



## 2025 EDUCATION GRANT & SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Closing: Friday 17th October 2025

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### Stan Pio Keepa Scholarship

In 2025 for the first time, the trustees' will award the Stan Pio Keepa scholarship of \$5,000 to an applicant that embodies his vision, and who's mahi or education, does or will contribute to our communities through initiatives that foster growth, resilience, and/or cultural enhancement.

The recipient is expected to be actively engaged in a project or study aimed at benefiting our communities and enhancing collective well-being.

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### Eligibility Criteria

- A shareholder or descendant of a current shareholder of Kiwinui Trust
- Enrolled full-time in a tertiary education institution, including trade training
- In **at least the second year** of full-time study
- Applicants are encouraged to attend the AGM either in person or online

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### Applicant Information

**Name of Applicant:**

**Address:**

**Phone Number:**

**Email:**

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### **Whakapapa Confirmation**

Please show clearly your whakapapa to a current named shareholder of Kiwinui Trust.  
(Refer to the Māori Land Court online for list of owners if unsure. Block: Kiwinui Block ID: 35967)

**Owner listed on the register:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your relationship to the owner:** \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Personal Statement**

*(Please attach separate sheets if required)*

Please provide a summary of your current course of study or mahi and what you aim to achieve:

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### **Iwi/Hapū/Marae/Whānau**

*(Please attach separate sheets if required)*

Please describe the commitments you and/or your whānau make to your iwi, hapū, marae, or wider whānau:

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### **Academic Record**

Please attach a copy of your **most recent academic transcript or previous year's results**.

This information may help trustees assess the value of your grant.

## Proof of Study

Please attach **EITHER** of the following:

- ☒ Confirmation of Full-time Enrolment on institution letterhead
- ☒ Certificate of Attendance
- ☒ Paid Fees Receipt

*Note: Documents must show the applicant's full name, programme, and year of study.*

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## Attendance at AGM

Attendance at the AGM is an important part of maintaining connection with the Trust and its kaupapa. Please endeavour to make yourself available to attend the next Kiwinui Trust AGM, either in person or online.

All Education Grant recipients will be notified of the next AGM date.

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## Applicant's Declaration

I declare that the information provided is true and accurate. I understand my application may be declined if any required documentation is missing or incomplete.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / 2025

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**Applications close on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2025**  
**Submit your completed application and supporting documents:**

### By Post:

Kiwinui Trust  
C/- Goldsmiths Chartered Accountants  
PO Box 810  
WHAKATANE 3158

### By Email:

grants@goldsmithsca.co.nz

### In Person:

Goldsmiths Chartered Accountants  
Level One  
189 The Strand  
WHAKATANE 3120

### Phone Enquiries:

(07) 308 9700



# *Stanley Pio Rangirewai Keepa*

(30 October 1933 – 14 May 1998)

## *Early life and upbringing*

Pio Stanley Keepa was born near Te Whare o Toroa Marae, Wairaka on 30 October 1933. His parents were Harata Haimona of Ngāti Hokopū and Te Patuwai hapū of Ngāti Awa and Stanley Pakira Keepa, the son of Ngāti Awa chief Te Keepa Tawhio of Ngāti Awa and Ngāti Hokopū hapū and his second wife Te Wairata Ngāiro who affiliated to Ngai Taiwhakaea II and Nga Māihi. Pio was their only issue, and both his parents went on to have second relationships. Pio was brought up by his kuia, his mother and her second husband, Kira Williams. Pio would later recall that he spent time with his Auntie Mate Haimona and her husband Kere Wano. At the age of 14, Pio worked at the Whakatāne Picture Theatre, and it was here that he learned about being a projectionist. His entrepreneurial aptitudes showed early and on his days off he would hire a projector from his superiors and show films at various marae around Whakatāne. By age 19 he had obtained his projectionist qualifications. He would continue this practice later in life even when he was by then a successful businessman in the 1980s by arranging for movies to be shown at Mātaatua, the marae he helped build in Māngere, Auckland for the Ngāti Awa ki Tamaki Makaurau hapū.

## *Moving to Auckland*

It was while he was working at the Tauranga Picture Theatre that he met his wife to be, Kataraina (Bunty) Nuku from Motiti Island. They moved to Auckland and at the age of 22 Pio joined the Police Force. He was posted to Onehunga in 1955. He also worked part-time as a projectionist, truck driver and in time ventured into real estate.

It was in this latter activity that Pio was to find his vocation in life. He subsequently purchased a boarding house, bought, and renovated houses and eventually, in 1969 moved to commercial property where for the next 30 years till his death he excelled and built his fortune. In a tribe that does not boast many entrepreneurs or wealthy individuals Pio Keepa was Ngāti Awa's most successful businessman and entrepreneur. So, by western measures he was a highly successful individual and yet by Ngāti Awa measures he would have considered himself as just a servant of the people.

## *A property developer at work*

Sir Wira Gardiner was involved with Pio in the 1980s and was able to watch a successful property developer and investor at work during that period. Pio would employ a series of techniques to gain the advantage, usually by portraying himself in an unflattering light to the estate agents and property people who initially at least would regard him with polite indifference or disdain. Pio also decided to call his investment company Flora Investments Limited as this is the middle name of Bunty. If Pio liked the building, he would call his lawyers Martelli McKegg and in particular a young lawyer, Andrew Macdonald who remains the tribe's commercial lawyer today. By the mid-1980s creating wealth for Pio was a matter of combining opportunity with capital and he had built up a strong portfolio of properties. In time, he would apply his acumen and skill to benefit Ngāti Awa.

## *Ngāti Awa*

When the Ngāti Awa Trust Board established a commercial entity called Louvain Holdings Ltd in the late 1980s Pio became its first Chairman, a position he was to hold until his death. Pio's first foray for Ngāti Awa was to buy a commercial office building in Whakatāne, Louvain House in 1991 followed by negotiations that led to the return of the local rubbish tip to Ngāti Awa. Pio negotiated an eleventh-hour agreement with the Whakatāne District Council which provided much needed income to the iwi at a critical time. Ta Hirini Mead also remembers Pio being involved with Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi since the wānanga, like the iwi, relied heavily on his expertise in commercial and property matters. Pio was co-opted by Ta Hirini and the Rūnanga to assist with the Mataatua Marae project, at the time in its early stages. Pio was often deployed by the iwi leadership as a "Mr Fix It". One case that had caused concern for the tribe was the governance and management of the iwi radio station, Tumeke FM. In 1993 after matters had gone awry, Ta Hirini and Joe Mason, the Rūnanga General Manager, approached Pio to both bail out and take over the board of the station. With some reluctance - especially on bail out - Pio agreed and soon with a new board, put in place several risk management strategies. Following a series of consultation hui with the hapū, Ta Hirini gathered a team to oversee the prosecution of the Ngāti Awa Treaty claims called the Raupatu Committee. Pio's role was to assist Ta Hirini and the tribal lawyers to support the claim process. When the Waitangi Tribunal hearings concluded in 1995 the iwi elected five negotiators that included Pio and was led by Ta Hirini as chief negotiator. Pio maintained a key role in the negotiation process with responsibility for assessing commercial assets until illness prevented him from participating. It was a significant blow to the tribe's negotiating strength when Pio was prevented from further involvement. During the years of his involvement with Ngāti Awa, Pio was ably supported by Ngamaru Raerino and Peter Bidois. They served as directors of Louvain Holdings Ltd.

Unsurprisingly for an individual of his experience, Pio was also involved with hapū land. He was appointed a trustee of the Kiwinui Trust and survived a wholesale removal of trustees by Judge Hingston simply because of his reputation as an expert of integrity and experience. A previous trustee had been involved in serious malfeasance and so in 1995, the Māori Land Court undertook an investigation before

removing all the then trustees apart from Pio. He went on to build up a sizable investment portfolio for the trust. *Working with Māori and government*

Pio had a deep social consciousness. When Koro Wetere, the Minister of Māori Affairs, asked Pio to serve on the Board of Māori Affairs, he was reluctant as he did not believe that government agencies did anything other than waste taxpayers' funds. Nevertheless, he agreed and served with Bert Mackie and Sir Ngātata Love on the Employment and Business Committee of the Board and was excited by the prospects of creating business opportunities and employment for young Māori. At this time, his wife Buntty also chose to work with the unemployed. During this period, she ran a private training establishment called the Howick Training Centre which was colocated with a national company that put pressure on her and her trainees to get them out of their premises. Buntty told Pio and in response, with a wry smile, he simply bought the building and made the national company a tenant.

## *Community involvement*

Outside of Ngāti Awa, Pio lived a completely different and full lifestyle in Auckland in a house also large enough to be turned into a motel by its eventual owners once he moved to Howick. He was a member of the Māngere Rotary Club for over 26 years and became the first Māori to receive the prestigious Paul Harris Award, an international award for services to the Rotary movement. He also held many positions in the Māngere community including with the Citizens Advice Bureau, the Metropolitan Club, Chair of the Mātaatua Marae Committee, Māngere College Board of trustees as well as the Māngere Lawn Cemetery Trust.

Pio's life story is one of endeavour, enterprise, and initiative. He came from humble beginnings and excelled in a field of endeavour few succeed in – the property market. His wise counsel, his conservative approach and his generosity of spirit marked him out as an outstanding Ngāti Awa leader. He did not direct tribal affairs in the traditional sense but his inspirational leadership in demonstrating that anything is possible was his greatest gift to those who were fortunate to work with him over a long and successful life. Pio passed away after a long illness on 14 May 1998 and is buried near his father and their whānau at Pupuāruhe urupā on the outskirts of Whakatāne.