



# A HELPING 2018/2019 HAND

Bell Gully's Pro Bono  
& Community Report

**BELL GULLY**



**T**hrough our Pro Bono and Community Programme we are fortunate to be able to support individuals and organisations in their efforts to overcome challenges, reach common goals and benefit our local communities.

Some are personal challenges.

For **Jordon Milroy**, it literally is an uphill battle as he conquers towers around the world, raising money and awareness for cerebral palsy - especially for those in his home in the Pacific. "I leave my disability at the bottom step when I climb", Jordon said.

We are in awe of Jordon's determination and dedication and to be able to support him in any small way was a privilege. You can read more about his achievements in this report.

For other grassroots organisations such as Mid North Family Support, our pro bono assistance meant that precious funds could go where they were most needed –

free counselling for those that have experienced sexual and/or family violence. "This kind of intervention is life-changing for a child", CEO **Davina Smolders** said.

These are just two examples of people and not-for-profit organisations that inspire us every day by working hard to make the world a little more inclusive and a little kinder. We showcase a few more in this issue of A Helping Hand, and there are many more that we support each year.

This year, we asked our people what matters to them the most and where we should focus our community efforts. They have chosen 'children and youth'; and 'mental health', which were also announced as Government priorities in this year's Wellbeing Budget.

This represents the next phase of our Pro Bono and Community Programme, which was formalised in 2009 and continues to budget \$1 million fee equivalent each year for free

and heavily discounted legal advice to charitable organisations.

With the support and enthusiasm of our own people in partnership with some amazing organisations, the future of our Pro Bono and Community Programme is incredibly bright. This is work we are really proud of. It motivates us every day to do the best we possibly can.



**Hugh Kettle**

CHAIRPERSON  
PRO BONO COMMITTEE

A stylized, handwritten signature in white ink, likely belonging to Hugh Kettle, positioned below his name and title.



An aerial photograph of a coastal area. The top left shows turquoise ocean water meeting a wide, sandy beach. The beach has some tire tracks and a few people. To the right of the beach is a green grassy area with several trees and a parking lot containing several cars. In the bottom right corner, there are some buildings with blue roofs. The text 'Welcome, Haere mai' is overlaid in white on the top left.

# Welcome, Haere mai



# Stepping up



**T**he Cerebral Palsy Society (CPS) is a relatively new pro bono client. Wellington solicitor Sam Cathro worked with an inspiring young man – Jordon Milroy, who works for the CPS as a Youth and Pacific advocate, and has cerebral palsy himself.

That doesn't stop his tireless campaigning though. Jordon's particular passion is climbing towers – notably the Sky Towers in Auckland and Brisbane, Eureka Tower Melbourne, Sydney Tower, SkyPoint Gold Coast, Stratosphere Las Vegas and The

Empire State Building in New York. “When I climb I leave my disability at the bottom step”, Jordon said.

It's not easy for him but he does it to raise money for young people with disabilities. Jordon grew up in Samoa, so his focus is to help youth with disabilities in his homeland.

“It has given me a unique perspective on Pacific Island culture and the barriers faced by people with cerebral palsy, their families and the wider community. I have a particular drive to equip our Pacific people with the knowledge and the tools to best manage life with cerebral palsy.”

So when Jordon needed assistance with a legal issue, Bell Gully was happy to help.

“Jordon is such an impressive guy in what he achieves and we were really keen to assist him.

There were quirks of the issue that were quite different to the commercial issues we usually deal with, but it was refreshing to engage in a less formal context, which we don't usually see in our day-to-day work. It was incredibly satisfying to be able to help, and to feel like we were making a difference”, Sam said.

CPS's chief executive officer **Gilli Sinclair** also looked to Bell Gully for assistance when they sought to update their rules of incorporation.

“We completely overhauled their rules of incorporation so that it was compliant with the Incorporated Societies Bill currently before Parliament. They are now ready for that when it does come into force. This kind of work can seem overwhelming to a not-for-profit but for us it was relatively straightforward. Our pro bono work meant that CPS can spend their precious donations where they are most needed”, solicitor **Stephanie McQuaid** said.



“Working for pro bono clients such as CPS is so rewarding. You get to work closely with these inspiring people and they truly appreciate what we do for them...expressed through cake!”

# Helping the most vulnerable

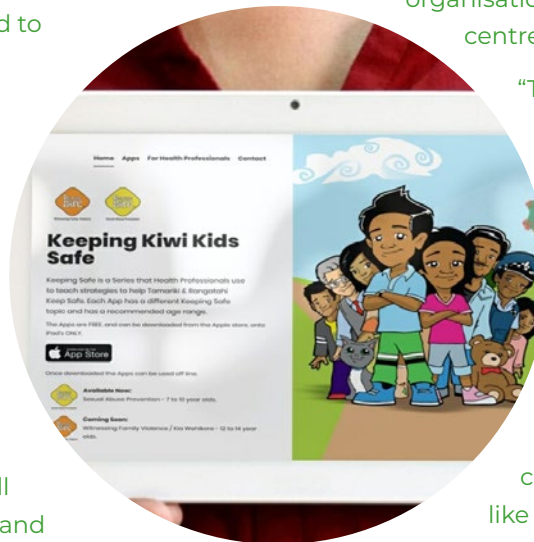
**M**id North Family Support, Rape Crisis and Youth Services is a charitable organisation that provides free counselling for children and adults that have experienced sexual and/or family violence in rural and remote Northland.

Bell Gully was approached to update its constitution.

“Bell Gully did not shy away from offering pro bono work for our community’s most vulnerable. Sexual violence and family violence is at huge proportions in Aotearoa, and it takes a collective approach to tackle the complexities involved. Bell Gully came to our rescue and

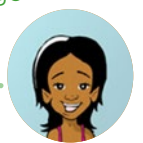
offered their services to ensure that we could continue to provide counselling to over 400 survivors of abuse”, CEO **Davina Smolders** said.

Corporate partner **Toby Sharpe** and solicitor **Mackenzie Hewett** were assigned the complex task of overhauling the constitution - writing new rules, and updating their kaupapa and philosophy - to better reflect the organisation’s cultural and client-centred approach to their mahi.



“Toby and Mackenzie were able to ascertain the key features of the project, repackage it to better reflect our kaupapa, and did so in a sensitive and culturally-responsive manner”, Davina said.

“Updating the constitution was a bit like attempting to change





the bed whilst standing on it. We needed to keep the living document active, while sensitively and dramatically changing its core. Toby and Mackenzie were able to do this. They had a wonderful ability to ensure that we were prepared, understood and empowered by the changes. They handled it with sensitivity, trust, and were completely mana-enhancing in their work. We are very proud of the result and humbled by their profound and significant contribution”.

Our funding allows for minimal overheads and taking on this mammoth



task was significant for us. For Bell Gully to offer to do this for free was like winning Lotto. It meant that the money we would have spent on this important change, could now be reassigned to children that have experienced sexual abuse and need to attend counselling to process the trauma.

Bell Gully cares! They walked the walk, and provided our community with a core piece of work that has a huge social impact”.

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



# ROLLING WITH

## WHERE

**A**ustralian Scott Wilson established Full Tank in 2016 as a result of meeting one of New Zealand's motorcycle greats, Hugh Anderson MBE in his home town of Hamilton. It was an encounter where they found themselves talking about the challenges of men's health in today's world and indeed their own struggles with dark times. They started to share a common feeling that every day is a winding road and that more could always be done. The world's first not-for-profit motorcycle apparel charity was born, right here in New Zealand.

After Full Tank's operating costs are taken care of, they give 100% of profit to The Movember Foundation, which supports men's health on a global scale. To date, the charity has been founded with grants from philanthropic individuals and organisations and is run with volunteer labour.

"Realising Full Tank would not have been possible without the support and understanding of many in New Zealand. Bell Gully were immediately open to hearing about our vision and then jumped at the chance to do what they could to help us achieve it. The world of intellectual property rights then became one less big thing we had to worry about." said Scott.

Bell Gully helped by assisting with intellectual property protection of their unique clothing brands. That ensures the charity can maximize profits from those brands, so more money goes towards the cause.

"Full Tank is a creative initiative for tackling the issue of men's mental health, a silent crisis which is also often overshadowed by other more publicised causes.

Working with Scott on Full Tank's intellectual





# PURPOSE

## PHILANTHROPY MEETS FASHION

property was a great opportunity for me to get behind his efforts and to provide my support in the most helpful way I could," says Special Counsel **Sooyun Lee**.



Mental wellbeing is a cause very close to the legal profession's heart. The firm's own journey to support mental wellbeing has mirrored Full Tank's timeline. Since 2016, there has been a broadening of our existing health and wellbeing programme to include a wellness initiative for the mental health of those in the legal profession initiated by Minds Count

(previously known as the Tristan Jepson Memorial Foundation).

"Mental health has been identified as an area our people want to support and one that is recognised as increasingly important to the profession as a whole," says Pro Bono and Community Programme Manager **Rachel Gowing**.

Our people have also been enthusiastic supporters of Movember over the years.

Says Rachel, "It was a natural fit to support Full Tank, which takes a unique approach to help tackle the issue and increase awareness."

**Justin Coghlan**, co-founder of The Movember Foundation said "Men don't talk. They don't take action and are dying too young. Full Tank is playing a role in helping us change that."

Bell Gully was honoured to play a role too.

To find out more about Full Tank's amazing work, visit **[www.fulltankmoto.org](http://www.fulltankmoto.org)**



# Shining a light on domestic



**S**upporting domestic violence charity Shine is not necessarily a comfortable fit for a business. The stories are often confronting and can make people feel uneasy. But Shine is addressing a very real need in our community that we want to support.

As well as providing pro bono advice to the charity in areas such as property and employment law, each year we support their big annual fundraiser - Light It Orange.

Staff are encouraged to wear orange for the day to show their support for Shine, and to give generously in exchange for a large orange jaffa.





# violence



Former partner **David Boswell** initially championed the charity at the firm and is still involved with their work. Litigation partner **Sophie East** has now taken the lead within Bell Gully.

"We have been privileged to hear some of the personal stories from survivors themselves and it has had a powerful effect on our staff", Sophie said.

"The people here are a naturally generous bunch and the Light it Orange event has quickly become a feature in our annual fundraising calendar."

Solicitor **Rebecca Compson** from the employment team worked with Shine as a pro bono client.

"It is always a pleasure working with Shine. The work has been varied and rewarding, and it has been fantastic to build close connections with the team over the last few years. I really value the opportunity to work with a client that is focused on continuing to make real change in our communities".



**B**reast Cancer Foundation NZ (BCFNZ) is a charity close to Bell Gully's heart.

Our formal involvement can be traced back to 2006, and we have continuously had a representative on the Board since then. Initially, that was property partner **Jane Holland**. For the last six years it has been Bell Gully's chair **Anna Buchly**.

"BCFNZ are a great organisation to be involved with. The staff are passionate about the organisation and go the extra mile. It has been a real eye-opener for me to see the challenges that organisations like this face. BCFNZ is very lucky with the support that it gets, but recognises the efforts that fundraisers go to, and are therefore very driven to ensure that fundraising dollars achieve the greatest outcomes possible. Our focus is on research and support - bettering the lives of women with breast cancer – as well as a strong focus on prevention", Anna said.

In 2017, BCFNZ celebrated an incredible 35% increase in funds raised, in a market flooded with charity options. But they are far from complacent about that.

"When people donate to BCFNZ they have trusted us with their money. We run a lean executive team so a larger proportion of donations is directed where it is needed. We are very proud of that as an organisation", Anna said.



"BCFNZ has a challenging target of zero deaths from breast cancer. We are working very hard towards that goal".

In addition to Board representation, the firm undertakes pro bono work for BCFNZ to support its day-to-day operations, including sponsorship agreements, employment issues and marketing agreements.

"For many years we also supplied nearly the entire team for the BCFNZ Taupo Great Lake Relay!" added Anna.

The Pink Ribbon breakfast is an annual and much anticipated fixture in Bell Gully's community support calendar too.

"Our partners and staff are incredibly generous and I want to personally assure them, as well as anyone else who donates to BCFNZ, their donations are going where they are most needed".



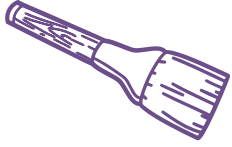




Breast Cancer  
Foundation NZ

# Think Pink

# BELL GULLY SUMMER CLERKS



Community service and engagement's always been a strong part of my identity and future ambitions. The purpose of building ourselves up in the law, professional sector or otherwise should always be to help others. As the saying goes, a rising tide lifts all boats. I distinctly remember this being reinforced during the induction week of this summer clerkship and I'm glad it came to fruition. My clerkship wouldn't be complete without giving back — what better way than helping our future kids?



**George Greig**

Auckland summer clerk 2018/2019

**E**ach year our summer clerks volunteer for a day at one of our pro bono charities. It's one of the highlights of their summer programme.

This year our summer clerks helped to transform spaces for young people.

In Wellington, the team spent the day at Tawa and Linden Plunket, getting their grounds ready for the New Year.

Plunket is a long-standing pro bono partner with Bell Gully, and they do vital work with young families in the community.

"We have supported Plunket for many years in a variety of ways – from discounted legal advice to more hands on help. Plunket has such an important role in the early years, including in

The fact that Bell Gully participates in these charitable excursions truly reflects the positive culture within this firm.



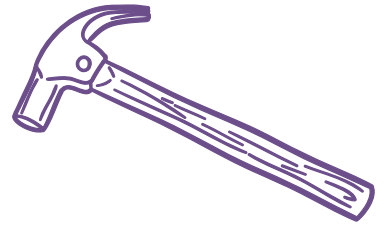
**Harriet Wolk**

Auckland summer clerk  
2018/2019





# GIVING BACK



that of many of our summer clerks, and we appreciate being able to be part of that,”

**Rachel Gowing** said.

In Auckland our summer clerks worked alongside children in schools charity KidsCan helping to maintain and transform the grounds of Beach Haven Primary, building a playground and a sand pit.



“Our volunteer hours ensured the kids were welcomed back to the new school year with refurbished grounds. It was great to see the transformation and know the kids would directly and immediately get the benefit. KidsCan’s ethos is that education equals opportunity and that every child should get an equal chance. The work helped to make it a beautiful space to learn in and they could take pride in their school.”

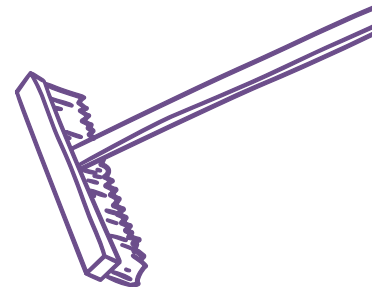


It’s important to me to give something back. That feeling you get from it and doing something for your community is really fulfilling and hard to replicate. It’s an important part of the summer clerk programme and the Bell Gully culture. We are really lucky to have these opportunities.



**Ruby Tinson**

Wellington summer clerk 2018/2019



“It is very rewarding to be out in the community helping others. There is no feeling quite like it! We are so lucky to have opportunities like this at Bell Gully. I think it is important to have a well-rounded experience and to spend time out of the office contributing to the community.”



**Clara Sinclair**

Wellington summer clerk 2018/2019

# Providing

# a safe

**K**āhui Tū Kaha is a Ngāti Whātua organisation and a not-for-profit provider of social housing and community-based mental health services. Its range of mental health services includes adult, maternal and youth respite services; specific services for Māori, Pacific and Asian communities; general support and counselling services; Muslim services, and Rainbow services.

“It’s an organisation characterised by diversity and committed to achieving meaningful health and social outcomes for everyone. Kāhui Tū Kaha means “working together – standing strong” and we were pleased to work together with them to support their vital services to the community,” partner **Andrew Petersen** said.





# home



The values of Kāhui Tū Kaha are:

## Manaakitanga


enhancing the mana of others

## Rangatiratanga

supporting people's self-determination

## Whakawhanaungatanga

establishing relationships, a sense of belonging,  
family connections and kinship.



Says Andrew, "These values really resonate with us and are what we also strive for at the firm."

**Barbara Browne**, CEO, Kāhui Tū Kaha says, "Bell Gully is providing pro bono legal advice to guide Kāhui Tū Kaha through the purchase of four properties that will be used for social housing purposes for those experiencing chronic mental illness and chronic homelessness. We welcome and appreciate Bell Gully's support, which facilitates the provision of services to some of our most vulnerable people in Auckland and Northland."



BELL GULLY

184  
BELL GULLY  
EMMA SHERRIFF

BELL GULLY

183  
BELL GULLY  
GEORGE MORRISON

BELL GULLY

181  
BELL GULLY  
GABRIELLE CARTER





our mission is to care, our vision is to cure



# How else do we help?

Photo: Step up Sky Tower Challenge 2018 for  
Leukaemia & Blood Cancer New Zealand



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

Senior associate Richard Massey took up the Sky Tower challenge in full firefighter kit on behalf of Leukaemia and Blood Cancer NZ, raising over NZ\$3,000. This is the ninth year Bell Gully has taken part.

#### Pink Shirt Day

"Speak up, Stand together, Stop bullying"  
The firm supported Pink Shirt Day on 17 May.







### Light it orange

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

### Jammies in June

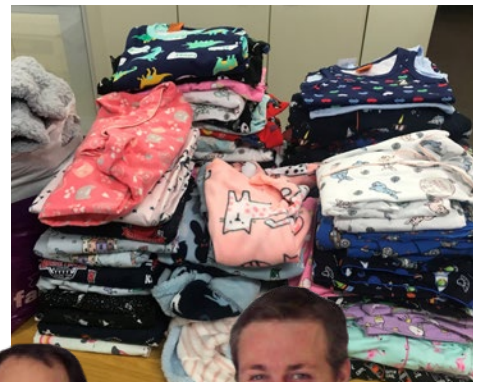
As temperatures drop, we rally the Jammie Army troops, donating warm pyjamas and cash to Kidz First Children's Hospital at Middlemore, in Auckland.

### 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.

### City Missions

We supported the Auckland and Wellington City Missions winter appeals to stock their foodbanks.



# Some of the organisations we support





# Pro bono 2018 facts and figures



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



**166**  
matters



**138**  
lawyers



**2350**  
hours



**27**  
partners



**62**  
pro bono clients



**NZ\$202,701**  
benefitted three local  
community law centres



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