

THE NORMAN KIRK MEMORIAL TRUST



ANNUAL REPORT

For the year 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008

Trustees

Mr Ian Johnstone QSO (Chair)

Hon David Benson-Pope MP

Mrs Tala Cleverley QSM

Mr Philip Kirk

Mr Alan Langford

Mr Gerald O'Brien

Mr David Stevens

Dr Peter Swain

Hon Lianne Dalziel MP

Ms Tina McNicholas

Mr Peter J Gresham, ONZM

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INTRODUCTION

The Norman Kirk Memorial Trust was established by Trust Deed in 1976 to commemorate the life of the late Rt Hon Norman Kirk who was Prime Minister of New Zealand from 1972 to 1974. The Trust's capital comes from donations made in his memory by individuals, funds raised by public subscription and grants made by the Governments of New Zealand, Australia and several Pacific nations.

OBJECTIVES OF THE TRUST

The Trust seeks to assist the welfare and progress of people in New Zealand and the South Pacific. It is particularly interested in helping those who may have ability and interest, but lack the opportunities they need to advance.

HISTORY OF THE TRUST

The Rt Hon Norman Kirk is remembered not only as a Prime Minister but as a person committed to the welfare of New Zealand and the South Pacific. Throughout his life, Norman Kirk strove to ensure that everyone was given the opportunity to take the first steps towards self-improvement and a better way of living. His own experiences demonstrated to him that the circumstances of birth or background could mean the denial of this opportunity. He saw it as the duty of those with greater advantages to help the less fortunate to realise their full potential.

For over twenty years, the Norman Kirk Memorial Trust has endeavoured to implement Kirk's philosophy by providing financial assistance, particularly in education and training, for those who will benefit most from this support. Although grants are usually small, they can have a significant impact on the opportunities available to recipients, particularly those who have faced setbacks and are making a real effort to advance themselves and their communities. Many recipients have saved from their meagre resources to undertake training or study, and a small grant (\$3,500 maximum) is often all they need to achieve their aims.

In 1996, the Trust established the Norman Kirk Memorial Trust/Waimate High School and District Scholarship in honour of Norman Kirk; Waimate being Kirk's birthplace and place of burial. The Scholarship capital fund came from money raised by the Waimate community and a matching grant by the Trust. In 1998 a contribution from the Government meant that the fund is now nearly self-supporting. The Scholarship is awarded annually and, in keeping with the Trust Deed of the Norman Kirk Memorial Trust, priority is given to applicants who would be unlikely, without the assistance of the Scholarship, to be able to undertake tertiary study. It is worth up to \$3,500 a year and is tenable for up to three years.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Over the past few years, the Trust has been putting in place scholarship selection and award arrangements which reduce the administrative burden on Trustees and Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) advisors. Primarily, of course, these arrangements must continue to satisfy our Trust Deed's requirement that we support, in this country and elsewhere in the South Pacific, people who face or have faced financial or other difficulties undertaking educational courses which will help them make a contribution to the wider society.

It is pleasing to report that the Trust now has sound partnership arrangements with Waimate High School, the University of the South Pacific (USP), the Manukau Institute of Technology (MIT), the Māori Education Trust (MET), the Pacific Islands Polynesian Education Fund (PIPEF), the Pacific Paramedical Training Centre (PPTC), the Missionary Sisters of Society of Mary (MSSM) and Volunteer Service Abroad (VSA).

Each year these partners submit, for consideration and decision by Trustees, proposals for training or support programmes, or short lists of candidates applying for grants.

After a period of trial and error, the system is working well, though Trustees and DIA advisors always need to be ready to cope with the glitches which are bound to occur through changes in student plans, staff appointments and delays in the long and uncertain communication channels to remote Pacific islands.

To the relief of all involved, the flood of paper which used to flow in to Internal Affairs each year for photocopying, distribution and perusal has been reduced to a quiet stream of emailed short lists with supporting references. This means that awards are decided and successful applicants informed much more promptly than in the past. In another small, but we hope significant development, each scholar now receives a Certificate acknowledging the Scholarship and so is reminded of the honourable place in our history that we accord to former Prime Minister Norman Kirk.

The Trust ended the year with a surplus of \$60,154, of which 91 percent was distributed in awards and grants. Support was provided to about 90 students, including South Auckland nurses, accountants in the Solomon Islands, teachers across New Zealand, secondary pupils in Vanuatu and Samoa and medical technicians from all over the Pacific. Some grants, such as those awarded through MET and PIPEF, provide only \$250 to a successful applicant, but the Trust is aware that even grants of such small order can provide enough encouragement and support to make the difference between success and failure.

The Trust was pleased to be able to respond to new requests, such as that from the Principal of St Mary's College in Apia, Samoa, seeking support for dedicated but needy students. It will also consider providing a small scholarship in 2009 to a student at Victoria University of Wellington, which has strong Norman Kirk associations.

It seems likely that the Trust will have a reduced income to distribute in the coming year but, aware of that prospect, the Finance and Investment Committee chaired by Alan Langford has prudently taken steps to keep the Trust's finances on as steady as possible a course. At the end of this successful year, I offer my congratulations and best wishes to the year's Norman Kirk scholars and my thanks to our helpers in partner agencies, to our Department of Internal Affairs Advisors, and to my fellow Trustees.

Ian Johnstone QSO
Chair

ALLOCATION OF GRANTS

Scholarships

1. **2008 Norman Kirk Manukau Institute of Technology (MIT) Scholarship**
\$10,500.00
Three scholarships of \$3,500 each awarded to three MIT students.
2. **2008 Norman Kirk Waimate Scholarship**
\$10,500.00
A three-year scholarship of \$3,500 awarded to three Waimate High School students.
3. **2008 Norman Kirk University of the South Pacific Scholarship (USP)**
\$3500.00
Two scholarships of \$1,750 each awarded to two USP scholars, for Vanuatu and Solomon Islands campuses.

South Pacific

4. **Volunteer Service Abroad (VSA)**
\$6,000.00
A grant was made towards a student learning centre at St Patrick's College, Ambae, Vanuatu.

Annual Grants

5. **Pacific Paramedical Training Centre**
\$2,000.00
To fund technicians from South Pacific countries to participate in health technology training at the Pacific Paramedical Training Centre in Wellington.
6. **Pacific Islands Polynesian Education Foundation**
\$5,000.00
To finance tertiary studies fees for 20 students at \$250.00 each.
This grant attracts a subsidy from the Ministry of Education.
7. **Māori Education Trust**
\$5,000.00
To finance tertiary studies fees for 20 students at \$250.00 each.
This grant attracts a subsidy from the Māori Education Trust.

- 8. Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary, Fiji**
\$3,000.00
To finance school fees, uniforms and transport costs for a number of disadvantaged students.
- 9. St Mary's Covent School, Savalalo, Samoa**
\$1,000.00
To finance school fees, uniforms and transport costs for a number of disadvantaged students.
- 10. St Mary's College, Viamoso, Samoa**
\$1,000.00
To finance school fees, uniforms and transport costs for a number of disadvantaged students.