

2019 Candidate Profiles

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 three people for the job.

Kathryn de Bruin BBS, CA

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As a grower, experienced Board member and employer I am a vocal advocate for strengthening the potential and growth of our rural communities. My vision for horticulture in New Zealand is strong businesses, a sustainable environment, empowered people and thriving communities. It's with these goals in mind that I put myself forward for election as a Director on the HortNZ Board.

I own an accountancy practice in Dargaville, working with clients from across the primary sector. But that's only half of my story.

The other half is set on the land. My husband Andre and I grow 40ha of kumara, run cattle and store lambs on an 80ha platform. We employ two full-time and up to 30 seasonal staff and have built our business from the ground up.

Industry challenges

New Zealand's diverse horticulture industry has grown dramatically. We face rapid change with national and global challenges - 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. For this we need diverse, bold leadership.

What I will bring to the HortNZ Board

I believe I will bring a fresh perspective, strong financial acumen, analytical and strategic thinking, problem-solving and open communication skills.

The Board is there to support levy payers. That support should be inclusive and, I believe, extended to both the largest and the smallest growers. My work as an accountant in rural New Zealand has given me an innate understanding of the needs and challenges of primary sector businesses of all sizes – from large multinationals through to the family-run operation.

This understanding is cemented by what I learned on the land in Holland, Australia and here in New Zealand way before I started growing kumara. I was brought up on a dairy farm and I've harvested and cut apricots, worked in big flower glass-houses, laboured with lettuces and picked fruit in a research orchard.

All this has kept me grounded and in touch with the realities of what it takes to coax a living from the soil. I believe I'm well placed to understand grower priorities and help ensure that grower levies are well thought through with all financial implications taken fully into account.

Proven governance experience

- National Council Member, NZ Institute of Chartered Accountants - Primary Sector Committee (2007-2011)
- Chair, Dargaville High School Board of Trustees (2012 – 2018)
- Chair, Northland Branch of NZ Institute of Chartered Accountants (2005-2006)
- Director, Northern Wairoa Veterinary Club Society Ltd (2017 – 2019)
- Committee Member Northland Agricultural Research Farm Inc (2001-2014)
- Numerous voluntary community governance roles

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).

Ongoing professional development:

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

I feel that 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 – my phone number is 027-476 5317 and my email is kathryn@kdebruin.co.nz

Horticulture and the strong, capable people who are the backbone of our primary industries sector have been good to me. I would love an opportunity to help to contribute to the ongoing growth and health of the sector through a seat as a director on the HortNZ Board.

Candidate Nomination Information and Declarations of Interest

Nominated by:

- Pukekohe Vegetable Growers Association
- Process Vegetables New Zealand
- Hawkes Bay Vegetable Growers Association
- DN & LR Wilson Limited
- New Zealand Citrus Growers
- Tomatoes New Zealand Incorporated
- Northern Wairoa Vegetables Growers Association
- Vegetables New Zealand Incorporated
- Tararua Growers Incorporated

Horticulture related companies or organisations where Directorship or equivalent roles are held:

Company Name:	My Role:
AJ & KL de Bruin Ltd	Shareholder/Director
Delta Produce Ltd	Shareholder

Ruth Lee

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Background

I am a long standing Te Puke kiwifruit and avocado grower. I have been hands-on in the orchard from time to time over the years. Up until 2000, I worked predominantly as a litigation lawyer in private practice and as the lawyer for the local region of the Department of Conservation. Since then I have worked in various governance roles, including five terms as a director on the Kiwifruit New Zealand Board.

My primary industry experience extends to the agricultural sector through ownership of our now closed pig farm, and my role as a director on the pork industry farmer advocacy board.

I am currently working as a Tenancy Tribunal Adjudicator in the Bay of Plenty.

What I bring to the role

- Governance experience on other primary industry boards
- A principled and intelligent thinker
- Passionate to see the horticultural sector thrive
- Legal and advocacy skills
- Environment/RMA legal experience and knowledge
- Agri business experience through the pork industry

My views

I strongly support the kiwifruit single point of entry. I am proud of being a producer of healthy and nutritious food and want to ensure all fruit and vegetable growers retain 'the right to grow' and prosper. HortNZ has a key role to play in ensuring that happens.

HortNZ needs to continue to work hard on the challenges we face particularly around protecting our fertile soils and ensuring access to water; access to labour; meeting government targets such as carbon reduction and other environmental constraints; and making horticulture a viable career option. HortNZ must strive to ensure growers' voices and needs are always heard as it carries out its work.

Horticultural interests

- 15 hectare green and gold kiwifruit orchard
- 3 hectare avocado orchard

Governance roles

- **Kiwifruit New Zealand Board**
Director 2002 – 2017
- **NZ Pork Industry Board**
Director 2008 -2016
- **Morepork Farm (BOP) Limited**
Director 2005 - current
- **BOP Conservation Board**
Director 2002 - 2005

Qualifications

LLB Bachelor of Laws

BA Bachelor of Arts (French)

Master of Management (with distinction in Dispute Resolution)

Candidate Nomination Information and Declarations of Interest

Nominated by:

- John Cook (Hay Wood Limited)
- Alister Hawkey

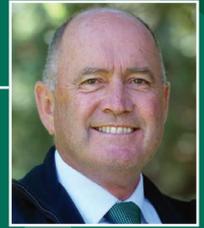
Horticulture related companies or organisations where Directorship or equivalent roles are held:

Company Name:	My Role:
Ian Schultz Family Trust	Trustee
Morepork Farm (BOP) Limited	Director and Shareholder
Zespri Group Limited	Shareholder

Barry O'Neil

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I am seeking your support to be elected to the Horticulture New Zealand Board of Directors.

I have been an Independent Director on the HortNZ Board since 2013 and from January 2019 became the President/Chairman.

I strongly believe in the value HortNZ adds and what we achieve for growers by working collectively. If elected I will do my utmost to provide the leadership required for the ongoing success of HortNZ, including continuing as Chair with Board support.

I am a hands-on fruit grower and have been since 1984 when we purchased our first kiwifruit, avocado, and citrus orchard near Tauranga. Since 2003 I have owned and managed our 6ha kiwifruit orchard at Katikati.

I am strategically focused and believe in the aspirational vision that horticulture can be bigger than dairying by 2050 – but to achieve this we will need to work increasingly harder to protect the foundations of growers' licence to operate, which will require a balanced approach to being successful economically while also being environmentally and socially sustainable.

A Massey University graduate my professional career began as a veterinarian, and I have focused on biosecurity, food safety, and regulatory market access, including negotiating free trade agreements. I have worked both internationally and in NZ, always associated with NZ's primary sector and food production. I led MAF's Biosecurity group for 10 years and for 6 years was the CEO of Kiwifruit Vine Health.

If elected I bring the following attributes:

- Strong strategic focus so we put our efforts into the most important issues with a priority focus of keeping in touch with our grower members.
- Skilled at engaging with government and industry leaders on key issues including labour availability, water access, biosecurity, climate change and the ETS.
- Established networks in central and regional government.
- Good relations with product groups, as well as relationships with many non-horticulture primary sector organisations.
- Sound governance judgment and board experience with current directorships on several boards, including Chair of Tomatoes NZ, deputy Chair of Scion, Chair of the Kauri Die Back Independent review panel, and governance group member of Our Biological Heritage National Science Challenge.

Candidate Nomination Information and Declarations of Interest

Nominated by:

- Tomatoes New Zealand Incorporated
- Douglas Brown, Riverlock

Horticulture related companies or organisations where Directorship or equivalent roles are held:

Company Name:	My Role:
Keronlea Ltd (19/01/18) (previously known as Biosecurity NZ Ltd)	Director
Scion (Forestry Research Institute)	Deputy Chair
Keronlea Orchard	Owner
Biological Heritage National Science Challenge	Board Member
Horticulture New Zealand	Chairperson
Accelerating Protection for Kauri Independent Panel related to Kauri Dieback	Chairperson
Tomatoes New Zealand Incorporated	Chairperson

Hugh Ritchie

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I am the Managing Director of Drumpeel Farms where, together with Sharon and our four children, we run a family farm in the Hawke's Bay. The farm comprises over 2,050 hectares of mixed cropping and livestock. Over 700ha is planted in crops including cereals, seed and process vegetables with the balance of the property being used for lamb and beef finishing.

Irrigation is a critical part of the farm with 550ha irrigated. All of the crops are established using either strip tillage or direct drilling, with the exception of carrots that require beds to be pulled up. Sustainable farming methods have been a core focus for the business with priority given to irrigation efficiency and soil health. Recently we have been exploring further crop options with vegetable seed production and options for permanent horticulture to utilise the soils and water at Drumpeel.

We work hard to create a profitable business and know first-hand the issues that affect our business. Business threats include biosecurity incursions, social licence to operate, carbon zero implications, access to water and soils, and the ability to employ an appropriately skilled workforce. For many years I have represented and worked for growers to limit the impact of these challenges and help drive research to find solutions to these issues.

I am currently on the Process Vegetables New Zealand executive, which is using research projects to enable progress to be made towards meeting industry productivity goals. I have recently taken on the position of Chairman for the Foundation for Arable Research which has a primary focus of adding value to the business of the arable grower. This role is very similar to my position as director of Horticulture New Zealand, except the scope of work on the HortNZ board is across many product groups and a broader range of issues. I am also a director of Water Holdings CHB which is exploring water storage options in Central Hawke's Bay.

These roles, coupled with previous positions within the industry, have given me a wide range of knowledge around many of the pressing issues we face as growers today. This is valuable for informing and creating strategy and communicating to government the impacts of proposed legislation changes.

To be effective in influencing change, we need to work alongside other primary sector organisations to find common issues and work streams that will create efficiency and avoid duplication, ensuring levy funds are spent in the most cost-effective way. I believe that by finding synergies and relationships will only strengthen Horticulture New Zealand's ability to be effective. The recent successful Primary Sector Growth Fund was a great example of utilising skill sets from other primary sectors to strengthen our knowledge and proposals.

I strongly support collaboration with other key organisations that will result in better outcomes for growers, especially in key areas such as:

- Research which drives productivity and profitability for growers.
- GIA and biosecurity for the protection of growers.
- Nutrient management through good agricultural practice.
- Water access and management.

For levy funds to work effectively for the good of growers it is critical that we constantly look at all areas of cost and review our priorities for spending. Being involved in similar organisations outside Horticulture New Zealand does allow comparisons to access performance.

Horticulture New Zealand creates the right environment and support structure for growers to manage and develop their businesses, creating more profitability. I ask for your support in my nomination for the Horticulture New Zealand Board.

Candidate Nomination Information and Declarations of Interest

Nominated by:

- Hawkes Bay Vegetable Growers Association
- Process Vegetables New Zealand

Horticulture related companies or organisations where Directorship or equivalent roles are held:

Company Name:	My Role:
Drumpeel Farms	Managing Director
CHB Water Holdings	Director
Foundation for Arable Research	Chair
Australia FAR	Board member
Federated Farmers (Hawkes Bay)	Executive Committee member
Process Vegetables NZ	Board member