



## Office of Hon Nikki Kaye

MP for Auckland Central

Minister of Education

Minister for Youth

22 AUG 2017

Grant Clifton  
Chairperson  
Board of Trustees  
Matakana School  
952 Matakana Road  
RD 5  
**WARKWORTH 0985**

Tēnā koe Mr Clifton,

I have been informed by the Chief Review Officer that Matakana School has recently been reviewed by the Education Review Office and that the review report has been confirmed with the decision that ERO will next review the school in four to five years. He has sent me a copy of that report for my information.

I am aware that the criteria leading to this decision by ERO are demanding. I congratulate all involved for the work you are doing to ensure your school is providing a high quality of education for its learners.

This must be very encouraging for you and I commend you, your Board and the Principal, Darrel Goosen, for the leadership you have all shown, and the staff for their focus on learner achievement. In particular, I note the positive impact the school is having responding to children whose learning and achievement need acceleration. I enjoyed reading in the report that digital programmes are integrated into everyday programmes, and that classrooms have been refurbished to reflect progressive educational ideas.

Thank you for the important contribution Matakana School is making to the education of New Zealand's young people.

I have included a copy of this letter for Mr Goosen.

Heoi anō

Hon Nikki Kaye  
**Minister of Education**

CC: Mr Darrel Goosen  
Principal, Matakana School

MATAKANA SCHOOL  
952 MATAKANA ROAD  
RD 5  
WARKWORTH 0985  
NEW ZEALAND



Board of Trustees Chair  
Natascha Hurt

Principal  
Darrel Goosen

Telephone: 09 422-7309 Facsimile: 09 422-7667, Email: [office@matakana.school.nz](mailto:office@matakana.school.nz),  
Website: [www.matakana.school.nz](http://www.matakana.school.nz)

19th April 2018

**To Whom It May Concern**

It gives me great pleasure to write this character reference for Grant Clifton.

I have had the privilege of knowing Grant since he enrolled his daughters at Matakana School in 2011 when he moved his family to the Matakana area. Grant is a dedicated parent who immediately made, and continues to make, a positive difference in our school community and the community at large.

Grant has been involved in a variety of roles as a parent at our school. He served on the Parent Teachers Association before being co-opted and then elected onto the school Board of Trustees. Grant initially served as the Board's liaison Trustee between the school and the local Matakana Community Group. He then served as the Board's Treasurer before being elected as the Chairperson of the School Board of Trustees in 2016.

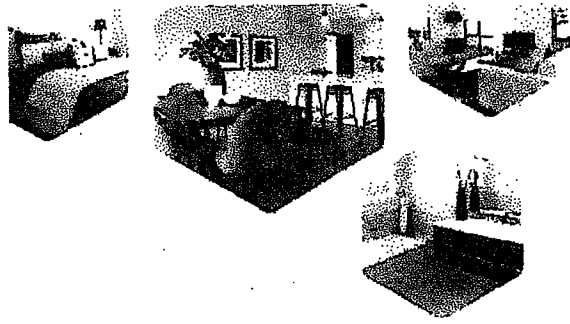
It requires a special person with a gentle but determined and purposeful personality to lead a high decile school in a rapidly changing, fast growing and affluent community such as Matakana. Grant has exactly that kind of personality and this has allowed for a positive and constructive working relationship between the Board of Trustees, the School Management Team and the community at large. Grant has ensured that our school always remains central to everything that happens in the community and has effectively lead our school through a number of change initiatives and large fund-raising events. His financial acumen and community mindedness, has allowed our school to become a beacon school in the district in terms of sound financial management, future focused learning and creative curriculum delivery. In 2017, under Grant's sound leadership, Matakana School received a '4-5 Year' review from the Ministry of Education's review office. Our primary school remains the only school in the district to have achieved this review status, which is the highest awarded to schools. The Minister of Education made a point of congratulating our school on this outstanding achievement.

Grant is by nature a highly efficient, competent, friendly, organised and energetic person who has an excellent rapport with people of all ages. His communication skills, both written and verbal, are excellent and his work ethic is exemplary. Grant is tenacious and gets the job done, no matter how tough the task. One of his greatest assets is his ability to remain calm and totally collected under extreme pressure.

Grant and his family will be greatly missed at our school and in our community but I have no doubt that he will make a positive difference and be successful, wherever his career leads him, it's simply in his nature.

Sincerely

Darrel Goosen  
Principal



Omaha Holdings Ltd  
Manukau Residential Franchisee for  
G.J. Gardner Homes

49F Springs Road, East Tamaki, Auckland 2013  
PO Box 217137, Botany Junction, Auckland 2164

(09) 274 3978

1 May 2018

To whom it may concern

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: Grant Clifton**

I have known Grant for over 25 years both in a professional and personal capacity. Initially I worked with him and later he joined my new company as a sales consultant. I have also had a number of interactions with Grant in his role as a finance broker. From the outset Grant displayed high levels of initiative and drive. He is a self starter and can be relied on to follow tasks through to a successful completion. He has taken on numerous challenges over the years always with great success. He has an ability to mix well with a wide range of personalities and has cultivated extensive networks. Grant has high integrity levels and a sound knowledge of the lending markets. I would strongly recommend him to any future employer or business partner.

I am happy to be contacted for any further information if required.

Steve Bull  
Director – Omaha holdings Ltd 021 382350

# Mahurangi matters

Your LOCAL Community Newspaper

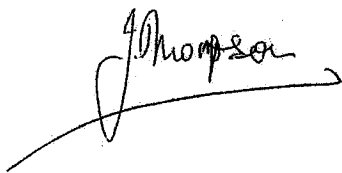
*September 2018*

## **To Whom It May Concern**

Grant Clifton was a columnist for the community newspaper Mahurangi Matters, based in Warkworth NZ, for more than four years.

During this time, he wrote on a wide range of financial matters covering everything from budgeting and navigating a mortgage to a series on advising children on how to save. The monthly columns were popular and well received, and were done on a voluntary basis as a community service.

I have always found Grant honest and reliable, and generous with his time and knowledge. He leaves the community with the very best wishes of the undersigned.



Jannette Thompson  
General Manager  
Local Matters 2005 Ltd  
gm@localmatters.co.nz  
Mob: 021 263 4423

03 September 2018

Re: Grant Clifton

To whom it may concern.

I have known Grant over the last 3-4 years, first through a Business networking group called BNI and later through working with him to finance, fix and refinance our house and business over these years.

During this time it has been a pleasure to work with Grant, his professionalism, knowledge of finance and willingness to help us fill our knowledge gaps was enormous; not just for getting our loans approved but for helping us think outside the box when it came to solutions that fit our situation as owners of a small business in a service based local climate.

Grant takes pride in providing a level of experience and advice we weren't expecting. We are very happy with the result and are left having had a great experience with his process.

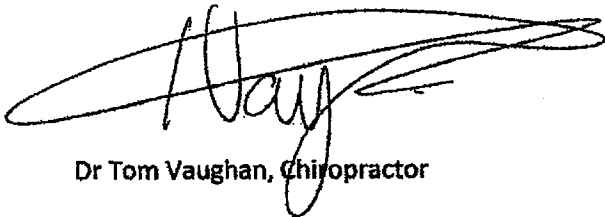
I wish him the best of luck for his future endeavours!

I am happy to echo these thoughts with further contact.

tom@boostchiropractic.co.nz

09 425 9888

Regards,



Dr Tom Vaughan, Chiropractor

Jo Hodges  
472A King Road  
Mangawhai Heads RD2  
**Kaiwaka 0573**

4 September 2018

Countrywise Financial  
Ground Floor  
Kowhai house  
4 Warkworth Street  
**Warkworth**

**Attention: Grant Clifton**

**To Whom it May Concern**

It is a pleasure to have the opportunity to provide you with a reference for Grant from Countrywise.

Grant was recommended to me by a family member during a very stressful period. I was living in an unfamiliar area and struggling to gain traction with a very long-winded banking situation that lacked personal service and real life solutions.

From the first visit with Grant I immediately felt that I had someone in my corner that was working for me and what was in my best interests. Grant has the ability and knowledge to provide real solutions to financial matters and my lending was approved and in the bank within two weeks.

As I had expressed the desire to change banks, I really felt that after over 30 years of loyalty, my bank had lost its personal interest in my business and no longer provided a personal service, Grant also facilitated the transfer of my accounts, advice on how to setup the new loan facilities and the appropriate people to meet with. Nothing was too much trouble, Grant really does go the extra mile in an environment that is challenging and becoming more removed from its clients. I have since recommend Grant to several other friends and neighbours who are also finding the banking institutions too inaccessible and impersonal. The also have been impressed with his knowledge and ability to provide exceptional service in the finance industry.

Grant is a knowledgeable, caring, family man with real values that shine and make those around him feel at ease. I can thoroughly recommend him as a valuable asset to any business and whilst he will be missed, wish him all the best in his new direction.

Kind Regards  
Jo Hodges



91-93 Tamaki Drive, Mission Bay ,Auckland, NZ

4<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Re: Grant Clifton

To whom it may concern:

I met Grant many years ago thru a mutual friend.

In 2010 I opened my 1<sup>st</sup> restaurant Dos Amigos Mexican Cantina, in Mission Bay. Grant helped source and advised me on getting the best loan deal available to start the business.

In 2014, I started the process of trying to purchase our 1<sup>st</sup> home in Auckland. Grant advised, guided and coached myself and my wife thru the whole process and arranged our 1<sup>st</sup> home mortgage.

In 2016 Grant helped adjust our mortgage so we could start our second restaurant The Bald Eagle Diner, In Mission Bay, Auckland.

I have contacted Grant many, many times over the year for advice, and his answer and advise has always been clear and easy to understand, and if didn't understand, he explained it so that I could understand.

Thru social media, I have followed Grant and he always looks like a great father and a top bloke.

It saddens us, my wife and I to hear that he is moving to Australia, but I know he is just an email or phone call away for advice.

His knowledge and understanding of banking, mortgages and finance is very good, and the way he explains things is fantastic, I recommend him and wish him well.

Yours Sincerely

Aaron "Lizard" Calman

Managing Director of Dos Amigos Ltd

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Web: www.golfbitz.co.nz

To Whom it may concern:  
Reference for Grant Clifton.

Having known Grant for a number of years in both a professional capacity and moreso personally I would like to express the following about him as a consummate professional and an outstanding person.

On several occasions we have had cause to use the financial services of Grant and always found him to be responsive, timely and completely professional in his approach to the issues at hand.

He has a real knack of understanding the outcomé you are looking for and has the technical expertise and clarity to be able to bring about timely solutions.

As a person Grant is a strong family man and is an incredibly loyal friend to those of us fortunate enough to call him so. He is always willing to lend a hand or an ear when you need him to.

He would fit into any organization that provides necessary support and his ability to work effectively in an autonomous position is also exemplary.

I would recommend him highly.

Regards

Peter Ranyard  
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Pranyard2017@gmail.com