

Board Chair Report



Tēnā tatou katoa

As I reflect on my first year as Chair, and the work and achievements of Nuku Ora over the past year, I find much to acknowledge and celebrate – particularly the way the organisation has approached and managed significant change.

As we head into the first year of implementing our refreshed Strategy 2032, with its refined strategic priorities and with key contracts secured, it will be important for us to consolidate our work in each of the five strategic priority areas. This will involve being responsive to the needs of our communities, working with stakeholders to ensure equitable access to quality physical activity opportunities, supporting change in the way people in our rohe experience physical activity, and further developing our partnerships with mana whenua.

Additionally, we will prioritise ensuring that Nuku Ora is a successful and sustainable organisation, enabling it to support others well and provide the greatest value to our partners and stakeholders in the long term.

As a Board, we have undergone some membership changes. At our 2023 Annual Hui, we welcomed Cassius Kuresa, Megan Reid, and Sumati Govind for their first terms, replacing our retiring kaitiaki, while Lance Walker and Paula Collins stepped down during 2024. Jason Crowe and Andrea Blackshaw have also decided to step down at our 2024 Annual Hui, and I take this opportunity to thank Lance, Paula, Jason and Andrea for their contributions to Nuku Ora over the course of their respective terms. Their knowledge and advice have been invaluable. We also welcomed Rebecca Ralph as our Future Director.

This year, it was a pleasure to join our kaimahi for a Te Tiriti o Waitangi course, the knowledge from which informed our new Te Tiriti o Waitangi Policy. In the coming year, the Board will undertake a governance review to ensure compliance with the recent amendments to the Charities Act and to maintain the highest standard of governance.

Thank you to those organisations, including Sport NZ, Te Whatu Ora, ACC and various councils across

the region who have continued to invest in and partner with Nuku Ora. We are also grateful also for the ongoing support of key funders, especially NZCT, whose investment continues to benefit our communities, as well as Four Winds, the Lion Foundation and other regional funders. Your support allows us to continue responding to the needs of our communities. I'm especially grateful for the valuable working relationship we have with mana whenua, especially around the Board table.

A huge thanks to Andrew Leslie and his team for their commitment to activating communities across the region and the general way they go about their work. You are all such a pleasure to work with. I look forward to more of the same over the coming year.

Ngā mihi nui,

Sam French

Kaiwhakahaere | Board Chair