



## 2024 NZ KIWIFRUIT GROWER FORUM CANDIDATE PROFILES ELECTION FOR THE TE PUKE REGION

*Disclaimer: The Returning Officer of NZKGI accepts no responsibility for the content or accuracy of the statements as supplied by the candidates.*

### ALLAN Helen

I have been a NZKGI Forum Representative for Te Puke since 2018 and have been a grower in the area for the last 10 years with both G3 and Hayward orchards.

My contribution to NZKGI has mainly been with the Maturity Review and Taste Review Committees, where my background in statistics has been put to good use especially in recent changes made to maturity sampling methodology and measurement.

To this end I have decided to stand again for Forum and have put my name forward to be part of the Maturity Review Committee for another year. Although there have been some considerable improvements made – which have led to more stable sample results, there are still a few areas requiring attention.

#### Background

I have a BSc in Botany (Physiology, Genetics & Pathology) from Auckland University and Graduate Diploma in Applied Statistics and a Post-Graduate Diploma in Science and Technology with Statistics endorsement from Massey University. I'm considering further studies in Data Science just because I like it (time permitting).

I have been actively involved in running our own 3 orchards (Te Puna and Te Puke) where we grow Sungold, Hayward and Ruby Red. We have 4 adult children, all grown and making their own way in the world.



### BRAGG Rory

Currently operating within the Kiwifruit, Dairy, and Beef sectors I truly understand the importance of positive and pragmatic advocacy from our levy organisations, and the need for un-biased and objective farmer and grower representation to those organisations.

I am a future focused Agri-optimist and believe in growing prosperity for everyone involved in kiwifruit production. This attitude, along with continued innovation and adaptation, will be critical to maintaining and growing our industry in the coming decades.

Over the past 20 years growing kiwifruit I have seen first-hand some of the best and worst times of the Zespri led industry. We need to keep pushing for strategic change to position the grower at the forefront of our industry, to underpin equity among all growers, and to provide increased transparency and accountability reporting back to growers.

Having spent the last 3 years on the NZKGI forum I am a strong voice for grower equity and seek your vote to allow me to continue to champion for growers ability to shape their industry.

Mobile: 021 732 720 Email: rory@kdl.nz



### CRAWFORD Brigid

I am a passionate kiwifruit grower with a strong interest in governance. Having being brought up on a kiwifruit orchard, and now owning the family orchard, I am a grower who understands the industry, appreciates its strength and I am determined to see it continue to thrive.

#### Background

- Graduate from Lincoln University, Bachelor of Commerce and Management, majoring in Marketing and Economics,
- Career in corporate world for 11 years - held various marketing and communications positions in Wellington and Auckland both in the product and service industries.

#### Community involvement

- Moved to undoubtedly the most challenging career of all, a stay at home Mum.
- Had active role in the community including; Chairperson Board of Trustees, President Toy Library, President Kindergarten, to name a few.

#### Industry experience

- I started a kiwifruit nursery, picking up my first load of seedlings the day PSA broke out. Fair to say we had a checkered start but as with many growers, perseverance was rewarded and the business enabled us to purchase our orchard in 2017.
- Since then my husband and I have converted some canopy to gold and developed 2.6 ha of gold from greenfields.
- Eastpack Entity Trust member.
- Have visited the markets in China and Japan where I gained a comprehensive understanding of the supply chain.

#### Personal strengths

- Ability to bring sound business acumen from my corporate experience.
- Connected with a strong network of growers from various backgrounds.
- Strong communication skills and ability to listen.

I stand to represent Te Puke on NZKGI as a fellow grower who commits to listening and representing all growers and would appreciate you considering me for your vote.

M 0275 567 568 email mattandbrig@xtra.co.nz



## HILL Tammy

I am a current Te Puke grower representative on the NZKGI Forum and a member of the Executive Committee which includes executive support for Communications, Labour and Education Portfolios. As well as an elected member of the Industry Advisory Council (IAC) as an NZKGI representative and a post-harvest council member.

Along with NZKGI's recent levy result of 93.65% approval and the successful outcome of the Hicane review, the recent work we have done in pastoral care has been a highlight and we will continue to make improvements and provide support for growers. Also, our commitment to find new ways to communicate and engage with growers through NZKGI roadshows, podcasts and ongoing presence at industry events such as roadshows. We look forward to more in this area in the coming months.

I have been involved in the industry for nearly 20 years as a grower, experiencing the highs and lows and continue to be impressed by our industry's resilience and strength to keep moving forward. I am very motivated to continue to improve our industry for the people that are involved in it and will continue to advocate for growers, always.

We grow Hayward and Sungold varieties and are kiwistart and time growers.

In 2022 I completed the Zespri Governance Scholarship, which included the Institute of Directors Company Directors course along with the domestic tour. Over previous years I have completed the Kellogg Rural Leadership Programme and a Diploma in Horticulture.

A firm believer in always giving back to your community, I look forward to continuing to represent growers.



## THOMPSON Leisha

### About Me.

I am a seasoned professional with a diverse background that spans continents and industries.

After gaining valuable international experience, I returned to the Bay of Plenty and joined Zespri International, where I gained valuable knowledge about the kiwifruit industry. Working as part of the Grower Services team with a focus on new varieties, legal contracts, in orchard data analysis, contract management and reporting.

Working for the past 10 years within the family business with my husband as Commercial Manager for Thompson's Horticulture, together we lead a team of over 150 staff. I have been hands on in the day to day running of the business. My areas of focus have been on financial oversight, compliance, Global Gap, Spraying, RSE & HR and fostering a culture of excellence and innovation. My experience as a grower and understanding of what it takes to run an orchard business along with my legal background and HR experience gives me a unique perspective on industry challenges and opportunities.

Beyond my professional role, I contribute to industry policy through the NLGG National Labour Governance Group, offering insights on RSE policy, and I chair the Gisborne Regional Governance Group, advocating for our region's interests.

**If elected, I promise to be accessible and responsive, ensuring your voices as Te Puke kiwifruit growers are heard and your needs are met. Together, let's continue to strengthen and grow our kiwifruit community.**

### Experience.

- Ten years as a kiwifruit grower.
- Zespri International - Grower Services team 2008 - 2012.
- Commercial Manager for Thompson's Horticulture 2013 - Current.
- Current member of the NLGG National Labour Governance Group (*where I give advice and feedback to the officials on RSE policy*).
- Current Chairperson of the Gisborne Regional Governance Group.

### HR+ management experience.

### Practical knowledge as a grower.

### RSE, GAP & Grasp, budget + forecasting experience.

### *I seek your support via your vote*

Leisha@cornerstonesystems.co.nz

+ 64 27 498 9259

