



Northland Community Foundation supporting Te Tai Tokerau into the Future

► Left to Right: Brent Eastwood (CEO of Sport Northland), Don Saunders (Chairperson for Opera North), Gareth Foster, and Karen Gilbert-Smith (Chairperson, Northland Secondary Schools Association), and Greta Buchanan (General Manager, Northland Community Foundation).

Within the next 50 years the Northland Community Foundation (NCF) hopes to be a significant community funder for Te Tai Tokerau.

NCF plans to reach this goal by investing funds on behalf of generous Northlanders for charitable causes. NCF has so far been promised \$18 million worth of funds, gifts made by people through their wills, which are planned for charitable causes. When these funds are realised, they will be invested by NCF to establish long-term (endowment) funds, and the interest made on these funds each year will be delivered out to charitable causes according to the donors' wishes. This way the funds and the services they provide for will be retained and grown in perpetuity.

Recently Sport Northland CEO Brent Eastwood, Whangarei Boys High School

Principal and Chair of the Northland Secondary Schools Association Karen Gilbert-Smith, Northland Community Foundation (NCF) manager Greta Buchanan, and Don Saunders, Chair of Opera North, met with Gareth Foster to discuss his plans for his funds promised in his will for Northland. Mr Foster plans to establish three endowment funds to support top achieving male youth in Sport, Opera, and Education for Te Tai Tokerau.

These are all areas close to Mr Foster's heart that he sees as important for the future of Northland. Foster has lived in Northland all his life and thought this was a great way to give back to his community "Giving makes me feel good, it's great to give something back to the community I have lived in and loved for my whole life," says Gareth. Sport Northland Chief Executive Brent Eastwood is thrilled with the Gareth's promised gift for Sport in

Northland. "Once realised, the new named fund will be significant for the sports of athletics, equestrian and swimming in Northland, enabling the high achieving males in those sports to benefit from the annual scholarships that will result from the fund," he says.

Karen Gilbert-Smith (Chairperson of the Northland Secondary Schools Association) believes that these funds can have a knock-on effect: "By making a difference for one student that has a flow on effect, a pay it forward mentality where we create awareness and plant the seed that giving a hand-up rather than a hand-out to others can make a huge difference". Don Saunders stated that: "Opera North is excited by the

prospect of ongoing scholarship support for young tenors wishing to pursue studies and advancement in Operatic singing."

With the support of NCF and the promised fund holders Foster was able to discuss what is currently available for each sector, what the current and future community need is, and how funding would be best delivered. Ms Buchanan of the Northland Community Foundation states: "This is really the perfect case scenario for all of us. There is a real dearth of community funding available for Northland and establishing these long-term endowment funds, that are invested forever will create a significant asset for our community's future".

If you would like to make a gift in your will get in touch with Greta on greta@northlandcommunityfoundation.org.nz or 021558224.



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