



2023 REPORT

FESTIVAL FOR THE FUTURE

AOTEAROA'S BIGGEST LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION SUMMIT

**INSPIRING
STORIES.**



**INSPIRING
SPEAKERS.**



“Getting a scholarship to the Festival completely changed my life and how I view my future. I met some of the most incredible people who have become life long friends.”

MILLY PETRIE
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT, HASTINGS



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“This festival has played a monumental role in my journey. It provides an amazing platform for young people to unite, discuss, and critique ideas that shape not only our present but also our future.”

ALI MUHAMMAD
ALUMNI & FESTIVAL SPEAKER,
PALMERSTON NORTH





“I left feeling extremely motivated, connected and hopeful after meeting so many insightful young leaders and innovators across the country.”

DR. MAHSA MCCAULEY
DIRECTOR OF WOMEN IN TECH,
AUT UNIVERSITY



Executive Summary



KATIE TROTT, EVENTS & EXPERIENCE MANAGER



DEVON MURPHY-DAVIDS, CEO



GUY RYAN, FOUNDER

Kia ora!

For our tiny charity and team it's hard to believe we just pulled off Aotearoa's biggest leadership and innovation summit – an epic community effort.

To go from the most difficult operating environment ever over the past couple of years navigating the ups and downs of COVID, to become the first official event at Tākina – Wellington's beautiful new convention centre, and attract a record-level 1,500+ attendees, was incredibly special. Nothing compares to the energy and excitement of having so many amazing people in one room.

People joined us from every region of Aotearoa, as well as Australia, the Cook Islands, Indonesia and Philippines. We hosted CEOs, Ministers, 17 Mayors, young leaders from 34 Councils, as well as young professionals and senior leaders from a diverse range of business, government, and community sector organisations. To convene such a diverse and intergenerational audience, and hold space for critical conversations about our future requires a huge amount of collaboration.

At Inspiring Stories, our vision is to see young people realise their potential to change the world. It's a bold vision that has remained strong since our inception, which feels more relevant than ever. There's no shortage of big social and environmental issues we're facing. To have such a hopeful, powerful and motivating experience like Festival for the Future feels incredibly important at this time – a critical piece of social infrastructure that inspires action and creates positive ripple effects in communities across the nation.

On behalf of our board and team, we would like to thank everyone that played a role in helping to make the 2023 Festival possible. To mana whenua in Te Whanganui-a-Tara, to our longstanding partners at Wellington City Council, to our partners and sponsors, speakers, panelists, workshop facilitators, exhibitors, volunteers, and of course – our attendees – thank you. None of this would be possible without a significant amount of generosity and support from our community.

Ngā mihi nui,

Katie, Devon, Guy and the team at Inspiring Stories

Our Story & Impact.

At Inspiring Stories, we're a Kiwi charity that believes in the power of young people to create change. Since 2011, we've built a range of high-impact programmes and events that have backed thousands of young people with the connections, capability, confidence, and resources to lead change. Our alumni are diverse. They're dreaming big, and pushing boundaries to make a difference for our future!



15,000+

People have taken part in our events & programmes.



180+

Community projects and ventures we've supported.



\$2.5M+

In-kind scholarship support to increase access to life-changing opportunities.



\$100K+

We've given out in funding as awards and prizes.

**INSPIRING
STORIES.**



**INSPIRING
SPEAKERS.**

2023 & the opening of Tākina

The 2023 Festival was special for many reasons, including the opportunity to be the first official event at Tākina – Wellington’s beautiful new convention centre. In te reo māori, Tākina means to invoke, to summon, to connect, to bring forth – a powerful alignment with the Festival kaupapa. The genesis of Tākina started more than a decade ago – before the Festival. The Festival was started by a young person way back in 2011, with the first event attracting 100 people, growing year-on-year. To navigate the COVID pandemic, and become the first official event at Tākina was incredibly special. The truth is, especially as a small charity – the 2023 Festival simply wouldn’t have been possible without the generosity and support of so many people and organisations – it’s been a truly epic community effort. Thank you for your support!



2023 Key Metrics

1900+ ATTENDEES



AGGREGATE ATTENDEES ACROSS THE MAIN SUMMIT & SATELLITE EVENTS

- 1,500+ Attended the main 2-day conference
- 250+ Attended the Parliament Event
- 200+ Attended the Mayor's Lunch

ATTENDEES FROM EVERY REGION OF AOTEAROA, AS WELL AS THE ASIA-PACIFIC

- + Australia
- + Cook Islands
- + Indonesia
- + Philippines

THE EXPERIENCE



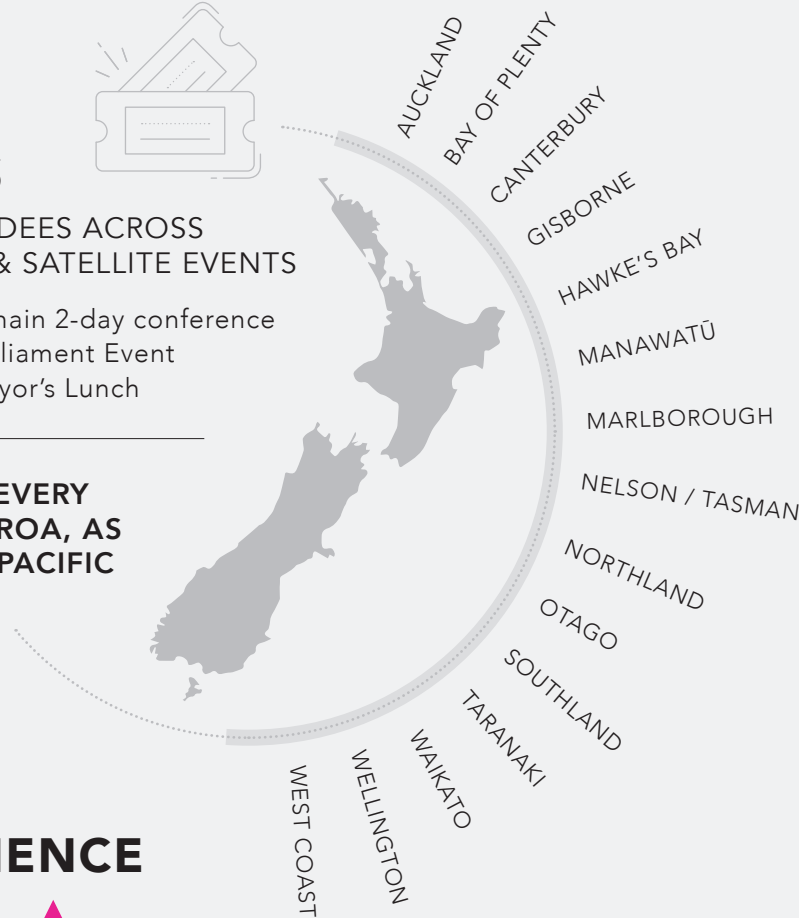
8.6/10

ATTENDEE SATISFACTION



8.8/10

LIKELY TO RECOMMEND



400+ SCHOLARSHIPS



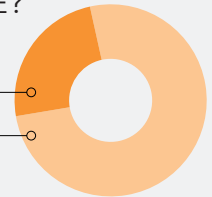
YOUNG PEOPLE WE SUPPORTED TO ATTEND ON SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

2,150+ People we've supported on scholarship to attend Festival for the Future since 2011

DEMOGRAPHICS

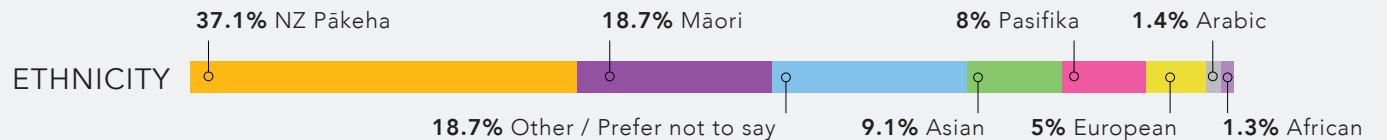
ATTENDED THE FESTIVAL BEFORE?

- Yes, I've attended before – 24.2%
- No, my first time attending – 75.8%




WHAT BEST DESCRIBES YOUR SITUATION?

- 59.6% – Professional
- 34.3% – Student
- 6.1% – Other



Scholarship Support

Especially amidst a cost of living crisis – increasing access to experience the Festival experience is an important investment. Hundreds of young people have told us the Festival is a “life-changing” experience, yet as a small charity we often struggle and can’t do it alone. Thanks to the generosity of our community, this year we provided record-level support to increase access for more than 400 young people to attend. In particular, we would like to thank our regular donors, Bay Trust, Clare Foundation, Foundation North, Ministry for Ethnic Communities, MSD Social Cohesion Community Fund and Trust Waikato for their support.



“...a life-changing journey, leaving an incredible mark on my path. I felt inspired, grateful, and motivated throughout, gaining invaluable insights and connections for my future.”

LLOYD DORON
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT,
LOWER HUTT

400+

YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED
THROUGH SCHOLARSHIP IN 2023

2,150+

FESTIVAL SCHOLARSHIPS
PROVIDED SINCE 2011

Media Reach – 1M+

Conservatively, the Festival achieved a media reach of 1M+ New Zealanders, contributing to national dialogue and sharing inspiring stories of people making a difference for our communities and country. This included coverage across TVNZ, NZ Herald, RNZ and Stuff, as well as a range of other channels. We also received significant in-kind support from Go Media who provided \$94K in pro-bono advertising resulting in 4 million impressions, as well as notable support from Wellington Airport and our partners.



What natural disasters teach us about food, poverty and gardens
Stuff | 10th June – [link to article](#)



Dairy's stainless steel could be redeployed for an alt-protein future, says alt-protein guy
The Feed | 8th June – [link to article](#)



School Strike for Climate roars back this week after shock breakup – here's why
Stuff | 24th May – [link to episode](#)

Wrap of Pasifika Talent
TVNZ | 24th June – [link to episode](#)

SATELLITE EVENT – THE MAYOR’S LUNCH

Hosting Mayors & Youth Councils

Festival for the Future 2023 kicked off with our first official satellite event – The Mayor’s Lunch, hosted by Tory Whanau, Mayor of Wellington. The ‘sold out’ event attracted 200 attendees including 17 Mayors and 34 different Youth Councils (or equivalent delegations of young people) from across Aotearoa. This was a great opportunity to connect current and future leaders from communities across the nation, hear from guest speakers including the Minister for Youth Willow-Jean Prime, and enjoy kai and kōrero. Special thanks to our partners at the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs and Wellington City Council for their support!



SATELLITE EVENT – THE PARLIAMENT EVENT

Launching The Impact Challenge

The Minister for Climate Change, Hon James Shaw, hosted 250+ of us at Parliament to celebrate youth action on climate change and launch The Impact Challenge. A key flow-on from Festival running June–September, The Impact Challenge supports young people to better understand what climate change means for the future of their communities, and equip them with the skills, confidence, connections and support to help build more resilient communities and bring climate justice to life. The challenge is free to participate, and includes opportunities for funding, mentoring, workshops and support throughout.

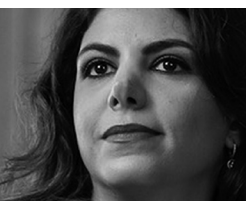
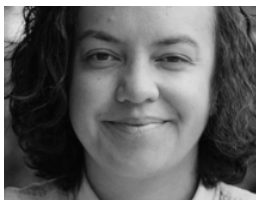
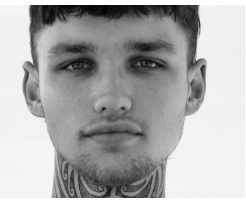


www.theimpactchallenge.co



50+ Speakers & Contributors

More than 50 people gave their time to support the Festival kaupapa as keynote speakers, panelists, MCs and workshop facilitators – from world class entrepreneurs to leaders of business and government, to young people leading change in grassroots communities. They play a critical role in the Festival – sharing their experience and expertise, their stories, and building knowledge and skills for our future.



The Workshops

The workshops are a key part of the Festival experience supporting delegates to build their knowledge, skills, and ideas for change. There were 24 different sessions on offer, led by our incredible delivery partners – a diverse range of skilled practitioners and professionals from across the business, government and community sectors. The workshops were offered on a first-come-first-serve basis and at max capacity most of the time, with all of them repeated at least twice. A big highlight for many attendees!



Innovation Skills | *ThinkPlace & Tensegrity*

High Performance Leadership | *James Laughlin*

Bringing Circular Principles to Life | *Beca*

Government Engagement | *Deloitte*

Climate Justice | *Inspiring Stories*

Our Moana, Our Stories | *NZ National Commission for UNESCO & Cook Islands National Youth Council*

Mindfulness & Wellbeing | *M3 Mindfulness*





“My cup is well and truly full. ...I can see why people describe it as powerful, inspirational and provocative. The speakers championed the power of leadership, diversity and innovation, reminding us that the impact is greater when done collectively.”

ANDREW TUI, CAREERS & EMPLOYMENT
MANAGER, TE HERENGA WAKA --
VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON



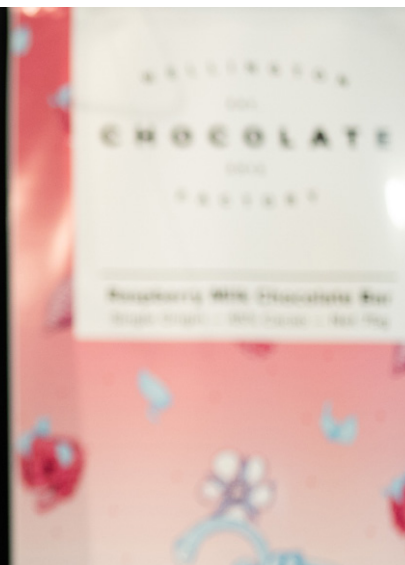
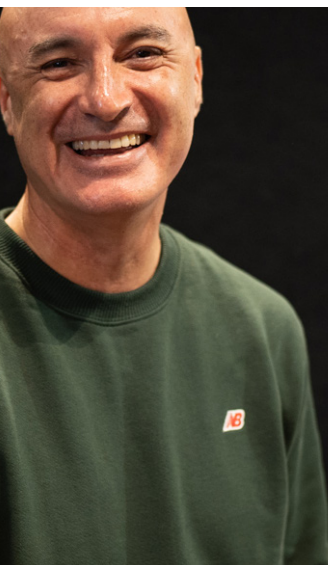
The Expo & Marketplace

Located in the heart of the Festival – the Expo & Marketplace was a hub for attendees to connect and network, share ideas, refuel, and discover great organisations and opportunities. For our 30 exhibitors, the marketplace was a chance to activate their brand and engage directly with delegates. Our exhibitors ranged from Government partners like Ministry for the Environment and Ministry for Primary Industries, to businesses like Redvespa and the Wellington Chocolate Factory, to smaller grassroots youth-led movements like Make It 16 and Young Neurodiverse Champions. Thank you to all of our exhibitors!!





Exhibitors – Aroha Group, Bloom HQ, FIFA Women’s World Cup, Generation Zero, Go With Tourism, Goody Goodness, Human Synergistics, Inside Out, Inspiring Stories, iSite Wellington, Make It 16, Mindful Money, Ministry for Primary Industries, Ministry for the Environment, National Disabled Student Association, Nonstop Solutions, NZ National Commission for UNESCO, Red Cross, Redvespa, Repair Cafe, Student Job Search, Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington, Tertiary Education Commission, Wellington Chocolate Factory, Wellington City Council, Wellington Regional Leadership Committee, Young Neurodiverse Champions



PANEL DISCUSSION

Mātauranga Māori – a celebration of indigenous wisdom and brilliance

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY



THE BRIEF

Explore the future of Aotearoa through the vision, aspirations and examples of Māori leadership. As the world's first publicly recognised indigenous holiday, Matariki is one beautiful example of what's possible. What else might be possible in a future where Māori are empowered to realise their full potential?

THE PANELISTS



Christina Leef
Kaimahi at Ara Taiohi, amplifying the voices and aspirations of rangatahi.



Hana Tapiata
Author & podcast host, passionate about wellbeing and ancestral knowledge.



Dr Johnson Witehira
Co-founder of Āpōpō and Indigenous Design and Innovation Aotearoa (IDIA).



Erin Matariki Carr
Lawyer, researcher and facilitator with a focus on constitutional transformation.



Quack Pirihi
Mobilising whānau to stand in their mana motuhake and restore tino rangatiratanga.



PANEL DISCUSSION

The future of food – leadership for a more resilient and sustainable food system

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



THE BRIEF

Help attendees to better understand the food system in Aotearoa – how it contributes to the social and environmental challenges we face; explore what a more resilient and sustainable food system could look like, and showcase some of the great examples of leadership and innovation happening in this space.

THE PANELISTS



Alex Worker
Foodtech entrepreneur and Chair of Future Food Aotearoa.



Cheyenne Wilson
Founder & Director of Te Kaharangi Hono – Māori Agribusiness consultancy.



Toby Lane
CEO of NewFish – harnessing the power of microscopic marine and fresh water algae.



Tric Malcolm
Pou Ārahi Executive Director of Kore Hiakai – Aotearoa’s zero hunger collective..



Zac Rnbinson
Co-founder of Ārepa – a Kiwi beverage company dubbed ‘the brain drink’.



Digital equity – why is there such a big divide, and how do we address it?



THE BRIEF

We want everyone to understand what digital equity is, and who is most affected by the digital divide in Aotearoa. We want attendees to learn from a diverse range of leaders working to address this challenge, and to walk away with a clearer sense of what their role could be in being part of the solutions.

THE PANELISTS



Moderator
Pera Barrett
Founder of Shoebox Christmas, product development specialist.



Eteroa Lafaele
Co-founder of Fibre Fale, Software engineer and community leader.



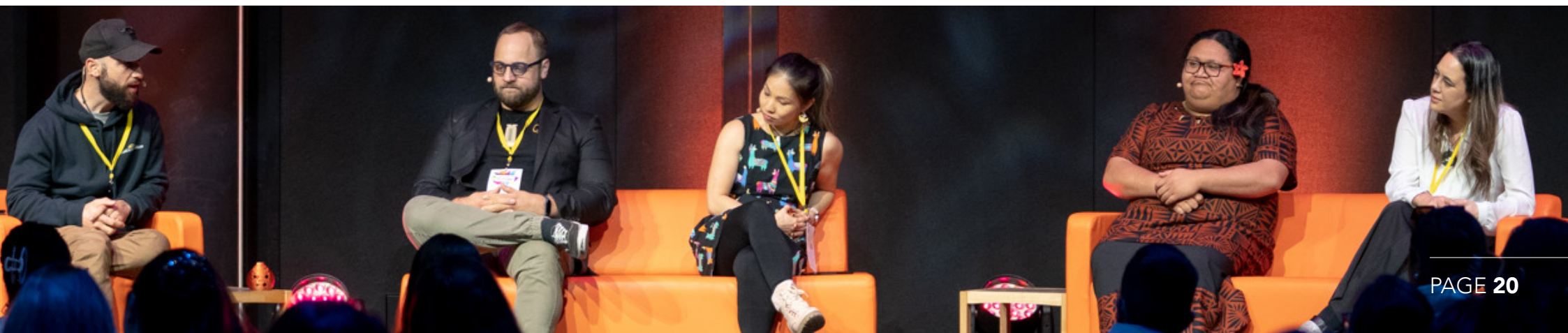
Jesse Armstrong
Co-founder & CEO of VAKA, teaching STEAM & entrepreneurship.



Elle Archer
Experienced leader and Chair of Te Matarau, The Māori Tech Association.



Vivian Chandra
Facilitator at OMGTech! Passionate about diversity and inclusion.



PANEL DISCUSSION

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY

Business for impact – bold leadership for a more inclusive and sustainable future.



THE BRIEF

Attendees learn from a diverse range of business leaders – their story, the key challenges they face, how they embed a sense of meaning and purpose in the organisations they lead, and what impact looks like. Attendees better understand the role of sbusinesses in creating a more inclusive and sustainable future.

THE PANELISTS



Shay Wright
Co-founder of Te Whare Hukahuka, Edmund Hillary Fellow.



Brianne West
Founder of the global beauty brand Ethique, and Founder of Nous Labs – a \$20M fund.



Mindy Leow
Director of Growth & Impact, and acting CEO at B Lab Australia & New Zealand.



Florence Van Dyke
Head of Sustainability at NZTE, and Co-founder of Chia Sisters.



Darryl-Lee Wendelborn
Engineer and Managing Director, Beca New Zealand.



DEBATE

Political Party Debate – engage in the key issues for the 2023 General Election.

THE BRIEF

Led by Newstalk ZB’s Jason Wells, the 90-minute Political Debate was an entertaining and lively discussion on three set questions as well as broader audience Q&A at the end. All major parties were invited. The set questions were built around the themes of (1) cost of living crisis; (2) climate change; and (3) wellbeing.

THE PANELISTS

Green

National

Labour

TOP.

act/



Jason Wells

Newstalk ZB Political Editor, and Acting Press Gallery Chairman

Marama Davidson

Green Party Co-Leader

Nicola Willis

National Party Deputy Leader

Greg O'Connor

Labour Party Deputy Speaker

Natalia Albert

TOP Party Candidate, Wellington Central

Nicole McKee

ACT Party List MP



Our Partners & Supporters



POWERED BY



HOST CITY PARTNER



Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



Ministry for the Environment
Manatū Mo Te Taiao



SCHOLARSHIP PARTNERS



ACCOMMODATION PARTNER



PRINT PARTNER



The Team Behind It



Katie Trott

Events & Experience
Manager



Devon Murphy-Davids

Chief Executive



Anna Moreton

Head of Community
& Impact



Guy Ryan

Founder



Emma Davison

Business Development
Manager



Jo Bailey

Operations Manager



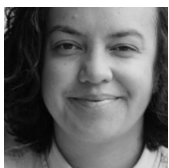
JJ Stuart-Manning

Business Development
Manager



Mel Sommerville

Operations Advisor



**Te Raukura
O'Connell Rapira**

Kaiārahi Rangatahi



Talei Bryant

Impact Challenge
Coordinator



Dylan Chand

Impact Challenge
Coordinator

Festival Contractors

Nathalie Candel – Production Manager

Irene Chapple – PR Support

Alisha Martinez – Expo & Volunteer Support

Regina Speer – Design Support

Five & Dime – Marketing Support

Create Now – Photography & Video

Festival Volunteers

Tracey Wong

Luc Ravel

Charlie Eggleton

Omar Faruque

Mike Szakaly

Urvi Gadhia

Talia Carlisle

Luca Zampese

Eric Schuster

Ashley Ruglyns

Usma Azhar

Lottie Stevenson

Julianna Brown

Darrlynn Simone

Timothy Tan

Alicia Hall

Nicole Grey

Danielle Silva

Dante Dawes

Sunnie Gogia

www.inspiringstories.org.nz/our-team

Board & Governance

As a small charity, Inspiring Stories is fortunate to have a Board of Trustees that give their time on a voluntary basis to support the organisation and provide good governance. The board is made up of people from diverse professional backgrounds and experiences, and meets monthly and as required.



Tamara Buckland, *Chair*

Originally from the Hawke's Bay and now based in Wellington, Tamara is a Co-founder and Director at the People & Culture Consultancy Bloom HQ.



Kodrean Eashae, *Trustee*

A former refugee, is a member of the Kāpuia – Ministerial Advisory Group for Government; an Advisor for Refugee Background Students at Victoria University.



Matthew Reweti, *Trustee*

Matthew (Te Āti Awa) the Director of Advancement at Wellington College, and has a professional background in fundraising, marketing and sales.



Tory Whanau, *Trustee*

Tory was elected as the Mayor of Wellington City Council in 2022, and is passionate about making a difference for young people in Aotearoa.



Sarah Gibson, *Trustee*

Sarah is an owner and Executive Director of Redvespa – a certified B-Corp and Business Analysis consultancy with more than 100 staff across Aotearoa.



Guy Ryan, *Trustee*

Guy is the Founder of Inspiring Stories. He is a father of two young boys, an Edmund Hillary Fellow, and was awarded Young New Zealander of the Year in 2015.

Festival 2024 – get involved!

We're hoping to build on the success of this year's Festival for the Future alongside our other events and programmes, and have a pencil booking at Tākina for next year in 2024. As a small charity, gaining support from donors, funders, partners and supporters is critical in terms of being able to move forward and plan with confidence. If you'd like to get involved or support in some way, please get in touch!



**INSPIRING
STORIES.**



**INSPIRING
SPEAKERS.**

How Can You Help?

As a small charity, we need your support. Each of us have unique strengths, connections, and resources. As an individual you can join our community of alumni and supporters and set up a regular donation from as little as \$5/week. If you've got greater capacity to give, or you're a business, community or government organisation – you could purchase tickets to Festival or a Table at The Impact Awards, or become a partner or sponsor. With your support, we can continue backing thousands of young New Zealanders.

Make a Donation

Make a one-off or regular donation to Inspiring Stories. Your support can help increase access to life-changing opportunities, as well as helping to fund the things that no one else will like the day-to-day operations that enable us to do what we do. And, because we're a charity (#CC45932), you should be able to claim back 1/3 of your donation back in tax. Win!

inspiringstories.org.nz/donate

Suggested: \$10/wk or \$500/year

Tickets & Tables

Purchasing tickets for your grads & young professionals is an easy way to support the kaupapa. As well as tickets to Festival for the Future, you can also purchase a table for The Impact Awards, and play a role in supporting the incredible courage and leadership of young people making a difference for our communities and country.

Festival Tickets – \$200–400+GST

Impact Award Table – \$2.5K+GST

Partner / Sponsor

We understand that every organisation is unique. If you share our vision and values, and would like to explore opportunities to get involved, please get in touch. Leveraging our collective strengths and resources to back the next generation is a powerful thing, and there's a range of opportunities we can offer across our events and programmes. Get in touch!

Sponsorship Opportunities –
Ranging from \$5,000–\$50,000+GST

Something else?

Keen to support in some other way, or want to tailor something a bit more bespoke? Get in touch.

Here's a few other opportunities:

- + Headline Sponsor
- + Live Stream Partner
- + Drinks Sponsor (non-alcoholic)
- + Food Sponsor (plant-based)
- + Venue Sponsor
- + Storytelling Sponsor
- + Photography & Video Sponsor
- + Prizes / Experiences to support young New Zealanders



**INSPIRING
STORIES.**



**INSPIRING
SPEAKERS.**