



# **THE NEW ZEALAND INITIATIVE**

[www.nzinitiative.org.nz](http://www.nzinitiative.org.nz)

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2015**



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“The New Zealand Initiative has been a great addition to New Zealand’s political debates. It has built up a serious in-house research team and its practical policy proposals have gained traction across the political divide, establishing it as the leading ‘think’ and ‘do’ tank in the country.”

Professor Robert MacCulloch  
Matthew S Abel Chair in Macroeconomics  
University of Auckland

# FOREWORD

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When our members came together in 2012, their goal was to establish New Zealand's leading think tank.

Four years later The New Zealand Initiative has established itself as the leading public policy ideas factory. We are widely respected across the political spectrum for our thoughtful and well-evidenced contributions to political debates.

Our ideas are having an impact.

There is no one single way of measuring success for a think tank, success comes in numerous ways. Sometimes it is alerting the public to a problem and at other times it is shifting the debate. Ultimately success comes when policies are changed.

In 2015 we achieved all of the above.

We have been able to shift the debate over the long run. Our work on housing and local government is an excellent example of this. When the Initiative was established the housing debate was stuck in discussions of how best to curb demand.

Our view has always been that New Zealand's housing crisis was one of supply. From the very beginning we have also said that fixing this supply crisis requires a new set of financial incentives for local government. Councils need to be rewarded for making development happen, and punished for stopping it.

When we first talked about incentives it was an exotic position to take, but we kept making these points in our reports, in our speeches and in our opinion articles. Today we hear a lot about the incentives approach. Whether it is the Productivity Commission, Local Government New Zealand or leading politicians like Minister of Finance Bill English, they are all now emphasising the importance of incentives.

What is even more important is that we have seen our thinking influence policy making. In 2015 our proposal to use bonds to finance new infrastructure has become Labour policy. In addition, all

major political parties have expressed an interest in our proposal to establish special economic zones. Furthermore one of our members' recommendations for regulatory reform has become a private members' bill and is now going through Parliament.

We have had our greatest media success to date with our report on maths teaching, which we released in June. *Un(ac)countable* showed how, despite a multi-million dollar government investment in maths teaching, numeracy standards in our schools have been slipping for years.

When we published the report Education Minister Hekia Parata spoke at our launch event, the *New Zealand Herald* had our findings on the front page and later *North & South* magazine dedicated an in-depth story to our Report.

Our media analysis showed that the total reach of *Un(ac)countable* was more than 10 million people. That is to say that, on average, every New Zealander would have watched, read or heard about our Report more than twice. That is a powerful number and it shows that we are able to put issues on the news agenda – even topics like maths teaching that rarely make the headlines.

As you are reviewing this Annual Report we are confident that you will agree that The New Zealand Initiative has had a very successful year.

We are grateful to our members, our supporters and our friends for commitment and their contribution to this success.

We also congratulate our team on their great work over the past year and we look forward to the contributions that we'll make to the public policy debate in 2016.



  
Roger Partridge  
Chairman



  
Dr Oliver Hartwich  
Executive Director

# WHAT WE STAND FOR

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The New Zealand Initiative is a unique organisation, and not just by New Zealand standards.

We are a non-partisan think tank, we are an association of business leaders, we are an evidence-based research institute and we are independent. We believe that these are not contradictions.

What truly sets us apart is that while most think tanks are only loosely affiliated with their donors, we take the opposite approach.

We are proud to have some of New Zealand's highest profile business leaders among our diverse membership. Our members bring a wide range of interests, experiences and ideas.

Our vision is to contribute to a prosperous, free and fair society with a competitive, open and dynamic economy.

We believe that our goals and values are similar – if not identical – to what most New Zealanders want to see achieved:



A good  
education  
system



Affordable  
housing



An open  
economy



A free and  
democratic  
society



The protection of  
our natural resources  
and heritage



Sound public  
finances



A stable  
currency



# OUR PRINCIPLES

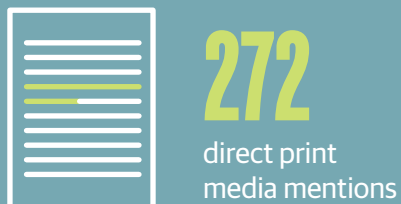
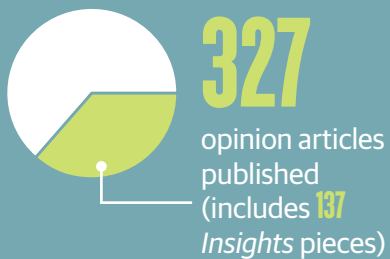
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The challenge in public policy is often not to define what you want to achieve, but in finding ways of achieving widely shared goals. Every good think tank needs solid foundations. These are ours:

- **We are credible.** Our research is based on a sound theoretical framework and is peer-reviewed on a routine basis.
- **We are evidence-based.** Our recommendations are supported by empirical, and often international, evidence.
- **We are non-partisan.** We engage with parties from across the political spectrum.
- **We are independent.** We are an organisation that promotes good public policy, not the interests of individual businesses or industries.
- **We are committed.** Our members and the staff of the Initiative share the vision to build a better New Zealand.

# 2015





# OUR RESEARCH

# OUR RESEARCH

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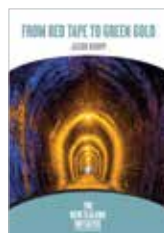


## The Case for Economic Growth

*Eric Crampton and Jenesa Jeram*

Economic growth often gets a bad rap in the media. It is accused of making us live unhappy and unhealthy lives, exacerbating inequality and ruining our environment. But as Eric Crampton and Jenesa Jeram point out, economic growth actually achieves the very opposite. It allows New Zealanders to afford better healthcare, improved education, a cleaner environment and better opportunities for all.

This report looks at the evidence to demonstrate the real gains that economic growth has brought, and also dispels a few myths about economic growth.



## From Red Tape to Green Gold

*Jason Krupp*

New Zealand can reverse its anti-development mindset and improve ecological outcomes in the mining sector, but only if central government will share royalties with local communities, fulfil its obligations to set national policy direction and modernise the aging Resource Management Act.

These are the key policy recommendations of *From Red Tape to Green Gold*, the second in a series of two reports on New Zealand's minerals sector, authored by Research Fellow Jason Krupp.

As Buller District Council's Chief Executive Paul Wylie remarks in the foreword: "Jason Krupp's paper adroitly sums up the issues and the consequences [of poor mining regulation], and offers ideas for a way forward. If the paper does nothing more than make New Zealanders realise that we are all affected by this ridiculous situation, he will have done well".



## Investing for Success: Social Impact Bonds and the Future of Public Services

*Jenesa Jeram and Bryce Wilkinson*

This report identifies social impact bonds as an innovative way of funding and delivering social services in New Zealand.

*Investing for Success* looks at the concept, strengths and weaknesses of social impact bonds, how they have been implemented overseas and the lessons New Zealand can learn from overseas experience. The report also provides a number of suggestions for how social impact bonds can be successfully applied in New Zealand, given our unique regulatory environment.

Commenting on the report Sir Roderick Deane wrote: "The Initiative is to be applauded for pursuing such innovative ideas which could in time make a significant contribution to improved social policy outcomes and a better New Zealand".



## Giving Charities a Helping Hand

Jason Krupp

We all appreciate the value of charities and lend our support to the vital work that these groups perform in our society. This report looks at challenges facing the sector in New Zealand and how the regulatory environment prevents many small, but worthy, charities from attaining registered charity status.

*Giving Charities a Helping Hand* puts forward three policy proposals to remedy this situation, including re-examining the definition of charitable purpose, restoring procedural fairness to the legislation and taxing all for-profit firms equally, but making all donations to charities tax deductible.



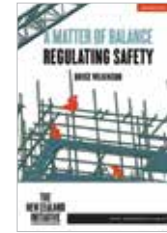
## Un(ac)countable: Why Millions on Maths Returned Little

Rose Patterson

*Un(ac)countable: Why Millions on Maths Returned Little* encourages schools to consider the balance between traditional and modern maths teaching methods. Children need to understand the connection between processes and what the numbers mean, but they also need to have fluency with those processes and facts to progress to more complex concepts.

As Heartland Bank's Chief Executive Jeff Greenslade states in the foreword: "Finding the right balance in our schools to inspire and engage children in maths from an early age is critical for their success, and for New Zealand's".

The report also shows that too many primary school teachers are not strong in maths. An optional certificate of maths teaching proficiency could assist with professional development for teachers.

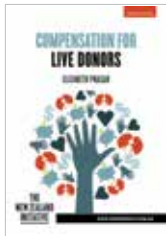


## A Matter of Balance: Regulating Safety

Bryce Wilkinson

Recent changes in WorkSafe regulations, largely surrounding scaffolding, add an indicative additional expense of two to seven thousand dollars per project.

*A Matter of Balance: Regulating Safety* finds that the regulations were imposed with no cost-benefit assessment and add an unnecessary burden on homeowners and buyers. Furthermore, adding to already expensive repairs and building costs will result in greater delayed projects and leakier homes, or more unsafe DIY projects instead of hiring building professionals.



## Compensation for Live Donors

*Elizabeth Prasad*

This report illustrates both the improved quality of life for organ donor recipients and the financial savings to the health system, with organ donation being much cheaper than dialysis.

The typical transplant saves the Government over \$120,000, while improving the recipient's quality of life. Fully compensating donors could save lives and money – a policy which is truly win-win.

Eric Crampton later presented to the Health Select Committee on this issue.



## Why Europe Failed

*Oliver Hartwich*

Oliver Hartwich's monograph presents a sketch of Europe's decline. Over the past years we have become used to Europe's debt crisis. However, the fiscal problems of countries such as Greece are only the tip of the iceberg. Europe's crisis has much deeper roots.

*Why Europe Failed* is a sobering account of the Old World's fall from grace. It also contains a warning not to repeat Europe's mistakes elsewhere.

Former Australian Prime Minister John Howard called *Why Europe Failed* "a compelling essay", and added "Hartwich provides a sobering analysis of an ageing Europe, overburdened by the size of its welfare state".



## Reducing Unnecessary Regulatory Costs

*Bryce Wilkinson*

At the Initiative's 2015 Members' Retreat, Prime Minister John Key challenged members to provide a list of unnecessarily costly regulations. This report is the result.

Members identified regulations ranging from anti-money laundering regulations to KiwiSaver and tax legislation. As the *National Business Review's* editor Nevil Gibson put it, "If the government has lost its appetite for reform, [this] report provides a fresh helping of suggestions".



## In the Zone: Creating a toolbox for regional prosperity

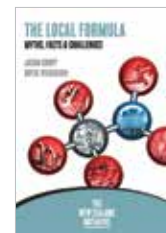
*Khyati Acharya and Eric Crampton*

Nationwide policy change is often difficult and ineffective due to the one-size-fits-all approach which treats all of New Zealand's regions as the same. What often results is a one-size-fits-none effect.

*In the Zone* proposes trialling and implementing special economic zones in localised areas. Our regions and cities can tell us what changes they need to help them achieve the kinds of growth they want. Trialling reform at a regional level makes it easier to see which changes were successful so they can be rolled out more broadly, and failures can be contained or reversed.

Commenting on the report, Lawrence Yule, Mayor of Hastings and President of Local Government New Zealand, said:

“ This innovative report ... outlines the way forward for regions to address location-specific policies and regulations and provides the right tools and incentives to meet environmental and economic goals and minimise barriers to growth ”.



## The Local Formula: Myths, Facts & Challenges

*Jason Krupp and Bryce Wilkinson*

Local government plays a key role in New Zealand as an enabler of economic growth. Councils provide roads, water and a wide range of regulatory services that are vital to the functioning of communities and businesses.

The first in a series of three reports on localism, *The Local Formula* details some of the myths, facts and challenges of local government in New Zealand.

This report argues that unless new ways are found to encourage local communities to be more open to growth, efforts to lift the country's economic performance will be frustrated.





# OUR ENGAGEMENT

# ENGAGEMENT WITH MEMBERS

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Our membership is diverse. It unites business leaders with a broad range of experience, connections and views. Members meet regularly to connect with each other and to engage with high-profile guest speakers.

At our bi-monthly members' meetings and lunches, we receive updates from senior politicians and opinion leaders.

This year we were pleased to host five senior politicians at our lunches:

- Prime Minister John Key
- Hekia Parata, Minister of Education
- Paula Bennett, Minister of Local Government
- Steven Joyce, Minister for Economic Development
- Andrew Little, Leader of the Opposition, and his senior MPs



# UN(AC)COUNTABLE: WHY MILLIONS ON MATHS RETURNED LITTLE – REPORT LAUNCH

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On 4 June 2015 the Initiative released *Un(ac)countable: Why Millions on Maths Returned Little*. The report follows the history of the 15-year-old Numeracy Development Project, a programme for primary school teachers changing the way maths is taught.

However, the project has been costly and ineffective, with children slipping backwards. The report shows how parents, schools, teachers and government can improve outcomes for New Zealand's children.

The report was released in Wellington, at an event with Minister of Education Hekia Parata and Chief Executive Jeff Greenslade of Heartland Bank. The Minister delivered a passionate and engaging presentation to an audience of education, government and public policy professionals.



# ANNUAL MEMBERS' RETREAT

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Our annual Members' Retreat enables members to engage directly with domestic and international guest speakers, leading politicians, including those in Government and in opposition, and, of course, with each other.

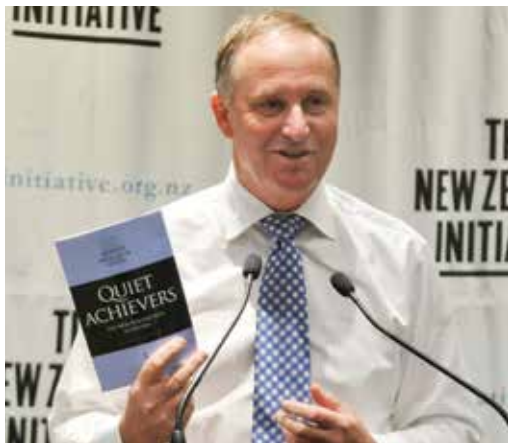
The lectures and working sessions are conducted in a collegial and relaxed atmosphere, removed from the day-to-day pressures of business. In this way, the retreat allows for in-depth discussions on the future of New Zealand and the direction of public policy.

This year we were delighted to host Prime Minister John Key and Leader of the Opposition Andrew Little, who were both able to have a free and frank conversation with our members.

Our dinner speaker the Minister of Finance Bill English launched *The Case for Economic Growth*, our research into the real gains that economic growth has brought to New Zealand. Minister English endorsed the report and gave an insightful address on the importance of economic growth for New Zealand.

Our dinner was attended by senior leaders from the fields of politics, business and the media.





# NEXT GENERATION DEBATES

With generous assistance from the Friedlander Foundation The New Zealand Initiative once again hosted the Next Generation Debates series. Top debaters from Auckland, Canterbury, Otago and Victoria universities faced-off over a range of moots.

We chose topics that helped students to understand different arguments around current public policy issues. The goal was for them to walk away thinking about the issue and to have an open mind when it comes to public policy.

Some of the topics included:

- Children should owe financial obligations to their parents when they retire
- Banning junk food from schools

- Teachers should not be allowed to contact students through social media
- Alcohol companies should be banned from sponsoring sports events
- Euthanasia should be legalised
- Economic growth always comes at the expense of people and the environment
- High house prices make us poorer as a nation (grand final moot)

The semi-final and final debates were followed by panel discussions with industry experts and lively Q&A sessions, and included prominent figures such as former Minister of Finance Sir Roger Douglas, former Member of Parliament and euthanasia campaigner Maryan Street, and Labour Member of Parliament and housing spokesman Phil Twyford.

We would again like to acknowledge the generous contribution of the Friedlander Foundation in allowing us to host these debates.





## IN THE ZONE – PANEL DISCUSSION

*In the Zone: Creating a Toolbox for Regional Prosperity* was launched on 19 October 2015 with a panel discussion event in Wellington.

The report proposes implementing special economic zones to tailor and apply policy reform to meet the differing needs of specific regions, and as a means of testing reform in a contained area before rolling changes out nationwide, or scrapping them altogether. This means that specific policy reform could be made in just the areas that need it, rather than applying a one-size-fits-all policy across the entire country.

The event, co-hosted by Local Government New Zealand, attracted a packed audience of over 200 guests, making it one of the Initiative's largest to date.

We are grateful to our panellists for providing insightful contributions:

- Chris Bishop, List MP – National Party
- Clare Curran, MP for Dunedin South – Labour Party
- Rob Cameron, Investment Banker – Cameron Partners
- Ron Mark, List MP – New Zealand First Party and former Mayor of Carterton



# THE CASE FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH – PANEL DISCUSSION

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*The Case for Economic Growth*, The New Zealand Initiative's first research report of 2015, was launched at the annual Members' Retreat by Minister of Finance Bill English in Auckland. The report finds that economic growth has dramatically increased standards of living over the past 60 years, with a range of interesting and impressive examples.

Following on from this, the Initiative hosted a panel discussion on economic growth in Wellington on 16 April 2015. The conversation was stimulating, with differing opinions, but with all panellists ultimately agreeing that growth is good.

Three Members of Parliament spoke at the well-attended event:

- Chris Bishop, List MP – National Party
- Dr David Clark, MP for Dunedin North – Labour Party
- James Shaw, List MP – Green Party







# LECTURES TO THE INITIATIVE

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## Dr Alan Bollard

*Executive Director of the APEC Secretariat, Singapore and former Governor of the Reserve Bank of New Zealand*

### **Are they drinking our milk or eating our lunch?**

#### **The New Zealand Economy in a changing Asia-Pacific**

The New Zealand Initiative, in conjunction with EY, hosted Dr Alan Bollard, to discuss New Zealand's role in a changing Asia-Pacific region. In his speech Dr Bollard highlighted the opportunities that an ever more integrated world economy brings, especially in this corner of the world.

Dr Bollard also had some sobering warnings for the audience: if New Zealand wants to benefit from Asia's rise, it needs to rethink its business model.

We may have believed that New Zealand was a rock star economy, but even rock stars have to learn new tunes every now and then. Learning how to be a service economy in the Asia-Pacific may be New Zealand's next big challenge.



## Chris Berg

*Senior Fellow at the Institute of Public Affairs*

### **Liberty, Equality & Democracy**

The New Zealand Initiative believes that people can be trusted to make their own decisions.

Which is why it is concerning that governments are increasingly telling us what and how much to eat, whether to drink, or how to arrange our financial affairs. But, if politicians are so concerned about our ability to do it right, why do they still let us vote?

Chris Berg from the Institute of Public Affairs spoke to The New Zealand Initiative about his new book, *Liberty, Equality & Democracy*, to audiences in Auckland and Wellington. He is one of Australia's most outspoken thinkers, and a regular columnist.

The discussions were highly thought-provoking with diverse and engaged audiences across the two locations.



## Gary Born

*Chair of WilmerHale's International Arbitration Practice Group*

### The Bilateral Arbitration Treaty

Gary Born is widely regarded as the world's pre-eminent authority on international commercial arbitration and international litigation. The New Zealand Initiative hosted Mr Born, in conjunction with The New Zealand Centre of International Economic Law, in Wellington and Auckland in May to discuss the bilateral arbitration treaty regime.

The regime is aimed at addressing the adverse consequences that businesses might be facing when they have not agreed on a way to resolve disputes, or when the resolution clause is open to interpretation.



## Sir Roderick Deane

*Chairman and Independent Trustee of IHC Foundation and Senior Businessman*

### Lost in the Regulatory Maze

In today's economy, regulations are ubiquitous. Successive governments have bequeathed us a legacy of thousands of pages of legislation and regulations which, in theory, every company manager and director should know. Most of these rules were probably introduced with good intentions. The result, however, is an absolute mess.

As one of New Zealand's most senior economists and business leaders Sir Roderick Deane has a lifetime of experience in dealing with regulations. He shared his views and made a compelling case for why we need to escape today's regulatory madness.

The sold-out event reflected the extensive interest in hearing from a person of Sir Roderick Deane's calibre.





# MEDIA

The goal of The New Zealand Initiative is to shape the course of public debate and to inject new ideas into the political discourse. An effective communications strategy is vital to this and our engagement with media is an essential part of our work.

In 2015 and through great media coverage, we did just that. Highlights included a front page spread in the *New Zealand Herald* for the launch of our maths report, two feature articles in *North & South*, an exclusive comment on social impact bonds on *ONE News*, features on Q+A and *The Nation*, and a joint opinion piece by Oliver Hartwich and Labour MP Phil Twyford on planning rules and housing affordability in the *New Zealand Herald*.

We seek to inform policymakers and opinion leaders, the business community, academic experts and the public at large. We believe that good policy concerns everyone and that this country needs open debate to shape its future.

The Initiative's researchers regularly write for national and international publications and newspapers to promote the findings of our research and comment in their expert areas. The Initiative also writes weekly columns for the *National Business Review*, *the Business Spectator*, and *Interest.co.nz*.

We are proud to be an established source for expert commentary and insight into the major policy and economic issues of the day.



# OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

## JANUARY

### 14 JANUARY

Swiss broadsheet *Basler Zeitung* publishes an essay by Oliver Hartwich comparing the Australian and New Zealand economies. Oliver concludes that Australia's party is over and that New Zealand's has only just begun.



Oliver Hartwich, *Australiens Party ist vorbei*, *Basler Zeitung*, 14 January 2015

### 16 JANUARY

Writing in the *New Zealand Herald*, Eric Crampton looks behind the headline statistics of the summer road toll.



Eric Crampton: Truth behind that holiday road toll, Eric Crampton, *The New Zealand Herald*, 16 January 2015

### 16 JANUARY

Is there an optimum number for migration to New Zealand? Eric Crampton talks to Duncan Garner on *RadioLive*.

Is it time to halt a certain number of immigrants into NZ?, Eric Crampton, *RadioLive*, 16 January 2015

### 20 JANUARY

"Why don't we shut down failing schools?", asks Rose Patterson.



Govt silent on failing charter school, Rose Patterson, *The New Zealand Herald*, 20 January 2015

### 23 JANUARY

The Society of Local Government Managers hosts Jason Krupp at their conference in Blenheim. Jason briefs them on his research into the Resource Management Act.

## FEBRUARY

### 1 FEBRUARY

*North & South* magazine's cover story explains the 'rip-off New Zealand' phenomenon. Oliver Hartwich is quoted throughout the piece.

**RIPPED OFF!**  
**WHY DO NEW ZEALANDERS ACCEPT SUCH HIGH PRICES?**

Ripped off! Why do New Zealanders accept such high prices? *North & South*, 1 February 2015

### 13 FEBRUARY

Jenesa Jeram writes of the promising start to the 2015 political year in the *Otago Daily Times*. "Let's hope 2015 turns out to be the year both parties can knuckle down and figure out how they can achieve the outcomes they promise."

#### Potential in parties' changed approach

Byline: Jenesa Jeram  
Fri, 13 Feb 2015

Both National and Labour have made promising beginnings in 2015, writes Jenesa Jeram.  
There's an old saying that goes "If you always do what you've always done, then you will always get what you've always got".  
While hardly the most enlightening insight of the



Potential in parties' changed approach, Jenesa Jeram, *Otago Daily Times*, 13 February 2015

### 13 FEBRUARY

As the May Budget approaches, Jason Krupp reminds us that voters are always bribed with their own money.



Beware the bribes of May, Jason Krupp, *The National Business Review*, 13 February 2015

### 17 FEBRUARY

Oliver Hartwich celebrates five years of writing a weekly column for Australia's *Business Spectator*. His latest piece deals with Greece's new Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis. Oliver Hartwich, When German order met Greek disorder, *Business Spectator*, 17 February 2015

## MARCH

### 21 FEBRUARY

Bryce Wilkinson and Khyati Acharya present findings from their latest report *Guarding the Public Purse: Faster growth, greater fiscal discipline* to a large crowd at the ACT Party's annual conference.



### 27 FEBRUARY

Eric Crampton assesses the prospects of the Canterbury rebuild in his column for *The National Business Review*.

Dreaming a new city: Optimistic for Christchurch long term, pessimistic for short term, Eric Crampton, *The National Business Review* 27 February 2015

### 27 FEBRUARY

Speaking to 200 top executives at the annual Australia New Zealand Leadership Forum in Auckland, Oliver Hartwich makes the case for FDI liberalisation.

### 3 MARCH

Oliver Hartwich presents to Local Government New Zealand on how incentives can drive economic development and make housing more affordable.

### 6-8 MARCH

Having produced a case study on the Initiative, Darden Business School hosts Roger Partridge and Oliver Hartwich in Taupo to discuss the case study with alumni of their Executive Programme.

### 12-13 MARCH

The New Zealand Initiative holds its annual Members' Retreat at the Sofitel Auckland Viaduct Harbour.



### 12 MARCH

We welcomed prominent business leaders to our retreat dinner where Minister of Finance Bill English launched our new report *The Case for Economic Growth*.



### 19 MARCH

APEC's Executive Director Alan Bollard speaks on the New Zealand economy in a changing Asia-Pacific at an Initiative event co-hosted with EY.



### 23 MARCH

We launch Jason Krupp's new report *From Red Tape to Green Gold*. It makes the case for better regulation and use of New Zealand's mineral resources.



### 27 MARCH

Are used cars and container terminals the best use of Auckland's waterfront?

Oliver Hartwich questions whether Auckland's port is in the right place, *Interest.co.nz*, 27 March 2015

### 28 MARCH

TV3s *The Nation* features Jason Krupp and his new report *From Red Tape to Green Gold*.



Unearthing New Zealand's mineral wealth, Jason Krupp, *The Nation*, 28 March 2015

## APRIL

### 1 APRIL

Oliver Hartwich speaks about the concept of economic growth to a PortfolioConstruction Forum in Sydney.

### 9 APRIL

Jason Krupp provides policy recommendations on how to improve resource extraction and environmental protections to Straterra in Wellington.

### 15 APRIL

Khyaati Acharya discusses modern feminism on *The Paul Henry Show*



Modern day feminism, Khyaati Acharya, *The Paul Henry Show*, 15 April 2015

### 16 APRIL

The Initiative hosts Members of Parliament Chris Bishop (National), David Clark (Labour) and James Shaw (Greens) for a panel discussion on our report *The Case for Economic Growth*.



## MAY

### 1 MAY

Eric Crampton discusses CEO remuneration at the Otago University Symposium in Dunedin.

### 5 MAY

Oliver Hartwich speaks on *The Paul Henry Show* about a proposal to sell immigration visas.



Should New Zealand put its citizenship up for sale?, Dr Oliver Hartwich, *The Paul Henry Show*, 5 May 2015

### 6 AND 8 MAY

International arbitration expert Gary Born visits Auckland and Wellington to discuss his idea on a Bilateral Arbitration Treaty.



### 7 MAY

Eric Crampton discusses policy and regulation influences on health at the Agencies for Nutrition Action conference in Auckland.

### 8 MAY

Oliver Hartwich provides live commentary from the British High Commission, as the UK election results come in.



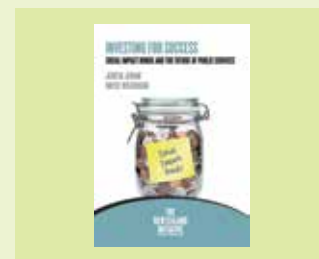
### 12 MAY

Senior Cabinet Minister Paula Bennett outlines her vision for New Zealand at a Members' Meeting in Auckland, co-hosted with Westpac.



### 13 MAY

Our new report *Investing for Success: Social impact bonds and the future of public services* is released. It stirs a debate on the role of alternative funders and providers in social services.



### 18 MAY

*Giving Charities a Helping Hand* is released. This report on charity law is well received and supported by the Labour Party in a media release.





## 19 MAY

Oliver Hartwich explains why "Economic growth is the answer, not the problem" at a PortfolioConstruction Forum Symposium in Auckland.



## 22 MAY

The New Zealand Initiative hosts a delegation from the Counsellors' Office of the State Council of the People's Republic of China. Our Chinese colleagues are particularly interested in an exchange of ideas on think tank management and education policy.



## 22 MAY

We publish a special Budget 2015 issue of our *Insights* newsletter with our researchers providing commentary on the Budget announcements.



# JUNE

## 1-2 JUNE

Bryce Wilkinson and Jenesa Jeram speak on social impact bonds, and Rose Patterson speaks on numeracy at the New Zealand Association of Economists' conference in Wellington.

## 1 JUNE

In an exclusive story on *ONE News*, Oliver Hartwich comments on the government's first social bond project.



Government to issue social bonds for mental health services, *ONE News*, 1 June 2015

## 4 JUNE

Minister of Education Hekia Parata launches the Initiative's new publication *Un(ac)countable: Why millions on maths returned little* at an event in Wellington.



## 4 JUNE

*Un(ac)countable* receives a front-page spread in the *New Zealand Herald*.



Back-to-basics call on maths, *The New Zealand Herald*, 4 June 2015

## 8-9 JUNE

Patrick Reasonover from Taliesin Nexus in California visits the Initiative as part of the Atlas Foundation's *Lights, Camera, Liberty* programme.



## 25-28 JUNE

Oliver Hartwich speaks at the Menzies Research Centre's John Howard Dinner in Melbourne. He shares a platform with Minister of Finance Bill English and summarises the findings of his *Quiet Achievers* essay.



*Quiet Achievers: The New Zealand Path to Reform* was launched by Australian Finance Minister Mathias Cormann in December 2014. Ruth Richardson described it as "a perceptive analysis of the Key playbook".

## 26 JUNE

While in Melbourne, Oliver Hartwich appears on *ABC News24* to discuss the latest developments in the euro crisis.

## 29-30 JUNE

Chris Berg from Australia's Institute of Public Affairs speaks about his new book, *Liberty, Equality & Democracy*, at Initiative events in Wellington and Auckland.



## JULY

### 1-6 JULY

As the Greek crisis spins out of control, Oliver Hartwich appears on TV One *Breakfast*, *The Paul Henry Show*, ABC News24, Radio New Zealand *Morning Report* and ABC Radio National *Late Night Live*.



### 7 JULY

Oliver Hartwich promotes *The Case for Economic Growth* at the Expeditors Conference in Auckland.

### 14 JULY

Australian broadcaster SBS dedicates its *Insight* programme to the Greek debt crisis. Oliver Hartwich comments live from Wellington.



### 15 JULY

The New Zealand Initiative and Bell Gully host a Members' Lunch. Members enjoy the open and informal conversation with Leader of the Opposition Andrew Little and his senior MPs.



### 16 JULY

Our report, *A Matter of Balance: Regulating Safety*, is released. The report details the overregulation of health and safety in the building industry and the associated cost burden.



### 19-21 JULY

Oliver Hartwich takes part in a discussion on sustainable funding for local government at the Local Government New Zealand conference in Rotorua.

### 23 JULY

At the AgCarm conference in Wellington Oliver Hartwich asks "Is New Zealand still a rock star economy or a one hit wonder?".

### 24 JULY

Minister of Education Hekia Parata provides an update on charter schools, the Investing in Educational Success programme and the future of maths teaching at a Members' Lunch in Wellington.

### 28 JULY

Oliver Hartwich gives a talk on New Zealand's Asian Century at Russell Investments in Auckland.



## AUGUST

### 5 AUGUST

Oliver Hartwich speaks to the Australia and New Zealand School of Government in Melbourne about Trans-Tasman perspectives on transparency in decision-making.

### 3-19 AUGUST

The 2015 Next Generation Debates series sees teams from Auckland, Canterbury, Otago and Victoria universities debate a range of moots over three weeks. Expert commentators at the public finals include Sir Roger Douglas, Phil Twyford and Sue Bradford.



### 25 AUGUST

The Initiative publishes *Compensation for Live Donors* in time for the first reading of MP Chris Bishop's "Financial Assistance for Live Organ Donors Bill".



### 31 AUGUST

Oliver Hartwich's new monograph *Why Europe Failed* is released. The book documents the history and failures of Europe and is endorsed by former Australian Prime Minister John Howard.



## SEPTEMBER

### 1 SEPTEMBER

At a Members' Lunch in Auckland, co-hosted with Deloitte, Prime Minister John Key discusses the recommendations from the Initiative's *Reducing Unnecessary Regulatory Costs* report.



The *New Zealand Herald's* Brian Fallow reviews Oliver Hartwich's book *Why Europe Failed*.



### 7 SEPTEMBER

Eric Crampton talks about effective altruism with the world's most influential utilitarian philosopher, Peter Singer, in Christchurch.

### 9 SEPTEMBER

The Rotary Club of Port Nicholson in Wellington invite Oliver Hartwich to speak on his book "Why Europe Failed".

### 14 SEPTEMBER

Oliver Hartwich discusses New Zealand's economic growth at the Share NZ conference in Christchurch.

### 14 SEPTEMBER

*Reducing Unnecessary Regulatory Costs: Responding to the Prime Minister's Challenge* is released to the public.



## OCTOBER

### 1 OCTOBER

*Build* magazine features an opinion piece by Oliver Hartwich on the need to strengthen housing supply.



Oliver Hartwich, A house is a home, *Build*, 1 October 2015

### 8 OCTOBER

Eric Crampton speaks on the Ministry of Health's social impact bond model at the Cunningham Taylor Business Lunch with Senior Cabinet Minister Paula Bennett in Christchurch.

### 15 OCTOBER

Oliver Hartwich holds a discussion on the benefits of special economic zones at Colliers International in Wellington.

### 19 OCTOBER

The Initiative's report on special economic zones is launched with a number of endorsements from local councils. Oliver Hartwich appears on TV3s Q+A to discuss the report and Minister of Finance Bill English speaks about the idea and the Initiative on *Newstalk ZB*.



**Queenstown's bid to become a Special Economic Zone**

**Masterton mayor backs economic zones**

**Rotorua mayor supports Special Economic Zones**

**Special Economic Zones could benefit Southland - report**

**LGNZ welcomes The New Zealand Initiative's new report on the use of Special Economic Zones**

**Mayor calls for a special economic zone**

**Queenstown joins call for special economic zones**

**Special economic zones may be needed across NZ**

**Creating special economic zones could see regions prosper, experts say**

**NZ Initiative: Councils should be given power to create their own Special Economic Zones**

### 19 OCTOBER

We host an *In the Zone* panel discussion with Chris Bishop MP, Clare Curran MP, Rob Cameron and Ron Mark MP in Wellington.



## NOVEMBER

### 3 NOVEMBER

Jason Krupp begins his month-long trip through the United Kingdom, Canada, the Netherlands and Switzerland. His international research lets him explore different versions on localism and political devolution.



### 4 NOVEMBER

Oliver Hartwich speaks on localism and special economic zones to an audience of approximately 200 at Colliers International in Auckland.

### 10 NOVEMBER

The New Zealand Initiative hosts an event with Sir Roderick Deane on the state of regulation in New Zealand.



### 13 NOVEMBER

Bryce Wilkinson and Jenesa Jeram travel to Hong Kong to undertake comparative research into Hong Kong's social issues.



### 19 NOVEMBER

Tom Palmer from the Cato Institute visits The New Zealand Initiative to film a documentary on the New Zealand reforms of the 1980s.



### 21 NOVEMBER

Eric Crampton appears on *The Nation* to discuss lifestyle taxes.



Death and Taxes, *The Nation*, 21 November 2015

### 23 NOVEMBER

Oliver Hartwich and Martine Udaheureka speak about the changing face of New Zealand at the Goethe Institute in Wellington.

### 27 NOVEMBER

The Initiative host a members' lunch with Minister of Economic Development Steven Joyce.

### 29 NOVEMBER

Oliver Hartwich and Labour MP Phil Twyford author a joint opinion piece published in the *New Zealand Herald* discussing planning rules and the housing crisis. "Although politicians have been blaming planning rules for the high cost of housing for a decade now we are still waiting for genuine policy changes."



Planning rules the cause of housing crisis, Oliver Hartwich and Phil Twyford, *The New Zealand Herald*, 29 November 2015

## DECEMBER

### 3 DECEMBER

A recommendation from our *Reducing Unnecessary Regulatory Costs* report is the basis of a private members' bill in Parliament.

### 5 DECEMBER

Jenesa Jeram and Jason Krupp speak about boosting productivity in New Zealand at the Australia and New Zealand Students for Liberty conference in Wellington.

### 6 DECEMBER

The Initiative publishes *The Local Formula: Myths, Facts & Challenges*, focusing on incentives for local government.



# WHAT OTHERS SAY ABOUT US

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"The New Zealand Initiative has been a great addition to New Zealand's political debates. It has built up a serious in-house research team and its practical policy proposals have gained traction across the political divide, establishing it as the leading 'think' and 'do' tank in the country."

Professor Robert MacCulloch, Matthew S Abel Chair in Macroeconomics, University of Auckland

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"The New Zealand Initiative makes a valuable contribution to the public debate on social, economic and other issues in an arena that is dominated, if not distorted, by government-backed research and advocacy groups, many of which seek government support. The Initiative's weekly columns are valued by our readers as providing clear and evidence-based arguments that seek a better balance between the government's role and that of private enterprise."

Nevil Gibson, Editor-at-Large, The National Business Review

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"It is a pleasure to work with the team of The New Zealand Initiative. Their focus on fact-based policy innovation and their openness to work with LGNZ and its members to advance the good of the nation is something I value deeply. Our collaboration with the Initiative on advancing

localism through a re-examination of local government incentives and funding and their practical application through mechanisms such as special economic zones has really stretched the thinking of central government to the benefit of both organisations members. Challenging the status quo is what it is all about and the team at the Initiative live that mantra every day."

Malcolm Alexander, Chief Executive, Local Government New Zealand

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"Without doubt, my practice's engagement as a member of The New Zealand Initiative has indispensable multi-dimensional value to me. Being an Australian resident for the moment, yet a proud Kiwi for life, it enables me to remain far more connected and involved with issues critical to the future of New Zealand than would otherwise be the case. The Initiative's team and their papers challenge my thinking, and enable me to make a better contribution to those with whom I work and serve. The Initiative programmes I attend give me a broader perspective than I could ever hope to get through just my own contacts, and facilitate my interaction with individuals with a similar passion for a better New Zealand to that which I have. In every respect, it is a great initiative."

Graham Rich, Managing Partner and Publisher, PortfolioConstruction Forum

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"In a country where independent, thoughtful and well-researched contributions to public policy are limited, The New Zealand Initiative plays a vital role."

Hon Paul Goldsmith MP, Minister for Commerce and Consumer Affairs

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"I often disagree with the New Zealand Initiative's proposals – but that's the point. We need more challenging ideas, quality research and thought leadership in New Zealand, not less. The New Zealand Initiative makes a valuable contribution to robust debate in this country. I wish there were more institutions like them, across the spectrum, committed to finding solutions to the great challenges of our time."

James Shaw, Green Party Co-Leader

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"The Initiative is a beacon for those of us who believe that public policy is not just some background noise but the ultimate output and whole point of politics. The Initiative team have managed to advance ideas that politicians couldn't or wouldn't come up with themselves, all the while keeping us polities engaged and intrigued."

David Seymour MP, ACT Leader and Parliamentary Under-Secretary

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“ I appreciate the Initiative’s prolific and much needed contribution to policy debate. We don’t always agree but the debate is always worth having.”

Phil Twyford MP, Labour Spokesperson  
for Housing, Building and Construction,  
and Auckland Issues



# OUR BOARD

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**Roger Partridge**  
**Chairman, The New Zealand Initiative**

Roger Partridge is Chairman of The New Zealand Initiative and a senior member of its research team. He led law firm Bell Gully as executive chairman from 2007 to 2014, and continues to consult to the firm after 24 years as a litigation partner. Roger was a member of the Council of the New Zealand Law Society, the governing body of the legal profession in New Zealand, from 2011 to 2015. He is a member of the editorial board of the New Zealand Law Review and a member of the Mont Pelerin Society.

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**Dr Oliver Hartwich**  
**Executive Director, The New Zealand Initiative**

Oliver Hartwich is the Executive Director of The New Zealand Initiative. Before joining the Initiative he worked for leading think tanks in London and Sydney, and worked as an advisor in the UK House of Lords. His research covers a broad range of policy issues and his articles have been widely published.

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**Simon Hull**  
**Director, AWF Madison**

Simon Hull founded Allied Work Force in 1988 and has been its Managing Director for the past 21 years. A category finalist in the 2004 Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year awards, Simon has extensive knowledge of the on-hire labour market and has been instrumental in growing the business from its small beginning to its current market leading position.

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**Murray Jack**  
**Chairman, Financial Markets Authority**

Murray Jack is Board Chair of the Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand and Chair of the Financial Markets Authority. He previously served as Chief Executive and Chairman of Deloitte NZ. He has over 25 years' experience as a management consultant and has worked in the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Australia, and in several countries throughout Asia.

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**John Judge**  
**Independent Non-Executive Director and Chairman, ANZ Bank**

Formerly a Chief Executive of Ernst & Young New Zealand, John Judge is chairman of ANZ Bank, a director of Fletcher Building Limited and Fletcher Building Finance Limited and is former Chairman of the crown organisation, Accident Compensation Corporation. He is also a member of the Otago University School of Business Advisory Board.

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**Chris Mace CNZM**  
**Chairman, National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research**

Chris Mace is an Auckland-based businessman and Chairman of the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA). In the past, he chaired the Crown Research Institute ESR and later Antarctica New Zealand. He was a founding trustee of the Sir Peter Blake Trust and continues as a trustee of the Antarctic Heritage Trust.

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**Scott Perkins**  
Non-Executive Director,  
Woolworths Limited and  
Brambles Limited

Scott Perkins is a Non-Executive Director of Woolworths Limited and of Brambles Limited. He is an active participant in the not-for-profit communities in Australia and New Zealand and has an extensive career in financial services. He was head of corporate finance for Deutsche Bank Australia and New Zealand, Chief Executive of Deutsche Bank New Zealand and Deputy CEO of Bankers Trust New Zealand.

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**Neil Paviour-Smith**  
Managing Director,  
Forsyth Barr

Neil Paviour-Smith is the Managing Director of Forsyth Barr, a leading New Zealand share-broking firm and investment bank. He is a Director of the New Zealand Exchange (NZX) and of the Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand and a Council Member of Victoria University of Wellington.

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**Mark Ratcliffe**  
Chief Executive,  
Chorus

Mark Ratcliffe is the Chief Executive of Chorus, New Zealand's largest telecommunications infrastructure company. He led the transition of Chorus through the demerger from Telecom, and was also Telecom's executive lead for the ultra-fast broadband initiative. In his career, he has worked in senior management and consulting roles in England and New Zealand.

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# OUR TEAM

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**Dr Oliver Hartwich**  
**Executive Director**

Oliver is the Executive Director of The New Zealand Initiative. Before joining the Initiative he was a Research Fellow at the Centre for Independent Studies in Sydney, the Chief Economist at Policy Exchange in London, and an advisor in the UK House of Lords. Oliver holds a Master's degree in Economics and Business Administration and a Ph.D. in Law from Bochum University in Germany.

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**Chelsy Blair**  
**Operations Manager**

With responsibility for membership and Board matters, human resources, event management, as well as the finances. Chelsy is the Operations Manager of the Initiative. She also acts as the Executive Assistant to the Initiative's Executive Director, Dr Oliver Hartwich. Chelsy holds a National Diploma in Business Administration and Prince II Foundation Certificate in Project Management. She has 17 years' experience providing support at top management level

in New Zealand and Britain and has worked and travelled extensively through Europe and parts of Africa.

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**Stephanie Morrison**  
**Communications Officer**

Stephanie is the Communications Officer at The New Zealand Initiative. She writes media releases, manages the publication process and social media, and is the primary contact for all media enquiries. Prior to joining the Initiative, Stephanie worked in the public relations and not-for-profit sectors. She holds a Bachelor of Communication from Massey University, with a Marketing Communication major and a Linguistics minor.

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**Molly Sokhom**  
**Office Administrator  
and Graphic Designer**

A graduate in Design Studies from San Jose State University in California, Molly joined the Initiative in 2014. She is not only the in-house Graphic Designer but also the first point of contact for visitors and callers and deals

with the day-to-day administration of the office. Molly has many years of experience working as an Office Specialist and Graphic Designer for the City of Union City Leisure Services and the City of Berkeley Parks Recreation and Waterfront Department.

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**Dr Eric Crampton**  
**Head of Research**

Eric joined The New Zealand Initiative as Head of Research in August 2014. He served as Lecturer and Senior Lecturer in Economics at the Department of Economics and Finance at the University of Canterbury from November 2003 until July 2014, he also blogs at Offsetting Behaviour.

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**Khyaati Acharya**  
**Research Assistant**

Khyaati is a Research Assistant with The New Zealand Initiative and has co-authored reports on issues including foreign direct investment, urban form, fiscal sustainability and special economic zones. She holds a conjoint



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Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a Bachelor of Commerce in Economics from the University of Auckland.

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**Jenesa Jeram**  
Policy Analyst

Jenesa is a Policy Analyst at The New Zealand Initiative. She has co-authored publications on social impact bonds, poverty, health, economic growth and housing. She has a Bachelor of Arts with first class Honours from the University of Otago, majoring in politics, philosophy and economics.

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**Jason Krupp**  
Research Fellow

Before joining The New Zealand Initiative, Jason was a business reporter at *The Dominion Post*. He previously worked for Fairfax's Business Bureau where he was chiefly responsible for covering equity and currency markets for the group. Prior to that, he wrote for BusinessDesk, New Zealand's only dedicated business news agency. Jason

has a degree in journalism from Rhodes University and has previously lived in Hong Kong and South Africa.

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**Martine Udahemuka**  
Research Fellow

Martine joined The New Zealand Initiative in July 2015. She has previously conducted and published research, mainly concerning the integration of local refugee and migrant communities. Before moving to Wellington to work for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Martine held roles in various education consultant capacities including as a student success advisor and learning consultant at Massey University in Palmerston North. She holds a Masters of Arts in Industrial and Organisational Psychology.

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**Dr Bryce Wilkinson**  
Senior Fellow

Bryce is a Senior Fellow at The New Zealand Initiative. He is also the Director of economics consultancy Capital Economics. Prior to setting up Capital Economics in 1997 Bryce was a Director of Credit Suisse First Boston (now First NZ Capital). Before moving into investment banking in 1985 he worked at the New Zealand Treasury, reaching the position of Director. Bryce has a strong background in public policy analysis, including monetary policy, capital market research and microeconomic advisory work. Bryce holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Canterbury and was a Harkness Fellow at Harvard University.

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## OUR MEMBERS

Air New Zealand	Heartland Bank
Alan Gibbs	Imperial Tobacco
AMP	Kiwibank
ANZ Bank	Lion
ASB Bank	Mainfreight
AWF Madison	Microsoft
Bank of New Zealand	Mighty River Power
Bell Gully	NZX
Chorus	Philip Morris
Cooper and Company	PortfolioConstruction Forum
Craigs Investment Partners	PwC
Dame Jenny Gibbs	Refining New Zealand
Deloitte	Samson Corporation
Douglas Myers	SKYCITY
Dow Chemical Australia & New Zealand	Tappenden Holdings
EY	Tax Management NZ
First NZ Capital	Todd Corporation
Fletcher Building	Vero
Fonterra	Vodafone
Foodstuffs North Island	Wellington City Council
Forsyth Barr	Westpac Bank
Freightways	<b>Not for Profit</b>
Gallagher Group	Tainui Group Holdings
Google	St Cuthbert's College
Hall's Group	The University of Auckland





