

ENM Board Election Information

For the 2025 AGM

The 2025 ENM Board Elections will be Chaired by Rachel Keedwell.

Jean Hera, Rebecca Bell (current Chair), Heinz Fellerhoff, Kendall Palmer (current Treasurer), and Heather Meikle automatically continue into the second year of their two-year terms.

Sajani Dissanayake continues as a Youth Board Member after being co-opted in October 2024.

Viv Aitken has served two years on the ENM Board and is not seeking re-election. We acknowledge her service to ENM, in particular her input into the development of the Strategic Plan, Constitution and ENM policies.

There is space on the ENM Board for up to FOUR members to be elected. The following nominations have been received:

Nominees	Nominated by	Member status of Nominee
Irene Thomas	Anthea McClelland, Manawatū Forest and Bird	Member of Manawatū Forest and Bird
Dave Mollard	Alana Nuku, Te Ao Turoa Environmental Centre	Member of Supergrans Manawatū
Sivee Chawla	Jean Hera, Extinction Rebellion Manawatū	Individual Affiliate Member
Nelson Harper	Rebecca Culver, Just Zilch	Member of Just Zilch and Precycle (Affiliate Business Member)
Ellieda Komene	Margaret McKenzie, Manawatū Forest and Bird	Individual Affiliate Member

An election will be held to appoint up to four nominees.

Following the election of Board Members the meeting will appoint the Chair (or Co-Chairs), Treasurer and Secretary.

Nominee Bios

Ellieda Komene

Ngapuhi

I am passionate about our *taiao* (environment) and our communities—both of which are central to the work of Environment Network Manawatū. Serving on the Board has been a rewarding experience, allowing me to connect with our members, focusing on long-term sustainability, and collaborate with a diverse group of committed individuals. I have also enjoyed being part of the newly formed, Te Tiriti o Waitangi Subcommittee.

I would welcome the opportunity to continue on the Board for another term, particularly to support our journey toward becoming a Tangata Tiriti organisation.

I bring governance, policy, and legal expertise across a range of sectors, including education, social services, health, and both local and central government. Currently, I serve as a Board member of Environment Network Manawatū, Just Zilch, and Environment Hubs Aotearoa.

Dave Mollard

Kia ora Tatau,

Ko wai au?

Ko au noho ana ki raro i te korowai manāki o Rangitāne o Manawatū

Ko nga hau e wha te whakapapa ranga mai

Engari Ko Papaoia te whenua tapu

Ko tanenuiarangi toko mahi

Ko Tuturu Pumau toko wharenui

Ko tanagata te tiriti toku iwi

Ko Dave Mollard ahau

My passion for kai sovereignty started at the Awpuni Community Gardens where I have been its Kaitiaki for 11 years. Witnessing the value collectively grown kai can add to the community through social cohesion and personal well-being made me question the way food is organised and distributed in modern-day Aotearoa.

From that spark, I moved into a strategic role at EMN, writing the 4412 Kai Resilience Strategy and then standing up several of the projects it identified as crucial to bring food sovereignty to whānau.

I have served on several boards and am currently a member of the Supergrans Manawatū Governance team. I have a deep understanding of governance and how it supports those in the operational space. Having worked for ENM, I have a good understanding of its toanga, impacts, strengths and areas of attention. I will use this knowledge to support ENMs kaimahi to achieve the goals set out in the strategic plan.

Nga mihi nui

Dave

About Irene Thomas

I was born and raised on the family farm in the Waikato. Here I realised the importance of caring for the land.

After graduating from Massey University (BSc (Hons) in biochemistry and later a Master's degree in food microbiology) my work has included teaching, regulatory, audit, and technical advisory roles in food science, quality assurance and microbiology. This has been at teaching institutions, in private industry and government departments.

After a redundancy, I established my own consultancy business in food safety management where I helped many small food manufacturers and some larger companies meet regulatory and market requirements for their products. This role also involved teaching/coaching, auditing and problem solving.

I am married, with 2 adult children and 4 grandchildren.

I am seeking to serve on the ENM board because I am passionate about the environment and eager to make a meaningful contribution to my community. I am particularly drawn to working with ENM as I see that the overarching role of ENM can amplify small efforts in separate, individual environmental groups.

Memberships and interests

Currently I am a member of

- Forest and Bird for many years and was secretary of the Kapiti-Mana branch for several years before moving to Palmerston North.
 - Rose City Quilters.
 - Green Party.
- And I volunteer with Plunket playgroup.

Previously I have been active in a variety of organisations including:

- School and playcentre committee member and trained as a playcentre supervisor.
- Board of Trustees member for Upper Hutt Intermediate
- Professional Member of New Zealand Institute of Food Science and Technology.
- Low Carbon Kapiti member.
- Values party member.

Personal and Professional Experience

- **Environmental Commitment:** As well as a farming background my early interest was shaped by choosing Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* as a book prize at the end of my first year of secondary school. This commitment has influenced my lifestyle choices and with my husband and two other couples we have planted trees and established bee keeping on 150 hectares of steep hill country.
- **Scientific Perspective:** My background ensures I approach work with scientific rigor and make evidence-based decisions wherever possible.
- **Governance Experience:** Serving on a school Board of Trustees gave me direct governance experience and taught me the crucial distinction between governance and management.
- **Business Ownership:** I ran a food safety consultancy for about 15 years, gaining practical business and financial skills.
- **Relationship Building:** Across all roles, I've found understanding others, open-mindedness, and clear communication skills vital.



Nelson Harper - Nomination for ENM board

Nelson Harper is an environmental engineer and sustainability consultant based in Palmerston North, with a strong record of leadership in community-based environmental projects across the Manawātū. He is the founder of Precycle NZ, a circular economy consultancy that focuses on waste minimisation, carbon reduction, and sustainable product innovation. Through this work, he has partnered with councils, local businesses, and community organisations to deliver practical sustainability outcomes that reduce waste and improve environmental performance.

From 2019 to 2021, Nelson worked for Environment Network Manawātū as the Source to Sea Coordinator and Plastic Pollution Challenge Coordinator. In these roles, he led large-scale community engagement programmes focused on waterway health and waste reduction, and piloted circular economy projects such as the Repair Café Palmerston North, which continues to run successfully under ENM. His time at ENM helped establish new connections between volunteers, schools, and local industry to deliver visible, long-term environmental impact.

For the past two years, Nelson has coordinated Keep Palmy Beautiful Week in partnership with Palmy BID and Keep New Zealand Beautiful. The initiative has focused on the CBD, engaging local businesses to take responsibility for litter and urban beautification. It has become a practical opportunity for businesses to demonstrate kaitiakitanga in the heart of the city.

Through Precycle NZ, Nelson also manages waste and recycling operations for major Palmerston North events, working alongside the City Council and event organisers. His team has diverted many tonnes of recycling and organic material from landfill, improving event sustainability and building community awareness around waste reduction.



Alongside his environmental work, Nelson serves as Chair of the Palmerston North branch of the New Zealand Institute of International Affairs and sits on the board of Just Zilch. His governance and business experience, combined with his local knowledge and collaborative approach, give him a well-rounded perspective on how to connect community, business, and environmental priorities.

He brings to the ENM Board practical experience in circular economy systems, community coordination, and local partnerships, with a clear focus on strengthening collaboration and building a more sustainable and connected Manawātū.



Kia ora kotou

I am Sivee Chawla. I am originally from India and travelled extensively around the world, in Europe and Australia, before eventually settling down in Palmerston North. I moved to Aotearoa/New Zealand in 2020 to be with my family - my husband and my 5 year old daughter - during pandemic. When I moved here, I was in the final year of my PhD and was writing my thesis, which explores how collective action and Ostrom's work on the Commons can be extended to address the complexities of peri-urban landscapes. I was intrigued to witness collective action in "action" in Palmerston North—through initiatives like community libraries, food distribution groups, and community gardens.

I initially worked at Massey University, which gave me an early insight into the culture of the country. However, working at Horizons Regional Council, where I am currently employed, offered a deeper understanding of both the national and regional context, as well as that of Mātauranga Māori. The experience deepened my understanding of how various communities and institutions are together involved in managing environmental resources—while navigating the intertwined social, governance, and economic challenges.

During my PhD and travels, I learnt that social networks are key to successful collective action as it facilitates knowledge sharing, skill development, and better communication - building stronger and sustainable communities. I first discovered about Environmental Network Manawatu through social media but truly understood its purpose after spending time with Madz and Rebecca and other board members. I quickly realised that this is the place where I can find my tribe. I strongly believe in collective community action, local knowledge and diverse worldviews. Today's world which is facing complex socio-environmental-economic challenges, the work ENM and its member groups does - bringing community together for a meaningful environment Action - is more important than ever.

I may be relatively new to Palmy and Aotearoa but am not new to working with NGOs. I am a founding board member of an environmental organization in India called Eco Rescuers Foundation (ERF), where we focus on human-animal conflict in and around urban spaces. We focus on protecting and conserving biodiversity of the area through tree planting programs, providing free medical care for birds and animals, specialise in rescuing snakes, crocodiles, leopard, and monkey. We are passionate about promoting environmental stewardship and awareness, regularly organize bird watching campaigns, nature walks, art competitions and documentary screening involving local schools, colleges and other NGOs. Today, ERF has grown into volunteer-driven organization with more than 200 volunteers from all walks of life and has created paid employment opportunities. My role includes writing proposals, articles, organizing social media campaigns, developing our website and contributing to strategic decisions.

What I bring to the board

Strategic Environmental Expertise and Systems Thinking approach: With Phd in Environmental Science, I bring a fresh perspective and latest theoretical understanding of various frameworks, tools and other scientific instruments in the space of community engagement and environment action. In addition, with over 10 years' experience working in different organizations including 3 years at Horizons Regional Council, I have a practical understanding of our region which is critical when working at community level.

Cross-Sector Collaboration: I have successfully coordinated projects across technical teams, policy staff, research institutions, and community groups. As a founding board member of Eco Rescuers Foundation (ERF) in India, I have gained hands-on experience in non-profit governance, fundraising, and community-led conservation initiatives for protecting environment and promoting environmental stewardship.

Science Communication and Technical expertise: My role at HRC requires translating complex scientific data into accessible information for policymakers, iwi, and the public - work that aligns closely with Environmental Network Manawatu's collaborative approach to environmental advocacy and education. I have contributed developing State of Environment reports at the council. I have designed GIS kōrero series to help others in the organization understand spatial science and GIS tools and related programming tools, am editing our council's Geospatial Newsletter, and have delivered guest lectures internationally. I've developed strong skills in making environmental science accessible and actionable for diverse audiences - essential for Environmental Network Manawatu's educational mission.

To me Environmental Network Manawatu is a platform where I can have the opportunity to do my bit for the environment using science, technology and communication. I feel at home when I interact with people from ENM. For me it is a place to learn, collaborate and give back to the society and environment.

Ngā mihi
Dr. Sivee Chawla