

### **Nau mai, haere mai**

A very warm welcome to our first Members and Friends (M&F) newsletter! While Basecamp and email have been useful for keeping you up to date with what WeCreate's been up to so far, the time (and technology) has come to pull it all together in one place. This first edition is coming to you ahead of the launch of our updated website (more on this below) which will have M&F comms functionality built-in. We can't wait to have a new CMS to work with that will let us share more sector news with our M&F, and enable us to connect with others who are interested in what our sector's all about. It's exciting to be starting a more regular cycle of communication with you. We promise to keep it relevant and short.

Mā te wā

*Paula & Victoria*

### **Recent Activities**

The past few months have been busy on the stakeholder engagement side of things. Stephen Knightly (NZGDA) and Paula were invited to join the **Auckland Chamber of Commerce Tech Working Group**. This Group of representatives of various tech industries is looking at what Tāmaki needs to do in order to be a global tech hub. The Creative Industries Team for the Working Group also includes Michael Boggs from NZME and Darryn Melrose from Media Design School.

As we noted on Basecamp recently, Paula is now a member of the [Tāmaki Regional Skills Leadership Group \(RSLG\)](#). Screen and Music are priority industries for this RSLG and Paula will be involved this aspect of the work programme.

Along with Arts & Culture and the Education sectors, the Tech sector is an important interface for the creative sector. WeCreate has had an MoA with NZTech for a number of years, and Paula recently met with [ITP NZ's](#) new CE, Vic MacLennan, to talk about how we might work together, particularly focussing on our sector's skills and training needs.

Heading into the general election getting meetings with parties and candidates hasn't been easy but Paula has met with **Judith Collins** who holds the Digital Economy portfolio for the National Party, and **Chlöe Swarbrick** who has the Arts & Culture portfolio of the Green Party. While the "hook" into each conversation was different, the discussion was focussed on how the next government could better organise itself to work more productively with our sector, particularly to drive growth in digital exports.

### **Briefing the Incoming Government and Ministers**

Victoria's in full-on drafting mode, preparing our sector-level Briefings to the new government and new (or continuing) Ministers, including our 'ask' for a Minister for the Creative & Cultural Economy. Last week the Steering Group provided us with some great feedback on what we need to include (and not include) in these documents, which will build on the themes included in our [digital manifesto](#). We've yet to see sector-wide policy (or any real Arts/Creative policy) from any of the major political parties, and we'll be focussing on how we need the new government to function to better support our creative sector for economic growth.

Several of you have also produced your own manifestos and/or are preparing Briefings to Incoming Ministers – please make sure you share these with Victoria so that we stay up to date with your various policy positions.

### **AI Hui - lock in the date! 4pm to 6pm, Tuesday 12 September**

Our **AI and the Creative Sector Hui** is our first opportunity to get together hear from some experts, and have our own discussion about this hot topic. Following the panel session we'll have a conversation about the AI topics we need to highlight to the new government in October. Don't forget to RSVP to Victoria's calendar invite to let us know you're coming, as the numbers are limited. Big thanks to Ruth Cooper and the team from Media Design School for hosting us.

### **Data and Insights Working Group**

This group, which includes a number of central and local government agencies, has been operating for few years now, but we're delighted to be able to share with you that we will soon have new members from an agency we've been keen to have engagement with as a sector, Statistics NZ | Tauranga Aotearoa, and from the Productivity Commission | Te Kōmihana Whai Hua o Aotearoa.

StatsNZ has a new work programme that includes being better connected to sectors in the economy in order to grow their understanding of data that's relevant to that sector. We're particularly looking forward to them being involved in our Working Group's challenge to secure data on the value of creative digital trade.

We'll be looking for this Working Group to engage soon after the election with the new Minister of Statistics, and other relevant Ministers, when they are appointed.

### **A New Website**

All good things come to an end.....and the technology our current website is built on has had its day. But the team at Salt Design are getting us sorted with a site that has new features including a members and friends login section where we'll post all the news and updates that are important for you to know. We'll also be able to build (proper) newsletters and to post to the website ourselves whenever we need to. Launch date for the new site is planned for mid-late October (around the you-know-what date) and resources and other content from both the current site and from Basecamp will be moved over before the launch. This will mean a big improvement – and a little change – in how you hear from us.