

## our scholarships

### ON TOP OF THE WORLD

Travis Stringer is still on top of the world after a three-week Outward Bound course, at Anakiwa, in the Marlborough Sounds, that he describes as an amazing experience.

The 21-year-old, a junior technician at the Ashburton Trust Event Centre, successfully completed the rock climbing, high ropes, and coastering challenges, despite having a fear of heights. "These took a lot of effort to overcome!"

Other physical challenges included rowing, running a half-marathon, and tramping.

"Some of the activities took a lot out of me, but I did them. I began to realise how much I am capable of doing," he says. "There's more in you,' became a proven statement for me."

Travis said success required a positive mindset and great teamwork. During his first taste of kayaking, Travis learned to ask for help but never contemplated giving up.

He and the other 18-24-year-olds on the course were encouraged to speak regularly with instructors and others in the group about mental and emotional issues.

Wanting to build his confidence, help achieve his full potential and overcome his natural shyness, Travis was delighted to be awarded the scholarship to attend



**TOP** Travis on top of the world.

**ABOVE** The Outward Bound group.

the course from the Jaycee Trust Fund, administered by the Foundation.

"I am very thankful to Advance Ashburton, Jaycees, and Outward Bound for this opportunity. This was an amazing experience. I learned a lot of important lessons to take with me - it has changed my life. Mā te wā." +

## our team



### FAREWELLS & WELCOME

We would like to thank Sandi Wood who has recently resigned as our Executive Officer after 3 ½ years of committed and passionate service to the Foundation. We look forward to welcoming our new EO in the next newsletter.

We also farewell and thank Jo Taylor who had been a trustee with the Foundation since 2015.

We welcome two new committee members, Lisa Anderson, who has a professional supervision business as well as working part time as a senior pastor and volunteering in several community NGOs to the Grants Committee, and company director and farmer Jan Early to the Communications Committee.

**TOP LEFT** Lisa Anderson

**TOP RIGHT** Jan Early



Sir Ian Taylor

## ANNUAL CELEBRATION

THURSDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

Hear inspirational speakers including keynote speaker Sir Ian Taylor talking about his company Animation Research Ltd, a leading computer animation company known internationally for its work, providing award-winning graphics including for the America's Cup. In 2019 Sir Ian was named Innovator of the Year and in 2020 he was named the Deloitte 200 Visionary Leader of the Year.

Sir Ian will talk about how innovation happens in communities like ours.

All welcome.

**SAVE  
THE DATE**

## community



**ABOVE** Trustee Jane Wright welcomes Advance Ashburton Trustee Mark Scammell to the Hospice

## HOME FOR HOSPICE

Hospice Mid Canterbury Trust was a recent recipient of a grant of \$30,000 from Advance Ashburton towards the purchase of its new home at 70 Havelock Street, formerly Sealy St Medical Centre.

Trustee, Jane Wright, says “This property is absolutely ideal for us. It is a welcoming, homely property and the various rooms are perfect for the range of therapies and support programmes that we offer. It is in a great location with good access for our clients and visitors.”

Hospice Mid Canterbury provides support throughout the Ashburton district to individuals and families who are dealing with a life-limiting illness. While the Hospice does not offer any clinical services, there are many supports available which can make a difference to daily life, not only for the Hospice client,

but also for the people around them.

Eight service providers are contracted to provide counselling, bereavement support, massage therapy, reiki therapy, reflexology, acupuncture, and relaxation therapy, with all of these therapies being offered either at home, or at the Hospice.

A large team of compassionate volunteers offers further valuable support such as biography writing, sitting, companionship, transport, and shopping, and a range of regular activity sessions and support programmes are provided at the Hospice.

“We are incredibly grateful to Advance Ashburton for their support in helping us to achieve debt-free ownership of this beautiful property. Ownership allows us to significantly minimise our costs going forward, and the property is now a wonderful community-owned asset,” says Jane Wright.

Hospice Mid Canterbury is currently supporting 65 individuals / families. +

## our donors

### MEATWORKERS GIFT

Our district will benefit from the \$78,000 donated to Advance Ashburton from the former CFM Sickness and Benefit Society.

Mary Ross, chair of Advance Ashburton said, “We are delighted that the Society has chosen the Foundation to administer their legacy funds so they can continue to support similar health-related causes in the district.” Following the Fairton Plant closure and the winding up of the Society this significant legacy has been invested by Advance Ashburton and the interest will be paid out to five community groups operating in our local Ashburton district, chosen by the Society’s Trustees:

- Ashburton Cancer Support Group
- Diabetes Christchurch Incorporated
- The National Heart Foundation of New Zealand
- The Order of St John
- Canterbury West Coast Air Rescue Trust

Trustees Jim Gordon and Darcy Lysaght presented the residual funds from the scheme to Advance Ashburton. The CFM



**ABOVE** Former Fairton employees Jim Gordon (left) and Darcy Lysaght with the original minute book of the Sickness and Benefit Society (Photo: The Courier)

Sickness and Benefit Society started in 1954 and over the years thousands of Fairton freezing workers paid into the special sickness insurance scheme. They were able to access funds for themselves or their families to assist with medical bills, including the cost of glasses or dentistry work.

The CFM Society is a great example of how groups and organisations like this

can ensure that the original aims of their members can be met in perpetuity by providing Advance Ashburton with the responsibility of carrying out their wishes. Advance Ashburton has demonstrated over many years that its Investment Committee has the ability to not only provide donors’ chosen organisations with funding but also to grow their original capital. A win-win all round. +

## our scholarships

### 2021 SCHOLARSHIP

Thirty-two scholarships worth \$88,000 were awarded at the 2021 Advance Ashburton's Scholarship Award Ceremony.

This year's Neil Sinclair Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Mikaeli Lalor, who is in her sixth year at the University of Otago. The Methven woman was head girl at Mt Hutt College in 2015 and graduated from the university majoring in geology. She is now studying towards her masters, researching common climate risks.

Neil Sinclair founded Advance Ashburton in 2003 and since then 245 scholarships have been awarded worth more than \$500,000.

#### 2021 SCHOLARS

**The Neil Sinclair Memorial Scholarship:** Mikaeli Lalor

**The Advance Ashburton Scholarship:** Matthew Clough

**The Alister Smyth Scholarship:** Ariana Tipu, Aidan Campbell

**The Cameron Family Scholarship:** Aimee Elliott

**The Glass Family Scholarship:** Neilvrod Alombro

**The Graham Gunn Music Scholarship:** Jack Bubb

**The Ashburton Hearing Association Scholarship:** Jaffar Nuru

**The Ian Glassey Memorial Scholarship:** Ellen Donaldson, Toby Lee

**The Jaycees Development Fund Scholarship:**  
**INDUSTRY TRADE -** Debra Thomson, Hamish Begg, Phillip Whiting, Sam Bubb, Samantha Tuck

**PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT -** Kate O'Reilly, Travis Stringer

**The Johnston Brothers Scholarship:** Caitlin Johnstone, Hannah Wakelin, Kelsey Campbell, Lucy Clough, Rebecca Robinson, Taylor Gallagher

**The Parsons Family Scholarship:** Benjamin MacLeod, Kate Donald

**The Ashburton Plains Rotary Club Trade Scholarship:** Roman Prazak

**The Tinwald Club Scholarship:** Josh Jones

**The United Friendly Society Scholarship:** Ainsley Braam-Smith, Diana Barbu, Jemma Donnelly, Scott Kelland

**The van der Kley Scholarship:** Grace Leahy +



ABOVE Masters geology student Mikaeli Lalor (left) with Jeanette Sinclair.

### 2021 LEADER'S SCHOLARSHIP

The 2021 Advance Ashburton Leadership Scholarship will be open on 1st July.

If you are committed to continuing your leadership growth and if you care about our district and want to make a difference - apply for the \$10,000 Leader's Scholarship.

The application form will be available on the Foundation's website on 1st June 2021. +

### THE ASHBURTON TECHNICAL SCHOOL LEGACY LIVES ON

It was with pleasure, and collaboration with past pupils, that for the first time an Ashburton Technical School Past Pupils Scholarship has been awarded to an Ashburton College school leaver. We look forward to supporting the awarding of this scholarship on behalf of the Ashburton Technical Past Pupils in the years to come. +

### LEADER'S SCHOLARSHIP

Associate Principal and Head of ICT/e-learning at Allenton Primary School, Kerrin Corcoran, was the 2020 recipient of the Advance Ashburton Community Foundation's Leader's Scholarship.

Kerrin wanted educators and students in our district to become digitally fluent. This fluency is vital to meet education needs now, as shown during the current Covid crisis, and in the future. "I strongly believe that digital tools offer great opportunities to enhance learning and improve educational outcomes for all," she says.

The Foundation's Scholarship of \$10,000 has allowed Kerrin to undertake further study and become a Google Certified Teacher and Certified Trainer using Google Workspace. Kerrin's initial plan was to head to the USA, the home of Google, to attend a Bootcamp there. With Covid making this impossible, she used the grant instead to complete research here in NZ, participate in online workshops, and attend a Google Bootcamp in Hastings.



ABOVE Kerrin, helping students become digitally fluent.

Recently Kerrin has helped establish The Mid Canterbury e-Learning Network. This initiative allows many educators in our community to come together, to collaborate, engage, and lead through new technologies. Including educators from pre-school through to secondary schools, this network is a huge plus for our community. Kerrin is planning that groups from the wider community (not just educational) will embrace this network.

Kerrin has achieved an amazing amount already, and it will be exciting to see how her work will help more of us become digitally educated. +

## families

### SUPPORT FOR THE PARENTS CENTRE

Parents Centre NZ is a community-based, not-for-profit, organisation set up by parents for parents in 1952. Its vision is “New Zealand society values parenting as being fundamental to the well-being of all.”

Ashburton Parents Centre has been helping and connecting families in the Ashburton District since 1989. President Claire Smitheram says, “We believe prospective parents, parents, and families have the right to quality childbirth and parenting education and information, enabling them to make informed decisions on their parenting roles; and that this should be FREE regardless of their social or economic situation. It is important too that parents have a choice of provider.” The Parents Centre is the only provider offering free classes.

One hundred and eighty parents at present benefit from access to such education with the plan to expand further over the coming year. Parents Centre and Ashburton Plunket enjoy good communications with each other, also.



Advance Ashburton was pleased to recently meet the funding request from Parents Centre for the tutor course costs for Childbirth Education, Baby and You, and for costs for Music and Movement classes. Trained Tutors lead such courses four times a year. These classes also provide valuable opportunities for connecting parents, for regular coffee groups, and the development of social supports during this crucial time.

In a safe and supportive environment, parents feel confident enabling the Parents Centre Mission to be realised: “Positive parenting experiences and informed parenting in a community where parents are supported and highly valued in their role.”

Due to Covid, this past year has been challenging for Ashburton Parents Centre with interruptions to courses, to social times, to fund raising opportunities,

and with little hireage of their rooms, plus the loss of committee members. Due to financial pressures, the Centre put out an urgent plea earlier in the year to raise \$3000 to keep the doors open. Claire says, “The overwhelming financial support received from businesses and the community and with the fund-raising initiatives of the small band of our own committee volunteers, the Parents Centre’s existence is assured.”

With the support of the community, including Advance Ashburton and with a new committee of eleven, the Centre will continue to provide a range of pre- and post-natal programmes, hot-topic evenings, activities and support networks and social opportunities for families with children between the ages birth and five years. “Great parents grow great children,” says Claire. +

### WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Do you want to give back to your community? Are there 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 us on 03 307 5902 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.