



Gore High School

Ko Te Kura
Tuarua O Gore

NEWSLETTER

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GHS Foundation Newsletter 2017

Greetings everyone to this year's Newsletter

Foundation Committee Members:

Lindsay Wright (Chairperson), Bev Catto (Treasurer), John McKinlay (Rector), Susan Dale (Secretary), Collette Keenan (BOT), Donald Morrison, Olivia Grace, (GHS Staff), Linda Graham (PTA), & Ian McKay (Rural View)



Chairman's Chatter 2017

Welcome to all GHS Foundation Fans as we wind up the 2017 year. It is great to be able to report on another positive year for the Foundation.

I am sure many of you wonder just exactly what all this positive hype from me year after year actually means. Now you can see for yourself, with a new graphic below showing just exactly how the Foundation fund is growing. Not too many years ago, our million dollar target seemed a long way off. Yet now we find we are closing on \$300,000, and nearly a third of the target completed. With the hard work of our dedicated foundation members, and the support of many ex-pupils like yourselves, dreams are becoming realities.

Speaking of support, a big thumbs up goes to ex-pupil John Speden who has spared no effort to coordinate a reunion for those who began their GHS life in 1959-60. A monster weekend of activity is planned for Easter 2018. If you are one of these ex-pupils and haven't registered yet, contact John on rspeden@xtra.co.nz before 2nd February 2018. The Foundation has worked alongside John on this project. In return, John says any profits from the event will be returned to the Foundation. Thanks, John, great effort.

Another profitable wine, dine and art fundraiser was a highlight of the winter months. It's always good to see our patron's battling with the auctioneer for the right to own some outstanding art works. Our profiled vineyard this year was Maori Point wines. It was a pleasure to welcome owners John Harris and Marilyn Duxton to the event. They willingly contributed their wit and wisdom to the evening.... and luckily saved one soul who collected a brown bottle from the table assuming it contained beer, not realising their outstanding Frizzante is also bottled in brown bottles, but packs a much bigger punch!!

We were pleased to support the introduction last year of special wooden leavers' plaques for the Year 13 graduates (photo below). This project was the brainchild of our Rector John McKinlay. The plaques are specially created by staff and pupils of the school, and carry real meaning for the recipients. This will be an ongoing Foundation commitment to the school leavers' ceremony.

For those of us with hostel connections, it was sad to see the closure and demolition of the hostel buildings. Unfortunately, demographics and earthquake requirements cannot be denied.

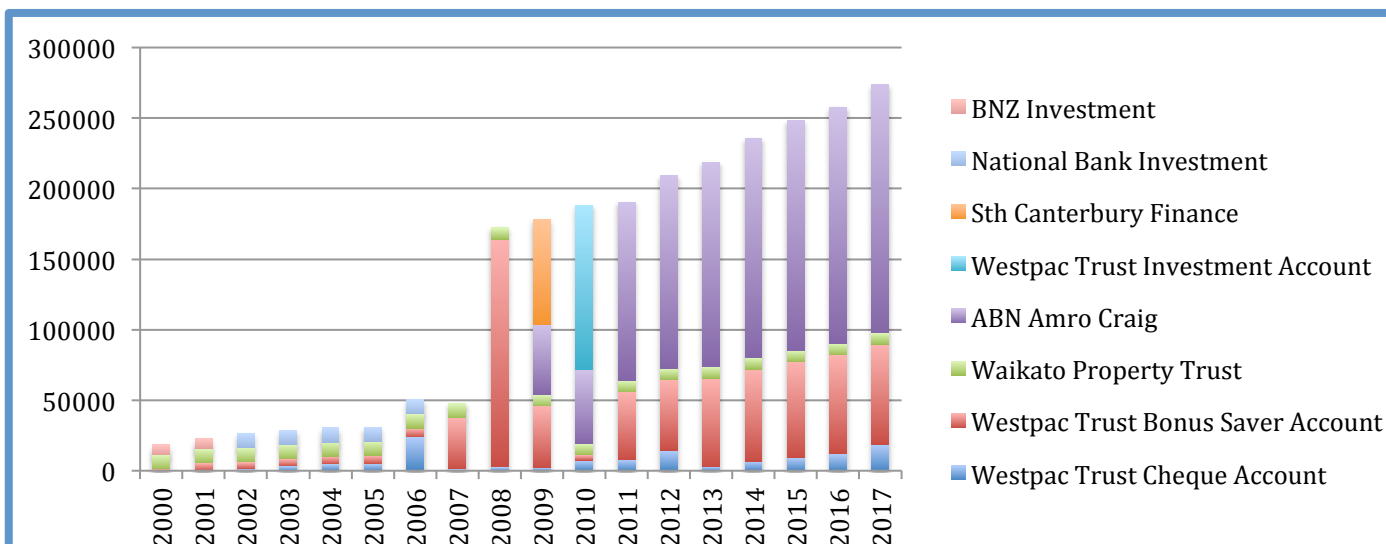
The growth of our fund is encouraging us to look for new and innovative fundraising ideas. If you know of any such schemes, please let the Foundation know. I am sure there are many ideas out there that we just need to hear about.

May the coming year treat you well. Enjoy your new spuds for Christmas.

Lindsay

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Foundation Trust Fund Update



From the Rectors Desk

Dear Ex-Pupils and Members of the Gore High School Foundation

Nga mihi nui kia koutou katoa.

It is my pleasure to provide a few snippets of news from Gore High School.

In term 2 this year we had a visit from ERO (the Education Review Office). A team came down from Wellington, as the Dunedin team were inundated with work at the time, and we were very happy to welcome them here in Southland. It was good to get a view of our school from the perspective of people who usually review North Island schools and it was a very positive experience. The report has many highlights, including:

- "Classrooms visited by ERO were calm, with purposeful teaching evident. Students observed were well engaged in their learning.
- There is a positive tone and climate in this school. It is welcoming and inclusive.
- Strategic planning provides a clear direction for school improvement."

Recently I had the pleasure of spending some time with our Y10 students, while they were on camp at Glendhu Bay. For many years this camp has been held at Borland Lodge, but for the last two years we have transferred it to the shores of Lake Wanaka, mainly to catch some better weather. (our booking at Borland Lodge was in the middle of winter!) Some students went on an overnight camp to the Mt Aspiring hut. Other activities included a visit to Diamond Lake, a walk up Mt Iron, Mountain Biking, Paddle Boarding, Rafting, Kayaking, Rock Climbing and Abseiling.

Rafting at Lake Wanaka



This year saw the major remodel of six classrooms in the block nearest Coutts Road. (We call this A-Block.) This comprised three downstairs classrooms, as well as the three immediately above these. All of the classroom walls were solid concrete and the work entailed cutting out four major walls, and replacing these with a significant amount of new steelwork. The final result is four enlarged classrooms (not six), with breakout spaces in between. Flexibility is provided by large wall dividers. Staff are enjoying using the rooms, which have a light and spacious feel to them.



Flexible folding walls.



School Kaumatua, Taare Bradshaw, blesses the new rooms.

In November last year, Mr Richard Shannon (our Agriculture teacher), began transforming the grounds between the library and the B-Block into a comprehensive Horticulture area. It includes a tunnel house, garden beds, several implement sheds, and a potting shed. Mr Shannon, parents and students built the whole thing, so it was a community effort. The result is impressive, and this year we were able to extend our NZQA Certification to include the assessment of several Industry standards. Soon we hope to include an area for hydroponics.



New Horticulture area, with library top left of photo.

We were pleased with our NCEA results for last year. Our Year 11 results were outstanding, with 32 students gaining Excellence Endorsements (up from our previous best of 19 students.) The overall pass rate for Year 11 was 95.5% and at Year 12 it was 90.4%.

We are noticing a change at Year 13, where many students are not aiming at University or even Tertiary study, but want another year at school before moving into the workforce or an industry of some kind. The trend to take a GAP year is also increasing, with about 20% of this year's graduates intending to take a GAP year next year.

The energy and commitment of our staff continues to be a feature of our school. This year eight staff completed a Post Graduate Certificate in Applied Practice, which consisted of two Level 8 papers. Two other staff also completed their Masters degrees, while another staff member gained a six month Royal Society Fellowship in Science leadership.

As I write this article, we have some staff leaving; two to go overseas, two to leave teaching and try something else, and one to go on maternity leave. It is proving to be very difficult to replace these teachers. The staffing shortages you read about in the newspapers are not restricted to the Auckland area. We have a new teaching arriving from South Africa, and we already have one teacher from the UK who has joined our ranks, but we still have several positions to fill.

As school finishes for the year, I take this opportunity to thank the Members of the GHS Foundation, for their support. It is a pleasure working with them. Their continued interest is a much valued part of our Gore High School community.

Kind regards

John McKinlay

Rector jmckinlay@gore-high.school.nz

Foundation Scholarships

2017

Year 9	Blake Burrows-Lawson
Year 10	Megan Gentle
Year 11	Ella McCall
Year 12	MacKenzie Dais

Year 13	Tommy Hasselman
(The Margaret Logan GHSF Scholarship)	

JAC Macartney
(Memorial Scholarship)

Lily Clague
Hope Williams
(Joint Recipients)

From the Board Room

Board Chair: Tracey Watson

Deputy Chair: Ken Williams

Parent Trustees: Scott Bowden, Brendon Harrex, Collette Keenan, Alistair Murray

Staff Trustee: David Cooke **Student Trustee:** Luke Hillis



This year the Board has been developing the Strategic Plan for Gore High - looking forward to the next 3 years. Brendan Harrex, one of the Trustees is helping to lead Staff, Students and the Board through this process.

The Education Review Team visited this year as part of their 3-yearly cycle, and concluded: "Gore High School effectively supports most students to experience academic success and transition into future pathways. It is increasingly responsive to a range of students' learning needs. Leaders and teachers focus on continuing to strengthen the conditions that promote learning and achievement. The school is well placed to sustain its performance and make improvements."

The Board welcomed the opportunity to hear from expert educators, and discuss future pathways for the school.

This year we had two positive affirmations of the Rector, Mr John McKinlay's ability to lead Gore High. One from the ERO team that visited and the other from the Rectors Appraisal. These reports confirmed to us what we see ourselves, every time we meet with John, he has a deep commitment to learning at Gore High and to the wellbeing of every student and staff member at our school.

We have several staff leaving Gore High this year, Mark Dungey, Greg Lucas, Brad Lamb, Elsa O'Sullivan, Faith Harvey, Hayley Clarke and we wish Bridget McLeod well as she goes onto maternity leave. Hilary Marshall has retired after many years teaching at Gore High. We wish all these teachers well and thank them for all they have done.

It is well noted in the media the difficulties of staffing schools in Auckland, and it is not any easier right across New Zealand. Our staff is our greatest asset, and research shows, it is the single factor that has the most effect on our child's success at school. Not many of us can appreciate the effort John is going to, to staff the school for 2018, to find the right people to teach our children and to fit with the culture of the school.

Our school is a majestic old building, and as such provides a myriad of challenges, such as we experienced during the long awaited redevelopment of the English and Maths teaching spaces. It is exciting to see our students and staff learning to use the space in different and innovative ways. We learned a lot from this redevelopment, and as we are currently working on the 10 Year Property Plan, we will benefit from the newly acquired knowledge of the building greatly. The Music Suite and the Technology Block are both to be re-clad and re-roofed as a result of weather tightness issues. This, along with Ministry directed rationalization of building spaces (i.e. reducing the number of buildings, due to reduction in the roll over the last 20 or so years) and the fencing to be built to allow secure outside access for the Learning Hub, means we will see some changes around the school.

The school continues to provide students with pathways forward. The development of the Horticultural Gardens within the Quad has seen exciting opportunities for agricultural students to complete papers at NCEA Levels 2 and 3 in horticulture. We have a wonderful group of hard working parents who continue to assist the Ag Teacher Mr. Richard Shannon to achieve this goal.

The Board appreciates the continued support of the wider Gore High Community including the work done by the Foundation Committee. The Foundation Scholarships continue to be a highlight of the annual prizegiving and recognizes many of the attributes the school holds dearly as values, courtesy, effort and responsibility.





Foundation Recruitment Drive

We would love to have some new members join our team. No onerous tasks – approximately four meetings per year. Keep up to date with what's happening at Gore High School, support the school with Scholarships in each year level & help financially support projects according to our Vision & Objectives through the Foundations Fund. Help the Foundation reach its target to have one million dollars in the Future Trust Fund! We are quarter of the way there!



**Wishing you all a very Merry
Christmas & all the best for
the coming New Year!**

☒ I would like to donate to the Gore High School Future Foundation Fund

Gore High School Foundation
Private Bag 50024
Gore 9740

Require a receipt please ☐

Donation Amount \$.....

Name:

Address:

.....

Email:

I Agree to have my Email address listed on the Ex Pupils Email Data Base Yes / No

GHS Foundation Bank Account: 03 0915 0349462 00

Thank You Very Much For Your Support