



# Alumni News

May & June 2024

Hi all,

The weeks and months roll on, we are moving solidly into winter. That said, the weather in Wellington has been good (yes, I know none of the Aucklanders will believe that) and we have been playing golf almost every weekend so far this year (albeit badly!)

It was great to catch up with a large group of our circa 1992/93 Auckland Alumni a few weeks ago. Some good stories shared of times gone by, and so many different experiences and roles people have had since moving on from KPMG.

On that note, we are planning a catch up for our Wellington Alumni as well. Pencil Wednesday 27 November in your diaries with a formal invite in due course. If you are having catch ups and hear some interesting stories from the past, share them with me – it would be great to hear them.

In terms of upcoming news – we have been talking with a group of past KPMG staff who have moved into the Governance space. We will share their experiences, learnings, and tips in our next article.

And finally, congratulations to Ross McKinley who retires in June, after 37 years with KPMG. Ross has been a huge part of the KPMG tax practice, having served many clients over the years (~27 years as a partner), as well as contributing to other areas, such as Risk Management Partner from 2011-2019, and NZ's Ethics and Independence partner since 2011, where he has been the calm and wise voice in many discussions. We wish Ross all the best for his 'retirement' and will profile him in our next Alumni news.



## Auckland Alumni Social Event – Wednesday 22nd May



A huge thank you goes out to everyone who made it to the Auckland Alumni Social Event!

Your presence truly made the event special and memorable. It was a joy to see familiar faces, like Ross Buckley and Jan Dawson, and so many others!

For those of you who couldn't join us this time, we missed you and the gathering wasn't the same without you.

We look forward to seeing more of you at our upcoming events. Stay tuned as we plan more remarkable gatherings for our alumni in your area later this year.





# Congratulations to Sanel Tomlinson - Sustainable Value

Continuing our series introducing you to new partners, we profile Sanel Tomlinson who (re)joined the Partnership at the start of 2024.

If that name rings a bell, it's because Sanel was a big part of KPMG NZ from 2004-2013. After a six-year adventure in Hong Kong as a Partner with KPMG China, Sanel found her way back home to KPMG NZ in 2022. Fast forward to 2024, and Sanel is now one of our incredible partners in our Sustainable Value practice. Get ready to delve into Sanel's remarkable journey and see how she's brought her global experience back to our Kiwi firm.

*"I come from a small town in South Africa and my parents grounded us in strong Christian family values. They taught us gratitude, to work hard and to respect others. These values stood me in good stead as I navigated life from that small town to living in global financial centres and back again to a small city. But it also created in me a desire to give back to the community; to those that are less fortunate than I have been.*

*I started my career with EY in South Africa and journeyed through roles in financial management, standard setting, and at the Office of the Auditor-General before I (originally) joined KPMG NZ in 2004 and became a partner in 2008. I was leading DPP and our accounting advisory services line in addition to being the audit partner for several clients in the financial services sector. I also spent a couple of years with KPMG ISG in London and joined KPMG China in 2014, working in DPP and later moving to the financial management team in advisory, working on the IFRS 17 implementation projects of a couple of multinational financial institutions. I returned to New Zealand in 2020 and rejoined KPMG NZ in July 2022, becoming a partner (again) in January this year."*

## What will your legacy be as a Partner?

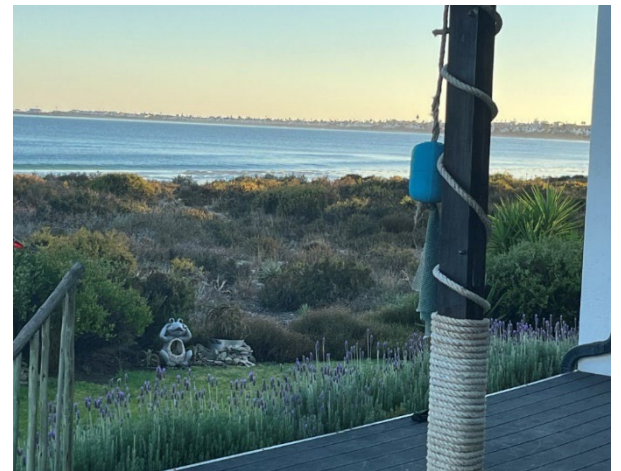
I am contributing to moving KPMG NZ's culture from **recognition** based on performance and/or achievement of certain goals to **appreciation** grounded in the value of the individual employee. Why is this important? While recognition focuses on **what the person does**, appreciation focuses on **who the person is**, and when one feels appreciated, they are motivated to "climb higher" and with passion fulfil the role that they were specifically created for.

## What is going to be your key focus in 2024 (and beyond), i.e. what sort of client challenges will you be solving?

I focus on our ESG and climate change offerings in particular supporting our teams and clients with the adoption of the new climate standards. The effort needed to successfully implement the new standards and/or a broader ESG strategy involves many people across an organisation and similarly, when they work with us, we need to bring colleagues from different service lines across the firm to the task at hand. I am a natural "connector", I understand business and corporate reporting and I'm keen to support clients in achieving their ESG/climate ambitions.

## What happens when you're not at work?

I enjoy spending time with Rudie (the husband) in the garden during the glorious sunny days that Dunedin offers, and heading to our slice of paradise in South Africa for a few weeks each year. Although I am not a keen sports person, I like to live healthy-ish and be fit-ish. But above all, I am happiest if I can get involved in activities that are about giving back to our community.





# Welcome to Matthew Evetts – Cyber Partner, WLG



A warm welcome to Matthew Evetts, who joined the firm at the start of May to lead our national Cyber Security practice. He brings with him a wealth of experience in strategy and solution development, client relationship management, and delivery. We caught up with Matt to ask him a few questions and get to know him better!

## Where have you come from and what did you do there?

I've come from Datacom, just a short walk from the KPMG offices in Wellington. I led the Connectivity & Security team there, a national team of a little over 300 people, delivering a wide range of professional and managed services across NZ. We also delivered managed security services to Australian customers. Connectivity & Security as domains included almost anything you might think of in the cyber, physical security, and networking areas – from digital identities to datacentre infrastructure. I wore several different hats, splitting my time between being in market with individual customers, speaking to groups and at conferences, strategy and business planning, product and services development, operational leadership of my area, financial management, and contributing as part of the NZ leadership team.



## Why KPMG?

I wasn't looking for a change, but KPMG's purpose and values really resonated with me. If I was going to move, it had to be a long-term decision that was deeply aligned with my own passion and values. I was also impressed with KPMG's aspiration for sustainable growth, especially in the technology and cybersecurity areas. I love to build and grow practices and organisations, and there is certainly the opportunity and the willingness to do that here. KPMG's trusted brand and client relationships also create an exciting platform to build these types of services on. KPMG's focus on supporting the whole organisation to change, and not just one part, is important to me when I consider maximising the impact of organisational change and how technology and security enable that. The opportunity to continue to grow personally was also a really important factor in my decision.

## What will your legacy be?

Legacy is twofold for me – a more delivery focused impact, and a longer-term broader impact. I want KPMG to be the most trusted brand in cybersecurity, where we are in long-term partnership with our clients – continually mitigating risk, protecting against threats, and responding to issues. I want security at KPMG to be explicitly associated with the value of building more resilient and sustainable organisations.

I want to be part of KPMG being recognised in the market as a major contributor to building a more resilient nation with organisations that are secure and sustainable, and defended against global threats and shocks. A nation that can continue to benefit all New Zealanders.



## What will your key focus be in 2024?

My immediate focus is on understanding KPMG and its clients, including what our clients need most from us, and where the short and long-term opportunities are. I want to start growing capability and capacity, both within my NZ team, and by using Global resources, so we can deliver to a broader and deeper pipeline of work. I'm looking forward to spending time in market building that pipeline too. I'll also have a strong focus on planning for FY25 and beyond – how do we grow KPMG Cyber to be a major force for NZ clients and how can I support the wider consulting and technology practice?

## Tell us more about you as a person, who is Matt outside of work?

My wonderful wife and our three children live in Tawa, Wellington. We've lived in Wellington since 2009. Before that we were in Auckland and I'm originally from Taranaki. I love the outdoors and try to have outdoor adventures as often as I can, including with the family when they're up for it. We all snowboard together on Mt Ruapehu and try to get up there as often as possible in the winter. I also enjoy the occasional motorbike ride. You'll find me in the gym most mornings trying to keep a level of fitness for the next adventure; and a good book or a movie in the evenings is always welcome.



# Jess Wood- Waikari & Nōna Te Ao

Those of you who had the pleasure of working with Jess Wood-Waikari during her time in Auckland's Management Consulting team, will remember her passion for Māori and Pacific success. We caught up with Jess since leaving the firm in March, to hear more about her work with Nōna Te Ao as she stepped into the CFO role.

Jess shared her purpose and inspiration for setting up the trust, the impact it's made, and how her time with KPMG helped propel her to where she is today!

*"The key objective of Nōna Te Ao is to empower our rangatira mā āpōpō (leaders of tomorrow). Providing an opportunity for rangatahi to understand how they can use their innate skills to enhance the prospects for Māori and for their own whānau. To show them that they are special and if they can dream it, then it is possible.*

*Our vision is that our rangatahi can dream without barriers. It is their job to dream, and our role is to provide programmes that help them to fulfil these dreams, as well as remove any barriers that might stand in their way.*

*The aim of Nōna Te Ao is to provide our people with equitable educational and employment outcomes and improve the socio-economic status of our iwi and regions, allowing our rangatahi to have fulfilling careers at home (noho te kāinga) is our core priority.*

*We do this by exposing our rangatahi to the many opportunities education can bring, by showcasing pathways from both an educational and vocational perspective. We work to instil a mindset that education can change your situation and that these pieces of paper will enable you to live a fulfilling life.*

*In 2019, with the support of funding from the US Embassy's Small Grants Programme, Nōna Te Ao ran the first pilot programme of E Tipu E Rea with 29 tauira from Tolaga Bay Area School. In 2024 we have expanded our programmes into Kahungunu, Apanui, Taranaki and Te Whakatōhea. Our programmes now reach close to 400 rural rangatahi Māori.*

*Originally, E Tipu E Rea was a programme designed to pathway rangatahi into tertiary education. Over the past four years, the focus has changed, enabling us to not only focus on 'traditional' university pathways, but also support rangatahi into trades training, services, as well as gainful employment where they receive on the job training.*

*The metric we are most proud of is our 100% success rate with all school-leaver rangatahi being successfully placed into education, employment, or training positions. This has meant that of our rangatahi (who would firmly sit in the at risk of NEETS category) are staying in school at a higher rate, completing NCEA Level 3 at a 90% success rate (versus the current 33.8% national success rate for Māori), and support 30 alumni from this programme who are currently enrolled in tertiary study, as well as a further 40 who are in trades training or employment.*

*In partner schools, all rangatahi aged between 15 – 18 can participate. This means we work with an entire generation of our rangatahi, creating the best possible environment for change. This is our origin story and over the past five years we have grown to develop our programmes, taking learnings to ensure we are providing the best support possible."*





**What did you learn at KPMG that has helped you succeed with the trust?**

Everything! KPMG is where I started my career and has instilled in me everything I take into this role. From navigating the funding landscape and writing successful applications, to navigating partnerships and building networks, building diverse revenue streams, managing our resources (tightly!), managing our team, and reporting and demonstrating value to our partners.

KPMG has given me the foundation to grow our charity sustainably, and I bring a lot of discipline to make sure we deliver what we say we will.

Follow us on <https://www.nonateao.co.nz/> also <https://www.instagram.com/nonateaotrust/>



We value your connection with us and invite you to visit our [Alumni website](#) to stay abreast of all the latest news and happenings at KPMG New Zealand. Please reach out to us by emailing [alumni@kpmg.co.nz](mailto:alumni@kpmg.co.nz) if you would like additional information regarding any of the above topics.

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