



## Nominees for NZTech Board seats

### Business Nominees

*Achan Bedi, Concentrate*

Kia ora, Namastay,

I bring with me nearly two decades of experience in the technology industry across roles and geographies (ANZ and S. Asia). For the past 10 years, I have been involved in RevOps for NZ tech companies of all sizes, specifically focusing on technology applications for Sales and Marketing teams (CRMs and MarTech). While I have Punjabi whakapapa, I have called Aotearoa New Zealand home for over a decade. My hoa rangatira, Kristy, is Ngai Tahu, Pakeha. I am a father to three tamariki who have Ngai Tahu, English and Punjabi whakapapa.

My personal and professional background allows me to bring unique perspectives towards bringing greater marketing and sales operational efficiencies for Kiwi tech companies looking to scale and grow into export markets. I look forward to collaborating with colleagues with diverse backgrounds and skills to help realise the opportunity that lies in the NZTech sector to create a more equitable and prosperous Aotearoa.

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*Bernard Del Rey, Capital Preferences* I am Bernard Del Rey – a parent to 6 boys, a partner to a fantastic better-half, Hilary and founder of decision science based fintech company, Capital Preferences whose HQ is in Christchurch, but whose business is global in every way with employees in US, Australia, Denmark, China and Canada. We are quietly a high seven figure ARR business serving some of the leading financial institutions around the world. We empower people to make purposeful decisions with their money by analysing how they make decisions and guiding them accordingly.

I grew up in New York City and spent the first half of my career there and other major financial capital cities around the world as CMO, COO or Commercial Director for major divisions of firms such as Morgan Stanley and JPMorgan. I was always an intrapreneur and that, plus a healthy dose of necessity, led me to become a tech entrepreneur.

I am passionate about helping businesses grow from New Zealand and guarding the health of the tech eco-system we all enjoy. There are some special challenges that we can best solve by working

together, and I believe in the unlimited potential for our collective impact on the rest of the world. I will bring extensive global expertise in finance, legal, commercial models, problem solving, marketing and sales to the Board, if selected. I am a selfless sharer of tips and lessons, a healthy, but thoughtful risk taker, and a willing and compelling advocate for the common good. I am keen to serve you if you'll have me.

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*Chris Hogg, Cumulo9*

I am the CEO of a small but very successful technology-based digital communications business. We transform the way organisations communicate with their customers. My career spans 360 assembler coding and data centre operations through national technology rollouts in Europe and the USA, a couple of NASDAQ IPOs (one of which was a spectacular failure!) and working with both enterprise and SME customers around the world. I believe I have built a knowledge base that should be shared to help others in the technology vertical to succeed with their strategies and goals.

NZ Tech exists to connect, promote and advance technology so we can build a successful digital nation. I would like to bring my global experiences, management, and strategy skills as well as leadership and governance capabilities to help NZ Tech continue to advance its mission and continue to fulfil its purpose.

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*Conor Sutherland, HeartLab*

I am a relentlessly driven individual with core experience in engineering and business growth, including over 6 years of experience in biotech research in Aotearoa and abroad. I currently run operations at HeartLab, where in the last 2 years we have seen a 500% headcount growth, our first and second capital raises, and successfully progressed a technology from infancy to clinical reality in Aotearoa New Zealand. With lofty ambitions, I have led the experience of entering 2 international markets (US/Australia) including marketing activities, boots-on-the-ground sales activities, and strategy. I am at my best when I'm out of my comfort zone and seek opportunities to push the envelope in all my endeavours.

Aotearoa is full of brilliant minds; however, traditionally successful technology has come from a narrow background/pool who benefited from targeted support systems. There is a huge group of untapped potential in overlooked cohorts that NZTech has the potential to connect to talent, resources, and opportunities and help them bring their technologies to life. I am seeking election to the NZTech Board to be the voice and the driving force to connect these cohorts. I will leverage my experiences in academic and start-up technology development to provide insights into the current support state and drive improved research translation support. I will also bring my experience in software tech to help guide initiatives and strategies that improve access for untapped future

leaders. I have the ambition, experience, and connection to unlock the potential of our next wave of big thinkers in Aotearoa.

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*Craig Hadfield, Volpara Health Technologies*

I have been involved in the NZ tech sector for the last 6+ years and have developed a strong passion for the tech industry – prior to that I worked for two of the big 4 consulting firms in various roles. The tech sector is the fastest growing export sector in New Zealand and I believe, if incentivised by Government appropriately, it has the power to really transform NZ as a whole. NZ has some outstanding tech companies that are doing great things all over the world, but there's not enough Government support to really allow the sector to flourish. The high level and quality of connectivity available across NZ makes us an internet-based country and a perfect breeding ground for tech start-ups.

I bring a global perspective having worked in three countries before moving to New Zealand nearly 8 years ago. I also bring strong analytical skills and critical thinking given my day job as CFO of Volpara Health Technologies Ltd. I am the Wellington Chapter lead for the newly formed kiwiSaaS community group where I enjoy connecting with people and as a result have a strong business network. I would advocate for small tech businesses, as it's these enterprises who have the least power to influence but provide rewarding work and services to a significant portion of the population.

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*Daniel Merriott, Digital Skills Agency*

believe deeply that people are at the heart of successful organisations, and that this is particularly true in the tech and digital sector where we have an ongoing need to define and build new capabilities at an increasingly rapid pace. With digital skills and understanding pathways to foster and retain digital capabilities becoming even more critical to the success of NZ businesses and organisations, I am keen to bring a voice to the NZTech Board with a specific focus on the digital skills domain and if elected I hope to further support the great work already underway by NZTech and others.

Much of my career in NZ over the last 10 years has been focussed on helping organisations and individuals understand their digital skills needs. For the past few years I have led the team at the Digital Skills Agency in delivering advice, support, training and diagnostics in the digital skills and capability domain to a wide range of organisations across Government, industry, health and education primarily in NZ. I bring a deep understanding of the challenges faced across NZ organisations. Over the last 5 years I have had the privilege of representing NZ users to the SFIA Foundation as part of the Global Council and Design Authority Board, helping to steer the shape and

future of the SFIA framework - one of the most widely used and accepted global digital skills frameworks.

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*Delphine Ducarage, Sagen Software T/A SiteM8*

Kia ora Koutou. Based in Otautahi Christchurch, I am French-Kiwi who is as au fait with geek-speak as I am with spreadsheets. After a significant break from Tech, I was lucky to re-start a career in Tech in 2013. I have since then worked in product, operations and business management.

I am the General Manager of SiteM8, a Māori business where we simplify temporary recruitment and timesheets in the construction industry.

Tech gave me a great career, exciting people to work with, cool projects and unique opportunities. I am now a strong advocate for the transformative power of employment, especially in Tech! This gave me a desire to be involved in my sector deeper than my regular job as I wish more people had the opportunity of amazing tech jobs.

I currently sit on the NZ Tech board Tech representing SMEs. I am also the only elected board member from the South Island (hint, hint). My engagement on the board is high, and my desire to be re-elected is strong. My specific interests are getting young people in tech, particularly girls, and connecting the South Island to the rest of the Tech community up North. I am also on the finance committee. Aside from the Tech, you'll find me on a board using water, gravity or wind to ride different elements and mediums.

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*Emma Southward, 40 Foot*

The next chapter in the IT industry for New Zealand is going to be about talent: Accessing and securing skilled people to deliver great technology. I am well-connected in the business community through my role as CEO of IT talent company 40 Foot, and my background in corporate governance in the financial services industry also arms me with practical experience to add to my contribution on the NZ Tech board.

I have served as a Mentor for TechWomen in 2021, and my contribution as a Board Member will be firmly representative of the whole IT industry. As we navigate the next season of growth in our country, I am committed to serving our technology community by championing the pathways for businesses of all sizes to secure the best tech talent.

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*Romi Dexter, Hype & Dexter Ltd*

I am passionate about developing the Technology within NZ to improve our economy, community,

and future - I believe working with an organisation such as NZTech will provide the greatest opportunity to make a difference in this space.

I bring over 20 years of experience in the tech industry. Four years ago, I co-founded Hype & Dexter to support APAC organisations to transform their digital capabilities. We have won HubSpot's APAC Partner of the Year award for the last 3 years and look positioned to become the top partner in the world in 2022.

I am a large advocate of diversity in Technology, myself/my business has been recognised for a number of technology awards: Winner of Woman Leading Tech Advocacy Award 2021, Finalist Woman in IT Asia Advocacy Award 2021, Finalist Woman in IT Asia Woman of the Year Award 2021, Kristen Pak, H&D Head of Solutions, Finalist in Woman Leading Tech Delivery Award 2022. Thank you for this opportunity.

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*Travis Corrie, Aware Group*

I'm excited and honoured to have the opportunity to put my name forward for the NZ Tech Board.

I first became involved in the technology sector just a few short months after I arrived in New Zealand, relocating from Canada in 2015. While working at Ultrafast Fibre, the local fibre company based in Hamilton, I immediately became exposed to not only the amazing organisations that make up the sector, but also to the massive opportunity that exists in this industry to challenge the status quo, drive our national economy, and impact the lives of New Zealanders. I currently hold the role of Chief Commercial Officer at Aware Group. We are an emerging technology company that provides solutions for clients around the world using Artificial Intelligence, Cloud Platforms, Robotics and more. In this role I have the privilege to work alongside incredible people throughout the sector, and through these connections, I strive to ensure we are implementing technology for the greater benefit of humanity. I am also currently involved in the NZ Tech community, serving as a member of the Smart Cities Alliance IoT working group.

There are so many aspects in which our industry can play a role to drive forward the economic and digital prowess of our nation, and NZTech is clearly a key force to ensuring continued success in this endeavour. I would welcome the challenge of providing leadership and governance across the organisation through a position on the board and would bring forward my experience in domestic and international sales and marketing, commercial acumen, and approach to ensuring we are aligned to sustainable frameworks, policies and opportunities as a nation.

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## **Government/Education Nominees**

*Dr. Mahsa McCauley, AUT*

I am an existing board member seeking re-election. I'm currently a Senior Lecturer in AUT's School of Computer, Engineering, and Mathematical Sciences and Director of Women in Technology for the Faculty of Design and Creative Technologies. I'm also the founder of the charitable trust She Sharp, a women's technology networking and development group, where I work to encourage young New Zealand girls to consider what a career in technology offers. I have a somewhat "hybrid" academic role, as a large number of research projects I am involved with are in partnership and/or collaboration with industry companies and organisations. This has given me excellent experience in bridging the gap between academia and industry, and representing education perspectives to industry, while ensuring academic programmes are aligned with industry direction.

My research areas are AI, machine learning, and IoT, where I have been involved in a research capacity for over 10 years, as well as supervising postgraduate student research in these fields. Through my board membership at AIForum, I have been on the advisory board for AI Summit and also involved in the Women in AI Awards, showcasing AI talent, research and development in both academic and industry, and promoting diversity in AI fields. I feel my expertise in these areas would be of significant value to NZTech, and would be instrumental in helping to bring Government, academia and industry ecosystems together.

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*Larrie Moore, Network for Learning (N4L)*

I have been Chief Executive of the Network for Learning, a Crown-owned company since 2018 which delivers the single largest distributed and managed wireless cybersecure network service in Aotearoa New Zealand, connecting all state and state-integrated schools. I have led the company through three major nationwide technology rollouts to all schools and kura in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Over my career, I have held global, regional, country and marketing leadership roles for a number of large commercial enterprises, including 2degrees, Orcon, Vodafone, Fujitsu, GlaxoSmithKline and Mars. I have a proven record of growing teams and companies and am probably best known in Aotearoa New Zealand for creating and launching challenger mobile brand, 2degrees. I am passionate about service, closing the digital divide and growing the digital economy. As a proud father of three boys, he is personally committed to improving education for all learners in Aotearoa New Zealand.

I would welcome the opportunity to further serve the technology and education sectors as a member of the NZ Tech Board. I am deeply passionate about the transformative power of technology, which offers such potential to bring material improvement to education, work and prosperity of all of Aotearoa New Zealand. As a technology leader and education and government representative, I bring significant experience in spanning the public and private sectors, bridging

differing requirements and expectations around technology. I am a strong strategic thinker with a commitment to sound governance. I also bring deep connections across the education and technology sectors both in Aotearoa and abroad.

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