



Kiwifruit Vine Health Incorporated

2023 DIRECTOR ELECTION CANDIDATE PROFILES

Election of one (1) Director

Liarna WHITE



I have been involved in the horticultural sector all my working life. I graduated with a degree in Applied Science with a focus on Horticultural Science from Massey University. I have worked in orchard management, postharvest, and project management within the kiwifruit industry. I currently manage and operate, with my husband, our family Kiwifruit and Avocado orchards. These are in various stages of growth from development through to long term producing. They include 1.2 ha of Hayward, 3.6 ha of Gold 3 and 0.83 ha of Ruby Red in Opotiki. 10.8 ha Gold3, 2.3ha of Ruby red and 0.35ha of Chieftain male for pollen collection in Gisborne/Tairāwhiti. 100 high density young avocado trees holding a first year crop in Te Puke and 1.7 ha of mature avocado trees in Opotiki.

We run a very productive operation which has consistent results and strive for continual growth and improvement. This is achieved in part as a result of our strategic planning. On a regular basis stepping out of the everyday management and looking at the big picture, forward planning and taking the time to work on the business, not just in it.

Having a strategic approach, as well as a sound technical and scientific understand has allowed me to develop a wide overview of lots of the issues that our industry faces. The Kiwifruit industry is very resilient, this has been proven with our ability to move through the arrival, development and recovery phases of the PSA incursion. Kiwifruit Vine Health has provided, and will continue to provide, growers and the wider kiwifruit industry a point of unity. Going forward KVH with industry will action important pathways to protect our industry from wide and significant biosecurity risks .

The Pathway Management Plan, which came into effect from the 1st of April this year focuses on a much broader range of pest and diseases (including PSA). This plan will allow a greater detection of threats and with it higher probability of containment or elimination of the pest threat. It also has the added benefits of being better value for money, with less rules and regulations.

I am involved in local industry groups including the Tairāwhiti growers association (TGA) which took over from the Gisborne Produce Assn in June 2022 with the aim of creating a space for growers in the Gisborne/Tairāwhiti region to leverage local council and industry bodies to ensure the region gets value for the levy's we pay.

I am an elected member of the Women in Horticulture Executive Committee, which works towards to empowering women in all levels and stages of the Horticultural industry.

In June of 2022 I set up the Women in Horticulture group in Gisborne/Tairāwhiti region. With the aim to create a nurturing environment that connects and supports horticultural women in Tairāwhiti. The committee meets monthly to organise events, which has been particularly valuable during these recent extreme weather events.

I believe in the vital work that KVH is doing to protect the kiwifruit industry and that I have the governance tools required to help create and fine tune the strategic direction of the organisation. I am organised and efficient, with a focus on achieving tangible outcomes for all stakeholders.

I am passionate about the kiwifruit industry and the success of all growers. I understand the critical importance of biosecurity, the need to protect the environment in which we grow as well as the need to have a plan to respond to potential threats. I have both a technical and scientific perspective as well as the grower and business owner.

I look forward to receiving your support, to help ensure KVH delivers value to growers and stakeholders and ensuring biosecurity resilience to the kiwifruit industry with the new Pathway Management Plan.