

SIR GEORGE ELLIOT CHARITABLE TRUST



Elliot Tertiary
Scholarships
2026

Achievement out of adversity: leadership now and tomorrow

The Sir George Elliot Charitable Trust was established in 1956. It has, over the years, supported many different community initiatives and projects. These have included the development of local hospices, the provision of facilities for the care of the elderly, the development of community facilities such as information centres, halls, large theatre complexes, and so on. Various schools have received support for projects related to the extension of facilities that can also be used by the community.

However, the current primary focus of the Sir George Elliot Charitable Trust is supporting young New Zealanders in their tertiary study through the Elliot Scholarships. The Elliot Scholarships reflect a restatement of the Trust's commitment to education in a way which balance that with community objectives. The intention is to support a group of young scholars who, given this first significant help towards tertiary qualifications, will go on to contribute to the well-being of the community in a wide range of spheres.

The trustees have decided to make each scholarship worth \$25,000, this being an amount that represents substantial help throughout the period of the first degree. At the moment, three scholarships are awarded each year. Scholars will be supported with advice and guidance and the trustees intend to be flexible in applying the guidelines they have established. The intention is clear, however – this is an investment in success and, through that success, in the development of the kind of community that Sir George Elliot worked towards in the first half of the twentieth century and towards which the trust is working in these early years of the twenty-first century.

Recently, to mark the twentieth anniversary of the Elliot Scholarships, the trustees inaugurated a special award known as the Sir George Elliot Fellowship. The Fellowship is awarded from time to time, at the discretion of the trustees, to a scholar whose work since receiving an Elliot Scholarships is regarded as having made a significant contribution to that scholar's field of endeavour, or who has exhibited outstanding community leadership or contribution. The Fellowship is marked with a substantial monetary award, a presentation diploma, and a commemorative New Zealand art work. The first Fellowship was conferred in 2022 on 2008 Elliot Scholar Dr Oscar Lyons, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the field of medical leadership.

The Elliot Scholarships

There are three \$25,000 scholarships awarded each year. Each scholarship will be paid in equal annual instalments over the period of study towards a first degree. The scholarship funds may be used towards tuition costs.

AWARD TO SCHOOL

In addition to the scholarship award and in recognition of the school's contribution, the Trust makes a donation of \$750 to the learning resources of each successful applicant's school.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Having identified a candidate who is likely to meet the scholarship criteria, any secondary school in the Auckland region may apply.

One application per school per year may be made. The applicant must have the endorsement of their principal.

The scholarship criteria include proven academic success and the requirement that the candidate face family, personal and/or economic circumstances that have required exceptional effort and have posed exceptional challenges for the candidate.

WHO WILL BE SUCCESSFUL?

The Trust has established criteria that are enclosed with the application material. In summary, the successful applicants will ...

- be likely to succeed in their proposed course of study
- have demonstrated academic achievement and real potential to succeed in tertiary study
- have demonstrated personal qualities of leadership
- have shown potential for contributing to the community
- have made exceptional effort or faced exceptional challenges as a result of their family, personal or economic circumstances.

HOW TO APPLY?

The application packs will be emailed to all secondary schools in the Auckland region on **Monday 20 July 2026**.

Completed applications should be emailed to the Trust by **Thursday 3 September 2026**

Email to: sharon.cornwell@martellimckegg.co.nz

Sir George Elliot Scholars 1999-2025

Applications are received each year from secondary schools in the Auckland Region (Warkworth to Onewhero).
Our scholarship alumni are:

1999	Geoffrey Bardsley Matthew Pankhurst Neha Patel	Papakura High School St Kentigern College Auckland Girls Grammar	2008	Oscar Lyons Shirin Zeinalpour Pania Newton	Rosmini College Aoreere College Southern Cross Campus	2017	Tevita Uilou Saskia Whitson Ishwanka Sharma	St Paul's College Baradene College of the Sacred Heart One Tree Hill College
2000	Oliva En Karen Evans Hamish McCarroll	Avondale College Baradene College Sacred Heart College	2009	Anyang Liu Melody Freeth Tess Connell	Kelston Girls College Mahurangi College St Mary's College	2018	Jennifer Thonrithi Nicole White Matthew Manukuo	Southern Cross Campus Mahurangi College Avondale College
2001	Charmaine Iliau Jamie Bell Amanda Everitt	Auckland Girls Grammar Auckland Grammar Kelston Girls High School	2010	Ruby Porter Phoebe Balle Hiwa Baker-Sheath	Northcote College Western Springs College Auckland Grammar School	2019	Nellina Vaovasa Sarah Poulter Zahra Habibi	Auckland Girls Grammar St Mary's College Mangere College
2002	Nicola Jamieson Nova Jiang Stallone Vaiaoga Ioasa	Pukekohe High School Diocesan School for Girls Auckland Grammar	2011	Matthew Ansell Henrietta Bollinger Marissa Lockhart	Saint Kentigern College Western Springs College St Mary's College	2020	Tess Connolly Madeleine France Tristan Mona	St Mary's College Baradene College Avondale College
2003	Sherilyn Evans Bronwyn Heath Rewa Murphy	Baradene College The Manurewa High School Carmel College	2012	Áine Kelly-Costello Joseph Chen Melino Samate	Pinehurst School Auckland Grammar School Wesley College	2021	Ali Hussaini Hirimaia Eketone Vicki Chow	Otahuhu College Avondale College Epsom Girls Grammar School
2004	Faoa Gatoloia Shanika Parasothy Simon Whalen	Birkenhead College Waitakere College Auckland Grammar	2013	Yan Tan Danny Lam Felicia Nasrun Carolina Anderson	Auckland Grammar School Carmel College St Mary's College	2022	Hezekiah Young Husna Nazari Sophie Roberts	Dilworth School Auckland Girls' Grammar School Onewunga High School
2005	Sophie Shamailov Louisa Collison Jacob Howe	Long Bay College Rangitoto College Birkenhead College	2014	Sarah Heslin Vivien Raega Courtney Rowse	Diocesan School For Girls McAuley High School Saint Kentigern College	2023	Shana Singh-Anderson Kate Chandulal-Dee John Taylor	Carmel College Edgewater College Mahurangi College
2006	Chi Sing Leo Lam Madeleine McCarroll Yalan Mo	Auckland Grammar St Cuthberts College Auckland Girls' Grammar School	2015	Charles Salt Paige Boyed Louis Abplanalp	St Peter's College (Auckland) Birkenhead College Westlake Boys High School	2024	Thomas Raybould Rubylee Greenwood India Haldane	Westlake Boys High School Auckland Girls' Grammar St Cuthbert's College
2007	Charlotte Forster Hamish Liggins Akosita Tuipolotu Manyu Zhu	Diocesan School for Girls Auckland Grammar Marist College Kelston Girls' College	2016	Christopher Stewart Isabella McPhee Sofia Manai	St Peter's College Diocesan School for Girls Avondale College	2025	Mia Shore Etikeni Helu Jackson Atutahi Taylor Griffin	Whangaparaoa College Sacred Heart College Manurewa High School Lynfield School

Sir George Elliot



Sir George Elliot was a benefactor, philanthropist, and successful businessman who died in 1956 after a long life of involvement in the work of the community.

Born in Scotland in 1865, he migrated to New Zealand and after running a newspaper in Tauranga, became involved in flax-milling before moving to Auckland to enter business with his brother.

He was president of the Auckland Chamber of Commerce in 1911-12. The idea of the Auckland Exhibition was mooted in 1912 and after a dispute over whether it should be held at Victoria Park or in the Domain, Sir George took up the position of president of the exhibition. Its subsequent success is in large measure a tribute to his skill and business acumen. The Wintergardens in the Auckland Domain are a permanent tribute to the exhibition and his leadership.

During World War I Sir George was a member of the National Efficiency Board, a member of the Military Service Board and president of the Patriotic Society. After the war he chaired various commissions into, among other things, the influenza epidemic in Samoa, and trade relations between New Zealand and various Pacific islands. He was knighted in 1923.

His business career was marked by involvement with the Bank of New Zealand (as director), the South British Insurance Company, Wilsons (NZ) Portland Cement Ltd, Milne and Choyce Ltd, the New Zealand Insurance Company, and Phillipps and Impey Ltd. His involvement with the BNZ spanned nearly twenty years and included a long period as chairman.

The Sir George Elliot Charitable Trust was established in 1956 to support community work and education. Sir George had long been interested in education, and this had been demonstrated earlier by his very significant donation for the establishment of St Kentigern's College and his generous support for St Cuthbert's College. It was characteristic of the man that these donations were made anonymously and only became public later.

A message from the trustees

This publication is intended as a guide only to the terms under which Elliot Scholarships are available. Qualification for a scholarship and payment to a successful candidate is strictly in terms of regulations promulgated from time to time by the trustees of the Sir George Elliot Charitable Trust.

The Sir George Elliot Charitable Trust is administered by:

Martelli McKegg

TRUST SECRETARY AND SOLICITORS
TO THE TRUST

Contact Details

For further information contact:

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Important Dates

Application packs will be emailed to all schools on **Monday 20 July 2026**

Applications close **Thursday 3 September 2026**

The Trustees acknowledge the continuing support of Sir George Elliot's family in particular his Granddaughter Mrs Rosalind Rust.

Trustees

Geoffrey Clews (Chairperson)

QSM, LLB (Hons), M Jur (Distn), FANZCN, AIF, M Inst D

Geoff Clews is a senior barrister specialising in contentious tax and trusts matters. He has been a trustee of the Elliott Trust since 1987. Outside his legal practice Geoff has held several prominent public, philanthropic and arts governance roles, and quasi-judicial appointments. Over some 30 years he led campaigns which established three performing arts facilities in Auckland, at local and regional levels. He is also an adjunct Teaching Fellow with the Faculty of Law at Auckland University and has contributed to five international legal texts.

Bill Gavin QSO, BA (Hons), DipTchg

Bill Gavin was Principal of Otahuhu College from 1985 to 2001 and Coordinator of the Achievement in Multicultural High Schools (AIMHI) schooling improvement initiative from 2002 to 2006. Since 2006, he has been involved in a variety of education consultancy positions. He has also served as a trustee on the New Zealand Youth Mentoring Network and he has been a member of The University of Auckland's Starpath Board and the university's interviewing panels for the selection of applicants for secondary teacher training. Bill has been a trustee of the Elliott Trust since 2008.

Hamish McCarroll LLB, BA

Hamish McCarroll was an Elliot Scholar in 2000 after attending Sacred Heart College, Auckland as a boarder from Tauranga. In 2001 he attended Victoria University of Wellington where he studied Law, International Relations and English Literature. After studying on exchange in The Netherlands he returned in 2006 and spent eight years working in finance as an equity derivatives trader for Dutch and Belgian banks. Hamish returned to New Zealand in 2014, and has been working in export markets since, firstly with Kraft Heinz / Wattie's, and currently as Export Manager at Ecostore. Hamish has been actively involved with the Trust on selection panels since 2016, and a trustee as of 2017.

Bronwyn Heath BSc

Bronwyn was a 2003 recipient of the Elliot Scholarship out of Manurewa High School. After completing a Bachelor of Science (Statistics and Psychology), she spent the next eight years in London working as a Quantitative Strategist for Medtech companies. Bronwyn returned to New Zealand in 2013 joining Business Toolbox, now as Managing Director, which specialises in software for people management. Bronwyn was a finalist in the 2023 Entrepreneur of the Year awards for WICTA and is also an active mentor for women in technology. She has served as trustee for the Elliott Trust since 2020.

Lewis Grant LLB

Lewis Grant has been involved with the Sir George Elliot Charitable Trust for many years as the Trust's legal advisor. He recently retired from legal practice and was welcomed on board as a trustee of the Trust in 2023. Lewis was a partner in the Auckland law firm Martelli McKegg, and, for over 40 years, specialised in private client, trust and estate law. Prior to his retirement, he was a trustee of several hundred trusts, including those of well-known old New Zealand families. Before joining Martelli McKegg in November 2012, Lewis was a partner of an Auckland based boutique trusts and estates law firm, which he co-founded in 2002. Lewis is a member of several charitable trust boards, including several large public charitable trusts, one of which he is the current chairman.

Joy Eaton BA, Dip SM, Dip Tchg

Joy joined the Elliot Trust Board in October 2019. She is an experienced Geography and Social Studies teacher starting her career in Tangaroa College before moving to West Auckland. She was appointed to several senior manager roles including being the Principal of Henderson High School. In 2011 she was appointed Deputy Director of Auckland University's Starpath Project, a research project looking into the impacts of socio-economic status on educational achievement. Since then she has been the General Manager of the New Zealand Youth Mentoring Network supporting mentoring organisations across Aotearoa. She has a strong interest in the role of hope in sustaining innovation and change, she believes in the power of inter-generational connections to develop stable positive community for the benefit of us all.

Steve Corbett BCom CA

Steve has been engaged in the entrepreneurial and innovation side of education for the past 20 years. He was the CEO of e-centre business incubator at Massey University for 15 years and CEO of AUT Ventures for 6 years-the research commercialisation company of AUT University. He is an advisor and director to a number of early-stage companies in the education and health sector. He has been on the judging panels for the Indian Business awards for 10 years and a number of student business competitions. Prior to moving to the entrepreneurial educational sector, Steve was a tax consulting partner with Deloitte. He has been a trustee of the Elliott Trust since 2010.

