

LEAD TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

Michael McCartney (Lead Team Facilitator)

Born and raised in rural Manawatu, Michael has a genuine passion for the Horizons Region and the people that call it home. He attended Massey University in the 1980s where he gained an Honours Degree in Regional Planning and has been involved with local and regional government for the past 25 years. In this time he's seen, and been a part of, dramatic changes to the way in which New Zealand governs and manages its natural and physical environments.

Michael joined the Horizons Regional Council team in the mid 1990s and worked in the policy development and regulatory areas before taking on the role of Chief Executive. He now also chairs the Regional Council Chief Executive Group, a collective of all the regional and unitary council chief executives from across New Zealand, and is the key link from that Group to the Regional Sector Group, the collective of all the regional and unitary council mayors and chairs.

Living with his wife and two teenage children on an 80 hectare farm unit in the picturesque Pohangina Valley, Michael has a real appreciation for the Region's natural beauty. He also knows the challenges of living alongside Mother Nature. Michael was at the forefront of the 2004 and 2015 flood responses as an Emergency Management Controller. He was also the key architect of the Manawatu River Leaders' Forum in 2010 and as CE oversaw initiatives such as SLUI, One Plan and \$100 million flood upgrades post 2004.

Michael has been a regional sector representative on the Land and Water Forum as well as a member of a number of sector subgroups addressing topics such as: fresh water, biosecurity and Māori engagement in local government decision making. He also chairs MW LASS Ltd - a shared service company to which seven Manawatu-Wanganui local councils are shareholders.

Bruce Gordon

Born and bred in Marton, Bruce is a third generation Gordon living in the Rangitikei district. Bruce lives on a farm North West of Marton. Bruce's Grandfather was an MP for Rangitikei and his father was also involved in politics at a local government level as well as being on the Executive of Federated Farmers.

Bruce has served on Horizons Regional Council for the past 11 years and as Chairman for the last five. Before Bruce was elected to the Regional Council he served three terms on the Rangitikei District Council. Bruce is a member of the Marton Lions Club, the New Zealand Automobile Association and the Wanganui Aero Club; these clubs keep him busy in what spare time he has.

Bruce set up an agricultural contracting business, which along with his farm, has now been operating for 34 years. His work takes him around much of the district, giving him valuable insight into the needs and issues of the district and its people

Grant Smith

Elected Mayor of Palmerston North City in February 2015, Grant was first elected to Council as a Councillor in 2013. He serves on a number of Boards and Committees, and has an extensive background managing small to medium sized business. He has managed sporting events and has many years' experience on multiple sporting boards.

Grant believes we have a smart, young workforce, our economy is growing, our centralised location is advantageous and Palmerston North is becoming a more diverse city.

Grant is married to Michelle, they have two adult children and live on a lifestyle block within the city's boundaries.

Di Grennell

Ko Ngai Tahu me Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri ōku iwi, ko Di Grennell ahau. Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa.

Di currently holds the position of Deputy Chief Executive Regional Partnerships at Te Puni Kōkiri and leads the work programme, relationships and staff of the organisation's regional network, Māori Housing Network and investment team. A core function of her role is to work in partnership with iwi, hapū and whānau Māori and state sector colleagues to achieve improved results for Māori. Di has also been instrumental in the development and implementation of the Whānau Ora approach introduced in 2010 under Dame Tariana Turia, the then Minister of Whānau Ora. Prior to this Di held a variety of governance and management roles that have required strategic leadership and the ability to work collaboratively across government, Māori and non-government organisations.

Di is married to Witi, and between them they have seven adult children and an expanding nest of mokopuna.

Pahia Turia

Pahia is born and bred in Whanganui. Raised in Whangaehu on his parents dairy farm, Pahia was educated at the local primary school and headed in Whanganui for college. On completing secondary school, he trained as a primary school teacher and taught in a number of schools throughout the city.

Pahia has always been entrepreneurial having developed a sizeable property portfolio both here and in Wellington, while operating and developing other business opportunities.

Over the past 7 years, Pahia and his wife Njela have owned and operated a successful consultancy business which took them all over New Zealand however living out of a suitcase and not being home enough led to the decision to look at buying a business that would enable to achieve this.

Pahia and Njela purchased Appliance Repair Care and six weeks later bought out the opposition Home Appliance Doctors. They have merged both of these businesses under the banner of Appliance Repair Care Ltd (ARC) and currently employ 11 great staff. ARC are

the only Authorised Service Centre for all major domestic and commercial appliances in the district.

Outside of his own personal business commitments, Pahia holds a number of professional directorships and governance roles across the country. Most importantly for Pahia is his role as the Chairperson of his iwi, Ngaa Wairiki-Ngaati Apa based south of Whanganui. Pahia is also a member on the Whanganui and Partners Board.

Pahia is passionate about developing our regional economy and believes we have to optimise and capitalise on our regions offerings. Iwi and Maaori are huge players in the local and national economy and it is time we looked at how we can grow and develop our relationships, our opportunities and our district together.

Malcolm Inglis

Malcolm is a Chartered Accountant who spent the early part of his career in Palmerston North and Whanganui working in both industry and public practice. After a period in Wellington as a Management Consultant, principally in the public sector he has now returned to Whanganui. His consulting work is now almost exclusively in business development and start-up businesses, most of which are export focussed. Recent projects include; advising MPI and its Primary Growth Partnership fund, working on a start-up business with a company targeting China and helping prepare the business case for a new social housing development in Auckland.

Malcolm is also Chair of UCOL Council, Deputy Chair of Whanganui & Partners Ltd, and Deputy Chair of WITT in New Plymouth. He has business and science degrees and in addition to his membership of the Chartered Accountants of Australia and New Zealand is a Chartered Member of the NZ Institute of Directors.

Mavis Mullins MNZM

Ko Rangitane me Atihaunui a Paparangi oku Iwi, Mavis Mullins ahau. Tihei Mauriora.

Mavis has a variety of business and governance interests predominantly based around the primary and skills based sector. Being dairy famers and shearing contractors based in Dannevirke she has many opportunities to engage and understand the pulse of rural New Zealand. Mavis is Chair of Atihau Whanganui Inc farming approximately 200,000 stock units in the Waimarino; Chair of Poutama Trust with a \$30m capital fund, using the interest to assist Maori business; recently appointed Chair of Taratahi Agricultural Centre, training in excess of 2000 students pa with farms as the classroom. She is patron of the Agri-Womens Development Trust, and Board Member of 2degrees Mobile; Nga Whenua Rahui and a negotiator for the Rangitane Settlement Negotiation Trust for treaty settlement.

Mavis is married to Koro, and they have four adult children and a treasury of mokopuna.

Michael Eden

Michael Eden founded GDM Group, a specialist manufacturer and exporter of retail systems in 1978. The Group of NZ and Australian Companies remain privately-owned and Michael leads a management team and staff of 60 at its Whanganui Head office and factory. The company also has a large, joint venture manufacturing plant in China. Michael travels to Australia, China and Europe regularly to connect with markets and manufacturing facilities.

Michael is a long term executive member and current President of the NZ Retail Interior Association. He has held Directorships of several local companies, including a 6 year term on Whanganui District Council Holdings. He completed the NZ Institute of Directors Course in 2007.

Michael's main interests outside of GDM are golf and motor racing.

Tim Myers

Tim Myers is the current CEO of CB Norwood Distributors Limited, and the Norwood Farm Machinery Centre network of agricultural retailers. Norwood is the largest importer / retailer of tractors and farm machinery in the country and employs 400 staff nationally (120 of which live and work in the Manawatu Region). Prior to joining Norwood in 2011 Tim worked for wood products and distribution company Tenon Limited and was located near Washington DC on the East Coast of the US. Tim has family roots in the Manawatu and is passionate about regional advancement. Tim sits of several community Boards and is a current Director of the Manawatu Rugby Union. Tim holds a Bachelor Degree in Forestry Science (Majors in Finance and International Trade) which was obtained at the University of Canterbury, and a postgraduate diploma in Business Management (University of Waikato).

Ruma Karaitiana

Ko Tararua me Ruahine ōku maunga. Ko Manawatu te awa. Ko Rangitāne me Ngāti Kahungunu ōku iwi, ko Ruma Karaitiana ahau.

Ruma Karaitiana is a Manawatu based professional director and ex-Chief Executive. He holds tertiary qualifications in commerce, education and economic development and originally trained as a specialist Art teacher in the early 1970s. Although most of his working life has been in commercial management, Ruma has maintained an active involvement in education through governance roles and part-time teaching including several years as a Teaching Fellow at Massey University. He recently retired after 10 ½ years as Chief Executive of the Building and Construction Industry Training Organisation prior to which he held CEO roles in FMCG, economic development and the health sector.

He has worked in governance roles since the 1980s and has held directorships and Ministerial appointments on a number of public and private entities. He currently Chairs the Boards of Education Services Limited, Rangitāne o Manawātū Investment Trust and Rangitāne o Manawātū Holdings Limited as well as serving on the Boards of the Central Energy Trust, MediFund New Zealand and Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu.

Traci Houpapa

Traci Houpapa is an award winning company director and a recognised industry leader. She specialises in strategic and economic development advice to Maori, iwi, public and private sector clients throughout New Zealand. Traci is known for her strong and inclusive leadership and her clear focus on building the wealth and prosperity of Aotearoa New Zealand.

In 2012 Traci was named as one of the top ten most influential women in New Zealand agribusiness. In 2013 she was named amongst the Listener's top ten influencers in New Zealand and was a finalist in the Fairfax Media Westpac Women of Influence Awards ("WOI"). In 2014, Traci won the WOI Board and Management award. In 2015, Westpac named Traci on its "NZ Women Powerbrokers" list. In 2016, Traci was awarded the Massey University Distinguished Alumni Service Award for services to agribusiness and Maori and named amongst the BBC's top 100 most influential women in the world.

Traci chairs Landcorp Farming Limited, FOMA the Federation of Maori Authorities, W3 Wool Unleashed PGP, Hineuru Holdings Limited and the National Advisory Council on the Employment of Women. She also holds directorships and Ministerial appointments on a number of public and private entities throughout New Zealand

Traci has been instrumental in raising the profile of Maori agribusiness across the primary industry sector, highlighting the significant contribution Maori entities and iwi asset holders make to the government's Business Growth Agenda and Export Double. She is also recognised for her role in promoting the development of women's leadership and diversity on boards.

Traci has an MBA from Massey University and is a Member of the Order of New Zealand, a Justice of the Peace, and a Marriage Celebrant.
