

Keeping the lights on for volunteers

In its latest funding round the Community Trust of Mid & South Canterbury approved grants totalling \$232,053 to 25 organisations from around the region.

One of the emerging themes in philanthropic funding has been supporting the operational sustainability of not for profit groups where overtasked volunteers grapple with significant administrative, financial and governance requirements which must be met before they can "get on with it". Out of this month's grants the Community Trust has therefore made available \$144,488 in operational and salary funding for the **Ashburton Learning Centre** (\$5,000), the **Hauora Leadership Group** (\$5,000 via **Safer Ashburton**), **Volunteering Mid and South Canterbury's Community Accounts Service** (\$20,000), the **Canterbury West Coast Sports Trust (Sport Canterbury)** (\$5,000), the **Cholmondeley Children's Centre** (\$5,000), the **Mid Canterbury Newcomers Network** (\$7,500), **Multiple Sclerosis and Parkinson's Canterbury Inc** (\$8,000), **Ashburton Senior Citizens** (\$5,000), **Learning for You South Canterbury** (\$5,000), the **Citizens Advice Bureau Timaru** (\$7,500), the **Hearing Association South Canterbury Inc** (\$5,000) and the **Epilepsy Association of New Zealand Inc** (\$5,000). Our particular thanks go to the many volunteers without whom none of these organisations would be able to deliver the wonderful community outcomes which they provide for our region.

Total operational grant funding also included specific provision for three newly established roles being a coordinator serving the **Hakaterere Marae Komiti** and community (\$25,000), an administration and marketing role serving the **Trotts Garden Charitable Trust** and community (\$10,800) and a peer support worker employed with **AMPSS101 Addiction Mental Health Peer Support Services** (\$25,688). Robin Kilworth, the chair of the Trotts Garden Charitable Trust commented "We are keen to ensure that as many visitors and local people as possible are able to enjoy Trotts Garden and this assistance means our volunteers can concentrate on the garden and hosting our visitors". Over at AMPSS101 Funding Coordinator Amanda McNoe confirmed "This grant will not only take huge pressure off the current staff but ensure those who seek help with addiction issues receive a better service which in turn will allow a higher success rate for the people of our community as 'Knowledge is Power'".

Additional project grants have been given for a range of community, cultural, environmental and heritage initiatives including the lining and insulation of the **Ashburton Menz Shed** (\$20,000) which will see this building relocation and restoration through to completion and ensure a safe and comfortable premises

for members and their community visitors including scout and school groups. Also in Ashburton locals will be looking forward to the Multi Cultural Bite run by the **Ashburton Multi Cultural Trust** on Waitangi Day each year (\$2,000 Guarantee Against Loss), and for those with an appetite for adventure **Bike Methven** have received \$6,916 to cover the erection of necessary signage. "After the recent logging a lack of trail signs meant riders have been unaware of the trails and more importantly the degree of difficulty. There are trails in the bike park for all levels of riders from young children to elite competitors. Trail signs directing riders to trails that are within their ability are important for their enjoyment and more importantly for their safety. The grant from the Community Trust of Mid & South Canterbury will help riders and visiting riders to access and enjoy the bike park safely" says fundraising coordinator Alistair Gilchrist.

Inland near Geraldine the hardy volunteers of the **Project Peel Society Inc** (\$7,000 per annum for three years) will also be getting their hands dirty with weed control and predator monitoring and trapping at Dennistoun Bush. Chairperson Sandy McKirdy commented "Project Peel is a relatively new environmentally focused group. The recent grant will allow work to begin on the control of Old Man's Beard in the Dennistoun Bush area. Because this is a long term project, having funding guaranteed over three years will contribute significantly to the success of this operation". Head a little further into the mountains and you will find the dedicated **Twizel Promotions and Development Association** hard at work with preparations for the next Twizel Salmon and Wine Festival (\$1,000 Guarantee Against Loss).

South Canterbury also offers a rich variety of recreational and heritage projects this month. The **South Canterbury Traction Engine and Transport Museum Inc**, recently in the news in connection with their very successful Horsepower Rally, now receive \$20,000 towards the build cost of a new Transport Museum Building. The new building will house members' wonderful collection of vintage trucks and club secretary Donna Hardie hopes that with this addition the museum "will become a major tourist attraction for our district" as the new shed will offer a range of transport exhibitions. The museum (Brosnan Rd, Washdyke) is open every Monday and Saturday 1-4pm or by arrangement.

Another group regularly brightening our local events are the **South Canterbury Highland Pipe Band** who will be well supplied this year with key uniform and equipment items (\$7,000). "The band is extremely grateful for this wonderful show of support", says Drum Major Phil de Joux. "This will allow us to fit our younger members out with new uniforms so that they can compete and play with renewed confidence when out in the public. Also the new chanters for the pipes will improve the overall sound of the band lifting its performance".

Key maintenance and upgrade projects have also been funded for the **Temuka Returned Services Association** (\$2,684 towards new heat pumps) and the

Waimate Golf Club (\$4,000 towards chemical and fertiliser costs) with a larger maintenance project to be completed by the **Waimate Aero Club** who are reroofing their club house and resurfacing the new parking area. Treasurer Crispin Langston said "I was delighted to receive notification of our grant application being supported, and in full. This means that we will be able to complete the refurbishment works for the Waimate Aero Club rooms and parking areas; it also means that we will have sufficient monies available from our present resources to complete the internal works once the building is watertight. Looking forward, this will secure the future for Waimate's airport and the Aeroclub, for general aviation use, local operators, flight tuition, and community social and educational visits. We are most grateful, and look forward to inviting Trust Members to see the completed project".

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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