

Papakura High School Charitable Trust



Introduction **P.1**

Meet the Trustees **P.2**

How you can help **P.3**

funding the future achievement of our school

Watching the NZ Herald's first foray into film making, 'Under the Bridge', one couldn't help but be struck by the powerful influence a school can have on the lives of students. This film tells the story of three students and their new Principal following them throughout the year of 2016. It portrays what their school means to them, showing a fierce pride and determination to rise above what other people may perceive them to be as students from a low decile South Auckland School.

Papakura High School opened in 1954 to fulfil the need for secondary education in Papakura, at a time when students had to either travel south to Pukekohe or north to Otahuhu to further their education. The school has a rich history of achievement and achievers in all walks of life, and a reputation for producing well rounded students, ready to contribute positively to their families, community and society in general. The graduates of Papakura High School can now be found in every corner of the world.

Over a number of years, the school has suffered a decline in student numbers and support from the local community. However, with a new Principal in 2016, a fresh focus on building relationships, building cultural and community pride, building on student voice, and building a curriculum that is relevant to the needs and future aspirations of our learners, Papakura High School is on a major journey of growth.

This movie and subsequent articles were released on the NZ Herald website in February 2017 (<http://features.nzherald.co.nz/under-the-bridge/>). The immediate reaction across Papakura, New Zealand and the World was immense, as readers shared this story with their friends and families around the world.

Mr John Rohs, Principal of Papakura High, was flooded with messages of support, and offers of help from across the globe – from ex-pupils and strangers with whom the story had resonated.

Two such people who came knocking on John's door were ex-pupils Jo Clegg (nee Babbington) and Clare Fogarty (nee Gasson). They approached the school with the proposal of setting up a charitable trust through which funds could be sourced to assist the Principal, the staff, the students and the community of Papakura High School to achieve its goals for the young people of this area. This proposal was very favourably met by the Principal and the Board of Trustees, and thus the Papakura High School Charitable Trust (PHSCT) was 'born'. We acknowledge the generous support of local law firm, Inder Lynch for the preparation of the Trust Deed documents and application process to the NZ Charities Commission.

The trustees of PHSCT are Jo Clegg, Clare Fogarty, Rosalie Freeman and Michael Talbot. Each of these people have a keen interest in the welfare of the school with Jo, Clare and Michael all being ex-students, while Rosalie is a current member of the school Board of Trustees. The purpose of the PHSCT is to further the education and welfare of students and the wider school community of Papakura High School, through financial assistance, clothing, books, equipment, use of facilities, counselling, scholarships, outdoor education and other appropriate assistance.



PAPAKURA
HIGH SCHOOL

Meet the trustees

Three ex – students and one current Board member are the founding trustees of PHSCT

Jo Clegg

Jo was one of the hundreds of “army brats” who found their way to the school, due to being based at Papakura Army Camp. With an older brother and sister who also attended, she followed them into PHS in the mid 1970’s, and collected life-long friends, family and a husband, along with an education. Connections to Papakura remained strong, via parents, family and friends so the “Under the Bridge” series in the Herald was a shock, and didn’t reflect the school that sent so many teens of her own era out into successful lives and careers.

Jo has served on Council Boards and committees, has chaired and served on Industry Associations boards, Trust Boards and numerous Clubs and groups. Her career has spanned Executive level roles, business ownership and directorships, and her interest in the Papakura High School Charitable Trust is to encourage present-day students of the school so that they emerge with the education and motivation to have their own challenging and rewarding careers.

Rosalie Freeman

Rosalie grew up in rural King Country near Piopio, and after studying for a BSc at Waikato University, moved to South Auckland to take up a technician position at a Horticultural Research Station in 1983. She and her husband have lived in Papakura since 1984, and their three children Matthew, Hayley and Hannah, all attended Papakura High School. After being a stay at home mum for a number of years, Rosalie gained an administrative position at a local primary school, where she worked for 17 years.

Rosalie has been a member of the Board of Trustees of Papakura High School since 2008, a role that has been both rewarding and challenging. She has always believed that education is the key to a better future for these students.



When she heard Jo and Clare’s proposal to set up a charitable trust, and their enthusiasm and motivation to help ‘their school’, she was very happy to be a part of this exciting development.

Rosalie looks forward to the building of a strong alumni and network that will support this school to becoming the great place of education it should be for the young people of Papakura.

Clare Fogarty

I arrived at PHS in 1976, midway through the school year. Having spent my early years at small country schools, primarily in the Waikato, PHS appeared colossal. I was taken under the wing of fellow trustee Jo Clegg and so began a lifelong friendship.

From school I went on to gain a BA from Auckland University and soon after married a fellow PHS classmate Rod Fogarty. Rod joined the RAF and the next 15 years were spent living throughout the UK and Germany on various airforce bases whilst raising our three daughters.

Upon leaving the RAF, we returned briefly to New Zealand and enrolled our eldest daughter, Gina, at PHS. Soon after, Rod joined Cathay Pacific Airways and we returned to London where he worked out of Heathrow before transferring to Hong Kong.

Now living in Auckland, I still maintain close contact with the South Auckland community as my parents and brother still reside in Clevedon. The Herald documentary “Under the Bridge” came as somewhat of a revelation, the PHS it documented was not the school I recalled.

I believe that through The PHS Charitable Trust, with the support of past pupils and the wider community, we can provide opportunities to enable the current and future PHS students to thrive and enjoy the opportunities that were available to us.

Michael Talbot

Michael was a student at PHS from 1977 to 1981. He then travelled before becoming a lawyer and eventually starting his own firm in the Waikato. Michael still has friends and family in Papakura and is a regular visitor. He credits his time and experiences at Papakura High with equipping him for his enjoyment of travel and success in business.

During his own children’s years at school Michael spent 15 years involved in school governance, including 7 years as board chair at two different schools.

The increasing difficulty schools have in being sufficiently resourced to provide the quality experiences Michael had at school were put front and centre when he chanced across “Under The Bridge”. He wanted to do something about it and so joined with Jo, Clare and Rosalie. The aim is simple, to give PHS students the quality educational experiences that gives them the confidence and skills to succeed.





How you can help

The school has identified the following areas that would be of most value to the students:

- A. **Provision of outdoor experiences** – camps and outdoor education centres - assist in developing leadership skills, social and personal skills, confidence building and health benefits.
- B. **Provision of adventure and learning centred experiences** – trips to other places, cities, events, institutions, that our students and their families could never afford – expose our students to a greater breadth of life experiences, to help them understand their place in the world and their future potential.
- C. **Provision of high profile and motivational speakers, and programmes** – widening the views and perspectives of our students, providing motivational role models, providing success stories for our students to emulate.
- D. **Provision of sports uniforms and representative apparel** – track suits, travel jackets, team apparel – we aim to boost the image and morale of our students as they represent Papakura High School in various fields; sports, arts or academic endeavours.

Help us make a difference

There are various ways that you might be able to help:

1. Donation of money to the Trust
2. Donation of goods and services to the School or the Trust
3. Donation of time to the School or the Trust
4. Offers of mentoring or experiences for individuals or groups of students
5. Use your networks to spread the news about the Trust and its goals
6. Visit www.papakurahigh.school.nz/charitable-trust and join the alumni

Papakura High School
Charitable Trust
Bank Account details

ASB

12-3658-000991-00

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[http://www.papakurahigh.school
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