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This annual report is the first from our new chief executive, Greg Muir. Greg is a dynamic and vastly experienced professional manager who applies a steady hand to the company’s management. His style is strong, calm and visionary which makes him the ideal steward of our assets and our future. Greg’s steady approach gives me every reason to be

summarised on page 11. Meanwhile, at a local community level, we continue to work hard to integrate our stores into smaller communities, and our work with Social Audit New Zealand, in both Wainuiomata and Dannevirke, exemplifies this approach.

I am also exceptionally proud of the team’s efforts in supporting the raising of \$2.6 million for local charities, sporting and community groups, up from \$2.3 million last year.

As usual the company has enclosed a copy of The Tindall Foundation’s annual report. I’m sure you’re as proud as I am that our company’s success contributes so much to the foundation’s objectives which will soon be extended to Australia in keeping with the company’s Australian contribution.

We’ll be saying farewell to Neil Plummer soon. Over the last twelve years Neil has been a true friend and one of The Warehouse’s most loyal people. His

founder’s report

confident about our company’s future in New Zealand and Australia.

While I may have partially withdrawn from the company’s day-to-day affairs I have actually been busier than ever. And it’s all due to the continuing success of The Warehouse, and its unique people-based culture. Even the 1994 decision to float the company was driven partly by the desire to reward our team members and our customers by giving them ownership in the business. Many team members and customers took up shares then and continue to participate in the company’s success. Perhaps you are one of them.

Part of my ongoing involvement at The Warehouse is as ‘keeper’ of this culture and I am delighted to report that in our latest ‘People First’ survey 88 percent of team members agreed that ‘The Warehouse is where people come first’.

As chair of the New Zealand Business Council for Sustainable Development, I am pleased that this year we’ve been able to include a report on sustainable development in our Triple Bottom Line Report

outstanding ability has been reflected in the company’s success and I’m glad to say that he’s agreed to make himself available for special projects in his semi-retirement. I join all the team members in wishing him a happy and successful future.

I would also like to thank all team members in Australia and New Zealand, whether they’re full-time, part-time or casual, for their outstanding efforts to make The Warehouse a successful place for all its stakeholders.

Finally, I hope you can join us at your company’s annual meeting this year and I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can.

Stephen Tindall
Founder