



## Newsletter December 2020

When I wrote to you last year at the conclusion of the School's 150<sup>th</sup> year, I mentioned what an honour it was to be associated with Auckland Grammar School and how proud I was of the School's young men and its staff. Now, after a very different year in 2020, those feelings of honour and pride have been reinforced. With the Covid-19 pandemic thrusting so much change upon us, it was heartening to see the School adapt and do everything it could to ensure the School's young men were still provided with a robust and structured education and that no student was allowed to slip through the cracks.

2020 has seen the cancellation of many cultural events and sporting fixtures which usually add much excitement and colour to the School year. Although it was heart-breaking to see these opportunities taken from the School's young men I must commend them and the dedicated staff members, who worked tirelessly behind the scenes, for the way they handled this disappointment. Staff members often turned from coaches to counsellors and have gone above and beyond in all they have done this year.

Every day, the School continues to strive to provide young men with the best possible secondary education, through its teachers, facilities and extra-curricular activities. The Foundation Trust has been fortunate to receive a large number of generous contributions to the Academic Foundation Fund, to help recruit, reward and retain the very best staff at Grammar. This year two new awards have been made available through the generosity of Parents and Old Boys. The Miller Hawkesby Award was established to recognise the dedication of the Student Services Faculty and the role



they play in the School through provision of exemplary support to young men. The Merle and Oliver Newland Award was established to reward a teacher who embodies the values of professional commitment, diligence and excellence in the teaching of English or History, and by doing so, successfully inspiring a love for the subject in their students.

This year's annual appeal has been the most successful in the Foundation Trust's history with over \$226,000 raised so far. This includes over \$153,000 towards the School's Hardship Fund. This level of support for the School ensures that every single student has access to the vast array of opportunities Grammar provides. The Grammar community has again stepped up when called upon in a time of need. Thank you.

Thanks to the generosity of the Grammar Community fundraising for the Te Ara project now sits at \$8.2 million and a re-energised fundraising effort is underway to raise the remaining funding. 2020 has also seen some exciting developments in the project, all of which are explained in more detail in the newsletter.

With your support, the Foundation Trust was able to reward 46 exceptional staff members at the end of Term 4, in recognition of the outstanding work they have done in this very difficult year. Additionally, the Trust has provided 133 staff with co-curricular awards, acknowledging the extensive support they give to our students across a broad range of extra-curricular activities. The Foundation Trust is grateful for the continued support from our community. Your contributions enable us to not only reward our exceptional teachers and members of staff, but also to continue to attract specialist teachers and to provide financially-disadvantaged students at Grammar the opportunity to engage in activities they may otherwise miss out on. We thank you.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy holiday season and a relaxing and enjoyable break with your family and friends.

Best wishes

Jack Porus  
Foundation Trust Chairman

## The Hardship Fund: Ensuring that every young man is catered for

This year's Annual Appeal asked for your support of our young men and their families, who through no fault of their own, are experiencing financial hardship as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. We asked you to help us make sure that no young man missed out on the opportunities that the School provides, whether that be the provision of sports uniforms, covering exam fees or the payment of Form 4 camp costs. Thanks to your support we have raised over \$152,000 for the Foundation Trust's Hardship Fund and as a result, every request for financial assistance this year has been met. Thank you so much for making this possible.



2020 Form 4 Camp at Ruapehu

The impact of your contribution to this fund and what it means to a young man to be supported in this way can never be overstated. We received this comment from a donor; which emphasised how important the donations from our Grammar community are. It read:

***"I have received assistance from the Hardship Fund as a student. It meant the world to me that the school had my back, and that I wouldn't be left behind because of my personal circumstances. I remember the stress of not being able to attend camps and take external exams, but more clearly I remember the relief that this fund gifted me."***

Alongside the needs that the Hardship Fund currently meets, the Foundation Trust eventually wants to be able to provide real support to a family where a dramatic turn has caused unprecedented hardship, such as the unexpected illness or death of a parent. Headmaster Tim O'Connor stresses that "Grammar's aim is to be able to provide complete wrap-around support, which may take the shape of a full scholarship to cover all boarding fees at Tibbs House, or all School fees and levies paid for the duration of schooling. We want students or families facing extraordinary hardship to know that they have the backing of our School. The Hardship Fund will enable just that." Your support of the Fund this year has moved The Foundation Trust much closer to this goal than we anticipated when launching this campaign. Thank you.

### Donors' comments

*"I'm an old boy myself actually and being from a single parent family my Mum did everything she could to make sure I could attend Grammar. It's safe to say that without it, I wouldn't have the network of friends & colleagues and gone on to achieve the level of education I've acquired today, let alone the career I've built. I'm happy to help out those less fortunate like I was, so that they too can be given the opportunities that Grammar can offer."*

*"Sending strength to the families of the Grammar Community who may be struggling. The Grammar community supports you, and I hope every dollar helps towards triumphing over financial obstacles."*

*"Someone Cares"*

*"Tough times calls for rallying together in support."*

## Te Ara - The Pathway: The evolution of the project

Thanks to the generous support of The Auckland Grammar School community the Foundation Trust has now raised \$8.2 million toward the Te Ara capital project. This amount is already the most ever raised for a capital project in the School's history and we can't thank you, our donors, enough for your collective generous support of this much needed facility.

2020 has seen a robust review of the Te Ara project as the Covid-19 lockdowns and related uncertainty coupled with escalating costs (pre-Covid estimate \$15.5 million) provided the catalyst for the School's Board of Trustees to take a step back and look with more depth at what was being included in the project. Reviewing what the critical elements of the project were and where any costs could be saved. The process involved a working group of industry professionals from within the building and construction industry critically analysing the building design and working with the School's leadership to

remove unnecessary cost. Thankfully the working group were able to remove \$4 million worth of cost from the building without compromising on the building's functionality.

One outcome of the cost reduction process is the necessary demolition of the School's current 50-year-old leisure pool. Due to the importance of retaining an aquatic facility on the School campus and receiving a \$1 million gift from an Old Boy specifically for the development of a purpose-built outdoor aquatic facility, the Board agreed to change the project to include Te Ara and a new pool.

The new 30m x 25m outdoor heated aquatic facility will be located on the lower fields alongside the lower pavilion. The pool will have thirteen 25m lanes for swimming trainings and competitions, a full-size water polo pool at a depth of 2m and a 5m x 30m shallow zone





*Cross section view of the Te Ara facility*

for learn to swim and water confidence programmes. The total project now has a total price tag of \$15.2 million which is less than the pre-Covid estimate and now includes an aquatic facility which will cater to the water sports needs of Grammar.

Thanks to the expertise of the working group comprising; Kim Barrett - Haydn & Rollett, Dale Depenning - Aspec Construction, Brett Russell and Kerin Russell-Smith - Dominion Construction and Greg Reidy - Reidy and co., Te Ara will now provide more to the School than ever first imagined and all for less than the pre-Covid-19 cost estimation of \$15.2 million. The Trust and the School are incredibly grateful for what this group has achieved and we cannot thank them enough for the immense contribution they have made.

***"The new pool will be a game changer - and is long overdue. Like the Centennial Theatre project in 1969, Te Ara and the new pool are the key projects to set us up for the years ahead."***

***Tim O'Connor, Headmaster***

We still have an ambitious fundraising target to meet but with funding now well over halfway the project is becoming a reality. The goal is to raise the remaining funds by 31 July 2021 so that the pool can be ready from Term 1 2022 and the Library Term 1 2023. If you would like further information on the project or would like to find out how you could contribute please contact Daniel Reddish, Advancement Manager on 027 314 6448 or [d.reddish@ags.school.nz](mailto:d.reddish@ags.school.nz) or refer to our website:

**[teara.ags.school.nz](http://teara.ags.school.nz)**



*Internal view of library and open forum spaces*



*New 25m x 30m pool facility on lower fields*

## 2020 Staff Award Recipients



*A total of 46 awards were made to teachers and support staff this year in recognition of their outstanding commitment to and support of the School and its students.*

Thanks to your generous support, the Foundation Trust gave out 46 awards this year. All staff were again invited to this year's ceremony in the Centennial Theatre and this more open format was well received by both staff and award donors. This year 2 new awards have been made available through the generosity of donors to The Foundation Trust. Philip Newland '82 has established the Merle and Oliver Newland Award for the inspirational teaching of English or History. Gretchen and Duncan Hawkesby have established the Miller Hawkesby Award for an outstanding member of the Student Services Faculty.

### **Bob Narev Award for Latin/Classics**

Frances Hay-Mackenzie

### **Business Studies Award**

Ross Gard

### **David William Crowe Award for Theatre**

James Knightly

### **Dean's Award**

Neitana Lobb

### **Driver/Orange Award for Physics or Mathematics**

Tiffany de Jager (Mathematics)

### **Foundation Trust Awards - for outstanding staff**

Carrie Fergusson

Jacqui Klaassen

Joanne Sadler

### **Friedlander Incentive Awards**

David Askew, Chris Dunn, John ETTY, Daniel Oram, Mika Taito, Simone Bayley, William Chen, Matthew Cuming, Marie Gaspar, James Hantz, Frank Haszard, Stephen King, Charles Laing, Campbell Lowe, Barbara McGowan, Travis Moore, Jacob Rehu, David Wadams

### **Grammar TEC Rugby Club Award**

Dan Reddish

### **Gus Fisher Art Award**

Teina Smith

### **Hatch Coaching Award**

Lionel Randall

### **Hugh and Campbell Grierson Memorial Award**

Eddie Hare

### **John Hume Tennis Award**

Richard Daniel

### **Joseph McManemin Award**

Chris Oates

### **Ken Trembath Memorial English Award**

Lauren Potocky-Pacay

### **Kwek Award**

Charlotte Forster

### **Lyn Rawlinson Learning Support Award**

Deborah McCutcheon

### **Marianne and Ursula Kosubke Award for Languages**

James Yeh

### **Mathematics Award**

Michael Lee

### **Merle and Oliver Newland Award**

Lyall Quelch

### **Michael Sandelin Award**

Adrienne Birtwistle

### **Miller Hawkesby Award**

Chris Porteous

### **Munro Award for Hockey**

Sarah Bluett

### **Music Award**

Chris Adams

### **Philip Newland Endowment Award**

CC Lee

### **Porus Family Award**

John O'Neill Fuller

### **Ray Wilson Awards - for furtherance of sport**

Sylvain Bidet

Rachel Taylor