

BUILDING BETTER
HOMES, TOWNS
AND CITIES

Ko Ngā wā Kainga hei
whakamahorahora

Message from the Chair



such an occasion.

This Newsletter on our official Challenge letterhead, marks the beginning of a new era for the Building Better Homes, Towns and Cities: ko ngā wā kāinga hei whakamahorahora (BBHTC) National Science Challenge.

The BBHTC Challenge was officially launched by the Minister of Science and Innovation, Hon Stephen Joyce, on Thursday 5 May and Ngati Whatua's Orakei Kainga Tuatahi – an innovative housing development on Bastion Point that provided an ideal setting for

The launch attracted a modest amount of media attention, especially given the on-going debate about Auckland's housing crisis. A more important spin-off though, in my view, was the beginning of what I hope will be an on-going relationship between the Challenge and an iwi that is very actively engaged in "building better homes" for its members in a very demanding urban context.

We are very fortunate to have the man who spearheaded the housing development at Orakei on the Challenge's Governance Group – Ngarimu Blair, a Director of Ngai Whatua Orakei Whai Rawa Ltd which is involved in several major residential developments in Auckland.

The Interim Governance Group comprising representatives from all of the institutions and private sector partners in the Challenge met for the last time on 13 May and on 31 May the recently constituted Governance Group that will oversee developments through to September 2019 met for its initial induction meeting.

Members of the Governance Group

Chair

Emeritus Professor Richard Bedford QSO FRSNZ

Richard Bedford is a geographer who specialises in research on population movement and the impact of migration on the development of settlements in New Zealand and the Pacific. He is Emeritus Professor at the University of Waikato, President of the Royal Society of New Zealand and research adviser at the Auckland University of Technology. He has been a member of the Marsden Council, has convened research assessment panels for FRST and MBIE, and is currently convenor of the Social Science Experts Panel for Superu (the Families Commission). He brings to the BBHTC Challenge extensive experience in research design and management.



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Members

Gena Moses-Te Kani (Ngāti Kuia te Iwi, Kurahaupo te Waka)

Gena is the technical lead for the Iwi Leaders Group for Housing of the National Iwi Chairs Forum. They work with and for Iwi on housing issues, promoting active Treaty partnership with Crown agencies and influencing appropriate policy across the sector. Gena also leads the Iwi environmental management for large infrastructure projects which have successfully implemented a Treaty Partnership in a PPP. She is involved in a range of innovative Boards and advisory groups including the Whānau Ora Commissioning Agency, Te Pūtahitanga o Te Waipounamu.

Ngarimu Blair

Ngarimu is of Ngati Whatua descent and has a background in Maori heritage and resource management and iwi development. Ngarimu spearheaded the Ngati Whatua Orakei papakainga masterplan and development of the country's first medium density urban village at Bastion Point. Ngarimu was a Director at Waterfront Auckland for 5 years which launched a successful mixed-use development in Wynyard Quarter in Auckland City. He is also a Director of Ngati Whatua Orakei Whai Rawa Ltd which is currently masterplanning a number of large scale residential developments in wider Auckland. He also created the largest restoration project in the city at the Bastion Point reserve which includes a wholesale plant nursery at Orakei Marae.

Professor Bruce Clarkson

Bruce Clarkson is the University of Waikato's Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and heads the [Environmental Research Institute \(ERI\)](#). He is recognised as one of New Zealand's foremost authorities on ecological restoration. From 2005 to 2012 he led a government-funded research programme looking at the best methods to restore indigenous biodiversity in cities. His research has had a direct impact on Hamilton gully restoration initiatives and the Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park project near Hamilton Zoo. In 2006 he was awarded the Loder Cup, New Zealand's premier conservation award. He is a board member of the Australasian chapter of the [International Society for Ecological Restoration](#) and ambassador for New Zealand's Biological Heritage.

Graeme Nahkies

Graeme Nahkies helps the governing boards of a wide range of entities to achieve their leadership potential. Prior to co-founding BoardWorks International, the vehicle for that work, Graeme undertook a number of public sector advisory and senior leadership roles. These included deputy chief executive and chief executive roles in the housing, local government and health sectors. Graeme has also been a member or chair of a diverse range of governing boards in the private, public and not-for-profit sectors. He is a Chartered Member of the Institute of Directors' and a past winner of the IoD National Study Award.



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Andrew Reding

Andrew Reding (born in the UK) held several senior roles in Europe before relocating to New Zealand in 1994. He joined Fletcher Challenge in 1995 and became their Chief Executive of the Building Products and Steel Group in 2001. He joined the Rank Group in 2006, where he was involved in the acquisition and management of the Evergreen Packaging businesses in the USA, as well as managing the Carter Holt Harvey Pulp, Paper and Packaging assets in New Zealand. Andrew is currently Chair of the BIM Acceleration Committee; a Director of the New Zealand Shareholders' Association and Chair of its Auckland Branch; and a member of the Advisory Boards of Dempsey Wood Civil Ltd as well as Avertana Ltd.

On 30 June the Governance Group will meet for its first business meeting where it will consider the revised plan for the initial research platform for the period 2016-19. This plan takes into account feedback from the MBIE Science Board and the independent assessment panel that reviewed the proposal for the BBHTC Challenge late last year. Announcements about research to be funded by the Challenge will be made following formal approval of research projects by the Governance Group.

Challenge Director

Early in June the appointment process for the Director of the Challenge will be finalized. This has been quite a drawn-out process involving two searches for suitable prospective Directors.

After what must seem a very long time to many who have been following the development of this Challenge initiative, I think I can safely say that research activity will be getting underway very soon.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have been supporting the BBHTC Challenge – the “people’s Challenge” – as some have called it. Even though it may not feel like it, we have, in fact, made very good progress getting the Challenge to the stage it is at now. This has been in no small measure due to the efforts of the Acting Director, Ruth Berry who has been Challenge Champion par excellence from the outset. We all owe her a deep debt of gratitude for her energy and commitment.

Ngā mihi nui
Richard Bedford
1 June 2016



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From the Acting Director

Challenge Launch

Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei and the residents of Kāinga Tuatahi graciously welcomed us to their stunning homes to launch the challenge on a beautiful autumn day.



Kāinga Tuatahi is an innovative residential development on Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei tribal land which we think embodies the principles, objectives and aspirations of the Building Better Homes, Towns and Cities: ko ngā wā kāinga hei whakamahorahora Challenge.

Kāinga Tuatahi has, for the first time in New Zealand, unlocked how to build (and fund) quality homes on tribally owned land in a way that also enables members to grow and extract their personal equity. Most importantly, Kāinga Tuatahi has had a positive impact on the whole Ōrākei community. Healthy and safe homes, combined with security of tenure, offers occupants (in particular the children) the best start to life possible.

The homes are designed to be:

- **Adaptable** – to accommodate inter-generational living and the changing demographic of the whānau that live within them.
- **Affordable** – all homes have been sold for less than \$550,000.
- **Sustainable** – significant features include high levels of insulation, double glazing, cross ventilation of spaces and communal vegetable gardens.



The development features:

- **Quality design** – the architecture takes account of both the physical surroundings and the cultural influences of Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei.
- **Quality materials and construction** – chosen for ease of construction, durability and low “all-of-life” costs.
- **Well thought out planning and design process** – one of the first qualifying developments under the Housing Accords and Special Housing Areas Act 2013 (HASHA) legislation.
- **New technology** – the buildings feature solar panels and will have Tesla Energy Powerwall batteries installed. They have also been ‘future proofed’ for telecommunication network upgrades.



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Research Plan

Work has continued at pace on refining the Challenge Research Plan. As per the proposal the research plan is focused around our six initial Strategic Research Areas:

- Transforming Homes, Towns and Cities by Understanding and Re-tooling the Architecture and Logics of Decision-Making
- Next Generation Information for Better Outcomes
- Supporting Success in Regional Settlements
- Shaping Places: Future Neighbourhoods
- Ka Whanake Ngā Papakāinga Hei Mauri Ora
- Transforming the Building Industry

As Richard Bedford mentioned further announcements on the details of research funded will be made once the Governance Group has considered the research plan. We expect these announcements to be made from mid-July.

Once the initial tranche of research is confirmed we will begin the process for our first contestable funding round. Expect announcements about this towards the end of the year.

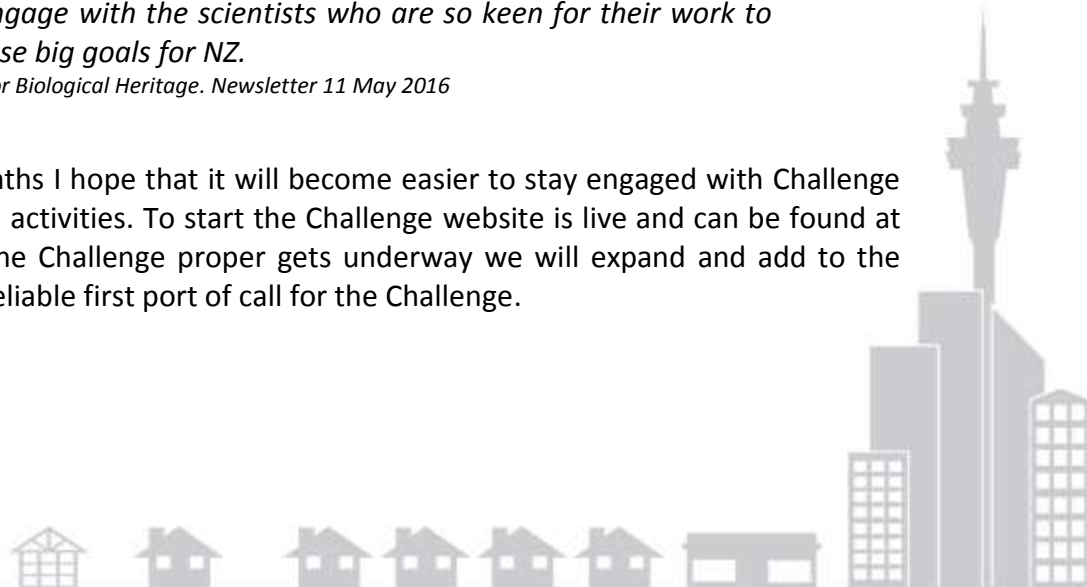
Engaging with the Challenge

I am acutely aware that, at times, finding out what the challenge is focusing on and engaging with the challenge can be frustrating. This is not unique to the Building Better Homes Towns and Cities: Ko ngā wā kāinga hei whakamahorahora National Science Challenge, others have had similar issues. Andrea Byrom, Director of the Biological Heritage Challenge eloquently summed the issue up in a recent Biological Heritage newsletter. I have copied Andrea's message below because it mirrors my thoughts.

To many, I acknowledge that the Challenge world has been a frustratingly opaque and difficult world to enter. This has led to the misconception that Challenges are an exclusive club, when I can say that the view from the 'inside' has been very different. The entire exercise (so far) has been a matter of priorities: focusing on top priorities first to get the Challenge underway, and working our way down a very long 'to do' list. But slowly, we're emerging from the establishment phase – a phase that many of you would suggest should have been over a very long time ago – and are entering a phase where we can better engage with the scientists who are so keen for their work to contribute to those big goals for NZ.

Andrea Byrom, Director Biological Heritage. Newsletter 11 May 2016

Over the next few months I hope that it will become easier to stay engaged with Challenge progress, priorities and activities. To start the Challenge website is live and can be found at buildingbetter.nz. As the Challenge proper gets underway we will expand and add to the content so that it is a reliable first port of call for the Challenge.



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Once the Director appointment process is completed and as the research programme is implemented we will also review the resourcing of the Challenge Management Team and Science Leadership Team. This will give us more funded resources to be more visible and available. We will keep you updated as the team develops.

Events, initiatives and important links

The Challenge is one part of a diverse landscape of activity in the homes, towns and cities area. It is often difficult to keep up with what is happening. Therefore in each newsletter and on our website we will endeavour to provide links to things you might be interested in and/or should be aware of. If you have something that you would like us to link to send the link and brief details to: buildingbetter@branz.co.nz

Proposed National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity - Consultation
<http://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/towns-and-cities/proposed-national-policy-statement-urban-development-capacity>

14 June to 4 August 2016

New Zealand Centre for Sustainable Cities Drivers for Urban Change Seminar Series
<http://sustainablecities.org.nz/2016/05/drivers-of-urban-change-seminars/>

23 June 2016

Auckland Conversations: The Future of Housing in Auckland
<http://conversations.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/events/future-housing-auckland>

24 – 26 July 2016

We are. LGNZ Conference 2016
<http://www.conference.co.nz/lgnz16>

7th – 9th September 2016

6th International Conference on Building Resilience
<http://buildresilience2016.nz/>

Ngā mihi nui
Ruth Berry
Acting Director

