

## LOU SANSON - SANCTUARY PATRON

The Brook Waimārama Sanctuary is pleased to announce that Lou Sanson QSM has accepted the position of BWST patron.

Some of you may recognise Lou as the former Director General of the Department of Conservation, where he led a significant change in the department's commercial focus through the international tourism boom years of 2014-2020. This included introducing novel approaches to extracting commercial value from visitors to New Zealand's outstanding natural assets including differential fees, compliance, international visitor levy, resource rentals.

Lou led changes to the Department of Conservation strategy and operating models to attain the Randstad Award for the most attractive employer in New Zealand for five years in a row and number four in New Zealand's Public Sector Reputation Index. He has a deep understanding of science and technology and the ability to utilise these together to achieve significant environmental outcomes. Lou is highly skilled in organisational design, operating systems and an acknowledged leader in health and safety at the heart of culture.

Lou's particular skills in working with philanthropic and commercial partners (Air NZ, Fonterra, Meridian, Genesis, Fulton Hogan) have attained win-win ESG Leadership outcomes for New Zealand and commercial entities where our natural resources sit at the heart of our economy.

Throughout his 40-year career, Lou's work has had a big environmental focus with extensive leadership experience in the natural resources sector. Trained as an Environmental Forester he has achieved a distinguished career leading and transforming two of New Zealand's most iconic organisations, Antarctica New Zealand, and the Department of Conservation. Through extensive international diplomacy and strategic leadership, he led the New Zealand Antarctic Research programme to being acknowledged as one of the top five programmes in the world from a strategic influence perspective.

Lou has also played a critical role in the establishment of the NZ Predator Free movement and establishment of Predator Free 2050. He has strong associations with all of NZ's fenced Predator Free sanctuaries, so is a fantastic fit in helping to ensure the success of the Brook Waimārama Sanctuary. Lou brings with him exceptional collaboration and relationship skills thanks to his extensive track record in environmental and tourism sector leadership.



Lou has a Bachelor of Forestry Science (Hons) and was top graduate at University of Canterbury. He has completed a number of executive development programmes at Harvard University, Stanford University, Australia – New Zealand School of Government and New Zealand Institute of Strategic Leadership. In the 2015 New Years' Honours list he was awarded the New Zealand Antarctic Polar Medal (APM) for services to Antarctic science and diplomacy.

**Lou visits Nelson regularly, in the coming months we will organise meetings for supporters, volunteers, staff and trustees to meet with Lou.**