also gives me the breadth of exposure necessary in appreciating the evolving nature of grower organisations whose activities are not necessarily limited to a single product or region.

I am continuously evaluating ways in which Horticulture New Zealand can best manage diverse interests and represent growers' voices, with the ultimate purpose of translating them into levers of effective advocacy.

Grower-elected candidates have the responsibility to achieve maximum contributable value for their seat, but they should also know when to step aside for others, whose voices are just as potentially valuable. I am therefore making a deliberate act to stand for re-election - I am confident that the investment you have made by electing me for a first term, will be truly realised throughout my second term. Thank you for the opportunity to serve for the next three years.

Ngā mihi nui

Candidate Nomination Information and Declarations of Interest

Nominated by:	Horticulture related companies or organisations where Directorship or equivalent roles are held:	
	Company Name:	My Role:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapman Onion Exports Ltd • Balle Bros Group 	United Fresh	Executive Committee Member
	Balle Bros Group	Management employee and family member
	Thriving Southland	Independent Director
	Purepac Sales	Contractor



Paula KEARNS

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Hi Everyone

I would appreciate your support for my nomination as an Elected Director of Horticulture New Zealand. I am standing for the role because I am passionate about horticulture and maximising grower returns while taking care of our environment.

I believe I have the experience and skills to contribute to the Board of Horticulture New Zealand and I devote myself to my director roles alongside supporting my husband manage our avocado orchard near Whangarei.

I have over 15 years governance experience on a variety of organisations including sport, health, horticulture, hospitality, environment and philanthropy. I will bring a strong strategic focus and extensive financial and risk experience to support growers and Horticulture New Zealand achieve their goals.

I am currently in governance roles with New Zealand Avocado, New Zealand Rugby League, Mahitahi Hauora, Mount Wellington Trust Hotels and Ministry for the Environment.

My qualifications are a Bachelor of Commerce from Auckland University, a Chartered Accountant of the Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand and a Chartered Member of the Institute of Directors New Zealand.

I am a grounded person and when not working I love spending time with family, friends, our dogs and horses.

Horticulture New Zealand is an organisation that exists because of and for its members. I am proud to be a horticulturalist and it would be a privilege to be elected to the Board and to be able to contribute to Horticulture New Zealand's governance in the future.

Thank you for your support.

Candidate Nomination Information and Declarations of Interest

Nominated by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KG & LJ Walker NN & RD Carman 	Horticulture related companies or organisations where Directorship or equivalent roles are held:	
	Company Name:	My Role:
	Ministry for Environment	External Member Audit and Risk Committee
	NZ Avocado Growers Association	Executive Committee Member
	NZ Avocado Industry Ltd	Director



Brydon NISBET

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Brydon has over three decades of national and international experience in the Horticulture Industry. His career started at the grass roots in the summer fruit industry and then gradually grew into management, ownership, and leadership in the pip-fruit industry.

Brydon spent 10 years growing and managing multiple organic apple orchards for Bostock NZ. In 2012 he took on the Production Managers job for the start-up company Rokit Global Ltd (RGL). While working for RGL he held roles in both pre-harvest and post-harvest operations. This then led him to lease and then own orchards growing rokit apples.

In addition to running his own orchards, Brydon, for the last six years has been working as a Horticulture Tutor for Eastern Institute of Technology (EIT). This involves teaching in the apprentice scheme and operational skills programmes for new and existing employees within the Horticulture Industry.

Brydon's industry governance experience started in 2016 and was the obvious progressive step in his career. In 2020 he was chosen to be the "Future Director" for the Horticulture New Zealand Board. He is a Director of Rokit Apple Growers Trust, Vice President of the Hawke's Bay Fruit Growers' Association and Trustee of the Hawke's Bay Fruit Growers Charitable Trust. He is also the Director of his family owned orcharding business, Global Harvest Ltd.

Brydon has a pragmatic 'can-do' attitude and a genuine passion and commitment to support the Horticulture Industry. His priority is to develop and encourage individuals to grow and emerge as future leaders. Brydon values integrity, perseverance, loyalty, and continued learning, that have been demonstrated by his industry growth and leadership recognition. He believes people are our industry's greatest asset and their development is key to the future of the Horticulture Industry.

Brydon has recently strengthened his own governance experience by completing the (IOD) Companies Directors Course.

He lives in Hawke's Bay with his wife Sharon and has four adult children.

Candidate Nomination Information and Declarations of Interest

Nominated by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richard Pentreath • Claremont Trust 	Horticulture related companies or organisations where Directorship or equivalent roles are held:	
	Company Name:	My Role:
	Global Harvest Ltd	Director / Owner
	Rokit Apple Growers Trust	Director
	Hawke's Bay Fruit Growers Association	Vice President
Hawke's Bay Fruit Growers Charitable Trust	Trustee	



Mike PRETTY

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Non-Executive Chairman of Heinz Wattie's

I hereby declare my interest in being considered for Board membership of HortNZ.

Wattie's has 85 years of experience as a grower and producer of crop-based foods operating in Hawke's Bay and Canterbury.

My career spans +30 years in the New Zealand food industry mostly within Heinz Wattie's. Key roles include 6 years as Managing Director and 6 years as Marketing and R&D Director. For 5 years I held the global role responsible for Heinz Ketchup and Marketing Capability.

These roles have provided me with extensive experience managing vertically and horizontally within matrix organizations supplying the grocery trade here and around the globe.

I am presently Chairman of the NZ Food Grocery Council <https://www.fgc.org.nz/> and on the Advisory Board of Foodeast <https://www.foodeast.co.nz/>

Partnering with the Heinz Wattie's Agronomy team has been a key component of my roles; involvement in long term crop planning, managing environmental and water change issues, market access and trade remedies. Plus, interaction with government on multiple issues such as FTAs, labour, international freight, and border closures.

I see the Board role as an exciting opportunity to further engage in the future of plant-based food. HortNZ is at the heart of the country's future food supply domestically and its export markets, a sector that employs some 60,000 people, and one that has a strong member mandate to help navigate the sector into that future.

Candidate Nomination Information and Declarations of Interest

Nominated by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heinz Wattie's Ltd • Apatu Farms Ltd 	Horticulture related companies or organisations where Directorship or equivalent roles are held:	
	Company Name:	My Role:
	Heinz Wattie's Ltd	Director
	NZ Food & Grocery Council	Chairman



Liarna WHITE

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I have been involved in the horticultural sector all my working life. I graduated with a degree in Applied Science with a focus on Horticultural Science at Massey University. I have worked in orchard management, postharvest, and project management within the kiwifruit industry. I currently manage and operate, with my husband, our family Kiwifruit and Avocado orchards (citrus in the past as well). These are located in the Bay of Plenty and Poverty Bay regions, and are in various stages of growth from development through to long term producing.

We run a very productive operation which has consistent results and strive for continual growth and improvement. This is achieved in part as a result of our strategic planning, on a regular basis stepping out of the everyday management and looking at the big picture, forward planning and taking the time to work on the business, not just in it. We have to look widely and wisely around us to see the opportunities and challenges ahead to achieve sustainable productivity growth, while meeting the needs of our people and the wider community over the long term.

Our industry is diverse and has amazing strengths that comes from the experience skills and knowledge that the grower community holds.

Having a wholistic and strategic approach, has allowed me to develop a wide overview of many of the issues that our industry faces and to allocate significant effort to investigating options to deal with some of these. Including but not limited to water, labour and compliance challenges. I am passionate about understanding why there is so much red tape when it comes to compliance, simplifying it from a grower perspective and working with others to reduce the cost.

I believe in the mission of HortNZ, creating an enduring environment where growers thrive, and the vision of healthy food for all, forever. I feel that most growers and producers in their heart strive to achieve this but there are plenty of challenges and barriers placed in front of us. It is the job of HortNZ to work with growers to try and break down those barriers and come up with solutions to help create an environment where growers feel that they can achieve their aspirations.

I believe I'm in a position now where I have time and I can give back to the horticultural sector and contribute to shaping what will be an amazing future.

Candidate Nomination Information and Declarations of Interest

Nominated by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jarod Lee • Lorraine Doughty 	Horticulture related companies or organisations where Directorship or equivalent roles are held:	
	Company Name:	My Role:
	Jolarna Trustee Company	Director
	Cassone Gold Ltd	Director

