

**BALLOT  
PAPER**

# consumer.

## BOARD ELECTION 2020

Thanks for responding to the call for nominations to our Board. An independent nominations consultant has selected nine candidates. Two are current members seeking re-election. Information about each candidate is listed on the back of this sheet.

There are three vacancies on the seven-person Board. The successful candidates will be appointed for a three-year term starting in June 2020. The results of the election will be announced at the Annual General Meeting to be held at 12.30pm on Friday, 26 June, at Consumer NZ, Level 5, 17 Whitmore Street, Wellington Central. All financial members are invited to attend.

### THE FOUR CONTINUING BOARD MEMBERS ARE:

**Robert Aitken** – associate professor  
at Otago University, Dunedin

**Sue Kedgley** – former Green MP  
and local body politician, Wellington

**Laura Mueller** – Disputes Tribunal referee, Tauranga

**Liz Tennet** – former Labour MP, Nelson

If you have a paid membership to consumer.org.nz, *Consumer* magazine or both at the time voting closes, you are entitled to vote once for up to three candidates in this election.

**All paid members will receive an email containing information about the candidates with a link to vote. The ballot paper will also be available at consumer.org.nz. All magazine members receive the ballot paper with their April/May issue.**

### TO SEND A POSTAL VOTE:

- The ballot paper is overleaf.
- Tick the box beside the name(s) of the candidates you choose. Vote for no more than three candidates.
- When you have made your choice, please write your member ID or name and address on the envelope. Your member ID can be found on any invoice or renewal notice we've sent you. It is also on the mailing label of *Consumer* magazine.
- Cut off the ballot section of the page and post it (unfolded please) to the election secretary, Consumer NZ, PO Box 932, Wellington 6140.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- Please choose **one voting method** – by email link or by post.
- DO NOT include membership payments or any other correspondence with your postal vote as envelopes will not be opened before Wednesday, 3 June, 2020.
- Please write your member ID or name and address on the outside of the envelope. If you are not a current member, or if your member ID or name and address are not written on the envelope, your vote is not valid.

The election results will be published online at **consumer.org.nz** and in *Consumer* magazine.

**All current financial members at 5pm Tuesday, 2 June, are invited to vote. Candidate information and your postal voting form are available overleaf.**

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**POSTAL  
VOTE 2020**

Vote for no more than  
**THREE** candidates

★ denotes sitting member

### CANDIDATES (please tick)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Edward Benson-Cooper    | <input type="checkbox"/> Penny Prescott   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Niki Bezzant            | <input type="checkbox"/> Marie Shroff ★   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heather Browning        | <input type="checkbox"/> Melanie Thornton |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Filipo Katavake-McGrath | <input type="checkbox"/> Kate Tokeley ★   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wendy Nissen            |   |

Please write your member ID or name and address on the outside of your envelope, or your vote won't be valid. Enclose the ballot paper in the envelope and post it to:

**Election Secretary  
Consumer NZ  
PO Box 932  
Wellington 6140**

It should reach us no later than **5pm Tuesday, 2 June, 2020.**

# CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO THE BOARD OF CONSUMER NZ



## **EDWARD BENSON-COOPER**

*"I own a successful practice and have*

*board experience within the healthcare sector. I now hope to bring my enthusiasm and fresh perspective to advocate for consumers. My key interests include sustainable business practices, privacy, medical/health services and inequity gains."*

Edward serves on the Waitemata District Health Board and associated committees and trusts. He has governmental and policy experience, and has been involved in consumer issues including the quality of aged care and antibiotic resistance. He has also served as a member of the Community and Public Health Advisory Committee, Disability Support Advisory Committee and Health Link North Board.



## **WENDYL NISSEN**

*"I've been a consumer champion for 20*

*years, advocating for safer and more sustainable food and household products. A former magazine editor and author, I've run a successful business in sustainable living and have excellent business, management and digital skills. I want to help Consumer NZ use the purchasing power of consumers to bring about changes in the marketplace and encourage more sustainable production."*

Wendyl is a journalist, broadcaster and former magazine editor and the author of 10 books, mostly about living a sustainable life. She has edited *Woman's Day* and *NZ Woman's Weekly* and lives in the Hokianga.

★denotes sitting member



## **NIKI BEZZANT**

*"I am an award-winning writer, speaker and*

*journalist who has worked in media for 20 years. I was founding editor of the evidence-based nutrition magazine Healthy Food Guide. I am currently a freelance writer, newspaper columnist and contributor to broadcast media. I have extensive knowledge of modern media and consumer trends and attitudes."*

Niki is currently on the Board of the NZ Nutrition Foundation and Treasurer of Food Writers New Zealand. She is an Ambassador for Garden to Table NZ, a charity dedicated to teaching Kiwi kids to grow, cook and share food, and a member of the Council of Directors for the True Health Initiative.



## **PENNY PRESCOTT**

*"I have extensive experience in*

*community development, particularly in youth development and participation. My interests are primarily in equitable opportunities and participation by our communities in our communities. I also have significant experience in governance, non-profit management and small business management."*

Penny is the manager of the Canterbury Youth Workers Collective and a restorative justice facilitator, facilitating conferences between offenders and victims of crime. She sits on the Boards of Scope Aotearoa Charitable Trust Board and North Beach Community Preschool. She is also one of the directors and owners of a small brewing company in Christchurch.



## **HEATHER BROWNING**

*"I have worked in the health*

*and disability sector most of my professional life. As a manager, and now in a number of governance roles, I have always advocated to ensure services/suppliers deliver a high level of accountability and transparency in all their operations."*

Heather is self-employed in her own contracting/consulting business. She has worked for many years in the health and disability sector and, more recently, with former refugees supporting settlement in New Zealand. She has significant senior management and governance experience and is a current Board member of MidCentral District Health Board.



## **MARIE SHROFF ★**

*"I will work to increase*

*Consumer NZ member involvement, and to move ahead on protecting consumers on the internet. I'm an experienced promoter of consumer rights in a fast changing commercial and digital environment. I have a successful record as a strategic leader and change manager."*

Marie is a current member of the Consumer NZ Board and of the Consumer Foundation, Chair of New Zealand Electoral Commission and member of NZ Media Council and Privacy Foundation NZ. She held the independent position of Privacy Commissioner from 2003 to 2014. Prior to that she was head of the Cabinet office for 16 years.



## **KATE TOKELEY ★**

*"My Board experience has given me a good understanding of the issues and challenges ahead. I believe I can continue to make a valuable contribution. I bring to the table my Board experience, my legal expertise, my analytical thinking skills and my passion for consumer welfare."*

Kate is an Associate Professor at Victoria University, specialising in consumer law. She has been on the Consumer NZ Board for three years and was Acting Chair throughout the recent CEO recruitment process. She is on the Telecommunications Dispute Resolution Council and is the co-author of the book *Consumer Law in New Zealand*.



## **FILIPO KATAVAKE-MCGRATH**

*"I have a broad*

*range of experience in both the public and private sectors. I enjoy helping organisations map, articulate and activate strategies and utilise a multi-faceted approach to problem solving. I leverage a range of perspectives including my specific cultural expertise."*

Filipo currently works for Treasury as the lead analyst responsible for Crown Capital Investments in the health sector. His professional background includes broad private and public sector roles including communications and marketing management, broadcast journalism, product ownership, policy analysis and health planning.



## **MELANIE THORNTON**

*"With my*

*experience as executive director of a large membership organisation, I can add value in the areas of strategic planning, management, communications and developing online communities, to help Consumer NZ deliver value to its members and stakeholders."*

Melanie is currently the executive director of the NZ Institute of International Affairs. She has previously held managerial positions at Greater Wellington Regional Council. She worked at Radio NZ for many years and is a member of the Institute of Directors. She has a background in radio, journalism, science, arts, regional economic development and international affairs.