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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.



INZONE EDUCATION FOUNDATION BOARD APPOINTS NEW CHAIR

InZone Education Foundation is delighted to announce the appointment of a new InZone Board Chair, Dr Jim Mather, who will assume the role on March 1st.

The InZone Education Foundation is a New Zealand registered charitable trust that aims to inspire and support Māori and Pasifika youth to take their place in the cultural, economic and civic leadership of Aotearoa New Zealand.

InZone provides Māori and Pasifika youth with the opportunity to immerse themselves in culturally supportive residential and school communities with high expectations and a focus on achievement in their academic, sporting and cultural activities.

In announcing Jim's appointment current Board Chair and founding trustee, Deborah George, acknowledged the efforts of many who had contributed to the development of InZone over the past decade.

"Since 2011 the InZone kaupapa has evolved from having a primary focus on providing access to top performing schools to a pastoral care model where our commitment to Mātauranga Māori has made us the hostel of choice for Māori and Pasifika families. I have been privileged to hold the kaitiaki role and am honoured to be succeeded by Jim who has proven to be an outstanding leader in Māori, Pasifika and mainstream organisations".

Some years ago a group of Auckland Grammar Alumni came to realize that Māori and Pasifika numbers at the school had fallen away as a result of zoning legislation introduced in 2001. The experience they had as young men was no longer available to a demographic that was being excluded from the School on socio-economic grounds. Following a lot of hard work and wide community support, InZone was founded under the umbrella of the United Māori Mission and opened its doors to the first cohort of 28 boys in 2011.

Subsequent to this a new Charitable Trust (InZone Education Foundation) was established, led by Matt Whineray as Chair of the first Board of Trustees. Matt was joined by Simon Rupapera (Ngāti Kahu, Ngāruahine), Terrance Wallace, Deborah George, James Mace (Ngāti Porou), Richard Wells and Sam Ruha (Te Whānau ā Apanui) – most of whom remain actively involved in the Foundation today.

Dr Mather says he feels humbled and honoured to be following in the footsteps of the many leaders and whānau who have contributed to an amazing organisation.

“The whakataukī ‘Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini’ emphasises the philosophy that success is the result of the efforts of many and not specific individuals. As the new Chair, I am committed to drawing on all of the collective strengths of our InZone whānau, tangata whenua, key stakeholders and partner organisations to ensure we continue to develop outstanding Māori and Pasifika leaders of the future who are strong both academically and culturally.”

Rēnata Blair, Director of the Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Trust says he is very pleased with the appointment of Dr Jim Mather as Chair of the Inzone Education Foundation. “We look forward to working with Jim and the InZone Board to further advance the aspirations of Māori success in education” he said

Jim is passionate about seeing Māori and Pasifika represented in the Economic, Civic and Cultural leadership of Aotearoa NZ providing educational opportunities to our young people as well as contributing to the strengthening of our communities and wider society.

He joins current board members Gerald Bethell, Astrud Burgess, Brandon Edwards (Ngāpuhi, Ngātiwai) Dane Grey (Ngāti Whātua o Ōrākei), Kara Waetford (Ngāpuhi, Ngātiwai) and Lana West. Deborah George will remain as a trustee.

Today InZone Education Foundation has two hostels. One is at 99 Owens Road where 50 boys reside and attend Auckland Grammar School. The other is located at 10 Lovelock Ave where 30 girls reside and attend Epsom Girls’ Grammar School. A new hostel development is currently under construction at Owens Road and is due for completion by the end of 2020. There are plans to open a third hostel in Central Auckland in 2021 which will accommodate another 40 Girls with a new school partnership.

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MORE ABOUT DR JIM MATHER

Dr Jim Mather is of Ngāti Awa, Ngāi Tūhoe and English descent. He grew up in the communities of Te Teko, Ōtara and Māngere.

Previously he was the Chief Executive of Te Wānanga o Aotearoa (New Zealand’s second largest tertiary institution) for 5 years. This followed a 9-year tenure as Chief Executive of Māori Television, and prior to that Chief Executive of the Pacific Business Trust.

Jim holds a Masters of Business Administration from the Henley Business School in England and a Bachelor of Business Studies, as well as diplomas in business and management. He also completed a PhD in economic development through AUT in 2014.

With business management experience spanning 25 years, he is a qualified accountant by profession, and has held a variety of private sector roles including General Manager of a marine engineering business and

Financial Controller for a local subsidiary of a Swiss multi-national. He is a member of the Chartered Accountants of Australia and New Zealand and the New Zealand Institute of Directors.

Aligned with his commercial background, Jim is also a former officer in the New Zealand Army, and was awarded the Sword of Honour in recognition of his distinguished achievements in Officer training. He served for 6 years in the NZ Army before leaving to further his career and educational aspirations.

He currently holds governance roles with the following organisations:

- Chair of Radio New Zealand
- Chair of Lakes District Health Board
- Director of Auckland Transport
- Director of Ngāti Awa Group Holdings Limited
- Member of the MBIE Risk and Audit Committee
- Managing Director of Mather Solutions Limited

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