



BELL GULLY

# A HELPING HAND

Bell Gully's  
Pro Bono &  
Community  
Report

2017/2018



# Welcome, Haere mai



**Hugh Kettle**  
CHAIRPERSON  
PRO BONO COMMITTEE

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

**M**any of the charitable organisations we partner with work tirelessly raising awareness for groups in society that are marginalised and unheard. They strive to give them a voice and the practical support they need to thrive. That practical support can vary depending on the need.

For some living with mental illness, it can simply be a platform to share their stories and know they are not alone in their struggle.

For the homeless, it is access to clean clothes, a shower to boost their self-esteem and a friendly conversation to help them re-connect with society.

Refugee immigrants, particularly women, have valuable skills but often struggle to find work in their new country.

We are proud to work alongside charities that are addressing these needs: Voices of Hope, Orange Sky and Nisa. These were all started by young people who saw a need and found a way to address it.

Half-way across the world a kiwi woman did the same thing for orphaned girls in Uganda by establishing Project Moroto.

Finally, native trees are also being given practical support to thrive in numbers. Trees that Count is an organisation that began with two simple questions, “How many native trees are planted in New Zealand each year, and could we plant more to help mitigate climate change?” Two years later the count is almost 14 million and growing.

I hope you enjoy learning more about just some of the ways we all can contribute.





CAN'T  
SEE  
THE  
WOOD

The best time to  
plant a tree was  
20 years ago.

The next best  
time is today.

FOR  
THE  
TREES

**T**he premise of Trees That Count is based on a simple question, “How many native trees are planted in New Zealand each year and could we plant more to help mitigate climate change?”

Trees That Count was launched in November 2016 and is working to build a live national count of all native trees planted in New Zealand. This is part of an ambitious plan to create a movement where Kiwis unite to help restore and enhance the environment and make a difference to climate change in New Zealand. Since 2016 more than 18 million trees have been added to the count and the long-term goal is to plant 180 million trees which is the estimated number needed to bring our greenhouse gas emissions back to 1990 levels.

Trees That Count has additionally built New Zealand's only digital community marketplace that connects native tree planters with funders throughout New Zealand. Individuals, businesses and organisations can fund a range of different native trees and Trees That Count matches funds with community-based planting initiatives around the country.

Bell Gully became involved at the end of 2017 when Trees That Count was looking to expand its offerings. The firm provided specialist climate change advice in respect of businesses that want to voluntarily offset their emissions and how that operated alongside the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme. We also assisted Trees That Count with developing the marketplace operating terms and provided commercial advice on matters such as bespoke agreements with bigger corporates

and contracts with planting groups. The tax team advised on the treatment of donations.

Says Bell Gully's international climate change legal expert Simon Watt, “The programme is to be commended for encouraging planting. Given the important role that forestry will have in combatting the effects of climate change, Trees That Count's community marketplace is an excellent initiative to encourage investment in native tree plantings by individuals and the private sector.”

Trees That Count encourages anyone – from individuals to corporates – to fund or gift trees, with all funders celebrated on the leaderboard.

More information can be found at:  
[www.grow.treesthatcount.co.nz/funding](http://www.grow.treesthatcount.co.nz/funding)



# THE POWER OF SAYING “YES”



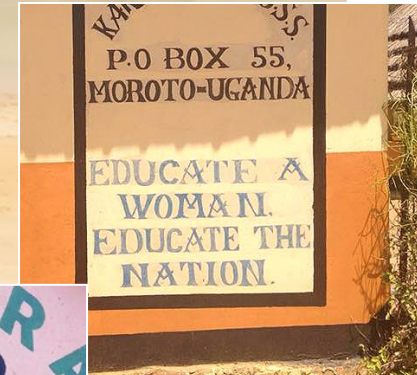
Jayne Bailey is not one to shy away from a tough challenge. She believes all of us are faced with plenty of amazing but sometimes scary opportunities; the trick is having the courage to say yes to them. Her first ‘yes’ led to a series of others, resulting in a home for orphan girls 14,000 kilometres away from her New Zealand home.

In 2011 Jayne established Project Moroto and began raising funds to build a safe place in the poorest part of Uganda to house, feed, protect and educate 20 vulnerable girls.

Jayne talks about saying the “easy” yes which benefits only ourselves. She challenges people to say the “hard” yes which is not for our own personal gain and takes us out of our comfort zone. “The world needs us to be saying yes to these things.”

Six years on, Project Moroto continues to flourish and transform lives. But it was time to take the next step. As well as protecting the orphans, she needed to protect the charity. Jayne needed assistance to establish Project Moroto as a legal trust and charity in New Zealand, so that New Zealanders can donate to it in confidence, and receive tax credits.

Bell Gully senior associate Campbell Pentney said yes, but had his own challenges with the work. “Because Project Moroto’s operations are outside of New Zealand there are some challenges. We actually need to request the Government to amend the Income Tax Act to achieve Jayne’s goals. It is obviously an involved process – we

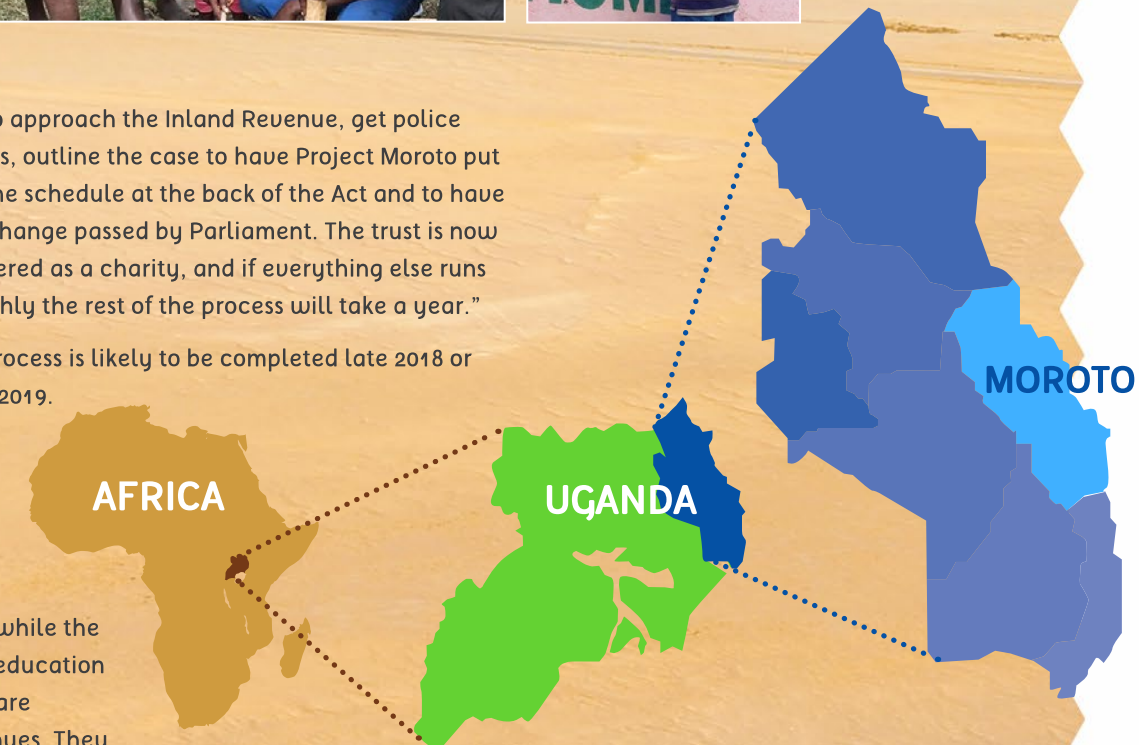


had to approach the Inland Revenue, get police checks, outline the case to have Project Moroto put into the schedule at the back of the Act and to have that change passed by Parliament. The trust is now registered as a charity, and if everything else runs smoothly the rest of the process will take a year.”

The process is likely to be completed late 2018 or early 2019.

Meanwhile the girls’ education and care continues. They have ambitions to be nurses, teachers, bank managers and mechanics. And Jayne has ambitions for Project Moroto – she is planning to build another dormitory to give more girls an opportunity for their future.

[www.projectmoroto.com](http://www.projectmoroto.com)







# CLEAN CLOTHES AND CONVERSATION

**O**range Sky Laundry began in 2014 when two best mates Nic Marchesi and Lucas Patchett built a free mobile laundry in their old van to help people experiencing homelessness in Brisbane. The unique idea expanded rapidly throughout Australia and in 2016 they were awarded Young Australians of the Year. They have also started providing mobile showers, and now have 25 vans with over 1200 volunteers who facilitate over 6.2 tonnes of washing and over 200 showers each week across 170 Australian locations.

The time it takes to launder the clothes provides opportunities for volunteers to have positive, genuine and non-judgmental conversations with people doing it tough, and the charity believes this is the largest impact of the services it provides.

Now the charity is looking to expand into New Zealand and the United States. This creates its own legal challenges navigating the different legal requirements in each country – for example, having to determine the best legal structure for setting up in New Zealand, and identifying how the organisations will be connected and share resources. Bell Gully worked with law firm Ashurst in Australia and the US in a tripartite effort to find the best way forward, and to establish an appropriate structure best placed to qualify for charity and tax registrations. It's in the early stages, but Orange Sky New Zealand is now a registered charity and is scheduled to launch in the third quarter of this year. Watch this space.



Finally, why the name? It comes from the song Orange Sky by British composer Alexi Murdoch. The message of the song is about helping your brothers and sisters under an orange sky, which is a central philosophy behind this inspiring charity.

[www.orangeskylaundry.com.au](http://www.orangeskylaundry.com.au)





# Underwear with a mission



**F**ormer Bell Gully litigation lawyer Elisha Watson volunteered at the Wellington Community Law Centre under the Bell Gully Pro Bono and Community programme.

Through her volunteer work, she saw a need and became inspired to help create employment for the former refugees she advised.

As a keen sewer herself, she found the women often shared her passion and skills and the idea for organic cotton underwear brand Nisa (the Arabic word for woman) was born.

Elisha says, "I watched and listened as many refugees struggled to find work. I couldn't let go of the idea of being that employer to give them their first job in New Zealand. I had a bit of an "aha" moment talking to some women about our shared love of sewing. I thought, this could be it. These are the kind of skills I could launch a social enterprise around."

When it came to the legal side of things, she didn't have to go far.

Bell Gully senior associate Campbell Pentney was happy to help. "What Elisha has done is amazing. She saw a problem and found a practical way to respond – leaving her own job in the process. The model we have used for Nisa is one of a social enterprise – a business that is sustainable. To achieve Elisha's vision we wanted to keep the avenue open for investors coming on board in the future."

[www.nisa.co.nz](http://www.nisa.co.nz)





# It's good to talk

V.O.H



**A** problem shared is a problem halved. That simple philosophy is behind Voices of Hope – an organisation that has created a platform for those who suffer from mental illness to share their stories of survival, raise awareness and, in the process, inspire others.

The founders of Voices of Hope, Genevieve Mora and Jazz Thornton, create videos that target mental illness issues and write blog posts on related topics. Since the launch in 2014, their content has received both national and international recognition and has caught the attention of companies wanting to support their vision.

Bell Gully's Pro Bono and Community Programme has assisted the organisation to establish a formal trust structure and to register as a charity. Funds raised go towards creating further content on the website. We have also advised on contractual documentation for film funding opportunities.

Voices of Hope trustee Christopher Tan says, "Genevieve and Jazz are two young people who have suffered from mental illness themselves and know the most effective way of reaching other young people who find themselves in the same debilitating situation. They have also launched #itsnotweaktospeak, which is aimed at men suffering from mental illness".

[www.thevoicesofhope.org](http://www.thevoicesofhope.org)



i HOPE YOU  
KNOW YOU'RE  
CAPABLE +  
BRAVE +  
SIGNIFICANT.

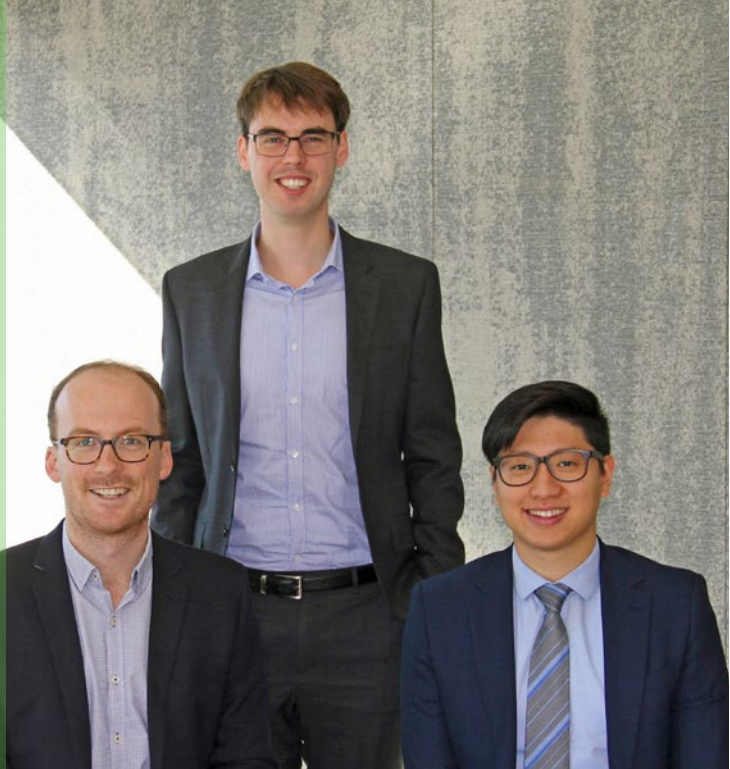
EVEN WHEN IT FEELS  
LIKE YOU'RE  
NOT.

ITS NOT ABOUT  
BATTLING YOUR  
PAST, BUT  
FIGHTING FOR  
YOUR FUTURE





# AUCKLAND COMMUNITY LAW CENTRE



**B**ell Gully's young solicitors had been supporting Community Law Centres long before we formalised our Pro Bono and Community programme in 2009.

Chair of the Pro Bono Committee, Hugh Kettle, explains, "It was a natural fit for a law firm to volunteer time and legal skills. It's what we know, and how we could best benefit the community. Our young solicitors find it very rewarding and it's a valuable experience for them".

In the past year Elijah Pear, Luke Becker and Hugh Goodwin have volunteered at the Auckland Community Law Centre (ACLC) and have been part of an exciting new initiative there.

Elijah explains, "It's been a great and incredibly rewarding experience to be helping at a very practical level. This year the ACLC has launched a pilot programme to assist self-litigants, and Bell Gully is working on drafting templates for these self-litigants in bankruptcy proceedings".

With growing numbers unable to afford legal representation, the profession acted to address the justice gap. Staff and volunteers from ACLC sit in on hearings to assess them and then refer them to senior practitioners, including some QCs, who have agreed to work for free.



The pilot will initially cover bankruptcy cases, but is expected to expand to the employment court. Cases in these areas have been deliberately chosen for the pilot because they are generally shorter in duration. If the pilot

is successful, ACLC will seek government and private funding to expand to other areas like civil litigation, family and criminal law.

[www.aclc.org.nz](http://www.aclc.org.nz)



# How else do we help?



BUY ONE. GIVE ONE.™





The Bell Gully event calendar is full of annual charitable fixtures that many of our partners and staff volunteer for. Some of these are highlighted below.

### Sky's the limit

Partner Laura Littlewood took up the Sky Tower challenge in full firefighter kit on behalf of Leukaemia and Blood Cancer NZ, raising over NZ\$5,000. This is the eighth year Bell Gully has taken part.

### Think pink

Each year the firm hosts Pink Ribbon morning teas in each office to raise money for the Breast Cancer Foundation NZ. Partner Anna Buchly is a BCFNZ Trustee.

### Round the Bays

A large Bell Gully team ran the Ports of Auckland Round the Bays fun run this year on behalf of the SPCA in Auckland.

### Light it orange

The firm supported domestic violence charity Shine with fundraising to endorse the message that violence is not OK.

### Jammies in June

As temperatures drop, we rally the Jammie Army troops donating warm pyjamas and cash donations to Kidz First Children's Hospital at Middlemore, in Auckland.

### Mentoring programmes

Staff generously donate their time to our mentoring programmes at Tāmaki College and InZone Foundation in Auckland, the Auckland University of Technology Shadow a Leader programme and our work experience programme with Wellington College.

### Lapping the lake

For many years, our staff have run the Taupo Great Lake Relay on behalf of Breast Cancer Foundation NZ.





# Some of the organisations we support





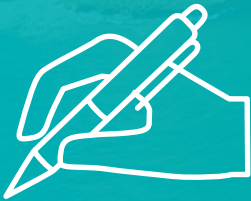
# Pro bono 2017 facts and figures



Just under  
**NZ\$1,000,000**  
fee equivalent budget



**164**  
matters



**106**  
authors



**2394**  
hours



**28**  
partners



**59**  
pro bono clients



**NZ\$191,123**  
benefitted three local  
community law centres





For more information  
about Bell Gully's Pro Bono  
and Community Programme  
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**BELL GULLY**