

Terms of Reference

A. INTRODUCTION

On 28 April 1995 a tragedy of national proportions happened in the Cave Creek area of the West Coast of the South Island. Thirteen students enrolled on Tai Poutini Polytechnic's Outdoor Recreation programme and one Department of Conservation Officer lost their lives when a viewing platform collapsed into a ravine. Four other students on the viewing platform survived the 30-metre fall.

B. THE CAVE CREEK STUDENT MEMORIAL FUND

The Cave Creek Student Memorial Fund (hereinafter referred to as "the Fund") was established at the instigation of Polytechnics in New Zealand who pledged the sum of \$125,000, which the New Zealand Government matched dollar for dollar, to institute a memorial fund to honour the 13 students killed at Cave Creek.

Additionally, it was agreed that any and all monies gifted directly or indirectly to the Polytechnic in response to the Cave Creek tragedy, by any public corporation, company or incorporated body, unincorporated body of persons or any other person, are to be invested in the Fund, if, in the judgement of the Board of Trustees, such monies may be applied legitimately and in good faith to the purposes outlined in Section E following.

C. BOARD OF TRUSTEES

A Board of Trustees has been appointed to administer the Fund in accordance with the policies set down in this document.

The Trustees are as follows:

1. The Executive Director of Tai Poutini Polytechnic (or his/her nominee), who will chair the Board of Trustees;
2. The Mayor of the Grey District Council (ex officio);
3. A legal representative from Tai Poutini Polytechnic's solicitors;
4. A West Coast business leader (for example, the Chair of the Grey Business and Promotions Association) appointed by the TPP Board of Directors.

In attendance: member of Tai Poutini Polytechnic finance team.

The Board of Trustees is required:

- (a) To convene up to twice a year, once prior to 30 April, and once prior to the end of the academic year, as required.
- (b) To convene for an extraordinary meeting at any time if so requested by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, or at the request of three or more members of the Board.
- (c) To arrange and approve investment of capital and interest from the Fund.

- (d) To receive and approve the decisions of the Awards Committee. The Board of Trustees may request clarification or further information or refer a decision back to the Awards Committee, or decline a decision absolutely. In all cases, the decision of the Board of Trustees is deemed to be final.
- (e) To authorise any expenses necessary for the administration of the affairs of the Fund and its associated personnel.
- (f) To prepare an account of income and expenditure for audit purposes and for inclusion in the Tai Poutini Polytechnic Annual Report.
- (g) To record Minutes from its meetings; these Minutes to be presented to Tai Poutini Polytechnic Executive Director.
- (h) To exercise any other such functions as may lawfully be conferred on it or be required for the proper and effective administration of the Fund.

Additionally, the Board of Trustees may consult, co-opt or delegate outside its established membership for a particular purpose which the Board of Trustees deems necessary or expedient for discharging its functions.

D. AWARDS COMMITTEE

The Tai Poutini Polytechnic (TPP) Awards Committee has been delegated responsibility by the Cave Creek Board of Trustees for Cave Creek Memorial Scholarships, and to report them to the Board of Trustees via the Secretary (Executive Assistant).

The Awards Committee may, in the course of its deliberations, consult any person or institution, request further information or otherwise take such steps as it deems necessary for the effective discharge of its functions and operation.

The Awards Committee is required:

- (a) To meet before the end of the academic year to decide upon recipients of the Cave Creek Memorial Scholarships for the following year.
- (b) To meet before the end of the academic year but before the Greymouth Graduation ceremony to decide upon the recipient, if any, of the Cave Creek Student Excellence Award.
- (c) To meet to consider any request for a discretionary grant. No recommendation for a discretionary grant may be forwarded to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees without a meeting of the Awards Committee having taken place.
- (d) To make all decisions for Cave Creek Memorial Scholarships and discretionary grants in writing to the Board of Trustees via the Secretary.
- (e) To accept and carry out all reasonable requests as may be directed to it by the Board of Trustees.

E. CONDITIONS OF SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS AND GRANTS

The Fund has been instituted primarily to assist a number of students enrolled, or preparing to enrol, in a full-time outdoor education programme at Tai Poutini Polytechnic West Coast Campuses (including Wanaka). Any and all individual applicants for disbursement from the Fund are required to be New Zealand citizens.

Scholarships/grants awarded in any year must not exceed \$7,000 in total. This includes Excellence Awards and discretionary grants. Scholarships will be for a minimum of \$1,000 per person.

The Board also directs the Awards Committee to make Academic Scholarships available only to those students who can demonstrate that they meet the selection criteria meritoriously.

I. Academic Scholarships

- (a) The Awards Committee has the power to nominate **up to five (5)** students in any one academic year, to receive individual awards of a minimum of \$1,000 as approved by the Board of Trustees.
- (b) These awards are to be known as the Cave Creek Memorial Scholarships.
- (c) The money disbursed is to be credited directly towards the students' programme fees, course-related costs or expenses for any Tai Poutini Polytechnic outdoor recreation programme (or its equivalent) at Tai Poutini Polytechnic West Coast campuses, and may not be applied to any non-academic purpose.
- (d) No student may hold a Cave Creek Memorial Scholarship concurrently with any other entrance award. A student awarded a Cave Creek Memorial Scholarship may, however, be nominated for any Polytechnic prize based on academic or personal achievement.
- (e) The Awards Committee makes its decisions from information presented to it. Applications must be on the official application form.
- (f) The Awards Committee is to forward its decisions to the Board of Trustees in good time for the scheduled Board meeting.
- (g) Successful nominees of Cave Creek Memorial Scholarships for the following year are to be informed before the end of the academic year.
- (h) Successful nominees are required to complete a TPP Outdoor Education or Ski Patrol programme. In the event of withdrawal from the programme or unsatisfactory progress, the scholarship is to be repaid in full unless in the opinion of the Awards Committee there are exceptional circumstances (e.g., sickness, bereavement) directly pertaining to the withdrawal.
- (i) No successful student may normally be nominated to receive a second scholarship for successive or subsequent years of study. In exceptional circumstances, however, the Awards Committee may award a student a Memorial Scholarship for a second year of study in an outdoor recreation programme.
- (j) The Awards Committee is to make its decisions having due regard for a student's academic record, personal qualities, achievements to date, commitment to outdoor pursuits, financial position, and future prospects or intentions within the field of outdoor recreation.

II. Excellence Award

- (a) The Awards Committee will award one Excellence Award in any one year of up to \$3,000 total, to be presented at the graduation ceremony, to a student who has completed their programme of study with merit across both academic completion and their broader contribution to the programme and Tai Poutini Polytechnic.
- (b) The award shall be known as the Cave Creek Students' Memorial Excellence Award.
- (c) The Cave Creek Students' Memorial Excellence Award shall be for a student completing an outdoor education or related programme.

- (d) Students shall be nominated by the Programme Leader (or Lead Tutor) based on their overall academic performance. The nomination form shall be completed and submitted to the end of year Awards Committee meeting such that a decision can be made in time for the Graduation ceremony.
- (e) The holding of a Cave Creek Students' Memorial Scholarship or Discretionary Grant shall not preclude a student being nominated for nor being awarded the Cave Creek Student Excellence Award.

III. Discretionary Grants

- (a) The Awards Committee may allocate funding of up to \$5,000 in any one academic year, either to help defray programme-related expenses for individuals enrolled in an outdoor recreation programme, or to assist in meeting expenses relating directly to the circumstances of the Cave Creek tragedy. In making its decisions the Awards Committee will ensure that any alternative means of funding have been competently and fully explored. [Refer Section E for conditions of scholarships and grants.]
- (b) Only in exceptional circumstances would any student holding a Cave Creek Memorial Scholarship be considered for the further award of a discretionary grant from the Fund.
- (c) Discretionary grants may not be carried over the academic year of award.
- (d) No formal applications are required for discretionary grants. The Awards Committee will consider any written proposal, however, which is in accordance with the provisions outlined in section (a) above.
- (e) Discretionary grants may be made at any stage during the academic year. In each and every instance, the Chairman and one other member of the Board of Trustees must approve the grant. The Chairman is obliged to request an Extraordinary Meeting of the Board of Trustees if in his judgement, the nature, circumstances or amount of the discretionary grant requires it.

F. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- (a) Information pertaining to the Cave Creek Student Memorial Fund and associated awards is to be printed in the Tai Poutini Polytechnic Student Information booklet.
- (b) Notice of the names of recipients of Cave Creek Memorial Scholarships, Cave Creek Student Excellence Award, or discretionary grants is to be printed in the three West Coast newspapers and advised to the TPP Executive Director.
- (c) In the event that Tai Poutini Polytechnic Limited or its subsequent bodies are wound up or cease to exist, all remaining funds will be passed over to an appropriate community organisation for the ongoing support of students on the West Coast. The Executive Director of Tai Poutini Polytechnic, in consultation with Te Pukenga Council, will determine the appropriate organisation to administer the fund.