

Events and Adventures

In its latest funding round the Community Trust of Mid & South Canterbury approved grants totalling \$135,777 to 27 organisations from around the region supporting a range of outcomes for health, community and recreational groups.

The Trust continues its ongoing support for a large number of community health, education and welfare groups with a number of operational grants to the **Ashburton Mackenzie Community Group** (\$10,000), the **Ashburton Learning Centre** (\$7,500), the **Pleasant Point Playcentre** (\$500), the **Citizens Advice Bureau South Canterbury** (\$10,000), the **Cholmondeley Children's Centre** (\$5,000), the **Girl Guides Association of New Zealand** (\$3,000), **Waimate Community Radio** (\$3,900), and the **New Zealand Council of Victim Support Groups Inc** (multi-year funding of \$7,500 per annum for each of three years).

In Ashburton a targeted operational grant was also provided to the **Mid Canterbury Emergency Relief Charitable Trust** (\$3,000) towards the continuance of the Rural Driver Licensing Scheme which has been so successful in connecting local migrant women with the wider community and, in several cases, with securing employment. In Timaru the Community Trust has also offered a multi-year funding commitment (\$10,000 per annum for each of three years) to the **Ha Ora Development Trust** (based at Life Church Timaru) who, in connection with **Christians Against Poverty (CAP)** operate the local debt centre, supporting South Canterbury families to recover from debt crisis, finding pathways towards financially sustainable futures for themselves and their families. This follows an equivalent grant made to the Ashburton Debt Centre in the previous funding round. Another local recipient will be the **Order of St John Area Committee** who receive \$9,000 in funding towards the operation of the Aoraki health shuttle service.

Those living in each of the four districts supported by the Trust can also look forward to an entertaining few months ahead with a range of exciting community events scheduled. In Ashburton these include the **Big Little Theatre Company's** youth production of Twelfth Night (GAL \$3,000) taking place on the 22/23/24 November – be in quick to purchase your tickets online from ticket direct! Easter 2020 will also be a special time with the **Mid Canterbury Choir** (\$2,000 GAL) again presenting their spectacular Messiah Concert. For those in the Mackenzie District 30 November is a date to remember as the **Twizel Promotions and Development Association** (\$567) again brings you the Upcycle Market Day. This fun, free, family-friendly event was formerly known as

the Mistletoe Market and is a celebration of all things hand made with a focus on upcycling and recycling materials. In Timaru the **South Canterbury Indian Cultural Society Inc** (\$3,000 GAL) will again host a Diwali celebration. Society Treasurer Kashyap Hari explains "This Diwali event brings the whole community together to celebrate the Hindu festival of lights which showcases art, music, Indian costumes and dance performances with an Indian meal for dinner. People of all ages from the wider community attend the event. The Society is very grateful to the Community Trust Mid & South Canterbury for supporting our event. The Diwali event this year is on 23 November and tickets are limited". You can purchase yours from Bin Inn, Bombay Magic, City of Spices and Red Chilli Pantry (no door sales). Those with a professional or personal interest in Parkinson's Disease may also be interested to attend the Timaru presentation and workshop which will be offered by the **Neurological Foundation NZ** (\$1,560) during Brain Awareness Month (March) 2020. Finally in Waimate **Positive Waimate** (\$3,000) brings us a special Christmas Parade on 7 December with a costuming workshop also available for those planning to enter a float. To find out more about how you can get involved in this fabulous community event contact club Chair Mandy on 03 689 or 027 467 0064.

Other experiences and adventures available for Ashburton school students will include opportunities to visit the beautiful wetlands of the **Riverbridge Native Species Trust** (\$5,000 for native plantings). The impact of this grant will be ecological as well as educational as Trust Chair Ben Aitken explains "This grant will allow us to purchase native trees, to establish habitat for native and endemic wildlife including the endangered Pateke (Brown Teal) and nationally threatened Kakariki. At Riverbridge we're enhancing wetland biodiversity and protecting it in perpetuity at a QEII covenanted reserve in the heart of Mid Canterbury". Meanwhile, several schools in Timaru, Temuka and Waimate will be engaged and informed by the Sexwise 2020 tour produced by the **Theatre in Education Trust (THETA)** (\$5,000). "THETA appreciate the support from the Community Trust of Mid and South Canterbury", says Artistic Director Evan Hastings. "Thanks to your support, more Rangatahi/Youth in Timaru and Waimate will have meaningful discussions about their Sexual Health through the engaging theatre performances and workshops of Sexwise". THETA is also partnering with Fale Pasifika o Aoraki and Arowhenua Whanau Services to deliver complementary community events. Students from across the region with an interest in extending their horizons might also consider joining a 10 Day Development Voyage with the **Spirit of Adventure Trust** who receive \$10,000 from the Community Trust towards scholarship funding. For those who wish to keep their adventures local the **Pleasant Point Scout Den** will soon be looking spick and span thanks to planned refurbishments (\$10,000). The following comment was received from this group "This grant will mean the base for our many Kea, Cub, and Scout activities is protected from the weather, with an inspiring, refreshed look inside, making the den a place that our 50 or so youth members can be proud of, not to mention encouraging others to come and join

our group and engage in all that Scouting offers. Meanwhile, the wider Pleasant Point Community will benefit from having a tidier building in the centre of the town, and a facility fit to support Scouting in Point into the future.”

A number of small capital grants were also made in this round to support a range of very worthy recipients. These included the **Ashburton County Scottish Society Inc** (\$2,221 to replace spouting at the Pipe Band Hall), the **Mt Somers Reserve Board** (\$5,000 towards mower replacement), **Community Colleges NZ Ltd** (\$5,000 to purchase Chromebooks for the South Canterbury campus), the **Timaru Harrier Club** (Run Timaru, \$2,329 for a gazebo purchase), the **Pleasant Point Community Health and Fitness Club Inc** (\$5,000 towards a treadmill purchase), and the **Waimate Bridge Club** (\$3,300 towards a technology upgrade).

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

Rosie Oliver
Community Relations Manager
Community Trust Mid and South Canterbury
Rosie.trust@xtra.co.nz
(03) 687 7589

Organisation contacts for comment are now attached as a separate excel file.