

Media Statement: Community Trust of Mid & South Canterbury

December 2019

A lovely way to end the year!

In its latest funding round the Community Trust of Mid & South Canterbury approved grants totalling **\$626,056** to **25 organisations** from around the region supporting a range of outcomes for health, community, education, welfare and recreational groups throughout the region. Chief Executive officer, Liz Shea is delighted with the level of funding that the Trustees were able to approve. She says that these grants will help the organisations to continue their good work into 2020 and beyond, with many and varied benefits to the entire region.

Community Programmes:

Operational grants have been given to the following organisations:

Presbyterian Support Upper South Island – Tuning Into Kids Parent Programme (\$10,000) A contribution to the running of this new parenting programme that focuses on the emotional connection between parents and children, and is facilitated by a fully-trained Social Worker.

Stopping Violence Services - (Christchurch) (\$18,000) Derek Dean from this organisation comments; “The Stopping Violence Services and Enabling Youth service in Mid and South Canterbury this year was facing rising costs brought about by the employment of an additional staff member and increased hours for our youth clinician, both of which were needed to meet the increasing demand for nonviolence and behavioural change programmes. The funding of these services by the Mid and South Canterbury Community Trust means that we are able to go forward with confidence, providing programmes to increase safety and enhance the wellbeing of whānau throughout the region”.

Centrecare Counselling Waimate (multi-year funding of \$15,000 per annum for each of three years). Manager, Sam Roebeck says “THANK YOU on behalf of Centrecare Counselling for the grant to support our ongoing service to the community by providing affordable and accessible Counselling. We continue to strive to meet the growing demand in the South Canterbury area, of people struggling to maintain Mind Health. Our Counselling service can only provide this much needed and community orientated service because of the wonderful financial support of organisations like the Community Trust of Mid and South Canterbury”.

Community House Mid Canterbury (\$14,290, air conditioning system). Manager, John Driscoll states, “We will have some satisfied tenants once the air conditioners are installed.”

Timaru Riding for the Disabled (\$10,000 for wages). Emma Gilbert from this organisations says, “The Timaru group, Riding for the Disabled would like to thank the Community Trust of Mid & South Canterbury for their generous grant. This funding will enable us to continue to provide tailored riding sessions with our horses for adults and children with physical, emotional and social challenges, which will help develop an increased ability, independence and an increased self-esteem.”

Hearing Association South Canterbury (\$7,500 for operational costs & wages). Margaret Newall from the Hearing Association commented “The Hearing Association South Canterbury will be able to continue to focus on: Improving access to all people with hearing loss – to service and support; raising awareness of the impact of hearing loss and educating and advocating for the prevention of hearing loss. Plus supporting those with hearing loss to live positively and achieve their potential.”

Canterbury Men’s Centre (\$12,000 for operational costs & wages) Based in Christchurch and with a counsellor based in Ashburton, this organisation provides phone support for three main services (brief intervention social work/ counselling, male survivors of sexual abuse, dads). CEO, Donald Pettitt comments “The Canterbury Men's Centre expects to keep finding ways to build its support work in Mid and South Canterbury. That includes getting more Blokes Books out in the region. We also expect to be offering training and support to those working with male survivors of sexual abuse. And more than anything, we expect to figure out more ways we can be useful in seeing that men and whanau in the region live rewarding lives.”

The following two organisations are instrumental in supporting not only their own clients but a range of other not-for-profit groups in the region.

Sport Canterbury (\$20,000). This organisation also supports the Community Trust with community insights and participates in the Mid & South Canterbury funders forums.

Volunteering Mid & South Canterbury (\$25,000). Lou Billingham, Manager South Canterbury, comments “This will enable our Community Accounts Service to spread its wings and become its own separate entity, it will also enable it to grow alongside the demand that this service is providing. This service is becoming better known, as more not for profit groups are contacting us about using our service to support Club and Organisation Treasurers, which is done by mentoring and upskilling treasurers, by providing an administration service, and also to Review financial year end accounts.”

Sports, recreation and craft groups:

Hakaterere Ceramics & Pottery – Ashburton (\$17,000). It was great to see this first time applicant as we don't see many applications from visual arts group. This club allows people to attend evening classes and club nights to try handwork and wheel work. Funding will be allocated towards a new potter's wheel and other equipment for this club where newcomers are always encouraged.

Golf and cricket clubs around the region were granted a number of capital and operational grants to improve either the experiences of their members or the environment offered such as **Ashburton Golf Club** (\$5,500 for clubhouse heating), **Rakaia Golf Club** (\$5,000 towards a new mower), **Waimate Golf Club** (\$5,000 for course maintenance), **Pleasant Point Golf Club** (\$10,000 towards a new mower) and **Pleasant Point Cricket Club** (\$23,300) towards a storage shed that will be large enough to store all the equipment used by this growing club.

The Peel Forest Outdoor Pursuits Charitable Trust (\$14,466)

This funding will go towards the second phase of the Outdoor Pursuits Centre renovation project at the Eco Lodge. The following comment was received from this group, “This funding enables us to update the bedrooms with new bunks, curtains and mattresses which will provide better and more comfortable living experience for the schools and community groups using the accommodation alongside their outdoor activities”.

Cultural Groups:

Funding was provided to these following groups in recognition of wider community use of facilities & services:

Hakaterere Multicultural Council (\$7,500)

The Hakaterere Multi Cultural Council (formerly Mid Canterbury Newcomers Network) is a non-government organisation, with the goal to maintain and develop a culture of understanding and acceptance in Ashburton so that people from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds feel welcomed by our community as a whole and valued for the contributions they make to our overall development.

Life Church Timaru (\$10,000 towards re-carpeting) Church manager, Lynne Weaver says, “We are very grateful to Community Trust of Mid and South Canterbury for the grant to go towards replacing the carpet in the auditorium as part of the refurbishing of this multi-purpose space that is used by community focused groups like Mainly Music, children & youth groups, marriage courses, as well combined church services with churches throughout the district. With an updated and refurbished auditorium we hope to be able to make this space available to more groups throughout the community”.

Roman Catholic Diocese of Christchurch – Catholic Parish Timaru Trust (\$7,500) towards a sound system for the Basilica. This will enable better sound throughout the structure which will benefit the Catholic Community of Timaru, Ecumenical utilization in Timaru, local musical performances and school assemblies.

Community Projects:

Trust Chair, David Forman commented that it is wonderful to be able to support Community Projects which focus on ensuring community and recreational assets. Projects such as these in smaller towns in the district benefit the entire

local community as well as visitors. Two such projects we are supporting are the **Lake Tekapo School – Community Swimming Pool** (\$30,000) on their mission to realise a fully operational community pool. The Community Trust recognises the exceptional circumstances for this as a school-led community project that has met our policy requirements for wider community use. The **Mackenzie Community Enhancement Board** (\$29,000) on behalf of **Fairlie Skate & Scooter Park** – are looking to build the long anticipated Skate & Scooter Park on the Fairlie Village Green. A Skate Scooter Park will provide a place for young people to meet and enjoy physical activity in a safe and very public environment.

The following are awesome initiatives on a considerably larger scale. The Community Trust is pleased to be showing leadership and early support in funding for these projects that will provide multiple benefits to the larger community. Keep an eye out for opportunities to support these projects.

Lions Club of Timaru Suburban Charitable Trust– Bike Skills Park South Canterbury (\$75,000). To be located at Caroline Bay, Timaru, this park will be an opportunity for young children to learn road safety skills in a safe and controlled environment away from traffic, at the same time providing a fun place to visit.

The South Canterbury Hockey Turf Trust (\$50,000, LED Lighting upgrade) this will help complete stage 1 of a planned 4 stage facility development project. The first stage of the project is upgrading the current halogen lighting on both hockey turfs at Aorangi Park with LED lighting.

Geraldine Bowls Inc. (\$55,000) is seeking further funding assistance to achieve their goal of installing a new all-weather bowling green to allow the facilities to be used all year round and encourage an increase in the number of members from Geraldine and the immediately surrounding district, where a bowling green playable in the Winter is not currently available.

Sustainable South Canterbury Trust - South Canterbury Eco-Centre (\$150,000) The Sustainable South Canterbury Trust has operated the Crow's Nest Reuse shop and associated activities under contract to the Timaru District Council since 2002. The Vision of the Trust has been to develop an Eco-Centre for information and education, as well as a location to demonstrate practical solutions for sustainability. With financial support from the Timaru District Council & the Community Trust of Mid & South Canterbury along with Trust reserves, it was possible to complete stage one of the Eco-Centre when the Trust transported the old Highfield tennis pavilion onto a site adjacent to the Crow's Nest. Stage 2 will see completion of the Eco-Centre to provide a new community facility with an environmental and sustainable focus for all people in the community, as well as visitors.

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

END

Lorel Hallinan

Community Relations Manager

Community Trust Mid and South Canterbury

Rosie.trust@xtra.co.nz

(03) 687 7589

Organisation contacts for comment are attached as a separate excel file