

A Winter of Entertainments

In its latest funding round the Community Trust of Mid & South Canterbury approved grants totalling \$67,695 to 12 organisations from around the region supporting a range of outcomes for sporting, cultural and community groups.

Two groups who will be keeping the region well entertained this winter are the **Waimate Savage Club** (\$1,800 towards hall hire) and the **Height of Harmony Barbershop Singers** (\$940 towards hall hire). These groups practice and perform around South Canterbury with musical and theatrical talents to burn. Offering company, humour, entertainment and artistic expression for members their performances are also warmly appreciated by a wide cross section of our South Canterbury community.

Just up the road residents of Ashburton might instead enjoy attending some of the festivals, events and cultural classes on offer from the **Ashburton Indian Multicultural Trust** (\$2,000 operating grant), while cultural and heritage enthusiasts in and around Pleasant Point will appreciate the hard work of the **Pleasant Point Railway and Historical Society** (\$1,900 track ballasting) when attending steaming and running days this winter. Club Secretary Marian Blanchard notes that the work required to maintain the tracks is considerable. "Hard physical labour goes into this and our volunteers still do a lot of this even though they are an aging group. We also have the help of Community Corrections which we appreciate greatly. We do have one or two younger people coming through but this is never enough". What a wonderful volunteering opportunity for someone with plenty of energy and a taste for trains...

Meanwhile clients of the **CanInspire Charitable Trust** (\$7,500 operating grant) will be developing a different creative energy through CanBead and CanTackle workshops. National Operations and Finance Manager Coby Snowden commented "This grant will allow us to put resources into our CanTackle program which has had to take a step back in recent years. While our CanBead workshops have been in high demand throughout New Zealand, we have had insufficient resources to run a similar enjoyable program for men. The Trustees have identified a gap in support services for men experiencing illness, trauma or personal loss and while some do participate at our jewellery-making workshops there is a huge demand for an outdoor activity as a form of distraction and our fly fishing workshops ticks all the boxes".

Temuka is the place to be for those of a sporting bent this season with players of all ages taking the field for the **Temuka Rugby Football Club** (\$10,000

towards equipment costs). It is hoped that junior players will be sheltered on the side-lines with a new gazebo and additional on field and practice kit will assist with a safe and strategic game! Keen golfers will also have continued access to the golf carts at the **Temuka Golf Club** (\$3,100 cart battery replacements) to ensure that mobility issues are no obstacle to ongoing enjoyment of this popular sport. The Trust received the following statement "Once again a massive thank you from the Temuka Golf Club. The Community Trust of Mid and South Canterbury is a real asset to our region and the financial support they give to groups and clubs is invaluable. Temuka Golf are grateful beneficiaries ... These carts are available to all golf players and many people benefit from using them. There are people who without the carts would not be able to enjoy a round of golf, the carts enable the game of golf to be all inclusive".

The Community Trust of Mid and South Canterbury has also approved in principle its first application under the new clause 9.5 of its Grants Policy which now allows for "exceptional grant applications from early learning centres, schools and kindergartens to develop facilities for combined community use". One such proposal has been received from **Timaru Boys High School** for the development of their new Multi Sport Turf and the Trust is working with the school to confirm exact details around the manner in which this facility will be committed in part for community use over the next ten years including facility alignment with the wider Turf Management Plan envisaged by the South Canterbury Spaces and Places Plan.

The Community Trust is also pleased to continue its support for a number of key community partners this month with operating grants to the **Birthingright Canterbury Trust** (\$9,623), **Ronald McDonald House Charities NZ Trust** (\$7,500) and the **Aoraki Multicultural Council** (multi-year funding of \$7,500 p.a. for three consecutive years for the Aoraki Migrant Centre). While each organisation has its own focus area all assist at times of crisis or change and, through the care and compassion of staff and volunteers, provide our Mid and South Canterbury families with access to appropriate information and support to meet their unique social, health and wellbeing needs.

The Community Trust also continues its support for local Riding for the Disabled groups with a grant to the **New Zealand Riding for the Disabled Association**. Fundraising Co-ordinator Shireen Maindonald provided the following statement "New Zealand Riding for the Disabled is grateful for a grant for \$5,832 for Training and Support for Geraldine, Timaru and Mid Canterbury (Ashburton). There are 84 riders and 97 volunteers at the 3 local RDA groups and the grant will assist NZRDA to provide volunteer training courses free of charge. NZRDA would also like to say a big Thank You to our dedicated volunteers and to recognise the time that they put in to look after the horses, plan the programmes and help the riders to achieve their goals. This funding will contribute to safe and effective programmes for child and adult riders with

disabilities. Our aim is to enable riders to increase their strength and confidence”.

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.