



## **Dr Gillian Stewart** (PhD, MA, BA)

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### **Personal Profile**

Born in the UK, I moved to New Zealand in 2002. I have two children, who are now both at high school and we live on a small farm and orchard in rural Pukekohe.

I have a PhD in international development, and I am trained and experienced social researcher and social impact assessment (SIA) professional. Having worked for 10 years in local government in senior strategy and policy roles, I established my own social research and evaluation consultancy business Co-Creationz Ltd in 2015. Running my own business not only provided flexibility to raise my family and manage the orchard but also enabled me to pursue my passion for supporting innovative and impactful solutions, growing and contributing my skills and experience to help make a difference with my clients and associates.

This work has been extremely rewarding, I have been blessed to have worked on a range of social, economic and environmental issues with a variety of community/ NGO, philanthropic, business and enterprise, as well as public sector agencies in Auckland and nationally. From involvement in large infrastructure projects to mentoring and assisting community groups with funding applications, and from leading research and evaluation projects to managing operational planning and service delivery, I have a wide lens and an eye for detail.

Systems thinking – seeing parts as an interconnected whole – is fundamental to my thinking and practice. I believe strongly that we all have gifts, talents and strengths that are not only foundations of collaboration and learning but when combined are a collective resource to make positive change in the world. How we co-create and apply these assets is a journey of impactful interactions where human, social, cultural, material and environmental improvement is made possible by us thinking and acting more cooperatively and regeneratively toward one another. To me, understanding our impact – being conscious of how we touch each other's lives and shape the world we depend on; how we value and contribute what we have and what we receive – is not only powerful but necessary. It helps us see opportunities, rather than problems. It helps us think and act in ways that consider how we affect resilience, wellbeing and sustainable development, rather than just generate results and outcomes.

This perspective has been shaped by and reinforced through my work and life experiences, which has been a journey of learning, appreciation and openness to the discovery of my purpose with others. I have a strategic, reflective and analytical mind that loves complexity, creativity and possibility but also structure, good process, ethics and the virtues of applied knowledge and lived experience as touchstones.

I find joy and inspiration in enabling; I see my greatest skill as helping people and organisations make sense of the work they do, the world in which they operate, and the potential of new ideas, interventions or ways of working. I love understanding and sharing that understanding of innovation and meaningful change, as well as helping make them happen.

## Experience and Interests

- Social Impact Assessment (SIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).
- Shared value and integrated reporting.
- Community-led development and local economic development, resilience and sustainability.
- Futures-thinking and strategic planning.
- Community and stakeholder engagement and consultation.
- Research and analysis (quantitative and qualitative).
- Policy advice and advocacy.
- Project and programme management.
- Strategy, policy and procedural review, development.
- Operational management, team leadership and mentoring.
- Service and programme strategy, planning, delivery and review.
- Social enterprise and social innovation.
- Photography and film-making, documentary making and story-writing.
- Permaculture and food forest practices in horticulture and gardening.
- Local food systems, resilience and sovereignty.
- Reading, gardening, golf, walking and cycling.

## Career Summary

### **Co-Creationz Ltd, Auckland**

**Jan 2015 – present**

#### ***Co-Founder and Director***

- Consultant – ‘Hey, this is Randwick Park’, a community-led profiling, storytelling and impact analysis on behalf of Randwick Park Resident’s Association and Manurewa Local Board (Feb-March 2015).
- Consultant – Preparation of LGNZ Awards application on behalf of Auckland Council (April 2015).
- Consultant – ‘Strategic Business Plan for Mangere East Village Business Association’ (Sept - Nov 2016).
- Consultant – ‘Needs Assessment for a Youth Facility in Howick’, Howick Local Board (Aug 2016 – Jan 2017).
- Consultant – Research and analysis to identify a Te Ao Māori 101 resource to support ongoing programme for improving Māori participation in co-governance and local board decision making (May – Sept 2017).
- Consultant – ‘Needs Assessment for a Papakura Innovation Hub’, Papakura Local Board (June – Nov 2017).
- Peer Review – Review of NZTA’s Social Impact Assessment for Otaki-Levin State Highways of National Significance Project (Feb-March 2018).
- Peer Review – I am commissioned as the Social Impact and Business Disruption Peer Review Panel member for the City Rail Link, Auckland (2018-2024).
- Consultant – ‘New Zealand Social Enterprise Research: A Study of Current Literature and Practice. Insights and Implications for Pacific Organisations’, prepared for the Pacific Business Trust (May 2018).
- Consultant – ‘Impact Evaluation Report’ of CIDANZ’ Innovation Programme for Pasifika Futures Ltd (July 2018).
- Consultant – Community-based action research and impact evaluation lead to discover a wellbeing framework for Randwick Park, funded by DIA Community Sector Research Grant (July 2018 – June 2019).
- Consultant – ‘An Impact Assessment of Community Houses in Manurewa’, for Auckland Council (Nov 2018).

- Consultant – A ‘Review of Auckland Regions’ Rural Halls’, for Auckland Council (Jan - May 2019).
- Consultant – ‘Housing New Zealand Corporation - High Level Community Development Model’, a HNZ commissioned research and findings paper to assist HNZ’s transition to Kāinga Ora - Homes and Communities and inform its strategic operating model (Aug-Sept 2019).
- Consultant – Assessment of Social Effects, Technical review of the UNISCS Working Group’s “*Transforming Auckland; Transforming Northland Final Report of the Upper North Island Supply Chain*” for NZTA (Feb-March 2020).
- Consultant – Section 32 Social Impact Assessment, ‘Technical Report – Te Whau Pathway’ on behalf of Auckland Council Resource Consents team (May – July 2020).
- Consultant – Development of impact measurement training and tools for Pride Project, Clendon (June – Dec 2019).
- Consultant – Section 32 Social Impact Assessment, ‘Technical Report – Eden Park’ on behalf of Auckland Council Resource Consents team (July – Nov 2020).
- Consultant – Development of an impact measurement framework and process for Āpōpō Studio’s, a start-up community enterprise led by Manurewa Business Association and funded by Foundation North (Aug 2022 – May 2023).
- Consultant – Desktop research to provide a situational and strategic analysis of social and economic priorities and opportunities to inform the 5yr strategic plans of the Otarā and Old Papatoetoe Business Associations, on behalf of Dot2Dot Marketing Ltd.
- Ongoing advice and support to community groups and local enterprises (facilitation and evaluation of appreciative inquiry in action, governance and policy, legal structures, business and strategic planning, funding applications and community-based research).

**Cook Islands Development Agency New Zealand (CIDANZ)**

**July 2019 – Sept 2022**

***Director of Research, Impact and Evaluation***

- Initially part-time, fixed-term contract that became a full-time position (July 2020) to support the strategic and operational growth and development of this Pacific-led community development agency that I have been involved with since 2014, particularly through the Covid-19 pandemic as we reprioritised to assist our community in need.
- Responsibility for preparation of various research programmes on Cook Island demographics, cooperative and social enterprise development, feasibility studies for the ECE and oneVILLAGE Cultural Centre, as well as writing the national 10-yr strategic plan, the ‘Cook Islands Development Strategic Action Plan (2020-2030).’
- Responsibility for strategic and operational planning, review and development of organisational programmes and services across youth development, family enterprise, culture and language.
- Coordinating Board of Trustee and AGM reports, supporting governance and decision making alongside CEO and Financial Controller.
- Establishment of an impact assessment framework, monitoring and reporting system, including the development of a CRM platform to manage data gathering, analysis and reporting on delivery and impacts.
- Funding and contract applications and management, including accountability and reporting to government and philanthropic partners and funders.
- Policy and procedure development and management to attain Social Service Level 3 standards.
- I managed the MSD-funded Community Connector Service – a small team established to assist the local Cook Island and Pacific community to access support.

- I largely supported staff to manage and coordinate the planning and delivery of their projects and programmes, as well as wider organisational and cultural events and initiatives, such as supporting ECE establishment and licencing processes and operational structuring and hiring.
- I also undertook general operational management roles, such as CIDANZ staff management, mentoring, wellbeing and professional development.

#### **Auckland Council**

**Nov 2010 – Jan 2015**

##### ***Principal Policy Analyst, Community Policy and Planning***

- Council's in-house SIA expert, providing advice, submissions and evidence to Wiri Prison Board of Inquiry, Drury South Business Project, Waterview, among other council projects and policy-based initiatives.
- Quality policy advice and support on social and community policy, needs assessments and analysis to governing body, CCOs and local boards.
- Programme manager for the Safer Auckland CCTV project, a regional stakeholder partnership to improve and coordinate the appropriate use of CCTV as a tool of community safety service delivery.

#### **Manukau City Council**

**Jun 2005 – Nov 2010**

##### ***Strategic Policy Analyst, Strategy Directorate***

- Facilitated LGA 2002 community outcomes *Manukau Āpōpō – Tomorrow's Manukau* process.
- Managed and maintained the Council's strategy and policy database, including the review and development process to enhance strategic alignment with *Manukau Āpōpō – Tomorrow's Manukau*.
- Strategic analysis and advice on best practice, integrated strategy and policy development, research, consultation and engagement, and monitoring and evaluation, producing the Council's Strategy and Policy Framework and Toolkit'.
- Community and stakeholder engagement in Towards 2060; working with local boards, communities and other stakeholders to participate to understand, advocate and act towards their sustainable long-term futures.

#### **Oxfam NZ, Kingsland, Auckland**

**Dec 2004 – Jun 2005**

##### ***Policy Analyst & Researcher - Contract***

Designed and managed a six-month research project of international and Pacific-Region water and sanitation policy and practice involving:

- Appropriate qualitative and quantitative research methods.
- Multiple stakeholder analysis (international agencies, service providers, Government officials, private and public sector agencies, community groups).
- Collaboration with programme managers and Pacific partners.

### **Qualifications**

#### **University of Bristol, UK**

**Oct 1999 – April 2005**

##### ***PhD International Development Studies***

Thesis title: 'Britain's Support for Strengthening Civil Society: Lessons from South Africa'.

- Awarded (Category B).
- Funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), UK.

- Training courses: Political Economy of Developing Countries; Administration and Planning; Governance and Participatory Development; Public Policy and Management; Core skills in Social Research; Philosophy of Social Science; Principles of Social Research; Quantitative Data Analysis.

**University of Cape Town, South Africa**

**Feb 1997 – Mar 1999**

***MA South African and African Politics***

- Awarded First Class Degree.
- Funded by international scholarship from UCT.

**University of Sussex, UK**

**Oct 1992 – Jun 1996**

***BA Hons. Politics and North American Studies***

- Awarded Upper Second Class Degree (2:1).
- Year abroad study at George Washington University, Washington DC. USA.

### **Affiliations, memberships and training**

- Secretary, New Zealand Association for Impact Assessment (NZAIA).
- Trustee of 'Towards 2060 Charitable Trust'.
- Director, Jericho Road Orchards Ltd.
- Associate member of the International Association Impact Assessment (IAIA) and the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ).
- Certificate of training in Social Impact Assessment (EIANZ) and IAP2 certificate in public participation.
- Training and expertise in Health Impact Assessment, Social Return on Investment, Appreciative inquiry, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), the Natural Step, and Participatory Action Research.

### **References**

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