

# MAUI VENTURE SUMMIT

## SPEAKER PROFILE

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### **Sir Ian Taylor** *Animation Research Limited*

Ngāti Kahungunu

Sir Ian Taylor KNZM LLB is a pioneering New Zealand businessman, technologist and former television presenter. Born in Kaeo and raised in Raupunga, he holds Ngāti Kahungunu and Ngā puhi whakapapa. He founded Animation Research Limited in 1990 and built it into a global leader in computer graphics and sports technology. Knighted in 2021, his honours include the NZ Technology Hall of Fame induction, New Zealander of the Year (2010) and multiple top business awards.



### **Bowen Pan** *Creator of Facebook Marketplace*

Bowen is a product and technology leader with deep experience building marketplaces, consumer platforms, and B2B SaaS products across global tech and media companies. He is best known as the founder of Facebook Marketplace and driving major product initiatives at Trade Me, Facebook Gaming, Stripe, and VP for Common Room. He now advises startups and corporates as well as serving on boards including NZME and the University of Auckland Business School. Bowen holds a Bachelor of Engineering (First Class Honours) and a Bachelor of Property from the University of Auckland, and an MBA from Stanford Graduate School of Business.



### **Jamie Tuuta** *National Iwi Chairs – Pou Tahua*

Taranaki Whanui

Jamie, born and raised on his whānau farm in Ōkoki, Urenui, is proudly connected to several Taranaki iwi. Deeply guided by Mounga Taranaki — his tūpuna — he carries a strong sense of kaitiakitanga as Chair of Taranaki Mounga. With over 20 years' governance experience, Jamie also chairs Tourism New Zealand, Māori Television, Venture Taranaki, Ka Uruora and Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Mutunga, and serves as a director of Moana Ltd. He is a Sir Peter Blake Award and Māori Young Business Leader recipient.

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### **Adrianne Smith** *BlinkPay*

Ngāti Hine, Ngāpuhi

Adrian is the Co-Founder and Chief Product Officer of BlinkPay, a Māori-owned fintech company creating modern, secure and affordable payment solutions for Aotearoa. Of Ngāpuhi descent, Adrian grew up in Kirikiriroa and now lives in Te Teko. A graduate of the University of Waikato with a Master of Management Studies, he has devoted his career to digital innovation within financial services. Passionate about open banking, Adrian champions technology that simplifies payments and strengthens trust between banks, businesses and communities.



### **Guy Royal** *Māui Toa - Partner*

Ngāti Raukawa, Parehauraki, Ngāti Hine, Ngāpuhi.

Guy has over 20 years as a commercial lawyer and strategic adviser on investment in Aotearoa, Hong Kong, Vietnam and the United Kingdom. Guy specialises in the Māori commercial sector in Aotearoa and has held governance roles in the forestry, investment, rail and infrastructure sectors. He currently sits on boards in venture capital, climate tech, Iwi investment and retail.



### **Teresa Pollard** *Investor and digital champion*

Ngāti Kahu

Teresa Pollard is a technology and governance professional with over 25 years' experience across local and international sectors, including Singapore and New York. Skilled in digital strategy, user experience, and emerging technologies, she helps organisations navigate complex challenges and unlock sustainable growth. Teresa whakapapas to Ngāti Kahu ki Whangaroa, Ngāti Horahia, and Ngāti Kauwhata. Teresa is on the Board of WNT Venture Capital, and is an experience operator.

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**Boyd Skocivich** *Chief Economic Development & Investment Officer at Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira.*

Ngati Toa, Ngati Kahungunu

Boyd is the current Chief Investment Officer at Ngati Toa Rangatira. He has extensive experience as an Executive Leader, Director, and Business Advisor across Māori, public, and private sectors. His expertise spans business transformation, strategic management, and deal advisory. An award-winning business leader, Boyd holds advanced tertiary and industry qualifications in Executive Leadership, Commercial Governance, Business Management, and Technology.



**Angus Blair** *Outset Ventures – Partner*

Angus Blair is a General Partner at Outset Ventures and co-leads the firm's investment team. Over five years he has driven Outset's rise to the forefront of deep-tech investing in Australasia, leading dozens of early-stage deals and shaping Fund I into a top-decile performer. Angus sits on both boards and continues to guide their global growth. Known for combining technical depth with decisive execution, Angus is regarded as one of New Zealand's leading deep-tech investors and a key architect of the country's next generation of science-based companies



**Dr. Ratu Mataira** *OpenStar Technologies – Founder*

Ngati Kahungunu, Ngati Porou

The co-inventor of our key enabling technologies, Ratu founded OpenStar recognising the astronomical potential of the dipole for the future of fusion. Blending his background, a PhD in Physics and a Major in Economics, he is the driving force behind OpenStar's growth. He has created a world-class company that understands a viable fusion future not only needs physics excellence but a bankable commercial model baked into its core.



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### **Suse Reynolds** *Investor and sector champion*

Suse Reynolds (MInstD) is Executive Chair of the Angel Association New Zealand (AANZ), the national body representing early-stage investment. A founder of AngelHQ, Wellington's angel network, she has led the growth of New Zealand's angel investment ecosystem since 2008. With a portfolio spanning over 20 ventures, Suse also serves on the boards of CreativeHQ and Project Crimson Trust. Her background includes senior roles at Grow Wellington, the Trade Liberalisation Network, and a decade with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



### **James Pinner** *Chief Investment Officer NZGCP*

James Pinner is the Chief Investment Officer at New Zealand Growth Capital Partners (NZGCP), bringing extensive corporate finance experience across early-stage ventures and multinational organisations worldwide. A Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and a member of the New Zealand Institute of Directors, he has deep expertise in debt and equity financing, mergers and acquisitions, capital restructuring, and due diligence. His global career spans Technology, Media, Power, Natural Resources, Biotech, Real Estate, and Islamic Finance.



### **Aaron Ward** *Ask Nicely and Huckleberry - Founder*

Ngati Maru

Aaron Ward is the co-founder and CEO of Huckleberry, an AI-powered 360 feedback platform that helps people build their careers with feedback from teammates. Previously, he was co-founder and CEO of AskNicely, a global leader in customer feedback for service businesses which raised USD\$50m of venture funding and won NZ Hi-Tech Awards for Emerging Company of the Year and Māori Company of the Year.

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### **Annabelle Glazewski** *Investment Director – Investor Migration*

Annabelle Glazewski (Kāi Tahu, Kāti Māmoe, Waitaha) is the Investment Director for Investor Migration at Invest New Zealand, leading the Active Investor Plus visa programme. With over 20 years' experience across global investment funds and private wealth management in London, Australia, and Aotearoa, she specialises in attracting high-value investor migrants and fostering impactful investments. Annabelle holds Law and Management degrees from the University of Waikato and has held senior roles with Goldman Sachs, RBC BlueBay, and Quayside Holdings.



### **Marcel van den Assum** *Investor and Director*

Marcel van den Assum is a professional director, independent advisor, and investor with extensive experience across technology, agritech, and government sectors. He chairs Flick Electric, Sprout Agritech, and Wipster, and serves as a director of CropX and Education Payroll, alongside advisory roles with Inland Revenue and the Ministry of Health. A former Chair of the Angel Association of NZ and CIO at Fonterra, Marcel is committed to growing innovative companies and advancing Aotearoa's economic potential.



### **Kylah Morrison** *Partnership Manager – Sprout*

Kylah has a proven ability to provide strategic oversight during complex energy transitions, with technical understanding of renewable hydrogen, critical minerals, future of food and cleantech commercialisation. Broad visibility of ESG reporting, decarbonisation and AI solutions. As a former CEO, and business founder, I have worked with or in private companies, Indigenous organisations, not-for-profits, and start-ups across New Zealand, Australia and the United Kingdom, most recently addressing the clean energy transition