

# Alumni News

NOVEMBER 2024

I trust this newsletter finds everyone well. The year is flying by, especially when you start to see Christmas decorations in the shops.

I was out recently - and bumped into a group of former Alumni out and about (in Wellington). You may have seen the post in [our New Zealand Alumni LinkedIn page](#). If you're not already a member of this group, please consider joining - we post the newsletters and other events on this page.



Malcolm Bruce (He/Him) • You  
Risk and Advisory leader  
★ Admin • Admin • 2w

When your out and about and bump into six ex KPMGers having a beer! Felt like selfie time.... between the six of them they spent 77 years at KPMG (an average of ~13years). I'm hoping Jack Carroll was buying as I think they earned it ...more



In a similar regard - I thought it must be time for one of my prize draws. So, I wanted to give you a challenge. Send me a photo (with names ideally) if you're out and about with Alumni - and I will pick one submitter for a prize (of some KPMG swag).....What could be better than a KPMG hat or umbrella....lol. Remember my email address is: [Malcolmbruce@kpmg.co.nz](mailto:Malcolmbruce@kpmg.co.nz).

In separate matters - I'm excited to bring you a real mix of social news, people updates, events, a chance to join a training session with a special Alumni discount in this newsletter.

I hope you enjoy the profile of Catherine Robertson-Hodder - our new Actuarial partner who joins us from KPMG Australia. And on the other end of the spectrum a profile of what Greg Bishop has gone on to do after 35 years at KPMG.

Re business and the climate, in the training space I wanted to bring you an opportunity. If you are keeping an eye on climate change and disclosures - you might find the session on GHG Emissions Accounting Training sessions of interest (see below).

**Malcolm Bruce**

Partner  
Alumni Programme





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A number of long serving partners retire at the end of the year – in particular:

**Graeme Edwards (Audit)** - after a remarkable 28 years as an audit partner, including being Partner in Charge of audit, Graeme has decided its time to hang up his shingle – I think most would agree he has earned it;

**Mike Coleman (Enterprise)** - only a few years after Graeme – many in the Wellington Enterprise market will know Mike who has helped businesses across the market for 20 years as a partner.

**Malcolm Downes (Audit)** – a third big retirement after again, a 20 year period as an audit partner in Auckland. Malcolm is retiring and planning to relocate to the Bay of Plenty and take some time to do some travelling.

**Missy (Riria) Te Kanawa** - retires after almost a decade supporting and driving KPMG's work to build our support of the Māori sector – to pursue more direct engagement with her Iwi. After pursuing a Masters in Technological Futures, she also wants to focus on the development of her own reo. Missy will also take a role supporting ASB as their Maori Executive Lead – Strategy & Governance.

**David Sutton (Consulting)** – retired from the partnership in September after more than 10 years building the KPMG Governance and Internal Audit business, to join ASB Bank as their Chief Internal Auditor. We really wish David well with this new role.

While there have been a number of retirements over the year, some of which I have profiled earlier in the year, its always bitter sweet to say goodbye to friends, but also exciting to see them embark on new and adventures and opportunities.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and as always, I always appreciate feedback - insights, sightings (of old alumni), weddings, children or any memories in between.

Have a great day.

Malcolm

**Malcolm Bruce**

Partner  
Alumni Programme



# Matt Prichard – Executive Chair

KPMG New Zealand Board Chair Matt Prichard recognises the challenging environment locally, regionally and globally.

Matt Prichard, Board Chair of KPMG New Zealand, addresses some of the considerable difficulties both locally, regionally, and globally.

The current landscape is marked by economic uncertainties, geopolitical tensions, and the ongoing ramifications of the pandemic, all contributing to a highly challenging environment.

Despite these obstacles, Matt remains confident in our collective capacity for resilience and innovation.



**Matt Prichard**

Executive Chair of KPMG New Zealand



# Partner Profile - Catherine Robertson-Hodder

Introducing Catherine Robertson-Hodder – one of KPMG New Zealand's newest Partners.

Catherine Robertson-Hodder has joined the KPMG New Zealand partnership in October this year. Cath joined Consulting to build KPMG New Zealand's Actuarial practice. As an actuary, Cath has advised many organisations by modelling and quantifying their risk exposures from insurance and retirement scheme liabilities through to advising cemeteries on how much they should be putting aside now to fund their maintenance requirements in perpetuity.

Cath is a returning kiwi after more than 20 years in Sydney and is very excited for her and Aaron to spend time with their families.

## So, Cath – where have you joined from and what were you doing there?

I have been with KPMG for 16 years in Sydney within the actuarial and insurance risk team. Prior to that I had roles in insurance companies across Australia and New Zealand. I've loved KPMG Australia – and it was the people and opportunity to work with a variety of clients and problems that kept me there that long. I saw the team I was with grow from 20 to 60 people. The opportunity to step up at KPMG New Zealand and build a team is exciting and an opportunity to bring those learnings here.

## One of the questions we ask new partners is what will your legacy be?

I'm excited to develop a thriving actuarial practice which is integrated into the broader KPMG – where KPMG knows how actuaries can work alongside them. I'm keen to see our team develop their skills and see a career progression with KPMG. I love working with our clients to give them clarity on a range of business problems and aim for my legacy to be that they see us as a trusted actuarial advisor.



## What is going to be your key focus in 2024/5 (and beyond) i.e. what sort of client challenges will you be solving? What are the big problems that clients are struggling with?

I'm excited to develop a thriving actuarial practice which is integrated into the broader KPMG – where actuaries can work alongside the other parts of the KPMG team to deliver client solutions. I'm keen to see our team develop their skills and see a career progression with KPMG.



We have just become empty nesters (our boys are 19 and 21) and I'm really excited to explore New Zealand now that I'm back – it has been more than 20 years. I'm definitely going to need to get a bit fitter to support my aspirations, given I had two ankle reconstructions in the last 12 months.

I am looking forward to spending time with my New Zealand based family, doing multiple rail trails, the great walks, going to Breaker's home games and going to the theatre.

## Catching up with KPMG Tax Alumni, Greg Bishop

Greg finished up with KPMG earlier this year after a remarkable 34-year stint to become the Chief Executive Officer of Texel Air. You might say ‘wow – that’s a big change from KPMG Tax Partner to CEO of an air cargo business’ but read on and you might find that it wasn’t as big a jump as you might expect.

Greg starting by telling me how much fun he was having – in fact, I think the words were “how could you not have fun running an airline!”. In some ways, he recognised that every day is different - very much like a job he had in KPMG as tax partner.

For those who don’t know Greg’s passions, Greg has been involved with aviation for the last ~13 years, he has his commercial Pilot’s Licence for both airplanes and helicopters and has over 1500 hours in his logbook. He is an experienced private pilot and has been involved in the air industry, having a long association with the Kapiti Aero Club, Life Flight Trust and Search and Rescue Services Ltd (the operator of the rescue helicopters from Hamilton down to Wellington). It feels that Greg has been rounding out his Governance and practical at the joystick experience and now just adding the missing piece by taking an executive role.

I was discussing with Greg how his current role differed to the many years at KPMG, but Greg felt it was more similar than different and at the end of the day, business is about managing people regardless of which field you are in. Greg described his role as like the Leader of the Choir - making sure that the team talk to each other offer each other support and pull together in same direction towards common goals for the company.

That being said, the growth has been remarkable.

Greg started back in April 2024 with 30 staff, and just 6 months later, he has grown the team to over 100.

They’ve evolved from two to five aircraft and broadened the bases covering Australasia including now 13 locations including Auckland, Brisbane, Sydney, Adelaide, Perth, Darwin, Tasmania, and such far flung places as the Xmas, Cocos and Norfolk Islands.

It’s a range of offerings being delivered, primarily urgent overnight courier work (often this will be business to business time sensitive stuff which includes cancer treatments, equipment and foods) but the cargo can be a little unusual – Texel has just been asked to transport 2 giant Panda bears between Australia and China!

Not bad for a privately owned company – with two kiwi’s in Nelson who saw a gap in the market – and have real aspirations such that by 2027 the aim is to grow from 5 to 10 aircraft in Australasia and fly to parts of the Pacific as well.

The aircraft of choice is the Boeing 737-800BCF which start life as a passenger plane. After 20 or so years in service, they spend some quality time in the Boeing conversion factory and come out with a freighter refit, including a huge cargo door.



## Catching up with KPMG New Zealand Tax Alum, Greg Bishop

While Greg has had the benefit of hiring a range of really experienced and skilled people, during the start-up phase it often meant everyone being willing to be a jack of all trades. This has seen some long hours, but Greg felt the structure was now in place to allow Texel to continue its growth ambitions. We discussed what would be the challenges going forward. When we hear about the airline industry, climate change and the cost of fuel are often in the headlines. The freight industry has a bit of a different take on this as they generally are providing the plane, the entity shipping the goods pays the fuel and, in many ways, is the one thinking about emissions/GHG and the associated climate implications.

So, Texel seems to be in great hands, Greg is building a team of smart people that communicate, respect and work well together. Greg felt that when he started, decisions were sometimes made in isolation without a proper communication structure. It was the best time to put in skills that Greg had learned at KPMG. And that is helping his people to make significant achievements and accomplishments at pace.

I was worried that Greg might be all work and no play, but for those who know Greg, he explained he has been out flying with purpose – as he put it. Greg and his son Todd have been out competing in clay target shooting across the country, from the far south such as Te Anau to the north in Hamilton and Rotorua – ultimately with Todd competing in the New Zealand team against Australia and winning the Macintosh Shield.

Awesome to pick up the journey with Greg, and a big thanks for sharing some of what's been happening in 2024.

## GHG Financed Emissions Accounting Training Series

We invite you to [register for GHG Financed Emissions Training](#). This training is suitable for anyone interested in or involved with the measurement and reporting of an organisation's GHG emissions.

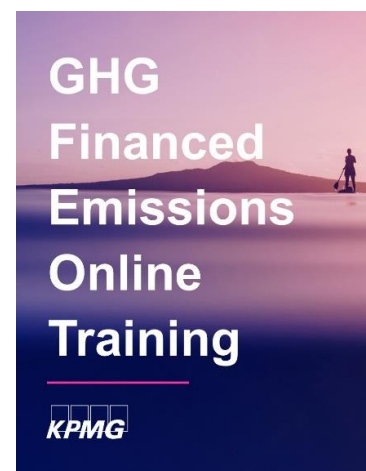
These would include those within an organisation's finance or sustainability reporting teams, investors, auditors and directors wanting to understand the mechanics and data sources of GHG emissions accounting.

Presented by GHG Accounting Advisory Services lead, Melinda Ponnampalam, the courses are instructor-led and delivered virtually, using a mix of presentation, case studies and exercises.

This series includes CPD. CAANZ or KPMG Alumni members receive a 5% discount, please [contact us](#) directly to make your booking if this applies to you. As a benefit to KPMG Alumni – the first 5 Alumni to register will receive a 25% discount on their registration. Please see below for your discount codes:

**For 25% off for first 5 KPMG NZ Alumni: KPMGAlumni25**

**For 5% for all CAANZ members: CAANZ5**



# The founding of KPMG in Christchurch from Bruce Ullrich

as seen through the eyes of KPMG New Zealand Alum,

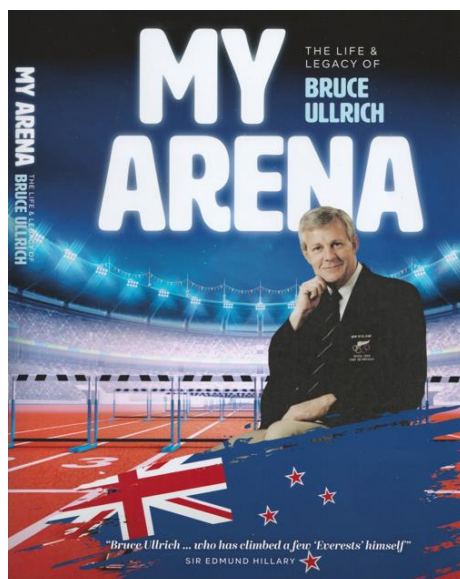
KPMG in Christchurch arose from the merger of two of the major accounting firms in Christchurch coming together in the 1980s.

They were Pickles, Perkins and Hadlee and Burt, McGillivray Mann (latterly known as Morris Patrick and Co which was a loose amalgamation of accounting firms in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin).

Senior partners were Jack Pickles, Carl Perkins in PPH and Keith Burt and Athol Mann in BMM. Keith Burt who was a Captain in the 23rd battalion in WW2 and Jack Pickles were bowls mates. Keith Burt was President of New Zealand Tennis. Carl Perkins was also very distinguished and for a while was Chancellor of the University of Canterbury. Athol Mann was prominent in New Zealand Society of Accountants affairs, medical research, and musical circles.

Other prominent partners were Walter Hadlee (former New Zealand cricket captain), Dr Bernard Battersby (part time head of the accountancy department of the UC) and Bert Bullen who I befriended and had worked for Peat Marwick – the PM in KPMG and he was the initial connection to Peat Marwick.

I joined BMM straight out of CBHS in 1957 where I worked full time and they outbid another accounting practice for my services by offering me 6 pounds 10 shillings per week – which was 10 shillings per week more than another firm had offered me. Both firms had an excellent sporting culture which appealed to me. By the end of 1961 I had finally qualified with my professional accountancy qualifications and was immediately admitted to the firm as a partner then over the next few years, completed my B. Com degree which had initially started as a University of New Zealand degree with its constituent colleges, but all were given university status in 1961.



This coincided with me being elected as treasurer of the UC Students' Association and the following year 1962 as president having been persuaded by the engineering students, I played rugby with for the UC, if I accepted their nomination, they would block vote me into office. We also had Barry and Martin Hadlee working in our office who returned to PPH and duly became partners.

Read more about Bruce's experience founding the KPMG in Christchurch and more here:

<https://assets.kpmg.com/content/dam/kpmg/nz/pdf/2024/11/Bruce%20Ullrich%20-%20Alumni%20Newsletter%20.pdf>

# Community Engagement

2024 has offered us plenty of opportunities for serving our community in Aotearoa.

We thought we would take the opportunity to profile a few of the things we have been out and about supporting our communities:

## Wellington Tax volunteer day at Pomare School

On Monday, 24 September, the Wellington Tax team had their “whole of team” volunteer day. This year, the team took a break from their desk jobs and went to one of our Wellington Partner Schools; Pomare School in Lower Hutt to help around the grounds. The team flexed their muscles by hauling trees, raking leaves, disposing of rubbish, pulling lots and lots of weeds and replanting the veggie gardens.

The best part about going to Pomare School is always spending time with the kids. The team hosted all the students for a sausage sizzle at morning teatime. The students could barely contain their excitement to get in line for a snag! After the hustle and bustle of morning tea, the team finished up their landscaping just in time to beat the rain. An awesome day filled with fun, and a fair bit of sweat, was very rewarding for our Wellington Tax team and they encourage all divisions to get out and give back to their community.



## Auckland - Grocery Ball volunteering

For a number of years, we have been volunteering to support the Grocery Ball Trust by packing goodie bags for guests attending the Ball, which has been raising significant funds for community organisations for 20 years now. 2024 supported Dementia New Zealand's ongoing research, community engagement, and educational programs.





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## Auckland - EHS Sport Camp Volunteering

On Wednesday 25th September, Ajesh Singh and Jonathon Brouwer from the Tax Division volunteered at Edmund Hilary School's Sports Camp at Camp Adair in the Hunua Ranges. The day was full of sun, fresh nature air, and lots of good laughs as the two gave support to the students going through their activities for the day. This included archery, hunger ball, lacrosse, basketball, and general mucking about, making sure that everyone was safe and listening to the camp instructors. As a reoccurring name, the kids were thrilled to have KPMG around once again to share laughs and ask for advice on life after school including University and working in a corporate office.

On the Thursday Yeliz Ruso, Andrie Punio and Olivia Dodd from the PPC Team went down to volunteer at Edmund Hilary School's Sports Camp. The day was again full of fun activities for the kids, including mountain biking, rock climbing and American flag football. Both the KPMG volunteers and EHS kids enjoyed the lovely sunny weather, being in nature and friendly competition against the other schools. A highlight of the day was the girls playing in the semifinal for American flag football, which they won. Overall, the day was rewarding and enjoyable, the encouraging atmosphere was nice to see and be a part of.



## Project Money - Christchurch launches

Recently, Project Money - KPMG's bespoke financial literacy programme designed for primary school children, to help them gain a better understanding of money, giving them tools they can use to manage their money effectively was rolled out in Christchurch with a group of volunteers delivering three sessions to year 4-6 students at KPMG's partner school, Wharenui School. The teams enjoyed delivering the financial literacy content and interacting with the kids and were given a new appreciation for teacher's ability to keep so many children under control! The kids found the section on sneaky scams most interesting, with endless discussion about the different scams they had heard of.



After the successful roll out at Wharenui School this year the team hopes that volunteers will be on board to deliver the project to more schools across Christchurch next year.

A big thanks to Kelly Speedy and Claire Self for co-ordinating the roll out, and Kate McIlroy, Logan Connor, Niki Dilley, Maggie Battenburg, Rupert Acland, Nicole Coles, Hannah Montford, Sarah Tiffen, Katherine Powell, Siana Perez, and Alejandra Forero for giving their time to make it happen!

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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.

## Malcolm Bruce

KPMG New Zealand Alumni Partner

[kpmg.com/nz/en/home/alumni.html](https://kpmg.com/nz/en/home/alumni.html)



[kpmg.com/socialmedia](https://kpmg.com/socialmedia)