

A HELPING HAND

Bell Gully's Pro Bono
& Community Report
2019/2020



BELL GULLY

Welcome, Haere mai

For our global community, 2019-2020 has been one of the most challenging times of our lives. However, through these times, we've certainly seen the best of human nature – supporting each other, being kind, and offering a helping hand.

Through our Pro Bono and Community Programme, we are fortunate to be able to support organisations in their efforts to overcome challenges, provide support at critical times, and promote equal opportunities.

At Bell Gully, we are proud of our relationships with organisations that are addressing these needs. Over the past year, 130 lawyers, including 30 partners, participated in our pro bono programme – contributing close to NZ\$1 million in equivalent fees to 55 pro bono clients. This year, in which the firm marks its 180th anniversary, we're proud to say we've surpassed NZ\$10 million total pro bono fee equivalent since formalising our programme in 2009.

We can't think of a better investment.

In this, our eleventh issue of A Helping Hand, we highlight some of the organisations we have

worked with over the past year, including:

- Victim Support, providing support for those directly affected by the Christchurch mosque attacks,
- Pet Refuge, New Zealand's first shelter dedicated to providing temporary accommodation for pets affected by domestic violence,
- Auckland Women Lawyers' Association, advocating on behalf of women and addressing issues affecting women in the legal profession,
- The Neonatal Trust, providing and coordinating support to families of neonatal
- babies as they make their journey through neonatal intensive care, to the transition home and onwards, and
- The Keystone Trust, providing life-changing opportunities for tomorrow's young property and construction leaders who come from financially challenging circumstances.



Rachael Brown

CHAIRPERSON
PRO BONO COMMITTEE

A stylized, handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'Rachael Brown'.

But New Zealand is in m
takes one time to recognise it.
New Zealand.

Katherine Mansfield

They are us.
Ko tātou tātou.
Assalamu alaikum.

Jacinda Ardern, March 2019

He iwi kotahi tātou
We are all one people
Governor William Hobson, 1840

e people



They are Us

In March 2019 following the Christchurch mosque attacks, Bell Gully offered to help Victim Support on a pro bono basis with the administration of the multi-million dollar fund raised from donations made to support those directly affected.

Former partner
Chris Gordon and solicitor
Stephanie McQuaid, with support from
partner Tim Smith and senior associate
Sarah Leslie, assisted Victim Support with
the design and implementation of arrangements
for the distribution of the funds, negotiation with
stakeholder groups, issues with claimants and with
the consultation process.

“There were some stressful and emotional times,

particularly for Steph who, as part of the consultation process, met with many of those who were directly affected,” said Chris.

The consultation process was a very significant part of the fund distribution. It ensured that Victim Support received first-hand accounts of the suffering and other challenges faced by the survivors and their families, and enabled Victim Support to honour its commitment to donors that every dollar raised would be distributed directly, fairly, and in accordance with the voices of the survivors themselves.

“Those of us who assisted the Victim Support team feel hugely privileged to have worked alongside

some incredible people, and to have provided our support following such a devastating event in New Zealand’s history. It is important that we have a pro bono programme, as it gives us an opportunity to use our skills to help the wider community and our fellow New Zealanders in meaningful ways such as this,” said Chris.

In August last year, Victim Support paid an impromptu visit to the Wellington office to thank the team for their help.

As-salamu ‘alaykum...Peace be upon you.

For more information, visit:

www.victimsupport.org.nz/standing_together



Caring for the animals

Pet Refuge was established by Julie Chapman, KidsCan's founder and CEO. Its mission is to provide temporary shelter for pets affected by domestic violence, keeping them safe while their owners escape abuse.

It has partnered with Shine (Safer Homes in New Zealand Everyday), Women's Refuge and The Lindsay Foundation, and is due to open in 2021.

Bell Gully has partnered for many years with pro bono clients Shine and KidsCan, so supporting Pet Refuge, a first for New Zealand, is a natural extension of our support.

As Julie Chapman explains:

"Cruelty to animals is common in domestic violence.

People who use violence will often threaten, injure and even kill a pet to control family members. Most cannot take their pets with them when seeking refuge so fear for their beloved pet's safety creates a major barrier to leaving.

Pet Refuge will be New Zealand's first shelter dedicated to providing temporary accommodation for pets affected by domestic violence. The police, Shine and Women's Refuge will refer families who need a safe place for their pet to stay, so they can start new lives together in violence-free homes."

Sophie Mowday, GM of Fundraising and Marketing at Pet Refuge, says "Being able to access the expertise of the best law firm in the country is incredibly valuable support we are grateful to have. In particular, so far it has meant that we have been able to develop best practice corporate partnerships and bequest communications. The funding from these initiatives will help complete and open the Pet Refuge shelter, ensuring the sustainability of Pet Refuge as a start-up charity, which is vital for the pets and families we will help escape abuse."

Bell Gully assisted by reviewing and advising on various documentation and, more recently, advised on signing documents under COVID-19 lockdown.

Senior associate Brigit Morrison worked with the charity. "It's a simple concept and, as I learned, one that is unfortunately very much needed. It was a pleasure to work with Sophie. I had not previously heard of the organisation or their work, so I was interested to hear about their structure and purpose. It is a wonderful cause – I was surprised to hear how

many people, mainly women, stay in abusive relationships simply because they don't want to leave their pets behind. It was rewarding to contribute to a good cause, and do something to help the community."

For more information, visit: www.petrefuge.org.nz



Supporting young women through law

The Auckland Women Lawyers' Association (AWLA), was established in 1984, and since then has worked to advocate on behalf of women, and to address issues affecting women in the legal profession.

It operates mentoring schemes, and sponsors a number of scholarships for women law students and practitioners. Along with the annual Margaret Wilson scholarship and a writing prize, they saw the need for a new scholarship.

AWLA President Laura Carter explains, "We saw the need to set up a new scholarship for a school leaver who wanted to study law, to help someone who would otherwise struggle to attend university. To make this sustainable, we needed to establish a scholarship fund, and sought advice about how to manage funds we received for this purpose. It was great to have Bell Gully's support on this, so that we could be confident that we're acting in line with our obligations to our donors, while we advance this important kaupapa."



Simone Cooper
AWLA COMMITTEE MEMBER

Bell Gully litigation solicitor **Simone Cooper** joined the AWLA committee this year. She is looking forward to working with the AWLA team to continue delivering initiatives of real value to women working in the legal profession.

How long have you been a member of AWLA? I joined the AWLA at the end of last year, so 2020 is my first year on the committee.

What do you get out of it? The community service part is big for me. I enjoy being able to dedicate some of my time to making the profession a great one for women. Whether that is helping organise moots for university students, planning events for working lawyers, or contributing to some of AWLA's advocacy functions. The committee is made up of excellent people, so I also get a great boost out of the social and networking aspects.

What inspired you to join the committee this year? My Bell Gully teammate Gabriella Garcia was stepping down from the committee and encouraged me to join. It is great to have a Bell Gully representative on the committee to be able to contribute and to get involved in events.

Bell Gully is set to host an election special event later this year.

A helping start



F

or many years Bell Gully has taken part in the gut busting 102km charity relay from the Wellington waterfront over to Martinborough.

The Neonatal Trust is one of the partner charities of this relay. For families with premature babies their journey through the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit is even more gruelling.

The Neonatal Trust works to provide and coordinate support to families of neonatal (premature or sick full-term) babies as they make their journey through neonatal intensive care, to the transition home and onwards.

The worthy cause, and Bell Gully's personal connection through partner Hugh Kettle, meant that when it came to providing pro bono legal work for the amalgamation of Neonatal Trust (New Zealand), Neonatal Trust (Auckland), and Neonatal Trust (Wellington), Bell Gully put its hand up.

The purpose of the amalgamation was to bring greater efficiency and associated cost savings to the Neonatal Trust which is "light on paid management but heavy on volunteer commitment and resources". The Neonatal Trust does not receive any government funding and is entirely reliant on donations to cover operating costs and to fund its services and initiatives. Feedback from the Trust is that operating from a single legal entity has proved invaluable in the constantly evolving COVID-19 environment.

Financial services solicitor Bronwyn Neal got a lot out of her involvement, both personally and professionally. She enjoyed working with the people at the Trust and was inspired by their willingness to give up hours of their time and skills to support and manage the Trust.

"The Neonatal Trust is a fantastic organisation to work with. It was immensely rewarding to see something we'd worked on have such tangible benefits for the Trust, and ultimately the neonatal babies and their families that it strives to support".

Learn more at: www.neonataltrust.org.nz



BUILDING A SOLID FUTURE



Through Keystone Trust, Bell Gully is fortunate to help support the provision of life-changing opportunities for tomorrow's young property and construction leaders who come from financially challenging circumstances.

In 2019, Keystone Trust (the 'Trust') distributed more than NZ\$147,000 to 39 students, providing invaluable financial support for their course fees, accommodation, study materials and other living costs. In addition, the Trust provided pastoral care including study buddies, mentoring, site visits, internships, work experience, wellbeing workshops and more.

Bell Gully has had an enduring 26-year relationship with the Trust since its establishment in 1994. Former partner Bruce Sanderson was a founding trustee, and the legacy was passed on to successive property partners at Bell Gully. Partner Andrew Petersen, who joined as a trustee in 2011, now holds the mantle of Deputy Chair of the Trust.

Andrew says, "The Keystone Trust is a fantastic and very rewarding organisation to be involved with. It is a great pleasure to see the transition the students make from their first interview, through their tertiary education and into a property industry role. The

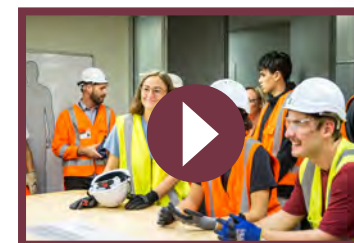
Trust's Board is continually inspired by the raw talent, determination and humility each student brings with them to Keystone."

A former recipient of a scholarship is also a trustee. Tamati Parker received a scholarship in 2002, moving from Gisborne to Hamilton for initial study, then finishing his studies at Unitec with a cadetship at Multiplex. Tamati is testament to the value that a scholarship delivers.

Tamati is now a director of construction business, C3 Construction, which is one of the 35 sponsors that provide the financial backing to the Trust and its students. It is also an employer of the student talent, having employed two new staff from the 2018/19 graduating classes.

The Trust also provides recipients with access to highly experienced mentors and role models which Andrew sees as "invaluable".

Chair Greg Pritchard puts it best, "The principles that underpin Keystone reflect our industry at its best – people coming together to deliver something enduring, inspirational and life changing. We have the privilege to play a small part in the development of our industry's future."



Looking back I can see the difference Keystone made to my life. It inspired me to reach those goals I had set. Now, I have launched my own construction business, C3 Construction, where I get to put in practice all the things I have learnt over the years. Keystone were right behind me all the way. It's inspiring to see how the organisation has grown and now, it's my turn to give back."

- Tamati Parker
KEYSTONE ALUMNI





It is the aspiration of Te Puna Foundation to help all New Zealanders experience the collections held in the National Library, and thereby use and share knowledge from the past and present, to help build the Nation of the future.”

Te Puna Foundation

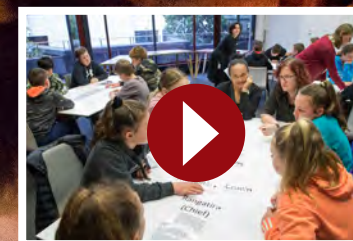
He Tohu is a very special permanent exhibition at the National Library of New Zealand in Wellington. It brings to public display the three founding documents of New Zealand:

- **He Whakaputanga - Declaration of Independence of the United Tribes of New Zealand (1835)**
- **Te Tiriti o Waitangi - Treaty of Waitangi (1840)**
- **Te Petihana Whakamana Pōti Wahine - Women's Suffrage petition (1893)**

In 2016, Te Puna Foundation was established to unlock the 'value

of knowledge' for all New Zealanders, and to provide school children with greater access to 'the memory of the nation'. Bell Gully was a founding sponsor and, in addition, provided commercial and corporate governance advice on a pro bono basis to the Foundation. The exhibition includes interactive educational displays so visitors can also hear some of the stories on the history of our country and, perhaps, discover some of their own tipuna.

Wellington partner Simon Watt says, “Bell Gully's support included funding to provide students from across the country the chance to visit the He Tohu permanent exhibition in the National Library and view the three iconic constitutional documents that shaped New Zealand. Every New Zealand child should have the opportunity to see our founding documents and, alongside our key client Air New Zealand, it was a natural fit for us to support getting them there.”



Memory of a nation

UNLOCKING THE VALUE OF KNOWLEDGE



Light it orange
Bell Gully supports Shine to help
victims of domestic violence to get
safe and stay safe.

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

Sky's the limit

For many years, a Bell Gully team has taken part in the Sky Tower Stair Challenge raising money for Leukaemia and Blood Cancer NZ.



Diversity

We are committed to the inclusion and support of the LGBTQI+ community, both within and outside the firm.

Plunket

Our summer clerks have volunteered their time to enhance local Plunket clinics in the community.

We built a bike!

Team building met bike building at Christmas time. Our Business Services team built and gifted bikes to super excited kids from Manurewa West Primary School.

Jammies in June

As temperatures drop, we rally the Jammies Army troops, giving

warm pyjamas and cash donations to Kidz First Children's Hospital at Middlemore, in Auckland.

New Zealand Blood Service

Each year many of our staff give blood in the New Zealand Blood Service drives – last year we hosted a drive in our Auckland office.

SPCA

The firm raises money for animals in need by participating in the annual SPCA cupcake day.

City Missions - Auckland & Wellington

We support the Auckland and Wellington City Missions' winter appeals to help stock their foodbanks.

TupuToa

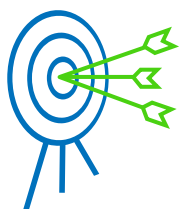
We value our partnership with TupuToa, an internship programme creating additional pathways for Māori and Pasifika students, with strong connections to their culture and communities, into careers in the legal profession.



Some of the organisations we support



Pro bono 2019 facts and figures



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



206
matters



130
lawyers



2,304
hours



30
partners



NZ\$126,229
benefitted three local
community law centres



55
pro bono clients



And to date, we have
contributed more than
NZ\$10,000,000
pro bono fee equivalent since 2009



For more information about Bell Gully's Pro Bono and Community Programme please contact:

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