



## Matariki Rising Star series 2019

Nau mai, haere mai Matariki! In honour of Matariki this year, GWN is recognising 9 wāhine whetū (rising women stars) in the public sector.

### Helen Potiki



*"Courage doesn't always roar. It is sometimes that quiet voice that whispers 'I will give it another go tomorrow ...' "*

Helen was appointed as the Deputy Chief Executive of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development in June this year. She has also served as Chief Executive of the Ministry for Women, New Zealand, and Director of the Office of the Chief Executive at the Department of Internal Affairs. In 2018, Helen was granted a Leadership Development Centre Fellowship, for which she explored how flexible work can enable public sectors to deliver effective services to diverse communities.

Helen was also New Zealand's lead negotiator for the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations in 2016.

### Martine Hartley-Parsons



*"Our galaxies are full of stars; in order to see them all you may need to change your lens."*

Martine was appointed to the role of Diversity and Inclusion Manager at the State Services Commission in June 2019. Prior to this she had an extensive career with Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children spanning roles in front line social work practice through to designing professional practice development programmes and pathways for social workers.

Martine has had a strong interest in diversity and inclusion since her childhood.



## Ashleigh Bywater-Schulze



*"Do something today that your future self will thank you for."*

Ashleigh is a Business Continuity Advisor at the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) and the co-convenor of the IPANZ New Professionals. She also serves on the IPANZ New Zealand governing board and is a member of the Women in the Public Sector Summit Steering Group. Ashleigh's work and dedication to creating a supportive public sector for future public servants was recognised by the Business Continuity Institute (BCI) in May 2019. She credits women's networks for their support and the opportunity to build

connections through those networks as a huge career asset.

## Dr Lupe Taumoepeau



*"Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other one thing".*

*– Abraham Lincoln*

Tokilupe Taumoepeau is New Zealand's first woman and first Tongan vascular surgeon. She is a consultant with Capital & Coast District Health Board, and co-founding director of Specialist Vein Health. In 2013, she was awarded a Royal Australian College of Surgeons fellowship.

As a Tongan woman, Lupe feels strongly about encouraging more women and Pacific Islanders into surgical specialities and hopes one day to use her skills to help the people of the Pacific.

## Matalena Leaupepe



*"I am passionate about the public service because it aligns with my own values of 'tautua' (service) fa'aaloalo (respect) and alofa (love)."*

Matalena was the driving force behind the launch of the highly successful Tupu Tai Internship Programme aimed at increasing the flow of Pacific people into public sector policy. In November, 2018 she was one of five inaugural recipients of New Zealand's Public Service Medal for her work building relationships between Pasifika and the public sector.



Matalena was made the Director of Government Centre Dispute Resolutions in October, 2018. She “absolutely loves being a public servant” and has been acknowledged for epitomising the Samoan expression, “O le ala ile pule o le tautua’ – ‘the pathway to leadership is through service’.

## Martine Udahemuka



*“Be wary of success. Don't let it get to your head, instead be reminded of where you came from and make sure you send the ladder back down.”*

In her 10-year career in social research and education policy, Martine has worked for Massey University, the Ministry of Social Development (MSD), the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade and worked as a Research Fellow in education policy for the The New Zealand Initiative. Her experience in childhood as a refugee from Rwanda has greatly inspired her career and life choices. In 2010 she was named Air New Zealand’s Inspiring New Zealander and in 2012, the Toyota New Zealand Limited Believe Scholarship recipient in recognition of her mahi in the former refugee community.

Martine has also served on the boards of several not-for-profit and community-led organisations including the Multicultural Learning and Support Services, Manawatu Refugee Voice, and the New Zealand National Refugee Network. She is the founder of LINK and MentorShip; both focused on supporting former refugees (New Kiwis) to thrive in New Zealand. Martine currently works as a Policy Analyst for the Ministry of Education.

## Sanchia Jacobs



*“He aha te mea nui o te ao? He tāngata, he tāngata, he tāngata.”*

Sanchia took up the role as Chief Executive at Central Otago District Council in February 2018, only the second woman to do so. In building the best possible leadership team she could for the Central Otago District Council, she created the first all-female council executive in New Zealand, proudly appointing the best candidates to the roles.

Sanchia’s career has traversed the globe, primarily in international, economic and operational roles in both central and local government. She was a New Zealand diplomat and trade negotiator with MFAT prior to taking up a series of leadership positions at Auckland Council, including the senior role of Executive Officer Operations. She was a recipient of an Eisenhower Fellowship in 2015 and was



nominated for the Future Auckland Leaders Programme in 2013. Sanchia is driven by a desire to effect positive change and leave a legacy for future generations.

## Holly Norton



*"Everyone has a skill that can make a difference."*

Holly is the founder of the web app Collaborate, which connects volunteers to volunteer opportunities in charities, community groups and projects. Her idea for Collaborate came while researching Future of Work trends as part of a cross agency team at MBIE in 2014.

Holly received a Local Hero Award as part of the 2019 Kiwi Bank New Zealander of the Year Awards. In 2019, she was also a finalist for Young Tech High Achiever, a finalist for MYOB Woman Entrepreneur of the Year, and a nominee for Young New Zealander of the Year in 2019 (and in 2018). She was also a finalist for the Millennial on a Mission award for the Sustainable Business Network Awards in 2018. Collaborate has also been chosen as one of MFE's action partners this year.

Holly is a Senior Policy Advisor in the Skills and Employment Policy Team at MBIE.

## Carla White



*"I derive the most satisfaction from knowing that our work touches on almost every aspect of our communities."*

Carla comes to the public sector with a well-established foundation in international leadership roles in the private sector, including hotel management and corporate hospitality. She spent the first few years in the public sector further building her leadership skills and in 2018 took the role of Manager Service Delivery – Identity and Passports at the Department of Internal Affairs.

In her role, Carla leads a portfolio of service delivery teams with 45 members, and her long expertise in customer-facing delivery ensures that the crucial front-line work her team does is high-performing, adaptable and accessible. As a New Zealander of Lebanese decent, Carla's work has helped her reconnect with what it means to be a proud Kiwi.