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For Immediate Release

### **FRIENDS OF BAYCOURT - PERFORMING ARTS YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED**

There comes a day for all of us, when it is time to leave school! Friends of Baycourt have awarded the 2016 Annual Performing Arts Youth Scholarship to Tate Fountain from Tauranga Girls College, Lachlan Crane from Tauranga Boys College and Ethan Morse from Katikati College. Friends of Baycourt exists to support Baycourt in a variety of ways and one of these is to foster and encourage students who intend to pursue a career, in some aspect of the performing arts.

To support this vision, an Annual Performing Arts Youth Scholarship is awarded to a secondary school student from Tauranga or the Western Bay of Plenty who is entering Tertiary Education. There is in our region an impressive number of talented youth, who already have much experience within the performing arts field. The successful applicants have had high achievements in a wide diversity of the performing arts to date, which have covered acting, singing, writing, dance, technical involvement, choreography and directorship. They have taken part in major productions and have held demanding lead roles, and responsibilities in their chosen areas, with excellent performance levels.

Alongside the performing arts achievement, they have also held leadership roles within their schools, which have incorporated skills and experience in communication, self-management and relevant success academically. Anna Finlayson-Smith the Chair of FOB said 'This year we have had eight applications put forward for this Scholarship. The level of these applications has been outstanding. The selection team had a hard task.'

Tate Fountain will be heading off to Auckland to begin her BA/LLB double major along with continuing her acting involvement, with the Auckland Theatre Company. Lachlan Crane has been accepted to study at the New Zealand Film and Television School in Wellington. He will during July be in London performing at the Shakespeare Globe Centre. Ethan Morse will begin his BA in theatre and philosophy at Victoria University. He is keen to establish his career here in New Zealand.

'The Friends of Baycourt congratulates our Scholarship winners and wishes them all the very best for a fine future and further success and enjoyment in the Performing Arts.' said Anna Finlayson Smith.

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For more information or an interview with the successful applicants please contact:

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