

Lives that matter

In its latest funding round the Community Trust of Mid & South Canterbury approved grants totalling \$415,134 in immediate funding to 14 organisations from around the region supporting a range of outcomes for community, cultural and sporting groups. A number of those recipients will also receive a further \$127,500 in funding for 2020 and 2021, pre-approved multiyear grants which promote sustainable planning and operations.

Ashburton locals are most likely already aware of the fantastic new Lives Worth Living (suicide prevention) initiative being led from **Safer Ashburton** who receive \$30,000 per annum for a three year cycle in order to get clinical and training components off the ground. Specific elements funded by the Community Trust include day programmes for survivors recently released from residential care, facilitation of a parent/family support group and suicide awareness training for those in community facing roles with wide social networks who might therefore be the first to identify individuals at risk. General Manager Kevin Clifford commented "We are absolutely delighted with the result and it's fantastic that the Trust has been able to provide multiyear funding. This will give us the ability to secure high calibre staff providing long term security for the project. This funding will allow us to make a real and significant difference in the lives of many individuals across our district". This programme is already supported by a number of other local funders including the Trevor Wilson Charitable Trust, McKenzie Charitable Foundation and the Mayfield Lions Club.

Another life-saving grant recipient is the **Canterbury West Coast Air Rescue Trust** (\$50,000) who operate the emergency helicopters serving Mid and South Canterbury. In 2018 the choppers transported 210 patients around our region responding to medical events, hospital transfers, accidents and search and rescue incidents. "The Canterbury West Coast Air Rescue Trust is hugely grateful for the funding received from Community Trust of Mid and South Canterbury to support the delivery of rescue helicopter services in the region" said General Manager Rachael McNutt. "The Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service is a life-line to the communities of Mid and South Canterbury, attending on average 20 emergency callouts per month in the region. This support will ensure the Rescue Helicopter and crew can continue to be there 24/7 when things don't go to plan".

In addition to crisis response initiatives the Community Trust has funded a range of agencies providing ongoing care. These include **Hospice Mid Canterbury** (\$10,000 operational), **Seniorcare Geraldine Inc** (\$15,000 van purchase) and the **Royal NZ Plunket Trust** (\$20,000 per annum for a three year cycle) who through their rural support service, Giving People Support programme and Timaru Family Centre assist

our most vulnerable families and children at a formative time of life. **The Victoria Trust** are also major recipients (\$100,000 capital works). "The Victoria Trust would like to thank the Community Trust of Mid and South Canterbury for their ongoing support, and this generous grant of \$100,000", said Manager Brent Morrow. "This will now enable our Trust to continue with our plans to replace two old flats with three new flats and an Emergency Room in Princes Street, Timaru. It is support like this from the Community Trust that enables us to continue to provide persons in our community, who suffer from a mental illness, with a high standard of rental accommodation". The two new flats (Phase 1) will soon be completed and tenants will move in on the week of 5th to 9th of August. A target has also been set for the end of February 2020 to have the third flat and the Emergency room completed.

We know that health and wellness are improved when people have access to appropriate recreational opportunities and facilities and in that respect the stunning natural landscapes of Mid and South Canterbury create both opportunities and challenges, particularly rural isolation. The Community Trust is therefore thrilled to be supporting both **KidzMethven Inc** (\$20,000 for the Methven Skate Park) and the **Ruapuna Hall Committee** (\$8,000 towards an internal upgrade), two teams of passionate volunteers who work tirelessly to offer local recreational and social opportunities for their rural communities. Jacinta Schmack added "The Ruapuna Hall Committee are very thankful to the Community Trust of Mid and South Canterbury for the grant approved which has enabled our project to become a reality. Through maintaining the hall interior the local community will have a modern affordable facility for community activities. Thank you to the committee and community users who supported our application for this grant".

Those with a more extreme taste for adventure can look forward to visiting the soon to be installed Beetham Hut, which will be sited in the mid Tasman Valley, and will provide a safe refuge for those accessing the upper Tasman Glacier and the Malte Brun Range and Main Divide. This grant (\$20,000 towards installation) follows an earlier February grant (\$10,000 construction costs) to the **New Zealand Alpine Club** who are leading this wonderful project which will be enjoyed by local and visiting recreational climbers and research scientists alike. "We are extremely pleased to receive funding from the Community Trust of Mid and South Canterbury" says Beetham Hut Project Manager Johnny McFarlane. "This project has been 10 years in the making- from the initial idea to almost complete. This funding is critical to realizing the community and safety outcomes of the project, and we have a supportive Trust to thank for that". Meanwhile rugby fans of all ages and stages are excited about the upcoming redevelopment of the Alpine Energy Stadium for which funds are being raised by the **Fraser Park Community Trust** (\$100,000) on behalf of South Canterbury Rugby Football Union. "The Fraser Park Community Trust are extremely grateful" said Phillipa Guerin, Alpine Energy Stadium Redevelopment Project Manager. "The redevelopment of Alpine Energy Stadium will ensure we have a future proofed stadium incorporating new changing facilities, storage, a hybrid field, refreshed seating, a sand based field, refreshed car parking, new offices and clubrooms which will be capable of hosting many local and national sporting events".

Three further grants celebrate the importance of community and culture with critical maintenance now able to proceed for **Te Aitarakihi Trust Inc** (\$25,634 whare kai floor replacement) to enable the ongoing use of the Multi Cultural centre by a range of tikanga māori and other cultural groups. **Ka Toi Māori o Aoraki Inc** received multiyear funding (\$19,000 in total over a three year period) towards the planning and production of two wonderful kapa haka festivals, FLAVA (for school aged children) and Te Korohi o te Pēpi (ELC children), open to all those living within the Arowhenua rohe. Not only do these festivals offer a spectacular cultural showcase for those attending and participating but the weeks and months of preparation support student understanding of kapa haka and other māori art forms, the promotion of te ao māori and te reo māori through education, and the enhancement of mana whenua values and identity through waiata. The Community Trust is committed to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and is a proud supporter of these objectives. The Trust is also delighted to adopt the role of principal sponsor for Waimate's Christmas in the Square through a multiyear grant to the **Waimate Community Church** (\$5,000 per annum for a period of three years). This fantastic event, which is again led by a passionate and highly effective team of local volunteers, promotes community interconnectedness, a sense of togetherness and an opportunity to participate in a shared family-friendly celebration from which no-one is excluded whether by cost or convenience.

The final grant in this round has been awarded to the **New Zealand Raptor Trust** (\$10,000) for the purchase and fit out an additional hospital and captive management unit at their recovery and eco-education centre down at Redruth. The grant will enable the group to better provide for the rehabilitation of injured birds of prey eg endangered native hawks, falcons and owls collected from around Mid and South Canterbury. While having high intrinsic value as a critically endangered NZ native species raptors are also critical for the population control of introduced pest species and other ecological functions. Chairman Vaughan Skea thanked the Community Trust for the grant, adding "The New Zealand Raptor Trust has been rescuing and rehabilitating raptors since 2017. We are now looking at developing our other pillars of sustainability through education and captive management of the 'at risk' New Zealand Falcon".

The Community Trust of Mid & South Canterbury uses returns from investments to fund its philanthropy. The Trust supports not-for-profit organisations and projects which contribute towards achieving a region of healthy, vibrant and caring communities. To learn more please visit www.comtrust.org.nz

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Organisation contacts for comment are now attached as a separate excel file.