

# Advance Ashburton Community Foundation



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**“Best job in the world”**



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**Meet Sir Stephen Tindall**

## PROGRESS

- » Invested Funds – \$10.1 million
- » Bequests – \$27 million
- » Donations in the year to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2017 – \$1,901,716



## RIVER – A PERFECT STUDY AREA

**University of Canterbury masters student, Katie Coluccio has been paying special attention to the Ashburton River over the last five months.**

Her research, as part of her Masters in Water Resource Management, on the interaction between groundwater and

surface water on our braided rivers, has been funded from the late Ian Glassey Memorial Fund, through Advance

Ashburton Community Foundation.

“New Zealand is home to many iconic braided rivers. They are so important, especially for Canterbury, for a variety of cultural, social, economic, recreational and ecological purposes. But in some areas of NZ we are facing a significant decline in freshwater quality and quantity.”

Given the variety of uses and values that we place on our braided rivers, they can be complex to manage as freshwater resources. “My research looks at a piece of this puzzle – the interactions between ground water and surface water in braided rivers.”

Over the winter and spring – in between snow and rain storms! – Katie measured the flows and temperatures in the river and surrounding groundwater, to determine how much water was moving between the two systems.

Katie hopes her research will assist all users of the river to better understand and manage these important water resources.

## MEET SANDI WOOD – OUR NEW EXECUTIVE OFFICER

I am a born and raised proud Mid Cantabrian. After leaving high school I ventured away from Ashburton and headed for the bright lights of the city and then overseas with my husband. But we returned to the place we call home. Now with our children, James and Emma, who attend a local primary school, we enjoy all that Ashburton has to offer.

I have been in banking for thirteen years and really enjoyed the networking and ‘community good’ that could be accomplished. For many years, I led the Ashburton ANZ team in the Daffodil Day quiz and auction night. This major fundraising event raised over \$120,000 for our local Cancer Society.

When I saw the advertised position

for the Executive Officer for Advanced Ashburton, it was an opportunity I couldn’t pass up. My dream job!

Since starting I have been introduced to such wonderful people. It has been an honour to meet a number of donors and see the sheer joy on their faces as they share their stories about their journey with Advance Ashburton. It really is something special to witness.

I have heard first-hand how our donors feel about being part of donating whilst living. How uplifting it is to be able to meet the recipients of grants and scholarships – shake hands, understand the person and see the real gratitude for themselves – you can hear the real sense of pride.

I am so thrilled to have been appointed to this role, an opportunity to be a part of the continued success of our community, with a huge focus on enabling all Mid Cantabrians to be a part of advancing Ashburton.



*Sandi and husband Fraser, with James and Emma.*

## NEW AGED CARE FACILITY – A STEP CLOSER

Allan and Alma Lochhead, who established the Lochhead Charitable Trust in 1988, wished that a 6,150 square metre (one and half acre) block of land on Grace Ireland Drive, Methven, be given to the community of Methven for the establishment of a new aged care facility.

For four decades, the elderly of Methven has been cared for in Methven House, the former maternity hospital on Morgan Street. Methven House is unique in Mid-Canterbury as it is owned by the people of Methven and administered by a Committee comprised of community members.

“Forty years of care, forty years of commitment, forty years of empathy and forty years of devotion have been given to the people that have walked through the doors and made Methven House their home. That, quite frankly, is a mighty effort for a community of this size”, said Methven Care Trust Chairperson Jo Suyker.



Photo supplied by the Ashburton Guardian

Mrs Alma Lochhead, Trevor Croy – Advance Ashburton Chairman, Methven Care Trust chair Jo Suyker, and trustees Roger Henderson and Colin Lill and solicitor John Goodwin gather on site of the planned new aged care facility in Methven.

But now the building needs to be replaced and the Methven Care Trust was established in October 2014 to raise funds for and oversee the building of a new aged care facility. Fundraising has begun in earnest with \$5m set as the target.

Advance Ashburton, which has taken over the management of the Lochhead Charitable Trust, is delighted to fulfill the Lochheads’ wishes and transfer the land to the Methven Care Trust.

“Having the land demonstrates Methven Care Trust’s commitment for the project to the district. Methven has a wide respect for Allan and Alma Lochhead’s philanthropy to our community and we are honoured to be the benefactors of this very generous gift”, said Jo Suyker.

On September 6<sup>th</sup>, the land valued at \$470,000 was transferred to the Methven Care Trust and the new facility, which will provide a modern, sustainable and community-run residential-care home, became one big step closer.

## TEAM WORK WAS THE FOCUS AT ASHBURTON HOSPITAL

In 30 years of working as a rural GP, Hokianga Health’s Chris Todd says a recent inter-professional postgraduate course was the first he’s been to where team work was the focus.

Dr Todd and his Hokianga colleagues attended the inaugural three-day course at Ashburton Hospital organised by the Dunedin School of Medicine. Rather than focusing on what type of drugs or procedures they might use on a patient in an emergency, they learnt to work together as a team.

“I’ve had to manage a lot of emergency situations, but it gave me skills that I haven’t learnt in 30 years,” Dr Todd says. University of Otago professional practice fellow Marc Gutenstein says, historically, trauma and emergency-care courses are written by surgeons for tertiary centres. But the rural hospital environment has smaller teams a long way from tertiary centres and surgical services.

Four teams of five staff members from hospitals in Hokianga, Taupo, Queenstown and Ashburton took part. As part of the course, each team was observed in an “emergency” situation, and Dr Todd says it was revealing watching other colleagues in action.

“It drove the point home that you can go to a resuscitation in an emergency setting and people can know how to do things, but if it’s not calmly managed in a good fashion, the outcomes [can be] terrible,” he says. “It’s not about the best drugs to give, or when to shock someone, so much as working as a group – assigning roles of leaders and followers, and having good communication between members. It was quite a change participating in an educational course alongside nurses. Having them there made the simulation exercises seem far more like a real-life situation because that is how it works in rural teams. It also helped



Team work in action – Advance Ashburton, together with our RHAC funding partners, the McKenzie Charitable Trust are pleased that the Ashburton-based centre is recognised as a centre of excellence for rural medicine.

remind us that the nurses are a really valuable resource and how much they contribute.”

It was the first time such a course has been held at Ashburton Hospital’s Rural Health Academic Centre. Based on its success, another course is planned for next February.

# KOHANGA OFFERS A LIFELINE TO LEARNING

Term two at Ashburton College saw an Advance Ashburton funded initiative introduced, an experimental classroom that tackles head-on the complex and unique set of struggles and challenges each-and-every troubled youth brings to our education system and wider community.

Called the Kohanga or 'nest', the classroom is a collaborative venture which offers a support lifeline to a small group of Year 9 and 10 boys who had been identified as causing concern in the school and were highly likely to face suspension, expulsion or worse as the year unfolded.

When newly appointed principal Ross Preece first met with members of Advance Ashburton to explain his ideas and ask for support, youth crime around Ashburton was having a staggering impact on the well-being of our entire community. The grants committee saw this as an opportunity to intervene and hopefully help steer some of these individuals down a better path.

After years of working with troubled youth, Ross recognised that if the only option was to continue doing what had always been done, the outcomes were not going to change.

"We are a community town and a community school and we need to support those for whom life is more of a struggle – we need to be able to put our hands on our hearts and say we tried everything," said Ross.

"When a child gets kicked out of school at 14 the social issues become magnified and then four years down the track they become a statistic, a burden to the police and youth justice system."

To avoid this happening, the community must take an active role in better fostering a culture of tolerance, where every child has the best ability to become a healthy adult. For Mid Canterbury that 'active role' came in the form of a significant grant from Advance Ashburton and an acknowledgment from the Foundation that collaboration is key.

Since the initial grant application was processed in March this year, \$36,000 has gone toward teacher salary costs, lap tops and furniture. In terms of a worthwhile investment the benefits have been two-fold as it also had

an immediate impact in reducing disruption by these students in their mainstream classes.

Barriers to learning can be many and varied; family dysfunction, learning difficulties, drug and alcohol issues or in some of the more complex instances, a cocktail of all three. While more is being done to identify and address the needs of those directly affected, as a community we continue to see the daily burden these troubled youth place on our resources.

Conceptually the Kohanga was about creating a physical space within the school environment where the curriculum could be put to one side to focus on addressing the underlying circumstances. Most of these students have significant trust issues and highly developed task avoidance strategies so keeping them engaged and at school required an entirely fresh approach.

Kohanga teacher Lindsay Abbott has been given the freedom to introduce realistic expectations within the group. As the students feel better equipped and supported, basic life skills such as cooking simple and healthy meals, taking turns at cleaning up, fostering manners and showing respect for others improves – and self-confidence grows.

Lindsay has established a good rapport with the boys, building relationships based on positive role modeling, trust and respect. For their part in this collaboration, the students are aware this is a good thing and that they are getting a "good deal".

All eight of the boys are still at school and attendance rates have improved, with one student up from 25% in term one to above 90% in term three. There is a keen baker in the group, one is enjoying work experience on a local dairy farm, and another has reintegrated back into three mainstream subjects.



Lindsay engages with students at the Kohanga.

# YOU COULDN'T ASK FOR A BETTER JOB

Margaret Rickard has recently retired as Executive Officer of Advance Ashburton, saying it was the best job in the world.

As the first paid staff member of the Foundation, Margaret became the front person for the Foundation taking over the role of promoting the Foundation and working with current and potential donors and that, she said, brought her into contact with some wonderful people.

"Those amazing donors are people who want their community to be a better place. They come from all walks of life and all are special people. People give for many reasons, but often because they say their community has been good to them over the years. Others may not have direct descendants and want their money to benefit people in need."

In 2010, when Margaret joined, the Foundation had just \$500,000 in funds. Now, seven years later it has \$10.1m in funds and \$27m in bequests and is able to make a considerable difference to the community. Margaret is especially proud of the donations made to the hospital to build the new AAU (acute admission unit), the establishment of the rural health academic centre at the hospital, the literacy programme for seven and eight-year-olds at local schools and the scholarships totalling \$53,000 awarded this year.

"It has been a privilege to work for Advance Ashburton – to see it grow from small beginnings to a Foundation that has the power to do so much good in our community."

Margaret has made a wonderful contribution to the Foundation and the community and, while officially retired from the "best job in the world", we know she will continue to work to make our district a better place for all.

Thank you, Margaret.



## INVITATION TO A VERY SPECIAL LEADERSHIP BREAKFAST IN ASHBURTON

On Friday November 3<sup>rd</sup>, Advance Ashburton Community Foundation is very pleased to have Sir Stephen Tindall as our guest speaker at a very special breakfast event.

Sir Stephen is a renowned business leader and will share with us his views on inspiring the next generation to participate in social and entrepreneurial good through quality leadership. He will also share with

us how he helped Team New Zealand to bring home the America's Cup.

We would like to invite you to purchase a table of 8 or 10 on behalf of your business, your team or your clients. You will not want to miss this opportunity to be inspired by one of New Zealand's most regarded business leaders.

All proceeds from the breakfast will go

towards a new leadership scholarship for 2018 – specifically aimed at professional development for a young professional working and living in Mid Canterbury.

To book your table or for further information please email: Sandi Wood, Executive Officer [info@advanceashburton.org.nz](mailto:info@advanceashburton.org.nz) or phone 027 577 5875.

### APPLY FOR A FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP NOW

Please go to our website [www.advanceashburton.org.nz](http://www.advanceashburton.org.nz) for application forms and eligibility criteria.

Closing Date  
October 16<sup>th</sup> 2017

- » **Advance Ashburton Community Foundation Scholarships** - \$2,000 for any type of tertiary study
- » **Agricultural, Horticultural, Aquaculture** - \$3,000 for anyone undertaking tertiary or vocational training in these fields
- » **Health Science** - \$2,000 or \$3,000 for anyone undertaking study in a health-related field
- » **General Tertiary Scholarships** – \$1,000 for any type of tertiary study
- » **Environmental Scholarship** - \$3,000 for those undertaking environmental studies
- » **Industry Training** – \$1,000 for those undertaking industry-based training or apprenticeships
- » **Leadership Scholarships** – up to \$2,000 towards costs of attending leadership and personal development courses (including Outward Bound). Open to anyone up to 40.

## COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

We welcome and thank the following committee members:

### Communications Committee

*Angela Cushnie*

Angela has operated her own business since 1999, working with local businesses in marketing, communication and copy writing. Angela has been involved in various school and sporting club committees over the years and has recently joined the Ashburton Water Zone Committee.

### Grants Committee

*Mark Scammell: Managing Director of Scammell Painting & Decorating Ltd and Elite Scaffolding 2014 Ltd.*

Mark is on the National Advisory Group for

the BCITO, representing Master Painters NZ and has been Chairperson of the Staveley Campsite Committee for nine years.

### Audit and Risk Committee

*Ross Gibson: Director Gabites Limited, Chartered Accountants, Ashburton.*

Ross has been a chartered accountant since 1991 and worked in the United Kingdom for many years before returning to Ashburton to join Gabites.

### Audit and Risk Committee

*Tim Silva: Solicitor and Partner at Tavendale and Partners Limited.*

Tim has been a partner in his current and predecessor firms since 2006 specialising in agri-business, commercial law and succession planning.

## CONGRATULATIONS



*Graham Kennedy*

Graham Kennedy, Chartered Accountant, Consultant and Independent Director, who assists the Foundation's Investment Committee, was appointed as a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the 2017 Queen's Birthday Honours for his services to business.

## CELEBRATE PHILANTHROPY WITH US

We hope you will join us on Thursday November 2<sup>nd</sup> (5.15-7.00pm at the Ashburton Event Centre) to learn more of our work in the community and hear guest speakers Sir Stephen Tindall (founder of New Zealand retailer

The Warehouse and of the Tindall Foundation), Professor Bridget Robinson (Mackenzie Chair in Cancer Medicine) and Ashburton College Principal Ross Preece.

Invitations will be sent to you. We look forward to seeing you there.

Advance Ashburton is a perpetual charitable trust dedicated to benefiting the Ashburton region.

Give where you live... to build a stronger community.