

## **Kathryn de Bruin – BBS, CA**

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**As a grower, employer, chartered accountant and experienced board member, I am ready to serve you on the HortNZ Board.**

I own and operate a Chartered Accountancy practice in Dargaville, working with clients from across the primary sector. My husband Andre and I grow kumara and run cattle and store lambs on an 80ha platform - 30ha owned and 50ha leased. We employ two full-time and up to 20 seasonal staff and have built this business from the ground up.

New Zealand's diverse horticulture industry has enjoyed success and grown dramatically. We now face rapid change which brings challenges nationally and globally - biosecurity, climate change, environmental sustainability, technology, regulation, and access to water, markets and skilled people.

We must not only keep pace with this change but stay one step ahead by leading from the front. For this to happen we need diverse leadership and thinking around the board table.

My vision for horticulture in New Zealand is strong businesses, a sustainable environment, empowered people and thriving communities.

### **What would I bring to the HortNZ Board?**

A fresh perspective, strong financial acumen, analytical skills, strategic thinking, problem solving and open communication.

I listen and inspire change by constructively challenging the status quo and looking at opportunities and problems through a different lens.

The board is there to support its levy payers allowing them to be adaptable, resilient and successful. That support must be inclusive - from the smallest grower to the largest; all people, all places, all backgrounds.

My financial background will allow me to ensure decisions made around the setting and use of grower levies are well thought out and the financial implications taken fully into account.

### **Proven governance experience through:**

- National Council Member, NZ Institute of Chartered Accountants - Primary Sector Committee (2007-2011)
- Chair, Dargaville High School Board of Trustees (current)
- Chair, Northland Branch of NZ Institute of Chartered Accountants (2005-2006)
- Director, Northern Wairoa Veterinary Club Society Ltd (current)
- Committee Member Northland Agricultural Research Farm Inc (2001-2014)
- Numerous voluntary community governance roles

### **My commitment to governance excellence has included investment in my skills through:**

- Membership of the New Zealand Institute of Directors
- Five-day Company Director course – NZ Institute of Directors
- Escalator - Agri-Women's Development Trust 10-month governance/leadership programme
- Membership of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand
- Membership of the Institute of Primary Industry Management

I was involved in the start-up and financial management of Delta Produce Co-operative Ltd that packs and markets kumara for its shareholders (2002-2008). In 2005 I was the Northland/Auckland Region Young Accountant of the Year and a national finalist.

**I have the skills, experience, time, energy and connections to represent you on the HortNZ Board. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or feedback**