

## our donors

### THE ASHBURTON TECHNICAL SCHOOL LEGACY LIVES ON

The first reunion of the Ashburton Technical School, which marked the 50th anniversary of the opening of the school doors, took place at Easter in 1962. “It was an enjoyable celebration which was very well attended,” said attendee Gordon Clinton.

The celebration ended with a profit of £434.10. It was decided to bank the money and use it for subsequent reunions. As the years went by the reunion fund grew and it was decided to invest the unspent money and use the income for the purpose of a scholarship for students studying trade at Ashburton College. By 2007 the asset had grown to \$26,000.

Gordon Clinton and Allan Lilley are two of the last Trustees of The Ashburton Technical School Past Pupils Scholarship Trust. They both enjoy interviewing potential candidates for the scholarship and choosing the overall winner each year. But with changing compliance and reporting requirements for charitable organisations, they wanted to seek an alternative way to continue doing what they loved, but not have to worry about meeting the new regulations.

After much consideration it was decided Advance Ashburton was the best place to look after the Trust’s asset, which with good management, wise investing and further donations had grown to over \$65,000.

“We are confident in the ability of Advance Ashburton and felt it was the best action to take,” says Gordon.

“The whole process has been made so simple and we would encourage any organisation to get in touch with the Foundation to discuss how it can help you,” says Allan.

Advance Ashburton is honoured to be given the opportunity to continue this



**ABOVE** Retired Trustees of the Ashburton Technical School Past Pupils Scholarship Trust, Allan Lilley (left) and Gordon Clinton (right).

legacy of the Ashburton Technical School Past Pupils — a legacy that started 58 years ago — with a new fund in this name. Trade students in Mid Canterbury will continue to benefit from scholarships for years to come thanks to this group of passionate former students.

Donations can continue to be made to the Ashburton Technical School Past Pupils Fund through the Foundation. +

## our scholarships

### 2020 ADVANCE ASHBURTON SCHOLARSHIPS

We at Advance Ashburton are honoured to deliver on the wishes of local generous people. Many donors wish to provide scholarships to financially help our local youth with their studies. This year this heart-warming generosity has gifted 37 scholarships with a combined total of over \$87,500.

Alister Smyth is one such generous local who has a fund with Advance Ashburton, providing scholarships for tertiary study. To date his fund has provided 23 scholarships, and as his capital is secured, his fund will continue to fund scholarships forever. +



**ABOVE** Alister with his 2020 scholars. From left Lupepe Saofai, Hope Saofai and Benjamin Wakelin (absent Keagan Bradley).

**LEFT** 2020 Scholars: Front row, left to right - Emma Warmerdam, Hannah Ward, Roberta Risk (mother of Barbera Forster, accepting on her behalf), Sophie Bonnington, Lupepe Saofai, Hope Saofai, Benjamin Wakelin, Kaleb Small, Gemma Duncan. Second row, left to right - Val Bradley (Nana to Keagan Bradley, accepting the award on his behalf), Kieran Bradley, Leilani Lobb, Jack Taggart, Barrine Ross, Joshua Buchanan, Kerry Claydon-Wade, Katie Danielson, Annalise Reilly, Melissa Maslin, Nicholas Thomassen. Third row, left to right - Katya McCallum, Victoria Sandrey, Katie Ferris, Kirsty Naish, Abigail Fergus, Simon Aiken-Wheeler, Connie Davidson, Artem Kravchenko, Matthew Forbes Jackson Winstone, Jaffar Nuru, Max Watson, Greg Cross, Jack Harrex, Jayden Sinclair-Thickett.



## environment

### EXPLORING OUR FOOTPRINT

Kānuka Mid Canterbury Regeneration Trust is working to build and strengthen the relationship between young people, our community and the environment. Its vision embraces the four pillars of sustainability—environment, culture, economy and society.

Exploring Our Footprint is an education and community support programme developed by Kānuka for the Mid Canterbury environment. It blends a rich array of resources and expertise into place-based learning for schools, kindergartens, youth groups and holiday programmes.

By facilitating collaborative learning opportunities, and championing local initiatives, children and young people are more engaged as they look to make a meaningful contribution to the district they will inherit.

Kānuka has run a pilot Exploring Our Footprint programme with Hinds School and Ashburton College thanks to the support of the Ian Glassey Memorial Fund. Ian, an Ashburton local, spent most of his life as a nursery and garden worker,



including 18 years as the head gardener at Ashburton Hospital. Ian was passionate about nature and the environment, and through Advance Ashburton he continues to support his passion for the environment - forever.

Some of the projects undertaken by the two schools to date include field trips looking at wetlands and mudfish habitat; protection, propagation and planting of native vegetation; biodiversity assessments; and a 'Champions of Change' youth hui, where the children and Kānuka facilitators explored their understanding of

sustainability, and what this means for the Mid Canterbury district.

"Global environmental and sustainability trends are a rapidly changing and evolving area of focus and as a region we face a unique set of challenges and opportunities," said Trustee Angela Cushnie.

"What we have found is that while the children are learning about what is unique and special about Mid Canterbury, so too are the teachers, parents and grandparents – and ultimately the whole community. The more our young people learn the better prepared they are to teach others". +

## heritage



### READY FOR THE NEXT 100 YEARS

Restoration of the Printing Works building, part of the Plains Vintage Railway and Historical Museum, is nearly complete only waiting for new signwriting for the Replica Shop Façade, funded by the Tinwald Club through Advance Ashburton.

This impressive building is part of the recreated historic village and heritage railway located inside the Tinwald Domain.

The railway operates 3km of rural railway line with restored rolling stock and locomotives, while the Village allows

people to see how life was lived in New Zealand's pioneering past.

Lorayne Oakley, Chairman of the Ashburton Railway and Preservation Society, says 4-5,000 people visit annually. The railcar rides on "Children's Day" are especially popular for the hundreds of young children and their families, who experience their first ever train ride, thanks to Advance Ashburton funding through the Tinwald Club Fund.

"This donation means renovations both inside and out will preserve exhibits for the future generations. To have the building painted complete with new signwriting, will give our Museum Village Entrance such an inviting appearance," she said. The benefit to our Community is already noticeable – with an increase in visitor numbers to the site. +

## youth

### MUCH MORE THAN BOXING

Providing successful youth mentoring and working towards making our community a better place is the focus of the Mid Canterbury Boxing Academy.

Twice a week, Head Coach Cornelius Grobler, supported by several volunteer assistant coaches, promotes the values of respect, responsibility, compassion, consideration, kindness, duty, obedience, honesty and truthfulness to over 100 boys, aged between 9 and 18 years, who attend the Academy programme.

With the expectation to show these values during their time at the Academy, the members are strongly encouraged and supported to aspire to living by these values in their daily lives. By passionately promoting these values during the boxing training, the Academy is helping not only these boys, but also their wider whānau, schools and the local community with these positive attributes.

Based on the principles of the Billy Graham Youth Foundation, the Mid Canterbury Boxing Academy has grown from strength to strength since its beginnings in 2016. At their End of Year Prizegiving, New Zealand Police Assistant Commissioner, Jevon McSkimming, spoke very highly of the Academy and what it is achieving. "It is something that's tangible,

*"It is something that's tangible, touches lives, and when you see the young men coming out of these academies, it makes a real difference, not only now, but for generations in the future."*

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The NZ Police Commissioner Mike Bush agrees that the work being accomplished by the Boxing Academy is so worthy that each year an award is given out that is rarely awarded outside of the police force. The Police Commissioner's Challenge Coin is awarded to a young man who shows consistency, commitment and dedication to training, encourages others, is kind and helpful, displays exemplary manners, is positive and always the best he can be. This year, Tyler Manson, received the award.

The passion to build a better community reflects the generosity of the donors who support it. This initiative is proudly supported by the Ian Glassey Memorial Fund, and the Tinwald Club Fund, whose original base is now the home of the Boxing Academy. +



**ABOVE** Tyler Manson receiving the 2019 NZ Police Commissioner's Challenge Coin from NZ Police Assistant Commissioner Jevon McSkimming.

## community

### A HELPING HAND FOR INNOCENT VICTIMS

Every year, 23,000 children suffer the distress and heartache of losing Dad or Mum, due to imprisonment.

These children often live in poor households, with a parent or carer who is often forced to relocate, and who are themselves struggling to cope. Many of these children are dealing with shame, embarrassment, stigma and loneliness.

Most of us will have experienced stress in our lives but that stress is usually short-lived, and we can recover afterwards. Thousands of children are sadly living in environments where hope doesn't exist, paying for crimes they did not commit. Pillars provides practical, sustainable programmes and services.

Pillars, a New Zealand-wide organisation, was formed 31 years ago to support families of those in prison. "Our first priority is always children," says Leanne Ryburn, Development Manager at Pillars. Pillars has a presence in several main centres, now thanks to the funding from Advance Ashburton, will soon be operating in Ashburton.

"The Christchurch office was getting inundated with referrals for Ashburton,"

Ryburn said, "but we could not provide any practical support from Christchurch." Fifty local families were identified as needing assistance and it was decided that establishing a fortnightly PALs support group in Ashburton would be the most effective way of meeting this need.

Bronwyn Booth-McKenna, Ashburton resident and restorative justice facilitator, has been appointed to implement this initiative. She will network with local families and collaborate with local agencies within the community to establish an Ashburton PALs group.

With the support of Advance Ashburton, this new initiative will ensure that children have access to the right support services at the right time and give them a greater sense of hope for the future. +

## our story



### HOW IT ALL BEGAN

In 2003 local accountant Neil Sinclair learnt how Community Foundations operated and how they could benefit the community. Neil firmly believed “Ashburton has many people living here that would like to give something back to the community”.

He gathered a group of like-minded people from the legal, accounting, District Council and business sectors in establishing a Mid Canterbury-based

charitable trust, facilitating benevolence from people and groups within the Ashburton community, and enabling local philanthropy to flourish.

Neil worked tirelessly to establish Advance Ashburton, undertaking many of the operational tasks, including chair, secretary and treasurer - all were done in his own time and at his own expense. It was fundamental for Neil that Advance Ashburton had unquestionable integrity in the community, donors’ funds were in safe hands, and the “returns” to the community were maximised with the minimum of costs.

These goals have all been achieved and that standard continues today.

As funds grew, so did Advance Ashburton’s ability to give back to the community. This enabled Advance Ashburton to help make Ashburton a better place to live and in addition to an annual scholarship programme, the Foundation has been involved in various major projects in the region. These include a new operating theatre and acute assessment unit at Ashburton Hospital, BOOST a child’s literacy programme, providing the Cancer Society with a permanent home in Mona Square, and the Kohanga classroom at the Ashburton College.

Thanks to local generosity Advance Ashburton has distributed over \$4,500,000 to local community groups and causes.+

## our team



### WELCOME

We welcome Lucia Ghidoli as our new part-time Administrator.

Born and raised in Milan, Italy, Lucia married Matt, a New Zealander from Ashburton and after living and travelling in Europe the couple moved back in 2009. Now with four children, they call Ashburton home.

“Since arriving in Ashburton I have experienced first-hand how practical and helpful our community can be. Here I found real friendships and a way of life that suits me perfectly. It is a great privilege to be in a position of helping our community through my work at the Foundation,” she says.+

## THINKING ABOUT GIVING BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITY?

Do you want to give back to your community because it’s been good to you? Are there local charities and causes that are especially important to you? Through Advance Ashburton you can support causes that are close to home, and close to your heart.

Advance Ashburton is driven by local generosity and the wishes of the donors to create a better future for our District. All donations are invested, and the income earned supports the local causes you care about, year on year. If you are interested in looking at ways you can make a difference in Mid Canterbury, please contact our Executive Officer, Sandi Wood on 027 577 5875 or email [info@advanceashburton.org.nz](mailto:info@advanceashburton.org.nz).

### GIVE NOW

Donate today to see the impact your generosity will create and benefit from a tax credit of up to 33% of the amount of your donation (for donations \$5 or more).

### GIVE LATER

Through your will you can leave a gift to the Foundation, leaving a lasting legacy to the community you care about.

### GIVE WHAT YOU CAN

Big or small, it’s about economies of scale and through the Foundation every dollar makes a difference

### GIVE YOUR WAY

It’s up to you whether it’s a one-off donation, a regular direct credit, part of a workplace giving model, a giving circle, or a bequest in your will.