

Media Release

Community Trust Mid & South Canterbury



Grant funding reflects vibrancy in our region

The Community Trust Mid & South Canterbury have allocated funding of \$709,500 in support of community projects in the first of two Main Funding Rounds of 2021. Several of the successful applications for funding were for initiatives that are considered multi-generational and will continue to have a positive impact on our region for years to come.

The Central South Island Cycle Trail Inc. was granted \$100,000 per year for three years. This group aims to construct a multi-purpose trail from Timaru to Lake Tekapo with a multi-year long term project to connect communities in South Canterbury and the Mackenzie District. It will ultimately connect with the Alps to Ocean trail to act as a feeder for that trail. Long-term they aim to enable and support the branching out of other cycle trails in and around the Central South Island. The first stage from Washdyke to Pleasant Point is nearing completion. It is expected the trail will be well-used by walkers, runners, cyclists and wheelchair and mobility scooter users. Upon completion the trail will be a major tourism asset for the South Canterbury & Mackenzie Districts. Trustees were impressed with the organising committee, the plans and the quick progress with Stage 1. The success of similar trails throughout New Zealand show the enhancement of community well-being, plus social, economic, environmental and cultural benefits to residents and communities.

Athletics South Canterbury Track Trust received \$170,000 towards the resurface of the all-weather athletics track at Aorangi Park. After 17 years, the surface has lost its springiness and needs replacing. The most cost-effective way of doing this is to overlay a new Mondo surface over the existing surface. Patronage has

increased from 7,000 user times in 2004 on the grass track to 23,000 user times per annum since the first Mondo surface was installed. The resurfacing project is planned to be started in early 2022 and will have a life-span of 16-17 years.

Mt Somers Walkway Society received an \$80,000 grant that will assist in re-opening the popular Sharplin Falls Walking Track. Rockfalls on the popular track during and after the 2011 Earthquakes meant that DOC deemed it prudent for safety concerns to close the track. Following extensive consultation with DOC and eminent geologists, the Walkways Group has undertaken to build a new one themselves. This will be a re-routed track that is suitable for families and a complete range of recreational walkers and tourists. Jack Allan from this group says “Sharplin Falls is a locally treasured destination and is extremely popular with both locals and tourists...This is a treasured community asset and there is strong support and encouragement from the community for this project to come to fruition.”

Trott's Community Garden in Ashburton were granted \$150,000 towards the purchase of land and buildings from current trustees who purchased Trott's gardens in 2017 with the goal of keeping the gardens in community ownership and avoiding it being sold to developers. The Kaupapa of Trott's Community Gardens Charitable Trust is growing strong, resilient and inclusive communities that thrive through diverse opportunities to connect, participate and drive community powered approaches that improve wellbeing through intergenerational education and learning around horticulture, food gardens, wild garden areas, sustainability and meaningful community developed events and workshops.

Coastguard McKenzie Lakes Inc. received \$50,000. The operating area of this group covers the following lakes - Benmore, Ohau, Pukaki, Tekapo, Aviemore, Waitaki, Ruataniwha, Middleton, Opuha. As part of the support for the America's Cup, Lottery Grants Board granted funds for the building of support boats needed for the racing on the condition that they were for Coastguard to use at the end of the event. Coastguard Mackenzie Lakes put in a bid for a boat to replace their old rescue vessel which is well past the date it should be replaced. Cheryl Moffat of Coastguard NZ says “This is a great opportunity for the local community as we were concerned about having to raise the total cost of a replacement vessel. The boat needs a number of modifications and additions to meet our rescue vessel minimum standards.” Funding was granted to help with modification and to go towards the purchase of a heavy duty road trailer and tow truck to tow the vessel.

Further grants also approved in the July meeting:

Ashburton area:

Kai for Kids, \$10,000

Ashburton Town Watch Society \$5,000

Rakai Squash Club \$20,000

YMCA \$20,000

Geraldine area:

Peel Forest Outdoor Pursuits Charitable Trust \$17,000

Mackenzie area:

Coastguard Mackenzie Lakes Inc. \$50,000

Temuka area:

Temuka Golf Club \$7,500

Timaru area:

South Canterbury Hospice \$25,000

All districts:

Canterbury West Coast Air Rescue Trust \$50,000

Further funding rounds for 2021 are:

- Round 3 Operational (programme or event) Closes 3rd September 5pm
- Main Round 2 – Major grants over \$20,000. Closes 8th October 5pm**
- Round 4 – Capital project up to \$20,000 Closes 4th February 2022

**Contact the Community Relations Manager to discuss before applying on 03 68 77 589.

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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