

environment



ABOVE Mt. Somers Walkway Society members, from left, Charles Ross, Lew Shaw, Robert Schikker and Bryan Humm. (Photo The Guardian)

TRACK TO SHARPLIN FALLS

Access again to the beautiful Sharplin Falls is one step closer thanks to a donation from the Ian Glassey Trust Fund through Advance Ashburton.

The popular 1.2km track through natural beech forest to the Sharplin Falls was closed after rockfalls in 2015 and 2016 destroyed part of the track. The Mt. Somers Walkway Society Working Group is making good progress towards the proposed new track.

The Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE), which is a necessary and detailed piece of work is soon to be completed. Consultation with local Iwi is underway. An engineering design consultant has

commenced preparation of plans for a new bridge. The Working Group has applied to the Ashburton District Council for a resource consent and an application to the Department of Conservation (DOC) for a concession is in progress.

Once these technical steps are completed the project can be forwarded to DOC for final approval.

Charles Ross, chairman of the Mt. Somers Walkway Society says the Society is very grateful for the Advance Ashburton grant which allowed the AEE to be undertaken. "A new track to view the Falls will be a wonderful recreational opportunity for local people and visitors to our District". +

our team



WELCOME

We welcome two new trustees, Tim Silva and Ross Gibson, to the Board of Advance Ashburton.

Tim is a partner in local law firm RMF Silva. Apart from five years of commercial law in the UK, Tim has been an Ashburton lawyer since 1996 specialising in property, agriculture, business and succession. Tim is an avid supporter of our local community and also holds roles with Ashburton Licensing Trust, Mid Canterbury Rural Support Trust and Waihi School.

Ross Gibson, a chartered accountant also spent time in the UK in accounting and audit positions, before returning to NZ. He was made a partner with local accountancy firm Gabites in 2001. Ross specialises in providing business advisory services, and taxation and succession planning to clients, in the agricultural and business sectors throughout the South Island.

We are also pleased to welcome local accountant Brendon Adam, and local lawyer, Alister Argyle, to the Audit and Risk Committee, and Angela Leadley to the Grants Committee.

We are delighted to announce that Mary Ross will commence as Chair of the Foundation from September. +

TOP LEFT Ross Gibson

TOP RIGHT Tim Silva

save the date



Prof. Michael Baker

THE 2020 ANNUAL CELEBRATION

Make sure you put Thursday 29 October at 5.30pm at the Ashburton Trust Event Centre in your diary. Hear inspirational speakers including keynote speaker epidemiologist Professor Michael Baker, talking about "The Pandemic from the Frontline." All welcome.

Please RSVP to Sandi on 027 577 5875 or email info@advanceashburton.org.nz, by 26 October 2020.

Event will go ahead if we move to Alert Level 1.

youth/education

THE KAI FOR KIDS CHARITABLE TRUST

A pilot programme called Kai for Kids is providing a free, nutritious, hot lunch to children at Netherby School during Terms 3 and 4 in 2020 – with the aim of continuing this service into 2021 and extending to other schools in the district. All thanks to the generosity of donors through Advance Ashburton.

There is a considerable body of research from the Ministry of Health and the Child Poverty Action Group, which shows that feeding children at school is one of the greatest investments we can make, as a community, to help with effective learning for children. Common in other countries, a school lunch programme goes far beyond a plate of food and has been shown to produce benefits in education, health and nutrition, and social protection for children.

The Kai for Kids programme has a small team of volunteers who help to prepare and cook the lunches which are then delivered to Netherby School where a roster of parents help to serve the meal. Each meal contains a balance of vegetables, meat and



ABOVE Children at Netherby School enjoying their Kai for Kids school lunches.

grains along with fruit and yoghurt. The favourite meals so far have included butter chicken, cottage pie, lasagne and vegetable soup. All meals are made from scratch using as much locally-grown produce as possible. Special meals are made for gluten and dairy-free children and for Halal cultural requirements.

Where possible cultural elements are incorporated into the meals. The inclusion of Banana Poke and custard as a dessert during Cook Island Language Week helps to recognise the different cultures in our school communities.

The next phase of the Kai for Kids programme is to create an urban farm garden, in conjunction with Trotts Community Garden, where the children and

volunteers will grow some of the vegetables to go into the lunch meals. It is also planned to include garden-to-plate cooking lessons for children and whānau members.

Some of the feedback from the children at Netherby School:

“Thank you so much for bringing Kai for Kids. My favourite meal so far had to be the pizza even though I don’t like homemade pizza but this was mind blowing.” Navaia

“I’ve loved most meals you have made for us so far. My favourite is the Shepherd’s pie. It was so Yum!!!” Renemoana.

“Thank you Kai for Kids team for making the best meals so far. My favourite meal was the lasagne because of everything in it. I just loved the effort your team put in all of the meals you gave us.” Michael +

youth

MORE THAN A SKATEPARK

Through the initiative taken by the Kidz Methven Community Group, the Methven Skatepark is fast becoming an integral amenity for the township.

Chair of the committee Liz McMillan says, “Not only is the skatepark providing an easily accessible recreational resource to the wider community but it is also proving to be beneficial to the community’s economic growth, as well as providing an additional way to facilitate bringing the community together.”

Skateboarding is a well-established activity that is gaining mainstream popularity and the newly-opened skatepark is providing



a place for skaters of all levels to develop their athletic skills.

Thanks to local generosity, Advance Ashburton is proud to have been able

to provide a contribution towards this facility which will continue to provide additional benefits to the community for generations to come. +

community

RAKAIA COMMUNITY PUSHES BACK AGAINST THE IMPACT OF COVID 19!

With the backing of a grant from Advance Ashburton (through the Tindall Fund) St Marks Anglican Church Rakaia Parish has formed an alliance with other community support groups to fight the impact Covid 19 is having on the lives of families in our district.

The Community Cupboard has been set up to help families in times of need with basic grocery items. "We want to make a difference in people's lives through listening, being non-judgemental and giving practical help when needed," says Liz Depree, a member of the committee.



ABOVE From the left: Sina Mead, Reverend Michael Holdaway and Reverend Mary-Jo Holdaway.

In the first week of operation the Cupboard was stocked – depleted – and restocked. Information highlighting other support agencies was included with the food parcels.

With ongoing support from Rakaia Parish Vestry, Rakaia Community Association,

Glen and Sally from Rakaia Four Square, Westpac, and other local organisations, the committee is looking towards ensuring the continued sustainability of the project.

"This is a great example of a community that works together for the benefit of its people," says Liz. +

health

THE ASHBURTON PALLIATIVE CARE CHARITABLE TRUST

For the past twenty-five years The Ashburton Palliative Care Charitable Trust has provided support for people needing financial help at the end of their lives.

Trustee Christine Dean said grants from the Trust fund have allowed a better quality of life for terminally ill patients. Families have felt supported with less financial pressure and, in some cases, the dreams of a dying person have been realised.

Recently the Trustees have handed the administration of their Fund to Advance Ashburton. Trustee Brendon Adam said, "We wanted the Trust to be more visible and accessible and active."

One of the key confidences that came with moving the Trust under Advance Ashburton's umbrella was knowing that funding decisions would be made within 24 hours, he said. Foundation Executive Officer, Sandi Wood says, "Our Grants



ABOVE Palliative Care Trustees back, from left, Karen Hall and Trish Davis and, front, Advance Ashburton Grants Administrator, Lucia Ghidoli, and Trustees Brendon Adam and Christine Dean. (Photo The Guardian)

committee will be dedicated to the process the Palliative Care Trust has established and we'll honour the Trust's wishes to maintain this rapid response."

The Fund will continue accepting community donations to further the work of the Trust for activities and services that may fall through the traditional end-of-life funding gaps such as providing special dietary needs, Christmas gifts, sitter services and memory-making activities. It can

also be used to fund training for health professionals working in palliative care. Currently the Fund has \$61,500 including \$3,000 raised from a winter ball. It has been boosted by ongoing donations from fund raising and service clubs including Altrusa Ashburton, and from individuals and bequests.

If you would like to help support this Fund, please contact Sandi Wood at Advance Ashburton. +



Dot and Julie with the knitting for the littlest members in our community.

health

WARM BABY, SAFE BABY

A *Warm Baby, Safe Baby* initiative by the Friends of Ashburton Hospital provides beanies, singlets, and small blankets, knitted in machine-washable wool, to all new-borns at Ashburton Hospital.

The wool yarn, funded by a grant from Advance Ashburton, is knitted by more than fifty volunteer knitters.

Organiser, Jane Riach, Secretary of the Friends, says there as many as 300 babies who are cared for in the maternity unit annually and staff had identified a need for warm woollen clothing for them.

“Wool has so many advantages and gives babies a great start by helping to regulate temperature and wick away moisture.

We are local knitters, using locally purchased wool, funded by a local funder all working together to deliver a great start to the health and wellbeing of our babies. Our catch cry - be a part of the 300!”, says Convenor of the Friends, Dorothea Webb. +

farewells

We would like to thank and acknowledge the wonderful contribution made to the Foundation by the following retiring members.

Roger Bonifant, firstly as part of our Investment Committee, and since 2016 as our Patron, has brought his considerable expertise and experience to the Foundation.

Trevor Croy will stand down as Chairman at our AGM in September. With his extraordinary vision and energy he has made an outstanding contribution. We did not want to lose Trevor’s experience and he will take up the role of Patron in 2021.

Gary Fail, Trustee since 2013, has provided outstanding legal advice, pro bono, and we will miss his skill, wit and wise counsel.

We also thank Angela Cushnie for her work as part of the Communications Committee. +

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.

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.