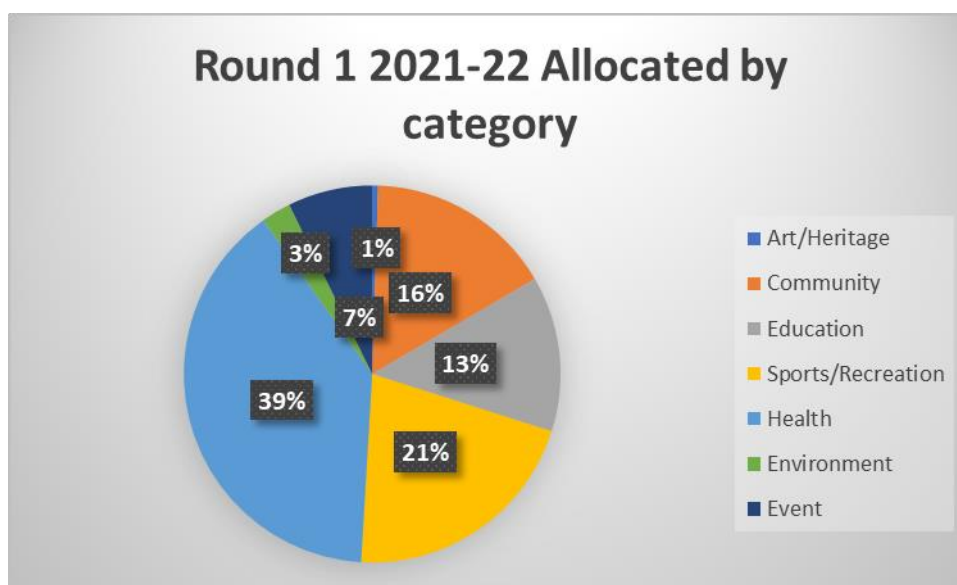


Media Statement: Community Trust of Mid & South Canterbury

June 2021

Eclectic mix of organisations and events supported in funding round.

In its latest funding round the Community Trust of Mid & South Canterbury approved grants totalling **\$196,504** to **27** organisations from around the region supporting a range of outcomes for health, community and recreational groups.



This is the first time that operating costs have been separated from capital expenditure requests. This is to enable better comparison and confirmation of operating cost needs in our region. Operating costs can be difficult for organisations to cover but are essential to keep them going.

The **Mackenzie district** has been hard hit by Covid-19 with the hospitality and tourism sectors being badly affected. Two groups are working hard to boost morale in this district. **Albury Ice Hockey Association** received \$3,300 to subsidise ice rink time for those involved in ice sports. Due to the isolation and distances that need to be travelled to participate in sport, the ice rink in Tekapo is a draw card for all ages participating in ice sports and acts as a community gathering point.

An exciting and innovative new event that will involve locals and visitors is **CREATE: Mackenzie Book & Art Festival**. This Festival is to be run over multiple towns in the MacKenzie District in Spring 2021- including Twizel, Tekapo, Fairlie, Albury and Kimball. It will run from 17 September to 3 October 2021 and have 40 events over the 15 days. There will be a sculpture walk on the Lake Tekapo foreshore for the entire period; a photo competition with photo display boards celebrating the Mackenzie landscape and people, and cultural presentations, workshops and visual art installations. One of the event committee, Wilma van den Bosch says "We are not just using traditional event theatres, but bars, galleries, tourist hubs and historic spaces will be used - showcasing not only the authors and artists, but our community and our landscape, from Cave to Aoraki / Mt Cook, from Albury to Ohau and everywhere in between." They have been granted \$10,000 towards running costs.

In **Ashburton**, the following groups received funding towards operating costs: **Citizens Advice Bureau** located in Community House \$8,000; **Mid Canterbury Hockey** \$5,000; **Ashburton Parent's Centre** \$10,000, **Mid Canterbury United Football Club** \$3,000. The flood ravaged **Riverbridge Native Species Trust** received

\$5,000 and will determine the best way this funding will be used to recover from the flooding after extensive damage was sustained – especially to fencing. (See photo below) The **Ashburton Music Council** is granted \$1,000 towards the running of the ever popular Bands in the Domain concert which has been running for 52 years in the Ashburton Domain and showcases local music groups and bands. (See photo below) **Ashburton Indoor Bowls Association** were granted \$10,000 to reroof their indoor bowls stadium.

In Timaru, **South Canterbury Gym Sports** \$10,000, **Squash Midlands** \$5,000, **South Canterbury Neighbourhood** support \$10,000 and **Timaru Senior Citizens** \$10,000 granted towards operational costs. **Highfield Mountainview Scout Group** \$1,200 for a laptop and printer; **NZ Choral Festival** towards venue hire for the Big Sing Cadenza \$1,674. The **South Canterbury Chamber of Commerce** is offering reduced fees to attend training workshops. Stephen Rackstraw says “The South Canterbury Chamber of Commerce greatly appreciates the support from the Community Trust of Mid and South Canterbury. This grant will allow us to offer significantly reduced registration fees for ALL Not for Profits (N.F.P.’s) in South Canterbury to attend our wide portfolio of professional development training workshops over the next 12 months. We have found that many N.F.P.’s especially the smaller organisations struggle to meet the costs of training and upskilling their amazing and valuable teams of staff and volunteers, we are confident this support will make a significant difference and increase access.”

Geraldine has the annual **Geraldine Ukefest** coming up in July. This popular mid-winter festival attracts participants both locally and from outside our region. They were granted \$2,600 towards operational costs. The **Pleasant Valley Hall Society** received \$3,600 towards hall renovations. **Seniorcare Geraldine Inc.** received \$7,550 towards a room alteration. Seniorcare Board Member Judith Bruce says “After a very difficult year last year this good news has given everybody a huge boost in morale. This room, which has only been used in an emergency, will, when the work is completed be able to be used on a permanent basis giving us scope to increase our occupancy which in turn, will not only give somebody in the community of the Geraldine area a lovely room in which to live but also will help us financially which is always a challenge as a Charitable organisation.”

SportWaimate Inc. was granted \$5,000 towards operations costs. Andrea Atkinson, the treasurer of this group says, “This is definitely going to help us as SportWaimate’s Intro to Sports program would not be able to take place without employing our coordinator who gets it up and running within the Waimate Primary Schools each week.”

The remaining groups that received grants are ones that operate at either a national or provincial level but are always ready to provide support to the residents of Mid and South Canterbury. The funding they receive is therefore earmarked for use by people from our region. **Wandersearch Canterbury Charitable Trust** \$5,080. WanderSearch Canterbury runs a Loan Bank system where individuals, particularly those with a Dementia or Autism diagnosis can receive a radio frequency device free which enables them to be detected should they go missing. Linda Rutland from this group says “Having recently been asked to extend our service to the mid and south Canterbury region for people who have a cognitive impairment and who are at risk of going missing, we really wanted to be able to answer that call. We had excellent local volunteers come forward to help and now with this grant we have the ability to run the service.”

Other groups are, **Youthline Central South Island** \$10,000, **SC Multiple Sclerosis** \$10,000, **Ronald McDonald House South Island** \$10,000, **Family Mental Health Support** \$15,000, **Talklink Trust** \$10,000 and the **Home & Family Society Christchurch Inc.** \$10,000.

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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Bands in the Domain concert – Ashburton Domain 2019



Fencing has been extensively damaged after recent flooding at Riverbridge Native Species Trust - Ashburton