

Advance Ashburton Community Foundation

NEWSLETTER | ISSUE 01 2019



We approved \$590,915 to be distributed to the community in the 2019 financial year. In total, \$4,269,565 has been distributed to our community since 2003.

STANDING UP FOR WHAT MATTERS

Being passionate about something and standing up for what you believe in is encouraged in our youth, but actively following your passion often requires sacrifices in terms of time, money and resources. This is where Advance Ashburton, due to the generous support of our donors, can assist.

Rebekah Hill grew up on a farm in Methven and is passionate about rural Mid Canterbury and wants to give back to her community. "I truly believe that protecting the environment will be New Zealand's success and ultimately Mid-Canterbury's success, if we implement changes sensitive to place and rural livelihoods."

After studying law and science majoring in Environmental Studies, Rebekah was chosen as the delegate by the Aotearoa Youth



Rebekah Hill

Leadership Institute to attend the 24th United Nations Climate Change Conference. Held in December in Katowice, Poland, 30,000 government representatives, scientists, businesses and activists met at arguably the biggest and most important conference in the world.

"After the Conference, I was filled with determination to help turn New Zealand's ambition and ingenuity into climate change

solutions the world can follow." Now, after being awarded the Neil Sinclair Memorial Scholarship, through the Foundation, Rebekah has support for her studies this year. "I am so grateful that I will be able to continue to capitalise on my passions and existing knowledge because of the scholarship and I am deeply indebted to the generosity of the Sinclair family."



David Keeley

WE WELCOME NEW TRUSTEE DAVID KEELEY

David is married to Ruth and they have three adult children, Rachel, Jason and Glen, and six grandchildren.

His family operate a mixed stock and crop farming business, growing a variety of crops in the Hinds and Lagmhoh districts.

David has governance experience in community organisations, education, co-operative businesses along with his family business.

His main interests, after his family, friends and

farming, are travelling, cycling, jet boating, tramping and sea fishing.

"I am very honoured and humbled to be asked to join the Advance Ashburton Community Foundation team, as a trustee. Their passion for combining the wishes of local generous people, with the needs of our community, is exceptional. I look forward to working with such a talented team and watching our community go from strength to strength," says David.



Isobel Ferguson

RESEARCH PROVIDES INSIGHT TO HELP A GROWING PROBLEM IN OUR DISTRICT

Funding from the Foundation to the Rural Health Academic Centre, enabled Isobel Ferguson, under the supervision of the centre's specialist and senior clinical lecturer Dr Steve Withington, to complete a research project on self-harm and suicidality in our District.

Isobel, a 5th year medical student with a strong interest in youth mental health, has spent the past two summers gathering and analysing data from Ashburton Hospital emergency department for youth admitted as a result of self-harm.

The data indicated that we have a high number self-harming with young females and young Maori disproportionately represented. For Isobel the funding allowed her to carry out this important research for an increasing

problem within our community. This research will provide our District with valuable information, such as trends, characteristics and demands on services paving the way for initiatives that will help address this serious issue.

"I really wanted to be able to give back to my community in a way that will have meaningful impact," Isobel said. "I am so proud to come from Ashburton."

METHVEN PUBLIC LIBRARY AND METHVEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Methven Public Library and the Methven Historical Society have received a total of \$113,000 over the past 3 years.

This has been due to the generosity of the Lochhead Fund (currently represented by Alma Lochhead) which has supported many projects in the Methven District.

Both the library and the museum were damaged in the 2011 earthquakes and the buildings were subsequently demolished. A new building housing both was designed and constructed, opening in May 2018.

The building is a community centre. It is run by volunteers and is used by the Methven Library, the Methven Historical Society and as a community venue supplying rooms for meetings, individuals wanting internet access and study spaces.



Members of the Rouse and Barlass families

CACTUS PROGRAMME



ABOVE Tayla Wright and Jenny Reed.

The Foundation was pleased to advise Rob Hooper, Chairman of The Youth Institute of Ashburton, that thanks to the late Ian Glassey, their funding was approved so they can continue the successful Cactus Youth programme.

Cactus (Combined Adolescent Challenge Training Unit and Support) programme is an adventure-based physical training course encouraging goal-setting, self-discipline, confidence, self-esteem, physical wellbeing, peer conflict-resolution skills, team work and friendship. It is open to all youth in the Ashburton District aged 10 to 16 years and 80 to 90 youth will complete the programme in the next 12 months. The programme has been running successfully in Ashburton for 11 years and is moving into its fifth year in Methven. During this time some 500 young people have had the opportunity to challenge themselves and experience activities that they might not otherwise have done. The unsung heroes are

the team of committed instructors who design the course to maximise the benefit for each individual trainee.

This programme makes a difference. Facilitator Jenny Reed says of Tayla, a cadet, "Tayla has been a hugely valued part of our proactive youth programme for 6 years and was herself a participant at age 10. She had recently lost her Mum to breast cancer and shifted to Ashburton with her brother to live with her aunt and uncle. She attended Cactus to meet new friends and improve her self-esteem. Now 19 years of age, she encourages others and is an inspiring young lady who continues to influence and motivate many in the Cactus programme."

SUPPORTING RESPITE CARE FOR FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY

Cholmondeley Children's Centre based in Governors Bay, Canterbury, is a unique organisation which provides short-term emergency and planned respite care to children aged 3-12 years whose families are experiencing overwhelming stress or crisis caused by such factors as mental health issues, physical illnesses, bereavement, family violence, financial pressures, and traumatic events.

"Our aim at Cholmondeley Children's Centre is to provide a fun, safe, and nurturing environment so the children can form lasting positive memories in a safe setting, rather than be adversely affected by the challenges they may be facing at home. Our model of care and education is specifically designed to draw out each child's individual strengths, build their resilience and enhance their future outcomes," says Katie McCullough, a representative from Cholmondeley.

During a stay, children are provided with 24-hour care. Education at Cholmondeley is supported by the Adventure Based Learning (ABL) programme. ABL provides



adventurous play, and the environment where the children engage and learn through activities such as fishing, kayaking, hill-walking, gardening, cooking, and orienteering. This allows children to uncover their strengths, and to feel proud of their accomplishments and encourages them to determine their own path.

The children at the Centre come from around the wider Canterbury region, including children from Ashburton-based families. "We would like to thank Advance Ashburton for their generous donation. It enables Cholmondeley to be a beacon of hope to families in need," Katie said.

PROVIDING YOUTH MENTOR SERVICES IN METHVEN

Sometimes kids need extra help, and they don't always want to talk to a parent or teacher about the issues they are facing. The existence of a Youth Mentor at school, who is approachable and available during school hours, provides an alternative safe place where students can seek help.



ABOVE The youth mentor, Trustees of the Te Puawaitanga Charitable Trust and a representative of Presbyterian Support.

Advance Ashburton is proud to be supporting the Methven Te Puawaitanga Charitable Trust to ensure that Youth Mentoring services continue in the Methven district.

By developing relationships built on friendship, dependability and trust, the Youth Mentor at Mt Hutt College is in a strong position to help encourage young people to make the right choices, set achievable goals and reach their full potential, and in doing so is making a positive impact for both the individuals and the community.

The Youth Mentor is employed through Presbyterian Support and works closely alongside staff at Mt Hutt College, who provide office space for her use. Students are either referred or can self-refer to the Youth Mentor, who also runs holiday, peer support, and anti-bullying programmes.

"The Youth Mentor's role is of great value to our students, staff and parents at the College and in the Community," said John Schreurs, Principal, Mt Hutt College.

2019 SCHOLARSHIPS

Advance Ashburton awarded \$73,500 to 31 scholarship recipients for 2019. Congratulations to all our scholarship recipients. Thank you to our donors, who make these scholarships possible, and to our functions' sponsors: Ashburton Trust Events Centre, Argyle Welsh Finnigan and Forsyth Barr.



Alister Smyth Scholarship: Samantha Naui, Uati Saofai, Imogen Redpath
Glass Family Trust Scholarship: Elizabeth Leonard, Alisa Ikenaga
Tinwald Club Scholarship: Olivia Scott
Ashburton Plains Rotary Club, Industry Training Scholarship: Harry Rosevear
Jaycees Education and Development Fund, Industry Trade Scholarship: Ethan Johnson, Leigh Harrison, Aimee Burrows, Brad Van der Eik, Oliver Adlam
Jaycees Education and Development Fund, Personal Development Scholarship: Amy Ferguson, Chanaide Fulton, Heidi Cuttle
Parsons Family Trust Scholarship: Kieren Bell, Megan Fitzgerald
Cameron Fund Scholarship: Melissa McMullan
Ian Glassey Memorial Fund, Environmental Scholarship: Victoria Grant
Johnston Brothers, Health Science Scholarship: Diana Barbu, Tori Watson, Scott Kelland, Ella Bonnington
Ashburton United Friendly Societies Dispensary Scholarship Special Trust Fund, Health Science Scholarship: Connor Leadley, Greta Eaton, Imogen Reid, Rebecca Robinson, Frances Redmond
Advance Ashburton Community Foundation Scholarship: Ashley Kelland, Brenna Russell
Neil Sinclair Memorial Scholarship: Rebekah Hill



MUSIC IN SCHOOLS

An aunt's lifetime passion for teaching music inspired her family to donate through Advance Ashburton to honour her memory.

This generosity is providing music lessons to children who wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity. "What impressed me the most was how the children went from never having played an instrument to having the confidence and basic musical skills to perform on stage in front of their peers and parents in such a short space of time. The quality musical performances also highlighted to other students what was possible with perseverance and practice," said Phil Wheeler, Principal of Netherby school. A spokesperson for the family said "We are so grateful. We had a wish to honour our aunt, and through Advance Ashburton it has all been made possible. We thank the Foundation and all those involved in making it happen."

EVERLASTING GENEROSITY MADE EASY

Advance Ashburton Community Foundation provides a simple and effective way to support the community and causes that are important to you.

Donations made to Advance Ashburton are invested, protected, and grown, meaning your generosity will support our community's needs forever.

The Foundation is donor-led, meaning you decide who and what should benefit from your generosity. Or you leave us to determine the most pressing need in our community.



"You can make a difference. Large or small, one-off or ongoing, through Advance Ashburton, all giving positively impacts our community." Sandi Wood, Executive Officer

Keen to know more?

You can arrange a private, no obligation appointment with Sandi by calling 027 577 5875 or emailing info@advanceashburton.org.nz