

TANNER, David



Candidate profile

I was born into the kiwifruit industry, have built a career in the industry and I am passionate about the industry's future. I seek your support for the grower vacancy on the Kiwifruit Vine Health Board to make a positive difference to the industry.

I vividly remember the 5th of November 2010, the day when Psa was confirmed in the NZ kiwifruit industry. I was fortunate to be able to dedicate 2 ½ years leading the scientific and technical response to Psa for the industry. I am incredibly proud of the proactive manner in which the industry in its broadest sense came together to focus on battling this biosecurity event, and to have the foresight to build Kiwifruit Vine Health as a vehicle for managing biosecurity risk.

Since leaving Zespri in late 2014, I have become a kiwifruit grower. Together with partners, we own approximately 27 hectares of Hayward and Gold3 across 4

properties in Napier, Te Puke and Katikati. I also co-own a Horticultural Innovation business (Start Afresh) that, at its heart, is growing the productivity and performance of the kiwifruit industry and its people.

As many will know, I was a KVH Director from 2016 to 2023, including 6 years as Chair. I have decided to re-stand for this grower director's role as I feel I have more to give to this organisation and have had many ask if I would be willing to assist in developing the future strategic direction for the organisation once again. If I was successful in becoming a KVH director, I would be offering my extensive expertise in plant health and biosecurity risks, crisis management, and understanding of the research and development process, for the benefit of the industry. In addition to the technical skills I possess, I also offer the perspective of a vigilant grower, enthusiastic teacher and commercial orchard owner.

I am committed to supporting the KVH team to ensure that unlike the days of late 2010, where we were poorly prepared for a biosecurity incursion, that we are far fitter to battle such events, and ensure that the value that we as growers, postharvest operators, marketers and service industries have created in our leading horticultural industry is not eroded. There is still more to do, and I have the knowledge and passion, and desire, to guide KVH to deliver its vision of a biosecurity-resilient New Zealand kiwifruit industry.

I look forward to receiving your support.

David Tanner