

WHS Boys

(Taran, Eddyn, Kasey, Shakked and Davis)

[Interviewer question to 00.15: What technological changes do you know of over the past 50 years?].

Eddyn: The internet.

Kasey: Yeah, obviously the big benefit's the internet. [Participant agreement x 1]

Shakked: And the spread of industrialisation to poorer countries [Participant agreement x 3] which allows much higher employment in those countries [Participant agreement x 2] and allows them to produce more efficiently.

Kasey: I'd say probably the most important kind of technological advance that we've had in the last 40 years is just like the massive changes that have been happening to *consumer* technology. [Participant agreement x 1] Consumer technology now is just so much, so much more different than it was, and it's changing so much more quickly. You have just a massive revolution in how we consume things.

Taran: Globalisation too, if we're going quite far back. If you talk to any of your parents– at least mine have said – that there was such little variance in products before maybe the 80s that it felt more Soviet. There were maybe one or two cars people had; you would have to apply at the Post Office to get a license to have a phone installed in your house – just things like this.

Eddyn: Oh yeah, like or they never had sushi or [Participant agreement x 1], or things like that that you just take for granted.

Shakked: Although at the same time, globalisation can lead to less product differentiation if there's foreign producers that can produce really really efficiently, and so they produce really cheap, really good products that dominate the market – which is good, but it does lead to less product differentiation.

Eddyn: Not everything would have been made in China back in those days.

Shakked: Exactly.

Eddyn: It's moved from the 'made in Japan' to the 'made in China.' I remember we had a computer and that was, that was New Zealand-made.

Taran: Wow!

Kasey: Wow. We used to make computers?

Eddyn: Yeah.

Kasey: That's crazy.

Eddyn: Yeah, and that was quite, you know... and that big, bulky 90s computer. But now that

would never, that would never be the case, cos it's all..

Kasey: Yeah, that's, that's really strange, cos thinking about it now, you think of New Zealand as a very primary industry-driven nation. [Participant agreement x 2] It's, it's weird to think that in Wellington we used to make shoes and now we've got such an emphasis on dairy and...

Taran: I think we always did though. [Participant agreement x 1] I guess it's just we did the other stuff because we had to.

Kasey: Yeah, and now with globalisation we can just focus on that, that primary stuff rather than working into secondary markets.

Eddyn: So it kind of

Shakked: Primary industries are actually a surprisingly small amount of the New Zealand economy. [Participant agreement x 1] I think they're 5% of GDP or something.

Taran: It's mainly service...

Shakked: It's mainly service industry, yeah.

Eddyn: It's service, yep, yep.

[Interviewer question 2.27 to 2.33: Do your grandparents/parents ever tell you about "the good ol' days"?].

Eddyn: I guess back in, back in the day, I guess in the grandparents' era, you hear stories of grandparents in the more rural areas and doing things like working on farms. None of this kind of, I guess, service, service-focussed kind of employment.

[Interviewer question 3.01 to 3.07: How has transport changed?].

Davis: And, and we've just seen with technology changing - thinking about years and years ago, we didn't use to have, we didn't have those electric trains we have that run on electricity; we used to have steam-powered trains running on charcoal and all, but now with the electric trains, it's a lot more environmentally safe but also it makes things a lot easier with travelling from one destination to another instead of having to take a vehicle and getting caught in traffic jams or anything like that. For me, it makes commuting a lot eas-, commuting a lot easier, traveling from Raumati all the way back, all the way here to Wellington and then back again.

[Interviewer question 3.53 to 3.59: What developments could possible occur in New Zealand's agriculture industry].

Eddyn: I think the focus will move away from meat as, as the years go by. Because it's interesting technologically, with looking at lab-grown meat from, from stem cells – that could potentially go on to be a, a, a game changer in the way that we consume meat. Because it makes sense on many levels. You're not keeping cows, which are polluting the environment through methane emissions and you're not...

Shakked: They also need water for grain [Participant agreement x 1], so they're really inefficient in terms of food production. [Participant agreement x 1]

Kasey: They take up a lot of space.

Eddyn: They take up a lot of space that can be used for other, other things.

Shakked: But even regardless of whether or not synthetic substitutes for meat can be produced, just generally as a product industry, it's probably going to become [Participant agreement x 1] largely mechanised [Participant agreement x 1] and maybe product industries won't be so centralised in single countries, as you would start producing products efficiently anywhere. So I think there will be definitely be more of a shift just towards services in general, but especially because of the synthetic meat thing.

[Interviewer question 5.16 to 5.22: Is housing in New Zealand starting to change?].

Kasey: I think it's changing. I don't, I don't know how big the change is, but I think it's starting to change now. I think the, the Kiwi idea of, you have a lifestyle block and you have a big house and you have a backyard that you mow every Saturday, that, that's, that's drifting away a little bit as the population moves into a new age. Like with our generation, the last generation moving forward, I think that kind of cultural idea of wanting a, a plot for you to say is yours, it's going away a bit. This is completely anecdotal, but my, my sister and I, we, we always thought it would be cooler to live in an apartment than it is to just live on a house in the suburbs. Stuff like that.

[Interviewer question 6.03 to 6.09: Which international cities should we look at when planning for our own?].

Taran: I think Auckland's quite a big problem in terms of this urban sprawl. We've seen that with the housing bubble. I feel like that model for building is Auckland sort of turning into Los Angeles. You've got this centre area but then these *massive massive* sprawl of suburbs connected by over-clogged motorways, and that's really not the model. If we should be looking to any major cities, we want it to be more like New York or London where they're very large but there's a lot of public transport, there's rail systems, buses, people can walk – it *feels* a lot less developed in its own way – well not less developed, but less congested. Even if it's much larger, if you're able to be able to do these things...

[Interviewer question to 6.51 to 6.57: What would you like to see happen over the next 50 years that will ensure a sustainable future?].

Eddyn: So in terms of social investment, I think something that's going to be really important is making sure, as the economy shifts towards requiring more and more science and technology jobs, I think the Government really needs to step up education and also needs to make sure that young people in New Zealand are invested in better – especially kids from poorer backgrounds. There needs to be a, a sense of support through the, the primary and secondary years and in, in early childhood education that brings kids into a – allows kids to get into those, those fields and contribute to, to the growth that New Zealand hopefully will see.

Taran: I think particularly in the area of foreign relations and international relations, what I would really, really love to see in the next few decades, in the next few years, is see New Zealand on a global stage become a *really* progressive and proactive player with regard to climate change. I think this is one area where we can *really*, if we work at it, be on the right side of history. I feel like New Zealand has a history of that as well. In the studies I've done, I've been really proud of the stance various governments in New Zealand have taken with regard to nuclear testing in the

Pacific. That was a time when we were really on the right side of history. And from what I've read, for example, in the upcoming Paris Climate Talks, the New Zealand delegation is toying with the idea of arguing to make the emissions targets non-binding, and that's just, in my opinion, not good enough. And what I would really just love to see is, as a small country that has this national identity and image of clean, green New Zealand, I'd love to see us really stand up to that and work to make sure other countries can follow suit.

Kasey: I'd, I'd love to just see the Government in all aspects become more future-focused. [Participant agreement x 1] We were talking about earlier that the Government does think very, in very short term bursts. It's three years: you've got to work to think in those three years what you can do and then go up for re-election and see if you can get the next three years. It feels like it's a really, it's a really short-term ideology that we have with our Government. And in terms of urban planning, in terms of climate change, in terms of education – I think we need to start thinking on a broader scale – past a generation, but on a multi-generational scale. We need to start thinking of how we can solve big issues that are facing our country in exports and in where people are gonna live and why they're gonna live where they're gonna live and how we're going to develop and solve issues that, that are facing us. We definitely need to think on a broader scale rather than quite a small scale thinking about, oh is dairy going to be good, is dairy going to be good for us in the next five years for us. We should be thinking, is dairy going to be good for us in the next 50, and start investing for the future rather than the present.

Shakked: Something that I would certainly like to see internationally is seeing borders open a lot more drastically, both in terms of trade and more global trade agreements rather than regional ones, but also in terms of immigration, just so the world can achieve generally a more efficient outcome. And that's something that would be very efficient, just generally, in raising standards of living everywhere and making production more efficient, but also in eradicating poverty world-wide by allowing very free immigration and allowing people to distribute themselves in a way that is the most socially and economically efficient. I think that's definitely something that the international community needs to be move towards.

Eddyn: Especially in New Zealand we're gonna require that extra, extra population and I think a more global kind of focus. Because I think New Zealand's always drawn on the talents of many immigrants from around the world, from England, from China, and I think as, as we go ahead into the, further into the 21st century, we need to be drawing off that – especially within aging populations. We need these people.

[Interviewer question 11.35 to 11.41: What wild ideas would you like to see happen in the future?].

Taran: Pipe dream technology. What I'd like to see is the airline equivalent of the electric car. I'd like to be able to fly overseas without feeling guilty....

Kasey: Another really cool thing I'd like to see - and this is totally just being a consumer of technology – I'd love to see the Internet of Things. Because everyone's all promising, oh we'll be able to have lights that are turned on with Wi-Fi and you can just use your phone as a central hub. I'd like to actually see that. I'd love to be able to tell my phone to lock my house and then it'll do that or tell my phone that I'm going to sleep and it will do everything for me – that would be really nice, to make being lazy a lot easier.

Shakked: Or even – and, and this is way down the line – but a move away from physical interaction with technology. [Participant agreement x 1] We were talking earlier about how

technology has become a lot more refined and a lot smaller. But just generally, with cloud computing some sort of connection, I don't know, to a chip implanted in your brain. That's obviously way down the line.

Eddyn: Imagine being able to, watch, watch movies with your eyes closed. [Participant agreement x 2-3]

[Interviewer question 12.39 to 12.45: What will the future of education look like?]

Kasey: I'd, I'd love to see people learning – not, not just having to learn in, in school, and that sounds like a really really corny thing to say, but it's something that I did want to say about in the workplace and how the workplace is changing with the advent of the internet. People are able to learn skills for free on the internet with technology that didn't exist 20 years ago. Last night alone, I was doing beginners' tutorials, using Premiere Pro with Adobe and you can't really imagine doing that 30 years ago.

Eddyn: That's right. I was, I was learning a bit of German over the holidays, just over the internet, and that's really good stuff.

[Musical interlude 13.23 to END].

Recording ENDS: 13.36