

NEW ZEALAND RURAL LEADERSHIP TRUST

POSITION DESCRIPTION:

INDEPENDENT TRUSTEE

BACKGROUND

The New Zealand Rural Leadership Trust (NZ Rural Leaders) is a registered charitable trust. The Trust purpose is to:

- Establish and operate leadership programmes for New Zealand's food and fibre sector,
- advance education in agricultural practices, and
- contribute to the general welfare of New Zealand's rural population.

In pursuit of this purpose NZ Rural Leaders aim to grow world-class leaders for our country.

NZ Rural Leaders flagship programmes are the Nuffield Farming Scholarship and the Kellogg Rural Leadership Programme. The programmes have been growing leaders in New Zealand's food and fibre sector for 71 and 42 years, respectively. NZ Rural Leaders runs the Nuffield Farming Scholarship on behalf of the Nuffield NZ Farming Scholarship Trust and runs the Kellogg Rural Leadership Programme in close association with Lincoln University.

Both programmes grow leaders who can take NZ to the world. The Kellogg Programme develops food and fibre sector leaders with the skills, confidence, awareness, and networks to successfully lead, think and act strategically within industry, regional and national contexts. The Nuffield Scholarship grows entrepreneurial leaders with a global perspective. Nuffield Scholars embark on an intensive programme of individual field research and travel to create industry insight and ultimately foresight. Scholars are equipped to move beyond the operational responsibilities of their own businesses, and to step into strategic industry leadership, governance and thought leadership roles.

Under its Trust Deed NZ Rural Leaders has the scope to add other rural leadership programmes or activities that meet its aims. NZ Rural Leaders is currently embarked on an exciting collaboration with Massey University, Lincoln University, AGMARDT and Food HQ. The collaborators are focused on rural and regional capacity building. Together, we aim to establish an entrepreneurial leadership development framework (pathways & pipeline) and fit-for-purpose industry-embedded qualifications, that help ensure we are fit for a better world.

Organisation

NZ Rural Leaders employs four full time Staff, a CEO, Programme Manager, Programme Coordinator, and a Marketing Manager. It contracts other services including contractors to facilitate the Kellogg Programme as well as marketing support staff.

A Trust board provides governance focusing on NZ Rural Leaders strategic direction, performance and risk. The Board also has a key role in maintaining connection with alumni and industry leadership.

A National Advisory Committee (NAC) supports the Board and NZ Rural Leaders management with insights and advice, to ensure the leadership programmes are industry leading. The NAC is made up of NZ Rural Leaders Strategic Investors. NAC representatives are appointed by their respective organisations and are the main contact between the Trust and Strategic Partners.

TRUST BOARD

Composition:

- Four Nuffield Trustees appointed by the Nuffield NZ Farming Scholarship Trust at their AGM.
- Two Independent Trustees appointed by the NAC, on the Trustees recommendation.
- One Associate Trustee, appointed by the Trustees and selected from within the NZ Rural Leaders Alumni.

Term of Appointment:

- Independent trustees: 3-year term, with a possible further 3-year term.
- Nuffield appointees: 4 years with maximum of 2 terms (i.e. 8 years).
- Associate: 1-year term.

Core Competencies

The core competencies sought in all Board members are;

- Strategic focus and experience.
- Previous governance experience.
- Innovative thinking and entrepreneurship.
- Professional expertise in one or more of the following areas: food and fibre sector, adult education or training, business skills, marketing.
- Passion for and understanding of leadership development.
- Strong industry networks and connections.

Desirable attributes. Applicants with one or more of the following attributes are particularly sought:

- Affinity for leadership in Maori and Pacifica agri-business.
- Horticultural, forestry or aquaculture industry knowledge.
- Regional capacity building.
- Partner engagement including local, regional, and central government.
- Global perspective.

Board Responsibilities.

Board Responsibilities include;

- Set the strategic direction of the organisation.
- Appoint and review the CEO's performance.
- Approve and monitor financial performance.
- Provide industry insight, including current business environments and trends.
- Monitor programme content and delivery.
- Provide expertise and input into the programmes where applicable.
- Select Nuffield and Kellogg Scholars each year.
- Identify and encourage emerging talent to apply for NZ Rural Leaders Programmes.
- Maintain and develop strategic relationships.

Board Meetings

The Board meet up to 5 times per year with some meetings coinciding with longer events. Meetings are typically held in Christchurch and Wellington, with video conferencing utilised when appropriate.

Meetings are scheduled where possible around Kellogg and Nuffield programme events to enable Board members to be introduced to each cohort of both programmes and contribute as per above role.

Meeting dates for the year are set at least 6 months in advance.

Board remuneration

The role is a voluntary/ unpaid. Relevant expenses are covered including;

- Air Travel.
- Mileage and parking costs, for those travelling more than 50kms for Board meetings.
- Accommodation costs (where required).

Board Member Orientation

New Board members are provided with an orientation pack and are briefed by the CEO and Chair of the Trust prior to commencing their role.

Appointment process

Applications close on 7 April 2021. For any questions please feel free to contact:

Chris Parsons, Chief Executive

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Email: chrisparsons@ruralleaders.co.nz