

CHAIRMAN's 2025 REPORT

KIA ORANA KAI NATURA TAOKOTAI LIMITED

Annual Report for the year to 31st December 2024

On behalf of the Board, I have the pleasure of presenting this second annual report to the Annual General Meeting of the Cooperative. This AGM is to be held online @10am on Thursday 26th June 2025 and you may register to attend by visiting our website at knt.co.ck and completing your registration details as a member of Kai Natura Taokotai Ltd.

It is with a heart full of anticipation and yet some sadness in retiring that I reflect on the last six years and our championing the establishment of this Cook Islands Farmers Cooperative project. Back in March 2019 when Covid-19 hit our unsuspecting Polynesian community we spent the next 24 months reeling in stunned disbelief, at the unpreparedness, lack of understanding, enormity, the disastrous social, community & economic consequences of a nation being so dependent, unprepared and unwittingly transitioned into global isolation.

With nothing else to do we met regularly in the Arorangi Ministry of Agriculture boardroom. We quickly realised that as farmers we retained the responsibility, (whatever the global disaster that had just occurred) to continue as food producers for our Cook Islands wide populations. Perhaps our first and most important learning of that time was that we were the food producers for Cook Islanders, this was survival, historical and a genuine part of our Polynesian traditions and heritage, our DNA.

Those farmers back in 2019 also became the founding members of Kia Orana Kai Natura Taokotai Limited. The Inaugural AGM was celebrated as our first AGM that covered the period from incorporation in May 2022 through to the end of December 2023.

It is with much pleasure that I now record the achievements of Kia Orana Kai Natura Taokotai, the farmers cooperative over the last two years.

In late 2023 and the first quarter of 2024 we engaged with the Market Gardeners Group in Auckland & with their head office team in Christchurch, NZ. The Business Plan became our target to focus farmers upon the recovery & the principles of re-establishing &

developing farm production in Cook Islands foods, grown in Rarotonga & the Pa Enea. These are our Cook Islands food crops that have been the lifeblood of our Polynesian society for hundreds of years now. They became fundamental, an urgent priority within our communities especially the practices, training and passing on of our traditional knowledge of Cook Islands crop propagation, seed selection, nursery culture, pest management and Kai Natura sustainability.

During this period of awakening, and with the history & help of a hundred years of farming in New Zealand, this cooperative of Market Gardeners, we recognised the cultural similarities & differences, the impacts of our Pacific Island isolation, our dependency upon each other. We adopted our farming foundations that were established by our forefathers and handed down to the next generation. We have invested these values into KNT and have increased members of KNT from the initial 20 in 2022 to 110 farmer members in KNT by the end of December 2024. We have increased the share capital of KNT predominantly by members registering from within the Pa Enea. We focused initially on Aitutaki, with 30 members, then Atiu with 15 members, Mauke with 35 members so that our membership at balance date was 80% Pa Enea and 20% Rarotonga. The Pa Enea growth continues to challenge us with increased demand from the Pa Enea Southern Islands including Mitiaro, Mangaia, Atiu and of course our yet to service Northern Group. To date KNT has invested over \$250,000 in the value of goods and services freely supplied to KNT by our sponsors and volunteer advisors/consultants & directors. We are most grateful to our Farmers, Commercial & Professional Partners, local sponsors, commercial businesses, directors & residents throughout the Pa Enea. This voluntary investment in time, effort, resources, advice and strategic assistance has enabled KNT to become incorporated, grow our shareholders, flourish and deliver documented Business Strategies & Plans.

So in hindsight I see we have engaged a CEO, negotiated plans from our traditional knowledge of our farmer ancestors, to the current Directors knowledge & our CEO. We also increased our members as owners / shareholders in Kia Orana Kai Natura Taokotai. We travelled to the Pa Enea and reconnected with the Farmers of Aitutaki, Atiu, Mauke, Mangaia, Mitiaro and the Northern Pa Enea. With the rich history of our Rarotonga producers we have used the foundation of Cook Islands farmers who have been successful and active at transferring their knowledge down through generations to our young farmers today.

KNT has as stated in our 2024 Annual Report a total of 110 A class voting members and 4 C Class Association non voting members. KNT has a total of 114 members spread across 5 Islands in the Cook Islands. Projecting these members into the 2025/2026 fiscal year will establish KNT with in excess of 160 members in 10+ Islands throughout the Cook Islands in both Northern & Southern Pa Enua.

This diversification of farming & primary Industries is a fundamental, urgent and essential process in retaining & respecting our life sustaining practices, traditions and technology. It is central to and a major part of our retention of our polynesian culture and traditional Cook Island practices, food & language and at the heart of the preservation of a balanced national society.

The diversification of Agriculture, Horticulture, Fishing & Forestry - represented by our Primary Industries will benefit our national economy, balancing the impacts of Tourism & Primary Industry growth. Agriculture refocuses its opportunities in these private sector-led economic expansion developing a sustainable economy, culturally, socially and traditionally our Cook Islands Economy for tomorrow's youthful & innovative Cook Islands society. KNT has achieved its establishment and has successfully established itself during 2024

Whilst we move into the next generation and develop our Primary Industries we respect, preserve and expand our farming traditions. Evolve, innovate and at all cost, do not discard Cook Islands farming values. They are the foundation and core business model upon which our tomorrow's tourism economy now rests & our Country invests in the future of KNT & our Primary Industries in the Cook Islands .

At this upcoming June AGM it is the intention of the Directors & members of KNT that our inaugural Board of Directors retire, some directors offer themselves for re-election while Man, John & myself retire at this 2025 AGM. Nominee Directors will be circulated and appointments will be confirmed by shareholders at the 26th June 2025 Annual General Meeting. This appointment of Directors will deliver KNT a robust board of Directors with a combination of KNT's productive farmer based traditions and commercially experienced Cook Islands business directors.

KNT has this 2024/2025 Appropriation reached out to CI Government with strategies to secure CI Government Grant funding to match the estimated \$250,000 Investment to date in KNT by Farmers, Directors & Business sponsors. The request for a CI Government grant of \$175,000 from CI Government in their 30th June 2025 year is fully supported by our KNT Business Plan & the KNT Farmer/shareholders in the Pa Enuu.

KNT can be trusted to operate with a balanced & competent board who will join CEO Kris Goodenough in guiding & managing a CI Cooperative Producer with the perspective of being anchored by 160 to 200 farmer members & shareholders.

The KNT entity & its directors task will be to deliver an operational KNT to our partners, fit for purpose, with producers & farmers of the Cook Islands, coordinated in producing food & primary industry production to an expanding Cook Islands economy.

I wish you all every success as I and my friends retire into the mist of our tomorrow

Meitaki Maata E Kia Manuia

Sam Napa SnrChairman KNT

June 2025