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## Gattung Foundation Backgrounder for media October 2022

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### About the Gattung Foundation



- The Gattung Foundation is founded by sisters Theresa and Angela Gattung, and was born out of their sisterhood and shared spirit to enable others.
- It is a charitable foundation that among its aims, wants to address inequalities for girls and women, and improve animal welfare across Aotearoa New Zealand.
- The Foundation launches on the evening of Tuesday 18 October.
- Through funding, advocacy and mentoring – and sometimes hands-on, practical support – Theresa and Angela are creating real solutions for very real problems.
- Theresa and Angela call it the ‘heart effect’ – they support causes that touch them deeply, but also believe just as strongly in effectiveness. *“Put the two together and you can create ripples of change for a stronger Aotearoa.”*
- The Foundation consists of five Care Cause pillars, and within each of these pillars are different charities, community groups and individuals that Theresa and Angela feel very passionate about supporting.

### About Theresa Gattung – CNZM, Founder & Trustee

- Theresa Gattung is a New Zealand business leader, author, philanthropist and investor.
- Named in Fortune magazine’s list of the 50 most powerful women in international business several times since 2002, Theresa was also included in Forbes’ list of the world’s 50 most powerful women across any sphere in 2006.
- Her best-selling autobiography, *Bird on a Wire*, was published in 2010.

- Perhaps best known for her role as CEO of Telecom New Zealand, Theresa was the first female CEO of an NZX listed company. Since leaving Telecom, she has divided her time between professional governance, entrepreneurial pursuits, and philanthropic work.
- Theresa has held multiple governance positions including; Chair of AIA Australia, Chair Telco Technology Services, Chair CoOfWomen, Chair of the Wellington Board of the SPCA and then on the Royal New Zealand SPCA (RNZSPCA) National Board. She is currently Chair of AIA New Zealand, Chair of Global Women, and a member of the National Advisory Board on the Employment of Women.
- As co-founder of My Food Bag, alongside Cecilia and James Robinson, Nadia Lim, and Carlos Bagrie, Theresa helped take the start-up to a nationwide company with a turnover of over \$130m.
- In 2019, Theresa became Chair of Tend, a primary healthcare provider with a mission to put digital healthcare in the hands of all Kiwis. Theresa is also the New Zealand lead of Coralus (formally SheEO), an international community that supports, finances, and celebrates female entrepreneurs.
- Theresa is involved with a number of not-for-profit and philanthropic interests, including being on the Global Board of World Pulse, a co-founder of the World Women Charitable Trust, and Patron of the Cambodia Charitable Trust.
- In 2015, Theresa was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to business and philanthropy in the New Year's Honours List, and inducted into the Marketing Hall of Fame at the TVNZ Marketing Awards.
- In 2017, she was named the inaugural winner of the NEXT Magazine Lifetime Achievement Award, and in 2018 she was awarded the Lifetime Achievement award at the Westpac Women of Influence Awards. In February 2019, she was inducted into the RNZSPCA Hall of Fame.
- In 2021, Theresa funded the Theresa Gattung Chair of Women in Entrepreneurship within the University of Auckland Business School and, together with her sister Angela, launched the Gattung Foundation. That same year, she was inducted into the Co.OfWomen Hall of Fame and given the Inaugural NZ Women's Entrepreneurship Day Pioneer Award for her trailblazing leadership and empowerment of women by the UN Women Aotearoa New Zealand.

## About Angela Gattung – Executive Director

- Angela Gattung is the third of four daughters born in Aotearoa New Zealand to British immigrants, Marion and John Gattung.
- At an early age, she remembers being told that 'girls can do anything'.
- Angela has had a career in New Zealand and internationally in the education and social sectors. After completing her first degree, she embarked on an education career, teaching mainly Japanese and economics at secondary level in Rotorua and New Plymouth.
- Having married into a Māori family and raising three sons, two of whom attended the early form of kohanga reo of the 1980s, Angela developed a special affinity with Māori language and culture.
- She has spent time living overseas in the Arabian Gulf, Middle East and Central Asia working as an

education adviser and consultant in both the public and private sectors.

- On her return to New Zealand, Angela did a short stint at the Ministry of Education before taking the role of the leader of a newly formed charity called Kootuitui ki Papakura, which features a three-strand approach of education, health and homes to community wellbeing.
- She spent six years developing the charity's programmes and presence in the Papakura community, working mainly with Māori and Pasifika peoples, building her knowledge of the charitable sector and steering the charity through nearly two years of COVID, before leaving to lead the Gattung Foundation.
- Angela's family represents a global community, with ethnicities including Chinese, Australian Croatian, Cook Islands Māori and Lebanese. She is the proud grandmother of six, soon to be seven, grandchildren.

## About The Gattung Foundation's Care Causes

- **At The Table**

Reducing inequality by lifting women, Māori, and Pasifika voices, *At The Table* provides support to more than 10 different causes. Some of the examples of support for this pillar to date includes providing two women with scholarships to train for work in the health sector with the Middlemore Foundation, and prototype testing a new programme for Core Education, which will help young Māori and Pasifika women into careers in the education sector.

- **Here Together**

This pillar is about growing stronger families within supportive communities. Through *Here Together*, The Gattung Foundation is working with charities and organisations such as The Kindness Collective to provide Christmas gifts for whānau who struggle to provide gifts for their tamariki, and the Breast Cancer Foundation by supporting the Pink Ribbon Breakfast campaign.

- **Forging Futures**

*Forging Futures* is about fuelling futures through education and learning opportunities. Examples of the causes supported through this pillar include supporting girls studying robotics at Epsom Girls' Grammar and Te Kura Kaupapa Māori O Kawakawa Mai Tawhiti by providing donations to the school's robotics teams, and supporting people benefitting from music therapy with Rotokauri Music Therapy Trust.

- **Cycle Breakers**

This pillar is about relieving and reversing poverty cycles through grassroots support. Some of The Gattung Foundation's *Cycle Breakers'* work includes supporting whānau in Afghanistan and Ukraine with Amnesty International, and providing a donation for food, clothing and health products for

children going through material hardship through KidsCan.

- **Furry Friends**

Improving the welfare of animals through care, support and protection, *Furry Friends* involves The Gattung Foundation working with organisations such as SPCA to provide an inspectorate vehicle in Northland, which will support the care and protection of animals in an area of NZ that has long distances to travel, high household poverty and lack of veterinary services; and All Paws Count Murupara Trust to assist with food, medicine and the care of abandoned dogs.

For more information on the Gattung Foundation, please click [here](#).