

Lesley Wilson

As a grower I have continually been involved in areas surrounding the health, well-being, and future prosperity of the horticultural industry. From the early days of facilitating the original IFP groups to latterly being the President of the Hawke's Bay Fruitgrowers' Association I have always worked towards what is best for the industry I represent.

The issues I see currently affecting horticulture are those that surround the ability of growers to continue to grow. They not only include RMA (land, water, & air), labour (particularly seasonal supply) and biosecurity but also the rise of special interest groups whose drivers vary wildly from our own. Strong strategic direction surrounding these issues is vital to horticulture.

I would also like to note that I am very focused on fiscal responsibility and have initiated changes to various horticultural organisations' accounting procedures to facilitate greater transparency for members.

In my current role as President of the Hawke's Bay Fruitgrowers' Association, from which I step down in September this year, I have managed both a strategic and a tax review while also spearheading changes to our constitution which has led to the first increase in membership in quite some time.

I hold a Bachelor of Science in Zoology, plus post graduate papers in Integrated Fruit Production and Business Communications. I have also completed the Rural Governance Essentials and Financial Essentials course through the Institute of Directors.

During my career I have been a scientist, a journalist, a facilitator, an event co-ordinator, an executive officer, a project manager, an executive member and of course a director. All of these professions had one thing in common. They were all about working with people for the betterment of horticulture.

I am committed to the continued growth of the horticultural industry as a whole. We are all facing the same issues and I believe that my experience working across both the fruit and vegetable sectors, plus my strong governance skill base, will be an asset to the levy payers of Horticulture New Zealand

Thank you for your time.

Bio

Pipfruit Grower 1987 - present
Stonefruit Grower 1987 - 1997
Shareholder in Mt Erin Packhouse and Mt Erin Group
RSE employer
IOD member since 2015

Governance Roles

DN & LR Wilson Ltd (Pipfruit Orchards)
Hawke's Bay Fruit Growers Association – President
Hawke's Bay Fruitgrowers' Charitable Trust – Chair
Hawke's Bay Labour Governance Group – Vice Chair

Advisory Group Roles

HortNZ Independent Director Selection Committee
HortNZ Remuneration Committee
Prevar Advisory Group
T.A.N.K Member
HortNZ Horticulture Capability
National Horticultural Field Day
Australian Apple Access Group