

Media Statement: Community Trust of Mid & South Canterbury

December 2020

Community Trust of Mid & South Canterbury

Record-breaking \$1 million dollar plus pay-out in grants

In its latest funding round the Community Trust of Mid & South Canterbury approved grants totalling \$1,015,740 to 23 organisations from around the region supporting a range of outcomes for health, community, and recreational groups. The Community Trust is pleased to be able to use returns from investments to fund its philanthropy where it is identified as being needed. The generosity of the Trust in providing one of the largest funding distributions in recent years will be particularly welcome in 2020 when many communities are facing economic hardship. Trust CEO, Liz Shea says *"The Trust is thrilled to be able to support a broad spectrum of organisations during what has been an especially difficult year for so many people."*

In the **Ashburton District Hospice Mid Canterbury** received **\$150,000** towards the purchase of the former Sealy Street Medical Centre, a fantastic and fit for purpose facility which will allow staff and volunteers to better support the communities they serve. Hospice Mid Canterbury General Manager, Debbie Mackle says *"We are extremely grateful to the Community Trust of Mid and South Canterbury for helping us secure the purchase of our Home for Hospice. Owning the property will enable us to establish a welcoming, homely, fit for purpose environment for our clients and visitors and to develop a wider range of supports and activities. It will enable us to involve the wider community in a variety of ways and will be a wonderful community owned asset."*

Grants were also provided to **Mountain Bike Ashburton Inc** (\$10,000) for track extension. James Reid from this group says *"We are excited to once again receive funding from CTMSC towards extending the MTB Loop and Walkway along the Ashburton River. Record number of users have been on these trails since level 4 lockdown who will all benefit from this grant. Our fantastic local contractors will begin work in the new year; we can't wait to see it all take shape."* Grants also went to the **Ashburton Railway and Preservation Society** (\$10,000) for building maintenance, **Trott's Community Garden Charitable Trust** (\$10,000) for operational costs, the **Ashburton Learning Centre** (\$5,000) for operational costs and **Mid Canterbury Netball Inc** (\$5,000) for netball development. The **Catholic Diocese of Christchurch Parish of Mid Canterbury Parish Trust receives funding** (\$5,000) for roof repairs to the Holy Name church in Ashburton. Joe Butchard of this group says *"The Holy Name church is a Historic Place Category 1 building which the parish community has endeavoured to consistently maintain to a high standard. This included significant seismic strengthening which undoubtedly prevented major damage in the Canterbury earthquakes. Cosmetic internal damage was repaired to a high standard which included a full repaint. Unfortunately, the undetected roof leak has caused some limited damage to the refurbished interior. This generous grant from CTMSC will assist the church community to proceed with the much needed roof repairs to prevent further deterioration of an important community asset."* **Ashburton Senior Citizens Inc** received multi-year funding of \$10,000 per annum for a three year period to support service delivery for local members. Bronie McMurtrie, from this group says *"Ashburton Senior Citizens Inc. wishes to thank Community Trust of Mid and South Canterbury for their financial support through a Grant. This year has been hard on our older members and ... we are looking forward to a better and safer 2021."*



Ashburton Senior Citizens Inc. Patron, Doris Wakelin (aged 103 ½ years) cutting the Christmas cake at this year's Christmas Social.

The Community Trust is also delighted to support the sporting community of **Geraldine** with a grant of **\$250,000** to **Geraldine Combined Sports Inc** towards the redevelopment of the Geraldine Domain. This is an exciting project to develop a multi-sport complex which will be a great asset to the Geraldine community. Project Manager Anna Coleman says “*we are all buzzing from receiving such a fantastic grant from Community Trust! Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!*” (full media release on this project is being sent as an attachment with this media release)



This grant for a multi-sport facility is paralleled by a grant of **\$350,000** to the **Fraser Park Community Trust** for the Alpine Energy Stadium Redevelopment in the **Timaru District**. Excitingly, the Fraser Park Community Trust has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with a suite of local sporting agencies including not only the South Canterbury Rugby Football Union but also the South Canterbury Aoraki Football Association, the

South Canterbury Softball Association, South Canterbury Cricket, Aoraki Rugby League, the YMCA South & Mid Canterbury Inc and Timaru Boys High School to ensure that the stadium is designed for and available to a wider range of community sports and events than has historically been the case. Phillipa Guerin, Fraser Park Community Trust Redevelopment Manager thanked the Trust for their support. *“The redeveloped facilities will provide many opportunities for various sporting codes, community events and functions for South Canterbury. The ability to provide a first class field, changing rooms and spectator experience will draw people from all over and provide stimulus to the local economy. We are very excited to bring this project to fruition and are very grateful to your Trust for enabling us to get that much closer to making a start”.*

Both the redevelopment of the Geraldine Domain and the Alpine Energy Stadium redevelopment align closely with the South Canterbury Spaces and Places Plan which highlighted a lack of fit for purpose amenities, particularly for some of the smaller sporting codes, and the critical need for a partnership approach to maximise the impact of available resources. The Community Trust of Mid and South Canterbury warmly endorses interagency collaboration and is thrilled to be supporting two such initiatives. *“The realisation of these shared community projects reflects an enormous commitment and months if not years of hard work for those serving on the project committees”* says Trust Chairperson Nathan Mills. *“We thank all those involved for their tireless efforts and the community spirit behind these landmark developments. Generations to come will hugely enjoy the sporting opportunities offered by these facilities”.*

Other grants in the Timaru District include \$50,000 to **Tennis South Canterbury Inc** towards court resurfacing, \$20,000 to the **St Andrew’s District Children’s Centre Inc** towards re-roofing and painting the centre. Penny Tennent from this group says *“This support will enable us to continue to provide the families in this community with a safe and healthy environment for early childhood learning as well as a support network for families in this rural farming community. The outcome will be that local families can continue to use this facility for many years to come as all major reparation work will have been completed.”* \$18,000 to **Stopping Violence Services (Christchurch) Inc** for operating costs, Derek Dean on behalf of SVS says *“This year has seen many families struggle with economic hardship and Covid-19 related stresses, which has greatly increased referrals to our non-violence programmes. This grant will enable us to continue to support those most in need and help to keep vulnerable whānau safe.”*

\$8,000 to the **South Canterbury Pottery Group Inc** towards the replacement of their kiln and wheel, Lou Billingham says on behalf of this group *“Our membership has increased significantly in the last year, and we now run classes 4 nights a week as well as have a club day on a Tuesday we are a friendly club, and we are always looking for ways in which we can improve our facilities. This grant will enable us to purchase a new kiln for our pottery rooms.”* \$8,000 to the **Sutherlands District Hall Committee** towards refurbishment costs, and \$5,000 to the **Gleniti Golf Club Inc** towards the building of a new cart shed. The **Fox Peak Ski Club Inc** located inland in the **Mackenzie District** also received \$11,740 towards the cost of re-roofing their lodge. Blair Wilkinson – Vice President and Club Captain says *“This is a huge injection to an overdue project for the Club. After a low snow 2020 season this funding will be put to quick use to get us ready for a great season in 2021.”*



Fox Peak Ski Club Lodge – funding received will go towards re-roofing and insulating the old part of the lodge (which is nearly 90 years old) in Fairlie which is one of the oldest ski clubs in New Zealand.

In **Waimate** the **Waimate Theatre Company** received \$15,000 towards upgrading the theatre wardrobe with new and replacement costume elements. Anne Buckingham says “*The Waimate Theatre Company is delighted to be a recipient of this grant. We will now be able to complete our wardrobe renovation project and the whole community will benefit from these improved facilities.*”



*Members of the **Waimate Theatre Company** at a working bee sorting out the extensive wardrobe collected over many years*

The **Waihao Wainono Catchment Community Group Inc** received \$45,000 towards the Waihao Walkway Project. This initiative will restore the riparian margins of a section of the south bank of the Waihao River which, together with fencing, track development and the installation of amenity areas, will secure the enjoyment and recreation of current and future generations.

This round also included several operating grants to agencies whose activities greatly benefit the wider funding region. The Community Trust is proud to support the **Canterbury West Coast Sports Trust** (\$15,000), **Hearing Association South Canterbury Inc** (\$5,000), **Autism New Zealand Inc** (\$5,000) and **The Girl Guides Association New Zealand Inc** (\$5,000) in their work with local communities and clients.



Ashburton Rangers/Girl Guides

To learn more about the Community Trust of Mid & South Canterbury, please visit www.comtrust.org.nz

Lorel Hallinan: Community Relations Manager, Community Trust Mid and South Canterbury
crm@comtrust.org.nz: phone 03 687 7589.

Liz Shea, CEO, Community Trust Mid and South Canterbury
ceo@comtrust.org.nz or phone 03 687 7361

Nathan Mills, Chairperson, Community Trust Mid and South Canterbury
Nathan.mills@gpel.co.nz or phone 027 444 5655

ENDS