

## *Our beginnings*

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The Ladies Auxiliary 'Working Committee' is the fund raising arm of the Laura Fergusson Trust (Wellington) and has had a special history with Government House since 1970. The Committee of the Trust was initially set up by her Excellency Lady Porritt. At the kind invitation of Lord Porritt and Sir Richard and Lady Wild, the Trust was introduced to facilitate the problems of housing and care for disabled young people to enable them to lead an independent way of life and contribute to society.

Over the last 40 years, the Laura Fergusson Trust has grown across Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington. The Ladies 'Working Committee' fundraises for Wellington and the wider community and we have been privileged to have the support of Patronage from previous Governor General's during this time.

It has been a special journey over the last three years with the close relationship of Her Excellency Lady Satyanand, complimented by the support of George and Margaret Fergusson, British High Commissioner. Lady Laura Fergusson, mother of George, hugely supported the needs for the disabled community and initiated many of the ideas of the Trust during her time in New Zealand with Brigadier Sir Bernard Fergusson, Governor General. Due to all her hard work and commitment, the Laura Fergusson Trust was named after her when it was set up in 1970.

The Ladies 'Working Committee' of the Laura Fergusson Trust (Wellington) is a small committee of hard working ladies, who wish to maintain the history of the Trust, have huge personalities and are undemanding. We generally hold one or two small fund raising events throughout the year with the main event the Annual Bridge & Mah-Jong Day, held at Government House, for many years and the one event where we are privileged should our Patron be available to host and attend.