



September 2021

September 19th marks Suffrage Day, a significant day in New Zealand history when in 1893, NZ became the first nation in the world to grant women the right to vote. This was 17 years after Kate Edger was the first woman in NZ to graduate. Since then, we have also celebrated Bessie Te Wenerau Grace of Ngāti Tūwharetoa as the first Māori woman to graduate. Thanks to the efforts of these pioneering suffragettes, women in NZ today are well represented in both politics and education, and The Kate Edger Educational Charitable Trust (KEECT) is delighted to be able to play a role in empowering education for women in all spheres of life.



I am thrilled to announce that The KEECT has been able to fund 105 awardees and nearly \$500,000 worth of awards over the last challenging financial year. Approximately 90% of these awards were funded from the proceeds of Academic Dress Hire (ADH) with the sale and hire of academic regalia and legal attire. The rest were funded by our generous donors and supporters. [Feedback](#) from our awardees has shown that receiving one of The KEECT awards can make a profound difference to their lives and studies, both financially and emotionally. Thank you to all of our ADH customers and to the donors and supporters. We cannot achieve this without you.

Please enjoy our latest e:newsletter and read the heartfelt stories from our awardees; see the proud moments at our Awards Ceremony; hear why Bed Bath & Beyond has decided to fund awards; and meet the winners of our annual Schools' Competition, which was set up 4 years ago to mark the 125th Suffrage movement anniversary, when we asked "What does the Suffrage Movement mean to you; your family; your whānau; your identity?" See those entries [here](#).

Our mission is to fund, support, encourage, promote and advance education for women, and may this continue as we move forward. We are currently seeking a new Trustee to join The KEECT on the next exciting phase of our journey. See [here](#) for more information and to apply.

Nina Tomaszuk
General Manager

The KEECT Awards Ceremony, 2021



This year's Awards Ceremony was held on Sunday 15th August... 2 days before the whole country went into Level 4 lockdown! It was a special day celebrating both the 2020 and 2021 awardees as last year's planned ceremony was cancelled due to Covid restrictions.

Awardees and their families, friends and supporters along with The KEECT trustees, staff, selection panelists and special guests gathered at Old Government House to celebrate their achievements, success and awards.

When Kate Edger graduated in 1877 as the first woman in NZ to gain a degree, the crowds gathered to watch such a special occasion. In honour of her achievement, the Bishop of Auckland presented her with a white camellia, said to symbolise unpretending excellence. In place of the camelia, the KEECT awardees were each presented with a long-stemmed white rose to symbolise their unpretending excellence, and in honour of Kate Edger who paved the way for women to have access to tertiary education.



Click [here](#) to see all the photos from the 2021 Awards ceremony, thanks to [Timeless Images](#). Thanks to [Scarecrow Florist](#) for the beautiful roses and bouquets.





Awardee speaker **Marian Hassan** who first completed an LLB from the University of Auckland, and is now studying a Master of Nursing Science at AUT, told the audience of how education and being a KEECT award recipient has impacted her life since arriving in NZ as a refugee at 10 years old. Read Marian's story [here](#).



Guest speaker and former KEECT Special awardee **Jessica Hastings** gave an inspiring speech on her personal journey and how she is now using her education and experience to drive her passion for reform within the Criminal Justice System, stemming from her own time spent in prison. Read Jess's story [here](#).



MC and Trustee Margaret Crannigan Allen.



The KEECT Chair Stephanie Harris with Master's Awardee and speaker, Marian Hassan.



Ann Harris with the Michele Harris Memorial Awardee Victoria Lessing



Trustee Hilary Lewis with Practicum Awardee Tania Webb



Trustee Sonia Pechner with Bachelor with Honours Degree Awardee Jessica Ge.



Trustee Jill Smith with Tressa Thomas Awardee Sherryl Gibbs.



Stephanie Harris with NZ Contemporary Art Awardee Kaoru Kodama



Trustee Linda Bryder with Special Practicum Awardee Susan Laiseni.



Stephanie Harris with Vinka Marinovich Engineering Awardee Sabrina Wong.



Shayne Cunis from Watercare with the Watercare/Ghella-Abergeldie Engineering Awardee Maja Ranzinger



Lisa Harrington from Timeless Images with the KEECT Schools Competition 2nd place winner Hannah Thompson



Emeritus Professor Dame Charmian O'Connor

Special recognition was also given to trustee Dame Charmian O'Connor who after a long association with The KEECT, recently announced that she will be retiring from the Trust later in the year.

Dame Charmian was the driving force behind the foundation of The KEECT in 2005 and served as chair of the Trust from 2005- 2013, continuing as a Trustee and Chair of the Awards Committee until the present day.

Stephanie spoke of Dame Charmian's illustrious academic career and contribution to the community and education, before she was given a standing ovation.



While she will be taking a step back from active involvement, she will continue to serve on some Award Selection Panels, and she will always be a precious taonga for The KEECT. The board would like to acknowledge and thank Dame Charmian for the time, passion and skill that she brought to her many roles in the Trust and wish her a long and happy retirement

Left to right:

Front Row: Jill Smith (Kate Edger's granddaughter), Dame Charmian O'Connor

Back Row: Stephanie Harris (Chair), Sonia Pechner, Hilary Lewis, Linda Bryder, Margaret Crannigan Allen.

Sponsorship Partner

Bed, Bath & Beyond, New Zealand's largest manchester specialist with 57 stores nationwide, are always looking for ways to support and engage with their staff and communities.

CEO Trevor Brown recognized that becoming a sponsor partner with The KEECT was an opportunity to make a real difference, particularly in the South Auckland area where many of the Bed, Bath & Beyond staff and families are based. They now sponsor 3 annual KEECT awards totaling \$15,000 for students to attend university. Read more [here](#).

The logo for Bed Bath & Beyond, featuring the brand name in white lowercase letters on a dark green rectangular background. The ampersand is a stylized green symbol.

We are delighted to have Bed, Bath & Beyond as a Kate Edger Educational Charitable Trust sponsor partner, and together we look forward to positively impacting the education journeys of their award recipients.

www.bedbathandbeyond.co.nz/bb-and-b/community

Our First KEECT Male Awardee

Historically, the Trust deed specifies that the KEECT awards are for women only.



However, thanks to our generous sponsor partners, some of our awards are now eligible for both males and females, and this year we celebrated our first ever male awardee, **Gurmehar Bajwa** who was the winner of our annual Schools Competition sponsored by Timeless Images.

We asked our young people, *What Brings You Joy?* and Gurmehar wrote a beautiful piece of poetry about his friend with special needs. The poem which Gurmehar read at the ceremony, is called *Mudita*, derived from the sanskrit word for joy, or the pleasure that comes from delighting in other people's well-being.

Read Gurmehar's poem [here](#)

Gurmehar's win was also covered by the local [Times Online](#).

The 2021 Schools Competition Winners

“Creativity is intelligence having fun” – Albert Einstein

The KEECT strongly believes that the creative arts play a vital role in our society. They provide a platform and outlet for young people to process and validate their feelings and observations as they navigate themselves and the world around them.

This is the 4th KEECT Schools' Competition sponsored by **Timeless Images Photography** and once again, the entries received showed that we have an amazing pool of young talent in the creative arts. The judges were delighted with the variety and creativity applied to the question “What Brings You Joy?”

Students showed us that joy exists in many forms, both internally and externally. Friends, family, music, art, animals, relationships, overcoming adversity, achieving success and engaging with the world around us were all common themes. Thank you to all who took the time to share their stories and creativity, and congratulations to our top 12 finalists and winners.

Students from Ormiston Senior College, Botany Downs High School, Diocesan School for Girls, and Carmel College took out the top prizes in this year's KEECT Schools Competition.

See our top
12
entries [here](#).

*"Joy is sewn into the
fabric of our worlds,
Bundles of joy buried
everywhere, pearls"*

1st Prize winner
Gurmehar Bajwa - Ormiston
Senior College



2nd Prize Winner
Hannah Thompson - Botany Downs
Secondary School

*"It was soaring—like her
lyrical passages and
melodic solos of
worlds past.
It was joy."*

3rd Prize winner
Esther Oh -
Diocesan School for Girls



Highly Commended
Dina Aziz - Carmel College

Awardee Profile – Aryan McKay, First Year Doctoral Award

Aryan is a 2021 recipient of the Kate Edger Educational Charitable Trust's First Year Doctoral Award and is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Clinical Psychology at Massey University. Already a published poet and an accomplished musician, this mother of four is exploring Māori perspectives on the hauora hinengaro (psychological) benefits and therapeutic applications of taonga pūoro (Māori musical instruments). She tells us how receiving this award has enabled her research so far. Read more [here](#)



2021 KEECT Awards Programme

The awards listed below are still open for applications in 2021.

New Start Awards - Dame Dorothy Winstone and Rae Hammer New Start Awards

For women students from the University of Auckland's **New Start** programme to study towards a degree at the University of Auckland.

Value: \$18,000 over three years **Closing Date:** 22 November 2021 – apply [here](#)

New Zealand Contemporary Art Award

For a male or female student enrolled in the third year or above of a degree or post-graduate degree in an Arts-related area at a tertiary institute in the Auckland/Northland region.

Value: \$5000 **Closing date:** 1 November 2021 - apply [here](#)

Postgraduate Diploma Awards

For women graduates to undertake a Postgraduate Diploma at an approved Institute in the Auckland area.

Value: \$8,000 **Closing date:** 22 November 2021 - apply [here](#)

Dame Dorothy Winstone Doctoral Completion Award

For a woman graduate who will have completed a minimum of 3 years full-time, or six years part-time study towards a PhD or named Doctorate to have one semester free of teaching or administrative duties to facilitate completion of her PhD or named Doctorate qualification.

Value: \$16,000 **Closing dates:** 15 November 2021 & 4 April 2022 - apply [here](#)

Macandrew Award in Performing Arts – Unitec

For a woman enrolled in the third year of the Performing and Screen Arts programme at Unitec.

Value: \$5,000 **Closing date:** 29 November 2021 - apply [here](#)